



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Senior Night... Portland High School basketball seniors were honored before a recent game against Hale-Ray High School. It was an emotional night for all involved. Pictured from left are the senior players and senior managers: top row, Katelin Binezewski, Mia Lapinski, Samantha Lasky, Ava Hurley and Julia Capello; bottom row, Allison Scott, Kendra Schoeps, Hannah Brunk, Leah May and Tara Fitzgibbons. See story on page 25.

Portland Planner Resigns Amid Conflict

by Jack Lakowsky

After accusations allegedly fabricated by a now-former member of the Portland Economic Development Commission, town development planner Mary Dickerson submitted her resignation to First Selectman Ryan Curley.

Curley announced Dickerson's resignation in a Board of Selectmen meeting last week.

Curley said EDC member Amy Rader, owner of White Birch Farm on Sand Hill Road, confronted Dickerson at the commission's Feb. 10 meeting. He said Rader then proceeded to resign from the board at his request.

Rader was on the board briefly, selected by the local Republican Town Committee and appointed by the Board of Selectmen. An email and calls to White Birch Farm and an associated number were not returned.

When asked for comment, Dickerson referred the Rivereast to her resignation letter.

"A great deal has been accomplished during my tenure with the Town of Portland, including number grant awards," Dickerson wrote.

Dickerson listed as accomplishments in her time developing a best practices guide for land use and development, silver (the highest) certification from Sustainable CT, an affordable housing plan.

Dickerson went on to say that since May 2020 she has fulfilled multiple roles, and that juggling them requires working "many unpaid hours" to ensure projects are completed and the business of the various boards she serves is fulfilled.

On Tuesday Curley praised Dickerson's performance.

In countless interviews, local business owners assessed Dickerson similarly.

Curley described this situation as a "learning experience." He said going forward he'll meet personally with and look into potential appointees to town bodies.

Curley said the regrettable "optics" of the situation - a Republican appointee apparently going after a non-Republican employee hired during the previous Democratic selectwoman's administration - are not lost on him.

Curley said he, the Board of Selectmen (which unanimously approved Rader) and the RTC chose Rader because of her experience owning a small business.

Curley said he tried to get Dickerson to reconsider her resignation, and stressed he was committed to making sure an issue like this does not occur again.

The EDC meeting was unrecorded and due to an issue with the town's website minutes were not available as of press time.

The Rivereast obtained information about the meeting from a source who communicated on condition of anonymity, for fear of retaliation. Kitch Breen Czernicki, a longtime EDC member, also spoke to the Rivereast in a separate interview.

The anonymous person and Czernicki both said Rader brought up information about a local business's financial situation. They said that, in the first place, this is highly inappropriate. The information Rader presented about the business was also untrue, the person said.

Czernicki said the owner called the town the See Portland Planner Resigns, page 2

'I Think We're All Very Shocked'

by Sloan Brewster

Jason Hartling, Ledyard superintendent of schools, maintained this week that some Colchester parents did indeed use a racial slur against Ledyard students after a girls' basketball game at Ledyard High School earlier this month.

Hartling said that, at the end of the Feb. 5 game, the buzzer went off and the Ledyard team made its way to the locker rooms. That was when parents from the Colchester side directed a racial slur toward the Ledyard girls.

He said the students heard the slur.

Hartling said his administration had concluded that a racist statement was made, and banned the parents who made it from returning to Ledyard schools.

"I think we're all very shocked," Hartling said. "Sadly, these are things that our students and our parents have dealt with. It's shocking and it shakes me to my core and I'm sure

it shakes Colchester that this still happens, but the reality is to our students of color that these things happen."

Hartling said rhetoric used by Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos was disappointing and does not support growth or an effort to "be better people."

Bisbikos last week called for Hartling's resignation unless he could produce evidence the incident took place.

Hartling said it was "heartbreaking that people dismiss these children," and that it was his hope that communities would work together to make children and families feel safe. He said people struggle to grasp how such language can still be used in 2022, let alone "directed toward children."

"It's a really sad thing and my girls, they deserve better," he said.

Hartling said Colchester Superintendent of

Schools Jeffrey Burt "knew about" the incident - and that Bisbikos misunderstood a statement Burt issued.

In a statement issued Feb. 15, Bisbikos said that Burt, in a statement of his own, had admitted there was no evidence of the slur. Bisbikos added that he was disappointed in Burt for "jumping to a conclusion" before an investigation was completed.

Hartling, however, said careful reading of Burt's statement reveals that the Colchester superintendent was referring to a lack of evidence about additional incidents that allegedly took place during the game - but that Burt had admitted a slur was used after the game.

Burt, in the Feb. 15 statement, referred to a post-game incident, but does not expressly say a slur was used.

Rather, he acknowledged that the incident See Shocked page 13

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★ **Portland Planner Resigns cont. from page 2**

next day to say they made no such comments. She said she met with the owner who said the only issue they have is with hiring people.

The person and Czernicki said Rader blamed Dickerson for the business's issues – issues that, apparently, were fabricated by Rader. Czernicki said she was very concerned about this information (whether true or not) getting onto the public record, saying it could damage the business's reputation.

The *Rivereast* reached out to the business owner in question. They said they never speak negatively about people behind their backs and was confused by the situation.

The anonymous person who spoke with the *Rivereast* about the meeting alleged Rader was put on the board specifically to drive Dickerson out, something Curley denied.

The person also said the meeting's minutes were altered, which Curley emphatically denied.

The person said Curley's administration has antagonized Dickerson because she's seen as a loyal holdout of former selectwoman Susan Bransfield's administration.

"Mary goes to 10 meetings a month," the person said. "On the subjects of economic development and land use she is one of the most knowledgeable people in the state."

Tim Lavoy, RTC chair, said Rader is a competent business owner who "took an abandoned farm and turned it into a great business."

Lavoy said Rader is being unjustly vilified.

Lavoy said he's heard conflicting information about what happened in the EDC meeting. He said Rader "didn't say anything that isn't a sen-

timent of some people in town."

Lavoy said Rader did not make up the business owner's criticism of Dickerson, adding the owner made the comments but did not intend them to be shared in a public setting.

Lavoy said he finds "troubling" the direct association of Rader's comments and Dickerson's resignation. He said it must not be the only factor, but the tip of an iceberg of issues.

Czernicki also commented on how the meeting's minutes were available briefly, and then weren't after the town's website glitched. She said this violates state law.

"I've never witnessed the kind of vitriol spewed by Amy," Czernicki said. "She was rude and aggressive to [Dickerson]. The comments were of a personal nature, and ad hominem attacks about Mary's performance."

Czernicki described Rader's words as "out of the blue."

"I don't know why she did what she did," she added.

Czernicki went on to say while she doesn't fully believe it, a part of her suspects the supposed attack was intentional, an attempt to drive Dickerson out.

Czernicki said multiple people in the land use office have resigned recently and were not replaced.

"The saddest piece of this is Portland lost Mary Dickerson," said Czernicki. "She's been a great consultant to EDC and other commissions. She's worked incredibly hard over the duration of her work. She made economic development her top priority."







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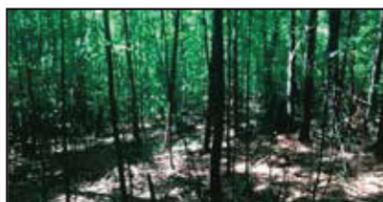
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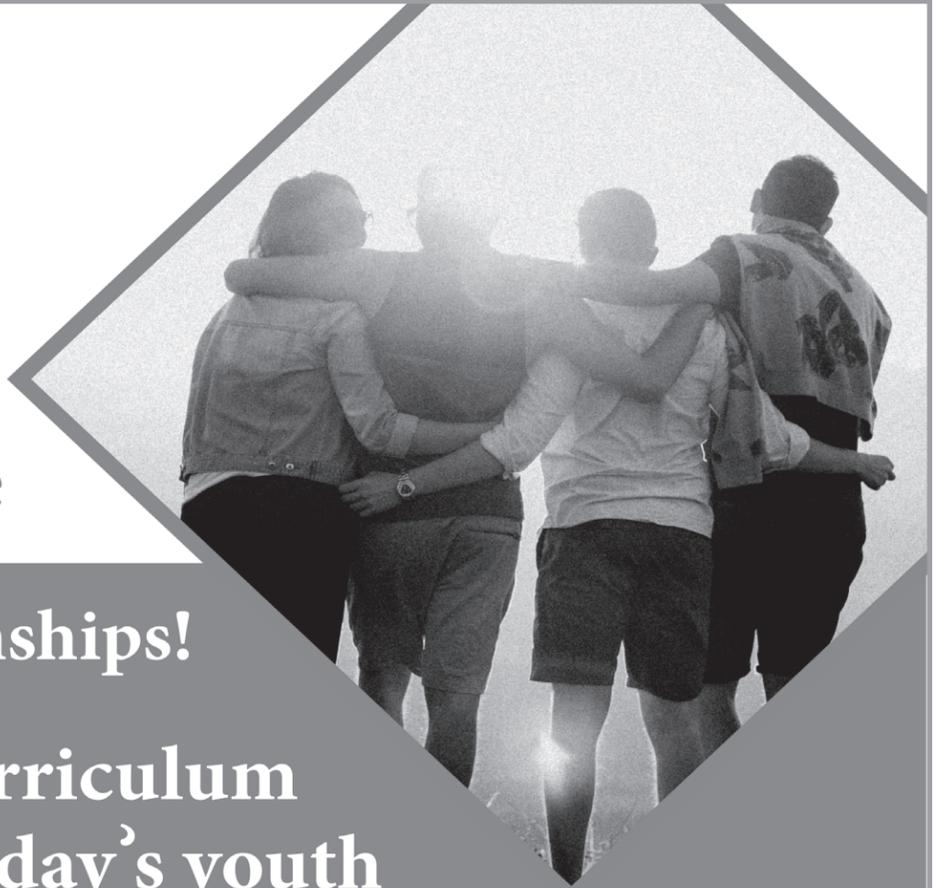
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*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Major League Baseball really needs to be careful.

This is the time of year where sports pages and websites would be filled with feature stories about how this player has finally found the flaw in his swing, or that player has arrived in spring training camp in the best year of his life.....and that this could finally be the year the Mets go all the way.

But there's none of that this year. Instead we get reports of lengthy but ultimately fruitless negotiations between the owners and the players' union, as baseball continues its months-long lockout.

Both sides finally seem to be taking negotiations seriously – they're meeting every day now, as opposed to the very, very sporadic meetings over the previous two and a half months – but there seems to be this growing sense the start of the regular season will be delayed.

And Major League Baseball had better be very, very careful.

This isn't 1994 – the year a strike wiped out the final third of the season and also led to the cancellation of the World Series for the first time ever. There is a plethora of alternative entertainment options out there. If the regular season is impacted in any way, folks might just move on.

Did they come back after the first few months of the 2020 season were wiped out due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Sure, but that was different. That was a national crisis, and many, many things more substantive than baseball games were being affected by it.

This time, though, it's a battle that's widely perceived as billionaires vs. millionaires. At a time when the prices of everything are skyrocketing, while wages remain stagnant, folks just aren't going to have the patience.

To be honest, they didn't have the patience

in 1994. It took not just months but years for fans to fully come back – and it also took Cal Ripken's amazing streak and then the Sosa-McGuire home run race to do it.

And in 1994 there was no Netflix, or Hulu, or Prime, or Disney+, or.....the list goes on. The point is, there are many more ways folks can spend their time – there's even a new spring football league starting up – and once they fall out of the habit of watching baseball games every night, they might not come back.

Personally, I'm on the side of the players. But no matter what side you fall on, it's imperative things get resolved here. MLB needs to start its season. Any delay might be very, very dangerous.

\* \* \*

Lastly, here are a few memorable quotes from the late, great Larry Gelbart, the author and screenwriter (think *Tootsie* and the TV version of *M\*A\*S\*H*) who was born on this date in 1928:

“Marriage is probably the chief cause of divorce.”

“One doesn't have a sense of humor. It has you.”

“Television is a weapon of mass distraction.”

“Your style is formed by what you can't do.”

“Most jokes state a bitter truth.”

“I think it makes people frustrated when they have to live their actual lives commercial-free and they can't just magically wind up at the part with the happy ending.”

And in closing, one that sadly seems to be quite, quite true:

“The only way to avoid age discrimination in Hollywood is to die young.”

\* \* \*

See you next week.



**Behind the Screen...** The girls of *Breaking Silences* are gearing up for their upcoming performance, *Behind the Screen*. This original play, created and written by both middle and high school girls, dives into the pressure of social media, appearance, and keeping up with trends as well as showing issues that girls face every day such as bullying, abuse, mental illness, and relationships. The play will be performed Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, at 7 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. Tickets are \$12; for reservations, email [elizabeth@epocharts.org](mailto:elizabeth@epocharts.org). Pictured sitting are Maria Zabroski, left, and Jackie Laboy. Standing are Lucy Alford, left, and Ruby Grace Casey.

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**Corrections**

In an article last week about the Portland Refugee Resettlement Group's discussion of how to best welcome a family emigrating from Afghanistan, speaker Saleha Qureshi's name was misspelled.

Also, it was stated speaker Arzoo Rohbar graduated from Central Connecticut State University. She went to Southern Connecticut State University, not Central.

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

cannot be our sole source of information about the business of the town.

This lack of communication must change. If I am elected, my intention is to work with the other four members of the Board to assure that we keep the citizens of Marlborough fully informed. This could include regular information sharing in the *Rivereast*, as well as Facebook and other social media as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

**Betty O'Brien**  
Marlborough BOS Candidate

**Lack of Communication**

To the Editor:

As a candidate for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, I want to make my concerns and commitments very clear.

Currently there is a significant lack of communication with the Marlborough community as a whole. The town website, which has a wealth of information, is not easy to navigate, nor do the Board of Selectmen's minutes provide an accurate reading of the meeting. It is unreasonable to expect the citizens of Marlborough to listen to real time audiotapes of the meeting to know everything that took place during the meeting. At the same time, the *Rivereast*

**'Concerned Citizen' Attacks**

To the Editor:

Ed Smith recently shared his experience about an anonymous attack letter sent to his home. I too received a letter from "Concerned Citizen." The unflattering attributes and sophomoric slurs crisscrossed a tangential stream of consciousness of mixed metaphors and ungrammatical structure. An illiberal manifesto of fear and anger from another "Get off my lawn" guy. The impulse to send poison pen letters like these is not always confined to craven conservatives seething with resentment, bitterness and rage. The author may not actually be a coward; however, the act itself is cowardly and is on a

**Bulletin Board**

Those of you who read my meanderings from week to week (bless you) will know that science is not my strong suit. My math isn't exactly stellar, either.

Nevertheless, I have tried during these troubled times of ours to "follow the science" as they say. I have had both my Covid shots and my booster. I wear my mask when I have to and would never contemplate slugging an airline stewardess in the mouth for asking me to "mask up."

I try not to attract attention when I feel a cough or sneeze coming on in public—preferring to smother the oncoming offense to the point of practically blowing out an eardrum. This is part courtesy and part self-preservation as I would like to avoid being stoned to death or set on fire by angry mobs intent on personally preserving public health and safety by culling me out of the gene pool.

To date, I have (so far as I know) managed to avoid contracting Covid, though I have come to view every little ache or pain or sniffle as the possible prelude to a horrible demise surrounded by lepers in some crowded hospital corridor. Rest assured, should that occur, I will make my exit as dramatic as possible. Do not expect a great display of personal courage.

Still, while I remain cooperative (some might even say "docile"), I must admit I'm not completely convinced that "follow the science" was inscribed on some stone tablet brought down from the sacred mountain by Moses, as some pundits would have us believe. My passing acquaintance with world history suggests that folks have sometimes "followed the science" down some rather unprofitable paths.

I suppose that health-conscious folks in past centuries who built fires around their castles to keep the plague out were also simply following the science of their day. Hindsight suggests that this great effort served mainly to keep the castle rats and fleas warm, but who knew? I guess it kept the peasant woodcutters busy, at least until they succumbed to the plague in their unfire-surrounded hovels. And, of course, the demise of the poor peasants provided the scientists of the day with incontrovertible proof that fire was the answer.

Then there was the "science" that touted bloodletting as a cure for anemia and blamed swamp gas for everything from cholera to menstrual cramps, thereby consigning generations of people to stifling nights in radon-polluted bedrooms with the windows closed. Arsenic was viewed as a cure for flatulence and cocaine was used to treat hay fever. All cutting edge stuff in its time. Now, of course, we know that arsenic is best employed as a permanent cure for unfaithful spouses and cocaine makes you the most creative genius in rehab.

Today, all of that old "science" seems pretty silly. We are so scientifically advanced that doctors don't even want you to come in if you actually feel sick. I suppose this is the logical scientific—or maybe economic—progression from those time-consuming house calls of yesteryear. But now, thanks to modern science, doctors can actually provide you with physical exams in your very own home, remotely via computer consultation.

Pretty smart, huh? Personally, this remote diagnosis thing strikes me as being more related to witchcraft than practical science (I mean, it's got to be kind of awkward to check your prostate over the computer), but what do I know?

On the other hand, you get to pay the same fees they'd charge you for an in-house checkup but without the inconvenience of actually going to their office where you'd have to wear a mask! How great is that? I guess in this case, if anybody's getting their prostate checked (figuratively speaking), it's your health insurance provider. But hey, nobody ever said following the science would be comfortable.

**Jim Hallas**

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The offices of the *Rivereast News Bulletin* and *Glastonbury Citizen*, located at 87 Nutmeg Lane, Glastonbury, are open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and can be reached at 860-633-4691. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

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**Staff Reporters:**

Sloan Brewster, Asst Editor—Hebron, Andover & RHAM

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**Art Department**

Jeanne Giovann, Julie Kristoff

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moral par with Peeping Toms.

I happen to find public discourse interesting. It promotes understanding and makes newspapers more relevant. I suspect most like myself, who submit letters to the *Riverast*, welcome respectful arguments, and actually look forward to a civil debate. This is why they include their names and town of residence. I have had many who do not agree with my views, but they express their differences publicly, in a letter to the editor, rather than in an anonymous letter.

However, what interested me about this feigned act of intimidation is that a person who is so open with his opinions, is also so secretive about his identity. This kind of cowardice takes a cockamamie courage. It reminds me of Howard Beale, the central character in the movie *Network*, who yells out his window to the world, "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" It is as if he, like "Concerned Citizen" have too much spite and anger to contain, and however misdirected, has to let it out somehow.

**Joe Stevens – Hebron**

### Puppies From God

To the Editor:

Here is your Puppy From God.  
 "What!?! I don't want a puppy!"  
 But that's not your choice. It's a Puppy From God.  
 "I have a job, responsibilities... a life!"  
 Well, then we know you can care for a puppy too. Isn't he cute? You will have to get him shots, register him, house-train him. You know, build bonds of love. It may seem hard at first, but after the first several sleepless nights, you'll both be so happy.  
 "I'm happy now! I don't need a puppy!"  
 Don't be so selfish. Puppies From God decides what you need and want.  
 "Why don't I get a choice about my own life?!" What about the life of this puppy? Are you a monster!? You must think Planned Puppies is still around! For the next many years, you are responsible to love, care and pay for this puppy. Deal with it. He's a male beagle. We'll be watching. Make sure that he acts like a male beagle! We wouldn't want him to act like a female poodle, would we? Oh, and here is the bill.  
 "What?!?"  
 God wants you to have this puppy, but he's not paying for it. You are.

**John Barnowski – Colchester**

### Transparency

To the Editor:

Transparency is a word you often hear when referring to government. Nothing should be hidden when it affects everyone. However, the more I think about that word the more I realize that a better word is "communication."  
 When first asked to run for the Board of Finance I made it clear that I would not "play politics" and would make every decision based on what I believe was best for our town. I have adhered to that philosophy. I also was clear that I would state my opinion to hopefully lead to productive discussion. I've done that.  
 As a member of the Board of Selectmen I would do exactly the same. Politics shouldn't be the focus of running a small town like Marlborough. We all live here, some work here, some are raising or have raised families here, and all of us love our town. That's one reason

why so many voted to change the town charter and hire a town manager – to take the politics out of running the town. With five BOS members versus three, more ideas can be shared and discussed and communicated to others.

Communication lends itself to understanding. As a BOS member I would work hard to make sure that what was happening in town and at Town Hall is made public for all to see. No one person should make the decisions alone. Even a town manager would have a board to help do so.

Elect me to the BOS and I promise to improve communication and provide information about where our town is headed. I have no interest in politics or being a politician. My motivation to run for a seat on the Board of Selectmen is to help make Marlborough a better place to live. Please help me help you!

Thank you!

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

### Chocolate Fest Thank You

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church of Portland, I would like to thank everyone who came out in support of our 24th annual Mid-Winter Chocolate Fest held on Feb. 12th. With a new look and new time this year due to COVID-19, we sincerely appreciated our customers adhering to our request of registering for a shopping time and wearing masks while inside.

Forrest Gump's famous quote reminds us that "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." This was so very true this year. We were not only fortunate to get a beautiful, warm and sunny day for our event, but we were also pleased to get the opportunity to warm so many hearts and to offer a bit of joy during this ongoing pandemic time.

Thank you to the *Riverast* who so graciously informed the community of our festival and thank you to all who came to enjoy it. A sweet success it was and we look forward to celebrating our 25th with everyone next year.

**Nancy L. Johnson**  
**Chocolate Fest Chair**  
**First Congregational Church of Portland**

### Thrilled With Biden II

To the Editor:

First of all, I'd like to welcome the newest member of the Foolish 5 – Walter (Pat) Carroll, another misguided, misinformed left-wing progressive who needs to expand his news information beyond CNN, MSNBC & Joy Reid. If he truly believes that we are currently undergoing the largest economic growth in 20 years then he must still be in quarantine with his mask and shield on.

Joe Biden – our "healing" president – has issued the 'need not apply' edict to both genders of Hispanics, Whites, Asians, and Black and brown men with regards to the upcoming Supreme Court vacancy. Sounds racist to me to de-select all these Individuals and announce that only Black women can apply. I can only imagine the fallout if President Trump pulled this stunt. Now in pre-response to Sauyet, Smith, et al., I am not against a woman of color being elevated to that position but Biden is only interested in "making history" with his "historic

first" choice.

Fact or Fiction: Did Edmund Smith really receive a four-page letter from an anonymous writer? One has to wonder. Now most of the narrative Smitty claims targeted him unfairly were in my opinion quite accurate but I would need to see the letter because Smith could be pulling the Jussie Smollet on us. He has serious credibility issues.

My final topic for today is the alleged "insurrection" of Jan. 6, 2021. Facts: Ashli Babbitt – our unarmed white female Air Force veteran – was assassinated. Her executioner has finally been identified as African American Capitol Police officer Michael Byrd, who was cleared without questioning or providing a statement. On that same day, video and body cams caught another person of color, Policewoman Lila Morris, beating an unconscious white woman, Rosanne Boyland, with a large wooden stick. She later died.

