



RIVER EAST

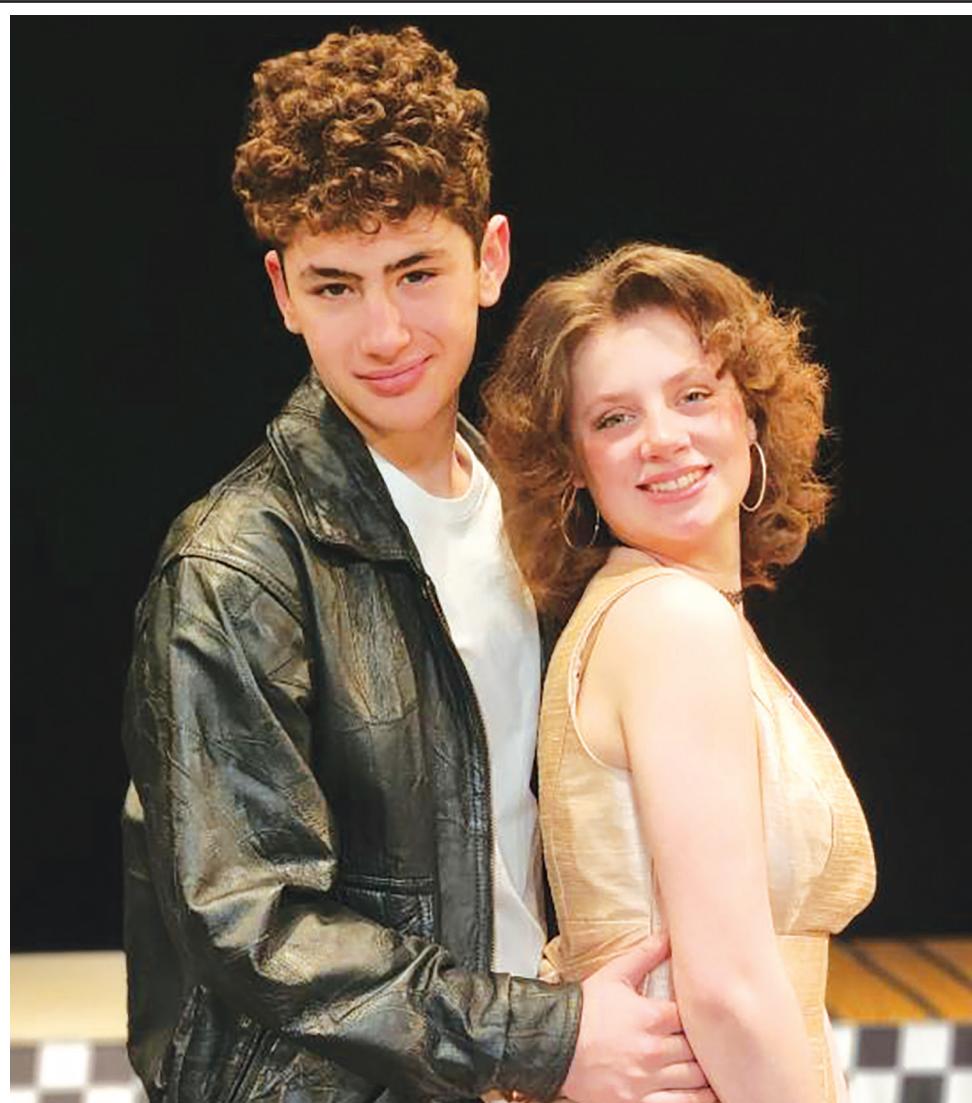
News Bulletin

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

Volume 46, Number 12

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April 1, 2022



We Go Together... Lead actors Julia Stone and Brayden Kramer pose as their lovestruck characters, Danny and Sandy, and will be performing in East Hampton High School's production of Grease next weekend, April 8-10. See story on page 20.

Compassion Urged After Animal Cruelty Arrest

By Sloan Brewster

Despite the arrest on animal cruelty charges of the owner of a Hebron animal rescue and the removal of dozens of animals from her home, the community surrounding her is offering her prayers and understanding.

The animals that were taken from the home are in state custody, Rebecca Eddy, public information officer from the state Department of Agriculture said in a phone call Wednesday. Eddy would not offer any details on the current condition of the animals, or say if they would be rehomed.

"The Hebron situation is a pending criminal matter and we have no further comment at this time," she said.

Joann Connelly, owner of CT Pregnant Dog and Cat Rescue at 171 Porter Rd. in Hebron, was arrested last Friday, March 25, and charged with three counts of animal cruelty, police said.

On Monday, after appearing in Rockville Superior Court, Connelly was released from custody with no bond on a promise to appear, according to the Connecticut Judicial website. *The Hartford Courant* reported Judge Kathleen McNamara also ordered Connelly to stop rescuing animals.

Connelly's next court date is April 20.

According to the press release from Connecticut State Police, Connelly's arrest came following a joint investigation with the town of Hebron Animal Control Office, Hebron Police, the Department of Agriculture, State Animal Control and the Hebron resident state trooper.

The press release states conditions in Connelly's home were "deplorable and unsanitary," and an overwhelming odor of urine and feces could be smelled from outside the residence.

There were numerous dogs in cages, one loose dog, and birds and cats were also in the home, the write-up states. Outside there was a pony, goats and geese.

Photos found on the state police website show dogs confined in rows of cages – including one with two large dogs with little room to move.

Connelly's arrest warrant affidavit goes into further detail about the conditions. It states that when the front door of the house was opened, urine and feces could be smelled from approximately 15 feet outside the home, where state Animal Control Officer (ACO) Tanya Wescovich was standing.

The warrant states that there were 29 dogs in crates soiled with urine and feces on the first floor of the home and one loose dog. The document also describes the cage where the two dogs were cramped together.

Waste from the animals covered the floor of the house, according to the document.

There was also a loose dog in the backyard, according to the document.

There were four more dogs in the basement and one loose dog, the document states. The basement was littered with debris, trash, urine, feces and pieces of insulation and newspaper, that were all accessible to the loose dog.

In the back room of the basement were 14 caged cats. The cages were described as filthy and some contained multiple felines. The floor of the room, according to the warrant, was coated with soiled cat litter.

On the second floor of the home, there was one loose cat and one caged feline "in filthy conditions with litter and feces covering the

See Compassion Urged, page 31

Council Slams Ambulance Association's Tactics

By Jack Lakowsky

"Lots of things need to be repaired."

East Hampton Town Council Chair Mark Philhower began a Tuesday meeting between the council and the East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) director's board with stark words.

The council and the EHAA met to discuss the volunteer ambulance service's future. Since last year the EHAA, largely through its chief Donald Scranton and volunteers, have beseeched the council for money from the town's allotment of American Rescue Plan money.

The EHAA is asking for \$600,000. The council has been adamant; it does not want to use one-time federal dollars for ongoing expenses like personnel.

Members said money is not their main problem, but recruitment. The service says it needs to incentivize volunteers. Volunteerism is on

the decline, board members and administrators have said.

As of now the council seems to be leaning toward contracting a private ambulance through Middlesex Hospital, with Philhower saying doing so has benefited the Town of Durham, which was seeing costs of its town-owned service skyrocket.

The EHAA board made largely qualitative appeals to the council, saying locals prefer when someone they know responds to their emergencies.

EHAA board member Kate Morris said the council should give the service a chance, and that the town "won't get the same dedication and care and response time from an outside agency."

EHAA volunteers and officials have been highly critical of the council in the news and

on social media, and Scranton and deputy chief Tom Donnelly have painted a grim picture of the EHAA's situation, even saying the volunteer service is on life support, with just a few years left.

Based on discussions Tuesday, this information seems to be exaggerated.

Philhower and several council members referenced a letter signed by the ambulance board which seemed to change the story.

The letter, in essence, states the EHAA's continued commitment to serving East Hampton, responding to emergencies and standing by at town events.

The letter seemed to further muddy the waters. Expressing exasperation, councilors were eager to know how the service went from a dire, do-or-die situation to a situation less severe.

See Ambulance Association's Tactics page 27

Inside...

Portland

PHS Golf Aims to Defend Title pg 8

Colchester

School Board Approves Budget pg 12

East Hampton

Goff Seeks State Senate Seat pg 18

RHAM

Meet the New Superintendent pg 26

Regional

Obituaries pg 32

Andover

Community Center In the Works pg 33



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Colchester • Colchester

Let the Fish Swim Free

The 'Let the Fish Swim Free' painting fundraiser, to benefit the development of the new Norton Park, will take place Saturday, April 30, at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., and Saturday, May 7, at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. All sessions will be at the Colchester RecPlex Pavilion, 215 Old Hebron Rd.

The inspiration for this fundraiser comes from the impact of bringing a river back to life with the removal of an old dam on the Jeremy River at the former C.H. Norton Paper Mill completed by the Nature Conservancy in 2016. The dam removal opened up over 17 miles of upstream habitat for resident and migratory fish to swim up and downstream freely.

Local fine artist and Norton family member Julianna W. Cameron will lead the design and painting events, where participants will be encouraged to creatively paint fish cut from authentic

C.H. Norton paper mill board. The participants may choose to have their painted fish be part of an art exhibit to be held at Cragin Memorial Library May 21-June 30.

There are three different fish to paint: Salmon (28"x9") for \$30, Trout (23"x6") for \$20 and Alewife (12"x6") for \$10.

To register for the fundraiser, visit colchesterctrecdesk.com/Community/Program.

For more information about the development of the 6.4-acre riverside Norton Park, including the proposed park phases and video presentations, go to www.colchesterct.gov/norton-park-committee. Fundraising for engraved commemorative bricks and granite capstones is still underway. To make a comment or question about the development of Norton Park, email nortonpark@colchesterct.gov.

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: 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.

See More Colchester News on page 12



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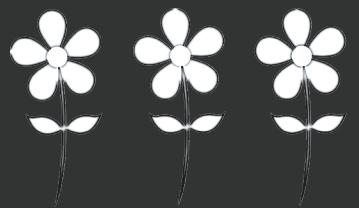
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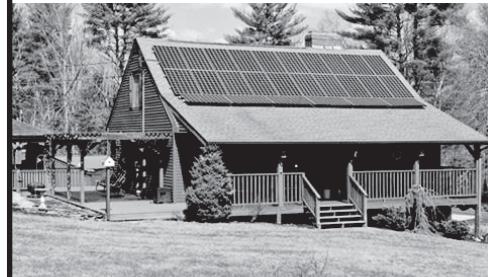


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Lisa Hutt 860-836-8361

WALK TO BEACH \$529,000



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Teri Gilnack 860-463-6287

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Jill Menard 860-874-3047

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Michelle Collins 860-982-4684

MODERN UPDATES \$439,000



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Jorel Aleman
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Yola Feery 860-306-6553

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Where ya going? Where ya been?

Starting next week, we're unveiling a new feature in the paper: "Where in the World is the *Rivereast News Bulletin*?" A similar feature has been running in our sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*, for years. Next time you go on vacation – be it to the beach, the Brooklyn Bridge, Japan, or anywhere – bring a copy of the *Rivereast* with you and take a photo with it. Then, email the photo to us at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

Each week we'll choose a random picture to highlight in the paper – and the chosen picture will win a prize!

"Where in the World" has been a hit in the *Citizen*, and I'm eager to see some of the places Rivereasters take us. So next time you go on vacation, think of the *Rivereast* as your American Express card – don't leave home without it!

Speaking of fun contests you can enter: Most libraries in the state are participating all this month in the Passport to Connecticut Libraries program. Here's how it works:

To begin, visit your local participating library to pick up your Passport. Library staff will stamp it and give you a token gift to get you started. Then, take your Passport along as you visit other participating libraries. At each visit, you must show your library card, and then the library will stamp your passport and give you another small gift.

If you visit at least five participating libraries and return your passport to a participating library by May 6, then you will be entered into one state-wide drawing for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card for adults (18 and up) and a \$100 Visa gift card for children (un-

der 18). This is a statewide contest where four winners will be selected: one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited at least five libraries, and one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited the most libraries.

In *Rivereast*-land, libraries in Andover, Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland are participating. Other nearby libraries taking part are those in Bolton, Salem, Glastonbury and several other area towns.

Exploring different libraries can be very interesting. Each one is a little bit different – not just in look and program offerings but in collections as well. For example, as a big TV buff, I've long been a fan of the collection of shows on DVD at South Windsor Public Library. It's a very impressive mix. (And yes, South Windsor is a participating library.)

As the weather – hopefully – improves, April is a great month to go for a drive around the many beautiful towns in the state.

So I encourage all of you to go cruisin', check out the different libraries, and get your passports stamped. Who knows, you may just be the lucky winner of that Visa gift card.

As yet another new COVID variant starts to take hold across the country – particularly in the Northeast – the timing is good for this news: The FDA this week authorized a second booster dose, of either the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or the Moderna vaccine, for ages 50 and up, as well as certain immunocompromised individuals. That includes those who have undergone solid organ transplantation, or who are living with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immuno-

Editor's Desk continued on page 7

Bulletin Board

Like many of you, I have been feeling the bite of increased gasoline prices. This added expense has compelled me to prioritize my errands and reconsider unnecessary trips. For instance, I have been obliged to abandon welfare checks on aging relatives who haven't answered the phone in a couple of weeks unless they live in close proximity to a liquor store.

Nevertheless, in character with my widely admired sunny disposition and ability to find silver linings in the most unlikely places, I have tried to look at the positive aspects of these new limitations. First and foremost of course, those of us who are driving less are making a laudable—if largely involuntary—contribution to the reduction of humanity's carbon footprint. Not only do you have the satisfaction of saving the world, you can use the money you save to help pay your electrical bill surcharges.

On another "good news front," it was announced this week that the State of Connecticut will temporarily drop the gas tax to ease our pain to the tune of about 25 cents a gallon. This won't exactly put me in high clover, but at least I will now be able to afford to pay my state income tax and possibly have enough left over to put milk on my cereal. Don't get me wrong, I do appreciate the state's sacrifice on my behalf. I know how hard it is for politicians to give money back to the people who actually sweat for it in the first place.

If I might make a suggestion. Perhaps our legislative leaders might also consider recognizing our sacrifice with a frameable certificate of merit or something. Maybe something with a rendition of a polar bear eating a flatulent cow. Perhaps they could fund this small gesture with some of that "free" federal money they've come into, instead of using it to provide \$3,500 "hero pay" bonuses to unionized state workers for actually doing their jobs. Just a thought.

Meanwhile, one potential benefit of our present situation is the impact high-priced gasoline could have on car thefts. If we can't afford to keep our cars gassed up, thieves will presumably face a whole set of new challenges. I have this vision of sweating thieves pushing a gasless BMW down the road while police (forbidden by law to engage in pursuit) stand by watching in hopes they'll at least see one of the culprits collapse with a hernia or something.

On the downside, I know of many people who make a point of keeping their cars gassed up in case of a sudden emergency—a possibility that has taken on greater significance lately in light of world events. I mean, nobody wants to get caught with an empty gas tank should Armageddon arrive and the government orders us all to evacuate to Vermont. I'm not quite sure why Vermont should be any kind of safe refuge unless maybe the experts anticipate the radioactive firestorm will be accompanied by major flooding, but anyway, Vermont is what the plans call for.

Personally, it seems to me it might make more sense to just stay home and prepare to make a dignified exit from this mortal sphere with a cold beer and ready access to a flush toilet as opposed to being incinerated alongside thousands of screaming strangers in some mass traffic jam on I-91, but I may not be the best role model (ya think?). I have long harbored serious doubts about our government's competence. I mean, we live in a state where most of the government computers are apparently so out of date they're the equivalent of a Babylonian abacus. I realize this is apparently (as certain politicians assure us) the end result of rich people not paying their fair share as opposed to decades of poor fiscal policy. Still...do you really want to put your life in their hands?

But, as usual, I digress. Here I am unnecessarily pouring more gasoline on partisan fires.

So, allow me to conclude with a positive suggestion. This summer, let's stop cutting our grass. This will not only conserve precious gasoline, it will provide habitat for a multitude of small creatures, many of which spend their Saturday afternoons desperately dodging suburban lawnmowers. They will be grateful and the rest of us—having transformed a tedious chore into a contribution that benefits all humankind (not to mention slow-moving toads)—can spend more time contemplating a carbon-free world.

Or we could just watch baseball.

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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



Peppy Pruners... This group of happy, hardworking pruners are members of The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton who recently had a hands-on lesson in pruning the bushes around the gazebo on the ground of Center School, under the direction of Katherine Kosiba, president of the Colchester Garden Club. Another opportunity to learn this valuable skill will be held at the gardens at the Comstock Covered Bridge. Both areas are maintained by the Belltown Garden Club. The club generally meets on the fourth Monday evening of each month at the community room of East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St. Meetings are open to the public. Pictured from left are Sue LePage, Judy Barclay, Sue Hewes and Jon Raddatz.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Marlborough Meet & Greet

To the Editor:

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the Marlborough Republican Candidate Meet & Greet on Saturday, April 2, from 4-6 p.m., at Carter Hill. You will also have the opportunity to meet with Mike France, who is seeking the 2nd Congressional seat and Steve Weir, who is planning to run for state representative. There will also be live music by Bruce Hart and light refreshments will be provided.

Over the course of the last several weeks I have spoken about the many issues that impact our community and my thoughts on how best to tackle them. As a Board of Finance member, I have been scrutinizing the proposed budget for FY22-23 and had a say in what was included, and what was not. In the end, my focus is to make the best use of your hard-earned tax dollars to fund essential capital items and services, while nixing items which are "wants" versus "needs." And at the same time, keeping a lid on taxes by working hard to approve a budget that has a mill rate decrease, which is something we all need in these times of skyrocketing inflation.

Examples of what I consider "needs" are road repairs, preventative and long-term maintenance of our buildings and town equipment, ensuring a quality educational system and providing essential services for our residents.

For more information about my campaign and my positions on the matters that impact you, please visit www.MarLGOP.com and my Facebook page "Ken Hjulstrom for Marlborough Selectman."

I look forward to seeing you at the Meet & Greet and again at the polls on May 3.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

Research before Action

To the Editor:

Currently, Hebron is planning a bridge in the archaeologically sensitive area by the Douglas Library without doing mandated archaeology. This area had an Indigenous community quern and was the source of Dr. Pendleton's collection

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

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RIVEREAST

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

of projectile points from when Hebron Center was an Indigenous site. Similarly circa 6000 BCE artifacts from Burnt Hill confirm Hebron's early Indigenous presence.

Regrettably, while commercially developing Hebron Center and with plans to relocate the town center, no complete historic site survey has been done of this historic area, resulting in significant losses. An Indigenous presence is confirmed by archaeological evidence at the Cesar Peters' site by RHAM. When the town tore down the 18th century wheelwright/blacksmith shop for an extra library parking space, many unexplained bones surfaced. A missing state-sponsored archaeological/documentary report indicates that Henry Peters' house (Cesar Peters' son) should have been listed on the National Register. Now, the CVS replaces it. Misfiled by the town for over 16 years, this same report recommends further archaeological work before the town office clock tower, swimming pool and exercise spa are constructed.

Archaeological investigations do not prohibit development, but are state mandated to ensure that important cultural heritage sites are not destroyed. Hebron selectmen are charged with preserving Hebron's "rural historic character". They should be congratulated for supporting archaeological work on the new Public Works site on land associated with Levi Strong Backus, the world's first editor of a hearing-impaired newspaper. While stalled on desks for over a year, a newly awarded Indigenous/African-American sites grant will help to guide town officials. However, comprehensive title research must be done before Hebron's government acquires property, not after. Successful town planning begins with accurate information. Hebron's selectmen must make this a top priority.

John Baron – Hebron

Supports Bourbeau

To the Editor:

I'm writing to endorse Deborah Bourbeau for Marlborough selectperson in the upcoming special election. As we know, the town is holding this election to add two additional selectpeople who will share in the responsibility of selecting a new town manager.

We have known Debbie as a family friend for nearly 30 years since she taught our kids at the elementary school. We know her to be not only a hard-worker, but someone who is also well-organized, honest, and fair. She is also detail-oriented, impartial and willing to do the hard work necessary to make well-informed decisions about what is best for Marlborough.

She cares deeply about our town as it has not only, been her home since 1973, but also where she spent her entire teaching career. She is extremely well-informed about town business and makes a point of always attending town meetings and town votes. I can't think of a better person to represent the interests of Marlborough and to steward the character of our town.

Please join us in voting for Deborah Bourbeau for selectperson in the upcoming special election.

Charles Ayers – Marlborough

Lady Gaga & Liza Minnelli

To the Editor:

Monday night's display of class and compassion shown by Lady Gaga at the Academy Awards will live in the hearts and minds of all who saw it. Lady Gaga's "I got you" and Liza Minnelli's "I know" reply are what awards shows should all be about. It's so sad that the antics of Will Smith and Chris Rock stole what should have been the story of the night.

I have become a Lady Gaga fan for life, and wish all the best to Liza Minnelli.

Richard F. Denno – Marlborough

Extremely Angering

To the Editor:

It is extremely angering that we, the community of East Hampton, are being forced yet again to organize and speak out to prevent the development of a wholly inappropriate mega gas station in a purely residentially zoned neighborhood. The small pumping station at the corner of East Hampton's Main Street and Route 16 sits on R2 residential land and has for nearly 30 years. That property is zoned residential to prevent commercial creep in our gem of a historic neighborhood.

Atlantis Marketing purchased the property in 2018 and has since then attempted to force a zone change not just to the pumping station property but also to the adjoining properties. The outcry from East Hampton residents has been passionate and admirable. This out-of-town multi-million-dollar corporation has ignored the well-being of our community, seeking instead only fast profits.

Atlantis Marketing Group has been denied these zone changes twice in the last year, and now they're trying to still build a mega gas station across three residentially zoned properties through application to the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals. They cite "hardship," which is simply absurd. This company purchased these properties in the full knowledge of their existing residential zoning – which has been the same for two generations – and they certainly do not lack the resources to purchase more appropriate property to develop elsewhere, or to renovate sensibly within the existing gas station footprint.

The corner of Route 16 and Main Street is not at all a location at which a massive commercial compound should ever be allowed. The town must honor our vital and important existing zoning, the history of our town, and the safety and investments of our tax paying home owners and local small business owners.

Respectfully,
Kate Avery – East Hampton

Colchester Connection

To the Editor:

In a recent edition of the *Rivereast*, included was the latest edition of *Colchester Connection* published by the *Chronicle*. The Colchester Senior Center is very appreciative of the publication and its focus on the new senior center and keeping the residents of Colchester informed.

The *Colchester Connection* article was based on the mailer that was sent to all Colchester residents prior to the referendum of Nov. 16, 2021. Since the mailer was sent, there are a couple of updates that should be noted which are in conflict with what appeared in the *Colchester Connection* publication.

First, the timeline as presented has changed. The August mailer was sent with an assumption of a Sept. 23, 2021, referendum date. For various reasons, the referendum was pushed out two months to November, which has pushed back the timeline as published.

Second, since the passage of the referendum, Colchester has been notified we will be receiving a \$2.5 million DECD grant to help offset the costs of the center. Part of the grant will require some additional time to complete the application and to comply with certain provisions. Again, this could cause a bit of a delay.

Right now the Building Committee is proceeding with Design Development and will soon be completing the plans and specifications, getting the project ready for bid. For up to date schedules, please visit the senior center web page on the Town of Colchester website. We will be continually updating the timeline as our design progresses. If you have any questions, you can send an email to: seniorcenterbuilding-committee@colchesterct.gov. We monitor the site and will answer your questions.

**Anthony J. Tarnowski, LEED A.P.
Chairman, Colchester Senior Center
Building Committee**

Porphyria Awareness Week

To the Editor:

Considered rare, porphyria (said "poor-fear-ee-a") fall under the umbrella of diseases known as inborn errors of metabolism. They are each and every one insidious. For generations, acute porphyria symptoms in particular have confounded medical professionals, largely because the multi-systemic acute porphyrias can resemble a wide variety of conditions and in the U.S., the diagnostic algorithms mandated by so-called U.S. "porphyria experts" have been proven (and documented) to be unreliable.

Parenting a child with acute intermittent porphyria changed the trajectory of my life. After 13-1/2 years of intense caregiver responsibilities, following German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer "Truth goes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed, second it is violently opposed. Finally it is accepted as self-evident," I joined a cadre of international acute porphyria patients and caregivers whose intent to restore scientific integrity to the acute porphyria medical arena--beginning with the dubious diagno-

tic mandate.

If you or a loved one experience recurrent bouts of severe (debilitating): gastrointestinal, urinary tract, neurological, mental health issues, and/or suffer skin aberrations (when exposed to bright light(s)) and can connect any/all such symptoms to: hormonal changes; alcohol intake; certain medications (esp. barbiturates, steroids, sulfa-containing antibiotics); chemical exposure; cigarette smoke (or smoking); dieting (including missing meals); stress (physical or emotional); air travel and especially if 1) porphyria is known to be in your biological family – or other family members exhibit such symptoms and/or 2) you excrete darkened urine at any time, it's wise to discuss with your doctor the prospect of adding acute porphyria to his/her differential diagnosis list for you.

Joyce Gould – Portland

No Special Variance!

To the Editor:

Atlantis Marketing failed twice and is trying a third time to push their way into our residential neighborhood! This has been shut down time again because it does not fit East Hampton's town plan and the tremendous outcry of the residents. The small country gas station on the corner of Main Street and Route 16 operates under a special variance to allow a commercial business in a residential zone. The purpose of this variance is to protect the residential neighborhood against commercial expansion. The expansion of this variance should not pass because this business will be substantially different and so much bigger.

Now the Atlantis group says that they are experiencing hardship. This could not be further from the truth! They are a multimillion dollar corporation with gas stations all over Connecticut. They made a big mistake by purchasing those residential homes to make room for their failed expansion efforts. Why should we suffer the consequences of their poor planning?

The residents of our town have shared a clear and unified voice of opposition. The people who live, vote, pay taxes and raise our children in this great town do not want this. Help share our message that we do not want a mega gas station in our residential neighborhood at the PZA Meeting on April 11 at 7 p.m. at East Hampton Town Hall.

Thank you,
Ryan Bothamley – East Hampton

DPW Civic Accountability

To the Editor:

In response to Ms. Coy's letter, opposing Hebron's push to place a Public Works facility at 17 Kinney Rd. is not easy or a "feel-good vote." Actually, nothing about the plans for the facility, or opposing it, is easy or feels good. My wife and I love this town and have been happy to call it home for over 20 years; however, we are deeply concerned about this dangerous plan. The protection of our wetlands, as well as our history, agriculture and neighborhoods, is a responsibility we take seriously. One of our most important civic duties is to hold our town leaders accountable. Especially if the leaders' actions are in conflict with the town's own guide-

lines.

The facts we share are not "semi-informed"; they are taken directly from Hebron's own documents. Please read the Plan of Conservation and Development and look at the maps. All of the groundwater coming off the proposed site for the Public Works facility leads directly into sensitive wetlands that are the headwaters of Raymond Brook. There can be no question that an industrial Public Works facility and 2,000-ton salt shed at this site will pose a danger to these wetlands, Raymond Brook and the Groundwater Protection Zone. Please visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and see the videos of groundwater runoff coming from the property. This important piece of land filters an endless supply of fresh clean water, every moment of every day.

I have great respect for the hardworking people of Public Works and hope they get the improved working conditions they deserve. When I read the Public Building Committee's Report, I see opportunities in several different locations, especially the Eversource property. Pushing this facility in this location is hard to understand; it is just the wrong project in the wrong place.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Corporate Greed

To the Editor:

According to a report from government watchdog Accountable.US, 25 top oil and gas companies announced an eye-popping \$205 billion in profits in 2021. These companies then used those profits to reward shareholders and buyback stock while Americans struggled with price increases. Now, Big Oil is exploiting the crisis in Ukraine to advance its agenda and make even more money at the expense of American consumers. Corporations used global inflation issues to hide additional price increases. And it's not just oil and gas companies.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Maybe It's a Message

To the Editor:

There are always messages. After a week of hardship and devastation unlike any other in this lifetime, we try to figure out what happened and why it happened. But maybe there's a simple message there and we need to stop trying to make sense of the tragedy.

Maybe we are meant for something far greater than we ever expected. Maybe the universe plays a role in bringing people together like never before and for a reason.

