



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Bridging to Cadettes... Girl Scout Troop 63000 in Colchester held a bridging ceremony Saturday, Nov. 19. Kendall Scholl bridged to Juniors, and the Girl Scout Bronze Award was awarded to Charlotte Bunting, Jenna Crowell, Maggie Parekh, Delaney Scholl, Sarah Wisniewski and Alyssa Zajac. Also at the ceremony, the following Scouts, pictured from left, bridged to Cadettes: Alyssa Zajac, Delaney Scholl, Kendall Scholl, Isabel Weiner and Charlotte Bunting. Also bridging to Cadettes, but not pictured, were Kaelah Clark, Maggie Parekh and Sarah Wisniewski.

Noose Found at RHAM, Sparking Outrage

By Michael Sinkewicz

Police are investigating a possible hate crime following the discovery of a noose at RHAM High School last Friday, sparking community outrage and condemnation from civil rights organizations who called for local, state and federal inquiries.

According to state police, both troopers and Hebron officers responded to RHAM High School at around 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 18 to a report of a "suspicious incident." School administrators had reported that a staff member had found an item, described as a noose, in one of the locker rooms.

Following the incident, the Connecticut State Police Hate Crimes Unit and Major Crimes Unit were advised and the investigation remains active.

On Monday, concerned community members spoke during a RHAM Board of Education meeting, expressing that the incident wasn't isolated to only the school, but rather a "community issue."

The NAACP discussed the incident during a press conference at the high school on Tuesday, reiterating its call for investigations at all levels of government into a potential hate crime.

Scot Esdaile, president of the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP, and Windham/Willimantic NAACP President Leah Ralls spoke.

"We're not taking it lightly," Esdaile said. "We want action."

He added, "The Black community has to take this seriously. We're not going to wait until somebody is hanging from one of those

nooses."

Esdaile stressed, "This is not a prank," – and Ralls agreed.

"This is not child's play," Ralls said. "This is a serious, life-threatening episode. A noose is a weapon just like a gun. If it was a gun, schools would be closed today."

Leading up to the press conference, the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP along with the Windham/Willimantic NAACP issued a statement calling for action.

"This form of hate crime must be investigated, and the perpetrators must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law," the statement read. "The noose symbolizes a deplorable act of brutality and hatred towards African Americans. White supremacists have not only used nooses to torture and kill, but use symbols such as a hangman's noose to attempt to create fear and intimidation along with trying to diminish and hinder opportunities for Black people in this nation."

The organization continued by stating that "these acts of terrorism are an utter reminder of America's dark history of racial violence and the current state of bigotry in America and lack of human decency."

Rodney Alexander Jr., the first vice president of the Windham/Willimantic branch of the NAACP, spoke during Monday's school board meeting this week and described the incident as a "horrible situation."

"This is 2022 — when's it going to stop?" he said.

Alexander explained that the noose was "one of the most symbolic discriminatory tools for
See Noose Found at RHAM, page 31

Marlborough Library Project Put on Hold

By Jack Lakowsky

Saying they were discouraged by soaring prices, last week a majority of Marlborough Board of Selectmen members voted to delay indefinitely a thorough overhaul of the Richmond Memorial Library, which has space issues and isn't Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant.

The lack of accessibility, library director Aubrey Muscaro told the board, has prevented patrons, especially physically disabled ones, from fully using the library, and people needing ADA accommodations have been unable to take part in programs on the second floor.

"I hope you take these residents into consideration," said Muscaro.

In 2020 the town received from the state a \$128,000 grant to buffer the cost of the project. At the time, the project was budgeted at about \$850,000. However, Town Planner Peter Hughes said contractors wound up mostly bid-

ding around \$2 million for the work – far more than what the town's budget calls for.

Hughes suggested scaling back the project – narrowing the focus to putting in an elevator to the second floor, making the library ADA compliant.

Residents, library staff and library association members advocated for the reduced project, saying there are other grants to pursue and that, with a possible new apartment complex coming to town, library demand is set to grow. The library's space isn't friendly to parents with infants or people with special needs, several said.

The selectmen voted 3-1 to postpone the project, with Republican selectman Greg Lowrey the lone board member wanting to proceed, albeit with the scaled-back plan.

Delaying the project could cause the town to lose the state grant, as it expires in March. The

board previously voted on this topic and with a split 2-2 vote, it went nowhere. This time Bourbeau changed her vote.

Hughes said the state may grant an extension given the inflationary prices, but there's no guarantee.

Selectmen Betty O'Brien, acting board chair Deb Bourbeau and member Joe Asklar voted to delay the project, mostly to see if prices go down in the coming months. Lowrey and Hughes both said they don't see that happening.

"It's a business decision," Asklar said repeatedly. "That's a hard pill to swallow, \$1.9 million for a place of assembly."

Asklar said there are multiple other spaces for public gatherings, like the elementary school and the senior center.

Library association president Richard Storrs during public comment countered this point,

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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 Dec. 7. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Nov. 30.

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.

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@sbcglobal.net.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Christmas Fair

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, is having its annual Christmas Fair on Dec. 3, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be vendors, handmade gifts, a bake sale, "Grandma's Attic" items, and a gift basket raffle. Lunch will be available.

East Catholic Honor Roll

Melanie Plausse of Andover earned Honors with Distinction on the East Catholic High School honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

Plausse is a member of the Class of 2025.

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

Toy Drive Starts Monday

RHAM DECA, a business club at RHAM High School, will sponsor a toy drive from Nov. 28-Dec. 9. New, unwrapped toys will be collected in drop-off boxes at RHAM High School (85 Wall Street, Hebron) in the main office, school store, and Timothy Landry's room (329).

Boxes can also be found at the Hebron Post Office (93 Main St., Hebron), RHAM

Middle School (Main Office), Gilead Hill Elementary School (580 Gilead St, Hebron), and Marlborough Town Hall (26 N Main St, Marlborough).

These toys will be given to children of military families through Operation Elf (Embracing Lonely Families). Gifts can be either gender-specific or gender-neutral and can be for ages from infants to young teens.

AHM Holiday Auction Underway

The third annual AHM Online Holiday Auction runs through Nov. 29. Bidding is accessible 24 hours a day.

This year's auction features over 70 items, including children's gifts, adventures in the air and on the water, gift cards to restaurants, vacation packages, artwork, board games, jewelry, cordwood, theater, sports and entertainment venues, and more.

To start bidding, go to ahmyouth.org/fund-raisers-events/holiday-auction.

All proceeds from the auction support mental health and human services for the children, families, young adults and seniors of Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough.

Students in Festival Ensembles

The RHAM Music Department has announced the following musicians have been accepted into the CMEA Eastern Region Music Festival Ensembles for 2022-23:

Jazz: Trevor Hooker, Aiden Rizzotti, Jake Sauer.

Orchestra: Benjamin Cancellaro, Maddie Graves, Ella Hall, Alexa Odoy.

Band: Raegan Hayes, Natalie Groves, G Assunto, Olivia Arcari, Caleb Fitzsimmons.

Choir: Caelyn Calhoun, Alana Calhoun, Kaitlin Hobin, Janina Howard, Emerson Melquist, Lindsay Rayman.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

★ Library Project Put on Hold cont. from page 1

saying those spaces are busy and often unavailable, especially the school community room, inaccessible during school hours. Storrs was speaking as an individual.

Along with wanting to wait and see if prices go down, O'Brien said she opposed because the town faces significant, costly work in the years ahead.

Storrs said the library project goes back years. He said the director's office houses spare computer parts "because we have no storage," adding the library carries more books than it can hold.

"Costs will continue to go up," Storrs said. "We will continue to be outside ADA compliance because people can't use those spaces. We need storage space; we need programming space."

The second floor has no bathroom facilities or running water, either.

"This is a necessary next step," Storrs said, adding that he wishes he could see the whole project realized, but, respecting price increases,

the association scaled back the job.

During the board's discussion, Storrs asked board chair Bourbeau to tell the board more information while it debated, saying meeting rules permit this when information is pertinent. Bourbeau told him no.

Lowrey said Asklar's "business" reasoning could "paralyze" the town's projects.

Lowrey, who was first selectman when voters okayed the project, added, "If I go to the grocery store and the prices went up, while I might change some of my purchasing, I need to come back with the goods. I think we have a responsibility to make spaces accessible."

Lowrey also said he's concerned the state won't approve the town's grant extension request.

Asklar said the town needs foresight, that the board must take stock of "what's coming to our plate."



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RE11-18-22

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Well, it took until the middle of November, but Colchester finally has an approved budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Yep – more than four months after the beginning of the fiscal year.

Just a thought: maybe it's time to.....stop doing this?

It was an ugly, ugly budget season in Colchester this year, with lots of vitriol and personal attacks – though I guess you could argue that's hardly uncommon in Colchester these days. First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos told reporter Michael Sinkewicz last week that people might have voted 'yes' on this latest proposal simply because they were "tired of all the drama" – and, well, the numbers do kind of back him up on this.

The results of the Nov. 15 referendum weren't even close. The budget passed by a 1,092-528 tally. So, the 'yes' votes more than doubled the 'no' ones. This was despite the fact that the spending package was trimmed by a mere \$13,624 from the previous referendum. When you're talking about a \$15.62 million budget, a \$13,624 cut is barely a drop in the bucket – if even that much.

So the same folks who were unhappy with the budget at the last referendum should've still been unhappy with it this time around, right? Apparently not.

That the spending package passed so overwhelmingly suggested that yes indeed perhaps folks were tired of the drama, tired of the ongoing embarrassment of not having a budget, or simply just wanted to finally get their freaking tax bills mailed.

No matter the reason, I wouldn't necessarily take last week's approval as a sign Colchester residents were finally happy with the budget. Indeed, an exit poll on last week's budget indicated 694 people still felt the spending plan was too high. In other words, nearly 170 people still felt the budget needed to be cut

some more but voted for it anyway. (Another 640 people indicated they thought the budget was too low – but at least I could understand those people voting for the budget. Conventional wisdom, after all, says budgets don't go up after failing at referendum – they only go down.)

And even the outcome itself is hardly an indicator of where residents as a whole stand on town spending. Just 14% of the town's electorate turned out at last week's referendum – which is about in line with the previous ones.

It all begs the question – just what are we doing here?

Other towns, such as Glastonbury, have the Town Council or Board of Directors set the budget. And to be honest, after protracted budget seasons like this one, it makes sense. After all, the people on those boards are the public's elected representatives, the ones folks entrusted to do town business. So maybe let them do the town's business?

When not even a fifth of registered voters are turning out, and those that are seem to be voting 'yes' or 'no' more for weariness than anything else, does that justify holding up people's tax bills for months? Does that justify making the town spend nearly half a fiscal year operating without an approved budget? I don't really think so.

I'm all for democracy, and while saying 'maybe the time has passed for these budgets to be decided at referendum' may seem like it goes against that, it really doesn't. Again, the people on the town boards are put there by the voters. So this doesn't take people's vote away; in fact, if anything, it makes the November elections even more meaningful.

Elections have consequences – maybe it's time to let setting the town budget be one of them.

See you next week



Helper Scouts... Marlborough, Hebron and Andover Girl Scouts will once again host the Children's Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the community room at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough. At the fair, Girl Scout "elves" will accompany children as they browse the craft fair and purchase gifts for others. All items are handmade by Girl Scouts and are \$5 or less. Free gift-wrapping is available. Pictured helping out at last year's craft fair are members of Marlborough Cadette Troop 65159, from left, Julia Benedetto, Karly Spencer, Juliet Neale, Vivienne Stomberg, Addison Krynick, Olivia Johnson and Isabella Bangham.

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My Trans Moments...

To the Editor:

About 80 years ago, as I watched my sisters enjoying playing with their dolls and other little girl things, mother told me that I cried, "I want to be a girl!"

Had today's rampant transgender ideology, coupled with coercive social media, been in force back then I'd be singing soprano. And our son and daughter would never have seen the light of day.

Peter Kushkowski
"Almost Heaven"
Portland

(making domestic microchips), against national paid family and medical leave, against universal pre-K, against tax increases on the wealthy and corporations, against student debt relief. They are for enriching themselves and their wealthy donors.

Steven Mnuchin, under the Trump administration, funneled \$500B of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Covid relief "loans." Forgiven pandemic "loans" to GOP members of Congress under Trump:

Matt Gaetz (R-FL) \$482,321; Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) \$183,504; Greg Pence (R-IN) \$79,441; Vern Buchanan (R-FL) \$2,600,000; Kevin Hern (R-OK) \$1,070,000; Roger Williams (R-TX) \$1,430,000; Brett Guthrie (R-KY) \$4,300,000; Ralph Norman (R-SC) \$306,520; Mike Kelly (R-PA) \$974,100; Vicki Hartzler (R-MO) \$451,200; Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) \$1,400,000; Carol Miller (R-WV) \$3,100,000.

Mnuchin also gave millions to himself, Jared Kushner, Devin Nunes, Betsy DeVos, Joel Osteen, Kanye West, Tom Brady, Elaine Chao, Lauren Boebert, and all were forgiven. These Republican millionaires got PPP loans meant for struggling businesses and then they filed a lawsuit to stop Biden's student debt relief for

The Working Class

To the Editor:

Republicans voted against the Inflation Reduction Act, against the American Rescue Plan, against the PACT act (aid to veterans with cancer from burn pits), against cheaper gas, against infrastructure, against cheaper insulin, against child tax credits, against stimulus checks, against the voting rights act, against fighting domestic terrorism, against keeping birth control legal, against background checks, against more baby formula, against CHIPS and Science Act

Bulletin Board

It occurred to me the other day that I don't personally know any Russians.

I guess I should consider myself fortunate that no shirtless, cold-eyed Russkie with rippling abs and a bad attitude has come cantering down my driveway on horseback (or atop a tank) to jeer at my flabby self, attach electrodes to my nether regions and mock me for continuing to believe in a system of constitutional assurances that preserve individual liberties when I should have been stockpiling ammunition. He'd probably also kick my dog (if I had one) and insist on annexing my back yard as part of Mother Russia.

Judging from the continuing news reports on Russian malfeasance toward their Ukrainian brothers (as Vladimir affectionately described them shortly before invading the place), I would suggest this sort of thing is not beyond the realm of possibility.

As far as I know, the closest thing to a real Russian in my personal life is a former college roommate whose great grandparents—preferring not to star in that charming Russian tradition known as the pogrom—wisely fled to America where (at that time, at least) your neighbors (with some notable exceptions) weren't intent on trying to kill you for going to a different church or espousing a contrary set of political values.

Needless to say, my roommate didn't spend a lot of time with his arms folded across his chest doing those hernia-inducing Russian squat dances in teary-eyed celebration of the old country. (There's a reason we all came here and it's generally not because life was so wonderful in the place we left. It might be well to remember that when you start to get all excited about the results of your Ancestry DNA test.)

Perhaps my earliest memory involving Russians dates back to grade school—first grade, in fact—when we innocents would periodically take a break from drawing stick pictures of farm animals (this was before they began requiring Greek and astrophysics in kindergarten) in order to participate in nuclear attack drills. This involved quietly getting up from our desks and filing out into the hallway where we would huddle against the wall to docilely await Armageddon.

In retrospect, a more appropriate reaction would have been to race around the classroom shrieking in panic, but I guess kids were more trusting in the '50s, before Vietnam came along and kind of took the bloom off our world view. In any case, we all put our crayons carefully down on our desks and filed quietly out into the dubious safety of our pre-Vietnam school hallway.

Apparently, relocating in the interior hallway was intended to shield us from molten flying glass should the Russians take it into their heads to vaporize Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford. I'm all for optimism, but after a while someone must have drawn a circle on the map and realized that flying molten glass isn't much of an issue when you've been incinerated.

In any case, the drills were discontinued by the time we entered second grade and I forgot about the Russians until they shot Yuri Gagarin into space and our leaders decided that our national survival depended on Jim Hallas being forced to struggle through a multitude of science courses with catastrophic effects on his grade point average, not to mention his once happy-go-lucky disposition.

I will never forgive the Russians for that.
Glory to Ukraine!

Jim Hallas

Rivercast Hours of Operation

The offices of the *Rivercast 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 *Rivercast* can be reached any time via email at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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

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the average American. The GOP is not the party of the working class. (house.gov, *Newsweek*, MSN, ProPublica.org, *Washington Post*, U.S. Small Business Administration, govtrack.us)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Who Says?

To the Editor:

Who says puppies don't have ESP (Extra Sensory Perception)?

My two little characters were racing and jumping and rolling when suddenly they both stopped at the exact same time, ran over to one side of the fence and stood staring out. There were no cars or trucks on the road, no birds flitting from tree to tree, no squirrels darting across the lawn. All was silent. When around the corner of the house came the old dog from upstairs. Her tail was up and just the tip was slightly wagging as she walked slowly towards the puppies. They stared at one another and then the old dog, with tip of tail still wagging, returned to the front of the house and out of sight. All in total silence.