More to come.

**Don Denley – Andover**

### Many Facts Left Out

To the Editor:

The Hebron Board of Selectmen claim to be offering "facts" regarding the proposed industrial Public Works complex at 17 Kinney Road, aka the Horton property. Unfortunately, many facts are left out of their shortsighted push to place an expensive and oversized industrial facility in the middle of 300-year-old hedgerow farmland surrounded by sensitive wetlands and a historic residential neighborhood.

A long list of important facts the BOS is choosing to ignore is posted at Kinney Road Matters on Facebook. The most significant fact being ignored is that an industrial complex of this nature simply does not belong in this location. The acres of ancient farmland serve as a high-functioning watershed that contributes directly to the Raymond Brook Marsh/Groundwater Protection Zone, Hebron's most important freshwater drinking supply. It is also a fact that Map No. 7 of Hebron's Plan of Conservation and Development includes a CT DEEP Natural Diversity Database Area of Special Concern along the main wetland and groundwater drainage of the property. An industrial complex will obviously affect this sensitive area and has the potential for irreversible damage.

This historic and pristine piece of land offers Hebron an opportunity to create a showpiece of our community. The BOS admits that the property will play an important role in a planned greenway that would connect the center of town with the Raymond Brook Preserve and the Air Line Trail. What fact could possibly justify placing a massive industrial complex in the middle of a scenic greenway?

It remains an undeniable fact that an indus-

trial complex at 17 Kinney Rd. is contrary to the BOS mission to act as "stewards of the town... while preserving our rural historic character." I urge the BOS and citizens of Hebron to explore all the facts and reject this dangerous proposal.

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

### It's Time to Vote!

To the Editor:

Last week, with regard to the proposed municipal complex, Mr. Larson wrote, "at this time... the only things being considered are the public works building, the 'Great Lawn,' and the access road." However, citizens were told previously that the definitive work was from the Hebron Public Building Committee (PBC), Aug. 21, 2021, Evaluation, Study and Recommendations of the Municipal Complex. It includes a master plan with the new firehouse and other municipal facilities to be built at the Horton property. My survey of the costs to build similar buildings suggests that the total cost for this municipal complex will be \$35-\$60M. Interestingly, the town has taken the PBC document off the front page of its website.

Mr. Larson states that "we...are putting to rest concerns of a few voters..." A few voters? More like a majority, which should mean something in a democracy. Even the town is raising concerns having found more high-value wetlands. Had the Board of Selectmen and other decision-makers actually walked the property before making these multimillion-dollar decisions, they would have known how wet the property is, but they did not. The land across the street was rejected as a building site for RHAM because it was too wet. (The town rejected the most appropriate site – Old Colchester – because of "wetlands," which ironically are not present within the best project footprint.)

Is the purpose of government to serve government or to serve its citizens? The need for a new municipal complex has never been shown. This project will commit the town to long-term debt which will challenge our abilities to fund other priorities. The town center will be reshaped with more traffic and congestion. This project is a testament to government largesse and waste. It is time to vote!

**John Collins – Amston**

### The Dirt on Dirt...

To the Editor:

...Is that it's dead, dead because there is no life in dirt. It is made up of sand, silt, rocks, pebbles and clay, there are no minerals, nutrients, or living organisms, or fungi. Without those elements, texture, layers and structure from decaying organic matter, dirt becomes

*See Letters, page 6*

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We are looking to network with local business owners. Let's help struggling business. We are all "Better Together"!

# I love this town.

**Thanks.**

I love being here to help in a community where people are making a difference every day. Thank you for all you do.

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

susceptible to erosion and run off. It's especially critical if herbicides and pesticides are used on lawns where the run off can poison our water supply and wildlife.

Ironically, "soil" began as dirt: With time, rocks eroded into sand and organic matter decayed and accumulated so it gradually was able to provide nutrients to animals and plants. Soil is a living and self-sustaining ecosystem made up of earthworms, microorganisms, fungi, bacteria and insects that have transformed dirt over a very long time.

Deforestation, industrial agriculture, ground disturbance and our cultural obsession with lawns which degrades soil all contribute to dead dirt zones. No wonder grass seeding is followed by relentless chemical maintenance to keep any growth looking green while serving no other purpose than to look pretty and healthy, recall fake news!

Depending on the type of ground you live on, planting a garden may present a challenge. The good news and truth are you can enliven the land by adding your own compost to it. There is no more satisfying way to experience the web of life than by making your own compost and seeing its effect on plants and wildlife. Combining

left over vegetables with yesterday's eggshells, the morning coffee grounds and half eaten fruit all will decompose into a slimy glop. But layer it with some dirt, grass clippings or dried leaves and the layering effect will decompose and that will attract worms and other insects. you've created soil, a self-sustaining ecosystem right at home! Now how good is that!

**Michele Sinkez**  
**Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project**

**Racial Segregation in 2022 Hebron**

To the Editor:

By 1850, Hebron had the largest African American population living, learning, working and worshiping beside their Yankee neighbors of any Tolland County town. Why isn't Hebron more integrated today?

The answer – Hebron's changing farming economy. Enslaved African Americans labored on Yankee farms after settlers initially cleared the land resulting in massive soil erosion and now required intensive labor to be profitable. Hebron's stonewalls bear testimony of this. Enslaved labor and the West Indian trade resulted in southeastern Connecticut having one of the

largest African American populations in New England!

After the Revolution, farmland on the frontier attracted Hebron farmers. Hebron's newly emancipated slaves now provided the paid workforce for Hebron farmers. Some African Americans bought farms, many could not, but sold their labor. New innovations like, turnpikes, canals and railroads made shipping farm goods over long distances affordable, increasing economic pressure on Hebron's farms. Except for turnpikes, Hebron was in the backwash of this transportation revolution failing to develop farming methods for urban markets. This resulted in a westward exodus of Hebron's farmers including Hebron's "Black Yankees." After the Civil War, Irish labor undercut African American farm labor. African American men had now gained the right to vote, but they could not support themselves! Hebron's population plummeted.

Eventually scientifically based dairy and chicken farming replaced traditional farming. Newly arrived immigrant labor revived Hebron farms, but not its African-American population. By the 1950s, widespread access to automobiles turned Hebron farms into developing suburbs. However, governmental policies provided more

loans to white families than to others, resulting in economically segregated suburbs in eastern Connecticut.

While historically Hebron people judged the character of people regardless of their skin color, government at the state and national level did otherwise, creating a color divide that continues to challenge Americans today.

**John Baron – Hebron**

**Sam Prentice**

To the Editor:

Many decent citizens in your readership have tolerated, or better, ignored Sam Prentice's screeds against progressives and our Black vice president, Kamala Harris. I depend on *Rivereast* for area news, positive stories about students, and serious political information -- not to read racist rantings. Prentice may support secessionists but reasonable Democrats, Republicans and Independents do not. From the New York Times, January 5, 2022, "These Are the People Who Died in the Capitol Riot":

Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran, was fatally shot by a Capitol Police officer as rioters tried to breach the House chamber;

Kevin D. Greeson died of a heart attack, collapsing on the sidewalk west of the Capitol on Jan. 6 [2021];

Rosanne Boyland appeared to have been crushed in a stampede by fellow rioters as they surged against the police;

Benjamin Philips, the founder of a pro-Trump website called Trumparoo, died of a stroke.

Prentice is fixated on race while supporting rioters. Rosanne Boyland was killed by her own fellow, mostly white, insurrectionists; she was not beaten to death by a Black female officer, as Prentice asserted. No one would say otherwise than someone who is deep in the QAnon swamp of racist lies and delusions.

**Maureen O'Doherty – Portland**

**Thanks for Grant**

To the Editor:

The Portland Historical Society would like to thank state Sen. Norm Needleman, state Rep. Christie Carpino and the CTHumanities Council for a recently awarded grant of \$7,200. Administered by CTHumanities, funding for these grants is provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

We are among over 40 Middlesex County organizations that will benefit from this funding which will be allocated over the next two years by the Connecticut General Assembly. These grants are part of \$30.7M of support allocated to arts, humanities, and cultural nonprofits through CTHumanities to assist organizations like ours recovering from the pandemic and aid us in our ability to serve our local community and the general public.

The society, founded in 1973 and located on Main Street in the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, has a wealth of information — documents and artifacts — in our growing collection. We are grateful for this generous influx of operating support which aligns with our mission to foster the collection, preservation and accessibility of our town records and archives.

**Julie Macksoud, President**  
**Portland Historical Society**

**Experience Counts**

To the Editor:

As candidate for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, experience counts.

In addition to serving on the Board of Finance for the last 10 years, I treasure the five years I spent on the Marlborough Board of Education from 1998 to 2003.

Those were hectic years, during which time our elementary school was completely renovated. Those who may have moved to Marlborough after that project was completed can hardly imagine the changes that occurred as the older 1950s and 1960s sections of the school were replaced and the rest of the school was fully renovated. It was a huge \$16 million undertaking, which took five years to complete, and I am proud to say that it was completed within budget.

This is why I am adamant about being proactive when it comes to maintaining our town facilities. Our school had been allowed to deteriorate in the 80s and 90s, with a long history of deferred maintenance. When I joined the BOE in 1998 we had to play catchup to bring the school to the level you see today.

Other challenges faced us during those years including changes to the administration, deal-

*See Letters, page 32*

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# Local Wrestlers Compete at States

by Josh Howard

The COVID-19 pandemic wiped out wrestling competition in the state a year ago and last weekend Connecticut crowned high school wrestling champions for the first time since February 2020. Here is how some *Riverast* schools fared.

RHAM High School placed 4th overall at the Class M Championships held at East Haven High School on Feb. 18 and 19, taking home two second-place finishes, three fourth-place finishes, and a pair of fifth-place finishes.

Senior Zackary Kanaitis (138 lbs.) and Jeremy Devine (160 lbs.) each made it to their respective title matches, both finishing 2nd. Ben Fournier (106 lbs.), Kyle Currier (126 lbs.), and Thomas Panecasio (195 lbs.) each took home 4th place, and Gavin Ploude (120 lbs.) and Michael Marques (182 lbs.) each won their 5th place matches.

In the Class S finals, held at Killingly High

School on Feb. 18 and 19, Bacon Academy High School placed 9th overall and Portland High School placed 11th overall.

Bobcats' senior Carson Brown (152 lbs.) made the championship match, finishing 2nd. Dominic Colella (126 lbs.) and Aaron Running (170 lbs.) each won their 3rd place matches, and Denali Collins (285 lbs.) placed 6th.

Highlanders' junior Spencer Rosado (138 lbs.) and senior Owen Brunk (220 lbs.) each won their 3rd place matches. Andrew Johnson (170 lbs.) placed 5th and Griffin Shafer (126 lbs.) placed 6th.

The top six from each division and weight class will compete in the State Open, slated for Feb. 25 and 26 at the Floyd Little Activity Center in New Haven. Following the State Open, the qualifying wrestlers will compete in the New England Championships in Rhode Island on March 4 and 5.



Portland High School cheerleader Sierra Koss, pictured at left, recently became the first cheerleader at the school to be named All-State since 2015. Pictured at right is RHAM High School junior Brady Lalonde, who qualified to ski for Team Connecticut, who will ski at the Eastern State Alpine Championships in New Hampshire in early March.

## Tri-County Baseball Registration

Registration is now open for the Tri-County Baseball spring and summer programs for players aged 13-19 (as of April 30, 2022). Tri-County Baseball includes children in the *Riverast* towns of Marlborough, Hebron, Andover and Colchester, as well as Lebanon, Coventry, Salem and Bozrah.

Registration for the spring recreational season runs through March 15. Spring programs include a 13-14-year-old division and a 15-18-year-old division against teams from Glastonbury. Games will start late April and run through the beginning of June and will be played at West Road Field in Marlborough and Glastonbury fields.

Summer registration ends March 25. Teams

will play in the Kokinis Baseball League ([www.kokinisbaseball.com](http://www.kokinisbaseball.com)) against teams from the greater Hartford area. Divisions include 14U, 16U and 19U. This is a competitive league, with teams playing a 16-game schedule plus single elimination playoffs. Games start June 6 and run through July. The championship games will be played July 30 and 31 at New Britain Stadium.

Federal, state and local health board guidelines will be followed.

To register for both programs, go to [tricitybaseball.org](http://tricitybaseball.org) and click 'register now.'

For more information on any of the programs, contact Chris Caputo, president of Tri-County Baseball, at [c.caputo@comcast.net](mailto:c.caputo@comcast.net).

## Standout Athletes of the Week

Here are the *Riverast* Standout Athletes of the Week for the week of Feb. 14-20:

**Sierra Koss – Portland High School (Cheerleading):** Koss became the first Portland High cheerleader to be selected All-State since 2015, earning the recognition by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA). Koss, who is the team's only senior, said she feels "very honored," adding that she was supported by some incredible teammates this year. "Luckily I had two juniors with me that helped me on this journey because we had a very new team with a lot of incoming freshman and even sophomores that were new," she said. "There's a lot that goes into cheer, so it was really nice to have that time with them and the help. I think our season went very well." Following graduation, Koss will attend the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

**Brady Lalonde – RHAM High School (Ski Racing):** Lalonde, who races for an independent ski team, recently placed 6th overall for the state, qualifying him for the state of Connecticut squad that will compete regionally. The RHAM junior will be one of a dozen boys skiing for Team Connecticut at the Eastern High School State Alpine Championships in New Hampshire. Lalonde and the team will be representing Nutmeg State as they compete at At-

titash Mountain in Bartlett, N.H., from March 3-6.

**Nicholas Rivard-Lentz – East Hampton High School (Track & Field):** Rivard-Lentz finished 2nd at the State Open in the pole vault, reaching a height of 13-00.00 at the Floyd Little Athletic Center on Feb. 19. The senior was following up his Class S championship on Feb. 12 when he easily downed the competition by over a foot, defeating second-placed finishers Gage Rovelli of Coginchaug and Jason Ouellette of Seymour.

**Marissa Nudd - Bacon Academy (Basketball):** Nudd combined for 45 points and 15 rebounds as the Bobcats earned a pair of Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) tournament wins over Norwich Free Academy (NFA) and Waterford last week. The junior scored 20 points and hauled down seven rebounds in a 54-25 quarterfinals win over NFA on Feb. 17 and then netted 25 points (10-10 from the free throw line) and grabbed 10 rebounds in a 56-47 win over Waterford in the semifinal round on Feb. 19.

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

### Student Show at Marlborough Arts Center

The regional Student Art Show will be held beginning Saturday, March 5, at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough.

Student artwork has been chosen for this exhibition by the art teachers at four Marlborough-area schools, including Beverly Fisher, Carrie Dinunzio, Shelly Osowiecki, Micaela Gradie and Nicole Van Sicklin from RHAM; Denise Ketterer from Marlborough Elementary; Susan Giammarco from Gilead Hill in Hebron; and Jessica Waine from Andover Elementary.

The Student Show will be open free of charge to the public from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday from March 5-20. There will be no Receptions, no food or drink as in the past, and masks are required in the building at all times.

The Marlborough Arts Center is fully accessible and has ample parking.

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### Bearcats Holding Raffle

The CT Bearcats AAU Travel Team is running a raffle to help with capital improvements for its fields. There are several prizes. The drawing is April 5 at 5 p.m. at Legion Field, 35 Neptune Ave., East Haddam. Winner need not be present to win.

The Bearcats includes players from Colchester, Hebron, Amston, Marlborough, East Hampton and Portland.

Contact Chris Markovitz at 860-334-8442 to get Venmo information or information how to purchase tickets.

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REG-8-20

East Hampton • East Hampton

# After Bout with Cancer, New Cop Driven to Serve

by Jack Lakowsky

Brandy Lenois, officer with the East Hampton Police Department, introduced herself to the East Hampton Town Council Tuesday night.

Police chief Dennis Woessner said he “stole” her from Waterbury police, where she first started her policing career.

East Hampton Police Department (EHPD) recruited Lenois, along with several other officers, in November.

“Seven years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer,” Lenois told the council. “After that battle I felt called to serve a higher purpose.”

Lenois went to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) school. She graduated and worked as an EMT for five years before applying to, and being hired by, Waterbury police.

Lenois trained for six months. Shortly after that, she and her husband sold their home in Deep River and moved to East Haddam, where they now live with three dogs and a menagerie of other domestic critters.

“Right after we moved, I saw East Hampton [PD] was hiring,” said Lenois.

Lenois wanted to work in a small town for more meaningful interactions with the community she serves. She said in Waterbury, police are so busy there’s no chance to get to know its citizens.

## Resident to be Honored at Dinner

Due to COVID-19, the area Lions district’s Humanitarian Dinner slated for January was postponed, and will now take place Sunday, March 13, at 1 p.m., at St. Clements Castle in Portland.

East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) Deputy Chief Tom Donnelly will be honored at the dinner.

This year, the East Hampton Lions received a nomination for Donnelly from EHAA Chief Don Scranton. Donnelly served as chief for 10 years and was instrumental in constructing the association’s building, purchasing new ambulances and allowing their members to have the

## Dean’s List

Ailie Daley of East Hampton made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. Daley is a sophomore in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

“I’m really grateful,” Lenois said. “I’m looking forward to my future in East Hampton.”

In an interview late last year for a story on Lenois that never came to fruition, Woessner said it’s been some time since the department hired a woman for policing duties.

## Use of Force, Pursuit Reports

In his written report Town Manager Dave Cox provided information on some annual police statistics, including use of force, vehicle pursuit and the annual drug takeback program.

The department is required on an annual basis to report all use of force incidents to the Office of Policy and Management’s Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Cox’s report reads.

During the calendar year of 2021, the department had two use of force incidents. In each incident, the involved officers drew their firearms to control the actions of an individual who either had a weapon and was making threatening movements towards the officer, or the person was reported to have a weapon by the complainant.

In both cases the use of force incidents were reviewed by a supervisor and the chief and were found to be in compliance with the department’s Use of Force policy.

No injuries were sustained by anyone in-

best equipment possible to serve the community.

In addition to his service to EHAA, Donnelly served on the Board of Education from 1994-2003, and has been an active member of the East Hampton Rotary for over 20 years, serving in various capacities and helping organize both the Turkey Plunge and Breakfast with Santa.

Donnelly will be one of 13 individuals honored at the Humanitarian Dinner. Tickets are \$55 and must be purchased in advance by mailing your check payable to East Hampton Lions to 92 Young St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

Deadline for tickets is March 5. For more information, call Lion Mary at 860-977-5760.

## Dean’s List

Lindsay Orbann of East Hampton made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Orbann is working toward a BSBA degree in accounting.

## Dean’s List

East Hampton resident Lucas Varano made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

Varano, a member of the Class of 2025, is majoring in mechanical engineering.

involved in the incidents.

Additionally, the department is required to submit an annual report to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) of the number of pursuits the officers were involved in.

The department follows the state mandated policy, which defines pursuit as: “an attempt by a police officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend any occupant of another moving vehicle, when the driver of the fleeing vehicle is attempting to avoid apprehension by maintaining or increasing the speed of such vehicle or by ignoring the police officer’s attempt to stop such vehicle.”

During the calendar year of 2021, police initiated four pursuits in which the operator increased speed when attempts to stop the vehicle were made.

## Local Knights Selling Raffle Tickets

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering Connecticut State Council raffle tickets.

There are 10 prizes to be awarded. First prize is \$5,000; second is \$3,500; third is \$2,000; fourth is \$1,500; fifth is \$1,000; sixth is \$600; seventh is \$500; eighth is \$400; ninth is \$300; and 10th is \$200.

The drawing will be held Friday, April 29, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford. Ticketholders need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased through any of the Knights of Columbus members or by calling Bob DeMarchi at 860-267-5978.

## VFW Post 5095 and Auxiliary Meeting

VFW Post 5095 Commander Roger Anderson and Auxiliary Madame President Kelly Ezold will hold their respective separate meetings Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m., at the Post Home, located at 20 N. Maple St.

At the meeting the Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year awards will be presented, and VFW officers will be recognized. In addition, the Post will accept nominations of Officers for the ensuing year.

The Auxiliary will have a vote on the new standing rules.

All members of the VFW and its Auxiliary are welcome and encouraged to participate.

In all four cases, the officer ended the pursuit since it is against state statute to pursue a vehicle for motor vehicle charges only. The pursuits were reviewed by a supervisor and the chief of police and were found to follow the department’s pursuit policy.

The PD continues efforts to remove unused or expired prescription medication from households through the successful use of the Drug Take Back receptacle located in the lobby of the police department.

On Feb. 14, staff took another 163 pounds of medication to the off-site destruction facility.

Since January 2020, the program has collected and destroyed over 626 pounds of prescription medication. These totals do not include the Department’s yearly participation in the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) annual Drug Take Back program.

## Kindergarten Registration to Start

Kindergarten registration packets for the 2022-23 school year will be available at the Memorial School foyer and at East Hampton Public Library starting Tuesday, March 1.

To secure a screening appointment for your child, return all completed registration paperwork to the Memorial School Office or drop box in the foyer by Thursday, March 31.

Screenings will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on May 9, 10 and 11.

## Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds Sunday services at 10 a.m. each week via Zoom.

In-person worship will resume March 6. An Ash Wednesday service with distribution of ashes will be at 6 p.m. on March 2. During Lent, a brief service with Eucharist will be held Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the church (March 9-April 13).

Church school is currently meeting on an abbreviated schedule via Zoom for the time being. Parents are kept advised by the church school leaders.

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

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

## Middle School Spring Athletics

East Hampton Middle School students who are interested in trying out for either the baseball or softball teams can register online through FamilyID.com. Athletes must have a physical conducted within the last 15 months before trying out.

Deadline for online registrations is Monday, March 14. For more information, contact EHMS Athletic Director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

## ECSU Newly-Enrolled Student

Hannah Barrientos of East Hampton is newly enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University for the spring 2022 semester.

Barrientos is a full-time first-year student majoring in criminology.

## President’s List

East Hampton residents Kelsey Gallant and Kathryn Arndt made the fall 2021 President’s List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Gallant is working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in law and society, and Arndt is working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.

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**Hunting & Fishing Club Membership Vacancies**

The Westchester Sportmen’s Club, located in Colchester, Connecticut, has open membership vacancies. Membership is currently limited to 100 members. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your friends to join a Club as a group, and enjoy the private benefits of hunting, fishing & shooting. The Club is now accepting applications until Friday, March 25, 2022.

For additional information and to obtain an application, please contact the club President, Harold Gannon, at [hgnnon@gmail.com](mailto:hgnnon@gmail.com).

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### East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., has announced the following. 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. Masks are required for ages 3 and up.

**Kindness EHxtravaganza:** As part of its month-long Kindness EHxtravaganza in April, the library will host a silent auction to benefit Our Companions Animal Rescue and Sanctuary and the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue. The library is seeking artists to donate art for the auction. Donations will be accepted until April 1. Visit the library website or call for more details.

