



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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December 9, 2022



Santa Spotting... Santa Claus and Rudolph made a visit to Lost Spring Farm in East Hampton on Dec. 3. Rumor has it that Ol' Saint Nick was looking for the perfect Christmas tree to bring back to the North Pole and the family-owned farm at 26 Daly Road offers up plenty of options.

Bellringers Volleyball Makes History

By Josh Howard

East Hampton volleyball won the program's first state title, defeating Hale Ray at East Haven High School to win the Class S state championship on Nov. 19.

The championship triumph ended a historic season for the Bellringers, who won their final 18 matches of the season, capturing both a conference and state title along the way.

"This was the perfect team to have this run with," head coach Molly Grabowski said. "Any title win is big because you really have to prove yourself over and over throughout the season. These girls really proved to themselves that they were good enough and that they deserved it."

With most of her lineup returning from a season ago, Grabowski knew she would have a championship contender this fall.

Yet the team started with two losses in the first six games, including a home loss to Hale Ray on Sept. 14.

"In their minds they didn't know how strong they were," Grabowski said of the player's performance in the early stages of the season. "Ultimately I think they learned and felt more confident, and it was a healthy confidence."

Grabowski added that the pair September losses, especially the one to Hale Ray, were beneficial once the postseason rolled around. She said that the team admitted to her that they looked past their Shoreline Conference (SLC) rivals in the first meeting.

"It happened early in the season, so I'm glad we learned that early. We talked about it and they

felt a little overconfident," recalled Grabowski. "We were never overconfident again."

Following a five-set loss to Haddam-Killingworth on Sept. 23, the Bellringers never again experienced the feeling of defeat the rest of the season.

They also got the ultimate revenge, beating Hale Ray in straight sets in a regular season match on Oct. 10 and then eliminating the Moodus-based Noises in four sets for the Shoreline Conference championship on Nov. 4.

In the fourth meeting, with all the marbles on the line in the state championship match, Hale Ray jumped out to a two set lead before East Hampton rallied to win the final three sets and bring the trophy back to Belltown.

Grabowski, who just wrapped up her fifth season on the sidelines, said there "aren't any more secrets" when you're playing a team for the fourth time in a season and credited Hale Ray for being a worthy opponent.

After dropping the first two sets (19-25, 23-25), the Bellringers responded by silencing the Noises (25-16, 25-14, 15-8) over the final three sets.

"I think [the players] were overall nervous. In those first two sets they dropped, they were not playing like themselves," recalled Grabowski. "They didn't want to make any mistakes in this big game, but they never stopped fighting, they never had a bad attitude about it, and they never thought that they couldn't. They knew they could. We just needed to get it together and they needed the time to get used to the feeling on that stage."

Senior captain Jordan Murphy was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. She led

See *Bellringers Volleyball*, page 30

New Head of Schools for Colchester

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education last month unanimously appointed Daniel Sullivan III as the district's new superintendent of schools.

Sullivan was selected from a pool of 10 candidates, according to Interim Superintendent T.Y. McDowell. The process, he said, involved the board, teachers, administrators and the parent-teacher organization.

Sullivan has served as the superintendent in Putnam since 2019. Before that, he was the principal of South Windsor High School from 2009-2019, and the New London High School Principal from 2006-2009.

McDowell told the *Rivereast* that Sullivan was "open and honest" during the interview process and that it was "evident that he thinks well on his feet."

Board of Education Chairman Alex Oliphant stated that Sullivan was an "excellent communicator who believes in being visible in the school buildings" and that he "stood out from the rest

of the candidates the board interviewed."

"Dan will bring a collaborative problem-solving style to the district as well as fresh ideas on making the BOE budget proposal easier for the public to understand," he continued. "Both of these abilities are much needed in Colchester today."

Oliphant added that he's looking forward to working with Sullivan once he takes over in January.

During a phone call this week, Sullivan shared that he previously lived in East Hampton, and his children participated in youth sports in Colchester. That connection helped pull Sullivan to the district.

"I felt when a few jobs opened, it was a good fit because I have some familiarity," said Sullivan, who currently lives in South Windsor. "I had been looking to work closer to family and home, so it was a combination of factors."

Professionally, Sullivan believes he's prepared to lead Colchester's schools. Before his

tenure as a superintendent and principal, he also worked as a teacher, which he feels gives him a unique understanding of the education system.

"I believe I have the skillset that prepares me to work with the folks in Colchester to bring the district to the next level," he said.

Job number one will be "restoring respect and trust," he stated. Over the past few years, the district has weathered a number of controversies, which have understandably unnerved the community.

"I believe I have a good understanding of the challenges that have arisen," Sullivan said. "I'll work with the board and school leaders to improve community trust."

Beyond some of the challenges that have occupied the district, Sullivan expressed that Colchester has the maintained its reputation for being a top performer.

To help restore the faith in Colchester's system, Sullivan said it's crucial for him to be

See *New Head of Schools*, page 3

Inside...

East Hampton	
<i>Big Fentanyl Bust</i>	pg 12
Colchester	
<i>Senior Center Project Threatened</i> ...	pg 14
Marlborough	
<i>Longtime Pastor Departs</i>	pg 24
RHAM	
<i>No Place for Hate Rally</i>	pg 26
RHAM	
<i>Raptor Volleyball Repeats</i>	pg 27
Regional	
<i>Obituaries</i>	pg 28

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RE107-22

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Crescent Street OB/GYN has joined Middlesex Health. As a result, Crescent Street OB/GYN now has a new name — **Middlesex Health Crescent Street Obstetrics and Gynecology**. The practice will continue to operate offices at 49 Crescent Street in Middletown and 3 E. Hampton Road in Marlborough. Its Guilford office has relocated to 1353 Boston Post Road in Madison.

For more information about Middlesex Health Crescent Street Obstetrics and Gynecology, visit MiddlesexHealth.org/CrescentStreetOBGYN.

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Thursday, Dec. 22nd 7:00-3:30
Friday, Dec. 23rd 7:00-4:00
Saturday, Dec. 24th 7:00-3:00

*Happy
Holidays!*

**CLOSED:
Christmas Day
Monday, Dec. 26th
Tuesday, Dec. 27th**

RE12-9-22

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

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.

Call movie coordinator Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057 with any questions.

Christmas Toy Drive

The Andover town employees are collecting toys for Andover children. New, unwrapped toys and gift cards can be dropped at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

Members Sought for EDC

The Andover Economic Development Commission is need of new members. Contact Elaine Buchardt at 860-202-4619 or email AndoverCTEDC@gmail.com for more information.

Tree Lighting

Andover Congregational Church would like to invite one and all to help us to light our Christmas Tree on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 5:00pm. There will be a carol sing followed by hot chocolate, cookies and fire pits to roast s'mores. If you have any questions please contact me at 860-716-4186 or leave a message at the church, 860-742-7696.

★ New Head of Schools cont. from page 1

"present and accessible" to the community. "It's important for people to be respected," he said, adding that sometimes people just need to know he's "willing to listen."

That line of communication should also pass through all levels of the district. Parents' concerns should be expressed to teachers and through principals, as well.

"Just being visible" can make a difference, Sullivan conveyed.

One of the major decisions facing the district is whether armed guards should be added to each school, which previous estimates suggested could cost up to \$150,000 a year.

A recent district survey sent out to parents suggested that the community would be open to the new security measures.

Over 65% of respondents said they'd be in favor of adding concealed armed security at the schools while they're in session. Around 25% were opposed and close to 10% were uncertain.

Sullivan stated that Putnam schools have armed security officers, a decision that was vented through a long process involving the district's leaders.

"Any decision that's going to be made [in Colchester] won't be made in isolation," he said. "It will be a decision with a great deal of input from the stakeholders of Colchester."

Sullivan added that in general, he's "not opposed to armed guards or safety officers."

The Board of Education will also be heavily involved in that decision moving forward. Forging a strong relationship with the board is a top priority for Sullivan.

"The only way it's going to work is in partnership," he expressed, emphasizing that there should be direct goals and objectives outlined by both parties. "There needs to be a clear understanding of their role and my role and there's a lot of overlap."

He said that in the months to come, it'll be "important to establish a shared vision" with the board.

For now, Sullivan is focused on Putnam's transition. He's preparing a budget presentation, which will help facilitate a smooth take-over by the interim superintendent.

Still, it's hard not to envision his new role.

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Andover Public Library is looking for bakers to participate in a Christmas Cookie Exchange. This event will be held Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., at the library, 355 Route 6.

If the library has 12 people signed up to bake, each person will be asked to make 6 1/2 dozen of one variety of cookies. (If there are fewer people participating, the number of cookies needed for the exchange will be reduced). Sign up by Monday, Dec. 12, at noon.

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428.

Stuff a Truck

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will be collecting new unwrapped toys and gift cards on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. to provide for Andover families this holiday season. If you need more information, are in need of gifts or know a family in need please call Mindy at 860-706-3074.

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. 21. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Dec. 14.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

Sonshine Stampers: Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
Faith Sharing with the Movies: Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Tree-Lighting and Carol Sing: Sunday, Dec. 11, 5 p.m.

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.

Shopping Dates: To Manchester 12/13 and 12/27, and Willimantic 12/20. Masks available on all vehicles.

Senior Christmas Luncheon: Friday, Dec. 16, noon. Entertainment will be provided. Reservations required by Dec. 13.

Santa Camp Movie Showing: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m. Call Palazzi for a ride.

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 Congre-

gational Church.

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums or board meetings, and all medical 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.

Vendors Sought for Fundraiser

Andover seniors will hold their annual fundraiser to support the luncheon program Sunday, Feb. 5, at the Andover Elementary School (AES), 35 School Rd. If you would like to be a vendor, cost is \$20 for one table or \$30 for two tables. Bakers and other helpers are also welcome.

If interested, call Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

175th Committee Selling Items

All are invited to purchase T-shirts, cookbooks, ornaments or calendars from the town's 175th Committee. All money raised will support the events planned for May and June 2023.

Contact Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122 for more information. Items may also be purchased at Town Hall and at the senior luncheon on Dec. 16, as well as at the Dec. 14 showing of *Santa Camp*.



Daniel Sullivan III will be the new superintendent of schools in Colchester. Sullivan brings with him a wealth of experience from his time working for the school districts in Putnam, South Windsor, and New London over the last 16 years.

"It's been a whirlwind of emotions," he said. "I'm excited for the opportunity."

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REB-5-22



Soccer Seniors... Mia Quesnel (left) and Amelia Hair helped lead Portland High School soccer to the semifinals in the Class S state tournament. The senior captains starred as the No. 20 Highlanders beat No. 13 Classical (7-1) and No. 4 Windham Tech (2-0) on the road before eliminating Tourtellotte (3-1) at Portland High School to earn the program's first semifinal appearance since 2016. Quesnel captained the backend, scoring a goal and adding an assist in the tournament, while Hair was the captain in the middle of the field, dishing out a team-high three helpers in the tournament. First-year head coach Cory Tobler said his two field generals possessed "great leadership" and that the pair "really carried us" through the tournament run, which ended an double overtime loss to top-seed Lyman Memorial on Nov. 16.

Bulletin Board

You may have seen a recent "not so happy holidays" TV commercial selling the Life Alert emergency call system for folks who fall and can't get up. The commercial shows some old lady (she's probably my age) lying alone on the floor in a darkened room while a narrator—speaking in a voice that sounds like it's emanating from the depths of Hell—slowly intones:

"When you fall and can't get up ... you will lie on the floor for hours, or days in constant terrible anguish! Which often results in a tragic outcome."

By "tragic outcome," of course, he means that when one of your kids finally comes around in a few weeks to borrow some money, they'll find your mummified remains lying on the living room floor, your mouth still gaping in a now soundlessly futile screech for assistance.

This grim scenario can be avoided with the Life Alert system and "one touch of a button," intones the narrator. The commercial then shows a studly dispatcher (he looks a lot like he might moonlight on Saturday nights as a Chippendales dancer) who assures the victim, "Don't worry! Help is on the way!" as a multitude of fire engines, ambulances, helicopters and Alaskan dog sleds descend on the scene. (Okay, I made up the part about the dog sleds, but you get the picture.)

Now don't get me wrong. Despite the rather overwrought sales pitch, I'm a believer in Life Alert and similar systems that can summon help in an emergency. I am told that Life Alert alone saves a life "from catastrophe" every 11 minutes. What really caught my attention about this particular commercial was the fact that an actual human being answers the call for assistance. This is a big deal, my friends. A very big deal. And I'll tell you why.

It is my experience in these troubled times that it is virtually impossible to obtain any kind of assistance from a live person over the phone for almost anything. As an example, my wife recently spent several hours (literally) over two days on her cell phone trying to penetrate Frontier Communications' automated assistance system and speak to a real human about our dead landline. This occurred on Nov. 14. As of this writing, the landline still doesn't work. In Frontier's defense, I will say that their robo receptionist, while absolutely useless, has very nice manners.

We've had similar experiences with everything from health care appointments to store returns. You just can't get ahold of a human being any more. So I couldn't help but marvel that a real person promptly answers the emergency summons on this TV commercial.

I have no doubt that this is true, but my personal and ongoing frustrations with various automated "customer service" system "responses" to my own (so far) less catastrophic needs over the past couple of years makes me paranoid. If my experience is any indication, I fear that my call for help, once I push the button, might go more like this:

Hello. This is Robo Jane. To talk with a sales representative about a system upgrade, press 1. To pay your bill with a credit card, press 2. For general assistance, stand on your head and press 256892.

Beep.

Thank you. How may I be of assistance?

"Help! Help! I've fallen and can't get up! And I have cats!"

I'm sorry. I don't understand. Let me try to narrow down your request so that I can direct you to the appropriate extension. Please enter your 47-digit account number now.

"Are you freaking kidding me?!"

I'm sorry. That is incorrect. If you don't remember your code, you may go on your computer now and retrieve it from the cloud.

"I'm on the goddamn floor! I want to talk to a real person!"

I understand you would like to speak with a technician. But first, let me see if I can assist. What seems to be the problem?

"I think I broke my spine!"

I see. Please hold. I will play some truly horrible music while you wait.

[Two days later.] Thank you for your patience. Now, how can I help you?

"Water. Please. Water."

I'm sorry. I don't understand. Let me try to narrow down your request so that I can direct you to the appropriate extension. But first I'll need some more information. Please enter your 47-digit account number now.

[And they wonder why we have a mental health crisis in this country?]

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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

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Gratitude

To the Editor,

The family of Orus Reid Coffield IV extends our gratitude to the many people who provided love and support, food, flowers, contributions, and sympathy during our time of loss. Thank you!

Mary Margaret Coffield – Portland

Terminate the Constitution?

To the Editor

This is the latest call from Donald Trump: "A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution." The response from Republican leaders? ...Crickets. Almost none of them would make any public rebuke. I wouldn't be surprised if we hear nothing from the pseudo-conservative Trump supporters on these pages either.

Note: a true conservative would be horrified, outraged. Trump supporters are something other than conservatives, even if they've been masked as conservative for years. Progressives like me are horrified and outraged, of course, but that's nothing new with Trump.

This is not the stance of someone with neither a conservative or a liberal outlook. This is the stance of a narcissistic bully who, after getting away with tantrums for years, has no idea what lines not to cross. It's sickening. The only upside? It looks like Garland is closing in.

**Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover**

Don't Be Ignorant

To the Editor:

I am glad to respond to the letter concerning do good organizations and overreacting. Unfortunately, this is the mindset of many uninformed people which leads to why uninformed children do things like hanging a noose.

"It's not that bad" people say when referring to racism.

Walk a mile in my skin while watching Black people get murdered.

You tell me that it's no big deal. It's a big deal that I am sometimes nervous to walk down the street or go to Walmart for fear of being shot because of the color of my skin. "Watch my back" takes on a personal meaning to me when my life is at stake.

Two people who think it's "no big deal" tell that to the parents that have to explain to their children why hatred racism and ignorance still exist in this country today. The news hanging has been all over social media. If the world does not take notice of the harm it does, hatred will continue to grow. We need to educate our young people. It has to start somewhere. Ignorance is not an insult; it means a lack of understanding.

Don't be ignorant. This behavior cannot be tolerated.

Signed Yvette Gregoire – Hebron

Fifth Generation Warfare

To the Editor:

People often talk about the prospect of WWII, and their predictions for how it will start, what its outcome would be.

Fewer people are aware of 5GW - "warfare that is conducted primarily through non-kinetic military action, such as social engineering, misinformation, cyberattacks, along with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and fully autonomous systems.

WWIII isn't some far away event, it's happening right now, and it's a war for peoples' hearts and minds.

The major weapons used are wielded by the media and their suppression and promotion of information. Reagan's CIA Director, William Casey, was quoted saying, "When everything Americans believe is false, our misinformation campaign will be complete." That's that's exactly what's going on right now, the world over. The mainstream media does its best to twist any story to fit the narratives they want promoted, whether it's factually true or not, while it censors any story that would make people question what's really happening.

The use of false prophets of free speech (Musk), the focus on low information idiots like Ye, and the promotion of outrage stories that have little effect on our daily lives are recurring themes - think Balenciaga, Hunter's laptop, or the flavor of the week race baiting/gender affirming story.

While people's minds are captured in the media spin cycle their brains are being thoroughly washed. They attempt to convince that our eyes and ears deceive us while telling us to "trust us, we're the experts" and acting as if they have a monopoly on the facts. The truth is, there isn't much in the mainstream media that isn't meant to push a predetermined agenda. We had better realize where the war is being waged - between our ears - before it's too late and everything we believe is a lie.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Public Enemy #1

To the Editor

On November 17th, 2022 the Board of Selectmen were made aware that the Senior Center build project (SCBP) was over budget by nearly \$1,000,000 and that the Senior Center Building Committee was asking the BOS to appropriate additional funds to cover this overage. I questioned the authority of the BOS to appropriate additional funds without first asking the taxpayers. I believe that both our Town Charter and the resolution the taxpayers approved are clear - we must either ask permission to spend more or stay under budget.

