

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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May 13, 2022



Baby & Me... Danielle Costa and her son Mark love the Baby & Me program offered by C3, Collaborative for Colchester's Children, located at the Colchester Jazzercise Studio. This free class, for parents and caregivers with their child up to 18 months old, includes activities that support healthy development, such as music, finger-plays, rhymes and gentle movement. Families enjoy time together, bonding with their child and connecting with others. A new session will begin this summer. For more information, go to ColchesterC3.org.

'Earthworms on Steroids' Invading the Area

By Sloan Brewster

Local gardeners who have dealt with or seen jumping worms – officially known as *megaphire hilgendorfi* – say they are wreaking havoc.

Calling them “worms on steroids,” Dr. Gale Ridge, of the Department of Entomology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Ridge, said the thick, muscular creatures can damage soils very quickly.

She said the jumping worms – which originated in Asia, primarily Japan – look similar to earthworms, which are a benefit to soil, but the band around the jumping worm is whiter versus the red color of bands circling earthworms' bodies.

“They do look like a night crawler and you don't want to hurt a night crawler,” one of the local gardeners who spoke to the *Rivereast* about the worms but asked that her name not be used, said. “The ends are pointier. They're like a firmer worm, more rigid and more muscular, maybe.”

Hebron resident Ann Zitkus, who first brought the nuisance non-native worms to the attention of the *Rivereast*, said while she has not had them in her yard, she is very concerned about them.

Although the jumping worms have been in this country since the 1940s, in the past couple years, their population has increased in Connecticut, Zitkus said.

“The infestation of this is exploding but many are not aware of this yet,” she said. “It was spread into Hebron last spring through typical gardening activities. But the people who got them only realized it in mid-summer.”

Jumping worms easily establish once they are brought to a property, where they spread

out and make themselves at home, rapidly multiplying while eating all the organic matter in the soil. With nothing left living in the soil, it becomes nearly impossible for native plants to sprout back to life the following year.

Native plants, such as sugar maples, have a tough time germinating in soil infested with jumping worms, Ridge said.

“The plants that generally survive jumping worms actually are those that are more deeply rooted,” Ridge said. “Gardens based on prairie gardens, with milkweed, are deeper rooted. They escape because [jumping worms are] in the first couple inches.”

The adult jumping worms die in the winter and in early spring, cocoons, laden with eggs – the color and size of poppy seeds – are all that remain, with worms inside, awaiting their moment to come out, which, according to Ridge, takes place in mid-summer.

When in mulch, potted plants, and compost the cocoons and seeds are not visible to the naked eye, the women said. Consequently, people who purchase mulch or compost at nurseries or other distributors don't see the adult jumping worms – so dubbed due to the violent manner in which they wriggle around – until after they have hatched in mid-summer.

“It's only in July or August that you see these actual worms whipping around,” Zitkus said. “People are shocked when they see them.”

“It's just a shock because these worms are so plentiful and there so close to the surface and they're so wriggly and weird and there's so many of them,” Zitkus said.

See 'Earthworms on Steroids', page 3

Greystone Faced Issues Before Woman's Death

By Jack Lakowsky

Elderly Portland resident Rosemarie Dean, who went missing in March, was found dead in the Connecticut River by Middletown police last week.

Dean disappeared March 17. She was 75 and had dementia. Police said they are not investigating any suspicious circumstances. An exact cause of death has not been determined.

She lived in Greystone Retirement Home for mere hours before vanishing.

Last week, First Selectman Ryan Curley and the Board of Selectmen held a moment of silence in Dean's memory. In a small way, her name will enter the annals of town history.

The search for Dean was extensive, with multiple town and state departments searching for her. Officials deployed helicopters, K-9s and search crews.

Residents posted sightings to both Portland and East Hampton Facebook forums, but nothing came of them.

It appears she was last seen near the sand pit on Sage Hollow Road in Portland, according to tweets from First Selectman Ryan Curley. Curley and the board offered condolences to Dean's loved ones in last week's meeting.

A *Rivereast* investigation discovered a letter to the state detailing multiple issues hindering the facility.

Greystone, according to the letter written by owner Luel Swanson, takes in “people who would otherwise be on the street.”

The letter, dated February 2020 and sent as testimony for the state Department of Social Services budget, said Greystone services people at-risk for homelessness, younger patients “in

the state's mental health care system,” people with addiction, veterans and elderly people unable to live on their own or pay for an assisted living facility.

Greystone serves people who can't be totally independent but don't need nursing care.

In the 2020 letter, Swanson was advocating that the state increase the facility's funding. She said Greystone had been flat funded for 10 years.

“This is a tremendous burden,” wrote Swanson. “We are operating on a razor's edge.”

Swanson wrote Greystone didn't have the revenue to meet payroll each week.

“I cannot tell you how overwhelming and exhausting this has been,” she wrote.

Swanson did not return requests for comment
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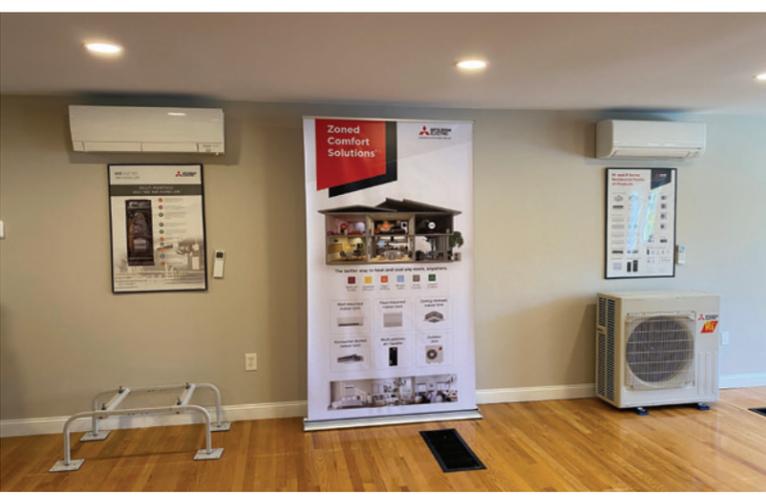
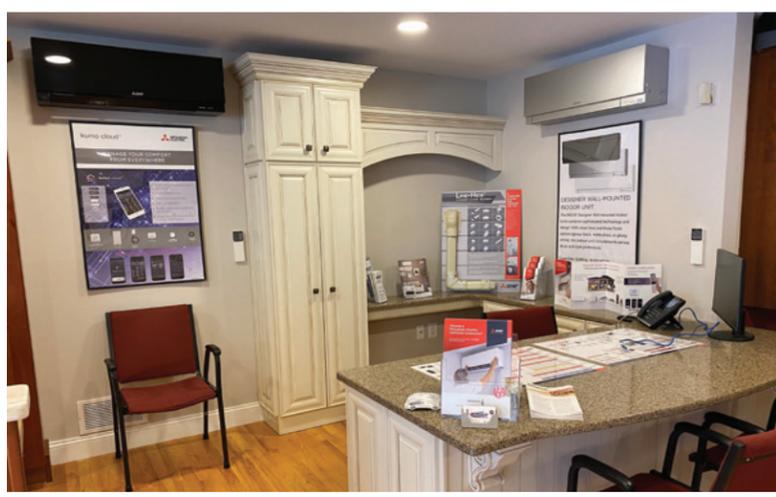
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Cover Story • Cover Story

★ *'Earthworms on Steroids' cont. from page 1*

Prevention

Once the worms come out and begin to cause destruction, it's too late to do much about the problem.

In addition to clearing the soil of all organic matter, Ridge said the worms elevate soil erosion and increase greenhouse gas emissions from the soil.

Ridge said Josef Görres, an associate professor at the University of Vermont is doing research to find a way to eradicate jumping worms but there's no way to control them yet. "At this point there is really nothing out there to control them," she said.

The best thing to do is prevent them, Zitkius and Ridge said. That means not introducing them to soil in a yard, which translates to bringing in no earth or compost products, where they may be lurking unseen.

When buying flowers and plants at spring-time sales, try to get them bare-rooted, Ridge said. If they are in soil, "assume there are cocoons or young" and take the plants from the soil, dispose of it and rinse the roots.

She said everyone should take up this practice to slow the spread of the worms.

"Do not plant the soil," she said. "Do not introduce anything on any property that has soil. The scientists are saying this is the only way. For the time being we have to do this practice."

Candace O'Shea, of Hebron, who said she has jumping worms in her yard, said "a lot of onus of responsibility" for the spread of the worms and managing them "belongs to the garden industry."

Zitkius said she makes her own compost and property owners can make mulch from twigs and branches they collect in their own yards.

"What I'm doing is using everything I have in my yard. I'm going to be very careful," she said.

To be on the safe side, she said she won't dig up plants and give them away to friends.

Solarize Purchased Mulch

When property owners do choose to purchase

mulch, they should solarize it, Ridge said. She said to put a thin layer of the product – about two to three inches thick – in a sunny area of the yard and on top of painter's plastic. Add another plastic tarp to the top and fold over the two layers, taping them together. Leave this in the sun for three days, making sure it heats to at least 105 degrees.

While resilient, the cocoons will eventually succumb to the heat, she said.

"It's going to be getting this tropical effect that they will have difficulty in managing," she said. "You're shocking, creating heat shock."

"Mini Horror Show"

O'Shea called jumping worms "the bane of my existence."

O'Shea said she came across a strange type of worm last year, after she had to overhaul her septic tank and new dirt was brought onto her property.

"I know that the worms came in the soil because I started seeing them in the spring," she said. "My first reaction was this is a good thing, they must be earthworms."

Soon, however, O'Shea came to the conclusion they were not earthworms.

"There was something about them," she said. "These are weird worms."

She began picking them out of the soil.

"I just didn't like then I didn't like how they moved, they were erratic, they moved around they were jumpy," she described.

O'Shea also saw the worms wiggling around in mulch she put down.

"It was almost like a little mini horror show, 'Return of the Worms,' or something," she said.

She did some research, learned about jumping worms and began collecting them from her yard, filling five-gallon buckets with the wriggly destroyers and pouring in vinegar to kill them.

"I could go out [for] a half hour and get 250," she said, adding that her daily quota was to get about that many and kill them.



Milky white collar that is smooth and flat.

Jumping worms, which are spreading across the state, look similar to earthworms, but the band across their body is milky white in color compared with the red band around earthworms.

This year, she said she will use dry mustard to draw them out as soon as the young worms begin to hatch.

She said she takes a third cup of dry mustard, which she bought by the pound, puts it in a gallon of water and pours the concentrated liquid over a small area. The worms don't like it and crawl to the surface, where she grabs them and tosses them in a bucket of vinegar. Some people use soapy water, O'Shea said, but she prefers vinegar.

When the worms are dead, she throws them in the trash.

"You can't put your dead worms back in the soil," she said. "You have to remove them from your property."

O'Shea said she also discovered that jumping worms tend to respond negatively to vibrations and will come to the surface when she turns on a leaf blower and sits it on the ground where they are nesting.

She also pointed out that the jumping worms should never be used as bait for fishing.

"All they do is get loose, drop their cocoons and spread over river banks," she said.

O'Shea said she has lost new plants she put in last year that had not yet developed root systems, "because it's really hard for them to get started if they're started in a bed of jumping worms."

Jumping worms have taken the joy out of gardening for O'Shea, who said she was in the process of creating a woodland garden when she came upon them.

"Gardening isn't as much fun," she said.

She said she has to be thoughtful about what she puts in her yard and is cautious about where she buys plants.

O'Shea said that since she already has jumping worms, she may take plants from friends, rinse them and plant them in her yard but she is "certainly not sharing" any of her plants.

"Sharing plants for me is a big no, no," she said.

She said folks should ask garden centers what their protocols for jumping worms are.

The Hebron resident who asked that her name not be used in the story said she has also been dealing with jumping worms on her property.

She said she visited a website called CT Gardeners and saw that someone posted about them and how destructive they were. When she went out to her garden, she said she saw them there and began collecting them.

"I wish I knew about this earlier," she said. "I must have collected a whole coffee can of these worms in a one-foot area. I was like, these things are so prolific."

She said she killed the worms she collected and could tell there was no organic matter remaining in the soil, which she described as "just rubbery and sand sized."

"Never had I had a pile of Grape-Nuts in my garden," she said by way of description of the soil.

She said she also found the worms in her potato patch.

"Some of them were the size of a snake, it was disgusting," she said. "They were jumping around. They wiggle like they want to get away; a lot of worms wiggle, but these guys, they jump up."

Like O'Shea, she said she believes she got the infestation from earth products she added to her yard.

"I think how I got them was I brought in a lot of peat, bagged compost and bagged soil," she said.

To replenish her soil this year, she said she purchased manure from a local horse farm. In the meantime, she plans to keep an eye out for the castings, which, according to Zitkius are a dry gravelly substance that look like coffee grounds, get washed away in the rain and are fire proof.

O'Shea said she had sent soil samples out for testing. Once she gets the results from the lab, she said she will augment the soil based the information.

"When I first found out about [the jumping worms] I was totally dismayed, almost depressed, because I didn't think there was anything I could do," she said. "I'm no longer in that place."

To read a pamphlet Ridge has written about jumping worms, which she said she constantly updates, visit tinyurl.com/4zb2hb53.

★ *Greystone Faced Issues cont. from page 1*

on this story – so it is unknown if the financial situation has improved any in the past two years.

But in her 2020 letter, Swanson described Greystone as "severely" lacking in proper support, and that it needed a "significant" injection of funds. She said rate increases must go up every year to keep up with rising prices.

"Frequently, I cannot get good staff because it's a struggle to pay them," she wrote, adding that "staff is everything to me."

With the state's minimum wage increasing, Swanson wrote she didn't know how Greystone was going to survive.

Swanson said the retirement home manages this while caring for society's most vulnerable members. She said on daily basis, workers deal with "extremely challenging behaviors."

"If I don't have the money [or the staff, then] I can't care for the people of this state who most need it, and we close," Swanson wrote.

Swanson wrote that if Greystone and facilities like it closed, the state would have to care for them at great cost.

Swanson said in her 2020 letter that Greystone has almost 60 residents and 30 employees. She has run the facility for more than 20 years.



Rosemarie Dean, 75, disappeared from Greystone Retirement Home in March. Last week, she was found dead in the Connecticut River. In a letter to the state in 2020, Greystone's owner described severe funding and staffing issues at the facility.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Now this sounds like it could be fun. The Marlborough Historical Society is offering free Architectural Conservation analysis and condition assessment on any historic house (pre-1900s) in Marlborough and surrounding towns.

This free assessment looks at wood, bricks, mortar and/or paint that is either damaged and in need of repair, or simply restored to its original state. This is a preservation initiative for any homeowner who is looking to preserve the historic integrity and character-defining features of their house.

One of the great things about living in this part of country is the volume of beautiful, historic homes. It's not uncommon at all to go walking down the street and be greeted with 1800s, even 1700s, homes. And if your home has that much history.....well, you're likely going to want to do whatever you can to keep it up.

So if you have an historic home, why not give the society a call? You can contact Romano Ghirlanda at 860-916-4031 or mhs@marlboroughhistory.org.

* * *

The late comedian George Carlin was in the news last week, after news of the Supreme Court leak in the Roe vs. Wade case made the rounds. A two-minute clip from years ago surfaced of Carlin talking about abortion and politicians. And while I may not always be the sharpest tool in the shed, I've been writing this column long enough to know I'm not going to touch abortion with a 10-foot pole. It's such a sensitive, polarizing issue – and one I have complicated feelings about.

But seeing Carlin in the news did make me think of some of his other quotes over the years. I enjoyed watching his stand-up, and, even when I didn't agree with him – which was a lot, particularly when he'd start talking about religion – he'd often make me think. So here are some particularly enjoyable observations of his from over the years – or at least ones clean enough to print in a family newspaper:

"Some people see things that are and ask, 'Why?' Some people dream of things that never were and ask, 'Why not?' Some people have to go to work and don't have time for all that."

"Some people have no idea what they're doing, and a lot of them are really good at it."

"The caterpillar does all the work, but the butterfly gets all the publicity."

"Never argue with an idiot. They will only bring you down to their level and beat you with experience."

"Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups."

"Careful – if you think too much, they'll take you away."

"Think of how stupid the average person is, and realize half of them are stupider than that."

"We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living but not a life. We've added years to life, not life to years."

"Trying to be happy by accumulating possessions is like trying to satisfy hunger by tapping sandwiches all over your body."

"In America, anyone can become president. That's the problem."

"We are a nation of sheep, and someone else owns the grass."

"The IQ and the life expectancy of the average American recently passed each other in opposite directions."

"Although I broke a lot of laws as a teenager, I straightened out immediately upon turning eighteen, when I realized the state had a legal right to execute me."

"That's why they call it the American Dream, because you have to be asleep to believe it."

"How is it possible to have a civil war?"

"War is rich old men protecting their property by sending middle-class and lower-class men off to die."

"Scratch any cynic and you will find a dis-

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Meet the Mugwort... Girl Scout and Hebron Trail Ranger organizer Catherine Chester points out non-native invasive mugwort growing along the road at the start of a guided hike at the Hibbert Preserve last Saturday. The QR codes on the signs she created lead to the University of Connecticut's online publications at ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/invasive-species-publications, where information on Invasive Species identification and control is offered. Photo by Lillian Rhodes.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum •

Is Biden Losing His Memory?

To the Editor:

As many of you did, a lot of people watched the Kentucky Derby this past Saturday evening. We watched the interviews with the owners, the trainers and the jockeys. Then they saddled up for the big race. I said to myself, "There's something missing here." I looked carefully again and then I noticed it. There was not a single Black woman jockey!

Frank Blume – Colchester

while preserving our rural historic character." It is more critical than ever that the residents of Hebron join together and act as our own stewards.

We have an opportunity to build a grass roots effort to preserve the rural historic character that we all enjoy. The proposed Public Works facility is only the tip of a \$50 million iceberg that will sink 88 acres of pristine 300-year-old hedgerow farmland, the surrounding sensitive wetlands, our groundwater protection zone, and a thriving residential neighborhood. Is this where we want to go as a town? For decades Hebron has been known for its excellent school system and its classic New England charm. Our town is defined by sweeping views of active farms, roads lined with stone walls, our beautiful historic houses and friendly neighborhoods. If our town leaders don't appear interested in preserving the Hebron we know and love, then it is up to all of us to push back and make our voices heard.

The referendum for the funding of the Public Works facility is still at some intentionally vague date "in the fall." So as our own stew-

Hebron's Two Votes

To the Editor:

As Hebron's town budget passes referendum by only two votes, we are once again reminded that every vote counts. Our town leaders have sacrificed funding for education and open space in a possible bid to clear budget space for the impending fall referendum to fund an unnecessary and destructive \$10 million Public Works complex. Our wayward Board of Selectmen has once again made a choice to walk away from its stated mission to act as "stewards of the town..."

Bulletin Board

There's a scene in an old Woody Allen movie, "Annie Hall," where a live lobster escapes in Allen's New York City apartment and scuttles behind the refrigerator. A terrified Woody—an anxiety-ridden city dweller to the core—suggests that perhaps the fearsome creature could be lured out into the open by baiting it with a dish of melted butter.

City folks have some funny ideas.

In the same movie, Diane Keaton, playing Annie Hall as a transplant to New York City from some cornfield in the Midwest, goes into a deli and orders pastrami on white bread with mayo. I first saw this scene in a movie theater in the late '70s with the young woman (city born and raised) who in a moment of weakness (she says pity, I insist it was lust) subsequently agreed to become my wife. As she and the rest of the theater burst into hysterics over Keaton's culinary faux pas, I leaned over and said, "I don't get it."

And I didn't.

Nevertheless, such was my scruffy charm (she says the depths of her foolish compassion for the truly helpless) that I managed to lure her to Connecticut by assuring her that our new home—located in the town of Lebanon—was practically within walking distance of two major cities.

She thought I meant Boston and New York. Imagine her surprise when she learned I was referring to Norwich and Willimantic.

Well, they're sort of like little cities.

So one early spring night soon after we moved in, we're out by the back door of our modest little cape and the peepers are in full chorus as they heralded in the season.

"What's that?" she asked nervously.

"What's what?"

"That horrible screeching."

"Oh, those are just the peepers welcoming spring."

She looked at me.

"They're like little frogs," I explained.

"Oh," she said

Her next question came from behind our now closed and locked back door as I stood on the step outside.

"Mmmppph?"

"What?" I asked, addressing the closed door.

"Do they bite?"

"No worse than crickets," I replied as scraping and banging noises from inside the house indicated that she was further barricading the door with what little furniture we owned.

Now, some two score years later, I am pleased to report that we have both come a long way. While not exactly a hardy outdoorsperson, she is no longer fearful of being attacked by carnivorous peepers and I wouldn't dream of ordering pastrami on white bread with mayo. Such is her confidence that she'll even stay out on the patio at dusk while a half a dozen bats circle overhead.

I told her they were bluebirds.

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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

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

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Parental Input

To the Editor:

It's that time of year again, when the primary levers of power shift to the townspeople. Election Day and the Budget Referendum vote are the only two days of the year that happens. All the other days of the year, decisions are made by others, with citizen input limited to speaking at town meetings, writing letters and chatting with administration over coffee. It's nice to have those opportunities but they pale in comparison to the election and budget votes.

On Tuesday, residents are not just trying to influence the decision-makers; it is one of the two days when residents are the decision-makers.

Perhaps you've thought your children's education was excellent over the last two years or maybe you felt your children's education was lacking over that time, that distance-learning was severely deficient, that policies enacted negatively impacted your children's mental health and social isolation. No matter the case, now is the time for parents to assert their rights as the primary stakeholders in their children's education by the authority granted to approve or defeat the town and education budgets, which increase spending by ~4% this year.

David Arcidiacono – East Hampton

Delusional Writer Projection?

To the Editor:

Sam Prentice uses a double negative which amounts to affirming that the 2020 election was not stolen. Despite Sam's claim that it was. He cites a well-known conspiracy writer, Dinesh D'Souza, as the source of his delusional beliefs regarding the election and the Jan. 6th insurrection.