I wish I had that ESP ability so I could sense stuff before it happens. Don't you?

Lorraine J. Spiegel – Colchester

Finally, a Budget

To the Editor:

After many months of uncertainty and back-and-forth conversation, Colchester finally passed a municipal budget last Tuesday. We were the last town in the state to do so, and fortunately, we can finally move forward. Thank you to all who voted on the 15th.

Since the beginning of the process in February, Democratic members on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance had expressed concerns about revenue, transparency, unnecessary expenditures like ClearGov, and current year transfers. It took three failed referendums for the first selectman and chair of the BOF to finally listen to the concerns seriously.

Once all members from both boards were able to agree, support became widespread. When the voices of elected Democrats on the BOF and BOS were finally heard, The Democratic Town Committee decided that it was in the best interest of Colchester to expend financial resources to raise voter awareness and support. And then the budget passed. It is not ideal by any means, the risks of not passing a budget far outweighed the concerns with it.

Passing a budget in November after four referendums will have long-term ramifications, including staffing issues and credit scores. The lesson learned is that collaboration, true transparency, and open conversation between both parties are what move a town forward. It's unfortunate that this was not the approach our current administration chose to take from the very beginning.

Sincerely,

Monica Egan, Chair

Colchester Democratic Town Committee

Most Pressing Problems

To the Editor:

Bonnie Olivieri tells us we're uninformed because we disagree with her; that we're ignorantly voting to extend our most significant problems. That's not how it works. Her pressing issues are very different from mine. I would likely vehemently disagree with her votes, but I will do her the courtesy of not implying that she's stupid for them. I wish she would do the same for others.

She thinks our most important problems are:

- Inflation – mostly out of politicians' control, related to overheated economies and oil shocks; now coming down now after spiking when the economy improved so rapidly in 2021 and 2022.

- Immigration – with the ongoing labor shortage and rapid wage growth, if Ms. Olivieri would like lower inflation, she should appreciate a larger supply of cheap labor. Very little fentanyl or sex trafficking is tied to illegal immigrants.

- CRT in schools – this (obviously correct) subject is taught in law schools, not primary and secondary schools.

- Rampant crime – The spike in crime starting in 2019 is barely a blip on thirty years of falling crime.

To me, our most pressing problems are far worse:

- The ongoing climate crisis, making our world much less livable.

- The devolution of a major American political party into anarchy and antidemocratic au-

thoritarianism.

Voting for the opposition would simply exacerbate these dangerous problems.

I agree that people could be helped by looking at better news media. Rather than television news, try sources like these: *The New York Times*, *The National Review*, *The Washington Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Atlantic*, NPR, *The New Yorker*, *The Hartford Courant*, *The Wall Street Journal*.

Briefly: It's endearing that Ed Kozlowski thinks my "report cards" implied I was acting like a college professor. I was thinking grade school teacher, myself.

Sincerely,

Scott Sauyet – Andover

My Sincerest Gratitude

To the Editor

I am grateful for the confidence the voters of Cromwell and Portland have put in me to represent you in Hartford. It is a privilege to be your voice and one I will never take for granted. You have my sincerest gratitude.

I promise to continue focusing on what matters most here in the 32nd District – safe neighborhoods, an affordable Connecticut, and a quality of life we can all enjoy. Many of the most important issues start local and I will continue to work with local and state officials and roll up my sleeves to make our community – and state – a better place.

Always,

**State Rep. Christie Carpino
R-33rd District**

Note: The 33rd District covers Portland and Cromwell.

Small-Town Politics

To the Editor:

As a suburban peasant, my ancestors came to Hebron over a century ago escaping an oppressive, autocratic government and overtaxation. Lately, Hebron's government is beginning to resemble the old country. New England town government was once considered the purest form of democracy; alas, no longer in Hebron.

In 1747 Hebron acrimoniously split into geographic neighborhoods over a building project that still divides Hebron today. Hebron is on that verge again with Hebron's leaders opposing its citizenry. Few Hebron voters initially approved the 17 Kinney Rd. purchase for a Public Works complex. Recently, many Hebron residents have spoken against it. Yet, Hebron's leaders as "stewards of the town and agents of the people" sworn to protect Hebron's "rural historic character" are promoting their own suburban/industrial pet-project ignoring the people who elected or pay them. This is Putinesque politics!

The 11/15/2022 P&Z hearing was troubling. Historically, only town residents could participate. Yet, at least one non-resident town employee submitted an unsolicited opinionated letter beforehand and was allowed to speak "ex-officio." When did the official town policy change to allow this potential conflict-of-interest?

Despite continued large-scale public disapproval over environmental, historical and increased taxes, town leadership continues to ignore and denounce their electorate without any apparent willingness to engage in open conversation or to consider compromise. If there is truly no Plan B, then this is a catastrophic failure of town leaders to wisely manage Hebron's greatest asset – the Land.

Unfortunately, development of 17 Kinney Rd. also promotes systemic discrimination against important minorities in Hebron's past. Ignorance of the town's past does not grant absolution to destroy a community's heritage! Supporting preservation of Hebron's "rural historic character" isn't a subversive grassroots movement requiring extermination. It's a fundamental leadership responsibility.

Hebron should not become a Potemkin/Animal Farm-like village!

John Baron – Hebron

Weir Gives Thanks

To the Editor:

With the election behind us and with many of us celebrating Thanksgiving, I wanted to take a moment to thank all the people who supported me during my campaign for state representative for the 55th District. I'm thankful for the dozens of volunteers who gave of their time, effort and talents to help me earn this seat. I'm thankful for the many supporters, mentors, friends, family and, of course, my wife Allegra. Often, I was amazed at the hours spent by volunteers, and their commitment served to energize me. I am also grateful to the 2,500+ voters who answered my knock at their doors and took the time to discuss their concerns and expectations with me. Special thanks to outgoing state Rep. Robin Green, and former state representatives Gayle Mulligan and Pam Sawyer for their unwavering support.

Once sworn into office on Jan. 4, 2023, I will begin serving my two-year term in Hartford. I expect I have a lot to learn, and I will be representing every resident of the 55th District. During my campaign, I pledged to work hard and to listen to the voices of the residents of the district. I look forward to fulfilling that pledge.

Beginning the first week of December, I plan to hold office hours in each town, rotating around the district at local business establishments, in order to understand concerns prior to taking office. This will give me a jump start on the issues. Please look for notifications on my website: steveweirforct.com and also Facebook at www.facebook.com/SteveWeirforCT. Please follow the prompts to request a meeting and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
Steve Weir

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Hebron and Marlborough**

CORE Members Sought

To the Editor:

Colchester's Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission is looking for new members to join the commission. I am looking to balance out the membership between men and women, represent all ages, especially those ages not presently represented on the commission, and add a mix of races and ethnicities. It's important the CORE Commission represent the diversity that is in Colchester, as well as priorities and perspectives of all residents. The time commitment consists of monthly meetings, planning events, participation in community events, fundraising, and making small monetary investments when needed.

The CORE Commission needs applicants who are open minded, can engage and share diverse opinions in a respectful manner, and are willing and able to work with everyone. If you are interested in applying, please go to the Town Hall website, search on Boards and Commissions, and look for Colchester's Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission Accepting Applications. Fill out the application and submit it to the first selectman's office.

Thank you for your interest and I wish you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving!

Regards,
**Shawn Pelletier
CORE Chair**

Give Thanks

To the Editor:

Since Europeans' first encounters with Native Americans, they have been a source of courage, generosity and mystery. Several generations of my family, including the present, have had their lives saved by the wisdom of these tribal people.

My paternal grandmother decorated our Thanksgiving tables with food like apples, corn, pumpkins, and squash. Loose feathers, dried leaves and corn husk dolls of both the early settlers as well as the Native Americans, also

adorned our tables.

At grace, we gave thanks to our native friends, without whose help we would not have weathered so many storms. Their generosity, courage and painful loss is a bitter sweet story we were taught to respect.

Hebron too has a responsibility to respect and to thank the Native Americans. In 1675, the Raymond Brook Watershed was given to the early settlers as a thank you gift for our support in defending this area during the King Philip War. These proud tribal people gave us the greatest gift of all, bountiful farmland with its own water supply. This watershed is still high-functioning, still self-watering, still contains healthy prime glacial soils and still supports life with clean GA water. As our great nation faces clean drinking water losses at an alarming rate, we the residents of Hebron have this watershed by our side. Thirty-five of the 88 acres purchased by the town are wetlands. The EPA states one acre of wetlands can hold more than one million gallons of water.

Farmland, a wildlife habitat, ancient trees and clean drinking water lead me to believe it is time we thanked not only the Watershed but the native people who so bravely fought by our side. These courageous people then gave us the greatest gift of all, farmland with potable water. Happy Thanksgiving. #save17.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

The Pledge of Allegiance

To the Editor:

The Pledge of Allegiance is a rote part of American upbringing; at least it was a daily recitation when I was going to public school in the '50s and '60s. The words were imparted as patriotic gospel. As adults, there are many venues where the pledge is recited to open an event. This is often a civic organization or government meeting. I accept the appropriateness of saying the pledge in those contexts. But, I have a problem with the sincerity, or lack thereof, when these august words are spoken out of sheer habit.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Simple but strong words that ring hollow when the descriptors begin.

"One nation under God ..." that is not even an assumption anymore; it is a very broad and loaded statement that glosses over or even diminishes a large plurality of Americans. "... indivisible ..." is aspirational, at best. We are currently quite obviously divided.

Mostly though, "... with liberty and justice for all" truly strains credibility. Do we actually listen to ourselves when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance? Or, are we so hypocritical that the dissonance does not even register?

So, let's not just mouth these wonderful words, let's do a much better job of living up to them!

John Barnowski – Colchester

Scenic Totalitarianism

To the Editor:

I would like to express my gratitude for the tremendous support of the efforts to preserve the character, history and environment of Kinney Road. The impressive turnout at last week's

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

Planning and Zoning public hearing made a huge statement and let the town officials know residents from across Hebron approve of the designation of Kinney Road as Hebron's second Scenic Road. I am also grateful for Michael Sinkewicz's coverage of the hearing in last week's *Rivereast*. One important clarification: the residents of Kinney Road have been working since August to gather the signatures of 17 out of 18 households, create a scale map and fulfill all requirements necessary. This is not a last minute "tactic," this is a well-deserved designation and an appropriate use of the Scenic Road Ordinance. As stated by Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux, "My review of the request and supporting materials finds that all requirements have been met."

However, the public hearing is only part of the story. Two days later, on Nov. 17, Hebron's Board of Selectmen held a meeting and added the Scenic Road request to their agenda. Shockingly, the BOS publicly discussed putting pressure on the independently elected officials of the Planning and Zoning Commission in an effort to block the Scenic Road designation. The chairman stated the need that Hebron's boards are "all heading our ships in the same direction" and that he was nervous "we're not all on the same page." These efforts undermine the Scenic Road designation process and, perhaps more importantly, P&Z's decision-making process. The Oxford Dictionary defines totalitarianism as "A system of government that is centralized

and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state." Is this really where the BOS wants to take Hebron?

Please join us at Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and help #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Noose at High School

To the Editor:

The news about a noose hanging in the boys' bathroom at RHAM hit us like a brick. As leaders of the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) and as parents and longtime community members here in Hebron, we are appalled and deeply disturbed at this horrific act.

We feel for RHAM students, especially students of color, and their parents. A hanging noose is a symbol of hate and intimidation. The history it represents is horrific and tragic. It has no place anywhere, but the fact that it was in our school is heartbreaking and a wake-up call for action.

The reality of a noose in a boys' bathroom at our high school cannot be overlooked, explained away with polished words, or forgotten in a day, week or month. This issue is not going to be solved just by calling in the state police, arresting the offending individual(s), and expelling them. While discipline is appropriate, this student's behavior is a symptom of a larger problem. The underlying reasons for this action

need to be uncovered and addressed.

CoDE is committed to working with RHAM leadership to identify and move forward on some of the many recommendations we have offered on creating a culture that is welcoming and respectful to all, that increases the number of teachers of color, that celebrates diversity, that teaches a holistic and comprehensive history of all people including those whose lives and contributions may have been ignored, and that deals firmly and emphatically with any incidents of hate or discrimination.

We also invite any parent, or any community member, to learn more about CoDE and to become involved with our work. Our website is code-diversity.org, and we can also be reached at code.diversity1@gmail.com.

Amy D'Amaddio, President
Donna Jolly, Vice President
Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE)

Thanks for Going Green

To the Editor:

Thank you so much to all of those who had the courage to vote Green for Registrar of Voters. I greatly appreciate your vote and the confidence you expressed in my ability to fulfill the duties of that role.

While I only secured 3% of the vote, it's worth noting that there is increasing interest in and demand for electoral alternatives. A Febru-

ary 2021 Gallup poll found that only 33% of voters believe the two-party system is working, with 62% believing a third party is necessary.

More recently, a Pew Research poll from August 2022 found that 67% of those polled agree to some degree that they "often wish there were more political parties to choose from in this country".

And as recently as October 2022 a separate Pew Research poll found that 72% of those polled felt that "on the issues that matter to them, their side in politics has been losing more often than winning" indicating that voters don't feel the issues they care most about are being addressed to their satisfaction; in other words, they feel they are in a losing battle. Those feelings were shared by those across the political spectrum.

The good news is that there is hope to improve our broken system – basic reforms like ranked choice voting, proportional representation and ballot access reform along with open debates and campaign finance reform; these simple fixes, while not making things perfect, could all have a substantial impact to make our system more fair and more democratic, so that we have more choices and more voices in our elections.

I won't be running again for registrar of voters (after three strikes I'm out!) but I strongly encourage others to step up (whether as a Green or otherwise) and offer voters an alternative you believe in.

Brian Gay – East Hampton

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St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. Office hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org. Pastor is the Rev. John Antonelle. Masks are strongly recommended.

Weekend Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed each week; visit the parish

website for more information.

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

Confession: Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m., or call Antonelle for an appointment.

Other Programs: For information on faith formation programs, baptisms, blessings of marriages, Knights of Columbus, the St. Mary Ladies Guild and more, call the church office.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional.

A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheranportland.org.

Sunday School meets the first and third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m., following worship. Ages 3 to 16 are welcome.

Adult Bible study takes place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, following worship at 10:15 a.m. The focus is on season two of the television series *The Chosen*. Anyone may join at any time. Call the church for details.

During Advent, beginning Nov. 30 Zion will

offer Wednesday evening Compline services at 8 p.m. These services will be preceded by a screening of an episode from *The Chosen*, starting at approximately 7 p.m. On Wednesday, Dec. 21, *The Chosen's* special episode, "The Messengers", a 39-minute show of Mary describing Jesus' birth, will be shown before the Compline service.

The community is welcome to participate in all worship services and special events. For more information about any church activities, or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net or visit zionlutheranportland.org. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

Winter Soccer Registration

Portland Soccer Club's winter soccer registration is now open. Sign up at clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub.

The last day to register is Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023. The season will run Jan. 7-March 11.

The club is offering two indoor soccer experiences this winter. They are:

U6-U8: Birth year 2015-17. Cost is \$40. Players will participate in one-hour Futsal sessions on Saturdays (at 1 or 2 p.m.) at Gildersleeve School.

U9-U14 Indoor Soccer and Futsal: Birth

year 2008-2014. Cost is \$50. Players will participate in one-hour sessions of either futsal on Saturday (Gildersleeve School), or indoor soccer on Sunday (Oakwood indoor soccer facility in Glastonbury, field number 3), or both in some weeks. Times for futsal on Saturdays are 2 p.m., 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. Times for Sunday indoor soccer are 4 or 5 p.m.

Futsal is a fast-paced, passing- and foot-skill-oriented game. Dedicated futsal Goals and a heavier ball are used.

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.

High School Honor Roll

Principal Kathryn Lawson announces the Portland High School Honor Roll for the first marking term of the 2022-23 school year:

High Honors

Seniors: Victoria Bailey, Cole Bates, Rowan Bell, Rachel Brown, Beatrice Buzzi, Landry Carroll, Amelia Ciarleglio, Harrison Collins, Kayla Deckelman, Faith Doyle, Lauren Eckert, Ava Evison, Shannon Farley, Ryan Green, Ryan Kerr, Anton Kiwimagi, Camille Kopacz, McKenzie LaMalfa, Lily Larson, Annette LeShane, Ginia Lin, Caymus Lopez, Marley Malanczuk, Heather McDougall, Brandon McPhee, Mya Mogulnicki, Katharine Nedobity, Olivia Porter, Natalie Przeszelski, Mia Quesnel, Ashton Rambarose, Spencer Rosado, Griffin Shafer, Emma Warshaw, Joseph Woszczyna.