On December 1, 2022 the Town of Colchester sought authorization from the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract with the lowest bidder for the SCBP. The Town would have been entering into this contract in bad faith as

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

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

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it was well aware that the contract amount far exceeded the amount approved by the taxpayers at the November 16th, 2021 referendum for the SCBP. In response to this, myself and Taras Rudko filed an injunction to prevent the town from entering into a contract in bad faith.

No matter how much some now wish to make me public enemy number one, this case has nothing to do with preventing a new senior center from being built and everything to do with our civil rights as voters and the authority our government has.

The questions asked of the court are vital questions whose answers affect every citizen of our town and potentially every citizen of CT. I believe I would have been derelict in my duty had I not sought a judge to render a decision on such important legal questions about our civil rights and government authority.

I implore everyone to read the details of the complaint themselves. These can be found at <https://civlinquiry.jud.ct.gov>, docket number KNLCV226059392S.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Editor's note: LaChapelle is a member of the Colchester selectboard writing as a citizen.

Veracious Truism

To The Editor:

“The reason for leaving is oftentimes the same reason for not going back.”

No truer words have been spoken. This sage advice applies to almost every aspect of life, we as humans experience. Youngsters to elders, it is all the same.

Whether it be friendship, work, pleasure, marriage, vacation or vocation, the rule applies. We all think we change drastically over the years and in reality, the core being stays the same. The core self is the decision maker, is our baggage, our luggage. We take it along with us wherever and whenever. So, the suitcase we are born with is the suitcase we die with too.

As the year draws nigh, we look back to the past and forward to the future. The past can look very rosy as it fades farther back. The future can be rather horrifying too. Tomorrows are unlive; virgin territory for us all.

As the tree goes up and the calendar gets flipped, think back. The most important decisions one makes in their life is oft faulted because we simply forgot “the reason for leaving is oftentimes the same reason for not going back.”

Happy 2023!

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Editor's note: Walck is an East Hampton Town Council member, writing as an individual.

Awed, Inspired, and Appalled

To The Editor,

On Sunday, I experienced a moment of awed inspiration. I toured 17 Kinney Road. I've walked the site before. I've certainly come to know its history quite well. This time, I met with those people who are fighting hard to preserve the rural historic integrity of their neighborhood. I have no interest in town politics.

My neighborhood, Burnt Hill was destroyed when Hebron's oldest farmland was bulldozed for playing fields—8000 years of history destroyed by those sworn to preserve Hebron's rural historic character.

Don't let this happen again.

Neighborhoods are like an aged oak weath-

ering many storms because they have roots in the soil. Kinney Road neighbors have roots and have shown a deep understanding of the land.

Mayflies live for one day. Their frenzied activity is like the kaleidoscope of ever-changing town leadership. They appear for a short time, then move out of town when the taxes are too high.

Viewing 17 Kinney Road again, I was appalled to see how mismanaged this town-owned property is with invasive species on some of Hebron's most productive farmland. Much town-owned property is the same.

Burnt Hill Park abounds in unnatural playing-fields surrounded by deer-tick-harboring invasive species. Time and again, the town has acquired land without researching its rural environmental or historic value and then mindlessly rezoned and repudiated the land's environmental and historic qualities.

Respect the land. It's Hebron's greatest asset. It's only logical to keep polluting substances like salt in areas where it is currently stored. Spend money to upgrade and make the current salt-sheds less environmentally hazardous.

Upgrades at Old Colchester Road are long overdue.

Mayflies know nothing about the continued Covid effects on the economy, escalating energy costs, rampant inflation, impending recession, or high taxes. Apparently, town leaders don't either.

John Baron – Hebron

Overlooked

To the Editor,

Too bad that Haddam Neck is not included in the *Rivereast's* service area!

We get it delivered and Haddam Neck is smack dab in the middle of the paper's delivery area. I guess because we're part of Haddam we get overlooked for many things.

People in the Neck only got cable TV after a special legislative act...years after Haddam, East Haddam and East Hampton had cable.

For years we had no ambulance service and only got a fire department when the power plant paid for part of it.

Sometimes it seems as if Haddam Neck is not even here.

And yet...

We have the Haddam Neck Fair.

We had a nuclear power plant (we still have the high level spent fuel from it!).

Venture Smith lived in Haddam Neck, (not East Haddam).

We had some of the first stone quarries, the first basket shops and the first mill factories, and yet, I was told that only obits from service area towns are allowed in the *Rivereast*. If true, I

guess the dead from Haddam Neck will have to have their life memories told elsewhere.

Peter Smith – Haddam Neck

Ways to Recycle the “Unrecyclable,”-For Free!

To the Editor:

Dear Reader,

Now that our garbage is brought to landfills, sometimes burned unless it can be recycled (Hartford's Waste-to-Energy plant closed in July), there is increased scrutiny of plastics that can't be recycled in traditional ways.

Besides buying/using less plastics, programs can be found to “recycle the unrecyclable,” including free ones. See below:

Oral B and Crest will recycle all plastic oral care waste, like empty toothpaste tubes, old toothbrushes, floss containers - OF ANY BRAND! They'll pay postage; mail these to their processing center. Just gather these items in a cardboard box. When full, seal the box and download the shipping label for mailing through the U.S. Postal Service. Please see oralb.com/en-us/recycling/ for details.

Some nearby shipping service stores will take wrapping materials, including Styrofoam, and reuse them.

See TerraCycle at terracycle.com/en-US/ for

their opportunities to “recycle the unrecyclable,” many dozens for free!

Items like baby food pouches, contact lenses, even cigarette waste can be gathered and sent in to be recycled for free. The collection of certain packaging items is especially appropriate for schools, businesses or groups that have large quantities of these. Schools can even raise money by participating in TerraCycle's free collection box program. For every 5 boxes sent in, the school gets \$50! There are also paid options offered for “Zero Waste” collection boxes.

Willimantic Food Co-Op has a collection box before the exit door to recycle “Late July” chip bags through TerraCycle. They also have a collection bin (just inside the entryway) for those plastic square “things” that close bread bags, as well as for twist ties.

Please share how you are reducing waste pollution. There is lots of good will around to use this info. Wishing you good holidays, filled with hope.

Sincerely,

Ann Zitkus – Hebron

The Presumption of Innocence and Freedom

To the Editor:

In our democracy, there is a presumption of innocence until proven guilty and the right to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into our lives. One might question these rights after reading the reactions of certain organizations to the incident at the RHAM high school involving the discovery of a noose.

A December 2, 2022, *Rivereast News Bulletin* article reported a 17-year-old was arrested. It was further reported the NAACP considers the incident a hate crime because “the behavior exhibited at RHAM was unacceptable.”

There is a significant difference between unacceptable behavior and a crime, much less a hate crime. No information was reported about the alleged reasons or intent behind the incident. It's inappropriate speculation to reach conclusions about the minor, innocent of a crime until proven guilty beyond any reasonable doubt, without evidence of all facts and circumstances.

More disturbing are the reported efforts to subject other Hebron residents and employees to unwarranted measures arising from what, to date, appears to be an isolated incident involving alleged conduct of a minor. According to the December 2 article, Hebron's Coalition on

Diversity and Equity (CoDE) through its president is working with our Town Manager and the

Board of Education about implementing measures for people uninvolved with the incident.

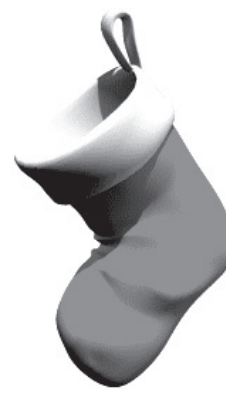
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★ **Letters cont. from page 5**

worry, a slow seeping worry about noise, water/soil contamination, illnesses, property losses and financial ruin... slow violence. Hebron is ahead of the curve with a productive watershed, a solid POCD to guide us and a community that cares. #save17.

Jean Tulumieri – Amston

Words and Actions Matter

To the Editor,
Genocides do not start with mass-murder. That's where they end up. Genocides and other mass atrocities begin with words specifically, with powerful people dehumanizing a minority or political opponent. Once they seem as less than human, anything is possible, even murder. You can speak out loudly now for the rights of others, or you can stay silent and eventually, your rights will be taken away too.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Turn the Page

To the Editor:
So, the BIG News that have ALL of us Conservatives jumping for Joy is that the Wicked Witch" has been removed from her position of power.

Nancy Pelosi's Rein IS OVER and she will NO LONGER BE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE. HALLALUJAH !! We can only hope that she retires after her term expires in 2 years!! Her agenda, the inflationary spending, that annoying voice and condescending demeanor has been sequestered. Trillions of uncontrolled spending has been curtailed as least

for the time being.
This ONE item helps take the sting of not regaining control of the Senate.
At the state level Ned Lamont continues to fail taxpayers, small businesses and the middle class. We are the HIGHEST TAXED STATE IN THE COUNTRY, HIGHEST ELECTRIC BILL that will be going up another 45% for residential service by Eversource and United Illuminating. They grow their profits without ANY Oversight Committee or State intervention. They are a MONOPOLY and their arrogance is clear and troubling. Our politicians stand on their soapbox and express their outrage (Lip Service), but they are owned by big business who contribute mightily to their campaigns so nothing will be done. Homeowners and working people get screwed again!! Lamont is still sitting on the \$5 BILLION IN COVID MONEY that Connecticut received from the Feds. Instead of really reducing taxes and easing the financial burden to working folks. Lamont and his BILLIONAIRE wife profited from the Covid investments they made. They're going to donate their profits. Sure they are?
Congratulations to Irene Haines in defeating the Progressive John Olin whose platform did not include record inflation, rising crime, border crisis or parent rights. He is East Haddam's answer to Scott "Fake Professor" Sauyet. Great Moniker!!

Don Denley – Andover

Mental Institution

To the Editor:
The last few weeks readers have endured the customary foolishness from the Riverast wrecking crew. From falsely accusing Demo-

crats of being angry, vindictive, and obsessed with Trump, to Peter Kushkowsky asserting that LGBTQ+ is simply a fashionable lifestyle choice.

Michael Chotkowski remarked that Social Security and Medicare should be privatized. Frank Blume compared hanging a noose in the high school locker room to earning a boy scout merit badge and Ed Kozlowski offered a half-baked theory linking China, Saul Alinsky, and Hunter Bidens laptop to the price of local eggs.

The endless fear and intolerance regarding racism, gender equality, social insurance and sedition is based on the illusion their way of life is under attack.

Of course, when you're part of privilege, fascism begins to look a lot like safety, normalcy, and tradition. It often arrives packaged as patriotism. However, what this paranoid whack-pack refuses to recognize is that Trump is a distraction, intended to exploit those with a limited understanding of government to vote against their own interests. While the rest of the world is striving to expand liberties and protect democracy, MAGA misfits are busy wrapping around Trump's axle of fears, fascism and conspiracies. Unfortunately, MAGA republicans have no idea just how ridiculous their comments and actions appear to the rest of the world. They're like everyone's crazy uncle at Thanksgiving who believes that election denialism, insurrection, voter suppression, obstruction, terminating the constitution, lying, cheating, stealing, and hosting an actual Nazi dinner party is normal.

In truth, being part of the MAGA crowd is like sitting at the cool kids table in the cafeteria of a mental institution.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

The Clauses Are for Everyone

Dear Editor,
The HBO Max documentary *Santa Camp* featuring Andover's Mrs. Merry Claus, a.k.a. Dianne Grenier, will be shown on Wednesday, December 14 at 1:00 pm in the Town Hall Community Room.

The focus of this documentary is the diversity in the Santa community. Featured are a Black Santa from Arkansas, a nonverbal Santa from Vermont, a transgender Santa from Chicago, and Mrs. Merry Claus from Andover, CT, as well as the Santa Camp in New Hampshire which is a school for want-to-be Santas.

This is not a Hallmark movie and may not be appropriate for children.

The showing is FREE of charge and is open to everyone. Mrs. Merry Claus will be on hand to do an introduction and explain how she got involved in the production.

Please consider yourself invited.
Merry Christmas to all!

**Mrs. Merry Claus
a.k.a. Dianne Grenier – Andover**

Season's Until-Next-Times!

To the Editor:
The Hebron Green Committee is announcing that the Hebron Swap Shack will be closing for the season at the end of our last day, Sunday, December 18, 2022. So only two days left in the Swapping Season - December 11 and 18, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at the Hebron Recycling Center and Transfer Station on Old Colchester Road (Hebron residents only).

We would like to thank everyone who has helped make this first year of our Swap Shack a success, especially Kevin, Gordy and the crew, and the members of the public who have swapped all kinds of usable items. It's a great way to keep things out of the landfill, and we get to meet new friends in the process. So, if you can't get down to the Shack in the next couple weeks, we'll see you next Spring!

**Mike Harder
Hebron Green Committee**

How Cruel Are You?

To the Editor:
After many meetings we are now learning that there is not enough financing to do the Colchester Senior Center project. What???

When I moved to Colchester well over 20 years ago, there was talk of a new senior center. I thought, although not a senior at the time, all well and good. Now that I am at least a decade past retirement, I am still waiting. Through the current senior center I have made friends in town. In my time as a member I have lost friends who have cruelly passed away, still waiting. It seems we need about a third of a million dollars to go forward. Well, I say remember the saying "Build it and they will come," or is it build it the finances will be found. How many more seniors do we have to lose without them enjoying a new senior center?

I reiterate, how cruel are you?
Tricia Heldmann – Colchester

Global Movements

To the Editor,
Worldwide progressive movements are underway. Conservative Iranian fanatics stepped in their own dogma-doo when their 'morality police' killed a Kurdish woman for improper dress. Brave Iranian women and youth have had enough; risking beatings, jail and death as they protest their illiberal government. China-wide protests over Xi's draconian lockdown policies are rattling the conservative leadership; planting seeds of doubt that perhaps dictatorial communism is not superior to socialistic democracy.

In Ukraine all clearheaded eyes are fixed on the progress of its soldiers, leaders and citizens in their battle of survival against Hitler II. President Biden wisely leads the world effort to ensure our generation does not 'Chamberlain' away its chance to stymie a brutal, immoral Russian beast before it spawns another World War. In Brazil, left-wing Lulu da Silva beat conservative president Jair Bolsonaro; a sore loser now playing his Trump cards.

With all this progressivism elsewhere, I wonder about the state of mind of our resident puzzlewits. Don 'None Denser' Denley has grown quiet as his president Donald Trump keeps stepping on banana peels. Dining with anti-Semites Ye and KKK-wannabe Nick Fuentes? Saying we should jettison the U.S. Constitution? His boy Herschel Walker, Georgia senate candidate and werewolf aspirant going full bizarre? All this and Don can only find fault with Ned Lamont? Another Trumppublican,



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Colchester's own Ted 'Unibomber' Koslowski continued spewing endless venom against anything liberal.

His *Rivereast* letters are his epic life work, a thick volume of substance-free sarcasm. If you've read one you've read them all, so don't waste money on the book. And best wishes to House Republicans as they lock and load to get Hunter Biden. Elmer Fudds every one of them. The real varmint is Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, who netted \$2 billion Saudi dollars. Hunter's haul was chump change in comparison.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Electricity Distribution

To the Editor:
On Tuesday November 29th, 2022, Fox 61 did a piece on the poor condition of electrical pole's in our state. So true, but they dropped the ball when they stated individuals can tell who owns the pole and it designated location by metal tags nailed into these poles. and then calling the public utility or regulators (P.U.R.A.), with that information for action.

That's right. Individuals like you and I should climb into ditches or brush in their search for these tags. Some of these poles on state highway with and as the traffic speeds by .

What happened to public safety? Where is government? Aren't town employees (public work, police, others) looking out for town interest does each town have a liaison with utilities to communicate the towns concerns to the utilities, towns must start taking a pro active part, in these areas. Where are the utilities on these issues? With the coming increases in demand they should be recommending ways for the towns to help insure reliable delivery.

**Thank you.
Ed Martin – Portland**

Hebron's River of Denial

To the Editor,
Denial is more than just a river in Egypt. At the Dec. 1st Hebron Board of Selectmen meeting, denial was a raging torrent. Concerns over the proposed Public Works facility and 2,000-ton salt shed continue to be dismissed.

The significant environmental risk to groundwater and fractured bedrock aquifer at 17 Kinney Road is stated clearly by a hydrogeologist, "It is not environmentally conscious to locate the facility in an area that represents a significant risk to drinking water quality."

Nonetheless, the BOS continues to deny this information and push forward. Their latest plans include spending \$200,000 on a "final design" for the facility. Other expenses could include hiring a Public Relations firm and creating a town wide survey with a "fact sheet." How much taxpayer money will be spent before the BOS stop denying their plan is unpopular, dangerous and destructive?

Aravis Pasha – Hebron

The BOS is also in denial of the historical significance of the land at 17 Kinney Road. The Phase I Archeological Survey from May 2022, supported by a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office on August 15th, requested the Town provide additional information as the entire 88.6 acres could be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

These two sources are now joined by Professor Robert Thorson of the University of Connecticut Earth Science Department who discovered a "compelling" connection between three historic stone wall laneways found on the property. He notes the preservation of the area is vital "because this is a larger statewide concept and this may be the best place to show and illustrate it." The BOS continues denying the historical nature of the property and has failed to act. For Thorson's findings and more, visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and #Save17.

**Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston**

Really Dumb Stuff

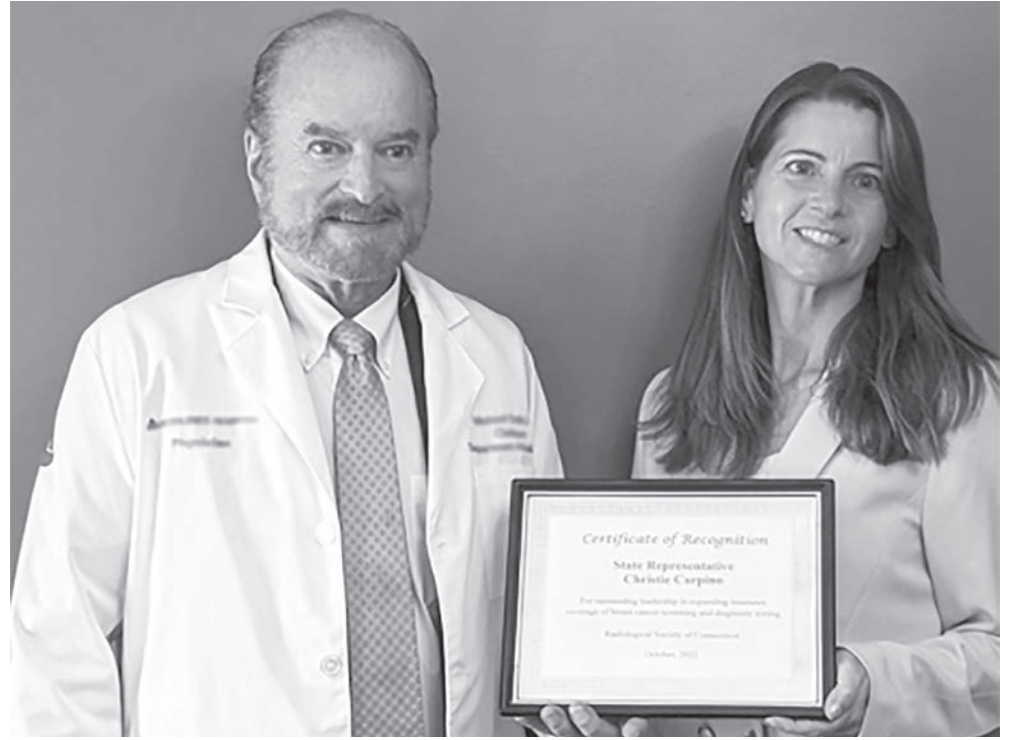
To the Editor,
"Suicide?!" That was my first thought. Almost 50,000 American teenagers a year kill themselves.

Then I thought a stupid prank. Teenage boys are known for doing really dumb stuff, often just for shock value. My last thought of why the noose was suspended was to threaten death to a Black boy. I explained what happened to a teen boy I know. He knew Black people were hung during the early 20th c. by white racists, and "witches" were hung during the 17th c., and for centuries Europeans and Americans were executed by hanging, but he did not know Black people today claim the noose as their own personal emblem of racial violence. He learned something. But we have yet to learn something: why the 17-year-old boy hung the noose, and likely we won't learn as the record is sealed due to his age. If he did it to threaten someone with death - and threatening a Black boy is no more egregious than threatening a white boy - then yes, that would be ghastly, and the boy would be in need of counseling, however, I am doubtful that was the case. We don't know.

Still, the NAACP found time to convene from across the state, hold a rally and a press conference, demanding the boy be charged with a Hate Crime (serious conviction), "prosecuted to the fullest extent", and locked up before any investigating, or talking was done. "Innocent until proven guilty," No, sir. Not here.

We don't actually want answers, just retribution, apparently. I am also highly disappointed with Superintendent Colin McNamara. He showed a lack of level-headedness, and backbone. He could have calmly, rationally led the community. Instead, he, too, jumped on the racial injustice bandwagon without knowledge, even had it been an attempted suicide.

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The Radiological Society of Connecticut recently honored state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32). for her leadership and advocacy in expanding insurance coverage of breast cancer screenings and tests. A certificate of recognition was presented to Carpino, right, by RSC's Dr. Michael Crain, left.

Carpino Honored by Radiological Society

The Radiological Society of Connecticut (RSC) recently honored state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) for her leadership and advocacy in expanding insurance coverage of breast cancer screenings and tests.

The 32nd House District covers Portland and Cromwell.

"The earlier a cancer in the breast can be detected by mammogram, the better the chance that it can be successfully treated," said Dr. Michael Crain, immediate past president of the RSC. "Rep. Carpino has been a leader in bringing this important legislation to passage."

The enhanced tests to determine whether breast cancer is present are contained in Public

Act 22-90, which was passed in the 2022 legislative session and takes effect January 1, 2023.

"With the rising costs of healthcare, it was important to provide an affordable option for residents to connect with preventative screening services. Radiological screenings, like mammograms, help save lives," said Carpino, who serves as a member of the legislature's Public Health Committee.

Carpino was also supported legislation this year that expands the state's breast cancer early detection and treatment program. The legislation, Public Act 22-23, serves women who do not have health insurance or cannot afford the deductible payment.

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 are welcome to attend Church School.

All who are vaccinated may remove their masks. 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. 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.

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Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library Holiday Book Store is underway 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.

Service of Lessons and Carols

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

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Christmas Sweets and Treats Holiday Sale

First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., will hold its annual cookie sale Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the fellowship hall of the church.

A variety of Christmas cookies will be packaged by the half dozen. Other sweets including gingerbread men lollipops, Christmas-themed pretzels, and assorted candy will also be available.

In addition to cookies and candy items, there will be small gifts and gift baskets for sale. New this year will be cross-stitched and pressed flower ornaments.

For more information, call the church at 860-342-3244.

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From the left, Bob McDougall, Portland Historical Society Museum Director, Guy Lardizzone, Past President of the Portland Lions, and Julie Macksoud, President of the Portland Historical Society. Lardizzone, presents a copy of the Portland Lions Club charter from 1950, listing their 25 charter members, to McDougall and Macksoud, at the Waverly Center at their last meeting. (Photo by Susan Bransfield)

Portland Lions Original Charter Discovered

After 72 years, a copy of the original Portland Lions club charter, dating back to October 21, 1950, was discovered and unveiled at their recent business meeting.

Although the original club had disbanded, the Portland Lions Club, restarted with a new group of members and chartered again four years ago. Last month the members welcomed Guy Lardizzone, one of the original Portland Lions Past Presidents (1978 and 1998), back into the

Lions pride. Guy Lardizzone had saved the original 1950 charter and now thought it best to share it for history's sake.

Current Lion President Mary Pont and Lardizzone decided to donate this copy of the original charter of the Portland Lions club to the Portland Historical Society. This replica could be used to honor those who gave of their time and efforts serving the town of Portland, Connecticut for many decades.

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.

Adult Drop-In Programs: Tai Chi at the Buck-Foreman Community Center: 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: 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.

Kids' Blast After School Program: Program takes place at Brownstone Intermediate School from 3:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. The program is open to students in Grades K-6, and the cost to attend Kids' Blast is \$18 a day. We currently have openings at Kids' Blast starting in January. If you would like your child to attend Kids' Blast, then please purchase a Kids' Blast Membership on our website, or contact the Parks and Rec. Department by emailing adionne@portlandct.org or calling 860-342-6757.

Winter Soccer Registration

Portland Soccer Club's winter soccer registration is open through Thursday, Jan. 5. Sign up at clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub. 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.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following events. 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. Masks are optional.

Mobile Library App: Dashing about during the holiday season? Want to avoid interaction when colds and flu are in the air? The Library Connection Mobile Library app will allow you to find materials and may reserve them for future pickup when you are notified. And at the library, you can check out books and many items, except DVDs, two ways: use the Meescan station located in the adult area near the entrance or use the mobile app. There are some items that will need staff intervention, such as items on hold for another reader.

The library has another 24/7 service as well: people may send remote printing requests for later pick-up at the library. For information and access, visit the library webpage or use the Library Connection Mobile Library app.

Youth Programs: Drop-In Playdates: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., Dec. 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.

Celebrate Hanukkah: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4 p.m. Portland residents Barbara Sequenzia and Liz Hibino will present stories, songs, games and latkes. This program is geared toward kids in grades K-3, but all are welcome.

Crafty Thursday: Thursday, Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m., for grades K-5, in the Wagner Room. Supplies provided. This is a drop-in program and no registration is required.

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

Teen Programs: Melted Crayon Jewelry: Monday, Dec. 12, 3:30 p.m. Learn how to make colorful pendants from discarded art supplies. This program is limited to kids and teens in grades 6 and up.

Adult Programs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. Murder for Christmas by Francis Duncan will be discussed.

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

Save the Date - Read & Recycle: Saturday, Jan. 14, from 10 a.m.-noon. All are welcome to bring in gently used books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles.

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.

People are invited to contribute to several seasonal mission projects that benefit area families, and patients at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

On December 11, the Third Sunday of Advent, the 10:00 a.m. worship service will include the lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy and the Sacrament of Baptism. Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon is titled "Rejoice with Joy and Singing." Under Kasha Breaux's direction, the Handbell Choir will play and the Choir will sing the anthem "Rejoice, Rejoice" by Julie

Hammaback. Childcare and Church School are offered during the service, and coffee hour follows the service.

The community is invited to "Christmas Calm: A Service of Music, Reflection and Remembrance" on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. This annual "quiet observance" of Christmas features prayers, readings, harp music, hymns, and the lighting of candles.

People are invited to contribute to several seasonal mission projects and offerings that benefit area families, and patients at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

The Christmas Sweets and Treats Holiday Sale takes place at the church on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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.

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.

Kids' Night Out

First Congregational Church is sponsoring a Kids' Night Out, for all children ages 3-12, Saturday, Dec. 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.

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Brownstone Arts Show and Sale

A holiday show and sale sponsored by Brownstone Arts is being 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.

General Overton & Mrs. Greene

With the passing of Mrs. (Phyllis) Greene recently, Portland lost wonderful educator, valuable member of our community. Her legacy continues through the generations of students who passed through her classroom at Portland Junior High School. Phyllis was a charter member of the Portland Historical Society, and had a strong interest in local history, beyond the standard school curriculum. In 1976 she received special permission from the Portland Board of Education to run an on-time class in Bicentennial Studies, which concentrated on what was happening in our community during the American Revolution. One of the class projects was

a Photo History of Portland, which highlighted many colonial era homes in Portland. Her students were introduced to General Seth Overton, who served during the American Revolution, lived on Main Street and is buried at Center Cemetery. In honor of Mrs. Greene, the Portland Historical Society's Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History will be open this Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, from 2-4pm featuring an unveiling of the portraits in the Overton Gallery and a copy of the 1976 Photo History of Portland will be on display. The museum is at 492 Main Street in Portland.

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 every other Monday, from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays. The next Foodshare visit is Dec. 19. 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.

Spirit is Alive at Portland Historic Society

The Portland Historical Society's 11th annual Festival of Wreaths - "Jingle & Mingle" - was a great success last weekend. We were pleased to offer 48 different wreaths/holiday decorations made by members, friends, and local businesses. It was wonderful to welcome old friends and to meet new ones in the Carriage House on Main Street for our annual teacup-style raffle. There was a spectacular assortment of unique

creations this year for which we are truly grateful. This event has become a regular holiday tradition in town and we are truly grateful to everyone who helped us with the planning, set up, baking, etc. This special fundraiser aids us in our efforts to preserve Portland's history and to fund educational projects for the community that we love and call home.

Pancake Breakfast

Portland Volunteer Fire Department invites everyone to an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Sunday Dec. 11th, 2022 from 7am to 11am. The breakfast features sausage, All-You-Can-Eat-Pancakes (chocolate chip, regular, and blueberry) with assorted beverages. \$8 Adults, \$4 Children. Engine Co#1, 7 Middlesex Ave (right behind the Post Office).

We also have Ceramic Pancake Coffee Cups for sale with our logo and a cartoon character squirting syrup on a stack of 'cakes, these are for sale for \$20 and each time you return with the "clean" cup we will subtract one dollar from your breakfast.

As we have in the past, December is in sup-

port of toys for Portland families, bring in your unwrapped toys and receive half off the price of your breakfast. All Toy donations will be given to families of Portland who are in need.

Santa should be arriving around 9 a.m. and staying until 11 a.m. A separate line will be established for those who wish to meet Santa. The tables are reserved for the public who wish to eat. There will be no photographer available for those wishing to have pictures you will have to use your own cell phone of camera.

Questions, comments or placed on an email notification list, contact Wayne Mergel @860-759-6921.

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.

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, Zion will be offering 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. The Compline service, or evening prayer, is also live-streamed on Zion's

Facebook page.

The Children's Christmas Pageant is being presented during worship on Sunday, Dec. 18. Zion will also be participating in the interfaith service of Lessons and Carols at Trinity Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. that same afternoon.

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.

Christmas Eve service will begin at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24, and Christmas Day worship will begin at 9 a.m. on December 25th.

The community is welcome to participate in any or 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 at zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org. Sara Stall-Ryan is Pastor.



Last weekend the town's holiday light parade and tree lighting at Brownstone school brightened Main Street with holiday cheer. This marked the parade's first march since the pandemic began. Pictured left to right are Selectmen John Dillon, Ralph Zampano, first selectperson Ryan Curley and state rep Christie Carpino

Light Parade Dazzles Once Again

By Jack Lakowsky

Michelle Donahue, member of the Portland Economic Development Commission, employee of the town and an organizer of this year's annual holiday light parade and Christmas tree lighting, said this year's celebration was a start of an event renewed for the new decade.

"It was a very nice turnout," Donahue told the *Rivereast*. "Sunday morning we had 13 vehicles. I thought, this is great!"

Last minute arrivals ended up boosting that number to 20, she said.

"It was a great response, it was awesome. It was a lot of legwork and working together, and it all worked so well, especially after not having it for a while," she said. "There wasn't one bad thing about it on Facebook, it's all been positive."

New this year, Donahue, wearing her development commissioner's hat, went around to

businesses along Route 66 and asked if they wanted to market during the campaign, either opening with specials or having their logo displayed.

"Just something to get people fired up," said Donahue. "I wanted to take the chance to shine a light on what we have in Portland. We have so many great businesses."

Local scouts took part, and as always, the local high school marching band gave a rousing performance.

"Next year we're hoping to do a bit more," said Donahue.

She said adding to the parade in increments will honor longstanding tradition while growing it, making it even more impressive. One way to achieve that goal, she said, would be inviting more younger families to help organize.

"That's our hope," she said.

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. 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.; Senior Jam, 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., multipurpose room; Tai Chi Qigong, 1 p.m.; Reiki, 30-minute

sessions, register directly with Linda Haddad at Lotus Reiki at lotusreiki1@mail.com, or 860-316-7553. Thursday: 9 a.m., SyncoCize Balance and Core, New Cardio Drumming; 10:15 a.m., Knit & Stitch; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. Friday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Family History Fun with Ken Dorsey, 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.

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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Schools Plan More Security Upgrades

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week East Hampton schools officials told the local school board of new security features in the district, and several more that could come in the future.

The new measures add to a recent string of security updates, including hiring an armed guard for the lower grade schools.

Steve Fontanella, district facilities director, told the East Hampton Board of Education crews are finishing up security windows for the high school interior.

Some interior high school glass still needs a safety laminate and securing with caulk.

"If multiple bullets go through," said Fontanella, the secured windows won't break in or shatter. After this, all the high school's interior windows will be reinforced.

"There are some sections that don't have that yet," Fontanella told the board.

Also, Fontanella said, schools are working on fixing the entryway camera system at the middle school, which is on the fritz and has been for a while, he said. It'll cost about \$10,000 to replace completely.

District superintendent Paul Smith also shared some possible security reinforcements with commissioners, sharing ideas from the local Town Council and Board of Finance.

First, said Smith, the finance board suggested panic buttons for staff. Smith said

The buttons would fit on the back of staff badges and would "put the schools into immediate lockdown."

Total cost over a five-year contract would be about \$180,000, said Smith.

The council asked schools to look at a system that lets staff and law enforcement know when a door is left ajar, combining that with the exist-

ing alarm system and working in some classroom doors that lead outside, as some aren't hooked up to alarms, said Smith.

This would cost about \$149,000, said Smith.

The last and, Smith said, the most practical option at a cost of a little more than \$11,000, would be buying an app teachers can use to communicate when and if schools go into lockdown.

Security is expensive. In a follow-up on Monday, Smith told the *Rivereast* there is opportunity to ease the cost to the schools-and so, to taxpayers.

"The state, every two or three years, has a round of security funding," said Smith, saying East Hampton has previously benefited from this state reimbursement program. The money

can't be used for the incoming school guards, said Smith. Because the district has proven work, it's a good candidate for the money again, he said.

The amount of money the state will give this time isn't yet known. Smith said it varies.

"We've got to balance safety costs and education costs," said Smith. "Our priority is to make sure that our environment is safe first."

Smith said he doesn't feel "safety dollars" have detracted from the district's education quality and said the cooperation of the local council and board of finance has been key, saying they've ably managed the town's capital budget money, a resource that also helps the schools.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurch-middlehaddam.com for directions.

Sunday School: Will meet in the parish hall.

Christmas Flowers: All are asked to use the envelopes in the pews to make a donation for flowers for the holiday season.

Covenant to Care Christmas Drive: Parish members have signed up to buy gifts for all eight children. If interested in contributing, the

church said it plans to buy gift cards for the parents, so donations are still welcome.

Bible Study: Wednesday evenings via Zoom. For more information, 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.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton, invites all to Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. Refreshments are served after the service. The Christmas Concert will be held this Sunday.

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

Kids Church: Kids Church, where kids learn about God's love through hands-on interactive activities and fun music, is held in Fellowship Hall during our worship service. All are welcome.

Bible Study: Adult Bible Study is held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. The study traces God's covenant with His people.