Is it so we learn that the power of community is far greater than anything we can accomplish on our own?

Is it so we learn we do not need to travel in this life alone, but rather together, side by side?

Is it that we can really show up at our greatest time of need without fear of judgement or criticism, but rather we show who we are, raw, at our core, stripped away from everything the community saw us to be?

Cyndi Mazzotta – Portland

Atlantis Returns

Dear Editor:

Atlantis will be before the East Hampton Zoning Board of Appeals for their April meeting. Their intent is to add two residential lots to their existing lot at 1 Colchester Ave and have all three lots become grandfathered for com-

See Letters, page 6

Mechanic Help Wanted

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★ Letters cont. from page 6

mercial use.

The location of their current gas station at 16 and Main was zoned residential in 1990 to prevent expansion of commercial properties into residential neighborhoods. Their claim is that when they combine the properties there will be fewer zoning variances than exist now. Their argument is based on the assumption that all variances are created equal, which is not the case.

Equating building setbacks and lot coverage to expansion of commercial property in a residential neighborhood makes no sense. The biggest nonconformity in this area is commercial property in an area zoned residential. Expansion of that commercial property beyond its existing property lines is absurd. The entire purpose of the 1990 zone change was to prevent exactly what Atlantis is trying to do.

Attempting to use the zoning board of appeals

to consolidate properties and create a two-acre commercial property on residential Main St. is wrong. Atlantis has tried twice to do it the right way and lost so now they are trying to weasel their way in. The residents must stop this.

Please write or email the East Hampton Zoning Board of Appeals and voice your opposition.

Kenneth Dodson – East Hampton

To the Editor:

Many evenings have been spent during the last few weeks by the Board of Finance and Town Council, scouring the budget to find ways to make meaningful cuts, that will not adversely affect the taxpayers of East Hampton.

There are pages and pages of figures, categories and other annotations which have to be read, digested and questioned as to exactly what they mean and are they able to be reduced or cut.

We are working diligently to come up with a working but fair budget. We have only the taxpayers in mind during this process. In these sessions, the fact that this is taxpayers' money comes up frequently. You are not being overlooked or forgotten. We are doing our damnedest to make it work without another major sacrifice during these difficult financial times.

You have the ultimate say at the voting booth. Please know that we are working hard for you and haven't forgotten the people of this town during the ongoing process.

Stay tuned. You will hear more from us as the process nears completion. You and your needs are not forgotten.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Note: Walck is a member of the East Hampton Town Council, but is writing as an individual.

Running for Board of Selectmen.

Dear Marlborough Neighbors:

As you are aware, I am running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen in the special election on May 3. I would like to take this opportunity to clearly state my reasons for running.

I'm an unaffiliated voter meaning I align myself with no particular party. I was unanimously endorsed by Marlborough's Democratic Party but am independent in my thinking and actions.

I'm a person who is fair and open-minded, and I conduct myself with integrity and honesty, values which have been ingrained in me since I was a child. Parties aren't an issue with me. I am running solely because I want to give back to my community, a community that has given so much to me. There is no hidden agenda, no chaos that haunts my past. I do not form opinions of others by the way they look, the house they live in, or the job they hold. I form and state my own opinions.

Everyone deserves to be heard, to be able to state and defend their opinion, and I intend to do that as a member of the Board of Selectmen when elected. It's extremely important that the residents of Marlborough are informed about what is happening in their town and how it affects them. Their ideas should be heard and discussed. Communication is vital to the success of any town. Information should be easy to find and understand, and opportunities should be available to be heard.

I intend to work hard at my new position, to listen and evaluate, to think and to reason. I will be responsible to you, the citizen, and will do my best to make your life here in Marlborough the best that it can be.

Thanks for your support and your vote.

Respectfully,
Deb Bourbeau – Marlborough
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Gas Prices

To the Editor:

Recent letters blame high gas prices on President Biden (or in the case of one poor confused soul, on someone named "Brandon"). Are these writers ignorant of basic economics, enamored of right-wing propaganda, crassly manipulative, or all the above?

I know it, you know it: these folks will continue to blame President Biden even though they probably don't even believe it themselves. For everyone else, it's good to be armed with facts: Presidents don't affect short-term fuel prices. The oil market is international. With a world average (March 9 data) of \$4.51 a gallon, do they think it's to Biden's credit that we are

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RE3-25-22

♦ Happenings ♦

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For more information on advertising your "Happenings" please call 860-633-4691.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

only \$4.47?

These writers cannot suggest specific policies causing spikes, as there are none. But they will try to blame the Keystone Pipeline cancellation. When they do, ask them how this pipeline, not due online until 2023 *at the earliest*, is affecting current prices.

They will talk about energy independence, about how under Donald Trump we became a net oil exporter. An informative chart (<http://link.sauyet.com/46>) shows net imports started falling under George W. Bush, then fell sharply under Obama and Trump, until we hit a balance -- all because of the shale oil boom. But the biggest reason for the 2020 change is simple: during the Covid recession, oil consumption dropped to its lowest level in 25 years. There was less demand when the economy tanked. Those crediting Trump are thanking him for destroying our economy.

The economy has performed extremely well under Biden; demand has bounced back. We're on track to hit record production in 2022.

Oil prices rise for two reasons. First is a fast-growing economy: Check. Second is political instability in oil-producing areas, like Russia. You've heard of recent problems there?

(This letter was too long to include references. They're at <http://letters.sauyet.com/#/2022-04-01>)

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover

Ken Hjulstrom

To Marlborough voters:

Four individuals are vying for two of the new Board of Selectmen seats recommended by the last Charter Revision Commission which was approved by the voters. Ken Hjulstrom is one of the candidates. Over the years, Ken has posed Facebook comments on Marlborough's Community sites, written letters to the Rivereast editor and has criticized various Marlborough boards, commissions, departments and the hardworking volunteers who staff these boards and commissions. He has posted jokes which many have found sexist or racist. I feel elected and appointed officials should be held to a higher standard and feel his actions are enough to exempt him from being elected to the BOS and question him being on any Marlborough board or commission. Below are excerpts from some of his past posts.

11-30-18, Amy Traversa: "Snow day! Today's two-hour delay at Marlborough Elementary School has been changed to a cancellation! Enjoy the day off, kids."

Ken's Reply: "If the roads were bad enough to close school, and roads still have a lot of slush on them, why are town plows parked at Public Works at 9 a.m. instead of being out on the roads?" (There were a number of replies to Ken's post about how PW was out all night plowing the roads and that the trucks were parked because PW workers were taking a break).

2-12-2019 Regarding the 2017 Charter Revision Commission. (Ken was posting that the commission did not address key issues, such as the addition of two additional selectmen). Ken,

to Julie Revaz: "The first selectman appointed you along with others who followed the first selectman's direction. You dropped the ball and let down the public when you had the opportunity to make real changes to our charter".

To be continued.....
Cliff Denniss – Marlborough

Absentee Ballots

To the Editor:

The May 3rd election in Marlborough is critical. Two new Board of Selectmen seats will be filled. The new board will be responsible for hiring the first town manager.

I believe nothing is more important in a democracy than every citizen having the right to vote, and have their vote matter. On April 1, absentee ballots became available for those who qualify. The following information is directly from the secretary of state, regarding your ability to vote by absentee ballot.

"Connecticut has strict laws regarding who can vote absentee.

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If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you are eligible to vote absentee."

I am running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen and I want your vote! For more information about me, go to Betty O'Brien for Selectman on Facebook, or bring your family and join me at Meet the Candidates at the Marlborough Arts Center, April 23, 3-5 p.m.

Betty O'Brien - Marlborough Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Revisionist History

To the Editor:

In the March 25 edition, Don Denley wrote favorably of JFK standing up to the Soviet Bear – perhaps Mr. Denley believed QAnon's prediction that JFK was alive and ready to rally for Trump in Dallas, Texas, or perhaps Mr. Denley has always been a fan of JFK.

Then Mr. Denley suggests Vladimir Putin failed to make a move into Ukraine due to Donald J. Trump being a "wild card." Considering what Paul Manafort did with Ukraine, the "perfect" phone call to Ukraine, Trump's refusal to listen to John Bolton about Iran, Trump's refusal to listen to his own intelligence reports but accepting anything Putin said, Trump's unrecorded meetings with Putin, and Trump's attempts to end START and the Open Skies agreement to keep track of Russian nukes, it's pretty obvious that Trump was anything but unpredictable.

So why did Putin wait to invade Ukraine?

Not due to the revisionist history Mr. Denley tries to suggest about a weak Biden, but due to obvious facts everyone knows—the Russians had taken over Crimea in 2014 and were busy in Syria during Trump's reign, cleaning up the ISIS mess left by fellow Republican George W. Bush. Pretty simple to understand.

Putin wants Alaska back? Maybe Trump should have traded it for Greenland. I do feel bad for Mr. Denley's fixation on Jussie Smollett – there's no one else he can talk about, while we'll always have another Kyle Rittenhouse or QAnon shaman or some other figure to talk about.

Geoff Gaspar – Hebron

Legal or Right?

To the Editor:

Over the years I have been disappointed to learn that what I consider "right" has no legal standing. Perhaps it was my upbringing in the Catholic religion, but I believe that the "right" thing to do is just, fair, respectful, considerate, charitable: Christian. Loosely, any situation or decision that seems proper or correct by virtue of legal, moral, or ethical ideals (i.e., the opposite of "wrong").

This kind of "right" may not be legally enforceable. Legal rights are power or privilege held by the general public as the result of a constitution, statute, regulation, judicial precedent, or other type of law. Lawyers are paid to uphold the legal, not the moral version. This holds true for both sides of any case. It does not matter if I esteem the plaintiff (or defendant) to be "right," but only if their lawyer can find legal justification for a favorable ruling. Given that you and I might sometimes see a case differently, this is as it should be.

The law provides a degree of objectivity. But it also allows for pettiness, artful or charming lawyers, and the occasional unjust court ruling.

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

nocompromise.

The FDA said emerging evidence suggests that a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine improves protection against severe COVID-19, and is not associated with new safety concerns.

"Current evidence suggests some waning of protection over time against serious outcomes from COVID-19 in older and immunocompromised individuals," said Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "Based on an analysis of emerging data, a second booster dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine could help increase protection levels for these higher-risk individuals."

Haven't gotten your first booster yet? Don't worry, it's not too late. In fact, Marks added

Wrong, not right.

(Thanks to the Legal Information Institute for definitions.)

John Barnowski – Colchester

Teamwork for Marlborough

To the Editor:

The special election on May 3 will be incredibly important for our town. Our Board of Selectmen is growing from 3 members to 5. We have two candidates that care about our town and are committed to making it the best it can be.

Debbie Bourbeau is an unaffiliated voter that has committed her life to serving Marlborough as a teacher and as a member of various town organizations such as the Richmond Memorial Library, Marlborough Arts Center, and Marlborough Board of Finance. Betty O'Brien is a fiscally conservative moderate Democrat that has served our town in a variety of ways, including 16 years on the Board of Education.

Both candidates are endorsed by the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee and are committed to working as a team, putting town over party, to tackle our town's priorities such as selecting a town manager, preserving our lake, supporting our schools, keeping taxes low, and making Marlborough a town that works for all demographics. Please join me in voting for them May 3rd.

Jack Fidler – Marlborough

Note: Fidler is an alternate on the Marlborough Board of Finance but said he is speaking as an individual.

Hjulstrom for Selectman

To the Editor:

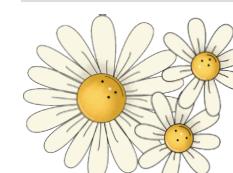
My father is Ken Hjulstrom. Most people know him in town as a very vocal and very active member of the community. He is now a

See Letters, page 30

that "the data show that an initial booster dose is critical in helping to protect all adults from the potentially severe outcomes of COVID-19. So, those who have not received their initial booster dose are strongly encouraged to do so."

I'm 42, but I imagine it won't be too long before eligibility for the booster shots is expanded to my age group. And when that time comes, I'll happily sign up for one. As I've made clear in this column, I'm a big believer in the vaccine. I know it doesn't necessarily stop you from contracting it – it was never supposed to – but the evidence is quite clear that it greatly reduces your chance of winding up in the hospital with the disease. And that, in my view, is a very good thing.

See you next week.



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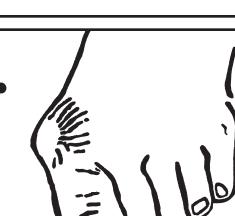
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by George M. Mantikas, DMD



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We are constantly on the lookout for ways to keep our patients happy, through innovative technology and techniques to comfortable surroundings that help our patients relax in a pleasant atmosphere. What has been keeping you from keeping on top of your dental profile? Anxiety? Apprehension? Those are relics of the past at our office, where we are committed to providing gentle dental care of the highest standards. Remember, a healthy smile lasts a lifetime.

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George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC

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RE4-1-22

to Julie Revaz: "The first selectman appointed you along with others who followed the first selectman's direction. You dropped the ball and let down the public when you had the opportunity to make real changes to our charter".

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Portland • Portland

Highlanders Golf Aims to Defend Title

By Josh Howard

Portland High School golf is coming off a state championship last year and hopes to duplicate that performance this spring.

Head coach Joseph Santavenere is entering his 10th season coaching the Highlanders, leading them to four state titles during his tenure.

Last spring he guided a young group to a Division IV state championship, defeating runner-up Immaculate by eight strokes.

"I thought we'd be competitive, but I didn't know to what degree and the depth that we'd have," Santavenere said of championship last June. "A lot of the kids we have from the top down worked really hard."

Three of the team's top four golfers from last season's title team will be returning with an added offseason under their belts.

Sophomore Luke Stennett is back and better than ever after finishing first overall, shooting even-par to win the Division IV individual championships as a freshman.

Stennett said the team's overall support allows him to succeed as an individual, adding, "Just being a part of this amazing team gives me the confidence to be me and play the best I can."

Along with winning the state title, Stennett was also named the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Player of the Year.

"What I have seen so far is he is on another level than he was a year ago. I am expecting a really good year from him," Santavenere said of Stennett.

Quinn Lapinski also flourished during his first season on the high school links, making first-team all-conference and finishing tied for 15th overall at the state tourney.

Sophomore Joseph Lamalfa, now a junior, tied for 17th at states.

Santavenere said both Lapinski and Lamalfa worked hard in the offseason and are shooting really well entering this spring.

The seasoned coach said he knew he was getting a strong group entering the program because he teaches at Brownstone Intermediate School in Portland.

He recalled having Stennett in his class in the fifth grade while the golfing prodigy was already competing in local tournaments.

Senior Center

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

Food Bank Donations: People donating for Portland Food Bank are asked to drop off donations only during food bank hours, downstairs in the senior center, on Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon.

AARP Tax Service: AARP is still doing taxes Wednesdays through April 13, between 9 a.m. and noon at the senior center. Call ahead to register. Masks are required.

Rent Rebate: Appointments begin in mid-April. You must call ahead to make an appointment.

Special Events: Horizon Wings Raptors: Monday, April 4, 1 p.m. Register ahead.

Massage with Joanie: Will return this spring; watch for more information.

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

This is a unique year for boys' golf in the state. Many high school golf programs shifted to the fall this school-year when the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) gave the option for programs to compete in either the fall or spring.

Recently there has been discussion that the CIAC may want to move all of golf to the fall. It's a notion that Santavenere opposes.

"In a small town like Portland we have multi-sport athletes and I don't want to put those kids in a position where they have to choose. We get a lot of soccer players and football players, and if we moved to the fall we would potentially lose those kids," said Santavenere, who added he has seen the number of golfers nearly double since he took over the program. "We started out with 8 or 9 my first year and now we're at 15 to 16 kids in the program."

Athletes like high-profile twins Owen and Hannah Brunk, who are all-conference players in football and soccer respectively, would have to choose between golf and their respective fall sports.

Both Brunks are back for their senior year on the links, as is Eli Evison who just wrapped up an all-conference season on the basketball courts.

Santavenere said Evison joined the program just last year and now looks like a more complete golfer, adding, "He was pretty raw last year, but his ball striking has come a long way. He put in the work in the offseason."

If golf were moved to the fall, Santavenere fears that he might lose some of these top-end talents.

"We have really good athletes. I encourage them to play as many sports as they can and I'm not one of those coaches that wants them to focus just on golf," added Santavenere. "I think you're better off when you're well-rounded and working different muscles and doing different movements in the offseason."

The Highlanders have a full slate of matches this year, including three straight at home to begin the season when they welcome Coventry (April 5), North Branford (April 14), and East Catholic (April 14) to Portland Golf Course.

Santavenere said coming into the season as



PHS sophomore Luke Stennett returns as the Highlanders top golfer after winning the Division IV championship as a freshman last spring.

the defending champs has its benefits, adding, "It's been nice because there is a confidence with the kids and it's about who wants to be a part of that next run." Stennett added that he's excited to get his second season on the high school links underway.

"Our main goal for this season is to get better every day and keep lowering that score one shot

at a time," added Stennett. "I'm so proud to be a part of this amazing team. We can't wait to show everyone what we are capable of."

KoC Scholarships Available

The Knights of Columbus, Freestone Council 7, will award three \$1,000 scholarships this spring to any high school senior from Portland who is furthering their education at a college, university, or technical school.

The application is available at the area high schools or by requesting an application at scholarship@rsitg.com. All Portland residents graduating this year are eligible.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 18, and the awards will be announced in May.

Hemlock Grange Celebrates Anniversary

Hemlock Grange 182 in Portland is celebrating its 110th Anniversary, and there will be a Music Night at the Grange Hall, 17 Sage Hollow Rd., on Friday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m.

The public is invited to come and enjoy the For Fun Band, which plays classic rock, doo wop and country. The local band has been playing together since 2000.

There will also be a collection box for those who want to donate canned goods and other items for the Portland Food Bank.

MJM7 Concert

St. Mary Youth Group will offer a concert featuring the Catholic family band MJM7 Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m., at the church, 45 Free-stone Ave.

The Illinois-based band is comprised of Michael James Mette and his children Charity (14), and Cecilia (13) and MJ (11).

The concert is free, but donations are accepted.

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School Track Could Be Largely State-Funded

By Jack Lakowsky

On March 31, the State Bond Commission, chaired by Gov. Ned Lamont, will decide if it wants to allocate a half-million dollars to fund replacement of the Portland High School track.

The track is in disrepair and unusable.

The commission will meet after this story prints.

The amount that could be sent to Portland, \$500,736, will fund a vast majority of the replacement, according to schools superintendent Charles Britton.

This is the figure Britton and First Selectman Ryan Curley quoted state officials when they expressed the town's need.

This is a 2020 price, Britton said Monday. Prices are higher with the ongoing inflation, he said. Assuming the commission moves the funding forward, Britton estimated the schools and the town might have to cover about 10% of the price.

"I couldn't be more excited," Britton told the *Rivereast*. "Everyone is intensely grateful the state might fund this. The track is in bad condition."

Britton thanked Portland's representatives in Hartford, state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33). The legislators announced the funding opportunity in a press release Friday.

The school hasn't hosted track meets in years.

"Right now it's not even a track," said Britton.

Speaking optimistically, Britton said when the track reopens the schools will have a ribbon cutting-style celebration with local officials and, of course, the track team.

Britton said if all goes well, the schools will search for engineering consultants as soon as April. The next move is to find a construction firm.

Britton said because track work has to be done in fair weather, and because it'll be the day before April by time the commission meets, the track would reopen next year.

"If we get the money we'll work as fast as we can to get it replaced," said Britton.

Britton said a public school's track is a key community asset. It allows for a free space for people to exercise and live healthier lives. Tracks are especially beneficial for seniors. They're smooth, flat, easier on the hips than the usual Connecticut hills and curves.

"I'm grateful to Governor Lamont and the State Bond Commission for their consideration of this important project," Needleman said. "Replacing the track at Portland Secondary School will allow students to continue training and racing on a safer, higher-quality surface, also reinforcing our commitment to the full development and support of all of our students."

"I'm proud to have worked with Sen. Needleman, the governor's team, and local leaders to make this project become a reality. An improved track will allow students in Portland as well as teams that visit to exercise and compete safely. It will also benefit community residents who wish to use it during non-school hours," Carpino said.

Garden Clubs Scholarship Available

The Garden Clubs of Portland are offering a one-time \$500 award to a graduating Portland High School senior who has been accepted at an accredited college or post-secondary school who intends to major in one of the following: agronomy, botany, city planning, conservation, environmental studies, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology, or allied subject. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Applications which are available in the Portland High School guidance department are due before April 19.

Exchange Club Charity Golf Tourney

The Exchange Club of Portland will hold its 33rd annual Charity Golf Tournament Friday, May 6, at Portland Golf Course. Proceeds support area programs and charities such as the Jason Fedash Town Tech Scholarship, New Horizon's Domestic Violence Services, Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Rushford Center.

Cost is \$165/golfer for the four-person scramble event, which includes cart, lunch and dinner.

Registration and sponsorship brochures are available at many Portland businesses or at www.portlandexchange.org. Deadline for registration is April 30.

Horseshoe League Seeks New Members

The Portland Horseshoe League is looking for players of all abilities to join us for the 2022 season, which will start in late May. Folks from surrounding towns are welcome also.

Games take place at the Horseshoe pits in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill in Portland. The League meets Thursdays from 5:45-8 p.m.

Contact Andy Bauer at AndyTBauer@gmail.com if interested. Portland Horseshoes is an alcohol-free activity.



Students Honored... Portland High School has announced juniors Victoria Bailey, left, and Lily Larson, right, have received the 2022 Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Award. The students were presented with certificates by Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton at the March 1 Board of Education meeting. Bailey is the daughter of Fred and Shelley Bailey, and Larson is the daughter of Kurt and Krista Larson. The CABE Student Leadership Awards Program annually honors two students from each Connecticut high school in the CABE member district. Students are nominated by their school based on several criteria including willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, honoring commitments, the ability to work with others, and demonstrating that they understand complex challenges.

Registration Continues for Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Portland Historical Society's 26th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will be Saturday, May 7.

Online registration and payment for tag sales is now open. Visit the society's website (www.portlandhistsoc.org) and click on the link to register. Registration sheets were included in the society's March newsletter and will also be available in the barrel on the front steps of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, 492 Main St. Completed paper registrations along with payment should be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480. Registration fee is \$25. All registrations must be received by Sunday, April 24.

Portland residents who sign up will be as-

signed a spot on the society's official Tag Sale Map issued for that day listing the sale locations and types of items featured at each one.

Local businesses and organizations can support the society by purchasing an advertising spot on the tag sale map. Past advertisers will soon receive an email with information about this year's map. New businesses can email the society for information at portlandchistory@gmail.com. Tag Sale ad spots are approximately the size of a business card and cost \$25.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main fundraiser for the society. Proceeds help to maintain the museum and to further the mission to collect, preserve and share Portland's history.



Birth Announced... On Thursday, March 24, George Curtis Berenguel was born to Joseph Curtis and Julia Flagg Berenguel of Portland. George has one sibling, Augusta. He is the grandchild of the late Jose Berenguel of Wethersfield, and of Margaret Church of Brattleboro, Vt. He is named for his great-grandfather, George Curtis Church, former Mayor Pro-Tem of Meriden and president of the Meriden Trust and Safe Deposit company. He is the great-great-grandson of Meriden historian George Munson Curtis.

Knights Induction This Sunday

Portland's Saint Mary Freestone Council 7, which has welcomed new Catholic men and their families to the Knights of Columbus since 1884, will hold an induction Sunday, April 3, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

The induction, called an Exemplification, focuses on three principles of the order: charity, unity and fraternity. Friends and family are invited to witness and support these men at their induction ceremony. Exemplifications are now inclusive and open for all to attend.

Sir Knight, Jerry Duclos, presenter of the degree team, said, "The new format is simple, elegant, and explains why Catholic men join the order."

Kids Painting Class

April 15th from 10-12:30
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\$40 each

Snacks & goodie bags will be provided. Parents are NOT required to stay for the class.

Text Drew to reserve your spot! 860-819-5332

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Coming Soon: Public Access to CT River

By Jack Lakowsky

Among the many towns along the Connecticut River, Portland is distinguished; it likely has the most riverfront land of any town in the state.

Despite this stretch of waterside land, there is no public access residents can use to enjoy a prominent town feature, nowhere to conveniently launch a kayak or canoe.

It's still a little way off, according to Portland First Selectman Ryan Curley, but after years of effort, local public access to New England's longest river will soon be reality.

In its March 22 meeting, the town's Board of Selectmen unanimously approved an easement allowing public access through the Tilcon property on Airline Avenue.

For some time, the town negotiated with the company to allow for public access to property the town already owns, going back years.

"This will eventually allow public access to town property along the riverfront," Curley told the select board. "We can have a road connecting to town property [and we can] use this for a potential boat launch."

Curley said a boat launch wouldn't be for motorized watercraft, but canoes and kayaks. He estimates about 20 cars will be able to park there.

"This has been a goal of the board for many

years," Curley said.

Next step: construct a road and clear the space of overgrowth. This will take time and money. The town has a \$4,000 grant for this work from the Rockfall Foundation, but this won't cover the whole price, Curley said.

The board credited Rick Sharr, former selectperson and member of both the Rockfall Foundation and the Connecticut River Conservancy, along with former selectperson Lou Pear, with navigating this long path.

"We have a lot of undeveloped public land, but no access," Sharr told the board. "That's always bothered me."

Sharr said when he started kayaking 25 years ago, he remembers getting his boat to the water and "almost killing myself" on rocks and poison ivy.

Sharr said the future access point is about 1,500 feet of shoreline.

"You go downriver to a town like Essex, and there's all sorts of river access," Sharr said.

He said the area is safe, away from the power of the river's main current.

Sharr said he has fundraising ideas to help ease the cost to taxpayers. He added small businesses can benefit from more out-of-town visitors, and it could spur further economic development, albeit indirectly.

Historical Society Seeks Tag Sale Donations

The Portland Historical Society is seeking donations for its tag sale, taking place Saturday, May 7, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., during the Town-Wide Tag Sale. The society's tag sale, which directly benefits the society, will occur on the grounds of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History.

Volunteers from the society will receive items in good condition at the Ruth Callander House garage, 492 Main St., from 9-11 a.m. Saturdays, April 23 and 30. No textbooks, com-

puters or printers, clothing or unwieldy items are accepted. Vintage and antique items are always welcome.

Also on Saturday, May 7, the society will have a Bake Sale of homemade goodies at the Callander House. Members and friends of the society will be baking and packaging their specialties for this sale.

For more information about donating items for the tag sale, call 860-982-1486 or email PortlandCThistory@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 may be removed when seated.

For those unable or still reluctant to worship in person, a recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Monday mornings by 9 a.m.

Zion is offering special services during Lent. In-person prayer and meditation is offered

at noon Wednesdays through April 6. Compline services, or evening prayers, are offered Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. during Lent, in person and broadcast live on Facebook.

Also during Lent, Zion is practicing "Alms Giving" by collecting various non-perishable goods for the Portland Food Bank. Call the office or check Zion's webpage for specific needs.

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

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.



Easter Bake Sale

The First Congregational Church of Portland, U.C.C., is holding an Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the fellowship hall of the church located at 554 Main St.

Baked goods will include cookies, pies, cupcakes, breads, and pastries. Easter bunny and lamb lollipops will also be available. New this year will be a table filled with new and gently used Easter items.

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

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Travel Champs... Portland's eighth grade travel boys basketball team won the NIT championship. The team, featuring players Aaron Ciarleglio, Brady Daggett, Ryan Farley, Jacob Gaudino, Connor Libby, Cam Lopez, Cade Modon, Drew Sobieski and Ethan Wells, was led by head coach John Daggett and assistant coaches Pat Farley and Steve Ciarleglio. The team defeated Old Lyme and East Haddam in the tournament to reach the title game against Stonington. Playing at the friendly confines of Portland Middle School, the team jumped out to a 16-5 lead after the first quarter and maintained the lead for the rest of the game, defeating Stonington 47-36. Coach Daggett reflected on the season, saying, "The boys battled all season long but played their best basketball of the season during the tournament."

Brush Pick-Up to Start

The Portland Public Works Department will conduct a brush pick-up beginning Monday, April 18. All brush must be at the curb no later than April 17.