Also, as another part of the Kindness EHxtravaganza, the library will send out care packages to libraries worldwide – so it’s looking for love letters to East Hampton: What you love about this town, why you’re here, and what makes the town a great community. Letters will be accepted until March 11.

**Children’s Programs: Mindful Movements:** Mondays, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., in the community room and also streamed live on Facebook. Registration required.

**Stories & Songs:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., in the community room, for children ages 18 months to 5 years, and their caregivers. Registration required.

**Baby Rhyme Time:** Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., in the community room, for children ages birth-18 months and their caregivers. Registration required.

**STEM Project Bags – Mind-Boggling:** Monday, March 7, 10 a.m. This month’s kit includes supplies to make your own brain teasers, plus tangrams, toothpick puzzles and more. Recommended for ages 6 and up. STEM project bags are available in the children’s department while supplies last. No registration is required.

**Bedtime Storytime:** Monday, March 7, 6:30 p.m., in the library community room, for ages 2-6. Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and join some bedtime-themed songs, rhymes and stories. Registration required.

**DIY Days: Ping Pong Ball Shooter:** Saturday, March 12, noon. Children and families in grades 2-8 create a different toy, game, or treat each month. This month create your own ping pong ball shooter out of household items and get ready to launch.

**Food Explorers – Food Riddle Bingo and Strawberry Shortcake Parfaits:** Friday, March 25, 4 p.m., in the library community room, for ages 7-12. Create your own strawberry shortcake parfait for a snack and play a game of food riddle bingo: decipher the riddle to get bingo. The recipe is nut-free but does contain dairy and/or eggs.

**Teen Programs: Nintendo Switch Game Tournament:** Saturday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m., at the library, for grades 6-12. All skill levels welcome.

**Dungeons & Dragons:** Wednesday, March 5,

5:30 p.m., at the library, for grades 8-12.

Register online or call. No previous playing experience required, and all supplies will be provided.

**Teen Friday:** Friday, March 11, 3 p.m., for grades 6-12. All are invited for board games, crafts, video games and more.

**Middle School Advisory Board:** Tuesday, March 29, 5:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to come provide input to expand the YA/Teen collection and plan programs.

**Adult Programs: Victorian Tea Etiquette Virtual Workshop:** Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Register online or call. This presentation from the Osborne Homestead Museum in Derby will take people to the late Victorian era (1837-1901), when Frances Osborne Kellogg would’ve been in her 20s, hosting and going to tea parties. Participants will receive a tea-tasting kit from the library prior to the online event.

**Focus on Fitness:** Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m., in the library community room, with certified personal trainer and nutrition coach Amie Meacham. Registration required, space is limited, and masks must be worn.

**Cabin Fever Series: Interviews from Residents about East Hampton:** Saturday, March 12, 1 p.m., at the library. Residents Katie Morris, Donna Marston and Whitney Fielding about their early family life in East Hampton, their school experiences, their first jobs, early businesses in town, and how life has changed from then until now.

**Book Club:** Tuesdays, March 15 and 22, 6:30 p.m. *The Light We Lost* by Jill Santopolo will be discussed March 15, and *The Front Door Project* by Deb Cohen will be discussed March 22. Register online or call.

### Congregational Church News & Notes

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

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

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

The Youth Group, for grades 6-12, will next meet Friday, Feb. 25, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

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

For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon. McCarthy can be reached for emergencies at 508-272-6437.

### Local Schools Offer Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public School System is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents interested in preschool programs for the 2022-23 school year. Two programs will be offered – the Integrated preschool half day program and the full-day Smart Start program.

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

Memorial’s Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.), following the East Hampton Public

Schools calendar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have other factors for consideration. Other applicants, regardless of economic or risk factors, will then be selected.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School or East Hampton Public Library. The completed Parent Interview Form, Immunization Form and a Proof of Residency must be returned to Kelly Caruso at Memorial School office no later than March 18. Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted, no later than March 25, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after March 18 will not be accepted.

### Police News

2/8: Erika Jeffers, 33, of Bridgeport was issued a summons for failure to display a number plate and operating an uninsured and unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

2/10: Emmanuel Mavredakis, 43, of Springfield, Mass., was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

2/11: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle crash at the intersection of West High Street (Route 66) and Middle Haddam Road (Route 151), with no reported injuries, Andrea Walsh, 36, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, following too close and possession of a controlled substance, police said.

2/16: Marin Ordaz, 30, of 9 Old Middletown Ave., was issued a summons for failure to have tail lights illuminated and operating an unregis-

tered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

2/17: Douglas Bousquet, 59, of 137 Young St., was issued a summons for operating under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

2/21: John Folkman, 59, of Middletown, was taken into custody pursuant to an outstanding warrant for his arrest stemming from a 2015 incident and was charged with third-degree larceny, police said.

Also, from Feb. 14-21, officers responded to six motor vehicle crashes, 17 medical calls, 13 alarms and made 24 traffic stops, police said.

### Church Meeting This Sunday

The members of the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam are hereby notified of the annual meeting and budget meeting to be held after worship Sunday, Feb. 27.

### Dean’s List

Kate M. Rivard-Lentz of East Hampton made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

Rivard-Lentz earned First Honors.

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### Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Art with Karen:** Sunday, Feb. 27, 2-4 p.m. Join Karen Williams as she takes you through beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. The class cost is \$5 for supplies. Call to register. Pay instructor the day of the event.

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

**Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:** Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other

### Mercy Honor Roll

The following East Hampton students made the Mercy High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year:

**Highest Honors:** Juniors: Harper Carlson. Freshwomen: Payton Polsonetti, Clara Romero, Sage Svalestad.

**High Honors:** Sianna Fagan, Courtney Klewicki, Riley McCormick.

**Honors:** Junior: Mairan Hall; Freshwomen: Olivia Arcari, McKayla Greenwood, Isabella HYTE.

Wednesday (next date March 9), at 9:30 a.m., indoors with masks, or via Zoom. Register online.

**Wii Bowling:** Thursdays, March 3, 17 and 31, 10 a.m. Pre-registration is 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 [Jewling@easthampton.gov](mailto:Jewling@easthampton.gov). The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a pre-arranged designated spot.

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

**Cathedral of the Pines:** Wednesday, Aug. 17, located in Rindge, N.H. Explore the sanctuary, sacred spaces, monuments and burial grounds, built as a memorial to those fallen in service. Cost is \$104/person. This is a guided tour, including covered bridges. There is walking involved. Have lunch at the Woodbound Inn. Payment for trips will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by pre-arranged appointment time.

**Washington D.C.:** Oct. 21-24. Includes deluxe motorcoach, three nights' hotel, three breakfasts and two dinners, all sightseeing and admissions as per itinerary, a Friendship Tours escort, and driver and tour gratuity. There is considerable walking. Cost is \$745/person for a double or triple, or \$989/person for a single. Payment for trips will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by pre-arranged appointment time.

### TANGO2 Fundraiser at Po's

There will be a fundraiser for the TANGO2 Research Foundation at Po's Rice and Spice Restaurant, 97 Main St., on Tuesday, March 1. Restaurant owner Po Fong has offered to donate 15% of all sales from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. to support children with this rare disease.

TANGO2 is a very rare life-threatening disease that affects children and young adults. There are only about 150 people worldwide who have it. One of these is a 2020 graduate of EHHS, whose parents started the Foundation. Little is known about the disease, and participation will help fund research.

For more information on the TANGO2 Research Foundation is [www.tango2research.org](http://www.tango2research.org).



**Terrific Thrower... Dalila Malz from Colchester participated in the state finals of the Knights of Columbus Youth Basketball Free-Throw Contest at St. Paul High School in Bristol Saturday, Feb. 19. Dalila won the state championship for the 11-year-old age group. She represented of Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 following her win on Feb. 6.**

### Belltown Garden Club Monthly Meeting

The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton will hold its monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Room of East Hampton Public Library. The evening will feature a speaker from the Connecticut Audubon Society giving a presentation on Landscaping for Birds.

The meeting is open to the public and the club welcomes new members and interested guests.

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.

For more information about the club and its activities, call President JoAnn Hewitt at 860-267-4129.

### Bible Study Next Week

The Rev. James Simpson will lead a Bible Study on Exodus Tuesday, March 2, at 1 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd.

### Paint Night Coming

Epoch Arts will have a paint night for two age groups on Feb. 25.

At the Teen Manga Paint Night, for students in grades 6-12, teens will learn how to paint their own manga character. This event will run from 7-9 p.m. Meanwhile, from 6-7:30 p.m., students in grades 3-5 can participate in a Spring-Themed Paint Night.

Both events are \$15 and will be held at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. Space is limited for the Spring-Themed Paint Night, so register at [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org). The Teen Manga Paint Night is open to walk-ins.

### Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

**Sunday School:** Sunday school programs are offered for children ages 3-11 during Worship.

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

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

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

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### Quilt Show to Return – Quilts Needed

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will host a Quilt Show and Plant Sale in May – and quilts are needed.

The show will run Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 8, from noon-5 p.m., at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck. Along with a display of dozens of handmade quilts, plants and a Bits and Pieces Sale of fabric, yarn and quilting supplies will be featured under tents outdoors, along with “to go” baked items. Picnic tables will be available for visitors to rest. Monetary donations to the show will be collected.

Attendees should wear a mask and adhere to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. The church and restroom are handicapped-accessible.

Handmade quilts of any size will be accepted for inclusion in the show. Quilts will be accepted at the church Thursday, May 5, from 5-7 p.m., and Friday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, contact Dianne Mchutchison at 860-930-8520 or rdmchutchison@yahoo.com, Melissa Pionzio at 860-993-5311 or mapionzio@comcast.net, or Elizabeth Malloy at elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com.

### Sponsors Sought for Music Series

The Joseph N. Goff House seeks individuals, local businesses and organizations to help sponsor the 2022 Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Music Series, which takes place six Thursdays during the summer at the Center School Gazebo in the East Hampton Village Center.

Donations helps to pay for the bands and promotional materials such as the Gazebo Banner naming top sponsors and posters featuring the concert lineup. Sponsors will be listed by donations level, Baritone, \$250; Soprano, \$150;

Alto, \$75; Tenor, \$50; and Bass, \$25 in promotional materials and posters displayed around town and on the banner at the gazebo throughout the concert season.

The Joseph N. Goff House is a nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible. New members to the board are welcome. Call 860-918-4400 for information. Donations can be mailed to The Joseph N. Goff House, P.O. Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424.

### Antique Appraisal Day

The Chatham Historical Society will host its 26th annual Antique Appraisal Day Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the new Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

There will be three appraisers, some in person and some virtual. Verbal appraisals will be given on furniture, artwork, glassware, china, musical instruments, military pieces, dolls, jewelry, quilts as well as European, Asian, and island items, and more.

There is a suggested donation of \$6 per item for this event. This is a fundraiser for the con-

tinual upkeep of the society’s two museum buildings and 1840 one-room schoolhouse on Bevin Boulevard. Tax-exempt donations to the Chatham Historical Society, a non-profit 501c3 entity, can also be made at this event.

Masks are required and seating will be set up, with sufficient spacing between each person. For more information, call 860-267-9953. Visit chathamhistoricalct.org or the Chatham Historical Society’s Facebook page before the event, for any possible cancellation.

### Old Home Days to Return in July

The East Hampton Old Home Days Association has announced that the Old Home Days will return this summer, and will take place the third week in July this year – Thursday, July 14; Friday, July 15; and Saturday, July 16.

Vendors and those interested in selling food at the festival should contact Linda Wallace, Vendors and Booths Chair, to register, at VendorsOHD.PO213@aol.com or 860-267-9952. A packet of information will be sent to all interested parties by email. It will contain a contract

and a statement of the rules and regulations along with the fee schedule for a space and electricity, if that is applicable.

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

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

### EHACC Accepting Grant Applications

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

There are two \$500 grants available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. The commission reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and

organizational quality of the organization and/or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success; and the organization’s or project’s accessibility and service to the East Hampton community. Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. An update of your progress will be required six months post-award date and a final report will be required one year post award date.

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

### Xavier Honor Roll

The following East Hampton students made the Xavier High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year:

**High Honors:** Grade 12: Nicholas Connors, Matthew Fuffo, Dylan Levesque, Wyatt McElroy, Liam Sheeley. Grade 11: Julian Henderson, Christian Motto, Zachary Potter, Evan Riegler. Grade 10: Euan Hall, Kyle Levesque, Calan Lindsay. Grade 9: Gavin Peterson, High Honors.

**Honors:** Grade 12: Noah Howell, Shea Krassner, Jake Oliva, Chase Vitale. Grade 11: Peter O’Brien. Grade 10: Luke DeAngelis, Jacob Fagan, Cameron Nephew. Grade 9: Christopher Brown, Donovan Burke, Samuel Marsh.

### Parks and Rec. Selling Hockey Tix

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

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

### Motion of the Ocean

Arlene Cavalieri, a local artist, will represent the East Hampton Art Association with several paintings in the Chatham Gallery of the East Hampton Town Hall during February and March.

February’s theme is “Motion of the Ocean,” and March’s theme is “A Tiger Among Us.”

The public is invited to stop by during East Hampton’s town hall hours to view her paintings.

### Fabric Donations Wanted

Haddam Neck Congregational Church Ladies Aid is accepting donations of fabric, yarn and quilting supplies for the Bits and Pieces sale to be featured at the annual Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show on May 7 and 8.

Donations can be dropped off at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, Sundays from 11 a.m.-noon, or call Darcey Yuille at 860-301-4991 or Melissa Pionzio at 860-993-5311 to make arrangements.

### Artwork on Display

Local craftsman, hiker and naturalist – and also watercolor artist – Bill McDonald has his work on display this month at Middle Haddam Public Library, located at 2 Knowles Rd.

Viewing hours are Mondays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesdays, 3-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Fridays, 3-6 p.m.

### Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates is offering scholarships for local high school seniors entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1,000 scholarships given – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM school district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

Application deadline is April 1. For an application, visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) or ask your school’s guidance counselor.

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## Class of '82 40th Reunion

Did you graduate from RHAM High School in 1982? If so, it's hard to believe, but it's been 40 years since everyone walked up the ramp to the gym, hung out at Cumberland Farms, or put on the Blue and Gold graduation gown.

So, there will be a 40th Reunion of the Class of 1982 at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron on Saturday, Aug. 13. The event will be in the evening; specific time and additional details will follow. Find out more by joining the Facebook group "RHAM High School Class of '82" or email Sara Tarca at sarastarc@comcast.net for information or an RSVP.

## Project Graduation Celebration Coming Soon

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

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

## HAMR Softball Spring Registration

HAMR Recreational youth fast pitch softball is open to players residing in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

HAMR Softball has several different divisions open for girls 4 to 13 years old. The spring season runs from mid-March to June. For more information and registration, visit [www.hamrsoftball.org](http://www.hamrsoftball.org).

There will also be fast-pitch softball winter clinics, held at the RHAM Middle School gymnasium.

For more information and to register for clinics, go to [www.hamrsoftball.org](http://www.hamrsoftball.org).

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## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

**Shopping Trips:** Tuesdays. Masks required on bus and in stores. Willimantic on March 1, 15 and 29; Manchester on March 8 and 22.

**Young at Heart:** Wednesday, March 16, 12:30 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. There will be bingo, cake and ice cream.

**Movie:** Wednesday, March 23, 1 p.m., in the Town Hall community room, shown by Sue

## Youth Baseball Registration Ending

RHAM Youth Baseball spring registration closes March 3. Families residing in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough should visit [www.rhamyouthbaseball.org](http://www.rhamyouthbaseball.org) to create a profile and register their children.

There will be no late registrations allowed.

Also, RHAM Youth Baseball has a scholarship fund for families that have experienced a financial hardship. Contact league treasurer Eric May at [ericmay51@gmail.com](mailto:ericmay51@gmail.com) for more information.

## Budget Public Hearing

The RHAM Board of Education will host a public budget forum Monday, Feb. 28, from 6-7 p.m., in the high school auditorium.

The forum will provide members of the RHAM community with an overview of the proposed 2022-23 schools budget, as well as an opportunity to ask questions. The proposed 2022-23 budget is available for review on the RHAM website at <https://sites.google.com/rhamschools.org/rhambudgetinformation/home>.

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or remotely using the following link: Meeting Link [meet.google.com/zat-qxnz-cn](https://meet.google.com/zat-qxnz-cn). They can also join by phone at 1-929-251-5563. PIN is 876 732 771#.

## Football Friends Annual Meeting

Friends of RHAM High School Football (FORF) will hold its annual meeting to elect officers and directors Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club, 180 West St, Hebron.

Anyone interested in learning more or running for a position should attend or contact Ethan Brysgel at [Ebrysgel@hotmail.com](mailto:Ebrysgel@hotmail.com).

Schmidt. Call Palazzi for a ride.

**Senior Lunch Returns:** Friday, March 25, in the Town Hall community room. Menu will be chicken, broccoli, rice, rolls, dessert. Those restricted from eating meat may choose a meatless grinder. Call Palazzi for reservations and/or a ride.

**Equipment Available:** If anyone needs equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers or ramps, contact Palazzi.

**Rides** to all town events, town meetings, referendums or board meetings, and all medical appointments and trips to Foodshare van and food pantry at First Congregational Church, are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you. Masks must be worn.

**Food Deliveries:** If you need a food delivery, let Palazzi know.

## Students Invited to Write About Andover

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

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

Compositions should be received by June 1. Submit compositions to [tinawilsey@gmail.com](mailto:tinawilsey@gmail.com).

## Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2022-23 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is full-day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2022, are asked to contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet or access it at [www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org).

Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten, not attend school until the following year, or who will be home-schooling are asked to inform the school of this decision.

com. Please include the teacher's name and email. The 175th committee will notify the teacher of the winning student by June 22, and will work with the teacher to finalize all details.

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

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

## Pollinators in Our Yards

Andover Public Library will hold a program entitled Pollinators in Our Yards Wednesday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall community room.

Andover resident Carrie Crompton, a Goodwin Master Naturalist, will describe ways to encourage the insects that pollinate native plants as well as the garden vegetables and flowers in your own yards. Her PowerPoint program will highlight the most common pollinators and what they need to complete their life cycles.

All are invited to attend this free program. RSVP isn't necessary, but is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

★ Shocked cont. from page 1

that occurred after the game "has caused a great deal of harm to the students, families and members of both communities." He went on to say that such incidents "can trigger members of our community, specifically our black students and families who may experience these events as a continual source of trauma."

Burt added that "a result of the accusations surrounding the incident," Colchester players and families have been harmed by social media attacks and threats to their livelihoods.

"Our community has experienced harm caused by accusations of widespread racism and a growing public perception that Colchester is inherently a racist community," Burt wrote.

Then, in a separate section under the heading "Other Allegations," Burt wrote that was "no evidence that any person made any racist comments during the basketball game" and that a comment heard on the video of the game "may sound like a racial slur, but the lack of any response at that moment by anyone in the gymnasium leads us to believe that is not what was actually said in real time."

Burt did not immediately respond to an email Wednesday asking for clarification if he was admitting in the statement that Colchester parents had directed a racial slur toward Ledyard

players.

A woman who answered the phone in Burt's office Wednesday said Burt had "no further comments at this time."

Hartling said after the post-game incident "came to light," the district received a "litany" of accusations about other comments made during the game and that "multiple allegations came into the fray" but that the district had not investigated those.

"Those other allegations really put the Colchester kids in the spotlight," Hartling said.

As to the post-game incident, however, he said students had identified the parents involved.

"As we said those parents who created a disturbance and/or used racial slurs won't be allowed back in our schools," he said. "We have students who experienced that hate and reported it to us immediately after the game."

Ledyard Police Chief John Rich, who said last week that his department was investigating the incident, did not immediately return a call Wednesday asking for the status of the investigation.

Bisbikos on Wednesday declined further comment until police complete their investigation into the incident.

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## Community Fund Issues Call to Apply for 2022 Grant Money

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving established a \$100,000 Greater Together Community Fund for each of the 29 towns in the foundation's region – which includes the town of Andover.

The purpose of the Greater Together Community Funds is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in their towns, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement and anchor the Hartford Foundation in each town. In 2020, the original Andover Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee was selected. The current committee members are: Marianella Chalfant and Dianne Grenier (co-chairmen), Michele DeLuco, Kirsten Erlandsen, Suzanne Heise, Lori LaCroix, Amy March, Selena Martin and Bill Penn.

Andover's Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee has released its open call for 2022 project proposals. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to one or more

proposals. All projects must benefit the residents of Andover. For more details on project guidelines and how to apply, visit [hfpg.org/Andovercf](http://hfpg.org/Andovercf) or contact Grenier at 860-742-3033 or [Deardianne@Comcast.net](mailto:Deardianne@Comcast.net). Project applications or grant proposals will be accepted until May 1.

Andover's Greater Together Community

Fund Advisory Committee approved grants to the following groups in 2021:

Andover Historical Society: \$250 for the purchase of three brass plaques to identify the historical meeting house stone, case paper mill dam, and the Baptist Church stepping stone.

Andover SustainableCT committee, Town of Andover: \$411 to assist in the creation of a community garden. The initial phase will have 16 beds for residents to rent. In addition, the garden will function as an outdoor classroom to demonstrate sustainable food production and gardening.

Andover Friends of the Library: \$1,082 for the creation of an outdoor space with a tent, portable PA system, stands, cables, and a microphone for outdoor programming and events.

Town of Andover, Veterans Affairs: \$3,000 to support the purchase of three flag poles for the Veterans Monument Park.

Andover PTA: \$6,000 to support the construction of an outdoor learning/community space.

The Greater Together Community Funds also create an opportunity for organizations and individuals to make tax-deductible contributions to any of the funds to support their towns. There have been several contributions to Greater Together Community Funds and all donations are welcome.

## Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School is provided. 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](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://www.andoverctchurch.org).

**Food Pantry:** Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. Masks not required for the fully vaccinated. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the

church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is March 2. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is March 9.

**Faith-Sharing:** Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Prayer Requests:** Need prayer? Contact the church and leave a message.

**Sunshine Stammers:** This group meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at the church to make greeting cards. All are invited.

## Andover Preschool Screening

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

The screening will be held differently this school year due to the ongoing pandemic. School staff will send home an age-appropriate questionnaire for you to fill out about your child. The questions are in the areas of speech,

language, cognitive, and motor development. Parents will then receive information which will assist in fostering their child's growth, if needed.

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

There will be one more screening, on Friday, May 20.

## East Catholic Honor Roll

Andover residents Benjamin Carso and Melanie Plausse made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year.

Carso is a member of the Class of 2022, and Plausse is a member of the Class of 2025.

## Collecting for Tag Sale

The Andover Seniors are collecting donations for the annual tag sale to raise funds for the senior lunch program. The tag sale will likely be held in mid-May. Call Carol Lee at 860-989-6988 to arrange for drop-off/pick-up of items.