Choir Rehearsal: Choir rehearsal is Wednesday at 6:30.

Zoom Bible Study: The weekly Zoom Bible Study is held every Thursday night from 7 to 8 p.m. The Study looks at various ways to approach Bible reading to enhance our ability to hear what God says and how it intersects with our lives.

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.

Upcoming Activities at Epoch Arts

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of youth programming this season. All activities are held at 27 Skinner St. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

Kids' Christmas Party: Thursday, Dec. 15, at 4-6 p.m., for grades 1-6. Kids can paint an original piece of holiday. After that, the elves will be on hand to help make a special Christmas ornament to hang on the tree, followed by treats in the café. Cost is \$25; register online.

The Ugly Sweater Party: Friday, Dec. 16,

7-9 p.m., for grades 6 and up. Come wearing your best, ugliest Christmas sweater. Dance all night to a live DJ, take your photo in the photo booth, and eat some festive snacks in the café. Cost is \$7; no registration required.

Winter Classes: A variety of artistic classes will be offered for preschool through 12th grade. Sign up for classes like improv theater, ceramics, polymer clay and art, and sign up to perform in an original two-act play! Classes begin Jan. 9 and run for eight weeks. Register online.

Belltown Winter Wonderland

The Belltown Garden Club opened its 12th annual Winter Wonderland Silent Auction at the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St. The auction runs through Dec. 16.

Various local and area businesses have been solicited to supplement the gifts donated by club members. Gift baskets, gift cards, decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, centerpieces, artwork, jewelry and other holiday-themed items will be on display in the library for bidding. Proceeds from this community-wide fundraiser will benefit East Hampton Food Bank, the annual student scholarship, and other projects that

serve the town. This is a major annual fundraiser for the club.

All donated items will be on view at the library through Dec. 16. The public is invited to leave bids during regular library hours. The event culminates at the close of library hours on Friday, Dec. 16. Winning bidders will be contacted by phone and will be able to pick up items on Saturday, Dec. 17, and Monday, Dec. 19.

For more information, call JoAnn Hewett at 860-267-4129

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.

Mercy Honor Roll

Middle Haddam residents Abigail and Eva Hintz each received High Honors on the Mercy High School Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

They are each freshmen at the school.

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.

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EHVFD Santa Runs

Members of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department are holding their annual "Santa Run" visits to various neighborhoods in town. Firefighters will escort Santa Claus around town atop Engine 3-12. Firefighters will also collect non-perishable food items for East Hampton Food Bank as Santa winds his way through town.

Each evening, Santa will begin his tour at approximately 5 p.m. in accordance with the scheduled dates shown below and in the approximate order in which the streets are listed.

Note: For safety reasons, Santa will not be able to stop and greet people along the state-controlled roads in town. People who live along routes 16, 66 or 196 should consult the schedule below and arrange to meet Santa at a convenient nearby location.

Note also that inclement weather or emergency calls could potentially result in curtailment or cancellation of a particular evening's activities and cannot be rescheduled. Any changes or updates to the established schedule will be posted on the EHVFD Facebook page as soon as possible.

The remaining schedule is:

Dec. 9: Jingle Bell Parade at the Village Center.

Dec. 10: Old Coach, Old Middletown, Chestnut Hill, Michael, Hog Hill, William, Charles Mary, Terp, Hog Hill to end, Alden's Crossing, Long Crossing.

Dec. 11: Main Street (between Barton Hill and 66), Hills Avenue, Fairlawn, Melburn, Laurel Glen, North Maple, Maplewood, Beechcrest, Sherry Drive, Spice Hill, Tarragon (upper), Nutmeg, Tarragon (lower), Curry, Saffron, Arden, Champion Hill, Abbey, Anderson, Flannery, Cone, Childs Road (Middle School side).

Dec. 12: Old Skinner, Old Chestnut Hill (lower), Carriage, Lena, Emily, Old Young,

Taylor, Wildwood, Daniel Street, Wopowog, Brook Hill, South Main, Main Street to finish at Village Center.

Dec. 13: Walnut, Smith to Flanders, Flanders (between Smith and 196), Bishop Hill, Bevin Boulevard, Barton Hill, Steepleview, Oak Knoll, Maple, Gov. Bill O'Neill, lower Barton Hill, Forest Glen, Forest, Hyde Farm, Mary Ann Drive, Hayes, East Hayes, Childs Road (off Forest), Forest to end at Skinner.

Dec. 14: Old Marlborough Road, Poets' area, Lake Vista Drive, Edgewater Circle, Laurel Ridge, Indigenous Peoples' area (Wangonk, etc.), Lake Drive, Staeth, Aaron's Way, White Birch (lower), Ridgeview, White Birch (middle) to end at Company 3.

Dec. 15 (Note: Run begins at 6 p.m.): Old Middletown Road, Depot Hill (lower), Oakum Dock, Grist Mill, Depot Hill (upper), Middle Haddam Road, Bates, High Point, Schoolhouse, Hurd Park Road, Long Hill, Keighley Pond.

Dec. 16: Edgerton, Chatham Fields, Huckleberry, Sunset, Cedar Ridge, Holly, Smith, Dogwood, Royal Oaks area, Arch, Viola, Flanders, Daly, Pecauset, Portage, Bear Swamp, Peach Farm, Whispering Woods, Town Line Drive, Orchard View.

Dec. 17: North Main, Christopher, West Drive, Bellwood Court, Edgemere Condos, Clark Hill, Waterview, Mountainview, Hilltop, Sunrise, Skyline, Highland Terrace, Starview, Midwood Farm, Tiffany, Grayson, Stonegate, North Cone.

Dec. 18: Start at Company 3: White Birch Road (upper), Country Lane, Tammie Ann Drive, Berkshire, Chapman, Elmwood, Birchwood, Crestwood, Fernwood, Mott Hill, Brack Farm, Mott Hill to Lake Drive, Candlewood, Raymond, Pocotopaug Drive, Auburn Knoll, Island View, Blue Heron, Eastham Bridge, Seven Hills Crossing.

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.

Jingle Bell Parade: Friday, Dec. 9, at East Hampton Public Library. At 4:30 p.m. there will be a craft and refreshments, and at 5:30 p.m. Santa will arrive to lead the parade to the gazebo for the tree-lighting.

New York on Your Own - Bus Trip to NYC: Saturday, Dec. 10. The bus leaves East Hampton Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. and will de-

part NYC at 6 p.m. Cost is \$70/person.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW): Monday, Dec. 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.

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@easthamptonct.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 prearranged designated spot.

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.

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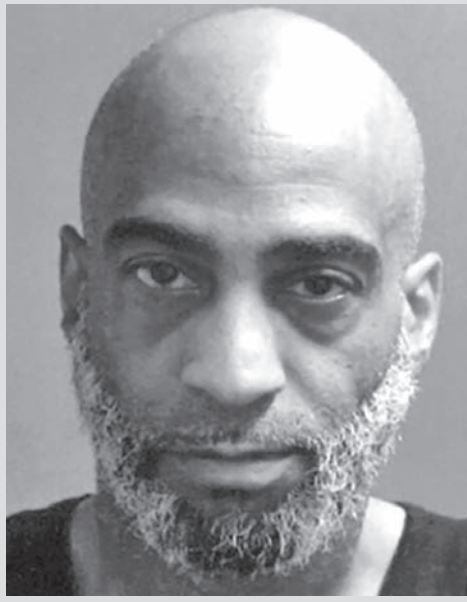
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Last week town police charged two East Hampton residents, Robert Kalache (R) and Domingo Schofield (L), with multiple drug related charges. Police allege they found a large amount of fentanyl in their possession.

EHPD Makes Large Fentanyl Bust

By Jack Lakowsky

Ending a half-year investigation, the East Hampton Police Department last week arrested two local men that police allege meant to sell large quantities of fentanyl.

Robert Kalache, 64, and Domingo Schofield, 44, both of East Hampton, each face multiple charges of possession and possession with intent to sell.

Near dawn on Dec. 3, acting on a warrant police told the *Rivereast* is temporarily sealed, local police searched a home at 6 Middle Haddam Road, allegedly finding and seizing over 500 “assorted pills”, of which about 140 were pressed fentanyl pills.

Police said they found a further 70 bags of fentanyl, allegedly packed for sale, and another supply of fentanyl totaling about 380 grams.

According to figures from Addiction Resource, a recovery education organization, each gram of fentanyl, based on 2021 estimates, is worth up to \$200.

Assuming this figure, which varies on purity and other factors, and assuming police estimates are accurate, the latter 380-gram haul

alone is worth near \$80,000 on the street.

Fentanyl is, essentially, a lab made opiate, as opposed to say heroin, derived from the poppy plant in farming operations. Fentanyl is cheap to make, without the labor costs of a “traditional” operation, and highly addictive, and can come in a variety of forms like pills, nasal sprays and transdermal patches.

According to ATF officials who spoke at a 2020 talk in Portland, fentanyl is now a dominant drug. In a report to the East Hampton Town Council last year, East Hampton police chief Dennis Woessner said “a pepper shake’s” worth could kill several people.

Between Jan. 1, 2020, and August 16, 2021, 13 doses of Narcan were administered to overdose victims in East Hampton. Woessner said use of Narcan, given by either first responders or friends and family, saved all but two of the 13.

“We’re sandwiched between Routes 66 and 16, we’re a gateway between Middletown and Route 2,” the chief told the *Rivereast* last year, after a local man was arrested for possessing a large amount of heroin. “We get a lot of people travelling back and forth.”

Xavier Honor Roll

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

High Honors

Seniors: Julian Henderson, Evan Riegler.

Juniors: Euan Hall, Kyle Levesque, Calan Lindsay, Cameron Nephew.

Sophomore: Samuel Marsh.

Freshmen: Tyler Crumb, John Haley, Andrew Hawk, Benjamin Romero, Logan Zabroski.

Honors

Seniors: Christian Motto, Peter O’Brien, Zachary Potter.

Juniors: Luke DeAngelis, Holden Riley.

Sophomores: Donovan Burke, Gavin Peterson.

Freshmen: Tristan Adams, Chase Dinunzio, James O’Brien.

Also making **Honors** was freshman Colin Roy of Middle Haddam.

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: Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m., with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Cost is a \$10 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.

Spinning Fibers: Thursday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your own wheel and fiber. All are welcome.

Historic Photos on Display: The pictures are of Cobalt, East Hampton and Middle Haddam.

CommuniTea: Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors and patrons. Take out a book; have a cup of tea. Coffee-drinkers welcome!

Town to Form Fire Station Committee

The Town Council is looking into the future of the town’s fire department and needs the assistance of a few residents.

In response to recent discussions with the East Hampton Fire Commission and Fire Department about the future needs of the fire department for its fire stations, the Town Council has created an exploratory committee to evaluate future building plans and to assist in identifying potential locations for a replacement building.

The committee membership will consist of three members of the public along with a representative from the Town Council and the Fire Department. Interested persons are asked to complete an Application for Appointment for Town Boards and Commissions, which may be found on the town website, www.easthamp- tonct.gov, under the “How do I” section, by selecting “Volunteer.”

Paper copies are also available at the town manager’s office in Town Hall. Those interested are encouraged to complete the application soon as the council hopes to be making appointments in December and January.

The exploratory committee will build upon evaluations performed in the last 10 years that have identified deficiencies and needs for town government facilities and fire department facilities, specifically. Currently, the fire department operates out of three stations: one in the Village Center on Barton Hill Road; the second on Route 66 in the western part of the town in Cobalt; and the third is located in the northern portion of the town on White Birch Road.

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.

Nintendo Switch Tournament: Saturday, Dec. 17, 2:00-3:30 p.m. For grades 1-5. All skill levels welcome.

Cozy Yoga: Monday, Dec. 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Grades 1-5. Wear your comfiest clothes (or pajamas!) and join us for some fun, relaxing yoga with Amie Meacham, a Yoga200 Certified instructor. All skill levels welcome.

Pre-Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 5:00 p.m. Grades 6-8. Share your knowledge, creativity, and interests to make the East Hampton Public Library a place that 6-8 graders feel welcome and a place you want to be. Earn community service hours.

Book Club Open House: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m. Come together to reminisce about the books we’ve read this year, talk about our recent favorites, pick out upcoming titles and more! There will be light refreshments and giveaways. If you are curious about our Book Club, please join us to see what we are all about.

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

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

DIY Days – Friendship Bracelets: Saturday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Ages 5-14 are invited to create a different toy, game or treat together. These activities are available while supplies last. No registration required; just drop in.

Kids Comic Creators: Cat Kid Comic Club: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5. Make your own Cat Kid Comic Club by using unconventional materials and thinking outside the box. This program includes read-alouds, drawing, games and prizes.

All-Ages Book Bingo: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., in the library community room. Play bingo to win free books. All are welcome.

Adult Programs: Chatham Historical Society Cabin Fever Series: Saturday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m. On select Saturdays through the winter, enjoy the return of the Cabin Fever series, presented by Chatham Historical Society. Sponsored by East Hampton Public Library.

Belltown Book Blast!: Thursday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. Meet in person with adult librarian Keri Blanda for coffee or tea and bookish banter at 10 a.m., or hop on Zoom in the evening at 6:30 p.m. from the comfort of your home. No registration needed for the in-person meeting; just drop in. For Zoom, register online to get the link.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service Saturday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m., in the church sanctuary, 401 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

The service will feature traditional Christmas Bible readings and carols. All are welcome. The church will not hold services on Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

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.

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December 10th & 11th
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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 backsto-

ries, 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.

Middle School Honor Roll

Honor Roll students for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year at East Hampton Middle School are:

High Honors

Grade 8: Hailey Adams, Marlee Alston, Raymond Basley IV, Ray Beauparlant, Rohnan Burke, Charlotte Burr, Hunter Cashin, Alexis Castellani, Andrew Christensen, Leah Ciardullo, Arielle Clark, London Clark, Kota Cloutier, Macie Coleman, Olivia Correia, Madeline D'Elia, Ryan DiPalma, Lilly Engel, Kayleigh Engle, Michael Farrell, Owen Fielding, Daniel Fields, Grace Flannery, Bryce Gagne, Kellen Garvey, Pearl Gaston, Shea Gaughran, Isla Gerrie, Kaelyn Gould, Kailyn Granatowski, Savannah Groeper, William Haslam, Sydney Henry, Nora HYTE, Joseph Jarzabek, April Kleszcz, Benjamin Kohler, Julian Kramer, Dolan Krasnitski, Mineth Kulatunga;

Hudson Lombardi, Ryan Lopes, Jesse Lycke, Kelsey Lynch, Madison McGlynn, Helena McMillan, Madison McMillian, Emma Meleo, Madeleine Mohr, Eva Moren, Kenji Nichols, Cormac Ordonez, Paige Ottone, Braelyn Paddock, Peyton Paiva, Bryn Parmelee, Skye Peck, Devin-Patrick Preble, Gabriela Proxee, Scott Riberio, Danielle Riley, Aubrey Root, Axl Rostovsky, Dempsey Russell, John Salafia, Zephra Sanderson, Daniel Sullivan, Kaylan Sullivan, Teagan Sullivan, Logan Supinski, Adelle Sylvester, Nathan Tiano, Abigail Trinks, Empress Valencia, Taylor VanBlaricom, Aubrey Varni, Mya Viveiros, Andrea Wanat, Samantha Werme, Josie Wilson, Helena Wisniewski, Sebastian Woodson, Ethan Worrall, Maria Zabroski, Zachary Zgorski, Caitlynne Zory.

Grade 7: Alexis Bailey, Julia Barry, Forrest Bellucci, Thomas Bertelsen, Jr., Kylie Bigelow, Anna Bothamley, Brody Buckley, Mathias Bueno Olascuaga, Aubrey Butler, Noah Cahoon, Savannah Carrington, Amelia Chrin, Julia Clark, Samantha Coleman, Brandon Coppolelli, Kailyn Crowley, Olivia Currier, Noah Cyr, Charlotte Daniels, Giuliana DonAroma, Taylor Dudek, Dakota Duplin, Cole Eighmy, Lauren English, Hadley Fazekas, Gabriel Finn, Owen Flannery, Adriana Garcia, Brett Gustavson, Brianna Gustavson, Cailan Hall, Abigail Hambridge, Sean Hargreaves, Aden Hilton, Holden Hines, Jason Hurt, Graddon Johnston, Kaitlynn Johnston, Addison Jump, Shonali Karkun, Aiden Kelly, Addison Kentzler, Eliana Kiernan, Gavin King, Brendan Kissane, Eli Kloepfer, Gavin Kloepfer, Grace Krug, Emily Le Moine, Caden Lee, Kenzie Lee, Ella Lessard, Alyssa Levenduski, Owen LoPresti;

Alexander Maalouf, Trent Mackie, Brenna Mai, Jasmine Martin, Addison Marzi, Preston McGrath, Elizabeth McNaughton, Hudson Milardo, Noah Miro, Peyton Moulthroppe, Leah Murphy, Nethum Nakandala, Mackenzie Napoliello, Vincenzo Niosi, Kaya O'Brien, Kaeden Owen, Addison Perkins, Bryce Pierson, Sadie Pinaud, Brayden Pisani, Ava Ploszay, Travis Raines, Mason Rall, Kayla Rau, Emily Rawlinson, Ryan Reola, Elise Roy, Raelyn Saucier, Cayden Schoonerman, Taylor Schoonerman, Hunter Steiner, Jakoby Stevens, Katelyn Stiles,

Mackenzie Strickland, Brooklyn Thorpe, Logan Thorpe, Avery Trombino, Nevaeh Van Cott, Kaelah Van Wey, Samuel Vitiello, Juliana Ware, Peyton Wentworth, Elizabeth White, Zoey Wilks, Riley-Jewel Wong, Worthington Zinkerman, Gabriella Zisk.

