



# RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 46, Number 16

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

April 29, 2022



**All You Need is Love...** The new Hebron Community Choir recently did a dress rehearsal ahead of its inaugural concert tomorrow, Saturday, April 30, at 7 p.m., at St. Peter's Church on Church Street in Hebron. The show is entitled "Love at Home," and is based on the idea of home and community. See story on page 18.

## State Seeks Custody of Seized Hebron Animals

By Sloan Brewster

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong has petitioned for permanent state custody of 70 animals seized last month from a Hebron animal rescue.

Tong filed the petition April 18 at Hartford Superior Court, seeking state custody of the 33 dogs, 28 cats, five ducks, three goats, and a pony that were seized from CT Pregnant Dog and Cat Rescue on March 25.

"No animal should ever suffer like this," Tong said in a press release. "The dogs, cats, ducks, goat, parakeet and pony seized from this farm were kept in deplorable and inhumane conditions. We are seeking permanent state custody of these animals to ensure they receive the proper care and attention they need and deserve."

A long list of newly-filed exhibit photos show animals, which were taken from a home at 171 Porter Rd. in Hebron, in filthy conditions. Most of the animals were in cages, including one cage that held two large dogs that were cramped together in the small space. A few of the animals were uncaged, including one dog in the basement where it is shown in a photo standing on a littered cement floor near a pile of loose insulation.

Joann Connelly, owner of CT Pregnant Dog and Cat Rescue and the Porter Road home, was arrested last month and charged with three

counts of animal cruelty, police said.

On Monday, March 28, 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.

Her next appearance is scheduled for May 23.

Currently, the animals are temporarily in state custody but according to Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney, the town is on the hook for the bill for their care.

"I can tell you, it's cost us a lot of money," he said in a phone call Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, the bill for daily shelter for the animals was \$34,665, which does not include veterinary care, Tierney said. He said he hopes the state will reimburse the town but in the meantime, it must pay the accruing charges.

"It's huge," he said. "Even if the state reimburses us, they're still going to be on the hook for [the bills]."

According to the press release from Connecticut State Police, accounts by local police and Tierney and documents filed in court, 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.

See *State Seeks Custody*, page 16

## Students Plan Trans-America Bike Trip

By Michael Sinkewicz

"A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

That's how first-year University of Connecticut student Julia Neri recently described the journey she and two other first-year students – including a Colchester resident – will be embarking on this summer.

Neri, a medical student, is being joined by fellow medical student Dustin Moore, of Berlin, N.H., and dental student Brian Legato of Colchester. The three will be grabbing their gear and continuing a long tradition of cross-country biking at UConn.

This is the 18th year the UConn schools of medicine and dental medicine are participating in "Coast to Coast for a Cause" – a trip where first-year students bike from the west to east coast while raising money for charity.

This year, the trio is raising funds for The Hole in The Wall Gang Camp. Currently, they've raised \$2,511 and have set a goal of \$15,000. All of the money raised goes to the charity and the group self-funds their own expenses.

The team is set to begin a trip that not only presents plenty of physical challenges, but a rewarding experience that will leave them unforgettable memories.

"We're seeing our country like we normally wouldn't be able to," Neri said. "How could you not do it?"

At the beginning of June, the team will fly out on their own to Washington and is scheduled to start peddling on June 6. The journey will take them nearly 3,000 miles back to UConn.

Their expectation is to travel between 80 and 100 miles a day for about two months. While the team has prepared and trained for months, they know a lot can change along the way and that they'll evolve as they go.

"I've been biking for almost a decade and flexibility is the key," Moore said, "We'll accept help where we can get it."

Mapping out their route and where they'll be staying on a daily basis is important. Moore's main job during the lead up to the trip was organizing the gear lists and navigational equipment as well as getting the bikes ready to go. So, when they arrive, everything will already be waiting for them.

While they ride, the team will be carrying camping equipment, which serves as one of their main forms of shelter during the trip – something they're looking forward to.

"I've done a lot of camping," Legato said.

"We're really determined and nothing is going to stop us."

Neri acknowledged that the physical tasks, including the heavy riding and camping, are slightly intimidating, but it's worth it.

"It's going to be hard, but it's for such an amazing cause," she said, and added, "I can bike for two months."

The route the group is taking is common amongst bikers. Known as the Northern Tier, it spans across the northern part of the country.

This not only provides a scenic trip, but also allows the group to take advantage of a well-established biking community along the way.

A lot of bikers live along the route and the team emphasized the importance of Warm Showers, a nonprofit organization that provides hospitality for traveling bikers. Moore compared the group to "Airbnb for bikers."

Between camping and staying with hosts, the group is confident that they'll successfully navigate the route. Still, they know that factors like weather and other unpredictable circumstances will influence them.

In the moment, it might seem difficult, but it's something many people won't have the

See *Trans-America Bike Trip*, page 31

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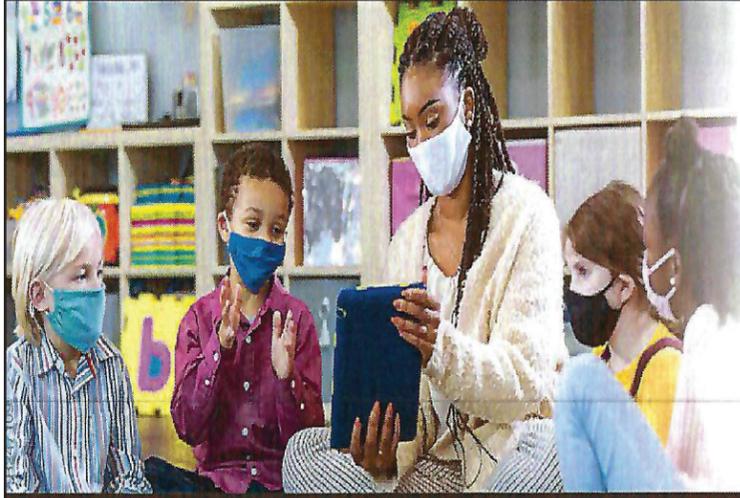
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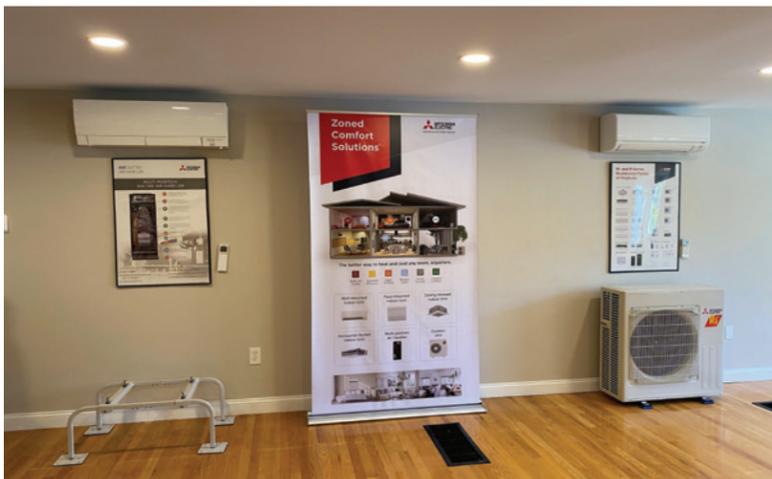


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From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

As I touched on last week, next Tuesday, May 3, is a very important – historically important – day for the town of Marlborough.

The Board of Selectmen is – finally – expanding from three members to five, and it's up to residents to decide who those fourth and fifth members will be. They'll do so at a special election next Tuesday. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School.

There are four candidates running for the two seats, and residents can vote for any two they wish. Two of the candidates are on the Republican ticket, and two on the Democratic one. However, due to minority representation laws, only one of the Republicans can get in, as the board already has a Republican majority. However, both of the Democrats can get in.

If both of the Democrats get in, then the board will have a 3-2 Democratic majority. However, if it's one Republican and one Democrat, the board will remain with a Republican majority, albeit a 3-2 one instead of a 2-1 one.

Once the dust is settled next Tuesday and the five members of the board are established, they'll then be faced with an extremely important task: choosing a new town manager. Yes, Marlborough is going to a town manager-style of government, similar to what's already in place in Hebron and East Hampton. Much like the board expanding from three members to five, this change is, in my opinion, long overdue.

This is not meant to denigrate any current or former first selectpersons, but having a town manager is just the only way to go, in my view. Town managers typically have degrees in municipal administration; like school superintendents, they typically climb the

ranks to get where they are.

That's not necessarily the case with a first selectman. Sure, ideally it would be, but sometimes it can simply turn into a popularity contest. And it's one thing for board members to get chosen that way, but for somebody who's handling the day-to-day operations of a town, particularly the financial and administrative ins and outs, you want the experience and know-how of a professional. You want someone who, ideally, has been there before. You want someone who knows a town should be run like a town, not like a business. Because it's not a business; it's a town.

So it's a heavy task this new Marlborough Board of Selectmen will be tasked with. It's important that the right people are in place to make that decision. So, Marlborough voters, keep all this in mind when you head to the polls next Tuesday.

\*\*\*

Now this just sounds like a lot of fun. There's a new East Hampton social running club starting up – and it's a way to not just get your exercise in, but to try out a tasty beer as well.

Running For Brews meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales, 91 Main St. Runners proceed to run a 5K (or whatever distance they want) along the Air Line Trail route, and then end with cold brews or water at Dexter's.

All levels of runners (or walkers) are welcome. Contact Greg Jones for more details at jonesinthru@life@gmail.com or text 860-966-7179. The first run of the season is Wednesday, May 4.

\*\*\*

See you next week

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**Correction**  
In the story profiling the Marlborough Board of Selectmen hopefuls in last week's *Rivereast*, candidate Ken Hjulstrom was misidentified as chairman of the Marlborough Board of Finance. He is simply a member of the board. The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

## Bulletin Board

As the world continues to go to hell in a handbasket, my thoughts have turned more and more to Trappist-1.

Trappist-1, as you may recall, is a solar system discovered a few years ago. Located “just 39 light years away” it contains seven warm, “earthlike” planets, all of which may contain water, revolving around what astronomers insensitively describe as a “dwarf” star sun, i.e., the cunningly named “Trappist-1.” (At least they didn't dub it “Midget-6”.)

The way things are going on Earth these days (and overlooking the gratuitous knock on dwarves by tone-deaf astronomers), this fortuitous discovery is a lot like hearing from the widow next door that you can live over her garage until your soon-to-be ex-wife gets tired of drilling holes in your bass boat.

But don't pack your suitcase just yet. The bad news is that, while astronomers may consider 39 light years a mere hop down to the corner Radio Shack for some obscure electrical component, from a practical standpoint there's one small problem: our ability to travel at the speed of light is about the same as our ability to cure baldness or to have a civil conversation about politics or manufacture an airbag that won't decapitate you when it deploys in an accident.

We just can't seem to do it.

The upshot is that light travels about 5.88 trillion miles in a light year. So 39 light years would have you traveling about 229.32 trillion miles, which, by way of comparison, is about the number of times in a week that the average U.S. senator refers to people as “folks” in an effort to persuade us that he's really just one of us before heading off to schmooze at a fundraising dinner with “folks” who aren't any more like “us” than he is.

I apologize for the run-on sentence and the digression, but I really hate all this phony warm and fuzzy “folks” stuff. People who benefit from \$25,000-a-plate political fundraisers and have gold-plated healthcare plans at taxpayer expense really shouldn't be preaching to us folks about income inequality.

But to get back to the stars and the bitter cold of deep space as opposed to the bitter cold of political hypocrisy...

To put this 39 light years scenario another way (if I understand this correctly, which is probably optimistic), light travels at roughly 1,012 miles per second. Assuming a typical U.S. highway speed limit of 65 mph, which translates to roughly 95 feet per second, driving your Volvo station wagon to this newfound solar system would take you... well, longer than the warranty on the car, that's for sure.

Science nerds who are now shaking their heads over my mixing of time as distance and distance as distance or distance as time, please...no letters. I freely admit that while I know what I want to say, I have no idea what I'm talking about. This will presumably come as no great shock to regular readers of this column.

The point is, folks, we seem to be stuck here with each other for the foreseeable future.

So let's try to get along, shall we?

And please, no snobby phone calls from Lexus owners bragging that you'd leave my tired old Volvo in the stardust in any race to a far off galaxy. At least my Volvo's paid for.

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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Tag Sale Prep...** On Sunday, April 26, the Boy Scouts of Troop 2 helped the Portland Historical Society, refresh the tag sale pole signs, in preparation for the 26th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale on May 7, when over 100 tag sales will be held around town. Pictured from left are Bob McDougall, Museum Director; Jeff Hall, Scout Leader; Scouts: Matt Mucinkas, Matt Smith, Colin Wallace, Gerry Hall, Liam Rowe and Rick Huebner, Scout Leader. The project will help the scouts earn their Citizenship Merit Badge. Photo by Julie Macksoud.

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### Let Your Voice Be Heard

To the Editor:

We are writing to voice our support of Betty O'Brien for selectman in the special election on May 3. Most of you already know the many reasons Betty is more than qualified to be one of your next selectmen. One of which is decades of volunteerism to make Marlborough the wonderful town it is. Her leadership and volunteerism include four terms on our local Board of Education and being instrumental in getting the funding for and the building of the Marlborough Arts Center. (These are just some of the highlights.)

What some voters may not know is Betty loves to interact with people! Betty loves to talk to people and she loves to listen to them. Communication is one of the pillars of any successful organization, it is especially important in a small town. As a selectman, you must be able to listen, understand, and weigh the concerns of many to make the decisions that are best for our town. If you vote for Betty, your voice will be heard!

Terry and Alan Laliberte – Marlborough

### A Balanced and Inclusive Board

To the Editor:

The May 3 election in Marlborough will determine our town's future for years to come. Do we want a Board of Selectmen dominated by one party that caters to only one part of the community? Or do we want one that is evenly balanced and represents the whole community? If we elect Betty and Debbie to the Board of Selectmen, we will have an equal number of Republicans and Democrats on the board, with an unaffiliated fifth member as a tie-breaker. If, on the other hand, we elect either Ken or Louise, the board will have a majority of one party.

As demonstrated by the recent controversies

concerning the lake zoning district, the proposed cell tower, and the allocation of federal funds, we need more transparent and inclusive leadership on the board. The stakes are high since the board will choose the town's first town manager.

I would encourage everyone to vote for Betty O'Brien and Debbie Bourbeau on May 3 to ensure that we have a balanced and inclusive Board of Selectmen picking our new Town Manager.

Sincerely,  
Marcus Wilkinson – Marlborough

### How Far Will We Decline?

To the Editor:

For those paying attention, there has been much written about democracy in decline. It often seems that the stories are about dictatorships and autocracies in Asia or South America. Someplace else. But more and more there are allusions to or outright references to the United States! America in decline. How? At every level of government, single-minded people with conservative agendas are running for office and getting elected. Their success is predicated on GOP talking points that contain a sliver of truth that can be blown up into something completely unrecognizable. Wishing for a halcyon time of American middle-class happiness, but forgetting the realities of many in those eras. Once in power they steamroll their agenda, ignoring majority opinion and conflicting facts. It is their way or the highway. Obstructionism. Their idea of democracy is a limited one. The problem has been brewing for some time. It grew with QAnon and Trumpism and now has seeped into state and local politics. If America is in decline, it is because of backward thinking: reveling in our glorious past, without adequately preparing for our future.

In Colchester, conservatives have gained power and are using that power to impose their vision of

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## RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen  
87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033

Telephone (860) 633-4691 • Fax: (860) 657-3258

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Colchester, of America. There is nothing inherently wrong with many conservative values, which include smaller government and reverence for the past. For conservatives, the great goblin of “taxes” is predictably trotted out as a government ill to be excoriated. In the name of reducing taxes on the citizens of Colchester, town government is cutting education budgets, undermining the future. But the future is more inclusive and ultimately more important than the past. Preparing the next generations (education!) for future realities is more important than glorifying the past.

Are you backward facing, or forward looking? Are you contributing to America’s decline?

**John Barnowski – Colchester**

**Memorial Day Parade a Go!**

To the Editor:

What is Memorial Day? This is the day when we honor and mourn the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the Armed Forces.

Greetings to all Hebron area residences and businesses.

After a dismal two-plus years of turmoil a decision was announced by the town manager, Mr. Andy Tierney. Individuals and business entities, assembled groups participate, business owners with “willing employees” march/walk, displaying company info.

As tradition, and military protocol, the Hebron area Veterans organizations will assemble first.

The larger contingent of “parade-goers” assembly follows the Veterans Organizations on Wall Street entrance to RHAM High.

Starting times are not finalized yet!

The theme is, of course, “Memorial” – that is: participants to Memorialize a passed Veteran, i.e., someone known personally, or a resident of Connecticut, if possible; specifically in or near Hebron – this is all veterans, all wars/conflicts. You can honor them with a patriotic symbol and a name of a passed veteran. Walkers/marchers include the scouting contingents, athletic teams, “large animal owners/handlers,” horses, etc., -- which will be asked to march at the tail-end of the parade, and be responsible for “cleanup.” Floats depicting a historic military time/event. Vintage/classic vehicle enthusiasts, military vehicles, and/or, Legion Riders, etc.

Questions/concerns: Contact the Hebron Town Office (first), or ramskylinebusiness@yahoo.com. Note: please use “parade” as a subject.

**Respectfully submitted, for the town manager and parade committee,**

**RAM**

**R.A. Bob Mangillo, Adjutant  
Hebron American Legion Post 95**

**Random Pleasing Thoughts**

To the Editor:

Uh-oh; the scooters are out! As are the cyclists, motorcycles, and children on a variety of wheels – many without helmets! Please scan the road shoulders to watch out for us and we will try to see you first, but we may not. Please only honk when signaling danger, not hello! While a bicycle can turn on a dime at lowish speeds, the others cannot. We are already avoiding potholes, branches, glass, and flattened rodents.

I have been hearing lots of sirens around here and it is a gut-punch to see an engine race by. We are experiencing fluky winds and cool temperatures, so please be extra careful with your grills, where the smoke goes, have the correct extinguishers at the ready and sand. Never leave something burning, cooking unattended, or overload sockets. Unplug an appliance not in use.

If you share a house, especially an older one, please be cognizant that others need to sleep, rest, work, cry, garden, meditate, read, eat, breathe, and

think in peace. We are all stressed with different coping tools, but we must sleep when we want or need to, independent of a neighbor’s or housemate’s decision to finally shut down the Metallica.

“If we see something, say something” remains good advice. Please have the courage to relay accurately and calmly to the proper authorities that which bristles our instincts. Tough or abusive characters are not for the layman to handle.

Please let us exercise our patience, and pray for those in deep suffering. May we slog through this Slamdemic with some extra kindness, compassion, and s-l-o-w-i-n-g down. Wishing you all safe, undistracted travels and Happy Spring.

**E.G. Waller  
Portland Scooterist**

P.S. Maybe we can all collect helmets and put in a box outside Parks and Rec for them to help themselves!?

**Thank You, Marlborough**

To the Editor:

During the last several weeks, I have written about my campaign for selectman, my history on various Boards and my thoughts on Marlborough’s past, present and future challenges.

Now, on the eve of the May 3rd election, I would now like to turn my attention to you, the people of Marlborough.

Marlborough has been my family’s home since 1986. During those many years I have been continuously amazed by the level of community volunteerism demonstrated by our residents. People volunteer for our town’s emergency services, support youth athletic programs and volunteer for a myriad of other civic organizations in town. The people of Marlborough are always there to lend each other a hand when it comes to community projects, such as when hundreds of people came together to build the playscape at Blish Park.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you all how impressed I am with your efforts over the years and to let you know that this wonderful sense of “community” is what inspires me to do my small part.

Over the course of the last two decades, I have remained humbled by your past trust and support, having been elected to public office on five occasions. I now ask that you place your trust in me once again by supporting me on May 3rd. I would be deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve our community as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

For further information on my campaign, please feel free to visit [www.MarlGOP.com](http://www.MarlGOP.com) or to visit my Facebook page at “Ken Hjulstrom for Marlborough Selectman”

I look forward to seeing you at the polls on May 3rd.

**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough  
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

*Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but am speaking as an individual.*

**You Matter to Me**

Dear Friends:

The election for Board of Selectmen is just a few days away. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize my attributes and positions for you to make an informed choice.

Having taught for 35 years in Marlborough, serving hundreds of children and their families, education has been my life. I am extremely proud of teaching my students to be responsible, respectful, honest, sincere, helpful, and kind. I taught them to think for themselves, to ask questions, and to present themselves to others in a positive light.

As a member of the Board of Finance I have been proud to keep Marlborough’s taxes in line. I’ve had the responsibility to represent the taxpayers by ask-

ing questions, looking for supportive data, watching where and how we spent your hard-earned tax dollars.

Our community matters to me. I have served on the Richmond Memorial Library Board, volunteered at the Marlborough Arts Center, been on the Bicentennial Committee, collected items and created hundreds of Easter baskets for families in need, attended countless Town hearings and meetings, and spoken my mind when the need arose. Living here for 47 years I’ve watched our town grow and change. I hope to witness and be a part of many more opportunities to come together as a community to celebrate our wonderful town.

As I have since I moved here, I remain committed to caring about Marlborough, committed to preserving your quality of life, and committed to keeping Marlborough affordable to live in and the place for you to call “home.”

I will represent you to the best of my ability each and every day. You matter to me.

Therefore, I ask you to please support me with your vote on May 3rd. Vote Bourbeau and O’Brien!

Thank you!

**Deb Bourbeau – Marlborough  
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

*Note: Bourbeau is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.*

**Bee Proud, Go Wild**

To the Editor:

Closely cut grass lawns, like those in most yards across the United States, first emerged in 17th century England at the homes of large, wealthy landowners. Only the rich could afford to hire the many hands needed to cut and weed the grass, and dedicate such resources to a luxury with no productive value.

Today, lawns are a physical manifestation of the American Dream of home ownership. To have a well-maintained lawn is a sign of wealth and status, that you have the time and/or the money to support this “attraction.” This mindset is outdated and dangerous given how humans have mismanaged land and plant life over time.

Ironically, the first initiative in favor of fewer lawns was by a British organization called Plantlife. No Mow May was a popular conservation movement which made its way to North America. The goal of No Mow May is to allow grass to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage to help ensure that pollinators have all the pollen and nectar they need once they come out of hibernation. (70% native bees nest underground during the winter.)

Displaying a No Mow May sign designating your yard as pollinator habitat can be the difference between it being seen as a neglected area to people viewing it or as an important part of a thriving landscape. Keeping a mowed edge of a foot or two in front of or around a “wild patch” may make these areas look intentional rather than neglectful. The new mindset might be taking pride as a steward of the earth rather than an inattentive bystander. Take part

in this short rest, to see what nature serves up when left unattended to her own natural design.

Make your own yard sign or give a donation for hand crafted ones provided by the Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project.

**Michele Sinkez – Amston  
Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project**

**Debbie Has My Vote**

To the Editor:

I am happy to support Debbie Bourbeau in her bid for one of the new selectmen seats created by our recent town charter revision.

I have known Debbie since the early 2000s when she was a teacher at Marlborough Elementary School. Even though my children were not in her classroom, she seemed to know everyone in the MES community, including me and my family, perhaps because she not only taught in Marlborough but also lives here. Whenever I saw Debbie at school, she seemed to have a smile and kind word for everyone. Debbie’s positive attitude and love for Marlborough has remained evident as she has continued to support our town on different boards throughout the years. Her ability to listen and her attention to detail are the secrets to Debbie’s proven collaborative ability which she has used to benefit the citizens of Marlborough. I know that she will always keep what is best for Marlborough as the main focus, and that is why Debbie has my vote.

**Siobhan Peng – Marlborough**

**East Hampton Past**

To the Editor:

The initial unsuccessful applications for zone change to our Planning and Zoning Commission by Atlantis Marketing at 155 and 157 Main St. and the current pending hardship application on the same properties to the Zoning Board of Appeals had me wonder about the original zoning which would have included 1 Colchester Ave. – the current Food Bag and gas station.