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**Vera Glemboski and Don Standish are lifelong friends, and neighbors at Harrington Court.**

### Lifelong Friends at Harrington Court

Don Standish and Vera Glemboski are friends and neighbors at Harrington Court, but their history goes back long before their admission to the facility. They have both lived in Colchester for a combined 170 years.

Glemboski was born in 1924 and lived on Halls Hill Road for almost her entire life. Her father settled in Colchester to start the Levine & Levine coat factory, after working in New York City as a coat maker. She married and raised her children in her beloved hometown. Glemboski has many family members in the area with Colchester ties.

Standish's family lived in the farmlands of Colchester on a road that is now known as Standish Road, named after the many Standish-

es who lived and farmed there. His brother Bill still farms on the family land. Standish said he stayed in Colchester because "if it's not in Colchester, you don't need it."

When Glemboski could no longer stay at home, she chose to live at Harrington Court. Standish chose Harrington Court as his home because his wife had worked as a nurse in the facility and she knew many of the staff.

The two were pleased to find out that they were living in the same community. Standish has known Glemboski for his entire life. They visit and talk daily and spend time with each other's families when they visit. Harrington Court has become their community within their lifelong community of Colchester.

### Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Lorincz. 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 required. For those wishing to worship from home, the service will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship videos are at [www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org) under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

**Ash Wednesday:** March 2. Lorincz will offer Ashes-to-Go from 7-9 a.m. in front of the church. There will also be an Ash Wednesday

worship service at 7 p.m. All are Welcome.

**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.

### Bacon Academy Honor Roll

Bacon Academy has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year.

#### Honors with Distinction

**Grade 9:** Emma Anderson, Kaitlyn Brennan, Alexa Chiarella, Madison Coons, Dominic Cusano, John Dalton, Elizabeth Gould, Lilliana Healy, Caitryn Holt, Isha Kansagara, Tanner Kundahl, Fiona Lin, Ethan LoVetere, Emilee Pac, Kevin Reas, Charles Rose, Alex Sanchez, Chase Vendrillo, Anastasia Violette.

**Grade 10:** Carolyn Baehr, Mia Belcamino, Abigail Belding, Logan Brown, Samantha D'Atri, Emily Ferrigno, Xavier Gudelski, Taylor Herboldt, Jara Hester, Mariam Kasli, Madelyn Koziol, Alexa Lebiszczak, Johannes Liebenberg, Sebastian Santini, Chelsea Smith, Kiera Stewart, Brianna Taskey, Luke Torneo, Daniel Wozniak.

**Grade 11:** Noah Auden, Olivia Carnelli, Kaylie Couch, Maya Crowell, Jillian Filloramo, Grace Gorreck Neely Hart, Anna LeGault, Meaghan Malone, Chloe Marshall, Ryan Moores, Gabrielle Papale, Kaitlyn Romprey, Lindsey Smith, Megan Swanke, Kaitlyn Tracey, Connor Tuttle, Mia Voiland, Elisabeth Westfeld.

**Grade 12:** Adrian Aivaliotis, Michael Barnett, Samuel Blumberger, Alexandra Brown, Austin Brown, Aidan Carroll, Faith Chantres, Samantha Ciaglo, Ryan Claffey, Erin Dalton, Caylin Davids, Annie-Mae England, Kayla Fillion, Jade Hostetler, Gracy Kane, Jordan Malloy, Emma Mancuso, Vincent May, Sage Muenzner, Andrew Navickas, Sokheta Nguon, Jasmyne Ouellette, Luke Pennella, Maryanne Ringuette, Kristine Robida, Jordan Rodgers, Alexandra Skilton, Bethany Steinman, Sarah Tupper, Caitlin Wargat, Emily Witkovic, Ezequiel Zurita.

#### High Honors

**Grade 9:** Jackson Budrow, Zoe Carlson, Julia Carrington, Julia Cavaliere, Birch Collins, Brooke Dean, Weston Dzwonchyk, Isabella Falkowski, Amber Hostetler, Anthony Liu, Juliana Martino, Sophia Melo, Katelyn Novak, Audrey Palmer, Marissa Parola, Tristan Pedroso, Dominique Sanchez, Chloe Sanders, Veronica Smith.

**Grade 10:** Kayla Balsler, Madison Brown, Jonathan Curry, Grace Eveleigh, Garrett Geney, Sean Jolly, Aisha Kasli, Emma Liberty, Christopher Lusignan, Maya Mancuso, Kaylee Marshall, Sophie Melmed, Amanda Waters.

**Grade 11:** Annalia Benitez-Goodale, Brianna Berthiaume, Alexander Constant, Grace Galarneau, Camryn Grasso, Jack Holmes, Michelle Jolly, Samantha Kinsey, Lillian Litwinko, David Marino, Theresa Mathieu, Layla Meekins, Marissa Nudd, Mitchell Rathbone, Isabelle Richards, Brooke Rodgers, Michael Shoemaker, Jordyn Tassmer, Joselyn Thomson, Miranda Waters, Samantha Willauer, Isabella Wood.

**Grade 12:** Laney Barrett, Emma Ceruti, Connor Denecour, Avery Denker, Ella Dubiel, Gianna Duckworth, William Girard, Kelly Goodwin, Wilson Hathaway, Luke Jenkins, Matthew Kranc, Calem LePage, Aidan McLoughlin, Sarah Newton, Elspeth Robertson, Sophie Rose, Jessica Schuth, Joely Stella, Evelyn Toennes, Jennifer Whipple, Aidan Zimmitti.

#### Honors

**Grade 9:** Avery Anderson, Natalie Arbuckle, Elias Chiaverini, Alixandre Cochran, Clark

England, Jacob Girard, Edward Hageman, Bailey Handwerk, Ivy Huang, Benjamin Jordan, Nicholas June, Matthew Kennedy, Oliver Markham, Rylee McKenzie, Mason Pingree, Madden Roderick, Alexia Rodriguez, Gavin Shkutzko, Sawyer Simone, Olivia Sobota, Luke Southworth, Eve Svata, Morgan Tyrrell, Jason Zingler, Meghan Zingler, Daniel Zurita.

**Grade 10:** Allison Bartiss, Illiana Blanco, Jonah Brownson, McKayleigh Capone, Sarah Churchill, Kevin Claffey, Emyliah Colon, Avatar Disher, Andrew Ferrigno, Dimitra Goncalves, Maya Goodwin, Brady Gould, Jessica-Willow Harris, Owen Ibey, Jace King, Isabella Koopman, Gabriella Korczak, Theodore Koutsofavas, Logan Lammey, Gabriel Mahon, Jack Mallett, Neil Malloy, Melinda McKenzie, Lydia Muhl, Dylan Opalenik, Rohan Patel, Tyler Pulse, Audra Putorti, Kaie Quimby, Samuel Ringuette, Jazlyn Small-Yu, Olivia Teller, Meghan Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Juan Yanez, Freddy Zhang.

**Grade 11:** Jazmin Adams, Olivia Adams, Danielle Benoit, Elijah Black, Alexander Blanchette, Megan Braga, Benjamin Burger, Henry Callan, Amber Capaldi, Cecelia Carnelli, James Chiaverini, Emmet Day, Austin Dinsmoor, Gavin Emmons, Jaden Espejo, Andrew Fick, Catherine Field, Charles Gionfriddo, Sophia Goodine, Grace Graff, Luke Grimord, Rhannon Higgins, Robert June, Matthew LaRosa, Vivian Lubinsky, Jake Martino, Nico Matteucci, Ariel Nair, Tyler Pennington, Zachary Perreault, Simon Pike, Mason Romanowski, Grace Saldana, Ian Sargent, Kaitlyn Sierra, Amber Sullivan, Michael Vilardo.

**Grade 12:** Caleb Arbuckle, Josiah Banks, Daniel Blanda, Kyle Brogden, Claudia Chesnes, Jaianna Dechalus, Emily Farrington, Trinity Gonzales, Connor Gordon, Matthew Guerriere, Skylar Gustavsen, Aiden Gyngell, Nathan Harasimowitz, Cole Harrison, Brennan Hester, Anastasia Korzhoff, Nicholas Lang, Matthew Lizotte, Matthew McCune, Samuel Miller, Catherine Misbach, Daniel Morytko, Isabel Murphy, Tyler Nguyen, John Novak, Josiah Perkins, Isha Rana, Jayson Robitaille, Zoe Rondeau, Jordyn Scutnik, Madison Simone, Ashton Sullivan.

### Lions Offering Scholarships

The Colchester Lions would like to invite all Colchester residents that are in their senior year of high school to apply for one of several scholarships they award.

The Lions consider applications from all graduating students planning to attend any accredited college, university or trade school, regardless of which public, private, charter or magnet high school they attend as well as home-schooled students.

Applications are available through the Bacon Academy guidance office in February or on the Colchester Lions website, [colchesterlions.org](http://colchesterlions.org). For more information, contact Elizabeth Bessette at [elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com).

Bacon Academy students should submit their application to the Bacon Academy Guidance office. All other students should email their application to [elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com) or mail to Colchester Lions Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415.

Applications must be received by Monday, March 14.

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**Colchester Cares...** Since summer 2020, the group Colchester Cares has been making donations every quarter to support various town causes. In its most recent donation, \$1,650 was given to Freezin' for a Reason, an annual initiative that raises money for the Colchester Fuel Bank; \$825 was given to Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3); and \$825 worth of local food and clothing gift cards were donated to Colchester Youth and Social Services. To date, Colchester Cares has donated over \$15,000 to support the community. Visit [www.colchestercares.org](http://www.colchestercares.org) to learn how donations are supporting the town and to get involved. Pictured here are a few Colchester Cares members gathered on the Town Green recently, in support of Freezin' for a Reason.

### Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2022-23 school year is now open. Children who reside in Colchester and will be age 5 by Jan. 1, 2023, are eligible to register for the full-day program.

New registrations must be completed online, at [www.colchesterct.org](http://www.colchesterct.org). Select the "for families" tab and on the drop-down menu, click on the tab for "Registration and Residency." Complete and submit the pre-enrollment form and then follow the necessary steps outlined on the website.

Parents and guardians will need to make an appointment with the Board of Education office once all required online enrollment forms are completed.

Call 860-537-7267 to make an appointment. Registration appointment hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A list of required documents can be found on the website.

### School Readiness Grant Proposals

C3 invites center-based child care programs to submit a Request for Proposal application to the Colchester School Readiness Council. If you are a center-based program caring for young children in Colchester, then you may be eligible to apply for School Readiness funds.

RFP documents will be shared and instructions on how to complete and submit an application will be provided upon request. For more information, email [cpraisner@colchesterct.org](mailto:cpraisner@colchesterct.org) or call 860-537-0717. Applications are due by March 9.

### Military Honor Guard Seeks Members

When a veteran dies the family can request military honors by providing evidence of military service to the funeral home. The Connecticut National Guard will coordinate to ensure the participation of its members and local volunteer organizations at the funeral honors ceremony.

A volunteer service organization that aids in providing "military honors" is the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard. The 20-plus member unit is actively looking for veterans to become members, so that it can continue to provide funeral honors to all deceased veterans. The Honor Guard meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7-8 p.m., in the Veterans Room of Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. Interested veterans are welcome.

Most funeral honors are performed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

For more information, call Al Letendre at 860-537-6516.

### Butter Braid Fundraiser

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild is sponsoring a fundraiser selling Butter Braid Pastry and Joyful Tradition Cake Rolls.

The fundraiser ends Sunday, March 21. Delivery date will be Tuesday, April 5, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at St. Andrew parish hall, located at 128 Norwich Ave. Order forms are at all church entrances, and online ordering is available at [tinyurl.com/2p87r3rm](http://tinyurl.com/2p87r3rm). There is also the opportunity to donate item(s) to the Colchester Food Bank.

Profits will benefit the Guild's annual High School and College Scholarship Fund.

For more information, call Kathleen Hastings at 860-917-7616.

### Land Trust Scholarship Available

Applications for the 2022 Colchester Land Trust (CLT) scholarship for \$1,000 are available.

The scholarship will be presented to a Bacon Academy graduating senior who has expressed an interest in pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher level of education in a field of science related to preservation of undeveloped land, natural resources or biological species, and has demonstrated that interest through excellent academic performance and service to the community while attending Bacon Academy.

Applications can be obtained through the Bacon Academy guidance department. Deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 11.

### Cragin Book Club to Meet

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m., at the library, 8 Linwood Ave.

*Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson will be discussed. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk. For updates on the program, sign up at [tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub](http://tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub).

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 860-537-5752.

### CBSL Spring Registration

Registration for the Colchester Baseball and Softball League's spring 2022 season is now open. Youth age 4-16 are welcome to join.

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

### Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trips for 2022. Reservations should be made in person at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave. Trips are available to senior center members and adult guests over the age of 18, and are on a first-come, first-served basis; space is limited. Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.

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

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

**New York Botanical Gardens:** Wednesday, April 20. The day will start in Little Italy, featuring lunch at Ann & Tony's Restaurant, then a trip to the gardens, to explore over 50 collections that are located throughout the 250 acres. Bus will depart at 7 a.m. and return at 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$129/person.

**New York City Day Trip:** Monday, May 9. Bus departs at 7 a.m. Start your day at the 9/11 Museum, which serves as the country's principal institution concerned with the events of Sept. 11, 2001. You will have time to view both the museum and the twin reflecting pools. Spend some time in the afternoon at Chelsea Market for lunch on your own. Ascend to the top of the World Trade Center. Return in Colchester will be approximately 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$130/person, payable by cash or check.

### 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](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center). Items marked with a (CC) are held via conference call.

**Upcoming Program: How to Attract Birds to Your Property:** Friday, March 11, 10:30 a.m. Interested in learning how to attract birds to your yard? The Connecticut Audubon Society will share tips. Cost for this program is \$5.

### BOE Budget Meetings

Budget season is here – and the Colchester Board of Education has several related meetings coming up.

On Tuesday, March 8, the superintendent's 2022-23 proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Education at 6 p.m. The school board will then hold budget workshops Tuesdays, March 15, 22 and (if needed) 29, at 6 p.m. each night. A budget public hearing to present the proposed spending plan will be held Tuesday, April 5. On April 20, a budget public hearing special meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m.

The budget referendum is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 17.

### Next Boy Scout Shredding Event

Due to the availability of a shredding truck, Boy Scout Troop 72 will not be able to run a financial records shredding event as it had planned for April. It cannot get the shredding company on any date for an event this spring.

However, the troop is planning to hold this event in the fall, in September or October, so people are asked to keep their financial, business and medical records until then, when they can again be safely disposed of.

Email Al Letendre at [letendrej@sbcglobal.net](mailto:letendrej@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

\$130/person, payable by cash or check.

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

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

**Cabaret at Goodspeed Opera House:** Wednesday, June 8, 11 a.m. This Tony Award-winning musical will play the Goodspeed for the very first time. Trip also includes lunch at the Gelston House before the matinee performance and transportation on the senior bus. Registration is required by May 25.

### Rotary to Award Scholarships

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

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

For more information, contact Marlene Blumberger at the Bacon Academy counseling office, at [mblumberger@colchesterct.org](mailto:mblumberger@colchesterct.org). Deadline for scholarship applications is Friday, March 11.

### Soccer Club to Award Scholarships

Colchester Soccer Club will be awarding two scholarships to the graduating class of 2022.

To be eligible for consideration you must be a Colchester resident that participated in the Colchester Soccer Club program, played soccer during one year of high school (either school team, Rec or Premier), be in good academic standing, and plan on attending a school of higher education in the fall.

Applications are due by March 11 and can be picked up in the Bacon Academy guidance office or received electronically by contacting Lauren Faber at [lauren.faber@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:lauren.faber@colchestersoccer.org).

### REPORTER

The Rivereast News Bulletin seeks responsible, highly motivated, self-starting reporter to cover Colchester on a part-time basis. Duties include covering breaking news, town government, police news and writing feature stories. Experience preferred but not required.

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**Parks & Rec News**

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions and more information, call 860-537-7297 or email parksandrec@colchesterct.gov. More information, including weather-related cancellations, is also at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. The Parks and Rec. office is located at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

**Teen Leaders:** Teen Leaders work alongside Summer Day Camp staff. Training will be provided. Teens must be 14 by the start of camp on June 27. Deadline to apply is March 31; applicants will be contacted shortly after the deadline for an interview with camp staff. Selected teens will get to choose which weeks they volunteer at camp, and must attend camp every day as agreed upon. Teen Leader fee is \$50 per week. For more information, call Parks and Rec. Applications are also available online.

**Summer Day Camp:** Day camp registration will begin March 1. Summer camp will be held Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., from June 27-Aug. 19. Extended Care will be available from 3-5 p.m. Camp is available to children entering grades K-7 in the fall of 2022. Camp dates are June 27-Aug. 19. The weekly themes and activity schedule are online, as are the cost, registration process and more. For more information,

call Parks and Rec.

**Summer Concerts in the Park – Sponsors Wanted:** Parks and Rec. is looking for sponsors for its Summer Concerts in the Park. It has already booked two bands, and hopes to book the other two soon. The concerts will be held Thursdays, Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 28, from 6-8 p.m. If interested in sponsoring, call Parks and Rec.

**New York On Your Own Bus Trip:** Sunday, May 1. The deluxe motor coach will depart from the Colchester Town Hall at 7 a.m. and transport passengers to New York City. The motor coach will pick up passengers at 7 p.m. and bring them back to Colchester. Fee: \$60/resident, \$65/non-resident. Registration deadline: April 18. Minimum number of passengers needed is 45, maximum is 54.

**Card-Making Class:** March 9 and April 6. All materials needed for each card are included in the cost and will be given out at the beginning of each class. A minimum of two and a maximum of six are needed to hold the class. Meets at 1 p.m. at Town Hall or 6 p.m. at the senior center. Cost: \$15 per person.

**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.

**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.

**CYSS News and Notes**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ladies Guild 2022 Trips**

Saint Andrew's Ladies Guild is offering the following trips to the community:

**May 11-13:** See Sight and Sounds Theatre's new show, *David*. Trip includes transportation, two nights' hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary, including a ride on the Strasburg Railroad and visiting an actual Amish home. Cost is \$585/person double.

**Aug. 14-15:** See and hear the Boston Pops on Old Cape Cod, cruise Hyannis Harbor and visit

the JFK Museum. Cost is \$409/person double, and includes transportation, hotel, one breakfast, one dinner, sightseeing and admissions.

**Sept. 3-18:** Trans-Atlantic Cruise, visiting Copenhagen, Norway, Iceland, Greenland. Price starts at \$2,999, and includes air transportation to Copenhagen. Travelers must follow the protocols set-in-place by the travel company.

For more information, call Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179 or Cathy Russi at 860-887-9621.

**Westchester Church News**

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongregationchurch.org for login information.

The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-perishable food items and other items. All are welcome to give or take a few items.

For more information, email westcongregationchurch@gmail.com, visit the church website, or look for the church on Facebook.

**Scholarship Available**

A memorial scholarship fund has been established in honor of the late Dorothy Mrowka of Colchester.

The \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating Bacon Academy student who will pursue a career in political science or government service. Applications are available in the Bacon counseling office and must be returned there no later than March 11.

Anyone interested in donating to the scholarship fund in memory of Dot may send a check written to Bacon Academy with "Dorothy Mrowka Scholarship" noted directly to the school at 611 Norwich Ave, attention Danielle Boise.

**#Colchester4Kids**

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

The campaign was kicked off with a Relationship Challenge, where all Colchester families are invited to participate in activities from the Challenge checklist and post photos to social media with the hashtag. Families are encouraged to do more together and let their children choose as much as possible. Prizes will be awarded every week in February for pick up at Cragin Library during open hours.

To obtain the checklist and learn more about what's behind #Colchester4kids, visit www.colchester3.org/colchester4kids.

**Scholarship Available**

Carl Guild and Associates is offering a scholarship to a local high school senior entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1,000 scholarships given – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM school district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

Application deadline is April 1. For an application, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor.

**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.

**Mercy Honor Roll**

The following Colchester students made the Mercy High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year:

**High Honors:** Junior: Sarah Lynch; Sophomore: Tallulah Malz.

**Honors:** Senior: Sydney Barber, Calle Dennis; Sophomore: Katherine Grelotti.

**Xavier Honor Roll**

The following Colchester students made the Xavier High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year:

**High Honors:** Grade 12: Austin Zwick; Grade 10: Noah Bergquist.

**Honors:** Grade 12: Chase Bischoff, David DeTuccio III; Grade 9: Colton Bischoff.

**Dean's List**

Rachel Wells, daughter of Steve Wells and Ilyse Wells of Colchester, made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

Wells, a member of the equestrian team and the Class of 2024, had a 4.0 GPA and is an honors student in Endicott College's Gerrish School of Business as an accounting major.

**'Community Night of Giving' is Coming**

The Colchester Lions Club will hold its traditional Community Night of Giving Wednesday, April 13. Community organizations wishing to apply for grant funding can do so at colchesterlions.org.

All applications must be received by Tuesday, March 15.

**Ahavath Achim News**

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

Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., Zoom; Shabbat morning hybrid service, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, Aggadatan class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter Facebook on the meaning of mitzvot (commandments) and daily Conversational Hebrew classes. There is a Jewish literacy book discussion and Hebrew conversation Fridays at 1 p.m.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday; 1:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday; and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday.

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**Keep Christ in Christmas...** The St. John Fisher Knights of Columbus Council of Marlborough presented certificates and prizes to the three age-group winners of the 2021 "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. Winners are, from left, Delaney Jordan (age 5-7); Grace Jordan (age 8-10) and Rebecca Koonankel (age 11-14).

**Parks and Rec Programs**

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

**Program Note:** Don't wait until the last minute to register, Parks and Rec. said. Most classes require a minimum registration and if that requirement is not fulfilled by a certain date, the program may be canceled. Also, all in-person classes are subject to change to virtual programs based on COVID-19 developments.

**Youth Programs: Acrylic Landscape Painting:** For grades 3-6. Wednesdays, March 2-23, 3:30-5 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Students will be guided through the techniques of landscape painting. All materi-

als are provided. Students should bring a snack. Fee is \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

**American Red Cross Babysitting Course:** For ages 11 and up. Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the senior center. Each participant will receive a Red Cross babysitting certificate upon completion of the course. Registration fee is \$125/residents, \$130/non-residents.

**Adult Programs: Barre/Pilates:** Mondays through Feb. 28, 5-5:45 p.m. Fee is \$15 per day to drop in. Class instruction is virtual or in person.

**Yoga:** Through Feb. 28, 6-7 p.m. Fee is \$15 per week to drop in. Class instruction is virtual or in person.

**Adult Drop-In Volleyball:** Thursdays until June, 8-10 p.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School gym. Fee is \$5 per week.

**Book Discussion to Raise Refugee Awareness**

Marlborough Outreach, a volunteer, non-partisan civic group, is hosting a book discussion via Zoom Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m., to raise awareness for refugees. The organization Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services ([iristc.org](http://iristc.org)), headquartered in New Haven, is now welcoming evacuated Afghan families to nearby towns in Connecticut.