Grade 6: Patrick Adams, Aehan Amith, Jacob Armitage, Alyssa Arnold, Emily Baer, Samuel Bafumi, Landon Baillargeon, Matthew Balamucki, Alana Banks, Addyson Bear, Alex Beaulieu, Brooke Bellemare, Arianna Blancato, Ryder Bonin, Samantha Braga, Chloe Brown, Jack Busher, Avery Cashin, Garrett Chretien, Georgia Clark, Joshua Clark, Gabriella Cooke, Kailynn Cruz, Wren Cuthbertson, Samuel D'Amore, Gianna Doll, Olivia Doolittle, Emma Egan, Alexandria Ellison, Corbin Engle, Ryan Flannery, Brayden Flynn, Nora Foster, Peyton Frucce, Bennett Galovich, Hadley Galovich, Giana Garuti, Brody Ghagan, Hayden Groeper, Connor Guarino, Avery Guild, Derek Guiliano, Meadow Hart, Vitaliy Herasym, Tristan Hickey, Kylie Hull, Gianna Jarzabek, Cameron Jeffers, Alayna Jensen, Max Jensen, AmyAnne Jewart, Aloma Johnson, Cara Johnson, Caleb Joseph, Alexander Jovel;

Emma Kissane, Elsie Kovitch, Lily LaPlant, Tamzin Lemire, Shannon Mahoney, Lila Malinka-Morgan, Nathan McCormick, Aurora McMahan, Thomas McMahan, Molly McWade, Makayla Mikulski, Riley Millett, Mia Milton, Reagan Moquin, Samuel Morales Rivera, Joaquin Moren, Ethan Mortimer, Jackson Moulthroppe, Ama Nakandala, Garrett Neary, Miya Nichols, Patrick Nunes, Hayden O'ryan, Grady Ottone, Charlotte Palma, Dash Palmer, John Perez, Daniel Peterson, Kayleigh Philbrick, Nathan Philbrick, Lachlan Plante, Julianne Poe, Aoife Pont, Emma Riddell, Tristan Robinson, Sofia Rodrigues, Quinn Rurka, Kendall Sawyers, Alexander Scanlon, Logan Seaman, Lili Shoenfelt, Ashton Shumbo-Jenks, Jasmyn Skinner, Summer Smith, Emma Snyder, Ciarán Stanton, Mason Stino, William Supinski, Adam Tiano, Mason Tierney, Brennan Van Cott, Olivia Violette, JohnPaul Vlaka, Mckayla Wanat, Reid Wilk, Donzel Williams, Gianna Zadroga.

Honors
Grade 8: Lee Barron, Abbie Dipace, Mason Gagnon, Luke Garcia, Madison Grgas-Tucilo, Justin Hotchkiss, Maja Kieda, Kaitlyn Knittel, Brian Kostoss, Avery Leitch, Bryce Lumbr, Bryson Milton, Liam Mitchard, Colin Neary, Liam O'Connor, Brett Paresi, Hunter Pelletier-Gates, Vanessa Perdion, Maryan Salad, Darren Schwedler, Garrett Sharpe.

Grade 7: James Cote, Elijah Dickson-Cotto, Mariella Feliciano, Zoe Ferrigno, Cassandra Franklim, Essio Giovanelli, Christopher Inlow, Jaxson Kentzler, Hunter LaRose, Cassandra Owocki, Xander Patton, Alivia Peterson, Aidan Poston, Reid Saucier.

Grade 6: Maddox Hansen, James Kochuk, Angelina LaFleur, Gianna LaFleur, Joseph Landon, Damien Magnum, Mark Marozzi, Ava Riley.



Jenny Pionzio, local craftsperson and event co-organizer who will be one of those offering her homemade handmade items at the fair.

East Hampton Holiday Fair on Saturday

The second annual East Hampton Holiday Fair will welcome 20 local artisans, craftspeople, and vendors will be selling their creations on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 3-6 p.m. at Sweet Jean's Café at 13 North Main Street.

Organized by local author Jack Matthews and knitter Jenny Pionzio, the event will support local craftspeople while giving families an opportunity to pick up unique last minute Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers. Among the items featured include: handknits, homemade jew-

elry, custom made wreaths, sea glass artwork, soap, candles, wooden pens, decorative boards, homemade cards and much more.

Due to the success of the fair last year, Sweet Jean's Café offered their space for this year's event. It's an opportunity to shop local and support people who live and work in our community. Most local artisans don't do it for the income, they do it for the love of creating unique items and seeing the smiles on the faces of those who buy them.

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. There are Advent readings and a candle-lighting every Sunday celebrating the Advent season.

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.

Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service:

Saturday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary.

Christmas Day: There is no in-church Sunday service, but one is available on the church website.

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.

Christmas Concert Coming to Town

Catch the Spirit of Christmas at the Haddam Neck Covenant Church annual Christmas Choral Concert on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9:00 a.m. "Come to the Manger" blends the voices of our Choral Choir with instrumental accompaniment to provide a mixture of traditional, gospel and contemporary Christmas music. Jan Ulanowicz on keyboard and Wayne Visintainer on bass guitar are joined by our favorite guest musicians: Frank Natter, guitar, Matt Seymour, drums, and June Ingram, violin. Please join us for refreshments after the concert.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton. Please visit us on our website at www.hncovenantchurch.org.

MistleTunes to Perform

The MistleTunes will perform at Paul's and Sandy's Too Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and at 1:30-3:30 p.m. each day.

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.



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EHACC Accepting 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.

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Litigation Threatens Senior Center Project

By Michael Sinkewicz

The plan for a new Colchester senior center faces its most significant challenge yet, with new litigation threatening the project's timeline and jeopardizing a potential construction contract.

Republican Selectman Jason LaChapelle and RTC Chairman Taras Rudko have turned to the court to determine whether the town violated the terms of its charter and complied with the result of a referendum where voters signed off on building a new senior center.

The plaintiffs are seeking an order of mandamus that would compel the town follow the conditions outlined in the referendum question. They're also seeking an injunction to "prevent further injury to the townspeople, taxpayers, voters and residents of the Town of Colchester until such time as this Court issues further orders," according to the complaint filed last week.

While a motion for an emergency temporary injunction was denied at New London Superior Court last Friday, a hearing is scheduled for Dec. 20 for the town to justify why a temporary injunction should not be issued.

There are two main questions being presented to the court.

The first asked, "Does the town of Colchester have the legal authority to ignore or circumvent the results of the referendum put to the voters on November 16, 2021, as required by town charter?"

At the referendum – where residents voted in favor of constructing a new senior center at referendum by a 1,421-851 tally – the question posed to them was "shall the town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the board of selectmen to expend a sum not to exceed \$9,500,000 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?"

The second question the plaintiffs are asking the court is whether "the town of Colchester permitted to expend in excess of nine million five hundred thousand dollars in designing and constructing a senior center based upon the language of the referendum and the referendum having passed?"

The controversy surrounding the senior center project began last month, when Senior Center Building Committee Chairman Tony Tarnowski informed the boards of selectmen and finance that there was a shortfall in the construction budget.

Originally, the estimate for construction costs 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. The total cost of the project, the plaintiffs argued, would exceed \$9.5 million.

Armed with this information, town leaders began scrambling for alternative funding sources.

The most recent suggestion promoted by First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos was to pull at least \$500,000 from the Bendas estate, which was donated to the town, along with money from the project's contingency fund.

Tarnowski confirmed that while that plan could generate new problems in the future, it would "be enough to work a contract with BRD Builders LLC."

On Dec. 1, the committee approved the BRD Builders contract and sent the decision to the selectmen to make a final ruling. However, Bisbikos stated at the beginning of the meeting that all motions involving the project were off the table due to pending litigation.

Now, the project's future is unclear. The low bid is set to expire on Jan 11, according to Tarnowski. If a contract is not agreed to by both parties' lawyers and reviewed by the state before that date, the town's timeline may be setback months.

"It's unfortunate that they asked for the injunction," Tarnowski told the *Rivereast* this week. "We'll just have to wait and see. Once a judge decides, then we'll decide how to move forward."

If the hearing later this month goes in the town's favor, there is still a chance at moving the project forward as previously proposed.

"If the judge gives the 'okay,' that gives us a couple weeks," Tarnowski expressed. "It could happen, but I just don't have a feel right now. It's very compressed."

LaChapelle highlighted his concerns with how the project was being handed in a lengthy email to the selectmen last week.

"Everyone needs to be aware that should the town appropriate even a single dollar over the \$9,500,000 then there will almost certainly be an injunction filed," he wrote. "In fact, this whole thing has me so annoyed and angry that I am now considering filing an injunction myself."

He continued by stating that he would "not allow my government, especially not one I am part of, to so willfully dismiss the will of the people and justify doing so on the back of shaky legalese that has changed with the wind – and only changed in a way that benefits the idea of government circumventing a legally binding resolution and our town's charter."

The next day on Dec. 1, LaChapelle and Rudko took legal action.

LaChapelle told the *Rivereast* that he "wasn't going to risk a citizen not filing something" and that it was "always an option."

His objective, he said, was to get the legal questions answered, with the expectation that a judge will agree with his own interpretation of the referendum question.

If an injunction is granted, LaChapelle hopes the town will not challenge the ruling, and instead consider other options regarding how to move the project forward.

"My hope is they don't sign a contract and maybe go to a referendum or scale back the project," he said.

While going back to voters could jeopardize the current contract, Tarnowski agreed that it may ultimately be the best option.

"I have no problem going to referendum again and letting the people decide," he said.

During the selectmen's meeting last week, many Colchester seniors expressed their frustra-

tions with the holdup, with one resident asserting that they were being treated like "second class citizens."

LaChapelle emphasized that the litigation does not represent that he's against senior citizens or their new building.

"I'm public enemy number one," he said. "Of course, it bothers me because it's disingenuous. It's easy to make emotional arguments, and logic always loses to emotion."

Still, he maintained that his actions were justified, despite the criticism he's received.

"What other course does someone in my position have?" he posed, adding that the selectmen had the votes to move the project forward. "Do four members get to make that decision? I would argue no."

LaChapelle said the optic of a sitting selectman taking action against his own town didn't bother him either.

"We have long settled disputes in the courtroom," he expressed. "It's easy to do what I do because I believe I'm right."

LaChapelle said he is in favor of using the Bendas estate money at some point, just not for the construction of the building. He emphasized that he respects the result of the referendum, and the town will get a new building eventually, but at the agreed to cost voted on by the community.

Any legal action taken by the town will also require taxpayer money, as well, which LaChapelle said was obviously another unfortunate aspect of the current situation.

"I wish all of this could've been avoided."

Tarnowski said that while some alternative ideas have been "floating around," most ideas are contingent on the injunction result.

"We're very frustrated," he said, expressing that opponents to the plan may just be against the new project, in general. "People understand what's happening with inflation and it just seems funny that they don't want to accept that that's what happened with this project."

He called the litigation a "last ditch effort to not make [the project] happen."

"At the time, \$9.5 million was a good number," he said. "It's going to be more than that and we did exactly what our job was. You can make it worse and not work to solve the problem."

Tarnowski said he understood the concerns with going over the original budget number, but "we couldn't have done anything different."

"I think we've always been upfront with everyone," he added.

The First Selectman's Office did not return a request for comment before press time for this story.

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Cardz for Kidz... Community members and karate students of Colchester Champions Karate spent their Sunday afternoon creating cards for children's hospitals. Together they made 100 cards that will be mailed to the organization, Cardz For Kids, which cards to hospitals all over the country. Thank you to Erin Walls and Bryan Dowd of CrossFit Playground for allowing them to use the space. Kids pictured here are from Colchester, Hebron, and Norwich. Thank you for your time and spreading cheer.



Pictured are John Consiglio and Carey Laporte, two of the members that collected for this effort.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Advent Worship Schedule: Week 3: Joy: Sunday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.; Week 4: Love: Sunday, Dec. 18, 9 a.m., with Christmas Pageant.

Christmas Eve Services: Dec. 24: 5 p.m., Family Service; 9 p.m., Lessons & Carols.

Christmas Day: There will be no in-person worship service on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25. A virtual message will be shared on the church's Facebook page.

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

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

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

Tootsie Roll Fundraiser Rolls On

The men of the Knights of Columbus Cardinal Spellman Council #6107 in Colchester have completed their annual Tootsie Roll Fund Raiser to benefit people with intellectual disabilities in our community. The Council received generous donations from many local residents in sup-

port of this effort. Past proceeds from the annual drive have been donated to the Colchester and Windham Special Olympics Committees. The Knights wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed this very worthy cause.

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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CT Lyme Riders is presenting the following great article for anyone who has a loved one, friend or family member that suffers from chronic Lyme disease, or just wants to understand more about this disease and the stress of holidays.

Facing the Holidays with Chronic Lyme
Author: Paula Jackson Jones • Orig Pub: 11/25/2017

Nothing reminds you of your illness more than when you're limited by the things that you can no longer do and the places that you can no longer go. And nothing highlights those limitations more than the holidays. Grieving the loss of holiday traditions, or feeling like you're letting your friends and family down by staying home or cutting outings short, can elicit so many difficult emotions that no one should have to deal with around the holidays.

No one ever thinks that something as tiny as a tick bite can change their life in so many ways, until it happens to them. I sit with people in person and on the phone who are struggling to understand this disease, struggling to make sense of their new normal, struggling to keep it together for their families. Struggling. It's something that chronically ill people do constantly. Everything is a struggle. Getting up in the morning, even getting through the day. Trying to plan events. Even something like going to the grocery store is taken for granted. I remember getting out and going to the store and running into people who would say things like "Oh, you look so good. You must be doing better" without realize just how much effort it took for me to pass for "good". How much energy it took just to get dressed and put on a good face and be seen in public.

While chronically ill people want to be a part of the holiday celebrations, they realize just how impacted they are by it all ~ sights, sounds, smells and overall exertion, that often exasperates their symptoms, that they feel the only choice they have is to stay home. I recall attending church services to sing carols and being overstimulated by the sounds, smells and lighting that I had to leave and go back home before a seizure was triggered. Holding a conversation was physically and mentally exhausting. Trying to focus on who was speaking to me, what they were asking and by the time I figured out my response, they were on to another topic. I often wondered what they thought, standing there in front of me ~ did I look as disconnected as I was feeling on the inside?

The holiday season is, and always has been, my favorite time of year and as I regained my health, I tried to re-engage with all my favorite holiday activities, but found that foods and over-stimulation were, and continued to be, a sensory trigger.

Something that I would ask of you all this holiday season ~ be kind and give grace to those suffering from chronic illness. Whether you understand their illness or not, understand this ~ they are doing their very best and that is all that can be asked of them. If they come, don't over quiz about what's been going on. Instead, welcome them into the group and make them feel as comfortable as you can. For one night, let them feel normal. Let them forget that they are ill. Understand that as the group chatter volume rises, that they may need to find a quiet reprieve to tamper down any rising symptoms. Don't be offended if they can't eat what you're serving. As much as we all love holiday goodies, chronic illness sometimes demands a change in diet to reduce symptoms during treatment. Maybe ask in advance what they can eat. Sugars and gluten are a no-no when putting together treats to give to them. Along with sounds, lighting can be a sensory issue for those suffering from neurological Lyme. Don't stare if your guest appears wearing sunglasses. I had someone approach me saying "What are you stoned? You must be to wear sunglasses at night" and I was so taken back and offended. Never judge what you don't understand.

Holidays are meant to be celebrated by families and friends, so I would ask that you please don't forget those who are chronically ill. They want to be a part of the celebration, but they know and understand all too well their limitations and they don't want to be a burden to their families, so they think staying home is the answer. Isolation is never the answer and causes more harm and damage mentally. Reach out in love, send cards, call before you visit but do visit. And if you bring a gift, leave out the sweets and gluten. Limit your use of perfume and keep the setting quiet. Limited the over-stimulation, keep the conversation light. Share what's going on with you and make them feel included. This will ensure a heartfelt and thankful visit and it will serve the one who is ill in ways that you may never understand.

This holiday season, remember those who are ill and not able to attend functions. Do your part, however small or grand, to make them feel remembered, missed and loved. This feeds their spirit and spirit is something that no disease can ever touch.

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Scouting For Food a Great Success... On October 29 Scouts BSA units, along with friends and family members, collected over 8,000 pounds of food and personal care items donated by the generous residents of Colchester. Pictured are Scouts, leaders, and other volunteers sorting donations which were delivered to the Colchester Food Bank. Thank you to all who generously gave for those in need!

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongregation.org for login information. Sunday School meets during the worship service. Meetings: The church hosts several groups meeting weekly: AI-Anon, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; AA, Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA

Troop 109, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; and Cub Scout Pack 109, one Thursday per month at 6 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 westcongregation@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

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.

Parks and Rec Holiday Activities

Colchester Parks and Recreation, located at 127 Norwich Ave. (Town Hall), has announced several holiday-related items of interest. For more information, call 860-537-7297 or visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

Home and Business Holiday Display: Folks can print their free map and view all of the Colchester holiday decorations. Maps are available at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department or online at www.facebook.com/colchesterparksandrec. Vote for your favorite home and business decorations online. Voting

runs through Dec. 31. **Colchester Holiday Ornament:** Ornaments will be available in the Parks and Rec. office throughout December. Cost is \$6 per ornament. **Gingerbread House Contest:** Gingerbread houses will be displayed throughout Town Hall through Dec. 22. All visitors to Town Hall are encouraged to vote for their favorite one. Each gingerbread house will be awarded a superlative award ribbon. The "Community Favorite" will be awarded to the gingerbread house with the most votes. There is no cost to enter the contest.

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.