East Hampton formed its first Zoning Commission on April 14, 1938. Appointed were Lewis T. Evans, Jacob A. Day, Stanley A. Bevin, Reuben E. Ostergren and Percy P. Markham (grandfather of this writer), who was elected chairman. The Zoning Commission was charged with writing and adopting Zoning Regulations and a Zoning Map. The initial zoning map provided for public hearing on Oct. 18, 1940, finds that the map clearly depicts the northeast corner at the intersection of Main Street and Colchester Avenue as a residential and not a commercial zone. Further, the Zoning Commission held a public hearing on July 20, 1950, on the application of Harris and Ethel Goldberg for a change to non-conforming use of property at 155-157-159-161 Main St. to permit alterations and an increase in dwelling space from two families to 3 families in two houses. 159-161 Main St. was subsequently changed to 1 Colchester

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

Ave. when that location was allowed for commercial use, probably in the 1950s.

It is interesting that the original intent and use by the Zoning Commission was residential – not commercial. The many citizens who have written or spoken out against the spot zoning now sought for 155-157 Main St. have history on their side. I guess the intriguing question, how does Atlantis Marketing justify their application as a hardship when they purchased the property in 2017 knowing full well what the zone was?

Dean Markham – East Hampton

Guns and Republicans

To the Editor:

Briefly: I need to thank Ed Kozlowski for providing additional ammunition (!) for the argument in favor of strong gun control laws. Yes, the high gun murder rate in cities like Chicago, as well as in gun-toting states like Louisiana and South Carolina, do help demonstrate the need for stronger gun regulation. Thank you for bringing it up.

Main topic: We all know the biggest problem facing our world. Global warming, of course. But there is another huge threat facing our country: the Republican Party.

I never used to be particularly partisan. I was liberal and proud of it, but party politics simply did not interest me. However, the slide of the Republican Party into fury, nihilism, and grievance has made it the most clear and present danger to the American experiment at least since the Civil War, and perhaps ever.

It's blatherskites like Tucker Carlson, venal demagogues like Donald Trump, crass power-hungry con-nivers like Mitch McConnell, unqualified lifetime appointees like Brett Kavanaugh, incompetent buff-foons masquerading as leaders like Marjorie Taylor Greene... but it's more than that. It's also the idiots

who can't face the truth that Donald Trump lost the election, the morons who think they're "owning the libs" by advancing the interests of billionaires like Koch, Mercer, and Adelson, the imbeciles who think they're "doing their own research" by choosing Fox over actual news sources.

The party that can pronounce Jan. 6 to be "legitimate political discourse" is a party that no longer has any right to participate in our public dialogue.

I would love to revisit the point where the Right and the Left could debate their competing philosophies. But the Right lost its chief champion when the Republican party descended into insanity. I don't hold out much hope for its recovery.

Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet – Andover

Marlborough Selectmen Candidates

To Marlborough Voters:

If you're reading this, you already know that on May 3 one of the most important elections in the history of Marlborough will be held. The voters of Marlborough will elect two out of four candidates to fill the new seats on the Board of Selectmen, expanding the board from 3 to 5 members. The four candidates running for the two seats are Ken Hjulstrom (R), Louise Concodello (R), Betty O'Brien (D) and Deb Bourbeau (U/D). This maybe one of the most important decisions you will make in determining Marlborough's future.

All of the candidates have similar backgrounds. All four are long time Marlborough residents. They have all served on or are still serving on a Marlborough board or commission. Having similar backgrounds, a greater emphasis must be placed on other important factors. Which two candidates best represent the people of Marlborough? Which two candidates can best work with the other members of the BOS and, when necessary, are willing to compromise? Which two candidates can work with the other towns' boards and commissions and the great volunteers who staff them and even if they disagree, respect the decisions they make? Which two candidates make decisions based on fact and not on party affiliation or personalities? Which two candidates consider the effect their decisions will have on Marlborough, now and in the future?

Deb Bourbeau and Betty O'Brien have proven to me through their actions that they are the best candidates to serve you on Marlborough's BOS.

Don't let party affiliation or politics determine your vote. Vote for the candidates who will do the best job. Join this registered Republican in voting for Deb and Betty on May 3rd

Cliff Denniss – Marlborough

Note: Denniss is a former member of the Marlborough boards of selectmen and finance.

A Job Well Done

To the Editor:

Many letters have appeared in *Rivereast* the past several months regarding Marlborough's unique special election. The new charter has increased the Board of Selectmen by two seats, and an election is being held to fill those seats.

Four people are running. Much like the town itself, they include Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliateds.

Your reporter, Jack Lakowsky, interviewed and wrote an article on all four candidates. Each candidate responded to pages and pages of written questions. I am writing to say he did a wonderful job. He distilled all those answers into cogent, clear statements that represented each of the four people. He was fair, inclusive and thorough. I'm sure it was no small task, and he handled it as one would hope of a good journalist. Thank you to Jack and to *Rivereast* for a job well done.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

Longstanding Effort

To the Editor:

Marlborough's special election on May 3 has brought weekly letters both by and about the candidates and the strength of their skills and character when elected to the two new seats on the Board of Selectmen.

I'd like to cast my net farther back, when both Betty O'Brien and Debbie Bourbeau were instrumental in the work of creating and maintaining the wonderful Marlborough Arts Center. Betty and George O'Brien, acting as general contractor, measured, sawed, patched, and painted. They dug rocks and channels out of a wet basement for drainage, sought bids for paving and for utilities. Betty wrote and received grants that enabled the work to continue, sought and received donations from businesses and residents, cleaned, made dump runs, and served as treasurer, which also included organizing all the necessary financial structure for this new nonprofit.

Debbie and Dave Bourbeau planned and physically landscaped the whole property. They designed, planted, nourished weeded and mowed. I remember the poison ivy they cleared! They fertilized and clipped and dug, and mowed and mowed and mowed. Later, Debbie worked on getting the Fourth Fridays, monthly musical performances up and running, and she continues to "emcee" these. With her more than 30-year career at Marlborough Elementary School, she was able to connect with colleagues and arrange for the students' musical performances to be held at the arts center – always a community favorite.

By now the community knows about Betty's work on other boards and services, and Debbie's library board and voluntary roadside and public property cleanups. I wanted my letter to highlight the many years of voluntary hard labor and gracious support of the art center, as it was beginning, and as it is. Working with each of them is an honor and a pleasure.

Vote for them!

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

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**Earth Day Success**

To the Editor:  
Thank you to the residents of Hebron for another successful Earth Day celebration! We were able to pick up roadside litter, get the Town Hall pollinator garden planted and launch the town's first Swap Shack at the Transfer Station.

The Swap Shack has been a long time in the making and the Green Committee, with the help of Public Works, is excited to continue to offer this service to residents of Hebron. (If you missed the grand opening, the Swap Shack will be open weekly on Sundays from 10-2, visit [hebrongoesgreen.com/swapshack](http://hebrongoesgreen.com/swapshack) for more information.)

Thank you again to everyone who picked up trash, planted and swapped. We can't wait to see you all out there again next year!

**Kaitlin Hershey, Chair  
Hebron Green Committee**

**Very Offensive Banner**

To the Editor:  
I have a request. To whoever hung the very offensive banner on Scofield Road, please take it down. The police tell me (despite many calls) that due to the First Amendment, they cannot ask this person to remove it, even though it is in full view of residents like me who walk on a daily basis, not to mention the children who live in the Scofield/Van Cedarfield neighborhood.

Do the right thing and take it down ASAP.  
**Ellen Kraemer – Colchester**

**Get Lost!**

To the Editor:  
Another week, another letter. I was opposed to the zone change yesterday, I am opposed to it still today, and I will be opposed to it indefinitely in the future. I have one message for Atlantis Corporation: Please do as the original Atlantis did and get lost!

Sincerely,  
**Ron Brady – East Hampton**

**Vote 'No' on RHAM Budget**

To the Editor:  
I am writing this letter to inform the citizens of the three RHAM district towns, that we need to emphatically vote 'no' to the proposed RHAM budget for the upcoming 2022-23 school year.

We have defeated proposals before, and we can defeat this proposal as well! This is the year that RHAM needs to help its towns' tax base with significant savings, and they have certainly not done that.

They are hoping that the casual observer sees a tiny decrease in the overall budget number, and thinks that is a good thing. Trust me, it is not! We have reached

a year that the school bond payment is decreasing by almost \$1.5 million and the RHAM BOE has decided to keep over \$612,000 in unexpended money from last year's budget and spend it on athletic field items. This alone is not a bad thing, I fully support the RHAM School System, but I need them to be more fiscally responsible with their spending! In addition, from their BOE minutes from prior meetings late this year, they also transferred \$155,814 into many different line items, which means only one thing..... they had even more funds left over this current year, and they want to spend them before the year ends. One more important fact is that the enrollment in the two RHAM schools has drastically reduced in recent years and is on a trend to continue that for many more, which needs to equate to a lower budget.

I think I have given you many facts and reasons this budget needs to be defeated on May 3. They need to reduce quite a bit more before we pass it. Please join me in voting 'no' on May 3 at the referendum and make this RHAM board do much more work to this budget before we agree to pass it! I have faith in them that they can do this without costing any quality in the education the students deserve!

**Joanne Hebert – Andover**

**Three-Card Monty**

To the Editor:  
RHAM plays Three-Card Monty with your tax dollars. If you listen to the RHAM Region 8 BOE you would think they are doing you a favor "returning" the pittance of \$92,000 divided between the 3 towns. What they didn't talk about was the \$612,000 they transferred to the field account on March 21st, or the additional \$129,000 they spent on other items from the surplus, totaling \$712,000 they didn't return.

While we are at it, let's look at the new budget – it's lower; they worked hard to cut it. I'm sorry if this caused you to spit out your coffee. You're right; they "hid" the huge increases, \$1.3 million more on teachers alone. If that wasn't enough, the \$30,000 increase to the new superintendent's salary should make you upset. Apparently getting someone to come out to our cow patch is expensive. But seriously we are a rural school with great kids, involved parents, and a fantastic reputation – who wants to put up with all that!

To understand the shell game, let me point out that the bond payment went down \$1,480,000, and \$355,000 less is needed for special ed private out-placement. That's a \$1.8 million reduction on two line items. Added to the \$712,000 we discussed in transfers, that's \$2,500,000 on just four items, but you'll never see that money. You see, while we weren't paying attention the district enrollment dropped by 33% since 2015, in that same time the budget went up 15%.

I hope that new super they hired took some basic budgeting classes because it's sorely needed. He won't be dodging bullets or confiscating guns in school, but he might be ducking cow patties when everyone realizes how frivolously they are spending the tax dollars.

**Adrian Mandeville – Andover**

*Note: Mandeville is vice first selectman and also a member of the Andover Board of Education, but is speaking as an individual.*

**Lake Clean-Up Event**

To the Editor:  
I want to start by thanking all the board members of The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug for their involvement and participation in making this event very successful.

We had great weather, super response from the residents in town that showed up to volunteer their time and energy for this cause.

There were over 120 adults, and children, and members from Troop 8 that showed their commitment in cleaning up the watershed. We had many repeat volunteers, along with a new group of new residents to the Town of East Hampton, some of which were so inspired to join the Friends of the Lake. Those interested can visit our website at [flpeh.org](http://flpeh.org) to learn more and apply. We had support from our state representative, Irene Haines, and her team for their continued support of Connecticut Lakes and wellbeing.

I do want to reach out and personally thank some groups for their involvement and support:

East Hampton Parks and Rec., (Jeremy), Public Works Department (Matthew), Ace Hardware (Walt), our officers of the friends, and Cap Egan for all the press releases promoting this event. We had supplied the volunteers with a lunch after the event (Greg, Kevin, Debbie, Statia, Nikki).

So as most of you know we are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt origination; let us know if you have interest in supporting the betterment of the Lake and Watershed.

**Joe Carbonell – East Hampton  
Friends of Lake Pocotopaug**

**GOP is The Party of Trump**

To the Editor:  
Donald Trump pushed insurrection. Donald lied about election. Donald leads the POT which would go back a century to days when only men could vote or sign a promissory note. To days when folks of color lacked the ballot and the upward track. To days when robber barons ruled while poorer folks remained unschooled.

To days before the safety net and social programs that would let us learn and grow and vote our bent to counteract the one percent. The greatest tool is when we vote in all of our elections.

Each two-year span provides the right to set out new directions.

Local and Congress, both Senate and House are the base of our democracy. Voting only in President years may lead us to feared autocracy.

So school yourself, beware of lies found on the Internet.

Check your sources, seek the truth don't find out with regret:

That the Party of Trump has had its way. That democracy has had its day, that autocracy is here to stay!

**Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland**

**Vote 'No' on Budget**

To the Editor:

Please consider voting 'no' on the Hebron town budget this Tuesday, May 3. As a selectman for four years, I can tell you that our taxes are too high because of the way the town is managed. For example, outsourcing has not been utilized. Efficiencies developed during the pandemic have not been realized. The Town Hall was closed for more than a year seemingly without impact to citizens or taxpayers, which suggests other efficiencies are available. The town has 6 percent less citizens now than a decade ago, but has a higher budget.

Other examples: The fire department transition from volunteer to a more expensive paid force can be traced in part to the increase in emergency calls from a private senior care facility (see Emergency Workshop, Fire Department Presentation to BOS, February 2019). This facility, which was financed originally by 60 high-net-worth individuals (see Meeting of the Economic Development Commission, 2017) and more recently acquired by a San Francisco hedge fund (see <https://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/hebron-senior-living-facility-sells-for-30-million>), was given \$1M in tax breaks by the BOS paid for by Hebron taxpayers.

The sewers are another source of tax unfairness and poor management. Hebron is possibly the only municipality in the United States where taxpayers (80 percent of which are nonusers) pay for 100 percent of capital costs of the sewers. And, even with the last \$8M bond, the sewers aren't fixed.

There can't be a town positioned better than Hebron in this post-pandemic world. We have a rural

*See Letters, page 25*



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# Whipple Headed to Lehigh

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy senior Jennifer Whipple has announced her decision to continue her academic and athletic career at Lehigh University.

“So excited to announce my commitment to do track and field at Lehigh University,” Whipple announced on social media. “Thank you to everyone who has helped me get here. Go Hawks!”

Over the last few years, Whipple has become one of the state’s best young throwers, excelling at both the shot put and discus for both the indoor and outdoor track and field teams at the high school. The senior also specializes in the hammer throw and weight throw at regional competitions.

Whipple said she first started looking at Lehigh last summer before ultimately choosing the private Pennsylvania-based university in the fall.

“I wanted to go to a school that had my major,” stated Whipple. “I also really loved the program, the team, and the coach a lot.”

At Lehigh, she will major in international relations, saying she became fascinated with the field over the last couple of years after taking several social studies classes and a senior Capstone class.

Whipple’s athletic goal heading into her final competitive season at Bacon Academy is to win a state championship during this spring’s indoor track and field season.

In February, she finished second at the Class M finals in the shot put during the indoor sea-

son and last spring she placed 4th in the shot put at the Class M championships during the outdoor season.

Most recently Whipple and Bacon Academy’s track and field team competed against 30 schools from across the state at The Patriot Games at Coventry High School. Whipple placed well across the board – finishing third in the shot put, fourth in the hammer throw, and sixth in the discus.

Whipple first joined the track and field team as a sophomore and began learning the ropes under the tutelage of teammate Natalie Rolan-Issa, who Whipple called “incredible.”

Rolan-Issa was a state champion in the shot put and top-three finisher in the discus before graduating from Bacon Academy in 2020. Rolan-Issa is currently on the track and field team at Monmouth University in New Jersey.

Whipple then met current throwing coach Damien Larkin of Bloomfield, who furthered her development and honed her throwing techniques.

She called Larkin one of her biggest influences, adding, “He’s gotten me to be a lot more competitive.”

A turning point for Whipple was earlier this year when she transitioned her throwing technique from a glide to a rotation, allowing her to get more power and distance on her throws.

“That was a really big moment, not only as a thrower but as a competitor. I turned over a new leaf of wanting to attack every throw,” Whipple recalled.

She also credits her mom, Amy Whipple, for encouraging her to break out of her shell, which

allowed her to challenge herself both athletically and academically in high school.

Whipple, who was born and raised in Colchester, played basketball and lacrosse prior to finding her two athletic aspirations at Bacon Academy.

Along with being an accomplished thrower, she also excelled on the volleyball courts where she earned first-team All-Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) as the Bobcats won a Division II conference title in the fall.

She has also been part of the Bacon Academy Young Democrats for the past three years, currently serving as the group’s treasurer.

Outside of high school, Whipple enjoys reading and uses it to relax before and after competitions.

Whipple said leaving the small town feel of Colchester is bittersweet, adding, “I will miss the environment; I will miss the friends I’ve made.”

Prior to choosing a college, she looked at several other opinions but ultimately chose Lehigh, saying, “I wanted to go out of state, but not too far away from home.”

Next fall, she will be on a massive campus in Bethlehem, Pa., that is roughly equal distance (70-80 miles) away from both Philadelphia and New York City.

At Lehigh, she will join a Mountain Hawks program that is headed by Matt Utesch, who has been coaching the track and field programs for over a quarter-century.

Whipple’s throwing coach will be Allison Taub, an accomplished thrower and a 2019 grad-



**Bacon Academy senior Jennifer Whipple will throw and study international relations at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.**

uate from Monmouth University.

Whipple said she is excited for the college experience, both from an athletic and academic standpoint, because both will allow her to travel and experience new things.

“I’m looking forward to a lot of the opportunities I will get,” said Whipple. “I’m excited for the competition at the next level and to see where it can push me.”

## WJMS Empty Bowls & Arts Night

William J. Johnston Middle School will hold its Empty Bowls & Arts Night, with a vendor fair, on Friday, May 13, from 5-8 p.m., at the middle school, 360 Norwich Ave. This event is sponsored by WJMS and the Bacon Academy Unified Arts Program.

All soup bowls purchased will benefit Colchester Food Bank and Restavec Freedom Alliance (an organization helping former Haitian child slaves). Proceeds for both causes will be

split 50/50. Guests can purchase a handcrafted bowl for \$10 (\$8 for senior citizens) and experience an evening of soup, bread, desserts and the arts.

The handcrafted bowls are created by students from both WJMS and Bacon Academy, staff, Bacon Academy Unified Artists, and local artisans.

The event will also feature the WJMS Art Show, Jazz Band, Choir, Guitar Club with Dan Ramage, and an interactive Digital Media and Innovations exhibit. Purchasing handcrafted bowls will benefit the Colchester Food Bank and Restavec Freedom Alliance. The Vendor Fair supports the WJMS Art Program.

For more information regarding Empty Bowls & Arts night, contact Christine Taylor at ctaylor@colchesterct.org, and for Vendor Fair entry or information, contact Kris Gallucci at kgallucci@colchesterct.org.

## Women’s Softball League Seeks Members

The Colchester women’s softball league is looking for ladies 19 and older to play slow pitch softball. Games are on Monday and Thursday nights. The season runs from mid-June through mid-August.

If interested, visit [www.facebook.com/colchesterwomenssoftball](http://www.facebook.com/colchesterwomenssoftball) and leave a message.

## 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](http://www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org) and click on current fundraisers. The chairperson, Shannon Cuadro, can also be contacted at [ba.projectgrad@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Memorial Day Parade Info

The theme for this year’s Memorial Day parade is “Colchester Remembers Their Citizens Who Gave Their Tomorrows for Our Today’s.”

All marching units and floats should try and use the theme in preparing for the parade, which will be on Sunday, May 29. Applications are now available at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., and through [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov). Applications are required for those who are interested in participating in the parade; contact the Town Hall and file your application before May 1.

Colchester will celebrate Memorial Day on Sunday, May 29, starting the parade at 12:30 p.m. Parade participants should assemble by 11 a.m. The general public is encouraged to view the parade on Norwich Avenue and Main Street. The memorial ceremony will take place on the Veterans’ Green starting at about 1:15 p.m. Any local veterans are encouraged to join in the line of march. A trailer will be provided for those veterans that are not able to march.

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# ARPA Funds Dispersal Pondered

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester's Board of Selectmen and American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Committee reviewed a draft document overviewing the small business and nonprofit ARPA grant program during a special meeting April 25.

The "Colchester Come Back" grant program, outlines funding information, business eligibility and the approval process the town has been going through.

"Citizens and other communities can look at this [and] see what Colchester has done," Andreas Bisbikos, first selectmen, said during the meeting.

The document was first drafted by UHY, a firm hired as a consultant during the ARPA process, and edited by the first selectmen and Dave Koji, chair of the ARPA committee.

The special meeting comes as the April 30 deadline to submit small business and non-profit applications for grants approaches.

One of the major discussion points involved how the funds will be monitored once they've been distributed. UHY, hired through the end of 2022, is responsible for following up with small businesses to ensure proper use.

However, since the funds can be used until the end of 2023, the town will have to make a decision on whether to extend its relationship with UHY or come up with an alternative way to monitor the funds.

Bisbikos stated that it was a situation the Board of Selectmen will have to discuss at a future date.

Jack Reagan, UHY managing director, raised concerns with the town's plan to hand out the funds and then monitor them after through re-

ceipts and invoices.

"The town is taking on some risk by immediately funding businesses upon approval," Reagan said.

Reagan indicated that a more effective system would potentially involve a business providing more direct evidence that the funds would be used correctly before receiving the money from the town.

Bisbikos emphasized that under the current plan, if the businesses don't provide receipts that the money was spent as requested, the town would ask for the money back.

After a business application is approved, they will have to sign an attestation agreement, which ensures that the money is used for the primary purpose stated in the application.

Jack Faski, a member of the ARPA committee, questioned why the warning was coming up this late in the process.

"This wasn't brought up at the beginning," Faski said.

He argued that the current plan was acceptable to continue with.

"We're putting trust in these businesses and if not, we have the attestation agreement."

Reagan made it clear that his team would be able to monitor the businesses effectively but that he'd still suggest making a change.

"You're running the risk that money will be inappropriately spent."

Bisbikos asked Reagan to come up with an alternative proposal that could be presented to the board before making any changes.

Koji argued that changing the monitoring process to something similar to Reagan's rec-

ommendation would be difficult because businesses would use the money in different ways and have a variety of expenses.

"Asking for quotes upfront is not going to be a one-size-fits-all situation," he said.

Reagan, however, made it clear that he believed the town was doing enough with its application process and that UHY and the ARPA committee were getting enough information about why each business was requesting the money.

According to Reagan, over 60 businesses have applied for money, bringing the total requested amount close to \$1.4 million. The town has earmarked \$1 million specifically for small businesses.

During a Board of Selectmen meeting April 21, Regan advised the board that this would potentially make the approval process more challenging.

"I know folks are anxious to get this money into the local economy," he said, "We need to consider how to handle that application overflow."

Two likely outcomes would be either businesses potentially receiving less money than they initially requested, or the town earmarking more money.

Bisbikos stated that the board will review all applications after the deadline and make fair

decisions.

"There should be an equitable process," Bisbikos said. "We'll help as many businesses as possible, not the first one who applied."

Earlier this month, selectmen unanimously decided to postpone the application review process until after the April 30 deadline.

ARPA money has continued to be a divisive issue in Colchester. Following a Board of Selectmen meeting earlier this month, Jason LaChapelle, a Republican member of the board, criticized members of the ARPA committee and certain small business owners in Facebook post.

"I would also like to express my disappointment in the select few small businesses owners, and some members of the ARPA committee, for the response to the board's requests," LaChapelle wrote in a lengthy post April 11.

This prompted a response from Koji, who defended the work of the committee.

"I'm appalled that you would paint me and this committee in such a negative light."

Bisbikos addressed this altercation, stating that the ARPA committee has worked "diligently" and that it has his support.

"I'm willing to work with everyone," he said.

Both the select board and the ARPA committee are scheduled to hold another joint meeting on May 2.

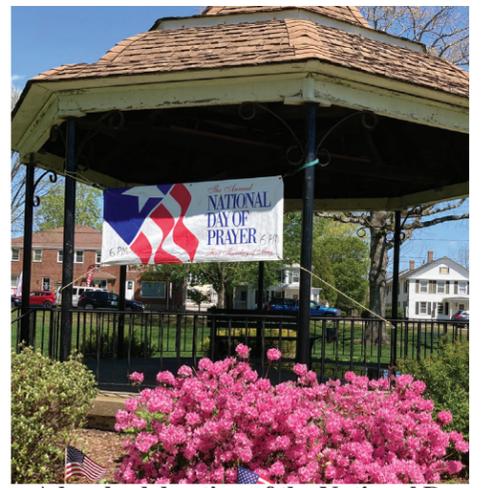
## National Day of Prayer

All are invited to celebrate the National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m., on the Town Green.