The Highway Department uses a clamshell bucket attached to our loader to load piles of brush that are too large for workers to load by hand. Brush pickup takes approximately one month and starts downtown and works to rural areas.

Residents are asked to leave enough room for the equipment to operate. Place your brush at least 5 feet away from your garbage

container and other potential obstacles such as mailboxes, fences, walls, water meters, telephone connection boxes and parked vehicles. Avoid placing brush under low-hanging tree limbs or power lines. Brush will not be collected if it's inaccessible.

People can stack your piles of brush end to end, or on top of one another (not tangled). All brush needs to be cut to appropriate lengths (6 to 8 feet) and limbs must be no larger than 4" in diameter. Place only true brush at the curb; lumber, construction material and/or leaves will not be picked up if placed at curbside.

YFS News & Notes

Portland Youth & Family Services has announced the following. For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/youth-services or contact Jesse at jrevicki@portlandct.org or 860-342-6758.

Egg Hunts: Youth & Family Services will join Parks & Recreation for the annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m. (rain date is April 10 at 1 p.m.), at the Portland Recreational Complex on Gospel Lane.

Also, Portland Care & Rehabilitation Centre has invited Youth & Family Services and Chatham Children's Connection to host an Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 13, at 10:30 a.m.; rain date is April 14, also at 10:30 a.m. This event is for kids in grades five and younger. More information and pre-registration can

Portland Exchange Offering Scholarship

The Portland Exchange Club is offering the \$1,000 John W. Goodrich Scholarship to any Portland resident senior going on to a higher education institution after graduation.

For the scholarship, the Exchange Club is looking for the student with the most outstanding record of community service and good academic achievement as well as participation in extracurricular activities.

Applications are at the Portland High School Counseling Center and online at www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship. Deadline for applications is April 16.

be found at tinyurl.com/EggHuntPCRC and on the YFS website.

Parenting Through the Opioid Crisis and Beyond: The "This is Us, Portland" prevention council will present this workshop for parents, professionals and teachers on Wednesday, April 20, at 7 p.m., at the Portland High School library. Ginger and Larry Katz are the founders of the Courage to Speak Foundation and Ginger Katz is the author of *Sunny's Story, a Drug Prevention Book*. To register, visit tinyurl.com/CourageToSpeak; the first 25 to register, get a free signed copy of *Sunny's Story*. More info to come.

Youth Vaping Program: Wednesday, May 18, at 7 p.m., at the Portland High School library. "This is Us, Portland" will host Victoria Adams, the tobacco program coordinator at Southern Connecticut State University, to present on youth vaping.

Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child is April 2-8, and Portland Library, First Church Nursery School and YMCA Camp Ingersoll are hosting events to celebrate.

The week will kick off Saturday, April 2, at 11:30 a.m., at FCNS, located at First Congregational Church, 554 Main St. A Creative Movement Class will be held for children ages 18 months to 5 years.

The week will also feature Tasty Tuesday on April 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. Ages 3-5 can attend a special storytime program and then prepare a tasty treat to snack on before they leave. Registration is required; visit www.portlandlibraryct.org to register or call 860-342-6770.

Activities will wrap up with Artsy Thursday, for ages 3-5, on April 7 at 10 a.m., at YMCA Camp Ingersoll, 94 Camp Ingersoll Rd. There will be a short hike, dancing, story and craft. The event will be rain or shine.

Registration is only required for the program being held at the library. For more information, call/text Alicia Currier at 860-770-3999 or email her at aliciacurrier31@gmail.com.

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Aid for Donations... Portland Leos raised \$1,131 for Ukrainian refugees due to the generous donations given at Burger Heaven/Dunkin Go plaza on Sunday, March 20. Some Leos who participated are Reese Nicol, Carson Nicol and Brooks Oliva.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Financial Assistance: Parks and Recreation accepts financial assistance request forms for its Summer Quest and Kids' Blast programs. Forms are available on the Parks and Rec. website and at the Parks and Rec. office. Deadline to submit a form for Summer Quest is June 1.

Tai Chi: At the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Dates are Wednesdays through April 6, 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. For more, call Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757.

Boat America – Online Boating Safety Course: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 19 and 20, 6:30-9 p.m., and Tuesday, April 26, 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 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, regardless of vaccination status. All participants will fill out a drop-in waiver before participating.

Riverfront Park Pavilion and Stage Rent-

Car Show to Return

The Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli will return after having to cancel the last two years due to the pandemic. It will take place Saturday, April 30, at Valli Construction in Portland. The show will finally be celebrating its 10th anniversary. More info to come.

Vendors, Crafters Wanted

Attention all crafters and vendors: Portland United Methodist Church, located at 381 Main St., will hold a Spring Craft/Vendor Fair Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost for a space is \$25, or \$20 if you supply your own table.

Contact Pam Galvin at pamgalvin69@yahoo.com or 860-301-7393 to reserve a spot.

als: Parks and Rec. is currently accepting rental requests for the pavilion and stage at Riverfront Park. The rental season is from April through October.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m., at the Portland Recreational Complex at 301 Gospel Lane. The hunt is for ages 1-10. Bring your own basket or pail. Rain date is April 10. For cancellation hotline at 860-262-7234.

Spring Quick Start Tennis: Information about the next program will be available shortly.

Portland Summer Concert Series: The series will return to Riverfront Park in July. If interested in sponsoring the event, call the Parks and Rec. office for more details at 860-342-6757.

Zumba! – Free Trial: There is a free trial of the Zumba program at Riverfront Park from 6-7 p.m. on April 6. Save your spot by registering online. The next eight-week session of Zumba starts the following week, on April 13.

Art Enrichment Programs with Abrakadoodle: Parks and Rec. is accepting registrations for multiple programs, including Treasure Hunt Art Camp that takes place at the Buck-Foreman Community Center while Portland Public Schools is on April break.

Summer Quest: Registration for the programs (Kiddie Camp – age 3-5, Base Camp – entering grades 1-6, and Teen Camp – entering grades 7-9) is open now. Week 1 begins June 27. More detailed information is on the Parks and Rec. website.

Junior Golf Workshops: Parks and Rec. has opened registrations for three Junior Golf programs for children in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. The first program takes place Tuesdays, May 31-June 21; the second, on Wednesdays from July 6-27; and the third takes place Mondays, Sept. 12-Oct. 3.

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.

A Lenten Book Study, featuring Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited*, is Mondays at 7 p.m. Books are available in the church office. You can join the study in person or via Zoom. See details at trinitychurchportlandct.org.

Masks are required for all, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while inside the church. More information is at 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 or call 860-342-0458.

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. The meeting room is limited through March. For more info and full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Curbside delivery of requested items continues; call the library or reserve items online and you will receive a notice or call when your materials are available.

Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Good Friday, April 15; it will be open Saturday, April 16.

Youth Programs: **Nutmeg Voting:** Voting starts today, April 1. Stop into the library to vote on the 2022 Nutmeg Nominees or submit your favorite title in your age group to portland.library@portlandct.org. Winners will be announced on May 15 and next year's nominees will be announced on May 1.

Spring Storytimes: The 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 are recommended but not required. Registration is required, though, as space is limited; register through the website calendar or call the library. The schedule is: **Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., through April 26. **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots:** **Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., through April 27.

Story and a Snack: Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. The library is celebrating the Week of the Young Child with a special evening program geared towards children ages 3-5 and their families. Have a tasty treat to snack on before you leave. Registration is required and space is limited for this program.

Teen Advisory Guild: Monday, April 4, 3:30 p.m., in the large meeting room of the library. In this monthly group, brainstorm ideas for new programs, talk about books, and have some snacks. Earn community service hours. Registration is required.

Family Craft Night: Spring Dandelion Vases: Wednesday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages,

First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., has announced the following pieces of news:

Sunday morning worship takes place in person at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Services are livestreamed on the church's YouTube channel, and also available there for later viewing. The channel is "First Church of Portland CT."

April 3 is the Fifth Sunday in Lent and the sacrament of communion will be offered at the worship service. The service will include a focus on refugees and the Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon is titled "Showing Hospitality to Strangers – Entertaining Angels." The choir will sing the anthem "Living Bread" by Gilbert Martin. A time of fellowship follows the service.

Children ages 5 and older are invited to in-person church school in Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. The lessons are also available on the church's YouTube channel by clicking on the specific link in *The Weekly Word* e-newsletter that is emailed on Friday.

Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library group has cookbooks, gardening and DVDs as well as fiction, romance, teen and children's used books in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the Portland Library during regular library hours. The library is located at 20 Freestone Ave.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs 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 on sale for 50 cents each.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 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 for more information or email questions to friendsofportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Registration is required and space is limited.

Bad Guys Party: Thursday, April 7, 3:30 p.m., for grades K-5. *The Bad Guys* hits movie screens on April 22. The library will help celebrate with games, crafts, and a discussion about Msrs. Wolf, Snake, Piranha and Shark. Registration is required and space is limited.

Wings of Fire Escape Room: Monday, April 11, at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Dragons meet puzzles in this escape room for *Wings of Fire* fans of any age. Register as a team or sign up individually to solve the clues in order to protect the dragonet eggs.

Peeps Houses: Thursday, April 14, 2 p.m. Sign up to create and decorate your own Peeps house using graham crackers, frosting, and a variety of other sweet materials. Registration is required and space is limited for this event. Open to kids in grades K-5.

Adult Programs: The Buzzzz on Native Bees & their Habitat: Wednesday, April 20, at 7 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. Lynn Keller, Master Gardener, will talk about the over 300 different species of bees in Connecticut.

Passport to Connecticut Libraries Contest: Runs April 1-30. Portland Library and libraries all over Connecticut are participating in this exciting program to make people of all ages aware of the power of their library card. Take your library card and passport to at least five libraries on the list to be eligible to win a \$150 gift card for adults or a \$100 gift card for children. Pick up a passport at the library.

Book Clubs: First Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid will be discussed. **T.A.B. – Talk About Books:** Tuesday, April 5, 1 p.m. *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue will be discussed.

Mystery Book Lovers' Club: Tuesday, April 19, 1 p.m. *The Postscript Murders* by Ely Griffiths.

Portland Forum: Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein will be discussed.

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.

First Congregational Church News

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 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 or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit [www.firstchurchportlandct.org](http://firstchurchportlandct.org).

Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

Bill Peterson was a lifelong Portland resident, ardent soccer fan, and contributor to the town's soccer program. He was instrumental in forming the Portland Soccer Club and this scholarship helps to honor his memory and connection to Portland's soccer history.

The PSC Board of Directors will award one \$500 scholarship annually for high school seniors who are college or post high school institution bound. Applicants must be a Portland resident and have played a minimum of two years with the PSC. All applicants must submit a 250-word essay explaining "How Soccer Inspired Me to Give Back to the Community." The essay needs to demonstrate the role soccer has had in the applicant's development and how the applicant has used that influence to give back Portland's Soccer Community.

Scholarship applications can be found at www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub under the Community Link drop-down. All scholarship applications must be received no later than May 1.

Police News

3/24: Treveice Williams, 35, of Cromwell, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, Portland Police said.

Colchester • Colchester

School Board Approves \$42.22 Million Budget

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education Tuesday passed a motion to advance a \$42.22 million spending plan – a 0.95% increase – for the next school year.

The motion carried five to two, with two of the board's Republicans joining the three Democrats in support of the budget proposal.

The two dissenting votes belonged to Republicans Alexander Oliphant, chair of the board, and Donna Antonacci. The approved budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on April 5 at Town Hall.

The proposed spending plan is slightly higher than original plan Jeff Burt, Colchester superintendent of schools, presented to the Board of Education earlier in March. Burt had proposed a 0.87% increase.

During budget workshops, Burt amended the plan to reduce staff by five positions, bringing the number to three, thereby increasing the total budget increase.

In opposition to the proposed motion, Antonacci argued that adding more money wouldn't necessarily fix the problems facing the school district.

"I'm absolutely not going to support that," Antonacci said. "I don't see how these numbers are going to help the school system."

While board member discussion was brief, Mary Tomasi, board vice chair and a Democrat, asked Colchester administrators how potentially cutting the current budget would affect them.

Matthew Peel, Bacon Academy principal, stated that his school could absorb the staffing reduction but any additional cuts would be difficult to manage.

"We're struggling to meet all of our students' needs," Peel said.

Chris Bennett, William J. Johnston Middle School principal, echoed Peel's assessment.

"Any more cuts would be very dramatic," Bennett said.

Many community members weighed-in with their comments.

Mary Bylone, former first selectman of Colchester and a Democrat, pushed the board to increase the spending and let the Colchester voters decide.

"Allow us to use our vote and voice," Bylone said.

Michael Hayes, one of the two Democrats on the Board of Finance, also asked for a larger spending plan, but signaled his potential support for what the board presented.

"I would like to see more money spent," Hayes said, adding. "It's up to you to make sure our students are taken care of."

Jason LaChapelle, a Republican on the board, countered that the town should look for other ways to fix the education system, apart from increased spending.

"I don't think throwing money at this will fix it," LaChapelle said. "It's not how much we

spend, it's how we spend it."

Colchester resident Heide Perham asked the board to go beyond what it was proposing.

"We need to make more of an effort into our children and teachers," she said.

Jeremy McKenzie also called for more money.

"We continue to expect teachers to do more with less," he said. "We need a much larger increase to truly support our students."

The presentation hearings for both the education and town budgets on April 5 are open to the public.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, April 4: 8:30 a.m., 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, April 5: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:15 a.m., blood pressure clinic; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, April 6: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group – meet at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, April 7: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, April 8: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide by appointment only; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: **Angelo's Stuffed Bread Lunch:** Wednesday, April 13, noon. Select two different flavors of Angelo's Bakery's stuffed breads served alongside a tossed salad with your choice of dressing, a bottle of water and a cookie for dessert. Stuffed bread flavors include eggplant parmesan, chicken parmi-

Spring in Bloom Vendor Fair

Colchester Federated Church, located at 60 Main St., will host its Spring in Bloom Vendor Fair Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be crafts, vendors, food trucks and more.

If you would like to be a vendor at the fair, there are a few more tables available. Contact Renee Misbach at roullette01@snet.net for more information.

Cragin Paint Night

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., will host a Paint Night for teens and adults via Zoom Tuesday, April 12, at 6:30 pm. Participants will receive an email when supplies are ready to be picked up. Register at tinyurl.com/r8xvtd8.

For more information, visit www.craginlibrary.org or call 860-537-5752.

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ARPA Committee Approves Business Applications

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee approved the applications for more local businesses during its meeting on March 28, sending them to the Board of Selectmen for final approval.

Among the applications for local businesses that the committee approved included Tim's Bistro, Red Rose and Herman's.

In total, the committee is reviewing applications for 42 different Colchester businesses, with a cap of \$25,000 per business.

The town earmarked \$1 million of ARPA funds specifically for local businesses. If all of the current applications are approved, the total allocated amount would surpass that forecast.

ARPA funds are meant to provide aid to businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In their requests, businesses included "purchasing equipment" and "space reconfiguration" as just some of the possible applications of the money.

The Board of Selectmen is scheduled to start reviewing applications during its next meeting on April 7. The ARPA Committee is accepting new applications until April 30.

The committee also unanimously passed a motion

to cap non-profit funds at \$50,000 per organization, with a total cap of \$250,000. Currently, the committee has received over \$340,000 thousand in non-profit requests, signaling cuts will likely have to be made.

Dave Koji, a member on the committee, said he wasn't "anticipating a barrage of new applications," when explaining the new cap.

The committee reviewed current status of what Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos referred to as "Phase A" ARPA initiatives.

These include upgrades to Parks and Recreation, community gift cards, police station expansion and a new youth center.

"I want Phase A; that's my complete focus," Bisbikos said.

Bisbikos is trying to make progress with these initiatives and is beginning to lay out information about his community gift card plan. He recently met with representatives of Giverrang, a company that could help execute the idea.

In the current plan, Bisbikos wants to give each Colchester household access to a \$100 gift card.

"With historic inflation and rising gas prices, this will be an opportunity to help our citizens directly," Bisbikos wrote in a town report. "With

the geofencing technology that the cards will have, purchases will be limited to Colchester – allowing out local businesses to benefit."

While the exact details of the plan are yet to be determined, some concerns revolve around community members not cashing in their gift cards.

"I'm concerned it's going to be unutilized money," said Jack Faski, an ARPA Committee member.

To counter this, Bisbikos hopes there will be a 90-day usage period for the cards, after which the funds would be returned to the town.

Bisbikos and the committee are planning on

setting up a meeting with Giverrang next month to discuss a potential plan.

The rollout of Plan A is crucial for Bisbikos' vision of the town's future.

Greg Barden, another member of the committee, questioned if these measures would ultimately stimulate more economic development for the town.

"I'm thinking about future businesses, not just existing businesses," Barden said.

Bisbikos argued that the approval of the local business applications and the execution of Phase A would "stimulate growth."

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.

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.

Foster's Downeast Clambake: Wednesday, May 25. Bus departs at 8 a.m. for Foster's, located in York, Maine. Chicken and vegetarian options 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.

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 live stream.

There is a Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m., studying the gospels with the Chosen series. All are welcome.

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.

Colchester Giving Garden

Planning is underway for the Colchester Giving Garden, a fully volunteer-run vegetable garden where everything that is grown is donated to the town food bank, the Meals-on-Wheels program and local soup kitchens. No gardening experience is needed and all are welcome to join in.

There will be a planning meeting, open to the public, on Monday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m., in Norton Room B at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. All are welcome.

For more information, email colchester-givinggarden@gmail.com.

St. Andrew Passion Play Presentation

All are invited to experience the St. Andrew Passion Play Saturday, April 9, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave.

The evening will start at 7 p.m. with sing-along Passion Play songs. Then, at 7:20 p.m., there will be a video presentation of St. Andrew's 2019 Passion Play, on a large screen in the center aisle of the church.

Attendees should bring a cushion to sit upon, as the pews can get hard after a while, the church said.

There is no cost to attend, but donations will be received. This will help to reimburse the church for some of the cost of the Passion Plays canceled due to the pandemic.

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Finance Board to Hold Budget Hearings In Person

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Board of Finance decided during its meeting March 23 to hold the town's public budget hearings in person instead of virtually.

The final decision, made by board chair Andrea Migliaccio, a Republican, came after spirited debate on whether a meeting via Zoom would attract more public participation.

While Migliaccio acknowledged that virtual meetings do cast a wide net to the community, she was confident that holding the meeting in-person was still the best course of action.

"We are looking to get the job done most effectively," Migliaccio said during the meeting.

The proposed school and town budgets are both scheduled to be presented to the Board of Finance on April 5.

Democrat and finance board member Mike Egan voiced his opposition to having the meet-

ing be in person.

"The fact is there still might be people wary of coming," Egan said, adding that virtual meetings "increase engagement with the function of the town."

Republican Timothy Vaillancourt, another member on the board, disagreed with Egan, and stressed that holding meetings in-person was crucial.

"Freedom isn't easy," Vaillancourt said.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, who has been a proponent of having meetings in-person, recommended to the board to have this particular meeting virtually.

The April 5 meeting, he said, "needs to be on Zoom," he said.

The majority of the board was in favor of having the meeting in-person.

While the debate about the upcoming meeting got contested, the board showed optimism over the new hybrid-meeting room recently approved by the Board of Selectmen.

The room would allow both in-person and virtual community participation during town meetings.

"Having the opportunity to participate, you can't go wrong with that," Egan said.

Bisbikos said the new meeting room should be completed in 3-4 months.

Parks & Recreation 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.

Card-Making Class: Wednesday, April 6.

All materials needed for each card are included in the cost and will be given out at the beginning of the 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.

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.

Summer Day Camp: Registration is underway. 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.

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. Only a few seats are left.

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.

Note: The Aug. 14-15 trip to see the Boston Pops on Old Cape Cod has been canceled.

For more information, call Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179 or 860-208-4121.

Local Broker Recognized in National Honors Program

Nicholas Long of Boyden Real Estate in Colchester has been distinguished by *Broker★Agent Advisor* as one of the best in its '2021 Seven Star' category based on achievement, potential, leadership, ethics, community value, experience, capability, and trust.

"Nicholas Long of Boyden Real Estate exemplifies the type of professional we designed this award for," said Chad Golladay, executive publisher of *Broker★Agent Advisor*. "A true credit to their company, profession, and community both inside and outside of their real estate practice; one with whom the honor is truly ours in being able to share this award."

Long can be found in *Broker★Agent Advisor*'s national online directory of award recipients at brokeragentadvisor.com/brag-directory.

Senior Golf League Planning Meeting

Are you interested in joining the Colchester Senior Golf League? If so, come to the center, 95 Norwich Ave., on Tuesday, April 12, at 2 p.m., for an informational meeting to discuss the 2022 golf league season at the Chanticlair Golf Course in Colchester.

The 16-week season begins in mid-May, runs for 16 weeks, and features a season-ending banquet on the last day. Fee is a one-time payment of \$220 or four monthly installments of \$55 in May, June, July and August. This is a co-ed league and new members are welcome. For more information, call 860-537-3911.

Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, through and including Good Friday, April 15.

Meal choices include traditional fish and chips, baked fish with baked potato, the club's breaded clam strip dinner, as well as chicken nuggets for the kids. All meals include coleslaw, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for kids.

Meals will be served from 6-8 p.m. Take-out is available. The club is located on Old Town Road.

Call 860-537-2593 to order or for more information.

Butter Braid Pick-Up

Pick-up for the Butter Braids and Joyful Tradition Cake Rolls will be this coming Tuesday, April 5, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Curbside pick-up will be at St. Andrew Parish Hall at 128 Norwich Ave. Drive around to the back of the church and items will be brought to your car.

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

'Stars, Socks & Stripes'

Sam Blumberger will collect socks for his organization, 'Stars, Socks & Stripes.' The socks collected are donated to veterans in need through the American Legion.

Look for his donation boxes at Bacon Academy High School, Craigin Memorial Library and the Colchester Town Hall. The boxes will be available through April 18.



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Colchester • Colchester

First Selectman to Present Town Budget April 5

By Michael Sinkewicz

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos last week promised a 2022-23 town budget that would be "fiscally responsible and conservative."

Bisbikos will present his budget, along with the education budget proposed by Colchester Superintendent of Schools Jeff Burt, on April 5.

Burt's proposed education budget would call for a 0.87% increase over the current budget.

This will be the first town budget Bisbikos will propose since taking office. While he wouldn't reveal specifics on what will be included, he believes it will address the needs of the town.

"I want to bring a budget that'll be affordable for the community and that assesses needs that haven't been met," Bisbikos said.

He didn't make any promises on reducing taxes, but claimed that the mill rate, the amount of tax payable per dollar of the as-

sessed value of a property, will go down. The current mill rate is 33.05.

For Mike Egan, a Democratic member on the Board of Finance, the outlook for both budgets was simple.

"We're looking at a very fiscally conservative budget," Egan said.

While Bisbikos didn't commit to adapting Democrats' ideas into his budget, he didn't completely rule it out.

"The reality is there's members I disagree with but they bring up valid points I want to look into," Bisbikos said.

The hearings for both budgets are open to the public and people are welcomed to share their opinions at the end of the meeting. Workshops held by the Board of Finance, which review and examine the budgets are also open, as well.

The Board of Finance can change any line item on the town budget but can only change the bottom line of the education budget.

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

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

Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule: Sunday, April 10, 9 a.m., Worship – Palm Sunday Processional; Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m.,

New Story at Colchester StoryWalk

Families can enjoy a new picture book, *Carl and the Meaning of Life* by Deborah Freedman, at the Colchester StoryWalk, located at 96 McDonald Rd.

Featuring watercolor artwork, the book tells the story of Carl, a simple earthworm who spends his days happily digging, tunneling, and turning dirt into soil, until one day when a field mouse asks him why. Carl does not know why he does what he does, but he wants to find out. So he stops his tunneling and goes to search for an answer. On his journey, Carl discovers that even the smallest creatures can answer life's biggest questions and that their actions can touch us all.

Follow the trail of weatherproof stations along a short hiking trail for children and their families to enjoy together. Each station features suggested questions or simple activities to enrich the story and hike.

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

Worship focusing on The Last Supper. The Communion Class will help lead the service and receive communion for the first time.

Friday, April 15, noon, Worship – Stations of the Cross. Walk throughout the sanctuary from station to station and contemplate the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross.

Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m. at Lake Hayward. 9 a.m., Easter worship service – celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ together; Communion will be served in the sanctuary.

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.

Project Graduation Trivia Night Fundraiser

Bacon Academy Project Graduation will hold a Trivia Night Fundraiser Saturday, April 30, at 6 p.m., at the Polish Club, 395 South Main St. Tickets cost \$20 and the evening event will include cash and raffle prizes.

All proceeds benefit the Class of 2022 and its graduation night festivities. For more information or to purchase tickets online, go to www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org and click on current fundraisers. The chairperson, Shannon Cuadro, can also be contacted at ba.projectgrad@gmail.com.

Project Graduation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to enhance drug and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy.

Glass Painting 101

All are invited to Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., on Mondays, April 11, 18 and 25, at 1 p.m., to learn glass painting.

An instructor will guide participants through three different paintings. Fee for each class is \$20, which include materials. Sign up for one, two or all three. Pre-register in the office.

For more information, call 860-537-3911.



New Urgent Care Center... State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and state Rep. Brian Smith (D-48) recently joined the Colchester Business Association, local leaders and residents for the ribbon cutting of The Colchester Urgent Care Center. The center founded by Dr. Srinivasulu Conjeevaram, "Dr. Sri," will provide both walk-in and appointment options to patients seeking health care services including physicals and imaging/X-rays.

CLT 'Discover Colchester' Hike

The next Colchester Land Trust (CLT) "Discover Colchester" hike will take place Sunday, April 24, at 1 p.m., at the Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area.

As a wildlife management area, Babcock provides 1,500 acres of forest, swamps and ponds. It contains miles of unmarked hiking trails. This hike is approximately four miles long, mostly on a logging road and open paths, but hikers should wear appropriate footwear and be prepared for various trail conditions. Adults, children and leashed dogs are all welcome.

Directions: From Route 2 eastbound, take Exit 16 and turn right onto Route 149 South. Go approximately one mile and take left onto Cato Corner Road. Follow Cato Corner to in-

tersection of Cato Corner and Route 16. Go straight across onto Standish Road, off Route 16. Bear right at first stop sign. Turn right onto Red School House Road. Park in the cul-de-sac at the end of Red School House Road. Route 2 westbound travelers, take Exit 16, turn left onto Route 149 South and follow directions above.

Email DKA@gmail.com for additional information. This event will be held rain or shine. The Colchester Land Trust is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that works to permanently protect open space in Colchester; visit www.colchesterlandtrust.org to join or donate.

Pollinator Pathways

All are invited to Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Wednesday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m., to learn about creating, restoring and conserving native habitats for pollinators.

From planting trees or shrubs, to window boxes or porch planters, individuals can support pollinators on their own property. This program is presented by Michele Sinkez, founder of the Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project, and is co-sponsored by the Colchester Garden Club and the Cragin Memorial Library.

For more information about current library services, visit www.craginlibrary.org or call 860-537-5752.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., Zoom; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., Zoom; Tuesday, Aggadah 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 Conversational Hebrew on the Ken Alter Facebook page.

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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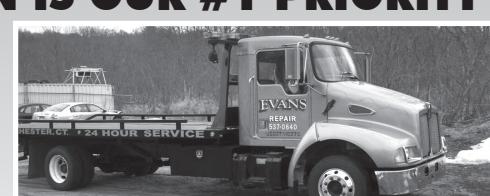
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East Hampton • East Hampton

Russell Reflects on College Basketball Experience

By Josh Howard

Gyanna Russell dominated the local basketball courts from 2014-2017, finishing as the all-time leading scorer in the history of the East Hampton High School girls' basketball program.

Russell recently wrapped up a five-year college career at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), duplicating the success she had on the high school courts.

"It has been everything I wanted. I have nothing but great things to say about my five years at SNHU," Russell said of her time in Manchester, N.H. "I honestly could not have gone through it if we didn't have such a great support system in regards to my advisors, professors, and coaches. It is very sad that it is coming to an end."

This past winter she enjoyed her most productive college season to date, averaging a career-high 13.1 points to go along with 5.5 rebounds per game as the Penmen finished with 21 wins and made the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1990. They also won the regular season conference championship and hosted a regional tournament for the first time in school history.