Friday, Dec. 9: 9:30 a.m., wreath-making; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Hearing Clinic; 11 a.m., yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Card-Writing Session: Monday, Dec. 12. 1:30 p.m. Help write seasonal cards to community partners thanking them for their partnership during the year. Sign up in the office if you would like to assist.

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. No registration required.

Across the Ages: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10:15 a.m., at William J. Johnston Middle School. The senior center's partnership with the middle school for its inter-generational program will continue this month. This program will run through February. For more information, call Jodi at 860-537-3911.

Reel Friends Movie Club: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 12:30 p.m. The 1945 Christmas comedy Christmas in Connecticut, starring Barbara Stanwyck and Dennis Morgan, will be shown.

Popcorn will be served. The movie is rated PG. No registration required.

Gingerbread Houses Edible Craft: Friday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. Create your own small individual gingerbread house. There will be a contest for the best decorated house. Cost is \$5 per person and includes the pre-made structure and items to decorate your house. Register by Dec. 12.

Latkes Cooking Group: Monday, Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m. Help Jodi make traditional latkes for the next day's Hanukkah Party.

Hanukkah Celebration: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. Learn about the history and tradition of the Festival of Lights with Rabbi Ken Alter from Ahavath Achim Synagogue, sing songs, play dreidel and enjoy traditional potato latkes. Open to people of all faiths. Pre-register by Monday, Dec. 12.

Holly Daze Luncheon: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. Patty Carver will perform a mix of cabaret and holiday classics. Lunch will then be served, featuring herb-roasted prime rib, garlic roasted potatoes, vegetable medley, dinner roll, assorted holiday cookies, and apple juice. Tickets are \$9 each and will be available until Dec. 14 or sold out.

New Year's Brunch 'N Bash: Friday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m. Enjoy breakfast fare and musical entertainment by Paul Shlien. Menu will include broccoli, bacon & cheese quiche, turkey sausage patties, home fries, fruit salad, orange juice, pastries and a mock-champagne toast, right as the clock strikes 12 (noon). Tickets will be on sale until Dec. 23 or sold out, at the cost of \$9 per ticket.



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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.

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.

Dean's List

The following Colchester residents made the summer 2022 Dean's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford: Amanda West, Anne Pederzani, Ashlee Ringuette, Ashley Varjenski, Christina Heckathorn, Hannah Kardys, Leeauna Stagni, Marie Cahill, Martha Beringer, Maureen Pycko, Meghan Young, Rebecca Pitts and Tharshana Chandrakumar.

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December Programs at Cragin

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following free programs. For more information, call the library at 860-537-5752. Library hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fall Storytime Sessions: Run through Dec. 15. Siblings are welcome. Call the children's desk at 860-537-7201 for more information.
Sensory Table: Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Foodie Fun: Graham Cracker Candy Houses: Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:30-11:30 am. Registration required; call 860-537-7202.

Children and Teen Gift-Making Kit: Monday, Dec. 12. Pick up a take-and-make kit to help with some holiday gift-giving.
Paint Night: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., via Zoom, for teens and adults. You will receive an email when supplies are ready to be picked up from the library. Registration required; do so at tinyurl.com/3xr9erf6
Children's Snowman Craft: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6-7 p.m.
Teen Shrinky Dinks: Thursday, Dec. 15, 3-3:45 p.m., for grades 6-12.

Honor Roll

The following Colchester residents made the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year at honor roll for the first quarter at Saint Bernard School in Uncasville:

Honors with Distinction

Grade 10: Evan Clark; Grade 11: John Paul Peck; Grade 12: Yuang (Peter) Gu.

High Honors

Grade 8: Brevin Gonzales; Grade 11: Marguerite Brady; Grade 12: Daniel O'Brien and Alexander Rowllins.

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.

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New Years Week: Tues 27th 9am-5pm; Wed 28th 9am-6pm; Thurs 29th 8am-6pm; Fri 30th 9am-6pm; Sat 31st 7am-5pm; Closed New Years Day



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Town Aims for new PW Facility Survey

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Board of Selectmen continued its dialog last week regarding the potential next steps for a new Public Works facility, emphasizing the need for further information and stronger community outreach.

During the Dec. 1 meeting, the selectmen did not decide whether to send a final project proposal to referendum, where the voters would ultimately decide whether to approve the new facility.

While the selectmen had previously given the unanimous go-ahead for the town engineer to prepare a final project design and cost estimate for the site at 17 Kinney Road, the town is still waiting for some additional details, postponing a decision by the selectmen until a future meeting.

The board did, however, express interest in launching a survey that would allow the community to provide feedback on a potential facility and insight into which could find a successful avenue at a later referendum.

Town Manager Andy Tierney stated that while an in-depth survey including questions and explanatory background information may take a while to piece together, it would provide the board a "sense of what the people are thinking."

"This is a huge situation," he said during the meeting. "I think the whole town needs to get involved. This is a big step for everybody and I think the Board of Selectmen needs to listen to the people and the best way to do that is getting the information out to the people."

For months, the proposed facility on the 88-acre property on Kinney Road has generated controversy, including many *Rivereast* letters to the editor.

Most notably, community members — many of them Kinney Road residents — have brought up a variety of concerns with the project during numerous board meetings and at a September public hearing held by the Public Building Committee.

Recently, community members have also been pushing to have Kinney Road deemed "scenic," which has also sparked debate.

A new survey may allow citizens, beyond

those who are most outspoken, to offer input to town leaders.

In addition, the town is considering enlisting a public relations professional who could help navigate the process moving forward. That extra help may be necessary, Tierney expressed, because some people have dismissed the proposal before a final project design has even been presented.

"It's kind of a tough sell," he said. "We may need some help in just trying to get the facts out and get people to form their own opinion with the information that we have."

Marc Rubera, a Democrat on the board, stated that while there are concerns regarding the historical significance of the site parcel and the fear of potential salt contamination, there needs to be a level of trust that the facility will be built correctly.

"At some point, we have to make decisions that can keep the town of Hebron going," he said, adding that some people are "just finding reasons not to do something instead of trying to find reasons how we could work this out where it impacts everybody in some kind of favorable way, but no matter what we do, somebody is going to be impacted and not be happy about it."

Rubera expressed that the selectmen and the town manager each have tough decisions to make, and largely due to the project's opposition, they were at an "impasse."

A survey could be a "good first step," as Democrat Selectman Tiffany Thiele asserted.

"But at some point, we need to decide to send this to referendum so everybody gets a say," she said, adding that the town is expecting to vote on the project.

While a survey is beneficial, she said, a referendum would provide the most useful feedback.

Republican Selectman Peter Kasper argued that the town needs to be more proactive on social media, where many community members turn to for updates. A more effective online presence, along with a PR professional, could make a difference with how the town perceives the new facility, he said.

"The town has lost control of the narrative," he conveyed to the board.

Enhancing communication, whether through a combination of online campaigns or a community survey, will help inform the public and provide clarity for the board.

Local officials have consistently emphasized the need for a new facility, regardless of where it's built, but cannot go forward without community approval.

"The whole town has to get educated on it and they got to weigh-in to give us some direction," Tierney said.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Daniel Larson, who has been a vocal advocate for the new facility at Kinney Road, expressed that there was "still a lot of support out there for us moving this thing forward."

Larson did state that there's been conflicting reports and facts regarding the site, and the town should take time to sort through all the information in order to make the best possible decision.

He gave credit to both Kevin and Jean Tulumieri — Kinney Road residents who have been outspoken in their criticism of the Public Works proposal — who have collected research and written letters to officials outlining their objections.

"The Tulumieris have done a tremendous amount of work, but we need to verify its accuracy," he said.

Ahead of the meeting, Kevin Tulumieri wrote a letter to the selectmen providing links to studies and information that defend his stance.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St. Pastor is Gary Boye.

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional. People can also watch worship live at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

Mid-Week Advent Service: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Sunday Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service.

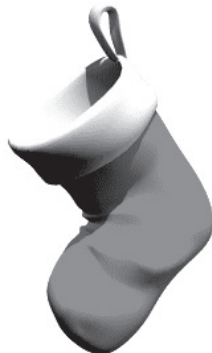
Sunday Adult Bible Study: 10:15 a.m., following Coffee Hour.

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.

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; tall kitchen trash bags; 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, sweatpants 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 waterproof 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.



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Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the church bulletin at gileadchurchucc.updates.church, email gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call 860-228-3077.

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors, followed by Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Services are also available on YouTube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

Holiday Service Schedule: Quiet Christmas Service: Monday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., in the church sanctuary; Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m., in the sanctuary; Christmas Day: There will not be a service Dec. 25; New Year's Day: Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m.,

there will be an interactive service on Zoom, simulcast on Facebook and YouTube. Those interested in joining in person are welcome to the sanctuary.

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 11, after worship.

Women's Fellowship Cookie Sale: Sunday, Dec. 11, after worship, in the fellowship hall. Pick out treats and take them home to share. Cost is \$8 per pound.

Family Movie Night: Friday, Dec. 16, at a time to be announced. All are invited for a night of holiday movies.

Yoga in the Fellowship Hall: Wednesday and Saturday, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Contact Jennifer Goodine of Wise Warrior Yoga to register, at wisewarrioryoga@gmail.com.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

Life Group Hebron: Meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Caseys' home, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship. Next meeting is Dec. 12.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. During the school year, the group meets every other Sunday directly after the service. Upcoming meeting: Dec. 18.

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., via Zoom. All are invited to pray for each other, the community and the country. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

Ballroom Dancing: Offered most Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Learn Waltz and East Coast Swing with instructors Joe Belanger and Denise Jakel. Couples and singles welcome. Cost is \$15/person/class. Call Belanger to register at 860-372-8236.

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

Bucket of Blessings: The church's outreach team has been collecting snack-type food and monetary donations as a love offering for local first responders. To get involved, email jessicalbain@gmail.com.

Parks and Recreation News

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering the following programs. For full program descriptions and to register, please visit hebronct.reccdesk.com or call 860-530-1281.

Holiday Ornament Crafting: Students in grades 3-6 are invited to join us on Wednesday December 21st in the Hebron Elementary School Library for Holiday Ornament Crafting from 3:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m.. Each participant will craft three holiday ornaments, listen to holiday music, and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa. Price is \$30 per child. Pre-registration is required.

Hop, Slither, and Crawl!: Join us on Saturday December 10th from 11a-12p at the Douglas Library as we embark on a journey with CZRR reptiles LLC to Hop, Slither, and Crawl! Learn about pythons, corn snakes, and boa constrictors for the first half of the program and then get hands on with opportunities for pictures during the second half! Price is \$45 per child. Pre-registration is required.

Babysitters Training: This one day course is intended to teach age appropriate skills necessary to care for children of all ages using concepts focusing on safety and prevention. A 2-year certificate is awarded after completion of class and test. Saturday January 7th, 9 a.m.

Resident Presents at Conference

Eastern Connecticut State University recently hosted the Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity Conference of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) – and an Amston resident was a participant.

The conference provided a platform to display the work of 49 students from six liberal arts colleges in the Northeast.

Among these students was Rebecca Ristow of Amston, a junior at ECSU majoring in theatre. Ristow's project, titled "Dramaturgy for 'Oedipus the King': A True Crime Podcast" was an oral presentation and was supervised by Kristen Morgan.

Ristow's abstract reads: "Oedipus the King is one of the most well-known of Sophocles' work, recounting the story of a world leader whose willful ignorance threatens his community. Eastern Connecticut State University's main stage production, from the translation by Bryan Doerries, attempts to craft a more contemporary retelling of the play, drawing parallels between the characters within the text and world leaders of America during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interspersed with different forms of media and introducing a new narrator or "host" character, this version of the story is both a play

and a podcast taping, accompanied with live Chicago blues music and video projections. As dramaturg, I assisted in historical research, collecting and analyzing video clips from political history, musical choices, various character parallels, and the life of Sophocles. My research on the original translation, along with the media, culminated in a twenty-page research document and presentation."

Ristow was dramaturge for ECSU's first production of the fall semester.

"I was tasked with taking the director's ideas and applying historically accurate context to them based on my preliminary research on the two different eras and locations as well as their social, cultural and political traditions," said Ristow about the play, which melded ancient Greek tragedy with modern day politics. "We wanted to depict what it is truly like when citizens feel isolated and hopeless while losing faith in the people that are supposed to protect them."

COPLAC is a group of 29 public liberal arts colleges across the country, of which ECSU is a member. Presenters spanned a variety of fields and disciplines from the analysis of children's horror films to the effects of social media on users' behaviors.

Residents Sought to Serve

The Hebron Board of Selectmen is seeking residents to serve on various town agencies.

There are currently vacancies for regular members on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Building Committee and the Commemoration Commission.

There are vacancies for alternate members on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Commission on Aging, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Public Building Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Properties Commission.

Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the board or commission in which they

may have an interest and discuss with the chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved.

There is also a vacancy for a Hebron resident to serve on the Catchment Area Council 15 for Amplify – North Central Regional Mental Health Board.

A vacancy exists for a Hebron representative on the Central Regional Tourism District Board of Directors. The mission of the district is to promote leisure, business, group and corporate travel to the region.

All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest may be sent to the Town Manager's Office, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead St., Hebron CT 06248. For more information, call 860-228-5971.

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. at the library. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 9, Amsterdam (rated R); Dec. 16, Call Jane (R); Dec. 23, A Christmas Karen (not rated). NR. Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

Chess Night: The first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome.

Spirited Book Club: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7-8:30 p.m., at the American Legion, located next door to the library. Discussed this month will be One Day in December by Josie Silver. Copies of the book will be available for check-out at the Adult Circulation Desk. Must be over 21 years of age.

Teen Advisory Group: Will meet every

Tuesday from 2:30-4 p.m. during the month for activities. This is a way for teens to get their service hours in. Registration is not needed for any of these events.

Closed: The library will be closed on Dec. 24, 25, 26 and 27, for the Christmas holiday and will reopen on Dec. 28 at noon. All of the online services will be available.

Take & Make: Each week, during December adults and teens can pick up a craft kit from the hold shelf across from the Adult Circulation Desk while supplies last. Week 2: Santa Diamond Art Ornament kit; Week 3: Hot Cocoa Diamond Art keychain kit.

Children's Storytime: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. These are family classes for children birth to 5. There are stories, crafts, songs and interactive play. No registration is required. This program is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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/3xfm862d. For information on various other weekly classes, meetings and activities, contact the senior center or look to the senior newsletter.

Mindful Meditation: Monday, Dec. 12, 10:15-11:15 a.m. This is a mental training practice led by Mandy Rocznik. To register, call the center.

All-Levels Yoga: Mondays through Dec. 19, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Fee is \$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.

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 one. Doors open at 11 a.m., chorus sings at 11:30 a.m., and lunch is served after singing. Cost for lunch is \$3. Sign up by Monday, Dec. 12, for lunch, by calling the senior center.

Movie Monday: Monday, Dec. 19, 12:45 p.m. Downton Abbey: A New Era will be shown. Lunch will be served beforehand at noon (cost is \$3 due Friday, Dec. 9). To sign-up for the movie or lunch and a movie, call the center.

RHAM High School Holiday Concert and Cookie & Candy Contest: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10:45 a.m. Bring in treats (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. 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 center.

RHAM Bingo: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2:30-4 p.m. The games will be run by the RHAM National Honor Society Students. The games are

free and prizes are awarded. To sign up, call the senior center.

Sunshine Singers Holiday Concert and Holiday Lunch Take 2: Thursday, Dec. 22. Doors open at 11 a.m., the Sunshine Singers will perform at 11:15 a.m., and lunch will be at noon. Cost for lunch is \$3 and registration deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m.

Created to Create Open Arts Group: Friday, Dec. 16, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. This will be an open time to come work on your art projects or join together to work on something new. Bring your supplies. Pre-register by calling the center.

Grocery Shopping Trips: There will be a trip to Stop and Shop Friday, Dec. 16, and to North Windham Friday, Dec. 23. Pick-ups begin about 10 a.m. Pre-registration is required by the prior Wednesday at noon. To sign up, call 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.

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.

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 in advance, but 48 hours is recommended – and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

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After 20 Years, Pastor Leaves a More Inclusive Church

By Jack Lakowsky

At the end of this, his twentieth-year sermonizing for the Congregational Church of Marlborough, the Rev. Robert Faulhaber will be moving on to a new phase of life, career and personhood.

"I'm not sure I'd say I'm retiring," Faulhaber told the *Rivereast*. "I have a joke with the congregation, that I'm pulling a *Thelma & Louise*."

Metaphorically, of course. Let's hope Faulhaber's has a sojourn more fortuitous than that of those ill-fated wayfaring murderesses.

"First thing I'll do is take a deep breath," he said, "take a little time. I wouldn't say it's rest." Just looking retrospectively at the last 20 years here, and the last 30 years counting my time in Glastonbury, where I served before, I came here. For the better part of 40 years, I've been working full time in churches. That deserves a moment to just step back and get some perspective, to take it all in.

"I'm proud of the ride I've taken; I have no regrets at all after all these years. I'm curious about what life will look like, to see what might be next even if that next ends up being retirement."

Faulhaber said he felt 20 years a good auspicious number, and that he feels this is the completion of a "marathon" portion of his life. During his time, Faulhaber's tireless work for the church brought in nearly 450 more parishioners, an amount, he said, considered huge in a time when most congregations shrink.

He described the joyousness of religious work; helping your community and the people in it, giving them wisdom and hope to carry through their lives, affecting positive change.

There are challenges, he said, which, when he described them, sounded remarkably like the difficulties of a career in politics.

"It is a gentle career," he said. "You're allowed to care for people. To lead them to better places."

"But it's also demanding, and sometimes quite challenging. Everything a pastor does is under scrutiny. There are always people who agree with you those who don't, and sometimes you have to have a tough skin. You're putting yourself in the centers of peoples' lives. When they go through tragedy, you walk with them. You celebrate the highs."