The annual National Day of Prayer is an occasion for all people to gather and call out to God on behalf of the United States of America in all 50 states and several U.S. territories through tens of thousands of local prayer gatherings. The tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, as evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, the first Thursday in May was designated the National Day of Prayer.

The 2022 theme is "Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us" having been inspired by Colossians 2:6-7: "Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."

Participants will pray for government, military, fire department, police department, media, businesses, schools, churches, and families. Several area pastors and lay leaders will lead



A local celebration of the National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m., on the Town Green.

participants in prayer for our town, state, and country. For further information contact Colleen Bjorbekk, New London County coordinator for the National Day of Prayer, at [bjorbekcol@comcast.net](mailto:bjorbekcol@comcast.net) or 860-537-1609.

## Local Author at Glastonbury Bookstore

Colchester resident Elaine Alexander will participate in the Indie Bookstore event on Saturday, April 30, at River Bend Bookstore, 2217 Main St. Alexander will be signing at 11:30 a.m.

Alexander has spent a number of years in children's services at the public library before getting an offer of publication for her STEM picture book, *Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep*. A narrative nonfiction format, the book follows the life cycle of these unusual fish.

Find out more about Alexander at [www.elainemalexander.com](http://www.elainemalexander.com).

## Bible Study at Christian Life Chapel

All are invited to Christian Life Chapel, 392 S. Main St., on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., to study the gospels with the Chosen series.

## CHFD Surveying Community

The Colchester Hayward Fire Department is in the final days of its survey of community members to see how the department is doing and where it can improve.

All residents and business owners are asked to complete the survey, which is located at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZNCB-J5S](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZNCB-J5S).

The survey will close Saturday, April 30.

## '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.



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# Finance Board Cuts \$200K From School Budget

By Michael Sinkewicz

By a party-line vote, the Colchester Board of Finance last week voted to cut the proposed school board budget by \$200,000 and send it to public hearing.

The hearing was held Wednesday night, after the Rivereast was sent to press. The budget would then go to voters at town meeting and ultimately referendum in May.

At the April 20 Board of Finance meeting, the motion to approve the school board's 2022-23 budget, made by Republican John Thomas, also called for the bottom-line total to be cut by \$200,000.

The motion carried 4-2, with the board's two Democrats voting against the proposal.

The cut brought the Board of Education's proposed 2022-23 budget to \$42,025,701 – a \$198,646, or .47%, increase from current year spending.

The April 20 meeting was the third one the finance board had on the education budget. At Wednesday night's public hearing, the school budget was to be presented alongside the approved town budget.

In accordance with the town charter, the town and school budgets will be voted on separately at referendum next month.

If both budgets pass, the mill rate would be 27.27 – a decrease of 5.78 mills from last year.

Unlike the town budget discussions, the finance board was divided on the bottom-line amount of the education budget.

During the budget workshops, the Republicans on the board signaled that they'd only approve the budget if substantial cuts were made. The original proposal passed by the board of education called for a .95% or \$398,646 increase.

While the board doesn't have the authority to edit specific line-items in the budget, Mike Hayes, a Democrat on the board, asked what justified the bottom-line decrease.

"I wonder if you have anything to substantiate why it's a \$200,000 cut?"

Hayes added that by passing the motion, the board hadn't fully assessed the budget.

"We have not done our due diligence," Hayes said.

Andrea Migliaccio, chair of the finance board and a Republican, disagreed. She argued that the board worked to reach a number that was in the town's best interest.

"Our board is trying to get to a number we think will pass," she said. "We don't want to go into a failed referendum."

Mike Egan, who also voted against the cut, was hopeful that the board would listen to citizens' input with the budget during Wednesday's public hearing.

"Usually the Board of Finance wants the public's feedback on any cuts," he said, "None of that has happened."

The budget workshops were held at Town Hall and open to the public. Some citizens have

made comments during the meetings that they'd prefer a virtual viewership option.

Jessica Morozowich, an education board member and a Democrat, disagreed with the cut arguing that the original budget proposal was acceptable.

"The budget we brought to you was fiscally responsible," she said.

The motion came after the board debated other ways of saving money. During the previous workshop, possible ideas included using American Rescue Plan (ARPA) money to cover certain items.

In the budget proposal, there are specific items currently funded by ARPA that are scheduled to be put back in the operating budget for next year.

By delaying that transfer, the board could potentially cut the bottom-line total. However,

the board agreed that would only postpone the increase to upcoming budgets.

Another idea was to use unassigned fund balance to address one-time capital items, but the board was unable to identify any possible items.

Before voting on the motion that ultimately passed, Art Shilosky, a Republican on the board, made a motion to reduce the bottom-line total by \$198,646, which would make the total \$42,027,055 – an increase of \$200,000 or .48%.

Republicans John Thomas and Timothy Vailancourt disagreed with that number and voted against the motion.

Only Shilosky and Migliaccio supported the motion and it failed 4-2.

The motion that Thomas made, and was approved by the board, cut the budget by \$1,354 more than Shilosky's motion.

## 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. Both sessions will be at the Colchester RecPlex Pavilion, 215 Old Hebron Rd.

Local fine artist and Norton family member Julianna W. Cameron will lead the design and painting events, where participants will be encouraged to creatively their paint fish cut from authentic C.H. Norton paper mill board. The par-

ticipants 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 [colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Program](http://colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Program).

For more information about the development of Norton Park, go to [www.colchesterct.gov/norton-park-committee](http://www.colchesterct.gov/norton-park-committee).

## 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.

**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.

**Atlantic City:** June 7-9. Stay two nights at Resorts Casino Hotel. The trip includes a \$25 slot credit and two \$20 meal credits. Cost is \$325/person double occupancy.

## Mother's Day Flower Sale

Boy Scout Troop 72 will hold its 21st Mother's Day flower sale adjacent to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department Headquarters on Old Hartford Road on Friday, May 6, from 5-8 p.m., and on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or when sold out.

The Scouts will have a variety of hanging baskets and individual potted plants available on site. All plants are supplied by a local grower.

All proceeds will go to support scout camping and youth training activities. Troop 72 has more than 20 Scouts and has been serving Colchester's youth since 1939.

## CES Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

There will be a special story time program Tuesday, May 26, from 11:25-11:55 a.m., in the media center at Colchester Elementary School, 315 Halls Hill Rd., for 4- and 5 year-old Colchester children who will enter kindergarten during the 2022-23 school year.

Children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers while parents learn about the registration process, the kindergarten curriculum, readiness expectations, the school day, school policies and transportation. A question-and-answer period will be available. No pre-registration is required.

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**Here Comes Peter Cottontail...** On Friday, April 15, the Easter Bunny and Harrington the Cat came to visit the residents at Complete Care at Harrington Court. Several residents stated that it was the best thing they had seen all day and there were a lot of laughs that day. From left are Harrington Court's administrator Katrina Dahlgren, the Easter Bunny, and Cheryl Rancourt, Harrington Court's scheduler. Harrington the Cat is in the stroller.

**Local AARP Chapter to Meet**

Colchester AARP No. 4019 will meet at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., on Tuesday, May 3, at 1:30 p.m., for nominations and elections of new officers and directors for 2022 through 2023.

On Tuesday, May 24, at 10 a.m., the chapter will gather again for a "Meet and Greet" with the town's new fire chief, Steve Hoffman. This program is co-sponsored with the Colchester Senior Center. The meeting is opened to all citi-

zens of Colchester.

Also, on Tuesday, June 7, chapter members will meet for a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at Papa Z's in Westchester. All new officers and directors will be sworn in. All ages 50 and older are welcome. More information on the luncheon will be presented at the May 24 meeting.

**Trivia Night at the Winery**

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee will sponsor an evening of trivia at Chateau Le' Gari, 303 S. Main St., on Friday, May 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the game starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are purchased individually but feel free to team up.

Tickets are \$25 (\$30 at the door) and can be bought at [secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate](https://secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate).

For more information and tickets, email [TriviaNightFun2022@gmail.com](mailto:TriviaNightFun2022@gmail.com).

**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., hybrid in person and via Zoom; Tuesday, Aggadath class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page on the Sefer Chasidim and the Book of Proverbs.

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

**Senior Center News & Notes**

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

**Monday, May 2:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fix; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

**Tuesday, May 3:** 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, May 4:** 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, Foot Clinic, The Real History of Cinco de Mayo.

**Thursday, May 5:** 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, May 6:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, hearing screening (by appointment only); 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Upcoming Programs: Hearing Screenings:** Friday, May 6, 10 a.m. Dr. Matthew Cross from the Hearing Center of Glastonbury can check your hearing or clean your hearing devices. Schedule your free hearing screening by calling the senior center.

**A-May-Zing Meals Contest:** Thanks to a donation, the center is having another lunch raffle. Sign up for five meals at the center (not including ticketed special events) during May, have a special card stamped, and you will be entered to win a \$25 gift card to CVS. The contest is for CSC members who are aged 60 and over. The drawing will be held on Friday, May 27th at lunchtime. Please see Valerie Webster, Site Server for more information.

**Mother's Day Brunch:** Wednesday, May 11, 10 a.m. All are welcome to this brunch, which will include an egg and cheese omelet, home fries, sausage patty, tomato and cucumber salad, peach pie, orange juice and coffee. Ron Murray will perform rock and roll, swing, Latin, and country songs. Advanced registration

is required; tickets are \$9.

**Community Health & Wellness Fair:** Sunday, May 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sponsored by Youth & Social Services in collaboration with the Colchester Commission on Aging, the Colchester Senior Center, Parks & Rec., and Cragin Memorial Library, this event will feature booths and breakout sessions throughout William J. Johnston Middle School, located at 360 Norwich Ave. There will be take-home items and giveaways as well.

**Paint Your Own Spring & Summer Welcome Signs:** Friday, May 20, 10 a.m. Create a double-sided, freestanding welcome sign using acrylic paint and stencils. No previous experience is necessary. Materials fee for this class is \$15. Register by May 20.

**Reducing Your Risk for Falls with River Rock PT:** Monday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. Angela Risigo, owner and physical therapist at River Rock Physical Therapy and Balance Center in Colchester, will discuss how to reduce your fall risk. This is a free event. Register by May 16.

**Meet & Greet the New Fire Chief:** Tuesday, May 24, 10 a.m. Colchester Hayward Fire Department has a new chief, Steven Hoffmann, and he'll stop by the center and share his ideas for the department. Co-sponsored by AARP Chapter 4019. Light refreshments served. Please pre-register by Friday, May 20.

**Memorial Day Picnic:** Tuesday, May 31, 11 a.m. Choose a hamburger, cheeseburger or hot dog, with fries or onion rings, all from Harry's Place Restaurant, and a can of soda. To kick off the party, the center's Senior Serenaders (Choral Group) will perform a patriotic and summer tunes sing-along. Tickets are \$6 and available until May 20 or sold out.

**Normal Vs. Not Normal Aging:** Friday, June 3, 10 a.m. Aging comes with many changes – including to the brain. Some are completely normal and some could indicate early signs of Alzheimer's or dementia. Erin Chianelli, certified trainer from Positive Approach to Care, will discuss what healthy brains look like as they age. Come for the free workshop. Registration is required. Sign up by May 27.

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# Winchester Café Celebrates 40 Years

By Jack Lakowsky

Today, April 29, marks the 40th birthday of local bar and restaurant Winchester Café, much to the surprise of owner Donna Grabek.

"I can't believe it's been 40 years," Grabek told the *Rivereast* on Wednesday.

Since taking over in 1982 (expanding in 1986), Grabek has cultivated a spot for fun, music, eating and drinking-without the nonsense that bars must often deal with.

"I don't do well with rude and obnoxious," she said.

Grabek said the Winchester crowd is respectful and kind. She's never had a bouncer and, in the bar's long history, only about five calls have been made to the police.

"It's a bar, not a church," she said. "You get an oddball now and then. But looking back, it's been really good."

Grabek said every day, she feels grateful for her customers and her workers, who've been the reason for the bar's success.

"When you have good people, you appreciate it," she said.

She said all it takes for a good environment is awareness, making sure customers don't over-indulge. She said more than once, a customer has come back thankful they were cut off or weren't allowed to drive themselves home.

Customers even help keep up with tweaks and fixes around the bar, Grabek said. She said one time a customer fixed the refrigerator's door handle, traded for a few drinks (afterwards, of

course).

The fraternal atmosphere, she said, is what sets Winchester apart, what brings people back for decades. Consistency also brings people back-Grabek said other than "a lightbulb or two," the bar's interior, like a cozy saloon right from the Old West, has been the same for decades.

Before returning to Portland to run shop, Grabek traveled, working in both the west, the south, and all the way to Mexico City (where she became fluent in Spanish). She's worked as a dancer, a club singer, a cocktail waitress and a tour guide.

Grabek returned to Connecticut from Las Vegas, to help out with her ailing mother. Grabek's father, Walter "Walt" Grabek, ran "Walt's," a drive-in with American fare like hotdogs and milkshakes.

After Grabek's mom passed away, she decided to stay in Connecticut.

Walt began the shop in 1947. At 72 he retired, and his daughter took the reins. Under her leadership, the restaurant grew to a full-service bar and restaurant serving burgers, sandwiches and Tex-Mex dishes.

The subsequent four decades weren't all easy, she said. Right now, she's dealing with hiring difficulties, as are many businesses.

"I'm hoping that changes soon," she said. "But really, I can't complain. I'm very, very thankful."

Grabek also gets involved in charitable work.



Winchester Café owner Donna Grabek took over her father's store in 1982, expanding it to a full bar and restaurant and adding band performances, karaoke and trivia. This year marks the café's 40th birthday.

She's fundraised for the Portland Food Bank and, 10 years ago, ran a supply drive for people affected by Hurricane Sandy.

More recently, Grabek raised \$1,000 in relief for people in Ukraine, which is being invaded by Russia.

To celebrate the bar's 40th, Grabek resumed live music on Fridays and Sundays, as it was

before the pandemic.

Of being open for so long, Grabek said, "I should say I feel old, but I really don't."

The Winchester Café is at 1374 Route 66, open Wednesday through Sunday noon to midnight. For more information visit [winchester-cafe.com](http://winchester-cafe.com) or call 860-342-0224.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Rent Rebate:** Call ahead to make an appointment; no drop-ins please.

**Weekly Schedule:** **Mondays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Crafting with Tracy, 10 a.m. the fourth Monday of each month. **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](mailto: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; **Wednesdays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:15-11 a.m.; chair yoga, 11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month; Qi Gong with Lisa returns May 4, 1 p.m. (by session/month only); setback, 1-3:30 p.m.; Walking Club, 3 p.m. – check calendar. **Thursdays:** Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Dancer-cize, 10 a.m. every other week; Stretch & Flex,

11:30 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:30-4 p.m.; Scrabble, 1-4 p.m. Next Thursday, May 5, is the last day to register for "Mom's Tea" for seniors and senior center volunteers. **Fridays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Medical Rides:** The center provides seniors and disabled with rides to the doctor. Cost is \$5/person round trip. Two-week notice requested. Masks required.

**Cans-4-A-Cause:** Drop off washed cans and bottles in a bin in the rear parking lot of the center. For details or to volunteer, email Jeff Myjak at [myjakjeff@gmail.com](mailto:myjakjeff@gmail.com).

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

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

**Trips: Walmart and Panera Trip:** Wednesday, May 4. Bus leaves the senior center lot by 10:30 a.m. If you need a ride from your house, let the center know in advance. Cost is \$5 per van ride.

**Palmer Preserve:** Friday, May 6. Bus leaves the senior center lot by 9 a.m. If you need a ride from your house, let the center know in advance. Cost is \$5 per van ride.

## 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 mys-

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

## Methodist Church Spring Fair

Portland United Methodist Church, located at 381 Main St., Portland, will hold a Spring Fair Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be crafts, vendors and baked goods.

## 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](http://www.portlandexchange.org).

Deadline for registration is April 30.

## St. Mary Tag Sale

St. Mary Church will participate in the Portland Town-Wide Tag Sale Saturday, May 7, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., rain or shine.

Tables will be set up in the rear parking lot of the church, 45 Freestone Ave., and parishioners are welcome to participate in the sale with the table being provided by the church at a cost of \$10 each.

The Knights of Columbus will cook hot dogs, hamburgers and more, for all attendees. If interested in reserving a table, call the office at 860-342-2328.

## Local Cheerleaders Excel

The club cheerleading team at Eastern Connecticut State University finished in the top 10 at the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) College Nationals this April 6-10 in Daytona Beach, Fla. – and among the members of the team were Portland residents Faith Lee and Anna Maselek.

Lee is a sophomore majoring in health sciences, and Maselek is a sophomore majoring in pre-elementary education and communication.

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# Selectmen Allow Cars to ‘Pace’ Traffic

By Jack Lakowsky

Members of the town’s Complete Street group, which focuses on making town streets safer, received permission from the Portland Board of Selectmen to begin an effort to slow traffic.

Complete Streets Chair Kathy Heron and member John Hall presented the “Pace Car” program to the board in its April 20 meeting.

“Sadly, pedestrian deaths are up in Connecticut,” Heron told the board. Citing the *Hartford Courant*, Heron said as of March 14, 16 pedestrians have been killed on Connecticut roads.

If this trend continues, 2022 could be one of the deadliest for Connecticut pedestrians. In the past ten years pedestrian deaths have doubled, Heron said, adding in 2011, 26 were killed. In 2020, that number jumped to 65.

“[Connecticut Department of Transportation] officials and advocates agree on causes,” Heron said. “People are driving bigger cars, drive faster and more reckless.”

Heron said the threat of speeding enforcement is down. Police have been less strict because of the pandemic, she said.

Heron said the rise in deaths in Connecticut mirrors nationwide statistics. Deaths numbered in the thousands, she said.

There’ve been more cyclist deaths too, Heron said, saying deaths jumped 45% in the last 10 years.

Complete Streets wants to make roadways safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists by introducing the pace care program. Volunteers fill out a form and get a sticker marking them a pace car.

Pace cars strictly observe the speed limits and all other traffic laws, attempting to slow the roads’ pace.

Heron said there’s a demand for improve road safety.

“People want this, they want to be safe and for people to slow down,” Heron said.

Heron also cited a AAA survey which exposes a disparity between people’s thoughts on safety rules and their obeying said rules.

She said while 94% said it’s wrong to run a red light, 36% said they’d done it in the last month. She said 90% said it’s wrong to drive more than 10 above the speed limit, yet almost half said they’d done so.

Complete Streets member Hall said speeding is a “big concern” for people in Portland.

“More speeding means deaths are more likely,” Hall said. “This is about improving our conscientiousness about how fast we drive.”

Hall himself was a speeder, he said. He said it took a while, but eventually he got used to slowing down and driving the speed limit. He also said a local person complained vehemently about the speeding on their road. The police responded and stepped up enforcement. The first person they pulled over was the same one that brought the issue to their attention.

Hall said he described this scenario to show that “we all do it.”

“We’ll be, in a sense, putting the brakes on speeding, setting a good example,” Hall said.

He said pace cars are not “enforcement,” but, “an example.”

Pace car volunteers sign a pledge committing themselves to roadway safety, to obeying all traffic laws. Volunteers must obey speed limits and shared the road with cyclists and pedestrians.

Hall said pedestrians should be educated too. He said pedestrians can get distracted.

“The real goal is to get people thinking about their driving,” he said. “That’s really all we want to do.”

Hall said the police department will have pace

car stickers available. Forms are also available through the department and on the town’s website.

Northampton, Mass. uses a pace car program, according to the city’s website, calling it an “inexpensive” and “simple, yet ingenious” citizen-based way to calm traffic. The city likened pace cars to “rolling speed bumps,” and said the program began in Boise, Idaho.

Greenwich uses pace cars, according to the city’s respective websites.

First Selectman Ryan Curley was enthusiastic about the idea, and said he’ll be taking the pace car pledge.

“We have to make sure our streets are safe,” said Curley.

Last year, the town won honorable mention in the 2021 National Roadway Safety Awards, a biennial award from the U.S Department of Transportation recognizing roadway safety achievements.

Complete Streets, along with the public works department, were cited as reasons for the award.

According to a DOT release, Portland was dealing with excessive speeding, broken sidewalks and few outdoor walking trails. The release said speeding, though still an issue, has reduced since the town began its effort to combat it.

## Portland Library News & Notes

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

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-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.

**Save the Date!** On Saturday, June 11, at 11 a.m., Portland Library’s 125+2 Anniversary Celebration will take place. There will be outdoor and indoor activities for all ages. Watch for more information coming soon.

**Youth Programs: Nutmeg Voting:** Stop into the library to vote on the 2022 Nutmeg Nominees or submit your favorite title in your age group to [portlandlibrary@portlandct.org](mailto:portlandlibrary@portlandct.org). Winners will be announced on May 15, and next year’s nominees will be announced on May 1.

**May Storytimes:** Registration is now underway, and space is limited. A craft will be offered for those in the preschool program. Masks are recommended, but not required. **Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., May 3, 10, 17, 24. **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., May 4, 11, 18, 25

**Lego Club:** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., through May 26, for kids of all ages. In this drop-in program, complete the weekly “Master Builder” challenge or enjoy free building time. No registration required.

**Family Craft Night: Summer Welcome Signs:** Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. Greet your guests with a summer-themed custom welcome sign. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Registration is required and space is limited.

**Teen Advisory Guild:** Monday, May 9, 3:30 p.m. Each month, teens will brainstorm ideas for new programs, talk about books they love, have some snacks, and more. Teens will earn community service hours for each meeting you

attend. Registration is required. This meeting will be in the large meeting room in the library.

**Summer Reading Volunteer Training:** Thursday, June 2, 3:30 p.m. Kids and teens entering grades 7-up are welcome to apply for the library’s Summer Reading Volunteer program. Interested applicants should visit the library or the Teen section of the library website to pick up an application. Volunteers are needed for program preparation and assistance, logging reading minutes and awarding prizes, and staffing the summer reading desk. Volunteers will be expected to attend a mandatory training session on Thursday, June 2 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call the library.

**Adult Programs: The Dogs of Chernobyl: A Story of Hope & Resilience:** Tuesday, May 17, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Feline behaviorist Stephen Quandt recently went to Chernobyl to participate in a spay/neuter and research campaign for the dogs that were descended from the pets left behind after the nuclear plant disaster of 1986. With many personally shot photos and videos, he will tell the story of meeting the inhabitants of the mostly abandoned town of Chernobyl City (you will meet two squatters, one a hero of the disaster), the totally abandoned city of Pripjat and the dogs (and some cats) that he encountered. Quandt created this webinar based on his experiences in the Exclusion Zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Registration required. A link will be sent to you a few days before the event.

**Book Clubs at the Library:** Tuesday, May 3, 1 p.m. *The Barbizon: The Hotel That Set Women Free* by Paulina Bren will be discussed. Thursday, May 5, 6:30 p.m. *Lost Children Archive* by Valeria Luiselli will be discussed. Mystery Book Lovers’ Club: Tuesday, May 17, 1 p.m. *The Cabinets of Barnaby Mayne* by Elsa Hart will be discussed.

**Portland Forum:** Thursday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. In honor of AAPI Heritage Month, *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong 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.

## Plant Sale

The garden clubs of Portland will sponsor their annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 14, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., in the parking lot next to The Buck-Foreman Community Center in Portland. There is a rain date of Sunday, May 15.

A large variety of perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, and ground covers from members’ gardens will be available for sale, and free gardening advice will be offered. There will be some gently-used garden treasures for sale as well.

The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River-Valley Garden Club work to support the beautification of the Portland community as well as promote the conservation of the environment.

## Program on Safari, Botanical Gardens

On Wednesday, May 4, the Portland Garden Club will present a slide show program on the Zulu Nyala Safari Game Reserve and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in South Africa. The program will take place at 1 p.m. at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., in the Mary Flood Room.

