



# RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**Principal Honored...** East Hampton Middle School Principal Christina Amaral was recently honored with the Connecticut Association of Schools' William Cieslukowski Outstanding First Year Principal Award for 2021-22. Pictured here are social studies teacher Rich Storrs, Board of Education Chair Christina Tammardo-Dzagan, Director of Curriculum Mary Clark, Amaral, and EHMS Assistant Principal Emily Asklar. See story on page 10.

## Renewed Calls for Armed School Guard

By Jack Lakowsky

Marlborough Board of Education chair Wes Skorski and schools superintendent Holly Hageman have sent a letter to the town's Board of Selectmen voicing support for adding an armed guard to Marlborough Elementary School.

The renewed calls, picking up from discussions a few years ago, follow the massacre of 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Many residents wrote letters to the same effect, and several more voiced their support in Tuesday night's selectmen's meeting.

Board of Education member Liz Gianelle told selectmen MES needs the armed officer, a position alternatively referred to as armed security officer (ASO) or school resource officer (SRO).

Suggestions were also made to place a satellite office for the town's resident state trooper at the elementary school, and eventually adding a fully dedicated guard at MES.

In a follow-up Wednesday morning, Marlborough First Selectman Greg Lowrey said currently, town constables maintain a consistent presence at MES, though there none are dedicated full-time.

"In my opinion this should've been immediately implemented after Sandy Hook in 2012,"

Gianelle said. "We should act on this request immediately and not drag our feet."

She said it would be a "huge relief" to families and staff, and that school shootings seem to be occurring more frequently.

Gianelle said if an officer is paid \$100,000 per year, it would amount to \$36 a year per taxpayer.

Residents and parents also asked MES bolster its mental health services.

Ken Hjulstrom, a well-known local Republican, joined the chorus in calling for an armed officer at the school.

Hjulstrom also stated his support in 2018, when the issue was discussed previously, when current board chair Amy Traversa was town chief.

Rivereast reports from the time say Traversa and the school board "clashed" over the topic. Lowrey, who was emergency management director at the time and so was involved in talks, said the satellite office was put in town hall, not the school.

After assuming his current office, Lowrey cut the satellite office for reasons of streamlining town operations.

Lowrey said should the school office go forward, there are a few logistics to iron out — namely, if the school board or town are paying for it — but the process could move forward quickly. Lowrey said the guard could be there on the first day of school in the fall.

If the school board chooses to add a guard within the upcoming budget year, it would have to go through the select and finance boards for

See *Armed School Guard*, page 34

## Students Honor Legacies of Enslaved People

By Kate Corliss

"Three slips of paper."

This is how RHAM eighth-grader Zoe Jacques highlighted the scarcity of the historical records available on Pomp Mundo, an enslaved person who lived in the Hebron area for much of his life.

"He went through about 40 years of slavery, and we forgot he existed," Jacques said. "This situation exists for so many slaves. We sum up their lives through a series of inferences and guesses because there was a multitude of slaves we know nothing about — including in Hebron, Connecticut."

Jacques and her classmates spent months researching, contextualizing and developing creative materials to honor the lives of both Mundo and Cesar Peters, both of whom were enslaved in Hebron during the 1700s. The students presented their projects at a ceremony last week.

The Witness Stones Project was established in 2017. According to one of the founders, former eighth grade United States history teacher Dennis Culliton, the nonprofit organization's work was inspired by how Germany commemorates Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust. German artists have laid over 70,000 Solpersteine stones throughout the country, marking places where

victims of the genocide lived freely before being abducted by Nazis.

The Witness Stones Project's mission statement explains that the organization "seeks to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities" by laying stones to indicate where enslaved people once resided, as well as by providing youth with the opportunity to learn more about what slavery looked like in their hometowns.

"By having the students look at the primary documents, analyze them and extract information, to go on digs [of sites where enslaved people once lived], to process it in different ways, it's going to be a lasting memory for them," Culliton said.

Through their research, students learned about how Cesar Peters and his wife, Louis, were sold by their enslaver — Samuel Peters, a loyalist who was living in England while Cesar and Louis continued to maintain his Hebron property — down to South Carolina in 1787.

While the couple and their children awaited transport in Norwich after being forcibly removed from the Peters home by slave traders, their white neighbors back in Hebron — Elijah

and Patience Graves — orchestrated a scheme to have the family returned.

After spending two years in the protective custody of the Graves family, Peters was freed from slavery in 1789. In 1806, he purchased a home in the center of Hebron — one that had previously belonged to a slave trader who participated in his abduction in 1787.

Lifelong Hebron resident John Baron, who was instrumental in securing money from the Hartford Greater Together Grant to fund RHAM's Witness Stones event, said that he was motivated to raise community awareness about the Peters family's story — one that he said is "unique in terms of not only Hebron, but Connecticut, New England, perhaps even nationally as well."

"I have honestly been looking for comparable examples and have not found any to this, where a group of neighbors are willing to rescue their neighbor from an awful fate," Baron said.

The Witness Stones event was held at Burnt Hill Park, at the Peters family residence where both Peters and Mundo had been enslaved. Once an excavation of Peters' property in the center of town is complete, his stone will be re-

See *Students Honor Legacies*, page 3

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RES-10-22

# Needleman Looks to Win Third Term in Hartford

By Jack Lakowsky

Democratic state senator Norm Needleman has announced his bid for a third term serving the 33rd senatorial district.

The 12-town 33rd District includes the *Rivereast* towns of East Hampton, Portland and Colchester. Needleman was first elected to the seat in 2018, winning re-election in 2020. He has also been first selectman of Essex since 2011.

Needleman is the founder of Tower Laboratories, employing 150 people at three locations.

District Democratic town committees unanimously voted to endorse Needleman, according to *CT Insider*.

In November, Needleman will face newcomer Brandon Goff, a Republican on the East Hampton Town Council.

Needleman may have a challenge ahead of him; in November's town elections, Republicans claimed the executive boards in Portland, East Hampton and Colchester.

Possibly Needleman's most high-profile legislation was devising and helping pass through the statehouse the Take Back Our Grid Act, an attempt to better regulate Eversource and the state's other utility companies after Eversource's highly criticized response to a 2020 tropical storm.

Needleman is chair of the state senate's Energy & Technology, Planning & Development, Commerce, Finance, Revenue & Bonding and Transportation committees.

His victory in 2020 was decisive, beating out Republican challenger Brendan Saunders.

Last week Needleman caught up with the *Rivereast* to discuss his candidacy and his work in the latest legislative session, which wrapped up a few weeks ago.

This session, Needleman voted for a bill expanding abortion care protections and access, Connecticut's response to a Texas law restrict-

ing abortion. It also passed in the wake of leak from the U.S. Supreme Court that said *Roe v. Wade* could soon be overturned.

The bill, "Authorizes Protection for Reproductive Health," seeks to make Connecticut a safe harbor for women's reproductive health and specifies the decision to terminate before fetal viability is between the physician and patient only.

Needleman also voted to expand absentee voting access.

In 2021, Needleman voted 'yes' on legalizing adult-use marijuana and approved a bill authorizing "Climate Change Adaptation for Shoreline and Inland Communities." It established a Clean Energy Fund and an environmental infrastructure fund.

He also voted for the 2021 bill looking to expand affordable housing in Connecticut, and a bill saying racism is a public health crisis, and the rescinding of religious exemptions for mandatory childhood vaccines.

Earlier this week in Deep River, one of Needleman's towns, the town sign was vandalized with racist slurs. The racist vandals arranged the signs letters into epithets saying Black people and Latino people "are bad." The letters also read "Trump 2024."

Needleman decried the racism, calling it reprehensible.

"Unfortunately, this is not the first incident of hate speech our region has seen," he wrote in a statement. "We must work towards a future where it doesn't happen again."

"Everything I do I try to look at from the point of view of not making an undue burden," Needleman said. "I'm not an idealogue, though I do have strong opinions. I do what I can to bring solutions, and I'm proud of that approach, even though it's not the most popular."

Needleman touted the assembly's passing of environmental legislation, saying they've kept

one eye on cost, the other on reliability.

He said Connecticut's assembly has, in a bipartisan way, "done more [on environment] than any other legislative group."

"In my opinion it's a real testament to working together," he continued.

This year's state budget, which Needleman approved, included funds to incentivize towns to add solar energy to their portfolios.

In his *Rivereast* interview, Republican challenger Goff, 25, said the legislature is ready for new blood, and that age does not necessarily correlate with effectiveness.

Needleman, who is in his 70s, said being older, he's able to assess issues calmly. He said the years have allowed him to develop important relationships in Hartford.

"I don't need to win every battle or demonstrate my prowess on every aspect of every issue," Needleman said.

Needleman's ratings by special interest groups tend to be positive, particularly with environment and business groups.

While the Connecticut Business and Industry Association graded Needleman a 100%, the state's chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business was less favorable, at 40%.

On guns, the National Rifle Association rated Needleman a 0%.

The Connecticut AFL-CIO has given Needleman two consecutive 90% ratings.

Needleman's service also includes the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of



Norm Needleman

Governments, the Valley Shore Emergency Communications board, on which public safety professionals handle emergency response and dispatching needs for communities in the region.

Needleman is also a board member of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and a cooperator of Middlesex Hospital.

A native of New York City, Needleman lives in Essex with his wife, executive director of the Ivoryton Playhouse Jacqui Hubbard.

Cover Story • Cover

★ Students Honor Legacies cont. from page 1

located there.

At the ceremony, students tapped into their unique creative talents to celebrate the legacies of both men. Some participated in a drumming performance led by West African musician Bolokada Conde. Others choreographed dance routines, wrote poetry, constructed timelines and hosted cooking demonstrations, among other projects.

According to their social studies teacher, Karl Jancis, the students quickly got "sucked in" to the stories of Mundo and Peters when the assignment was presented to them.

"They all have different interests, different talents, and we really didn't have to do much in terms of telling them what to do," Jancis said.

A number of Peters' descendants attended the event and found that the students' dedication to the material was evident in their work to uphold the family's legacy.

"As far as I'm concerned, for today especial-

ly, and what the school and the young children did, and how they did their research on point and the presentation and those who came out to support, I feel, on behalf of our ancestors — I just can't think of a word to say," said Zakiyyah Peters-Hasan, one of Cesar's four-greats grandchildren, tearing up as she finished the thought.

Jay Whitsett, another descendant of Peters, said that his family felt "prideful" to see how skillfully the students told his ancestor's story.

"Slavery is hard to swallow, but to see Cesar, how he endured and how we, as a family, see him, it's all uplifting," Whitsett said.

RHAM students who worked on the presentation hope that community members continue to acknowledge the local history of slavery and uphold the legacies of those who were impacted.

"Before we did our unit on slavery, we didn't really understand," said eighth-grader Norah

Plourde, who worked on paintings and dance routines for the ceremony. "We would always hear 'slavery' and we'd immediately think of the South, and now we understand that Connecticut and even Hebron actually had slaves. I think it brings us to reality that it actually happened."

Plourde and classmate Natalie Costello developed a biography on Peters to present at the ceremony, noting that the day's celebrations were intended both "to commemorate the Peters and their fight for freedom" as well as to honor "the elders who have experienced the injustice and dehumanization of slavery in our own town."

"This is also not only for the slaves in Hebron, but to open our eyes to the cruel reality of our past," Costello said. "The Peters legacy lives on today in his relatives in this town and in his story. Cesar Peters not only represents slaves around the world, but also our discriminatory past and the hope for our future."



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## Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of May 30 – June 5:

**Jake Martino – Bacon Academy High School (Track & Field):** Martino won the Class M state title in the discus, besting runner-up Matthew Smith of Lewis Mills by over 14 feet, at Willow Brook Park on June 2. Martino's victory highlighted a great day of throwing for the Bobcats as senior Peter Walsh placed 2nd in the javelin on the boys' side and Jen Whipple placed 3rd in the shot put and 4th in the discus on the girls' side. The boys placed 8th overall as a team and the girls finished 15th.

**Shawn Laverty – Portland High School (Track & Field):** Laverty ran a personal-best 5:25.96 to finish 4th overall in the 1600 meters at the Class S outdoor track and field championship at Willow Brook Park in New Britain on May 31. The senior, who will run for the University of Vermont, also teamed with Ariana Hettrick-Rivera, Abbey Pickel, and Lillian Tabellione for a 3rd-place finish in the 4x800 relay as the Highlanders placed 15th overall as a team.

**Jordan Murphy – East Hampton High School (Track & Field):** Murphy did it all last Tuesday, scoring in three events during the Class S outdoor track and field championships at Willow Brook Park in New Britain on May 31. The junior, who also stars on the volleyball and basketball courts at EHHS, excelled on the track and in the field—finishing 3rd in the high jump, 4th in the triple jump, and 5th in the 100 meter hurdles. The Bell-ringers placed 5th overall at the state meet, scoring 37 team points, 11 contributed by Murphy.

**Liam Calhoun – RHAM High School (Track & Field):** Calhoun added another medal to his ever-growing list of accomplishments by winning the 3,200-meter race at the



Bacon Academy junior Jake Martino won the Class M state title in the discus at the Class M championships in New Britain on June 2.

Class MM outdoor track and field championships at Willow Brook Park in New Britain on June 1. The seniors, who will run for Wesleyan University, destroyed the field and won the two-mile distance race by nearly eight seconds.

To nominate someone as an Athlete of the Week, or with questions or comments on sports-related topics, email [joshhoward-sports@gmail.com](mailto:joshhoward-sports@gmail.com).



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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Well, it finally happened. Tuesday evening, after work, I filled up my gas tank. I have a 12-gallon tank, and even with a 10-cent-per-gallon discount (because I bought just the right amount of just the right groceries), it cost me over \$50 to fill my tank. \$57, to be exact. It was the first time in my driving life I'd topped \$50 at a fill-up stop.

There are, of course, various factors behind the price of gas being so high – not the least of which is the ongoing war in Ukraine.

But I feel not enough attention has been paid to the oil companies, and the profits they've been raking in while we all empty our pockets. And they are, in a word, obscene.

*The New Yorker* reported in May that, in the first three months of 2022 alone, ExxonMobil made a profit of \$5.5 billion after taxes; Chevron gained \$6.3 billion; and ConocoPhillips made \$5.8 billion.

Even the smaller companies are raking in big bucks, the magazine reported. Marathon Oil, for example, has reported revenues of \$1.3 billion.

The White House has repeatedly been looked at as the main source of the gas price hikes – with some even going so far as to slap on gas pumps stickers of Joe Biden pointing to the price display and saying "I did this!"

But the truth is: he didn't.

Study after study over the years has reported presidents simply don't have as much to do with gas prices as many people think – or at least as they do when their guy isn't the one in office. Amusingly, a 2013 Pew research study looked at past polls and found that Democrats believe the president can control gas prices when a Republican president is in the White House but not when a Democrat is. And vice versa – that Republicans believed the president controlled gas prices when said president was a Democrat, but not when he was a Republican.

But no, Biden doesn't have much to do with the current gas prices – just as George W. Bush didn't have much to do with the national average for a gallon of gas being \$4.11

in 2008. (Interestingly, adjusted for inflation, that 2008 amount would be around \$5.25 today – so still in excess of today's prices.)

The main factor in gas prices is, year in and year out, presidential administration in and presidential administration out, is often good old-fashioned supply and demand. And there's good news as far as the "supply" part of that equation goes: OPEC+, the consortium of the world's largest oil-producing countries, agreed last week to boost fossil fuel production, starting in July and August. So hopefully that will help make a difference.

But my mind still goes back to those megaprofits being reaped by the oil companies. Like *The New Yorker* said, they're at historic highs. And to that I have to say: really? In these tough times, the oil company executives can't dial back their paychecks just a little bit? I mean, it's not like they're hurting; according to Reuters, the CEO of ExxonMobil made \$23.6 million in 2021, while the head of Chevron was paid \$22.6 million.

Now, I'm not saying there's a direct correlation between those salaries and the prices we're paying at the pump. After all, that same head of Chevron made \$29 million in 2020, while the head of ExxonMobil took home \$15.6 million that year. And we all know what gas prices were in 2020. (Though I should note how most of us were at home for much of that year, so no one was driving; there goes that supply-and-demand again.)

But still: it just doesn't seem right that the oil companies are raking in more money than ever, while the rest of us suffer. It feels like these companies can – and should – do something.

\* \* \*

Now this sounds fun: Summer Orlando – who is billed as "Connecticut's premier theater drag queen and illusionist" – has teamed up with East Hampton Pride to offer a special "Once Upon a Queen" storytime event to local kids this year.

Summer will appear at the Village Center

**Editor's Desk continued on page 5**



**Committee Makes Donation...** The RHAM Alumni Fundraising Committee recently presented a check for \$800 to Jenn Boehler, AHM Project Graduation coordinator, to support this year's Project Graduation, for the RHAM High School Class of 2022. Pictured from right are Bob Gonci, Jenn Boehler, Rick Nowsch and John Gregory. Next year, 2023, will mark 15 years of continuous support by the Committee for Project Graduation and the RHAM Alumni Annual Scholarships.

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

## Robo-Call Cruelty

To the Editor:

When loved ones are in the hospital family members cringe each time the phone rings. Unsolicited sales pitches and robo-calls at this time are more than a nuisance. They are cruel!

It's time to put our illustrious Connecticut senators Blumenthal and Murphy to work to eliminate this scourge.

**Peter Kushkowski**  
"Almost Heaven"  
Portland

## Leading Indicators

To the Editor:

When Hebron's town manager said, "we need to get them in a room and let them know what we are up to" (*Rivereast* 5/20/22), he is not referring to a criminal interrogation. He is referring to a future meeting with the Hebron Green Committee, that changes to Hebron are environmentally friendly. The trouble is, the town is, basically, ecologically sound already, our black flies told us this, and this is what worries people about proposed developments heading our way. If we are already in good balance with nature, how can increased development help anything ecologically? There is nothing green about an industrial development nor a 2,000-ton salt shed. However, updating our present DPW, halting the washing of industrial trucks outside and investigating the possibility of augmenting the car wash to fit these oversized trucks, would

help.

Did you know that black flies are actually "leading indicators" regarding the health of your groundwater? "It seems that black flies, which lay their eggs in water, like a clean environment. In the middle of the last century, when local rivers and streams suffered from historic ills – "namely pollution" – the insects declined. Then came the federal Clean Water Act and other measures designed to clean up polluted rivers and streams. Bingo – the flies bounced back. Highly sensitive to pollution, the insects are a sign of ecological health (no one ever said that a clean environment would be easy to live in). But it is worth the effort and sacrifice." (Quote from Roger Di Silvestro, October 2008.)

If you visit one of the many state parks and land trusts dotting the eastern seaboard you will probably find black flies. If you have black flies yourself, be patient and feel blessed that your groundwaters are running clean.

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

## Come on Down!

To the Editor:

Please join Haddam Neck Covenant Church as we support our local community by reserving a space for the Town-Wide Tag Sale, sponsored by the East Hampton Historical Society, and also HNCC's drive-thru "Famous Chicken Barbecue" on Saturday, June 18, from noon to 5 p.m. BBQ dinner reservations are required by June 13. All dinners are \$10 (cash only) and include BBQ thigh/leg chicken quarter (with

## Bulletin Board

I was sitting at the kitchen table Saturday morning, enjoying a cup of coffee and exchanging pleasantries with my wife, when I noticed a bright red cardinal flitting around in the dogwood tree outside.

"Look at that cardinal," I remarked. "He's so red."

"You know," said my wife, "they say cardinals are the souls of dead loved ones coming back to visit."

"That's nonsense," I scoffed.

"That's what they say," she insisted.

"Who's they?" I said.

"People smarter than you," she observed.

Well, that certainly covers a lot of ground. If you think a lot of people showed up for the Me Too rally in Washington, just wait until they hold an 'I'm Smarter Than Jim Hallas Rally.' But then again, Jim Hallas doesn't need to be smart. He has Google.

Quickly searching the internet for "cardinals represent dead people," I came across a site about signs and symbols. After negotiating a pop-up ad warning of the "10 Signs of a Fatty Liver" (none of which, thankfully, appeared to apply to me, as most of my fat is apparently cranial), I was informed:

"A cardinal is a representative of a loved one who has passed. When you see one, it means they are visiting you. They usually show up when you most need them or miss them. They also make an appearance during times of celebration as well as despair to let you know they will always be with you. Look for them, they'll appear."

Okay. So she's right. Again.

"You're right," I admitted grudgingly. I considered pointing out that it didn't say anything about cardinals showing up when you're just having a cup of coffee and saying mean things about still-living relatives, but decided it would be poor sportsmanship.

"I know," she said. "Everybody knows about the cardinals."

Everybody except me, apparently. Well, at least she didn't jump up and do some kind of celebratory victory dance. I really hate that.

I looked out the window and the cardinal was still there. Now that I knew it was possibly some dead person coming back to visit, I was reluctant to make eye contact with the thing. On the other hand, I suppose having a few cardinals at the bird feeder is better than a back yard full of flesh-craving zombies staggering around knocking over the patio furniture and scratching at the windows and generally making a nuisance of themselves.

"You know," I said, glancing back at my lap top computer for some more ornithological trivia, "it also says here that if a black bird flies into your house, it predicts an impending death."

"That's just creepy," she said. "I prefer the cardinals."

I made a mental note to make sure all our windows were tightly shut. I'm not particularly superstitious, but I see no reason to extend an open invitation to some dead person masquerading as a bird.

"As long as they stay outside," I agreed.