And you trudge through the lows.

"People say to me, how do you get through so many burials? So many funerals? Especially through covid, which was a period of grieving for many churches."

Faulhaber said an opposite extreme is what gets him through the hard parts.

"The counterbalance is we get to baptize babies," he said. "You have the best seat in the house when a couple makes their vows. There are plenty of counterbalances."

Faulhaber began in Marlborough at the tender age of 47, recently divorced, raising his son single.

His son was 10 when they got to town. "It was just he and I. It's always an adjustment, a new home."

On his first day in the early 2000s, Faulhaber learned among MCC's faithful were talented artists. The night after move-in day, Faulhaber put his son to bed and turned out the lights.

"We didn't realize they'd painted the whole ceiling and put-up glow-in-the-dark stickers. You turned out his lights and there was a view of the sky with the stars."

He thought to himself "This shows the character of these people."

This largesse hasn't ebbed. Marlborough taught the pastor lessons, about kindness, about community, his hometown of the Bronx didn't teach him.

Faulhaber said he's proud of the legacy he leaves. Under his stewardship the church became an open and affirming church-performing gay marriages, a change Congregational welcomed before it was more popularized.

Earlier this year Faulhaber, alongside the Congregational staff, volunteers, and parishioners without whom, the pastor said, his accomplishments wouldn't have been possible, celebrated the church's 275th birthday.

The church saw the Civil War, both World Wars, Vietnam, the Depression, the advent of the ages of flight and computerization. Covid is also not the first pandemic the church has survived.

In October Faulhaber told the *Rivereast* he believes churches, and pretty much everything and everyone, must adapt or be left behind.

Churches, too, need money to keep up their work, typically procured through donations from congregants. Young people, Faulhaber



Looking back to his first day 20 years ago, the Rev. Robert Faulhaber of Marlborough Congregational Church said the town was so welcoming, he and his son saw stars.

said, almost never carry cash, so the church is looking into setting up electronic donation opportunities.

Faulhaber said the church ways the church is modernizing would've been downright unfathomable to its founders.

The covid pandemic, he said, is the most significant event in the church's long life. The crisis forced the church to further modernize its services. Livestreaming services has boosted church membership, Faulhaber said.

"We didn't think we could even pull it off," he said, adding livestreaming is here to stay.

He expanded on the pandemic's impact. "It changed the landscape of every church in the nation," he said.

His first act when Covid dug its talons into the nation: make a resolution. He would not let the pandemic retire him from the pulpit, as forced so many in his profession to do.

"In a lot of different ways, we didn't just survive. We flourished."

Another point of pride is that the church has ordained a half dozen ministers, touching upon spiritual leaders that surely went on to lead hundreds of their own faithful.

Among all the wonderful gifts his congregants gave him, Pastor "Bob" as he's called is most thankful the church allowed him to be himself-contemplative, witty, glad to bestow truisms to any listening ears.

Faulhaber successor is yet another trailblazer. Finishing up a run as the church's Pastoral Associate, Valerie Seaver - very soon to be the Rev. Valerie Seaver - was elected unanimously in October and will start her ministry on January 1.

Seaver will be, in nearly 300 years, the first woman to lead Marlborough Congregational Church.

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Marlborough Historical Society Calendars

2023 Calendars are now available. This year's theme is 'Historic Newspaper Articles'. The cost is \$20 and can be purchased online at www.marlboroughhistory.org/store

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Tree-Lighting, Clothing Drive

Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., will hold a Tree-Lighting and Winter Clothing Drive Friday, Dec. 9, starting at 5:30 p.m.; rain date is Sunday, Dec. 11, at the same time.

There will be music, a carol sing, hot cocoa, and at 6:15 p.m. the church will light a Christmas tree on its new deck facing the parking lot.

The church will also collect donations of new or gently used coats, hats, mittens, scarves and any other winter gear, for all ages and sizes. People are welcome to come decked out in festive holiday apparel.

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.

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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.

Friday, Dec. 9: 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: grilled salmon with sauce, tartar sauce, mashed potatoes, yellow squash, oatnut bread, fresh fruit; Cards, 1-4 p.m.

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 Willhenger 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: 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: 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. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

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

Mercy Honor Roll

The following local students made the Mercy High School Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

High Honors: Samantha Magro, a senior; Skylar Swanson, a sophomore; Inara Kermalli, a freshman.

Honors: Cara Magro, a sophomore.

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.

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

Parks and Rec Programs

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

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

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

Netto Indoor Soccer: Indoor soccer for fifth- and sixth-graders. Games will begin week of Jan. 9, and will be played afterschool on

Mondays and Wednesdays at MES. Games will conclude at 4:30pm. Fee for this program is \$75 and participants will receive a T-shirt.

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

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

Adult Pick-Up Basketball: Sundays, 8-10 a.m., at MES, for ages 18 and up. Fee: \$5.

Trips: New York City for The Holidays: Saturday, Dec. 10. Explore New York on your own, or take in a Broadway show. Registration fee is \$70 if no show or \$180 with the show. Bus leaves from Glastonbury Park and Ride.

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, December 11: The 10 a.m. worship will feature the Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata, "Silent Was the Night" with narrations and familiar Christmas hymns. The third Advent candle will be lit during a brief ceremony during the service. At 2 p.m. a Service of Ordination will be held in the sanctuary for Valerie Seaver, who on January 1, 2023, will serve the church as the settled pastor after serving there the past two years, first as Pastoral Intern then recently as Pastoral Associate.

A Service of Comfort and Joy will be held on December 14 at 7 p.m. Hear the Christmas story, sing Christmas carols, and light a candle in mem-

ory or in honor of a loved one. The service will be led by the church's Care Team, Reverend Bob Faulhaber, and Pastoral Associate Val Seaver. All are welcome and invited.

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 worshippers to bring their donations.

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

Tree Lighting and Carol Sing: led by Steve Pozzato, will be outside on the deck, Fri., Dec. 9, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a tree lighting at 6:15 p.m. Hot chocolate will be served and all in the community are invited.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon through December 17. Second Blessings will be accepting donations during shopping hours. The shop also sells through eBay at <https://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.

Emmy-Winning Pianist to Play in Town

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 December from 1-4 p.m.

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

Cheney Tech Honor Roll

Marlborough residents Logan Kolakowski, Talan Shaye Stockburger and Nicholas Josef Martins made the Howell Cheney Technical High School Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

Kolakowski earned High Honors, and Stockburger and Martins earned Honors. Kolakowski and Stockburger are each in 11th grade, and Martins is in 12th grade.



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RHAM Volleyball Repeats, Legacy Lives On

By Josh Howard

For a second straight season, the girls' volleyball team at RHAM High School won a state championship.

The Raptors tore through the Class M tournament, defeating four teams in straight sets, before capturing yet another championship with a victory over Woodland at East Haven High School on Nov. 19.

Senior captains Ally Hadley, Lauren Feige, and Sarah West led a veteran team that was coming off a Class L title the previous season.

"We had the same mentality. We wanted that feeling of winning states again because it was such a great feeling for us," Hadley said of the team's mindset heading into fall.

Once the matches started, it was business as usual for the Raptors, who won 17 matches in the regular season and added three more wins in the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) tourney.

Feige, the team's setter, said the experience the group gained a year ago paid dividends this fall, allowing the team to hit the ground running in their quest to repeat.

"A lot of us had been practicing throughout the summer and last year we played together," added Feige, who served up a team-high 501 assists this fall. "We already had our lineup for this year, so it was perfect for us because we had already been so comfortable with each other."

West said it was the camaraderie of the team—combined with the help of some special accessories—that made the team unstoppable.

"I have to play with the same hair tie every single game. I ended up losing it halfway through the season, but then I found it so I used both of them," joked West, whose magic hair ties allowed her to lead the team with 70 blocks this fall.

Whether it was superstition or super talent, the Raptors were simply dominant in the state

tourney.

After eliminating Wolcott, Northwestern, and Seymour in the first three rounds, RHAM breezed by Woodland in the title match (25-13, 25-20, 20-21).

It marked the program's ninth title since 2007.

All of the captains credited head coach Tim Guernsey for creating an environment that is both welcoming and challenging.

"He pushes us every day. He just wants the best for us and he knows if we are slacking off and he'll push those buttons to get us to give our all," Hadley said of Guernsey, who picked up his 400th career win following a victory over South Windsor on Oct. 3.

West added, "It's about the legacy. Every girl buys into it completely and nobody wants to be the team that stops winning."

The prolonged success can also be attributed to the dedication of the player.

Most mornings the team is practicing at 5 a.m. The captains said the early hours can be rough, but added that the proof is in the pudding.

"Every morning we're tired going in, but we're doing it with the people that we loved," said Feige. "The whole team is a family. It's so nice winning it with them."

So which championship is better?

Well, according to the captains, both. "It's just a different feeling," said West, who added that the first one was about the team proving themselves and the second one was more about leaving a legacy at RHAM.

Hadley, who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and will play volleyball collegiately at Maine Maritime Academy, said it's sad to be moving on from a program that has meant so much to her.

"I'll miss it; it's a great environment," stated Hadley, who led the team with 59 aces.



RHAM volleyball after winning a state championship at East Haven High School on Nov. 19. It was the program's second straight title and ninth championship since 2007.

Feige added, "It's what I've known during these months every single year. It's a melancholy feeling because you want to keep doing it."

The three captains, along with fellow seniors Summer Acabchuk and Caelyn Calhoun will be

moving on.

Heading a potential "three-peat" charge next year will be Lani Fecho, who led the team in kills as a junior this fall, along with Nina Jobs, Neve Tyler, and Ali Polchanin.

Toy Drive Wraps Today

RHAM DECA, a business club at RHAM High School, is sponsoring a toy drive through today, Dec. 9. New, unwrapped toys will be collected in drop-off boxes at RHAM High School (85 Wall St., 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.

'Welcome 2 Reality' Social Media Presentations Planned

Welcome 2 Reality, a Connecticut-based company that provides a variety of services to children and families, will give two 45-minute presentations early next year that are designed to increase awareness and strengthen skills in responding to vulnerabilities of individuals related to social media, internet safety, and media literacy.

The presentations are sponsored by AHM Youth & Family Services' Coalition for a Healthy & Empowered Community.

Topics to be discussed include: internet safety, cyberbullying, media marketing and advertisement, music's impact on values and behavior, and the desensitization of violence via video games. Risk factors associated with social media and technology will be identified and reasonable alternatives that can lessen people's overexposure to these outlets will be provided.

Parents and caregivers of children and teens are invited to attend.

The first presentation, "Social Media and Our Youth," will be Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, and will cover the benefits/drawbacks, interpretation, legal ramifications of social media and how to be responsible with social media. The second presentation, "Support for Parents and Caregivers," will be on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and will dis-

cuss strategies how to monitor technology use at home; giving structure and support with clear boundaries; giving access or freedom in increments. Parent concerns will be addressed on topics such as internet addiction, addictive technology (cell phone, fear of missing out – a.k.a. F.O.M.O.), video-gaming and overstimulation.

Each presentation will be from 7-8 p.m. via Zoom. There is no cost to attend but space is limited to 40 registrations. To register, email AHM Prevention Coordinator Jenn Boehler at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org. Note: if registrations do not exceed 15 people, the presentation will be canceled.

Winter Concert

The RHAM High School Music Department will present its annual Winter Concert Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium at the high school, 85 Wall St., Hebron.

Students in the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Encore, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble and Wind Ensemble will all perform. There will be a basket raffle, 50/50 raffle, concessions, and a sing-a-long to close out the event.

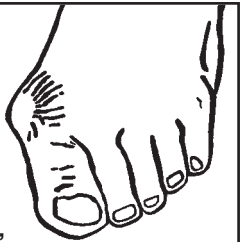
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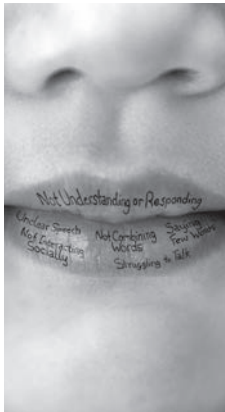
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Obituaries

East Hampton

Betty Garvey

Betty Garvey (Haight) 91, born August 31, 1931 and passed peacefully at home on December 3, 2022.



She was a long-time resident of East Hampton and was predeceased by her husband Earl the love of her life; son John and a very special son-in-law, Bruce Magrath. Betty leaves behind her daughter and caregiver Claire Magrath with whom she lived with for the last 30 years. Daughter Linda Nagel (Larry) of Indiana, Sons; Earl Garvey of East Hampton, Ronald Garvey (Beth) of Gloucester, MA - mom thought of Beth as her daughter and she helped care for Betty during her last several days; Dale Garvey (Tina) of Columbia. Betty also leaves behind a sister Barbara Melanson of Gloucester, MA and predeceased by three brothers, Richard Haight (Dorothy), Lawrence Haight (Shirley), David Haight and a son-in-law John Faulkner. Betty was blessed with her Grandchildren; Jason Magrath, Jamie Calve, Toni Gobin, Kyle Garvey, Cassidy Garvey, Benjamin Faulkner, Michael Garvey and Patrick Garvey. Several great grandchildren and her very special great grandson Jackson who spent lots of time reading to his Nana and playing games with her. Betty also leaves behind many friends and was considered mom and grandma to so many.

She lived life to the fullest and loved her family. We would like to thank Masonicare Hospice for making the last few days of her life as comfortable as possible. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Phyllis Ann Greene

Phyllis Ann Greene of Portland passed away Sunday morning, Nov. 20, at the age of 86 years old. She loved her family, her home, and her town. She taught in the Portland Public Schools for 50 years, primarily 7th grade social studies in the same classroom on the first floor, by the front door, of the junior high school. If you grew up in Portland, chances are you are really good at organizing your ideas into an outline, thanks to her.

Phyllis loved gardening and built, encouraged, and weeded a legendary Colonial herb garden in her backyard. She was a member of the Portland River Valley Garden Club for 30 years, serving as president from 2008-2010. "No matter what our club needed, Phyllis was always willing to put herself forward to assist." She worked with the Connecticut Education Association (CEA), serving in many capacities for the organization. She was a regular volunteer at CPTV's fundraising auctions and a huge fan and advocate of public television. She was an avid reader, especially if the setting was England in the 16th century. She moved on from the Dodgers when they left Brooklyn and remained a Red Sox fan for the rest of her life. She rooted for the UConn women, as well. She loved to travel and saw much of the world.

Phyllis was born on Sept. 22, 1936, in Ellenville, N.Y. Her parents, Bella Steinberg (née

Barmak) and Israel (Irving) Steinberg, separately emigrated from Eastern Europe following World War I, meeting in New York City. They married and moved to Ellenville, in the Catskills, where the air was better, and started a chicken farm, and later a summer camp. Phyllis attended the Ellenville Public Schools, received her bachelor's from Barnard College, and her master's from Radcliffe College. She taught in Quincy, Mass., and Meriden before coming to Portland.

Phyllis is predeceased by her younger brother Edward and survived by her older brother Clarence. She leaves, and is endlessly loved, by her oldest son Jonathan, daughter-in-law Melissa and grandchildren Celeste and Isaac of Washington, D.C.; son Jeffery, daughter-in-law Terry Fang, and grandchildren Bella and Ila of Newton, Mass.; daughter and youngest child, Elizabeth, son-in-law Nicholas Hart, and grandchildren Timothy, Katherine, and Alexandra of Pelham, N.Y.; and countless nieces, nephews, and other relatives. They will all miss her, and especially her incredible, sprawling Thanksgiving dinners. She leaves behind her beloved Cocker Spaniel, Jasper. She also leaves behind many great friends, including the garden club, her breakfast group of retired teachers, and especially Edith Kelley and Janice Wendry.

A memorial to celebrate her life will be held today, Friday, Dec. 9, from 5-7 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your local food bank, public library (including the Friends of the Portland Library), the Humane Society, and/or public television.

Hebron

Stephen A McKenzie

Stephen A. McKenzie passed away at home unexpectedly on December 1, 2022, at the age of 69. May he find eternal peace and happiness in God's hands. Born in Maine to the late George and Velma McKenzie, Steve grew up on Delmont Street in Manchester and graduated from Manchester High School in 1971.



He joined the navy after high school and served on the USS Newport News. He was then hired at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft where he worked for 42 years, retiring in 2016.

Steve was a generous man with an awesome sense of humor. Most importantly, he will be remembered as a hardworking and devoted family man.

He was predeceased by his wife of 33 years, Christine (Misovich) McKenzie, parents George and Velma McKenzie, and brother Daniel McKenzie and wife Maureen.

He is survived by his son Keith McKenzie and wife Jacquelyn of Andover, their sons Gavin and Mason, daughter Kimberly Clifford and her husband John of Manchester, and their children Alex, Johnny and Lexi. His brother Rodney McKenzie and his wife Peggy of East Hampton, their daughter Hillary LaMalfa and husband John of Portland, their children McKenzie and Sam.

Steve was much loved by everyone. We are blessed for all the memories we shared with him; he will be truly missed.

Family and friends may call on Thursday, December 8 from 4 to 7 pm at Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St, Manchester. A funeral service will be held Friday, December 9 at 10:00 am at Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home. Burial will follow at East Cemetery, 220 E. Center St, Manchester.

Colchester

Pamela E. Harmon

Pamela E. Harmon, 70, of Colchester, passed away on the morning of Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Backus Hospital. Born November 11, 1952, in Concord, Vermont, she was a daughter of the late Fred Nichols, and Jacqueline (Wright) Christian.