The selected book, *We Are Displaced* by Malala Yousafzai, is a memoir of her journey out of Pakistan after being shot in the face by the

Taliban in retaliation for advocating education for girls, and other stories from refugee girls around the world.

Copies of the book can also be found at Richmond Memorial Library, 15 School Drive; ask for the book at the counter under the name "Outreach Book Club."

To join the meeting, or for more information, email Andrea at [marlboroughoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughoutreach@gmail.com).

**'Round the Lake 5K**

The Marlborough Lions will hold their 38th annual 'Round the Lake 5K Road Race Sunday, May 29. The race will utilize electronic timing with computerized race results. The race starts promptly at 10:30 a.m. The race is a registered 5K.

The entry fee is \$30 and runners must be registered by the day prior to the race. Shirts will be guaranteed for those who pre-register by May 15 with additional shirts provided to runners as available. There is also a \$60 package price for groups of immediate family members participating in the race. Due to COVID-19, there will not be any same-day registrations. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will

proceed on a course, which circles Lake Teramuggas.

The Lions have available race sponsorships of \$100, \$250 and \$500. The business sponsor's information will be printed on the shirts handed out to runners.

To register, to sponsor, or for more information, contact Lion Tom Reiser at 860-295-8374 [TGREiser@comcast.net](mailto:TGREiser@comcast.net), or Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-295-9150. More info is also on the Marlborough Lions' Facebook page. Applications are also at various locations in town, including Liberty Bank, and people can register online at [www.hitekracing.com](http://www.hitekracing.com); click on "calendar" and then scroll down to the May 29 races.

**Arts Center Announces Members' Show**

The Marlborough Arts Center will hold a Members' Art Show in May – and is currently accepting submissions.

Artist members may enter up to three pieces of artwork, including paintings, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, fiber art, and wood turned works, which will be judged for awards. Beverley Fisher, director of the art department at RHAM High School, will judge.

Raised in England, Fisher attended Grimsby College of Art before moving to the United States. She continued her education in the USA, earning a bachelor's degree in art education from Central Connecticut State University and

her master's degree from Wesleyan University. She has worked as an art educator for 21 years at RHAM High School in Hebron. Fisher has shown her artwork regularly throughout the region in juried shows and private galleries.

The gallery at the Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., will be open weekends in May. An Opening Reception, featuring the presentation of awards, will take place on Sunday, May 1, from 2-4 p.m.

Membership dues must be up to date in order to participate in the show. The entry fee is \$25 for the first two pieces, and \$5 for a third. Paintings and artwork that is to be hung must be wired for hanging (no sawtooth hangers), and must measure no more than 36 inches in either direction, including frame.

A prospectus and entry forms can be downloaded from the Arts Center website: [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org). For more information, leave a voice message at 860-467-6353, or send an email to [marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com).

**President's List**

Jayna Baran of Marlborough made the fall 2021 President's List at Central Connecticut State University.

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### Richmond Library News & Notes

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

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

**Meet Polly the Penguin:** Polly the Penguin is new to Marlborough and she's been visiting the library. She gets a little curious at night when staff go home and goes exploring, often-times getting lost. Each Monday, she will move to a new location. She wants to meet all of the kids who love the library as much as she does and, if you find her, you'll earn a prize.

**Now Accepting Puzzle and Board Game Donations:** The Friends of the Richmond Memorial Library are now collecting new and gently used puzzle and board game donations for an upcoming sale to benefit the library. The library asks that all pieces be included in any donation.

**Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss:** Stop by the li-

brary between Wednesday, March 2, and Saturday, March 5, for some birthday fun. There will be a photo screen with photo props, a fishing game, a guessing jar, a book display, a Cat in the Hat STEAM Take & Make kit, goodie bags, and more. Giveaways are available while supplies last. Registration is not required.

**Las Vegas and the Mob:** Thursday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. The Mob Museum (also known as the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement) will discuss why the Mob came to Las Vegas and how they controlled its major casinos for decades.

**Friends of the Library:** New members are always sought for the Friends of the Library group. Some of the fundraising projects the Friends group are involved in include: the spring and fall book sales, board game and puzzle sales, a spring plant sale, and the holiday auction. Members of the Friends also help the library through projects like weeding and gardening as well as acting as advocates of the library to promote library services. Meetings are held the second Wednesday at the month at 6:30 p.m. If interested in attending the virtual meeting, email Library Director Aubrey Muscaro at amuscara@richmondlibrary.info.

### Congregational Church News & Notes

In-person Sunday worship has resumed at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St. Service begins at 10 a.m. Masks are requested. The Sunday worship service also broadcasts live every Sunday through mcc.marlbconchurch.org. The Feb. 27 service will be led by Pastoral Intern Val Seaver.

**Sunday School,** for children ages 3 to grade 8, is led by Christian Education Director Gwen Lawson at 10 a.m.

**Ash Wednesday Service:** March 2 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, with Holy Communion and receiving of ashes. Service led by senior pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber Jr.

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

**Mission Support** in February will go to Marlborough Food Bank. Donations to missions or for any other giving may be sent to the

church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447 or placed in an offering box on a Sunday.

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

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop:** The shop is fully stocked with new merchandise every week. Second Blessings is located on the ground floor and is open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Masks required. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. Items are also sold year-round 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 about the church or its programs, call the church office at 860-295-9050 or Faulhaber's direct line at 860-295-0432.

### Watercolor Classes Coming to Arts Center

Local artist Mary Horrihan will offer watercolor classes at Marlborough Arts Center this spring.

Classes will run Saturdays, March 19-April 30 (no class April 16), from 10 a.m.-noon each week. This set of lessons is designed for "All Levels of Beginner." Material lists will be sent once the class is confirmed with enough students registered.

Cost for the class is \$120. Download registration forms from [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org) and mail with a check to The Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447.

For more information, contact Mary Horrihan at [mehorrihan@comcast.net](mailto:mehorrihan@comcast.net) or leave her a voicemail at 860-467-6353.

### Concert Canceled

The Marlborough Arts Center's 4th Friday @ the Arts Café concert scheduled for tonight, Feb. 25, starring the Academy Project, has been canceled. This concert will be rescheduled for a later date.

### Kindergarten Registration

Marlborough Elementary School will accept registration packets for kindergarten students for the 2022-23 school year on Wednesday, March 2 (9-11:00 a.m., 1-2 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.) and Thursday, March 3 (9-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.). Due to current COVID-19 protocol, all completed kindergarten packets should be dropped off at the school's main office, located at 25 School Drive.

Children are eligible for kindergarten if they will be 5 years old by Jan. 1, 2023. Registration packets have been sent home to prospective kindergarteners. If you have an eligible child and have not received a registration packet, call the school office at 860-295-6220.

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

### Dean's List

Avery Rizza of Marlborough made the fall 2021 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

### Marlborough Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Marlborough Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 3. At this time the event is being planned for take-out orders only, but this will be reevaluated as the event gets closer to see if indoor seating will be provided.

The event will be held at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club on Planeta Road in Marlborough, which is located off of West Road just east of Exit 12 from Route 2. The Lions will be open for takeout orders from 7:45-11:45 a.m. The Lions will serve various varieties of pancakes along with sausage, ham, coffee and juice.

Tickets will be available for sale in advance of the event and drive-ups on the morning of the breakfast are welcome. Tickets are only

\$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for children 12 and under.

The success of this event is also dependent upon local businesses, which support the Lions in the form of \$25 sponsorships. Lions Club members will be contacting local businesses in advance of the breakfast and any business interested in providing a sponsorship is encouraged to contact the Lions.

For further information, to provide a sponsorship or to purchase tickets, call Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537, Tom Reiser at 860-295-8374 or Lions secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116. Also visit the Marlborough Lions Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/marlboroughlionsclubct](http://www.facebook.com/marlboroughlionsclubct) for more information on the event or to message the Lions.

### 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 [stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com).

**COVID-19 Protocol:** For the fully vaccinated, masks are optional. For the unvaccinated, masks are required. 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.

**Community Outreach and Service:** Food drives are held the second full weekend of each

month for Marlborough Food Bank; you may also bring food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Seasonal outreach to include the Community Garden to benefit the Marlborough Food Bank and various giving programs to support area organizations continue. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website, [www.stjfcchurch.org](http://www.stjfcchurch.org).

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

### Mercy Honor Roll

The following Marlborough students made the Mercy High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year:

**High Honors:** Senior: Elizabeth Brown. **Honors:** Senior: Jessica Goduto; Junior: Samantha Magro; Freshwomen: Cara Magro, Skylar Swanson.

### Dean's List

Marlborough residents Anielia Piel and Samantha Bodey made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Piel and Bodey are each working toward BSBA degrees in business analytics and information management.

### Historical Society Seeking Photos

The Marlborough Historical Society is looking for any photograph(s) that captures, directly or indirectly, the following locations and time periods:

First, any photo of Town Foods and/or any pictures of West Road in the 1980s. Second, any photos of the intersection of West Road and North Main Street in the 1950s depicting the houses that were there prior to the Route 2/Exit 12 construction.

If you have either of these locations in a photograph, you're asked to email [mhs@marlboroughhistory.org](mailto:mhs@marlboroughhistory.org) or call Romano Ghirlanda directly at 860-916-4031.

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# Think ‘Workforce,’ Not Just ‘Affordable’ Housing

by Jack Lakowsky

Marlborough Town Planner Peter Hughes presented on Tuesday the “Marlborough Affordable Sustainable Housing Choice Plan” in a well-attended forum, giving an array of information on everything from housing needs to demographic changes.

According to Marlborough First Selectman Greg Lowrey, Hughes was applauded at the presentation’s conclusion.

Lowrey said Marlborough is behind on its affordable housing stock. The state requires 10% of a town’s dwellings be considered affordable. Affordability is measured by a few metrics, including a town’s median income.

According to Hughes’ information just 2% of Marlborough’s housing is affordable.

Most of Marlborough’s housing, 92%, are single-family homes. Marlborough’s stock is aging, with 25% predating 1970 and an average unit age of more than 40 years old.

There’s been a steep decline in building permits since 1991, according to Hughes’ information.

According to the information 22% of homeowners spend more than 30% of their income on their home bills, while 52% of renters spend more than 30%.

Half of Marlborough seniors are below 60% of the area’s median income.

“There is a need for 1- and 2-bedroom housing units,” Hughes’ presentation reads. “There is a need to increase the number of housing

units [for rent].”

The percentage of rental units, 12% is well below the state average of 34%.

There’s also a need for senior housing opportunities, Hughes wrote.

Lowrey said local affordable senior housing is key for seniors looking to downsize and wanting to stay in Marlborough. Lowrey said the town’s population is beginning to age into senior citizens.

Hughes wrote affordable housing has a broad definition, encompassing apartments, townhouses and duplexes. It can house seniors, young families, single people and people with disabilities.

“It can also come in a range of architectural styles, making it virtually indistinguishable from other housing types,” Hughes said.

Hughes dispelled some affordable housing “myths and misconceptions.”

He said one misconception is that affordable housing depreciates property values. Hughes cited a trulia.com study that did not find a connection between affordable housing and nearby property values.

Affordable housing isn’t just about helping low or very low-income people, “it’s about improving business and raising the standards of working- and middle-class families.”

According to Hughes, affordable housing has a small to negligible effect on local tax rates.

Single-family homes bring more kids to local

schools than do affordable homes, he said.

A lack of affordable housing and its dwellers can slow economic growth, Hughes said, because there aren’t enough employees to fill jobs residents need. A balance of higher and lower income homes helps communities, he said.

“There is no correlation between safe, decent, affordable housing and [an increase in] crime,” according to Hughes.

In a Wednesday follow-up Lowrey told the *Rivereast* the frame of the conversation should shift from “affordable” housing to “workforce” housing, that there will be more people to offer their labor to town needs.

Speaking from his role as a crew member, Lowrey said Marlborough is lucky to enjoy a robust-and inexpensive- local ambulance service with high morale and participation.

Lowrey said the town pays a fraction of the \$400,000 it could pay with a fully employed crew.

“I bring this up because a possible aspect of

affordable housing is it could promote and continue our vibrant volunteerism,” Lowrey said.

Lowrey said, in general, new volunteers to ambulance and fire services are young and of lower income. He said people in this demographic would benefit from an affordable place to live and the modest stipend the town pays for emergency work.

“This illustrates how affordable housing isn’t anything to be afraid of,” said Lowrey. “There are members of town in the target group for this type of housing.”

Lowrey pointed out affordable housing shouldn’t be confused with Section 8 or voucher housing.

Lowrey said a goal of all this work is to return housing accessibility to what it was in the past. Lowrey said years ago, “[Pratt & Whitney] engineers and machinists were neighbors.”

Lowrey said Marlborough’s a hot item for real estate right now, with developers eyeing several spots in town.

## Resident Joins Carl Guild & Associates

Carl Guild & Associates recently announced real estate sales professional Ellen DeSorbo of Marlborough has joined the brokerage.



Ellen DeSorbo

Carl Guild & Associates is a full-service, independent real estate brokerage located in East Hampton, Colchester and Glastonbury, that services clients throughout Connecticut.

Born and raised in Rocky Hill, DeSorbo is now a Marlborough local with her husband, three daughters and pup Hank in their first home together. She has extensive background working in early childhood development at the University of Connecticut.

“We’re so happy to welcome Ellen to Carl Guild & Associates,” said Carl Guild, broker/owner of the company. “She has a kind spirit and genuine drive to help people and with that we know she will be successful in her real estate career.”

## Dean’s List

Alexander J. Dursin of Marlborough made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

Dursin earned First Honors.

## Dean’s List

Marlborough resident Sydney Farrar made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, N.J.

Farrar is a psychology major.



## Pre-Kindergarten Lottery Info

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

If you are interested in your child participating in this process, eligible children must be at least 3 years old by Sept. 1, and parents/

guardians must complete and return a questionnaire no later than Thursday, March 24. Note that children identified as kindergarten eligible (those turning 5 by Dec. 31, 2022) are not eligible to be peer models for the coming school year.

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

## Dean’s List

Marlborough residents Monica LaMantia and Maggie Crean made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire.

LaMantia earned High Honors, and Crean earned Highest Honors.

## Dean’s List

Marlborough residents Christopher Hughes and Adam Whitmore made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

Hughes is a member of the Class of 2022, and Whitmore is a member of the Class of 2024.

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## East Catholic Honor Roll

The following Marlborough residents made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year:

**Honors with Distinction:** Jake Muldoon and Logan Schierholz, Class of 2022; Emma Kindl, ‘23.

**First Honors:** Andrew DeCorleto, ‘23; Christopher Richard and Luke Veltri, ‘24; Grace Veltri, ‘25.

## Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

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

## Red Cross Blood Drive

The Marlborough Lions Club will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, April 19, from 1-5:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. The Red Cross is hoping to fill around 45 slots for appointments. To schedule an appointment in advance, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time).

The Lions will also collect donations of non-perishable food items during the Blood Drive, on behalf of Marlborough Food Bank.

For more information on this event or to learn more about joining the Marlborough Lions Club, call Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

## Xavier Honor Roll

Marlborough resident Aidan Muldoon made the Xavier High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year.

Muldoon, a 12th-grader, earned High Honors.

## Dean’s List

Eve Lampugnale of Marlborough made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y.

\*\*\*

Anthony D. D’Eliseo of Marlborough made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

D’Eliseo is a sophomore majoring in ACIS in the Pamplin College of Business.

\*\*\*

Olivia Tomassetti of Marlborough made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Tufts University in Medford, Mass.

Tomassetti is a member of the Class of 2022.

\*\*\*

Marlborough residents Jordyn Krupp and Ashlyn Mrachek made the fall 2021 Dean’s List at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

# Emotional Night for Highlanders Basketball

by Josh Howard

There was cause for celebration before, during and after the Portland High School girls basketball team hosted Hale-Ray High School of East Haddam last Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Prior to the game, the team honored the eight senior players and two team managers for Senior Night before the Highlanders silenced the visiting Noises from Moodus, 51-33, in front of an energetic crowd at PHS.

Once the game tipped, Portland was in complete control, jumping out to a 17-3 lead after the first quarter and upping the advantage to 31-5 at the half.

Senior captains Sam Lasky and Hannah Brunk put on a show for the packed house, dictating the tempo and contributing to a majority of the offense.

Lasky and Brunk combined for 25 points, 14 rebounds, and 9 assists in roughly three quarters of work.

The longtime teammates have a noticeable rapport on the court that stems from playing together throughout the years, including in summer and travel leagues.

"We know each other so well and we know where each other is on the court," said Lasky. "If she has two people on her, she sees me, and if I have two people on me, I see her."

The link between the two senior captains bled over into the supporting players and Brunk said that all the seniors have formed a special bond, adding, "We are not all in the same friend group, but when it comes to basketball we all come together and that's what makes it special."

The team's chemistry was on full display midway through the second quarter when all five players touched the ball on a single possession, which ended with Brunk firing a laser pass to senior Leah May for a layup, making the score 26-3.

Leading by 26 points at halftime – which featured a basketball scrimmage between 5th grade teams from the local elementary schools – PHS head coach Lauren Beeler dug deep into her bench as the Highlanders continued cruised to the convincing victory over the final 16 minutes.

Once the final buzzer sounded, all eight Portland seniors scored, including an emotional basket for the team's third captain, Ava Hurley.

Hurley tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in summer league, essentially ending her senior high school season before it even started. She hadn't played all season, yet the other seniors were determined to get her recognized and approached Beeler the day before Senior Night, asking if Hurley could get one last moment on the court.

"When the girls asked, I thought they were crazy," said a smiling Beeler, who referred to the moment as "super special."

The plan was to get Hurley in the game for a few moments in the first half, which Beeler did.

But Hurley's night was just beginning as the resilient senior checked back into the game late in the third. Beeler drew up a play for Hurley and she hit a shot with 1:49 left in the quarter, prompting the loudest cheers of the night.

Lasky said the moment was amazing, adding that Hurley's dedication was unmatched, "She came to every single practice, every game, and for her to play and score was great."

For Brunk, the moment hit close to home. "It was emotional because I tore my ACL my sophomore year, so I missed that whole season. The only thing that got me through was everyone telling me 'you're a sophomore' and I knew I would get more years," recalled Brunk. "So when [Ava] got hurt I thought that was it for her and seeing her out there was amazing. She is an amazing leader and I know how much she wanted to be out there on the court"

Fittingly, the eight seniors accounted for all the 51 of the Highlanders points on Senior Night. Lasky (16), Brunk (9), Tara Fitzgibbons (7), Kendra Schoeps (6), May (4), Allison Scott (4), Mia Lapinski (3), and Hurley (2).

The win qualified the team for the Class S tournament, which seemed like a pipe dream after suffering an eight-game losing streak early in the season.

"We were falling apart and I turned to [the players] and I said it was up to them. They had that players-only meeting and things have just gotten progressively better," recalled Beeler.

Momentum shifted following a 46-point loss to East Hampton on Jan. 21, dropping the team to 1-8. Following the loss, the Highlanders won five of the next eight games to wrap up a date in the postseason.

Lasky said the turnaround happened after the team started with better communication and chemistry, adding, "We've had long talks about what we could do better as a team and we've worked together. We tried to work on specific things as individuals and as a team. The big thing was starting it at practice. If you do it at practice you are going to do it in a game."

During the players-only meeting, the three captains spoke openly about what needed to change.

Brunk credited the team's confidence, saying the team needed to be more supportive, "We said that if someone misses a shot at practice, you still cheer for them. Encourage everyone at practice, because if you're not encouraging they might not have that confidence and right after that a lot of girls started to step out of their comfort zone and gained a lot more confidence."

During the fourth quarter, the seniors each checked out of the game to the applause from the supportive fans. Several younger players earned valuable playing time over the final eight minutes as the seniors cheered them on from the bench.

Freshman Morganne Pineda, who has been a big part of the rotation this year, along with sophomores Isabelle McClelland and Jamison Lasky (Sam Lasky's sister) all played well in the second half.

Beeler said it was nice to see both her seniors get honored and allow the future stars of the program to gain some valuable minutes.

"They trust each other now," Beeler added. "Our seniors have really stepped up."



Hannah Brunk hugs Ava Hurley after Hurley scored in the third quarter. It was Hurley's first game since tearing her ACL in summer league.

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**Little League Registration Open**

Registration ends March 1 for Portland Little League's spring 2022 season. PLL offers baseball and softball programs for players ages 5-14.

Visit [www.portlandlittleleague.com](http://www.portlandlittleleague.com) to register.

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## Grace and Mercy Church News

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

## 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.

## Preschool Open House

Sunny Hill Preschool is holding an Open House for prospective parents and students from 4:30- 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10. The preschool is located in the educational wing of Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St.

Both the indoor and outdoor classrooms are set up to maximize independence and support each child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical growth. Bobbi Teva is the director and head teacher of the program. She has more than 25 years of experience in early childhood education, having worked in a variety of programs before coming to Portland.

Attendees at the open house will be able to meet the director and teachers, as well as tour the facility. Masks will be required to enter the school.

For more information or to RSVP, email Bobbi at [sunnyhillpreschool.ct@gmail.com](mailto:sunnyhillpreschool.ct@gmail.com) or call 860-342-2860, ext. 12.

Portland • Portland



The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords recently honored members who have reached five-year milestones of their dedication to the group. From left are Carolyn Henderson, Denise Ketterer, Michelle Richmond (each with five years of service); Sherry Baine (10 years); Ellen Ryczek (30 years); Leslie Pendleton (10 years); Mary Pierce (15 years); Jack Matthews (10 years); and Marian Sarcia (15 years).

### Vocal Chords Celebrate 32 years

On Feb. 15, the Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords celebrated its 32nd year of lifting spirits and healing souls with music. Founded in 1990 by Joyce Ghent, an RN at Middlesex Hospital, the group has grown from a handful of hospital employees to its current 90 members from various communities and walks of life. The chorus was led by Gina Fredericks for 31 years; Samuel Tucker, the current Portland Secondary Schools choral director and AP/UConn music theory teacher, is the group's new music director.

As part of every year's celebration of its founding, the Vocal Chords acknowledged members who have reached five-year milestones of their dedication to the group.

stones of their dedication to the group. This year, members recognized included Ellen Ryczek of Middletown (30 years), Mary Pierce of Higganum and Marian Sarcia of Middletown (both with 15 years); Sherry Blaine of Colchester, Leslie Pendleton of Lebanon, Jack Matthews of East Hampton (all with 10 years); and Carolyn Henderson of Marlborough, Denise Ketterer of East Hampton, and Michelle Richmond of Rocky Hill (all with five years).

MHVC will perform its annual spring concert Saturday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School. For more information, go to vocalchords20.org or look for the Vocal Chords on Facebook.