**Jim Hallas**

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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our secret sauce), baked beans, coleslaw and cornbread. This is the same BBQ you know and love, usually only available @ the Haddam Neck Fair held Labor Day weekend – “Where there’s smoke there is chicken.” Call the HNCC office at 860-267-2336 to choose your pick-up time on the hour, starting at noon.

Also at this time, HNCC will be participating in the Town-Wide Tag Sale sponsored by the East Hampton Historical Society as part of their annual fundraiser. We are offering citizens of East Hampton the use of our property to set up their own table as part of our community outreach. Anyone interested in joining us on 6/18 to sell their items should call Debbie Markham at 860-918-1490 to let us know you will be using our property. The cost of a space is \$15, payable to the Chatham Historical Society. Chatham Historical Society uses funds raised from this tag sale to support maintenance of their two museums and schoolhouse. Haddam Neck Covenant Church uses funds raised by their BBQ to support our missions and the East Hampton community during these trying times. Please contact me, Debbie Markham, at 860-918-1490 if you have any questions.

So come on down to HNCC at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. on Saturday, June 18, to sell your items, buy some items and get your BBQ chicken dinner (remember you must reserve your BBQ dinner in advance). Come on down!

**Debbie Markham – East Hampton**

### Six-Month Politicians

To the Editor:

Our town has six-month politicians posting inflammatory, inaccurate, misleading statements at the careful hand of a former selectman and the Colchester Independent Party (one member) at the helm, hoping to fail the first selectman’s budget. I hope you can see through their toxicity as the budget failing is a political play and not community advocacy.

I’ll offer a rebuttal that has garnered attention. The increased revenue from reevaluation is a factor in the tax levy equation to drive down the mill rate. If you want a tax decrease, you can’t pull it from the town at a \$16M budget and ignore \$48M at the schools. Although this has been said to the new politicians multiple times, they still run the narrative that we can lower the mill from the town budget. During negotiations, they have neither offered word about the school budget nor showed a recommended reduction for our town as an overspending line item. Yet, they demand a zero-dollar budget increase and even suggested further cuts at the cost of jobs. A zero-mill increase that is currently proposed is more than the BOF requested, and they still aren’t satisfied; they want it to fail regardless.

Your town experts and experienced board leaders have proposed a town budget that will not interrupt services. A failed budget will require reductions or disrupt services, including some you may use. I urge you to look up your address on our town’s budget webpage. To compare, you can look up last year’s tax bill on your account under “Pay My Taxes.”

The choice is to listen to the experts and experienced leaders or the six-month politicians; send your budget questions to bofchair@colchesterct.gov.

Sincerely,

**Andrea Migliaccio – Colchester**

*Note: Migliaccio is chairman of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said she is writing as an individual.*

### Memorial Day Flag Display

To the Editor:

On Memorial Day, I drove High Street in Portland from Route 66 to Bartlett Street and counted three homes that displayed our American flag, Old Glory.

I was disappointed to see how few people made an attempt to recognize those servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice. As Americans, we should give honor to those fallen heroes by displaying the flag.

**Michael Needle – Portland**

### Needs Unmet

To the Editor:

Listening to recent Board of Selectmen and ARPA meetings, it is as clear as ever that Colchester has kicked the can down the road on too many issues for many years. From the Town Hall itself to the RecPlex and Youth Center, we have buildings and assets that are literally falling apart. Funds from the American Rescue Plan will be a huge relief to the town when it comes to funding some much-needed repairs, but ARPA funds are already starting to look limited compared to the scale of work needed at some of our town facilities. Unfortunately, the laundry list of critical issues is still growing faster than we can repair them.

With the town headed for its second attempt at passing a town budget at referendum next week, I am thinking a lot about these needs that have gone unmet for years. I’m left wondering what will happen if this budget fails too. What services will be cut? What projects will be delayed? And if these cuts and delays happen, will they just become part of a bigger bill down the line?

Inflation and rising home values complicate all of this. While I feel strongly that delays to critical needs will just rack up larger bills in time, I also recognize the delicate economic situation people face in the post-COVID economy. I plan to vote ‘yes’ on this budget, but I know others may be hesitant even while weighing the long-term implications of a ‘no’ vote. No matter which side of the fence you fall on, what’s most important is that you vote. The most recent budget referendum saw the lowest voter participation in years. One way or another, the outcome will affect all of us, so don’t leave your voice out.

**Bernie Dennler – Colchester**

### Suffrage: The Right to Vote

To the Editor:

On May 24, barely 14% of Colchester’s registered voters took the time to submit a ballot regarding the 2022-23 town budget. The budget was defeated by 84 votes. Why did over 86% of Colchester’s registered adults fail to exercise their most precious civil right to vote in their own town? Did they think the budget was fair or not? Did they know that each year the town sends out a survey in February asking Colchester citizens to express their views on the upcoming town budget? The budget is then prepared by staff and fellow citizens who participate, devoting many hours of their own time to share their knowledge on Colchester’s boards and commissions. These volunteers are aware of economic conditions and work to ensure essential services of town government are paid for. They do this voluntary work on behalf of all the people of Colchester, and the proposed budgets are presented and available online to

the townspeople for inspection. The only effort needed by the over 11,150 registered voters is to vote ‘yea’ or ‘nay.’

Indifference to voting in local elections means the minority is empowered to rule. This was the greatest fear of our founding fathers. Reduced budgets mean low staff salaries creating a revolving door of skill, and anemic abilities to bring businesses that best fit our historic town’s character. It is not enough to wave the American flag or sing “God Bless America” if you don’t vote. Voting is an essential element of democracy and with indifference democracy dies.

So set a reminder in your calendar now, do your civic duty and go vote at town hall on June 15. Then make a promise to yourself and to your children that you will continue to participate by voting in the future.

**H. Jean Smith – Colchester**

### Memorial Day Parade Thanks

To the Editor:

The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars would like to thank everyone who marched in or participated in the Memorial Day Parade. We were pleased with the enthusiasm of the marchers and the crowds.

We would especially like to thank the guest speaker for a timely speech both about what Memorial Day means and his emphasis on this year’s parade theme. He captured our thoughts as he spoke.

All veterans in town are proud to be part of Colchester. Our community shines bright in its support of our nation’s veterans.

**Alphonse Letendre  
Colchester Memorial Day  
Parade Committee**

### Different Team, Same Story!

To the Editor:

On June 15, Colchester will hold its second budget referendum, asking if the town should increase its spending by “only” an additional \$163,080. The answer to this question is, in my opinion, obviously a resounding no. First and foremost, the town is not increasing its spending by “only” \$163,080 as the town brought in an additional \$1.4m in recurring revenue over last year’s revenue. This additional revenue was used to lower the mill rate, something that’s only possible if we commit to spending those funds. In other words, when you account for this additional \$1.4m in revenue we’ve actually increased our spending by nearly 11%!

This increased spending is on top of the just-passed 6% increase in water & sewer rates. I voted against this increase on the Board of Selectmen and pleaded with the board to explore other avenues to avoid increasing costs on our citizens who are already suffering the effects of historic inflation. Unfortunately for our citizens, the board was completely unwilling to en-

ertain any idea that wasn’t raising rates. To add insult to injury, our first selectman announced he has no intention of keeping his promise to help our middle class citizens with \$100 gift cards funded by ARPA. He resolved to keep his promise of giving \$1 million to less than 100 business owners in town, though.

The promise of “people before government” has proven to be an empty promise from many in our new administration. They’re asking you, the people, to pinch pennies so they don’t have to. They’re making sure their friends get your tax dollars while continuing the trend of taking even more out of our pockets. It may be different people but it’s the same ol’ story.

Vote ‘no’ on June 15.

**Jason LaChapelle – Colchester**

*Note: LaChapelle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but is speaking as an individual.*

### Thanks, Steering Committee

To the Editor:

Members of Boy Scout Troop 2 recently attended the Portland Air Line Trail Steering Committee Meeting as part of their work to earn the Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. The troop would like to thank the members of the committee for making us feel very welcome, for engaging the Scouts as part of the meeting, and for taking time to explain how town committee meetings are run. It was a very informational evening as the Scouts continue to learn all about how local government and our community works.

Sincerely,  
**Michael Tierney  
Troop 2 Scoutmaster  
Portland**

### Colchester, Vote No!

To the Editor:

This June 15, I ask you to join me in voting ‘no’ on the Colchester town budget.

As a taxpayer, I am shocked that during these challenging times with COVID, inflation, supply chain disruptions, fuel costs, etc., that Town Hall has deemed it necessary to strap us with a tax increase.

As a fiscal conservative I find it difficult to justify anything but a tax decrease. The town has increased its reoccurring revenue by \$1.4M and committed to spending it. This represents an 11% spending increase to the citizens. For example, should the economy turn around and the Grand List decrease because motor vehicle evaluations go down, the taxpayers would still see a guaranteed tax increase in the coming years to offset the 11% increase in spending. Budget season would bring the usual threat to citizens of “cuts to services.” The \$4.8M in ARPA funds could have been used to address one-time expenses in our budget for capital im-

*See Letters, page 6*

### Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

Gazebo Saturday, June 25, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. It will be a special pride-themed storytime, as Summer will read books “all about love, acceptance and being yourself.”

I think this is a terrific idea. Drag queen storytimes are great for kids – a great way to show that being the best, happiest version of yourself can come in all shapes and sizes.

And the messages the books at this storytime will spread are terrific – acceptance, inclusiveness and, most of all, love.

Love is love – and, in my view, it’s never too early to let kids know that.

\*\*\*

See you next week.



**Better Dental  
HEALTH**



by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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Bruxism isn’t only a nighttime activity. Some tooth-grinders continue this damaging practice throughout the day. Whether you are in our office for bruxism or just for a simple cleaning, our personal, casual, and relaxed style in providing quality dental care will help put you at ease. We’ll take the time to get to know your needs, answer your questions about the latest techniques and materials, and make sure that you are comfortable. Find out just how stress-free and pleasant a visit to the dentist can be—call us for complete family dental care.

*P.S.* Although sleeping with a dental appliance like a night guard may take some getting used to, eventually nights will be much more comfortable and mornings will be pain free.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC

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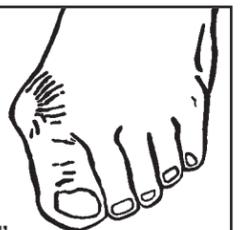
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RE6-3-22

★ Letters cont. from page 5

provements.  
As a Republican, I am extremely disappointed with this administration's lack of transparency. The first pass at the budget saw less than ~13% voter turnout. With every budget it is the role of the first selectman to embark on an educational campaign to provide as much information to the public as possible. This marketing assists in generating educated participation, so that we can fulfill our civic duty in voting. Honesty is always the best policy. Our previous FS was upfront about her 8.5% increase. Our current FS decided to cheat the public and bury the spending increase of 11% in the budget.

As a neighbor I am saddened that the corporate entity of "The Town of Colchester" is continuing to wage a campaign of social reengineering in our town.

Sincerely,  
Taras W. Rudko – Colchester

**RHAM Lacrosse Thanks**

To the Editor:  
RHAM High School Lacrosse would like to thank Marlborough Pizza for their ongoing support of our teams. You helped make our boys' Senior Day an amazing celebration for the entire team with your pizza donation. So glad to have you in our community with your amazing food and community spirit.

Colleen Pace  
Friends of RHAM High School Lacrosse (FORHSL)

**Please Vote**

To the Editor:  
I encourage all Colchester voters and property owners to vote in the town budget referendum, Wednesday, June 15. All voting will be done at Town Hall. The polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. No one will be turned away if they are in line at 8 p.m.

Exercising your right and privilege to vote is fundamental to our democratic form of government on all levels. The more people who vote, the better represented we all are as a community. Absentee ballots can be obtained from the town clerk's office by those not able to vote in person for any of the qualifying reasons.

Democracy is not a spectator sport – please vote!

Respectfully,  
Stan Soby – Colchester

**Trumpist's Lies**

To the Editor:  
Sam Prentice, a self-described Trumpist, again echoes the lie that the last election was stolen. Sam awaits the next election of Trump when he "will restore our greatness."

Sam appears to await his own version of the "rapture" while denying the attempts of a would-be dictator to dismantle our democracy on Jan. 6, 2021.

No credible evidence supports the stolen election nonsense, despite all the court challenges.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

**Experience for the 55th District**

To the Editor:  
My name is Wes Skorski, and I'm proud to be running for state representative in the 55th House District to serve the people of Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron and Marlborough. Over the next several months, I look forward to introducing myself and listening to your opinions and needs. We need experienced leadership in Hartford that listens to and understands the needs of our families.

For the past nine years, I have served on the Marlborough Board of Education, where I have established a bipartisan, independent record. I was proud to be elected as chair of our BOE by my Republican and Democratic colleagues – a testament to the trust they have in me to call things as I see them and to protect our BOE from becoming politicized.

Many people know me as a small business owner, who runs several successful companies that contribute to our economy and provide high-paying jobs to Connecticut families. Hartford will benefit from someone who knows how to improve our economy and treats workers fairly.

Several years ago, my family experienced the unspeakable loss of my wife to cancer. It has not been easy on me or my children. They are the reason I am running. My wife's volunteering and community work inspired and encouraged me to initially run for the BOE nine years ago.

We need common-sense solutions in Hartford, not divisive politics as usual. It's time to  
See Letters, page 12



East Hampton • East Hampton

# Fate Unclear for Student Behind Alleged Threat

By Jack Lakowsky

The *Rivereast* recently obtained a screenshot of a racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic threat a 15-year-old East Hampton High School student allegedly made against the school in a Snapchat message.

A parent in the community shared the message. They were critical of the school's response, as was another anonymous parent who contacted the *Rivereast* when the threat was made.

Police have pressed charges against the teen, including breach of peace.

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith confirmed the authenticity of the screenshot *Rivereast* received.

The message, which is somewhat incoherent, calls for a rebirth of "more nazis."

The student said they would recreate the massacre of children at Sandy Hook with a "12 gage shotgun," and that they would "commit mass genocide towards the Spanish population because [a teacher] is a b\*\*\*\*."

The student wrote Jewish people "will be nuked by America because they are gay."

They wrote "that's when your mom will kill herself and everyone will be cured of the sins the world will now be perfect due to the end of Jews, gays, and more nazis."

Smith was unable to share if the student has been expelled, or if administrators have held an expulsion meeting.

Smith shared information describing how the school board is reacting to the threat. The board will discuss the incident in its Monday, June 13, meeting.

The board states it's "committed to a safe and secure learning environment" honoring and celebrating the diversity of Belltown students, the community and the nation.

The board said it won't tolerate threats or hate speech targeting "any race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability."

Also at next Monday's meeting, the board will discuss adding an armed security guard to its next budget; updating mental health initiatives, updating a social/emotional wellness screener to be completed by all students in the next two years, committing to buying for next fall an anonymous alert system for students and parents and an update to high school curriculum "that addresses issue of diversity and respect in all students."

The district will also partner with the Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Club, the student-led initiative of Sandy Hook Promise.

Local parents have called for the student's expulsion on social media.

Smith said if the student is expelled, the district must still provide an education.

The threats were made just before the killing of 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, the third deadliest school shooting in the United States, behind the killings at Virginia Tech in 2007 and Sandy Hook.

The East Hampton Police Department charged a 15-year-old East Hampton juvenile with second-degree breach of peace and second-degree threatening "after making threats

and inappropriate comments on a social media page."

The hate speech has rocked the school community. In late May a parent, who asked to not be named, said they feel the district is trying to sweep the incident under the rug.

Though details on it are slim, parents are organizing an assembly to express their dissatisfaction with how the school is handling the post.

Parents are encouraging parents to reach out to the superintendent and school board to express concerns.

Smith said the lack of credible threat does not excuse the student from using vile slurs.

"The slurs made were highly inappropriate and disappointing," said Smith, adding the schools have programming to "combat things like this."

Smith added the district does not tolerate "language like this."

A parent shared the district's message to parents. The school said the threatening post was made May 20.

"The message promoted violence with racial overtones," Smith wrote. "At this time, I want to assure our students and families that [local police are] working with the school to continue the investigation and file appropriate charges."

"The police and schools are also investigating any students who may have shared the posts with others in the community."

"I want to stress to students and families that any promotion or posting of any type of threat to schools or individuals made by [a student], whether verbal, written, or on any social media platform will result in the [administration] contact the [police]."

Consequences, Smith wrote, include suspension or expulsion.

Last week, a parent reached out to the *Rivereast* and expressed doubts about the school board's ability to put worried parents at ease. The parent, who asked not to be named for fear of retaliation, said the conduct of several board members on their private social media pages does not inspire confidence.

The parent also pointed out that Smith did not include any information on the incident in his weekly update immediately after, a document he distributes each Monday.

The parent said they feel the message to parents was inadequate.

"Nothing has been to reassure parents or kids at the high school," they said. "It's really bad."

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to worship Sundays at 9 a.m. This Sunday, the service will be devoted to praise through joyful song with the church choir and musicians. 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 explain the meaning of the message topic.

**Bible Study:** The Zoom Bible Study will resume in the fall.

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. The church website is at [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

## Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced its April calendar. To register or more information on any program, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://middlehaddamlibrary.com) or call 860-267-9093.

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

**Yoga:** Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m., with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Cost: drop-in \$10. Register at [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

**Mahjong:** Mondays at 11 a.m.

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

**Featured Artist:** Cathy Lovell will be show-

cased on our walls, starting June 9.

**Communi-Tea:** Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m.-noon. At this monthly gathering, take out a book and have a cup of tea. Coffee drinkers welcome. June 11 is also World Knit in Public Day; bring your projects.

**Writer's Group:** Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. All are welcome; no experience necessary. There will be interactive writing exercises.

**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.

## HNCC Barbecue Chicken and Tag Sale

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a Barbecue Chicken Dinner drive-thru take-out event on Saturday, June 18, by reservation only. Outdoor seating is available.

This is the recipe of barbecue chicken the church has sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a barbecue thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, cole slaw and corn bread. Cost is \$10; cash only.

Call in your reservation to the HNCC Church office at 860-267-2336 or email to [officehnc@gmail.com](mailto:officehnc@gmail.com) and indicate your pick-up time: noon-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m., 2-3 p.m., 3-4 p.m., or 4-5 p.m. Order deadline is June 13.

HNCC also will participate in the Town-Wide Tag Sale sponsored by the Chatham

Historical Society on Saturday, June 18. The church is also offering the use of its property to people who do not have the space to participate at their residence. Donation of \$15 is still required, payable to the Chatham Historical Society.

Applications are available at the library and the town clerk's office. Note on the application that you will be setting up at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. so they will put it on the map. Interested parties should contact Debbie Markham at 860-918-1490 to indicate they will be using the property.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

## Old Home Days Returns in July

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the Old Home Days event on ice each of the last two years, but the "glorious celebration" will return this summer, and take place July 14, 15 and 16.

Business sponsorships are sought for the event. Call or text Jennifer Marozzi at 860-918-1302 for more information.

## Dean's List

Marissa Jedziniak of East Hampton made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont.

Jedziniak just finished her junior year, majoring in music education and minoring in special education. She is the daughter of Walt and Renee Jedziniak of East Hampton.

## Dean's List

Sara Roberts of East Hampton made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

## Soccer Travel Team Tryouts

The East Hampton Soccer Club (EHSC) is holding tryouts on June 20 and 21 for roster spots on its 2022-23 travel soccer teams. The tryouts will start at 6 p.m. and will conclude at 7 p.m. – please arrive 30 minutes early to check-in. The tryouts will be held at East Hampton High School.

All interested athletes are encouraged to register and attend on one (1) of these evenings. These tryouts are for new and current travel players, both female and male, and for any athlete born in the calendar years 2010 through 2015. EHSC is looking for athletes who are interested in playing travel soccer both during the fall 2022 and spring 2023 seasons (as well as a possible winter indoor season in between).

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REG-10-22

REG-10-22



**A Floral Donation...** Belltown Garden Club recently extended special thanks and appreciation to Paul's and Sandy's Too for their donation of beautiful flowers that were planted at the town library. Pictured are Sue LaPage and Kathy Ritchie.



**Funds from Rotary...** East Hampton Middle School recently received a \$575 donation from the East Hampton Rotary Club. The donation purchased all the Nutmeg 2023 titles. The Nutmeg collection has the highest circulation in the library and is enjoyed by students and teachers alike. This grant makes it possible to buy multiple copies of titles and offer high quality, contemporary literature. Student library volunteers Hailee Carlone, Emily Rawlinson, Gabby Zisk and Kayla Rau, prepared all the books for circulation and accepted the grant check from Rotary member Sharon Hull. Also pictured are school librarian Christine Fielding and assistant principal Emily Asklar.

# Local Eighth-Grader Leads Effort to Clean Up Hurd Park

By Kate Corliss

One East Hampton Middle School student hopes the local community will join her in the fight for a cleaner world.

Nadia France, an eighth grader at EHMS, organized a clean-up at Hurd Park on May 21 with the hope of addressing "all the garbage that we're producing and putting in the ocean that is not just affecting us, but everyone, really."

"We chose the park because it [is] alongside the Connecticut River, which eventually leads out into the ocean," France said. "So we thought if we pick up the stuff on the side of the river, all that stuff could have made its way into the ocean."

France planned the event as part of her eighth-grade capstone project. Every student is able to research a topic of their choice and work on a variety of essays, slideshow presentations and other tasks related to it.

France said she decided to center her capstone around the question of "how humans impact the ocean and its animals and how we can help." Environmental causes have always been important to her.

"It's just something that I've always been very passionate about, since I was younger," France said. "I would always go and pick up parks on my little red bike."