Juniors: Sara Austin, Cooper Beck, Lillian Carroll, Alexander Dawson, Noah Decker, Gabriela DeLeon, Camryn DiMauro, Giovanni Discenza, Evan Guilmette, Kadir Hamidovic, Lincoln Hanks, Joshua Hanna, Erin Hunter, Abigail Keaveny, Sarah Kresser, Quinn Lapinski, Sunny Lin, Rachel Mailhot, Ava Maselek, Meghan McPhee, Carson Nicol, Abbey Pickel, Dorothy Riley, Selena Shukis, Benjamin Sorrell, Morgan Sundell, Lillian Tabellione, Pierson Webster, McKayla Wilk, Corinne Woszczyna.

Sophomores: Frederick Bailey, Chloe Brennan, Matteo Brousseau, Elizabeth Bustamante, Keeleigh Christensen, Emily DeRing, Amelia Dietrichsen, Abigail Doncet, Emelia Eckert, Paige Fitzgibbons, Evangeline Graham, Nathan Green, Alina Kroeber, Jack Larson, Kathryn Laverty, Abigail Leone, Raymond Lin, Annabelle Maruschock, Cassidy Maruschock, Ty Mazzotta, Owen McGinley, Elizabeth Nedobity, Nicholas Oliva, Claire Palma, Aidan Peterson, Morganne Pineda, Avery Quesnel, Michael Rambarose, Gracie Roberts, Elliott Rowland,

Ella Royea, Anna Stone, Parker Thompson, Madelyn Varano, Caitlin Walsh, Summer Wright, Maryn Yost.

Freshmen: Cayleb Alvarez-James, Cristina Austin, Elizabeth Barr, Breckin Burke, Aiden Burrus, Hailey Bustamante, Aaron Ciarleglio, Maksim Connolly, Brady Dagggett, Jayden Dorsey, Audrey Farmer, Lillian Gaetani, Evelyn Hair, Gerry Hall, Toby Hunter, Rita Lin, Cameron Lopez, Caleb MacKay, Ryan McGrew, Leana Mierzejewski, Cade Modon, Ryan Modon, Patrick O'Rourke, Evan Piacente, Logan Prince, Nathan Quesnel, Liam Rowe, Emelia Rowland, Kiley Scott, Cate Stone, Allison Tine, Mara Tuttle, Kai Vardon, Ethan Wells.

Honors

Seniors: Sophie Binezewski, Skyla Brandenburg, Andrew DiMauro, Amelia Hair, Olivia Hungerford, Gregory Ives, Tyler Ives, Andrew Johnson, Nathaniel Kagan, Nathalie Liranzo, Leah Masal, Isabelle McClelland, Wynitch Michel, Gaspar Miranda-Ajpop, Angelina Steele, Madison Szymaszek, Mason Tuttle, Austin Vess.

Juniors: Keira Hassett, Ariana Hettrick-Rivera, William Jahnke, Jamison Lasky, Mason Lavalley, Benjamin McGrew, Elvira Medunjanin, Erik Medvecky, Tyler Quinn, Cooper Rettich, Luke Stennett, Jackson Williams.

Sophomores: Gabrielle Arnold, Laure Carroll, Nija Chester-Payne, Landon Currie, Ava Deckelman, Zachary Dickson, Thomas Hetrick, Kaitlyn Hickey, Lillian Kagan, Tyler Landy, James Marquis, Gianna Phelps, Ava Randazzo, Teagan Strycharz.

Freshmen: Hasan Abdulqader, Joseph Angersola, Evan Brown, Hayden Burke, Dylan Cohen, Cole Coppolino, Adam Dean, Gracie DeRing, Jacob Gaudino, Logan Kehoe, Jonah Lavalley, Spencer Masterson, Eunice Ngunjiri, Brody Quinn.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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Collecting for a Cause... During October and November, the Grace Guild of Zion Lutheran Church collected donations of socks and underwear for Streetfire Ministries. Streetfire serves people in need in Middletown and the surrounding areas. Shown are Donna Berndtson and Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan. Donations of new T-shirts, underwear and socks and of non-perishable food may be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, Nov. 27, or in the red box outside the side door through the end of November.

School Officials Reviewing Student Restraint Policy

By Jack Lakowsky

Citing a report from *CT Insider* that said in the 2019-20 school year there were nearly 42,000 instances of the restraint or seclusion of almost 3,500 special needs students, Portland school officials are reviewing their own practices.

Dawn Davis, student services director, said that with the state reporting more than 3,200 student injuries, it's evident "something's not working."

"Deaths can take place when someone's held against their will," Davis told the Portland school board last week.

Luckily nothing like that has happened in Portland, or in Connecticut, she said, but nationwide, deaths have occurred.

More than two decades ago, at the now-defunct Elmcrest mental hospital, orderlies suffocated a young Black, special needs child, as they pinned him in a restraint. The story garnered national attention and spurred new protective federal laws.

Students of color, the report says, are disproportionately affected, as are special needs students.

"I wish we could say we've never laid a hand on a child in my 6 years here," the student services director said, "but that wouldn't be true."

The *CT Insider* article reads: "During the 2019-20 school year, the most recent for which data is available, Connecticut schools recorded 41,887 instances of restraint or seclusion involving 3,481 special education students, amounting to more than 200 per day on average. Meanwhile, over the nine-year period from 2011-12 to 2019-20, restraint and seclusion incidents in the state resulted in more than 3,200 reported student injuries, including at least 75

that required medical attention beyond first aid."

The state reports second-graders were restrained the most, with more than 400 incidents in the 2019-20 school year.

Child welfare advocates say "there figures likely underrepresent the true prevalence of these practices..." according to *Insider*.

"While many school officials consider [the practices] necessary in [emergencies], advocates say they" risk the safety of students and staff, traumatize any involved and escalate tensions, not solve them, the outlet reports.

Between the 2018-19 and 2021-22 school years, Davis said Portland staff restrained a small number of students, no more than 10 each year, for a total of nearly 200 restraints. According to her numbers of restraints and seclusions are on a downward trend.

All restraint incidents get reported to the state, Davis said. What defines a restraint is broad; basically, any instance of preventing a child's self-willed movement - whether in a room or if a staffer has to restrain the child physically.

Davis said, when her kids were school-age said she "never got the call" that her child had to be restrained, so while she doesn't feel she can fully understand what it's like, she can make sure Portland's policy is adequate.

Davis said the district has a few dozen staff trained in restraint and, most importantly, she said, de-escalation. Retraining is annual, she said.

Looking at this data is enlightening. Davis said it helps see what's going wrong with a child's program.

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.

Fundraising Pasta Dinner

The Ladies Guild of St. Mary Church in Portland and the Knights of Columbus Freestone Council No. 7 will host a pasta dinner to raise funds for the new automatic door openers on Saturday, Dec. 3, after the 5 p.m. Mass. All are invited to attend.

Cost is \$15, and tickets are available after the 5 p.m. Masses.

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.

Next Week's Programs: **Monday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Crafts with Tracy, 10 a.m. **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.; Exercise Tap Class, 1:30 p.m.; Dulcimer Class, 6 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., multi-purpose room. Bridge will be held this week. **Thursday:** Syncosize Balance and Core, 9 a.m.; Knit & Stich, 11:30 a.m.; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m.; **Friday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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.

Special Event: Monday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. All are invited to help liven up the senior center for the holidays and have some pizza. Participation is limited.

Volunteer Drivers Sought for Meals-on-Wheels: The senior center is currently recruiting volunteer drivers to help deliver meals to the homebound Monday-Thursday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Alexis at 860-342-6761.

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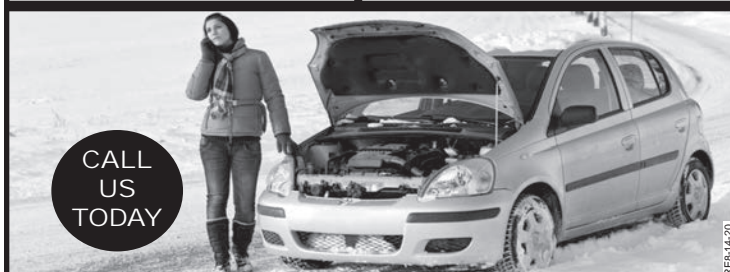
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Holiday Closings

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

Library Board Community Survey

The Portland Library Board of Directors is circulating a Community Survey throughout the month to collect information about how the library is used and how they can best meet the needs of the Portland community in the future.

Paper copies of the brief survey are available at the Portland Library, Waverly Center, and Town Clerk's Office. The anonymous survey can also be accessed online by visiting the link at www.portlandlibraryct.org.

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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.

Festival of Wreaths Just One Week Away

The Portland Historical Society's 11th annual Festival of Wreaths, "Jingle & Mingle," is just one week away – the weekend of Dec. 3 and 4 – but it's not too late to register.

Individuals, families, businesses, clubs and organizations are invited to donate a decorated wreath for this "teacup"-style raffle.

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 for this donation.

All wreaths should be pre-registered by

Thursday, Dec. 1, by emailing the above address. Drop off for the holiday wreaths and decorations is Thursday, Dec 1, from 5-6:30 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 2, from noon-2 p.m., at the Carriage House, 329 Main St.

The Festival of Wreaths will be open Dec. 3 and 4 from noon-4 p.m. both days, at the Carriage House. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each and can be placed in the bags for the decorations you most want to win.

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.

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 is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday today, Friday, Nov. 25. It 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.

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.

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.

Kids' Night Out

First Congregational Church is sponsoring a Kids' Night Out, for all children ages 3-12, will be held Saturdays, Dec. 3 and 17, from 6-9 p.m., at the church, 554 Main St. Drop-off is at 6 p.m. at the Nursery School.

There will be Christmas movies with juice and popcorn, holiday ornament crafts and reindeer games. Kids can come dressed in their favorite pajamas.

Suggested donation is \$25 per family. Spaces are limited; save a spot by contacting the church office at 860-342-3244 or office@firstchurch-portlandct.org.

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 surrounding 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.



Residents donated more than 600 bags of food for the Portland Food Bank during a recent drive.

Food Drive Yields More than 600 Bags

By Jack Lakowsky

Despite inflation's strains on their own wallets, residents got together well over 600 bags of food for the Portland Food Bank, according to Kelly Mainetti, who helped organize the recent town-wide food drive.

Collection bags were dropped off Nov. 6, and then were returned to the Food Bank Nov. 13

The count was well over 600, Mainetti said – and that's just when they stopped counting.

The bags "just kept coming in," Mainetti said, "Bags and boxes full of stuff."

While it wasn't quite the best haul Mainetti's seen, she said "it was right up there."

Mainetti, who lives out of state but returns to run the drive, said when she saw the food

bank's sparsely stocked shelves, she knew the drive was key to feeding people in need of the resource.

"Portland always pulls together," said Mainetti. She said she felt some worry, with rain predicted for the day the bank got the donations and with the larger-scale issue of inflation.

"This really exceeded expectations," said Mainetti.

Mainetti said there's an increased need at the bank, and compounding the problem, donations just aren't matching what they have in the past.

"They needed this so bad," said Mainetti.

Though a success, Mainetti is still hoping for more volunteers next year.

Knights of Columbus Raffle

Tickets are still available (\$5 per ticket) for the Knights' annual raffle. Proceeds from the raffle helps the Freestone Council accomplish work in the community.

Grand Prize: \$1,500; 2nd Prize: \$500; 3rd Prize: \$550 Gift Certificate to Mall-ove's Jewelry Store, Middletown; 4th Prize: \$500 gift certificate at Adams Hometown Market; 5th Prize: Greens fees for four for 18 holes of golf, including use of carts at Portland West Golf Course; 6th Prize: Nintendo Switch Console – with 12-month membership.

Raffle tickets can be purchased after weekend Masses in the Rosary Room. 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.



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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. Sign-ups for Christmas food and gift baskets are due as soon as possible. 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 visit is Monday, Dec. 5, at 1 p.m.

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. 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.

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.

Garden Club Sale of Holiday Planters

Portland Garden Club will hold an outdoor sale of handcrafted holiday planters and cemetery boxes decorated with fresh greenery Saturday, Dec. 3, in the parking lot at 265 Main St., next to the Town Green. Also for sale will be white birch candle logs and centerpiece decorated with holiday embellishments.

The sale will be from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., or whenever all the items are sold out. Prices range from \$12 to \$20 for the planters and cemetery

boxes.

The holiday sale is a special fundraiser for the community activities and educational programs sponsored by the nonprofit club, which has been a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut since 1947.

Admission is free, with all proceeds benefiting the garden club's projects. Rain date for the event is Sunday, Dec. 4, at the same time. For more information, call 959-231-9630.

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 building is accessible. 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. 27 is the First Sunday of Advent. The 10 a.m. worship service will include the lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope, and the Sacrament of Baptism. The Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon is titled "Wake Up!" Under Kasha Breau's direction, the choir will sing "The Angel Gabriel Basque Carol" by Thomas Hoekstra. Tags for the Giving Tree mission project will be avail-

able. 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.

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.

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.

Tickets to the event are \$20 and can be purchased from any member or by calling Joyce at 860-342-3120 or Diane at 860-347-2787. For more information, go to vocalchords20.org or look for the organization on Facebook.

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.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Youth Programs: Free Youth Basketball Clinic: Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7:15-8:45 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School, for grades 7-9. David Vasquez of Wins For Life is running a coaches' clinic for youth recreation basketball coaches - and Parks and Rec. is looking for 6-10 basketball players to participate in the drill portion of this clinic. Pre-registration required. Call Parks and Rec. for more information.

Skyhawks Basketball Clinics: Saturdays, Jan. 7-Feb. 11, at Gildersleeve School. Designed for beginner to intermediate players. Kindergarten is 8-8:45 a.m., first grade is 9-9:50 a.m.; second grade boys is 10-10:50 a.m.; and second grade girls is 11-11:50 a.m.

Recreation Youth Basketball Leagues: Players should expect to have one practice per week-night starting in early December and one game per week starting the week of Jan. 2. Depending on league size, some games will be played in surrounding towns. Parks and Rec. is accept-

ing registrations for the leagues up until the day before player evaluations take place. The date of player evaluations varies depending on the age group, but all player evaluations will be taking place during the week of Nov. 28. Age groups: Grades 3-4 Boys, Grades 3-4 Girls, Grades 5-6 Boys, Grades 5-6 Girls, Grades 7-8 Boys, and Grades 7-8 Girls.

Adult Drop-In Programs: Tai Chi at the Buck-Foreman Community Center: Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m., through Dec. 7, or Saturdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., through Dec. 10. Fee to drop in each session is \$7. Meeting location is either Portland Riverfront Park or Buck-Foreman Community Center; call Parks and Rec. for exact location information.

Volleyball: Day: Wednesdays at Gildersleeve School. Non-competitive play is 5-6:30 p.m., and competitive play is 6:30-8 p.m.

Men's Drop-In Basketball: Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., at Portland Middle School. Non-competitive play: 7:30-9 p.m. Watch for details on Women's Drop-In Basketball, coming soon.

Beginners' Yoga: Wednesdays, Dec. 14-Jan. 4, 5-6 p.m., at Buck Foreman Community Center. Fee: \$65 for residents, \$75 for non-residents.

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.

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.

Grace and Mercy Church News

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

Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library Holiday Book Store will be open starting Monday, Dec. 5, in the Second Hand Prose book sale area at the library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular hours.

The sale features a variety of used books and puzzles. The sale will continue for the remainder of December during regular library hours.

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

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

Ronald W. Kutz, Esq.

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Several rank advancements took place at Troop 72's recent Court of Honor. Pictured from left are five of the Scouts: Alex Laspino, Benjamin Salemi, Sai Parekh, Logan Cleary and Adam Laspino.

Scout Troop 72 Holds Court of Honor

Troop 72 of Colchester recently held its first Court of Honor of the season, after a great summer.

The Scouts attended JN Webster Scout Camp in Ashford and earned 57 merit badges; they had a great time at the week-long overnight camp. All the Scouts enjoyed, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, shooting sports, archery and fishing.

At the Court of Honor, the following Scouts earned rank advancements:

Logan Cleary, Dante Corticelli and Adam Laspino – Scout Rank, which is the first rank in Scouting and Alex Laspino, Sai Parekh, Benjamin Salemi achieving Second Class Scout.