### Romance Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library group is sponsoring a used book sale featuring romance books and mysteries for the month of February in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours. There is also an assortment of cookbooks, CDs, and DVDs, as well as fiction, teen and children's used books.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks, and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs and CDs are 50 cents each disc unless marked otherwise. There are also mystery and general fiction books that have

been removed from the library collection, all for 50 cents each.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1.00 each. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff.

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

Visit [www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org](http://www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) for more information or email questions to [friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com).

### Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., has returned to offering in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks and social distancing are still required.

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

a.m. on Sundays.

Adult Bible Study continues this Sunday, Feb. 27. The focus of this study will be season one of the series *The Chosen*, using the book *What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?*

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

## School Board Nixes Mask, Vaccine Policies

by Jack Lakowsky

The Portland Board of Education in a special meeting on Tuesday voted to make masks optional and to remove the district's COVID-19 vaccine requirement for staff.

The vaccine vote was unanimous. All but board member Meg Scata voted to make masks optional.

The vote will go into effect starting Feb. 28.

Most of the board's discussion focused on the masking policy. Russell Melmed, director of the Chatham Health District, spoke to inform the board's decision.

Melmed's recommendation was that the board wait and see how going mask-optional affects early decision makers like the East Hampton school board, which made masks optional last Monday.

"We simply don't know yet what will happen," said Melmed.

Melmed also suggested schools resume contact-tracing, enabling them to monitor the virus's activity. Methods responding to a positive case would be less severe but contact-tracing at the local level remains the best way to keep tabs on the pandemic, Melmed said.

Melmed said case rates are on the decline, and that Portland's vaccine rates are high, with about 80% of the population fully vaccinated. About 45% of kids aged between five and 11 have all their shots, lower than other

age groups.

Melmed said communities must determine what they consider a "tolerable" level of transmission, and what level of interventions a community will embrace to reach that goal.

Melmed added with at-home tests, there's no way to accurately quantify transmission rates.

For high-risk students and family members, Melmed suggested looking into preexposure treatments and wearing high-quality masks. He said to consult with a physician about these decisions, including whether an N95 or another high-performance mask is right for an individual child.

Charles Britton, district superintendent, said the pandemic isn't over and would go on to say schools, after two years of dealing with the pandemic, have robust "playbooks" to deal with it going forward.

Recently Britton surveyed students, staff and parents for their thoughts on masks. A solid majority of parents and students wanted them optional. Teachers were about split, with a small majority favoring choice.

Removing the two policies is not to say that all strategies are out the window. For example, masks are still required by federal law on school buses. If athletes from Portland play an away game in a district requiring masks, they must comply with said district's rules.

### Town-Wide Tag Sale Plans Begin

The Portland Historical Society's 26th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is fast approaching. With the start of spring less than a month away, plans for the town-wide tag sale on Saturday, May 7, have begun. If you are new to town, the Town-Wide Tag Sale is six hours of bargain shopping at over 100 tag sales throughout downtown and countryside Portland.

Organized by the Historical Society, individuals, families and organizations can be included on the large free map for a fee of \$20-\$25. Your location will be clearly marked and a brief description of your items will help buyers find just what they are looking for. Local restaurants and businesses can show their support by purchasing a space on the map to advertise their offerings. The map is seen by thousands of people

on that day, as they plot their routes from sale to sale.

If you've been looking around your house, your attic, your cellar or garage, wondering what to do with all "that stuff," maybe it's time for you to have a tag sale to create space, make money or just pass things on to others. Publicized widely and with shoppers visiting from all over the state, the Town-Wide Tag Sale can be a fundraiser for you, your family or for an organization or business.

Online registration for tag sales will open March 1. visit the Society's website [www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org) and click on the link to register. Watch *Rivereast* for the opening date for paper registration late-March. The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main fundraiser for the society.

### Forum on Elder Justice Hotline

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) will join Attorney General William Tong for an Elder Justice Hotline forum Monday, March 7, from 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

The event is a forum to discuss the new Elder Justice Hotline and issues facing Connecticut seniors. To RSVP, email [Ltracey@portlandct.org](mailto:Ltracey@portlandct.org) or call 860-342-6760.

For more information on the Elder Justice Hotline, visit [portal.ct.gov/ag/elderhotline](http://portal.ct.gov/ag/elderhotline).

### Mercy Honor Roll

The following Portland students made the Mercy High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year:

**Highest Honors:** Senior: Ella Bankoski; Juniors: Gianna Low, Sarah McNickle, Julia Nadolski, Leah VanDeventer. Sophomore: Tiana Harley; Freshwomen: Emily Bernard, Logan Binnington, Kayla Johnson.

**High Honors:** Juniors: Isabella Cacace, Lauren Kohs, Milana Koji, Michaela Miano, Raya Morin; Freshwomen: Megan Kasperowski, Catalina Koji, Isabella Levesque.

**Honors:** Senior: Honor: Caroline Carella. Sophomores: Clare Bankoski, Emily Murphy. Freshwoman: Ava Roy.

### Dean's List

Nathan Disalvo of Portland made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Disalvo is working toward a BSE degree in mechanical engineering.

### Honor Roll

Charles Oliver of Portland earned a place on the honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year at the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation in New Britain.

Oliver is in 10th grade.



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**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.

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

**Foodshare:** Will occur Monday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m., weather permitting.

**Weekly Schedule:** **Mondays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Corn Hole (seated or standing), 2:15 p.m., dates vary. **Tuesdays:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; Watercolor Lessons: 9:30 a.m.-noon – email bivenne@yahoo.com to register; Tai Chi with Tom, 10:30 a.m. via Zoom; Coupons for Troops, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Stretch & Flex: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Tap Exercise, 1:30 p.m. – fee is \$5; Senior Evening Jam Sessions, 7 p.m. (check the senior center calendar for exact dates). **Wednesdays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:15-11 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month; Qi Gong with Lida, 1 p.m. (four weeks at a time for \$40); setback, 1-3 p.m.; seated yoga, 1:30 p.m. **Thursdays:** Knit & Stitch, Dancercize, 10 a.m.; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:30-4 p.m.; Scrabble, 1-4 p.m.; **Fridays:** Light Aerobics,

9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Wii Bowling:** Check the monthly calendar for specific days and time.

**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.

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

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

**Trips:** If you need to be picked up at your home for a van trip, let the center know in advance. **Garden Show:** The van will travel to Hartford for the Garden Show on Friday, Feb. 25, departing the center at 9:15 a.m.

**Special Events: Crafting with Tracy:** Monday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m. Make “Flowers in February.” Please pre-register for this class.

**Chris Graham’s Photography and Birding Reception:** Monday, March 1, 7 p.m. Cost is \$2. Call the center to register.

**Registration Open for Spring Soccer**

Registration is open for Portland Soccer Club’s spring seasons for Travel and Rec players. Visit clubs.bluesombrero.com/portland-soccerclub to register, or contact PSC President Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com.

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

**Rec Details:** Players with birth years 2013 to 2017. Registration deadline is Monday, April 18. Birth year determines division. Pre-K cost is \$60, Dribblers and Kickers cost is \$75. Pre-

K and Dribblers on Saturday mornings only. Kickers play Saturday morning games at the Portland Rec Complex and practice Wednesday evenings. The season runs from April 23-June 11.

Note: Late Travel and Rec registrations are not guaranteed.

**Dean’s List**

Megan Kostraba of Portland, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, made the fall 2021 Dean’s List.

Kostraba is an English major, with a minor in communication.

**From the Desk of the State Representative...**

The 2022 legislative session promises to be busy. We have until midnight on May 4 to pass meaningful legislation to improve Connecticut. My priorities continue to be what matters most in Cromwell and Portland – improving public health, addressing crime, and making Connecticut more affordable for residents.

The mental health crisis has become an emergency. Families are struggling and the toll of the pandemic has pushed an already delicate system near the breaking point. One of my proposals is to create a mobile mental health crisis unit dedicated to assist our schools. This additional resource for students and educators is one method to provide additional resources to help them succeed. Another proposal is to cut red tape and provide greater access to medication for those with serious mental health conditions. We also need to address the lack of providers and consider enhanced protections for children under 16 that utilize social media. There are many ideas in Hartford to address mental health this session and I am hopeful the final bill will be bipartisan.

Neighborhoods across Connecticut have seen an increase in brazen criminal acts, often by juveniles. We need not place blame, but craft solutions. GPS monitoring of juveniles arrested for serious crimes, reviewing law enforcement options to pursue offenders, and increasing penalties for crimes committed with a stolen vehicle are all opportunities to address very real public safety issues. In addition, we must not forget the victims. We need to assist victims who suffer the consequences of crime statewide by allocating additional funding to the victim’s compensation fund.

Connecticut is a wonderful place to live, but it’s expensive. Too expensive for many – recent graduates looking to start careers here, seniors that want to retire, and families in between. Affordability must be addressed. We need to examine both short-term and long-term changes via increased income tax credits and deductions, including premiums paid for long-term care insurance, to create sustainable tax relief for residents. Inflation has only heightened the need to make Connecticut more affordable. We should also repeal the highway use tax on trucks to help lower the cost for goods and services coming into our state.

As session moves along, many topics will be discussed. I encourage everyone to get involved. Testify. Offer your expertise. Share your perspective. Make your voice heard.

**Always,  
State Rep. Christie Carpino  
R-32nd District**

*Note: The 32nd Assembly District covers Cromwell and Portland.*

**Kindergarten Registration**

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

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

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will then be provided.

**Scholarship Available**

Carl Guild and Associates has a scholarship available for a local high school senior entering college in the fall.

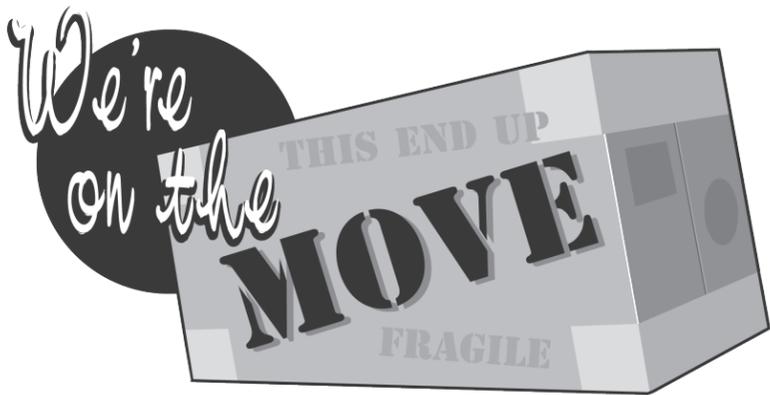
There are six \$1,000 scholarships given – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM school district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

Application deadline is April 1. For an application, visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) or ask your school’s guidance counselor.

**Portland Dental Care is Moving!**

Dr. Pete, Dr. Shashi and the rest of the gang will be working out of our new location as of March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our all-new office is located at **255 Main Street in Portland**



We will be closed from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup> and will resume operations on **March 14<sup>th</sup>!**

*We are very excited to see you there!*

**Peter Gletzakos, DMD  
Shashi Ghodake, DDS**

**255 Main St., Portland, CT 06480**

**860-342-4502**

**info@drpetedental.com**



# Shopping at Owen's Emporium Supports Several Causes

by Jack Lakowsky

Amy Milardo, owner of the Main Street gift shop Owen's Emporium, said people are truly beginning to understand the value of buying secondhand or restoring what they already own.

"With the pandemic, people had to get creative at home," Milardo told the *Rivereast* on Monday. The store opened last October.

Milardo said for example, furniture supply lines were terrible for some time, saying shoppers at big box furniture stores were waiting up to eight months for pieces. She said instead, people bought paint and sandpaper and did their own refurbishments.

Had these patient people shopped the second-hand furniture pieces at Owen's, they might've significantly curtailed their wait. Milardo said she's lucky – the pandemic has done little to affect the shop's inventory.

This durability is by design. Owen's consigns with local artists, artisans and craftspeople to sell gifts, art, candy, a whole array of goodies and trinkets. By sourcing local, Owen's can avoid the supply tie-ups disrupting the operations of big businesses.

Milardo said 105 local artists and consigners have their own space in her shop.

"People say we're like a little Etsy store," Milardo said. "You can go to Goodwill, sure, and yes they consign there. But here, vendors set up their own spot in the store, design what they want, create what they want. It's like they have their own little business. That's the big difference with us."

Another factor that sets apart Milardo's shop; the store's profits go to her grandson's future. Milardo's grandson, Owen, is nonverbal and

has autism.

Milardo said though raising any child is a challenge, raising a child with special needs is more demanding and more expensive, she said.

"My son and daughter-in-law can't always take him into stores or restaurants," Milardo said. "We can't do a lot of those everyday things. It can be challenging making sure all his needs are met."

Milardo said Owen is very affectionate and loving and is a passionate swimmer. He attends Gildersleeve elementary school.

Milardo's other grandchild, Emma Sue, also inspired the shop, with its candy corner named for her.

Milardo said worries about how to help Owen kept her up late at night until the word "emporium" popped into her head.

"I knew I wanted something community based where artists and artistic people can share their work," Milardo said.

Milardo said the area lacks a strong arts scene, so she hopes to be a flagship for the region's creative community.

Milardo said Owen's sells expert artwork by local creators. Ambitious Milardo wants her shop to be "put on the map as an art gallery as much as a gift shop."

Owen's also has rare, valuable collectibles like Steiff Bears, a line of high-end teddy bears treasured by collectors.

Expanding on the effort to help her grandson through life, Milardo said she wants to get involved with numerous nonprofits and mission groups dedicated to kids and adults living with special needs.

Milardo said she wants to have events catered

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation is offering the following. To register or for full program descriptions, visit [portland.recdesk.com](http://portland.recdesk.com). For more information, call 860-342-6757 or email [nfoley@portland.ct.org](mailto:nfoley@portland.ct.org) or [adionne@portland.ct.org](mailto:adionne@portland.ct.org).

**Tai Chi:** At the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Dates are Wednesdays through March 30, 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays through April 9, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Fee \$7 per day to drop in.

**Kids Blast:** Parks and Rec. is taking applications for this afterschool program for Portland kids in grades K-6. The program is based at Brownstone Intermediate School. Applications are at [portland.recdesk.com](http://portland.recdesk.com). For more, call Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757.

**Inner Circle Martial Arts:** Registration is open for Jujitsu, Cross Training, Yoga, Dance Aerobics, Beginner Karate, Kick Boxing/Cross Training, Belly Dancing, and the popular Little Ninjas program. Check the Parks and Rec. website for more details.

**Boat America – Online Boating Safety Course:** Tuesday and Wednesday, March 15 and 16, 6:30-9 p.m., and Tuesday, March 22, via Zoom. Cost is \$65. Course is taught by qualified members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**Adult Drop-In Volleyball:** Wednesdays at Gildersleeve School, 565 Main St. Competitive Play is 5-6:30 p.m., and Non-Competitive Play is 6:30-8 p.m. Participants may enter the building through the side doors nearest to the gym; a sign should be posted. Create an account at [portland.recdesk.com](http://portland.recdesk.com) to receive program information via email blast. Note: All participants are required to wear masks during play.

**Adult Drop-In Basketball:** 30+ Men's Drop-In Basketball takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays at Portland Middle School. Women's Drop-In Basketball takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays, also at PMS. Masks must be worn indoors by all individuals at all times,

## St. Mary Church News

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

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

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

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

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

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

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

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

regardless of vaccination status. All participants will fill out a drop-in waiver before participating.

**Virtual Paint Night for Adults:** Thursday, March 10. In honor of Women's History Month, create a place setting at a mock dinner table for your favorite historical woman in honor of Jody Chicago's installation "The Dinner Party." Each participant will receive a canvas and paints. Check the Parks and Rec. website for more details.

**CT Flag Football League Spring 2022:** This is a non-contact youth flag football program, with co-ed divisions for children as young as 3 and as old as 15. Practices are held one weeknight per week at the coaches' discretion. Games will be held on Saturdays or Sundays. Season begins April 9 and runs eight weeks. Location is the Middlesex Avenue Upper Fields. Fee is \$155/registrant and includes a jersey (name on the back optional) and set of flags for the child to keep. Volunteer head and assistant coaches are needed; background checks are required. Registration is online at [www.CTFlagFootball.com](http://www.CTFlagFootball.com) and runs through Friday, March 18.

**Skyhawks Youth Sports – MultiSport (Baseball, Basketball and Soccer):** This class uses age-appropriate games and activities. Parent participation required for ages 2-3.5 years. Meets Saturdays, April 2-May 14 (no class April 16), at Riverfront Park. Age 2 meets 9-9:45 a.m., age 3 meets 10-10:45 a.m., and ages 4-5 meets 11-11:45 a.m. Fee: \$79.

**Art Enrichment Programs with Abrakadoodle:** Registration opens soon for the next programs.

**Summer Quest:** Registration for the programs (Kiddie Camp, Base Camp and Teen Camp) will be open on the website later this month. Check back for more details.



Store owner Amy Milardo started the gift shop to help out her grandson, who has autism. Milardo also has sights set on the big picture and wants to help as many kids and adults with special needs as possible.

specifically toward people with special needs.

The store also hosts community events, such as paint night and craft classes for kids.

Coming soon, Milardo will offer customers a gift subscription box. Details on this are still being hashed out, she said. So far, she knows each box will have a seasonal soap and candle, with other fun things varying by box. She said

each box will have about \$100 of value for a price of \$50.

Milardo said she'll have boxes catered to both women and men.

"I love Portland," Milardo said. "I was born here. I didn't spend all of my childhood here, but I moved back because I couldn't imagine myself anywhere else. I really love it here."

## First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., has announced the following pieces of news:

Sunday morning worship is currently taking place in person in the sanctuary, and masks are required. Services are livestreamed for real-time viewing, and are available on the church's YouTube channel for later viewing. The channel is "First Church of Portland CT."

On Feb. 27, the 10 a.m. service for Transfiguration Sunday will include the Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon, "Bright Shining as the Sun." Under Kasha Breau's direction, the choir will sing the anthem, "Immortal, Invisible" by Gordon Young. Children's church school lessons are available on YouTube by clicking on the specific link in The Weekly Word that is emailed on Friday.

On March 2 at 7 p.m., there will be an Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary that will also be available on YouTube. The service will offer a time of music, prayer, confession, reflec-

tion and readings, as it starts the season of Lent. Ashes will be distributed, and the choir will sing the anthem, "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Arnold Sherman.

First Church Nursery School has openings in its preschool program. The 3-year-old program runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30 a.m. and the 4-year-old program runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or [1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com) for more information.

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ, and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone.

To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email [first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.first-churchportlandct.org](http://www.first-churchportlandct.org).

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- **East Hartford facility** – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

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## Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

**Friends' Read & Recycle:** Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m.-noon. Donate gently-used books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles.

**Federal and State Tax Forms:** 1040 and 1040-SR and printed instructions are available at the library. Connecticut state tax forms are also available. Instructions for the Connecticut state forms are online or the library can make a copy of the instructions for 15 cents a page.

**Recording of 'Befriending our Afghan Neighbors':** To view a recording of this recent program, presented by the library in partnership with the Portland Refugee Resettlement Group, visit [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org). Click on the YouTube channel in the upper right-hand corner. The program flyer will appear on the icon. Click to view and listen.

**Youth Program: Alien Invasion! Winter Reading 2022:** The winter reading program is coming to an end. Visit by March 4 to advance your alien through the solar system. When you reach Neptune, receive a small prize. Artist Pamela Hanks created the collaborative artwork designs.

**Tiny Art Show:** Stop by the library after March 1 and pick up a kit that includes a 3x3 canvas, 6 colors of acrylic paint, a color mixing guide, and a small paintbrush. Return the artwork to the library and we will display it as part of our art show. March is Youth Art Month.

**Spring Storytimes:** The March and April storytime sessions will be held in person at the library. There will be songs, stories and more each week. A craft will be offered for those in the preschool program. Masks and social distancing required until further notice. Registration is required as space is limited; register through the website calendar or call the library.

**Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., March 1-April 26. **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., March 2-April 27.

**Family Craft Night: Gnome Treat Boxes:** Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m. Make a special heart-shaped flower bouquet and decorated pot for yourself or a loved one this Valentine's Day. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Supplies may be picked up in advance of the program and a Zoom link for instruction will be sent within 24 hours of the event. Registration is required and space is limited.

**Arctic Animal Art:** Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., March 3-31, for grades K-5. Activities center around a different arctic animal each week. Masks are required at this event until further notice. Space is limited and social distancing will be enforced.

**Teen Advisory Guild (TAG):** Monday, March 14, 3:30 p.m., in the large meeting room of the library. Brainstorm ideas for new programs, talk about books, and enjoy some snacks and laughs with friends. You will earn community service hours for each meeting you attend. Registration is required.

**Adult Programs: Book Clubs: TAB (Talk About Books):** Tuesday, March 1, 1 p.m. *The Chalk Artist* by Alegra Goodman will be discussed. **First Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, March 3, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom and in person. *Recipe for a Perfect Wife* by Karma Brown will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, March 15, 1 p.m. *How It Happened* by Michael Koryta will be discussed.

**Tech Talk:** Friday, March 11, 10:15 a.m., at the senior center (in collaboration with the library).

Learn about organizing photographs online and other topics suggested by participants. Join in person or via Zoom.

**Taxes: Upcoming Changes and the Effect on Your Retirement:** Monday, March 14, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room, presented by USA Financial & Tax Services. At this educational workshop, people will learn how taxes can change the outcome of their retirement.

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

## PHS Honor Roll

Principal Kathryn Lawson announces the Portland High School Honor Roll for the second marking term of the 2021-22 school year:

### High Honors

**Grade 12:** Katelin Binezewski, Hannah Brunk, Julia Capello, Landry Carroll, Victoria Cohen, Molly Coleman, Nicholas D'Angelo, Giuliana Discenza, Connor Egan, Tara Fitzgibbons, Jacob Hanks, Brynn Hennessey, Matthew Hernandez, Isabella Hettrick-Rivera, Ava Hurlley, Tyler Judkins, Lindsey King, Anton Kwimagi, Sierra Koss, Kayla LaMalfa, Matthew LaPila, Mia Lapinski, Shawn Laverty, Megan Major, Gabriele Malu, Leah May, Sean Mazza, Margaret Mearman, Isabella Nolan, Sophia Palma, Raymond Picard, Dana Pierce, Travis Poulin, Jenna Randazzo, Lindsay Renk, Maureen Reyes, Rasheem Riley, Kendra Schoeps, Allison Scott, Jaime Spooner, Maxwell Strycharz, Brady Talerico, Derek Tewksbury, Jake Thompson, Kaitlyn Tripp, Jack Turecek, Britney Viele, Theodore Williams and Didismay Yedra.