France said 12 local residents came to participate in her clean-up event, including fellow EHMS eighth-grader Klara Cygan.

Cygan said she was caught off-guard by how much litter the group encountered.

"It was surprising to me that people are so careless with the environment," Cygan said.

The clean-up crew found copious amounts of trash strewn about the park, including plastic bottles, toys and shampoo containers.

France cited a statistic from the Ocean Conservation Society's website, noting that approximately 11 million metric tons of garbage enter the ocean every year.

Cygan said that learning more about the magnitude of the pollution crisis through the clean-up project has made her feel "thankful for people like Nadia who put together things like this so that we can do it and kind of give something back."

France's overarching goal is to help her community recognize the importance of respecting the natural world.

"I'm hoping people understand what we're doing and maybe put in the time just to pick up that one plastic bottle on the side of the road, or just recycle their garbage," France said. "There's just so much that we can do — we just need to take the chance to do it."

## Lake Friends Raffling E-Bikes

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug's annual raffle, to support the nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of Lake Pocotopaug and its environs, is underway.

For \$10 per ticket, people have a chance to win two Aventon Step-Through Commuter e-bikes, valued at \$3,600. The prize also includes two \$75 gift certificates to Airline Cycles.

The drawing will be held Sunday, July 31, at 4 p.m., at Lakeside Bar & Grill in East Hampton. Tickets can be purchased at Airline Cycles, The Dublin, Paul's and Sandy's Too, from a Friends of the Lake member, and at various pop-up locations around town on the weekends.

For more details, visit [www.flpeh.org](http://www.flpeh.org) or call Greg Davis at 860-267-2629.

## EHPP Holds Program on Substance Abuse

East Hampton Prevention Partnership (EHPP) recently held two programs featuring Stephen Hill, the founder of Speak Sobriety.

Hill is a nationally renowned substance abuse speaker who shared his story of how he overcame a decade-long drug addiction and turned his life around for the better. He visited East Hampton High School on May 17. Students in grades 9-12 gathered in the auditorium to welcome Hill for his presentation. Hill told the students about his tumultuous journey with addiction and eventual recovery. After the presentation, students asked him questions and were also provided the opportunity to speak with him individually. The students were then asked to fill out an optional and anonymous online reflection questionnaire about what was covered during the event.

Later that evening, Hill spoke directly to the parents of the community in the high school auditorium. He offered guidance and advice to parents on how to talk with their children about their rules and expectations when it comes to using substances. He frequently used his past experiences to show how young adults can end up taking a similar path as his own. Parents, students, and school staff gave positive reviews of the presentations to the prevention staff.

The EHPP prevention coalition in East Hampton plans to continue its prevention efforts with programs and events. The coalition meets on a monthly basis, typically on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are



**Stephen Hill, founder of Speak Sobriety, recently spoke at two programs held by the East Hampton Prevention Partnership. He's pictured here with EHPP staff and volunteers. From left are Deb Field, Courtney Fitzkee, Hill, and Roxanne Dombrowski.**

open to all community members who wish to participate. Contact Courtney Widrick at [cwidrick@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:cwidrick@easthamptonct.gov) if interested in participating, or visit [www.facebook.com/easthamptonpp](http://www.facebook.com/easthamptonpp) to see a full list of the programs EHPP offers.

To learn more about Hill, visit [speaksobriety.com](http://speaksobriety.com).

## Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Chatham Historical Society will again sponsor the Town-Wide Tag Sale Saturday, June 18. Applications are available at the library and the town clerk's office at Town Hall.

Signs will be distributed and each participant's location will be shown on over 300 maps given out the day of the sale.

Send applications to Debbie Day, 20 Mark Twain Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, along with a check for \$15 in order to be included on the maps; make checks out to the Chatham Historical Society.

The deadline to be on the maps is today, Friday, June 10.

This event is a fundraiser that helps the society maintain the two museum buildings and one-room schoolhouse.

## Water System to be Flushed

The Royal Oaks Water System will be flushed from Tuesday, June 14, through Thursday, June 16.

The town's water department periodically flushes its water lines to ensure that the valves are in good working order and to maintain water quality. Flushing will be between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There may be a temporary drop in pressure and any possible discoloration of the water during flushing operations. Customers are advised to avoid using washing machines, dishwashers or other water using devices during flushing operations.

Running cold water will help to clear discolored water. If discolored water or low pressure persists into the next day, call the water department at 860-267-2536.

## Bethlehem Lutheran News

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

## Class of '67 Reunion

The East Hampton High School class of 1967 will celebrate its 55th Class Reunion Sunday, Sept. 25, at 5 p.m., in the upper room of Lakeside Bar and Grill, 81 North Main St. Attendees will order off the menu; pay as you go.

If interested in attending, call Rita at 860 798-1092, Lauralei at 860 424-2284 or Geryllyn at 860 682-2067 as soon as possible, as a head count has been requested by management.

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### EHMS Principal Honored

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) has honored East Hampton Middle School Principal Christina Amaral with its William Cieslukowski Outstanding First Year Principal Award for 2021-22.

As part of the nomination packet that was submitted to CAS from school social studies teacher Rich Storrs, East Hampton Middle School included several reference letters, including one from eighth grade language arts and reading teacher Trisha Seeley that described Amaral as “an administrator whose assets as a valuable team player are made evident by the respect and admiration of her colleagues and students alike. Her kindness and good citizenship are evident in all that she does.”

In addition, Mary Clark, director of cur-

riculum, noted Amaral’s “flexibility and passion for lifelong learning, critical assets to anyone looking to thrive in the modern world of school administration. Christina is always willing to be responsive to the needs of our students, families, and district.”

As well, CAS said Amaral’s “initial work as a school leader at East Hampton Middle School has resulted in a marked and beneficial change toward positive improvement. We at the Connecticut Association of Schools are delighted to recognize your energy and innovative sports as a beginning building leader.”

Amaral will be honored by the East Hampton Board of Education at its meeting Monday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall.



**A Whale of a Good Time...** The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission recently awarded a \$500 community grant to the Start Smart preschool program at Memorial School to help pay for a trip to the Children’s Museum in West Hartford. Led by teacher Stacy Gibson, Smart Start is partially funded through the CT Smart Start initiative and designed to meet the needs of preschool-age children at risk due to economic or cultural disadvantages. At the museum, the preschoolers got to meet, touch and explore animals, play in the sandbox, explore the museum grounds and exhibits and of course, take a school bus ride to and from the museum. EHACC Community Grants are offered annually to East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects designed to enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts. For information, visit [www.artsforeasthamptonct.org/grant](http://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org/grant).

### East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**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: Toddler Time:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years. Drop-ins welcome. **Stories & Songs:** Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5.

**Baby Rhyme Time – Outside!:** Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., in the Village Center by the gazebo. Bring a blanket or something to sit on. Parking is available at the Congregational Church/Center School.

**Mindful Movements – Outside!:** Monday, June 27, 10:30 a.m., at Seamster Park/Memorial School, for ages 18 months and up. Siblings welcome; register online.

**Canvas Kids – Pablo Picasso:** For grades 1-5. Tuesday, June 28, 3 p.m. Registration is required. Learn about Picasso and create your own Mixed-Up-Mask.

**Special Police Officer Storytime!:** Wednesday, June 29, 10:15 a.m., at Seamster Park. A local police officer will do the reading this week. Registration required. Siblings welcome.

**Amazing Animals – Aquatic Adaptions!:** Thursday, June 30, 2-3 p.m. Registration required. Amazing Animals is a four-part series of

nature programs hosted by the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. This week, meet several of DPNC’s resident pond animals, play a snapping turtle game and make a frog call craft. For ages 5 and up. Siblings welcome.

**Teen Programs: Teen Friday:** June 17, 3:30 p.m. There will be crafts, games, snacks and more.

**Henna Body Art:** Monday, June 27, 1:30 p.m. Learn about the origin, history and traditions of Henna, and get a professionally-applied Henna design!

**Dungeons & Dragons:** Wednesday, June 29, 2-4 p.m., for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience required.

**Creative Writing:** Thursday, June 30, 3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Explore all forms of creative writing with various exercises and lessons.

**Adult Programs: Focus on Fitness:** Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. Certified personal trainer and nutrition coach Amie Meacham leads this program, which is for fitness novices as well as experts. This program meets the second Tuesday of the month in the library community room. Registration is required, space is limited and masks must be worn.

**Stoned:** This crash course in crystal and stone healing will take place Thursday, June 16, at 6 p.m. Learn the basics of crystals and stones, including cleansing, charging, healing properties, and more.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, June 21, 6:30 p.m. *The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley* by Hannah Tinti will be discussed. Registration required.

**Tapping into the Past: Tavern Life in Early Connecticut:** Tuesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m. Learn about how taverns were an essential part of every Connecticut town.

### Meatball Madness

CT Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) will hold its third annual Meatball Madness on Monday, July 11, from 4-8 p.m., at Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant, 7 Independence Drive, Marlborough.

This is a fundraiser for to help raise funds for CDHR, a nonprofit organization located in East Hampton that is dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. All are invited to come enjoy the live music and outdoor dining and even meet one of the

CDHR horses. A percentage of the proceeds on all items sold (food, alcohol and takeout) will benefit CDHR. There will be a 50/50 raffle as well.

The mission of CDHR is to vet, quarantine, rehabilitate, train and re-home rescued horses. Since its inception, CDHR has rescued more than 80 horses, with the majority placed in forever homes. For more information on this event, to make a donation, or to find out more about CDHR, visit [www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](http://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue) or [www.ctdraftrescue.org](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org).

### Lake-Smart Award Program Free Grant

In conjunction with the East Hampton Conservation-Lake Commission, the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug is offering grants up to \$150 to help property owners living on the lake or in the surrounding watershed achieve the seven requirements to receive a Lake-Smart Award sign.

The Lake-Smart Award Program offered by the Conservation-Lake Commission purpose is to encourage property owners living on the lake and the surrounding watershed to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug by doing projects to prevent infiltration of phosphates and other impurities from entering the lake.

The grant program from the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug will be in form of gift certificates

to local East Hampton businesses to purchase items like plants for a rain garden, stone for runoff control and more. For more information on this program, visit [www.flpeh.org](http://www.flpeh.org) or contact Cap Egan at 860-395-7844 or [capegan2015@gmail.com](mailto:capegan2015@gmail.com).

### Resident Graduates

Isabella Siewert of East Hampton recently graduated from the University of Vermont, with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in studio art and business administration.

### RTC to Meet

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee will meet Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held at the Lakeside Bar and Grill (second floor), 81 North Main St. The public is welcome to attend.

### Resident Graduates

Angela Buonocore of East Hampton recently graduated from Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

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## 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>.

## 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.

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

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Weekly Activities:** Registration is required for all of the following; to do so, contact the center. **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m. **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m. **Setback:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 p.m. **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom. **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, June 23, 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 June 22), at 9:30 a.m. The group will meet outdoors, weather permitting; otherwise it will be indoors or via Zoom. Register online.

**Chatham Health District Q & A:** Monday, June 13, 10 a.m. Meet at the Senior Center for a Zoom presentation with Chatham Health District to have questions answered about COVID-19, vaccinations, boosters and more. Pre-registration requested.

**Book Club – Meet the Author: Jack Matthews:** Tuesday, June 14, 10:30 a.m. Matthews, a local author, will present his new book, *Arte Perdida*, a saga of art, love, greed, revenge, and murder. Pre-registration required.

**Chair Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays, June 15-Aug. 17, 11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m. The class meets in the Community Room at Town Hall, as well as via Zoom. Register online at [MyActiveCenter.com](http://MyActiveCenter.com). The 10-week session is \$20. Payment may be mailed or dropped off to the senior center; make checks payable to the Town of East Hampton. Note: The June 15 yoga will be at Sears Park at 11:30 a.m.

**Family Tree:** Friday, June 17, 10:30 a.m. Ken Doney will continue to help participants search

## Camps to Start

Parks and Recreation will offer Middle School Sun & Fun Camp, as well as Sears Park Summer Camp, each week from June 20 through Aug. 12., from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Fee is \$195/week; field trips included.

For more information, call 860-267-7300 or visit [easthamptonrec.com](http://easthamptonrec.com).

## 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](mailto:seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov).

for the history of their families. Bring your own mobile device. One-on-one time will be available. Register in advance.

**MyActiveCenter.com Training:** Tuesday, June 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Learn the basics of how to log in, use the site and register for activities. Pre-registration requested, by calling the senior center.

**East Hampton Speaks:** Friday, June 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Discuss the days of yesteryear. Bring memories and memorabilia to share. Register online. Limited space available.

**Art w/Karen:** Sunday, June 26, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will lead people through beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. The cost of the class is \$5 for supplies. Pay Karen the day of the event. Pre-registration is necessary.

**Let's Get Outdoors:** Wednesday, June 29, 1:30 p.m., at the Public Parking Lot, 101 Main St., across from the Gulf station. Master Naturalist Lynn Kochiss will lead this Invasive Plant Identification Walk. Wear good walking shoes and comfortable clothing. Pre-registration at the senior center is required.

**Trips:** Payments for trips will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by pre-arranged appointment time. Trips are: **Martha's Vineyard Daytrip:** Thursday, July 21. Cost is \$124/person and includes roundtrip ferry, island bus tour, and time to shop and dine on your own. There will be considerable walking. **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](mailto:Jewling@easthampton.gov). The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a pre-arranged designated spot.

## Sports Boosters Golf Outing

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

For information, registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit [ehsboosters.com](http://ehsboosters.com).

## Resident Honored in Ceremony

The University of Saint Joseph School of Social Work & Equitable Community Practice recently celebrated the accomplishments of the 2022 Master of Social Work graduating class with a hooding ceremony.

East Hampton resident Monique Cloutier was honored in the ceremony.



East Hampton resident Melinda Powell (far left) recently helped lead the Kingswood Oxford Mock Trial team to victory. She's shown here with graduating seniors of the team.

## Local Mom Leads Mock Trial Team to Victory

Local mother and attorney Melinda Powell recently led the Kingswood Oxford Mock Trial Team to statewide victory in the Ralph J. Monaco Memorial High School Mock Trial Competition.

Sponsored by Civics First and offered with the support of the Connecticut Bar Association and Empire Mock Trial, this year's case concerned a fictitious negligence action arising from a soccer accident. In the case, the plaintiff, Mia Rapinoe, sustained a concussion during a college soccer tournament while playing for the Rubicon Soccer Club. Mia continued to suffer from mental and physical impairments and brought a negligence suit against Rubicon and its coach, arguing that they should not have required her to return to play following an earlier concussion.

Kingswood Oxford students in West Hart-

ford, led by Powell, argued on behalf of the defendants, the Rubicon Soccer Club and its coach.

Powell, an attorney with the labor and employment law firm Rose Kallor, LLP, has coached the Kingswood Oxford team for two years, and has led the team to several victories. This was the team's first appearance in the state championships and its first statewide title.

Regarding the experience, Powell said, "Working with these kids was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had professionally. I encourage any student to give mock trial or public speaking a try."

The mock trial program offers Connecticut public and private school students the opportunity to engage in legal thinking at an early age and learn about the process of trial advocacy.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, June 15, from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St.

To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

In honor of the new Baz Luhrmann film *Elvis*, all who donate will be automatically entered for a chance to win a VIP trip to Graceland for two, including round-trip airfare to Memphis, plus a three-night stay at The Guest House and Elvis Entourage VIP tour, courtesy of Graceland, a custom-wrapped Gibson Epiphone guitar and more. All who donate will also receive a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

## Garden Tour, Painting Event

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission will host a Garden Tour and Plein Air painting event on Saturday, July 9, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring six East Hampton gardens.

Held rain or shine, the locations include private gardens at 23 Old Skinner Rd.; 82 Young St.; 47 Tartia Rd.; the East Hampton Community Garden at the Air Line Trail/Cranberry Bog on Smith Street; Epoch Arts Community Garden, 27 Skinner St.; and the East Hampton Food Bank Community Garden, 43 West High St.

Admittance is free, but attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food donation for the Food Bank. Artists can sign up to paint at one of the gardens during the event by emailing [arts@easthamptonct.org](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org).

## No-Till Farm Equipment Demo

The Regional Agricultural Commission of the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a demonstration day to educate farmers on its new no-till equipment – and all Portland and East Hampton residents are invited.

The demo day will take place Saturday, June 18, from noon-3 p.m., at 15 Jacoby Rd., Higganum; rain date is June 19. Learn about the regional no-till drill, roller-crimper, and transplanter. Farmers that farm in the RiverCOG region – which includes Portland and East Hampton – may apply to the program for equipment use.

For more information, call RiverCOG at 860-581-8554.

## Artists Sought for Painting Event

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission will host a garden tour and plein air painting event, featuring six local private and community gardens, on Saturday, July 9. Local artists interested in participating in the plein air portion of the event must contact the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission at [arts@easthamptonct.org](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org), or Melissa at 860-993-5311.

Artists will be able to set up at the gardens during the day of the tour to paint.

Watch for more details on the event. Visit [www.artsforeasthamptonct.org](http://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org) for more information.

## Belltown Open Golf Tournament

The Congregational Church of East Hampton is seeking sponsors and golfers for the 16th annual Belltown Open Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Cost is \$125/golfer for the four-person scramble event that includes cart, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Proceeds will benefit the East Hampton Food & Fuel Bank.

To register, contact John Tuttle at [tuttlekahn@gmail.com](mailto:tuttlekahn@gmail.com).

## Church Tag Sale Saturday

The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam on Route 151 of Middle Haddam will hold its annual tag and bake sale Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be home-baked goods, cutlery products, items from estate sales and tag sale merchandise. The church is handicapped-accessible.

## EHMS Soccer, Cross-Country Registration

Student/athletes who are interested in trying out for boys' soccer, girls' soccer or boys'/girls' cross-country teams can register online at [www.FamilyID.com](http://www.FamilyID.com).

Athletes must have all the proper paperwork submitted online and have an updated physical in order to try out. Registration should be completed by Monday, Aug. 22.

For further information, contact EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 6*

lower the cost of health care, invest in our workers, and address the rising costs of inflation that have made more families live paycheck to paycheck.

I'll be a representative who works with both parties to get things done for the good of the people in the district and the state of Connecticut. I invite you to reach out to me to share your views and concerns: winwithwes.org.

**Warm Regards,  
Wes Skorski – Marlborough**

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

## Renewable Energy

To the Editor:

I must respond to a reader who feels those in favor of renewable energy are myopic (near-sighted). Quite the opposite, those seeking clean energy sources are taking the long view, of both the world beyond their backyards, as well as our planet going forward into the future.

Some feel that because the USA isn't the most populous nation on earth, that we don't need to take (much) responsibility for the fossil-fueled pollution that's resulting in global climate change. However, we are in the top 10 countries in the world for per person energy consumption. The most populous countries, such as China and India, consume far less per person than do we in the USA. Around the globe, it is the poor who bear the brunt of pollution and climate change, and have the least means to escape from or help resolve these problems.

Mr. K, it's great to live in 'Almost Heaven,' but as we gaze at our lovely vistas, shouldn't we think of those on this earth who are not so fortunate? If we refuse to acknowledge or help combat pollution and climate change, the Earth we leave behind may become a living hell for all.

**Susan Sokolowski – Portland**

## So Grateful!

To the Editor:

Last Tuesday, May 31, I returned home from my morning walk on the Air Line Trail to find my driver's license lying on my front porch. Attached to it was a Post-It saying it was found near the Cranberry Bog. The name Dale and a phone number was also noted. I called the number and spoke to Dale who told me exactly how he and his friend found my license that morning and then brought it to my home.

In today's world where no one has time for anything and where there is so much discord, two people took time to go out of their way and return an item that would have been very stressful for me to replace.

The kindness and thoughtfulness of these two people is so heartwarming and highlighted the goodness in all of us. They are an example of caring for our fellow human beings. I am eternally grateful to these two people and hope to pass on that goodness and kindness to anyone in need. That is what I would ask of all of us. The world would be so much better if we were all like Dale and his friend.

**Sincerely,  
Irena Daigle – East Hampton**

## Great Teaching Moment

To the Editor:

Hello! Sharing an interaction that occurred in Portland between a Portland police officer and friend of mine; let's call her Chris.

Chris and I, along with her observant teenager, were driving west on Rt. 66 taking a right onto Gospel Lane. While I don't consider Chris to be a fast driver, she was speeding, and as she proceeded left onto Penny Corner, flashing lights were behind us; we were being pulled over.

The customary exchange ensued, but I noted the following: both the officer and Chris were polite, understanding and truthful. Chris was embarrassed that she was speeding, but took full responsibility for her actions. The officer asked various questions of Chris and made a special point to mention the importance of driving the speed limit. The officer referenced a town-wide initiative to get people to slow down. Instead of giving Chris a ticket, the officer gave her a warning with a healthy side of information. He did add that if Chris was found driving at excessive speeds in town again, there would be consequences.

All of this was a great "teaching moment" for the observant teenager. We all make mistakes. It is how we handle those mistakes that determines how we progress through life. I was thankful for this very positive interaction.

The Complete Streets Group in town has been working to improve road safety for all modes

of transportation and one of their initiatives is getting people to observe the posted speed limits. The Portland police are in the unenviable position of having to point out the obvious to people who are traveling at speeds well above the posted limit. Perhaps we can help them out and make our streets safer at the same time by driving at the posted limits.