Pamela had gifted hands when it came to knitting, crocheting or quilting. She loved to be outdoors taking walks with her sister Sandy and collecting rocks for her garden, a hobby she extended to all of her family and friends who were required to bring her a rock from any trips they took. She also enjoyed painting rocks for friends or to hide along a trail. If you had a chance to talk with her it was easy to see that her grandsons were held dearly in her heart. She is survived by her ex-husband, Brian Harmon, who remained a dear friend and someone she could always rely on being there no matter the situation; her daughter, Jacqueline Sypher; sisters, Juanita Case, Sandra Nichols, Donna Jones and Christine Franklin; grandchildren, Jordan Parker and fiancé, Niki Appell, Noah Parker and fiancé, Mercedes Muñoz, Tanner Parker and girlfriend,aleigh Bittman; great granddaughter, Everly Parker and two more on the way; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her brother, Fred Nichols. Services will be private at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made to the American Heart Association www.heart.org or paint a rock and hide it along your favorite trail. To share a memory or express a condolence to the family, please visit: www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Colchester

Joan Louise Frantzen

Joan Louise Frantzen of Colchester, passed from this life into the arms of the Lord on December 5, 2022. Her ten-year struggle with illness now over. She rests in perfect health and perfect peace in heaven. Joan was 68 years old.



Born on January 30, 1954, in Dassel, MN, she was a daughter of Oscar and Lorraine (Martinson) Peterson. Joan married her beloved husband, Kurt Frantzen on December 27, 1981, and in due course, the couple moved to Colchester where they made their home and raised their two sons.

Joan was a woman of great faith. She worshiped her Lord and Savior with the church family at the Colchester Federated Church where she also sang in the choir and served as a Deacon. Joan was a musician, using her own voice and a piano to compose and create beautiful sounds that were enjoyed by all to hear. Joan was a paraprofessional working in the Colchester Public Schools for nearly twenty years. She was also a talented craft artist, doing business as Ragtime Designs and producing beautiful creations which many people now have to treasure.

Her passing will be mourned by all who knew her, but she will always be remembered with love by her husband of 40 years, Kurt; her sons, Nels Peter Frantzen and Garth Conrad Frantzen; a sister, Jan Flynn; brothers, Ford and

Wade Peterson; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 17th at 10 AM at the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester CT 06415. Burial will follow in Linwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the church. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To share a memory or express a condolence to the family, please visit: www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Hebron

James Lee Colson

Jimmy Lee Colson, born James Lee Colson November 4, 1953, in Norwich, Connecticut, was the son of the late Dorothy Colson and Robert Bray, has passed away unexpectedly on November 21, 2022, at the early age of 69.



James is survived by his son Jason Lee Colson of Colchester, CT and his companion Chelsea Pantano, 3 grandchildren Jayce L Colson (1), Carter L Colson (3), and Cameron Minney (22). He also leaves behind his companion of 24 years, Gayle Anderson.

James enjoyed many things, but mostly he loved spending time with his son, daughter-in-law, and grandkids. He loved watching Jayce and Carty play outside with his dog close beside him. He looked forward to teaching them how to hunt and fish, to share his favorite things with his favorite people.

James grew up in the Colchester/Hebron area, graduating from Bacon Academy high school in 1971. He worked as an iron worker in the Union as a young man. He then ventured out to create his own business, and was multi-talented. His businesses included sealcoating and snow removal. He was an all-around handyman.

There will be a celebration of life on December 17, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at The Greenleaf Cafe in Hebron.

All friends are welcome to join in the remembrance of The Man, The Myth, The Legend. In lieu of flowers or gifts, as Jimmy's death was unexpected, all donations made to the Go Fund Me for James Colson, will go towards the after-life costs.

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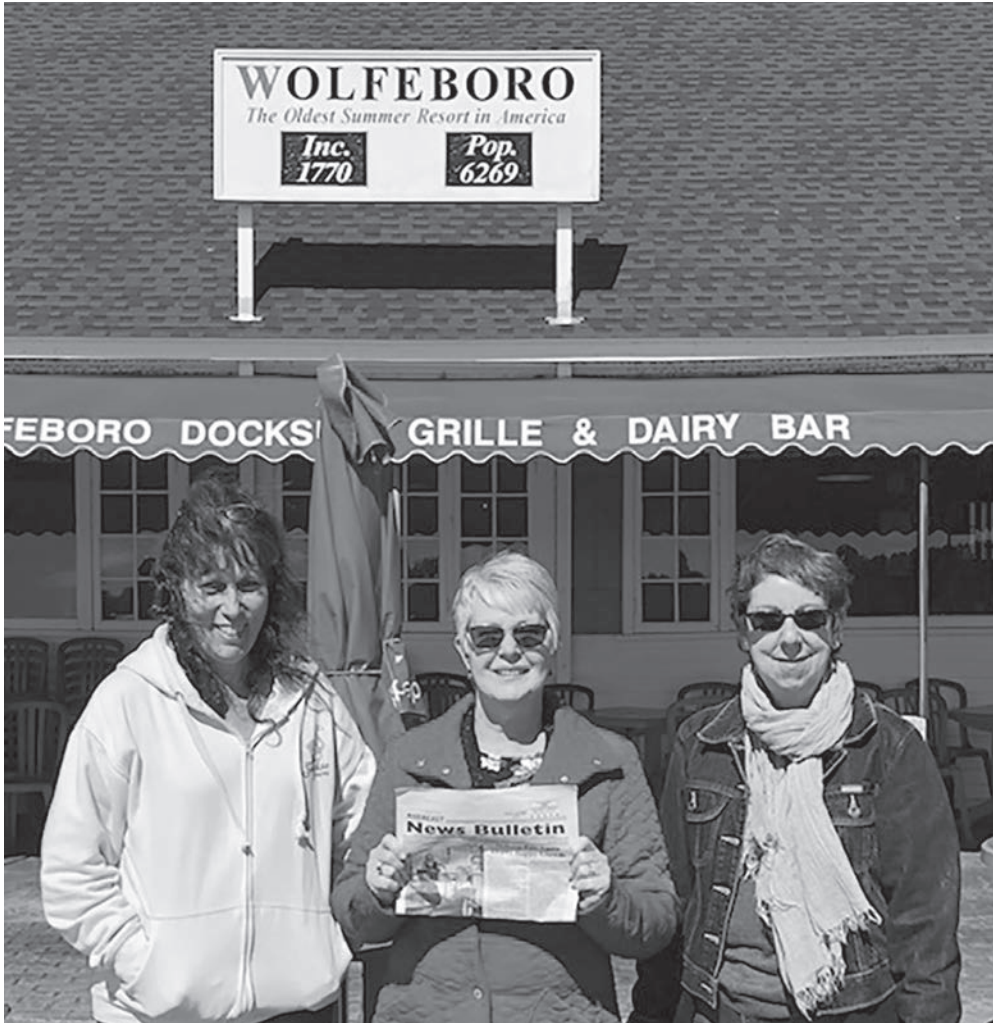
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Off to New Hampshire... The *Rivereast* recently traveled to Wolfeboro, N.H. There longtime friends were able to meet up for some long-overdue girl time at the oldest summer resort town in the country, located on Lake Winnepesaukee. From left are Bernadette Clark, formerly of Cobalt, now of Wells, Maine; Cathy Denman Domin, formerly of Haddam Neck, now of South Glastonbury; and Lynn Roberts, formerly of East Hampton, now of Mansfield Center.

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.



Patriot Pride... Not one but two *Rivereasts* made it to the New England Patriots game against the Detroit Lions on Oct. 9. Pictured are Andover residents Matt Jahn, Dev St. Jean, Chris Sinise, Blake Rozelle, Linda Armstrong, Chrissy St. Jean, Richard Yanicky and Karl Jahn.



The Pensacola Press... Colchester resident Carolyn Ceresola, right, recently visited her daughter, LS1 Kristin Ceresola, left, in Pensacola, Fla.



Into the Wild Blue Yonder... Joan Ames of East Hampton recently traveled to Warner Robins, Ga., to visit her son, who is in the Air Force and is stationed at Robins AFB. She's shown here in front of the 5th MOB, Combat Communications Group.

Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?
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East Hampton girls' volleyball celebrates after winning the program's first championship on Nov. 19.

★ **Bellringers Volleyball cont. from page 1**

the team with 262 kills this season, including 60 over the four state tourney games. It was her most productive four-game stretch of the season.

Grabowski said that Murphy took her game to another level during the tourney run.

"Jordan has always been a strong player and this season she has gradually gotten better and better as each game progressed," added Grabowski. "In that title game we needed her to step up and she did step up. We needed that leadership, and someone to say 'give that ball to me'."

Jordan's twin sister Jenna Murphy also starred this season. She racked up a team-high 96 blocks, rejecting eight in the championship triumph.

"Jenna is a brick wall; you can't get past her,"

said Grabowski. "She is on a mission when she is up there blocking. She was such a huge part of our success."

The Murphy sisters captained the team with Reagan Burt, who Grabowski called the "voice of the team."

"[Reagan] was always ready to go and led by example," added Grabowski. "We were very fortunate that we had all three of our seniors."

During the team's 18-match winning streak, the Bellringers captured 54 or 63 sets, losing multiple sets only twice during the incredible stretch.

Along with going to five sets with Hale Ray in the title game, they also had to overcome a 2-1 deficit in the semifinals against Griswold to

win in five sets.

Grabowski said the comeback against Griswold set the stage for the title game rally.

"We didn't have too many five set games to reflect on," recalled Grabowski. "But endurance-wise they were really strong out there. Physically they were ready and mentally they were ready."

Other than losing her three senior captains, Grabowski will have the rest of the starting lineup return next fall.

Amber Murphy, the younger sister of Jordan and Jenna, and setter Chelsea Woods are both

coming off all-conference campaigns and will lead the Bellringers in their quest to repeat next fall.

LEGALS

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on December 12, 2022 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

ZBA-22-014: Anthony Flannery, 1 Marshall Road, Reduce side setback from 15' to 7.5'. Map 08A/ Block 70A/ Lot 15.

2TB 12/2, 12/9

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ACTION NOTICE

Please be advised that the Andover Planning & Zoning Commission took the following action at their Regular Meeting held November 21, 2022.

APPROVED, with conditions, 90 day filing extension for the subdivision/special permit for entitled "Correia/Lotecka Acres; Approved, Receipt of an application from the Town of Andover for amendments to the text of Section 5 (Andover Rural Design District) and Section 24 (Definitions) of the Andover Zoning so as to allow for municipal land-uses in the Andover Rural Design District and set a public hearing date on the application for the meeting scheduled for January 23, 2023.

The referenced applications/plans are on file in the Andover Building & Land-Use Office and available on the town's website (andoverct.org). Please direct any inquiries to the Zoning Agent at the Town Hall, 17 School Road or zoning@andoverct.org or 860.742.7305, ext. 4220.

12.9.2022
1TB 12/9

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TOWN OF HEBRON LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Hebron is accepting bids for a 2005 Kenworth roll-off truck. The approximate mileage is 385259. The Town of Hebron makes no warranty as to condition and this truck was purchased new by the Town of Hebron. The Town will furnish appropriate certification and bill of sale once the vehicle is paid in full by bank check or approved company check. Payment is due within 15 days. The truck will be sold "AS IS". Once payment is made, the owner has ten days to remove the vehicle from the premises of the Town of Hebron. Sealed proposals will be received by the Town Manager, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 until January 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The bid opening is a public opening. Bids received later than the time specified will not be accepted. In the event of receipt of identical bids, the bid will be awarded based on first received as to date and time of receipt of the bid. Final award must be made by the Board of Selectmen. QUESTIONS or viewing of the truck by appointment only, contact Kevin Kelly, Director of Public Works at (860) 228-2871. The Town of Hebron reserves the right to award or reject any or all bids, or any portion thereof, to waive technicalities, and to award the bid, that in the Town's judgment, will best serve the public interest.

1TB 12/9

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting on December 1, 2022, took the following action:

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED/ APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:

Application #Z-13-22- Daniel Teixeira/Rob Hellstrom Land Surveying (Applicant/Property Owner) 13 Coleman Ln- Lake Overlay Zone new house construction.

APPLICATION CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARING EXTENDED 35 DAYS:

#Z-08-22- Austin HGB, LLC Bill Gjonbalaj (Applicant / Property Owner), Map 6 Block 28 Lots 4,5,6, 12 and #25 South Main Street. Provide apartment housing by building (2) 48-unit buildings Application.

RELEASING OF THE BOND: APPROVED

Special Permit # Z - 14 -18 - Jannat LLC-2-4 Portland Rd

APPLICATION TABLED:

Amendments to Article Six A.1 Parking and Storage of Recreational Vehicles and Trailers

Tabled until January 5, 2023.

KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 12/9

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 15, 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 #22-13: 69 Marlborough Street (Main Street, Marlborough Street and Perry Avenue). Request for Special Permit Modification. Application and property of BRT DiMarco PTP, LLC. Assessor's Map 19, Lot 68. Zone B-3/TCVD.

Application #22-14: 54 Riverview Street. Request for Special Permit Modification to construct a 24,000 sq. ft. building with a 5,000 sq. ft. mezzanine office area. Application of PDS Engineering & Construction. Property of Birdon Property LLC. Map 3, Lot 8. Zone R-10.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of these applications are available for review in the Portland Land Use Department.

Dated at Portland, CT this 30th day of November 2022

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 12/2, 12/9

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 CLOSED; 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

HVAC DESIGN SERVICES FOR HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AT TOWN HALL TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT

INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Marlborough invites sealed qualifications and price proposals from an engineering design firm to provide design services for the replacement of HVAC equipment at the Town Hall.

Sealed Bids for the **HVAC DESIGN SERVICES FOR HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AT TOWN HALL** will be received by the **Town of Marlborough by hard copy in the Office of the Town Clerk located at 26 North Main Street until 11:00 AM local time on Thursday, December 29, 2022.** Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. **The Project consists of evaluating the current HVAC system and providing preliminary design options and costs for the replacement of the HVAC system.** Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum.

Bidding Documents are available for free download from the Town webpage Marlboroughct.net.

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents in the Office of the Town Clerk during Town Hall hours of operation. Printing Bidding Documents is the responsibility of the prospective Bidder. Printed copies will not be issued by the Town.

A pre-bid conference will be held **Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM** in the Town Hall Conference Room. The building will be available for inspection after the meeting. Pre-bid conference attendance is encouraged but is not mandatory.

The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Surety Company shall be licensed in the State of Connecticut and listed on IRS Department Circular 570. A Payment Bond and Payment of Prevailing Wage Rates will not be required unless Contract amount is equal to or greater than \$100,000.

Bid Bond is not required. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.

All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver the Contract for Construction of a Small Project and furnish a valid Certificate of Insurance with full policies, a Performance Bond, and Payment Bond if applicable, to the Town prior to the start of any work.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid. This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town.

The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary. This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.

The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

The Town of Marlborough is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

2TB 12/2, 12/9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF. Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, sterling coins, kitchenware, cookware, automotive, books, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy 860-874-8396.

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FRONT DESK POSITION AVAILABLE in Podiatry office in Marlborough Patient scheduling EHR, Insurance claims and billing. Patient check in/out Fax resumes to 860 295-9184

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.

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.

WELDER/FABRICATOR: Custom sheet metal fabrication, light structural, 45-50 hour per week with good benefits, health insurance, and 401(k) plan. Pay range \$25 - \$35/hour. Call 860-828-3762.

MY SCHOOL CHILD CARE CENTER AND PRESCHOOL now hiring Teacher Assistant and Teacher Aide. One full time and one part time position available. Must be 18 or older. Competitive Salary. Will train. Call 860-267-1397

WANTED: DRIVERS AND INSIDE HELP AT GLASTONBURY PIZZA HOUSE. Willing to train. Fridays/weekends are a MUST! Accepting Applications. Please call 860-652-9900 or 860-652-9901.

SHEET METAL MECHANICS: Full time, apprenticeship program offered, health insurance, 401(k) plan. Pay range \$20 - \$30/hour. Call 860-828-3762.

KITCHEN ASSISTANT: 3-7pm, 3-4 days/wk Every other weekend. Please call Christal at Greystone Retirement 860-342-2509

PART TIME POSITION FOR CLEANING/PROPERTY CARE FOR APARTMENT BUILDINGS. Flexible for your schedule. Colchester 860-537-5338. Call Mon-Fri.

RESIDENT CARE ATTENDANTS Will train. All shifts needed. Please call Christal at Greystone Retirement. 860-342-2509

Senior Center Van Driver - P/T \$17/Hr.
 The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for a part-time Senior Center Van Driver for Wednesday and Friday from 8am to 12noon. This position is responsible for safely driving seniors and persons with disabilities to appointments and outings on an assigned schedule. Valid Connecticut Driver's License and Class A/B Public Service License with Endorsement F is required. The full job description and employment application are available from the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall or online at www.marlboroughct.net. Please submit an application and cover letter to: Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. This position will remain open until filled. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
 4TB 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (Full-time)
Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
 The Water Pollution Control Authority, under the Joint Facilities Administration in the Town of East Hampton, is seeking an individual to perform all routine, skilled and semi-skilled duties involving the operations and maintenance of a 3.9mgd water pollution treatment plant and pump stations located in a regionalized system. Individual must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, a Connecticut CDL license (Class B with endorsement N - air brakes) within 6-months of hire and must receive State of Connecticut DEEP Class 1 Operators Certification within 2-years of employment. Operator-in-training starting hourly rate: \$26.71; Class I Operator: \$27.73; Class II Operator: \$29.69; Class III Operator: \$32.34; Class IV Operator: \$39.67. 40-hour workweek with required overtime and on-call rotation. Individuals with laboratory, electrical experience and veterans are encouraged to apply. Benefit package includes health, dental, vision, 401, life insurance and PTO. Must reside within a thirty (30) minute drive to the treatment plant. Interested candidates should submit an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by December 20, 2022, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/M/F/AA.
 1TB 12/9

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