Garden club member Pam Nordstrom and her husband Lee will talk about their safari trip to South Africa. They will share slides and discuss Zulu arts and crafts, their up-close experiences with wildlife, and the 90-acre Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

The program is open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Portland Garden Club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and

National Garden Clubs. For more information about the club and its activities, call Sue at 860-685-0593.

## Honor Roll

Charles Oliver of Portland earned 10th grade Honors for the third quarter of the 2021-22 school year at the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation in New Britain.

## Vocal Chords Spring Concert

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) group will present its 32nd annual Spring Concert on Saturday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St. Samuel Tucker will make his debut as the new musical director.

Some selections included in this show will be “The Impossible Dream,” “Chicago in Concert,” “Down by the Riverside” and “Phantom of the Opera.”

Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained by calling 203-537-1498/860-342-3120, or 860-205-2067/860.347.2787. For more information, visit [www.vocalchords20.org](http://www.vocalchords20.org) or ‘like’ the Vocal Chords on Facebook.

## 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. Saturday, April 30. No textbooks, computers or printers, clothing or unwieldy items are accepted. Vintage and antique items are always welcome.

For more information about donating items for the tag sale, call 860-982-1486 or email [PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com).





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## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Adult Programs: Tai Chi for Long Life:** Saturdays through June 4, 10:30-11:15 a.m., or Wednesdays through June 8, 9:30-10:15 a.m., at Buck-Foreman Community Center (BFCC). Fee is \$7 per week to drop in.

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

**Adult Drop-In Basketball:** 30+ Men's Drop-In Basketball takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays at Portland Middle School. Women's Drop-In Basketball takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays, also at PMS. Masks must be worn indoors by all individuals at all times, regardless of vaccination status. All participants will fill out a drop-in waiver before participating.

**Zumba:** Wednesdays through June 8, 6-7 p.m., at Portland Riverfront Park. Fee: \$10 per week to drop in.

**Community Garden:** All are welcome to grow their favorite vegetable, flower or herb. The garden is located in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road. Gardeners can purchase a 10x10 plot for the summer for a fee of \$30.

**Ladies Spring Golf Clinic 2022:** With PGA golf professional Gerry D'Amora from Portland West. Thursdays, May 19-June 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Portland West. Fee: \$140/residents, \$150/non-residents.

**Youth Programs: Kids Blast:** Parks and

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

**Art Enrichment Programs with Abrakadoodle: Painting Step by Step Too:** For ages 5-14. Wednesdays, May 11-June 1, 4:15-5:15 p.m., at BFCC. Fee: \$55/residents, \$65/non-residents. **One Sweet World:** For ages 2-5. Thursdays, May 1-June 2, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at BFCC. Fee: \$55/residents, \$65/non-residents.

**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.

**Second Chance Babysitting Course:** June 8 and 9, 5-8 p.m., at Buck-Foreman Community Center. Those who complete the course will be CPR-, First Aid- and AED-certified by the American Heart Association for two years. Fee: \$80/resident, \$90/non-resident.

**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.

**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.

**Slamma-Jamma Basketball:** Parks and Rec. is offering two sessions of Slamma-Jamma Basketball this summer, for children in grades 3-8. All participants will receive a free ball and a free shirt. The first session takes place July 18-22, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and the second is Aug. 8-12, also from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. These camps will be led by PHS head boys basketball coach David Bradbury and members of the boys and girls high school basketball teams.

## Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli

The Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year, and will take place Saturday, April 30, from 3-7 p.m., at Valli Construction, 22 Sand Hill Rd. (Rain date: May 7). The show is in memory of local veteran Kenny Fletcher who passed away from cancer on April 19, 2011.

Show car entry fee is \$10 at the gate. Admission for spectators is free; although, donations are appreciated. There will be trophies for first, second and third place, and dash plaques given to the first 200 cars. There will be music, and

food, water and soda will be available for purchase. No dogs, please.

Proceeds from the car show go to the Portland Food Bank, Portland Zion Lutheran Church, Middlesex Hospital Hospice, Portland High School Class of 2022 Project Graduation, Middlesex Cancer Center, and Portland VFW Post 6121.

For more information, call Michael Bellobono at 860-707-4231 or Michael Brown at 860-982-3227, or look for the event on Facebook at Kenny Fletcher Memorial Cruise Night.

## Memorial Day Parade Coming

Organizations are invited to participate in the Portland Memorial Day Parade, which will be hosted by American Legion Ormont Post No. 69 on Sunday, May 29, rain or shine.

The parade will assemble at Victoria Road promptly at 1:30 p.m. Floats should assemble at 12:30 p.m. Step-off will be at 2 PM.

The procession will stop for a brief ceremony at the Civil War monument on Bartlett Street; it will continue down Main Street as usual. A reviewing stand will be stationed at Brownstone Intermediate School. The parade will then turn left on Waverley Avenue, left onto East Main Street, and right onto Fairview Street, ending at Veterans Memorial Park.

The parade will also have a float competition. The theme for this year's float competition is: "Dear Veteran, Thank you for protecting my freedom." There are many symbols that represent Memorial Day, and float-designers are asked to use one of these symbols "to teach and remind us of the true meaning of Memorial Day."

Details about no parking and road closures for the day will be announced in the weeks ahead.

Memorial ceremonies will take place at the Town Green immediately after the parade. All participants are requested to observe the ceremony. As in the past, all participants will be served refreshments at the American Legion Hall after the benediction.

Organizations that wish to participate must submit their reservation slips no later than Friday, May 11.

For more information, contact Sara Sterry Rutter, parade organizer, at 860-250-2041 or [sserryrutter@yahoo.com](mailto:sserryrutter@yahoo.com), or at 32 East Main St., Portland, CT 064080.

## Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

The Portland Soccer Club is taking applications for the Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship.

The PSC Board of Directors awards one \$500 scholarship annually to a high school senior who is bound for college or a post-high school institution bound. Applicants must be Portland residents 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](http://www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub) under the Community Link drop-down. All scholarship applications must be received no later than May 1.

## Trinity Church at Town-Wide Tag Sale

This year's Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 7, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – and Trinity Episcopal Church has space available.

Reserve a 20'x20' space on the lawn of the church, 345 Main St. Reservation fee is \$25, and you must bring your own table/set-up. Set-up begins at 7:30 a.m.

Space is limited; to reserve a spot, call the church office at 860-342-0458 or email [trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com](mailto:trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com).



**Cub Scouts Receive Highest Rank... Cub Scout Pack 2 of Portland held its Blue and Gold Ceremony on April 19 at The Kelley's Mulligan Farm to honor seven Cub Scouts for earning the Arrow of Light. This year's recipients are: Chase Allen, son of Jeff and Carrie Allen; Sebby Barone, son of Joe and Jennifer Barone; Nathan Clark, son of Chris and Amanda Clark; William Hunter, son of Jim and Katherine Hunter; Declan Kelley, son of JT and Melissa Kelley; Cooper Vardon, son of Chris and Debbie Vardon; and Aiden Walsh, son of Brian and Karen Walsh. First Selectman, and Troop 2 Eagle Scout, Ryan Curley, spoke to the scouts about citizenship and commitment to their community. Pack 2 recognized the contributions of retiring den leader, Melissa Kelley, who volunteered as a den leader from the Lion through Arrow of Light ranks for these scouts. Pack 2 also recognized retiring Committee Chair Jeff Allen who facilitated Pack activities. The Portland Little Free Pantry was created as a service project by this den under the leadership of Melissa Kelley and Jeff Allen. Pictured from left are Den Leader Melissa Kelley, Barone, Hunter, Kelley, Allen, Clark, Walsh, and Committee Chair Jeff Allen.**

## Who's Running in Portland?

By John Hall

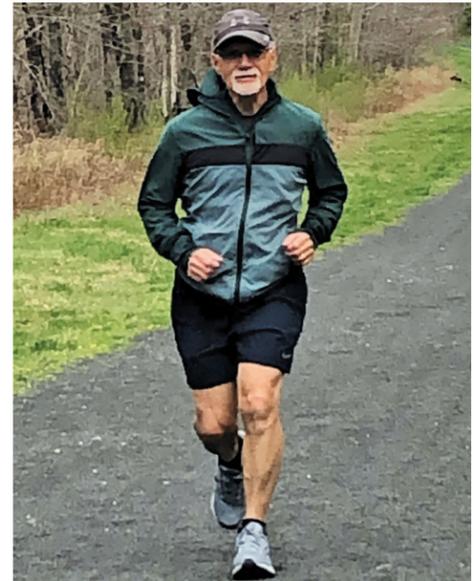
Since 1980, Bob Sequenzia has been running and walking on the Air Line Trail, even when it was an overgrown dirt path prior to its reconstruction for public use in 2016.

He runs year-round, but when there is deep snow on the ground he runs a loop on local roads — Job's Pond, Middle Haddam, Penfield Hill, and Pepperidge. He enjoys the feeling of accomplishment from finishing a run. He starts out with his wife Barbara, also an avid exerciser, before they diverge onto their different routes. Since the pandemic began, Bob has ramped up his routine to six days a week, covering 30-35 miles per week on average.

Over the years, he's spotted a wide variety of birds — such as a bald eagle on top of the cell tower — deer, coyote, fox, bobcat, turtles, and snakes. But he reports that since the Air Line Trail became less wild and more heavily used by humans for recreation, wildlife sightings are less frequent.

Asked what motivates him to keep running, Bob said, "I started running to stay in shape and drop a few pounds. But over time I noticed that it helps me with my cholesterol. It raises my HDL level — the good cholesterol. And after a run my blood pressure is lower."

What advice does Bob have for someone starting an exercise routine? "Start slowly and gradually increase the distance (10% each month) to avoid sprains, muscle tears, shin



**Bob Sequenzia**

splits, and foot problems. I find that keeping a log — including the date, distance, and what I saw, etc. — is an added motivator. Having an exercise partner helps too."

*Note: John Hall is the Executive Director of the Jonah Center for Earth and Art and a member of Portland's Complete Streets Group.*

## Town-Wide Tag Sale Ready to Go

Registration is closed for the Portland Historical Society's 26th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale Day, taking place next Saturday, May 7. The day will feature more than 100 sales around town and out on the country roads.

The official free tag sale map will be available Wednesday, May 4, on the front porch of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main St., and online at the society's website, [www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org). Volunteers will be at the Callander House on Saturday, May 7, to help people find items at the society's own tag sale.

For more information about the society's 26th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale, call 860-982-1486 or email [PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com).

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the East Hampton WPCA, 20 Gildersleeve Drive.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG, region which includes East Hampton and Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed.

Visit [rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste](http://rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste) to learn more.

## National Day of Prayer

St. Mary Church, along with Knights of Columbus Council 7, will once again host the National Day of Prayer ecumenical service Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m., at the church, 45 Freestone Ave.

Along with prayer and song from the choir of St. Mary, there will be a guest speaker, Beth Gouldruitto. She has headed up the Portland Congregational Church Refugee Resettlement Program, which has recently successfully resettled an Afghan family in Middletown.

On the night of the service, a goodwill collection will be held in support of the Portland Congregational Church Refugee Resettlement Program. At the conclusion of the service, refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall.

## Youth Vaping Program

On 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.

To learn more about the "This is Us, Portland" Prevention Council and how to help, contact Meg Scata at [mscata@portlandct.org](mailto:mscata@portlandct.org) or 860-342-6758.

Portland • Portland



**Easter Egg Fun...** There was intergenerational fun at the Easter Egg Hunt at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Centre with Youth & Family Services and Chatham Children's Connection.

### Poetry Contest to Honor Late Resident

The Buttonwood Tree of Middletown is accepting submissions for its poetry contest, "Set Your Conscious Free" which is being held in honor of Buttonwood Tree founder the late Susan Allison, as well as the late Barbara Payne, a longtime Portland resident.

Payne is being honored as the mother of Naji Chester Payne, Portland's current poet laureate, who inspired and is co-sponsoring this contest. Barbara Payne was raised in a foster home and endured many challenges throughout her lifetime. She lived in the Chatham Court apartments from its establishment 34 years ago; she was known in the community as the "mother" of the neighborhood and highly regarded by the Portland Housing Authority. She served on the Housing Authority Committee, Community Action, and Parks and Recreation. Because of her commitment to the community, the Payne Chester Community Center was named after Payne and her late husband.

Naji Chester Payne was inspired by the poetry of Amanda Gordon and said he hopes that people who have never written poetry before will be encouraged to express themselves through poetry as he himself has done.

This contest is being sponsored by The Susan D.E. Allison Fund, Naji Chester Payne, Victoria Muñoz and The Buttonwood Tree.

The winner of the contest will receive \$100. Second place is \$50, and third place is \$25. There will also be honorable mentions.

The contest is open to anyone ages 16 and over, and there is no fee to enter. Entries can be submitted until 11:59 p.m. June 30; limit is one poem per person. Original works only (no plagiarism). Do not write your name on the poem; only put it on entry form. Submissions must be in English only, and must contain no offensive, vulgar or inappropriate language. No published poets, please.

Applications can be taken online or by mail and must include a completed entry form. Incomplete forms may be disqualified. Mail to The Buttonwood Tree, P.O. Box 71, Middletown, CT 06457.

Poems will be judged on: clarity of meaning, accessibility; creative imagery and words; and uniform structure (pick a style and stick with it). Poems should also pique the emotion of the reader, and teach something.

Length is 25 words to 250 words (poem title not included).

Go to [buttonwood.org/poetry-contest](http://buttonwood.org/poetry-contest) to submit your poems. Visit [buttonwood.org](http://buttonwood.org) for more information, Instagram: @NPOETRY7, or call 860-347-4957 or email [TheButtonwoodTree@gmail.com](mailto:TheButtonwoodTree@gmail.com).

### Board Game Afternoon

Portland Youth & Family Services will hold a Board Game Afternoon for middle-schoolers Wednesday, May 18, from 2:30-5 p.m., at the Portland Middle School library.

### Methodist Church News

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

### Walk, Bike & Roll

Four Portland schools will join thousands of others across the country on Wednesday, May 4 (rain date: Thursday, May 5), to celebrate national Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day.

This spring event is held annually during National Bike Month and complements Portland's Walk, Bike & Roll to school event in October.

The Complete Streets Group (CSG) of Portland, is coordinating the morning event with support from schools, PTOs, and Portland Police. There will be three parking lot drop-off points for students: Town Hall for middle and high school kids; St. Mary Parish, east parking lot, for Brownstone students; and Fire Engine No. 2, at Bell Court, for Gildersleeve fourth-graders.

Permission slips and more detailed information about starting times, etc., will be available at the four schools starting the week of April 18. Parents can look for sign-up sheets in their child's school newsletter and/or contact their school's main office for more information.



**Psychology Scholar...** Sydney Lord of Portland, a student in the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) School of Psychology, is a member of the 2022-23 class for its Psychology Scholars Program, a select group of high-achieving psychology majors who are offered specialized training in interpersonal communication skills, peer mentoring, and applying to graduate programs from the school's faculty.



**Golden Egg Winners...** Portland Parks and Recreation and Portland Youth & Family Services held their Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 9, at the Portland Recreational Complex. The event offered kids chances to win Golden Eggs. Cora Wornoff, age 8, is pictured top right, along with the other three lucky winners and their prize baskets. Carl Guild Associates supported the event and provided hot chocolate, coffee and giveaways to all of the guests who came to see the Easter Bunny.

### St. Mary Art Raffle

St. Mary Church is raffling off five Giclées created by artist Patrick Antonelle. A Giclée is a technology for fine art reproduction using a high-quality inkjet printer to make individual copies on canvas. Three of the five artworks are available for viewing in the foyer of the church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., at weekend Masses.

*Manhattan Arts* magazine calls Antonelle "the foremost impressionist painter of our century." His goal with each canvas is to combine nature with the ingenuity of man, specifically as embodied in architecture, thereby creating a peaceful, workable harmony to reflect upon and absorb. The reproductions are issued as limited editions, providing an investment aspect as well.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to update the parish communication system and to install automated doors for improved handicapped accessibility to St. Mary Church. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased after Masses on weekends starting April 30, or at the Parish Office, which is open Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The drawing will be held the evening of Saturday, May 21, and the winner will be notified by phone.



For more details, call the Parish Office at 860-342-2328.

St. Mary Church is raffling off five Giclées created by artist Patrick Antonelle.

### 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.

Masks are required for unvaccinated individuals, and optional for those that are vaccinated.

**Stations of the Cross:** Through the Easter season, Trinity Church will have the Stations of the Cross set up in the church lawn for the public to walk and reflect. Listen to pre-recorded readings at each station. Find the link under "Easter" on the Trinity website, [www.trinity-churchportlandct.org](http://www.trinity-churchportlandct.org).

**Concert Series Kicks Off:** The 2022 Trinity Brownstone Concert Series will kick off with the group The Sharades performing '50s, '60s and '70s music on Saturday, May 14, at 7 p.m. The five-member band has performed for more

than 30 years at many events, alongside famous groups like the Del Vikings, The Capris and more. Proceeds are going to support a relief effort for Ukraine. Advanced tickets are \$10 and \$15 at the door. For tickets, call 860-342-0458 or email [trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com](mailto:trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com).

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 [trinity-churchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinity-churchportlandct@gmail.com) or call 860-342-0458.

### 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.



Hebron • Hebron

# Referendum Next Week on \$37M Budget

By Sloan Brewster

Hebron's proposed \$37.03 million 2022-23 budget – a \$612,441 or 1.68% increase over the current year's \$36.40 million spending plan – is going to referendum next week.

Residents will get their chance to vote on the proposed budget Tuesday.

"I hope people come out to vote," Town Manager Andrew Tierney said.

The spending plan, which the Board of Finance finalized last week after a public hearing, would bring the mill rate to 31.70, a reduction over the current year's rate of 36.56.

Tierney said the revaluation that took place in the fall had left a number of residents with tax bill hikes in excess of \$1,000. As the mill rate goes down, those numbers are also going down, he said.

The revaluation wasn't consistent and some people saw reductions, including business owners and folks with larger more expensive properties, Tierney said. Folks with smaller houses saw a bigger spike.

"It's not even across the board so you have to be creative with coming up with ways to lower taxes," he said.

The finance board did just that, deliberating and revising the numbers earlier this month.

The board cut \$250,000 from the education board's \$12.46 million request, bringing the spending plan to \$12.21 million.

Finance board chair Diane DelRosso said the \$12.46 million the school board originally asked for represented a \$900,000 increase over the past two years.

That cut drew ire from residents and Board of Education members, who spoke at the public hearing. There have also been signs posted around town saying to "Vote No," and "Send a Message."

Board of Education Chair Heather Petit pointed out that an influx of families with school-aged children coming to town was proof that education was a draw.

Petit said the district needs two new teachers, without which class size will go above limits.

"Specifically, some Board of Finance members spoke to new kindergarten and first grade teachers that they are not needed since the Board of Education was still remain within its class size limits," Petit said. "To be abundantly clear, the board absolutely needs an additional fifth grade teacher and if an enrollment trends as it has been an additional kindergarten teacher."

Board of Selectmen member Tiffany Thiele joined the chorus, stating that the cut "does not meet the moment that our schools are in," and also pointed to increased enrollment as proof.

Petit on Wednesday said she was disappointed that the finance board chose to reduce the education budget and reiterated that the cut would hit kindergarten, and fifth grade teaching positions.

"In addition, the superintendent and the board previously told the town and the Board of Finance respectively, that we are now aware of an increased cost in special education to service children that we were not aware of when we put the budget forward in February," Petit added. "The budget was still reduced and this is extremely disheartening."

Education Board member Alex Crawford, in a letter to the finance board, said making the cut was not the only concern, but that "the extremely unprofessional and honestly embarrassing nature in which you did so" was also a problem.

Crawford, in the letter, said enrollment projections continue to grow. He said Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird had requested funds for two new fulltime teachers to ease strain and support the expansion of mental health programs.

"And how do you reward them? You don't. You didn't listen. You weren't prepared," Crawford wrote. "You cite erroneous/inaccurate data based on personal opinion. And worse off, you berate our educational administration and therein our very own educators – the true experts on

the matter at hand. It was sickening to watch."

The finance board made the cut at a meeting not attended by Board of Education members.

DelRosso said this week she feels the budget represents a responsible bottom line, and asked residents to vote 'yes' at next Tuesday's referendum.

Tierney, in calls this week, said the finance board voted unanimously to pass the spending plan onto residents to give them the chance to make a decision.

"I think the Board of Finance thought they were doing their fiduciary responsibility in trying to keep the taxes down during a reval year," he said. "I don't think they're against education. They're trying to make it affordable for everybody. ... They're definitely not against education."

The Board of Finance also knocked \$76,000 from the town budget, bringing that to \$10.55 million, a \$181,269 of 1.75% increase over the current year.

While the board can't legally decide where to make the cuts on the town government side of the budget, some members suggested \$38,000 should be cut from the open space contribution, bringing it from \$150,000 to \$112,000, a

compromise between members who wanted the numbers as they were and those who wanted the slash even deeper.

Speakers at the public hearing took issue with reductions from education and open space.

James Cordier, Open Space Land Acquisition Committee member, said the committee was monitoring a piece of land for possible purchase.

He said the finance board should be "mindful" the people came to Hebron for its "fields, forest, farmland, streams, parks, open spaces, and rural community qualities," which, he said, was evidenced by a town wide survey.

"You should be mindful of the narrow to completely unanimous votes in favor of land acquisition purchases at town meetings, just about every year over the past 20 some odd years," Cordier said.

"Get a read on your people."

Board of Selectmen chair Daniel Larson said he understood the cuts and that the finance board "has done a fantastic job to try and create that level playing field."

The budget referendum will take place Tuesday, May 3, at Hebron Elementary School from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Mother's Day Meal:** Thursday, May 5, noon. The meal will consist of: grape juice, broccoli & cheese stuffed chicken, au gratin potatoes, broccoli florets, tres leche cake, wheat dinner roll, butter, milk, coffee. Cost is \$3 and pre-registration is required. Deadline to sign-up is Tuesday, May 3.

**Grown ConNECTed Presentation:** Tuesday, May 17, 11 a.m. Grown ConNECTed, based out of the Sustainable Food Programs at UConn CAHNR Extension, works with farmers throughout the region to help support consumers and farmers. All are invited to come learn

more about local farms, the products they sell, and local farmers markets. If you'd like, sign up and stay for lunch (cost is \$3 for lunch). To sign up for the presentation or lunch, call the center.

**Renters Rebate:** State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut 65+ and totally disabled renters. The filing period for this program runs through 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.

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

## 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut) and on YouTube; go to [tinyurl.com/yby64wph](http://tinyurl.com/yby64wph) to access.

**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 May 8.

**Life Group Hebron:** Meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Caseys' home, for worship, prayer, Bible

study and fellowship. Next meeting: May 9.

**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: May 11.

**TWC Networking Night:** Friday, April 29, 7 p.m. Meet members that are local entrepreneurs and business owners.

**1st Wednesday Prayer:** All are invited to bring their prayer requests the first Wednesday of every month. The next gathering will be May 4 at 10 a.m.

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

## 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 are optional. People can also watch worship live at [www.facebook.com/clchebron/live](http://www.facebook.com/clchebron/live).

**Sunday Coffee Hour:** 10:15 a.m., after the morning service.

**Caring Shepherds:** Has bi-monthly open panty hours at Christ Lutheran. Watch for the next date announced sometime in June, where they pass out household and hygiene items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles, and prayers. For more information, call Caring Shepherds Ministry at 860-494-0431.

**Early Childhood Center:** Open to all faiths, the center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school educational opportunities, as well as a Summer Camp experience, in a Christian environment. Laura Kraft is director. For more information, and for availability, call 860-228-5134.