"This season has been the best time I have had playing basketball. I have never been on a team as close and I've never felt such a family atmosphere as I do with this team," said Russell, who called her teammates her best friends.

Unfortunately with five games left in the season, Russell's college career was cut short in a game against Bentley on Feb. 12. The 5'9" senior was hit from behind on a layup attempt, tearing both her anterior crucial ligament (ACL) and meniscus in her knee.

Despite the fact her final collegiate season ended abruptly, Russell remained positive and an active member of the team.

"Even being on the bench and being able to cheer on my team and being with them through the historical season we had was absolutely amazing," added Russell, who joked she would have given her left leg in order to play out the season.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Russell had a gap year in 2020-2021 when competitive basketball was halted at the college. The former

tunate part for Russell—along with the rest of college athletes—is that she was given an additional year of eligibility and could take graduate level courses.

Russell took full advantage of the situation, making lemonade out of lemons. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with concentration in organizational leadership and this June she will be graduating with a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) with a sports business concentration.

On the courts this winter, the prolific Russell also earned Northeast-10 all-conference honors and joined an elite class, becoming a 1,000 point scorer in both high school and college.

Her 1,478 points is the program's high mark at EHHS and in early February she eclipsed the four-digit milestone at SNHU, finishing with 1,022 points in college.

"I had a lot of support from my coaches and my teammates," Russell said of the achievements. "It's been overwhelming the amount of support and backing that I got."

Russell added that one of her favorite moments at SHNU was when her college roommate Karlee Ziliak also reached the 1,000-point mark. The teammates achieved the feat within two weeks of one another.

She added that her college success is the result of many long hours in the gyms and at the parks while growing up in Belltown, crediting her parents, friends, teachers, and support from the East Hampton community.

Russell specified longtime East Hampton resident Deb McKinney as someone that not only showed support when she played for the high school, but also came to many of her games in New Hampshire.

In high school, Russell made all-conference all four years and was named all-state following her junior and senior seasons. She was also named the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Player of the Year following her senior season in which she averaged 26 points and 12 rebounds per game.

"Having the career I had at East Hampton really helped me in college," she said. "I really can't thank my parents and high school coach for all that he did."

East Hampton girls' basketball head coach Shaun Russell (no relation) remembers the 2017-graduate as an incredibly hard worker who never took plays off, adding, "Gyanna was one of the all-time great teammates that we have had in our program. She made everyone around her better and was willing to do whatever the team needed to give us the best opportunity to win."

"Gyanna is a great role model for her younger teammates and all young people in general and she has represented herself, her family, her team, her school and her community in the best possible ways over the years," added coach Russell. "I am thankful for everything she has done for me and our basketball program and I look forward to watching her continue to achieve in the next chapters of her life."

The Russell family legacy continues to this day at EHHS. Gyanna's father, Todd Russell, played for the school and now her sister, Jackie Russell, recently earned all-conference following her sophomore season at the school.

"I love watching [Jackie] play and I love being that older sister that gives her a little push here and there and support. I can't express how proud I am of her," Gyanna said of her younger sibling. "To hear now that she is getting the college exposure that she deserves is the icing on the cake and I can't wait to see where her future goes."

Upon graduating with her master's degree in June, Russell eventually plans to pursue a career in the hospitality field.

However, she hasn't completely shut the door on her career on the court.

"Going through this whole process, both mentally and physically of being hurt, I don't



Gyanna Russell, a 2017 East Hampton High School graduate, recently wrapped up a 1,000-point basketball career at Southern New Hampshire University.

know if I am quite ready to give up basketball."

After rehabbing from the surgery to repair the torn knee ligaments, she will reassess her roundball future.

Russell said she may consider continuing her education and play basketball overseas, possibly in Ireland, adding, "I'm not sure if I'm ready to hang the shoes up yet."

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.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Masks are optional, but the library will continue to offer them upon request.

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. Visit the library website or call for more details.

Also, Kindness EHxtravaganza kits are now available for pick up. Each kit will contain a Kindness Bingo challenge card for families to complete and return to the library for the chance to win a Self-Care gift basket. One kit per family. Pick up will begin April 1.

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

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

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

Therapy Dog Storytime: Saturday, April 2, 11 and 11:30 a.m. For ages 3-8. Siblings welcome. Held indoors in the library community room. Registration required.

DIY Days: Chia Head: Saturday, April 2, 2 p.m., for grades 2-8. This month, make a chia head planter.

STEM Project Bags – Fun and Games: Monday, April 4, 10 a.m. Use various everyday items to tinker and build to make your own toys (and learn a little science along the way!). Rec-

Lake Clean-Up Day

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, with the help of the East Hampton Parks & Recreation and the Conservation Lake Commission, will hold the annual Lake Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 23, starting at 9 a.m. at Sears Park. Rain date is Sunday, April 24, also at 9 a.m.

All volunteers are invited – including kids, organizations and groups – to help clean up the perimeter around the lake.

Volunteers receive a Lake Pocotopaug T-shirt, garbage bags, gloves and area assignments along with lunch at Sears Park.

Dumpsters will be placed at Sears Park for metals, tires (no rims), wood and plastics.

Full details are available at www.flpeh.org. For more information, call Joe Carbonell at 860-917-7366.

Local Artist's Work on Display

Local artist Geralyn Yocher will exhibit her work at Town Hall during April and May.



Geralyn Yocher

Yocher attended Central Connecticut State University, graduating from the art education master's program. She taught art in the Portland Public Schools system for eight years, and at Wesleyan Potters in the children's pottery program. She has also led art workshops at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam.

Yocher studied under artists Betty Sennett, Bivenne Steiger, Mary Horrigan and more. She paints in oils and acrylics, but her medium of choice is watercolors.

Yocher has exhibited in juried shows at the Middletown Art Association at Wesleyan; the Marlborough Art Association; and the East Hampton Art Association. She has served as president of the East Hampton Art Association for the previous three years.

Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for in-person services every Sunday at 10 a.m. Pastor is Amie McCarthy. 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. Sunday school classes meet every Sunday for preschool through ninth grade.

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

The Youth Group, for grades 6-12, will next meet Friday, April 22, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.

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.

'Fish Frydays' Are Back

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering its multi-decade tradition of serving fish dinners on Fridays during Lent.

This year's offerings include breaded cod, clams and shrimp, which will be served with French fries or coleslaw. Prices start at \$12. Coffee, tea, water and soda are also offered.

Meals are served from 4:30-7:15 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center, 47 West High St. Takeout service will be available. Advance orders must be received by noon on Friday by calling 860-267-6644. Do not leave orders on the answering machine.

First Steps in Music

Local musician Mallory Kokus is offering a music and movement class for children ages birth through 6 years and their grown-up. The class is called First Steps in Music and will meet Fridays at 5:30 p.m. from April 29-June 3.

Children and their grown-ups will dance, sing, wiggle, bounce, and more! Class will be held at Creative Dance Center, 2 Barton Hill Rd. Cost is \$80 per family for the six-week session.

Register by April 22. Information can be found on Facebook (Music with Mallory) or email mallorykokus@gmail.com. This program is supported by a grant from the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission.

Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship

The Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship was established to let Barber continue giving as he did in life. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Barber family to an applicant, chosen by a selection committee, who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and who has performed selfless service within their school and the community.

Applicants must be an East Hampton resident graduating with the Class of 2022 (whether from East Hampton High School or another high school) who have been accepted to attend an institute of higher learning after graduation.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office or by written request to kbarber03@snet.net. Applications must be received no later than April 8.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

ommended for ages 6 and up. STEM Project Bags are available in the Children's Department while supplies last. No registration required.

Bedtime Storytime!: For ages 2-6. Monday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. Register online or call. Siblings welcome. Held indoors in the library community room. Masks are optional.

Switch Game Tournament: Grades 1-5: Saturday, April 9, 2-3:30 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. Masks optional.

DIY Days: Play-Dough! Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for children and families in grades K-8. No registration required; just drop in. This month, make some fruity-scented play-dough.

Teen Programs: Pre-Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, April 26, 5:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to come provide input to expand the YA/Teen collection and plan programs.

Dungeons & Dragons: Wednesdays, April 13 and 27, 5:30 p.m., at the library, for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience required, and all supplies will be provided.

Switch Game Tournament: Grades 6-12: Saturday, April 30, 2 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. A trophy will go to the winner.

Adult Programs: No-Till Gardening: Saturday, April 2, 1 p.m. Mark Gostkiewicz from Tri Gable Lea Farm will discuss no-till gardening techniques, tips, and tricks for growing veggies, flowers, herbs, fruit and mushrooms.

Bass Fishing in Connecticut: Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. Dylan Napoleone's seminar is designed to help fishermen of all ages and experience levels effectively fish local waters. Some topics covered include: equipment, technique, baits/lures, and more.

Focus on Fitness: Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. in the library community room. Celebrate successes, sympathize with struggles, and maintain motivation in your physical fitness. Certified personal trainer and nutrition coach Amie Meacham will facilitate. Space is limited, and masks must be worn.

East Hampton • East Hampton

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 today, April 1, to arts@easthamptonct.org

There are two \$500 grants available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality

KofC Scholarship, Grant Available

The Belltown Knights of Columbus Council 6190 announces the availability of two \$1,000 scholarships to students continuing their education at an accredited college/university. Applicants must be members of St. Patrick Church, East Hampton.

The council will also award two \$500 Helping Hands grants to members of St. Patrick Church who are Mercy, Xavier or East Catholic high schools.

Applications are available at guidance offices and the parish center office, or by emailing stpatrick47@sbcglobal.net.

Lions Club

Scholarships Available

The East Hampton Lions Club is offering scholarships to graduating seniors who are residents of East Hampton.

Four \$1,000 awards are available. Eligible students include not only East Hampton High School students but also individuals who attend charter and various other school programs as well as home schooling.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office.

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.

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.

Takeout Mexican Dinner

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St., will hold a takeout dinner Saturday, April 9, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The menu will include slow-cooked pulled pork and shredded cheese burrito, rice with seasoned black beans, pico de gallo, taco chips and Mexican sugar cookies. Cost is \$14, either by cash or by check made out to CCEH.

Pre-order by calling the church office at 860-267-4959 Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon, or by calling Lisa at 860-918-1170. Orders must be in by Saturday, April 9, at noon.

Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner

The Ladies Society of the Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam will have a takeout Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner on Saturday, April 9. Pick-up will be 4:30-5:30 p.m., at the lower level of the church.

Featured will be chicken cordon bleu, baked potato with butter, coleslaw, roll and dessert. Cost is \$13/each. Reserve by April 3.

Proceeds benefit ongoing projects.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive Saturday, April 16, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at East Hampton Congregational Church, 59 Main St.

Donors can make an appointment by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who donate will receive an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Annual Trout Derby

The Belltown Sportsman's Club will hold its annual Trout Derby Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the club grounds on Markham Meadows Road. (Follow the signs.)

Cost is \$15 per pole, with a 5-fish limit. Prizes will be awarded for one tagged fish. Raffle prizes and food will also be available.

For more information, call Curly at 860-638-7221.

Bible Study

The Rev. James Simpson will lead a Bible Study on Isaiah Wednesday, April 6, at 1 p.m., in the church hall at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd.

Youth Bake Sale for Ukraine

The Youth Group of the Congregational Church of East Hampton will hold a Bake Sale Sunday, April 3, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. or sold out. All proceeds will go to Church World Service: Ukraine Crisis Response Fund.

Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, and conflict.

The sale will be in the churchyard by the parking lot. In case of rain, it will be in the Fellowship Hall.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Town Councilor Goff Running for State Seat

By Jack Lakowsky

Brandon Goff, Republican member of the East Hampton Town Council, has announced he'll see if voters in East Hampton and the entire 33rd state senate district think he's the best choice to serve them in Hartford.

Goff hopes to unseat in November incumbent state Sen. Norm Needleman. The Democrat was elected to serve the 33rd in Hartford in 2018.

Needleman has not officially announced his campaign.

The election is some time off and Goff's campaign is still getting off the ground, but he told the *Rivereast* he's confident he'll receive a nomination from Republicans in each district town.

The 33rd includes East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. It is the second-largest Connecticut senatorial district.

One difference between the two is their years of experience.

In terms of public service Goff, 25, has two feathers in his cap: participation in the town's brownfield redevelopment group and (so far) about four months on the town council. Goff intends to retain his council seat. He said he wouldn't run for senate if he couldn't keep it.

Needleman has served two terms as a state senator and in that time helped pass major legislation, namely 2020's utility reforms. He is currently deputy president pro tempore, spent a decade as the first selectman of Essex and founded and ran a pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Facing an experienced opponent, Goff is undaunted.

"I don't think experience necessarily means you're good at what you're doing," Goff said Monday. "Just because you've been driving for 70 years doesn't mean you're a good driver."

Goff said he and many people think "people who make a career out of [politics] are killing us."

Goff said he doesn't mean imposing term limits on seats in Hartford, but that the capital needs a "new face with new ideas."

Goff said political veterans can get entrenched and become too "comfortable" with the status quo.

In years past Goff was an electronics technician for the Navy, where he learned two key life skills: stress and time management. He said these, along with attention to detail and good communication, will serve him as well as years of experience.

If elected to Hartford, Goff has a few things he wants to tackle.

He said he has a "real problem" with the police accountability bill passed in 2020 in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd and subsequent protests.

The bill, among other things, requires all police departments to have body and dashboard cameras, prevents cops from searching cars during traffic stops, requires police to intervene if they see fellow officers using excessive force and disallows decertified cops from working as security guards.

Goff said the bill lacks support for police officers, and added he disagrees with how the state is addressing crime.

Goff said he also has a problem with proposed changes to gun laws.

According to his office's webpage, Gov. Ned Lamont has proposed requiring registration of pre-2019 "ghost guns" or guns without serial numbers, often homemade with kits. Any ghost guns made before 2019 were grandfathered in, when the state banned them the same year.

He's also asking legislators to consider creating a state license for all gun dealers in Connecticut and to modify carry laws, making it easier for cops to check gun permits and banning firearms at polling places, public buildings, public transit and demonstrations.

Goff said these laws are unhelpful and are a detriment to law-abiding gun owners.

Goff said he wants to dig deep into the state's financials, checking on "little expenditures," which, he said, pile up quickly. He said trimming fat from these expenses will make the average person's life easier.

As an example, Goff mentioned emissions testing. Goff, an East Hampton native, lived in Washington state for a little while. There is no emissions testing in that state, he said.

Goff agrees emissions testing is to aid the environment, but that the money "is not going to beaches or parks, so why have it? Where's the money going?"

He said living in Washington felt like an investment while in Connecticut, he knows of people who think living here is a "debt."

"I'd like to see if I can make it easier for you and for me," Goff said. "I know what it's like, I don't make a ton of money. Every little bit counts."

The focus of Goff's campaign is on families, he said, helping them afford living in Connecticut.

Though it's expensive, Goff said he takes pride in Connecticut, and believes its residents should too.

As to his conduct, Goff said he doesn't like "bully or meanness", and plans to be straightforward, not longwinded.

Goff said he has consulted with former state politicians and campaign managers to grow his knowledge of how to effectively run for office.



Brandon Goff

A trend among Republicans is doubting the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election.

According to a *New York Times* survey conducted right after the election, between 70% and 80% of Republicans "don't buy the results," attributed to false claims by former Pres. Donald Trump that President Biden stole the election.

A 2021 NBC poll showed little changed in this information, saying just 22% of Republican voters believe Biden's election legitimate.

Goff is not among them, saying he does believe Biden is the country's duly elected commander-in-chief.

"Was that the person I voted for? No." said Goff, adding there are "some things" about the election merit investigation. He said his disliking the results doesn't mean it didn't happen.

District Republicans will, or will not, officially embrace Goff in May.

Parks and Rec. News

Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonrec.com.

April Vacation Camp: For grades 1-5. April 18-22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day, at the Sears Park Pavilion. Fee is \$185.

Flag Football: April 24-June 5, for ages 7-13. Fee: \$120.

Golf Tournament: May 19 at Blackledge Country Club. There is a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Fee is \$110 through March 31, and \$125 thereafter.

Hartford Yard Goats Game: May 7, 6:05 p.m. See Hartford take on the Binghamton Rumble Ponies, the AA affiliate of the New York Mets. Field box level tickets are available for \$20 each.

Middle School Sun and Fun Camp: June 20-Aug. 12, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Fee is \$195/week; Center School field trips included.

Sears Park Summer Camp: June 20-Aug. 12, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Cost is \$195/week; field trips included.

Ham Shoots

The Beltown Sportsman's Club will have ham shoots Sunday, April 10, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the club grounds, located off Tartia Road.

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Shells supplied; 20 and 12 gauge. Cost is \$3 per shot. Refreshments available.

For more information, call Curly at 860-638-7221.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Fern Lane Resident Threatens to Sue Town

By Jack Lakowsky

Mike Piergalini, Fern Lane resident, presented the East Hampton Town Council with an intent-to-sue letter over issues with the town's new proposed private road maintenance policy.

Piergalini's lawyer composed the letter detailing his intent to sue. He presented the letter to the council last Tuesday.

The council was about to set a public hearing for the new ordinance—which fleshes out the town's approach to repairing private roads such as Fern Lane—but ultimately tabled it to allow Town Manager Dave Cox to revise the language after comments by residents.

The new, now-tabled ordinance officially designated Fern Lane a private road, along with multiple other small, private lanes.

Piergalini's letter states designating Fern Lane would negatively impact property values, calling it an "unconstitutional inverse condemnation action."

Piergalini said the town's activity maintaining the road-plowing, patch repairs—indicates

East Hampton has assumed responsibility for the road. The town has also issued building permits for the road, he said.

"The town's actions implicitly accept it as a town road," he told the council. "Adoption of this proposed ordinance will result in litigation."

Piergalini's main grievance seemed to be with the policy's statement that, though the town will maintain the road to an extent, it will not perform a total overhaul or replacement.

This standard is vague, Piergalini and several residents said, and could result in the town washing its hands of Fern Lane.

Specifically, the ordinance draft says the intent of the language "which uses the term 'Severe Disrepair', is to [say] that roads [at] the end of their useful life and can't be reasonably patched won't be maintained by the town", until homeowners and the town reach an agreement to provide for repair.

The ordinance goes on to describe the work the town will perform, like "small amounts of surface repaving" that doesn't require repair of subsurface structure, plowing, deicing and sweeping.

Cox said the town's lawyer will review the letter and take resident remarks under advisement.

Council Chair Mark Philhower was unintimidated by Piergalini's threat to sue.

"We can go to court and find out it's private," said Philhower. "An alternative to me is you [Fern Lane residents] maintain it."

Philhower said many other towns leave private road maintenance to homeowners.

"You threatened a lawsuit and that's fine," said Philhower, adding he feels the ordinance

would give people on other private lanes peace of mind.

The chair agreed the town has a duty to keep the road passable and in reasonable repair.

Philhower also aligned with residents on the "severe disrepair" language, saying it does stoke some fear.

He said it could be interpreted as meaning the town will say a road is "too far gone", and therefore not under its purview.

"That is not the intent of this council," Philhower said. "Are we going to commit funds to a total [overhaul]? No. But we can make is passable."

Councilor Eric Peterson, normally a quieter member of the council, said he feels legal action is in fact required—but not against the town.

"It blows my mind that 14 homes have been built and sold over the years, with people moving in, without having it disclosed it was a private road," said Peterson.

Peterson said whatever real estate agent sold the homes should be sued. He said, when he moved to town, he avoided buying on a private

road because they're a "headache."

Pete Brown, council member, said no matter what "not everyone will be satisfied."

Brown said the town has consistently maintained the road during and after storms and for emergency access.

Brown said the ordinance is a "big step forward" and questioned just how much more clarity the language needed.

The *Rivereast* drove Fern Lane earlier in winter. The road was certainly choppy, uneven and chipped, but at the time, the reporter did not observe potholes or other major obstructions.

In a council meeting earlier in March, after the *Rivereast*'s visit, resident Pam Hatfield said winter maintenance had further damaged the road.

Other roads named in Cox's drafted ordinance include Byron Road, Brook Trail, Green Road, Hale Road, Poe Road and West Avenue.

For a full list of roads proposed to be affected by this new policy, visit the town's website and peruse the materials for the council's March 22 meeting.

Easter Morning Sunrise Service

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a 7 a.m. sunrise service on Easter morning, April 17, in the field just past the Quarry Hill Road/Schoolhouse Hill Road intersection in Haddam Neck, followed by a potluck breakfast at the church parish house at 408 Quarry Hill Rd.

Easter Sunday service will be held at the church at 11 a.m.

For more information, visit www.haddam-neckcongregationalchurch.org.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Grease is the Word for EHHS Drama, and it's Got Groove

By Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton High School Drama Club chose to produce *Grease* for simple reasons, according to show producers Elise Shatto and Kate Werme.

Shatto said the team, including director Rachel Mansfield, wanted to pick an "oldie and a goody."

"This is our first show back on stage in the last two years," Shatto told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday.

As is the case with all performance venues, the pandemic disrupted EHHS drama. Last year they performed both *Romeo & Juliet* and *A Christmas Carol*, but COVID restrictions made for limited attendance.

With the current downward trend in COVID numbers, Werme said the club's able to show off its hard work to a full audience, to create and showcase performance art.

Shatto said putting on a full production embodies a return to normal, to going out and seeing a show with friends and family, supporting loved ones in the cast and crew.

Grease, set in the fictional Rydell High School in 1959, is primarily about the romance between protagonists Danny – a greaser, a boy from the other side of the tracks – and wholesome Sandy. The pair go through the trials and tribulations of young love, worsened by the difference in their socioeconomic classes.

The 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, based on the original 1971

Broadway musical, is the show's most known incarnation and includes many hit songs like "Summer Nights" and "Greased Lightnin'".

Shatto said she's especially looking forward to the "Greased Lightnin'" number, saying the reveal of greasers' classic car is akin to a reveal of the Batmobile.

The show features performers from both the high school and middle school.

Werme said shows like *Grease* work well for school productions. It has a large cast, stylish costumers and stunning visuals.

"The visuals in this one are very important," said Werme. "You have to understand the setting to know what's going on with the characters."

Werme said the show, at least 40 years older than its performers, has relevant themes to today's young people – and everyone else. These include the complexities of relationships and social stratification.

To modernize the show a bit, Werme said they've made "tweaks," omitting some lines that won't fly with today's audiences. The club's performance will be a modern take on a classic.

"We wanted to make it as inclusive as possible," said Werme.

Without getting into spoilers, technical director Chris Briggs said some of the roles' genders have been swapped.

"We wanted to keep it fresh," said Briggs.

The story, though considered innovative at its debut, certainly adheres to age-old gender roles; ladies wear pink and boys like cars.

Portraying lead role Danny Zuko is sophomore Brayden Kramer. Though young, Kramer is a veteran, performing since childhood. He had an earlier lead with EHHS, playing Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*.

Kramer said he auditioned for Zuko and was overjoyed to get the role.

"I'm definitely excited," Kramer said. "It's gonna be a great production."

Kramer said "Greased Lightnin'" was a particular challenge to perform, but the work was



Starting April 8, the East Hampton High School drama club will throw back to slick hair, leather jackets and A-frame skirts with a production of *Grease*, the famous 1950s-set musical.

more than worth it, saying he can't wait for people to see it. He's also looking forward to "Beauty School Dropout," a crooning ballad sung by a guardian angel.

Julia Stone, playing Sandy, acts, sings and dances. In the biz, this is called a triple threat.

She originally went for Rizzo, Sandy's sardonic friend. Rizzo eggs Sandy on to shed her good-girl image, to be more authentic and truer to herself.

Stone, a junior, said Rizzo is more her type-cast. She said she welcomed the challenge of playing a character unlike her own.

"I'm stoked for this," said Stone.

Stone said the most difficult part of playing Sandy is all the costume changes. Dancing in high heels, something even veteran performers can find difficult, is easy for Stone.

"I'm ecstatic," Stone said. She's been on stage since she was 3, and *Grease* is her 19th show.

Grease will show Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 9, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. All performances are at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Preorder tickets at Eventbrite.com.

Easter Egg Hunt

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m., at the church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. All are invited.

One thousand colorful candy-filled eggs will be hidden outside the church. There will also be refreshments and Easter activities including crafts.

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Police News

3/24: Cory Searles, 35, of 15 Crestwood Drive, turned herself in pursuant to an active warrant for her arrest and charged with risk of injury or impairing morals of children and delivery of cannabis to a person under 21 years of age, East Hampton Police said.

3/28: Christopher Scaplin, 37, of no certain address, was issued a summons for first-degree trespassing and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

Also, from March 21-27, officers responded to five motor vehicle crashes, 15 medical calls and six alarms, and made 16 traffic stops, police said.

Chicken Dinner to Benefit Ukraine

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., will host an eat-in or drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner Saturday, April 23, by reservation only. All net proceeds will be donated to Ukraine humanitarian relief.

This is the same recipe of barbecue chicken the church has sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. Dinner includes a thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and corn bread for \$10 (cash only please).

Call in reservations to the church office at 860-267-2336 and indicate whether you will eat-in or takeout, and your pick-up time: noon-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m., 3-4 p.m., 4-5 p.m., or 5-6 p.m.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Youth Bake Sale for Ukraine

The Youth Group of the Congregational Church of East Hampton will hold a Bake Sale Sunday, April 3, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. or sold out. All proceeds will go to Church World Service: Ukraine Crisis Response Fund.

Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, and conflict.

The sale will be in the churchyard by the parking lot. In case of rain, it will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is urged to come buy baked goods and see the Yarners' surprise for Ukraine.

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, April 6, at 7 p.m., at the Post Home, located at 20 North Maple St.

The Post will close nominations and vote on officers for the ensuing year. The Auxiliary will also nominate and vote on its officers.

All members of the VFW and its Auxiliary are welcome.

YPCCA to Present *Legally Blonde* This Summer

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts is accepting registrations for its summer theater camp. YPCCA will run daily Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m., and meets at East Hampton High School. Teens entering grades 6-12, as well as newly-graduated high school seniors, are eligible.

Mornings at the camp are devoted to workshops in skills that include Acting, Show Choir, Dance, Stage Make-Up, Voice, and Stage Combat. Afternoons at camp are spent in rehearsals for our summer mainstage production. This year's show is the Broadway hit *Legally Blonde*. The musical is based on the movie of the same name, and follows the journey of perky Elle Woods, a fashion-savvy UCLA sorority girl who finds her life turned upside down when she is dumped by her boyfriend Warner. In an effort to prove to Warner that she is more than just some blonde sorority girl, she follows him to Harvard Law, where she struggles to fit in and do well. Ultimately, she defies expectations and

manages to stay true to her delightfully pink personality.

All students at YPCCA perform onstage by participating in the show and "The Event," a cabaret evening of performances rehearsed in the morning workshops and presented free of charge to the public during the third week of camp. For those teens interested in a leading role in the show, auditions are held a few weeks before camp. Auditions, however, are not mandatory and those students who do not audition will be featured in the ensemble. There are also ample opportunities to learn behind-the-scenes skills involved in theater work and many campers work as stage and set crew.

Registration and more information on the camp is available by visiting www.ypcca.org. Register by May 1 and tuition is \$600 for the four weeks. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need. Email info@ypcca.org for more information.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

encounters include bears, snowy owls, fox and more.

Poets for the Planet: Wednesday, April 6, 7-9 p.m., in-person or via Zoom. Ten local, diverse poets will share their work, spanning topics from politics to the natural world.

Communi-Tea: Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors and patrons. Take out a book, have a cup of tea. Coffee drinkers welcome!

Night Fishing for Trophy Trout: Sunday, April 10, 6 p.m. Angler, writer and guide Rowan Lytle delves into nighttime fly fishing, targeting trout.

Program with James Higgins: Tuesday, April 12, 7-8 p.m., in-person or via Zoom. Kevin Tulimieri of Liverant Antiques in Colchester will explore a piece of furniture made in Middle Haddam in the years following the Revolutionary War. He will trace its paths from Middle Haddam out into the world.

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On September 3rd, 2003, Jannette joined our team. Since day one, she has been an enormous asset to our company. Her impressive knowledge and gardening experience has helped our company and customers 'Grow'. She has been here for many laughs, tears, growing pains and successes. Her smile lights up the room and her laugh is contagious. Jeannette's work ethic is unmatched and her commitment to providing our customers with great products and information has never gone unnoticed.