**Chantal Foster – Portland**

## Historical Unknown

To the Editor:

I am a member of the Chatham Historical Society in East Hampton. I recently came across a historical site whose original function could not be determined. In East Hampton, Pocotopaug Creek winds south from Lake Pocotopaug eventually merging with Pine Brook and then with Salmon River and onto the Connecticut River.

As Pocotopaug Creek crosses Route 16, it eventually flows through a large wooded area. At one point near the creek is an old stone structure built many years ago. Some of the stone walls have metal pipes running through. The question is: what was it? The story handed down to local neighbors is that it was a place for mineral baths. People would come by train to the Cobalt station and take a horse and buggy to bathe there. Upon looking at it one cannot figure if this is true or what it really was.

Possibly some historian in town has some insight as to its purpose. If anyone has any information, please contact me, Don Burr, at DBurr10289@aol.com.

**Thank you,  
Don Burr – East Hampton**

## New Library Lockers

To the Editor:

For someone who is always involved and on the go it's not easy to fit things into my busy schedule, so often I find myself having to rearrange it to get everything done. I'm also a night owl and frequently get that second wind late at night. Unfortunately, when I'm ready to go again, most others aren't and the majority of establishments are closed. That's why I'm so excited about the new lockers installed just outside of the Douglas Library of Hebron.

Like other patrons, I can't always get to the library during their regular business hours. Now when something is needed I simply put in my request with the librarian and am sent a code on my smartphone to use to open the locker. It couldn't be easier.

I still love going into the library, perusing the new displays and chatting with the staff when I have the time but I love the ease and convenience of the new lockers! You should give them a try!

**Sincerely,  
Althea W. Carr – Hebron**  
*Note: Carr is on the Board of Trustees of Douglas Library, but is speaking as an individual.*

## Fox News

To the Editor:

Tuesday, Fox News announced they won't cover the hearings on the Jan. 6th insurrection. That's because they were part of it. Three prominent Fox News anchors sent concerned text messages on Jan. 6 to Mark Meadows, the last chief of staff for President Donald J. Trump, urging him to persuade the president to take the riot seriously and to make an effort to stop it. If you really want to see what Fox News anchors know, view the bipartisan Jan. 6th committee hearings. Prime-time hearings were at 8 p.m. on the 9th and will be at 8 p.m. on the 23rd. In between, the panel will hold 10 a.m. hearings on the 13th, 15th, 16th and 21st.

The partisan GOP is planning counterprogramming for Jan. 6 hearings by Kevin McCarthy, Jim Jordan and Elise Stefanik. Jim Jordan, who is possibly part of the insurrection, will stream into the camera for 30 minutes.

Fox News ran 1,098 primetime segments on Benghazi from the day of the attack until the committee hearings, which they carried live for more than seven hours.

Regardless, the Department of Justice does its own investigations. Watch what they do.

**Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough**

## Hebron ARPA Funds

To the Editor:

The Town of Hebron will receive \$2.8M in ARPA funds in the coming months. I hope that some of these funds, about \$700K supplemented with state grants, will be used to fix the Gil-ead Hill School lead problem. Previously, lead had been found in the drinking water fountains. Most recently, it was found in school sinks.

Remedial efforts have not been successful. The TRC Report (2019) stated "...we recommend...flushing the water system (and specifically the six taps/fixtures noted above) in the morning before the building opens..." Despite all that, the school has decided to stop flushing. Exposure to lead, even in minute quantities (possibly even below detection limits), affects children's brain development. The EPA has said no exposure is safe. If we know that there is a reservoir of lead in the water system and we know that the system continues to corrode and we know that more and more lead is leaching out to faucets and water fountains, and we know that lead is especially toxic to small children, and we have the money, why aren't we replacing the water system?

Second, I would also suggest that the town set up a zero or low-interest loan program to promote affordable home ownership for in-town and out-of-town low- and middle-income citizens. A public-private partnership could be created where the town matches private donations by a determined ratio up to \$500K directed by a nonprofit. This program would allow people not only to purchase existing houses to fix up (or build new houses) in Hebron, but also allow low-income families to build equity and wealth. It would benefit the town by improving existing housing, increasing the tax base and permitting a more diverse community to move to Hebron.

**John Collins – Amston**

## Deny the Request

To the Editor:

On Monday, June 13, at 7 p.m., the East Hampton Zoning Board of Appeals will review Atlantis Marketing's revised site plans for the proposed gas station/convenience store expansion at the intersection of Main Street and Route 16. Atlantis could submit 100 revised plans, and they should all be denied, because the key to this flawed variance request is that all parcels are zoned residential, and the goal and spirit of zoning is to return/keep the zoning residential, as outlined in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Atlantis cannot claim hardship, because they are not denied a reasonable use of their properties. Wanting to create a more profitable business is not a hardship. They legally cannot increase the non-conforming use. I urge the members of the ZBA to deny the request for variance, and block use not permitted in a residential zone.

I urge neighbors and community members that oppose this back-door attempt to allow non-conforming commercial use in a residential neighborhood to attend the ZBA meeting in person or via Zoom to voice your concerns. The vitality of this residential neighborhood, and the character of this town hinge on our historic main street staying residential.

**Respectfully,  
Irene Kuck – East Hampton**

## Atlantis Expansion

To the Editor:

Next Monday, June 13, the Zoning Board of Appeals decides whether Atlantis Marketing will be granted a backdoor zone change on Main Street and create a two-acre parcel of commercial development. Over the last two months you have read of numerous reasons that this application must be denied, but Monday is the day to make your voice heard.

The citizens of East Hampton need to send a clear message to the ZBA and Atlantis that this expansion is not wanted and will be fought for as long as it takes. Attend the meeting in person or via Zoom but please participate. It's easy to say I don't have time, others will do it, or it won't pass, they don't need me. We do need everyone. Be a part of your community and help keep that small town feel of the Main Street and the old village center.

You can make a difference in your town but only if you participate. Voice your opposition and stop the Atlantis expansion.

**Kenneth Dodson – East Hampton**

## Zero Mill Increase

Dear Colchester Residents:

The current proposed budget reflects a zero mill increase, meaning that without revaluation, your mill rate will be unchanged from the previous year. Due to revaluation the increased assessments towards property and the subsequent revenue from it, we will be dropping the mill rate from 33.05 to 27.08. To achieve this mill rate, the town will be reducing spending on the town budget by \$170,402, increasing revenue projections, and applying the use of unassigned fund balance. This zero mill rate proposal is being constructed with at least \$320K in built in costs,

which include: town contractual obligations, vehicle (repairs, maintenance, and fuel), and the capital budget. This was based on estimated costs prepared in April. With inflation, the cost for items is anticipated to be more expensive and the same allotted dollar amount won't go as far. The zero mill proposal also encompasses the school budget increase of \$198,646, which recently passed at referendum.

The new budget maintains all current services and lays off zero town employees, reorganizes two departments for greater efficiency, integrates 21st century transparency software, increases the investment in overdue tree removal services, and answers the call of rising medical trips for our seniors with a new part-time driver, and adds \$1K to the Memorial Day Parade line item. ARPA funds, town inheritance funds, and the rainy-day fund are collectively being utilized to address items on the Capital Plan for this year, next year, and the following year. As first selectman, I am strategically mitigating your tax burden this year and into the future.

Last year, the town budget alone saw an increase of \$549,097. In combination with the school budget, the mill rate went up .21. I have countered with a fiscally conservative approach which moves our town forward.

**Sincerely,  
Andreas Bisbikos  
Colchester First Selectman**

## More Moderation

To the Editor:

I write a lot of letters to the editor. Generally, I am not adhering to a specific agenda. I have none. But there seems to be space in the public discourse for moderation. Everyone needs to take a step back and think about the things we really want and need. Then, think about what others may want and need. There is no complete agreement on these matters between any two people, let alone among entire populations of people! There are areas of friction on many topics, and we live in a complex world. I want this, you want that. Unless we both want the only one of something, we should be able to get along: negotiate. Compromise.

There should be a board game to illustrate and teach the art of compromise. The object would be to get along, and the winner of the game would be the one who achieves the most compromises. The obstreperous, unreasonable player must lose. The moderate, empathetic player would win. Perhaps there would be trading of wants and needs. If you want something that I find onerous, then you must give me something that you find equally onerous to appease me. For instance, I'll trade you abortion for banning of automatic weapons. No? How about fracking for environmental justice? A full-bodied voting rights act in exchange for the right to carry?

To consider moderation is the point of most of my letters: my agenda, if you must.

**John Barnowski – Colchester**

## Senior Center Progress

To the Editor:

The Colchester Senior Center Building Committee continues to make progress towards a date to put the project out to bid for construction of the facility. In the past month, the committee has achieved two major milestones. On May 11, the Colchester Conservation Commission approved the proposed plan. That allowed the plan to go forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission for approval.

Before Planning and Zoning approval, the plans had to be reviewed and approved by the Town Planner, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, the Town Engineer, the Town Wetlands Officer, the Fire Marshal, and the Sewer and Water office to ensure that the proposed center conforms to all regulations that govern the facility and will be accessible to utility hook-ups as well as traffic impact. On June 1, the P & Z Commission approved the plan.

With these approvals, the Committee can now move forward with finalizing design details and the design team can begin the process of completing the construction documents that will be used for the bidding of the project.

Additionally, the town has completed its DECD grant application for the \$2.5 million grant as approved by the State Bonding Commission.

Once the construction documents are complete, a final review will be conducted by the Committee, Building Department and Chatham Health District, and the State of Connecticut. Once those reviews are completed, the project will be put out to bid, most likely late July or early August with an anticipated ground break-

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ing in early September. 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**

## Colchester Lions Thank You

Dear Colchester:

The Colchester Lions Club would like to thank our community and the surrounding towns for attending our annual Carnival on the Green. We had record numbers this year and could not have anticipated such a wonderful turnout. The money we raised will go to support local causes as such scholarships, holiday food baskets for local families in need, and our Community Night of Giving where we give grants to approximately 25 local organizations. These are just a few of the causes that we support annually.

We'd also like to thank Boy Scout Troop 13 who volunteered their time on Sunday morning to clean the town green for us. Thank you to Dime Bank, Mel's Downtown Creamery, Noel's Market and Westchester Marketplace for helping us to sell our pre-sale vouchers, and also the police cadets who patrolled the town green during carnival hours helping to keep it safe for all. Lastly, we'd like to thank the members of our community and Lions members who volunteered to work at the carnival. We couldn't have done this four-day event without all of you helping us set up, work the event and then take the compound down. It truly is a team effort and we are grateful for your time and efforts.

**Sincerely,**  
**Nicole Reardon**  
**Dan Perry**  
**Carnival Chairs**

## Lamont Keeping Us Safe

To the Editor:

Ned Lamont needs to be defeated in November. Since the "pandemic" arrived, "Jolly Ned" kept promising to keep us safe. How did that work out? Thousands of small businesses – the majority in the food and beverage Business – went out of business. Schools were shut down, Churches were forced to close. But lo and behold, package stores and big box corporate chains were allowed to stay open. 46K state workers, most were sent home to work "virtually." What a joke!! No state worker missed a paycheck. Ned then rewarded them with a new contract with pay raises totaling 10% and cash bonuses of \$2,500 and higher, even for those retiring on July 1. We should all be so lucky.

It gets better. In May 2019, Jolly Ned announced the project that would convert the state pier in New London into the staging point for an off-shore wind farm – estimated cost: \$93 million. Well, Ned recently had to circle back and inform the taxpayers that "a series of problems" have caused the project to balloon to \$255 million. What a well-run state we have? I call it the fleecing of the taxpayers. There was another winner in this giant project and that's the billionaire night club owner who was able to secure the monopoly on the pier as the only bar and restaurant. I don't recall seeing any bidding process??

The feds gifted Connecticut \$7 billion in COVID-related funding. Ned and his Democratic cronies have spent \$3 billion and currently have a \$4 billion surplus in our fund balance but did very little to help the small businesses or the middle class – he did not lower the sales tax or the income tax. Instead, millions to giant conglomerates like Sikorsky and scraps to the working stiffs.

**Don Denley – Andover**

## More Required than Remembering!

To the Editor:

Your June 3rd cover story, "Remember What Those Freedoms Cost," quotes the lieutenant saying "...each of us has an obligation to keep this legacy alive by remembering those who have secured our freedoms." With all due respect, I disagree.

While we must honor those who died for our freedom, simply remembering has not secured our freedom and never will. Anyone who thinks it has is either delusional or not paying attention. Truly honoring the huge sacrifices made by soldiers, means actively noticing and objecting loudly when freedom is stolen!

Since March 2020, our own government has stolen the most precious: health freedom. It started with mask mandates. Masks stifle oxygen intake, waste removal and, ultimately, im-

mune function! Plenty of proof exists.

Next, we had to abandon loved ones to die alone in hospitals! And we're still being blackmailed into taking an experimental, gene altering drug – called a "vaccine" to escape liability (see "PREP Act 2015") for injuries and deaths caused.

The data is in (search "Epoch Times FDA releases Pfizer documents"). These shots have already caused 2x more deaths than all "vaccines" in history, put together. Yet the FDA still approves and promotes them, even for children, despite near-zero% chance of kids dying from Covid!

And it's not over. While we were busy remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom, Joe Biden and his elite amigos at the WHO and WEF were busy planning to steal more from us. Biden's treaty proposal gives away our national sovereignty whenever the director of WHO declares another "pandemic."

Their "vaccine passport" easily becomes a "Social Credit System" that can punish your every move. Search "Patent #2020 060606" for gory details.

We must wake up and say no, lest we lose that fleeting gift of freedom forever.

**Mimi Stevens – Andover**

## Fraudulent Climate Crisis

To the Editor:

Every single economic problem we're confronting is a direct result of idiotic governmental responses purported to address the fraudulent and non-existent climate crisis. This made-up nonsense is the greatest scientific scam perpetrated in history. Anyone who buys into this lunacy is either a misguided or disingenuous fool.

CO2 is not the thermostat of global temperatures. Those wanting to perform their own due diligence should visit Tony Heller's site aptly-named [realclimatecience.com](http://realclimatecience.com). He fastidiously provides the government's own recorded data over more than a century, and details how these charlatans living on government grants have fabricated, adjusted, and falsified the raw data.

He also profusely presents historical newspaper articles published throughout this period demonstrating how these same absurd alarmist claims are the norm rather than the exception. Not one of their ridiculous claims has ever come to pass. But they've been never-ending in our time, starting with Paul Ehrlich's fantastical warnings of global famine from Earth Day 1970. These people are all frauds but they continue, via their fellow-travelers in the corrupt leftist media, to poison the minds of the gullible-warming believers.

Biden purposefully reduced our domestic production of oil and gas to increase their prices. We went from energy independence to dependence on foreign adversaries in just a few months. Higher energy costs immediately cascaded into an ever-escalating inflationary spiral increasing the costs of everything transported and produced.

Many small farmers aren't planting this year due to the increasing costs and scarcity of fertilizer and weed deterrents. By fall, the exorbitant costs of food and fuel oil are going to create real crises – not the false and imaginary ones of the climate-change liars. Biden's inhumane policies are an atrocity being perpetrated on people who will have serious struggles meeting their food and home energy costs.

**Sam Prentice – Andover**

## Sussman Trial

To the Editor:

Let's discuss the latest Democrat sham known as the Sussman trial, shall we?

One good thing (and there is only one) about being a Democrat is complete immunity from legal prosecution in every instance involving political subterfuge. James Comey, Peter Strok, Lisa Page, Andrew McCabe, John Brenner and Hillary Clinton, the "madame" of this bordello of federal criminals, top the list.

However, the Sussman trial elucidated the depth of Washington depravity, and the extent to which this depravity gives swamps a bad name. Several jurors were Clinton donors. One was an AOC donor. One juror's husband worked on Hillary's 2008 presidential campaign. Another supported defunding the police. Yet another juror's daughter was on the crew team at a private school with Sussman's daughter. The judge, Christopher Casey Cooper, was on the Obama transition team in 2008, and also worked with Sussman at the DOJ. Prior to becoming a Judge, Cooper worked at the same law firm as...wait for it...Eric Holder. You remember Obama's wingman, don't you? Cooper is also married to attorney Amy Jeffers, who worked in the AG's office as National Security Counselor to...wait for it...Eric Holder. Jeffers

is now in private practice, and is representing... wait for it...Lisa Page, former FBI love interest of Peter Strok. But wait...there's more! When Judge Cooper and Jeffers were married in a civil service, it was presided over by...Merrick Garland, a.k.a., John Durham's boss. The fake story about a computer server connecting Trump with Russia was spread by Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor. Sullivan is married to Maggie Goodlander, legal counsel to...wait for it... Merrick Garland.

Oh...never mind that the FBI had a satellite office at Sussman's law firm. Really?

So I ask: In what universe did you think Sussman would be convicted?

Next week...Hunter's "naked gun" pics. The story writes itself...

**Regards,**

**Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

## Diagnosing the Sickness

To the Editor:

Our country is profoundly sick...we may never recover. Thanks to the government, our food and water are full of chemicals, our bodies are heavily medicated, and our attention is absorbed by screens. The nuclear family is collapsing and as people become more self-absorbed we become less connected with each other. People retreat into their comfort zones of identity politics, television programming, or self-medicate with drugs/booze.

Even though America is only 5% of the world's population, we consume 50% of all pharmaceutical drugs and 80% of all opioids. Children are routinely being medicated for just being kids (high energy), 25% of women are on drugs for mental health (depression/anxiety), and men are killing themselves at an alarming rate – with a 33% increase in suicide since 2000.

Our materialistic culture has turned us into rivals and leads to feelings of inadequacy and resentment. The media promotes gratuitous sex and violence while also telling us how ashamed we should be of the "gun culture" of America.

Another mass shooting has occurred and the immediate chorus from the media and politicians is how dangerous guns are and how we need to disarm ourselves to order to protect children. No one ever calls for an immediate banning of prescribing children psychotropic drugs, which almost every mass shooter is on. Politicians don't call for the banning of violent movies of video games, and no one advocates for a return to God or family values...it's all the gun's fault.

The media says that children are dying from these guns and that the only way to stop it is through "common-sense gun control". But if we really care about children dying, consider this...who has been responsible for the deaths of more children – mass shooters or the U.S. military?

When are we going to demand the military give up its guns?

**Colin McNamara – Marlborough**

## Armed Guards Not the Answer

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Board of Education needs to dispel with the notion that a "good guy with a gun" is the answer to violence.

On Monday, June 13, the board is will begin discussion on budgeting for armed security officers at each of the schools (\$43,000 per position). Like everywhere else, East Hampton is reacting to the Uvalde school shooting, as well as a recent threatening incident at the high school.

Parents are scared for their kids' safety, and we have a right to be. Gun culture is not going anywhere. Common-sense solutions to school shootings – assault weapon bans, limited-capacity magazines, and enhanced background checks – are non-starters with an NRA-controlled Congress.

Thankfully, Connecticut has some of the strongest gun laws in the nation. Unlike states like Texas and Florida, we've acted with legislation in the face of unspeakable tragedy.

East Hampton has taken considerable steps, such as adding bulletproof laminate to first-story windows and requiring background checks of all visitors, to preserve schools as safe spaces. It's not perfect, but I feel comfortable dropping my kids off in the morning.

Adding armed guards to the mix, regardless of whether they are retired police officers, will not improve school safety. There are no accredited studies that demonstrate armed security deters shooters. In fact, there were two police officers on the campus of Santa Fe High School in Texas in May 2018 – eight students and two teachers were killed.

The "good guy with the gun" trope may work in movies and in fundraising circles, but aside from the rare exception that proves the rule, it's false. Answering gun violence with more guns is not the answer. The board should focus on expanding mental health services – a strategy proven to reduce incidents of school violence.

**Sincerely,**

**Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton**

# On it.

Ending racial injustice requires all of us to work together and take real action.

**What can you do to help?**

-  Educate yourself about the history of American racism, privilege and what it means to be anti-racist.
-  Commit to actions that challenge injustice and make everyone feel like they belong, such as challenging biased or racist language when you hear it.
-  Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.
-  Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

love  
has  
no  
labels

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## Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

New Items have been donated by the Friends of Portland Library group as part of its Staff Appreciation. Staff members choose a book or other item and the Friends purchase it for the library. Donations are on display now at the library, and will soon be available to borrow. Feel free to place a hold on any books you wish to read.

Youth Programs: Summer Reading is Coming: This year's program theme is "Beyond the Beaten Path." Look for a schedule of upcoming events to be posted on the library website. Registration is underway. The Summer Reading Kickoff will be held in conjunction with the library's anniversary celebration on Saturday, June 11. There will be a performance by magician Matt Matthews at 11:15 a.m.; kids are invited to come, have some free ice cream, get their face painted, and take part in games and crafts.

Stories in the Great Outdoors: For birth-5 years. Mondays, June 20-Aug. 1 (no program July 4), 11 a.m., at the gazebo on the Town Green. Bring a blanket and listen to stories, rhymes and songs about the great outdoors. Registration is required.

Camping Capers: For kids going into grades K-2. Wednesdays, June 22-Aug. 3 (no program July 6), 11 a.m. Discover some of the best parts of camping in the great outdoors (or at least the library lawn). Set up a tent, make lanterns, and follow clues to see what animals have been at the campsite. There will also be s'mores, water balloon games, crafts, and ice cream too. Registration is required.

Summer Camp-Capades!: For kids going into grades 3-5. Tuesdays, June 21-Aug. 2 (no program July 5), 11 a.m. Each week, enjoy a different aspect of summer, from traditional camp crafts, s'mores and tie-dye to learning survival skills. Learn about national parks and earn some Junior Ranger badges; make your own flashlights and tell ghost stories; and go on a hunt for the elusive Bigfoot. Registration is required and began Monday, June 6.