Merit Badges were earned by the following Scouts: Bryce Berta - Astronomy, Basketball, Swimming; Dante Corticelli - Basketball, Fingerprinting; Luca Corticelli - Hiking, Movie-Making, Nature, Orienteering, Public Speaking; Anthony DePaola - Art, Astronomy, Chess, Science, Robotics; Lucas Jodoin - Kayaking, Painting, Swimming; Zack Jodoin - Astronomy, Kayaking, Nature, Swimming; Adam Laspino - Art, Astronomy, Swimming; Alex Laspino - Environmental Science, Geocaching, Nature, Orienteering;

Johnathan McAllister - Astronomy, Automotive Maintenance, Engineering, Fishing, Insect Study, Metalwork; Sai Parekh - Canoeing, Fingerprinting, Pottery, Signs Signals Codes, Wood-Carving; Brendan Reas - Archery, Automotive Maintenance, Emergency Preparedness;

Kevin Reas - Astronomy, Automotive Maintenance, Electronics, Nature, Robotic; Benjamin Salemi - Canoeing, Chemistry, Nature; Chase Vendrillo - Electronics, First Aid, Robotics; and Jay Wikarska - Automotive Maintenance, Chess, Electronics;

Several Scouts also earned special awards. The Fireman Chit, awarded to Scouts who have been trained and can demonstrate fire safety in building a campfire, went to Bryce Berta, Dante Corticelli and Adam Laspino.

The Totin' Chip is awarded to Scouts who have been trained and can demonstrate safe handling and proper use of a knife, ax and saw. Those Scouts are Bryce Berta, Logan Cleary, Dante Corticelli, and Adam Laspino.

Jay Wikarska earned the National Outdoor Achievement Award for completing several outdoor merit badges, above and beyond the standard requirements of them.

In addition to this, Scouts Reed Del Mastro and Connor Denecour achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout in August.

To see highlights of troop events, look for the troop on Facebook, at Boy Scout Troop 72, Colchester.

The Troop holds regular meetings at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., on Mondays at 7 p.m. from September to June. Children age 11 to 17 are welcome. If interested, email scoutmaster@troop72ct.org, Attention: Ben Smith, or stop by one of the troop meetings.

Youth Basketball Registration

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

Youth Poetry Contest

The Colchester Garden Club invites area students in kindergarten through ninth grade to create an original poem for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poetry Contest. The theme is "Seeds, Trees and Bees, Oh My! Celebrating the Diversity of Nature."

Flyers and entry forms may be picked up at the Cragin Memorial Library Children's Circulation Desk or requested by email from colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com. Contest deadline is Dec. 15.

In January, Connecticut state winners will move to the Northeast Regional judging. Only regional winners will be considered in the judging for national winners. All of the national winning entries will be compiled into a booklet that will be made available to the winners.



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.

Off to College

Andrew Navickas of Colchester is a new student this semester at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

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.

Holiday 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.

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Rotary Presents Donation... Rotarian Bonnie Johnson presents a check to Sergeant Major Dan Henderson to support Colchester Honor Guard at the recent Lions Club dinner honoring veterans.

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 www.facebook.com/presentsforpaws501c or www.presentsforpaws.org.

WJJMS Honor Roll

William J. Johnston Middle School has announced its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

High Honors

Grade 6: Blake Allard, Ryleigh Angell, Abbie Barthel, Jack Barthel, Kaylynn Benkert, Dani Borah, Lauren Brown, Ryan Browning, Caroline Bruni, Charlotte Bunting, Donovan Caruso-Wozniak, Aviana Chapman, Logan Cleary, Ronan Conley, Alexander Courtemanche, Rylee Cox, Jemma Currier, Gabrielle D'Atri, Gianna Dean, Zyyear Farrell, Dylan Friberg, Ava Galante, Zack Ginand, Liara Golden, Nova Gostkiewicz, Kendall Grant, Seraphina Gruss, Nora Gudelski, Jocelyn Hahn, Briana Hawes, Fiona Helms, Eli Henderson, Katherine Hormuzdiar, Savannah Hunscher, Emma Hunt, Gino Intrieri, Iina Kansagara, Dylan Kapoor, Delilah Koonankeil, Nadia Korzhoff, Genevieve Kukich, Kayla Lachapelle, Adam Laspino, Jonathan Lizotte, Carleigh Maher, Finn Maloney, Ellery Markham, Jameson Mauro, Kinsey McCoy, Molly McMahon, Joanna Miller, Sophie Mullen, Samantha Nadeau, Maggie Parekh, Layton Parks, Drew Pazul, Julia Rago, Delaney Scholl, Milania Shilosky, Cayden Steele, Ava Sykes, Izsak Treat, Karter Viola, Isabel Weiner, Henry Williams, Sarah Wisniewski, Kaylie Wong, Tyler Zajac.

Grade 7: Benjamin Adams, Alex Badrick, Abigail Bantle, Adam Bigelow, Madelynn Brownell, Brayden Buyniski, Camden Capone, Carmen Champagne, Grace Clarkin, Ashley Cleary, Jordan Darvas, Isabel Faber, Allison Field, Teresa Formica, Emily Fougereuse, Benjamin Fuhrmann, Dante Gonzalez, Charlie Gott, Claire Gould, Damiana Hunt, Sufyan Kasli, Brendan Kastrup, Ashtyn King, Dalila Malz, Owen McLoughlin, hane Meyer, Kiersten Page, Aphrodite Panteloukas, Krish Patel, Emma Pensa, Rylee Perry, Lily Pulse, Gabriella Rauccio, Charles Ringuette, Isabella Rivera Kloss, David Rumph, Gabrielle Russo, Adrina Ruzsala, Audrey Siborg, Riley Simmons, Julius Suggs, Maci Swenson, Colleen Talbot, Brandon Verruso, Chelsea Williams, Lila Wilson, James Wissler, Ty Wissler.

Grade 8: Raphael Antonacci, Gehrig Bartiss, Katherine Belding, Tyler Bergquist, Ethan Blanchette, Azalea Cartier, Aidan Claffey, Kellen Conley, Jacoby Eisenberg, Hannah Ferrigno, Elizabeth Floyd, Matthew Galante, Savanna Healy, Reina Hill, Averi Johnson, Keegan McKenzie, Joshua Millington, Cole Mitchell, Kaylee Opalenik, Cora Rago, Talia Ramos, Kagan Ruzsala, Alexa Smith, Paolo Uccello, Toheed Usman, Ashleen Walsh, Zoey Walter.

Honors

Grade 6: Ahmad Al-Rahyyi, Lianna Anderson, Liam Beeler, Allison Bell, Bryce Berta, Caroline Brady, Nicholas Bruni, Cadence Burchfield, Amber Carmody, Julia Carnelli, Zach Carrero, Abygail Carroll, Elyse Christoff, Christian Clemons, Samdiel Collazo, Angellese

Colon, Liam Coons, Luke Corrado, Jason Cramer, Eric Deacon, Jayden DeBroske, Gilbert England, Brin Fecteau, Kaylin Fischlein, Alice Gauthier, Jacob Gauthier, Charlotte Grant, Morgan Gray, Madeline Hagan, Lillian Harvey, Lillian Hauserman, Olivia Helms, Allyson Hollis, Sophie Hustus, Emanuel Huynh, Aydell Ima-suen, Jayden Ingalla, Owen Ives, Shea Kellogg, Allison Kennedy, Jackson Koziol, Maci Lemay, Lily Lenda, Layla Lian, Benjamin Lockwood, Aubrey Lucco, Jessica Mattos, Christopher McGlynn, Dylan Molina-Apu, William Morsch, Madison Nolan, Gabriel Olsen, Charlotte Orlando, Oliver Palmer, Judah Pappalardo, Shawn Rankin, Tully Richardson, Landon Robbins, Jacob Rodriguez, Taydian Serrano, Kamden Sime, Charlotte Smith, Mahin Thaker, Nolan Tuthill, Kyra Walter, Emily Welles, Matthew Wood, Alyssa Zajac.

Grade 7: Victoria Adamski, Zakariyya Ali, Mason Banker, Elyason Beeler, Reagan Beeler, Temperance Berard, Aidan Bisi, Charlee Boothroyd, Chelsea Boothroyd, Kira Brault, Grace Busby, Megan Buscetto, Cameron Chabot, Evan Coakley, Benjamin Coughlin, Hailey Crossway, Cameron Cruz, Jesse Czepiel, Addison Daniels, Kaden Davis, Seriaa Farrell, Abigail Floyd, Kailyn Formanek, Aubrella Fowler, Jacob Gardiner, Noah Garvie, Benjamin Graham, Jameson Grant, Locke Grigas, Jack Grimm, Reid Gross, Quinn Guntulis, Jonas Healey, Carter Hebert, Jack Hiegl, Cadence Hlasyszyn, Brody Hochholzer, Mason Howard, Zackary Jodoin, Connie Lin, Joshua Lund, Chance Markovitz, Jillian Marshall, Claire Martin, James Mattison, Benjamin Mattos, Mark Miano-Talbot, Mickayla Moroch, Aidalyne Pacheco, Saria Potter, Arianna Przechodzki, Benjamin Romasanta, Adriana Russo, Jeneva Santiago, Logan Sheridan, Mackenzie Shonk, Dylan Simon, Lucielyz Sosa Pagan, Christian Stabach, Maeve Sweeney, Jacob Teal, Cameron Velazquez, Bridget Walsh, Zachary Weisensee, Alayna Welch.

Grade 8: Ali Ali, Jake Ashley, Cody Blanda, Cole Boutin, Brooke Burchfield, Leah Chen, Zachary Chiarella, Nicolas Chiaverini, Robert Corrado, Luca Corticelli, Timothy Crowell, Sarah Deane, Darareaksmeiy Disher, Lauren Emmons, Leah Eveleigh, Cody Friberg, Bray Goleney, Zephyn Harrington, Joseph Hilliker, Rowan Hodgkins, Asha Hormuzdiar, Madeline Ives, Ella Jeffries, Brandon Kapoor, Mason Koji, Paraskevi Koutsofavas, Rae Lenda, Zachary Mancuso, Charles Mauldin, Johnathan McAllister, Aidan McAlpine, Pyper McIver, Michael Migliaccio, Peyton Mikalonis, Carter Nosal, Sai Parekh, Simon Parra, Boden Paul, Karah Pensa, Abigail Richards, Zachary Russo, Benjamin Salemi, Ian Sanders, Katelyn Siena, Kolby Simonds, Mason Steele, Marina Swanback, Riley Trudeau, Jason Trusz, Eleni Tsakiris, Miles Viggiani, Delaney Walsh, Shauna Wells, Michael Wisniewski.



Game-Winning Touchdown... The Colchester Cougars shut out the Killingly Redmen 8-0 the weekend of Nov. 18, by the defensive effort by Sam Collozo, Charlie Gorman, Jacob Hashem, Adam Bigelow, Mason Howard, Gavin King, Ryan Browning, Vinny Arrigoni, Carter Hebert, Niko Ibrahim and Keegan King. The game's only score – which is pictured here – came with one minute left in the game, when quarterback Niko Ibrahim connected with Gavin King for a touchdown. Kicker Mason Howard added the extra point. The Cougars moved on to the league championship against the Groton Falcons. Look for the results of that game next week.

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New 'All-American' Service Shop at Gano's

By Michael Sinkewicz

While Gano's Power Equipment has been a staple in Colchester since 1974, the business believes it can better serve its customers now than ever before.

After laboring through years of construction delays and a global pandemic, Gano's opened its new service shop in September – a major expansion that will dramatically improve the business's efficiency and enhance its overall working environment.

Perhaps most notably, every aspect of the new shop is American – from the lights down to the radiant floor heater – it's all made in America.

For Tony Gargano, who owns the business along with his father, Frank, there was no other way to build their dream facility.

"I made that decision right from the beginning," Gargano expressed, as he looked out at the shop, which fittingly displays a huge American flag on the wall. "I'm a big patriotic guy, so to me that's very important. I went out of my way to do it."

It's not an easy commitment to make, at least financially. Gargano explained that by only using American products, he's ensuring that the shop gets the highest quality, but he'll more than likely spend a lot more. Lights, he cited, were maybe two or three times more expensive, for example.

"That was probably the biggest challenge – finding American-made lighting," he recalled, though he emphasized that putting in the extra work and money was worth it. "Anything that I can find that I can that is possible buy here, I will do the homework and buy it."

Gargano stated that he wanted to do his part in sustaining jobs in the country. He speculated that it's likely not top of mind for consumers to examine products and determine where they're from.

"It keeps people working in this country," he said. "It keeps jobs here. To me, that's more important than anything."

Gargano concluded that the business needed an expansion back in 2020, before the pandemic and construction didn't begin until November 2021 due to delays. Overall, from the conceptual stage to going to the town with the design, to completion, took over two years.

"It was a challenge to build for sure," according to Gargano. The bay doors took five months to arrive, the building was supposed to be there in three months – it took over 10. This prevented Gargano from digging out the ground and

putting in the foundation.

Moreover, the delays caused by the pandemic were also accompanied by increased costs.

"Inflation has been horrible," Gargano said.

He put a deposit down in December 2020 to order the building. Then in May, he was told that it couldn't be completed at that price anymore. Gargano said that specific part of the project alone cost him an extra \$14,000.

"Did I go over budget?" he said. "Yes."

But when he saw the finished product, it was "incredible."

"It's a feeling of pride; it's a feeling of accomplishment; it's a feeling of being able to give our employees something better," he said, adding that he hopes the community also enjoys the expansion and the effort that went into the construction. "I'm sure customers will appreciate it. Any customer that's come in here has been like, 'wow, it's beautiful.' They know that they're getting the best work they can get done."

As Gargano gave a quick tour of the old service shop, which will now mainly be utilized for equipment storage, it became evident that the facility was too cramped for what Gano's wanted to work on.

While the old shop had ceilings that were less than eight feet high, the new service shop, that Gano's will use for all its mechanical work, can accommodate vehicles of all sizes, including several at once – which is also something it was unable to do previously.

"The shop was good for when we started but equipment has gotten bigger; trucks have gotten bigger," he expressed. "For efficiency purposes, we had one door in and out of our old service shop, so we were always bottle-necked. Now, we have three doors to go in and out of. For efficiency purposes, it's a good expansion for us."

The new shop has numerous features that should also contribute to efficiency. For example, there are new gantry cranes that will help the staff work on trucks, including plows, which is important as winter approaches. A new waste oil furnace is also a welcomed addition to the shop.

"The number one thing is more efficiency – that's the biggest thing we're after," Gargano said. "We were doing the truck plows anyway, but now we can do them the right way."

The workers were putting a plow on a truck as Gargano was touring the new facility. He pointed out how the trucks can easily pull into the shop and be lifted up, making the project significantly easier.



The new service shop at Gano's is all-American – in every sense of the word. Each part of the new shop – from the lights down to the radiant floor heater – is all made in the U.S.A.

"It's night and day," he said, in regards to the shop's efficiency. "At the end of this month, we'll really see the production difference."

Another priority with building the new shop was to improve the working conditions of the staff. Gargano designed the facility along with the workers to ensure that every need was met. The workers, for example, picked out the lift tables they wanted, the cabinets and the new radiant floor heating.

"They're standing up and at the end of the day, they go home and they're not all beat up from laying down on cold concrete," he said. "This is radiant floor heating, so the concrete is warm."

He added that "everything [the workers] wanted to have done, is done."

The new facility is 55 feet long by 60 feet wide. It's possible that the expansion will allow for future opportunities that maybe weren't available for Gano's before. In the present, the emphasis is on handling the shop's current responsibilities.

"Now the [staff] can work in a nice, new shop that meets our needs," Gargano said. "Are we going to change anything we do? We'll talk about it down the road. But we do have the opportunity to work on some bigger equipment stuff now if we want to."

Gargano expressed that a "company like us gives a lot more to the community" and that they "reinvest in our local community."

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.

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.colchesterfederatedchurch.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 sanctu-

ary. 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.

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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, CHVFD 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.

Christmas Polka

The St. Joseph's Polish Society of Colchester will host a Christmas Polka Sunday, Dec. 11.

Hors d'oeuvres and a baked ham dinner will be served from 1-2 p.m. Dennis Polisky and The Maestro's Men will perform from 2-6 p.m. for dancing. Tickets are \$30 per person. Stop by the club during regular business hours to purchase tickets.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.



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Senior Center Project Faces \$1M Shortfall

By Michael Sinkewicz

The boards of selectmen and finance held a joint meeting Monday to address a near-\$1 million shortfall in the construction of the new senior center, leaving the town scrambling for possible funding sources and whipping up potential legal chaos.

Tony Tarnowski, chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee outlined the nature of the shortfall and the potential avenues the boards could take in response. Officials then largely signaled their preference towards appropriating money from expense accounts and funds donated from the Stephen Bendas estate – although this plan faces obstacles.

Ultimately, both boards are expected to reconvene next week to make a final decision on the future of the project. Ahead of that meeting, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, in conjunction with the boards, is seeking legal opinions from both the town attorney and bond counsel to ensure that the town would not face any liability.