Sam claims that "Trump loves America and all of her people..." Really? The continual stream of books from members of the Trump administration point to a semi-literate, self-centered, mentally unstable man who came close to destroying our alliances around the world, who considered firing on US citizens, and who asked to nuke drug factories in Mexico.

Delusional true believers drank the Kool-Aid supplied by Jim Jones. Are Trump true believers to be lured to follow this demagogue who would destroy our democracy?

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

My Goals

To the Editor:

I had two goals. My goal was to win a seat on the Board of Selectmen, and I wanted Marlborough voters to have a greater choice in the special selectmen's election. I did not prevail in the first, but I am proud to have been able to offer the second.

I am also proud of the people I ran against that won. They ran strong, honest, campaigns and they can be proud of their participation in a process denied to a large portion of the world. Congratulations to the winners. They worked hard and it paid off.

Sincerely,

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.

Message Sent

To the Editor:

The longtime discontent of Hebron citizens with its government was expressed in the May 3 town budget vote, which passed by only two votes, 528-526. The opposition to this government, particularly the ill manner in which it treats its citizens, was spontaneous and true.

The source of this discontent is obvious: we are no longer a democracy. The town charter, the basis of our government, is consistently violated. Conflict of interest codes, which are key to the integrity of the government, are ignored. While feckless selectmen dream of dog parks and otherwise do as they are told, the Board of Finance continues its mission creep directing the operations of the town and schools. Most recently, the Board of Finance's line-item cut of the education budget was almost certainly illegal (see: The Board of Education of the Town of Stamford v. The Board of Finance, et. al., 127 Conn.345, 350, (1937); Board of Education of

the Town of Ellington v. Town of Ellington, et. al., 151 Conn. 1, (1963)).

The town pursues policies that are detrimental to the citizens of Hebron. We are mercilessly taxed without true representation. (In particular, town Democrats have no representation – it was selectmen Thiele and Rubera, and BOF members Leichter and Fodaski, who insisted on cuts to education and open space.) Instead of funding core services that are important to its citizens, the town pursues the construction of a municipal complex, to be built in the middle of town, presumably as daily reminder to every citizen that their true purpose in life is not the pursuit of happiness but rather to fund big government.

In November, there will be a referendum on the first building of this municipal complex. This time, the opposition will be organized and democracy will prevail.

John Collins – Amston

Can't Support Budget

To the Editor:

It's budget season again and Andover taxpayers are being asked to support an overall increase of 4+%, with the Andover Elementary School administration asking for an increase of over 5%. I cannot support this budget as presented because of the continued lack of transparency by the administration at AES.

I had high hopes for greater insight into the details of AES expenditures, with the implementation of the new, highly touted financial software put in place to better track where our tax dollars are spent. But we still have no more details than we did last year. Is it too much to expect a monthly expenditure report for each month of the school year like other towns?

If you want to see what transparency in school budgets and expenditures looks like, review the BOE websites in Marlborough and Hebron. These reports make AES budgets and budget presentations look like they were created by an AES grammar school student. The "final" budget on the AES website isn't even updated or "finalized." But I digress. AES does have a link on its website for monthly expenditures, and do you know how many reports are posted? Two! Eight months into the school year and they've shared two reports, with the most recent dated 2/2/22! As of the February report, they claim to only have spent \$1,954,4789 of the nearly \$3.90M budget. With \$111,980 in encumbrances, that leaves \$1,835,940 (53%) unspent. Is this still unspent? Do they really need all this funding? We can't know, because there's no transparency and no one's holding them accountable for keeping up-to-date records available for the taxpayers. How can we know if this is an honest and necessary budget or one that's padded for purposes we'll never know of?

Andover taxpayers deserve an honest, transparent, prudent budget we can trust. This isn't it! I'll be voting 'no' Tuesday, May 17!

Liz Lokiec – Andover

Support School Budget

To the Editor:

East Hampton Public Schools have done a remarkable job of doing exceptional things with minimal funding, and that might be to its own detriment.

Do not misunderstand me. It is imperative that East Hampton vote 'yes' on the budget referendum on Tuesday, May 17 (and vote 'yes' on the town budget too). This Town Council and Board of Finance have made it clear that a 'no' vote will be interpreted as a mandate to cut funding.

A good school system benefits everyone in East Hampton. Great schools draw families to town, who in turn build the tax base, support

local businesses, and contribute to the town. Further, schools enrich local culture through the arts, sports, civic engagement, and so many more activities.

Our public schools should be the pride of East Hampton. Yes, education is expensive, and the budget increases every year. But when you look at what East Hampton spends compared to our neighbors, you find a different story.

According to data provided to the Board of Education, East Hampton spent \$17,803 per pupil in the 2019-20 school year, ranking 121st in Connecticut. It was thousands less than East Haddam and Middletown, and hundreds less than Glastonbury and Colchester. The only neighboring town that spent less was Portland – by \$4.

This year's proposed budget maintains that frugality. There are no proverbial frills in this spending plan. We're once again asking our schools to work miracles on a discount rate. That's not a trend that can continue forever. If an already bare-bones budget fails at referendum, students, staff and parents alike are going to feel the cuts.

Please pass this budget on the first try. And next year, let's propose a spending plan that better meets the needs of our schools.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Mules 2K

To the Editor:

Dinesh D'Souza is being cited as a relevant source on voter fraud. I suppose there's something to that, as he was himself convicted of voter fraud. But when he becomes the producer of last resort for political activists pushing their voting conspiracy theory, it's hard not to just laugh.

Sam Prentice cites D'Souza's new film, *2000 Mules*, as incontrovertible evidence of a vast conspiracy to alter the 2020 vote. The film is based on the work of True the Vote, a Tea Party offshoot that specializes in challenging voters rights. I have not seen the film, and I doubt Mr. Prentice had when he cited it, since it seems that the film wasn't even released before his letter was published. I've seen its trailer and Charlie Kirk's fawning, hour-long interview with its principals.

They make interesting accusations. Without

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

appointed idealist."

"'Bipartisan' usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out."

"I think people should be allowed to do what they want. We haven't tried that for a while. Maybe this time it'll work."

"If you have selfish, ignorant citizens, you're going to have selfish, ignorant leaders."

"If it's true that our species is alone in the universe, then I'd have to say the universe aimed rather low and settled for very little."

access to their data and methodology (which they're releasing after the film's run) it's hard to make any substantive judgments about the material. But it is clearly based on data too coarse to prove their main point – cellphone ping data is not that precise. That makes the rest of it suspect, and when they start preaching about vast conspiracies involving many layers of law enforcement, the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and various governors, it feels mostly like a sick joke. I wonder if they've done the basic statistical step of measuring their results against the null hypothesis. Somehow, I doubt it. I also wonder whether they have evidence to suggest any illegal votes benefited Biden over Trump. I guess we'll see.

Of course, Mr. Prentice believes it. Confirmation bias is quite powerful; when conspiracy theorists start spouting a new conspiracy, it will attract all sorts of gullible souls. Don't be too angry with them; they mostly deserve our pity.

Sincerely,

Scott Sauyet – Andover

Turtles and Roads

To the Editor:

Spring has sprung, turtles are on the move, and some will cross roads. Unfortunately, many will be on the losing end of encounters with motor vehicles. Even without this danger, very few turtles survive long enough to reach adulthood. A turtle of breeding age is vital to the survival of its species. This is especially true of those on the Endangered and Special Concern list, including box and wood turtles. With this in mind, please be on the lookout for traveling turtles and drive slowly on streets that are near wet areas. However, some turtles live in drier areas as well and might cross any road.

To help a turtle to cross a road, here are a couple of tips:

1) Before getting out of your car to help the turtle, make sure that you will not be run over.

2) Place the turtle on the side that it is heading toward or it will just try to cross the road again. An exception to this rule is if the turtle is heading toward a dangerous area, such as an even busier road or construction site.

More important tips to help turtles:

1. Never take a turtle from the wild for a pet. Instead, consider adopting an unwanted pet in

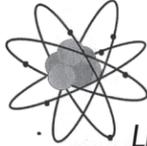
See Letters, page 6

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CIT5-12-22

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

need of a good home.
 2. Never release a pet turtle into the wild.
 3. Do not relocate a turtle; many kinds are territorial and probably won't survive.
 4. Never buy items made from turtles or turtle shells.
 The New York Turtle and Tortoise Society
<http://nytts.org>
 DEEP Wildlife Division 79 Main St. Harford
 860-424-3011

Turtle Rescue League <http://www.turtlescueleague.com/about/pet-turtles/turtle-adoption>
 Pool owners: are you tired of fishing animals, alive or dead, out of the water? There is a simple solution: The FrogLog. With the FrogLog, the animals easily escape to safety. <https://froglog.us/>

Thank you,
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

OK, You're in Charge?
 To the Editor:
 Confession: I know that I am not up to making world-class decisions about macroeconomics, global warfare, and trillion-dollar budgets. Are you? Think about it: Really, how would you handle the myriad problems, situations, decisions, etc., required to run the country? Really. I am always curious what Joe Average, who complains about government (either or both parties, all the branches), would do to bal-

ance all of the wants and needs of the United States of America... which is not very "united" whatsoever! End hunger, poverty, racism, sexism. Balance demographics, resource allocation, manufacturing problems, and labor issues. Manage foreign relations, illegal drugs, and crime. Mitigate natural catastrophes, protect the environment. Keep air flights on time! Make everybody happy. OK, maybe not everybody: make 80% of the population happy. Good luck!
 Or take it down a notch: run the state, or a town. What would you do? Complaining is easy. Doing is hard, especially when there is no consensus on what is right and good.
 Ah, if only I could be the strongman leader of a small tribe. Those were the days! For the leader.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Vote 'No' on Budget

To the Editor:
 I watched most of the BOE "budget workshops" and sat through many meetings. It is very disheartening to watch the BOE spend very little time talking about how to save money. There was a lot of praise for getting grants but they will not tell us what they got and where they spent that money.

The superintendent talked about combining classes because of the low enrollment but somehow our cost is still going up. There is absolutely no willingness for the BOE to give to the town. They talk about wanting to work together yet even a justified reduction of a mere \$20,000 is deemed "unfair" and divisive. Watch the April 20 BOF meeting on YouTube.

The Board of Finance said during the town meeting that this budget is only a starting point yet we are being asked to approve it as is! Please vote 'no' on May 17.

Marcie Miner – Andover

Vote 'No' – Bad Timing

To the Editor:
 With the recent five-year property revaluation being performed at the peak of a housing market surge, almost all property owners in town have seen appraisals sky rocket. The only way taxpayers don't feel this poorly timed revaluation is by allowing the mill rate to drop adequately, by not increasing the budget this year (certainly not by \$481,030). We need a mill rate drop proportionate to the large increase in overall property value that residents have seen. The only way to accomplish this is by voting 'no' to any budget increase this year.

I understand prices are rising for the town, but the same is true for all residents. We shouldn't have to navigate ever increasing costs and large tax increases at the same time. We have no control over supply chain issues and the larger economy, but we can and should say 'no' to increased taxes, especially now. Time to conserve, not spend. Vote 'no' May 17.

Eric Berry – Andover

Baby Parts for Sale!

To the Editor:
 Welcome to Connecticut! Baby parts for sale cheap! Contact the governor or attorney general to place an order. It is interesting that on all of those clever signs waved at pro-abortion rallies, the word "baby" is never seen. Aren't there two people involved in an abortion decision? Apparently, it is all about a woman's right to "reproductive health." What about the baby's health?

I am "pro-choice." I believe a woman has a right to abort a pregnancy. After all, it is her body. I just don't believe she should have nine months to decide. I am not smart enough or wise enough to know when the cutoff should be, but certainly before there is another complete human in there.

Donald A. Ross – Hebron

Andover Budget Vote

To the Editor:
 Andover is facing their first budget vote on Tuesday, May 17. After being contacted by residents about my thoughts and the belief in me that Andover's residents have shown, I feel compelled to comment.

I have no agenda at all, only to spend time in this voluntary capacity for my community. So, I think an almost 5% increase in money raised by taxation is too high of an ask of taxpayers, many of whom are on a fixed budget. It might have been higher, but thankfully, the school bond of \$93,000 has been paid off. We are experiencing inflation across the country at this time and have no idea when it will end. Other items that taxpayers need to pay for in their households will also be higher.

Coming off a revolutionary revaluation time across the country and in Andover, where new

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

home values come into play in July, most people will see an increase in taxes just because our values rose. Yes, I know the grand list rose also. This is a good thing for us as property owners, but after hearing from taxpayers, if the 32.97 mil rate passes to create this almost \$500,000 spending increase the town is seeking, they are fearful of paying 10, 20, even 30 percent more in taxes to fund it. Folks I spoke to will be charged \$1,000 more in taxes with this budget and others even higher.

I do support what the town's BOS is trying to do in town, however, not all in one year! I would be happy to see less of an increase this year while we see where the economic climate in our country/state/town takes us. Thank you to those who reached out to me recently to remind me why they voted for me and my opinions!

Sincerely,
Joanne Hebert – Andover

Note: Hebert is a member of the Andover Board of Finance, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Andover Budget & Ned Lamont

To the Editor:
On May 17, Andover taxpayers should reject this year's budget; the 6% increase in the Board of Education and the 12% increase in the town operations budget are both too high, unacceptable and unsustainable. Thankfully, we have the COVID money that will help us finish financing the senior/community center or many of us, especially the seniors, would be irate. We have 188 students in the elementary school and class sizes of 20 or less in a safe and updated facility. I see no reason – except for heating costs – for spending to increase by \$200K.

The town spending increase is even worse – \$400K. With our recent "reval" and house values going through the roof, record inflation, supply chain issues, soaring heat and fuel prices, the town should be tightening their belts, not going on a spending spree. We took a part-time Public Works position and made it full-time last year so as we were told two teams working on separate projects. Now they want another full-timer – this is unaffordable at this time!

I urge the silent majority to get out and vote 'no.' Remember, parents in all towns love to spend other people money to help educate their children.

Second topic: Ned Lamont's reign as king needs to end. He is sitting on a \$4 billion budget surplus and is throwing scraps of "tax relief," not cuts, to seniors, small businesses and the working class. His recent \$160 million bribe to 46,000 state workers is a prime example. Yes, health care and safety workers should get consideration. They actually had to go to work during the pandemic – everyone else stayed home and worked via Zoom – maybe? Lamont applauded them for staying home while thousands of private sector workers lost hours or their jobs. Remember: no state worker missed a paycheck.

It's time for a change – defeat Jolly Ned in November.

Don Denley – Andover

Pathological Thinking

To the Editor:
Despite the phrase "woke" having been around for over a hundred years, the expression is often ridiculed, distorted and entirely misunderstood by the political and religious right in America. The term alludes to awareness, which is analogous to other cultural idioms such as philotimo in Greek, samadhi in Hindu, and nirvana in Buddhism. Each is considered a philosophical practice characterized by the power of reason, intellect and mindfulness. A core concept, intended to point an internal ethical compass towards empathy, compassion, and tolerance.

Unfortunately, there are far too many individuals who subscribe to half-baked conspiracies about everything from BLM, LGBTQ, and FEMA camps; to vaccines, climate change, world governments and secret societies. This is the language of a paranoid sub-culture, who believes that clandestine evil geniuses are behind every major challenge the world faces. A neuroticism that breeds paranoia, intolerance and anger. This collective psychosis sacrifices mindfulness and reason, for an illusion of knowledge that borders on absurdity. An obsession that views the world as ambiguous, conspiratorial and designed with malignity. However, the real tragedy is an apathetic dismissiveness, to the conviction that we all hold obligations to one another, and that we're all in this together.

Because this type of pathological thinking identifies connections between events where none actually exist, common occurrences quickly become a preoccupation about a fictional "them" who are out to get "us" without an explanation. The result is a psychosis about imaginary monsters hiding under the bed. In reality they are running from shadows, because the monsters under the bed are in fact themselves.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Senior Center Schedule Update

To the Editor:
As many of your readers are aware, we have seen an unprecedented increase in construction materials, deliveries, and labor costs over the past year and a half. This has made planning construction projects difficult not only from a cost but also from a materials choice perspective.

The Colchester Senior Center Building Committee has been working very diligently with its design team in its choices of finish materials, mechanical systems, landscaping and other aspects of construction to stay within its budget and still deliver to the Town of Colchester a facility that will be aesthetically pleasing, functional and meet the current and future needs of the seniors and the community.

As mentioned, due to the increased construction costs since the original budget was presented, this has been a challenge and to date the Committee feels the budget could be maintained. The final determination will be when the construction bids are opened and we have a definitive cost.

The Building Committee's current schedule calls for construction and bidding documents to be completed by mid-June. After reviews and approvals, it is anticipated solicitation for bids will go out to contractors in early July. If we receive a successful qualified bid, a contract could be in place by early August with an anticipated site construction start in early September. Of course, this is all subject to obtaining all approvals, including State of Connecticut DECD Grant final approvals as well. If you have any questions, you can send an email to: seniorcenterbuildingcommittee@colchesterct.gov. We monitor the site and will answer your questions.

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

Exchange Club Thank You

To the Editor:
On Friday, May 6, the Exchange Club of Portland held its annual Charity Golf Tournament.

The Exchange Club would like to thank the golfers, volunteers for their help and support.

The Exchange Club would also like to thank the sponsors of the Tournament.

Eagle Sponsors - Law Office of George A. Law, The Flood Law Firm, Dimauro Oil, Disaster Restoration Service, & Symmetry Physical Therapy. Lee & Pam Nordstrom, All State Landscape

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From your support, the Exchange Club was able to make contributions to Gilead Community Services, New Horizons Domestic Violence Shelter in Middletown, Rushford and Middlesex Hospital Hospice.

Thank you,
Exchange Club of Portland

Have a Say

To the Editor:
In a few short weeks, you, a resident voter of East Hampton, will have a real say in the today and tomorrows of our town. It is the finale of the budget process. The most important aspect of a long hard slog through pages of numbers that add up to more big numbers with at least two commas. The result of the scouring has produced a very lean framework by which the town will subsist.

Please do your part. We did ours. A "yes" vote will ensure the town will be run more efficiently and governance will keep the taxpayer at the forefront of budgetary decisions.

As a member of the Town Council, we don't get a discount or break for our community service. We all are taxed at the same rate. The very slight mill rate increase is governance's way of saying, "We get it. Times are tough and money is tighter." We see prices going up exponentially too. As oft said, we know where the money is coming from to run this community. You. And you were kept in the forefront of our budgetary decisions. So please, take the time to voice your opinion in our town's future on May 17 at the high school.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

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

Thank You All!

To the Editor:
I find it hard to adequately express my appreciation to all of you who came out and voted for Debbie Bourbeau and me. Our success could only have happened with the efforts of a whole cadre of people. People on our campaign committee and the volunteers who brainstormed, stuffed envelopes, sought helpers, knocked on doors and cheered us on. Thanks to all of you; it would not have happened without you.

Thank you also to the *Rivereast* editor, Mike Thompson, and the reporter, Jack Lakowsky. I appreciate the fact that Jack made the effort to get to understand our positions before he wrote the article about all four candidates. The *Rivereast* is important to our community and we are grateful for the evenhanded reporting. We could not do without you.

Thank you to Jason Johnson, administrator of Marlborough Happenings. Jason, Marlborough
See Letters, page 33

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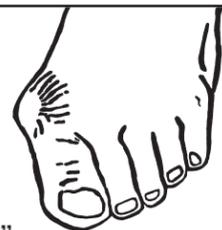
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Root canal therapy may have had a bad reputation in the past as being painful, however, as most anyone who has experienced this procedure can attest, today's techniques make root canal a virtually painless, effective treatment. If you are experiencing pain or have unusual symptoms (before or after a root canal), call your dentist. Be aware of threats to your health, and take steps to prevent problems from occurring in the first place. If you don't have a family dentist at this time, we invite your call. We can make financial arrangements for extensive treatment plans.

P.S. An apicoectomy can be accompanied by bone grafting to help the bone grow back if too large a void is left after the procedure.

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Hey, Take a Hike!

The Middlesex Land Trust invites all to join John LeShane for an approximate three-mile hike at the Brainerd Quarry Preserve in Haddam Neck on Saturday, May 21, at 10 a.m. LeShane will share the history of the preserve. The hike will be at a slow to moderate pace with some fairly steep inclines for short distances and occasional tricky footing, but generally suitable for new hikers.

Wear sturdy boots or sneakers (footing

is likely to be wet in some spots), and bring snacks and water as desired. Kids are welcome, as are dogs on leash. Downpours or storms will cancel the hike. Meet on Injun Hollow Road (in Haddam Neck) at the southern-most (second) trail entrance.

To RSVP, call the Land Trust office at 860-343-7537 or LeShane at 860-342-0658. For a map of the preserve, visit middlesexlandtrust.org/wordpress/?page_id=1147.

Lake Friends Raffling E-Bikes

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win two Aventon Step-Through Commuter E-Bikes, along with two \$75 gift cards to Airline Cycle in East Hampton.

This raffle is to benefit Lake Pocotopaug. The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug is a volunteer non-profit public charity dedicated to the improve-

ment of Lake Pocotopaug and its environs.

The value of the two E-Bikes is \$3,600. Tickets are on sale now, with the drawing on July 31 at 4 p.m. at Lakeside Bar & Grill.

Tickets are \$10 each, and are available at Airline Cycles or from a member of The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug. For details, visit www.FLPEH.org or call Greg Davis at 860-267-2629.

Resident Graduates

Daniel Bendzinski of East Hampton recently graduated from Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C.

Bendzinski graduated with a Bachelor of Science in ministry and leadership.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

Friends of the Library Auction

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library will hold an online auction May 9-20 on the group's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheEastHamptonPublicLibrary.

Bidding will be accepted daily via email. Items include local gift cards, baskets, a weekend on the Cape, toys, instruments and more. Visit the Facebook page for rules and instructions.

Winners should plan to pick up items on Saturday, May 21, at the library, 105 Main St.

Budget Meeting, Referendum Are Imminent

The annual town budget referendum will take place Tuesday, May 17.

Voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at East Hampton High School. The voting will be for the approval or disapproval of the annual budgets for the Board of Education and the Town Government for fiscal year 2022-23 as recommended by the Town Council. Information on the recommended budgets is available at the town clerk's office and on both the town and Board of Education websites.

Anyone age 18 or older who lives in or pays taxes to the town is eligible to vote. Absentee ballots are also available in person at the Town Clerk's Office, 1 Community Drive, through May 16, during regular business hours. No

mailing of ballots will be available. In order to receive an absentee ballot, you must be a registered voter in East Hampton, complete an application for absentee ballot and meet at least one of the following requirements: active service in the armed forces; absence from the town in which you are eligible to vote; sickness; physical disability; religious tenets, which forbid secular activity on the day of the referendum; and duties as a primary, election or referendum official.

Voters will be able to enter and exit the high school from the front of the building. Curbside voting will be in the back of the building near the gymnasium.

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 or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Masks are required for all, regardless of vaccination status. Visit the senior center online at 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:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 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: Thursday, May 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 25), at 9:30 a.m., indoors with masks, or via Zoom. Register online.

Planning for Your Future: Wednesdays, May 18 and June 1, 9:30 a.m. each day. Themes are: May 18 – 'Legal Essentials as We Age,' presented by Manchester attorney Julia Paul; June 1, 9:30 a.m., 'Funeral Planning,' presented by Spencer Funeral Home. Call the center for more details; pre-registration required.

Creative Crafts/Floral Arranging: Thursday, May 19, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Retired florist Shirley Cavanaugh will walk people through making a spring cut flower arrangement in a tin can. Pre-register, as space is limited. Bring your own small can (soup, vegetable, etc.)

Art with Karen: Sunday, May 22, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through begin-

ner steps of creating an Acrylic Painting. Cost is \$5, for supplies; pay Williams the day of the event. Pre-registration is required.

Birthday Celebration: Monday, May 23, 1 p.m. March, April and May birthdays will be celebrated. Even if it's not your birthday, you're also welcome to celebrate. Susan Hewes will provide background piano. Pre-registration requested.

Nature Walk & Talk: Wednesday, May 25, 1:30 p.m. Master naturalist Lynn Kochiss will aid in identifying local flora and fauna. Meet at the Cranberry Bog and wear good walking shoes and comfortable clothes. Pre-registration required.

East Hampton Speaks: Friday, May 27, 10:30 a.m. discuss the days of yesteryear in East Hampton. Bring memorabilia and memories to share with the group, or just listen. Pre-registration required.

Trips: Payments for trips will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by pre-arranged appointment time. Trips are: **Cathedral of the Pines:** Wednesday, Aug. 17, to Rindge, N.H. Explore the sanctuary, sacred spaces, monuments and burial grounds, built as a memorial to those fallen in service. Cost: \$104/person, includes lunch at Woodbound Inn. **Cranberry Bog Tour:** Thursday, Sept. 22, to Wareham, Mass. This is a narrated bus tour of the world's largest cranberry grower, A.D. Makepeace Company. Have lunch at Lindsey's Family Restaurant, and a stop at Wright's Dairy Farm & Bakery on the way home. Cost: \$116/person.

Washington D.C.: Oct. 21-24. Includes deluxe motorcoach, three nights' hotel, three breakfasts and two dinners, all sightseeing and admissions as per itinerary, a Friendship Tours escort, and driver and tour gratuity. Cost: \$745/person for a double or triple, or \$989/person for a single.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to Jewling@easthampton.gov. The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a pre-arranged designated spot.

Resident Receives Honor Medal

The University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford recently held a Senior Medals Ceremony for 37 students who have completed the Honors Program and so will be graduating "in honors" this spring from the university.

Elyse Arcidiacono of East Hampton received an honor medal.

Sports Boosters Golf Outing

The East Hampton Sports Boosters is holding its 30th annual Golf Outing Monday, June 20, at the Fox Hopyard Country Club. There will also be a separate yoga session available.

For information, registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit ehsboosters.com.

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.

Golf Tournament: May 19 at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. There is a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Fee: \$125.

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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Polling Place Moves to High School

Effective immediately, the polling place for East Hampton is moving from East Hampton Middle School to East Hampton High School.

The upcoming 2022 budget referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17. Voting will be held at the high school, located at 15 N. Maple St., from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

For more information, contact the registrar of voters, Terry Latimer, at 860-267-6720 or registrar@easthamptonct.gov. Office hours are Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

EHHS Botany Plant Sale

The East Hampton High School Botany Plant Sale will be held Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the front of East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

A variety of annuals, perennials and vegetable garden plants will be available for sale, all grown by the students. Varieties include Calendula, Coleus, Celosia, Gaillardia, Geraniums, Cathedral Bells, Lavender, Marigolds, Mexican Sunflower, Lavender, Lupine, Statice, Columbine, Zinnias, Large Leaf Italian Basil, Beefsteak Tomatoes, Super Sweet Cherry Tomatoes, Hot Stuffing Peppers, Sage, Parsley and Dill plants.

Shoppers should bring a box. Donations of plant trays and pots are welcome.

New Library Director Choses Belltown for its Vibrancy

By Jack Lakowsky

Tim Kellogg, new director of the East Hampton library, said the local library's movement into the forefront of engaging people with the library was a main reason he chose to continue his career in Belltown.

"This is a vibrant and active library and community," Kellogg told the *Rivereast* last week. "I wanted to be part of something with that kind of buzz."

The other reason, he said, was the community's engagement with and investment in its library.

Kellogg said East Hampton has all the materials one could need-but robust collections aren't always what bring people to libraries.

Kellogg said events like the library's recent kindness "EHxtravaganza" reach a broader audience and help make it a "melting pot" for the community.

"Lots of libraries try to do that," he said. "In East Hampton, it's actually happening."

Two years ago, former library director Ellen Paul, whom town staff and the library advisory board lauded as an exemplary leader, sent out a survey to the community, asking for input on a strategic plan.

Paul developed the plan intending to modernize and revitalize the facility. Under her directorship, library use and program attendance grew, even with the pandemic.

Kellogg said he plans to see Paul's plan through to the end, then develop his own multi-year plan afterwards. He said when you come

into a leadership role and things are working well, you want to keep that momentum.

He said he owes Paul gratitude for leaving him with great staff.

"I really want to support what they're already doing," he said. Kellogg said staff has done a tremendous job of creating and publicizing the library's various programs.

Kellogg has worked in library services for more than six years, working in "everything from patron services to technology assistance to bookkeeping to recording board minutes."

A directorship has been Kellogg's career goal since he got his master's degree in library science from Rutgers University.

East Hampton is his second directorship. Previously, he directed the library in Westbrook. There, he oversaw the building of a new technology center, a \$250,000 project he helped complete under budget.

Part of heading any town department is designing that department's budget. Kellogg said it's his favorite part of the job. With this year's library budget finished and sent to voters in next week's May 17 vote, Kellogg won't work on his budget for a few more months.

Kellogg's boss, town manager David Cox, said a number of things stood about the new director.

"We were intrigued by his experience working in libraries, with youth and what not," Cox said last week. "We took feedback from staff seriously, and they all felt good about him. We thought he'd be a good fit."

Cox said interest in the role was high, so the town had the luxury of being picky.

Library Advisory Board Chair Amy Ordonez said both Kellogg's personality and experience are dynamic.

"We love that he has a lot of technology experience," Ordonez said. "It's a great skillset to bring to East Hampton. I was personally impressed by his library knowledge, his thoughts on the role they play as a community hub. He's definitely the person to carry us into the next chapter."

Ordonez said the library is poised for "continued growth."

Kellogg, who lives in Old Saybrook, said the most important job of a library is to link together information and the community.

He said libraries are a space where "all are comfortable and welcome and can get info on anything they want."

Libraries, he said, are one of the last public forums where there's something for everyone, for free.

Across the nation, libraries are dealing with book bans, largely of books about LGBTQ people and racism. This began in school libraries but has spread to public facilities.

In December, then-chair of the East Hampton Board of Education Jim Radavich, reacting to a parent's complaint about an elementary school book, wanted to vet the how the district's libraries selected their books.

Radavich, a Republican, planned to have school librarians present to the full board. According to Superintendent Paul Smith, Radavich went against district policy when he initiated board action before the complaint went through district staff and administration.

Soon after this discussion, Radavich resigned.

In April, the *Washington Post* wrote 37 percent of book bans last year targeted public libraries.

"The challenge with that is libraries are information neutral," said Kellogg. "We all have different outlooks and preferences about what



Tim Kellogg, new director of the East Hampton Public Library, has years of experience working in libraries. He formerly directed the public library in Westbrook. Patrons and residents can meet Kellogg on Monday, May 16, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the library.

we consume. The goal of a public library is to be a free source of information."

Kellogg said if libraries have a book in their collection, it's not there arbitrarily, but because there's demand for it.

"We must focus on the freedom to read, of information," he said. "Librarians are trained to curate collections and put aside their feelings."

Kellogg said he'll spend the next weeks "getting the lay of the land" and meeting patrons and town officials.

Residents can meet Kellogg during a meet-and-greet at the library, May 16 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Save the Date: Summer Reading Kickoff – All Ages: Friday, June 24, 5-7 p.m., at Center School field. Run an inflatable obstacle course, pet goats, and soak town employees in a dunk tank.

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.

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.

Hatch the Chickens: 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 will remain at the library before heading back to the farm on June 7.

Teen Programs: Teen Friday: Friday, May 20, 3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. 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 make the library a place where pre-teens love to be.

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 make the library a place teens love to be engaged with. The TAB requires monthly commitment and participation.

Switch Game Tournament: Grades 6-12: Saturday, May 28, 2 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. A trophy will go to the winner.

Adult Programs: Book Club: Tuesday, May 17, 6:30 p.m. *The Midnight Library* will be discussed. Register today and pick up a book soon – copies are limited.

Suddenly in Command – What Could You Do in a Boating Emergency?: Tuesday, May 24, 6 p.m., in person at the library. In recognition of boating safety week (May 21-27), the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary presents this boating safety course, designed for those not generally at the helm.

Author Event! Tuesday, May 31, 6:30 p.m. Author and local resident Jack Matthews will give a presentation about his latest book, *Arte Perdida*. Books will be available for purchase and to be signed.

Cookbook Club: The first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., starting June 7. Each month will have a loose theme; bring a dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share. Dishes should arrive ready to eat; the library will provide the plates and forks. People will sample and talk about each recipe and take home new ideas.

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Tim Feegel, Service Manager

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Town Council Wants Input on Pot Retail

By Jack Lakowsky

At least one member of the East Hampton Town Council, Republican Alison Walck, is against allowing the sale of recreational marijuana.

The council's other members didn't express any hard opinions in its meeting Tuesday.

The council scheduled a public hearing on the matter for its June 14 meeting. There, residents can share their opinion.

The Connecticut General Assembly legalized recreational marijuana sales last year. Town responses have been mixed, with moratoria in towns including Glastonbury and East Hampton and prohibitions in Clinton, Haddam and Middlefield, according to East Hampton Town Manager Dave Cox.

Nearby, the Portland zoning board recently approved an application for a recreational pot store.

East Hampton's moratorium is set to expire in October, a year after it was introduced. In 2014 the town banned medicinal marijuana sales, Cox said.

Now, the council wants townspeople's opinions.

Cox said he hopes to hear two things from locals, including "commentary from residents who [don't want pot]" and comments from people not opposed, not planning to indulge, but wanting to make sure the town has sound regulation.

Towns can collect a 3% tax from pot retailers. The money does have stipulations-Cox

said towns must use the money for prevention, public safety, education and mental health support.

Council Republican Brandon Goff seemed to lean towards approval, saying it's legal, no more dangerous than liquor, and brings the town revenue.

East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner expressed concerns about the personnel needs incurred by marijuana legalization.

Woessner said EHPD doesn't have a "certified drug recognition expert", officers that can safely detect if a person is driving under the influence of marijuana.

Woessner said the state implemented this standard. He said many departments, including East Hampton, won't meet this expectation for several years.

Woessner said this issue will confront both state and local police.

The chief said training for the position is extensive. Testing for pot is more complex than testing for alcohol, he said.

"It'll be years before you get enough drug recognition experts," Woessner told the council.

If the council goes Walck's way, a prohibition wouldn't be permanent.

"You can change your mind and roll back," said Cox, adding the opposite, allowing weed sales and then forbidding it, would be harder, especially if businesses have vested interests in town.

Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for in-person services every Sunday at 10 a.m. Pastor is Amie McCarthy. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org.

Nursery care is available during Sunday services for children under 3 years. Sunday school classes meet every Sunday for preschool through ninth grade.

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

Youth Sunday will be May 15, with the church youth taking part in the service.

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 or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. McCarthy can be reached for emergencies at 508-272-6437.

Volunteers Sought for Clean Energy Task Force

The Town of East Hampton is looking for volunteers to serve on its Clean Energy Task Force. The force is charged with researching and facilitating the use of clean renewable energy, and with educating East Hampton residents about clean and alternative energy options.

Other groups that currently have vacancies for either full members or alternates include the Arts & Culture Commission, Conservation-Lake Commission, Design Review Board, Eco-

nomics Development Commission, Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency, Middle Haddam Historic District Commission, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and Planning & Zoning Commission.

The volunteer application is available in the town manager's office at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, or at <https://www.easthamptonct.gov/home/pages/volunteers-needed>.

Police News

4/25: Nathan Kobe, 21, of Windham, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

5/3: Danielle Jones, 40, of Waterbury, was arrested and charged with three separate counts of sixth-degree larceny and one count of second-degree breach of peace, police said.

Also, from April 25-May 1, officers responded to 12 medical calls and seven alarms, and made 19 traffic stops, police said.

CCEH Spring Market

On Saturday, May 28, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., the Spring Market will take place on the grounds of the Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St.

The market will include a tag sale, plant sale, face-painting for kids, to-go breakfast and lunch items, Quilts by Rae, Stained Glass, Tastefully Simple, author Jack Matthews, hand-painted signs by Sherry's Country Crafts, handmade cards, NYR Organic facial and body products, colorSTREET, Coffee Break biscotti and sweet breads, AgroSci Garden Wall Kits, East Hampton Yarners handmade items, maple products from Rick's Sugar Shack, and more. The Belltown Garden Club will also sell perennials.

For more information or to reserve a vendor spot, call Lisa at 860-918-1170.

Mental Health Awareness Walk

All are invited to a Mental Health Awareness Walk, starting at the Blish Park Pavilion on Friday, June 3, from 5-8 p.m.

Fee to walk is \$15 for students, \$20 for individuals, or \$35 per family. Registration fee includes a T-shirt, which will be provided to participants at the park.

The walk is sponsored by the Community Mental Health Advocates.

Registration is now open at ahmyouth.org/mental-health-awareness-walk-registration.

Memorial Day Parade on May 30

East Hampton's Memorial Day parade and remembrance ceremonies will be held Monday, May 30. The parade will assemble at the East Hampton High School parking lot at 8:30 a.m., with the parade starting at 9 a.m.

Organizations, businesses or community groups interested in marching or entering a float in the parade should contact Lou Carillo at 38 Old Middletown Ave., East Hampton, CT 06424 or call 860-462-3711. Trophies will be awarded for first-, second- or third-place floats.

All veterans are welcome to participate in the parade. Refreshments to all parade participants following the conclusion of the ceremony at the post home, 20 N. Maple St.

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. No commercial or business waste allowed.

Visit - rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste to learn more.

Senior Center Trip to Martha's Vineyard

The East Hampton Senior Center will offer a Martha's Vineyard Daytrip through Friendship Tours on Thursday, July 21.

The trip includes a roundtrip ferry, island bus tour, and time to shop and dine on your own. There will be considerable walking.

Cost is \$124/person. For more information or to register, contact the senior center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov.

Resident to Graduate

Gavin O'Connell, son of Tom and Kathleen O'Connell of East Hampton, will graduate magna vum laude from the University of Rhode Island on May 22, with a double major in international relations and French.

O'Connell was also recognized prior to graduation with an Academic Excellence Award. This award is presented each year to fewer than 80 graduating seniors who have proven to be exceptional students.

O'Connell plans to complete his post graduate studies at URI to obtain a master's degree in international relations, with a concentration in diplomacy and statecraft.

He is a 2018 graduate of Xavier High School.

Running for Brews

There's a new social running club in East Hampton - 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 or text 860-966-7179.

Parent Program on Substance Use Prevention

The East Hampton Prevention Partnership will sponsor a special parent program Tuesday, May 17, from 7-8 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Stephen Hill, a national speaker on substance use prevention and mental health awareness will speak about a personal comeback story. This program is free and open to the public. Hill will also speak to students during the school day.

The first 10 parents in the door will receive a \$25 Stop & Shop gift card.

For more information, email Courtney Widrick Fitzkee at cwidrick@easthamptonct.gov.

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Road Closure for Hose-Testing

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department will perform its mandatory pressure testing of all fire hoses on Wednesday, May 18 (weather permitting). An annual certification requirement, this testing will be conducted in the area of the fire department's pump house at the western end of Walnut Avenue.

As a result, Walnut Avenue will be closed to through traffic between Main and Watrous streets between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Residents are advised to utilize alternate routes.

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KOCO4Kids Corner



Tadpole Time!

It's time to visit your local pond and catch some tadpoles! Bring a net and a container large enough to hold plenty of pond water. Tadpoles will eat frozen spinach - boil it for 10 minutes first. Give the tadpoles places to rest (a few sticks or stones from their pond), and provide both sun and shade. Freshen their habitat with more pond water as needed. Watch for signs of metamorphosis: arm and leg buds beginning to grow! Be sure to return the new froglets to the same pond in which you found them.

koco4kids.org

After Pushback, St. Clements Withdraws Application

By Jack Lakowsky

Local event venue Saint Clements Castle withdrew an application to expand use of its facilities by allowing boats up to 125 feet to dock at the property.

The project also would've included building dolphins, a group of pilings arrayed together, directly in the Connecticut River.

The project received significant opposition from residents and members of the Middlesex Land Trust.

The topic was discussed in a public hearing at the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission's (PZC) May 4 meeting.

An attorney for the land trust also pointed out several flaws in the application and its process, especially that the castle never posted notice of the site modification on the property. Multiple neighbors said the castle only put up a liquor permit notice, and neither town staff nor Saint Clements officials refuted the claim.

Saint Clements withdrew the application, citing the deficiencies and issues the public named.

In the company's application Peter Callan, a company official, said the modification would allow boats up to 125 feet to dock, embark and disembark from the existing concrete pier. Doing so would "increase the recreational boating services for the public use."

Possible activities included fall foliage cruises, eagle watching cruises, prom receptions, and "possible weddings and receptions."

Saint Clements' applications followed its successful 2020 effort to get approval to build a new banquet facility.

Chantal Foster, a Portland resident and member of the Middlesex Land Trust, strongly opposed the application, as did several other land trust members and an attorney they brought along. Foster also sits on the Portland Planning and Zoning Commission.

Foster said the castle directly abuts a small land preserve owned by the trust. She said it is the only publicly accessible place for a large stretch of the river.

"Many people visit it on a daily basis," Foster told commissioners.

Foster said large boats would badly obstruct the preserve's pristine view of the river.

"It would be an extreme detriment to people trying to enjoy the natural beauty of the river," said Foster.

Foster pointed out that when Saint Clements applied to build its pier, the company did not refer to it as a "dock" or "pier," per se, but as a deck.

Foster was also concerned about riverbank erosion.

Michael Carey, a New London attorney serving the land trust, said nothing in town regula-

tions allows for such activity in a marina, and that approving the modification would be an expansion of a nonconforming use.

PZC chair Ray Zatorski said the site has historic use as a commercial marina, and so still has that option for use.

Carey said because the boats would host weddings and different events, it departs from its use as a marina.

A major deficiency with the application that Carey and others pointed out was the lack of proper, legally required notice to the public. Several residents corroborated Carey; there was no sign posted on Saint Clements' land about the boat plan.

"If the sign wasn't posted, we're spinning our wheels," Carey said. "It's up the applicant to produce evidence if a sign was posted or not. Without, this application is fatally defective."

Saint Clements officials at the meeting presented no such evidence.

Carey said town regulations prevent a project or business from dominating an area's devel-

opment. He said large boats would completely dominate that portion of the river.

"Even if it's only three days a week, they'll dominate [the area] on the weekends," said Carey.

Middlesex Land Trust Chair Stuart Windquist said the town's legal notice failed to say the night's talk was a public hearing.

He said the boats would equate to a "semi-trailer pulling up several times a day."

"This is the only public place in East Hampton where you can park and stroll and access the river," Windquist said.

Boats would defeat the purpose of the property's soundproof banquet facility, he added, saying boat users could have bands or other loud goings-on.

Windquist said the project could also affect wells in the area.

The application was withdrawn after these concerns came to light. The company said it intends to remedy it application. Saint Clements did not give a possible refile date.

Draft Horse Rescue Anniversary Event

All are invited to celebrate the fifth anniversary at Autumn Ridge, the farm for Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (113 Chestnut Hill Rd.) on Saturday, May 21, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free; come meet the CDHR horses.

There will be vendors, raffles, wagon rides, and fun for the entire family! Food will be provided by Hearth and Soul Wood Oven Pizza. There will be plenty of parking in the hayfield or along the street, if needed. This event is rain or shine.

For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

Want to be a vendor? Visit www.ctdraftrescue.org/vendorform for more details.

Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter. For more information visit www.ctdraftrescue.org, www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or email ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

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, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093.

Library Hours: Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m. Masks are optional.

Yoga: With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga, on Tuesdays through May 31 at 7 p.m., and Saturdays through May 28, 9-10 a.m. Cost is \$10 each week to drop in. Register at 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.

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.

Migration Bird Walk: Saturday, May 21, with Taryn Westfall. Meet at the library at 7:30 a.m. Carpool to George Dudley Seymour Park. Bring binoculars.

Through the Lens: Saturday, June 4. Photographer Aaron Mannes talks about his process, his cameras and the art of taking nature photos.

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.

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.

Barbecue Results: The April Chicken Barbe-

cue raised \$1,500 for Ukraine relief. The church thanked all who participated.