**Grade 11:** Victoria Bailey, Rowan Bell, Sarah Black, Rachel Brown, Amelia Ciarleglio, Ryan Clarke, Harrison Collins, Andrew DiMauro, Lauren Eckert, Ava Evison, Ryan Green, Gregory Ives, Camille Kopacz, McKenzie LaMalfa, Lily Larson, Annette LeShane, Ginia Lin, Caymus Lopez, Marley Malanczuk, Leah Masal, Heather McDougall, Brandon McPhee, Mya Mogulnicki, Katharine Nedobity, Olivia Porter, Natalie Przeszelski, Mia Quesnel, Spencer Rosado, Madison Szymaszek, Mason Tuttle, Emma Warshaw and Joseph Woszczyna.

**Grade 10:** Sara Austin, Cooper Beck, Gabriela DeLeon, Giovanni Discenza, Evan Guilmette, Kadir Hamidovic, Isaac Handel, Joshua Hanna, Erin Hunter, Abigail Keaveny, Sarah Kresser, Quinn Lapinski, Mason Lavallee, Philip LeShane, Sunny Lin, Ava Maselek, Abbey Pickel, Tyler Quinn, Cooper Rettich, Selena Shukis, Benjamin Sorrell, Pierson Webster, McKayla Wilk and Corinne Woszczyna.

**Grade 9:** Frederick Bailey, Chloe Brennan, Elizabeth Bustamante, Emily DeRing, Amelia Dietrichsen, Paige Fitzgibbons, Evangeline Graham, Nathan Green, Alina Kroeber, Jack Larson, Raymond Lin, James Marquis, Anna-

belle Maruschock, Cassidy Maruschock, Owen McGinley, Sarah Mucinskas, Elizabeth Nedobity, Nicholas Oliva, Aidan Peterson, Morganne Pineda, Michael Rambarose, Gracie Roberts, Elliott Rowland, Anna Stone, Parker Thompson, Madelyn Varano, Caitlin Walsh, Summer Wright and Maryn Yost.

### Honors

**Grade 12:** Owen Brunk, William Crawford, Tess Currier, Owen Delisle, Eli Evison, Caiden Hettrick-Rivera, Samantha Lasky, Chyann Markham, Blasia McAuliffe, Benjamin McKosky, Kendall Prince, Trevor Tewksbury, Ryan Wright, and Katelyn Yankowski.

**Grade 11:** Juniors: Ethan Dean, Shannon Farley, Kyle Guibord, Alexander Hair, Amelia Hair, Olivia Hungerford, Tyler Ives, Andrew Johnson, Yusuf Kadric, Ryan Kerr, Nathalie Liranzo, Isabelle McClelland, Ashton Rambarose, Angelina Steele and Austin Vess.

**Grade 10:** Alexander Dawson, Noah Decker, Aaron DeYoung, Camryn DiMauro, Ariana Hettrick-Rivera, Ryan LaPila, Jamison Lasky, Benjamin McGrew, Meghan McPhee, Erik Medvecky, Carson Nicol, Dorothy Riley, Luke Stennett, Morgan Sundell, Lillian Tabellione, Jackson Williams and Tyler Wydo.

**Grade 9:** Gabrielle Arnold, Matteo Brousseau, Laurel Carroll Keeleigh Christensen, Ava Deckelman, Zachary Dickson, Abigail Doncet, Emelia Eckert, Kathryn Laverty, Abigail Leone, Ty Mazzotta, Claire Palma, Avery Quesnel and Ella Royea.

## Parking Ban Reminder

A parking ban is in effect for all storms this winter season to allow highway crews to properly clear and treat our roads to make travel safe. Due to ever-changing forecasts, the ban will be in effect for any amount of accumulating ice or snow.

Vehicles should be moved off the roadway at least two hours before a storm has been forecasted and is expected to start. Vehicles are to remain off the roadway for at least four hours after the storm has ended or until crews have completed their final plowing. Vehicles not moved may be towed at the owner's expense.

## Town Sets Mailbox Replacement Policy

by Jack Lakowsky

Last week the Portland Board of Selectmen approved a policy spelling out the town's approach to replacing mailboxes after a snowstorm.

Occasionally, snowplows strike and destroy mailboxes. The weight of snow can also topple mailboxes, according to Bob Shea, Portland's public works director.

"Public works does a great job," said First Selectman Ryan Curley in the meeting. "But during the course of [snow removal] work a mailbox can get hit, or snow can push and damage it."

Curley said typically, the town replaces downed mailboxes. However, there was no policy in place.

Developing one will help articulate homeowner responsibilities, Curley said.

Shea and Curley both said sometimes, a mailbox that was in poor condition falls or gets damaged with snowfall. In this instance, the policy states, the town won't replace a mailbox.

Essentially, the new policy states the town won't replace a mailbox unless, after an investigation, it's discovered a plow struck the mailbox.

If it's discovered the mailbox had a rotting post or was otherwise neglected, the homeowner is responsible for replacing it.

Shea told selectmen he didn't write the pol-

icy to mitigate cost, more to save labor time. Shea said fulfilling all requests for downed mailboxes takes time away from other projects.

"It's easy to tell when a plow hits one," said Shea. "They do get hit when it's the middle of the night and snowing. We'll still take care of this as we have in the past."

Shea went on to say if the weight of snow felled a rotted mailbox, other taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for it.

"We've been weed-whacking around some boxes for 20 years," said Shea. "Everyone needs to maintain theirs."

Shea said he wanted to devise a moderate policy. He said some towns, and the state as well, won't replace any boxes even if crews accidentally "take it home with them."

Shea said depending on the season's temperament, plows strike about six boxes per year, but replace far more than that.

There are several stipulations the policy details. Residents who believe the town responsible for knocking out their box must call within seven days. The town will investigate factors and if it's responsible, will repair and/or replace the box as soon as possible, Shea said.

For more information on the new policy, contact the town or email [rshea@portlanct.org](mailto:rshea@portlanct.org).



**Conference Champs... Portland High School's wrestling team is 2022 NCCC Conference Champions. The team had eight wrestlers place top three in their respected weight classes. Spencer Rosado, Ashton Oakliff, Owen Brunk, Griffin Shafer, Tyler Quinn and Ethan Dean all placed first, Andrew Johnson placed second, and Ronny Diaz placed third overall. On Friday, Feb. 18, and Saturday, Feb. 19, the team competed in the Class S State Championship. Look for the results of that championship in this week's *Rivercast*. The team's coaches are Mark Favale and Dan Harding.**

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## Obituaries

### Amston

#### Louis F. Maffessoli

Louis "Lou" F. Maffessoli of Amston passed away in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family. He was 85 years young. Lou was born in Hartford June 11, 1936, to the late Carlo and Rose (Sylvester) Maffessoli. He left high school early to join the United States Air Force and was a proud veteran for the rest of his life.

Lou met and married Audrey Larson after being introduced by a mutual friend, and they would spend the next 60+ years together. Upon retiring from the State of Connecticut DOT, he continued to stay active in the community.

Lou genuinely loved people, and people genuinely loved Lou. He would spend hours of his time talking with anyone who was willing to listen. Three times a year he bought and sold at the swap meet held at the Zagray Farm Museum. He was a collector of vintage toys, and loved his Amston farmhouse, but his priority was helping his community of veterans through his work with the American Legion.

He was predeceased by his brother, Vincent "Vinnie," and sister-in-law, Jackie.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey; his daughter, Lynn Maffessoli; his son, Louis Maffessoli and his fiancée Anna; his brother-in-law, Leonard "Lennie" Larson and his wife Gina; as well as many nieces and nephews; and his close friends Jack Willis, Roger "Hockey" Arndt and Joe Simmons. We will surely miss him.

His family would like to express their gratitude to the Visiting Nurse and Health Services of Connecticut (Vernon) for their exceptional palliative and hospice care.

Lou was not a fan of funerals! Instead, friends are invited to share a memory of Lou or express their condolences at [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com). The Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester is in care of arrangements.



### Deep River

#### Jean Rutty

Jean Rutty, 89, of Deep River, wife of the late Donald W. Rutty, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 16, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, with family by her side.

Daughter of James and Margaret (Haas) Hoadley, Jean was born in Westbrook Aug. 16, 1932, and was the youngest of eight children. She retired from Whelen Engineering Company, where she worked as a production assembler. Jean enjoyed her retirement years spending time with her family, especially her great grandchildren. She was an avid fan of the UConn women's basketball team.

She will always be remembered with love by her sister, Althea Foerch of Virginia; daughter, Terri M. Doane of Deep River; sons and daughter-in-laws, Michael M. and Elizabeth Rutty of Westbrook; Russell J. and Shari Rutty of Hebron; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great grand border collie; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her loving husband, she was predeceased by her daughter, Joanne M. Victoria; sisters, Emily Hoadley, Eileen Johnson, Lillian Folsom, Margaret (Peggy) Mockus, Frances (Frannie) Schum; and brother, William Hoadley.

The family would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to Middlesex Hospital for their wonderful care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Jean's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)).

Funeral services will be privately held by the family. The Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home in Centerbrook has been entrusted with care of arrangements.

To share a memory of Jean or leave a condolence for her family please visit [www.rwwfh.com](http://www.rwwfh.com).



Louise Fitzler, in 1954. The couple settled in Connecticut soon after their marriage and that's where they made their roots and raised their son, Kevin. After sharing 55 years of marriage, Sandra predeceased him in death on April 20, 2009, and their son Kevin also passed away in 2016.

Arthur was a member of St. Andrew Parish in Colchester. From the age of 18, Arthur worked as a carpenter for the union, Local 176 in Rhode Island and Local 43 in Connecticut. Arthur stayed in touch with friends and co-workers with his membership in the Union Carpenters Retirees Club. He retired from the union in 1993 but continued working as a millwright, doing steam and gas boiler builds and rebuilds. He was also well known as the Saw Dr., sharpening blades for people in Colchester and many area towns.

He loved talking to folks who would stop by. His favorite pastime was spent in his own shop making bird houses and other wood crafts which many of his family members and friends were proud to own. Camping near Point Judith in Rhode Island was a favorite vacation spot for Arthur, and many happy memories were made there.

He will be sadly missed but remembered with love by his surviving siblings, Jane Wingate of Westport, Mass., Dorothy Pamental of Rumford, R.I., Stephen Alfonso of Greenwich, R.I., Jr. Manual "Mike" Dutra of North Haven; a longtime friend, Ron Spicer; and many other extended family members and friends.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, Feb. 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial followed in New St. Andrew Cemetery in Colchester.

For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

### Colchester

#### Paul Michael Suroviak

Paul Michael Suroviak of Colchester passed away Wednesday, Feb. 16, at Hartford Hospital, after a lengthy difficult challenge with heart disease. He was 62 years old. Born Sept. 23, 1959, in Hartford, he was a son of the late Edward and Patricia (Webster) Suroviak.

He grew up in Amston and graduated from RHAM High School. Paul had a long and successful career as an electrician in the family business, Suroviak's Electric. His past times included checking out all the newest technology and gadgets or gaming at the local casinos. He was proud to call Colchester his home. He served as the elected Warden for Borough from 1987-89. Paul was also a volunteer EMT for 17 years for the Intercounty Ambulance.

He was a sports enthusiast and for many years Paul was a coach for his daughter's teams with the Colchester Recreation youth soccer, basketball and softball. He also played on the Colchester men's softball team and sponsored both the men's and women's league. He was a sports fan of the Boston Red Sox, New York Giants, Hartford Whalers and UConn basketball teams. Most importantly, he never missed a game or sports event that either of his daughters played in. He will be remembered as a devoted father who was there for his children whenever they needed him. They always knew he was only a phone call away.

His loss will be felt by many and he will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his children and their spouses, Nicole and her husband, Joshua Desmarais of Brookfield, Mass., Taylor and her husband Stephen Allard of Colchester; his brother and sister-in-law, William and Maureen Suroviak of Amston; three grandchildren, Blake, Camden and Henry; a niece, Laura; nephews, Luke and Joe; his former spouse, Diane LaGrega; and a host of extended family members and friends.

Calling hours will be held Monday, Feb. 28, from 9-11 a.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A graveside memorial service will follow in Linwood Cemetery. Donations in his memory may be made to Colchester Rec. Youth Sports, [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department), or to the Colchester Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Department, [www.colchesterct.gov/fire-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/fire-department).

For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



### Portland

#### Frank L. Sanborn Jr.

Frank Leslie Sanborn Jr., 98, died peacefully Monday, Feb. 21. He was the beloved husband of the late Lorraine Fournier, who passed away Jan. 3, 2017. Born Sept. 6, 1923, he was the second child of F. Leslie Sanborn and Bertha W. Stemmler of Middletown.

A lifelong resident of Portland, Frank attended local schools and enjoyed life growing up in a small town. From 1943 through 1945, he proudly served his country during WWII as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Frank flew in 35 combat missions on a B-24 Liberator all over Europe from a base in England.

On Oct. 14, 1950, Frank married the love of his life Lorraine, whom he met at a dance hall in Hartford. Frank loved Anne Murray's rendition of the song "Could I Have This Dance," and said it perfectly embodied how he felt when Lorraine and he shared that first dance. Together they built their home on Rose Hill Road, with the help of family and friends. Frank was employed by the power company for 40 years starting at the Hartford Electric Light Co. and ending with Northeast Utilities.

Frank was a former member of the Hemlock Grange, American Legion, and Portland Fire Dept. No. 2. Frank was also a proud member of the Portland Exchange Club and contributed many hours at the club grounds by the Connecticut River. Frank loved singing in the Glee Club, fishing, gardening, playing cards, golfing, and woodworking in his shop. When his children were young the family camped up and down the Eastern Seaboard; where fond memories were made and many friendships formed. Later in life Frank and Lorraine traveled to Hawaii, Europe, England, and the Canadian Rockies.

He is survived by his son, Gary Sanborn and his wife June Valli, his daughter, Gail Phillips and her husband John Phillips, all of East Hampton, and his son, Dennis Sanborn of Portland; grandsons, Michael (Heather) Phillips, and Steven (Maggie) Phillips of East Hampton; five great-grandchildren, Madison, Coen, Hunter, Ashley and Aubrey; a brother, William (Harriet) Sanborn of Portland; and a sister, Lorraine (Joseph) Rizzo of Wilton; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, Peter; and sisters, Barbara, Constance, Elizabeth, and Rosemary.

The family would like to thank his former caregiver, Rebekah Tosto, and his primary physician, Gianpaolo Rufo D.O., for their loving care and friendship.

The funeral will be held Monday, Feb. 28, at 9 a.m., from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. Burial with full military honors will be in the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday, Feb. 27, from 5-7 p.m.

### Portland

#### Martha McCabe

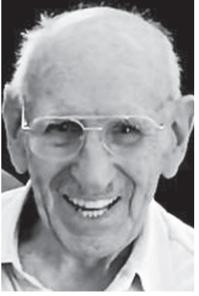
Martha McCabe, formerly of Portland, recently passed away at the age of 79. Martha was born in Hartford Oct. 7, 1942, to Mary Louise Wilkins McClure and Arnold McClure. Her mother later married E. Curtis Ambler and resided in Newington.

She spent the first 12 years of her life in Portland living in a house that her great-grandfather built. Martha and her parents, and brother William, then moved to Newington where she became active in many student activities.

Martha received a bachelor's degree in English from Wake Forest and a master's in theater from the University of Michigan. She had the opportunity to work in many summer stock theaters, where she met several actors who later became famous.

She lived in Denver, where she held several administrative positions. She later was able to travel to Naples, Italy, where she was the chairperson of the Air Force Wives Committee, which helped new Air Force wives acclimate to life on the base. She had the opportunity to live in various European countries, such as Turkey and Cyprus.

Ending her travels, she returned to New-



### East Hampton

#### Jane H. Scovill

Jane H. Scovill, loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully in her home Saturday, Feb. 19. She was born to Mary Alice and William Leo Mayhew Feb. 28, 1945, in Woodsville, N.H.

Jane is survived by her husband of 57 years, J. Cliff Scovill of East Hampton, as well as her children: Timothy Scovill of East Hampton, James and Jacqueline Scovill of Portland, Cliff and Donna Scovill of Gilman, Vt., Joseph and Eva Scovill of Port Saint Lucie, Fla., Kimberly and Shawn Greenlaw of Moodus, Patricia Klick and Peter Furlani of East Hampton; as well as her 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her siblings, Rochelle Villeneuve of Lisbon, N.H., Francis and Doreen Mayhew of Middletown, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Jane was an active member of St. Mary Church in Portland for many years. She will be loved and missed by many.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, Feb. 23, in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, is in charge of arrangements.



### East Hampton

#### Ruth A. Cook

Ruth A. Cook, 88, of East Hampton, loving and devoted wife of the late D'Arcy R. Cook, passed on to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus, on Sunday, Feb. 13, at Marlborough Health and Rehab. Born in Providence, R.I., Ruth was the daughter of the late Herbert C. and Ethel Aspinwall.

She is survived by her wonderful and faithful adopted daughter and son-in-law, Robin and Randy Ransom of Marlborough. She is also survived by her adopted grandson, Joshua P. McSparren of Marlborough, and her lifelong friend, Carol Clayton.

Per Ruth's request, there are no calling hours. There will be a private graveside service in Marlboro Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Ruth's name can be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

### Colchester

#### Arthur J. Dutra

Arthur J. Dutra passed away at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford Friday, Feb. 11. He was 90 years old. Born in Portsmouth, R.I., on Jan. 30, 1932, he was a son of the late Manual and Sarah (Susa) Dutra.

Arthur married his beloved wife, Sandra

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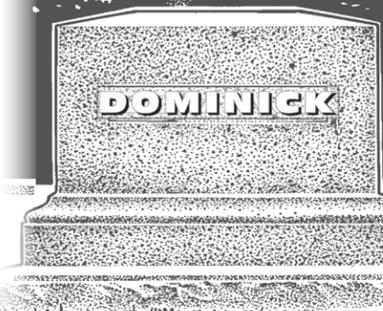
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## Obituaries

ington where she got involved in Republican politics running for Town Council and Board of Education. It was on the Fair Rent Commission that she met her present husband, James McCabe. One of her greatest thrills was moving back to Portland and buying back the house where she spent her youth.

Martha was very family-oriented, as was shown by her treating everyone in her outrageously extended family as her immediate family, being a mentor to many of them. She was persistent in arranging family get together. She was an avid reader, as is evidenced by the thousands of books in her library. She also was a lover of crossword puzzles. You could always find her working on two or three at a time.

Martha enthusiastically looked forward to her annual trips with Jim to Manhattan and the Berkshires. She was an avid fan of train travel. She and Jim criss-crossed the U.S. and Canada by rail.

Martha worked as administrative assistant for the Connecticut Correctional Ombudsman for 15 years, which dealt with inmate complaints against the Department of Corrections. Martha then spent time working for the state housing department deputy commissioner. She then went on to be the administrative assistant to the Hartford Ballet artistic director until it disbanded. She often opened her house to choreographers who were in Hartford on a temporary assignment. She then took on the ordeal of working for her husband in his financial advisory firm.

She leaves behind her husband James, brother William (Edna), stepbrothers Tracy (Nancy) and Curtis (Susan) Ambler, and stepsister Rosalind (Joseph) Greco; as well as many nieces and nephews, Leonard (Kristina) Engel, Thomas (Lourdes) Engel, Kristin (Paul) Muratori, Melissa (John) Shaw (whom she considered her kids), David (Lisa) Ambler, Paul (Deb) Ambler, Timothy (Cristina) Johnson, Michael (Dayna) Johnson, Ryan (Christina) Pomeroy, Brendan (Nicole) Pomeroy, Brett (Amanda) Ambler, Devon Ambler, Marie (Jon) Saporito; as well as many great nephews and nieces. She also leaves her two cousins, Donald (Barbara) Goodrich and Allan (Teresa) Goodrich.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, Feb. 26, at 11 a.m., in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, today, Friday, Feb. 25, from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to your favorite pet organization.

### Portland

#### Ryan Aldee Poulin

Ryan Aldee Poulin, 31, originally of Glastonbury, passed away suddenly early February. He was the beloved son of David and Jody Poulin of East Hartford and Linda and John Willmore of Portland.



In addition to his parents, Ryan was survived by his sister, Jessica Poulin of Middletown; grandparents, Richard and Joan Brainard of Florida; his two aunts, Susan (Peace) Grimaldi of California and Sandy Poulin of Manchester; uncle, Michael Poulin, and grandmother, Althea Jewell, both of Glastonbury. As well as many loving cousins and step siblings.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Aldee and Mildred Poulin of Glastonbury, uncle Richard Brainard of New London and grandfather William Jewell of Glastonbury.

Funeral memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. All other services will be held privately and at the convenience of his family.

### Portland

#### Eli Richard Taylor

The Taylor and Cataford families mourn the tragic and unexpected loss of Eli Richard Taylor, infant son of Melissa (Cataford) Taylor and Glenn Taylor, on the day of his birth, Thursday, Feb. 17.

Baptized with the sacramentals of holy water and the tears of his parents, Eli passed into the glory of heaven and the arms of Jesus Christ. He leaves behind his brothers, Aaron Pinar and Grant Taylor, and his sister, Hailey Grace Taylor. Also grieving his sudden loss are his grandparents, Dave and Maria Taylor, Laura and Scott Tyrol, Kathleen and Peter Cataford, and many other extended family members and

friends.

Condolences may be left in the Book of Remembrance at Mulryan Funeral Home, mulryanfh.com A private graveside service will be held at the discretion of his parents.

### Colchester

#### Dorothy Olson

Dorothy Olson, "Dot," of Colchester, passed away in Middletown Tuesday, Feb. 15, at Water's Edge Center for Health and Rehab. where she had been residing. She was 90 years old. Born July 7, 1931, in Concord, N.H., she was a daughter of the late Herbert and Gladys (Phillips) Tittlemore.



She married Richard H. Olson June 14, 1953, in New Hampshire. In 1964, the couple moved to Colchester where they made their home and raised their family. Dot and Richard shared 61 years of marriage before he predeceased her Oct. 8, 2014.

Dot was a homemaker taking great pride in her home, family and as a foster parent. She was well known for her baked goods which her family and neighbors were often gifted with. Dot attended the Colchester Federated Church. Horseback-riding, painting, and watching the Boston Red Sox or the UConn basketball teams, were some of her favorite pastimes. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend to all her neighbors. Her loss will be mourned by many.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Sandra and Bernard Coulombe of East Hampton, Jean Nowak of Colchester, Kurt Nowak of Manchester, Mark and Barbara Olson Bosse of East Hampton, Eric and Missy Olson of Snohomish, Wash., Carol and Robert Bengtson of Monroe, Wash.; nine grandchildren, Beth, Sarah, Kathryn, Megan, Dorothy "Dori," Robin, Rosemary, Heidi, Zachary; 11 great-grandchildren, Kaleb, Cassandra, Franny, Keira, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Erika, Aubrey, Riker, Natalie and Tucker. Special thanks to her caregivers, Gordon, Sue and all the others over the years; her special friends in the Ponemah Club, and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by three sisters, Helen, Marjorie, and Ruth.