## East Catholic Honor Roll

The following local students made the honor roll at East Catholic High School in Manchester for the third marking period of the 2021-22 school year:

### Honors with Distinction

**Hebron:** Owen Bergquist, Mawos Rumley and Trent Sargent, Class of 2022.

**Amston:** Jackson Woods, Class of 2024.

### First Honors

**Hebron:** Nathan Grzybowski, Class of 2022.

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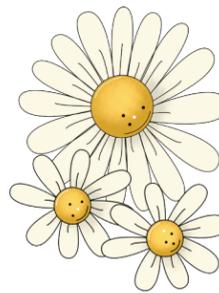
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### From the Town Manager's Desk... 2022-23 Budget Referendum

Hello Hebron Residents:  
The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance are pleased to present the budget for FY 2022-23 to a referendum on Tuesday, May 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., Hebron. This budget reflects the Town's needs and maintains a high level of Town provided services and educational excellence, while protecting the health and safety of Hebron residents, students and staff.  
I urge residents to get out and support this year's budget. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely yours,  
**Andrew J. Tierney**  
Hebron Town Manager

### 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

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](http://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 Gil-ead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Completed applications must be received by May 4 for consideration.

### Douglas Library News & Notes

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

**Friday Films:** Fridays at 1 p.m. The schedule is: April 29, *Nightmare Alley* (rated R); May 6, *Death on the Nile* (PG-13); May 13, *Dog* (PG-13); May 20, *Licorice Pizza* (R); May 27, *A Day to Die* (R). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided. The movies are shown on the library's 80-inch 4K TV with surround sound speakers.

**Chess Night:** The first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Next date is May 5.

**Equity Bootcamp:** Tuesday, May 17, 6:30

p.m., in the community room or via Zoom. This month, discuss equity, power structures and color blindness.

**Teen/Adult Take & Make:** Pick up a kit to make your own beginner-level macramé plant hanger kit from the Adult Circulation Desk while supplies last.

**Teen Advisory Group:** Meets Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. The schedule is: May 3, Flower Pot Decorating; May 10, TAG meeting; May 17, Teen Trivia; May 24, TAG meeting; May 31, *Super Smash Bros.* Tournament. Registration is not needed for any of these events.

**Children's Department:** Storytime is 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.

**Remembering G Fox & Co.:** Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m., in the community room. The Connecticut Historical Society will go floor by floor and recall various departments.

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RES-29-20

### Hebron Community Chorus

The Town Center Project (TTCP) invites all to join members of the new Hebron Community Chorus Saturday, April 30, at 7 p.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., for an evening of song celebrating Love at Home. The musical ensemble will celebrate community, friendship and the ties that bring people together.

Suggested donation is \$20, with 100% of the proceeds going to sustaining the future of the community chorus for years to come. Gilead Congregational Church Minister of Music Andrey Stoliarov will lead the chorus.



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GIT-17-22

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### Benefit Assessment Payment Reminder

Homeowners in the sewer district that the last day to pay their Benefit Assessment Bill, without interest, is Monday, May 2. Late bills will be charged interest at 1.5% a month, reverting to the due date of April 1.

The tax office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday from 8:30 a.m.-noon. There is also a Black Lock Box to the left of the main door where you can leave non-cash payments.

For more information, contact Barbara Murray at 860-295-6205 or email [taxcollector@Marlboroughct.net](mailto:taxcollector@Marlboroughct.net). Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the assessment fee or interest. Make checks payable to MWPCA.

### Mini-MAC Art Classes

Registrations are being taken for Mini-MAC art classes at the Marlborough Arts Center. Sessions will be held Friday, May 6-June 13, from 10-11 a.m. each week. Instructor in Holly Marrero.

The classes are designed for 3- and 4-year-old students (with an accompanying adult) and focus on developing fine motor skills, exploring a variety of art media, building primary art vocabulary, and cultivating curiosity about art. Children will be encouraged to interact with the instructor and classmates while creating art based on storybooks and paintings by famous artists.

Price is \$20 per class. To sign up, call the arts center at 860-467-6353.

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## FileShred

# Community Shredding Event

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### Richmond Library News & Notes

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

**Building and Curbside-Pickup Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Bags and Bling Sale:** Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the library, held by the Friends of the Richmond Memorial Library. Costume jewelry, coin purses, and a variety of handbags will be available for

purchase. All proceeds directly benefit the library and be used to purchase new Nature Explorer Backpacks for children.

**Passport to Connecticut Libraries:** Stop by any participating library through April 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.

**StoryWalk:** The latest StoryWalk is *The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art* by Barb Rosenstock, which follows the life of Russian-born artist Vasya Kandinsky.

### 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, 4-4:45 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.stjfisher.org](http://www.stjfisher.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).

### Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday in-person worship services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St., are at 10 a.m. All are welcome; masks are optional. The service is also livestreamed each week at [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.org), and is recorded to watch later. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided every Sunday, downstairs in the nursery, during worship; 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 May 1** 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 the Rev. Bob Faulhaber.

**Mission-giving** for the second quarter will

go to the AHM Mental Health Fund.

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

The **Spring Tag Sale** will be held at the church Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m.-noon.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop** offers for sale 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-3 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. Unique and higher-quality items are sold year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

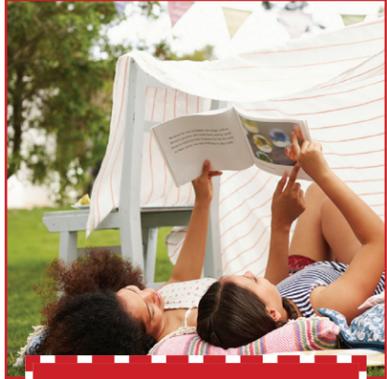
**General Info:** Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information about the church or its programs, call pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber's direct line at 860-295-0432.

### Spring Check List:

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- Open the pool
- Sign up for:



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CT14-14-22

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Longtime local dentist Dr. Dennis C. Hodgdon has retired after having a practice in Marlborough for nearly 50 years.

### Longtime Dentist Calls It a Day

The year was 1975. The Vietnam War was ending, *Jaws* was released in theaters, the VHS tape was introduced, Jimmy Hoffa had just disappeared, gas was 44 cents a gallon – and Dr. Dennis C. Hodgdon opened his dental practice in Marlborough.

Hodgdon has been practicing in Marlborough for 47 years until his retirement this month. Born and raised in New Hampshire, Hodgdon was an all-American basketball player at Rochester High School. One of his first exposures to a possible career in dentistry was his seventh-grade science fair presentation about teeth.

Hodgdon attended the University of New Hampshire where he played basketball and earned a degree in zoology. Upon graduation, he applied to dental school at Fairleigh Dickinson in New Jersey. The Vietnam War and draft were underway, and Hodgdon joined the Navy the year he entered dental school. He attended officer training school in Newport, R.I., after his second year of dental school. Upon graduation, he married his beautiful wife Perry and served the Navy as a dentist for two years in Long Beach, Calif. He returned to New Hampshire

### Student Art Show

The Marlborough Elementary School Student Art Show is back in person this year, and will take place Tuesday, May 17, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the school's community room. This evening of creativity will showcase artwork from children in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. All students will have at least one piece of art displayed in the show.

All current MES students are also invited to submit an additional piece of work created outside of school. Complete the Art Show entry form (sent home with students before April vacation) and return it to school by Monday, May 2, to enter a piece of independent work displayed. (Actual artwork will be collected at a later date.)

For more information, email [knd9@comcast.net](mailto:knd9@comcast.net).

### Republicans Spring Plant Sale

The Marlborough Republicans are selling geraniums, deck pot plants and hanging plants just in time for Mother's Day and Memorial Day. The plants will be ready for pickup 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 different varieties. The hanging planters will be sold for \$25 each and deck pot plants are priced at only \$30.

Ordering information can be found at [www.MarlGOP.com](http://www.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.

and began looking for a place to settle down in New England. He happened upon Marlborough and has been practicing here ever since.

Hodgdon said he has truly enjoyed the life he and his family have built for themselves in Marlborough. He and his wife have a daughter Hilary. He has had the opportunity to serve as a deacon in the Congregational Church. When asked what his next chapter of life may focus on, he quickly responded by talking about his grandson in Massachusetts, home repair projects, and opportunities to serve his community in ways other than as a dentist.

Given his retirement, Hodgdon is recommending his patients seek treatment with Dr. Kullen Gallagher at Marlborough Family Dental. Hodgdon said he would like the community and his patients to know how grateful he is to have had the opportunity to serve them.

### 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.

### Fife and Drum Corps Seeking Members

The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corps is now recruiting children between the ages of 8 and 17 to join the ranks. The Corps has been a source of music, marching, and living history for children/teens in Marlborough and surrounding towns since 1964.

Members learn to march and play the fife, snare drum or bass drum from our very capable instructors, free of charge. Members have opportunities to travel throughout New England while the Corps performs at parades, musters and other events. This year's performance schedule includes performances at Minuteman National Park in Massachusetts, Fort McClary in Kittery, Maine, and Fort Griswold in Groton.

The Marlborough Jr. Ancients meet every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. for lessons and marching practice.

For more information, visit Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps on Facebook or visit [www.MarlboroughJrAncients.com](http://www.MarlboroughJrAncients.com).

### Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Gracie Lee!

LOVE Mom, Dad, Taylor & Jayna

### Deadlines for Referendum, Special Election

On Tuesday, May 3, Marlborough voters will vote on the proposed 2022-23 town and RHAM budgets, as well as electing two new selectmen to add to the existing three-member Board of Selectmen based on the revised 2021 Town Charter.

Voter registration deadlines for the May 3 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](http://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 a special voter registration session 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](mailto:dem-registrar@marlboroughct.net) or [rep-registrar@marlboroughct.net](mailto:rep-registrar@marlboroughct.net).

### Parks and Rec Programs

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

**Youth Programs: 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.

**Tennis Lessons:** Tuesdays, May 10-31, at Blish Park tennis court. Ages 5-7 are 3:45- 4:30 p.m., and ages 8-12 are 4:30-5:30 p.m. Fee for ages 5-7 is \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident; fee for ages 8-12 is \$85/resident, \$90/non-resident.

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

**Adult Programs: Barre/Pilates:** Mondays, May 2-16, 5-5:45 p.m., or Wednesdays, May 4-25, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Class instruction is virtual or in person. Fee for the Monday class is \$45, and fee for the Wednesday class is \$60. For both

classes, drop-in fee is \$18 each session.

**Yoga:** Mondays, May 2-16, 6-7 p.m., or Tuesdays, May 3-31, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class instruction is virtual or in person. Fee for the Monday session is \$45, and for the Tuesday session is \$75. For both classes, drop-in fee is \$18 each session.

**Pickleball:** Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m., May 4-Sept. 28, at the Blish Park tennis courts. There is no registration fee for this program.

**Yogalates:** Thursdays, May 5-26, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class instruction is virtual or in person. Fee is \$60, or \$18 to drop in.

**Adult Open Sew:** For ages 18 and up. Tuesday, May 3, from 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. There is a four-student maximum. Fee is \$38/residents, \$4/non-residents.

**Adult Volleyball:** Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School gym. Fee is \$5/week, drop-in. Session runs until June 2.

**Sunset Yoga:** Tuesdays, June 7-July 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Blish Park. This class combines Hatha Yoga, with Vinyasa Flow, Mindfulness and Meditation. Fee: \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident.

### Arts Center Members' Show Opens Sunday

The Marlborough Arts Center will hold an opening reception for its Members' Art Show and the presentation of awards at its gallery on Sunday afternoon, May 1, from 2-4 p.m.

This show features the work of artist members of the Arts Center, and includes paintings, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, fiber art, and wood-turned works. Beverley Fisher, director of the art department at RHAM High School, judged for the awards.

The gallery at the Arts Center, 231 North Main St., will be open every Friday through Sunday through June 5, from 1-4 p.m. each week. Works in the show can be viewed at the website, [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org).

For more information, leave a voice message at 860-467-6353, or email [marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com).

### Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots for the May 3 special election to elect two new Marlborough selectmen are now available in the town clerk's office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St.

Absentee ballots for the town budget referendum are also available.

For more information, call Lauren or Martha at 860-295-6206.

### Cheney Tech Honor Roll

Logan Kolakowski and Nicholas Martins, both of Marlborough, made the Cheney Tech honor roll for the third quarter of the 2021-22 school year.

Kolakowski, a 10th-grader, made High Honors, and Martins, an 11th-grader, made Honors.

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# License Plate Readers Coming Soon

By Jack Lakowsky

First Selectman Greg Lowrey on Monday said a mobile license plate reader could be in town as soon as July.

The device, installed on a police cruiser, would monitor traffic for stolen and/or unregistered vehicles.

The reader, while not designed for speeding enforcement, will be used in the town's ongoing "directed enforcement campaign," Lowrey said, to combat speeding and other traffic issues, specifically on North Main Street and in the parking areas around Blish Park.

Lowrey said the surveillance device is a response to the alleged September kidnapping and assault of a local woman. Two males, one a minor, have been arrested and charged with kidnapping the senior and throwing her from her car. They're also accused of stealing and burning said car.

Whether the car the individual drove to town in was stolen or unregistered, Lowrey was unclear.

"Until then, we'd been dealing with crimes against property," said Lowrey, "then there was something against a person."

Lowrey said the reader is a "more aggressive stance" against crimes.

Lowrey said the reader will deter "wrongdoers" from entering Marlborough and will make the town "inhospitable" to such activity.

The town used American Rescue Plan money to fund the reader.

Lowrey said he understood anyone who argues license plate readers have an Orwellian feel.

"This machine is going to perform the same role a human officer is allowed to perform," said Lowrey. "It's just doing it quickly."

License plate readers, maintained by the state police and resident state troopers, alert an officer to a possibly stolen or unregistered vehicle if it's in the state's "hot list" database.

The readers are not meant to do things like detecting non-Marlborough residents using the Marlborough transfer station, the first selectman said.

According to the Town of Windsor's website, the hot list includes "vehicles having significance to law enforcement", including any reported stolen. It also includes vehicles associated with missing persons, AMBER/SILVER alerts or reasonably believed to have been used in a crime.

After a plate is flagged, an officer reruns it for the latest information on the vehicle. Any enforcement action would be taken after this step.

Now, without the readers, officers must manually run plates, Lowrey said, which is less efficient and more costly. Lowrey said of all the plates officers run, just one in every 100 gets flagged for an issue.

Readers can also help the town crack down on people who "garage" their vehicles in Marlborough, but have them registered (and so, taxed) elsewhere.

"I can understand the feeling that this is a bit Orwellian," said Lowrey. "But frankly, it's allowed, and if people come to town intending to do wrong, they aren't following the rules. We will [follow rules]."

When asked if this could potentially have a disproportionate effect on lower-income individuals, Lowrey said "driving is largely an economic act," that it's a "shared responsibility" to insure and register vehicles.

Lowrey anticipates at the start, many people

will be flagged for lapsed registration, insurance or missed taxes.

"We're going to get some outcomes," he said.

Lowrey said, with the chaos of the pandemic, many may have unwittingly fallen behind on their bills.

"The hope is this makes patrols more efficient," said Lowrey. "We'll get a lot of hits at first, then take it from there."

He didn't have a solid date, but Lowrey said the reader will likely come to town in July, around when police must be equipped with body cameras.

In nearby Glastonbury, the Town Council recently voted 5-4 to install stationary license plate readers.

According to the *Glastonbury Citizen*, the *Rivereast's* sister paper, opinions on the readers were mixed.

Earlier this month, the *Courier-Journal* of Louisville, KY wrote civil liberties groups and privacy advocates say license plate cameras unnecessarily infringe on privacy.

The *Journal* reported that security firm Flock Safety said readers reduce crime, but independent groups aren't so convinced.

Two nonprofits, using information from a town in California, said just .03% of flags by readers led to any investigation or action.

The Texas A&M Transportation Institute says bad weather can adversely affect reader effectiveness and accuracy.

They can also lead to false alarms, the *Journal* reports.

In 2018, a California man sued the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department in federal court after he was pulled over, held at gunpoint, injured by police, unlawfully searched and handcuffed because a Motorola Solutions reader reported the vehicle stolen.

*The Verge* wrote the rental car had been stolen earlier that year and was returned. The state's database failed to update after the car's recovery.

Marlborough public safety chief Jay Kehoe said enforcement against drivers that the readers flag can vary.

Minor offenses may just get warnings, Kehoe said, while more severe or perpetual offenders can get ticketed or towed.

Like Lowrey, Kehoe expects the reader will be well-used in the days after its installation.

"There's gonna be a bump at first," Kehoe said. "With the last two years, people are out of sorts, maybe not on their game."

Kehoe said since the start of the pandemic, there's been a "massive" increase in vehicle thefts.

## Spring Clean-Up

The annual cemetery spring clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

Residents are asked to remove any personal items and decorations prior to the clean-up. Any items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, items hanging from trees and pots.

Consult the town website, marlboroughct.net, for a complete listing.

## Giant Tag Sale

The annual spring tag sale at the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will be held Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m.-noon.

The Great Hall and several classrooms will be filled with household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics, small appliances, clothing, and more.

Shoppers are asked to make a donation, as everything is 'price your own.' A bake sale, sponsored by Dorcas Women's Fellowship, will be held outside. Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located down the hall from the tag sale, will be open from 9 a.m. to noon.

## Shredding Event

The town Conservation Commission will host a free Community Shredding Event Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the Town Hall parking lot, located at 26 N. Main St.

Residents who are interested in shredding their personal records to protect their identity and promote recycling are welcome to participate. There is no cost to participate, but residents will be asked to show a picture ID. (No commercial documents, please.)

Food donations for the Marlborough Food Bank are welcomed.



## Lions to Raffle Kayak

The Marlborough Lions Club is raffling 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 1. 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.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

environment, low crime and great schools. However, town government is pushing for bigger government – new buildings and more employees to fill those buildings – that is unnecessary and go against the interests of our citizens. Vote ‘no’ to send a message.

**John Collins – Amston**

### Vote ‘No’ on RHAM

To the Editor:

The RHAM vote is May 3rd. It should be much lower than it is. We’ve been paying \$1.4 million every year on a bond to pay for the school. It was just paid off. Instead of celebrating and reducing taxes they’re choosing to spend the money. Be informed. Vote no!

**Marcie Miner – Andover**

### Marlborough

To the Editor:

It doesn’t matter whether you lean left.

It doesn’t matter if you lean right.

What matters is that you stand up for Marlborough!

Please vote for Betty O’Brien and Debbie Bourbeau on May 3rd!

**Betty O’Brien -- Marlborough Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

### The Funny Thing About Ken....

To the Editor:

Reading attacks on Ken Hjulstrom from prior weeks, it’s funny that the very reason I’m drawn to this man is why that some have issues with him. Finding him very approachable, I was immediately impressed with his knowledge of our town’s history and ongoing. He is someone with pride and love for our community. Ken probably knows more than anybody about Marlborough and how it operates.

Ken won’t just back a candidate merely because they’re in the same political party or his friend. His voting history proves that. Ken is beyond knowledgeable about policies that have helped/hurt our town. He knows what Marlborough needs for a bright future, while keeping our small-town feel. He cannot be told who to vote for and won’t support someone because he is “supposed to.” This caused a few enemies, but shows strong character.

There’s a lot at stake, with the five selectmen voting on a town manager. Ken will never be told who to vote for. Ken will not participate in backdoor deals or vote on anything for personal gain. He does not even reflect a shred of the stereotype of a politician. Working well with others does not equate to being weak and going against your own intuition on the best way forward for our town.

Opponents, I really don’t care if he ate someone’s Cheez-Its in 1985. I care that he genuinely will give a logical and balanced approach to every decision he makes for our town. He has no problem bringing unethical handlings to the forefront, notifying the community. I love that! His past voting record and his character is what exemplifies true transparency, honesty, integrity and grit. As the old saying goes ‘actions speak louder than words.’ Ken is a man of action.

**Ashley Murray – Marlborough**

### Colchester Voices Silenced

To the Editor:

The message from Colchester’s Board of Finance is clear: our voices don’t matter.

The charter requires the Board of Finance to hold two public hearings before finalizing the budget. Thanks to a scheduling error, last week’s public hearing was canceled. That didn’t stop four Republican BOF members from making up their minds to gut the Board of Education budget to the tune of \$200,000. Now, the Board of Finance will hold what amounts to a ceremonial public hearing. It will meet the charter rule – technically – but not in spirit. The Board of Finance should listen to public feedback and make their decisions accordingly. Your BOF will let you speak, but they’ve already told us they don’t care what you have to say.

As a former Board of Finance member, this year’s process has been horrible and non-transparent from start to finish. The BOF chair has chosen to hold meetings in-person only with no Zoom access for the first time in two years. The result has been meetings held in mostly empty rooms with limited public participation. The board shouldn’t waste any opportunity to get public feedback before making such a huge decision. Sadly, this is becoming a pattern with the new administration. Despite the promise of more transparency, we’ve gotten less. Instead of “people before government,” it’s been all about politics before people.

**Bernie Dennler – Colchester**

### Discretion Needed

To the Editor:

We need weeklies like the *Rivereast* to be at their absolute best.

We’re bearing witness to the gutting of an American institution as Alden Capital wreaks havoc on the *Hartford Courant*. Other local dailies like the *Middletown Press* are badly under-resourced and understaffed, thus unable to cover towns like East Hampton with any kind of depth.

That leaves only the weeklies to keep an eye on local governments, write about community activities, and inform us on everything from budgets to honor rolls. Small town news is not glamorous, but it is essential, especially in this era when journalists are demonized for doing their job and are woefully underpaid.

For the most part, the *Rivereast* does a commendable job of covering our communities. Your reporters are reliable, your editors show sound news judgment, and we get a good mix of human interest pieces and municipal oversight.

However, there is a glaring problem with the *Rivereast*: the Op/Ed section.

At its best, an Op/Ed section of a newspaper propels public discourse, welcomes different points of view, and provides a forum for readers to express support for candidates and activities.

Several of the letters published weekly by the *Rivereast* serve none of the above purposes. They are little more than the equivalent of an internet message board: a series of petty, racist, and misinformed diatribes aimed strictly to offend and insult fellow readers, often directly by name.

Everyone is entitled to write what they please to the editor. However, the editor is under no obligation to publish every letter sent their way. What good is served by allowing these public mudfights to continue week by week?

Discretion on the Op/Ed pages is all that separates the *Rivereast* from being an exceptional weekly newspaper.

**Sincerely,**

**Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton**

### No Mow May

To the Editor:

Last spring, my husband and I saw a sign in S. Glastonbury advertising No Mow May. Curious, I researched the subject, and learned how much it helps pollinators such as bees, butterflies and birds. We decided to participate in No Mow May and will do it again this year. Giving our lawn and mower a rest, lots of ground flowers sprang up and we had many more bees visit the front and back yard.

I’ve read in the *Rivereast* that towns like Marlborough and East Hampton have pollinator trails and are encouraging No Mow May. I encourage my town of Portland to be more involved as well. I hope Portland and all the surrounding towns participate in not mowing during the month of May. It’s a relatively small thing one can do that makes a huge difference in our local ecosystem.

**Katherine Spada Basto – Portland**

### Marlborough Needs Ken

To the Editor and Folks of Marlborough:

I am pleased to support Ken Hjulstrom as candidate for the Board of Selectmen. When the talk of the town was about adding to our BOS, Ken was the first person that came to mind. He has already helped this town function over the course of the last 30 years by holding multiple elected positions-serving on the BOE, BOF, and the Board of Assessment Appeals, as well other supporting roles in active groups around town such as the Marlborough Lions Club, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Over the course of the last year, I have had the opportunity to get to know Ken, and work with him. The most striking trait that Ken portrays is his ability to work as a team. As a new member of a growing board, that is just the type of leadership our town needs. Ken has demonstrated his ability to put his personal preferences aside, and do what is best for the community. He has shown he can effectively collaborate with other town leaders. He creates the time, and has the dedication and discipline to better our town.

I have no doubt Ken would be a fantastic addition to the Board of Selectmen; in fact, he is exactly what we need. Please cast your vote on May 3rd for Ken Hjulstrom.

**Kerri Barella – Marlborough**

*Note: Barella is a member of the Marlborough Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

### Lake Clean-Up Thanks

To the Editor:

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug would like to thank the 80+ volunteers for donating their time and efforts to help clean up around the lake. We had a tremendous turnout for our annual Lake Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 23.

The perimeter of Lake Pocotopaug looks great and makes our lake area even more beautiful. We would like to send a special thank you to John Tuttle for the Sabrett hot dogs along with Walt from Ace Hardware for the cleaning up supplies. We look forward to next year’s clean-up!