In Nov. 2021, residents voted in favor of constructing a new senior center at referendum by a 1,421-851 tally.

The potential legal ambiguity involves the language put on the ballot, which states that the town shall “expend a sum not to exceed \$9.5 million for costs related to the design and construction of a new senior center and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes to finance the portion of the appropriation not defrayed from grants.”

As Tarnowski explained during the meeting, the town is currently projected to exceed that total, describing the circumstance as a “reflection of what’s happening in the construction industry.”

Specifically, the construction budget is responsible for the overage, according to Tarnowski. The original estimate in 2021 was for \$7.4 million. When the bid opening began on Oct. 13, BRD Builders LLC was the apparent low bidder at \$8.9 million.

After \$370,000 in alternates to the bid were accepted, the final construction cost came in at just over \$8.6 million, leaving a \$976,030 shortfall.

In tackling this issue, Bisbikos guaranteed those attending the meeting both in-person and online that any decision would be made in “full transparency” and in “complete collaboration with the public.”

He promised there would not be a tax increase as result of the town’s potential actions.

To ensure this, Bisbikos promoted an idea that was generated in collaboration with the finance department, that would involve utilizing \$575,000 from the Bendas donation, \$250,000 from the undesignated fund balance account and upwards of \$95,000 from the capital reserve account.

This idea, which received support from some officials and pushback from others, would “not require a referendum and does not change the \$7 million amount projected to bond upon receiving the State Bond Grant,” according to Tarnowski’s presentation.

Moreover, it “poses a very low level of risk to the project cost and overall completion schedule.”

However, some officials argued that this idea would violate the terms approved at referendum, since the total project amount would still go over \$9.5 million.

Jason LaChapelle, a Republican on the Board of Selectmen, questioned whether that option would go against the “will of the people.”

He asked the boards, “What does this mean for every referendum moving forward?”

To expand on his opposition, LaChapelle asserted that the Bendas estate money could be used to help cover the operational costs of a new facility and that spending it in this manner was the “least responsible” measure government could take.

“We’ve got to go out to referendum,” LaChapelle stated. “You have to ask the voters.”

Going back to referendum and asking residents to approve the funding to cover the shortfall would potentially impact the amount projected to bond and would most likely push back the completion of the senior center, according to Tarnowski.

Colchester has 90 days from the time the bid is received to sign the contract, which gives the town until mid-January to finalize the details before it would be forced to restart the bid process.

However, Tarnowski explained that since the lawyers need time to complete the deal and get final state approval, the town needs to cement its decision by early next week.

With that timeline in mind, any plan that includes a referendum would likely require the town to get a new bid, which Tarnowski speculated would set the project back months and likely cost more than the current proposal.

Another idea would involve scrapping the current project entirely, and redesign the building so it falls within the \$9.5 million budget.

Both Bisbikos and Board of Finance Chairman Andrea Migliaccio agreed not to propose any motions during the meeting, giving the members time to analyze the information and allowing the community to ask questions during the week.

Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat on the Board of Selectmen, who has been involved in the pursuit of a new senior center for many years, urged the boards to “find solutions together.”

She expressed that it was the “responsibility of elected officials to make good decisions for the town of Colchester.”

While some citizens shared their belief that the increased costs were foreseeable, Coyle stated otherwise.

“No one could’ve predicted the economic times we’re in,” she said. “No one could’ve pre-

dicted the inflation.”

The three-hour joint-meeting included input from numerous members of the community including state Rep. Brian Smith (D-48) and some residents who were involved in local government when the project details were first being approved.

Smith charged the town to move forward while employing the most efficient practices that will limit costs.

Smith helped secure \$2.5 million in state funding to aid in financing the construction of a new senior center, and he suggested officials stay vigilant of any other funding opportunities.

“We should all keep our radar up for these applications,” he said, adding that even efforts such as GoFundMe campaigns could help raise money for certain features of the project.

Democrat Mary Bylone, who was first selectman when the project was approved at referendum, emphasized the importance of constructing the building as soon as possible.

“We are way overdue at addressing the needs of our seniors,” she said.

Others, including Taras Rudko, the chairman of the RTC, who previously served on the Board of Selectmen, said the efforts to spend more than the allotted budget was “disingenuous” and “distasteful.”

He, too, believed the decision should go to a referendum. At the end of the meeting, Rudko stated that some officials were partaking in “misdirection” and asked the community not to “let fear manipulate you.”

He also suggested that this public conversation should’ve taken place before the latest town budget referendum this month, which passed.

Migliaccio acknowledged that while the concern was discovered shortly before the referendum, the town needed an approved budget first before attempting to address this problem.

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 vaccination 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.

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Young Bobcats Advance to Soccer Semis

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy girls' soccer head coach Matt Rafala guided his Bobcats to the state semifinals in his first season running the program.

After winning ten games in the regular season, the team was victorious in the first three rounds of the Class M state tournament before losing to Mercy, 3-0, in the semifinal round at Veterans Stadium in New Britain on Nov. 16.

It was the furthest the Bobcats have advanced in the state tourney in 15 years, last making the semifinals in 2007.

"It was a great season. I'm proud of this team," Rafala said after the elimination game. "We had a great run; it was a good accomplishment."

In the loss to Mercy – a private school from Middletown – the Bobcats went toe-to-toe with the defending state champion Tigers.

Following a goal from Mercy's Laney Smith in the fourth minute of the game, Bacon stiffened on defense and didn't allow another goal for the next 65 minutes of action until Megan Menard and Kate Donlan each scored in the final ten minutes of regulation.

"They have been in these types of games the entire season and they have come back with seconds left in the game, so this bunch never felt like they were out of it. They have always had that fire and it showed tonight," stated Rafala. "They stuck with a team that was the defending state champs for a reason. They were going up against a tall task and they rose to it. I am really, really proud of them."

Mercy would advance to the state championship where they would defeat Northwest Catholic to capture the Class M championship for the

second straight season—last year finishing as co-champions with Sacred Heart.

The loss to Mercy was the final game for four Bacon Academy seniors.

Captains Maddox Burton and Anna LeGault, along with Trinity Georgens and Danielle Benoit, helped Rafala guide an inexperienced team that started three freshmen and four sophomores against Mercy.

"[The seniors] helped bring the team together and the leadership they showed to help bring along the freshman and bring along the sophomore," stated Rafala. "They gave the rest of the team the opportunity to come in and step into the light and shine for themselves."

Sophomore goalie Liz Glover will again be the anchor on the backend next year. Glover posted ten shutouts this fall, including three straight in the state tournament as the Bobcats blanked Seymour (4-0), Plainville (1-0), and Lewis Mills (1-0).

Rafala called Glover "amazing" and said that she stood tall against the top teams in the state all season.

"Liz is a special one. She stops so many shots that I don't think many people can," added Rafala. "I have yet to see a goalkeeper in the state that has wowed me more than she has."

Glover will lead a Class of 2025 that also includes returning starters Veronica Smith, Audrey Palmer, and Katelyn Novak. Freshmen starters Alyssa Blanchette, Lanie McIllduff, and Mia Hageman will also be back to head the Class of 2026.

Junior Emily Ferrigno and Kayla Hall are also expected back to assume the senior leadership duties next fall.

With nearly their entire starting lineup slated



Bacon Academy freshman Bailey Elliott pursues Mercy's Julia Salley during the Class M semifinals at Veterans Stadium in New Britain on Nov. 16. The Bobcats lost 3-0 to the Tigers, who would go on to win a second straight state championship.

to return next season, the future looks bright for the Bobcats.

"We'll have some really young talented

coming back, so fingers crossed," said Rafala. "Hopefully they can take this experience and that it drives them next year."

Breakfast with Santa

The St. Joseph's Polish Society, at 395 South Main St., will host a Breakfast with Santa Sunday, Dec. 4, from 7-11 a.m. Santa will be available for pictures taken with your own camera.

A breakfast buffet including coffee and juice is available. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. All proceeds will be given to Toys for Tots.

Attendees are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy for Santa to put under the tree for him to deliver to Toys for Tots.

New Year's Day 5K

The Youth First Coalition and Colchester Youth and Social Services announce the 18th annual New Year's Day 5K Resolution Run. The 2023 5K Resolution Run takes place at Colchester Town Hall at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023. Registration and bib pick-up begins at 8:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is \$25 and same-day Registration is \$30. The first 150 people registered will receive a race T-shirt. Register at tinyurl.com/38a8rver.

Proceeds benefit youth scholarships and youth center upgrades.

For more information, contact Charity Benedict at Colchester Youth and Social Services at 860-537-7255 or cbenedict@colchesterct.gov.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongregchurch.org for login information.

Sunday School meets during the worship service.

Meetings: The church hosts several groups meeting weekly: Al-Anon, Mondays at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; AA, Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA Troop 109, Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Outreach: The church has a white wooden Blessings Box in the lower parking lot with non-perishable food items and other useful items. Anyone in need or who wishes to donate may stop by and take or leave a few items.

For more information, email westcongchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

A Bear's Adventure at StoryWalk

Families can enjoy a new picture book, *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* by Julia Sarcone-Roach, at the Colchester StoryWalk.

Follow the tale of a bear, lost in the city, who happens upon an unattended sandwich in the park. The bear's journey from forest to city and back home again is full of happy accidents, funny encounters and sensory delights.

Children and families can follow the short hiking trail of weatherproof stations. Each station features suggested questions or simple activities to enrich the story and hike.

Colchester's StoryWalk features books with nature, wildlife, and gardening themes that appeal to young children. New books are posted four times a year as weather permits. Copies of each story can be checked out at Cragin Memorial Library.

Colchester's StoryWalk is located at 96 McDonald Rd. and is a partnership project of the Cragin Memorial Library, C3 (Collaborative for Colchester's Children), the Colchester Garden Club, the Colchester Land Trust and the Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester.

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This year's Wreaths Across America ceremony is planned for Saturday, Dec. 17. Pictured at last year's event is Colchester's Antique Veteran Guard.

Wreaths Across America Planned for Dec. 17

Local Wreaths Across America volunteers are working hard to ensure that all veterans laid to rest Westchester Cemetery are honored this December as part of National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 17.

Westchester Cemetery Association, in collaboration with Troop 109, is helping to coordinate this year's event.

"Every \$15 wreath sponsorship made is a meaningful gift from a grateful American who knows what it means to serve and sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy," said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "We are so grateful to the good people of this wonderful community for participating in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach."

For more information, to donate or to sign up to volunteer, visit wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/14786/Overview, or contact Roberta Avery at 78 Northern Blvd., Colchester, CT 06415, or by calling 860-537-1889.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps coordinate wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. Last year, ceremonies were held across the country at more than 3,100 participating locations, placing 2.4 million wreaths for interred veterans.

For more information, to donate or to sign up to volunteer, visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/CTWCCC.

CBA Holiday Auction

Plans are now well underway for the Colchester Business Association's annual Holiday Auction, which will be held Tuesday, Dec. 7, at St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 South Main St.

Dozens of items donated by local businesses will be auctioned off, with proceeds benefiting the Colchester Food Bank, Colchester Fuel Bank, CBA Scholarship Fund and Santas Anonymous. Last year's auction raised in excess of \$6,000.

Auction items traditionally include tickets to area events, merchandise, bottles of wine, large

gift baskets and gift cards.

Appetizers will be served from 6-7 p.m. during the auction preview and silent auction, with the live auction starting at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 for the meal and a bid number.

The event is open to the public. Reservations can be made by emailing info@colchesterctbusiness.com.

Anyone wishing to donate to the auction should call event Chairman Ash Bashir at 860-537-2331 ext. 227, or Jack Faski at 860-214-1147.

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. 28: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 9:30 a.m., Painting with Ruth; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fix; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, Nov. 29: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 12:30 p.m., In the Know, Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Nov. 30: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 9:45-11 a.m., AARP Smart Driver TEK; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; noon-4 p.m., AARP Driver Safety; 1:30 p.m., Make, Take & Give Holiday Crafts; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, Dec. 1: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, 10 a.m., Deck the Halls Tree-Trimming Party; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Dec. 2: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Open Enrollment; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Hearing Clinic, Choral Group; 11 a.m., yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Understanding Diabetes: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m. Andrea Deedy, TVCCA's registered dietitian, will answer questions and share insights on diabetes care and prevention. No registration required.

Make, Take & Give Holiday Crafting Series: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. Spend the afternoon creating Santa ornaments. 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. Pre-registration is required.

Holiday Lights Evening Trip: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 4 p.m. departure. See the drive-through "Holiday Light Fantasia" at Goodwin Park in Hartford. Have dinner on your own at Cracker Barrel beforehand, with time for some holiday shopping in the gift shop. Cost is \$8 and includes park admission and senior bus transportation. Space on this trip is very limited; sign up by Monday, Dec. 5.

Wreath-Making: Friday, Dec. 9, 9:30 a.m. Make a fabric holiday wreath. All materials will be provided. Cost is \$5 per person. Register by Dec. 5.

Pet Therapy: Monday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. All are invited to come get a little TLC from "Stitch," a certified therapy dog, with her owner Mary Bylone.

Cocoa and Carols Sing-Along: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the music of the holiday with the center's choral group, the "Senior Serenaders." There will also be a reading of 'Twas the Night before Christmas by Mrs. Claus and a hot cocoa bar. Pre-register by Dec. 6.

Cookie-Decorating with the Youth Action Council: Thursday, Dec. 15, 2:30-4 p.m. Learn how to decorate sugar cookies with royal icing using tipless decorating bags. Cost is \$3, with which you'll make and take three cookies home as well as decorate others for the Meals-on-Wheels program. If you wish to participate, register in the office by Thursday, Dec. 8.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday, Aggadatah class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom and in person; Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., hybrid in-person and on Zoom; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.

A Chanukah latke party and community candle-lighting will take place at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are: Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

East Catholic Honor Roll

Colchester residents Ryan Curry and August Riccio earned First Honors on the East Catholic High School honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

They are both members of the Class of 2026.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

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Decorated Planters... The Colchester Garden Club members decorated 14 town planters through the seasons including this autumn to brighten the downtown area. The fall display at the library flag pole planter was created by the Deacon Family. Club members also maintain and enhance nine gardens around Colchester including the Cohen Woodlands Butterfly Garden, Colchester Senior Center, Cragin Memorial Library, Red Twig Dogwood gardens on Linwood Avenue, and the Xeriscape garden at the corner of Main Street and Linwood Avenue. Additionally, the Colchester Seed Library, a partnership of the Colchester Garden Club and Cragin Memorial Library is now collecting seeds for the 2023 season; the bin is in the adult library. For more information on the Colchester Garden Club, email colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com.

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.

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.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

History Museum Open Sundays

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. through Dec. 4. The museum, adjacent to the Cragin Memorial Library, is free and offers both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history.

For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

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.

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Bellringers Soccer Fall in State Championship

By Josh Howard

Playing on a slick surface and in a driving wind at Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford, the boys' soccer team at East Hampton High School lost to Old Saybrook, 2-0, in the Class S championship game.

Old Saybrook's Kevin DeCapua scored with an assist from Brayden Cody in the 17th minute and Cameron DeAngelo added an insurance goal with 1:09 to play in regulation as the Rams won the Class S title for a fourth straight season.

For the entire 80-minute battle, players from both teams were slipping and sliding all over the weather-hardened artificial surface where the Hartford Athletics play professional soccer. The early start, combined with the frigid temperatures and moisture on the field, made playing conditions less than ideal.

East Hampton head coach Rocco Christiana described the poor field conditions as "like playing on a sheet of ice," but gave credit to the Shoreline Conference rivals.

"[Old Saybrook] won and congratulations to them, but we shouldn't be playing on fields like this for our final game. It's absolutely ridiculous," added Christiana.

East Hampton held a significant advantage in shots on goal, particularly in the first half when they had the wind at their backs.

Will Nafis, Colin Marshall, Oren Wilson, Brennan Johnson, and Ephraim Butson each had at least one shot on goal over the first 40 minutes, but struggled to find footing or accuracy due to the slippery surface.

Old Saybrook's junior goalie London Sweeney, who was named the game's most valuable player, made spectacular save after spectacular save to shutout an East Hampton team that hadn't been held scoreless in any of their previous 18 games this season.

In the 17th minute, Sweeney dove to save a shot from Wilson and a few minutes later jumped to deflect a shot from Marshall.

In the second half, Sweeney made another diving save of a David Castiblanco shot and ended contest by swatting away a free kick from Wilson in the closing minute of regulation.

East Hampton goalie Thomas Fenton was just as impressive, making several highlight-reel saves.

Once the final whistle sounded, Christiana met a dejected Fenton on the field and comforted his junior goalkeeper.

"I just told him to keep his chin up, we've got one more year. We'll come back next year and do what we need to do," said Christiana. "He's the best goalie that I've seen; it's unfortunate what happened today."