Bible Study: The Zoom Bible Study meets every other Thursday from 7-8:15 p.m. The next study is May 26. 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.

Dean's List

Braeden Rose of East Hampton made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Rose is currently enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences.

Local Artist's Work on Display

Local artist GERALYN YOCHER will continue to display her work at Town Hall for the month of May.

The exhibit is entitled "The Shape of Water." The majority of these pictures are watercolors.

Early Memorial Day Service

On Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m., the Haddam Neck cemetery will hold its over 100-year-old Memorial Day service at its Rock Landing Cemetery.

The Moodus Drum and Fife will perform. All interred veterans will have new flags and flowers put on their graves and a Vietnam veteran will give a short speech on his thoughts of what Memorial Day means to him.

Prizes for the best patriotically decorated bicycles, tricycles or wagons will be given out by the Woman Auxiliary of the Haddam Neck Fire Department. Ice cream and cookies will be supplied by the Haddam Neck Fair Association.

Spring Song Fest

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will hold a Spring Song Fest on Sunday, May 22, at 9 a.m., at the church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. All are invited.

This is a joyful celebration of Jesus' love, through contemporary music. The Vocal Choir will be accompanied by June Ingraham, violin, Matt Seymore, drums, Frank Natter and Wayne Visintainer, guitars and Jan Ulanowicz on keyboard.

Visit hncovenantchurch.org for more information.

Resident Participates in Symposium

Lasell University's Connected Learning Symposium celebrated its 20th year of student scholarship and research with original presentations from more than 200 participants - including

East Hampton resident Angela Buonocore.

Buonocore presented a science capstone project, "The Prevalence of Prescription Drug Misuse Among Collegiate Athletes and Nonathletes." The presentation incorporated the NACE competencies of professionalism and career & self-development.

Lasell University is located in Newton, Mass.

Bacon Lacrosse Fundraiser

Bacon Academy boys' lacrosse will partner with Subway for a fundraiser Monday, May 16, from 3-9 p.m. Visit Subway at 31 Halls Hill Rd., and 10% of sales will benefit the Bacon Academy Bobcats boys' lacrosse team.

Yarners Selling Items

For the first time, the East Hampton Yarners are offering items for sale. They will be sold at the Spring Festival at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., on Saturday, May 28 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Items include baby blankets and hats, sweaters, loaves, and toys. Shawls, lap robes, blankets, mittens, coasters, dishcloths, hot pads, hats, and more will also be available. All proceeds will be donated to the church.

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PHS Runner Heads to Vermont

By Josh Howard

Portland High School's record-breaking runner Shawn Laverty has decided to continue competing at the next level.

"I'm excited to announce my commitment to the University of Vermont to further my academic and athletic career," Laverty announced on April 9. "Thank you to my family, teammates, and coaches for guiding and supporting me through this journey."

While starting her college search, Laverty had originally decided to give up competitive running at the next level. She wanted to channel her energy into academics and the other aspects that come with the collegiate experience.

However, earlier this year she came to the realization that she wanted to continue lacing up her running shoes.

"Vermont really appealed to me from the beginning of my college search," said Laverty. "Seeing my success this year, I realized that [running] is not something that I wanted to give up yet. I like that competitive aspect of it and just being with a team and training to get better."

Laverty will be joining a Catamounts running team led by Matt Belfield, who has been coaching the Division I program for two decades.

Running at the highest collegiate level is something that seemed like only a pipe dream a few years ago for Laverty, who had grown up playing soccer and hadn't run more than a lap around the track until high school.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit American

soil in March of 2020, Laverty was a sophomore and used the time away from school to increase her distances while decreasing her times.

"I [ran] just to cope with it all and with all the free time," recalled Laverty. "My times started to go down and I was getting stronger and realized I can go someplace with it."

Her times on the cross-country trails and during indoor and outdoor track season drop like a rock, culminating with her success this year.

Laverty had a top-ten finish at the Class S cross-country championships in the fall and then had a record-breaking winter, shattering the school record in the 3200 meters by running an 11:53.77 at the Class S Indoor Track and Field finals in February. She finished second in the event overall, beating her own personal-best time in the distance by 17 seconds and the school record — which stood for a decade — by 15 seconds.

It was an astonishing accomplishment for someone who first started training for the two-mile distance only a few months earlier.

"It's something that I never thought I would be capable of and it's so rewarding. It's made me have an appreciation for what my body is capable of," Laverty said of her incredible running progress.

Deborah Rooth, who has coached Laverty in indoor track for the past two years, said, "Shawn possesses qualities that make her a fierce competitor. She has a work ethic second to none."

"She was unafraid to challenge herself," added Rooth. "As Captain of the team she demon-

strated great leadership abilities and was well respected by her teammates. Shawn is a coach's dream and I felt privileged to be a part of her success."

Currently, Laverty and the outdoor track and field team at PHS are preparing for the state championships later this month.

She is hoping to qualify for the State Open, slated for June 6, in either the 1600- or 3200-meter distance and with her 4x800 relay team.

Laverty is a student-athlete in every sense of the word. Along with her laundry list of running accomplishments, she is heavily involved with the school and community.

She serves as the vice president of the National Honor Society chapter and is also part of the National Technical Honor Society. She is heavily involved with student government at the school, serving as secretary for the Student Senate, which helps with school-wide events such as pep rallies and spirit weeks.

"I've enjoyed the small intimate community at Portland. I've appreciated being able to know everyone and making good connections, but I'm ready to experience something a little bigger and see more of the world," said Laverty. "Who I am and the life I've created in Portland has brought me to this point and I am very grateful for it, but I'm also very excited for what the future holds."

In Vermont, she will study business administration at the university's Grossman School of Business in Burlington.



PHS senior Shawn Laverty will run competitively and study business administration at the University of Vermont.

"It's got that cute city feel, but not too big," Laverty said of Burlington. "I'm looking forward to experiencing new memories with a new team."

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.

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. For rules and to submit your poem, go to buttonwood.org/poetry-contest to submit your poems.

Visit buttonwood.org for more information, Instagram: @NPOETRY7, or call 860-347-4957 or email TheButtonwoodTree@gmail.com.

First Congregational Church News

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

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

On Sunday, May 15 during the worship service, the mission project "Dress A Girl Around the World" will be featured. The Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon is titled "Sunday Best." Under Kasha Breaux's direction, the Choir will sing the anthem, "You Are My Light" by Dave and Jean Perry. A time of fellowship and refreshments follows the service.

Children are invited to Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. for church school and child care.

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-

1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ, and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone.

The church emails a weekly newsletter, *The Weekly Word*. To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org. Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

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.

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.

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 or call 860-342-0458.

Concert to Benefit Food Bank

There will be a concert featuring Tony Rome and his band The Excuses, to benefit Portland Food Bank, on Saturday, May 21, at 2 p.m., at the Adams Hometown Market plaza on Route 66.

Special guests Jam Station will perform at 1 p.m.

Donations for the food bank are welcome. Bring your own lawn chair.

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.

Concert Series Kicks Off

The 2022 Trinity Brownstone Concert Series will kick off with the group The Shadades on Saturday, May 14, at 7 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St.

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. The five-member band offers '50s four-part harmony doo-wop, '60s and '70s classic rock 'n roll and oldies, along with some newer pop music. Proceeds are going to support a relief effort for Ukraine.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door. For tickets, call 860-342-0458 or email trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com.

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Voters Approve 2022-23 Spending Plan

By Jack Lakowsky

Voters approved by a wide margin the town's general government and schools budget in a referendum Monday, voting 393 for to 176 against.

The 2022-23 spending plan rings out at \$37.04 million, 2.45% higher, or about \$887,000, over the current budget.

This figure is the general government and school board budget combined. General government is at \$14.3 million while the school district's budget stands at \$22.8 million.

Most of the increase is from the schools, about \$570,000.

Voter turnout was lower than in the past few years. Town Clerk Mike Tierney said 569 showed up this year. Last year, it was about 690. 2020 had no referendum due to the pandemic.

In 2019, Tierney said, the budget failed its first round with voters, with about 600 voting in the first referendum and more than 1,200 voting in the second.

First Selectman Ryan Curley said he's very pleased with the result.

"Any time you have to raise taxes, it's not ideal," Curley told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday. "I do think residents understand we're dealing with the effects of inflation. Costs of everything are up."

Curley said the budget maintains high quality town services without overspending.

Though happy with the result, Curley said he hopes for better turnout in the future.

Curley said he made an effort to publicize the referendum, using letters in the *Rivereast*, social media and lawn signs to get the word out. On Monday, Curley was on Facebook Live encouraging residents to cast their say.

Curley said the town received little to no negative feedback from the town.

This vote's low turnout doesn't mean Portland voters aren't involved- in the 2020 presidential election, nearly 90% of the electorate showed up.

This was Curley's first budget process as first selectman. He said he learned how difficult it is

to keep costs down while everything else – such as oil, gas – is going up.

Curley expressed thanks to the select board and town finance department for their work.

Charles Britton, superintendent of Portland schools, said he's "very grateful" for the community's support.

Earlier in the process, selectmen cut about \$40,000 from the district's budget request. Britton said he's not prepared to decide what this means for school operations. However, he hopes increased revenues will offset the cut.

Britton said Portland should soon see money from the recent settlement of the decades-long Sheff v. O'Neill case, a 1989 lawsuit challenging segregation in Connecticut's public schools.

Plaintiffs from Hartford argued the segregation of schools violated their constitutional

rights.

Connecticut is one of the most segregated states in the country, divided between mostly white suburbs and cities with populations of mostly people of color.

The case, Britton said, has propelled the creation of the state's magnet and technical schools, as well as open choice programs, when students from urban districts can choose schools in smaller towns.

Britton said this year, Portland schools have about 60 open choice students from Hartford. With the case settled, Portland will get more funding per student.

Regardless of revenue, Britton said he is keeping a close eye on inflation and its effect on the schools.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks may be removed when seated.

For those unable or still reluctant to worship in person, a recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week on the church's website, zionlutheranportland.org.

First Communion: Zion will hold a First Communion Class beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 15. Contact Sylvia LaShane through the church office for details. Sunday school classes are back in session, on the first and third Sundays of the month, following worship at 10:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Study is scheduled to resume on

May 22, with the focus on season 2 of the television series *The Chosen*. The study will continue on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, following worship at 10:15 a.m.

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

St. Mary Church News

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

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

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

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

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

Library Friends Book Sale

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

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

from the library collection, all for 50 cents each.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff.

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

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

Community Art Contest

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) is holding an art contest for residents, businesses and organizations of Cromwell and Portland to celebrate the uniqueness and beauty of our legislative district.

The collection of art work will close Monday, May 30. Submissions will be displayed at the State Capitol Complex in early June.

Artists will submit an original painting, drawing, photograph or combination on an 18" x 24" (or smaller) canvas or poster board. The imagery should represent the 32nd district.

Portland residents can drop their submissions to Portland Town Hall with First Selectman Ryan Curley. Participants may also mail their

work to Carpino at 300 Capitol Ave., Room 4200, Hartford, CT 06106. Submission forms can be accessed at tinyurl.com/2p88u9ax.

The commemorative artwork will be displayed at the State Capitol from Monday, June 6 through Friday, June 17. Carpino will also share the artwork on social media at its conclusion.

To learn more about the contest, email Carpino at Christie.Carpino@cga.ct.gov.

Dean's Award with Distinction

Justin Renk of Portland, a member of the Class of 2025 at Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., has earned the fall 2021 Dean's Award with Distinction.

Renk is a history major at Colgate, and is a graduate of Portland High School.

Students who receive a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher while completing at least three courses during the semester earn the Dean's Award with Distinction.

Program on Jumping Worms

The Portland River-Valley Garden Club will sponsor an educational program on jumping worms on Wednesday, May 25, at 7 p.m., at The Waverly Center in Portland.

Annis Dobson from UConn will share information about this invasive species and its impact on the soil and plantings. The public is invited to attend and learn more about this topic as well as ways to protect their gardens and yards.

Light refreshments will be served.

Art Show Save the Date

On Sunday, Sept. 11, Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., will host a reception from 3- 5 p.m. showcasing local artists in the Fellowship Hall – and participants for the event are sought.

The event will provide the community and church members the opportunity to meet and chat with the local artists, photographers, and hobbyists. Participating exhibitors will be asked to donate one of their artworks for a silent auction sale. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Zion's lounge renovation project.

The reception is free to the public and most artwork will be available for sale. Light refreshments, consisting of cheese and wine, will be served.

If interested in displaying your artwork, call Sue at 860-685-0593.

Knights' Car Show to Return

The Knights of Columbus Freestone Council will hold its next car show Friday, June 3, in the parking lot of St. Mary Church. Over one hundred show cars and trucks are anticipated – but they need to register.

Early registration is now open to all for a \$15 fee. For a registration form, contact Mark D'Angelo at 860-342-0944 or dangelo283@comcast.net.

The show will open at 3 p.m., with trophies awarded at 7:30 p.m.

The show is sponsored by the Knights to raise funds for its local charitable programs, and is dedicated to the memory of serving Grand Knight Craig Weske who passed after a 15-year battle with cancer. Weske was also a member of the St. Mary Church choir and was a longtime Special Olympics volunteer.

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YFS News & Notes

Portland Youth & Family Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/youth-services, email Jrevicki@portlandct.org or call 860-342-6758.

Prevention & Wellness Council: Community members are sought to participate in the Portland Prevention & Wellness Council. The goal of the council is two-fold: education about drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products, and coordination of healthy community events and prevention through programs and community discussions. The council works with individuals, groups, schools, and religious organizations in the community to identify the needs of the community. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, June 14, at 7 p.m., at the Youth & Family Services Community Room, 265 Main St. If interested, call Meg Scata, prevention coordinator, at 860 342-6758.

Summer Offerings: YFS is working on its summer offerings. Watch the YFS website and its Facebook page for more information.

Board Game Group: Portland Middle School students are invited to stay after school on May 18 from 2:30-5 p.m. and play some games in the school library. Sign-ups encour-

aged and a permission slip is required; both are in the school office.

Little Hikers: This group ventures out on the first Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m.; next hike is June 3 and will begin at the Depot Hill Road entrance to the Portland Air Line Trail. The hikers went about a third of a mile last time, and will probably keep it to a third or half of a mile this time.

Drop-in and Draw: Artists will meet the first Tuesday of the month between 1:30-4:30 p.m., starting June 7, in the YFS Community Room, 265 Main St. This mostly unstructured program gives kids of all ages a chance to spend some time doing artwork, of whatever they want. Drawing materials, paints, stencils, stamps, and more will be available. Parents of younger children are encouraged to participate. People can come when they want and stay as long as they want.

Mobile Petting Zoo & Ice Cream: YFS is joining with Senior Services to welcome Connecticut businesses Farm on Wheels, a mobile petting zoo, and the Ice Cream Emergency (ICE) Bus on the town green from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, June 27. Lawn games will also be featured. All are invited.

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 to register; 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.; Jam Session, 6 p.m.; **Wednesdays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Synco-Cize 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, 1 p.m. (by session/month only); setback, 1 p.m. **Thursdays:** Knit & Stitch, Dancercize, 10 a.m.; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.; Mah-jongg, 12:30-4 p.m.; Scrabble, 1-4 p.m. **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

Police News

5/9: Jonathan Olson, 32, of 432 Main St., was arrested and charged with insurance fraud, fifth-degree larceny and second-degree filing a false incident report, Portland Police said.

bottles in a bin in the rear parking lot of the center. For details or to volunteer, email 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.

Trip to Clinton Crossing: Thursday, May 19. Bus leaves the senior center lot at 10 a.m. Shopping and lunch are on your own. If you need a ride from home, let the center know in advance. Cost is \$5 per van ride.

Estate Planning with Attorney Jeff Rivard: Monday, May 16, 10:30 a.m. Rivard will discuss wills, trusts, and powers of attorney. Registration required.

Massages with Joanie: May 16. Massage demonstrations will be from noon-1 p.m., and then from 1-3 p.m. there will be massages. Cost for massage is \$50/hour. Appointments necessary.

Students Receive Awards

Portland High School students Victoria Bailey and Lily Larson, and Portland Middle School students Ali Carter and Jayden Dorsey, were all recently honored by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) with Student Leadership Awards.

Students are nominated for this award by their school principals. Students nominated should exhibit the following leadership skills: willingness to take on challenges; capability to make difficult decisions; concern for others; ability to work with others; willingness to commit to a project; diplomacy; ability to understand issues clearly; and ability to honor a commitment.

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton and the Portland Board of Education recognized the four students at a recent Board of Education meeting.

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 or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

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

Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Monday, May 30, in honor of Memorial Day.

Save the Date! On Saturday, June 11, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Portland Library's 125+2 Anniversary Celebration will take place. There will be outdoor activities on the Waverly Street Green and indoor activity at the library, for kids and adults. Registration is not required for most activities, but it is required for the adult art project at 11 a.m. and 12:30 pm. Visit the library calendar of events to register.

Museum Passes & Games – Reservations Recommended: Check out the latest on museums for art, nature, history and fun. Go to the library website and click on museum passes or call to reserve a pass. Board games are available to be borrowed without reservation.

Youth Programs: May Storytimes: Registration is required; 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 17, 24. **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., May 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 16, 3:30 p.m., in the large meeting room. Brain-

storm ideas for new programs, talk about books, and have some snacks. Teens will earn community service hours for each meeting they attend. Registration is required.

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 Pripyat 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.

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.

Fill a Public Works Truck

Portland Public Works and the Portland Lions Club will hold the fourth annual "Fill a Public Works Truck" event at Adams Hometown Market, 316 Marlborough St., the week of May 15-22. The goal is to raise funds for Portland Food Bank.

Due to COVID-19, folks are asked to not purchase actual bags of food this year; instead, Adams customers that week will be asked to "Round-Up" at the register. All proceeds go to support the food bank.

One of the Public Works trucks, along with members of the Portland Lions Club, will at the store Saturday, May 21, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Portland Public Works Department performs many tasks including but not limited to road maintenance, fleet services, traffic maintenance, refuse/recycling operations, park/grounds maintenance, building maintenance, and sewer & water operations.

Horseshoe League Seeks New Members

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

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

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

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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. For more information, call 860-342-6757 or email nfoley@portlandct.org or adionne@portlandct.org.

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

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 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.

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. For more, call Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757.

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.



The first Leo Club in Portland, sponsored by the Lions, was chartered April 24. Charter members inducted are, back row, Alex Dawson, John Thompson (vice president), Tyler Quinn, Nico Oliva (treasurer), Emily Murphy, Lilly Carol; front row, Advisor Lion Kelly Milardo, Brooks Oliva, Reese Nicol, Carson Nicol (president), Dorothy Riley (secretary), Sophia Larrow, Ava Maselek, Katie Milardo, Advisor Lion Marcia Nicol. Missing from picture: Cooper Beck, Camryn Dimauro, Ben McGrew, Luke Thompson, Parker Thompson.

Meet the Leos

The town's very first Leo Club -- sponsored by its parent club, the Portland Lions -- was chartered April 24, at the Waverly Center.

The group's motto is "We Serve." The Leos thanked the public for donating eyeglasses to the eight donation boxes located around town, yielding 507 eyeglasses to be sent to Lions New Jersey Recycling Center, and also thanked those who donated a total of \$1,131 for Ukrainian ref-

ugees at Hamburger Heaven/Dunkin Go Plaza in Portland.

The Portland Leo Club is open to ages 12-18. If interested, contact Carson Nicol from Portland High School or car.j.nic@icloud.com. Since this is a community-based group, students from all area schools, private or public, or even home-schooled, are eligible.

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 13.

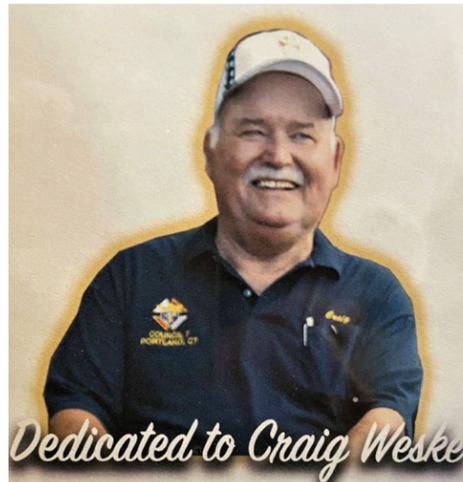
For more information, contact Sara Sterry Rutter, parade organizer, at 860-250-2041 or [ssterryrutter@yahoo.com](mailto:sssterryrutter@yahoo.com), or at 32 East Main St., Portland, CT 064080.

Knights Honor Brother with Car Show

The members of the Freestone Council of the Knights of Columbus have dedicated the June 3 Car Show in memory of Craig Weske, who died in 2019 after a 15-year-long challenge of cancer. At the time of his passing, he was serving as Grand Knight of this 138-year-old fraternal order in the parish life of the Church of Saint Mary.

Weske and his wife Louise have two sons and six grandchildren to which they are devoted. He retired from Northeast Utilities after 30 years managing radio communication. Buddy Hernandez, Weske's neighbor and spearhead of this active group of men, said, "Craig's enthusiasm and kindness shown like a beacon, he was an organizer and a great leader, we miss his smile and good humor" Mike Melluzzo, a fellow St. Mary choir member, commented, "Craig's voice was very distinctive; he has been missed."

This year's car show will start at 3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Freestone Avenue church. Over 100 show cars and trucks are expected. There will also be rides, food, a raffle and more.



Craig Weske

For more information, contact Joe Loban, co-chair, at 860 358-9123 or jkloban@hotmail.com.

Letter Carriers Food Drive

The letter carriers of the Portland Post Office will participate in the National Association of Letter Carriers annual Food Drive Saturday, May 14.

The letter carriers ask to donate non-perishable food items, such as canned goods, pasta, sauces. Leave all donated items by or in your mailbox, and they will be picked up by your carrier. Last year, the drive yielded more than 3,000 pounds of food, which was donated to Portland Food Bank. Last year, nationally, the NALC and all the other dedicated employees of the US Postal Service collected over 75 million pounds of food, that was distributed to local food banks and shelters.

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.