**Sincerely,**

**Cap Egan – East Hampton Member of Friends of Lake Pocotopaug.**

### Car Show Saturday

Dear Readers:

For the past two years, on the last Saturday of April, there has been nothing but grass in the field at Valli Construction, located off Sand Hill Road in Portland. Organizers of the Kenny Fletcher Memorial Car Show at Valli’s are looking forward to seeing old cars and old friends once again fill the field tomorrow – Saturday April 30.

The car show is held in memory of Kenny Fletcher, a Portland High School graduate, motorcycle and car enthusiast, and U.S. Army veteran who served his country in Desert Storm and the Iraq War where he led 167 soldiers with no fatalities. He was also a great friend to everyone he met.

The first car show took place in 2011 as a way to raise funds to help with Kenny’s care as he was fighting cancer. Sadly, Kenny passed away April 19th of that year, just days before the show was to take place. A scholarship in his memory was established and continues to be administered by his widow. As the car show continued annually, BT Charities Inc., a nonprofit organization, was established. With more participation each year and generous donations from an increasing group of sponsors, the committee has made donations to additional organizations that have ties to Kenny’s life. Proceeds support Portland High School Project Graduation, Portland Zion Lutheran Church, Middlesex Hospice, Portland Food Bank,

Portland VFW Post 6121, and Middlesex Cancer Center.

After a two-year absence due to COVID, our volunteers have been eagerly preparing for this year’s car show. Come join us for a great afternoon filled with beautiful cars, delicious food, and great entertainment provided by DJ “MT Pockets”! Saturday, April 30, 3-7 p.m., 22 Sand Hill Rd. Show Car Entry \$10, Spectators Free, Donations appreciated, No Dogs Please!

See you at the Show!

**Kenny Fletcher Memorial Car Show at Valli’s Committee Members**

### Hard to Understand

To the Editor:

I think it got by us all. Last week it was announced that the legislature of Connecticut had come up with a new labor agreement with the state employees. Here are some of the details:

Cost to the state over the next four years would be \$ 2 billion.

Each employee would on average receive \$ 40,000 over the 4 years of the contract

The average percentage increase for each employee over the four years would be 30%.

How does this happen?

It is hard to believe that any employee anywhere should receive a 30% increase. This is an example of how our state gets itself into financial difficulty.

**Tom Spitzer – Hebron**

### On External Saviors

To the Editor:

When it comes to politics and public debate, the vast majority of people are spectators. They neither participate or engage in any meaningful way, but often times they have very strong held opinions. This sort of thinking can clearly be seen in regards to Elon Musk.

The story is that Elon is a self-made tech billionaire who has managed to leverage his humble beginnings into a multi-company, tech empire that spans diverse industries from banking, solar, automotive, and even space exploration. He works diligently to empower mankind in our quest to reach the stars and is aligned with freedom.

The truth is that Elon Musk is from a wealthy family of technocrats who owned a South African emerald mine. His grandfather was head of technocracy in Canada, before fleeing to South Africa to avoid criminal charges of fraud. The vast majority of his wealth comes from government subsidies, the promotion of military technologies, and enabling digital surveillance through his Star Link satellite network and the promotion of the Internet of Things/Internet of Bodies. While most Americans net worth declined because of COVID, Elon’s doubled.

His recent purchase of Twitter has made headlines and won him a lot of fans. While many are holding him up as some sort of external savior in regards to free speech, they don’t realize it’s the technologies that Elon is constantly promoting and profiting from that will lead to the diminishing of all of our freedoms across the board. We shall see how this unfolds but it would behoove all of us to give up our belief in external saviors and instead look within and realize that no one is going to come to our rescue and that we need to get involved locally and advocate for both our own and our children’s future.

**Colin McNamara – Marlborough**

### Hebron Budget

To the Editor:

Budgets set the course for what a town will become. In the budget that is currently proposed by the Hebron Board of Finance, items like a dog park (location unknown – \$50,000) and the skate park at Veterans Park (how many people use the skate part of that park? – \$145,000) are proposed at the original budget request, but the Board has removed \$25,000 from the open space/land acquisition (OS/LA) budget (the OS/LA budget is already much lower than it has been historically).

Regarding those projects that are proposed for American Rescue Plan funds, one has to wonder whether installing additional sidewalks and applying some of that money to the Town’s sewer work would be better uses of such money and better for the town overall? And, what about the contemplated new Public Works facility and town government campus? Where do they factor into the budget and the town’s future debt service?

Please vote on May 3.

**Denise Rodosevich – Hebron**

### Fundraiser a Huge Success

To the Editor:

The senior fundraiser was a huge success Sunday. Thank you to all the residents who attended. This was the first time we have been able to host this event in two years. Many vendors were still reluctant to come due to ongoing COVID. The vendors who came were pleasant and caring of our 3’ rule between tables. Thank you all for coming and for donating an item from your table to the raffle table. We would never have succeeded without you.

Special thanks go to Emily Timreck, Robin Kenesick for helping on the Basket Table. They lugged items into the event, helping Carol and myself. Emily moved items out of the gym at closing and even swept the floor! Thank you to Rachael, Isabelle, Audrey and Ella Elam, Tanya Hughes and Julia Haverl for donating proceeds to the luncheon program; to Lisa Kurtz, who ran the bake table efficiently and donated as well; Ellie Skoog, who worked the coffee and bake tables; to Ed Sarisly, who displayed the promising plans for a new Community/Senior Center for Andover, great job Ed; and our AFD for being there.

Thank you to Liz Friedman, who brought us beautiful music with memories of old, forgotten times. To my husband Michael, I can never repay all the kindness and hard work you did to help us. To all the workers, a very special thank you. Thank you to the Ansons and Rimsa families for donations. Lastly, to my co-chairman, Carol Lee for the hard work she did organizing the baskets, for moving supplies to the gym, for cleaning up, for shopping, for running off the programs, I cannot thank her enough. If I have forgotten anyone it is not intentional!

**Thank you,**

**Cathy Palazzi**

**Andover Senior Coordinator**

### Voting for Louise Concodello

To the Editor:

My mom, Louise Concodello, is running for a position on the Marlborough Board of Selectman. I could use this time to go into depth on her decades of volunteer community service positions she has held over the years such as MYAL, years of elected service on the Board of Education, Bicentennial Committee, Playscape, Brick Walk, Nature Trails and Park and Recreation. But I want to focus more on how she is the best candidate for shaping the future of the Town of Marlborough.

Changes are coming to Marlborough’s future, including switching to a town manager government, further developing/increasing business tax base, town center planning, public safety improvements and critical infrastructure investments. I truly believe that my mom is the most qualified candidate and I am convinced that she will work in collaboration with her fellow selectman and new town manager to make the tough decisions to allow Marlborough not only to function, but to flourish in the future.

My wife and I, as well as many of our friends, have moved back into town to raise our own families knowing how great of a town Marlborough was, is, and how much greater it can become with the right leadership in place. Her dedication, passion and commitment to the community is truly unmatched by any other candidate. She has lived in the community for almost 50 years now, raised a family and wants to see every family in town have the best quality of life possible.

Please join me in supporting and voting for my mom, Louise Concodello, for Board of Selectmen next Tuesday, May 3.

**Michael Concodello – Marlborough**

### Budget Vote Time Again

To the Editor:

Good day Hebron voters. It is that time again when you, the voters get a chance to weigh in on the proposed town budget. We have met throughout the months of March and April going over requests. We, the Board of Selectmen, stated our desires and then the Board of Finance did their deliberations and that is the budget you are being asked to support.

The Board of Finance (undertaking their fiduciary responsibility of considering all of the residents of town) did make a few cuts, but they professionally articulated their reasoning for the reductions. A couple of the main budget drivers on the town side are 1) attempting to bring up the pay on many of the town employees who, studies of comparable communities have shown, are really underpaid. As a result, many have left to go to towns with better pay and benefits. (With costs escalating, who can blame them?)

2) Another major issue that we addressed is, due to the lack of people volunteering for the emergency services, fewer people are working trying to keep our community safe. The only solution is to hire on more part time personnel to cover those hours when volunteers are of short supply.

With a proposed mill rate of under 32 mills, overall, this budget is a win for the citizens of Hebron.

**Respectfully submitted, Daniel Larson – Hebron**

*Note: Larson is chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

### Vegetable Reality

To the Editor:

I read last week in absolute disbelief “Produce Shortages” by Annie Steinbrecher of Marlborough. Her only concern is the price of produce in the future, really?

“National Power” seems OK with allowing hundreds of thousands – no, millions – of illegal aliens into our country and allowing more drugs that are killing so many people into our country and all she is worried about is the cost of her produce, really?

Annie mentions Attorney General Ken Paxton’s comment that “the Texas Republican Governor, Greg Abbott, has figured out we can stop trade along the border – slow it down.” Isn’t this the same as “National Power” being used to allow these people to come illegally into our country, allowing Title 42 to expire?

Isn’t this asserting “National Power” over “State Power” whether the people in Texas, or any other state being straddled with these illegal immigrants, whether they like it or not, forcing the state to use valuable state financial resources to support these people?

Annie speaks of driving up prices of produce. What about the “National Power” response to increased gas prices, inflation? The people of this country of all states must learn to “suck it up” for the common good. Well, may I suggest that for the good of all, we support those who are doing whatever possible with “State Power” to save this country from an invasion of millions of illegal immigrants and dangerous drugs which kill more people than people like Annie care to acknowledge.

Maybe Annie should care as much about the econ-

**See Letters, page 33**

East Hampton • East Hampton

# After Shouting and Dismay, Budget Heads to Voters

By Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton Town Council debated passionately, and in a mixed vote, adopted the proposed 2022-23 East Hampton town budget in a Tuesday meeting, sending it to a town meeting and referendum next month.

Cuts to the school budget and police department drew considerable ire from council Democrats. Republican chair Mark Philhower and his party-mates emphasized the need for lean town budgets as inflation and other stressors take their toll on peoples' wallets.

"Everyone is strained," Philhower said. "It's incumbent on us to reduce the financial burden on residents."

The town's upcoming budget totaled \$51.8 million, up about \$2 million from the current budget of about \$49.7 million.

The mill rate, how property taxes are calculated, is up less than one mill, from 34.53 to 35.15, a bump of .62 mills.

The council approved the budget as it was sent by the Board of Finance, which shaved \$52,500 from the school board's budget and around \$119,000 from the general government budget.

From the general government, the finance board cut a proposal for a new patrol officer. The finance board cuts, however, were not what stoked the intense debate between the council's two Democrats and its Republican majority.

There were two main sticking points. In their budget counterproposal, council Republicans sought to cut more than \$200,000 from the schools. Ultimately, this suggestion did not pass. During public comment, district superintendent Paul Smith said, because the town was hit with a 10.5% jump in insurance costs from the state, the \$200,000 cut would mean laying off teachers.

According to Cox and Smith, this price hike

won't affect the 2022-23 budget.

At the start of talks Philhower said the cuts aligned with campaign promises, that Republicans took the majority in November because voters were sick of wasteful budgets and overspending by Democrats.

Democrat Pete Brown said he was awestruck by Philhower's statement, saying when Democrats had power, there was a 0 increase (2020) followed by a nominal one (2021).

The council unanimously approved the current budget, 2021-22, with Philhower casting a "yes" last year.

Brown also accused Republicans of devising the cuts at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

"You didn't get elected to walk on people's backs," Brown said.

Republican Eric Peterson characterized the \$200,000 proposal not as a "cut", but a reduction to the district's overall increase, which was just over \$1 million.

Republicans also cut a proposed lieutenant's position from the police department; a savings of about \$25,000, which Democrats called an insignificant cost.

One council Republican, Tim Feegel, did not support cutting the lieutenant. He was the sole Republican to vote against the general government budget, joining his two Democratic colleagues. The general budget passed on a split vote, 4-3.

Before the vote, finance board member Ted Turner said the council received a "lean" budget. He said he hoped the council would leave the proposed lieutenant in place, that it amounted to \$6 per taxpayer.

"We need a good police department," Turner said.

East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner also advocated for the position. He said the state's Police Accountability Bill has added to and complicated the workloads of all departments, and raised costs.

"A lieutenant would provide a clear second-in-command," said the chief. Woessner added the lieutenant would be fulfill the role of chief should he be sick, take a vacation, or otherwise indisposed.

Woessner went into detail about the position's work, saying they would be kept quite busy.

Council Democrat Pete Brown said cutting the position was "short-changing the town" and Woessner.

"We have a good chief," Brown, who used to be an East Hampton police officer, said.

Brown said if the department's chief isn't supported, they won't stick around.

"25 thousand could be found in a heartbeat," Brown said.

Brown questioned Republicans, saying "Where are my law-and-order people?" alluding to Republican campaign slogans. He said more "law-and-order" won't just come out of nowhere.

Public safety stayed an issue, with Democrat Kevin Reich pointing out a \$4,000 cut to the fire marshal's office.

Aside from Feegel, Republicans were united in their opposition to the lieutenant's position.

Philhower said of area towns such as Colchester and Portland, East Hampton taxpayers pay the most for their police.

"I see no reason for an expansion," he said.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

**Wii Bowling:** Thursdays, May 12 and 26, 10 a.m. Registration required.

**Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:** Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other Wednesday (next date May 11), at 9:30 a.m., indoors with masks, or via Zoom. Register online.

**Goat Snuggling:** Come hold and interact with some baby goats Monday, May 2, at 1 p.m. Call for more details. Pre-registration required.

**Planning for Your Future:** Wednesdays, May 4, May 18 and June 1, 9:30 a.m. each day. Themes are: May 4 - 'A Gift for Your Family,' covering how to plan and talk to families; May 18 - 'Legal Essentials as We Age,' presented

Brown said Philhower left out the fact that many of the towns the Republican named use resident state troopers, while East Hampton does not.

Republican Alison Walck said if East Hampton were "crime-ridden" she'd support an expansion, but it's not.

Things got hairy during debate about the proposed \$195,640 cut to the schools. Before voting on the school side of the operations plan, this was retracted.

When questioned by Reich, Philhower said Republicans proposed the cut before hearing about insurance costs skyrocketing.

"The conversations you [Republicans] had were not in public," said Reich, adding the town's other major boards, education and finance, held all discussions in a public setting.

Reich alleged Republicans were aware of the insurance spike when they looked to cut the money. Notice of it went out on Friday, he said, and Republicans made the change last-minute.

Philhower said the "same thing happened" when Democrats held the majority.

"We [Republicans] had no say two years when you added staff," Philhower, referencing the addition of police and teachers, said.

The council unanimously voted to approve the school board budget, sending the spending package to the public.

East Hampton residents can voice their opinions at a town meeting May 10. The budget vote is set for Tuesday, May 17, at East Hampton High School.

## 10th Annual Gelding Clinic

The CT Draft Horse Rescue is sponsoring its 10th annual Gelding Clinic (low-cost equine castration clinic) Saturday, May 7 (rain date: Sunday, May 8) at the farm, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Since the start of this vital program, the CDHR has helped over 100 equines and horse owners in need with the issue of unwanted horses. Veterinary students from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, under the direct supervision of both Tufts and

local veterinarians, have all volunteered their time and expertise to perform the gelding. The program was developed based on a philosophy that the castration of a stallion will help prevent accidental, backyard, or overbreeding, thereby reducing the number of unwanted horses being born. Open to horses, donkeys, and mules.

Pre-registration is required, and the rescue will be closed to the public on this day. To participate, you must fill out the application on their website, and they will contact you with an appointment time.

For more information and to register, go to [www.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2022](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2022).

## Mother's Day Breakfast

On Sunday, May 8, from 8-11 a.m., the Boy Scouts of Troop 8 will host their annual Mother's Day Breakfast at VFW Post 5095 located at 20 North Maple St. The Scouts will serve eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, coffee and juice.

The breakfast will cost \$12 per a person. All proceeds from the breakfast will be used to support the Scouting activities of Troop 8.

## VFW Post 5095 and Auxiliary Meeting

VFW Post 5095 Commander Roger Anderson and Auxiliary Madame President Kelly Ezold will hold their respective separate meetings on Wednesday, May 4, at 7 p.m., at the post home, located at 20 N. Maple St.

Following a brief meeting, both the Auxiliary and the Post will install their officers for the ensuing term. After the ceremonies, refreshments will be served.

All members are encouraged to attend and welcome their new officers.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

# Fern Lane Residents Unhappy with New Ordinance

By Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton Town Council in its Tuesday meeting passed a new ordinance solidifying the town's approach to maintaining private roads.

The new ordinance spells out that the town will offer "limited maintenance services", including pothole patching, plowing and clearing of debris.

The ordinance also gives the council discretion on how to maintain private roads. It does not allow for any total road replacements.

There are 19 roads included in the ordinance penned by Town Manager David Cox, including Poe Road, Byron Road, West Avenue and Fern Lane. A complete list of affected roads is on the town's website.

Fern Lane residents have for months pushed

the town to pass a private road ordinance. They claim Fern Lane is in disrepair and has been neglected by the town. Several have said the town, by providing limited services for years, has implicitly taken the road onto its workload.

Earlier this month one resident threatened the town with a lawsuit, presenting council members with an attorney's letter.

In a follow-up call the town manager said a lawsuit has yet to go forward, though "technically the threat is still out there."

In a public hearing before the council vote, Fern Lane resident Karen Asetta, after thanking the council for keeping the topic a priority, said it feels like "the rug is being pulled out from under us."

Asetta said the town repaved the road in the

1960s. Council member Kevin Reich said this information was a surprise to him.

Pam Hatfield, Fern Lane homeowner, said she disfavors the new ordinance. She said she especially dislikes the ordinance's suggestion that residents incur the costs of repaving, on top of their normal property taxes.

Hatfield said paying to redo the road would cause "significant hardship" for homeowners, calling the price tag "outrageous" and pointing out that the town quotes estimate more than \$500,000 for repairs.

"It's unclear to me, with the ordinance, what we can expect in the way of road maintenance," Hatfield told the council.

Fern Lane resident Grace Fishman asked for a language change. She said by removing the clause saying the town will "simply repave small sections", the ordinance would better serve the roads named in the policy.

"We're not asking for something that would break the bank," Fishman said. "We are good citizens. We are good to this town. We're not asking for anything frivolous."

Giselle Bozzi, of Poe Road, said residents on the corner of Poe and Byron Roads previously wrote the town asking it to take over the two roads.

Deb Mongiat, of Byron, said residents wrote the town in 2014 at the suggestion of the then-town manager. She said it stalled because residents couldn't agree on the issue. She said she agrees with Bozzi-residents still want to turn the road over to East Hampton.

Council Chair Mark Philhower said the policy gives better coverage to private road residents, and it's more of a guarantee for maintenance than they had before.

Reich said the decision was a "challenge for me." He said private road homeowners now have backup if they want to come to the town for help with repair or maintenance.

"I know what we're voting on isn't what you wanted," Reich told residents, "but it is a step forward, [albeit] not a big one."

Reich pointed out that ordinances can change, saying even with the policy's approval, discussions may not be finished.

## Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced its April calendar. To register or more information on any program, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://middlehaddamlibrary.com) or call 860-267-9093.

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

**Yoga:** With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga, on Saturdays through May 28, 9-10 a.m. Cost is \$10 each week to drop in. Register at [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

**Artist/Photographer of the Month: Mantis Photography:** Local wildlife and nature photographer Aaron Mannes will have his photographs displayed for viewing and purchase. His encounters include bears, snowy owls, fox and more.

**Forager's Picnic:** Saturday, May 7. Erin Day will lead this luncheon of foraged foods, featuring spring greens and early flowers. Space is

limited. Registration required. Bring your own table setting.

**Communi-Tea:** Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m.-noon. Take out a book and have a cup of tea. Coffee drinkers also welcome.

**Walks with an Expert Series: Memory Walk:** Sunday, May 15 (rain date: May 22). Meet at library at 1 p.m. and walk the village with lifelong resident Anne McKinney. Listen to old stories, find out what it was like to grow up in town during the 1950s and '60s.

**Ethical Spring Foraging Walk with Erin Day:** Sunday, June 5. Meet at library at 9:30 a.m. to carpool to George Dudley Seymour Park. Walk to the river and back, talk about what's edible, what's not, and how to collect and use what you find.

**Coming Soon:** Walks with a geologist, gardener, tree specialist, mycologist, historians and more.

## 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](http://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, May 27, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, May 28, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., will be the CCEH Spring Market.

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

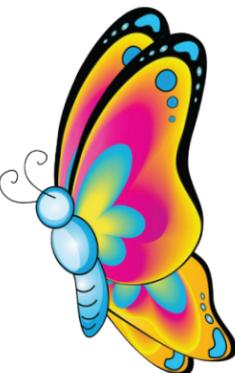
## Local Artist's Work on Display

Local artist Geryl Yocher will continue to display her work at Town Hall for the month of May.

Her previous show, "Fresh Air," has been replaced with a new exhibit entitled "The Shape of Water." The majority of these pictures are watercolors.



**Haines Stops By...** State Rep. Irene Haines (R-34) stopped by to support the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug's annual Lake Clean-Up Day on April 23. More than 80 volunteers donated their time and efforts to clean up around Lake Pocotopaug. Haines is pictured with Friends President Kevin Kuhr and Vice President Joe Carbonell.



## Donations Sought for Online Auction

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library will hold its second online auction May 9-20, and donations are sought.

Donations of goods to be auctioned off, and cash to purchase local gift cards, are being accepted at the library, 105 Main St., until April 29. The auction will take place on the Friends' Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/friendsoftheeasthamptonpubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheeasthamptonpubliclibrary).

## Talk on Preventing Algae

University of Connecticut professor Mike Dietz will give a talk on ways East Hampton residents who live on Lake Pocotopaug and those in the water shed can help prevent nutrients, chemicals, oil, dirt, bacteria and sediment from entering into the lake and fostering the growth of algae.

The talk will be held on Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. The talk is sponsored by the East Hampton Conservation & Lake Commission (EHC&LC).

The presentation is open to the public and those unable to attend may participate by Zoom and YouTube. More info on this will be available on the town's website. For more information, call EHC&LC member Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or [podskoch@comcast.net](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net).

## 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](http://easthamptonrec.com).

**Golf Tournament:** May 19 at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. There is a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Fee: \$125.

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

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Epoch Arts will hold a 25-Year Open House Celebration Sunday, May 1, from 1-4 p.m.

### Epoch Arts Open House Celebration

Epoch Arts, located at 27 Skinner St., will hold a 25-Year Open House Celebration Sunday, May 1, from 1-4 p.m. The day will feature an art gallery showcasing present student and alumni art.

There will be live music, performances by our spring classes from 2-3 p.m., art demonstrations, a community mural, a photo op booth with fun props and costumes to pose with. There will be a splatter paint mural, animation demos, an Epoch Timeline, face-painting, bubble wands to make, building tours, and more. Food and original 25-year Epoch T-shirts will

be for sale at the event.

There will also be 11 original hand-painted chairs by our girls from Breaking Silences and their artist mentors. All proceeds from the chair sales will help fund the girls' group next semester. At 3 p.m., the original band will perform songs from past productions and at 3:30 p.m., there will be a musical parade to the front yard to display original artwork, reveal the new Epoch Arts mural, and receive candy and surprises.

Admission is free. For more information, visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org).

### Quilt Show to Return

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will host a Quilt Show and Plant Sale at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 8, from noon-5 p.m.

Along with a display of dozens of handmade quilts, plants and a Bits and Pieces Sale of fabric, yarn and quilting supplies will be featured under tents outdoors, along with "to go" baked items. Picnic tables will be available for visitors to rest. Monetary donations to the show will be collected.

Attendees should wear a mask and adhere

to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. The church and restroom are handicapped-accessible.

For more information, contact Dianne Mchutchison at 860-930-8520 or [rdmchutchison@yahoo.com](mailto:rdmchutchison@yahoo.com), Melissa Pionzio at 860-993-5311 or [mapionzio@comcast.net](mailto:mapionzio@comcast.net), or Elizabeth Malloy at [elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com).

### Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

East Hampton Police and the East Hampton Prevention Partnership will hold a Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

Accepted items include: prescription medications, prescription patches, over-the-counter (OTC) medications, vitamins, samples, and medications for pets. Items not accepted include: thermometers, hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans, needles (sharps), medications from businesses or clinics, and ointments, lotions or liquids.

For more information, call 860-267-4468 ext 3227, or email [cwidrick@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:cwidrick@easthamptonct.gov).

### Police News

4/19: Dante Mastroianni, 36, of 108 Main St., was issued a summons for misuse of marker plate, insufficient insurance, operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

Also, from April 11-24, officers responded to three motor vehicle crashes, 35 medical calls and eight alarms, and made 50 traffic stops, police said.



Everybody Do Your Share... Two weekends ago, East Hampton Girl Scouts cleaned up the Air Line Trail. Jeremy Hall, town parks and rec director, said 6 young ladies and their moms cleaned four truckloads of brush from the swale between Cranberry Bog and Main Street. The effort, Hall said, keeps the swales clean, which keeps the trail from washing out.

### 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](http://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.

**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.

**STEM Project Bags – Owl Pellet Dissection:** Available starting Monday, May 2, at 10 a.m. Owl pellets are the undigested parts of a bird's food, which are coughed up like a cat's hairball. Kids ages 6 and up will act as ecologists and dissect real owl pellets at home using a step-by-step guide. Project bags are available in the children's department while supplies last. No registration is required.

**Hatch the Chickens:** Starting Tuesday, May 3, all are invited to stop in and watch as the library incubates seven real, live chicken eggs.

They're expected to hatch around May 24, and then remain at the library before heading back to the farm on June 7.

**STEMtastic: Veterinary Medicine 101:** For grades 1-5. Wednesday, May 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. Dr. Michelle Forella from Bolton Veterinary Hospital will teach all about what veterinarians do and what it takes to become one.

**Nintendo Switch Game Tournament:** Saturday, May 7, 2-3 p.m., for grades 1-5. Compete for a trophy. All skill levels welcome.

**DIY Days: Fidget Spinner Saturday,** May 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. or while supplies last, for children and families in grades K-8. No registration required; just drop in. Make a fidget spinner using popsicle sticks, pennies and ball bearings, then decorate it.

**EHPL Recommends...: Maya and the Rising Dark** by Rena Barron.

**Teen Programs: Switch Game Tournaments: Grades 6-12:** Saturdays, April 30 and May 28, 2 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. A trophy will go to the winner.

**Teen Friday:** Friday, May 6, 3 p.m. There will be crafts, games and more.

**Pre-Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, May 24, 5:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to provide input on the library's YA/Teen collection and help plan programs.

**Teen Advisory Board:** Wednesday, May 25, 6 p.m. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to provide input on the library's YA/Teen collection and help plan programs. The TAB requires monthly commitment and participation.

**Adult Programs: Instagram in Person: Everything New England:** Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m. Kim Knox Beckius will talk about her enthusiasm for New England tourism, focusing on fresh ideas for the summer ahead. Registration required.

**Cabin Fever Series: Interviews with East Hampton Residents:** Saturday, May 7, 1 p.m., at the library. This is the final program in this year's series.

**Focus on Fitness:** Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m., with certified personal trainer and nutrition coach Amie Meacham. In this group, celebrate successes, sympathize with struggles, and maintain motivation in your physical fitness.

### Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. Refreshments are served after the service.

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

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

**Bible Study:** The Zoom Bible Study meets every other Thursday from 7-8:15 p.m. The next study is May 12. This is an interactive study of compassion.

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. The church website is at [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).



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**Plant a Tree**

In honor of Arbor Day, embark on a fun family adventure: planting a tree in the yard brings the whole family together! The Arbor Day Foundation will send 10 free trees to every new member (memberships start at \$10). Visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) for details.

"The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow and someday provide wood products, wildlife habitat, erosion control, shelter from the wind and sun, beauty, and inspiration for ourselves and our children."  
*Arbor Day Foundation*

[koco4kids.org](http://koco4kids.org)

**Running for Brews**

There's a new East Hampton social running club starting up – and all are invited. Running For Brews meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales, 91 Main St. Runners proceed to run a 5K (or whatever distance they want) along the Air Line Trail route, and then end with cold brews or water at Dexter's.

All levels of runners (or walkers) are welcome. Contact Greg Jones for more details at [jonesinthrulife@gmail.com](mailto:jonesinthrulife@gmail.com) or text 860-966-7179. The first run of the season is Wednesday, May 4.

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## Obituaries

### Colchester

#### John Zuverink

John (Jack) Zuverink, 90, of Colchester, passed away in Middletown Thursday, April 7, with his daughter Mary and sister June by his side. He was born to the late John and Mary Elizabeth (Davis) in Columbus, Ohio, on Oct. 15, 1931.

He leaves behind his wife, Helen Marie Alstad Zuverink, his daughter, Mary Virginia Zuverink Rueff, and his sister, June Elaine Zuverink Ice.

In addition to his wife Helen, his daughter Mary and her husband Matt, and his sister June, Jack is survived by his sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Zuverink; daughter-in-law Cassandra Cyr Zuverink, his son Jim's widow; stepdaughter Linda Eselunas and her husband Donald; stepsons Thomas Hast and his wife Terry; Erik Masi and his wife Mary; and Tony Masi, and his husband Jason Ortiz; nieces, Karen Ice, Kay Zuverink Vitelli Hagan, and Sondra Ice; nephews, Roger Ice, Mark Zuverink and David Zuverink; 12 grandchildren: Madison Zuverink and her husband Dylan Tuttle, Michael Charles Rueff, James Thorburn Rueff and his wife Mary-Kathryn, Paige Drudon Zuverink, Rebecca Alferi, Jeremy Eselunas, Tara Hast, Emily Hast and her husband Paulie Raczewski, Reese Masi, Faith Masi, and Sage Masi; and eight great-grandchildren: Sigge Tuttle, Eulalie Tuttle, Donovan Ingles, Leah Alferi, Sebastian Hast, Spencer Hast, Juliet Raczewski and Harrison Raczewski.

Jack was predeceased by his wife Drue, two sons, John and Jim, his brother, David Lee Zuverink, and his stepson, Don Hast.

A proud veteran, Jack served his country for four years during the Korean Conflict period, from 1952-56. After his time with the Navy, Jack graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He spent more than 30 years with the Otis Elevator Company, serving the company in various roles throughout his career.

Jack married Drusilla Boyd Cox in 1958 and enjoyed almost 26 years of marriage with Drue, who passed away in 1984. They had three children, Mary Virginia, John Boyd, and James (Jim) Davis. After making his final work transfer with Otis from the Chicago area to the Hartford area in 1987, Jack met and married Helen in 1988, with whom he shared more than 33 years of marriage.

Throughout his life, Jack enjoyed singing and sang bass and baritone in choirs at the various Presbyterian churches his family attended. He sang in barbershop quartets early in his life in high school and in the Navy. Jazz was his favorite musical genre, but he also enjoyed classical and sacred music.

Jack had a keen mind with attention to detail and helped keep everyone organized. He liked to tinker with things, enjoyed electronics, and repaired early television sets in the 1960s and 1970s, with the tubes and other parts strewn across the living room floor while he worked on them. While living in Louisville, Ky., he was in charge of tape recording the choir at church each Sunday and spent hours running and listening to the big reel-to-reel tape recordings



after services. Jack enjoyed fishing, whether it was in a lake or the ocean, and was involved with the Boy Scouts of America with his sons John and Jim.

After retiring in 1993, Jack was able to spend more time smoking his favorite cigars, watching TV, and traveling with Helen, particularly to their favorite beaches. He especially enjoyed their trips to Cape Cod. Jack liked watching sports, both professional and college, although he was not a die-hard fan of any one team. With his career moves with Otis throughout the Midwest in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Illinois, prior to moving to Connecticut, Jack always rooted for the home team of wherever he was living at the time. The last team he cheered on was the Boston Red Sox and he liked to wear the Red Sox sweatshirt he received for his 90th birthday. Jack enjoyed good food and drink, liked to grill and smoke meat, and could be counted on to be the life of any party!

To honor Jack's memory, please consider making a donation to a Veterans' nonprofit such as the Gary Sinise Foundation at [www.garysinisefoundation.org](http://www.garysinisefoundation.org), or the Wounded Warrior Project at [support.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://support.woundedwarriorproject.org).

There will be a celebration of Jack's life in Connecticut on Saturday, July 23, with location and time to be determined. Folks are encouraged to monitor the funeral home website for updates regarding the details.

To share a memory or express condolences to Jack's family, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

### Cobalt

#### Joanne Carol Kneeland

Joanne Carol Kneeland, 90, of Haddam, formerly of Cobalt, passed away Thursday, March 31. Born June 25, 1931 in Glen Ridge, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Wallace and Esther (Hawthorne) Giles.

Joanne grew up in New Jersey and spent summers at Camp Bethel in Haddam. Following high school, she attended Aurora College in Illinois, where she studied nursing and became a registered nurse. While in college, Joanne met and fell in love with David Kneeland, a fellow student. The two were married in 1954.

Shortly after graduating, the couple moved to Connecticut, eventually settling in Cobalt. Joanne was very active in the community and in her local church and the next few decades saw her taking on a variety of jobs. She worked as a nurse for many years at Hartford National Bank in downtown Hartford. She was a self-taught seamstress and baker, making dresses and wedding gowns and baking wedding cakes. She also served as a part-time librarian at the Middle Haddam Library. The last 17 years of her working career were spent at the U.S. Post Office in Cobalt.

Joanne was a longstanding member of the Congregational Church of East Hampton, where she was constantly involved playing in the bell choir, or coordinating and cooking for a fundraising event or potluck supper.

Joanne was always interested to try new things and she became accomplished at quite a few. She learned chair caning, quilting, painting and needlepointing, just to name a few. She was always ready to lend a hand or help out when someone was in need and she was a friend to all who knew her.

After retiring from the Post Office, Joanne and David enjoyed traveling to various places around the world and spending many summer

weeks at their cottage on the coast of Maine.

Joanne was predeceased by her husband, David; a brother, Robert Giles; and a granddaughter, Shannon Hebert.

She is survived by her three children, Kate Nichols (Nick) of Somerville, Maine, Patrick Kneeland (Julia) of East Hampton, and Paul Kneeland (Sabina) of Gorham, Maine; as well as 11 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

A memorial celebration of life will be held Saturday, May 7, at 11 a.m., at Camp Bethel in Haddam. All are welcome to attend.

Memorial donations may be made to Treasurer, Camp Bethel Association, Camp Bethel, Haddam, CT 06438.

### Portland

#### Helen T. Taylor

Helen T. Taylor (Tryon), 92, of Portland, beloved wife of the late George Taylor passed away peacefully Friday, April 22, at Middlesex Hospital. She was known as Aggie. Helen was born on Jan. 14, 1930, in South Glastonbury, one of seven siblings. She was the daughter of the late Hilda and Raymond Tryon.

Helen lived the majority of her life in South Glastonbury, she grew up on the family farm on Tryon Street which was named after several generations of Tryon's. It was the rural, simple and communal life there that paved the way for the love and care she carried to her family, friends and community.

In school, Helen excelled in sports, specifically basketball and baseball for which she received a best athlete award in her class. She graduated from Glastonbury High School Class of 1948. In 1950, she was entered and won a beauty contest of Glastonbury Day and she was crown queen of Glastonbury at the Mardi Grass dance. She met and married her high school sweetheart, the love of her life, George W. Taylor, at the age of 20, and at the age of 22 she was blessed with twins, a girl Debbie and a boy David. Followed by another girl Susan 18 months later. Helen was employed by Travelers Insurance for 30 years and was a member of St. Luke Episcopal Church in Glastonbury.

Helen had many hobbies, crocheting and knitting, she was an avid gardener and wittingly shared her abundance with family, friends and neighbors. She was a true farmer's daughter, dedicated to hard work on the family tobacco field, raising and harvesting vegetables and caring for the animals. She enjoyed traveling and cruise ship vacations. Along with her sisters she visited many islands including Aruba, St Martin, Bahamas, with her favorite trip being Aruba. She shared her love with all animals, especially cats and would welcome and feed all neighborhood cats.

While Helen's children were young, she served as a Cub Scout den mother and was also a member of The Order of the Eastern Star, a charitable service organization. She was an excellent baker and would always have cake or cookies available for her children's friends or anyone that would stop by.

Helen lived at a time where the joys of life were visiting family, friends and neighbors, playing cards, square dancing on a Saturday night, having backyard neighborhood gatherings, picnics and swimming on the Tryons' property at Great Pond. She lived a long and full life bringing joy to her grandchildren and great grandchildren with her jokes and shenanigans. Helen was known as being very feisty. She will be very much missed by her family.



Helen is survived by her son, David G. Taylor and his wife Maria of South Glastonbury; her daughter, Susan T. Rowe of Portland; her sister, Frances Barker of Glastonbury; six grandchildren and their spouses, Glenn and Melissa Taylor, Stacie and Dan Savage, Justin Brown, Krista and Kurt Larson, Tammy Rowe and Michael Wells, Lindsey and Jon Farmer; 11 great-grandchildren, Aaron Picard, Grant and Hailey Taylor, Zoey and Taylor Savage, Lilly and Jack Larson, Ethan and Dylan Wells, Audrey and Natalie Farmer.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Deborah Carlin; her son-in-law, George Rowe; her brothers Warren, George and Donald Tryon, and her sisters Shirley Fuller and Dot Devereux.

Calling hours were at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Monday, April 25. Burial was private, with her immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Police Dept., 265 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 for all their commitment to Helen's community safety, health and well-being.

For online condolences please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

### East Hampton

#### Shirley Brown Hyde

Our dearest Shirley Hyde died peacefully in her sleep, next to her husband of 68 years, on Wednesday, April 20. Shirley was born May 13, 1936, in Cortland, N.Y.

Known for her great laugh and quick wit, she met and married her high school sweetheart, Daniel Hyde. After Danny's military service, they moved from Syracuse, N.Y., to Connecticut, where they raised three sons. Eventually making their home in East Hampton, Shirley managed the books for Dan's body shop Classic Coach, while also remaining active in local politics. Among other things, Shirley was a key driver of the parents' education group and served on the initial planning committee for East Hampton's first annual "Old Home Day."

On a vacation to southern California, Shirley and Dan fell in love with the west coast lifestyle and so relocated to Laguna Niguel, where they have lived since 1984.

Shirley is survived by husband Daniel Hyde of Laguna Niguel, Calif.; three sons, Jeffrey Hyde of Middletown, Derek (Joyce) Hyde of Middle Haddam, and Brian (Sandy) Hyde of East Hampton; grandchildren, Jennifer (Mike) Druskovich, Jeremy Hyde, Danny (Amanda) Hyde, Elizabeth Hyde and Jesse Hyde; and six great-grandchildren, Keva Druskovich, Luke Hyde, George Hyde, Liam Geiger, Henry Hyde and Mabel Hyde.

Shirley was predeceased by a grandson, Jason Jeffrey Hyde.

There is no scheduled memorial service at this time. Shirley will be cremated and later buried in a family plot in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.



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★ **Letters cont. from page 25**

omy and hardworking Americans that are directly affected by all these illegal aliens entering our country and the drugs being smuggled in killing loved ones of those same hardworking Americans than she is about any future produce shortage?

**Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough**

**The Atlantis Saga**

To the Editor:

The saga continues! Atlantis once again, after several denials from P&Z, is attempting to expand into a highly residential historic district. A request for a variance is now before the ZBA. The neighbors' response to this attempt to change the residential character of their neighborhood is ongoing along with town-wide opposition.

Atlantis is trying to prove hardship when they knew the area was zoned residential when they purchased. This is bullying behavior on the part of a rich, powerful applicant. This application should be denied.

**Ronald W. McCutcheon – Middle Haddam**

**Voting for Concodello**

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Louise Concodello, for a position on the Board of Selectmen. I am her husband, and next year we will be married 50 years! Louise is a very dedicated wife, mother and grandmother.

Her second dedication is to our town. She has been volunteering since our sons started kindergarten in 1985. Whenever there is an opportunity to join a board or commission or committee, she is always there to volunteer. She does not brag about herself. Louise has a broad base of support among Republicans, Democrats and unaffiliated voters in Marlborough. She attends most of the town's meetings so she can stay informed about issues in town. It is her ability to work with others that sets her apart.

Louise's name is legally on the special election ballot for May 3 for a Board of Selectman's position. Yes, four candidates are running, two will win and two will lose. That is how elections go. I will be voting for Louise; I hope you will too.

**Sincerely,**

**Joe Concodello Sr. – Marlborough**

**Hebron Awareness**

To the Editor:

June 1, 2006, the courant.com had an interesting article, written by Ruthie Ackerman, explaining some of the complex logistics involved to build the access road connecting the Horton watershed to Route 66. Given all the legal and wetland hurdles needed to be cleared, for that simple roadway, we were surprised the town would purchase 89 acres of this land, much less to install a municipal complex on it. Wet soils can be complicated, often producing wet, moldy basements. With a residential neighborhood, wildlife, groundwater and our marsh all at risk by building on this watershed, I imagine more complications are yet to come.

Since 2004, my husband and I have attended several Hebron town meetings regarding the Horton land. We've kept notes, town flyers, maps, newspaper articles and several Legal Notices stamped and dated, by the Town, all regarding this land. We are not experts. Keeping track of the changes is a challenge. Curiously, the land, people and most problems involved, have not changed...until now that is. According to soil scientist Rick Snarski, a patch of wetlands has been found closer to Kinney Road, thus making access to the only, somewhat, dry parcel more complicated and environmentally risky than anticipated. (*Rivereast* Feb. 11, 2022).

Nobody is against the DPW getting a safe working environment or the firemen getting access to extra water downtown. What people are opposed to is using the old Horton watershed land for development.

On March 7, 2019, only 92 people showed up to vote on purchasing the Horton watershed land, (*Rivereast* March 15, 2019); this fact led us to believe Hebron residents were basically unaware of what was happening.

For more information:

See PBC and POCAD maps @ hebronct.com.

See nbconnecticut.com for road salt information, updates and warnings.

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

**Saving Our Wildlife**

To the Editor:

The number of threats to the natural world is mind-boggling, and much of it seems insurmountable. However, there are some issues that we can rectify through the power of our voices and pocketbooks. One major issue is the decimation of wildlife due to the use of rodenticides and glue traps.

Natural predators of rodents are victims in the pesticide industry's toxic war against rodents, but rodent populations have remained stable despite the bombardment of anticoagulant rodenticides. Once ingested, they cause the rodent to slowly bleed to death, and the same fate befalls the many animals that eat poisoned rodents.

Any loss of a predator such as an owl, hawk or fox actually benefits rodents. Rodenticides also kill pet dogs and cats, and poison thousands of children annually. Rodenticides are wiping out the wildlife that provide natural pest control while not reducing the rodent population overall: A lose-lose situation; a ban on rodenticides in Connecticut is long overdue. Please support CT Senate Bill 239. (<https://www.cga.ct.gov>).

Connecticut's wildlife rehabilitators see the deadly effects of rodenticides almost every day. In 2020,

a Massachusetts study revealed that 100% of red-tailed hawks tested positive for exposure to rodenticides. Many of these birds died. (<https://ctmirror.org/2022/04/01/there-is-no-safe-rodenticide>).

There are safe ways to reduce rodent populations, including plugging holes in the house or around windows, removing food and water sources and rodent nesting sites. Store grains in chew-proof containers. There are companies that produce rodent birth-control products that are reportedly harmless to wildlife.

Please stop using rodenticides immediately as the statewide ban moves through the legislature.

Glue traps are another horrible means of killing rodents. However, they also ensnare non-target animals including birds, bats and kittens, which are doomed to die a slow, painful death. When people stop buying them, these cruel torture devices will disappear from store shelves.

**Thank you,**

**Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton**

**Voting 'Yes' on Budget**

To the Editor:

Notwithstanding a recent unhinged rant in this paper, democracy is not lost in Hebron, our town is not being ruined. Our town's administration did a splendid job of coping with the two years of COVID, property values have increased, the town's finances are in good shape, and the proposed mill rate is lower – what's so terrible about that?

I agree there are many dangers to our democracy; the management of the town of Hebron is not one of them.

Hebron is not a mess, a cesspool of corruption and self-dealing. To say so is an insult to the many dedicated residents who step up to serve, and to the town's hard-working employees. I have great faith in the people of Hebron to make sound, good decisions for themselves, their community, their country. We may disagree on details, but rabble-rousing and creating mythical dangers ("high crime," "traffic congestion," "development" – and when did 'development' become a dirty word?) is not who we are.

Hebron has long chosen to remain a rural residential community with a lively and attractive town center. Today, citizens are coming together to find ways to make our town more inclusive, to attract a diverse pool of new residents who will find us a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

With home values at record highs, perhaps those who find so much wrong with the town, should take advantage of the potential financial windfall and move on.

I intend to vote 'yes' for the town budget on May 3.

**Judith Podell – Hebron**

**Supporting Concodello**

To the Editor:

On May 3, an election will decide on two candidates to join the Board of Selectmen. I know and have worked with all four of the candidates running for these positions. All four have served the town on various boards, commissions and organizations, and I thank them for their service and dedication to our town. On Election Day, I will be voting for Louise Concodello.

I have served with Louise on the Board of Education for the past 11 years and know her to be a person who listens and is respectful of the opinions of others. She is open-minded and works well with others. She does her homework and is always prepared for the issues the board is dealing with. She has a wealth of knowledge as to the history of our town and its development. I know of no one who has given more time, effort and dedication to the betterment of Marlborough. Along with serving on town boards she has volunteered to help on many activities, projects, and event held in town. Call Louise and she will help.

In my opinion, Louise has the temperament, knowledge and integrity to serve as one of our new selectmen and work cooperatively and collaboratively with the rest of the Board to lead our wonderful town and its citizens into the future. On May 3, please consider voting for Louise Concodello for Board of Selectmen.

**Ruth Kelly – Marlborough**

*Note: Kelly is vice chairman of the Marlborough Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

**Vote for the Best Candidate**

To the Editor:

Sometimes elections are like our winter storms. You never know if you will get snow that will overwhelm your snowblower, sleet that will knock out power or heavy rain that will flood the basement.

Elections are similar. You never really know what you are going to get. You look at the candidates and support the one you think will do the best job. You look at their history of productive experience in town affairs. Have they accomplished anything, or have they just made a lot of noise? Do people in the other party hold them in high esteem, or are they thought of as just being polarizing?

The best candidate has a vision for what needs to be done and can work well with others to accomplish good things for our town. You know you are never going to get a perfect candidate, but you can vote for the best one. I would like to think that candidate is me, and I hope you agree.

I promise to always do my best for our lovely town!

**Louise Concodello – Marlborough**

*Note: Concodello is a member of the Marlborough Board of Education and the Parks & Recreation, Lake Advisory and Nature Trails & Sidewalk commissions, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

**One-Way Street Dems**

To the Editor:

Edmund Smith's a "One-Way Street." He rages about white terrorists like Timothy McVeigh, but consistently fails to mention those from other races – like the Black driver who injured dozens and killed nine people with his vehicle in Wisconsin, or the Black shooter in the South Carolina mall who was taken into custody and shortly after at his hearing was released on a \$25K bond by a Black female judge. As I've been saying, it's a good time to be Black in America.

Then there's Scott Sauyet and his weekly misinformation touting the Biden economy. Well, Mr. Fascist, the statistics you're crowing about are provided by guess who: the Biden Administration, with their fake glowing growth numbers. Pure rubbish. Believe what's real: if you throw trillions of dollars into the economy and don't increase production of goods then guess what happens? Uncontrolled inflation.

Regional • Regional

**Standout Athletes of the Week**

**By Josh Howard**

Here are the Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week for the week of April 18-24:

**Catherine Misbach – Bacon Academy (Track & Field):** Misbach won the 400-meter hurdles at The Patriot Games at Coventry High School on April 23. The senior ran a personal best 1:12.72 at the meet, besting runner-up Mackenzie DiDonato of Thomaston by more than a second. The multi-school meet featured athletes from 30 schools around Connecticut.