Talewise: Pirates Lost at Sea!: Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 p.m. Use your knowledge of science to rescue your pirate captain and repair your ship before you're marooned on a desert island for eternity. Program to be held on the Town Green. Registration is required and begins on Monday, June 6.

Family Fort Night: Wednesday, June 29, 6:30 p.m. Build your own fort in the children's department of the library and enjoy some s'mores and free reading time. Registration is required and begins Monday, June 6.

S'mores Sushi: For kids going into grades 6-up. Thursday, June 23, 3 p.m. Put an international twist on this traditional outdoor treat. Come make and try these rolls with chopsticks and a side order of chocolate syrup.

Amazing Race: Library Edition: For kids going into grades 6-up. Thursday, June 30, 3 p.m. Race "around the world" and complete challenges at each pit stop. The team to finish all of their challenges first and return to the starting point wins a prize.

Adult Programs: Book Club Discussions: Mystery Lovers' Book Club: Tuesday, June 21, 1 p.m. *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippma will be discussed.

Adult Summer Reading Program: When you sign up for the program, you receive a coupon for a free book/books (up to \$2 in value) from the Friends' Ongoing Book Sale, and another coupon when you log 2,000 pages. Starting on June 11, register for summer reading and start logging pages you read.

For every 250 pages the Adult Summer Reading participants of Portland Library log as a group, the library will donate funding for two musical instrument rental scholarships for the 2022-23 school year for two students at Brownstone Intermediate School.

Portland Garden Club: The club will have a table at the library's June 11 anniversary event. There will be an exhibit on pollinators, and kids of all ages can enjoy floral coloring.

Movie - *West Side Story*: Wednesday, June 15, 1 p.m.

Audubon Presentation: Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Learn about the turtles of Connecticut.

Multi-Generational Drumming Circles: Monday, June 27, 6:30 p.m., on the Waverly Green.

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. The Knitters will have a booth at the June 11 library anniversary celebration.

## Resident Announces Bid for State Rep Seat

In a virtual convention on Wednesday, May 11, Portland resident Rose Aletta was voted in as the Democratic candidate for the 32nd House District.

The district covers Cromwell and Portland. Republican Christie Carpino of Cromwell currently represents the district in the state House.

Aletta is chairwoman of the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals and a member of the Democratic Town Committee.

In making her announcement, Aletta said she is running for the seat "because I believe Cromwell and Portland deserve better representation in Hartford. I am a unique candidate with long community ties, bringing a new perspective as a person that has worked in labor, service and as a business owner."

Aletta continued, "As state representative, I will go to Hartford in good faith to work on all issues affecting Cromwell and Portland to get the best deal economically, socially and environmentally."

Originally from Cromwell, Aletta moved to Portland with her husband in 1991. Aletta attended Cromwell High School and later went to trade school to earn a diploma in computer electronics. Prior to becoming a sole proprietor of a successful real estate appraisal business, Aletta worked in labor, manufacturing and sales.

First elected to serve on the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals in 2017 and later appointed as the board's chairwoman in 2018, Aletta said

she has worked with the Planning and Zoning Commission to minimize zoning restrictions to benefit property owners. Aletta added that while serving on the Portland Democratic Town Committee, she has also been an advocate on town issues, including sharing services to reduce costs to taxpayers.

Portland's former first selectwoman, Democrat Susan Bransfield, explained her support for Aletta's candidacy.

"I've known Rose Aletta for many years," she said. "Rose will fight for us. She'll make sure everyone's voice is heard up in Hartford. She won't back down on issues that matter to us - inflation, taxes, crime, our safety and our health care. I believe Rose Aletta is the common sense candidate we need to send to Hartford right now in 2022."

Ken Kearns, who now serves on the Portland Board of Assessment Appeals after four years on the Zoning Board of Appeals said, "I worked several years with Rose when she was chair of ZBA. She always tried to find accommodations for homeowners, as the zoning regulations can be confusing. She's been dedicated and knowledgeable about people living in town and dealing with zoning regulations. She is committed to making the town run in a better way."

Aletta has been married to Donald Roy for 35 years. Roy worked in construction and facilities maintenance until his retirement in 2020.

## 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 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](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

**Outdoor Worship:** On the second Sunday of each month this summer, worship will be held outdoors on the front lawn in front of the Fellowship Hall (weather permitting). The dates are: June 12, July 10 and Aug. 14. Bring your own chair(s), a hat, sunglasses, water, anything to make yourself comfortable, especially if it's sunny and hot. Worship will be indoors for the other Sundays this summer.

**Adult Bible Study:** Continues on June 12 and 26, following worship, at 10:15 a.m. The

focus is on season 2 of the television series *The Chosen*. This study will be on hiatus for July and August, and will pick back up in the fall.

**Faces of Our Faith:** Beginning in July, Zion will explore a new worship series, "Faces of Our Faith," focusing on the Bible's lesser-known stories. The church has selected eight stories of those often overlooked in Biblical narratives, and, using visual art and prompts for reflection, will dig deep into the worlds of these characters.

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

## 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](http://buttonwood.org/poetry-contest) to submit your poems.

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

## St. Mary Church News

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

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

website for more information.

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

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

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

## Hey, Take a Hike!

The Middlesex Land Trust invites all to join John LeShane for an approximate three-mile walk and talk at the Oak Ledges Preserve on Saturday, June 18, at 10 a.m.

LeShane donated this property to the land trust in 2000. He will share the history of the preserve along with his knowledge of the natural world. The hike will be at a slow to moderate pace with a few 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 toward the northern end of South Road in Portland; look for the kiosk across the road from the bog. You can also search Google Maps for "JC5F+G7 Portland."

To RSVP, call the Land Trust office at 860-343-7537 or call LeShane at 860-342-0658. For a map of the preserve, visit [tinyurl.com/4rrxj5v3](http://tinyurl.com/4rrxj5v3).

## Book Sale, Read & Recycle

The Friends of the Portland Library group has 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.

Also, the Friends' Read & Recycle program will accept donations Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the Mary Flood Room of the library.

The Friends welcome donations of gently-used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No textbooks, business books, computer books,

self-help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition; the Friends cannot accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition.

Donations must be dropped off at the library side door, and volunteers will be available to receive the donations. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgement forms will be available. Donated items are sold at various Friends' book sales held throughout the year, and all proceeds are used to support programs of Portland Library.

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

## Lawn Irrigation Inspections

During June, July and August, the town inspector will conduct inspections of irrigation systems on the public water supply.

In order to do this, your system must be activated. If for some reason it is not activated, call Public Works at 860-342-6733 to schedule an appointment for a different time.

If the inspector comes out and your system is not activated, you will still be charged the \$75 inspection fee.

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**Speed Racers...** Portland High School's 4x400 relay team of (from left) Owen Delisle, Jake Thompson, Teddy Williams, and Simon Kandeke shattered the school record at the Shoreline Conference (SLC) championships on May 25 in Old Saybrook. The foursome won the event, running a 3:30.36, to smash the previous record (3:35.7) which had stood for four decades. Because of the accomplishment and the win, the four were recognized as 1st-team All-SLC.

## Acting Principal Chosen for BIS

At a special meeting on Tuesday, May 24, the Portland Board of Education appointed Michael Searson as acting principal at Brownstone Intermediate School.

Since 2016, Searson has been a fourth-grade and sixth-grade teacher at BIS. He is currently the English language/arts curriculum specialist for kindergarten through grade 6 and in 2021, served as the Extended School Year program coordinator. Additionally, he has been the Portland High School soccer

coach, and was named the Shoreline Conference Coach of the Year in 2021.

Searson earned his 092 Administration and Supervision Certification and 6th Year Degree in Educational Leadership from Sacred Heart University, a Master of Arts in curriculum from the University of Saint Joseph, and a Bachelor of Arts in business from Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire.

Searson will begin his role as acting principal on July 1.

## YFS News & Notes

Portland Youth & Family Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, visit [www.portlandct.org/youth-services](http://www.portlandct.org/youth-services), email [Jrevicki@portlandct.org](mailto: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. Also, keep an eye out for *The Bridge*, a community newsletter YFS is part of with Senior Services, Portland Library, and Parks & Recreation.

**Little Hikers:** This group ventures out on the first Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m.; however, next month the hike will be on the second

### Dean's List

Portland residents Christina Aresco and Iseabal Turner made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. Both are studying nursing.

### Dean's List

Meghan Flynn of Portland made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Friday – July 8 at Riverfront Park. The hike will be kept between one third a mile and half a mile. Group organizers are also working with the library and their summer programming to add some longer hikes in the evenings or weekends; look to the YFS website and Facebook page for more information.

**Drop-in and Draw:** Artists will meet the first Tuesday of the month between 1:30-4:30 p.m. in the community room. 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.

**Drop-In for Board Games:** The YFS board games groups continue over the summer in the community room. There will be a selection of board and card games available from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, for Brownstone Intermediate School-aged kids, and one Wednesday, July 20, for middle and high school-aged kids.

## 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.

## Travel Soccer Fall Registration, Evaluation

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) has announced registration for the fall Travel Soccer Season is now open. All eligible players must register online and before the evaluations at [bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub). All players must prepay for registration prior to evaluations.

All player evaluations will be held at the Portland Recreational Complex, located on Route 17 (Gospel Lane) in Portland on Tuesday, June 14, from 5:30-7 p.m., with a make-up session Wednesday, June 15, from 5:30-7 p.m. All players must attend the evaluation sessions. All players participating should wear cleats, shin guards, and bring a water bottle and an appropriately sized ball. The wearing of any PSC uniform by players is prohibited. The cost per travel registrant is \$170.

All players will get a new uniform kit; ordering information and instructions will be sent after evaluations from the uniform vendor.

PSC said it anticipates fielding gender-based teams for the U9-U14 age groups during the 2022 soccer season, depending on player participation. Refunds will be issued if player is not

placed on a team. Registrations received after June 12 will be charged an additional \$30 late fee, and late registrations are not guaranteed a spot on a travel team.

All PSC tryouts will take place Tuesday, June 14. Times are based on age-grouping expectations for fall 2022 for both new and existing players. The club reserves the right to combine age groups based upon registration numbers. U9 (Birth Year 2014) and U10 (2013) will try out from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and U11 (2012), U12 (2011), U13 (2010) and U14 (2009) will be 6:30-7:30 p.m.

There will be a possible make-up session Wednesday, June 15, from 5:30-7 p.m., for all age groups. Contact club vice president Chris Donahue at [donahuecj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donahuecj@sbcglobal.net) or 860-638-7400 if you cannot make the June 14 session.

Other club contacts are president Chad Wilson, [nosliw.dahc@gmail.com](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com) or 205-999-8842; and registrar Stephanie Bolstridge, [stephaniebolstridge@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniebolstridge@gmail.com) or 860-478-9693.

## Library Celebrates 125+2

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., invites all to its celebration of 125 (+2) years of service, on Saturday, June 11, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be a variety of activities, both indoors and out.

The Library Board, in collaboration with the Friends of the Portland Library, is offering this free event. There will be live music by Waverly Center director Lynn Tracy and her band J-Walk, face-painting by local artist Ana Ughetti, a display on Portland history by the Portland Historical Society, a bounce house, free ice cream treats and popcorn, and crafts and games. The library's summer reading program will kick off with a children's magic performance.

In addition, many community organizations will be present with family-friendly activities, including Portland Youth and Family Services and Portland Parks & Recreation providing games and rock-painting, the Portland Fire Department, the Clean Energy Task Force, the Solidarity Committee, the Middlesex Land Trust, Portland Garden Club, Fire Ring Farm, Chatham Children's Connection, Collins Parenting, the Portland Lions Club, Inner Circle Martial Arts, Knifty Knitters, Dance with Miss

Alicia, Cans for a Cause, Community Emergency Response Team, Complete Streets, and Friends of the Portland Library. Under the art tent, there will be a painting lesson (registration is required) and for the younger set, paint a kindness rock.

The library said it appreciates the support of First Selectman Ryan Curley, Portland Public Works including the grounds crew for safe setup, and to Portland Senior Center.

A special event includes a reading for the occasion written and performed by Portland's poet laureate, Naji Chester-Payne, following a proclamation.

Come into the library to view a digital video presentation with many well wishes from state legislators and library patrons. There will be a display on people from Portland history whose contributions made history, by the Portland Historical Society. And Sharon Hoy is accompanying her dog named Bo for read-aloud sessions. Also, enter a contest with the opportunity to enter a prize drawing and to have a book added in your name. Portland history "trivia" questions will be available.

The event will happen rain or shine.

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., invites the community to celebrate each week.

Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is 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.

The church is open for prayer and meditation

on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

On Sunday, June 19, the church will celebrate fathers during the service and will recognize them in the Prayers of the People. If you would like your father recognized, or have any other prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at [trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com).

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

## 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."

June 12 is the church's annual Church School Sunday, when the congregation will hear from the students about what they learned this past year. This is a family service for all ages. Under Kasha Breau's direction, the choir will sing an anthem. A barbecue lunch follows the service.

First Church Nursery School offers a pro-

gram 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](mailto:1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com) for more information.

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

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](mailto:first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit [www.firstchurchportlandct.org](http://www.firstchurchportlandct.org). Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

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## 'Spirit of Portland Award' Nominations Sought

Nominations are sought for the annual Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award, to honor Portland's unsung heroes.

Nominations will be accepted until noon on Friday, June 24, and can be dropped off directly at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. Forms are available at the senior center, and can also be emailed; email [LTracey@Portlandct.org](mailto:LTracey@Portlandct.org) to request one.

Call Lynn or Alexis at 860-342-6761 for more information.

# Top Two PHS Students Seek to Heal, Create

By Jack Lakowsky

Kendra Schoeps, Portland High School's 2022 salutatorian, said earning such an impressive honor was a surprise.

Schoeps, along with class valedictorian Jack Turecek, learned of their top spots at an awards ceremony in May, where they won a slew of distinctions.

Schoeps, who lives with her parents and works two jobs in local restaurants, is headed to the University of Vermont in the fall, majoring in nursing.

"I love the location; Vermont is so beautiful," she said this week. "They have a medical center right on campus – that was a big part in my choice. They're expensive, but their nursing program is really good."

She said, "I always knew I wanted a science or medical field, I've always loved science."

Schoeps' personal experience stoked her ambitions for the health care field. She experienced some mental health issues during her first years of high school.

Schoeps' Capstone project, a cumulative project for high school students, focused on mental health.

"I also had a lot of knee injuries," she said. Schoeps has played soccer for 12 years, as well as basketball.

"I went to physical therapy and saw the nurses and doctors. I knew I wanted to become a nurse," she said.

Schoeps' ultimate goal is to be a nurse practitioner, which requires a master's degree. Before she achieves this, she plans to cut her teeth as a registered nurse. Specifically, she is interested in either neonatal or orthopedic care.

Valedictorian Turecek has a loaded schedule for his first year at UConn – double majoring in civil engineering and environmental engineering.

Turecek wants to hurl himself into the burgeoning field of environmental engineering, which he described as a "newer subset of civil and chemical engineering."

With that degree, he hopes to work in sustain-

able construction.

"Ever since I was young, I wanted to create," said Turecek. "And I've always liked nature."

Turecek said he identified his career path earlier this year, after attending a dinner for civil engineers. He met a woman who works in engineering for the state. She raved about the university's program, inspiring Turecek to apply.

Turecek is a multihyphenate; not only is he an aspiring scientist, but also a cross-country athlete and an artist, performing in the high school's drama club. This year, he was Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*.

COVID-19, it seems, will follow the pair to college, already having drastically changed their high school experience. The pandemic struck in their sophomore year.

How schools adjusted learning to suit a pandemic environment had both pros and cons, said Schoeps.

"I didn't really enjoy online learning," she said. "Sometimes I didn't have the motivation to get to the computer. The coursework was a bit easier but getting that motivation to attend class on a screen was tough."

Schoeps also missed her friends. "Going to school is fun because you see your friends."

Schoeps said one upside was finding new hobbies and interests.

"I went for more hikes, made art at home," she said. "There were pros even though it wasn't the greatest."

Turecek's experience was slightly rosier.

"COVID came at the perfect time," he said. "Obviously I'd never wish for it again, it was a hard two years."

Turecek said when the pandemic sent everything for a spiral, he was "still getting used to high school. COVID kind of gave me a break."

Turecek enjoyed distance learning last year, and said he tends to get things done early. The hybrid model, going back and forth, was a little confusing, he said.

"Our entire school is resilient and understanding," he said, "they made it as easy on us as possible."

Though the pandemic disrupted schools, Turecek and Schoeps still developed meaningful relationships with their teachers.

For Schoeps, it was her band teacher.

"Mrs. Novak was kind of a second mom at school, and a lot of us feel like that," Schoeps said. "She's so funny. She lights up the room when she teaches. I had band each morning, it was a great way to start the day."

For Turecek, Portland teachers were inspiring throughout his time. In fact, he said his high school teachers "all gave me a unique perspective on everything-social studies, physics, band and chorus. They helped me develop a love for the arts."

Turecek said the school's administration and faculty have fostered a supportive culture.

The district's administration exposed Schoeps to a book she adored, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, a seminal work about how the Vietnam War affected those who fought.

"It showed me there are going to be hard choices as we get older," she said.

Turecek discovered some book-love on his own, the *Gone* series by Michael Grant, which centers on a town where anyone over the age 15 vanishes.

"It made me realize how good we have it," he said. "Yeah there's a pandemic but we aren't



Portland High School seniors Jack Turecek (left) and Kendra Schoeps (right) accepted a bevy of honors at a ceremony in May, including their spots as the Class of 2022's top learners.

scavenging for food."

Both students thanked their parents for helping them along their journey.

Portland High School's 2022 graduation will start at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 13, at the high school.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Tai Chi for Long Life:** Wednesdays, June 15-Aug. 10 (no class July 20), 9:15-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays, June 11-July 30, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at Riverfront Park. Fee: \$40 for each eight-week session, or \$7 to drop-in. The first class of this Saturday Tai Chi session is an open class and is taking place from 11-11:45 a.m. on the Town Green, as part of the library's 125th Anniversary Celebration.

**Summer Concert Series:** This year's concerts will take place Tuesdays, July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2 and Aug. 9, at Riverfront Park.

**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.

**Quick Start Tennis:** Tuesdays, June 21-Aug. 2 (no program July 26), at the Portland High School tennis courts. Fee: \$70/resident, \$80/non-resident. Grades K-2 meet 4:45-5:30 p.m., grades 3-5 meet 5:30-6:15 p.m., and grades 6-8 meet 6:15-7 p.m.

**Yoga Classes with Cyndi Mazzotta:** Wednesdays, June 29-July 20, at Riverfront Park. Contact Mazzotta with any questions about these programs, at [anandayoga.20ct@gmail.com](mailto:anandayoga.20ct@gmail.com). Fee for each session is \$65/resident, \$75/non-resident. Sessions are: **Sunset Yin Yoga:** 7-8 p.m.; **Parent/Toddler Yoga:** 9-9:45 a.m., for parents and children 3 and under; **Teen Yoga:** 10-10:45 a.m.; **Children's Yoga:** 4-4:45 p.m., for children who have completed grades 1-5.

## THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

Portland High School Class of 2022 Project Graduation committee would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following business sponsors who have made this year's event possible. Thank you so much for your support!

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Finally, a very special thank you goes to the following individuals and businesses for their special support of Project Graduation: Concentric Brewing for donating the venue for comedy night, Mike Colla for donating the 2022 graduation banner, M & J Bus Company for donating the transportation to and from the event, Del Printing for donating the printing of the Project Graduation flyers, Portland Police Sergeant James Kelly and K9 Magnus and our awesome chaperones who volunteered to stay awake all night to ensure our students are safe.

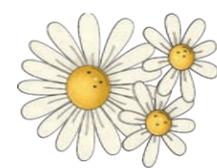
We also want to thank the Portland community at large for purchasing flamingos for our flocking event, for "rounding up" at Adam's Hometown Market, for purchasing raffle tickets for our prize calendar and for purchasing tickets to our comedy night at Concentric Brewery. We appreciate all you did to make this night so special for these deserving Seniors!

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Portland • Portland

# Carpino Running for Seventh Term in State House

**By Jack Lakowsky**

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) is hoping to continue her longtime service to Cromwell and Portland.

Carpino first took office in 2010, handily winning each election since. In 2020, she ran unopposed, and receiving nearly 11,000 votes.

This year, though, Carpino will face Democrat Rose Alletta, a Portland resident who is a member of the Portland zoning appeals board and the town's democratic committee.

With six wins under her belt, Carpino has a good reason to feel confident. In 2018, she trounced her opponent by more than 1,600 votes.

On Monday, Carpino told the Rivereast she isn't taking the election for granted.

"Every election is an opportunity to convince voters that I deserve their confidence," Carpino said. "It's truly humbling to stand under the gold dome and speak for my friends and neighbors. I never take that for granted."

Carpino said how she's getting to voters—whether door-knocking or meet-the-candidate talks—is still being hashed out. She noted she's regularly active in the community, and voters are welcome to engage with her when she's out and about.

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Carpino, along with former First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and other local officials, passed out masks to the community.

Carpino said voters consistently sending her back to Hartford is heartwarming.

"I'm asking for their support again," she said. She said she's proud to support her two towns, that she sees her job as making Connecticut a better place.

"It's pretty good here," she said of the state, "but we can make it better."