On April 8th, 2022, Jannette will work her last hours. She has earned every ounce of retirement and her exciting journey of what's next, back to her southern roots in Alabama.

Please join us for an open house at Paul's & Sandy's Too:

Friday, April 8th from 10AM-2PM

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We will all miss our
southern belle!



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– Dan, Jill, Karen & Paul



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RE3-4-22

Douglas Library News & Notes

located next door to the library. Must be 21 or over to attend. *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn will be discussed. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the library's adult circulation desk.

Equity Bootcamp: Tuesday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, where we will be discussing *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Books are available at the main desk for checkout.

Teen/Adult Take & Make: Pick up a kit to make your own maple candy from the Adult Circulation Desk while supplies last.

Teen Advisory Group: Meets Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., on the following dates: April 5, TAG meeting; April 19, Teen Paint Club; April 26, Gaming Club. This is a way to get your service hours in. Registration is not needed.

Children's Department: Storytime is back on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. on the Children's Floor. Registration not required. Take-and-make projects are available at the Children's Floor circulation desk.

24-Hour Pick-Up Lockers: The library now has outdoor lockers where patrons can pick up holds anytime from outside the building. Patrons will receive an email and text message with a unique code that will open the specific locker holding their items. Email info@douglaslibrary.org or call the main desk to request this service.

Knit-Wits: All are welcome, beginners to expert, at this weekly knitters and crocheting group held in the board room on Mondays at 6 p.m.

St. Peter's Lasagna Dinner

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will hold a community dinner Saturday, April 9, from 4:30-6 p.m. or until sold out. The menu will include your choice of meat or vegetable lasagna, Italian sausage, Italian garlic bread, tossed green salad and your choice of desserts. Cost is \$14.

This is a take-out only dinner; no preorders or reservations needed. Servers will come to your car, take your order and payment, and bring your meal(s) back to your back seat or trunk.

A portion of the proceeds of each meal sold will go toward supporting the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. In addition to last month's donation to AHM, a portion of each meal also went to aid Ukraine.

For more details, call 860-228-3244 or visit www.StPetersHebron.com. St. Peter's is located at 30 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron.

Fishing Derby

Skungamaug Fish & Game Club will hold its annual fishing derby Sunday, April 24, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 423 Jones St., Amston.

There will be a raffle and prizes – including a \$100 Cabela's gift card for longest fish. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for kids. There will be food and drinks available for purchase.

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 10, from noon-1 p.m., at The Worship Center, 99 Marjorie Circle, Hebron. All are welcome.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m., an in-person Divine Service is held. Masks required if not vaccinated. People can also watch worship live at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live

Sunday Bible Study and Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service. Topic: "Why Do You Think You Are a Lutheran?" There will be a review of the Augsburg Confession.

Early Childhood Center: Open to all faiths, the center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school educational opportunities in a Christian environment. Laura Kraft is director. For more information, call 860-228-5134. The center is accepting new enrollments; call for availability.

More Info: For more information, call 860-228-1152 or visit www.CLCHebon.org or facebook.com/CLCHebon.

Public Meeting

2022-27 PLAN FOR HOUSING CHOICES

The Town of Hebron is preparing an affordable housing plan as required by State law and is seeking community input on the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan is available on the Town website at:

www.hebronct.com



Monday April 4, 2022

6:00 to 8:00 PM

Hebron Library – Community Room

22 Main Street

RE3-05-22

Tell us what you think!

Hebron • Hebron

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

Life Group Hebron: Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Caseys' home; next meeting is March 27. There will be worship, prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. Next meeting is April 4.

Fellowship Luncheon: April 3, following the service.

First Wednesday Prayer: Wednesday, April 6, 10 a.m., in the church sanctuary.

Praise and Prayer Night: Held the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; next date is April 19. This night is dedicated to worship and praying for everyone in need in families,

church, and community.

Youth Group: For grades 6-12. Meets every other Sunday after the service. Email theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com for meeting details.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday after the service; next group is April 3.

Women's Bible Study: 'Forgotten God': Meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., in person and via Zoom. Next study: April 6.

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care:

Provided by Stephen Ministries to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office.

Easter Services: Good Friday program, April 15, 7 p.m.; Easter morning, April 17 – Sunrise service at 6 a.m., and worship service at 10 a.m.

Church of the Holy Family News

Masses are celebrated at The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), as follows: weekend Masses are on Saturday at 5 p.m. and on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; weekday Masses are on Tuesday at 7 p.m. and on Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

Visit holymfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The last evening of the overnight stay program is April 30. In view of this, critical needs are: 2-, 3- and 4-person tents; large tarps (green or brown, no blue); tent stakes; rope and cord; sturdy backpacks; insect repellent; and rain ponchos. Critical additional needs: \$10 Stop & Shop gift cards for gasoline to support the transportation of elderly and at risk homeless individuals from

their night shelter at The Inn on Storrs (funded by the State of Connecticut) to the Covenant Soup Kitchen and other agencies in Willimantic; size XL Latex-free or vinyl gloves, liquid bleach, men's Long Johns (M, L, XL); solid color men's and unisex T-shirts (M, L, XL); stretch boxer briefs (M, L, XL); men's hoodies (L, XL); women's briefs (sizes 5-9); disposable razors; travel size shaving cream; individually packaged snack bars; travel size packages of tissues; cough medicine; men's and women's stick deodorant; paper lunch bags; 13-gallon drawstring trash bags; concentrated floor cleaners; paper towels; disinfectant spray cleaners; and laundry detergent pods (no liquid). Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Town Center Project (TTCP) will hold a town-wide tag sale Saturday, May 14, as part of Hebron's Market Day. Fill out an application and get on the town-wide map. For applications, go to thetowncenterproject.org or facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc, or email ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org.

Artists Sought for Show

The Town Center Project (TTCP) is seeking artists to participate in Hebron's first-ever juried art show, taking place Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the center of town.

This outdoor, open air event will feature artists from many forms of media – including watercolor, woodworking, oils, ceramics, fibers and more. For applications, go to thetowncenterproject.org or facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc, or email ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org.

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And the Winner Is... The Hebron Historical Society has announced the winner of its annual Quilt Show, held over the Maple Fest weekend, March 19-20. Over 500 attendees viewed the 60 quilts and offered their votes. The winning quilt was titled "Foxes." It was quilted by Carlene Buck, who gave it to her nephew, Linus Loudenback. Linus had trouble surrendering his quilt for the show and was happy to claim it afterwards.



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RE4-1-22

Hebron • Hebron



The Hebron Lions hosted their annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, March 20, at the Lions Fairgrounds. The event features photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and Hebron Lion. Pictured with the festive pair are Rory and Gage Miller.

Pancake Breakfast Recap

On Sunday, March 20, during the Maple Festival, the Hebron Lions hosted their annual Pancake Breakfast at the Lions Fairgrounds. Served were scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, hash browns, orange juice, coffee, and pure maple syrup from Hebron's own Wenzel Sugarhouse. Patrons were also able to win raffle baskets with items that include mindfulness, wellness and family fun items. There were also photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and the Hebron Lion.

This year, net proceeds benefited AHM Youth & Family Services' mental health pro-

grams, such as Health Matters. Residents of all ages from Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia are invited to participate in this program, which focuses on ways to reduce risk factors of mental illness and substance abuse in youth, families and within our communities. Go to www.AHMYouth.org for more information.

The Lions thanked sponsors Hillandale Farms for the donation of eggs, McDonald's of Colchester for the donation of hash browns, and Wenzel Sugarhouse for the donation of maple syrup. Follow the Hebron Lions CT Facebook Page for updates of future events.

Historical Society Clothing Drive

The Hebron Historical Society will hold a clothing/textile drive – and donations and volunteers are sought.

Donations will be accepted April 2 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 26 Main St., adjacent to Douglas Library. Acceptable items are linens, clothing, shoes, boots, purses, towels or any textile item. Condition of items is not important; they must be delivered to Old Town Hall in a closed/tied trash bag. Do not

include toys, electronics or moldy items.

Proceeds from the drive will help the society cover annual maintenance expenses and program costs.

To learn more about the Hebron Historical Society view hebronhistoricalsociety.org site for videos and information of past projects and programs.

For more information, email mergonci65@comcast.net or call 860-368-7463.

St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds Sunday services of Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 a.m. Coffee Hours are held after each service.

Palm Sunday Liturgy: April 10, at 8 and 10 a.m., with distribution of Palms.

Meetings and Events: Balancing Class: Mondays at 10 a.m. – cost is \$5; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednes-

days at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Vestry meetings: third Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m.; Building Networks International: Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

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

For more information, visit stpetershebron.com, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email office@stpetershebron.com.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

April Holiday Meal: Wednesday, April 13, at noon. Served will be baked ham with sauce, au gratin potatoes, asparagus with lemon butter, garlic knot and frosted cake. Cost is \$3 and pre-registration is required. Deadline is Monday, April 11.

Renters Rebate: Monday, April 4. State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut 65+ and totally disabled renters. The filing period for this program is April 4-Oct. 1. Details/eligibility requirements for the program are available in the April newsletter or at the senior center. Applications will be taken by appointment only by calling the senior center.

Easter Cookie Decorating and an Easter Bunny Visit: Tuesday, April 5, 12:30 p.m., sponsored by Marlborough Health & Rehab Center and National Health Care Associates. This is a free event but does require pre-registration. Registration deadline is Friday, April 1, by noon. To register, call the center.

Community Café: Onsite meals take place Monday-Thursday at noon. Reservations due by 10 a.m. the day before the meal, and by 10 a.m. Friday for Monday's lunch. Requested donation is \$3. Call the center to register. Menu for next week: April 4, chicken cordon bleu; April 5, tuna salad on wheat bread; April 6, roast turkey with gravy and cornbread stuffing; April 7, roasted pork loin with gravy and sweet potatoes. For a view of the full month's menu, check the newsletter, the website, or at the senior center. Reservations required.

Stamping Class: Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Learn the basics as well as advanced techniques of rubber stamping and card-making. Cost is \$35 for four consecutive weeks. You can pay the instructor at your first class, but must pre-register for the class by contacting the senior center.

Enhance Fitness via Zoom: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9-10 a.m. The class is free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required, by calling the center.

Dean's List

Jason Ciarrocchi, a member of the class of 2022 from Hebron, made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Loyola University Maryland.

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Gilead Congregational Church News

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

Sunday Worship: Sundays in-person at 10 a.m., followed by Coffee Hour at 11 a.m. Services are still livestreamed, on YouTube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

Scheduled Events/Meetings: Monday, April 4: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study; Tuesday, April 5: 7 p.m., AA meeting; Wednesday, April 6: 10:30 a.m., Book Group, 7 p.m., Choir Practice; Thursday, April 7: 7 p.m., Deacon Meeting; Friday, April 8: 6 p.m., Faith and Film and Potluck

Hebron Mill Site Tour

All are invited to a Hebron Mill Site Tour Saturday, April 23.

A team of researchers has located 32 mill sites along numerous streams and rivers in Hebron. Many of the researchers are members of the Hebron Historical Society and they are prepared to share the mill sites with you.

The tour will be in the Grayville/Reidy Hill neighborhood of Hebron, covering paper, cotton and bit stock mills. Sites are located on private and public lands with extensive walk-

Lions Club Offering Scholarships

The Hebron Lions Club is offering three scholarships for 2022 – two \$4,000 scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship, each available to individuals that will attend a four-year college or two-year college or trade/career school program.

Candidates must be high school seniors. They must be residents of the Town of Hebron or active members in good standing in the RHAM Leos Club, and must plan to attend a college or technical/career school in the 2022 school year.

Recipients will be selected based on financial

Parks and Recreation News

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering the following programs. For full program descriptions and to register, please visit hebronct.recdesk.com or call 860-530-1280.

Easter EGGStravaganza: Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m., at the Burnt Hill Park pavilion. Join us for an Easter egg hunt, pictures with the Easter bunny, music, crafts, and a bounce house. This program is free to the public, donations welcomed.

Summer Adventure Camp: Registration is underway. Camps are available from 6:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at Gilead Hill School, during the weeks of June 27-Aug. 19. Open to grades pre-k through 8. Fee is \$188/week, with additional fees for field trips. There will be sports, games, nature walks, arts and crafts, field trips and more.

Summer Camps: Visit the Parks and Rec. website to check out the Summer Camp Brochure for a listing of all camps offered this summer. From Legos to basketball, we have your covered! Registration for all camps is underway.

Farmers and Artisans Market: Parks and Rec. is taking vendor applications for its sum-

Lenten Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus for the Church of the Holy Family will serve a take-out Lenten fish fry dinner on Friday, April 8, at the church, 185 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron. Meals can be picked up between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Served will be a fish dinner of fried fish, French fries, coleslaw and a cookie for \$15, or a mac and cheese dinner with a cookie for \$8. Proceeds will support the charitable efforts of the Knights.

Meals should be preordered via the link on www.holyfamilyhebron.org.

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Dogs: walking, clean & feed; socialization
- East Hartford facility – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams



Please call 860-569-0722 or visit www.poainc.org

Give Up and Give Back – Easter Collection for HIHS: During this season of Lent, the church Board of Missions invites everyone to collect needed items for Hebron Interfaith Human Services. The church invites people to consider putting together an entire bag containing all of the items in a category, or donate the items you can. Items can be brought to the church on Saturday, April 9, between 9 a.m. and noon or Sunday, April 10, between 11:30 a.m. and noon, when the church Board of Missions will assemble bags to deliver to HIHS to distribute to families they serve before Easter. Donations can also be picked up; call the church office to schedule a pick-up. For more information, contact Dale Bland, Alice Marien or Bob Owens.

Scheduled Events/Meetings: Monday, April 4: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study; Tuesday, April 5: 7 p.m., AA meeting; Wednesday, April 6: 10:30 a.m., Book Group, 7 p.m., Choir Practice; Thursday, April 7: 7 p.m., Deacon Meeting; Friday, April 8: 6 p.m., Faith and Film and Potluck

A donation of \$10 per adult will be collected at the start of the tour.

Register for the tour time of your choice by contacting Mary-Ellen at mengonci65@comcast.net or Sue at 860-368-7463. Registrations are due April 21.

Completed applications must be received by May 4 for consideration.

need, scholarship achievement, extracurricular activities, community service and other criteria established by the Hebron Lions Scholarship Committee

For applications, visit www.hebronharvest-fair.org/lions-scholarships, email Richard.Griswold@hebronharvestfair.org, or mail to Hebron Lions Club, c/o Richard Griswold, Chairman, Hebron Lions Scholarship Committee, 347 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Completed applications must be received by May 4 for consideration.

Parks and Recreation News

mer market. Markets are located at Hebron Elementary School on Saturdays, 6/4, 6/18, 7/2, 7/23, 8/6 and 8/20, from 9 a.m.-noon. Price is \$100 for the season or \$25 for a single date. The market on 6/18 will be at Burnt Hill Park in conjunction with the Hebron Day Festival. Application forms can be found on the website.

PREP Before and After School Program: Registration is open for the 2022-23 school year to all Hebron Public School students in grades K-6. There are also spots still available for the remainder of the current school year. Students participate in programming led by Parks and Rec. staff. Call or visit the website for more information and registration requirements.

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RE3-11-22

Tax Abatement Applications Available

Applications for property tax abatements are available to Hebron residents. There is a town ordinance that defers property taxes when those taxes exceed 8 percent of total household income from any source.

For example, if the total household income from any source totals \$30,000, the property tax liability would be capped at \$2,400. The abatement would be for any property taxes that exceeded \$2,400. The abatements would apply to the upcoming tax year beginning July 1.

Under the ordinance, taxes that are abated

would be repaid when a property is sold or transferred through probate. Abated taxes would accrue at an interest rate which is significantly less than what is charged for delinquent taxes (18 percent). The interest rate is currently 1.5 percent and is reviewed annually by the Board of Selectmen.

Those interested in the program can request an application by calling the town manager's office. Applications will be mailed upon request. Call (860) 228-5971 for more information. The application deadline is May 31.

Input Sought on Draft Housing Plan

The Planning and Zoning Commission is reviewing a "Plan for Housing Choices" for Hebron and is seeking community input on the draft plan. The public input meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4, from 6-8 p.m., in the community room at Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

The plan was a collaborative effort by an Affordable Housing Plan Working Group, the town planner, and a planning consultant. The Plan identifies strategies to promote housing affordability and diversify overall housing options and choices in Hebron.

Every Connecticut municipality is required to adopt an affordable housing plan by June of

this year, and this public meeting is an opportunity for Hebron residents to provide input and feedback on the draft plan. The plan is posted at www.hebronct.gov. Community input and feedback will inform the process of preparing an affordable housing plan for Hebron. In addition, it is anticipated that input from this meeting will be useful for future planning purposes.

Hebron residents are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting. "This meeting is an important opportunity for residents to help guide the planning process and help refine the Draft Plan," said Town Planner Pat Gallagher.

Keep Hebron a HEARTSafe Community

The Hebron Fire Department, 44 Main St., is offering free AHA Heartsaver CPR classes for those who live/work in Hebron. Adult Child, Infant CPR & choking emergencies are covered.

The classes begin at 6 p.m. and will be offered Wednesdays, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17 or Sept. 21.

Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve a seat. Classes are first-come, first-served.

Vintage Style: A Makers' Market

The Town Center Project (TCP) is seeking vendors for its first-ever Vintage Market. The casual outdoor event will take place Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

If you have vintage flair, love to repurpose, redesign, reuse, collect old treasures or simply create art out of any media, submit an application to participate in TCP's first of what it hopes to be an annual event.

For applications, check out www.thetowncenterproject.org or TCP's Facebook page, or email tcp@thetowncenterproject.org.

RHAM • RHAM

New Superintendent Felt Education Was ‘My Calling’

By Sloan Brewster

For RHAM’s new superintendent of schools, a career in education is all in the family.

Colin McNamara was appointed the new superintendent at last Monday’s RHAM Board of Education meeting. The Tolland resident starts in the role on July 1. His contract runs through June 30, 2025, according to meeting minutes.

In a phone call Tuesday, McNamara, who has been in education for 25 years and is currently assistant superintendent for personnel & administration for South Windsor Public Schools, said his parents are retired teachers from Wethersfield Public Schools, and his father was head football coach at Wethersfield High School “for many, many years.”

He said his father taught health and physical education and his mother started her career on the same path but later transitioned to an elementary school classroom, where she remained for 10 to 15 years. She was also head gymnastics coach at Wethersfield High School.

“Obviously growing up in a family where both your parents are teachers, you see the work they do,” McNamara said. “They both enjoyed the work they did as teachers, as coaches.”

When McNamara started college, he was not sure what he wanted to do. After about a year and a half, he decided his calling was education and coaching.

“The idea of being a teacher and a coach just really, really spoke to me,” he said. “The idea that you’re not sitting in an office, the idea that you’re not pushing papers on a desk, the idea that every day is different.”

McNamara said he began his career teaching. Then he moved up. First as an assistant principal, then principal, then he joined administrators as assistant superintendent, in South Windsor.

He said he will be leaving South Windsor in June, at the end of his eighth year; he started there in 2014. What he will miss most is the people.

“South Windsor is a bigger district than Re-

gion 8,” McNamara said. “I’ve gotten to know some parents, some students, many of the people who work in the district.”

He said there’s a great team of administrators in South Windsor and a “phenomenal” superintendent.

“I come to work every day enjoying coming to work and I feel blessed that is the reality that I deal with because I know that doesn’t happen to everybody,” he said.

One of the things that draws him to RHAM, he said, is the smallness of the district, which will give him an opportunity to “really get to know more of the stake holders.”

He said he is looking forward to developing relationships and making an impact.

“I think it’s tougher when you’re in a large school district when you have 800 employees, 4,000 students and eight schools,” he said. “Smaller district leaders, you have opportunities to be more present and more engaged with students and with parents and with staff as well, and that certainly is one of the things I’m looking forward to as well.”

McNamara said he has known for a long time about RHAM’s focus on the whole child through strong and diverse academic programs, amazing career pathway programs, strong athletic programs and clubs and activities geared toward developing well-rounded students.

“For me education needs to be that whole approach to the child,” he said.

He said while some students might love extracurricular activities and athletics and also excel academically, others may be weak with academics and are connected to the school via the extracurricular activities.

He said coming in to a school system that look at the whole child is “super exciting to me.”

“I’m really, really looking forward to getting in there and getting started,” he said.

At the education board meeting last Monday, when he was appointed to the position, McNamara said he saw a presentation by the guidance

department on the work it is doing on social-emotional learning, and was impressed.

He said he has also talked to Interim Schools Superintendent Scott Leslie and other staff and that they “have been incredibly warm and welcoming.”

Mike Morris, chairperson of the RHAM Board of Education, said the board was “super appreciative” of the leadership and the stability Leslie has offered through the pandemic and is looking forward to McNamara’s continuing the excellence in the position.

Judy Benson Clarke, vice-chairperson of the board, was the sole ‘nay’ vote on McNamara’s appointment. When asked why, she explained in an email that, at the beginning of the hiring process, and both before and after the first round of interviews, the chair said the board would choose a candidate “who everyone felt good about or at least a strong, strong majority could endorse with confidence.”

“The process of how we went forward changed significantly from the original statement and after we followed that guidance after the first round of hiring. Somehow it was decided that a majority of one (more than those opposed) was all that was needed,” she said. “I believe education should be above politics and that we need to trust and adhere to the processes that we establish.”

Benson Clarke said she wishes the new superintendent well and congratulated him the day after his appointment.

“I love our community and our school and I absolutely want what is best for the entire RHAM community,” she said.

Leslie Retiring

Leslie, in a phone call Tuesday, said he will be retiring at the end of the school year. He said he may take some time to travel and do some things he hasn’t had time to do and may also take work opportunities, such as filling interim positions.

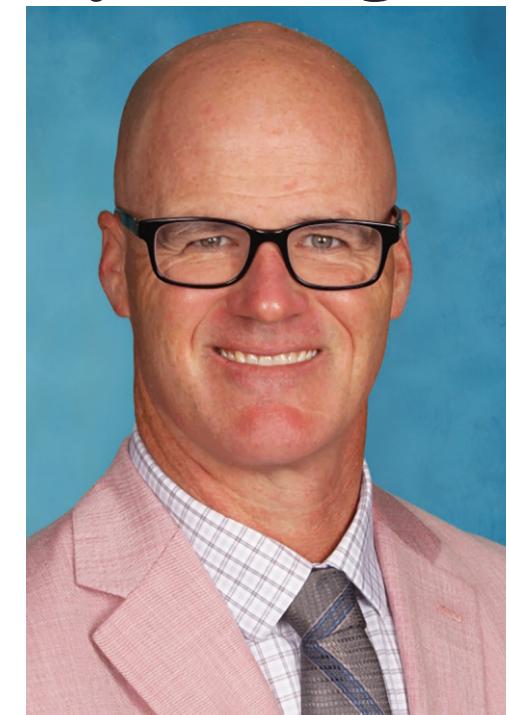
“Looking forward to having the summer to just be able to relax without thinking about September all summer and see how that feels and how much playing I’d like to do,” he said.

Leslie recalled that in 1980, while working in New York City for the Sierra Club’s legal office on a grant and waiting to hear if it would be extended, he took a summer job in Old Lyme – a job that led him into education.

On the job he met the owner of Becket Academy now Franklin Academy, a private school for struggling students in East Haddam.

“That’s really what brought me to Connecticut,” Leslie said.

He worked at Becket for three years, and in 1983, was hired at RHAM, where he taught science until 1994. In ‘94, he became assistant principal at Granby Memorial High School. He



Colin McNamara, of Tolland, was named RHAM superintendent of schools last week. He takes over the helm in July.

moved from there to principal at Granby Middle School.

Leslie returned to RHAM as principal in 2001. He held that post until two years ago, when he was named interim superintendent of schools.

Leslie likened being at RHAM to being a part of a family.

“Whenever anyone suggested I should consider another job or another school I always had to ask myself why, what would attract me to leave RHAM or go somewhere else,” he said.

He said RHAM educators are encouraged to try new things in the endeavor to improve teaching and learning and that the school has a good balance of teachers, parents, students and staff.

“I always felt I had the best of all worlds. I had the best high school I could ever hope for,” he said. “We always felt so supported. It just felt like the perfect place to make things happen.”

He said he will most miss the people.

A resident of Portland, Leslie said he would continue to watch how things go at RHAM.

Leslie said he was confident McNamara would be a good fit.

“I really feel he’s got the right positive attitude; he’s got the degree of enthusiasm that you would hope would have someone coming to new school,” he said. “I’m really confident that he’s going to do a tremendous job.”

AHM Spring Concert Returns

On Saturday, April 23, at 7 p.m., the AHM Youth and Family Services Board of Directors will host its spring concert, in the AHM Performing Arts Hall in Hebron.

RUNA, a group featuring Celtic-American roots music, will perform. The band’s blend of traditional Irish and Scottish tunes, along with its repertoire of originals, has influences of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco and blues.

The concert series in past years has raised thousands of dollars to benefit AHM social and human service programs for the children, teens, young adults, families, and seniors of Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlboro-

ough. This year’s event will feature the concert and during intermission, patrons will be treated to desserts from local restaurants and bakeries. Also during intermission, there will be a brief live auction of vacation, restaurant, and sports packages.

Guests can purchase either live concert tickets at \$40 per person or live streaming tickets at \$25 per household. A very limited number of tickets remains. Tickets can only be purchased online at www.ahmyouth.org; they will not be sold at the door.

For more information, email Joel Rosenberg at Joelr@ahmyouth.org.

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following news items. For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

Youth Leadership Motivational Speakers: RHAM middle and high school students are invited to attend two presentations planned for this spring in the high school media center/library. On Thursday, April 28, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Kris Wright, a 41-year-old queer, non-binary restorative justice trainer, an aspiring ally in the fight against racism, mom, wife, and community activist in New London, will share her story. Then, on Thursday, May 12, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., Ian Hockley will talk about Dylan’s Wings of Change Foundation, dedicated to his son’s memory. Hockley will speak with students about the power of empathetic leadership and countering this epidemic of social isolation. His son was one of the victims at Sandy Hook. The speakers are free but registration is required. Presentations are hosted by the AHM’s SOAR Youth Group. To register, students may scan the QR Code on the fliers at school or go to ahmyouth.org/soar-youth-group.

National Drug Take-Back Day: Saturday, April 30. Drop off your unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Marlborough Fire Department Co. 2, 200 West Rd. in Marlborough, or at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron. This is a safe means of disposing of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. This event is hosted by the AHM Coalition for a Healthy & Empowered Community (CHEC). To learn more, visit ahmyouth.org/chec-coalition-committee.

Presentations for Parents: A parent education series is planned by the AHM Coalition for

a Healthy, Empowered Community (CHEC) because children are being exposed to and learning about vaping and marijuana at a younger age. Parents of children from elementary school through high school are invited to attend: Vaping and the Risks of Using, Thursday, April 28, from 6-7 p.m. (with Victoria Adams, M. Ed, NCTTP); Drug Paraphernalia and How It Can Be Hidden in Plain Sight on Thursday, May 5, from 7-8:30 p.m. (with Ana Gopian, executive director of Tricircle, Inc.); and Dangers of Synthetic Marijuana on Thursday, May 12, from 6-7 p.m. (with Rob Picone, Licensed Pharmacist). AHM will share data points from the 2020 Youth Voices Count Survey results and the activity prior to the COVID-19 pandemic within our RHAM school system. All of the presentations are free but require registration, and take place at AHM at 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron. To register, visit ahmyouth.org/programs-services/prevention-programs.

RHAM Project Graduation: Parents of seniors and juniors are encouraged to lend a hand and get involved to make this event memorable for RHAM Class of 2022 graduates. Parents and students are needed to plan and work the annual car wash fundraiser at Hebron Car Wash in May; next committee meeting is Wednesday, April 6, via Zoom; meeting ID is 867 8093 9911 Password: 483937. Community members are encouraged to buy a gift from the Amazon gift registry to be raffled off on the night of the event; visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events-project-graduation to take action. Graduation lawn signs will be available for online purchase during April, at ahmyouth.org/order-project-graduation-signs. Project Graduation online registration will be available during May.

Project Graduation and Scholarship Benefit

There will be a RHAM Project Graduation Benefit at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron Saturday, May 7, at 6 p.m., with music by the Rockin’ Heartbeats.