**Ryan Kerr - Portland High School (Tennis):** Kerr won his #1 singles match against Cromwell's Zachary Daniele (6-3, 6-0) on April 18. The junior is helping lead an extremely young group of Highlanders this spring. The Highlanders had two more matches at Portland High School remaining this spring – welcoming in Coginchaug on Wednesday, May 4 (3:45 p.m.) and Old Saybrook for the home finale on Monday, May 9 (4:15 p.m.).

**Einin Frost – East Hampton High School**

Life for us all was better from 2016 until COVID hit; now we have 8% inflation, skyrocketing prices for all goods and services, raging war in Ukraine (as we print more billions of dollars) and one million illegal immigrants crossing our southern border and being distributed throughout the country. The most insulting part is the illegals don't have to show a negative COVID test and they get a government cellphone so the feds can contact you when you fail to show up for your hearing. On the flip side, if you want to come into the U.S. legally, you must provide a negative COVID test, and no free cellphone.

On a more personal note, the Associated Press, who controls the *Rivereast* publication, has a policy that instructs our editor to put lowercase "w" for white people and uppercase "B" for Black people. Does it get any more racist than that? Maybe Smith and Sauyet can check the "Science."

So much more to say – see you next week.

**Don Denley – Andover**

**LEGALS**

**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the April 21, 2022 meeting, the following action was taken: **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS PZC APPLICATION #21-11-9 Rose Hill Road.** Request for Special Permit for outdoor special events including weddings, gatherings, functions with sitting and standing room; live music and entertainment; wine/beer tastings; outdoor movies; outdoor lighting; and proposed 22 ft. x 25 ft. structure for golf simulator. Application and property of Nexus Golf Properties, LLC. Assessor's Map 60, Lot 4. Zone RR. Dated at Portland, CT, this 25th day of April 2022 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission 1TB 4/29

**LEGAL NOTICE of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:20 P.M.  
Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480**

Pursuant to Section 503(g) of the Town Charter, a Special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:20 P.M. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT for the following purpose: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves an increase in estimated revenue #08-141-000-00114 of federal grants and a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$169,480 in line item #08-141-000-89010 – Board of Education – System Wide BOE – Technology Upgrades. Dated this 21st day of April 2022 Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman 1TB 4/29

**ADVERTISERS**

*The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.*

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH,  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MAY 2, 2022  
AND BUDGET REFERENDUM MAY 3, 2022**

The legal voters of the Town of Marlborough are hereby notified and warned that a Public Hearing will be held in the Cafeteria at Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 7 P.M. for the following purpose:

- To discuss a budget in the amount of \$26,766,064 for the Town of Marlborough for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 as recommended by the Board of Finance.
- To consider and act upon any additional items which are the proper subject of a Public Hearing, including Special Appropriations or Transfers of Unexpended Funds, as needed.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the budget shall be submitted to a Referendum vote upon the voting machines at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. to vote on the following questions:

1. "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$26,766,064 FOR THE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, BE ADOPTED?" (Please note: This amount includes Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) Budget, Town Operations, Capital Improvements, Local BOE Budgets and Debt Service payments.)
2. "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$29,771,705 FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023 BE ADOPTED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) operational budget would be \$10,777,357.)
3. "SHALL THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$504,619 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023 BE ADOPTED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) capital budget would be \$182,672.)

Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office. Please call 860-295-6206. Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, April 19, 2022. Gregory Lowrey, First Selectman Joseph Asklar, Selectman Amy Traversa, Selectman 1TB 4/29

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022  
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS #107  
6:00 P.M.**

The electors of the Town of East Hampton and those entitled to vote at town meetings are hereby notified that the Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held in the East Hampton Town Hall Council Chambers Room #107 at 1 Community Drive in said Town of East Hampton on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Pursuant to Section 7 - 7 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 4.1 of the Town of East Hampton Charter, said meeting shall be immediately adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 6:00am to 8:00pm at the East Hampton High School for the "YES" or "NO" vote on voting machines for the approval or disapproval of the Annual Budgets for the Board of Education and the Town Government for fiscal year 2022 - 2023 as recommended by the Town Council.

**EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
Mark Philhower, Chairman  
Tim Feege, Vice Chairman  
Pete Brown  
Brandon Goff  
Eric Peterson  
Kevin Reich  
Alison Walck 1TB 4/29

# LEGALS

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON

### CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 12-155 ET SEQ.

The Town of Hebron Tax Collector has levied taxes upon the following properties and has slated them for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and/or other charges owed by the record owner(s) for this property. Taxes as of the last day of April, 2022 set forth below. Additional taxes, interest, fees, water/sewer and utility charges authorized by law accruing after April 30, 2022, are owed. Interested bidders must attend the same in person and a FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) DOLLARS deposit in the form of a bank check is required.

**Time & Place of Sale** 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
Douglas Library of Hebron, Library Meeting Room, 22 Main Street, Hebron, CT

Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	Laurence Aldrich and Jacquelyn Aldrich 158 Millstream Road, Amston, CT Map 12 Lot 8C.3 \$43,248.73 None	Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	George Katsarakas 42 Griswold Lane, Amston, CT Map 19 Lot 10X.1 \$185,805.96 A.T. Demoulas, c/o Cornelia C. Adams, Goldman & Curtis
Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	Helen MacBryde Trustee of the Helen L. Bell Irrevocable Trust dated October 18, 2013 86 Slocum Road, Hebron, CT Map 23 Lot 23 \$49,126.11 None	Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	Robert D. Leach and Terry Ann Scott 28 North Pond Road, Amston, CT Map 67 Lot 17 \$85,240.57 ST of CT Dept of Revenue, ST of CT Probate Administration
Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	Judith Sargent (heir) of the Estate of Chester Darrold Sargent 282 Deepwood Drive, Amston, CT Map 64 Lot 475+476 \$83,345.33 ST of CT Office of Probate Administration, ST of CT Dept. of Revenue	Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	Thomas Oswell 114 North Pond Road, Amston, CT Map 66 Lot 18+8PT \$53,443.01 Glenn F. Ostrager, Executor, Estate of Murray Ostrager
Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	Scott A. Cofield 18 Elsmere Road, Hebron, CT Map 65 Lot 218 \$28,886.21 ST of CT, Dept. of Revenue	Delinquent Taxpayer Property Address Property Boundaries Total Amount Due Lienholders/Other Party	Robert P. Allen and/or Joan M. Allen Trustees of the Howard V. Sweeney and Shirley J. Sweeney Living Trust dated August 5, 1998 29 Abby Drive, Hebron, CT Map 46 Lot 25 \$58,290.81 ST of CT Dept of Revenue, ST of CT Probate Administration

**Inquiries should be directed to:**

Matthew J. Willis, Esq.  
willis@halloransage.com  
(860) 241-4074  
Halloran & Sage  
225 Asylum Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

TOWN OF HEBRON  
Matthew J. Willis, Esq.  
Municipal Counsel  
April 29, 2022

**THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND IS AN EFFORT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE**

1TB 4/29

## 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 Belmont, 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 Mohawk 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 Pocotpaug Association.
- 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.
- 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; Trinks Brothers Oil Company, LLC a/k/a Trinks 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.
- 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 Mariusz 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.
- 34 Raymond Road (Volume 514 Page 1082) owned by Estate of Kathleen McCrann and Cynthia G. Yeager, owing \$3,041.14. CTHM LLC, dba Connecticut Home Mortgage; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; Kyle McCrann; Kaitlyn McCrann; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Kathleen McCrann 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.
- 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.
- 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 Pocotpaug 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. Vontell, Jr. and Bonnie Ann Vontell, owing \$19,488.99.

The dollar amounts listed are through the end of last month. Additional taxes, interest, fees, and other charges authorized by law accruing after the last day of the month immediately preceding this notice are owed in addition to the amount indicated as due and owing in this notice.

Bidders must present \$5,000 per property in certified funds payable to "Pullman & Comley, Trustee" on the day of the sale, and the winning bidder must pay the balance of the sale price within 5 days or forfeit that deposit. Absent a redemption, the purchaser will take title "free and clear" six months after the auction except for certain encumbrances. Details at [www.cttaxsales.com](http://www.cttaxsales.com).

1TB 4/29

## COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION 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 Conservation Commission of the Town of Colchester.  
Number: WA2022-385  
Applicant: Falk von Plachecki  
Location: 40 Blueberry Lane  
Activity: Cover-it enclosure and clearing in URA  
Jay Gigliotti  
Authorized Agent

1TB 4/29

## TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on May 4, 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:  
**A. PZC-22-004: Saint Clements Marina, 49 Oakum Dock Road for Site Plan Modification in C Zone – Section 5.2.B.**  
Map 02/ Block 9A/ Lot 4.  
Ray Zatorski, Chairman  
Note\* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

2TB 4/22, 4/29

## 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, May 05, 2022 at 7:00 PM at 26 No Main St. (Marlborough Town Hall)  
**Amendment to Article Six B.7 Accessory Dwelling Units Delete Article Six C. 18 Use of Accessory Building for Dwelling**  
**Amendment to Article Six A.C Village Cluster Residential Planned Development 6.A.C.1(E), 6.A.C.2 (D), 6.A.C.4, 6.A.C.6 (B).**  
**Amendment to Article Ten E Off-Street Parking Multi Family Housing**  
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.Marboroughct.net](http://www.Marboroughct.net), under Minutes/Agendas then Agenda 2022 then Zoning Commission.  
Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 4/22, 4/29

## Town of Portland Notice of Referendum Monday May 9, 2022

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 1201, of the Charter of the Town of Portland and Chapter 90 and 152, of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended. Notice is hereby given to the electors and the citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Portland that a Referendum will be held on May 9, 2022 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of voting on the adoption of a budget for the Town of Portland.  
"SHALL THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT ITS MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2022, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023, AMOUNT BEING \$37,038,774 BE ADOPTED?"  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is:  
Portland Middle School  
93 High Street  
Portland, Connecticut  
Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office at 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut during business hours. Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls. Optical Scan Voting Tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6 A.M.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8 P.M.).  
Michael V. Tierney  
Town Clerk  
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 18th day of April, 2022.

2TB 4/29, 5/6

## 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, May 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) to consider the following:  
**PZC Application #21-15: 264 Freestone Avenue.** Request for Special Permit for plastics manufacturing business to occupy one unit within the existing building. Application of American Precision Mold Inc. Property of Global Freestone LLC. Assessor's Map 20, Lot 179. Zone I (Industrial).  
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 19th day of April 2022  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 4/22, 4/29

## LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of April 07 2022, took the following action:  
**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED: APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:**  
APPLICATION #Z-03-22 –Mith Lichatz / Farm at Carter Hill (applicant / property owner) – 86 E Hampton Rd - Music events, comedy nights, dinners  
**APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:**  
APPLICATION #Z-01-22 - Station Glo of New England Inc / J&S Enterprises Inc (applicant / property owner) 394 No Main St. - Refacing of existing canopy fascia – update signage.  
**AMENDMENTS TABLED: PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED:**  
Amendment to Article Six B.7 Accessory Dwelling Units – a Public Hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2022.  
Delete Article Six C. 18 Use of Accessory Building for Dwelling a – Public Hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2022.  
Amendment to Article Six A.C Village Cluster Residential Planned Development 6.A.C.1(E), 6.A.C.2 (D), 6.A.C.4, 6.A.C.6 (B). – a Public Hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2022.  
Amendment to Article Ten E Off-Street Parking Multi Family Housing – a Public Hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2022.  
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR  
Dated at Marlborough, CT this 21st day of April.

1TB 4/29

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF FINANCE with the BOARD OF SELECTMEN PUBLIC HEARING Monday, May 2, 2022 Immediately following Annual Town Meeting MES Cafeteria

The Marlborough Board of Finance along with the Board of Selectmen, will hold a Public Hearing Monday, May 2, 2022 at immediately following the Annual Town Meeting to discuss the fiscal year 2022-2023 Town Budget.  
**The following itemized information shall be presented:**  
(a) A statement of actual receipts from all sources during the last Fiscal Year;  
(b) A statement by classification of all actual expenditures during the last Fiscal Year;  
(c) An estimate of anticipated revenues during the next Fiscal Year from each source other than from local property taxes and an estimate of the amount which should be raised by local property taxation for the next Fiscal Year;  
(d) An estimate of expenditures for the next Fiscal Year;  
(e) The amount of revenue surplus or deficit of the Town at the beginning of the Fiscal Year for which estimates are being prepared;  
(f) A statement of the actual and anticipated receipts and expenditures through June 30 of the current Fiscal Year;  
(g) A statement of the financial resources of the Town including a listing of all indebtedness;  
(h) A line entry of the Regional District #8 Board of Education's assessment on the Town for the next Fiscal Year;  
(i) An amount in a contingency fund not to exceed two (2) percent of the total estimated expenditure for the current Fiscal Year.  
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard. A copy of the proposed budget is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and on the town website [www.marboroughct.net](http://www.marboroughct.net)  
Gregory Lowrey, First Selectman  
Joe Asklar, Selectman  
Amy Traversa, Selectman

1TB 4/29

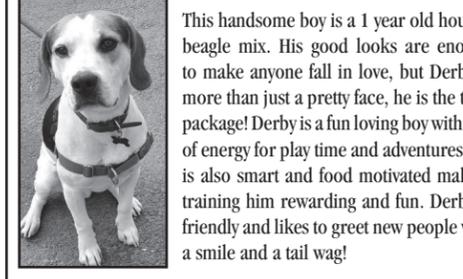
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FREE**  
FREE! FREE! FREE! Oak entertainment center with glass doors and storage drawers; mint condition Technics stereo receiver & CD player, Kenwood dual cassette deck, Infinity speakers, 2 wooden bookcases needing painting. Can text photos! Glastonbury 860-977-4807

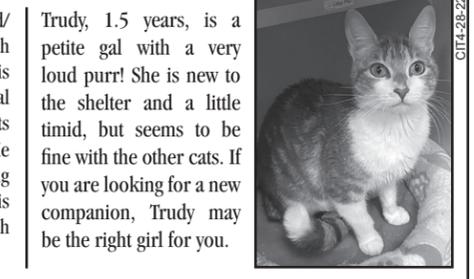
**WANTED TO BUY**  
BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF. Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, oil lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald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



## "Pet of the Week"



This handsome boy is a 1 year old hound/beagle mix. His good looks are enough to make anyone fall in love, but Derby is more than just a pretty face, he is the total package! Derby is a fun loving boy with lots of energy for play time and adventures. He is also smart and food motivated making training him rewarding and fun. Derby is friendly and likes to greet new people with a smile and a tail wag!



Trudy, 1.5 years, is a petite gal with a very loud purr! She is new to the shelter and a little timid, but seems to be fine with the other cats. If you are looking for a new companion, Trudy may be the right girl for you.

**For more information on adopting CATS or DOGS, call 860-569-0722  
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - For information call: 860-569-0722**

**Protectors of Animals, Inc.**  
144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118  
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization, rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs.  
Check us out on our website - [www.poinc.org](http://www.poinc.org)

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE  
COLLECTOR'S NOTICE**

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:  
The fourth installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2020 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on April 1, 2022. Payments must be postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by May 2, 2022 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting May 3, 2022 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of April 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.  
View or pay taxes online at [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org). Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Office hours in April are Monday 8:15 am – 7:00 pm and Tuesday – Thursday 8:15 am – 4:00 pm. Please refer to [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org) for updated office hours.  
Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.  
If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.  
Eileen Curtin, Tax Collector  
Town of Andover  
17 School Road  
Andover, CT 06232

3TB 4/1, 4/8, 4/29

# EMPLOYMENT

**EDUCATION: SCHOOL OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** The Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School is accepting applications for a 10 month (37.5 hr/wk) Administrative Assistant position for the school office. Excellent computer (MS Word, Publisher and Excel) and interpersonal skills required. Applicants must submit a letter of interest, application and resume by May 31, 2022 or until filled to: Dan White, Principal, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447. For application call 860-295-6236 or print one from website, [www.marblorough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marblorough.k12.ct.us) (District, Employment Opportunities, Non-Certified Employee Application) EOE

**PART-TIME KITCHEN ASSISTANT** 12:30pm - 7:00pm 4 days/wk includes every other weekend Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509

**PCA / DRIVER NEEDED**, part-time. For appointments, shopping, errands, etc. Experience preferred. Excellent driving record required. Must be willing to learn to drive handicap modified van \$16.75/hr. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016

**SEEKING SUMMER CAMP STAFF:** We are searching for qualified candidates ages 16+ for the position of Summer Camp Program Leaders and Program Specialists. This fun and exciting position works directly with children grades PreK-8th, organizing games, arts and crafts, attending field trips, etc. Please visit the Town of Hebron website to apply or call 860-530-1281 for more information.

**HELP WANTED /EMPLOYMENT:** Lawn sprinkler company seeking worker for installations and repairs. Includes digging, raking, tamping, and connections. Hardworking, detail oriented, professional. Call 860-882-8705 for interview.

**RENE'S INTERIOR TRIM IS LOOKING FOR DEPENDABLE CARPENTER** with tools and transportation. Please call 860-643-0428

**HELP MOM!** Medicine Reminders, Meals, Transportation, Housekeeping, Companions. All of our caregivers are aged 50+, with many years of experience. Bonded, insured, background checked. We truly are **YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY LLC COLCHESTER 860-967-0831**

**TOWN OF HEBRON BOARD CLERK**  
Board Clerk needed to record and type meeting minutes for Town of Hebron Boards and Commissions. Part time position, mostly evening hours. Meetings may be in-person or in virtual format. Starting rate \$20/hour. Send resume with Town of Hebron application or apply in person: Town Manager's Office, Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

**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@sdiel.com](mailto:emma.stroede@sdiel.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.

**2022-23 TEACHING VACANCY:** The Marlborough School District (PreK-6) is accepting applications for an elementary teaching vacancy for the 2022-2023 school year. Interested candidates should apply with a letter of interest, application, resume, transcripts, appropriate CT certification and 3 recent letters of reference by May 20, 2022 to Dr. Holly Hageman, Superintendent, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447 or email to [cmonte@marblorough.k12.ct.us](mailto:cmonte@marblorough.k12.ct.us). For application see website, [www.marblorough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marblorough.k12.ct.us) (District, Employment Opportunities) or call 860.295.6236. EOE

**PT BOOKKEEPER/PROPERTY MANAGER** Approx 15hrs/week. Independent, organized multitasker needed for property management company. Responsibilities include record keeping, communication w/tenants and coordinating building maintenance issues w/vendors across multiple properties. Pay dependent on experience. Submit resume to: [Jill@kushnerdevelopment.com](mailto:Jill@kushnerdevelopment.com)

**PART-TIME RESIDENT ATTENDANT** 6:30pm - 11:00 pm 3 days/wk includes every other weekend Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509

**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.

**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, be able to lift at least 20 pounds and have experience working with children ages 3 months to 5 years. If interested in learning more about the position please call the center at 860 295-0498 or send us an email at [thekidclub98@yahoo.com](mailto:thekidclub98@yahoo.com) with your availability, qualifications and questions that you may have.

**POSITION WANTED**  
**RWB NURSE ADVOCACY & CASE MGMT:** Attend Dr visits & ask imp questions Fight Ins. company denied claims Care Coordination & Disease Mgmt Richard Williams-Briggs RN, MBA 30 yrs exp, reasonable rates

**Bookkeeper / Administrative Assistant**  
Bookkeeper/Administrative assistant needed for small local office. Experience in construction accounting and certified payroll required. T&M Billing, Experience working with various Unions, payroll quarterly reports, reconciling bank statements. Competitive wage, benefit package includes health insurance and 401(k).  
Please send resumes to:  
**Empire State Piping, P.O. Box 777, Colchester, CT 06415, Attn: Geri or email to [geri@empirestatepiping.com](mailto:geri@empirestatepiping.com)**

**HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**  
The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the following positions:  
**(1) Seasonal Laborer**  
This is a seasonal position with up to 40 (forty) hours a week weather permitting, within the Public Works Department for the summer. The successful candidate will be expected to perform general work in construction, repair and maintenance of town roads, grounds and facilities.  
Requirements: Familiarity and ability to operate grounds maintenance equipment, power equipment, and hand tools as well as possession of a valid Connecticut driver's license. A Town of Marlborough Employment Application and a general job description are available at the Town Clerks Office, 295-6206. Completed applications are to be submitted to the:  
Marlborough Town Clerk  
26 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 29  
Marlborough, CT. 06447  
**Application deadline is Friday, May 13, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.** We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

**Legal Notice  
Annual Town Budget Meeting and Budget Referendum  
Town of Portland, Connecticut**

The **Annual Town Budget Meeting** will be held in person at the Portland Middle School-Cafeteria, 95 High Street (COVID safe protocols will be adhered to) and via Zoom A – [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org)  
**Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM, EDT**  
The **Budget Referendum** will be held at the Portland Middle School-Band Room, 93 High Street  
**Monday, May 9, 2022 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, EDT**  
**Contact Town Clerk's Office for Absentee Ballots**  
Pursuant to Section 1201.4 of the Town of Portland Charter, the Annual Town Budget Meeting and the Budget Referendum shall be held at the above noted dates, places and times to consider and act upon the 2022-2023 General Fund Operating Budget as adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its meeting of April 6, 2022. The recommended budget for FY 2022-2023 is **\$37,038,774**. The recommended amounts for the major budget functions are highlighted in the following table.

General Government	\$1,535,612
Public Safety	\$2,323,035
Public Works	\$2,415,700
Planning and Development	\$202,184
Health and Human Services	\$361,260
Portland Library	\$777,620
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$3,363,470
Risk Management	\$226,500
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT:</b>	<b>\$11,205,381</b>
<b>EDUCATION:</b>	<b>\$22,752,909</b>
Debt Service	\$1,943,654
Sundry	\$1,136,830
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$3,080,484</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$37,038,774</b>

The estimated mill rate would be 32.39, a decrease of 2.62 mills over the FY 2021-2022 mill rate of 35.01. The estimated mill rate is subject to adjustment based on approved State of Connecticut Budget revenues to the Town.  
The budget is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office located at 33 East Main Street, the Portland Public Library located at 20 Freestone Avenue, and on the Town's website [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org)  
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 7th day of April 2022  
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

2TB 4/22, 4/29

**HELP WANTED: LANDSCAPE LABORER**  
Full or part time TOP PAY! Come join the great crew at Baldi Landscaping! Our company is driven to do a top quality job and give exceptional customer service. We offer TOP PAY in the field, paid vacations, paid holidays and a great work environment.  
For more info, contact:  
**Mike Baldi 860-885-8136**

# TREE & LANDSCAPING

**TOTAL LAWN CARE** - Mowing, cleanups, planting, mulching, thatching aeration, dump runs / junk removal and handyman services. Vet and Senior discounts. Call 860-342-2204 or 860-638-8812

**GARDNER TREE SERVICE**- Trees and shrubs cut or removed, mulching, weeding and general cleanup. Family business since 1979. Quality work, dependable service. Free estimates. 860-324-3666

**MASTER GARDENER-UCONN/CT** State Certified. Professional Gardening Care, Diagnosing Problems, Skilled Pruning/Trimming, Planting, Design, Mulching, Edging, Lawn Mowing. 30 Years Experience. Call Thomas #860-267-7515

Call today for **SEASONED FIREWOOD!**  
**TREE REMOVAL** We Licensed Arborist on Staff **Climb**  
**YARD EXPANSIONS**  
We Now Accept All Major Credit Cards • Fully Insured  
**G & C Lawncare – East Hampton (203) 435-5355**

**We Are Here to Help You**  
Patios • Walkways • Firepits  
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Natural Stone • Concrete  
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[www.KatelineLLC.com](http://www.KatelineLLC.com)

**ACF Stump Grinding**  
Call For A Free Estimate!  
**860-918-5856**

# REAL ESTATE

**RENTALS**  
**GLASTONBURY CONDO RENTAL:** Gorgeous 2 bd, 2 full baths at Hale Farms, Totally remodeled with new cabinets, appliances, flooring, baths. AC, open floor plan, large rooms w/lots of closet space, heat & hot water included, 2 pools. No Pets. Credit/references required. \$1,650. Armand 860-810-0550.  
**FOR RENT:** 2 bedroom apartment in East Hampton, CT \$1200/month plus utilities. No pets and two month security deposit required. 860-982-3000

**NICK SELLS FOR MORE**  
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