Before beginning her now-decade in the state



Carpino

assembly, Carpino served a few local boards in Cromwell. Professionally, she is an attorney. According to her biography on Ballotpedia she has a J.D. from Northeastern University.

Carpino sits on four committees, including the Government Administration and Elections Committee, the Public Health Committee, and serves as the House Republican Caucus Chair.

Carpino said the last legislative session was "fruitful," with bipartisanship driving many bills.

"As a bipartisan general assembly, we passed truly significant mental health legislations," she said. "We had mental health needs long before the pandemic. I truly believe it was our greatest accomplishment this year."

Carpino said the new regulation eases access to health care. The bill especially eased access for children.

According to the Connecticut Hospital Association, the number of youths in emergency departments, awaiting inpatient psychiatric care, doubled. The bill, according to *CT Mirror*, ramps up by tens of millions the states funding of mental health services, including a commitment of up to \$210 million for two fiscal years.

In 2021, Carpino voted "yes" for a bill calling racism a public health crisis in Connecticut, with disparities existing in aspects of daily life. Carpino joined 22 other house Republicans in approving the measure, according to Ballotpedia.

Carpino also voted for the 2021 bill outlawing discrimination against a person's hairstyle.

This year, Connecticut passed a bill expanding abortion access and attempting to make Connecticut a "safe harbor" for abortion care. It was devised in response to the recent wave of restrictive abortion laws coming out of Republican state legislatures. Carpino, and most assembly Republicans, voted against it.

Carpino approved a 2021 bill expanding the definition of domestic violence to include coercive control.

This year, Carpino co-sponsored a bill expanding data privacy protections.

"Data privacy matters," she said. "The proposal I made was to put in better tools for teens and preteens online. I'm particularly proud of us. We recognized how important data privacy is."

The privacy bill, according to *CT Mirror*, lets

consumers see which companies buy their data, and opt out of companies selling or sharing that information. It gives consumers more control over who gets their data.

This session, Carpino opposed Gov. Ned Lamont's budget, which passed.

She said the budget was presented the morning the vote was due, and did little to address the ongoing burdens, such as inflation, that are straining people's finances. She said it included many "riders" – bills included in the package that have little to do with the "main" bill's subject.

She criticized the state's gas tax relief, saying it should've included a break on diesel fuel. This session the house also passed regulation for the state's juvenile justice system and a bill addressing catalytic converter thefts.

Catalytic converter thefts have plagued the state in recent years.

Carpino said her priorities this go-round include establishing trust in voters, public health and safety and affordability.

Carpino committed to running a civil campaign, and hopes the competition will lack mudslinging, personal attacks and misinformation.

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## Kenny Fletcher Memorial Cruise Night at Valli's

would like to extend its thanks to all who came out to support our 10th annual car show on April 30th. It was once again a terrific time and without all the support it could never happen. Special thanks to the 220 plus show car owners for bringing out their cars. Although we had to take off a couple years due to the pandemic, this was truly a fantastic way to celebrate our 10th anniversary! A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO PRECISION PLASTICS AND CT. CENTRAL ARMS FOR THEIR VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S CAR SHOW!



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Donations in Kenny's memory have been made to the following organizations: Portland Food Bank, Portland Class of 2022 Project Graduation, Portland Zion Lutheran Church, Middlesex Hospital Hospice, Portland VFW Post #6121, and Middlesex Cancer Center. Thanks again for all the continued support and hope to see everyone at next year's car show.

Portland • Portland

# Exchange Hopes to Revamp with New Members, Ideas

By Jack Lakowsky

For several decades, the Portland Exchange Club has held events raising money for many nonprofits, charities and healthcare providers, bringing the town together with its Touch-A-Truck drive, golf tournament and more.

Club co-presidents Heidi Abbott and Mimma Burke, along with secretary Jamie Leonard, said they're looking to revitalize club activity. First step towards that goal: an informational open house at Concentric Brewing on June 16, starting at 6 p.m.

The club officers said, as the club's older members move on from the Exchange, and with the impact of the pandemic, membership is at a bit of a low. Leonard said they have 42 members with varying degrees of involvement, down from a height of about 60 members.

Leonard said, though membership is far from abysmal, he'd want to see between 50 and 60 members. Club members aren't beholden to an ironclad schedule commitment, Leonard said.

Involvement-working events, attending meetings, handing out flags in the Memorial Day Parade- is largely up to the individual.

"Lots of people don't know what the Exchange is," Leonard said.

He said when the national network of clubs was first founded in 1917, "the idea of exchange was business leaders getting together to exchange ideas on improving their communities, making them a better place to live."

Abbott said the club supports organizations, charities and the food bank.

"We're here for all sorts of things," she went on.

The club supports many local programs, including Middlesex Hospital Hospice, the Portland Food Bank, New Horizons Domestic Violence Prevention Group, the Portland Fuel Bank, and more.

The club also supports local students, awarding a scholarship annually.

Many Portland residents are likely familiar with the club's popular Touch-a-Truck. Kids can climb, touch and sit in impressive vehicles; fire-trucks, police cruisers, ambulances and pay loaders.

This year's Touch-a-Truck is set for Sunday, Aug. 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the club fairgrounds. Find more info on the club's website. This year, Leonard said, the beneficiary will be the Hundred Club of Connecticut, which assists the spouses and children of fallen police and firefighters.

Leonard said the 2021 Touch-a-Truck, resuming after a 2020 disruption (for obvious reasons), was the club's biggest ever, raising around \$5,000.

"People really raved about it," Leonard said of last year's event.

The club's annual charity golf tournament was held in May, and it was also successful, Leonard said.

Co-president Abbott said one idea the club brainstormed is a "taste of Portland", inviting local restaurants to show off their fare.

"It helps the businesses and gets people to come and see what we do," Abbott said.

Abbott said as the club (and many other volunteer organizations) struggle to find members, they may look to a regional approach.

While the golf tourney and truck event are consistently successful fundraisers, the club wants to expand what it does, who it serves and how it serves them.

"You can contribute whatever your time affords you," Leonard said.

Co-president Burke got involved when she opened her Portland business in 2016.

"I was looking for a volunteering group," Burke told the *Rivereast*.

Burke then found out about the exchange.



The Portland Exchange Club is hosting an open house on Thursday, June 16, at Concentric Brewing, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The club wants to spread awareness of its charitable work over some good food and is looking to expand membership.

"As a business owner I love to give back to the community," she said. "I'm blessed to own a business, so I do whatever I can. I love helping the food bank, especially in these times. It's great camaraderie, the club really took me in."

Burke said the club's a good idea for anyone seeking more personal enrichment. It's also a great way to make friends, she said.

"All are welcome," Leonard said of who's invited to the open house. Can't make it? He said

## Police News

6/3: Jeffrey Pandolfi, 59, of 4 Freestone Ave., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, Portland Police said.

## Dean's List

Alexandra Stevas of Portland made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

to check the club's Facebook page and website about how to get involved.

"When we get together it doesn't feel like an 'organization,'" Leonard said. "It feels like friends getting together. You form relationships and make a better connection with the community."

## Juneteenth Celebration

All are invited to Portland's fourth annual community Juneteenth celebration at Portland Riverfront Park Saturday, June 18, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The celebration will include a DJ, bounce house, complimentary food, yard games, children's activities, original poetry by Portland's poet laureate Naji Chester-Payne, musical performances and more.

This free event is open to the public. All are encouraged to attend.

## Jumping Worms

The Portland River-Valley Garden Club will sponsor an educational program on jumping worms Wednesday, June 22, at 7 p.m., at The Waverly Center in Portland.

Annie Dobson from Yale will share information about this invasive species and the impact on residents' soil and plantings. The public is invited to attend and learn more about this topic as well as ways to protect their gardens and yard.

Light refreshments will be served.

## No-Till Farm Equipment Demo

The Regional Agricultural Commission of the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a demonstration day to educate farmers on its new no-till equipment – and all Portland and East Hampton residents are invited.

The demo day will take place Saturday, June 18, from noon-3 p.m., at 15 Jacoby Rd., Higganum; rain date is June 19. Learn about the regional no-till drill, roller-crimper, and transplanter. Farmers that farm in the RiverCOG region – which includes Portland and East Hampton – may apply to the program for equipment use.

For more information, call RiverCOG at 860-581-8554.

## St. Mary Parish Picnic

Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus is organizing the St. Mary Parish Family Picnic on Sunday, June 26, at 1 p.m., at YMCA Camp Ingersoll, located on Route 66 just east of the intersection with Route 17.

There will be food, fun and fellowship. The facility has parking, golf cart transport if needed, and lots of room for children and young folks' activities.

For more information, call Frank Magnotta at 860-342-2191.

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Portland Middle Schools outdoor track and field teams at the CT Middle School Outdoor Track & Field Championships on May 28.

## Middle School Track & Field Excels at States

By Josh Howard

The track and field team at Portland Middle School had a record-setting day at the 14th annual Connecticut Middle School Outdoor Track & Field Championship at Manchester High School on May 28.

Haydon Burke broke the school record in the 800 meters, running a 2:16.00 to soundly defeat runner-up Jake Cenatiempo of Woodbury.

Haydon's brother, Breckin Burke, teamed with Nate Dietrichsen, Brady Daggett, and Josh Rosado to break the school record (4:13) in a 4x400 relay victory.

The Burke brothers then joined forces with Daggett and Dietrichsen to win the 4x800 meter relay.

The 4x100 relay, consisting of Connor Libby, Brody Quinn, Kylon Martinez, and Ryan Farley finished as the runner-up.

On the girls' side, Cristina Austin set a new school mark in both the 800 meters (2:38.10) and the 1600 meters (5:46.73), finishing 8th and 11th, respectively.

Head coach Deborah Rooth said it was a core group of kids that made it a successful meet, adding, "I'm not easy on these kids, we train hard." The boys finished tied for 4th overall at the event, yet that doesn't tell the entire story because the meet was officially canceled – due to weather concerns – before all the events were completed. The teams were permitted to return the following day to finish the meet, but those events did not count towards the overall team score.

The following day, May 29, Haydon won the 800 meters and the boy's 4x400 relay was also victorious. If those events had counted towards the overall score, Portland would have finished in sole possession of third place.

Portland also went toe-to-toe and outperformed schools that were much larger than them. The top three finishers – Sage Park (Windsor), Illing (Manchester) and Timothy Edwards (South Windsor) – are all at least three times the size of Portland Middle School, which houses a little over 200 students.

At the championships, each athlete is allowed to compete in only two events and Rooth said the team emphasized relays, adding, "Putting ourselves in relays makes us more competitive than running as individuals. That is where our strength is."

A total of 56 public schools and club teams competed at the state championships, featuring track and field teams from all over the state.

Rooth, who coaches the middle school team with Mike Pelton, is also the indoor track and field coach at Portland High School during the winter months.

"I love to see these kids in both middle school and high school," added Rooth. "It's great seeing them grow into great athletes."

Rooth said the middle school has been an ideal feeder system for the high school, which has become an annual contender in both the Shoreline Conference (SLC) and the Class S level at the state meets.

The PHS boys finished 3rd and the girls finished 5th at the SLC championship and both placed top-16 at the state meet this spring.

In previous years, the middle school track and field program has yielded as many as 80 kids and had 56 come out this year.

"[The program] gets a reputation. The other kids see the track kids winning and getting trophies and they want it too," said Rooth.

## 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 Programs:** **Monday:** light aerobics, 9 a.m. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; hearing screening, 11 a.m.; 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. Music Nite, 6 p.m.; **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:15-11 a.m.; chair yoga, 11:30 a.m.; social duplicate bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month; Qi Gong with Lisa, 1 p.m. (by session/month only); setback, 1 p.m.; Walking Club, 3 p.m.; **Thursday:** No Dancercize today; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:30-4 p.m.; Scrabble, 1-4

p.m. **Friday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

**Lunch Trip:** Thursday, June 16, to Wood'n Tap Restaurant in Wethersfield. Bus leaves the senior center at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is buy on your own. Ride fee is \$5. Wood'n Tap will offer individual checks.

**Special Events: Nominations for the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award:** Nominations being accepted until noon Friday, June 24, and can be dropped off at the senior center, 7 Waverly Ave. Forms available at the center and by emailing LTracey@Portlandct.org Call Lynn or Alexis at 860-342-6761 for more information.

## Town Clerk's Office Seeks 'Top Dog'

The Portland Town Clerk's office is once again accepting donations of dog and cat food as part of its annual contest to determine which dog will wear the No. 1 dog tag for the upcoming year. The pet food collected will go to the Portland Food Bank, for those in temporary need.

To enter, just donate cans/ bags of dog or cat food when registering your dog between now and June 30. For each can/bag donated, your dog will earn a ticket for a drawing to be held at 2 p.m. on June 30. Limit of 16 tickets per dog. The first three tickets chosen will receive the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 dog tags.

All dog owners must obtain a license or renew their current licenses between June 1st and June 30 for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The state-mandated registration fee is \$8 for a spayed/neutered dog, and \$19 for a non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Certificate of spayed/neutered must be provided for first time licenses to receive the \$8 fee amount. A rabies vaccination certificate must also be provided for first time licenses or if the previous vaccination has expired.

More information can be found at [www.portlandct.org/dog-licenses](http://www.portlandct.org/dog-licenses).

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### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Friday Shopping:** Fridays at 10 a.m. The schedule is: Big Y, June 24; Walmart, June 17 and July 1. Call the center to sign-up by Wednesday at noon.

**Father's Day Meal:** Thursday, June 16, noon. The meal consists of: apple Juice, cow-boy burger (with onion rings, bacon and cheddar, lettuce/tomato, ketchup, mustard, mayo, kaiser roll), sweet potato fries, and French silk chocolate pie. Cost is \$3 for anyone 60 years and older (for those under 60 it is \$7.50) and you must register by Tuesday, June 14. Lunch is for anyone, not just dads. Call 860-228-1700 to register. And if you'd like, stay for Bingo, which starts at 1 p.m.

**Lunch Trip:** Thursday, June 23, head to Rein's Deli in Vernon for lunch. Transportation is \$5; lunch cost is on your own. Depart the senior center at 11:15 a.m. and return approximately 1:30-1:45 p.m. Minimum of six people, maximum of 12. To sign-up, call the senior center.

**Movies Are Back:** Monday, June 13, (and every second Monday of each month) at 12:45 p.m. CODA will be shown, on the center's new 75-inch HD TV. Come early and sign-up for lunch (\$3) which is at noon. To sign-up for the movie or lunch and a movie call 860-228-1700.

**All Levels Yoga Class – Mondays and Wednesdays:** 10:15-11:15 a.m. Taught by Maureen O'Brien. The present session will continue until June 29. (No class Monday, May 30.) Sign-up for the remaining session at \$3 a class (when signing up for the block) or \$5 per class for drop-in.

**Corn Hole:** Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 10-11:30 a.m. Games will be played outside, but if the weather is bad, they can be moved indoors. To register, call the senior center.

**Renters Rebate:** State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut 65+ and totally disabled renters. The filing period for this program runs through Oct. 1. Details/eligibility requirements for the program are available in

the April newsletter or at the senior center. Applications will be taken by appointment only by calling the senior center.

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

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

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

**Bingo:** Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. The first card costs \$1 and entitles a player to play in all bingo games. Each additional card is then 50 cents each. Prizes awarded each game. To register, or to volunteer to be a bingo caller, call the center.

**Hand & Foot Canasta Cards:** Tuesdays, 1-3:15 p.m. This is a variation on the rummy type game of Canasta and is played with 2-6 people. Registration required.

**Exercise Equipment Room:** Open by reservation only, in 45-minute time slots, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-noon Friday. Call the center to reserve a time.

**Sunshine Singers:** Meet Thursdays, 10:10-11:40 a.m. This is a free program, but registration is required.

**Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group:** Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Registration required.

**Senior Transportation:** Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours, but 48 hours is recommended; it is first-come, first-served. New riders need to schedule their first appointment a minimum of 48 hours in advance. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

### Residents Graduate

Hebron residents Chloe Tuttle and Maurice Smith II recently graduated from the University of Vermont.

Tuttle graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in medical laboratory sciences, and Smith graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

### License Your Dog by Mail

All dog owners are asked to purchase their licenses through the mail or by leaving the payment and pertinent information in the drop box outside the town clerk's office at Town Hall. Tags will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service.

All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed during the month of June. The fee is \$8 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$19 for a dog that is not spayed or not neutered. After July 1, there is a penalty fee of \$1 added to the charge for each month the dog is not licensed.

A rabies certificate must be presented indicating an expiration date. If your dog is spayed or

neutered, documentation must be presented as well.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope, and a check made payable to the Town of Hebron to the Hebron Town Clerk, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. Include certificates (or copies) of rabies vaccination and neutering/spaying certificate; they will be returned to you with the license.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 860-228-5971 ext. 125. If you no longer have a dog that was previously licensed, you're asked to call the town clerk's office so that its records can be updated.

### Gilead Congregational Church News

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

**Sunday Worship:** Sundays in-person at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour at 11 a.m. Services are still livestreamed, on YouTube at [www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC](http://www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC) and on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Scheduled Events/Meetings:** Monday, June 13, 9:30 a.m., Bible Study; Tuesday, June 14, 7 p.m., AA Meeting; Wednesday, June 15: 10:30 a.m., Book Group, 7 p.m., Choir Practice; Thursday, June 16: 7 p.m., Church Council Meeting

**Hebron Helping Hands:** There is more painting needed and there is still time to sign up to help at the new Hebron Interfaith Human Services building this weekend. If available, reach out to Phyllis Kurz ([kurzphyllis@gmail.com](mailto:kurzphyllis@gmail.com)).

**Willing Weeders:** There are still some weeks that need a willing weeder or two. See the church's eNews for the online sign-up, or

contact the church office to sign up.

**Baby Quilts:** Do you know of someone having a baby, had a baby recently or is a first-time grandparent or great-grandparent? If so, you can inquire with the church office for information about the baby quilts made by a Gilead Church member.

**Children's Sunday:** All are invited to join the church in celebration of its eighth-graders and high school seniors during the Children's Sunday on June 12.

**Silent Auction Items Needed:** All are invited to donate a handcrafted items to the Board of Missions in support of the fall silent auction; items will be collected in September. The fundraiser will support the AHM Scholarship fund which helps families send children to summer programs. Contact Phyllis Kurz ([kurzphyllis@gmail.com](mailto:kurzphyllis@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Church World Services:** Father's Day cards will be available again this Sunday. Proceeds benefit Church World Services and the purchasing of tools for those in need.

**Summer Potluck Picnics:** See the church's eNews for updates on the picnics.

### Keep Hebron a HEARTSafe Community

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

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

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

### Last Call for Musicians

The Town Center Project (TTCP) is looking for local musicians help celebrate Make Music Day Hebron. This year's festivities will be held Tuesday, June 21, from 4-8 p.m.

All levels of musicians are welcome, all genres – individuals, family talent shows... your imagination is your only limit. Musicians will line Main Street, bringing back the "Mile of Music." Sign up to participate.

For more information, visit [facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc](https://facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc) or [www.thetowncenter-project.org](http://www.thetowncenter-project.org).

### Dean's List

The following Hebron students made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont:

Megan Constable, a statistics major, who is studying in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences; Kayla Purcell, a business administration major, who is studying in the Grossman School of Business; Matthew Sitnik, a civil engineering major, who is studying in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences; and Rachel Purcell, an elementary education - K-6 major who is studying in the College of Education and Social Services.

### Road Closure

The Town of Hebron Public Works Department will close Hoadly Road for road construction and paving from June 15-17. Only residential traffic will be allowed.

This schedule may extend in case of inclement weather.

### Discovery Zone learning Center



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# Selectmen Review ARPA Initiatives

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen reviewed the status of the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiatives during its meeting last Thursday, June 2.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos presented a spreadsheet with each town department's ARPA requests and examined each item at the request of the board.

Each selectmen had the opportunity to express their opinion on items they believed should be top priorities for the town and how the board should proceed with the ARPA process moving forward.

The review of the first selectman's ARPA playbook came after some frustration from board members.

During a special meeting earlier last week to advance the revised town budget back to the voters, Rosemary Coyle, a Democratic member of the Board of Selectmen, encouraged Bisbikos to involve his fellow selectmen in more budget conversations moving forward.

"I'm concerned you don't see this Board of Selectmen as part of the process," she told him during that meeting.

Bisbikos, a Republican, brushed off Coyle's comments during that meeting, accusing her of "playing politics."

Jason LaChapelle, a Republican on the board, has also been outspoken with his disagreement with the town's ARPA process, and has previously criticized the first selectman during meetings as well as on social media.

The ARPA discussion was an opportunity for the board to process items together with the first selectman.

Bisbikos began the conversation by assuring the board that all the ARPA items listed have previously been reviewed by UHY- a firm hired to help advise the town through the ARPA process.

He also emphasized that UHY believed all the initiatives followed federal ARPA guidelines.

While the board reviewed completed items including the approval of a new hybrid meeting

at Town Hall and numerous Parks and Recreation projects, the discussion was mainly centered on pending items that the board has not finalized.

The board may also reallocate funds to different items. For example, the board previously approved \$250,000 for nonprofit organizations – an amount that has not been fully utilized as of now.

Some items that the board wanted to prioritize due to their high importance to the town were the social services grant program at \$300,000, counseling services at \$63,000 and Youth Center roof repairs at \$44,000.

Each board member also expressed which items they thought were essential.

Deborah Bates, a Republican on the board, said she thought many of the town's fire department requests needed to be addressed in a timely manner.