Knights to Serve Breakfast

On Sunday, May 15, in the Church of Saint Mary Hall on Freestone Avenue, a hearty breakfast will be served, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Portland Knights of Columbus are hosting this social gathering in appreciation of its supporters in the parish and community.

All are welcome.

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.

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.

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, 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.

Resident Receives Award

The University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford recently held its Undergraduate Awards Ceremony.

Abigail Dillon of Portland earned the Cook Scholar Award.

Youth Vaping Program Postponed

The "This is Us Portland" program called "Parenting During the Rise of Teen Vaping," scheduled for next week at Portland High School, has been postponed until after the summer.

The program is sponsored by Youth & Family Services, "This is Us, Portland" Prevention & Wellness Council, and DM-HAS and will discuss the risks of vaping, underage vaping in schools, and legal issues around teen use.

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 Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed.

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste to learn more.

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‘Fairways to Care’ Golf Tourney

Intercommunity Health Care will hold its golf tournament Wednesday, June 1, at 9 a.m., at Blackledge Country Club, 180 West St.

The event will include: continental breakfast, lunch, 18 holes of golf, putting contest, longest drive contest (men and women), closest to the pin contest (men and women), online auction, 50/50 contests, and more.

There are multiple ways to participate, including registering to play and/or attend the

luncheon, becoming a sponsor, participating in an online auction, entering a drawing to win prizes, purchasing mulligan tickets, or donating to InterCommunity.

Intercommunity Health Care is a community health center with locations in Hartford, East Hartford and South Windsor.

For more information, including registration and sponsorship details, visit birdease.com/IC-Golf.

Program on History of Gay City

Hebron Historical Society will present a program entitled “Gay City: From Early Settlement to Connecticut State Park” on Wednesday, May 25, at 7 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 26 Main St.

“This beautiful park holds so much of Hebron’s and Bolton’s history, though sadly, much of it has been lost,” said historical society member Adam Phelps. “This is my best attempt to put the pieces together and share the love of history and our town.”

study, gather and preserve the scarce information of the property now known as Gay City State Park.

Current recreation and wildlife will be covered as will its storied history including former mill sites and paranormal activities in the park. Segments of his video *Gay City State Park* will also be used to highlight the property’s past.

For more information, email mergonci65@comcast.net.

Parks and Recreation News

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

Youth Running Club: Wednesdays, May 25-June 29, 6-7 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, for ages 5-12. Cost is \$10 per child.

Karate: Six-week sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning June 6, at Gilead Hill School. Ages 5-11 meet 5-5:50 p.m., and ages 12 and up meet 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$85 per session. Instructed style is Goju ryu, made famous by the *Karate Kid* film series.

Summer of Swish Basketball Camp: June 20-June 23, 8 a.m.-noon, at the RHAM High School gymnasium. Open to ages 8-14. Cost is \$105 per participant.

Fairy Garden Camp: June 20-24, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at HES, for ages 5-10. Cost is \$130 per participant.

Sports Camp: June 20-24, noon-2:30 p.m., at HES, for ages 8-14. Cost is \$100 per participant.

Raymond Brook Preserve Grand Opening: Saturday, June 4, at 9 a.m., for the official grand opening of the completed Raymond Brook Preserve. The event will be held at the new bridge that spans Raymond Brook at the Millstream section of the Preserve. After the ribbon-cutting, all are invited to stay to discuss future projects and enjoy the trails. All attendees will be given a token to present at the June 4 Hebron Farmers and Artisans Market to receive a small gift.

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

Summer Camps: Visit the Parks and Rec. website to check out the Summer Camp Brochure for a listing of all camps offered this summer. Offerings include Adventure Camp, baking, Legos, basketball, volleyball and more. Registration for all camps is open.

Hebron Day Summer Kickoff: This celebration of Hebron has been moved to Saturday, June 18, to officially kick off the start of the summer. The event will run from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Burnt Hill Park, and will feature local organizations, artisans, vendors, food trucks, a kids’ zone, live music, and the return of the classic car show.

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

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

Police News

4/21: Tyler Lovejoy, 22, of Windsor, was charged with DUI, state police said.

4/26: Christine Belanger, 30, of 187 Wall St., was charged with DUI, police said.

5/2: Sandra L. Ortiz, 45, of 261 East St., was arrested and charged with second-degree breach of peace and third-degree assault, police said.

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Girl Scouts of Hebron and Marlborough recently built and donated an arbor to the Hebron Pollinator Pathway at the Raymond Brook Preserve.

Scouts Work on Pollinator Pathway

Girl Scout Troop 65092, of Hebron and Marlborough, earned money via Girl Scout cookie sales in order to go camping and complete various community service projects. When deciding on the project, they chose the Pollinator Pathway in Hebron.

The girls learned about what types of insects and animals can be pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, birds and bats, and learned that certain insects and animals will only go so far to get their food.

So, they spent their money on an arbor, built it and donated it to the Hebron Pollinator Pathway at the Raymond Brook Preserve (entrances

on Route 85 and Kinney Road in Hebron). On April 29, Arbor Day, the arbor was dedicated and a ribbon-cutting ceremony occurred. This arbor, although pretty and decorative for the garden, will help aid the honeysuckle vines, donated by Mark Merritt of Marlborough, to climb and encourage pollinators to visit our Hebron Pollinator Pathway.

The Scouts said they hope their contribution to the pathway will serve as a reminder to the community of the need for pollinators.

The Scouts will also collect backpacks and school supplies over the summer for families in the community. Watch for more details.

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.

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.

Vintage Style: A Makers’ Market Market Day

The Town Center Project presents the very first Market Day Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

People are invited to stroll along Main Street, pick through vintage items, see ways to upcycle denim, check out the latest in handmade jewelry and woodworking, grab a specialty macaron and a decorated cupcake, wander amongst plants, succulents and sunflowers. People can also pick up a knotty bow-tie for their furry friend and have coffee with your friend in one of the new Chairs of Hebron Adirondack chairs.

All in all, there will be over 50 hand-selected specialty vendors at this market.

Scouting for Food Event

Hebron Scouts BSA Troops 28/1028 will hold their Scouting for Food drive on Saturday, May 14, to benefit Hebron Interfaith Human Services.

Donations can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Hebron Interfaith Human Services, 20 Pendleton Drive, or Ted’s IGA.

Donations of unexpired, non-perishable food items and household products are welcome. The most-needed items are cereal, pancake mix/syrup, soup, pasta/sauce, solid white tuna, juice boxes, coffee, tea, individually wrapped snacks, potato flakes, side dishes, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, body wash, shampoo and deodorant.

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- Do a full tick check, getting any ticks off as early as possible. If a tick is found embedded, pull it out by using fine point tweezers at the head, do not squeeze the body and send all the fluids in the tick into the person it is attached to.
- If you find an attached tick save it. Put it in a container with a moist cotton ball, so if you start to feel sick or get a rash the tick can be sent to a lab to see what infections it has.
- Don't wait or assume Lyme disease is hard to catch and easy to cure, as nothing can be further from the truth!

May Is Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Here are some facts, you may or may not know:

- The CDC estimates 476,000 Americans get Lyme disease a year, that breaks down to 9154 cases per week which is 1308 cases per day!
- Tick bites are painless, especially if bitten by the poppy seed sized immature tick (called a nymph). Only 41% of Lyme patients ever recall a tick bite. What's more is only about 50% of people infected with Lyme will ever get the classic bulls eye rash.
- Ticks don't and can't jump, fly or drop from trees. Ticks sit at the top of tall grass, in brush and other places waiting to attach to clothing, skin or fur on an animal.
- Most ticks carry a host of co-infections making it harder to treat. Early treatment is the key and a person does NOT need a positive blood test to be diagnosed or treated for Lyme disease. The criteria for diagnosing Lyme disease is symptoms, physical findings and exposure risk (which is very high here in CT). Blood testing is only done to confirm and should NOT be waiting for to start medication. One reason is current Lyme testing has about a 50% accuracy rating, which is as good as flipping a coin. For proper accuracy blood testing should be done by a Lyme specialty lab.
- Many ticks carry a host of co-infections, meaning a tick can infect you with Lyme disease or many other bacterial infections – more on co-infections next week!

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Top Dog Contest & Registration

All dog-owners are invited to enter are being accepted for the 30th annual "Top Dog" Contest to win the No. 1 dog tag from the Colchester town clerk's office and a basket donated by John Gagnon's Pet Resort. In order to enter into the contest, you must pre-register your dog for the 2022-23 license year.

Return the application with payment to the office by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25. The drawing will be held May 27, and the winner will be notified. The application can be found on our website at colchesterct.gov under town clerk.

A copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate and if it is not listed on the rabies certificate, a current spay/neuter certificate must be included. Checks/money orders should be made payable to Town of Colchester. Your license and tags will be mailed to you after registration begins on June 1.

The fee for a spayed/neutered dog is \$8, and for an unspayed/unneutered dog is \$19.

You can mail the application to: Colchester Town Clerk, 127 Norwich Ave. #101, Colchester, CT 06415. Applications may also be returned the Town Hall via the drop box located outside the Town Hall or emailed to dogowners@colchesterct.gov. Email can only be done with a credit/debit card and there is an additional \$2 convenience fee the vendor charges to use your credit/debit card.

The dog license year runs July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

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Park and Rec Initiatives Approved for ARPA Funds

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen unanimously passed three Parks and Recreation-related initiatives using American Rescue Plan (ARPA) money during a meeting May 5.

The approved motions were for new playgrounds at the Colchester RecPlex at \$350,000; three new pickleball courts at \$44,500; and a new strategic planner at \$10,000.

All of the initiatives will be fully funded using federal ARPA money.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos expressed that passing the initiatives was a major accomplishment for the town.

"This is worth it," he said, "All the headaches are for this."

Bisbikos collaborated with Tiffany Quinn,

Parks and Recreation director, to finalize the projects.

He credited their teamwork and research for saving the town up to \$150,000 in the cost for the playgrounds.

"Your work has been fantastic," he told Quinn after the motions were passed.

The unanimous support for the Parks and Recreation initiatives comes as the board members debate small business ARPA grant applications.

Last week, the board of selectmen voted to reaffirm the town's ARPA committee.

Jason LaChapelle, a Republican on the board, expressed his disapproval with the ARPA process and voted against reaffirming the commit-

tee in its current form.

The passage of the parks and recreation items was supported by all board members.

Quinn presented mock pictures of the new playgrounds' designs. They will be handicapped-accessible and include preschool areas, among other features.

"That's beautiful," Rosemay Coyle, a Democrat on the board, said after seeing the pictures.

The \$350,000 contract was awarded to Childscapes, and the project is expected to be completed in the summer.

The pickleball courts were contracted to Hiding Tennis. They will be constructed at the RecPlex where the skate park was located. The plan also includes four benches for spectators.

In her application requesting the funds, Quinn stated that project would benefit the entire town.

"We can address the needs of the Colchester community by increasing recreational opportunities that reduce stress, improve mental health, offer a feeling of connection to others in the community, improve physical health, and offer free outdoor public access to local parks."

The third initiative, the strategic planner, was contracted to Real World Consulting.

Bisbikos stated that the planner would bring a "fact-finding" expedition for all areas of Parks and Recreation.

Quinn expressed that hiring the planner

would help prioritize key objectives in the community.

"It will bring in the input from taxpayers to a goal-driven future plan for the town," she said.

In the application request, the strategic planner is tasked with coming up with a master plan that includes overseeing field plans, staffing needs, recreation needs and community outreach.

Also during the meeting, the board unanimously passed a motion that awarded a contract to Anthony Skut for \$5,600 to replace the RecPlex pavilion roof.

The board unanimously passed a motion to that finalized a specific ARPA grant application guideline.

After bringing on Greg Barden, a member of the ARPA committee, the board agreed that small businesses established after March 3, 2021, were not eligible to receive ARPA funding under the town's grant program.

This would be in addition to other criteria outlined by both the board of selectmen and ARPA committee. Both boards had previously discussed that provision and expressed that it follows federal ARPA guidelines.

Moving forward, the ARPA committee is searching for two additional members to serve on it. The application process is open to the public.

Community Wellness Fair

All are invited to join Colchester Youth and Social Services, William J. Johnston Middle School, and the Colchester Senior Center for a free Community Wellness Fair Sunday, May 15, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at William J. Johnston Middle School.

There will be agencies and service providers, on-site health screenings, a vaccine clinic, and educational opportunities for every age group. Children in grades 2-4 will get the chance to participate in Gizmo's mental health class and meet Gizmo the dog.

There will also be self-care resources includ-

ing free chair massages, sound healing, animal therapy, and mental health and substance abuse education. There will also be informational breakout sessions including laughter therapy, methods of reducing anxiety and stress, the Mock Bedroom, early signs of dementia, and senior scam prevention. Toga, crossfit, and tai chi will also be offered.

A community Suicide Prevention and Narcan training will be available from 12-12:45 p.m.

People can also refuel with lunch and a treat from Rustic StrEats and Kona Ice food trucks.

Police News

4/24: Jeraldo Santiago, 34, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs and interfering with an officer in an incident that, police said, took place on Route 2 in Colchester.

4/27: James Cody Cutler, 24, of Southington, was charged with risk of injury to a child, giving tobacco to a person under 21, and second-degree sexual assault in an incident that, police said, took place in February 2020 on Old Hartford Road in Colchester.

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, May 16: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, May 17: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, May 18: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group – meet at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit, Exploring Non-Dairy Options; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, May 19: 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 20: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Paint Your Own Spring/Summer Welcome Sign; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Reducing Your Risk for Falls with River Rock PT: Monday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. Angela Risigo, owner and physi-

cal 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. Pre-register by Friday, May 20.

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. In this free workshop, Erin Chianelli, certified trainer from Positive Approach to Care, will discuss what healthy brains look like as they age. Registration is required. Sign up by May 27.

Something Old, Something New Luncheon: Wednesday, June 15, 11 a.m. The Connecticut Historical society will give a presentation entitled "Something Old, Something New: Connecticut Weddings through the Ages." A catered lunch will follow the presentation. More information will be available in the June newsletter.

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, Aggadadah 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.

CORE Commission to Meet

The next meeting of Colchester's CORE Commission is Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. See the calendar on the town website. www.colchesterct.gov, for the Zoom link.

The seven-member CORE (Colchester's Openness for Respecting Equity) Commission will serve as an advisor, promoting and advocating diversity, equity and inclusion within the town. Together, the commission members will work in partnership with the community to bridge, support, elevate and celebrate the diversity of people, perspectives and cultures.

Colchester-Salem Postal Food Drive

The combined workers of the Salem-Colchester Post Office will hold a Food Drive Saturday, May 14. Donations of current non-perishable food items will be accepted.

Leave donations in, on or next to your mailboxes after 9 a.m. for pick-up by your mail carrier and other retired postal workers. Donations can also be brought directly to Town Hall that day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. All donations will go to stock the Colchester Food bank and are used to lend a "hand up" to those in need in the Colchester-Salem community.

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Ed Bader of Colchester recently received this year's Robert C. Knox Jr. YMCA Distinguished Leadership Award. Pictured from left are Phil Kane, 2019 recipient of the award and a member of the YMCA of Greater Hartford Board of Trustees; Bader; Peter Atherton, 2016 recipient of the award and also a member of the Board of Trustees; and Harold Sparrow, president and CEO of YMCA of Greater Hartford.

Resident Receives YMCA Leadership Award

The YMCA of Greater Hartford has announced Edward F. Bader of Colchester is the recipient of this year's Robert C. Knox Jr. YMCA Distinguished Leadership Award. Bader received the award April 21, at the association's annual meeting. The award is the highest tribute the YMCA pays to its volunteer leaders. Bader is a financial expert whose work on behalf of the

YMCA's fundraising, auditing, budgeting, and sustaining programs and campaigns helped lead to this year's honor.

"The executive leaders and all the branch directors are always under tremendous pressure not just to break even year after year, but to be fiscally fit year-round," said Bader.

The YMCA said Bader's career-long experience with accounting, regulations, audits and other key financial competencies has benefitted the association in many ways over the years. On numerous occasions over the years, the YMCA has tapped Bader to head various committees and initiatives. He had also been on the Board of Directors and to this day remains a Trustee. Bader first became a member of the YMCA

in 1968, while working for the accounting firm Arthur Andersen LLC. The company had a corporate culture that encouraged employees to serve their communities by working with not-for-profits and other community-based organizations. His fundraising and financial guidance for the YMCA began almost immediately thereafter.

Bader said he is very proud of all his Y activities, particularly his role launching the creation of an audit committee to assure that reputational safeguards are in place, and his key involvement initiating the establishment of the Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center.

"I'm gratified with anything I can do that serves the community," Bader said.

Bader and his wife Nancy have four children, including two sons they adopted from Lithuania almost 25 years ago.

Bader's work has been by turns productive, challenging, demanding – and ultimately very fulfilling, he said.

"After all," he declared, "I wouldn't have spent 54 years doing it if I didn't enjoy it."



Stars, Socks & Stripes Thanks... Sam Blumberger of Colchester thanked everyone who donated to "Stars, Socks & Stripes" collection. Blumberger collected sock donations to support veterans.

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 stu-

dents 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.

Parks & Recreation News

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions and more information, call 860-537-7297 or email parksandrec@colchesterct.gov. Register online at colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Home. The Parks and Rec. office is located at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Adult Golf Lessons: Mondays in June from 6-7 p.m., at Chantclair, for ages 16 and up.

June 4 and 11 are at the golf course and June 18 and 25 are at the driving range. Cost is \$95/resident, \$100/non-resident. Register online. Call Parks and Rec. for more information.

Summer Day Camp: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., from June 27-Aug. 19. Extended Care will be available from 3-5 p.m. Camp is available to children entering grades K-7 in the fall. Camp dates are June 27-Aug. 19. Camp schedule is available online. Payment plans and limited scholarship funding available. For more information, call Parks and Rec.

SPT Summer Soccer Camp: Monday-Friday, July 25-29, 5-8 p.m., at the RecPlex, for kids entering grades 1-12 in the fall. Cost is \$125/resident, \$130/non-resident. Register online. Call Parks and Rec. for more information.

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 and leave a message.

Choir Concert

Colchester Choir and Orchestra's 20th Anniversary Concert is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, at 3 p.m., at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave. Classical and pop music, as well as a medley from *West Side Story*, and other favorites, will be featured. A reception will follow the concert.

The concert is free of charge, but donations welcome. Check CCO's website, www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org, or Facebook page for concert updates, including COVID-19 protocols before the show (masks and social distancing are suggested), and information about joining the choir or orchestra.

LifeStar Called After Crash

On May 10, a 2006 Honda Civic LX, driven by Eliza Dorolin Brown, 20, of New London, was travelling south on Route 11 in Colchester north of the Salem route line when, police said, the vehicle veered off the road and col-

lided with a tree.

Brown was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar for non-life-threatening injuries. The crash is under investigation, police said.

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‘Concerning Issues’ Led to Rudko Firing

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos accused his former executive assistant, Marli Rudko, of serious acts of misconduct, including destroying documents, in an official termination letter obtained by the *Rivereast*.

Last week, Bisbikos confirmed that Rudko had been terminated from her position in Town Hall on April 27, and escorted from the property.

In the letter, Bisbikos accused Rudko of consistent wrongdoing and negligence that resulted in her termination.

“Since the commencement of your employment with the town, there have been a number of concerning issues with your performance,” he wrote, “including, but not limited to, concerns regarding your interactions with staff and the public, inconsistent attendance, a failure to keep my office adequately informed regarding functions of this office and a refusal to perform functions of the position to which you were assigned.”

According to Bisbikos, the behavior culminated on April 27 when he was told by staff members that Rudko had not completed a response to a Freedom of Information request.

Bisbikos stated in the letter that Rudko had downloaded the completed request and kept it at her home.

In addition, Bisbikos accused Rudko of mishandling documents on the same day.

“You were observed destroying documents in your office without authorization,” he wrote.

Bisbikos continued by stating that Rudko was no longer fit to serve her position.

“Your performance in these areas causes concern that you are not only failing to meet your job responsibilities now, but that will be unable to meet the requirements of this position in the future.”

In a statement to the *Rivereast*, Bisbikos declined to elaborate beyond the information provided in the termination letter.

“Everything else, including the current investigation, are classified personnel documents,” he wrote.

Rudko did not return a request for comment.

Last week, Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that he was confident in the town’s decision to terminate Rudko – but that he anticipated a lawsuit anyway.

Rudko had worked for Bisbikos’ election

campaign and is the wife of Taras Rudko, a former member of the Board of Selectmen and chairman of the Republican Town Committee.

During a Board of Selectmen meeting on May 5, Jason LaChapelle, a Republican member of the board, spoke as a citizen and expressed his displeasure with the termination letter being made open to the public.

“I did not think that was professional at all,” he said, “It doesn’t serve anything but to destroy her name.”

Bisbikos defended the contents of the letter. “I stand by, 110 percent, to Ms. Rudko’s termination,” he said.

Scott Chapman, a citizen, made a comment suggesting that board members should stop arguing and focus on measures that would improve the town.

“What are we going to do to bring everyone together?” he said.

In response, Bisbikos argued that he’s tried working across the aisle but that online exchanges have caused division.

“I think social media has created a lot of division and infighting,” he said.

Last week, LaChapelle wrote in a Facebook post that disagreed with Bisbikos’ handling of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) process.

“I will not be giving him a free pass merely because he is a Republican,” he wrote.

LaChapelle also got into a heated exchange with Kassiani Bisbikos, the sister of the first selectman and the secretary of the Republican Town Committee on Facebook.

Chapman argued that Bisbikos, as first selectman, could potentially do more to limit those exchanges.

Recently, Bisbikos also received criticism on social media for his proclamation on National Day of Prayer on May 5.

Some citizens on Facebook expressed concerns that Bisbikos’ proclamation only focused on Christianity and wasn’t inclusive enough.

During the Board of Selectmen meeting, Bisbikos apologized if anyone was offended by his comments.

“We can always re-work it in the future,” he said, “There was no ill intent.”

He added that “every faith and every person is valued.”