All told, the Bellringers won a total of 16 games this fall. They finished the regular season 11-1-1 and delivered Old Saybrook their only regular season loss on Oct. 28. East Hampton then won the a Shoreline Conference (SLC) championship with a victory over Morgan before ousting Thomaston, Canton, and North-Dame Fairfield in the state tourney to reach the program's first state championship game since 2014.

Unfortunately for the Bellringers, the Rams of Old Saybrook would get their revenge in the most important game of the season.

The championship loss was the final high school game for a half dozen seniors, who Christiana said "carried the team all year."

Johnson, Wilson, and Butson were Christiana's captains in the field.

Christiana called Johnson "stellar" and praised Wilson for running the team from the midfield and Butson for his work on the backline.

Castiblanco, Josh Landon, and Adam Wecht will also be departing.

Johnson, who scored a team-high 23 goals, and Wilson were named All-Shoreline First Team. Castiblanco and Nafis earned All-Shoreline Second Team, while Butson was named



East Hampton's David Castiblanco and Old Saybrook's Felipe Dutra battle for the ball at Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford. The Bellringers would lose the Class S title match to the Rams.

Honorable Mention.

Fenton, who registered 11 shutouts this fall, was named the Shoreline Conference Goalie of the Year.

"We had a really successful season," stated

Christiana, who was named the Shoreline Coach of the Year. "We made it to the show and did the best we could with the conditions that we had, and we're proud of what we did."



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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.

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.

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

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.

Teen Programs: Fall Into Creative Writing: 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.

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

Adult Programs: 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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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New Storywalk... East Hampton Public Library celebrated the grand opening of the new StoryWalk at Seamster Park on Saturday, Nov. 19. The StoryWalk is a series of kiosks containing pages of a picture book and was fundraised for and constructed by local teen Aidan Maiorino as part of the requirements for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Maiorino, a Scout from Troop 57, worked for over a year to bring this project to life. Here with one of the signs are Maiorino, Keri Blanda (adult and young librarian) and Christine Cachuela (children's librarian).



Epoch Arts' new one-act play, *An Immigrant's Journey*, features characters who fled war-torn countries, poverty, persecution and communism to come to America through Ellis Island. Pictured sitting from left are cast members RubyGrace Casey, Evangeline Hale, Zephra Sanderson, Maria Zabroski; standing from left, Alica Colgrove, Hannah Morgan, Charlotte Burr.

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Epoch to Debut Play on Immigrants

Epoch Arts will present its original one-act play *An Immigrant's Journey* Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9 and 10, at 7 p.m. both nights, at Epoch, located at 27 Skinner St.

The play is based on real-life stories of nine immigrants. Fleeing war-torn countries, poverty, persecution and communism, the play looks at the determination and hard work it took to come to America.

The cast began rehearsing in September with a mock journey of what an Immigrant went

through. They read their character's backstories, journeyed through rough seas as third-class passengers in steerage, only to be interrogated upon their arrival to Ellis Island. The characters come from a variety of countries: Poland, England, Russia and Barbados, all seeking a fresh start in America.

Admission is \$10. Tickets will be sold at the door, or to reserve a seat, email elizabeth@epocharts.org.

For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

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Ice Cream and Coffee – Need You Know More?

By Jack Lakowsky

Chatham Creamery, East Hampton’s attractive ice cream shop on North Main Street, has begun serving coffee – and plans likely aren’t stopping there, said store manager Sabrina Newell.

Newell just came on the job, and she’s already brewing up fresh ideas and products.

“Coffee has hit the ground running,” said Newell. She kicked the process into action. The owners she said, had been thinking of doing it for a while before she started.

Chatham now has weekly coffee specials, with unique flavors Newell comes up with herself.

For fall, they had a raved-about pecan pie latte. As winter comes Newell hopes to perfect peppermint mocha and gingerbread-based espresso drinks. Iced lattes are something of a specialty, she said, with customers praising their taste.

Newell said Chatham has brought higher-quality coffee to Belltown.

“Our coffee is from New York, roasted to order,” she said, “so the grounds don’t sit around going stale. It comes straight here.”

Chatham sweetens its drink with organic syrups, sweeteners that “add flavor and no cavities.”

Chatham’s got some exciting things coming down the road. Come summer, it will again host live music.

Starting this year-the store’s second in town – Chatham will have year-round service, no longer closing in the cold months.

Mobile ordering is on the way too, Newell said.

“We’ll be pairing up with the schools more,” she said, “really build on that community experience. Definitely be on the lookout for different things in the restaurant. We’re looking at some growth.”

Yet another possible new item: smoothies. Newell said popular demand has her contemplating selling them in the next few weeks.

Lastly, and arguably most exciting, Newell and the rest of the store’s management team is looking at getting baked goods on their shelves.

For more information, visit chathamcreamery.com.



Calling Belltown’s Chatham Creamery an ice cream place isn’t wholly accurate any longer, not since the store started selling coffee alongside its chilled treats. The creamery isn’t stopping there though. Manager Sabrina Newell hinted at an exciting next few years, with the store planning growth and expansion, new products and conveniences for customers.

Breakfast with Santa

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club will sponsor its annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 3, from 7:30-11 a.m., at the East Hampton High School cafeteria, located on North Maple Street.

As in the past, breakfast will be served to all that attend and the children will be able to have a picture taken with Santa Claus as a keepsake. There will also be face-painting and other children’s activities. Once again this year, inflatable Christmas decorations will be at the entrance to the breakfast and will make a perfect backdrop for holiday photos.

Those planning to attend are asked to consid-

er donating non-perishable food items for the East Hampton and Marlborough food banks. Monetary donations to support the food and fuel banks in each town will also be accepted. For more information, call Kevin at 860-754-8137.

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 lightbulbs.

A light lunch will be served of sandwiches, desserts, coffee, tea and punch.

Handicapped-accessibility is available.

Open Pottery Studio

Greenleaf Stoneware by John Macomber will hold its 47th annual Open Studio Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 10-11, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each week, at Macomber’s home pottery studio, 1 Aarons Way, East Hampton.

For more information, or to make an appointment for another time, call or text 860-528-6090, email john@greenleafstoneware.com, or visit www.greenleafstoneware.com. Masks are optional.

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.

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 4:30 p.m. Craft and Refreshments, 5:30 p.m. Santa arrives 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.

MistleTunes to Perform

The MistleTunes will perform at Paul’s and Sandy’s Too the next three weekends – Nov. 26 and 27, Dec. 3 and 4, and Dec. 10 and 11. Each weekend, the duo will perform from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and at 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.

Last Chance for Holiday Photos

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

Portraits will continue to be taken in the Parish Hall by appointment Friday, Saturday and Sunday of this week, at no charge. Proofs will be made available online for viewing and ordering.

The sittings are open to members of the community. All are welcome to take advantage of this final opportunity to obtain professional portraits for the holidays.

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 amandascherpvfw5095@gmail.com with details about your hand-made items.



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And the Winner Is... Lions District 23C Governor Sue Fisher holds the winning ticket for the East Hampton Lions Club 2022 raffle. East Hampton Lions Raffle Chairman Tom Denman is checking the ticket. The big winner this year was Jose Valazquez from East Hartford. All raffle proceeds go to East Hampton student scholarships.

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.

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 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. **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.; **Game Day:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon - space will be available and open to Mahjongg, cribbage, Mexican Train and setback players. Registration required. **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 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.

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 Se-

nior 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 Beeyonder: 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.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW): Mondays, Dec. 5 and 19, 10 a.m. There will be discussion of current events, holistic medicine, entertainment, support systems, and more. Snacks will be offered. Sign up in advance.

Birthday Celebration: Monday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m., for all October, November and December babies and guests. There will be cake, drinks and gifts. Pre-registration requested.

Norway Holiday Lights Virtually with Beeyonder: Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. Cardamom bread will be served. Pre-registration requested.

Pop-Up Holiday Market: Dec. 11-23, through regular senior center hours. Local homemade items will be offered.

Wii Bowling: Thursday, Dec. 22, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required.

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 Jewing@easthampton.gov. The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a pre-arranged designated spot.

Children's Author Donates Books

Dale Ursin of East Hampton is the author of *The Land of the Walpoles*, a children's book that teaches the importance of kindness and not judging others. This is a family read with illustrations designed to open up dialogue for family discussions.

Ursin has donated several of the books to Haddam Neck Covenant Church; the donated books will be sold for \$10 each, with 100% of the proceeds going to the East Hampton Food

and Fuel Bank to help children and families in need.

The books will be sold at the Haddam Neck Community Tree-Lighting, on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 4-8 p.m. This event will be held in the field at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. and will include a Christmas tree, tractor parade, Christmas carols, crafts, a visit from Santa, s'mores, hot cocoa and cider, a food truck and more. All are invited.

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.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated by the Rev. Dexter Cheney. Christ Church said it is happy to welcome him once again.

Sunday School: The children are responsible for part of the liturgy in church this Sunday.

Pledge Update: The church thanked all for making this year's pledge drive a success.

Covenant to Care Christmas Drive: Gifts

will be collected for children in need. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon.

Bible Study: Will resume Nov. 30. 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.

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-Nelson Mandela

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Welcome to the Hall... The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame Association held its 2022 induction ceremony on Oct. 28 at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. The inductees included the 2011 Class S state championship baseball team, pictured at top: players Nathaniel Heroux, Austin Shumbo, Joe Tuxbury, Marvin Gorgas, Ben Fortin, Zach Harrington, Zach Plitt, Austin Wosleger, Brian Roberson, Adam Michaud, Alex Iannone, Ryan Masse, Matt Sevigny, Spencer Daly and Alex Mecker, team manager Lauren Lysak, and coaches Scott Wosleger, Greg Johnson and Shaun Russell. Posthumously inducted that night was James Brown, a member of the Xavier High School Class of 1987 and a standout basketball player. Pictured in the bottom photo are Brown's parents, Barbara and Bill, daughter Addison, son Hunter and widow Susan. Also inducted was Jacqueline Beaulieu, a member of the East Hampton High School Class of 1999 and an outstanding cross country and track athlete. She accepted virtually, so there is no photo.

Historical Society Cabin Fever Talk

The Chatham Historical Society is sponsoring a Cabin Fever Series Talk Saturday, Dec. 10, at 1 p.m., at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St. A prerecorded interview, lasting about an hour, will be shown featuring Katie Morris, Donna Marsden and Whitney Fielding. All three long-time residents will talk about their remembrances of East Hampton school life, first jobs, stores and business around town, and more. Pre-register by calling the library at 860-267-6621.

Residents Sought for EHACC

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) is accepting applications from East Hampton residents to serve on the commission. The commission meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph N. Goff House Museum, 2 Barton Hill Rd., and help support and promote arts and culture in East Hampton. Applications to serve on the commission are available in the town manager's office at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive. For more information on EHACC, visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org or email arts@easthamptonct.org.

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.

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.

Church Seeks Singers

The Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam is calling for local singers interested in joining a small choir. Ability to read music is a plus. The choir would participate in services twice a month at 9:30 a.m.; the service lasts approximately one hour. Rehearsals would be after church on Sunday. An organizational meeting will be held in January at the church, which is located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd. (Route 151), in Middle Haddam. To inquire, email Toni Leland at tonileland@gmail.com.

Grant Applications

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting applications from East Hampton High School juniors and seniors for \$200 grants to support an annual East Hampton High School capstone project. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2023. Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org and can be submitted to arts@easthamptonct.org or can be mailed/dropped off at the town manager's office at the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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.

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



RHAM senior Ally Hadley was named the MVP as the Raptors won a second straight state championship on Nov. 19. Hadley (left) is pictured with junior Leilani Fecho following the state championship triumph.

Recent Rivereast Standout Athletes

By Josh Howard

Here are the Rivereast standout athletes for the week(s) of Nov. 7 - 20:
Ally Hadley – RHAM High School (Volleyball): Hadley was named the Most Valuable Player of the Class M state tournament as the Raptors swept Woodland in three sets to win a state championship on Nov. 19. The senior captain finished with 16 digs and a dozen kills as RHAM won their second consecutive title and ninth championship since 2009. Hadley finished as the team leader in aces this fall.
Riley Anderson – Bacon Academy High School (Swimming): Anderson wrapped up a phenomenal freshman season in the pool by winning the 50 Freestyle at the State Open, swimming a state-best time of 23.07 to edge runner-up Riley Kudlac of Glastonbury (23.50) on Nov. 20. Anderson, who earned All-American status in her first high school season in the pool, previously won the 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle at the Class S meet on Nov. 15. She also teamed with Sophia Falkowski, Bella Falkowski, and Avery Anderson to make the All-State team in the 200 Freestyle Relay.

Jordan Murphy – East Hampton High School (Volleyball): Murphy was named the Most Valuable Player of the Class S state tournament after helping the Bellringers win the program's first state championship with a five-set victory over Hale Ray on Nov. 19. East Hampton dropped the first two sets in the championship match before rallying to win the final three sets. Murphy was the Bellringers leader in kills this season, averaging over three per set, including a season-high 21 kills in a five-set victory over Griswold in the state semifinals on Nov. 15 to reach the championship match.
Alex Hair – Portland High School (Football): Hair, who missed the team's first seven games while recovering from an injury, has returned with consecutive standout performances. In a Nov. 10 game against Rockville, the senior running back had over 100 yards rushing and scored a touchdown, and had a sack on defense. Hair was the team's leading rusher during the Panthers championship season last fall and is now back to full health as the team attempts to repeat.

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

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 peo-

ple 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.

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. For more information and full program descriptions, and to register, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. Pre-registration is required for all programs. The senior center newsletter is online at tinyurl.com/3xfrm862d. For information on various other weekly classes, meetings and activities, contact the senior center or look to the senior newsletter.

center.
Grocery Shopping Trips: There will be a trip to Walmart in North Windham on Fridays, Dec. 2 and 23; Big Y Friday, Dec. 9; and Stop and Shop on Friday, Dec. 16. Pick-ups begin about 10 a.m. Pre-registration for the Friday shopping is required by Wednesday at noon. For Ted's, sign up by Monday, Dec. 21, at noon. To sign up, call the senior center.

Bus Trip – Lunch at the Griswold Inn in Essex: Wednesday, Dec. 7, leave at 10:30 a.m., return approximately 3:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Cost for transportation is \$5 per person; lunch cost is on your own. Deadline to register is Monday, Dec. 5.

All-Levels Yoga: Mondays through Dec. 19 (started Nov. 14), 10:15-11:15 a.m. Fee is \$18 for all classes, or \$5/class to drop in. Chairs may be used to meet all abilities. Bring a yoga mat if you will not be using a chair.

Bus Trip – Aqua Turf Dinner and a Show: Tuesday, Dec. 13, with The Cartells, featuring a sing-along from The Glamour Girls. Leave the senior center at 10 a.m. and return approximately 4:30 p.m. Space is limited. Registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 28; there will be no refunds after this date. Cost is \$52, cash only, and includes meal, show and transportation. To register, call or come into the center.

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment: Runs through Dec. 7; appointments available. During Medicare open enrollment, recipients are advised to review any materials their current plan sends. If interested in evaluating your options for Medicare health and drug coverage, call the senior center to set up an appointment.

Senior Center Holiday Party: Wednesday, Dec. 14, featuring the RHAM Middle School chorus. Wear your favorite holiday ugly sweater (there will be a vote for the best ugly sweater) or Festivus outfit. The menu will be published in the December newsletter. Doors open at 11 a.m. Cost for lunch is \$3. Sign up by Monday, Dec. 12, for lunch, by calling the senior center.

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

RHAM High School Holiday Concert and Cookie & Candy Contest: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10:45 a.m. Accompanying the concert will be having a Holiday Cookie and Candy contest; you will bring in your treats (bring smaller sizes so they can be sampled by all in attendance) and then people will vote for their favorites in each category. After the concert, the winners will be revealed. Doors open at 10:15 a.m., and sampling will begin during this time. Deadline to sign up for the Cookie Contest is Monday, Dec. 19. People can also stay for lunch at noon; cost is \$3 for lunch. To sign up for the cookie contest, chorus, lunch or all three, call the senior

Community Café: Onsite meals take place Monday-Thursday at noon. Reservations due by 10 a.m. the day before the meal, and by 10 a.m. Friday for Monday's lunch. Requested donation is \$3. Reservations required; call the center to register. For the full month's menu, check the newsletter, the website, or at the senior center.

Town Offices Closed Today
In observance of Thanksgiving, all Hebron town offices are closed today, Friday, Nov. 25.

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

Off to College
Alexandra Delaney of Hebron is a new student this semester at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.



Veterans Make Donation... Joe Fetta, left, commander of the Hebron American Legion, hands a check to Christa Goodwin-Babka, center, director of the Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) Food Bank. Mike Kovacs, right, coordinated the fund raising from the legion membership to help out local citizens in need of assistance.