Specifically, she singled out new UHF portable radios at \$48,000, saying it's a "hazard" for the department to operate without them.

Other fire department requests include a new parking lot at \$185,485.

The board was also in agreement with addressing several items at Town Hall. These would include repairs to the roof, new heat pumps and an oil tank.

The costs of those items have not been finalized, but a quote for the roof was listed at \$132,320, according to Bisbikos.

The police department requested \$228,000 for expansion- which Bisbikos believed was crucial for the town.

He argued that if the community wants a "serious" police department, they need more space.

LaChapelle expressed that field irrigation for Parks and Recreation was a top priority for him. That item was listed at \$293,659.

Denise Turner, a Democrat on the board, stated that it was challenging to go through the list and prioritize certain initiatives.

"It's hard to put some things over others," she said. "We need to take the time and go through it all."

## 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.

Coyle agreed and said that instead of picking out certain items, the board needs to come up with a long-term strategy.

"Everything is a priority. We need to work out that plan together – I think that's vital," she said.

Coyle also told the board that the bottom-line amount of the items shouldn't be the main factor, but rather the impact on the community.

"Let's use our money to solve problems that help the entire town economically," she said.

The board didn't take any action with the items presented by Bisbikos. Coyle suggested the board also review additional ARPA initiatives and applications that had not been presented yet.

She stressed that board of selectmen should not rush the ARPA process.

"I think this is worthy of a conversation for us," Coyle said. "Let's take as much time as we need with this."

The board appeared to agree with this strategy and LaChapelle called it an "obligation" for them to review every application submitted to

them.

One item that the board disagreed on was the new youth center. The item is listed at \$500,000, which Coyle believes is too low.

Bisbikos argued that he didn't want to allocate too much money to any one item and then potentially not be able to fund others.

Coyle countered by saying she wanted the town to be protected and feared that project would run out of funds before being completed.

Before the board makes any final decisions on these items, they will likely vote on small business grant applications.

On May 31, the town's ARPA committee approved dozens of business applications that now head to the board of selectmen for final approval.

Bisbikos also wanted the board to brainstorm alternative ways to fund some of the initiatives apart from ARPA.

He feared that any item that doesn't receive funds could ultimately be forgotten.

"I don't want them to disappear," he said.

## 'Let the Fish Swim Free' Art Exhibit

The Norton Park Committee's "Let the Fish Swim Free" art exhibit at the Cragin Memorial Library Norton Room will continue through the end of June. The exhibit is available for viewing when the room is not in use.

The one-of-a-kind salmon, trout and alewife were painted by individuals and families as a fundraiser for the new Norton Park on fish cut from authentic C.H. Norton paper mill board.

Local artist and Norton family member Julianna Cameron organized and led the painting sessions, as well as coordinated this art exhibit for the community to enjoy and learn more about the planned Norton Park along the Jeremy River.

For more information on the development of Norton Park, email nortonpark@colchesterct.gov.

## Flag Retirement Ceremony

The American Legion, the Colchester Honor Guard and VFW will have a flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m., on the Town Green. All are invited.

Old and damaged flags will be accepted on the evening of the ceremony.

A used flag collection container is located on the left side of the stairs of the Colchester Senior Center for people who cannot attend the Flag Day ceremony.

## Boy Scouts Seek Tag Sale Donations

Troop 13 is accepting donations for the annual Colchester on the Green Tag Sale on June 12. Contact Sharon Colburn (Sharon.colburn278@gmail.com or 860-798-5341) for drop-off/pick-up of donations. People can also drop off at 7 a.m. the morning of the tag sale. Please no electronics, clothing or shoes.

## Cragin Book Club

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, June 27, at 6 p.m. This month, read *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk.

The book club will meet outside at the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., if the weather is nice; bring a chair. If it rains, the club will meet at the library, located at 8 Linwood Ave.

For updates on the program, sign up at [tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub](http://tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub).

## Building Committee at CBA Tag Sale

The Senior Center Building Committee for the new Colchester Senior Center will have a booth at the CBA Tag Sale on the Colchester Green on Sunday, June 12, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. All are invited to stop by to view samples of palettes of colors, textures, carpeting and flooring plans for the new building. Committee members will be on hand to solicit feedback and answer questions.

The committee's current schedule calls for construction and bidding documents to be completed by mid-July. After reviews and approvals, bidding is anticipated to take place in mid-August with a possible construction start in early September. This is all contingent on all town and state approvals, the committee said.

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# Town Budget Heads Back to Voters

By Michael Sinkewicz

After a divisive budget season, the revised \$15.86 million 2022-23 town budget proposal – a \$163,080, or 1.04%, increase from the current year spending – was presented to the voters.

The town meeting was held on June 8, after the Riverast print deadline. However, the public was expected to send the spending plan back to referendum next Wednesday, June 15. Voting in the referendum would take place at Town Hall, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

It is the second attempt to get voters to sign off on a town budget increase.

A \$16.03 million proposal was shot down by an 813-729 vote on May 24. The Board of Education budget proposal of \$42.02 million passed by a 793-750 vote on the same day.

The finance board unanimously approved the spending package in April. After the proposal was rejected at referendum, the board was divided on how the budget should be revised.

After considerable discussion during their its May 31 meeting, the finance board voted four to two to send the adjusted proposal to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

The finance board trimmed \$170,402 from the original amount. The mill rate was set at 27.08.

Art Shilosky and Tim Vaillancourt- two Republicans on the board- represented the dissenting votes; both were in favor of a zero-budget increase.

Immediately following the finance board vote, the selectmen voted four-to-one in favor of sending the budget to meeting; Jason LaChapelle, a Republican, represented the lone dissenting vote.

LaChapelle made it clear during the meeting that he didn't support the budget increase.

In a Facebook post on June 1, LaChapelle expressed that due to \$1.4 million the town gained

in new revenue, the actual budget increase was closer to 10%.

"The town started with an additional \$1,400,000 that it didn't have last year and it still couldn't find a way to balance our budget without attempting to take even more money out of our pockets," he wrote.

LaChapelle continued by calling the proposal a "problem with inadequate budget leadership."

Before voting to advance the proposed budget, Rosemary Coyle – a Democrat on the board – expressed her disappointment with First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, a Republican, excluding fellow board members from the budgeting process.

"I'm concerned you don't see this Board of Selectmen as part of the process," she said. "It's important to realize you're a part of this board."

Bisbikos pushed back, saying that Coyle was "playing politics."

There was historically low turnout at the referendum and Bisbikos and the finance board attempted to increase engagement with the public.

"The town has already sent out a detailed email blast with information regarding the budget, a mill rate calculator, and a Question & Answers document to help address some of the common questions and misconceptions out there," Bisbikos told the *Riverast*.

Bisbikos stated that he's taken an active approach in communicating with the community and that there's inaccurate claims being made about the budget.

"Those pushing false narratives and screaming the loudest, have offered no tangible solutions," he said. "It is easy to yell no or spread a lie, but leaders provide solutions. I have brought forth a zero mill increase if we equalize it to last year."

On the question-and-answer document located on the town website, the new revenue is described as being factored in this year's overall grand list.

"One of the reasons we were able to significantly reduce the mill rate is because of this new revenue being factored into the mill rate," it reads.

The document continues by stating that the \$1.4 million "does not represent the ability to spend an additional \$1.4 million dollars between the town/school."

The revised budget reduction approved by both the finance board and selectmen was mainly done by trimming the proposed hours for a new accountant position and using \$90,000 of savings.

Bisbikos also shared that a donation made to the Colchester Police Department will allow the

cost of a new police cruiser to be offset.

The proposal sent to voters still includes the new initiatives that were in the original spending plan. Some of these include a part-time senior center bus driver at \$18,488, transparency software at \$13,560 and tree removal services at \$35,000.

Bisbikos emphasized that some of the budgeted amounts won't cover as much as originally expected due to inflation.

"With inflation, the cost for items is anticipated to be more expensive and the same allotted dollar amount won't go as far," he said.

As far as the budget passing, Bisbikos expressed that the proposal put in front of the public is a "positive effort."

While some officials did vote against it, he emphasized that spending plan received "considerable bipartisan support."

## 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.

**Update on Basketball Court and Playground at the RecPlex:** The basketball courts were one of the first projects to be worked on. They've been paved and painted, with the remaining work to be completed soon. The process to select a new playground and contractor is complete and the playground equipment has been ordered. Parks and Rec. expects installation to begin at the end of August. Work on the pickleball courts has started, and is expected to be completed after the basketball courts are done. The Irrigation Design and Installation RFP has closed, and the contract award process is being worked on.

**Summer Camp Scholarships:** Parks and Rec. was recently awarded a state Summer Enrichment Grant for a second year to support camp scholarships for families with financial needs. Enrollment packets are available by calling the office at 860-537-7297 or visiting www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

**Splash Pad Opening:** The Splashpad is scheduled to open when school ends, June 21. It will run every day from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Everyone must wear shoes (water shoes recommended) when using the park; no bare feet. There is no

running or horseplay allowed, and no food or drinks are allowed in the splashpad. Children who are not toilet-trained must wear a swim diaper.

**Girls' Basketball Clinic:** July 18-22, 9:30 a.m.-noon, for girls entering grades 6-9 in the fall. John Shea, currently the girls' varsity coach for Bacon Academy, will be assisted by other high school coaches. The clinic administrator is Dave Shea. Cost: \$60/player for residents, \$65 for non-residents.

**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.

**Town-Wide Tag Sale:** Saturday, Aug. 6. To participate, send in your registration form by July 25 with a \$25 fee; this will place your tag sale on the official map, which anyone can print out to see where the tag sales are. Maps will be available July 29 at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. Registration forms and fees are due July 25. For more information, call Parks and Rec.

**Colchester's New Fall Community Event:** On Saturday, Sept. 17, on the Town Green, there will be a new community event featuring local organizations, local businesses, a silent auction, food, friendly games and competitions, kid-friendly activities, giveaways and more. Watch for more information.

## Bible Study at Christian Life Chapel

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

## Resident Graduates

Stephanie Irvin of Colchester recently earned a Master of Business Administration degree in business administration at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

## Community CPR

There will be free Family and Friends CPR courses at Colchester Hayward Fire Department, 52 Old Hartford Rd., on 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 participants 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 the classes, contact fire headquarters at 860-537-2512 or firedepartment@colchesterct.gov.

## President's List

Colchester residents Kevin Kretzenger and Amanda Whitley made the winter 2022 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H.

## Resident Graduates

Kendall Barrett of Colchester recently graduated from the University of Vermont, with a Bachelor of Science degree in professional nursing.

\*\*\*

Sydney Rochette of Colchester recently received a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental engineering from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

\*\*\*

Colchester residents Daniela Albert and Katherine Blakley recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire.

## Dean's List

Hanna Behlke of Colchester made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, N.Y.

## 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 Goz-zo at 860-537-0179 or 860-208-4121.

## Polka Dinner Dance

St. Joseph's Polish Club, at 395 South Main St., is hosting a polka dinner dance Saturday, June 12. A ham dinner will be served from 1-2 p.m., then until 6 p.m., dance 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. There will also be a tag sale in the pavilion from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Cougars Registration Open

Registration is now open for Colchester Cougars Football and Cheer. The Cougars will now be playing in the Southern New England Youth Football Conference (SNEYFC).

The Cougars are accepting registrations for boys and girls ages 6-14 from Colchester, Bozrah, Salem, Lebanon, East Haddam, East Hampton and Hebron. Visit www.colchesterougars.org for more information and to register.

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### 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, June 13:** 8:30 a.m., Commission on Aging meeting; 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize today; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

**Tuesday, June 14:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Senior Golf League; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Regional LTC Ombudsman Meeting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting via Zoom.

**Wednesday, June 15:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston (Route 85); 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Something Old, Something New Luncheon; 12:30 p.m., Live Well with Diabetes (via Zoom); 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

**Thursday, June 16:** 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, June 17:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Saturday, June 18:** 11:30 a.m., Canadian Rockies trip departs from St. Andrews Church rear parking lot.

**Upcoming Programs: It's A Cool, Cool, Summer Ice Cream Party:** Wednesday, June 22, 1 p.m. National Health Care will bring an old-fashioned ice cream truck right here to the senior center. The truck will be parked at the senior center, where you can walk up and select your favorite from several flavors of frozen treats, then head indoors to enjoy your treat. This is a free event for senior center members only. Registration is required by June 15.

**"What Did I Come in Here For?" Understanding Memory Loss:** Monday, June 27, 10:30 a.m. In honor of Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, Brookdale Buckingham will sponsor an informational presentation all about brain health. Light refreshments will be served. This is a free event, registration is required by June 21.

**New to Medicare Event:** Wednesday, June 29, 6 p.m., via Zoom. This virtual program is for individuals who are new to Medicare and feeling a little lost on all the different options. Laura Crews from Senior Resources will answer any Medicare-related questions. This is a free evening program, and registration is required. Register by June 22 to receive the Zoom link.

### Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

**Twelve-Step Meetings:** AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30

p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

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

**New Membership Classes:** Ostrout and representatives from Diaconate will offer a New Member Class for those who are interested in becoming members of Colchester Federated Church. Explore the local congregation and the two denominations our church belongs to – the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ. The class will meet right after worship on June 19 and 26 and Joining Sunday will be July 10. Classes should be around 1.5 hours and our meeting location will be in the Lounge. Let Lorincz know if you'll be attending.

**Vacation Bible School:** Registration is now open for this free program open to the community. VBS will be held Aug. 8-12, from 9 a.m.-noon, or youth ages 4 through fifth grade. Register online by visiting the church website.



**Working at the Car Wash...** The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company Cadets (age 14-17) will hold a fundraising car wash Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Colchester fire headquarters, 52 Old Harford Rd. Donations are accepted. Any funds raised will be used towards fire and EMS education, logo wear and team-building exercises.

### Garden Club Offers Seed Library

The Seed Library is a new partnership between the Colchester Garden Club and Cragin Memorial Library. It will be open at Cragin, 8 Linwood Ave., through today, Friday, June 10. The Seed Library will be available during regular open hours.

The Seed Library will offer vegetable, herb, flower and native seeds free of charge. Up to five seed packets can be taken from the Seed Library to grow at home. In order to best man-

age the Seed Library, anyone taking seeds is asked to record what is being taken in the sign-out log at the Seed Library.

Anyone who takes seeds is also encouraged to save seeds from mature plants and return them to the Seed Library at the end of the season. More details on seed saving will be shared later in the growing season.

For more information, email the Colchester Garden Club at seedlibrarycolchester@gmail.com.

### Ahavath Achim News

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

Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., hybrid in-person and on Zoom; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom; Tuesday, Aggadath class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page.

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



**Golden Girl...** Erin Dalton of Colchester recently earned her Gold Award, the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. Dalton chose the topic of nursing for both her Senior Capstone project at Bacon Academy and her Gold Award project for Girl Scouts. She made 75 "Self-Care" boxes for nurses at Backus Hospital, collecting donations of journals, lotions, socks, soaps and other items for those boxes and developed a website containing tips, tools and techniques to assist nurses with their own self-care. Dalton shadowed nurses at Backus last fall in the Emergency, Labor and Delivery and Same-Day Surgery Departments as part of her Capstone and Gold Award projects. She will be attending Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., in the fall and majoring in nursing.

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# Citizens of Colchester Vote No!

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3. Medical Costs Skyrocketing.
4. Food Prices through the roof and shortages abound.
5. Property Taxes going up on many people.

The list goes on and on and the cost of living in our town and across our nation never seems to stop.

As residents of Colchester, we have the power to do something about this!

Forget party politics and disregard the political rhetoric that will follow this advertisement or the ensuing editorializing about costs and expenses, that is just politics as usual. We all know the hot air that will come out of the politicians to try and get you to vote yes.

The bottom line is that it is getting more difficult for many people to live in Colchester due to the taxes in our town.

The ship sailed on the Board of Education budget since it has already passed, it had more than enough fat to trim, but then we run the “risk of our young people not getting the best education”, which by the way is the biggest lie ever perpetuated on our town. (Sarcasm Intended!) We can deal with that Budget next time!

We have to deal with the remainder of the budget and I for one, among many in town, demand that our leaders do not INSULT us with a 1% decrease. We need something substantial. We need them to stop with the rhetoric about the mill rate and the Federal Funds we received.

We need a SUBSTANTIAL Budget reduction that happens NOW and will continue for the future.

Leaders, Board of Finance, it is time for you to seriously examine how to achieve at least a 10 % reduction in our town budget and finally help the people in our town out in a real way instead of making false promises and doing the usual, which is to minimally cut the budget and just keep coming back again and again until you wear us down.

I will not be worn down this time. You can place all the signs your heart desires, you can place children on the green saying people like me are ruining their future, but the reality is you are continuing to SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY!

**VOTE NO ON THE BUDGET UNTIL THERE ARE MAJOR CUTS IN IT!**

Marlborough • Marlborough

### 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.

**Seed Library:** The library has a new seed library available to browse. There is a binder alongside the storage unit with information about each seed currently 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.

**Babytime Bounce and Rhyme:** Wednesdays through June 22, 10:30 a.m., for babies and toddlers ages birth to 2, and their caregivers. Registration is highly recommended as space is limited. Drop-ins will be permitted if space allows.

### 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:** Mondays, 5-5:45 p.m., through June 27, or Wednesdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m., through June 29. Class instruction is virtual or in person. There is an \$18 drop-in fee per week.

**Yoga:** Mondays through June 27, 6-7 p.m., or Tuesdays through June 28, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class instruction is virtual or in person. Fee is \$18/week drop-in option.

**Yogalates:** Thursdays through June 30, 9:30-10:30 a.m. All levels welcome; bring a mat. Class instruction is virtual or in person. Fee is \$18/week drop-in option.

**Pickleball:** Wednesdays through Sept. 28, 9-11 a.m., at the Blish Park tennis courts. No fee.

**Youth Programs: American Red Cross Babysitting Course:** For ages 11 and up. Sunday, June 18, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Each participant will receive a Red Cross babysitting certificate upon completion of the course. Fee is \$125/resident, \$130/non-resident.

**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/resident, \$145/non-resident. Ages 7-12 meet 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and fee is \$170/resident, \$175/non-resident.

**Music Lessons Summer:** July 5-26, at MES. Private lesson instruction on band instruments will be provided. Lessons are a half hour in length and will occur on the same day and time signed up for. Slots are available from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Fee is \$135/resident, \$140/non-resident.

**Acrylic Landscape Painting:** July 5-7, 9-11 a.m., at MES, for grades 3-6. Fee: \$80/resident, \$85/non-resident.

**Paint like a Famous Artist:** July 5-7, noon-1 p.m., at MES, for grades 1-2. Fee: \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

**Skyhawks Multi-Sport Camp (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball):** July 5-8, 9 a.m.-noon, at Blish Park. There is a camp for ages 7-10, and a camp for ages 4-6 (Mini-Hawk). Fee: \$109/resident, \$114/non-resident.

**Summer Running Training Camp:** For grades 7-12. Session 1 meets July 11-14, Session 2 from July 25-28, and Session 3 from Aug. 1-4. Time is 8:30-10:30 a.m. each day. Camp is held at the RHAM High School track. Fee is \$80/resident, \$85/non-resident. Discount is given if registering for more than one session; contact Parks and Rec. for more info.

**Watercolor Painting:** July 12-14, 9-11 a.m., at MES, for grades 3-6. Fee: \$80/resident, \$85/non-resident.

**Pee Wee Craft Corner:** July 12-14, noon-1 p.m., at MES, for grades 1-2. Fee: \$45/resident, \$50/non-resident.

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

### Dean's List

Alana Hruska of Marlborough, a member of the Class of 2022, made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Assumption University in Worcester, Mass.



**Aidan McDonald of Marlborough has traveled a long way in the past eight years. He joined Cub Scouts Pack 39 as a Tiger Cub in 2014, and this Sunday, he'll receive his Eagle Scout Court of Honor.**

### Resident to Receive Eagle Scout Honor

Marlborough resident Aidan McDonald will receive his Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Marlborough Congregational Church on Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m. Former Troop 39 Scouts and leaders are welcome to attend.

Aidan began his trail to Eagle in the first grade when he joined Cub Scouts Pack 39 as a Tiger Cub in 2014. He earned every belt loop and patches available throughout his Cub Scout years, culminating with the Arrow of Light award, leading him to join Troop 39 in May 2019.

He achieved the rank of Scout in June 2019; Tenderfoot in November 2019; 2nd class and 1st class in April 2020; Star in October 2020; and Life in May 2021. Aidan passed his Eagle Board of Review this past January.

Aidan has been an active member of the troop, participating in campouts, service projects and troop meetings, currently holding both positions of historian and librarian of Troop 39.

Aidan's Eagle project was to refurbish the Blish Park playscape in Marlborough. It included cleaning, sanding, repairing and staining the entire playscape, which had not been renovated since 2008. It required coordination with the Marlborough Parks and Recreation Department and oversight of many volunteers over several workdays.

Aidan wants to graduate from RHAM High school in June 2026 with high honors. He wants to pursue a degree in chemistry and become an analytical chemist, attending a university in either the United States or in Canada.

### Green to Collect Weathered Flags

State Rep. Robin Green (R-55) is encouraging residents to 'Retire Your Worn American Flags' at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St. Flags will be collected through Friday, June 10.

The U.S. Flag Code specifies that the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. All flags collected during this time will be given to a local veterans' organization for a proper retirement ceremony.

For more information, contact Green at 800-842-1423 or Robin.Green@housegop.ct.gov.

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### Greater Together Community Fund Seeks Volunteers

The Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is in search of additional committee members.