Last week, a former Town Hall employee described the Bisbikos administration to the *Rivereast* as “toxic” – though Bisbikos refuted such claims, and said Town Hall is “an absolutely wonderful place to work.”

At last week’s Board of Selectmen meeting, he maintained that stance.

“I’m not entertaining this propaganda of some sort of toxic environment,” he said.

New Members at CHFD

In April, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department was fortunate to have two new probationary members join the ranks, William Collins and Ken Didato.

Collins is new to the fire department and has some experience in the emergency services, having served in a neighboring fire department. William is currently enrolled and attending an EMT course. He has joined the CHFD under the EMS division, which accounts for over 75% of the departments call volume.



Collins

Didato has served in the CHFD in the past and has experience in the emergency services, being a licensed paramedic. He took a hiatus from the fire department when other life priorities took precedence. With his return, he is the final member of the Didato family to rejoin the department, solidifying the entire family as members of the CHFD. Didato has joined under the fire police division and is exploring additional avenues within the department where he can assist in responses.



Didato

Community CPR

There will be free Family and Friends CPR courses at Colchester Hayward Fire Department, 52 Old Hartford Rd., on Wednesday, May 18, from 7-9 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 10, from 10 a.m.-noon; and Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 7-9 p.m.

Each video-based course teaches CPR and relief of choking in adults, children and infants. Use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is also included in the training, and par-

ticipants receive a student manual for ongoing reference. Family and Friends CPR is designed for members of the general public who would like to learn basic CPR, including families with children or elderly relatives, community groups, and those who do not need a course completion card.

To sign up for one of these upcoming classes, contact fire headquarters at 860-537-2512 or firedepartment@colchesterct.gov.

Car Wash, Can and Bottle Drive

Scout BSA Troop 109 will be at the Advanced Auto Parts parking lot on Route 16 in Colchester on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., hosting a car wash and can and bottle drive to raise funds for their activities.

Car wash donations may be by cash or checks made out to Scout BSA Troop 109. People should bring rinsed cans and bottles to donate in a bag or cardboard box. Events this fundraiser will support include summer camp, Cape Cod Rail Trail, and Maine camping.

Westchester Congregational Church sponsors Troop 109 for ages 11-17 and Pack 109 for ages 5-10. For more information, email westcongchurch@gmail.com.

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.

Sights and Sounds Theatre – David: Aug. 3-5. Tour the Amish country and see *David* at the Sights and Sounds Theatre in Lancaster County, Pa. Cost is \$585/person double occupancy, and includes a deluxe motor coach, two-night hotel stay, two breakfasts, two dinners,

and all admissions, taxes, fees, and gratuities.

Thimble Islands Cruise & Chowder Pot III: Wednesday, June 29, 11:30 a.m. Menu choices are Baked Stuffed Sole, Baked Salmon, or Chicken Piccata, followed by NY-style cheesecake for dessert. Cost is \$116 per person.

Jesus Christ Superstar at the Thomaston Opera House: Sunday, July 17, 6:45 a.m. Pre-show lunch will be served at Black Rock Tavern with a meal choice of chicken marsala, salmon, or pork tenderloin. Cost is \$116 per person.

Spend the Day on Martha’s Vineyard: Thursday, July 21, departing at 6:45 a.m. The trip will start with a three-and-a-half-hour tour of the “Storybook Island.” Cost is \$124 per person.

Anne of Green Gables at the Goodspeed: Wednesday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m. See the classic novel reimagined as a folk-rock musical. Lunch at La Vita Gustosa (meal cost not included) will precede the show. Cost is \$60/person.

California Dreamin’: Monterey, Yosemite & Napa: Oct. 10-17. This trip will include seven breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners. Cost is \$3,249/person, double occupancy.

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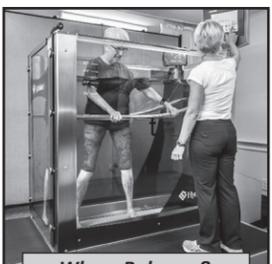
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'Discover Colchester' Hike

The next Colchester Land Trust (CLT) "Discover Colchester" Hike will be held, as part of CT Trails Day, in the Salmon River State Forest Saturday, June 4, weather permitting, or Sunday, June 5 (rain or shine). The hike will start on the Air Line Trail, at the hairpin parking lot on Bull Hill Road (1.3 miles from Route 16/Covered Bridge) at 10 a.m., and is for adults only.

Shinrin-Yoku, or "forest bath," was coined in 1982 by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It can be defined as "making contact with and taking in the atmosphere of the forest." This is a relatively quiet,

moderately slow-paced hike, engaging all of the senses, with stopping points along the way for re-centering and observation. It is roughly three miles long on moderate, uneven and steep terrain, so bring appropriate footwear. Please, no pets or children. Parking is minimal, so please carpool, the CLT said.

For more information, call A. Stannard at 860-912-0144. The CLT is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that works to permanently protect open space in Colchester. Go to www.colchesterlandtrust.org to join or donate.

Local Author Publishes New Book

Aviva Publishing has announced the publication of *Secrets of a Serial Networker* by Anne Garland.

In this book, Garland reveals that networking does not have to be scary or hard. Readers will learn how to make split-second connections, follow-up and leverage new connections, practice card connecting, not collecting, get contacts to connect them to other contacts, be likeable and trustworthy so others will want to know them, change gears for in-person versus virtual networking, master their square on Zoom, use proper netiquette, and rock their own networking events.

Garland is a professional speaker, networking coach, serial networker, intuitive connector, event producer, and empowerment entrepreneur. She has worked for top international brands like BASF, Honeywell, Hanes Knitwear, and Nanotex. Her background also includes years of architectural interior design expertise. She has hosted experiential networking events for 25 years, and now shares her years of experience in this book.

Secrets of a Serial Networker can be purchased through local and online bookstores. For more information, visit www.AnneGarlandEnterprises.com.

Residents Participate in Symposium

Lasell University's Connected Learning Symposium celebrated its 20th year of student scholarship and research with original presentations from more than 200 participants – including two Colchester residents. Haylee Skoog had artwork featured in Lasell's Wedeman Gallery, which highlights the best drawings, paintings, prints, and 3D pieces created in Lasell's fine arts courses at Symposium. The presentation incorporated the NACE competencies of professionalism, equity and inclusion, and career and self-development.

Liah Brown presented the latest issue of *Polished Magazine*, a national collegiate publication that covers Boston's fashion and cultural scene. Brown is the publication's managing editor.

Lasell University is located in Newton, Mass.

Honor Society Inductee

The Western New England University chapter of Mortar Board recently inducted rising seniors – including Nicholas Tartsinis of Colchester – into the Mortar Board National Honor Society.

Mortar Board is the senior honor society at Western New England University. The society is open to those students who have demonstrated both academic excellence and leadership on campus and in the community. Students in the top 35% of the junior class are considered eligible for the society with the membership being selected by the existing members of the previous year.

Tartsinis is working toward a BA in law & society.

Cragin Book Club to Meet

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, May 23, at 6 p.m. *Good Morning, Monster* by Catherine Gildiner will be discussed. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk.

Weather permitting, the club will meet at the Colchester Giving Garden, which is located behind the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. Bring a chair. The group will meet at the library in case of inclement weather.

For updates on the program, sign up at tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub. For more information, call the library at 860-537-5752.

Stop & Shop Bag Program to Benefit CHFD

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting nonprofit in the Stop & Shop Community Bag for May.

The Stop & Shop Community Bag Program is a way for shoppers to give back to the local community. Every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag sends a \$1 donation to a local nonprofit.

The local Stop & Shop is located at 99 Linwood Ave.

Resident Places in Top 10

Colchester resident Alexander Bates finished in the top 10 in the Marketing Communications Competitive Team event at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC), held recently in Baltimore.

Bates was among 16 students from Stonehill College's Meehan School of Business to participate in the ICDC, competing against over 100 schools in events designed to prepare the students to become leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, accounting, finance, hospitality and management. The team took home seven awards, including six Top 10 placement medals and one First Place award.

Bates – who attended the event as part of Stonehill's DECA chapter – is a member of the Class of 2022. Stonehill College is located in Easton, Mass.

Resident to Graduate

Bacon Academy Class of 2018 graduate Emilia Couture will graduate from Boston College's Lynch School of Education on Monday, May 23, with dual degrees in education and mathematics.

At the ceremony, Couture will be awarded the Albert A. Bennett Award, presented annually to a graduating mathematics major who has shown a high level of achievement and a desire to teach mathematics at the pre-collegiate level. Couture will continue her education at Boston College next year as she completes a 5th year Masters in Education, and she plans to go on to teach high school math.

Ladies Guild Offering Cruise

Saint Andrew's Ladies Guild is offering a Trans-Atlantic Cruise to the community.

The cruise will run Sept. 3-18, visiting Copenhagen, Norway, Iceland, Greenland. Prices start at \$2,999, and includes air transportation to Copenhagen. Travelers must follow the protocols set in place by the travel company.

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

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

Library Friends Seek Donations

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library group accepts donations of books and other media at the library, 8 Linwood Ave.

Items can be dropped off in the outdoor book donation bin with the green logo at any time. Boxes or large bags of books can be brought into the library when it is open.

Materials given to the Friends are sold through book sales and on the Friends Book

Shop bookshelves. All funds are used to support programs and collections for all ages and purchase museum passes.

The next Friends of Cragin Memorial Library book sale is scheduled for June 3-5.

Cragin Memorial Library hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Project Graduation Cornhole Tournament

Bacon Academy Project Graduation is holding a Cornhole Tournament Saturday, June 4 (rain date: June 5), at Hop Culture, 144 Cato Corner Rd. Check-in begins at 11 a.m., and play begins at noon.

Tournament is a double-elimination/bracket format. Players can bring their own standard bags, no double-sided/pro bags are allowed. Cost is \$80 per adult team, \$40 for student teams (high school students and younger), \$60 for mixed adult/student teams. All ages are welcome. Team cash prizes for winners are \$320

for first place, \$160 for second place and \$80 for third place.

To register, go to www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org and click on the 'Cornhole Tournament' page or send payment by check with team member names and contact information (email or cell phone) to BAPG, P.O. Box 393, Colchester, CT 06415. Registration is due by Tuesday, May 31. Email Melanie Hathaway at ba.projectgrad@gmail.com with any questions or to request Venmo payment.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Bacon Academy Honor Roll

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

Honors with Distinction

Grade 9: Emma Anderson, Kaitlyn Brennan, Julia Carrington, Alexa Chiarella, Alexandre Cochran, Madison Coons, Elizabeth Gould, Amber Hostetler, Anthony Liu, Ethan LoVetere, Sophia Melo, Emilee Pac, Audrey Palmer, Kevin Reas, Madden Roderick, Charles Rose, Alex Sanchez Jr., Chloe Sanders, Chase Vendrillo, Meghan Zingler.

Grade 10: Carolyn Baehr, Kayla Balsler, Mia Belcamino, Abigail Belding, Logan Brown, Andrew Ferrigno, Emily Ferrigno, Brady Gould, Taylor Herboldt, Jara Hester, Aisha Kasli, Mariam Kasli, Madelyn Koziol, Emma Liberty, Johannes Liebenberg, Kaylee Marshall, Luke Torneo, Ashley Zapata-Enamorado.

Grade 11: Olivia Adams, Annalia Benitez-Goodale, Olivia Carnelli, Maya Crowell, Jillian Filloramo, Grace Gorreck Neely Hart, Michelle Jolly, Anna LeGault, Meaghan Malone, David Marino, Ryan Moores, Gabrielle Papale, Mitchell Rathbone, Kaitlyn Romprey, Lindsey Smith, Kaitlyn Tracey, Connor Tuttle, Mia Voiland, Samantha Willauer.

Grade 12: Adrian Aivaliotis, Michael Barnett, Samuel Blumberger, Alexandra Brown, Aidan Carroll, Emma Ceruti, Faith Chantres, Samantha Ciaglo, Ryan Claffey, Erin Dalton, Caylin Davids, Connor Denecour, Annie-Mae England, Kayla Fillion, Sandra Geis, Cole Harrison, Wilson Hathaway, Brennan Hester, Gracyn Kane, Matthew Kranc, Nicholas Lang, Sage Muenzner, Andrew Navickas, Sokheta Nguon, Jasmyne Ouellette, Luke Pennella, Maryanne Ringuette, Kristine Robida, Jordan Rodgers, Sophie Rose, Jordyn Scutnik, Bethany Steinman, Caitlin Wargat.

High Honors

Grade 9: Julia Cavaliere, Birch Collins, John Dalton, Nevaeh Dechalus, Weston Dzwonchyk, Isabella Falkowski, Cate Grasso, Abigail Grimm, Caitryn Holt, Ivy Huang, Isha Kansagara, Fiona Lin, Oliver Markham, Juliana Martino, Katelyn Novak, Marissa Parola, Dominique Sanchez, Veronica Smith, Olivia Sobota, Luke Southworth, Anastasia Violette.

Grade 10: Allison Bartiss, Madison Brown, Kevin Claffey, Jonathan Curry, Samantha D'Atri, Xavier Gudelski, Ciara Jones, Jace King, Christopher Lusignan, Jack Mallett, Maya Mancuso, Melinda McKenzie, Rohan Patel, Kaie Quimby, Jazlyn Small-Yu, Chelsea Smith, Kiera Stewart, Shea Sweet, Brianna Tiskey, Amanda Waters, Freddy Zhang.

Grade 11: Matthew Ashley, Noah Auden, Danielle Benoit, Brianna Berthiaume, Alexander Constant, Kaylie Couch, Grace Galarneau, Camryn Grasso, Lillian Litwinko, Marissa Nudd, Zachary Perreault, Christopher Post, Isa-

belle Richards, Brooke Rodgers, Michael Shoemaker, Miranda Waters, Elisabeth Westerfeld, Isabella Wood.

Grade 12: Caleb Arbuckle, Austin Brown, Claudia Chesnes, Avery Denker, Ella Dubiel, Gianna Duckworth, William Girard, Kelly Goodwin, Matthew Guerriere, Calem LePage, Jordan Malloy, Emma Mancuso, Matthew McCune, Samuel Miller, Tyler Nguyen, Josiah Perkins, Jessica Schuth, Evelyn Toennes, Harrison Wells, Jennifer Whipple, Emily Witkovic, Aidan Zimmitti, Ezequiel Zurita.

Honors

Grade 9: Avery Anderson, Natalie Arbuckle, Jackson Budrow, Hailey Cardoza, Zoe Carlson, Zachary Carroll, Elias Chiaverini, Callum Cuadro, Dominic Cusano, Brooke Dean, Clark England, Olivia Finan, Jacob Girard, Elizabeth Glover, Lilliana Healy, Bennett Holloway, Jillian Jones, Tanner Kundahl, Kaitlyn Meltsner, Ashley Nowakowski, Julian Rodegher, Alexia Rodriguez, Gavin Shkutzko, Sawyer Simone, Eve Svata, Morgan Tyrrell, Gavin VanCamp, Jason Zingler.

Grade 10: Chloe Alfieri, Carson Brown, Jonah Brownson, McKayleigh Capone, Grace Eveleigh, Garrett Geleney, Trinity Georgens, Dimitra Goncalves, Jessica-Willow Harris, Leah Hochholzer, Sean Jolly, Sana Kasli, Isabella Koopman, Gabriella Korczak, Theodore Koutsofavas, Logan Lammey, Isabella Little, Shannon Lovegrove, Gabriel Mahon, Neil Malloy, Sophie Melmed, Caitlyn Neves, Morgan O'Connor, Dylan Oपालnik, Tyler Pulse, Audra Putorti, Leah Putorti, Sebastian Santini, Cara Shea, Meghan Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Daniel Wozniak, Amaya Zavistoski.

Grade 11: Keegan Appleby, Elijah Black, Alexander Blanchette, Megan Braga, Maddox Burton, Amber Capaldi, Cecelia Carnelli, James Chiaverini, Chloe Coogan, Madison Crook, Emmet Day, Austin Dinsmoor, Jaden Espejo, Andrew Fick, Charles Gionfriddo, Sophia Goodine, Jack Holmes, Samantha Kinsey, Isabella Kress, Matthew LaRosa, Elliot Lewis, Vivian Lubinsky, Jake Martino, Heather Martyszczuk, Theresa Mathieu, Nico Matteucci, Gwyneth Reagan, Brendan Reas, Mason Romanowski, Grace Saldana, Ian Sargent, Kaitlyn Sierra, Amber Sullivan, Megan Swanke, Jordyn Tassmer, Joselyn Thomson, Michael Vilardo.

Grade 12: Hunter Bailey, Josiah Banks, Daniel Blanda Kyle Brogden, James Brownson, Jaiana Dechalus, Emily Farrington, Aiden Gyngell, Nathan Harasimowitz, Jade Hostetler, Luke Jenkins, Adam Lesinski, Nicholas Mancini, Heather Marvin, Aidan McLoughlin, Daniel Morytko, Kaitlyn Mylly, Sarah Newton, John Novak, Isha Rana, Elspeth Robertson, Jayson Robitaille, Zoe Rondeau, Christopher Stephenson, Sarah Tupper, Joseph Tyler.

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Marlborough • Marlborough

Traversa Elected Chair of Board of Selectmen

By Jack Lakowsky

In a split 3-2 vote, the now five-member Marlborough Board of Selectmen last week elected Democrat Amy Traversa as chair.

Traversa, Democrat Betty O'Brien and Unaffiliated member Deb Bourbeau said 'yes,' while Republicans Greg Lowrey – also town first selectman – and Joe Asklar opposed.

Lowrey retains his seat as town CEO until November 2023, though on Wednesday he said this isn't ironclad, that he could possibly leave office sooner if the board finds a suitable town manager, the new head of Marlborough's government after the elimination of the first selectperson's office.

In a statement, Traversa said "I am pleased to have been nominated and elected as chair of the Board of Selectmen.

"As chair, I expect to collaborate well with Greg and each of the members of the board to effectively guide the town through the transition to a town manager," Traversa wrote.

"We suspected the revised charter might bring about a new dynamic, and it has," said Traversa, who served as the town's first selectman from 2015-19, before losing a re-election bid to Lowrey. "I have always valued inclusiveness and straightforward communication, and in that spirit, I'm excited to get to work!"

Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call the library at 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info. To register for programs, call the library or email richmondprograms@gmail.com.

Summer Saturdays: The library returns to Summer Saturday hours in May. The building will be open 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Seed Library: The library recently received a Constellation Community Champions grant for the purpose of creating a Seed Library. The library is now available to browse. It will be expanded in the months ahead. There is a binder alongside the storage unit with information about each seed we currently have available; help yourself to the information sheets when you take seeds. People should record which seeds they take, as well as what town they live in. There is a limit of five seed packets per person, with a maximum of one per type. The library will accept unopened and partially open and used seed packets, but is refraining from accepting seeds outside of their original packaging for the time being, to avoid issues concerning cross-pollination.

Books in Bloom Spring Book and Plant Sale: The Friends of the Richmond Memorial Library will hold this sale Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The MOMS Club will have baked goods for sale and the library will have various yard games set up to play. All proceeds directly benefit the library and will be going towards the purchase of additional yard games. **Donations are sought** for the sale. Books, CDs, and DVDs in good, saleable condition will be accepted through Monday, May 16. For the plant sale, donations are sought of healthy, pest-free, cuttings, seedlings, divided perennials, herbs, or vegetable plants. Plant sale items should be labeled and dropped off only on Friday, May 20, or Saturday morning.

Crystal Singing Bows – Sound Healing:

Lowrey told the *Rivereast* he was not expecting Traversa's election. During coverage of last week's election, Lowrey said the board wouldn't elect a chair until November 2023, when he would abdicate his office.

Lowrey, who said his chief motivation to run for office was to change Marlborough's government to its new form, said he knew full well that by supporting the town manager-style of government, he was legislating himself out of a job; he just didn't anticipate that happening for another year and a half.

He called Traversa's election as chair a diminishment of the first selectperson's office. He said he was expecting the office to be eliminated all at once, not piece-by-piece.

There seems to be some murkiness here. While Lowrey did not openly contest the decision, he said he's unsure if it was the intent of the now-dissolved charter revision commission.

In an email, Republican Louise Concodello, who worked on the charter and failed to gain a board seat in last week's election, said Traversa's election is inconsistent with the charter's changes.

"We are not at the point where we're adding a town manager," wrote Concodello. She said the charter intended a board chair election to occur after a town manager was hired.

Monday, May 16, 6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Priscilla Estelle will guide people on how to play a crystal singing bowl, their role in healing throughout history, and the potential health benefits they can provide today. A yoga mat or small blanket is recommended. Registration required; there is a maximum of 15 participants in this program.

Financial Wellness Wednesday – Retirement Income Planning: Wednesday, May 18, 6 p.m., via Zoom. Find out how to maximize your income by creating the right mix of income producing assets and learn strategies to help minimize taxes in retirement. This program is led by Rebecca Miller of the Financial Awareness Foundation. Registration required.

STEAM in the Spring -- Let it Fly!: Thursday, May 19, 4:30 pm., for ages 6 and up; parents must remain in the building during the program. Children will make some flying contraptions and learn how to make a catapult. Registration required.

Late Spring Storytime: Mondays, May 16 and 23, 10 a.m., for kids ages 2½-5 years. Registration required.

Roadside Vegetation Spraying

During May, Public Works is again applying herbicide to guardrail areas throughout the town, for vegetation control.

Since these areas are difficult to mow using conventional methods, herbicide application will reduce roadside mowing man hours. The product used for this purpose is water soluble, environmentally safe for wetlands and is considered non-toxic to fish, dogs and other domestic animals. Product application field representatives are overseen by certified and licensed specialists.

Should you prefer this not be applied to your area or have concerns, call Public Works at 860-295-6229.



The new Board of Selectmen, pictured here, consists of Republicans Greg Lowrey and Joe Asklar (left) Democrats Betty O'Brien and Amy Traversa (center) and Unaffiliated member Deb Bourbeau (right).

Concodello shared the question voters decided on last year.

It reads the change "provides the new five-member [board] to...annually elect a chair...to serve [a one-year term]."