Church of the Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

pants and hoodies (M,L,XL); heavy-duty backpacks (new or used, in good condition); \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas to assist people living in their cars (supply is very low); shampoo (travel size or large bottles); men's razors; washcloths (no towels, please); men's casual winter coats (new or used; clean and in good condition with zippers that work; L,XL,XXL; no dress coats, please); and men's heavy knit or faux fur-lined hats and insulated winter gloves (L,XL). Note: Call to arrange pick-up of gift cards. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Greatest needs: disposable masks; disinfectant spray; men's boxer briefs (always needed; sizes M,L,XL); women's briefs (sizes 6,7,8); 2- or 2-1/2-gallon Ziploc storage bags; men's solid-colored T-shirts, pullover sweatshirts, sweat-

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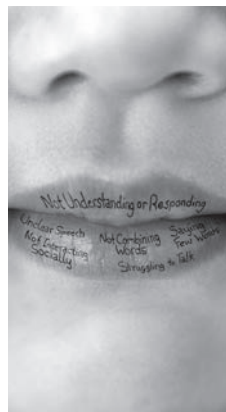
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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

LINK BETWEEN ORAL HEALTH AND STROKES

Strokes are one of the biggest killers in the world, and knowing all the signs is the best way to avoid one, including the signals that may be coming from your mouth. Gum disease, which affects more than 64 million people in the United States alone, is an inflammation of the gums caused by an overabundance of bacteria in the mouth. In some cases, the bacteria generating the problem can travel from your mouth into your bloodstream creating more inflammation and making your blood more likely to clot. Once formed, a blood clot can prevent oxygen from getting to your brain, causing a stroke. This is even more likely to occur in people who have already suffered a stroke.

There is no magic to avoiding gum disease and achieving optimal dental hygiene success. Almost everyone can do it with a modest amount of time invested daily. Keeping up with home dental care as well as scheduling periodic cleanings and wellness exams are two important steps toward accomplishing the goal of a healthy mouth and a healthy body. For full-service dental care for all members of your family, please call for an appointment

P.S. The inflammation that results from gum disease has been linked to strokes, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and certain types of cancer.

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RE11-25-22



Mona Lisa, Mona Lisa, Men Have Named You... Colchester resident Kathy Granata recently visited Chamonix, France, which is at the foot of Mont Blanc, to spend a couple of weeks rock-climbing. She also visited Paris while she was there, to spend a couple of days with Sarah Granata of Colchester and Seth Sutton of Farmington, who happened to be visiting Paris at the same time. While there, the three visited the Louvre to see the Mona Lisa.

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.



Airplane Museum Trip... Larry and Busadee Whitmore recently made a road trip to the Glen Curtiss Airplane Museum in Hammondsport, N.Y. – and brought along the *Rivereast*! A bucket list item, this was an adventure to see where Glen Curtiss took over where the Wright brothers ended. Curtiss and the Wrights did, however, collaborate to build the Curtiss Wright P40 Warhawk, a plane in which young Lt. Eugene M. Bradley was killed, hence the name of Bradley International Airport.



Rivereast Takes a Hike... Lori Donicz of Portland is shown with two of her grandchildren, Ava and Damon Eberle, on vacation at Block Island, R.I. The three made the hike out to the historic North Light.



Life is a box of... John and Gail Phillips of East Hampton recently visited Hershey's Chocolate World in Hershey, Pa. – and brought along the *Rivereast*.

Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?
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Breakfast with Santa

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club will sponsor its annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 3, from 7:30-11 a.m., at the East Hampton High School cafeteria, located on North Maple Street in East Hampton.

As in the past, breakfast will be served to all that attend and the children will be able to have a picture taken with Santa Claus as a keepsake. There will also be face-painting and other children's activities. Once again this year, inflatable Christmas decorations will be at the entrance to the breakfast and will make a perfect backdrop for holiday photos.

Those planning to attend are asked to consider donating non-perishable food items for the East Hampton and Marlborough food banks. Monetary donations to support the food and fuel banks in each town will also be accepted. For more information, call Kevin at 860-754-8137.



The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club's annual Breakfast with Santa will return Saturday, Dec. 3. Pictured with the big guy at last year's breakfast are Hunter Turner and Greyson Wolf of Marlborough.

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. 28: 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: grape juice pierogies with onion/pepper, kielbasa with mustard, Capri-blend vegetables, whole grain white bread, Jell-O cup.; Conservation Commission, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 29: Transportation, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Quilting, 9 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, Nov. 30: 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: Salisbury steak, onion & mushroom gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, buttery corn, dinner roll, fresh fruit; cards, 1-3 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies Tap Dancing, 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 1: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; PD Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, barbecue pork, sweet potato fries, spinach, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit.

Friday, Dec. 2: Transportation, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-noon; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: grape juice, stuffed chicken, rice pilaf, roasted

butternut squash, 12-grain bread, whoopie pie; Cards, 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3: Santa's Breakfast at St. John Fisher Catholic Church (9-10 a.m.); Girl Scouts workshop, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School; Meet-and-Greet Marlborough's Finest at the Marlborough Senior Center, 10 a.m.-noon. Officer Jay Kehoe and the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department's Mark Merritt will speak about how to keep residents safe in their home and on the roads.

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.

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 stjohfisher30@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.

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

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

Advent and December Programs: Advent Wreath-Making: Nov. 26 and 29, 6 p.m.; Knights of Columbus Poster Contest: "Keep Christ in Christmas" registration forms and entry deadline information available at church or on the church website for grades K-8 with prizes awarded for each division; K-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8; Christmas Giving Program: Will run Nov. 26-Dec. 11, with all unwrapped gifts due back by Dec. 11 for distribution to various organizations. More information is available on the church website.

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 donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. 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.stjfcchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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. 27: Worship will be led by Pastoral Associate Val Seaver. Her sermon title is "Coming Again?" based on Psalm 122 and Luke 24:36-44.

Faith Formation study group meets Thursdays, upstairs in the lounge, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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 worshipers to bring their donations.

Operation Christmas Tree: The church's Charity and Service Team is sponsoring a Christmas collection for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families serving youth ages 13-17. Items will be collected Sundays through Dec. 11. Gift cards in any amount to stores like Walmart, Target, Barnes & Noble, TJ Maxx/Marshalls or Dollar Tree are welcome and may also be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447. Other items include Lego kits, games, puzzles, batteries, shampoo, combs and brushes, journals and scrapbooks, hats and gloves.

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon through Dec. 17. New merchandise fills the shelves each week, with Christmas items currently showcased along with jewelry, vintage, cookware, gift-giving and more. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. The shop also sells through eBay at bit.ly/MCCEbay.

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

East Catholic Honor Roll

The following local residents made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

Honors with Distinction: Andrew DeCorleto, Class of 2023; Christopher Richard, '24; Luke Veltri, '24; Lucy DeCorleto, '26; Kamden Bevans, '26.

First Honors: Emma Kindl, '23; Grace Veltri, '25. 5

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.

Gathering on the Green

The town will hold its annual Gathering on the Green tree-lighting and fireworks display Saturday, Dec. 3, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., on the town green.

Santa will come to town to visit all the boys and girls of Marlborough. The gathering will feature a lighted fire truck parade, tree-lighting, pictures with Santa, holiday games and activities, refreshments, music and more. Rain date is Sunday, Dec. 4.

Discovery Zone learning Center



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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.

RTC Officers Resign Suddenly

By Jack Lakowsky

The chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer of the local Republican Town Committee all suddenly resigned this week, citing difficulty with other committee members.

"Our time, commitment and work ethic have been there from the beginning, and we want to continue to serve our wonderful community," the now-former officers – Liz Gorgoglione, Sue Stolfi, Ken Hjulstrom and Kerri Barella – told the Rivereast via email.

The four indicated an "exhausting" lack of compromise with other leading party members led them to resign.

"Compromising allows us to meet in the middle by eliminating the far left and far right political beliefs," they wrote. "The concept of compromising is key to success when working together on a team, especially since at our core, we share the same values."

They said, "Stay tuned for another update in the next month."

The email added the four expected more resignations will follow.

Several sources – who each requested anonymity – told the Rivereast there may soon be a new party in Marlborough.

Despite the resignation there doesn't seem to be bad blood for now, with the departees wishing "the Marlborough Republicans the best in their future endeavors," the four departing officers wrote.

Greg Lowrey, a local Republican leader and selectman, who is now serving as the RTC treasurer, shared this sentiment.

Lowrey said defection is never ideal, but he chooses to see this as a "new beginning." He said it opens up the chance to welcome people not entrenched in local politics and creates a better opportunity for cross-party

endorsements.

"They're leaving with a lot of political enthusiasm," said Lowrey. "They have their work cut out for them, and I wish them the best. I look forward to reading their ideas untethered by the two [major] parties that have done most of the communicating in recent years."

Lowrey said the RTC will elect a new, full slate of officers soon.

Another prominent local Republican, Louise Concedello, agreed with Lowrey, saying she sees a bright path forward for the RTC. She said an election of officers will be held after the holiday season.

Minutes from a Nov. 17 Marlborough Board of Education meeting possibly shine light on the division among the GOP.

Last week Democrat Wes Skorski was re-elected board chair, nominated by Concedello.

Stolfi put forth Barella, who has sat on the board less than a year, as opposed to Skorski's near-decade, during which he served as both vice chair and chairperson.

According to minutes, no one seconded Barella's nomination, so the attempt died. Stolfi and Barella voted against Skorski, while the rest – which included Republicans – voted Skorski in.

Then, Concedello nominated Ruth Kelly, a Republican, as board vice chair, while Barella nominated Stolfi, who lost in a 4-3 vote, with Democrat Angela Colantonio voting for Stolfi.

The change in RTC leadership comes amid tensions and discord among the Board of Selectmen, and at a time when the town is still getting together a town manager search nearly eight months in the making, a process that, so far, has been highly combative for the selectmen.

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 Brodinski.

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.

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.

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

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

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, 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.

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.

Santa Breakfast

St. John Fisher Church and its Faith Formation program and Knights of Columbus invite everyone to a Santa Breakfast Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8:30 a.m. in the church hall. The church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd.

Cost is \$7 per person and under 2 is free and registration is required. The menu will be pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee, and there will be crafts and coloring for children as well.

To register, email Melissa Jordan at salvia601@aol.com or call the parish office 860-295-0001.

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Obituaries

Colchester

Richard B. Barber, Sr.

Richard "Ollie" B. Barber Sr., 70, of Colchester, passed away Monday, Nov. 14. He was born in Middletown, on Nov. 9, 1952, and raised on Clark Hill in East Hampton. He was the second son of the late Robert and Lucy (Lord) Barber.

He grew up surrounded by cousins, who were many times his partners in crime, riding Uncle Lee's cattle and sneaking Grandma Barber's dandelion wine from the cellar.

After attending East Hampton schools, he graduated from Salisbury University in 1976, where he met his future wife, Shirley. After a few years he joined his father and Uncle Dave at Pratt & Whitney for employment. This turned into a career of almost 40 years.

The Barbers moved to Colchester in 1983, when the kids were young. As a dad, Ollie could be relied on for adventure, whether it was finding swimming holes, picking grapes by the side of the road, or stopping for lunch after a softball game. The annual camping trip for opening day of fishing was a gathering of friends, mostly fathers and the kids. Many of these friends are still as close as family.

He loved hunting with his dad, brothers, uncles, and cousins, along with playing setback during the winter months. Spring, summer and fall were devoted to fishing, softball and golfing. After decades playing softball as catcher affected his knees, he turned to coaching. In spite of his knees, he continued golfing. Ollie was a lifetime member of the St. Joseph's Polish Society, where he played cards every week and was on the dart team the last few years. The club was his second home, where he had many lifelong friends.

He is survived by his wife; his children, Megan and Rich Obrero, Maureen and Dave Daynard and Richard Barber Jr.; and his grandchildren, Lilliana, Isabelle and Niko. He is also survived by his siblings, Rob and Louise Barber, Nancy and Ed Peteja, Ron and Lisa Barber and Randy and Diane Barber; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Noreen and his in-laws, Dick and Mary Lou Malzone. Wherever they are, they are having a drink together.

There will be a celebration of life Friday, Dec. 9, at the St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 South Main St., Colchester. Family hours are 4-6 p.m., with reception from 6-9 p.m.

In lieu of flowers or donations, try one of Ollie's favorite things:

Take a midnight dip in the neighbor's pool or hot tub.

Try your luck on a race, lotto, raffle or football square.

Take the long way or back road home. Be a true friend.

Generously help someone in need.



Amston

Andrew John Kozlak Jr.

Andrew John Kozlak Jr., of Amston, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. He was 79 years old. Andy was born in Hartford Sept. 11, 1943. He was a son of the late Andrew Sr. and Helen (Moskwa) Kozlak.

On August 7, 1965, Andy married his beloved wife, Candice McLaughlin. Soon after, the couple made their home at Amston Lake, where they raised their two sons. Andy was the assistant coach for his son's recreation soccer team when they were young. He was also a former member of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, Company No. 2, and certified EMT for 9 years.

Andy retired several years ago after a career in carpentry and industrial maintenance, working for 25 years at the Institute of Living, where he also started the volunteer fire brigade and was the acting chief. He finished his career working for Foxwoods Casino for an additional 10 years.

He had an affinity for tractors, especially his own John Deere. He was a member of the CT Antique Tractor Association and he loved participating in the tractor pulls at local fairs and at the Zagray Farm in Colchester. In his spare time, some of Andy's favorite memories were made while hunting or fishing with his family.

Most importantly, Andy will be remembered as a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Survivors include his wife, Candy, of 57 years; his sons and their spouses, Drew and Wendy Kozlak of Windham, Mark and Kristy Kozlak of Lebanon; four grandchildren, Talon and Owen Kozlak, Krystelle and her husband Chris Dean, and Dylan Dancosse; five great-grandchildren; a brother, Richard and his wife Nancy Kozlak of New Britain; and many extended family members and friends.

A celebration of Andy's life will be held at a later date to be announced.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To share a memory or express a condolence to Andy's family, please visit: www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Osiecki (Chatham, Mass.).

Catherine Rose Carroll was born and raised in Waterbury, one of 10 children of John F. and Patricia (Scionti) Carroll. Cathie attended Crosby High School and went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut with a B.S. in education, SCSU with an M.S. in education as well as serving as a PIMMS Fellow of Wesleyan University.

She thoroughly enjoyed her work as a beloved teacher impacting countless lives of students and their families as well as her colleagues. She later became the K-6 math coordinator for the Middletown Board of Education and finished her career as a consultant for the BEST Program for the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Cathie was a generous and caring person who selflessly gave of her time and her wisdom to anyone who needed help. Her sense of humor was impeccable. She will be missed and dearly loved all the days of our lives. One of her favorite quotes that she taught her children was a mantra that Cathie lived her life by: "And in the end the love you take is equal to the love you make."

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, Nov. 26, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, today, Friday, Nov. 25, from 4-7 p.m. Burial will be private.

Colchester

Rosalinde Finkelstein

Rosalinde "Roni" Finkelstein passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, at Apple Rehabilitation Center near her home in Colchester. She was 92 years old.

Born in the Bronx in July 1930, she was the only child of Max and Tillie (Turkiewicz) Borden. She was always proud that she came from the Bronx, because all of the best people came from the Bronx. An excellent math student, she was denied admission to New York City's math and science high school because girls weren't allowed. So she focused on her literary skills instead, and became the editor of her high school newspaper. Later, she was the newspaper editor at Hunter College.

After graduating from Hunter in 1951 with a degree in English literature, Roni found a job as a publicist with publisher Grosset & Dunlap. She eventually met the love of her life, Jake Finkelstein, and they married in March 1955. She quit her job to start a family, and later earned a master's degree in education from Hofstra University.

Roni continued to write, and specialized in humorous articles. She and author Antonia Van Loon collaborated on three romance novels, *Candidate for Love*, *Waldingfield* and *Rhapsody*. They published under the pseudonym Janine French because neither woman wanted to admit they were writing romance novels. She and Jake loved to travel, and Roni collected sugar packets and lifelong friends from around the world. Closer to home, they frequented Broadway shows. They took their children and grandchildren to shows on Broadway, at Goodspeed, and at UConn. Although she had many talents, computers and cooking were not among them. But she made great reservations.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years; her daughters, Beth Eisenberg (Steve) of Glastonbury, Leslie Rovetti (Chuck) of North Stonington; son, Rick Finkelstein (Christine) of



Brookfield; granddaughters, Sara Smith (Josh) of Stratford, Jen Rovetti (Perry) of Marlborough; and grandsons, Michael Eisenberg (Angie) of Manchester, Aaron Eisenberg (Maggie) of West Hartford, and Noah Finkelstein of Brookfield.