This event is hosted by RHAM Alumni with the proceeds to benefit RHAM Project Graduation and RHAM Scholarships.

Tickets are \$20 per person. Snacks and pizza will be included, a cash bar also will also be available, and there will be a raffle of many items. A limited number of tickets will be sold, all in advance, and none will be available at the door. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check only. Checks should be made out to RHAM Alumni.

Further information and tickets are available from committee members Bob at 860-228-3388, Lynn at 860-416-1575 or John at 860-295-8484.

Dinner and Laughs’ Comedy Fundraiser

The RHAM boys basketball team is hosting a “Dinner and Laughs” Comedy Night, produced by Franco’s Comedy for Your Cause, on Saturday, April 2, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and include dinner and the show. Tickets are limited; to purchase, go to bit.ly/RHAMInnerandLaughstickets.

Contact Allison Heneghan at jfawhen@comcast.net or Donna Fraleigh at fraleighdonna3@gmail.com to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

Class of ‘82 40th Reunion

There will be a 40th reunion of the RHAM High School 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.

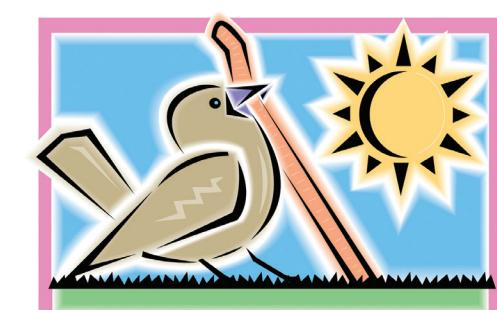
Find out more by joining the Facebook group “RHAM High School Class of ‘82” or email Sara Tarca at saratarc@comcast.net for information or an RSVP.

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has scholarships available 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 today, April 1. For an application, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school’s guidance counselor.



Marlborough • Marlborough

Republicans Spring Plant Sale

The Marlborough Republicans are selling geraniums, deck potted plants and hanging plants just in time for Mother's Day and Memorial Day. The plants will be ready for pick-up in the Town Hall parking lot on the morning of Saturday, May 7, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

These geraniums will be available in a variety of colors including red, pink, fuchsia and white at a price of \$8 each. The hanging and deck plants will be available in several differ-

ent varieties. The hanging planters will be sold for \$25 each and deck potted plants are priced at only \$30.

Ordering information can be found at [www.MarlGOP.com](http://MarlGOP.com) under "fundraisers."

A large variety of plants will also be available for purchase on the morning of the plant sale.

For more information, call Liz Giannelli at 860-841-1547 or Sue Stolfi at 860-593-4763.

Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full descriptions or to register, visit marlborought.recdesk.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.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 16, at Blish Park. Ages 2 and under are at 11 a.m., ages 3-5 at 11:30 a.m., ages 6-8 are at 11:15 a.m., and ages 7-10 are at 11:45 a.m.

Kids Fishing Derby: Sunday, May 15, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park, for ages 4-15. Registration is \$10. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish, smallest fish and first fish caught.

Youth Programs: **Kids Sewing:** For ages 8-18. Projects are: **Tank Top Dress:** Wednesday, April 6, 5:30-7 p.m., fee: \$48/resident, \$53/non-resident; **T-Shirt Quilt Block:** Monday, April 11, 5:30-7 p.m., fee: \$38/resident, \$43/non-resident; **Donut Pillow:** Wednesday, April 13, 5:30-7 p.m., fee: \$38/resident, \$43/non-resident.

Soccer Shots: Saturdays, April 9-June 11, at West Road Memorial Field. **Mini,** for age 2, is 3-3:35 p.m., and **Classic,** for age 3-5, is 3:45-4:30 p.m. Fee for Mini is \$102/resident, \$107/non-resident, and fee for Classic is \$108/resident, \$113/non-resident.

Skyhawks: Thursdays, April 21-May 19, at Blish Park. **Mini-Hawk** (soccer, baseball and basketball), for ages 5-7, runs 4-5 p.m., and **Multi-Sport** (also soccer, baseball and basketball), for ages 8-12, runs 5:15-6:15 p.m. Fee:



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Volunteer Positions Available — Day & Evening Hours:

- **East Hampton & Wethersfield facilities**
Dogs: walking; clean & feed; socialization
- **East Hartford facility – Cats:** clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

Please call 860-569-0722 or visit www.poainc.org



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'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

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.

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, 4:45 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.stjfchurch.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).

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

★ Ambulance Association's Tactics cont. from page 1

Councilor Tim Feeble vented some frustration to the board, which is chaired by former Town Council member Barbara Moore.

Feeble said in public, an elderly gentleman approached him and expressed great concern about the ambulance.

"A lot of people are very upset," said Feeble, referencing the EHAA's comments in both the *Rivereast* and in a February report by Fox 61.

Feeble didn't mince words, calling the service's conduct, namely the chief's, as "piss poor and unprofessional."

The Republican said "badmouthing" the council and fearmongering were no way to reach a solution.

Philhower explicitly called Scranton's conduct unprofessional.

"How do we repair the damage done?" Feeble said. "You needed \$600,000 a few weeks ago and said you're only going to last 2 to 3 years. What's changed in this short time?"

Feeble suggested the EHAA do some homework, to get together a thorough report of its financials. He also floated the idea of quarterly reports to the council.

This is where the meeting ultimately left off, with the board agreeing to get information ready for another meeting next month.

EHAA board member Heidi Joseph offered apologies for the negative comments made by personnel in the news and on social media.

Joseph and Moore stated qualitative, as opposed to practical, reasons the town should keep the volunteer service.

"It's wonderful when people you know help," said Moore.

Councilor Brandon Goff said he understood the "emotional part" of the board's argument, but also pointed out inconsistencies in EHAA statements.

Citing the fact that the EHAA still has a 98% first-call response rate (a stat the council praised), Goff said if the problem isn't one of response, it's one of management.

"[This has been] out there for a year, long enough to scare people," said Goff, adding he found it "sketchy" that the board changed its tune.

Goff referenced a meeting earlier in March when, after the town opted to use American Rescue Plan (ARP) money for the middle school's roof, members of the service lambast-

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.

ed the council.

Moore was present, and spoke, at that meeting. Goff questioned why Moore didn't set the record straight at that time.

EHAA Deputy Chief Tom Donnelly also spoke at that meeting, saying the service has a year or so remaining if it didn't get the money to fund personnel.

On Tuesday, Goff pressed Donnelly on this statement, which was quoted directly in the *Rivereast*. Donnelly walked back on this claim, and said the service probably has several years.

Goff said the problem doesn't seem to be with the EMTs, but with management.

"It's worthwhile to look at other options," Goff said, adding if the town can contract with a private company for a lower price then that's what the town should do.

As a point of note, the town budgets about \$60,000 a year for the ambulance, Cox told the *Rivereast* on Wednesday.

Donnelly brought up the Durham deal Philhower mentioned. He said the EHAA, as a non-town entity, pays its own bills.

According to Donnelly, Durham is now paying for all utilities and facilities. He said the only reason Middlesex took Durham's account was because the town agreed to give them its ambulances.

Donnelly also softened his statements on the service's financial situation, saying the EHAA breaks even and could probably do so for years to come.

Council Democrat Kevin Reich said until the EHAA does its homework and puts a plan together, the council "is in no position but to look elsewhere."

He said personally, he doesn't want to see the almost 70-year-old service fold. He said with a service based locally, beholden only to East Hampton, the town has more oversight.

Reich also stated the value of having trust in ambulance officials, and pointed out with a private service, the town has little-to-no say in who runs the show.

Reich said this is also a state issue and said East Hampton's Hartford legislators should be involved.

"What can we do to provide the best service to town?" Reich said. "That's what we're talking about here."

Marlborough • Marlborough

Blackledge Field Lighting Benched

By Jack Lakowsky

The Marlborough Board of Finance, in budget talks last Thursday, cut some items and added others to the Board of Selectmen's proposed capital projects, part of talks about the 2022-23 town budget.

The changes cut a small chunk from the budget's bottom line.

The finance board cut \$210,000 for proposed lighting to Blackledge Field on West Road, a revamp of the town green priced at \$35,000 and \$28,000 for painting and siding of the local food bank.

The board wasn't just cut-happy, adding \$81,000 for a new camera system at the elementary school, an item the select board previously cut, paid for with American Rescue Plan funds and money left over from projects that completed under budget, according to Greg Lowrey, first selectman.

As it stands the town is asking voters to approve about \$2.4 million in capital projects.

Also at the school, the board adjusted how the town will pay for a redo of the school's community room, used extensively by the whole community. The room's floor has seen better days.

The finance board directed about \$112,000 in rescue plan funds to the floor, covering most of the cost, Lowrey told the *Rivereast*.

The finance board also cut about \$20,000 for a consultant for the floor work. Work will proceed without consultation services, Lowrey said.

One of the town's costlier projects, also mostly funded by rescue plan monies, is fixing drainage along Stonybrook Drive, a cost nearing \$500,000. The board approved this work unanimously.

Discussion mostly centered on the selectmen's proposal to put up lighting at the Blackledge soccer field on West Road. Ultimately, the finance board unanimously disapproved the project. Members said they aren't hardline opposed to it, but that the town needs to do more homework.

Board members Ken Hjulstrom and Deb Bourbeau said they needed more solid numbers.

Hjulstrom said he needed more information and advised another try next year.

Bourbeau said those who spoke for the lighting, including local soccer commissioner John Walsh and parks and rec commission chair Barbara Lazzari, used terms like "think" and "could", not inspiring confidence in their planning.

"I'm not against it," Bourbeau said in last Thursday's meeting. "I'm against the fact that it came in at the last minute. Get facts and figures then present your information."

Lowrey conceded it was a last-minute addition for the select board but said the finance board received the information in a timely manner. As to the price estimate, Lowrey said before a town bids a project, it's better to have some notion of a budget, or else vendors are

discouraged from taking on the work.

This swayed no one. Bourbeau again said she didn't feel Lowrey did the proper work.

Finance board chair Mike Nastri suggested a more staggered approach, putting aside money each budget year until there's enough to fund the project.

During public comment Walsh told the board players of all ages and leagues of all designs – private and public- use the field. He said lighting the field will allow for a longer season. Right now, players have to stop around October, rather than the standard November.

Nastri asked about increased wear and tear and if, through tournaments or other events, the field could generate revenue.

Walsh said more use will mean more maintenance and that he could "look at" potential revenue.

Parks and rec chair Lazzari said the town could charge extra if field users need to use lighting.

In a follow-up Tuesday, Lowrey said the finance board's decision surprised him. Going forward, he said he'll work to get a design and more exact cost together.

The finance board kept a new proposed cell

tower in the area of West Road and Jones Hollow Road, a spot with poor cell service.

The wooden pole is relatively small, with about 85 feet aboveground, Lowrey said. It's not very visible, he said, and in warmer weather foliage makes it all but invisible. By leasing spaces to telecom companies, the tower can also bring in some money.

The changes do make for a new mill rate, a reduction of about .26 mills. This will lower taxes for the typical property owner, especially important in the current economic environment, Lowrey said. He said the typical taxpayer's bill will reduce by about \$66.

For a property assessed at \$250,000, owners would pay close to \$9,000 in property taxes if the current spending plan goes through as-is.

This is a result of the town's Grand List growth outpacing its tax levy increase, Lowrey said.

After these changes, and another \$16,000 reduction from the school's insurance plan, the overall town budget rings in at \$26.78 million, down from the previous \$26.87 million. If approved, the latter number would be a 2.76% increase over the current spending plan, or about \$719,000 more.

Applications Sought for Art 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.

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

Scholarship Available

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary is accepting scholarship applications from any graduating senior who resides in Marlborough.

The applications are available through the RHAM guidance department. Applications are due Monday, May 2. Mail all completed applications to MVFD Women's Auxiliary, P.O Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Lions to Raffle Kayak

Once again, the Marlborough Lions Club will raffle off a kayak and a one-year rental of a kayak rack at Marlborough's Blish Park. The use of the rack at Blish Park is limited to Marlborough residents, but the raffle for the kayak is open to everyone. Raffle tickets are \$20 each. Tickets will be sold at various locations through April 30, or can be purchased from Marlborough Lions Club members.

The raffle drawing will take place at Blish Park at noon on Sunday May 1st. You do not need to be present to win.

For more information and to purchase raffle tickets, call Lions Club Chairman Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lions Tom Reiser at 860-295-8374 or Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

Scholarships Available

The Rotary Club of East Hampton and Marlborough invites local high school seniors from East Hampton and Marlborough, as well as adult learners, to apply for one of several scholarships.

All residents are eligible regardless of what high school they attend – public or private. Applicants can attend any college, university, trade school, vocational program, or Veteran focused program.

A new scholarship, in memory of Rotarian Jan Solomon, is available to female candidates, with financial need pursuing a degree in the sciences. This \$1,500 scholarship is sponsored by the Solomon family through the Rotary Club. Applicants should check with their guidance offices for the additional application.

Applications can also be obtained through the Rotary Club website at www.easthamptonrotary.org and can be returned electronically to scholarshipapp@yahoo.com.

All applications must be submitted no later than April 5.

Lions Collecting Medical Equipment

The Marlborough Lions Club has a member who collects durable medical equipment including crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, shower chairs, potty chairs and CPAP machines as well as unopened medical supplies.

If you have any such equipment and materials, the Marlborough Lions Club will collect it for shipment to impoverished people in Appalachia. If anyone would like to have the equipment picked up, call Lion Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 to make arrangements.

Deadlines for Referendum, Special Election

election are:

Mail-in registration must be postmarked by May 1. Registration made through the secretary of the state's website, portal.ct.gov/sots must be completed by midnight April 30.

In-person: Noon Monday, May 2.

Also, the registrars of voters' office will hold special voter registration sessions on Tuesday, April 26, from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., and Monday, May 2, from 9 a.m.-noon.

If these times are inconvenient for you, call 860-306-8769 to schedule an appointment with the registrar of voters or email dem-registrar@marlboroughct.net or rep-registrar@marlboroughct.net.

Voter registration deadlines for the May 3



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RE11-20-22

Marlborough • Marlborough



The Gentle Lake... Marlborough assessor Simon Robert Wake sent over this gorgeous picture of Lake Terramuggus he snapped Friday, March 18. Thanks for the picture, Simon!

Republican Candidate Meet & Greet

Tomorrow, Saturday, April 2, from 4-6 p.m., the Marlborough Republican Town Committee will hold a "Meet & Greet" at Carter Hill on Route 66.

Candidates on hand will include Mike France, who is seeking election as congressman for the 2nd Congressional District; Steve Weir, who is seeking election as state representative for the 55th District; and Ken Hjulstrom, the endorsed Republican candidate for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen.

The event will feature light refreshments along with a cash bar. Live entertainment by Bruce Hart will be provided. Admission is free of charge, but donations are accepted.

Any questions about this event can be directed to RTC Chairman Liz Gorgoglione at 860-966-0050 or RTC Vice Chair Sue Stolfi at 860-593-4763. Additional information is available at www.MarLGOP.com and on the Marlborough Republicans Facebook page.

Congregational Church News & Notes

In-person Sunday worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St., is at 10 a.m. Mask-wearing is now optional. The Sunday worship service also broadcasts live every Sunday through mcc.marlcngchurc.org, and is recorded to watch later. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided every Sunday, downstairs in the nursery, during the worship service; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

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

Sunday, April 3 is a Communion Sunday. Holy Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free. After worship, a meet and greet time with refreshments is held in the lounge and all are invited. The service will be led by senior pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber.

Lenten Soup Supper: Wednesday, April 6, 6-8 p.m., upstairs in the Thienes Lounge. After the meal, Vespers with Holy Communion is held in the sanctuary followed by a program in the lounge. Childcare is available.

Mission-giving in the first quarter will go to the Marlborough Food Bank. In addition to its ongoing non-perishable food collection for the food bank, the church sponsors a monthly Drive-Thru Café for food bank clients, preparing and serving two meals each year at St. Vin-

cent DePaul Soup Kitchen, Church World Service blanket appeals, youth church-sponsored mission activities, and several new mission opportunities planned.

Holy Week Worship: Palm Sunday, April 17, will include the annual Sunday School procession and Hosanna Wave. Maundy Thursday worship is at 7 p.m. and will include Holy Communion and a dramatic reading of the Passion Story. On Easter Sunday, a lakeside worship service will be at 7 a.m. Hymns will be led by a brass ensemble and hot cocoa served. The 10 a.m. Resurrection Celebration at the church will feature special music from the Chancel Choir. These services will be led by Faulhaber and Pastoral Intern Val Seaver.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop is stocked with new, nearly new and vintage merchandise, from houseware, cookware, seasonal and décor to furniture, lamps, jewelry, handbags and more. 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. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. Higher-quality items are 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.

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 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.

Glazed Pottery Painting and Art Studio

Fundraiser: The Friends of the Richmond Memorial Library will host a Pottery Paint Night Fundraiser at Glazed Pottery Painting and Art Studio (60 Hebron Ave, Glastonbury) on Thursday, April 7, from 6-9 pm. A percentage of the sales will go to the Richmond Memorial Library. This fundraiser is for adults 16+. Advance registration is required by calling the library or emailing richmondprograms@gmail.com.

Seed Library: The library recently received a Constellation Community Champions grant for the purpose of creating a Seed Library. The library is now available to browse. It will be expanded in the months ahead. There is a binder alongside the storage unit with information about each seed we currently have available; help yourself to the information sheets when you take seeds. People should record which seeds they take, as well as what town they live in. There is a limit of five seed packets per person, with a maximum of one per type. The library will accept unopened and partially open and used seed packets, but is refraining from ac-

cepting seeds outside of their original packaging for the time being, to avoid issues concerning cross-pollination.

Paul Revere's Midnight Ride: Dispelling the Myths: Monday, April 4, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Paul Revere is arguably best known today for his Midnight Ride of April 18, 1775, made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1860 poem. In many cases, the actual story of the ride is far more compelling and complicated than the fictional liberties taken by Longfellow. In partnership with the Paul Revere House in Boston, this virtual talk will explore the facts of the ride versus its common misconceptions and delve into Revere as a person. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

Bags and Bling Sale Donations Needed: Starting Friday, April 1, through Saturday, April 23, the Friends of the Richmond Memorial Library will accept gently-worn jewelry and handbags for an upcoming Bags and Bling Sale. All proceeds will directly benefit the library and be used to purchase new Nature Explorer Backpacks for children.

Passport to Connecticut Libraries: Stop by any participating library between April 1-30 to pick up a passport that must then be taken to four additional participating libraries to be stamped. Passports must be returned by Friday, May 6, for a chance to win a gift card.

Children's Take and Make Kit: Starting Monday, April 4, children ages 4-8 can stop by the library to pick up a take and make kit with everything needed to make two beaded butterflies.

Marlborough Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Marlborough Lions Club will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 3, from 7:45-11:45 a.m. The breakfast is being planned for both dine-in and take-out and 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 serve various varieties of pancakes, along with sausage, ham, fruit 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 \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for children 12 and under.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association in memory of Lion Glen Warstock.

The Lions Club supports programs which address various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness

as well as supporting many local charities such as the Marlborough food and fuel banks and vision screening for children in pre-kindergarten through grade six at Marlborough's elementary school.

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 MarlboroughLionsClub-CT for more information on the event or to message the Lions.



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★ Letters cont. from page 7

candidate for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen and I know he would be a wonderful asset to Marlborough. My father has done more than most to serve the town.

When my brother and I were children in school, my parents joined the PTO and were active in events in town like helping to build the playscape at the lake. As we grew up and went to RHAM, my dad continued to serve on the Board of Education, Board of Finance, Lions Club, on the Executive Board of Florence Lord Senior Housing and most recently on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Even through all our hijinks growing up (and there were a lot of hijinks), my father was always there for us, while at the same time serving the community. I call him "Marlborough's Watchdog." He may not be able to please everyone (not that anyone can), but he's always making sure there is accountability, transparency and fairness in our town.

I recently moved to Florida to escape the cold, but grew up in Marlborough. I was always impressed by the effort my dad made to be of service. He will take care of our town better than anyone. He knows it inside and out. Just as he was there for us, my dad supports the community in a myriad of ways that most people don't get to see.

So on May 3, if you want the job done right, I am asking that you vote for my dad, Ken Hjulstrom, for selectman. He has been there for me as he will be there for you.

**Jessica Savitski – East Bradenton, FL
Formerly of Marlborough**

Conspiracies Run Rampant

To the Editor:

The Great Reset claims that a collaboration of corporate-government entities will control us in the near future. QAnon followers (some of our politicians) spout wild claims of sexual predators who are trying to take control of our government. The Party of Trump via Mitch McConnell says

"no platform is needed; we will tell you our agenda after we take control." It is hard to believe that people find these thoughts credible. These negative thoughts are pushed by some to discourage voters from acting in their best interests.

The Senate confirmation hearings showed Cruz, Hawley and Graham posturing like school-yard bullies to attack a dignified and highly qualified candidate for the Supreme Court.

Be aware, be awake to these negative forces who would attempt to weaken your voting rights. Voting is critical! Every two years, 435 House seats and 33 Senate seats are up for renewal. Local and State races are run quite frequently and are very important. Local demagogues can become demagogues at the state and federal level unless we vote regularly to reject their lies.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Mr. Science

To the Editor:

Thank you, Mr. Science, The Hammer, and the rest of the Toilet Paper Mafia for consistently providing fodder to which so many replies can be written. I wish I had more than 300 words to do so. But generally speaking, anti-Trump progressive liberals conflate their own confusion with clarity, obsession with reason, and intolerance with morality. It's their gift to humanity, and propagated by an equally disingenuous media that happily and voraciously fuels the nonsense machine.

Oddly, Mr. Science thinks we should start a nuclear war. Good idea. Obviously, to save one of Joe Biden's financial partners, Ukraine. Mr. Science is also the same guy who was aggrieved by a mystery person putting a letter in his mailbox (tears are welling in my eyes), yet Jussie Smollett committing an actual felonious fake hate crime is nothing but a Trumppublican fetish. Mr. Science is also the same guy on bent knee for BLM, an avowed communist organization that has little to do with improving the lives of the Black community (just for fun, Google Monica Cannon-Grant, smart guy). Mr. Science is also the same guy who voted for Joe Biden, an old, feeble, grifter with southern white segregationist tendencies who has referred to Blacks as "colored", and has stated that "poor kids are just as bright and just as talented as white kids."

However, the good thing about Mr. Science is that when he writes about politics, he's not writing about science. I cringe when he writes about science. But maybe someday we can debate the fallacies and failures in the Green New Deal without the training wheels of a classroom setting. Oh, and I am a biologist, and I do know

what a woman is.

And just for my own edification, Mr. Science, do you think O.J was innocent?

**Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

Vehemently Opposed

To the Editor:

Atlantis Marketing has yet again appealed for a zoning change for commercial use of a residential property at the corner of Main Street and Route 16. I am vehemently opposed to this zoning change and ask the Zoning Board of Appeals to deny this petition.

Atlantis Marketing was aware when they purchased the current gas station/convenience store that it was zoned residential to prevent just the kind of expansion that they are now proposing. And the fact that they bought additional residential properties to provide the space for this proposed expansion cannot constitute a hardship. The residents on Main Street and the surrounding neighborhoods cannot pay the price for the speculative buying of properties by Atlantis. Their property values will decrease and they will have to deal with light and noise pollution, traffic and other unnecessary repercussions.

We love our small-town character and this zoning change will make irreparable damage to it. We do not want or need this immense, unnecessary, unreasonable and unwanted commercial development in a historic residential neighborhood.

Again, I ask that the Zoning Board of Appeals deny this application. And, that all residents stand up and say no!

Cathie Horan – East Hampton

Supports Deb and Betty

To the Editor:

Deb Boudreau and Betty O'Brien have my support for Marlborough Board of Selectpersons. *Rivereast* readers should review Deb and Betty's FB pages, their histories as civil servants and volunteers, and their stance on local issues. Doing so will reveal what makes them the right choices for this board.

Both Deb and Betty have proven track records in our town. I'm impressed by Deb's business acumen, her quiet approach to simply "getting it done," and Betty's straightforward communication style and action orientation. Deb and Betty are about what's best for Marlborough, not what's best for a political party per se. Deb, in fact, is an Independent, and Betty has more than demonstrated her commitment to working across party lines.

I have volunteered on several boards, including the last two Charter Review Commissions (CRC), in my six years here in Marlborough, and I also administer a FB page for people who love living in this town. Both roles reflect my hope for a community where the interests of residents are primary, and where we can all prosper and be safe. Deb and Betty will help us get to that place.

Marlborough needs leaders who have the maturity, integrity and strength of character to put ego and party aside in furtherance of the common or larger good. I know Deb Boudreau and Betty O'Brien, and I know that they are well equipped to honorably serve our town, so that it continues to be Positively Marlborough!

Julie Revaz – Marlborough

Grateful for Fire Department

To the Editor:

As a lifelong resident of Portland, I have always been grateful for our local emergency services personnel, especially our volunteers. On Monday, March 21, the reality of what the volunteers provide to our residents became painfully apparent when my niece's home caught fire at 1:15 a.m. The Portland Fire Department, with mutual aid from Glastonbury, Middletown, Westfield, and East Hampton fire departments, did their best to save as much as of the home as possible, while providing protection for the homes of adjacent neighbors.

Portland Fire Department personnel spend many hours away from their families in training, including attending fire-fighting school, classroom time and weekly drills to maintain their skills. They respond 24/7/365 in all types of weather for our community and put their lives on the line for us. I just want to say "thank you" and remind everyone additional volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

Although the house was destroyed, my niece, her son and her visiting mother all escaped with minor injuries. What allowed them to get safely out of the house was due in large measure to the "fire escape plan" they put together when the children were little. The plan worked and probably saved their lives. My niece had also

put together a one-page sheet of emergency information, including bank accounts, insurance companies, medical, etc., that she had emailed to her dad for safe keeping. That information has already saved many hours of search time and phone calls.

Lastly, tremendous thanks to all the neighbors, family and friends who have responded with donations of every kind. What a great community we live in.

R. (Riz) Rizzo – Portland

Ukraine

To the Editor:

I see a little girl
Pink hat and mittens
Brightly colored winter coat
Crying she's all alone
A Russian soldier taps the back of her head
For a second red mist in the air
Then silence for a second
The world watches
We take their boats and shop elsewhere

Unfortunately, as we face the real possibility of another world war, Covid, fires, floods and global warming (it's real; doesn't matter what caused it), the country remains divided. We get told 24/7 useless information on what the U.S. and the word should be doing. Fox News reports if Trump was president, Russia wouldn't have invaded. Well, I remember when The Lumbering Orangutan was president he withheld javelin and stinger missiles from Ukraine. All they had to do to get them is to go on CNN and just say your investigating the Bidens. Didn't have to actually do it. Quid Pro Quo. The point of this is that Russia had already invaded Ukraine; it's been years of war. We're told Ukraine is taking Back territory, this is all good and fine but Russia is going to obliterate the country. They are summarily executing thousands of Ukrainians, it's genocide. The world watches as the new Hitler does what we swore would never happen again. Never!

Tim Rinell – East Hampton

Pollinator Powwow

To the Editor:

Why care? Why here? Why us?

Once you realize that it's the little things that run the world, you will awaken to a new sense of urgency in changing our culture of land use and abuse. Tomorrow, April 2, at 1 p.m., at the community room at the library, the Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project will be addressing these questions and presenting a changed gardening ethic, gardening for life.

Insects and other related arthropods make up about 90% of all plant and animal species in the world. Insects are crucial to the functioning ecosystems and are at the base of our food web.

We are finally waking up to the fact that a biodiversity crisis is accelerating as the planet's human population grows. Insect populations are being stressed directly by the action of climate changes, and a wide array of chemical pollutants, lack of habitat and, the harmful effects of invasive species.

Come, listen and inquire. Let's change our societal attitudes about insects, and how we service the land we live on. Become motivated to live and learn with them there bugs, enjoy them and take effort to protect them.

Come, rethink the image of your gardens, lawns, fields, and home landscapes. Become a gardener for life...if not you who?