The information Concodello shared does not expressly say a board chair can only be elected after a town manager is hired.

Lowrey said Traversa's appointment does little to change the day-to-day operations of the town. He also said that, with any major change, there will be "wrinkles" to iron out.

"We have to roll with it," Lowrey said. "There will be ambiguities here and there, but we'll figure those out."

Lowrey's main concern is with freedom of information, namely as it relates to the likenamed act. He said the first selectperson puts together materials for Board of Selectmen meetings, including agendas and supporting documents.

He said Traversa, as chair, has asked to review materials before meetings. Lowrey said his worry is that such meetings between the first selectperson and board chair may violate information freedom laws, as it could be construed as discussing public business without the public or other elected officials.

He said he reads FOIA laws as saying mem-

bers of different parties can't meet outside of proceedings, or it'll be considered an unsanctioned meeting.

Lowrey emphasized no decisions would be made in these talks. He has an idea to communicate with the board chair through the first selectman's executive assistant.

Lowrey later sent information from the state FOI office, which said talks between the first selectperson and the chair don't constitute a board meeting.

The first selectman will no longer preside overboard meetings. Lowrey will effectively be a voting member of the board without the ability to call-to-order or slam a gavel.

Lowrey still oversees government workaday and still oversee designing the next town budget.

"It's not a big deal for fiscal operations," he said. "Where we need to be careful is in legality."

Though they often butt heads, Lowrey said he looks forward to good cooperation with Traversa, as well as the other board members.

Overall, Lowrey said the hiccups in the new charter are minor compared to the good it will do, saying the expanded board will make for vibrant, robust discussions.

Fresh Hot SOOP at Arts Center

The Marlborough musical group Seat of Our Pants (SOOP) will perform at Marlborough Arts Center's next 4th Friday @ the Arts Café, on Friday, May 20, at 231 N. Main St. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., but doors open at 7. Admission is \$10 per person. There is on-site parking and the Arts Center is handicapped-accessible.

This will be the 10th time SOOP has performed at the arts center. The group plays an array of instruments, features Mark Hall, Jeff Gorman and Peggy Harvey, and is led by Caro-

lyn Brodgerski on vocals and her 34-string harp. Seat of Our Pants is an acoustic folk/blues/bluegrass/country/old time/rock quartet. For more information on the band, visit seatofourpantsmusic.com/home.

Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts, and fine crafts. The center is following CDC and state guidelines for indoor events. Masks are recommended, but proof of vaccination and boosting is not required. BYOWine will be allowed again after a long hiatus.



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Marlborough siblings Trevor (far left) and Teresa (far right) Hooker participated in Food Allergy Awareness Week this year, as they do every year. They're pictured here during the 2021 Food Allergy Awareness Week with their parents, Jeff and Anne.

Local Siblings Participate in Food Allergy Awareness Week

Food Allergy Awareness Week was this week, May 8-14, and Marlborough residents and RHAM High School students Teresa and Trevor Hooker have long been supporters of the endeavor.

Food Allergy Awareness Week is a chance for those in the food allergy community to help spread awareness, educate others about food allergies, and to let the community know about organizations that represent the many people that live with food allergies every day. FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education) is a non-profit organization dedicated to education, research and advocacy, working on behalf of the 32 million Americans living with life-threatening food allergies.

Teresa and Trevor have held school presentations, the Teal Pumpkin Project, fundraising

walks, and more. They both also serve the food allergy community nationwide as FARE Teen Advisory Group members and Teen Talk moderators. They advocated along with the food allergy community to help collectively pass and see the Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research (FASTER) Act signed into law last year, which added sesame as the ninth major allergen.

Teresa wrote and copyrighted a song entitled "Save a Life: The Epinephrine Auto-Injector Song," in order to teach others how to administer an epinephrine auto-injector, remember the procedure and remain calm while doing so. After presenting her song in Washington DC, it has been available as an educational resource at www.foodallergy.org/resources/save-life-epinephrine-auto-injector-song.

For this song and numerous other food allergy information, tips and resources, visit the FARE website at www.foodallergy.org.

For the 2022 Food Allergy Awareness Week, Teresa is also fundraising for FARE as "Teresa Teal" in the 2022 Teal Takeover Fundraising Challenge, found on the FARE website until May 16. All are invited to donate to FARE under "Teresa Teal" and support her efforts in this challenge.

Police News

5/6: Lisa Brochu, 66, of 8 Oak Drive, was arrested and charged with third-degree arson and first-degree reckless endangerment, police said.



New Lions... At their April 26 meeting, the Marlborough Lions officially inducted three new members: Jack Groat, Caitlin Powers-Groat and Polly Carilli. Lions District Governor Ed Fenton conducted the ceremony. Anyone interested in joining the Marlborough Lions should call Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116. New members are always welcome. From left are Groat, Powers-Groat, Carilli, Marlborough Lions President Megan Lloyd, and Fenton.

Applications Available for Elderly Tax Credit

The assessor's office is accepting applications for the Elderly Homeowners and Totally Disabled tax credit.

Applications must be in the assessor's office by May 13, or postmarked by no later than May 15, to avoid denial of all tax credits. Those who can't make the deadline must contact the office to get the form to appeal to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for an extension.

Completed applications and income documentation may be dropped off at the Tax Assessor's office, or may also be mailed to the assessor's office via USPS. Please mail to: Assessor's Office, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main St., P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447.

The assessor's office will also accept income documents and applications by email. Emailed applications with tax return and income proof may be emailed to swake@marlboroughct.net.

Eligibility Requirements: Owner (or spouse) must have been 65 years of age by Dec. 31, 2021. Totally disabled persons, regardless of age, are eligible, but must provide current proof of disability. Applicants must own or hold life use for the property for which tax relief is sought. Property must be the applicant's principal or legal residence. (Principal residence is defined as residency of at least 6 months and one day for the program year). If property is in a trust, a complete copy of the trust document is required.

Income Requirements: For the State of Connecticut tax credit, qualifying income must not exceed \$38,100 if unmarried, or \$46,400 if married. For married couples, income for both the husband and wife must be counted in establishing qualifying income. "Qualifying income" is defined as all taxable and nontaxable income. This definition includes taxable income as may be reported for Federal Income Tax purposes, as well as non-taxable income. 2021 economic stimulus payments will not be categorized as income and therefore will not be counted as income for these tax credit programs; however, 100% of all unemployment benefits received in calendar year 2021 will be counted as income for these tax credit programs.

If you are filing a 2021 federal tax return, the assessor's office must have a complete copy of it with all of the backup documents, such as: SSA-1099; interest, dividend, IRA, pension and annuity statements. The assessor's office does not need your state tax return. If you did not receive a 2021 Social Security 1099 statement (Social Security statement of total benefits paid for 2021), you can request a duplicate from Social Security by calling 1-800-772-1213.

If you are under 65 years old, and are receiving permanent and total disability benefits you must provide the assessor's office proof, such as a benefit verification letter from Social Security disability by calling 1-800-249-7507, or SSA1099 form for 2021.

Greater Together Community Fund Seeks Volunteers

The Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is growing and in search of additional committee members. The fund, initially established in 2019 with \$100,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, has completed its first round of grants. In 2022, the foundation contributed an additional \$50,000 to the fund.

In November 2021, the Advisory Committee awarded over \$30,000 to six nonprofit organizations for projects to support our Marlborough community. The next funding round is planned for later in 2022.

The Marlborough Community Fund Advisory Committee is comprised of Marlborough residents who work to identify community needs and to ensure that distribution of funds yields the greatest benefit to town residents.

To serve on the committee, applicants must be residents of Marlborough, not serve as an elected town official, and be at least 14 years old. Typically, evening meetings are 1-2 hours a month as determined by the committee. Occasionally, 1-2 hours of additional work outside the committee meeting is required. Previous experience in community organizations or in grant-making is not required.

If interested in joining the committee, submit a simple application form for consideration. To apply, visit www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf. For more information, send a message to marlboroughcommunityfund@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is June 15.

Arts Center Members' Show Open Weekly

Marlborough Arts Center's Members' Art Show will be open every Friday through Sunday through June 5, from 1-4 p.m. each week. The show is in the gallery, 231 N. Main St.

This show includes paintings, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, fiber art, and wood-turned works.

Works can also be viewed at www.marlbrougharts.org.

For more information, leave a voice message at 860-467-6353, or email marlbroughartscenter@gmail.com.

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Artist's Works at Town Hall

Carole Jeffries, an award-winning national artist, is exhibiting a selection of her works at Town Hall from now and through the end of December. The exhibit is open to all who visit the Town Hall during its normal opening hours.

Jeffries is a member of Marlborough Arts Center and just had three of her paintings in the recent Members Art Show. She is known for her particularly evocative landscapes. For those who might be interested in purchasing any of her works, means of contacting Jeffries directly are available at Town Hall.

Resident Receives Award

The University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford recently held its Undergraduate Awards Ceremony.

Kendra Veneziano of Marlborough earned the Barbara Lake McKillop Award.

Marlborough • Marlborough

Kleinhen Heads to Hartwick

By Josh Howard

RHAM High School senior Ailish Kleinhen will continue to live out her hardwood dreams in New York.

"And the journey begins," Kleinhen posted to Instagram on May 1. "I am excited to announce my commitment to further my education and athletic career at Hartwick College! I am beyond excited for the next! A huge thank you to my family, friends, coaches and teammates. I couldn't get here without all of you. Go Hawks!"

Kleinhen was the ideal teammate, captain, and closer for a Raptors basketball team that finished the regular season with 14 wins this past winter.

"Ailish had a great senior year and impacted our team in so many ways more than just on the court," RHAM girls' basketball head coach John McNair said. "She would go and pick a teammate up if they fell, and she would be there to offer words of encouragement and support after a tough game or practice. Her selflessness is one of the things I respected most about her as a teammate and it's really something you can't coach."

McNair added that Kleinhen did a little of everything on the floor, including being a relentless defender who did not back down from

any challenge.

That mentality will suit her well at the next level where she will join her new basketball fraternity as she pursues her degree in physical therapy.

Kleinhen said it was important for her to choose a school that offered her major, adding, "The coaches are awesome and I love everything about it. It's more than just basketball and that is what I need."

Over the years, Kleinhen has learned a thing or two about physical therapy. She used PT to recover from a broken elbow suffered while playing basketball in the eighth grade, along with mending ankle, knee, and various other injuries throughout her time playing sports.

"You name it, I've pretty much gone for everything," said a smiling Kleinhen.

After dabbling in cross-county running her first years in high school, Kleinhen realized that the team aspect of basketball was her true passion.

She is currently on the school's ultimate Frisbee team, calling the club sport "super fun."

Kleinhen, who was born in Glastonbury before moving to Marlborough in kindergarten, said she will miss her teammates that she played with at RHAM, particularly the basketball team from this past winter.

"This was definitely my favorite group of girls that we've had," said Kleinhen, who embraced a mentorship role for a talented freshmen class headed by first-year standout Maddy Evans.

She recalled one of her favorite moments was during Evans' first start. Kleinhen was forced to miss the game because of a concussion, so she helped coach the Evans from the sideline, drawing up plays and offering advice from the bench.

Kleinhen added it was "really cool" to see the growth of the younger girls this winter.

McNair praised Kleinhen for her "incredible selflessness" in accepting the role as the first player off the bench, saying, "While she might not have started a game, she was always in at the end of close ones, and to me that's the most important time to be on the floor."

McNair noted a game against Bacon Academy when Kleinhen ignited the team off the bench, sinking five three-pointers and scoring 20 points as the Raptors beat the rival Bobcats, who would eventually go on to play for a state championship at Mohegan Sun.

"As a coach, you want everything to work out the way it should, and you want kids to be rewarded for all the work and sacrifices they make," said McNair. "That night, Ailish shined in the moment and confirmed for me that she deserved the opportunity to play at the next level."

McNair added, "I have no doubt she will succeed at Hartwick. She has the right approach



RHAM senior Ailish Kleinhen has committed to play college basketball for Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y.

to adversity and manages to keep it all in perspective."

At Hartwick, she will join a Division III program based in Oneonta, N.Y., that plays in the Empire 8 Athletic Conference. The Hawks are coming off an 18-win season in the first year under head coach Sarah Lombard.

"I've played on a lot of different teams with a lot of different people and the teammates that I've had have been so motivating," said Kleinhen. "I'm beyond excited to go through the next four years with a new group."

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Adult Programs: Barre/Pilates: Monday, May 16, 5-5:45 p.m., or Wednesdays through May 25, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Class instruction is virtual or in person. Drop-in fee is \$18 each session.

Yoga: Mondays through May 16, 6-7 p.m., or Tuesdays through May 31, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class instruction is virtual or in person. Drop-in fee is \$18 each session.

Women's Self Defense: For ages 13 and up. Thursdays, May 19-June 23, 6-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. This class will be a woman's krav maga class designed to teach basic self-defense skills. Fee: \$53/resident, \$58/non-resident.

Pickleball: Wednesdays through Sept. 28, 9-11 a.m., at the Blish Park tennis courts. No fee.

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

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

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.

Youth Programs: Kids Fishing Derby:

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 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. Informational cards providing insight on the background and inspiration of the assignments will also accompany each section of art work.

For more information, email knd9@comcast.net.

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.

Netto Summer Day Camp: For grades K-7. June 20-Aug. 12 at Blish Park. Campers will enjoy camp games, arts & crafts, swimming, sports, field trips and special events. All campers are supervised by counselors and lifeguards trained in CPR/First Aid. Fee per week is \$175/resident, \$185/non-resident.

Swim Lessons: Will begin the week of June 27. All lesson levels are offered. All lessons are held at Blish Park. Fee: \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

Lego: June 27-July 1, at Marlborough Elementary School. **Minecraft Engineering**, for ages 5-7, is 8:30-11:30 a.m., and **Minecraft Master Engineering**, for ages 7-12, is noon-3 p.m. Fee: \$145/resident, \$150/non-resident.

Skyhawks Basketball Camp: June 27-July 1. Ages 5 and 6, meet 9 a.m.-noon; fee is \$140/residents, \$145/non-residents. Ages 7-12 meet 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and fee is \$170/residents, \$175/non-residents.

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.

MES Art Show Tuesday

The Marlborough Elementary School Student Art Show is back in person next Tuesday, May 17, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the school's community room. This evening 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.

Students who have previously submitted entry forms for their "at-home creations" should drop those pieces off in the community room on Monday, May 16 between 3 and 5 pm. Pieces must be picked up on Wednesday, May 18 between 3 and 5 pm in the hall by the community room.

For more information, email knd9@comcast.net.

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.marlbroughchurch.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 15: The service will be led by pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, with church moderator Keith Davis preaching. The service will include an infant baptism.

Mission-giving for May will go to the AHM Mental Health Fund. Donations can be made payable to the church and sent to P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447 or placed in an offer-

ing box on a Sunday.

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is stocked with new, nearly new, and vintage merchandise from houseware, cookware, seasonal and décor to furniture, lamps, jewelry, handbags, and more. Second Blessings is located on the ground floor and is open Fridays from noon-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.

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.

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Obituaries

Colchester

Judith F. Driscoll

Judith (Judy) F. Driscoll, 82, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, May 7. She was a beloved aunt, sister, friend and educator.

Judy was born Jan. 5, 1940, to the late Lawrence and Dorothy Welch of Ossipee, N.H. After graduating from high school, she went on to Plymouth State College

to pursue her educational career. She first taught at Hampton, N.H., East Hampton, and then at Colchester, grades 1 and 2. She spent most of her life as a resident of Connecticut between the towns of Haddam and Colchester and served her community as an educator for many, many years. She loved teaching and created a literacy program called START, she also loved sewing, quilting, knitting, beautiful furniture, and the everlasting support of her breakfast group.

She will forever be loved and remembered by her brothers, Larry and Doug, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Although there are no services, Judy will be placed to rest in Ossipee, N.H.

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



Northampton, Mass., and by his cousins, Mona Brown of Fayetteville, Ark.; Barbara Barry and husband Thomas of Coventry; and Deborah Abberg of Wake Forest, N.C.

The funeral will be Tuesday, May 17, at 12:30 p.m., at the Andover First Congregational Church. A short committal service and burial will follow at the Townsend Cemetery in Andover. Memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, 11 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

The Drozdal Funeral Home of Northampton, Mass., has been entrusted with Jerry's services. Visit DrozdalFuneralHome.com.

Colchester

Richard Snyder Memorial Service

A memorial service celebrating the life of Richard Allyn Snyder will be held Saturday, May 14, at 11 a.m., at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury (South Church), 949 Main St., South Glastonbury.

Richard, 90, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Nov. 2, 2021.

Portland

Gary J. Perruccio

Gary J. Perruccio, 65 of Meriden, passed away suddenly Sunday, May 1, in Naples, Fla. He was born in Middletown on June 18, 1956, to the late Joseph E. Perruccio and survived by his mother Joan Lockert Perruccio.

Gary leaves behind his wife of 40 years, Sarah (Ellsworth) Perruccio; his son, Matthew J. Perruccio and his significant other Rachel M. Heath; and daughter, Mallory J. Perruccio and her fiancé Matthew J. Rowley, all of Portland.

Gary was a dedicated Boston Red Sox fan his entire life and was also an avid golfer. He enjoyed playing a weekly round of golf with his son. Coffee dates with his daughter were also a highlight of his week. Gary graduated from Coginchaug High School in 1974. He was in the insurance business for many years. Gary loved his family; his children were his pride and joy and he loved hearing about their days. He also loved vacations to the islands in his earlier days and then later enjoyed going to visit his parents at their little piece of paradise in Naples, Fla.

He is survived by his brothers, Gregory Perruccio and his wife Jan G. Perruccio of Essex and George Perruccio of Middletown; his nephews, Evan (Tiffany) Perruccio and their son Perrin and Erik Perruccio of Denton, Texas; step-nephew, Timothy Rhone of Fairfield; sister-in-law, Deborah A. Ellsworth of Portland; brother-in-law, McClure E. Ellsworth II and his wife Linda of San Antonio, Texas; a niece, Marissa E. Schaeffer, her husband Theodore and children of Port Matilda, Pa.; also, his Aunt Josephine P. Monthei and many cousins.

Besides his father, Gary was predeceased by his brother Gerald Perruccio, all of his grandparents, many uncles and aunts, and father- and mother-in-law.

The funeral will be held today, Friday, May 13, at 10 a.m., from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church, Portland, at 11 a.m. Burial will be in the family plot in Center Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at the funeral home Thursday, May 12.



Marlborough

John Bagdonis

"An Ode to Papa"
"Oh boy, almond joy!"

That was our Papa's response upon receiving a sweet treat, whether it be cookies, Boston crème donuts or some other divine confection for his afternoon mug of tea. His sweet tooth was legendary in our family, but since most of us share the same affinity, he was very well stocked. Always early to rise, his morning paper was an affixed presence in his sturdy, skilled hands (which we nicknamed his "Lithuanian mitts") with the sunrise being his coveted time of day to catch up on the world's current events, with his steaming cups of joe.

He was always adorned with a great, big youthful grin whenever his grandchildren and great-grandchildren came into the room he was in (and would greet us by loudly saying "oh hi!" and "well hello there!") He had a wonderful and infectious laugh that was akin to that of Jolly Old Saint Nick, for which he had the beard to match. He would always regale us with tales from his youth, time served in the Armed Forces, his and Nana's trips to the Cape, or his latest adventures. Some of our favorite stories were about his and Nana's numerous and beloved pets whether they be about their many domesticated canines, kitty cats or curious geese. So many fond family memories and anecdotes are from or involve Papa which we share happily to have a chuckle and a smile.

This revered patriarch of the Bagdonis family was born in Athol, Mass., on March 29, 1921, of Lithuanian decent and ancestry. Visiting his childhood neighborhood and town was always a highlight for his grandchildren, as it was a second home away from home to his and Nana's beautiful and cherished main residence in Marlborough, Conn. The proclivity and care he had for his land and tractors (particularly his Massey Harris and John Deere) were wholly abundant, as was his deep admiration for the Beantown and New England teams, especially the Red Sox. He adored the outdoors and spent most of his retired days mowing the lawn with his trusty lawn tractor, and doing vast and impressive yardwork until the age of 98. His most treasured pastime, however, was spending every moment he could with his wife, growing family and watching the antics and shenanigans of his great-grandchildren.

Papa was esteemed, respected and admired for his expertise in his fields as well as for his further advice and discussions concerning engineering, machining, politics, and other topics that he was well versed in and passionate about. Our Papa was a problem-solver, tinkerer, and mathematician whose intellect was highly regarded even before he was accepted into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was summoned to work on highly confidential and significant governmental projects.

A sergeant in the Army Air Corps, Papa was given the Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon, Army of Occupation Medal of Japan, Good Conduct Medal, and Victory Medal and citations to honor him. He shipped out to the Pacific theater in December of 1944. During his deployment, he served aboard a Liberty ship as an aircraft mechanic and machinist. He was on the island of Iwo Jima during the iconic raising of the American flag and also served on the island of Okinawa. He was always so proud of his time served during WWII, helping the global fight for those in peril, as well as, representing his country, but when he would reflect on the



impacts of war, he was always solemn, poignant and respectful.

Papa was part of the Pratt and Whitney "Dream Team" in East Hartford, and it is where he and Nana met and began to grow towards their most momentous journey, with friendship becoming their foundation that began the blossoming fondness that they had for one another. They were blissfully wed on Feb. 6, 1943, at St. Bridget Church in Manchester. After their nuptials, they built their hearth, home and legacy in Marlborough. Both hailing from the state of Massachusetts, they found Cape Cod to be their favorite vacation destination, visiting throughout the year whilst always enjoying the beach, and their favorite New England clam chowder and fish and chips.

Our dearest Papa, John Stanley Bagdonis, passed away peacefully Thursday, April 7, next to his wife of 79 years, Celia Bagdonis. He had just celebrated his 101st birthday. He will always be cherished, treasured and missed by any who had the pleasure of meeting him or knew him, but especially by his beloved wife, family and friends.