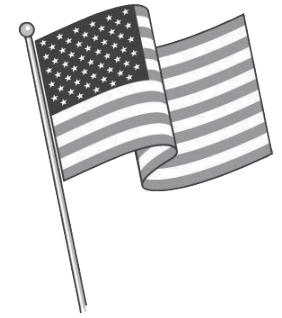
She was predeceased by her parents and a daughter, Rochelle.

Donations in Roni's memory may be made to the National Kidney Foundation at kidney.org.

To share a memory or express a condolence, please visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Ronald S. Day Sr.



Ronald "Slim" S. Day Sr., 95, of Middletown, husband of late Caroline Veronica (not harmonica) Day, passed away peacefully Saturday, Nov. 19, at UConn Medical Center.

Ronald was born March 10, 1927, to Robert and Lillian Day in Middletown. He served in the United States Navy during World War II, thereafter serving the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. He was a heavy machinery mechanic and operator for over 50 years, followed by small engine repair after retirement.

Ronald was predeceased by his daughter, Susan C. LaPlant; his brothers Robert, George and James Day; and sisters, Shirley Day, Nellie Cooper, Janet Ketchen and Mildred Pilch.

He is survived by his son, Ronald S. Day Jr. and his wife Michelle of Portland; and son-in-law Richard LaPlant of East Hampton. He was the grandfather of Kyle Day and his wife Courtney, Lukas Day, Jordan and Austin Davignon, and Melissa and Nicole LaPlant. He was the great-grandfather of James, Derrick, Theresa Grace, Charlie, Aliyah and Kameron.

His family will receive relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Monday, Nov. 28, from 9-10 a.m. Graveside services with full military honors will be held immediately after at Center Cemetery, Portland.

Colchester

Joan Demma Garcia

Joan Demma Garcia of Colchester passed away a day after her 90th birthday Saturday, Nov. 19. Joan was born on Nov. 18, 1932, in Hartford, the daughter of the late Roger and Mary (Petruzzello) Demma.

She married her beloved husband, Joseph D. Garcia on July 29, 1957. He preceded her in death on Jan. 3, 2009. Joan graduated from Teachers College of Connecticut in 1955, where she earned her bachelor's degree in teaching and then went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Hartford.

Before Joan and Joe moved to Colchester, they were longtime parishioners of The Church of the Incarnation in Wethersfield. Together they became active and faithful communicants of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Colchester and sang in the choir. She was a dedicated elementary school teacher in Hartford for 35 years and retired in 1994. Joan started her teaching career at Mary Hooker School, then Kennelly School, and finally at Henry C. Dwight Elementary School where she was one of the very first teachers in Hartford to teach English as a Second Language (ESL).

At 88 she became a volunteer, alongside her daughter, with Meals-on-Wheels, and in her spare time, Joan was usually found reading a good book, watching EWTN, clipping newspaper articles to pass along to others, or spending time with her family and friends.

Joan is survived by her children, Melissa and husband David Brown of South Carolina; Ann Marie Gagliardi and boyfriend Rey Michaud of Colchester; a granddaughter, Alexandra Rae Brown; her siblings and their spouses, Roger and Patricia Demma of Rocky Hill; Susan and James Stavola of Colchester; and many extend-



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Obituaries cont.

ed family members and friends.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Thando, who cared for her. Her dedication and compassion were a blessing to Joan and her family.

Calling hours will be today, Friday, Nov. 25, from 3–6 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A celebration of a Mass of Christian Burial will be held the following morning, Nov. 26, at 11 a.m., at St. Andrew Catholic Church, Colchester. The burial will be in New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joan's memory may be made to Lindsay's Legacy Foundation, P.O. Box 3196, Vernon, CT 06066; Elizabeth Lee Carcia Fund, CCMC Foundation, 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106; or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

To share a memory or express a condolence to Joan's family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Amston

Clara Margaret O'Brien

Clara Margaret O'Brien of Amston passed away Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Hartford Hospital, due to a terminal illness. Clara was born March 11, 1958, the daughter of Sara (De Francesco) LeSage of Amston.



Clara married her beloved husband David P. O'Brien on Dec. 29, 1990. The couple made their home in the Amston section of Hebron and raised their family there.

Clara had a 44-year long and successful career as a nurse. She also held a master's degree in health care administration, which started her 28-year-long career at Starling Physicians Eye Center in New Britain. She was an active member of her community serving with many

boards and commissions in Hebron, including the Board of Selectmen from 2015-19, Board of Assessment Appeals from 2003-15, chairman for the Board of Finance from 2006-10, Water Pollution Control Authority from 1997 and is currently the chairman since 2003, Capital Improvement Program from 2015-19, and member of the Republican Town Committee from 2004-06 and 2010-20.

Clara will be remembered fondly and with love for her dedication to her family, her faith, and her community. Her loss will be mourned by many whose lives she touched but especially by her husband of 32 years, David; her mother, Sara LeSage; her triplet children, Megan O'Brien of Amston, Sean O'Brien of Windsor, Kyle O'Brien of Rocky Hill; three brothers and spouses, Alfred (Isabella) LeSage of Wolcott, Brian (Katherine) LeSage of Burlington, Denis (Lisa "Monique") LeSage of Johnson City, Tenn.; very special friends, Kathy Shea, Maggie Sweeney, Karen Cookish and Susan Zotola; and many extended family members and friends.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 26, at 10 a.m., at the Church of the Holy Family, Church Street, Hebron. Burial will be private. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements.

Clara respected the Eye Center physicians and was very proud of her staff. Being a nurse, Clara was passionate about the care and well-being of her patients. She understood that no matter how hard the physicians try, certain eye diseases still cannot be cured. In lieu of flowers, donations in Clara's memory may be made to the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Clara's oncology physicians, Dr. Heather Einstein, Dr. Paul Vignati and the entire staff at Hartford Hospital for their compassionate care.

To share a memory or express a condolence to Clara's family, please visit: www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

★ Noose Found at RHAM cont. from page 1

racism in America."

He urged local leaders to take whatever necessary measures to instill change in the community and pledged his support in that effort.

"We have to figure out a way to stop this," he said. "We have to figure out a way to bury this for good."

Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara addressed the district in a statement last Friday. "It is my hope that we learn the identity of those responsible so that the district can take significant and appropriate action," he wrote.

McNamara, who started as schools superintendent in July, stated that "words cannot express the feeling of disgust that overcame me when I learned about this situation."

"There is no place in the RHAM community for this behavior or the beliefs associated with it," he said. "In my short time working in the district, I have witnessed RHAM staff members working to foster an inclusive environment for students and families and demonstrate an understanding of the importance of diversity and equity."

He continued by stating that it would be "naïve to believe that racism and bigotry do not exist in our society" but that "words or actions spreading racism, discrimination, or hateful ideologies will not be tolerated in our schools."

The superintendent affirmed that the district was "committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment that is physically, emotionally and intellectually safe."

Details regarding the size or position of the noose were not made available. According to the Anti-Defamation League, the noose became associated as a major hate symbol against African-Americans decades ago. Often, those using it to target individuals deploy a noose in a drawing or by leaving a physical one at a workplace or residence.

In a statement issued immediately following the incident, leaders of Hebron's Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) wrote they were "appalled and deeply disturbed."

"We feel for RHAM students, especially students of color, and their parents," the statement read. "A hanging noose is a symbol of hate and intimidation. The history it represents is horrific and tragic. It has no place anywhere, but the fact that it was in our school is heartbreaking and a wake-up call for action."

CoDE added that the incident was indicative of a larger community problem, whose root causes need to be examined further.

In a follow-up statement Monday, CoDE said it met with the superintendent, Ralls and the RHAM Board of Education.

"We are advocating a long-term, extensive approach that includes creating an Equity Council, increasing professional development opportunities for teachers, and supporting teachers in implementing a holistic and comprehensive curriculum that includes and celebrates the accomplishments of people of color," the group posted on Facebook. "Mostly, we want to ensure that ALL students feel safe, welcomed and a part of the school community – that they mat-

ter."

CoDe president Amy D'Amaddio urged the education board to "bring in specialists," and said this topic cannot simply fade away.

"It can't be business as usual," she said during Monday's school board meeting.

Community members also expressed their anger, although to some, the incident didn't come as a surprise.

"Racism is alive and well at RHAM, and it has been forever," said Erin Bussiere, a Hebron resident. "It's a community issue. When your kids are going home and you're making racist jokes it's not funny. When you're making jokes about safe spaces on Facebook it's not funny."

She added that "this is a huge wakeup call." McNamara encouraged anyone with information to call an anonymous voicemail system set up to handle the incident investigation. The number is 860-228-5319.

In addition, the district is making staff counseling available for students during school hours.

McNamara shared that he was in contact with local superintendents and town leaders and that the community should use the event to "come together and address this issue through education, training and community conversations."

"As educators, we are trained to recognize learning opportunities when they present themselves, regardless of how difficult or painful those learning opportunities may be," he added.

Hebron Town Manager Andy Tierney told the Rivereast that he cannot recall a similar incident involving a noose since he took office.

While the town is waiting for all the details to emerge, Tierney said the preliminary information was "unfortunate" and that the town would be working with CoDE to help educate the community.

The town manger stated that the act displayed at RHAM has "no place in this community" and that following his discussions with CoDE, the town will "see what the best way to move the community forward is."

Andover Town Administrator Eric Anderson offered his support to McNamara with leading the district through the conflict.

"We've got a really strong superintendent and principal at RHAM," he said during a phone call this week. "I have confidence they'll deal with it."

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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.goto.com/158366037>
You can also dial in using your phone.
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Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on November 18, 2022 and November 25, 2022.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
 The Marlborough Board of Selectmen will hold the following Public Hearing, Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. in Town Hall, 26 North Main Street.
 The Public Hearing is to discuss Plan & Material Modifications regarding the Emergency Telecommunication Pole at 200 West Road.
 Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to firstoffice@marlboroughct.net, and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.
 2TB 11/25, 12/2

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF ACTION
 The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals took the following action at its Special Meeting held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED; APPLICATION APPROVED:
 APPLICATION #ZBA-05-22 Richard & Lisa Dennis – 47 Lakeridge Drive (applicant/property owner) - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Ten J.C.1.f Front Yard Setback, in order to construct a garage setback of 20 feet where 35 feet is required.
 Alan W. Miller Chair
 1TB 11/25

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT ON THE LANDFILL IN THE TOWN OF PORTLAND November 18, 2022

The Town of Portland (the "Town") seeks Proposals from qualified solar developers (the "Bidders") to develop a solar photovoltaic clean energy system (the "System") on Town-owned property on Sand Hill Road containing the Portland Landfill (the "Property").

The Town is seeking Bid Alternates that would participate in either the Non-residential program (the "NRES Program"), with Virtual Net Metering ("VNM") for State, Agricultural, and Municipal ("SAM") properties, administered by Eversource; or the Shared Clean Energy Facilities Program (the "SCEF Program"), administered by Eversource and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("CT DEEP").

Klee Sustainability Advisors LLC ("KSA") and CSW LLC d/b/a CSW Energy ("CSW") are administering this Request for Proposals ("RFP") on behalf of the Town, and are collectively referred to as the "RFP Administrators."

The RFP is available electronically at the following sites:
CT DAS Contracting Portal: <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CT-Source/CTSource>
CSW's website: <https://solar-rfp.com/portlandlandfill>

It is the Bidder's responsibility to be aware of any updates or addendums to the RFP, which will be posted on both websites. If the Bidder has received a copy of the RFP indirectly, please inform the RFP Administrators at portlandlandfill@solar-rfp.com to be placed on the RFP distribution list.

Bidders shall submit their Proposals in the following format: one (1) electronic copy emailed to portlandlandfill@solar-rfp.com no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2022. Proposals received after the submission date may be considered at the sole discretion of the Town.

The Town reserves the right to amend or terminate this RFP, accept or reject any proposals, waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in a proposal, and select the proposal from a Bidder that, in the Town's sole discretion and judgment, will be in the Town's best interests. The Town's decision shall be final, shall not be subject to review or appeal, and may be based on any criteria in the Town's sole discretion, including but not limited to the financial benefit to the Town, the strength of the Bidder's future bid into the competitive NRES Program or SCEF Program, and the experience of the Bidder.

Any contracts shall be preceded by a preliminary Notice of Selection and thereafter be contingent and non-binding until all approvals are received from applicable regulatory agencies and town authorities, and successful execution of the relevant contracts.

1TB 11/25

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority took the following action at its Special Meeting held on Thursday, November 17, 2022.
27 & 29 HALL TRAIL
Motion passed to release the benefit assessment lien on the property formerly known as 29 Hall Trail.
APPROVED 2023 CALENDAR

1TB 11/25

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that Motor Vehicle & Personal Property tax bills on the Grand List of October 1, 2021, are due and payable on December 1, 2022, and become delinquent after January 2, 2023.

If any tax due on December 1, 2022, is not paid on or before January 2, 2023, the tax installment shall be delinquent and interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2 % per month) shall be charged dating back to the original due date of the bill. Taxes that become delinquent on January 2, 2023, shall be charged delinquent interest for the months of December & January or 3%. The minimum interest charge for delinquent taxes is \$2.00. Taxpayers who did not receive a bill should contact the Tax Office immediately. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. Taxpayers may access tax bill information and pay on-line from the homepage of the Town of Colchester website at www.colchesterct.gov and clicking the "View and Pay Tax Bills" link under Online Services - fees apply.

Avoid waiting in long lines by using our on-line feature, return your payment by mail or use our night drop box. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before January 2, 2023, will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 12:00 P.M.(NOON) on December 30, 2022, will be deemed as paid late.** Please note our holiday hours: 12/23/2022 CLOSING AT NOON; 12/26/2022 CLOSING AT NOON; 12/30/2022 CLOSING AT NOON; 1/2/2023 CLOSED - OPENED REGULAR HOURS ALL OTHER TIMES.

Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector. Mail payments to the Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.

Michele Wyatt, CCMC
Town of Colchester
Tax Collector

2TB 11/25, 12/9

LEGAL NOTICE of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING CANCELLED Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:10 PM Portland, CT 06480

No Special Town Meeting shall be held. The Board of Selectmen took no action on this item therefore the legal notice has been cancelled.
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 18th day of November 2022.
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

1TB 11/25

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING CANCELLED Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:00 PM Town of Portland, CT 06480

No Public Hearing shall be held. The Board of Selectmen took no action on this item therefore the legal notice has been cancelled.
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 18th day of November 2022.
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

1TB 11/25

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 PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the November 17, 2022 meeting, the following actions were taken:
APPROVED with Conditions PZC Application #22-09: 1116 Portland Cobalt Road. Request for Site Plan Modification to alter approved plan to allow for approved paved parking area to be changed to gravel surface. Application and property of Graff Enterprises LLC. Map 23, Lot 30. Zone B-2.
APPROVED: 200 Main Street. Request for TCVD approval for repair of deck and recommended by the TCVD design consultant. Application of HH Home Improvement and property of Lawrence Carozzella. Map 19, Lot 43. Zone B-3/TCVD.
APPROVED: 204-206 Main Street. Request for TCVD approval for repair of decking, siding and roofing and recommended by the TCVD design consultant. Application of HH Home Performance and property of 204-206 Main Street LLC. Map 19, Lot 44. Zone B-3/TCVD.
Dated at Portland, CT this 21st day of November 2022
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 11/25

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

MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR SPRING MUSICAL: Glastonbury Youth and Family Services is seeking candidates for the seasonal position of Musical Director for their spring musical. Will be responsible for teaching music from the production to the cast by playing piano and use of prerecorded tracks. Must be able to demonstrate/coach proper vocal technique as it applies to musical numbers. \$1250.00 stipend for 10 afterschool rehearsals March through beginning of May. Email jason.stankowski@glastonbury-ct.gov for details.

SEWING PROFESSIONAL FOR DRAPERY WORKROOM. HADDAM. Must have sewing experience, non-smoker, Full-time: M-F, 8am - 4pm. Call Susan 860-306-4252

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



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.

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!



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FOR RENT: TWO BEDROOM HOUSE, COLCHESTER. One bath plus utilities, \$1,400/month. Call 860-537-3776

FOR RENT 2 BEDROOM: New Construction on Hebron Green. W/D hook up, Heat and Hot Water Included all new appliances. Available Dec 1st. Call 860-214-2816

FOR RENT: CROMWELL STUDIO. 2nd floor. No smoking. No pets. Year lease. \$800/month Call 860-685-1487

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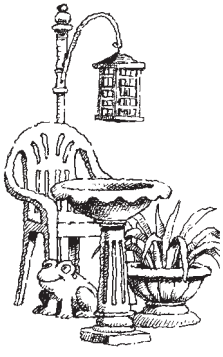
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