**Michele Sinkez
Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project**

Effective and Memorable

Dear Marlborough Neighbors:

Are you fortunate enough to have had many teachers that you can reflect upon and smile about the lessons learned with them? As a retired teacher, I can assure that we all hope to be both impactful and memorable in our students' lives. Debbie Bourbeau is one such teacher, a 35-year veteran of dedication to the students and families of Marlborough. A current member of the BOF, she is running for the Board of Selectmen in the special May 3 election. Knowing her teaching means knowing her philosophies and strategies in life. She has my vote!

Thirty years ago, in a conversation she had with my son, he asked and Ms. Bourbeau whispered to him that she had cereal for dinner. No time to cook. Lots of homework (correcting and planning) needed to be done. My son came home from school worried about her, but I assured him she was not suffering for the choice. She had touched his empathy, his vision of the world beyond himself. It built upon his understanding of commitment, prioritizing, and getting a job done well and on time. He also understood the dignity and responsibility that came

with being told the truth. Her honesty impacted him well beyond that bowl-of-cereal moment.

I'm not sure Ms. Bourbeau was aware of her impact 30 years ago, but it is still with my son and me today. All from a sweet "confession" of cereal for dinner!

Ms. Bourbeau will bring the same level of honesty, commitment to task, and interpersonal skills to the Board of Selectmen as she did in her lifetime in education. What you see is what you get! She has her priorities straight: Honesty always, town business over party, integrity over politics, and most importantly, Marlborough and its folks first!

Donna Koropatkin – Marlborough

Support Open Space Fund

Dear Readers:

Reasons to support Hebron's Open Space Fund:

- Rural Characteristics, Public School System, and Open Space were identified as the top three reasons that people have moved to or continue to live in Hebron (January 2022 housing needs survey).

- Open Space is a draw that supports new and existing local business, as exemplified in the bicycle shop/café coming to town. Creation of a twelve-town Air Line Trail Master Plan is currently underway, funded by the State of Connecticut, to enhance user experience and capitalize on the recreational opportunities and historical assets that towns preserve.

- Open Space limits property taxes. Town services like road maintenance and salting, waste disposal, many more, are not needed.

- The Open Space Fund preserves land for farming, active recreation, and nature preservation.

- Preserving Nature helps solve many problems! Forests in Connecticut are entering their life stage where they take in vast quantities of carbon emissions from the air, storing them in the soil. This increases soil's fertility, the resiliency of forests, and life within them. And, this service produces clean oxygen we require and enjoy!

- Nature works hard for us by storing and cleansing water. Forests and wetlands prevent flooding and soil erosion during intense rainstorms; help protect all kinds of life in times of drought.

- People gain measurable physical benefits, also mental benefits, simply by being in natural areas, even without the exercise associated with passive recreation!

- Natural areas provide habitat for the wildlife we need, including pollinators, birds and other wildlife that are all in serious decline.

- People are involved with Hebron's Open Space. Girl Scout Catherine Chester has been promoting public hiking trails in Hebron. The Trail Rangers volunteer group she is organizing will help Parks and Recreation with trail monitoring and maintenance.

Thank you, Hebron, for supporting Open Space Preservation.

Ann Zitzus – Hebron

Bread and Circuses

To the Editor:

After a year of calling the Hunter Biden laptop "Russian disinformation," the MSM finally admitted that it is indeed Hunter's computer and that the information contained within is pretty damning. Whether it's a collection of "quid pro quo" business dealings in exchange for money and political influence, personal sex tapes and pornographic images with individuals of dubious age, or just your run of the mill photo album of a politician's son doing copious amounts of drugs, it remains to be seen what will come of it all. It is interesting that this story, which broke weeks prior to the election and was aggressively censored, is finally being validated.

Ol' Joe took a moment to let us know that the sanctions imposed upon Russia would soon affect us all and that food shortages are "going to be real". It would appear the fact that Russia and Ukraine account for 30% of the global grain markets and Russia supplying 40% of global fertilizer weren't factors considered in the decision-making calculus of Biden's economic sanctions. Even though this will undoubtedly result in millions of deaths from starvation in the 3rd world, it's a price that Biden is willing to pay. Just like Madeline Albright saying that the deaths of 500k Iraqi children were "worth it" as a result of Desert Storm – the ends always justify the means.

Russia has commented that they are having "total war" waged against them in the form of global economic sanctions. The idea of a nuclear power saying such a thing should concern us all, this story along with all the rest, were promptly memory holed for more important

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

news ... like the "slap heard around the world," which has dominated the news cycle and served as a wonderful media driven distraction away from the reality-based problems our politicians seem to be exacerbating. We are definitely living in a circus ... but the real question is, what is going to happen when the bread runs out?

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Support Bourbeau for BOS

To the Editor:

I have known Debbie Bourbeau for over 40 years. She has been active in our community in many different ways, from volunteering at the Marlborough Arts Center, to teaching at Marlborough Elementary, to being on the Richmond Memorial Library Board, to being on the Board of Finance. Her quest for a seat on the Board of Selectmen this May fits into her qualifications.

Debbie is a person who values hard work. She always attends to detail and collaborates with whomever she works. Her motto as a teacher (all three of my children had her as their teacher) was "organization and responsibility are the keys to success." She lives that every day!

If elected to the BOS, Debbie will represent me, my interests and concerns. She will be a voice for the residents. Debbie will listen, ask questions, be honest, and will be willing to hear all sides of an issue and reach a compromise. She conducts herself with integrity and honesty always.

I hope you join me in voting for Debbie Bourbeau for Board of Selectmen on May 3rd.

Thank you,
Fran Terase – Marlborough

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Marlborough, Please Vote

To the Editor:

Marlborough's voters will be going to the polls on May 3 to vote for two additional selectmen. The recent Town Charter change expands the existing Three-member Board of Selectmen to five members. The ballot will show four candidates; you may vote for up to two candidates. I'm one of them.

Three members of the executive board of our Republican Town Committee decided to run only one candidate. The other party gives you a choice; I felt our party should do the same. Elections matter, the right people in public office make good decisions. Towns benefit from good decisions by people who work well together and have the best interest of the town at heart.

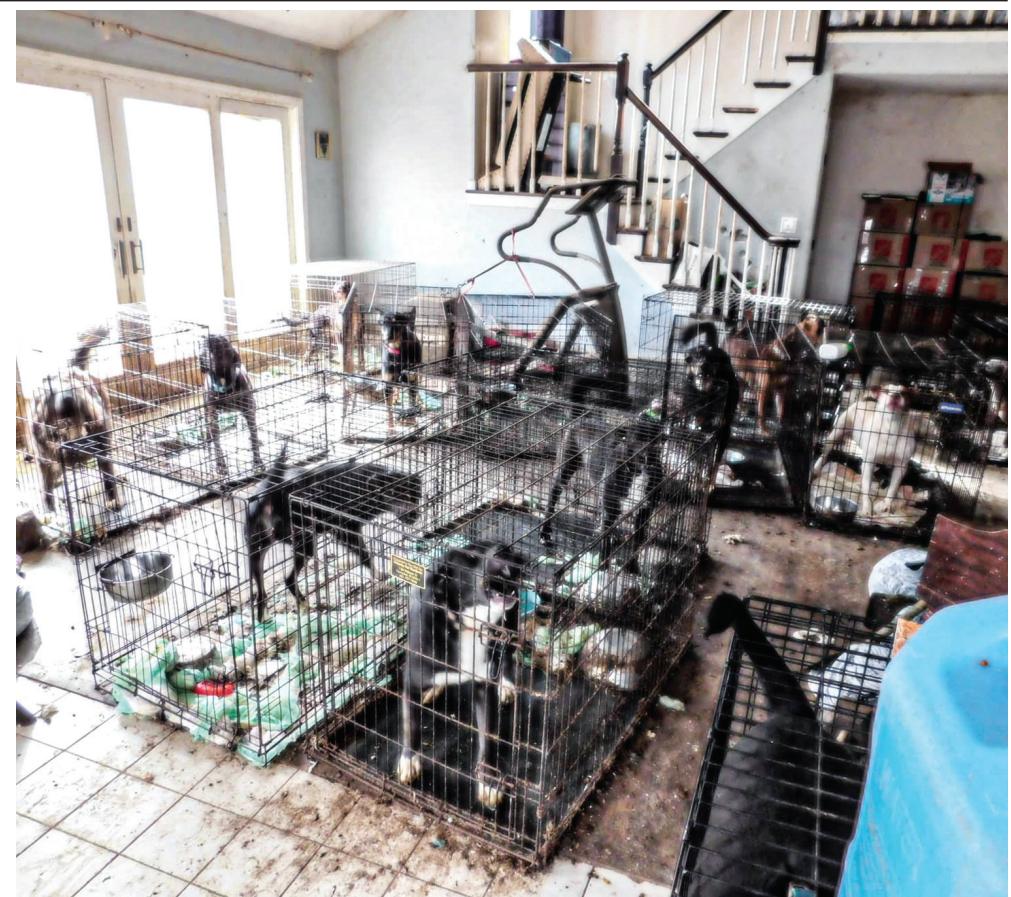
I think ... no, I know, I can work well with the five-member Board of Selectmen and I also know I have this Town's best interest at heart.

I felt you had a choice, 98 voters agreed and petitioned to have my name as one of your choices. I promise to always do my best for our lovely town.

Louise Concodello – Marlborough

Note: Concodello is a candidate for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen. She is presently a member of the Marlborough Board of Education, Parks & Recreation, Lake Advisory and Nature Trails & Sidewalk Commissions, speaking as an individual.

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This photo, which was taken by Connecticut State Police, shows a room full of cages of dogs in Joann Connelly's home on Porter Road in Hebron, where she ran the CT Pregnant Dog and Cat Rescue. Connelly was arrested on three counts of animal cruelty last week and the rescue is no longer active.

★ Compassion Urged cont. from page 1

bottom of the cage, and no obvious litter box."

In an upstairs bathroom were three loose cats.

The smell was so bad in the upper level that the animal control officer had difficulty breathing, despite wearing an N95 respirator, the document states.

Upstairs, there were also two parakeets in a large cage, the floor of which was covered with seed shells and feces. In addition, the warrant states that there was a strong smell of incense burning in the room, and that incense "is very detrimental to the health of the birds."

"Wescovich observed the conditions in the home to be extremely unsanitary making it difficult to breath [sic] or move around without collecting dirt, cobwebs or waste material on her clothing," the document states.

In a phone call Tuesday, Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the town had known for a while that something was amiss in the home, due to multiple complaints from people concerned about the animals.

Multiple times, local ACO William Bell and Resident State Trooper Bryce Reed had gone to the property but without a search warrant could not gain access as it was gated, Tierney said. And without evidence of problems, they could not get a warrant signed by a judge.

It was not until the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) received complaints regarding the well-being of Connelly's 17-year-old daughter that a warrant was obtained, Tierney said.

Reed said he went to the property with DCF on Wednesday.

On Thursday, officials wrote the warrants and on Friday, Bell, Reed, Wescovich and officials from the Department of Agriculture entered the property, Reed said. Connelly and her daughter were there and Connelly was taken into custody.

At 9 a.m. Thursday, Wescovich reached out to multiple animal control departments for backup, Tierney said. Approximately 30 towns responded, including Stonington, Plainville, Woodstock and others.

"They had ACOs from all over the place," Tierney said.

He said the evacuation of the animals was completed by 5:30 p.m. that day and went better than anticipated and said the animals were all being checked out.

Tierney said it was "just a sad situation."

He said, based on reports he received, the animals appeared in good condition had access to food and water, and that Connelly took in more dogs than she expected.

"I just think she got overwhelmed," he said. "I can't speak for her; I think her intentions for this were probably good and it snowballed."

Reed said while he did not spend too much time in the house, the animals "looked decently healthy."

He echoed the statements in the press release about the odor, including that it could be detected outside the home.

Tierney said due to the condition of the home, Russell Melmed, director of health at Chatham Health District, was also called to the scene.

Melmed, in a phone call Tuesday, said the conditions of the home rendered it unfit for human habitation under sec 19-13-b1 of the Connecticut Public Health Code. He said he told the property owner that once it's cleaned up he would rescind his order.

"It's reasonable to expect that it could be made habitable with a thorough cleaning," he said.

According to its website, CT Pregnant Dog and Cat Rescue takes in animals from out-of-state kill shelters. Comments on the Facebook page for the rescue organization echo Tierney's sentiment that Connelly was coming at the situation from a good place.

On March 25, a post from someone named Erin reads that an unforeseen incident has rendered the rescue no longer active, and advises people to reach out to the Department of Agriculture with any concerns.

A subsequent post from the organization offers an apology.

"I am so sorry everyone," it reads. "Joann just became overwhelmed with the number of animals she was trying to help. Please have compassion at this time. Her heart was in the right place. It just became more than she could handle at this time."

Replies resonate with the same emotion.

On the Facebook page, Jennifer Krassner describes meeting Connelly when she came to her home late one night to help administer fluids to a dying cat she had found.

"She could have said no, she could have told me to just let the cat die, she could have completely ignored my calls...but she didn't," the post reads.

Not only did Connelly come and help, she found the cat a home, according to the post.

"Regardless of her current situation, I believe her heart is in the right place. I wish her the best," Krassner wrote in closing.

Several other posts are similar with offerings to donate or help in the situation.

"Sometimes my six dogs make such a mess I'm so glad nobody walked in at that moment," Christine Paris wrote. "I can't imagine trying to take care of all those animals. God bless you, Joann."

Michael Wilder's post talks about "the shear [sic] number of animals posted."

"I have to imagine the situation was born out of love and so much positive intent, but became too much to handle in a safe and healthy manner, hence the government intervention," Wilder wrote. "I truly feel for her and my heart is a mess for these animals."

Bell said he preferred to not to comment for the story.

According to the press release from state police, an incoming transport of animals slated to go to the rescue was scheduled for last Friday and is being managed.

The animals have predetermined adoptive homes, the press release states. State Animal Control said it will be tracking and ensuring the animals go to homes with proper care.

Obituaries

Hebron

Patrick R. Balisano

Patrick R. Balisano, 83, of Hebron, formerly of Ave Maria, Fla., passed away Saturday, March 26, surrounded by his loving family and extraordinary caregiver.

Patrick is survived by two daughters, Melanie Balisano, formerly of Hebron; Lindsey Balisano-Hebler and his two grandsons, Walker and Blake Hebler of East Hampton. He is also survived by his two sisters, Dolores Kelly of Suffield, and Sandra Warner of Fort Myers, Fla., along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Patrick was predeceased by his parents, Patrick and Mary (Evanski) Balesano; his loving wife, AnnMarie (Coates) Balisano; and his son-in-law, Bryan Hebler.

Patrick was a devoted, loving and kind husband, brother, father and friend. He was most proud of his grandsons, who he simply adored. Born in Hartford Jan. 6, 1939, he graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1957. On Sept. 18, 1959, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Germany. Upon Patrick's return, he joined the West Hartford Police Department and completed the Police Academy on April 3, 1964. Many years later, he left the police department to become an inspector at the State of CT Department of Motor Vehicles. In February of 1992, Patrick retired as division chief of the DMV. After retirement, Patrick worked as gaming commission inspector at Foxwoods Casino and later became manager of AAA Auto Club Truck Squad.

In Patrick's early years, he owned Hebron Auto Body Shop and built over a dozen homes in his hometown of Hebron as well. He was an avid lover of classic cars and could be found at many local cruise nights, with his brother-in-law Bill Decambra.

Patrick is no longer here, but his legacy remains. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to a fund in his honor at the Colebrook Village, 55 John E. Horton Blvd., Hebron, CT 06248. To the staff at Colebrook Village, thank you! Your dedication, professionalism, love for your work, and for your patients helped our family greatly during this very difficult time. To Patrick's caregiver, Glaydis, we thank you for giving him the best care in the final months and days of his life. You are truly an angel.

Calling hours were Wednesday, March 30, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday, March 31, at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. Burial followed in St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Christine Jurovaty Memorial Service

A memorial service for Christine McGrath Jurovaty, formerly of Andover, will be held Friday, April 22, at 11 a.m., at The Church of The Holy Family in Hebron. There will be a reception service at the church hall following the service.

Jurovaty passed away Feb. 3, at the age of 76.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to Holy Family Home and Shelter in Willimantic.

Colchester

Erwin Arthur Stoddard

Erwin Arthur Stoddard, 96, of Colchester, formerly of Enfield, Conn., and Ocala, Fla., passed away Friday, March 4, in Sebring, Fla. Born Jan. 19, 1926 in Cady's Falls in Morristown, Vt., he was the son of the late Archie Leo and Levina Adeline Stoddard.

Erwin answered the call of duty in 1944 by enlisting in the military to honorably serve our nation during World War II in the Army Airborne. After his military service, he went on to work at Pratt & Whitney for over 35 years, until his retirement in 1985. He will always be remembered as a hard-working proud family man who enjoyed woodworking, spending time in nature, taking long scenic drives with his wife, and time with his family, especially at the beach.

He will be forever loved and remembered by his four children, Linda and Paul Kwiatkowski, Valerie and Rick Bidwell, Arthur and Rhonda Stoddard, John and Rebecca Stoddard; his six stepchildren, Eileen Morales, Debbie and Paul Mientus, Pam (Coleen) Ranheim, Leanne Ranheim, Bettyann and Bradley Lemire and Tricia Scrivener; along with his seven grandchildren, 17 step-grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, five step-great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, as well as numerous other extended family and friends.

Erwin is preceded by his beloved wife of 30 years, Frances Patricia Stoddard, and his sisters, Dorothy Carbonaro, Aileen Durante and Evelyn Gibson.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, April 9, directly at the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillette's Lane in Colchester at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memorial Giving 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Catheline L. Ouellette

Catheline L. Ouellette, 82, formerly of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, March 22. She was the beloved mother of Debra Ouellette and her fiancé Stanley Craig, Gilbert Ouellette and his fiancée Laura Whittles, and Kelly Calderoni and her husband Robert.

Catheline and her late husband Gilbert lived in Colchester for 30 years, where they raised their family, enjoying time camping and traveling. Unfortunately, he passed away in 1994 after what felt like a short 34 years.

Following her husband's death, she was blessed beyond words to meet a wonderful man named Clayton. Clayton not only treated Catheline like a princess, but also treated her children as if they were his own. They lived in Clearwater, Fla., for 10 years, before moving back to Manchester to be with family and friends.

Catheline worked at Pratt & Whitney for 27 years in the materials support area. Cathy enjoyed her job and took a lot of pride to ensure that everyone received what they required to get



their job done. Catheline loved to bowl, dance and travel. The biggest love for hers, however, was being with her family.

She adored her grandchildren, Gary Ouellette and his wife Dallas, Amber Smith and her husband Garrett, and Matthew Ouellette. Catheline also cherished her great-grandchildren, Kasi and Shelby Ouellette, and Cameron and Delilah Smith. In addition to her beautiful grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she leaves behind a sister, Cecile Ratte, and her husband Paul.

Cathy was predeceased by her son Gary, but will be missed by Gary's wife Michele Ouellette.

Catheline truly believed in her faith. It is what enabled her to enter this next phase of her life with no fear.

Her family would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to the wonderful personnel at Mid-State Medical Center in Meriden.

A visitation was held Sunday, March 27, at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, March 28, at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial took place Tuesday, March 29, in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Gillettes Lane, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Catheline's memory may be made to the MidState Medical Center Hospice Program.

Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, in Colchester is assisting with arrangements. To share a memory or express a condolence, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Timothy D. McGuire

Timothy D. McGuire, 50, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021. Born March 10, 1971, in Harford, he was the beloved son of Dennis and Ellen (Romak) McGuire of Hebron.

In addition to his parents, Tim is survived by and will be dearly missed by his brother, Daniel McGuire of Philadelphia, Pa.; grandparents, Leonard and Anne-Marie Kogos of Greenfield, Mass.; aunts, Donna Armstrong and her husband David of Manchester, Lucinda LaCroix of Lebanon; uncles, Edward McGuire and wife Corrine of Bolton, Joseph Romak and wife Penny of Newtown; great aunts, Anita Erickson of Florida and Barbara MacDonald and husband Alex of Manchester.

He was predeceased by his loving grandparents, Leo Romak and wife Bernice (Suskie) of East Hartford; grandfather, Raymond Lacroix of Hampton; and great aunt, Eleanor Suskie of East Hartford.

Tim also leaves behind many loving friends, cousins and their families.

He was a motorcycle enthusiast and loved riding his Harley, dirt bikes and jet skis. He ran his own roofing, snow plowing and snow removal business. He will be remembered for his big heart and willingness to help his family and friends.

Tim helped to care for his Grandma Bernice for the last six years of her life. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Calling hours for Timothy will be held Friday, April 8, from 4-7 p.m., at Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, CT 06108. A Mass of Christian Burial will occur Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m., at Saint Rose Church, 33 Church St., East Hartford, CT 06108.

A private committal service for the family will follow.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.NewkirkandWhitney.com for the McGuire family.

Memorial donations in Tim's name may be made to: Tunnels to Towers Foundation at www.T2T.org.

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New Obituary Policy

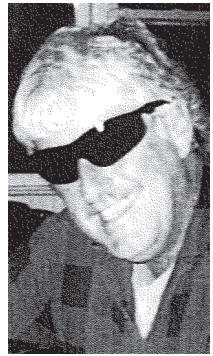
Effective with the March 18 edition, the Rivereast News Bulletin will begin charging \$75 to place an obituary.

Obituaries can be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen.com.

Portland

Daniel J. Primmer

Daniel J. Primmer (Prim, Primmer), 66, of Higganum, died peacefully Friday, March 25, just one week shy of his 67th birthday, surrounded by his loving family. The April Fool was born in Providence, R.I., on April 1, 1955 to the late Bernard and Elaine (Sauro) Primmer. The family moved from Barrington, R.I. to Portland in 1956, and Dan pretty much never left.



A graduate of Portland High School Class of 1973, Dan had many accomplishments as he moved up in the ranks during the 35-plus years that he worked for the Town of Portland. Before retiring in 2016 he served as the Leadman Supervisor with the Portland Public Works Highway Department.

Dan had many interests, including NASCAR racing, 1950s and 1960s television, traveling, hot rods, car shows, World War II history of ships and planes, lawn tractors, telling terrible jokes and enjoying a cocktail or two. He proudly served with the Portland Volunteer Fire Dept. Company No. 2, marched on the drill team, and belonged to many horseshoe and softball leagues in town.

Dan was that guy that knew everybody and everybody knew him. He could usually be found holding court, while quenching his thirst, surrounded by his many friends.

He is survived by his loving wife, Shanelle (Barton) Primmer; his son, Scott Clement, his two daughters, Christine Clement, Ashley Primmer and their families; his three sisters, Jeanne & Dennis Levesque, Patricia & Brian Lovato, Bonnie & Bill Weir; his two sisters-in-law, Sundy & Jean Martin, Shari Nielsen; his brother-in-law, Garrett Barton; several nieces, nephews, cousins; and his uncle, George Primmer.

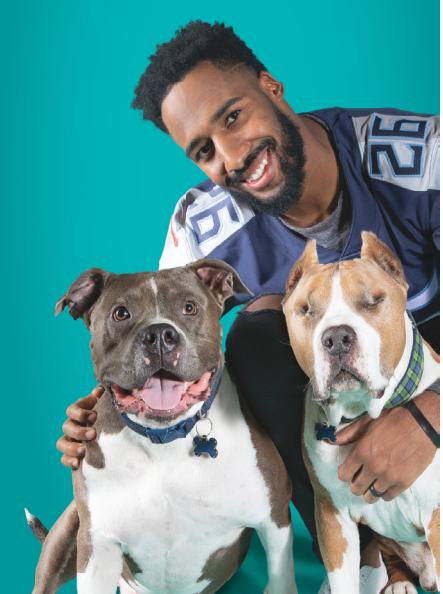
The Primmer family took many trips together to participate in Barney Primmer's WWII naval shipmate reunions. One particular trip was to Albany, NY to visit the last remaining WWII destroyer escort, the USS Slater. Dan often talked about and wanted to return to the museum to work as a volunteer to help keep the last "tin can" afloat. We ask that in lieu of flowers you make a donation in Dan's name to help keep the history alive. Send donations to USS Slater, P.O. Box 1926, Albany, NY 12201 or visit the website ussl Slater.org.

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portland. The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

MY SHELTER PETS ARE

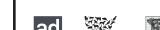
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New Obituary Policy

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.

Andover • Andover

Community Center Would ‘Give the Residents More’

By Sloan Brewster

The town of Andover has scheduled a meeting on the plans for a new community center.

The meeting will take place Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall Community Room and will include a presentation by the Moser Pilon Nelson Architects and a site walk. Renderings, floor plans and budget will be discussed.

While touted by many locals as a senior center, the building would actually be a community center, stressed Adrian Mandeville, vice chair of the Board of Selectmen. The new building is meant to replace the now-closed 100-year-old mold-infested firehouse on Center Street, where seniors previously met.

The community center is planned for the parcel between the school and Town Hall parking lots, officials have said. The existing septic tank there would need to be moved and replaced by a larger one. The existing leech field could be salvaged but would require new trenches.

Mandeville said the new building would be for seniors – who make up one-third of the community – and for others, including youth, such as Scouts and the Cool Program, which currently takes place over the summer in Andover Elementary School. It will also house various local events.

Mandeville has helped the Community/Senior Center Building Committee work out plans for the center and did some design work before handing the plans over to the architect assigned to the project.

“Our goal was to have a building that’s the right size, not too big not too small,” he said.

The community room in Town Hall, where meetings of local boards and commission and where the seniors now meet, “is not a great space,” Mandeville said, high ceiling in the room leads to acoustic issues and difficulties with heating and cooling.

“It was not functionally designed well, so we’re trying to avoid that mistake,” Mandeville said.

The result is a plan for a 2,200-square foot traditionally framed and designed building with

an estimated budget of \$975,000, he said. The building would include a large meeting space, a community kitchen, office space, storage, and two smaller meeting spaces.

“It is a very basic designed building,” he said. “We didn’t go fancy.”

Community Senior Center Building Committee chair Ed Sarsley said the committee involved the public in the design phase and has taken pains to keep the budget below \$1 million.

The building will be also have a generator for and be used by the community for shelter in case of emergencies or storms, Mandeville said.

In addition, the unfinished walk-out basement will be as large as the main floor and could be finished at some point, he said.

Rather than a typical brick building, such as Town Hall, the committee opted for traditional framing, Mandeville said.

“[Brick is] harder to heat and cool, and harder for later renovations and changes and long-term maintenance is more expensive,” he said.

Long-term plans include an outside pavilion area and a patio, Mandeville added.

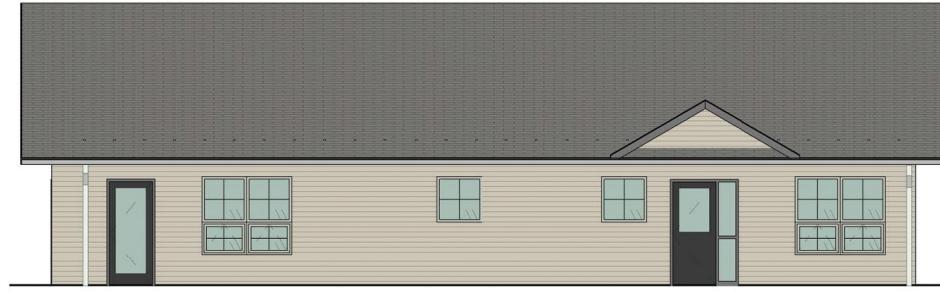
“This has been a town desire and need since the 1960s and been kicked down the road ever since,” Mandeville said. “It was the most-needed item in a town wide survey conducted by the town.”

About eight years ago, the Board of Selectmen made the center a priority and has been saving for it ever since, he said.

The town has \$450,000 set aside for the project, Town Administrator Eric Anderson has said. However, the project would be paid for via funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“Just as we started the project, the American Rescue Plan funding was announced,” Mandeville said.

ARPA included money for community projects with very specific restrictions and the center is the only project the town has identified so far that qualifies, Mandeville said. “It meets an unmet community need and ticks the other



Plans for a possible new community center will be discussed at a meeting Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m., at Town Hall.

boxes needed,” he said.

Using ARPA funds to build the center would allow the town to use the other funds set aside to staff the building for a couple years, Mandeville said.

“We’ve been relying on volunteers,” he said. “[We’ll] hopefully put someone there that will make real use of the building and hopefully coordinate the process.”