Papa was predeceased by his eldest son, John R. Bagdonis, and is survived by his wife, Celia Bagdonis; his son, Glenn Bagdonis and his wife Susan Bagdonis; his grandson, Guthrie Bagdonis and his wife Stephanie Bagdonis; his granddaughter, Emily Bochman and her husband Ryan Bochman; and his great-grandchildren, Ainsley and Gracey Bagdonis and Gavyn Bochman.

Papa had a private burial and veterans' service. A Mass will be held in his honor Saturday, May 21, at St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church in Marlborough, at 11 a.m. Masks are required to attend, please and thank you.

We miss him so dearly, but every day we celebrate what an amazing person he was and the extraordinary life that he led. He shared all of this with us and so we are happy to share his magic through words to you readers. We love you, Papa.

East Hampton

Chester C. Lukas

Chester C. Lukas, 90, of East Hampton, passed away Friday, May 6, at Glastonbury Health Care Center, surrounded by his family. Chet was born in Norwich Dec. 9, 1931, to the late Joseph and Caroline (Zaborowski) Lukaszewicz. Chet graduated from Norwich Free Academy and the University of Connecticut, and earned his master's degree in meteorology at Penn State University.

Chet was married to Patricia "Pat" Moffat for 35 years until her death in 1988, and to Margaret "Peggy" Plutko for 18 years until her death in 2011. Chet was also predeceased by his older brothers Joseph Lukaszewicz, Alexander Lukas and Raymond Lukas.

At his retirement as full colonel, after 26 years active duty as a U.S. Air Force meteorologist, Chet was awarded the Legion of Merit. The highlight of his career was playing a key role in early planning efforts to use Doppler radar in military weather forecasting.

Chet's passions were golfing and collecting stamps. His greatest love was watching his grandchildren grow up. Visits with his young great-grandchildren were a special blessing.

Left to cherish his memory are his twin children, Margaret "Katie" Bonham (husband David) and Dr. Jeffrey Lukas (wife Lauren); grandchildren, Natalie Litzau (husband Tim), Marilyn Bonham (husband 1st Lt. Allen Morris), William Lukas (partner Darin Ripp), Stephen Lukas, Owen Lukas, and Riley Pylant (granddaughter of Peggy and Chet); and great-grandchildren Landon, Trent and Fletcher Litzau.

We are most grateful to everyone at Rossini's Italian Restaurant in East Hampton for their love of Chet, and to the caregivers at Glastonbury Health Care Center for their heartfelt care of Chester during his last weeks.

Visitation with family was Thursday, May 12, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Funeral service was that morning at the funeral home, followed by burial with full military honors at East Cemetery in Manchester.

Chet gave generously to many charities over the years. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice and think of Chet.

For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.



Andover

Jared Chandler Talbot

Jared Chandler Talbot, 83, died Monday, May 9, at the Linda Manor nursing home in Northampton, Mass. He was born Feb. 15, 1939, in Norwalk, the son of Roscoe Post Talbot and Margaret Hamilton Talbot.

In the summer of 1946, Jerry moved with his family to the farm at 84 Long Hill Rd. in Andover, which his grandparents had purchased in 1910. In 2014 he moved from this farm to the Beaven Kelly

Rest Home in Holyoke, Mass., and in July 2021 moved to the Linda Manor nursing home.

In his younger years, Jerry worked at various jobs in Andover. He worked on the town road crew, shoveling sand off the back of a plow truck in the winter and cleaning storm drains and clearing roadside brush the rest of the year. He also for a while mowed the grass at the Townsend Cemetery.

In his later years, he worked at his cousin Barbara Barry's mailing business in Coventry where he assembled packages for mailing and carried mail back and forth to the post office in his pickup truck. He also was involved in all aspects of running the family sheep farm from 1946 until the last sheep left in the 1980s. After that he could be frequently seen on his riding lawn mower keeping the former pastures mowed alongside Long Hill Road.

Jerry was a member of the Andover Volunteer Fire Department and the Andover First Congregational Church. He enjoyed and loved all animals, especially the sheep, the family cats and dogs, and all the birds that flocked to his bird feeders. He enjoyed his many long winter stays in Warm Mineral Springs, Fla., where his mother went for relief from her arthritis.

Jerry is survived by his brother, Thomas Talbot and his wife Katherine Halvorsen of

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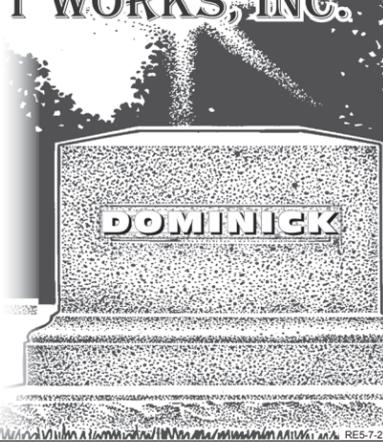
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★ Colchester cont. from page 26

Takeout Turkey Dinner

Westchester Congregational Church will host a drive-thru takeout turkey dinner from 4-6 p.m., on Saturday, May 14. The menu is: turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, butternut squash casserole, roll and butter, and dessert. Price per meal is \$15 payable by cash or check made out to "WCC." The church is located at 98 Cemetery Rd. in the Westchester section of Colchester.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchesterconchurch.org for login information. For more information, email westconchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

WJMS Honor Roll

William J. Johnston Middle School has announced its honor roll for the 2021-22 school year.

High Honors

Grade 6: Benjamin Adams, Victoria Adamski, Zakariyya Ali, Alex Badrick, Abigail Bantle, Adam Bigelow, Aidan Bisi, Kira Brault, Madelynn Brownell, Grace Busby, Brayden Buyniski, Camden Capone, Carmen Champagne, Grace Clarkin, Ashley Cleary, Hailey Crossway, Cameron Cruz, Addison Daniels, Wesley Engleman, Isabel Faber, Seriaa Farrell, Allison Field, Abigail Floyd, Teresa Formica, Emily Fougrouse, Aubrella Fowler, Jacob Gardiner, Dante Gonzalez, Charlie Gott, Claire Gould, Jameson Grant, Jack Grimm, Reid Gross, Quinn Guntulis, Carter Hebert, Damiana Hunt, Sufyan Kasli, Brendan Kastrop, Ashtyn King, Connie Lin, Dalila Malz, Chance Markovitz, Claire Martin, Owen McLoughlin, Shane Meyer, Mickayla Moroch, Aidalyn Pacheco, Kiersten Page, Aphrodite Panteloukas, Krish Patel, Emma Pensa, Lily Pulse, David Rancourt, Gabriella Rauccio, Charles Ringuette, Isabella Rivera Kloss, Benjamin Romasanta, Nayelis Ruiz, David Rumph, Gabrielle Russo, Adriana Russo, Adrina Ruzsala, Audrey Siborg, Dylan Simon, Maeve Sweeney, Colleen Talbot, Jacob Teal, Layla Turkington, Cameron Velazquez, Brandon Verruso, Zachary Weisensee, Chelsea Williams, James Wissler, Ty Wissler.

Grade 7: Raphael Antonacci, Jake Ashley, Gehrig Bartiss, Katherine Belding, Tyler Bergquist, Cole Boutin, Brooke Burchfield, Leah Butterfield, Azalea Cartier, Nicolas Chiaverini, Kellen Conley, Robert Corrado, Timothy Crowell, Jacoby Eisenberg, Hannah Ferrigno, Matthew Galante, Bray Geleney, Reina Hill, Madeline Ives, Ella Jeffries, Averi Johnson, Mason Koji, Paraskevi, Koutsofavas, Rae Lenda, Hayden Liddy, Zachary Mancuso, Johnathan McAllister, Pypier McIver, Keegan McKenzie, Michael Migliaccio, Joshua Millington, Cole Mitchell, Kaylee Opalenik, Karah Pensa, Cora Rago, Talia Ramos, Benjamin Salemi, Katelyn Siena, Alexa Smith, Mason Steele, Marina Swanback, Paolo Uccello, Toheed Usman.

Grade 8: Olivia Barnett, Connor Blanchette, Kylie Boerenko, Benjamin Buyniski, Emma Cote, Michael Dickey, Jordan Donnelly, Bailey Elliott, Corbin Engleman, Charlotte Galarneau, Joseph Gignac, Taryn Gray, Reese Henderson, Brynn Herboldt, Anna Ibe, Troy Johnson, Illeana Koonankeil, Lily Koziol, Michael Krol, Evan Lovegrove, Owen McCarvill, Lanie McIlduff, Madeline Meyer, Olivia Meyer, Madison Mikolajczak, Alyssa Nelson, Wesley Piella, Allen Quinones Jr, Lorelei Romasanta, Rachel Rumph, Skyelyn Schoen-Rene, Jillian Snow, George Stula, Liam Sweeney, Corinne Toennes,

Polka Dinner Dance

The St. Joseph's Polish Club, at 395 South Main St., will host a polka dinner dance Saturday, May 15. A ham dinner will be served from 1-2 p.m., then until 6 p.m., there will be dancing to polka music performed by Dennis Polisky and The Maestro's Men. Tickets are on sale at the club for \$20 per person. Advanced tickets only. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual. For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

Honors

Grade 6: Temperance Berard, Chelsea Boothroyd, Charlee Boothroyd, Trevor Brunneau, Marcus Cahill, Cameron Chabot, Evan Coakley, Jesse Czepiel, Jordan Darvas, Benjamin Fuhrmann, Noah Garvie, Liam Gorreck, Yunyang Gu, Jonas Healey, Jack Hiegl, Caden Hlasyszyn, Brody Hochholzer, Mason Howard, Lucas Jodoin, Charlotte Kukich, Jackson Lavertue, Miley Lindo, Jillian Marshall, Shaun Marvin, James Mattison, Melony McDonald, Mark Miano-Talbot, Caitlyn Opoku, Rylee Perry, Saria Potter, Arianna Przechodzki, Jeneva Santiago, Logan Sheridan, Riley Simmons, Christian Stabach, Samantha Vivero, Bridget Walsh, Alayna Welch, Lila Wilson.

Grade 7: Ali Ali, Lilliana Anderson, Madalynn Anderson, Ethan Blanchette, Cody Blanda, Kaitlin Bradstreet, Judas Butler, Leah Chen, Zachary Chiarella, Aidan Claffey, Jacob Clark, Javen Cort, Skyy Courtemanche, Ava Czepiel, Sarah Deane, Anthony DePaola, Lauren Emmons, Oliver England, Elizabeth Floyd, Cody Friberg, Arya Gast, Edward Gignac, Savanna Healy, Joseph Hilliker, Asha Hormuzdiar, Brandon Kapoor, David Landa, Kady Landry, Jaxon Lewis, Charles Mauldin, Aidan McAlpine, Hailey McGlynn, Alexis McLaughlin, Nathan Metcalfe, Peyton Mikalonis, Sai Parekh, Boden Paul, Maddyn Reinholdt, Abigail Richards, Landon Roderick, Garrett Rodgers, Kai Ruitto, Zachary Russo, Kagan Ruzsala, Ian Sanders, Autumn Sneed, Riley Trudeau, Jason Trusz, Eleni Tsakiris, Melissa Vazquez-Lopez, Evan Vernali, Miles Viggiani, Ashleen Walsh, Delaney Walsh, Zoey Walter, Shauna Wells, Michael Wisniewski, Alivyah Wright.

Grade 8: Oakley Adams, Emma Aivaliotis, Riley Anderson, Alannah Baehr, Alyssa Blanchette, Maily Bravo, Caroline Brown, Hailey Brown, Ashton Capone, Clarence Coogan, Callie Corrado, Ethan Creutz, Ryan Curry, Julian Dean, Lucian Dean, Bela Dec, Morgan Delaney, Brody Derr, Aivree Durnik, Arianna Elliott, Kiley Filloramo, Hector Franceschi, Nicholas Gilman, Liam Goodine, Emma Gyngell, Mia Hageman, Leyia Hall, Myles Jackson, Jacob Jenkins, Lucas Jones, Jordan Julian, Caden King, Sasha Koopman, Devon Kudrak, Madison Levasseur, Ian McClain, Oliver Melmed, Andrew Mertz, Scarlett Morsch, Sawyer Nauss, Sokhano Nguon, Aubrey Nosal, Madison Peck, Ashlyn Perra, Gianna Riley, Ahviel Rodriguez, Alondra Rodriguez-Rivera, Edgar Ruiz, Sara Sands, Mia Santini, Benjamin Simonds, Delaney Smith, Abigail Stillwell, Carleigh Todd, Natalie Uhrig, Brayden Ward, Chase Williams.

Vendors Sought for 'On the Green' Tag Sale

The 42nd annual "Colchester on the Green" Tag Sale and Expo is back – and organizers are looking for vendors. The Colchester Business Association (CBA) will host this event on the Colchester Green Sunday, June 12 (rain date Sunday, June 26), from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The CBA is taking applications for tag sale tables, craft fair and business booths, food vendors, non-profits, and entertainment. Those looking to sell tag sale items can bring tables, a tent, or both. For the event's

craft fair, the CBA is seeking local artisans and craftspeople to participate. The association is also seeking local brick-and-mortar or home-based businesses to participate in the Business Expo. The CBA will also have booths for non-profits. The association is also seeking entertainment and other demonstrations for the event. If interested in participating in any way, email Heide Perham, CBA services coordinator, at info@colchesterctbusiness.com.

History Museum Open Sundays

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. through Dec. 4. The museum, adjacent to the Cragin Memorial Library, is free and offers both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. There is a Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m., studying the gospels with the Chosen series. All are welcome. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republicans electors of the Town of Colchester on May 20th at 6:00pm at Town Hall Meeting Room 1 to endorse candidates for the Republican Registrar of Voters and Justices of the Peace. 1TB 5/13

TOWN OF PORTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following: Application #21-03: 65 Great Hill Road. Request for a variance to Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 to locate the front right corner of a 16' x 24' workshop/barn 17 feet from the side yard where 25 feet is required and the back right corner 21 feet from the side yard where 25 feet is required. Application and property of Curtis and Stephanie Tatro, Assessor's Map 62, Lot 7. Zone RR. 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 10th day of May 2022. Rose Aletta, Chairwoman 2TB 5/13, 5/20

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of May 05 2022, took the following action: PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED; AMENDMENT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: Delete Article Six C. 18 Use of Accessory Building for Dwelling PUBLIC HEARINGS CLOSED; AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE 5/22/2022: Amendment to Article Six B.7 Accessory Dwelling Units 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 APPLICATION TABLED: Amendment to Article Six F – Floating Zones - Design Multiple Residents, Adult Living Development, & Planned Residential Recreational Development. Application will continue at their meeting, Thursday, June 2, 2022. KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR Dated at Marlborough, CT this 9th day of May. 1TB 5/13

LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at a Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following: Petition 2022-5 – The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will consider public testimony regarding the Hebron 2022-27 Plan for Housing Choices endorsed by the Hebron Affordable Housing Plan Working Group. The Plan has been prepared to satisfy Section 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Plan is available for review at the Hebron Planning & Development webpage: https://hebronct.com/towndepartments/planning-development/ Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 9th day of May, 2022. Gerald Garfield, Secretary PZC Public Hearing/Regular Meeting Tue, May 24, 2022 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM (EDT) Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://meet.gotomeeting.com/join/762582909 You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 762-582-909 Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: https://meet.gotomeeting.com/install Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on May 13 and May 20, 2022 2TB 5/13, 5/20

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the May 5, 2022 meeting, the following action was taken: APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS 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). Dated at Portland, CT, this 10th day of May 2022. Robert Ellsworth, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission 1TB 5/13

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LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Conservation Commission at its meeting of May 02 2022, took the following action: APPLICATION APPROVED: APPLICATION - #04 -22 – Town of Marlborough (Applicant / Property Owner), - 32 Park Rd. – Improvements to beach at Blish Park. APPLICATION DEFERRED TO WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: APPLICATION - #06 – 22 – Dave Lejuene (Applicant / Property Owner), 59 Keirstead Cir – New House Construction. Application will be continued on June 6, 2022. APPLICATION TABLED: APPLICATION – #05 -22 – Town of Marlborough (Applicant / Property Owner), -NorthMain Street Sidewalks Phase III. Dated at Marlborough, CT this 09TH day of May 2022. MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION Yvonne Bolton, Chair 1TB 5/13

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 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following: PZC Application #21- 12: Amendments to the Town of Portland Zoning Regulations as follows: Article 2 Definitions, to amend Lot Line; Front Lot Line; Side, Yard, Front; and Yard, Side; Article 3 General Requirements, Table 3.1.2.A Shed Setbacks and Section 3.1.2C; Section 3.6 Corner Lots and Visibility; Section 3.7 Lot Line Designation, Corner and Triangular Lots; Section 3.10 Interior Lots; Article 4 Residential Zones, Table 4.1 Permitted Uses Residential Areas, Notes to Table 4.1 Permitted Uses Residential Zones; Article 5 Business Zones, Section 5.3 Special Requirements B-1 Designated Business Zones, Section 5.3.2.1 Site Plan Standards; Article 9 Special Regulations Section 9.15.1 Walls and Fences Residential Zones, Section 9.15.2 Walls and Fences Business Zones. Article 2 Definitions, to delete error in definition of barrel and provide definition of Domestic Pet Grooming; Table 4.1 Permitted Uses Residential Zones; to allow Domestic Pet Grooming by site plan in all residential areas and allow as of right roadside stands selling agricultural products produced onsite in all residential areas; Table 5.1 Permitted Uses Business Zones, to clarify pet grooming standards; Article 9 Special Regulations, to define detached accessory apartments and clarify standards for visits for home occupations; and Article 10 Zoning Change, Special Permit, and Site Plan Standards and Procedures to correct scrivener's error by removing "plot" from "...one set of the plot plans which...". 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 3rd day of May 2022 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission 2TB 5/6, 5/13



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**TOWN OF ANDOVER
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

Please be advised that the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at their Special Meeting held on the evening of May 3, 2022:
Application of Lake Road, LLC, property known as 580 Lake Road. Application for a Site Plan approval for a 10640 square foot retail establishment in an Industrial Zone – APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.
Further information is available on the town's web-site (andoverct.org) or at the Building and Land-Use Office, Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road, Andover, Connecticut.
Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

1TB 5/13

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 18, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions:
1. Town of Colchester Hayward Fire Department – Regulation Amendment (2022-008) Proposed amendment to Section 8.11.5 of the Colchester Land Development Regulations to provide standards for fire protection water supplies for certain new residential and commercial projects.
At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).
Planning and Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 5/6, 5/13

**LEGAL NOTICE
PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
OF LAKE HAYWARD
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONSTRUCTION OF A DETENTION BASIN**

The Property Owners' Association of Lake Hayward is requesting proposals to construction a detention basin on property it owns on Hay Field Road, East Haddam, CT. To receive copies of the detailed specifications of the detention basin and the engineer's plans, please contact Ed Bader at taxcollector@lakehaywardct.com or call 860-214-9288. Specific on-site meetings with the project manager and engineer to answer questions and clarify details of the work plan can be arranged. This is a sealed bid procedure.

1TB 5/13

**LEGAL NOTICE
EAST HAMPTON POLICE**

The East Hampton Police have recovered the following items as lost property. If you are the owner of the following property, please contact the East Hampton PD at (860)267-9922 during business hours.
Item 1. Green umbrella stroller
Item 2. U.S. Currency (undisclosed amount)
Item 3. Dog collar for an invisible fence
Item 4. Black sunglasses
Item 5. Key ring w/ red "Shaller" tag
Item 6. Mercedes Benz Vehicle Key Fob
Item 7. Volkswagen Vehicle Key Fob
Item 8. Black iPhone
Item 9. Black children's bag

2TB 5/13, 5/20

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EMPLOYMENT

THE KIDS CLUB CHILD CARE CENTER IN MARLBOROUGH IS LOOKING TO IMMEDIATELY HIRE 2 PART TIME EMPLOYEES. One position is for M-F 7:00AM.-12:30P.M., the other one is M-F, 3:00-5:30. Those interested must be flexible, dependable, be able to lift at least 20 pounds and have experience working with children ages 3 months to 5 years. If interested in learning more about the position please call the center at 860 295-0498 or send us an email at thekidsclub98@yahoo.com with your availability, qualifications and questions that you may have.

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.

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

HIGHLY MOTIVATED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: for multiple properties with great customer service skills & ability to multitask needed for busy property management company. Proficient in Microsoft Word & Excel and Adobe PDF required. Immediate opening, pay dependent upon experience. Full benefit package including health, dental & life insurance. Email resume to eric@advanceco.net.

WANTED PART TIME CARETAKER: Evenings and specific days with flexible hours, 16.25/hr. Includes household duties. CNA preferred Call 860-537-3243

PART-TIME WAREHOUSE PERSON to pick orders for shipment and other warehouse duties. Monday-Friday, 20 to 25 hours per week. Glastonbury, 860-633-4248.

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TAG SALES

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TAG SALE: Saturday May 14th 8am -1pm, 16 Eastham Bridge Road East Hampton. Furniture, boys/men/women's clothing. Country homemade decor, lots of other household items/ decor. Make an offer! we want it gone!

TAG SALE: Saturday May 21st, 9am-4pm at 1 Carriage Drive Hebron. Assortment of items including antiques, golf equipment, household items and dining room set. Rain date May 22.

TAG SALE - 5/21 & 22, 9-4. Christmas stuff- trees, wrapping, bows, lights and much more. 3 woodworking machines, table saw Sears radial arm saw, hand tools. Furniture - 4 Maple tables & chairs, lawn chairs. Women's jeans & coats & jackets. Many more items. Too extensive to list. 166 Flood Road. For info. call 860-306-8666. Rain date 5/28.

TAG SALE, Saturday, 5/14, 44 Ridge Rd., Hebron. Woodworking tools, Stanley Planes, Disston Saws, Chisels, Lawn and Garden, 12V sprayer and much more

GIANT GARAGE SALE: Moving. Tools, ladders, Benies, some furniture, some free stuff Saturday May 14th 8:00am to 2:00pm 49 Champion Hill Rd, East Hampton

TAG SALE: Saturday April 23rd 9-3 rain or shine. 317 Waterhole Road East Hampton. Downsizing, misc items. house, garage, hundreds of items top to bottom.

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