Funeral services will be held at a later date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to benefit the Dana-Farber cancer institute, www.dana-farber.org or Protectors of Animals, www.poainc.org or the charity of one's choice.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

### Marlborough

#### Julia St. Peter Curtis

Julia B. St. Peter Curtis, of Cromwell and Marlborough, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 15. She was wife of the late Byron Curtis. Julia was born April 11, 1924, in Passadumkeag, Maine, daughter of the late Neddie and Annie (Saucier) St. Peter.



She died peacefully with her loving daughter, Bonita LaMarche by her side at home in Marlborough. She also leaves a grandson, Trevor LaMarche of Boston, who always adored his grandma and will miss her greatly. She also leaves a son and granddaughter in Arkansas.

There will be no calling hours. There will be a Mass at a later date.

#### New Obituary Policy

Effective with the March 18 edition, the *Rivereast News Bulletin* will begin charging \$75 to place an obituary.

Obituaries can be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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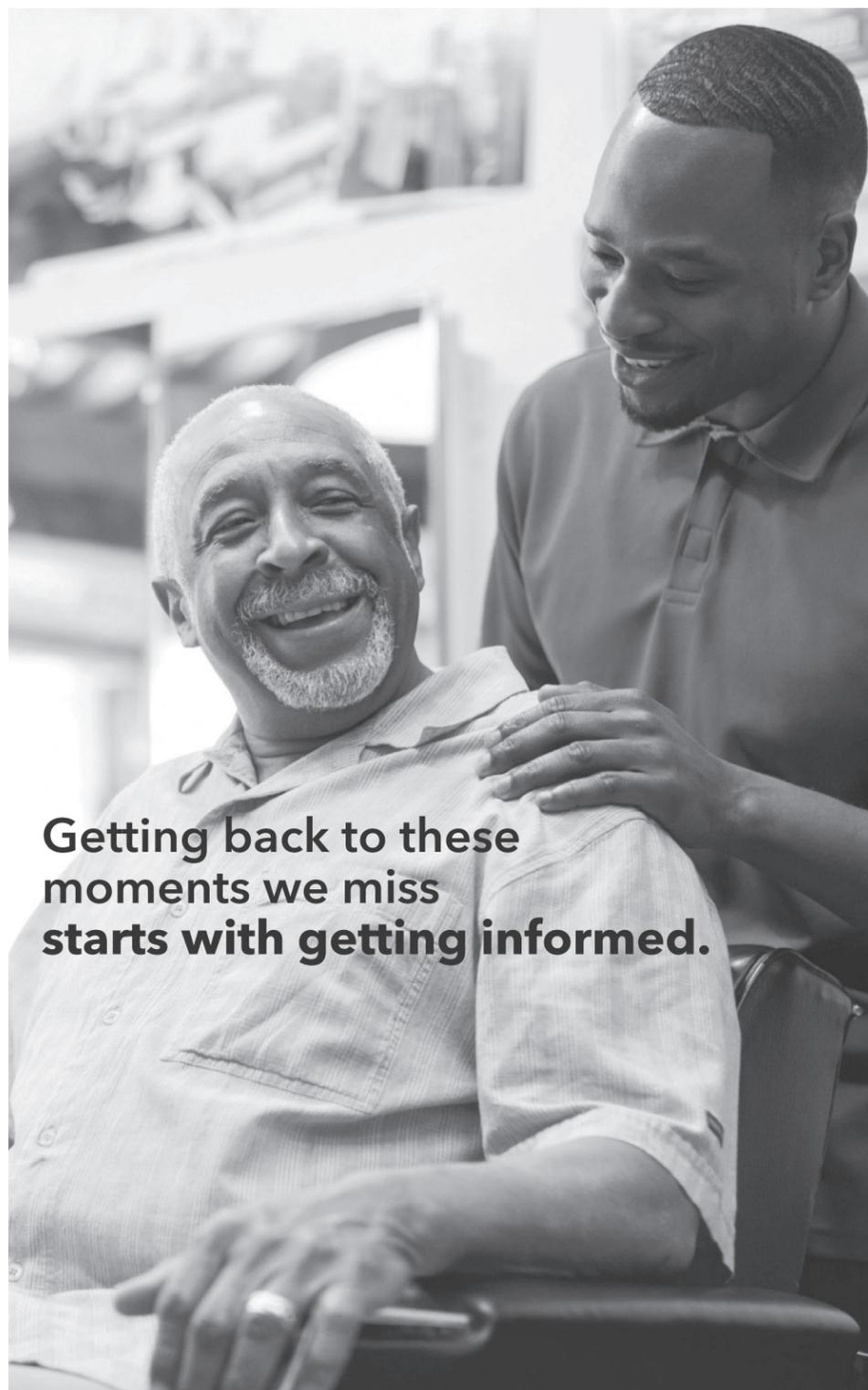
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★ **Letters cont. from page 6**

ing with outdated curriculum, implementing new technology and revamping a policy manual, which had not been significantly revised since the 1970s.

I am pleased to have played a role in those efforts and I am proud of the work that was accomplished. As a member of the Board of Selectmen I pledge to carry that same level of dedication and commitment to all aspects of town government.

As the only endorsed Republican candidate, please visit my profile at [www.MarlGOP.com](http://www.MarlGOP.com). I look forward to receiving your vote on May 3.

**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough**

*Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

**Misspelling of Name**

To the Editor:

Saleha Qureshi is the correct spelling, not Sulahai Kuresha, of the therapist quoted at length in last Friday's *Rivereast* article in the Portland section entitled "'View Them as Neighbors, Not Refugees'" by Jack Lakowsky. It is important to make this correction in case a Muslim needing therapy for trauma wishes to contact her. The article is a very good report on the recorded 2/10 Portland Library event called "Befriending Our Afghan Neighbors."

Qureshi provided advice on how all of us can appropriately welcome newly arrived families evacuated from Afghanistan last August. Another presenter at this event was Arzoo Rohbar, a case manager at IRIS, the refugee agency in New Haven. Rohbar, a graduate of SCSU (not CCSU, as reported) shared some of the challenges for her and her family when they first arrived here in 2002 and helpful information for us to be aware of about Afghan culture. The third presenter was Beth Gould-Ruitto, Leader of the Portland Refugee Resettlement Group (PRRG), who reported on the readiness of PRRG to resettle an Afghan family in an apartment in Middletown with the support necessary for them to be quickly independent and successful here. For information on how you can contribute to this effort, please contact PRRG at [pctrgr@gmail.com](mailto:pctrgr@gmail.com).

Thank you.

**Caroline Murray – Portland**

*Note: Murray was coordinator of the 2/10 recorded Portland Library-sponsored event "Befriending Our Afghan Neighbors."*

**Senior Reopening!**

To the Editor:

Andover seniors are looking forward to reopening our senior events Wednesday, March 16, with our Young at Heart bingo, and celebrating our March birthdays. On the 23rd, a movie will be shown and on the 25th our senior luncheon will be served at noon in the Community Room at Town Hall.

As the senior coordinator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the younger generation of parents who support our reopening and stated it at the BOS meeting public speak on Feb. 15. Additionally, I would like to thank those residents who phoned me to show their support in our reopening effort. It means a lot to see our seniors get together and enjoy themselves.

**Sincerely,  
Cathy Palazzi  
Andover Senior Coordinator**

**CT Wildlife is Being Poisoned**

To the Editor:

Birds of prey, bobcats and foxes are predators of rodents and provide natural, safe, pest control. Ironically, products sold to control rodents are actually poisoning these predators.

First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs) found on store shelves have a cumulative effect in non-targeted wildlife but have lost their effectiveness on rodent populations.

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) are used by extermination

companies. They are more toxic, remain in the environment longer.

Anticoagulant rat poisons such as d-CON contain highly toxic chemicals, which cause uncontrollable internal bleeding and death. Animals that feed on poisoned rodents are also poisoned! These animals suffer miserable deaths.

Children and pets are also poisoned. According to the EPA, more than 10,000 children are accidentally exposed to rodenticides each year, and an estimated 7,000 pets are accidentally poisoned. Compounds like Diphacinone in gopher and ground squirrel baits take days to kill the rodents, leaving them easy prey for rodent-feeding predators. When a predator feeds on enough poisoned rodents, it dies.

What you can do:

1. Practice good housekeeping in your environment. Pick up birdseed waste. Don't leave pet food out, and store seed and pet food in pest-proof containers with tight-fitting lids. Securely tie garbage bags and close dumpsters. Remove piles of debris.

2. Exclude rodents from your home by covering all gaps larger than 1/4" with small-gauge wire mesh screening.

3. Don't use d-CON or other anticoagulant rodenticide. Use snap traps for rodents remaining inside the structure. Hire contractors who will not use poison. Use electronic traps (the "Raticator") or a new third-generation rodenticide TERAD3. Don't use glue strips as they are inhumane and often trap other creatures.

4. Talk to local agencies responsible for parks and open spaces.

5. Visit [raptorsarethesolution.org](http://raptorsarethesolution.org) to find out much more about this subject.

**Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton**

**Guess the Racist**

To the Editor:

I like games, too, John. Let's play "Guess the Racist" ...

"You got the first mainstream African American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy..."

"...a cadre of young people, tens of thousands of them, born out of wedlock, without parents, without supervision, without any structure, without any conscience developing because they literally have not been socialized."

"I don't care why someone is a malefactor in society. I don't care why someone is antisocial. I don't care why they've become a sociopath. We need to cordon them off from the rest of society."

"Criminals need to be away from my mother, your husband, our families."

"We have superpredators in our streets with no conscience, no empathy, and they need to be brought to heel."

"They (the Republican Party) are gonna put y'all back in chains."

"I pushed funding to build a barrier to try and prevent illegal immigrants from coming in."

"Illegal immigration is wrong, plain and simple."

"We simply cannot allow people to pour into the U.S. undetected, undocumented, and unchecked."

"A few years ago, this guy (Barack Obama) would have been getting us coffee."

"Obama doesn't know how to be president. He doesn't know how the real world works."

"They did treat him (Obama) differently than other Democrats and Republicans. Why? I don't know. They liked him. And they like having the first African-American president."

"You cannot go to a 7-11 or Dunkin' Donuts without a slight Indian accent."

Forced busing to desegregate schools would "force his children to grow up in a racial jungle."

"If you have a problem figuring out if you're for me or Trump, then you ain't black."

(Brandon, Brandon, Brandon, Brandon, Hillary, Brandon, Hillary, Chuck, Barack, Bill, Bill, Bill, Brandon, Brandon, and Brandon).

Want to keep playing?

**Regards,  
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

**January 6th**

To the Editor:

Here's a little challenge to *Rivereast* readers. Watch the *New York Times* video, "Day of Rage" (<https://nyti.ms/34VsZ3p>) about Jan. 6, then reread Sam Prentice's description of the events as "little more than a disruption at the Golden Corral."

OK, done? Now I ask you, is it the people decrying these events or Mr. Prentice who seems a "hypocritical fraud"? Yes, I thought so. The video consists entirely of footage from that event. His letter consists entirely of nonsense from right-wing websites. He discusses two of the five deaths, includes lies from a doctored video (<https://link.sauyet.com/43>), and proposes some obscure point about racism. He repeats debunked lies about Kamala Harris (<https://link.sauyet.com/44>), and then draws ridiculous parallels with the George Floyd protests outside the White House. (I wonder why he worries about the bunker when Donald Trump said it was only an inspection tour?) I'd love to see his

**LEGALS**

**LEGAL NOTICE, TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS WILL HOLD HEARINGS AND/OR DELIBERATIONS AT THE SENIOR CENTER: 17 SCHOOL DRIVE, MARLBOROUGH CT  
**THE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**  
2021 REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY & 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LISTS  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 22 2022: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.**  
SENIOR CENTER  
2021 MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LIST  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21 2022: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.**  
SENIOR CENTER

Applications and other information will be available online on the Town of Marlborough's Assessor page [www.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.net) under "Forms and Information" or in person from the Assessor's office.

An application can be requested by email at [assessor@marlboroughct.net](mailto:assessor@marlboroughct.net) from Tuesday, March 1st and must be returned on or before the end of the working day Friday, March 18th at noon. All applications must be physically returned to the assessor's office (no emails or postmarks) with an original signature or an appointment for hearing will be denied.

2TB 2/11, 2/25

**LEGAL NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 7:30 PM, to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, concerning the following:

**Petition 2022-1**, Request of Richard J. Heffernan Jr., Owner, for a variance to Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 240 square foot shed 8 feet from the side property line where 30 feet is required by the Regulations, premise located at 19 Teichert Lane, R-1 District. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 8th day of February 2022. Martin Halloran, Chairperson

**Interested persons may appear and all written communications will be received.**

Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Tue, Mar 1, 2022 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (EST)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://meet.goto.com/534680701>  
You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (408) 650-3123  
**Access Code: 534-680-701**

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

2TB 2/18, 2/25

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following public hearing on Wednesday, March 09, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Senior Center located at 17 School Drive.

APPLICATION #ZBA-01-22 – 198 EHRD LLC (applicant/property owner) 198 East Hampton Road - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Seven A Fc Side Yard Setback, in order to construct an ADA compliant ramp with a setback of 1 foot where 15 feet is required.

APPLICATION #ZBA-02-22 – Todd Sanderson (applicant/property owner) 24 Lake Ridge Drive - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 1 c Rear Yard Setback, Article Six D.4 Maximum Building Coverage, & Article Six D.5 Maximum Lot Coverage in order to construct a shed a Rea Yard Setback of 7.7 feet where 50 feet is required, Building Coverage of 10.4% where the Maximum is 10%, and Lot Coverage of 20.2% where the Maximum is 20%.

Interested parties can review the application materials on the Town of Marlborough Website [marlboroughct.net](http://marlboroughct.net) then go to meetings & agendas click on Agendas then go to Zoning Board of Appeals. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to [building@marlboroughct.net](mailto:building@marlboroughct.net), and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2TB 2/25, 3/4

proof that perpetrators are being held without hearings; a few accused of violence against police are being held without bail, but that's very different. We can find these claims on right-wing sites. Echoing them back without any skeptical investigation is, at the very best, intellectual laziness; but I wouldn't rule out more nefarious interpretations.

And let's not forget Ed Kozlowski. If he doesn't want to read Rauch's *The Constitution of Knowledge*, which challenged some of my ideas and might challenge some of his, that's fine. Him, I didn't expect to bother trying to learn something. Others might find it worthwhile, though. His remaining letter is poppycock. If he thinks he's attacking progressives by attacking Neil Young, he should reconsider. I'm not particularly a Neil Young fan. And I care almost as little about the entertainers' political opinions as I do about Mr. Kozlowski's parroted right-wing conspiracy theories. Almost.

**Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet – Andover**

**Legal Notice- Public Hearing Proposed Revision of Regulations**

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
The Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) will hold a Public Hearing on Monday March 7th, 2022 at 7:00PM to hear testimony and comments on the following:

**Proposed Changes to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Regulations.**

Directions to participate in the Zoom Meeting will be provided on the IWWC regular meeting agenda for Monday March 7th 2022, and can be found here: <https://www.andoverconnecticut.org/calendar>

Comments, questions or concerns may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in writing to the Andover Building Office, 17 School Road, Andover, Connecticut not less than 24 hours prior to the public hearing. Should any individual(s) need access to a public computer please contact the Building Office at (860)742-4036 twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. Joseph Wagner

2TB 2/25, 3/4

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS Hebron Town Office Building**

A written application with the Board of Assessment Appeals must be filed for the purpose of receiving a hearing on an assessment of Real Estate or Personal Property for the October 1, 2021 Grand List or, on the October 1, 2020 Motor Vehicle Supplemental Grand List.

The written appeal must include the following:

- 1) The property owner's name, the name and position of the person who signs the appeal application;
- 2) A description of the Property;
- 3) The name and address of the person to whom correspondence is to be sent & a contact phone number or email address;
- 4) The reason for the appeal;
- 5) The appellant's estimate of value;
- 6) The property owner's signature and if applicable, the agent's signature with proper owner(s) authorization;
- 7) The date of which the appeal application is signed.

All written applications to the Board of Assessment Appeals must be **received in the Assessor's Office** no later than 4:00 p.m. Monday March 21, 2022.

Board of Assessment Appeals  
Town of Hebron, Assessor's Office  
15 Gilead Street  
Hebron, Connecticut 06248

Forms are available at the Assessor's Office or on the Town of Hebron web site in the Assessor's department.

**Hearing Date:**  
Monday, April 4, 2022 7:00 pm  
Wednesday April 6, 2022 7:00 pm  
Saturday, April 23, 2022 10:00 am

Please include a telephone number where the appellant can be contacted concerning the appeal.  
Board of Assessment Appeals

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, February 25, 2022

1TB 2/25

**LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at a Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

**Petition 2022-1** – Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to Amend Section 6.D of the Hebron Zoning Regulations to extend the Temporary and Limited Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments until December 30, 2022. Application filed under Section 7.E of the Hebron Zoning Regulations.

**Petitions 2022-2 and 2022-3** – Site Plan and Special Permit Application of Margaret R. Nelson, seeking a change of use to a Live-Work unit consisting of an interior design showroom/gallery and a single-family residence, located at 7 Toomey Lane (Assessor's Map # 70-36), application is filed under the Section 3.A.3.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, HG District. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 23rd day of February, 2022. Gerald Garfield, Secretary

Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting/Public Hearing  
Tue, Mar 8, 2022 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EST)

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://meet.goto.com/237473405>.  
You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122  
**Access Code: 237-473-405**

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

**Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast New Bulletin on February 25 and March 4**

2TB 2/25, 3/4

**ADVERTISERS**

The *Glastonbury Citizen* and *Rivereast News Bulletin* will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The *Glastonbury Citizen* Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The *Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The *Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

# LEGALS

## LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

MOVED, that the Marlborough Zoning Commission approves the amendment to the Zoning Regulations in accordance with the document bearing the document code, "STAFF VERSION REFLECTING PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS WITH REDLINE STAFF EDITS CLEAN WITH COMMENTS," attached hereto as Exhibit A, with the following modifications (new language underlined):  
Page 7, Section 6.C.i.e, last line, change to "at a 3:1 grid point rate;"  
Page 8, Section 6.C.iii.5, last sentence, change to "at a grid point rate;"  
Page 20, Section 13.1.a, change "watershed" to "the Riparian and add "Resource," so as to read, "which is within the Riparian and Shoreline Resource Overlay Districts shall be controlled etc.;"  
This amendment shall be effective February 26, 2022. 1TB 2/25

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

The town of East Hampton Social Services Department will conduct an eviction auction of contents stored in one of the units at B&M Logistics, LLC, 81 Industrial Park Access Road, Middlefield, CT. 06455 On Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 9 a.m. 1TB 2/25

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# 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, radios, clocks, lanterns, oil lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy 860-874-8396.

## HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help

Call 888-247-4401



# EMPLOYMENT

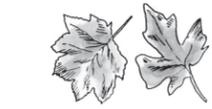
**FULL-TIME VAN DRIVER/HELPER:** Machine shop looking for driver to deliver parts and assist with other shop tasks when needed. Must be able to lift up to 40 lbs. and have a clean driving record. First shift position, health insurance/paid holidays, and 401K plan with company match. Send applications to Citizen/News Bulletin @ Box#373

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

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

**MINNECHAUG GOLF COURSE** is looking for FT/PT Maintenance, Pro Shop & Cart staff. Hours are flexible. Perfect for retirees. Call 860-432-3334 (leave message) or golfminnechaug@gmail.com

**E 2 ELECTRICIAN / APPRENTICES WANTED** with residential experience. Call John 860-214-4045 or email gardelec@frontier.com



**PART-TIME LIQUOR SALES CLERK WANTED:** Colchester Wine & Spirits. Stop in person to apply at store, 99 Linwood Avenue, Colchester.

**REVENUE COLLECTION CLERK - Town of Coventry Tax Office:** 37 hrs. per week. Starting pay \$19.49/hr. plus benefits. For info & application see Jobs at www.coventryct.org. Apply online or submit Town job application form to Town of Coventry, Office of the Town Manager, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Deadline: March 9, 2022. EOE M/F.

**WANTED EXPERIENCED GUTTER INSTALLERS.** Please contact Mike Wood by text 860-205-2573. Include your name, number and gutter experience.

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

## HELP WANTED

### C.N.A Senior Living CNA in Hebron CT

Colebrook Village – FT and PT positions are available for all shifts!! Must be compassionate, committed to resident center quality care, a team player and have fun while providing the highest level of hospitality in any senior living. Proof of Covid-19 vaccination required.  
Please email: [kpink@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kpink@colebrookvillage.com) or [dsmith@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:dsmith@colebrookvillage.com) REZ-25-22

## HELP MOM!

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### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

Colebrook Village – Looking for an LPN that wants to join a dynamic, talented, and dedicated team. Duties will include but are not limited to the following: providing care to our residents, speaking with physicians, families & supervising the C.N.A's. Must like to have fun at work. FT & PT, 2nd and 3rd shifts available. Proof of Covid-19 vaccination required.  
Please email: [kpink@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kpink@colebrookvillage.com) or [dsmith@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:dsmith@colebrookvillage.com) REZ-25-22

## NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

### ASSISTANT PLANNER/ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Town of Colchester, Connecticut seeks applications from qualified individuals for the position of Assistant Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer to administer Land Use programs, Zoning and Historic District enforcement. The position provides staff support to the Zoning and Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Historic District Commission. Attendance at night meetings is required. Bachelor's in Land Use Planning or closely related field, a minimum of 5 years' experience in land use or related field preferred. Equivalent combination of education, training, and experience will be considered. CAZEO certified desirable. The position requires considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of municipal land use regulations, as well as skills in reading development plans, interpreting and applying zoning and subdivision regulations, preparing written reports, and utilizing GIS. Excellent communication skills and ability to work effectively with public officials, other agencies, and the public is essential. Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm. Salary range: \$42,127-\$72,217. Submit cover letter, resume, and employment application to Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415 or via email to [HR@colchesterct.gov](mailto:HR@colchesterct.gov). Applications for employment are available at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/human-resources/files/employment-application-pdf> or in the Office of the First Selectman. 1TB 2/25

# REAL ESTATE

## RENTALS

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**FOR RENT:GLASTONBURY:** Spacious 5 room apartment w 2 bedrooms, kitchen w pantry, large living room + an additional room for potential at-home office, second floor of two-family adjacent to Hubbard Green, close to center of town. Washer/dryer, garage, back yard, \$1300/month, available March 1st. Call 860-212-5777.

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REZ-25-22

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Independence Dr., Marlborough, CT

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Marlborough, CT



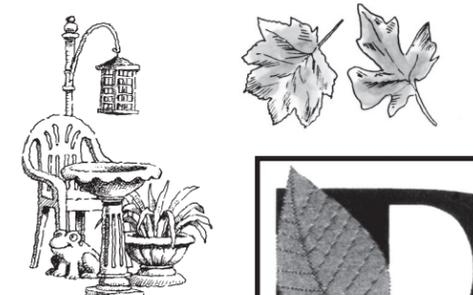
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