Because the building would be funded by ARPA, it will not have to go to referendum, Mandeville said. To give the voters some say

in the project, though, the funding for it will be included in the 2022-23 budget.

A multi-purpose space with small rooms and big rooms, there will be areas for folks to do such things as get help with filing their taxes and for dental and nursing programs.

“There’s all kinds of opportunities that the state has that we can’t take advantage of because there’s no space,” Mandeville said. “That was the goal – take advantage of what they have and give the residents more.”

Passport to Connecticut Libraries

All April, Andover Public Library is participating in the statewide Passport to Connecticut Libraries program. Nearly 140 Connecticut libraries are participating.

To begin, visit Andover Public Library to pick up your Passport. Staff will stamp it and give you a token gift to get you started. Then, take your Passport along as you visit other participating libraries. At each visit, you must show your library card, and then the library will stamp your passport and give you another small gift.

If you visit at least five participating libraries and return your passport to a participating

library by May 6, you will be entered into one state-wide drawing for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card for adults (18 and up) and a \$100 Visa gift card for children (under 18). This is a statewide contest where four winners will be selected: one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited at least five libraries, and one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited the most libraries.

For more details and a full list of participating libraries, visit the Library, 355 Route 6, during open hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Senior Trip to See Play

Andover seniors will visit the Little Theater of Manchester Sunday, June 5, for the 2 p.m. matinee performance of *Over the River and Through the Woods*, by Joe DiPietro. Payment is due soon.

This is a story about intergenerational relationships, familial love, and the little heartbreaks that occur as time passes and children grow.

Departure from the Old Firehouse on Center Street is at 1 p.m. Return time is approximately 5 p.m.

Cost is \$5, due April 6. Call Georgia O’Brien at 860-742-9947 for reservations. The trip is open to any Andover senior.

Donations Sought for Library Auction

The Andover Friends of the Library Auction Committee is in the process of collecting donations for its 21st annual Goods and Services Auction that will be held Friday, May 13.

The committee is looking for new items to create gift baskets. The following are examples of popular items: gift certificates, handmade items like jewelry, scarves, quilts, afghans, sports items, paintings and music/video games.

This auction is the Friends’ big fundraiser. Donations are tax-deductible.

Items to donate can be brought to the Town Office Building. Call Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 218 for more information.

Senior Fundraiser Coming

The annual Andover Senior fundraiser will be held Sunday, April 24, at the Andover Elementary School gym, 35 School Rd., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and vendors are sought.

Cost is \$20 for one table and \$30 for two tables. Vendors supply the tables. Money raised supports the senior luncheon program, held bi-monthly. Additionally, bakers are sought for the bake table.

For more information, contact Cathy Palazzi, senior coordinator, at 860-916-6122 or nana-world@comcast.net.

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 or visit 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 April 13. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is April 6.

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

Prayer Requests: All are invited to email the church any prayer requests they have.

Sonshine Stampers: No meeting on Thursday, April 7.

Palm Sunday: April 10 at 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service: April 14 at 7 p.m.

Easter Plant Sale

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Easter Plant Sale Thursday, April 14-Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and on Easter Sunday from 10 a.m.-noon, at the firehouse on School Road.

There will be many plants to choose from including lilies, tulips, azaleas, mums, hyacinths, hydrangeas, daffodils, spring baskets and more.

Community Center Building Presentation

The Community Center Building committee will have a public presentation Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m., in the Community Room of the Town Office Building.

This will include a presentation by the Moser Pilon Nelson Architects and a sitewalk. Renderings, floor, plans and budget will be discussed.

Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Andover Friends of the Library group is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an Andover high school senior. Applications are due May 1, and are available at the guidance office at RHAM High School; at the Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6; and at tinyurl.com/yckrxach.

Completed applications must be dropped off at the library or emailed to the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com. The applicant must be currently enrolled as a senior in any high school, use the scholarship to further their education, and hold a valid Andover library card.

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com.

Town-Wide Tag Sale Coming

The Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Rain date will be Sunday, June 5.

Residents who would like to be included and have their address listed on the tag sale map should send a check for \$10 payable to Town of Andover and mail it or bring it to: Town Clerk, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232. Include a list of items that you will have for sale so it can be included on the list.

Send information and payment so that it is received by May 31. Proceeds will benefit the Andover Senior Luncheon Program.

Scholarship Available

The East Hartford Garden Club has announced the availability of one \$1,000 scholarship to any full- or part-time student – and Andover residents are eligible.

The eligible student must be majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany and other allied subjects. Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the guidance department of the attending school.

All completed applications must be received by April 1 to be considered.

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

Manchester Resident Announces Bid for State Senate Seat

Pledging to work to create "a safer, more affordable Connecticut," Manchester Republican Jacqueline Crespan recently announced she is running to be the next state senator from the 4th District.



Jacqueline Crespan

The district covers Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester. The senate seat is currently held by Democrat Steve Cassano, also of Manchester.

Crespan is minority leader on the Manchester Board of Directors.

"I have lived the American Dream," said Crespan, who was born in Uganda during the dictatorship of Idi Amin. "I know what it is like to live without freedom. I love the United States, I love Connecticut, and I truly enjoy public service. I want to help make our state safer, stronger, and more affordable. With support from Democrats, Independents, Republicans and unaffiliated voters, I want to bring my life experience to the State Capitol to be your voice. I will be a senator who listens and works tirelessly on your behalf."

Scholarships Available

Andover Elementary School is now taking applications for the Andover Education Association and the Andover PTA Annual Scholarship, which is being offered to any Andover student.

Applications may be obtained from the RHAM High School guidance department or by contacting Andover Elementary School at 860-742-7339.

Application deadlines are May 6.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND	
A certified list of party-selected candidates for the REPUBLICAN Party in the Town of Portland for participation as Delegates to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at: 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:	
CONVENTIONS State Convention Congressional District 1 State Senate District 33 Assembly District 32 Probate District 14 Attest: Michael V. Tierney Town Clerk of Portland Dated at Portland this 29th day of March 2022	

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION	
On March 24th the Andover Board of Selectmen voted to initiate a Charter Revision Commission to be appointed by the Board at their regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2022. The Board will likely expect the Commission to complete its final report by July of this year to better ensure that the process will result in a vote on the November 8 State election ballot. Any Town elector wishing to apply to be a member of the Commission should provide a letter of interest to the Office of the Town Administrator no later than Monday, April 11 at noon. No more than one third of the members may hold other public office in the town. No more than a bare majority may be registered with one political party. Thus, a 5 member commission may include one public official and no more than three members of the same political party.	

TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE	
The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on April 6, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions: HOP CULTURE FARMS & BREW CO LLC – Special Permit Modification (2022-004) – Request a special permit modification to expand existing hours of operation at 144 Cato Corner Rd, Rural Use District. At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Planning and Zoning Commission Joseph Mathieu, Chair	

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY WETLANDS AGENT APPROVAL	
Pursuant to the CGS Section 22a-42a (c)(2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area. Number: IW-22-001 Applicant: George Koutouzis Location: 77 North Main Street Activity: Construction of front entry way (35s.f.) and window seat bump-out (14s.f.), both supported on piers, in the upland review area. Jeffry M. Foran, Fully Authorized Agent Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency	

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING	
Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Avenue, to consider the following: PZC Application #21-10: 78 Marlborough Street. Request for Site Plan Review for proposed adult use cannabis retailer. Application and property of 6 West Ave, LLC. Assessor's Map 20, Lot 31. Zone B2. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT, this 22nd day of March 2022 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission	

2TB 3/25, 4/1

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND

A certified list of party-selected candidates for the DEMOCRAT Party in the Town of Portland for participation as Delegates to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at: 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS
 State Convention
 Congressional District 1
 State Senate District 33
 Assembly District 32
 Probate District 14

Attest: Michael V. Tierney
 Town Clerk of Portland
 Dated at Portland this 29th day of March 2022

1TB 4/1

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on April 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:

PZC-22-001: Josh Pavano, 19 Day Point Road for Detached ADU pursuant to Section 8.4.M in existing accessory structure, Map 10A/Block 83/ Lot 29
 Ray Zatorski, Chairman
 Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

2TB 3/25, 4/1

PROPERTY AUCTION

The tax collector of the Town of East Hampton has levied upon the following properties in East Hampton and slated them for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges under C.G.S. § 12-157. Volume and page numbers refer to the Town's land records; maps refer to the Town's assessment maps. Unless paid, these properties will be auctioned in "as is" condition at 10:00 a.m. on June 14, 2022 at the East Hampton Town Hall at 1 Community Drive.

27 Namonee Trail (Volume 541 Page 586) owned by Matt Bemont, owing \$12,452.39.

4 Sunset Drive (Volume 138 at Page 117) owned by Estate of Mary A. Bohan and Michael J. Bohan, owing \$29,110.18. Michael J. Bohan; Kathleen Bohan; Michael Bohan; Marielizabeth Rouleau a/k/a Mary Rouleau; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Mary A. Bohan may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

±0.95 acres on Skinner Street and ±5.36 acres on Skinner Street (Map 02A Block 50-1 Lot 0S and Map 20 Block 50 Lot 24) owned by Brookside Industrial Park LLC and Brookside Industrial Park Company, owing \$143,001.95.

25 Hawk Trail (Volume 407 Page 883) owned by the Estate of Allan Buckland, owing \$12,767.05. Kristine Buckland; Jeffrey Buckland; Mark Buckland; Linda Buckland a/k/a Linda Pierini; NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing; Ditech Financial, LLC; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Allan Buckland may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale. This auction is being conducted jointly with the Princess Pocotopaug Association.

6 North Main Street (Volume 257 Page 444) owned by Keith Wayne Carr and Sue Ellen Carr, owing \$3,172.95. Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB not in its individual capacity, but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2019-RPL5 Trust; Middlesex Hospital; University Physicians; Eversource f/k/a Connecticut Light and Power Company; All Waste, Inc.; Anesthesiologists of Middletown, PC; and Connecticut Ear, Nose, & Throat Associates, PC a/k/a CT Ear Nose & Throat Asso., PC; may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

3 Sequoia Trail (Volume 564 Page 890) owned by Jennifer L. Duguay, owing \$3,659.33. First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation and Worldwide Asset Purchasing II LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

16 West Point Road (Volume 445 Page 379) owned by Lemlem Egziabher, owing \$3,012.98. Middlesex Hospital; Cuda & Associates, LLC; HOP Energy, LLC; Amirzai Property Trust, LLC; Alternative Energy, LLC; Bank of America, N.A. as successor to FIA Card Services, N.A.; Morgan Stanley Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-12XS, US Bank National Association as Trustee; US Bank National Association, as Trustee, Morgan Stanley Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-12XS; and the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

6 Edgerton Street (Volume 271 Page 674) owned by Peter J. Einsiedel, Sr. and Tammy A. Einsiedel, owing \$5,024.61. Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities, Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-R1, under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated February 1, 2006; Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource; Capital One Bank (USA), N.A.; Midland Funding, LLC; Trunks Brothers Oil Company, LLC a/k/a Trunks Brothers Oil, LLC; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

44 Depot Hill Road and ±1.26 acres on Depot Hill Road (Map 01C Block 5 Lot 8 and Map 05 Block 5 Lot 7A) owned by Irene C. Ellis and Troy J. Ellis, owing \$13,840.88. Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust and the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

±3.59 acres on Comstock Trail, ±2.59 acres on Comstock Trail, ±4.74 acres on Comstock Trail, and ±1.50 acres on Comstock Trail (Volume 587 Page 371) owned by Equity Trust Company f/b/o Mark Williams, owing \$3,498.39.

11 Marshall Road (Volume 375 Page 275) owned by Kathleen M. Ferner, owing \$4,551.69. Liberty Bank may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

4 and 10 Railroad Avenue (Volume 553 Page 280) owned by Stuart H. Fontaine, II and Kimberley A. Fontaine, owing \$22,502.99. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2020-3; Middlesex Hospital; and Hancin Construction, LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

±0.07 acres on Haddam Neck Road (Volume 72 Page 4) owned by the Estate of Sterling C. Gillette, Jr., owing \$4,636.05. Cynthia G. Yeager; Helen Gillette or her Estate; Sterling C. Gillette III or his Estate; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Sterling C. Gillette, Jr. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

22 Main Street (Volume 401 Page 784) owned by Donald H. Hope and Lisa B. Hope, owing \$4,872.36. Citizens Mortgage Corporation and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

245 Old West High Street (Volume 296 Page 364) owned by Thomas J. Keegan and Michelle Keegan, owing \$43,252.10. Webster Bank, N.A.; UConn Medical Group; UConn Health Center John Dempsey Hospital; Middlesex Hospital; John Dempsey Hospital; American Express National Bank; and All Waste, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

72 Tarragon Drive (Volume 567 Page 668) owned by Marcius Kieda, owing \$4,787.35. NRG Residential Solar Solutions, LLC; PennyMac Loan Services, LLC; Christopher Short; and Spice Hill Woods Homeowner's Association may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

±2.24 acres on Flatbrook Road (Volume 455 Page 251) owned by Anastasia N. Kutsukos, owing \$17,276.47.

81 Colchester Avenue (Volume 316 Page 47) owned by Tony L. Lee and Stephanie J. Lee, owing \$35,230.54. Jefferson Radiology, PC; Middlesex Hospital; Midland Funding, LLC; HIBU, Inc. as successor to Yellow Book Sales and Distribution Company, Inc.; Middlesex OB/GYN; and the United States Internal Revenue Service may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

108 Main Street (Volume 555 Page 648) owned by Domenico Mastrianni, owing \$4,530.84. BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP; Plaza Home Mortgage Inc.; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; and Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

13 Summit Street (Volume 519 Page 728) owned by Mercedes Zee Corporation LLC, owing \$251,337.93. LeBelle St. Maarten Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

59 Royal Oaks Avenue (Volume 596 Page 154) owned by Erin Mullen, owing \$4,426.44. Freedom Mortgage Corporation; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; Plaza Home Mortgage Inc.; The Royal Oaks Association, Inc. and/or Royal Oaks HOA, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

9 Colchester Avenue (Volume 577 Page 1092) owned by Royce L. Prince or his Estate and Eric R. Hemenway, owing \$3,596.82. Corey Prince; Jason Prince; Ryan Prince; Jamie Sarahina; Lenders Direct Capital Corporation; Pacific Union Financial LLC; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; Nationstar Mortgage, LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper; the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Royce L. Prince may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

21 Cobalt Road (Volume 517 Page 883) owned by Ellen M. Richards and Alphonse Richards, owing \$16,863.71.

Unit 104C Lake Vista Drive (Volume 513 Page 701) owned by Alphonse Richards, owing \$9,533.43. Lake Vista - Baker Hill Commons, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

35 Viola Drive (Volume 627 Page 550) owned by Denis P. Roussel, owing \$3,876.18. First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation; Nations Lending Corporation; Webster Bank, N.A.; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and the United States Internal Revenue Service may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

6 Wangon Trail (Volume 368 Page 753) owned by Donna Kate Rushin, owing \$3,047.60. M&T Bank may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

75 Old Marlborough Road (Volume 530 Page 1054) owned by Nina C. Schulz, owing \$9,192.74. Pamela M. Phillips and the Estate of Winifred H. Luzzi may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

33 Terp Road (Volume 613 Page 397) owned by the Estate of Joan M. Sherrick, owing \$12,642.99. Christine Goff; Timothy R. Sherrick; Robert J. Sherrick; Citizens Bank, N.A. as successor to RBS Citizens, N.A. and Citizens Bank; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Joan M. Sherrick may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

4 Pine Trail (Volume 398 Page 838) owned by Jonathan M. Steele, owing \$5,339.64. Capital One, N.A.; New Residential Mortgage LLC; Lake Pocotopaug Terrace Association; and Chatham Dental Care LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

19 Main Street a/k/a 19 Rear Main Street (Volume 590 Page 381) owned by Nicholas Taggart, owing \$2,935.68. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

85 North Main Street, Unit 113 (Volume 434 Page 675) owned by the Estate of Penny Varni a/k/a Penny M. Tarsi, owing \$3,012.52. Michael F. Varni; Michael J. Varni; Kristina Adams; Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as successor to Wachovia Bank; Santander Bank, N.A. as successor to Sovereign Bank; Edgemere Condominium Association, Inc. and/or Edgemere Condominium II Association, Inc.; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Penny Varni a/k/a Penny M. Tarsi may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

45 Pine Brook Road (Volume 337 Page 767) owned by Robert J

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Riviera 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.

LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list(s) of party-selected candidates for the Republican (Party)

Party in the Town of Andover for participation as (Name of Town)

DELEGATES to the convention(s) of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 17 School Road - Andover, Connecticut,

(Address)

Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTION(S)

Judge of Probate
State Convention
Congressional Convention
State Representative
Carol H. Lee
Town Clerk of Andover, Connecticut

1TB 4/1

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Certified lists of party-selected candidates for the Democratic Party in the Town of East Hampton for participation as **DELEGATES** to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS

2nd Congressional District Convention
33rd State Senatorial District Convention
34th Assembly District Convention
2022 State Convention

Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut this 25th day of March 2022.
Kelly Bilodeau, CMC, CCTC
Town Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 4/1

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on April 11, 2022 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

Application ZBA-22-002: Atlantis Marketing, 1 Colchester Ave., 5 Colchester Ave. and 157 Main St for a variance to increase lot coverage from 30.4% to 36.9% and reconstruction and expansion of legal non-conforming use in the R-2 Zone. Map 7A/ Block 56/ Lots 22, 21, and 24.

2TB 4/1, 4/8

**SECTION 00100
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT
SOUTH MAIN STREET LOW PRESSURE SEWER EXTENSION**

Sealed bids for construction of the South Main Street Low Pressure Sewer Construction project for the Town Marlborough, Connecticut (the "Owner"), will be received at the Marlborough Town Hall located at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut in the Town Clerk's Office until 11:00 a.m. prevailing time, on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Faxed or emailed bids will not be accepted. Bids submitted after this date and time will be deemed to be invalid. All bids shall be submitted at the sole cost and expense of the bidder.

The scope of work includes construction of approximately 400 linear feet of low-pressure sewer main, electrical inspections and upgrades, installation of one grinder pump, and HDPE low pressure service piping. The pipeline work includes all fittings, valves, pavement replacement, inlet protection, sediment and erosion control measures, and all other work indicated on the Contract Documents. The estimated total project cost is \$200,000. Work on the project shall begin after June 20, 2022.

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of General Bid, Agreement, Plans, Specifications, Performance and Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined on April 7, 2022, at the following location during normal business hours:

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., 712 Brook Street, Suite 103, Rocky Hill, Ct

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available, physical copies or digital versions, through Advanced Reprographics, 50 Corporate Avenue, Plainville, Connecticut 06062,

(860) 410-1020, and through their website at advancedrepro.net. To access the project on the website, go to the Planroom link. Bid Forms and Contract Documents may also be ordered by contacting Advanced Reprographics at the number listed above. Bidders are responsible for all printing and shipping costs, as applicable. Any request for interpretation of plans and specifications may be submitted in writing per the requirements listed in the Instructions to Bidders. Bidders can view the site of the work at their own discretion. Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment observed and minimum wages rates to be paid under contract as determined by Connecticut General Statutes 31-53. Wage rates for this project are subject to the minimum wage rates as per the State of Connecticut Labor Department "Prevailing Wage Rate." The bidder is responsible for obtaining work classification not included in the Wage Decisions package included in Section 00830 - Wage Rates. The selected contractor shall furnish a performance bond and payment bond in an amount at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price from a surety company acceptable to the Owner and licensed in the State of Connecticut as stipulated in Section 00700 GENERAL CONDITIONS of these specifications.

The award will be to the lowest, responsible, and eligible bidder. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids and to reject any or all bids. The selected contractor shall furnish a performance bond and a payment bond in amount at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price as stipulated in Section 00520, AGREEMENT, of these specifications.

If the Owner determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement, substantially in the form included herewith, and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance and performance and payment bonds to the Owner prior to the start of any work.

The Owner reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Advertisement to Bids at any time if it is in the best interest of the Owner to do so.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addenda to this Advertisement for Bids prior to submitting a bid.

This Advertisement for Bids is not binding on the Owner.

This Advertisement for Bids has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.

By submission of a bid, the Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 60 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded after the opening of bids.

This Advertisement for Bids is not binding on the Owner.

The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and encourages the participation of small, disadvantaged, women or minority-owned firms or principals or parties to this Advertisement for Bids.

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT

BY ITS FIRST SELECTMAN

Gregory J. Lowrey, First Selectmen

2TB 4/1, 4/8

EMPLOYMENT

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

PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT, FLEXIBLE HOURS. Must have social media skills. Call Susanne at 860-682-2485

FAST PACED, BUSY, FAMILY OWNED FULL SERVICE PAVING AND PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR SEEKING FULL-TIME BOBCAT OPERATOR AND GENERAL LABORERS. Ability to follow instruction and assist in all our service areas. Growth and development opportunities available. Please call 860-633-7004 or email info@constantinpaving.com

HIRING SHIPPING RECEIVING CLERK: Bell Power Systems, located in Essex, a well-established value added distributor of diesel engines, is excited to announce an opening for a Shipping and Receiving Clerk. The right candidate should have the following qualifications/experience: Shipping/Receiving Procedures (track shipments, shipping labels, BOL, packing techniques, etc.), Knowledgeable in inventory control, Organized/Detail oriented, Ability to learn computer operating software, Good communication skills. Qualifications: Ability to operate a forklift is a must, HS diploma or experience. Send work history to: emma.stroede@desiesel.com. Bell Power Systems provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or veterans status.

RANEY ORTHODONTICS is seeking a part time front desk receptionist for Tuesday and Fridays 8:45-5:15. Experience is preferred but we are willing to train the right candidate. Please email your resume to drraney@gmail.com or call Sue @ 860-228-9800.

HIGHLY MOTIVATED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED: for multiple properties with great customer service skills & ability to multi-task needed for busy property management company. Proficient in Microsoft Word & Excel and Adobe PDF required. Immediate opening!! pay dependent upon experience. Full benefit package including health, dental & life insurance. Email resume to eric@advanceco.net.

E2 ELECTRICIAN / APPRENTICES WANTED with residential experience. Call John 860-214-4045 or email gardelec@frontier.com

THE KIDS CLUB CHILD CARE CENTER IN MARLBOROUGH IS LOOKING TO IMMEDIATELY HIRE 2 PART TIME EMPLOYEES. One position is for M-F 7:00AM-12:30PM, the other one is M-F, 3:00-5:30. Those interested must be flexible, dependable, 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 thekidscub98@yahoo.com with your availability, qualifications and questions that you may have.

HERBERT T. CLARK HOUSE ASSISTED LIVING AND CONGREGATE COMMUNITY 43-45 Canine Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033 Glastonbury Housing Authority, Glastonbury, CT. Holiday/Substitute/Weekend Attendant Job Announcement The Herbert T. Clark House, an Assisted Living and Senior Congregate Community within the Glastonbury Housing Authority, is seeking a compassionate and caring individual for our Holiday/Substitute/ Weekend Attendant. This essential position serves as the first point of contact for residents needing assistance, ensures the safety of the building and interacts with emergency services and visitors. The position requires interpersonal skills, attention to detail and an interest in working with older adults. (Hourly Rate: \$14.57, time and 1/2 on holidays). For more information, please contact: Wendy Ehrhardt, Director, (860-652-7624) To obtain an application, please visit www.glastha.org or go to our main office located at 25 Risley Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033 Deadline: Until filled AA/EOE.

WEEKEND WAITRESS AND PART TIME COOK NEEDED. Must have experience. Please apply in person at Eggs up Restaurant, Rt. 66 Portland

PART-TIME RESIDENT AIDE-NEEDED 7am - 3pm 3-4 days/wk includes every other weekend. Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509

TREE WORKER LOOKING FOR A HARD WORKER who is flexible, honest, also must have a valid DL. This is a clean environment...Call or text 860-303-6507.

ANGELO'S BAKERY- customer service help wanted. Must be flexible with hours and be able to work most weekends and holidays. Apply at Angelo's Bakery 32 Halls Hill Road, Colchester

SEEKING AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC for immediate hire at fast growing shop in Middletown. Strong mechanical aptitude and troubleshooting skills. Must be able to diagnose and repair mechanical issues and be deadline and detail oriented. Ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment. 2-3 years automotive experience preferred. Must have your own tools. Call George 203-624-0105.

HELP WANTED: Landscaping Help Wanted. Weed wacking, mulching in Glastonbury. Call 860-906-7916

KITCHEN HELP WANTED: Prep, salad, utility & dishwasher. Apply in person at Saderis in Marlborough, ask for Will or Emily.

HELP WANTED LANDSCAPING. FULL TIME: Driver's license required. Grundman Landscape, Colchester. 860-267-1510

KINDERGARTEN READINESS TEACHER/EXPERIENCED Degree required. (Bring your child to work!) Our Children's Place Glastonbury seeks exceptional Full day educator, creative classroom planning, daily outdoor learning, CTELDs assessments.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: looking for reliable person to drive cleaning crew and perform light cleaning duties. Must have valid drivers license. Very competitive pay. Call or text 860-997-6749 for inquiries.

HELP WANTED: EXPERIENCED PAINTER. Need Immediately! Well respected, high quality craftsmanship LLC needs help right away. We provide high standard painting with stellar results, serving East Windsor and surrounding towns. Please call 860-977-4807

PART-TIME KITCHEN ASSISTANT NEEDED 12:30pm - 7pm 3-4 days/wk includes every other weekend. Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509

HELP WANTED LANDSCAPING. FULL TIME: Driver's license required. Grundman Landscape, Colchester. 860-267-1510

KINDERGARTEN READINESS TEACHER/EXPERIENCED Degree required. (Bring your child to work!) Our Children's Place Glastonbury seeks exceptional Full day educator, creative classroom planning, daily outdoor learning, CTELDs assessments.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: looking for reliable person to drive cleaning crew and perform light cleaning duties. Must have valid drivers license. Very competitive pay. Call or text 860-997-6749 for inquiries.

HELP WANTED: EXPERIENCED PAINTER. Need Immediately! Well respected, high quality craftsmanship LLC needs help right away. We provide high standard painting with stellar results, serving East Windsor and surrounding towns. Please call 860-977-4807

NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY

Please be advised that the Town of Portland, Connecticut, shall conduct a sale of surplus property online. The address of the auction site is govdeals.com. The surplus property is being sold in an "as-is" condition without express or implied warranties.

The online auction will be held starting in April until various end dates throughout June 2022, and the surplus property being sold is as follows: Board of Education (BOE) and Town audio/visual and computer equipment, Public Works equipment, Public Works and other town vehicles, Public Safety equipment, Town office supplies/furniture, Parks and Recreation equipment, Library equipment and furniture and other BOE furniture, equipment and supplies. See the GovDeals link on Town's website www.portlandct.org for additional information. All bidders must pre-register with GovDeals at govdeals.com. The Town of Portland, Connecticut reserves the right to accept or reject any bids submitted.

Submitted by: Tom E. Robinson, Finance Director

Dated: April 1, 2022

1TB 4/1

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 HYBRID HEARING ANDOVER, HEBRON, MARLBOROUGH

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/drc-appr-qtm

Join by phone
(US) +1 218-301-2164 (PIN: 829730087)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BOTH VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON (RHAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM) ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

1. "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022-2023."
2. "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2022-2023."

DATED AT HEBRON, CONNECTICUT, March 21, 2022

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8

Michael Morris

MICHAEL MORRIS, CHAIRPERSON

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION

2TB 3/25, 4/1

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
Marlborough Town Hall
(26 No Main.)**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing on Thursday, April 07, 2022 at 7:00 PM at 26 No Main St. (Marlborough Town Hall)

APPLICATION #Z-03-22 -Mitch Lichatz / Farm at Carter Hill (applicant / property owner) - 86 E Hampton Rd - Music events, comedy nights, dinners

Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building /Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing. All testimony and application materials will be available to the public on the Town Website, www.Marlbroughct.net, under Minutes/Agendas then Agenda 2022 then Zoning Commission.

Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 3/25, 4/1

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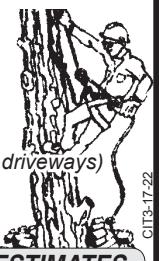
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