The 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](http://www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf). For more information, send a message to [marlboroughcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughcommunityfund@gmail.com). Deadline for applications is June 15.

### Sip and Paint with MAC

Marlborough Arts Center will hold a "Sip and Paint" evening event Wednesday, June 22, from 6-9 p.m., at the center, 231 N. Main St.

Participants will paint and stencil their own canvas tote and matching zippered pouch. It is easy to do. Each tote is made of heavy canvas with a genuine leather handle.

Price is \$65. For more information and to reserve a spot, go to [www.balsamdesignct.com](http://www.balsamdesignct.com).

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### Summer Watercolor Classes

Marlborough Arts Center announces that local artist Mary Horrigan will offer a series of summer watercolor classes starting July 9. Classes will meet on four Saturday mornings, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., through July 30. While some experience in watercolor is recommended, students new to watercolor are welcome.

Fee for the classes is \$120. A registration form can be downloaded and printed from [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org), and a check can be mailed to the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447.

Once the class is confirmed, a materials list will be sent to registrants. For more information, email Mary at [mehorrigan@comcast.net](mailto:mehorrigan@comcast.net)

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**Katherine Chapman, who is graduating this year from RHAM High School, was recently awarded the Marlborough Lions Club's \$1,000 scholarship. Marlborough Lions Treasurer Jean-Paul Bolduc presented the scholarship.**

### Lions Award Scholarship

The Marlborough Lions Club's 2022 annual scholarship was awarded this year to Katherine Chapman, who will be graduating this year from RHAM High School.

Marlborough Lions Treasurer Jean-Paul Bolduc presented the \$1,000 scholarship check to Chapman and wished her well on her future endeavors. Chapman, the daughter of Debra Chapman, will attend the University of Connecticut this fall and will major in psychological sciences, and will potentially minor in French, with a goal of working in the field of psychology.

In her time at RHAM, Chapman participated in high school basketball for four years and played soccer for three years. She was also in the French Club and was a member of the National Honors Society and the French National Honors Society.

Chapman thanked the Lions, saying, "I just want to say that I am so grateful to receive this scholarship! College can be very expensive and this scholarship will be very helpful in obtaining my future goals!"

The Marlborough Lions are proud to be afforded the opportunity to support individuals like Chapman through their annual scholarship program.

The Marlborough Lions Club's primary goal is to provide services for those with vision impairment; however, the Lions also serve their community by supporting local social services such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and annual vision screening for our children at Marlborough's elementary school. The Marlborough Lions have recently welcomed new members to the club and encourage those who would like to learn more about joining to reach out to Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

### 'The Sky Is the Limit'

Ever wanted to skydive? Marlborough's Richard Denno, chairman of the Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program for Connecticut, announced the Connecticut Freemasons are sponsoring a skydiving event at Ellington Airport, 360 Somers Rd., Ellington, on July 16.

All proceeds benefit organ and tissue donor awareness and efforts to increase donor registrations through the New England Donor Services. If you raise \$500 or more, you get to skydive for free.

Denno's wife, Midge, received a kidney transplant in December 2008, which extended her life for nine years. "The moments we shared during those nine years were very special and precious," he said. For information on becoming an organ donor, go online to registerme@neds.org.

"Come join us for the 'experience of a lifetime,' jumping out of perfectly good airplanes to raise money and awareness of the need for people to register as organ donors," Denno said. When asked to describe the skydiving experience, 'exhilarating' is the most often used word, he said.

"You can see for miles," he said. "It's fun try-

ing to recognize area landmarks as you descend. The views from above are truly breathtaking."

You can bring the family, lawn chairs, a picnic basket, and watch as the jumpers gently touch down. There will be burgers and hot dogs for sale; as well as prizes and free stuff – including a raffle for "Fred the Wonder Lobster."

To register online to skydive, go to [www.skydirect.com](http://www.skydirect.com) and click onto 'First Jumpers.' Then click onto 'Tandem Video Waiver,' view the video, complete the form and submit. Payment for your skydive must be made when you register. Payment for both the dive, and donations for those not skydiving, can be made online at [www.ctfreemasons.net](http://www.ctfreemasons.net). Click 'About us,' then click 'Connecticut Freemasons Foundation.' There you'll find a 'donate' spot, where you make payment by credit card. Use the Grand Almoners Fund selection to direct the funds. Under 'Write a note,' indicate that this is for the skydiving event.

In case of questionable weather, call CT Parachutists at 869-871-0021. The rain date is Sunday, July 17.

### 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.marlbconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlbconchurch.org), and is recorded to watch later.

During worship childcare for infants and toddlers is provided every Sunday downstairs in the nursery; 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, June 12:** The service will be led by the Rev. Bob Faulhaber.

**275h Annual Church Meeting:** Will be held in the meetinghouse immediately following worship this Sunday, June 12. Agenda items include the presentation of reports and Nomination and Election of Slate for 2022-2023.

**Mission-giving** for June 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 offering 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:** Open every Friday and from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, or by appointment. June features 50% off all handbags and totes,

hats, jewelry, and Christmas. The shop will be closed July and August. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. Unique and higher-quality items are sold year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCEbay](http://bit.ly/MCCEbay).

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

### Dog Licenses Now Available

Dog licenses are now available in the town clerk's office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St.

Remember to check and make sure your dog's rabies certificate is up to date. Licenses cannot be issued without a current rabies certificate.

The fee for spayed or neutered dogs is \$8, and \$19 for dogs who have not been spayed or neutered. You must license your dog before July 1 or a \$1 late fee will be added each month. Checks should be made out to the Town of Marlborough.

The town clerk's hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon.

### Resident Graduates

Mary O'Neil of Marlborough recently graduated from the University of Vermont, with a Bachelor of Science degree in professional nursing.



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# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Susan Baroni-Schaeffer

Susan Lee Baroni-Schaeffer, 66, of Colchester, passed away peacefully in the early hours of Monday, June 6, after an extraordinary seven-year battle with lung cancer. In the face of a terminal diagnosis, she continued to greet each day with an incomparable zest for life.



A lifelong Connecticut resident, Susan (née Dougherty) was born Aug. 18, 1955, and grew up in East Hampton, later moving to Marlborough and finally Colchester. Her first marriage to Bob Baroni produced the lights of her life: her daughters, Katie and Genna.

Susan loved the arts and shared that enthusiasm with her girls. Despite working multiple jobs to support her family, she never missed a dance recital or band concert. Through thousands of pickups/drop-offs, playgroup dates, elaborate birthday parties, and hundreds of hours spent trading foot massages during family movie nights, she was there for all of it and as devoted as they come. Susan was equally generous towards her community, volunteering at local schools and leading her church's youth group through years of retreats and mission trips.

To the dismay of her introverted children, Susan adored planning parties. She happily volunteered her home for gatherings, family reunions, anniversaries, and her daughter Kate's wedding, spending many months gardening in preparation.

A natural saleswoman in the best sense of the phrase, Susan's kind, easygoing manner made lifelong friends wherever she worked, be it Discovery Toys, S&S Worldwide, the Norwich Bulletin, or Channel 3 Kids Camp, her final position before retirement. It was as an advertising representative at the Bulletin that she met her husband Hank, one of her clients.

Post-retirement, she and Hank spent long mornings conversing over coffee and cinnamon rolls, planning their day ahead. They delighted in each other's company, and even at her sickest, they shared a raucous laugh (or 20) every day. They loved spending time in their gardens, at the Salmon River with their miniature schnauzer Monty, and in their hot tub, sharing a nightcap under the stars. In Susan's last years, they went on two RV adventures across the country, visiting many friends and making countless more. From the Carolinas through Alabama, across Texas and through national parks, they were trips of a lifetime, and Susan savored every moment.

Susan leaves behind her soulmate and husband, Henry "Hank" Schaeffer; children, Kate Salathé and Genna Baroni; stepchildren, Kirsten Dalton and John Schaeffer; grandchildren, Romana Salathé and Korbin Dalton; siblings, Guy "Chipper" Allen and Cathy Sue Moebius; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

She is predeceased by her parents, Earl and Helene 'Vicki' Allen, and her biological father, John Dougherty.

A service will be held today, Friday, June 10, at 1 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton. To give far-flung family and friends

the chance to gather – and because Susan loved a party – her family is planning an additional celebration of life for later this year, with details yet to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Portland

### Donald C. Nichols

Donald C. Nichols, 87, of Portland, husband of Rosemarie (Milardo) Nichols, passed away Saturday, May 28, at his residence, surrounded by his family. He was born Sept. 24, 1934, in New London, son of the late William C. and Pauline (Golembiewski) Nichols.



Donald was a resident of Portland most of his life and a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in Korea. He retired in 1989 from the Connecticut Valley Hospital after 38 years. A member of the Middletown Moose Lodge, Donald enjoyed fishing, bowling, softball, and shuffleboard, and was an avid New York Yankees fan.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, William and Elaine Nichols of Higganum; a daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Mark Delesdernier of Portland; a brother, Robert Nichols and brother-in-law Steven Atwood of Hartford; a sister, Arlene Nichols of Suffield; two grandsons, Stephen and Samuel Delesderiner; also, several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be private at the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

## Portland

### Michael P. Papallo

Michael P. Papallo, 70 of Rocky Hill, passed away peacefully on the morning of Saturday, June 4, at Yale New Haven Hospital, after a lengthy illness. He was predeceased by his wife Louise (Markham) and he was the son of the late Rodney and Jane (Tomasone) Papallo.



Born Nov. 25, 1951, in Meriden, he was a 1969 graduate of Xavier High School in Middletown. He was also a 1974 graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University. Michael worked for the McKesson Corporation in Rocky Hill for 32 years. He always enjoyed traveling, whether it was to vacation with his wife Louise to the coast of Maine or crisscrossing the country avidly following the professional drag racing circuit; a passion of his that began in 1964. In addition to travelling, he found great pleasure in spending time with his granddaughter, reading books, and playing cards with his old friends.

Michael leaves behind his sons, Brian of Rocky Hill and Christopher and his wife Courtney and his granddaughter Vera (whom he adored dearly) of Woodbury; his brother, John of Meriden; his aunt, Carmelina Tomassone of Middletown; his cousin, Marie Papallo-Olson of Southington; several cousins and extended family members; and lastly his loyal cats, Tiger and Pinky.

The family would like to extend their grati-

tude to the team of individuals in the Intensive Care Unit at Yale New Haven Hospital that compassionately took great strides to bring Michael and his family peace and comfort during the final days of his illness.

The funeral will be held today, Friday, June 10, at 10:30 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Friends called at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Thursday, June 9. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family would kindly request that donations be made to the Protectors of Animals in East Hartford, 144 Main St., Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118, or call 860-569-0722.

## Colchester

### Dianne Taylor

Dianne Taylor, "Ma Dukes," 77, of Colchester, passed away Wednesday, May 25, at Middlesex Hospital. Born April 3, 1945, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Helen Walters.



Dianne was a graduate of Hale-Ray High School in East Haddam. For over 20 years she worked as a CNA at Harrington Court Nursing Home in Colchester.

Dianne cherished her family more than anything. She is survived by her children, Pamela Cole, and David Taylor; grandchildren, Mercedes Caron and Hailey Cole; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her son, Donald Taylor.

Calling hours will be held on Monday, June 20, from 4-6 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a chapel service at 6 p.m.

## East Hampton

### Annette Fitzgerald

Annette Elise Devine Fitzgerald, born July 18, 1935, in Detroit, Mich., passed away Sunday, May 22, aged 86, at her home in Tulsa, Okla.



The only child of her mother Mary Devine (Uptmoor), Annette was raised in Fort Smith, Ark., surrounded by family and cousins. She attended St. Scholastica Academy in Fort Smith, Ark., Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., then, completed her junior year at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas. After marrying in 1955 and having seven children, she completed a degree in Education at Eastern Connecticut State University in 1972. Annette loved motherhood and raising her large family figured among the greatest joys of her life.

In 1982, aged 47, Annette began to study nursing at Tulsa Junior College. Eventually, she became an oncology nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Okla., where she continued to care for others until her retirement in 2000.

Annette was a member of Church of the Resurrection. One of her greatest gifts was her instillation of faith in God to her children, and to know He has a plan for us and that we are always in His hands.

Annette was intelligent, and an avid reader, and her example inspired a lifelong pursuit and love of knowledge in her many children. She

was able to give each child the gift of her time and a motivation to be independent. She loved to sing, garden, and laugh. Annette taught her children to have high hopes, just like that little old ant who thought he could move a rubber tree plant!

She is survived by her children: daughter-Mary-Kaye Varni and husband Louie of East Hampton, Conn., their children: Jason Varni and wife Heather (great-grandchildren: Rowan and Liam) of Middletown, David Varni and wife Tina (great-grandchildren: Tyler and Aubrey) of East Hampton, Elisa Ottone and husband Greg (great-grandchildren: Paige and Grady) of East Hampton; son-Chrisopher (Chris) Fitzgerald and wife Judy of Boulder, Colo., their children: Jill Fitzgerald and husband Jeremy Wear (great-grandchild: Beatrice Fitzgerald Wear) of Annapolis, Md., Luke Fitzgerald and wife Katie (great-grandchild: Isabelle Mary) of Broomfield, Colo.; daughter-Elizabeth (Beth) Fitzgerald of Ivoryton, her children: Meredith Wolfrom and her two daughters of Melrose, Mass., James Clark of Chapel Hill, N.C.; Elizabeth (Beth) Clark (great-grandchildren: Olivia, Conor, Reilly, and Jackson) of Deep River, Fawn Clark of East Hartford (great-grandchildren: Damian (of Chapel Hill, N.C.) and Jonathan (of East Hartford); son-Patrick Fitzgerald and wife Monique of Tulsa, Okla., their children: Katherine (Kat) Knapp and husband Andy (great-grandchildren: Hutson and Nolan) of Tulsa, Okla., Alexander (Alec) Fitzgerald of Tulsa, Okla.; daughter-Helen Veenker and husband John of Sand Springs, Okla., their children: Christopher (Chris) Veenker and wife Jini of Littleton, Colo., Ethan Veenker of Tulsa, Okla.; daughter-Frances Cleveland and husband John of Littleton, Colo., Mom's favorite pony Maynard trotting over the rainbow bridge; and son-Andrew (Drew) Fitzgerald of Tulsa, Okla.

Annette was loved by many, and will be dearly missed by her family and loved ones.

## Marlborough

### Austin Villar

Austin Villar, 29, of Glastonbury, formerly of Marlborough, unexpectedly passed away Monday, June 6, surrounded by his loving and dedicated family. Austin was born March 27, 1993. He was a smart, caring, kind and gentle soul. From the moment Austin was born his family knew how blessed they would be.



Austin graduated from RHAM High School in Hebron in 2011, where he was taught by many wonderful teachers and caregivers; many whom have already begun to share very special memories of their time with Austin. Austin found joy in many things in his life, yet his biggest joy was brought on by his parents and siblings, love and laughter. He found much comfort by giving a simple smile and hug or a gentle touch to remind you that his kind heart was always close by.

One of Austin's biggest passions were his trucks, he would spend hours modifying them to be bigger and better. He loved playing video games and spending quality time with his family. Whether it was going for a ride to listen to music with his loving mother, watching his adoring father work on trucks, playing wrestling games with his brother or watching a movie with his sister – he loved any and all time he spent with his family. You could always catch an immense bright smile on Austin's face, proving that he was living his best life.

Austin leaves behind his extremely devoted parents, Michelle Villar of Glastonbury and Richard Villar of Middletown; his adoring and loving siblings, Brittany Villar of Glastonbury and Nicholas Villar of Glastonbury.

Austin is survived by many family members and friends. He leaves behind Susan Kearns, who was like a second mother, and his many aunts and uncles: Natalie Villar, Karen and Luis Villar, Vera and David Cote, and Donald Pelletier. Austin is also survived by his maternal grandmother, Evelyn Pelletier, as well as many cousins: Jessica and Derek Fletcher, Thomas and Allison Villar, Daniel and Alane Villar, Melissa and Daniel Hernandez, Raul Jr and Jacky Villar, Jeffery and Kelly Villar, Carolyn Villar, Rebekah and Gabriel Mondry, Joseph and Carrie Villar, David Villar, Adam and Ashley Cote and David Cote.

Austin is predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Maria and Jose Villar, and his uncles, Allen Villar and Raul Villar.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated

See Obits, page 34

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# Budget Passed in Round Two

By Sloan Brewster

Andover voters, in the second budget referendum of the year, approved a \$12.73 million budget – a 2.44% or \$302,929 increase over current spending.

In a Wednesday morning phone call, Town Clerk Carol Lee said the spending package had passed in a 292 to 230 vote.

Voters also keyed in on a list of advisory questions, Lee said.

In response to the non-binding questions, 278 voters said they thought the funding for Andover Elementary School (AES) was too high while 153 said it was too low, the town clerk said. Conversely, 230 voters said the town's budget was too high and 163 said it was too low.

"I would say that I'm happy that the budget has passed and we have certainty for next year," Town Administrator Eric Anderson said in a phone call Wednesday.

Anderson said the Board of Finance had scheduled a special meeting for yesterday, Thursday at 7 p.m. in which it planned to set the mill rate. The estimated number the finance board was considering for the annual tax rate was 31.91 mills, Anderson said.

According to the State of Connecticut Office

of Policy and Management, one mill is equal to \$1.00 of tax for each \$1,000 of assessed property value.

For a home with an assessed value of \$200,000, the proposed Andover rate translates to a yearly tax bill of \$6,382.

This year's mill rate includes a rebate to taxpayers of .11 mills from an overage last year, Anderson said.

Last year, because it took so long for a budget to pass, the Board of Selectmen had to pick a mill rate before there was an actual budget, Anderson said. The number the finance board later approved was slightly lower. Consequently, taxpayers must be credited this year.

Last Tuesday, May 31, residents agreed to send the spending package to referendum.

A \$12.89 million proposal – a \$466,768, or 3.76%, increase over current year spending – failed to meet voter satisfaction at the first budget referendum of the year, on May 24.

The Board of Finance returned to the drawing board following day and made adjustments including reducing spending and increasing revenue, Marc Brinker, finance board chair told the crowd assembled in the AES gym.

The board reduced expenses by \$163,839 and added \$114,861 to revenue, Brinker said. The additional \$144,861 is a payout from the state to cover losses the town might have incurred from a 32.46 mills cap imposed by the state on car taxes.

While the proposed mill rate is below that at 31.91 mills, the town still gets the money, Brinker told voters.

"It turns out it's not above the cap but this is a windfall for the town, so were going to take it," he said.

The board reduced expenses for Andover Elementary School by \$50,000, Brinker said. Prior to the failed referendum, it had knocked off \$20,000.

With the new numbers, the school will get \$4.052 million for next year's spending – an increase of \$150,387, or 3.85%, over the current year.

On the town side, cuts the board made include eliminating an \$18,839 expense for a part time

employee for the Department of Public Works and reducing several fund allocations, including \$5,000 from an insurance fund and \$25,000 from contingency.

"It doesn't leave us with a lot of margin if something unexpected happens," Brinker commented on the contingency reduction.

The finance board took \$15,000 from the line item for equipment for the Public Works Department and \$20,000 from Fire Department equipment, Brinker said. It reduced the tree removal fund by \$25,000, a move Brinker call "a little risky" and cut \$5,000 from building maintenance.

After the tweaks, capital spending for major projects hits \$925,000, an increase of \$50,000 over the current year, Brinker said.

Drivers Brinker listed for the town budget include an additional full time employee for public works, a spike in utility and energy costs and increased staffing in the building and land use office.

## Town Seeks Poet Laureate

The town is looking for its very first poet laureate, which will serve as an advocate for poetry and promote the appreciation of and participation in poetry and literary arts activities among Andover's residents.

Applicants must be at least 16 years old and must be a resident of the town for at least the past three years prior to the application deadline.

Application deadline is July 1. Following a panel review in August, the winning poet will be notified in mid-September. The winner's term will run Oct. 1, 2022-Sept. 30, 2024, and his/her duties will include making at least three public presentations during town events each year. Reappointment is a possibility. The town reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the poet laureate if he or she fails to fulfill their duties or is involved in criminal or unethical ac-

tivities.

Applicants will submit a cover letter, resume and 3-4 selections of their work, in paper format or electronically. The winner will be chosen by a review panel of one literary professional, Board of Selectmen, and the Andover Library Board members.

The selection criteria are: noteworthy distinction within the field of poetry; excellence of the poet's work; commitment to fostering appreciation and participation in poetry. Toward the end of the selection process, finalists will be asked in for an interview by the review panel to assist in making a final determination.

Applications may be submitted via email to [andoverpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:andoverpubliclibrary@gmail.com), or by mail to: Andover Public Library, Attn: Poet Laureate Committee, P.O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232.

## Vacancy on Advisory Committee

The Andover Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on the nine-member board.

The committee is responsible for selecting and distributing \$100,000 in funds awarded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to local nonprofits to assist in projects that will help enhance and benefit the residents of Andover. Currently, the Advisory Committee is working on grant applications for 2022. The committee meets once a month via Zoom

on the first Thursday of each month at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Andover Greater Together Community Fund, go to [www.hfpg.org/andovercf](http://www.hfpg.org/andovercf). For application forms, visit [www.hfpg.org/andovercf](http://www.hfpg.org/andovercf) or email committee co-chair Dianne Grenier at [deardianne@comcast.net](mailto:deardianne@comcast.net)

Due date for completed applications is July 1.

Note: any elected official is not eligible to serve on this committee.

## Young at Heart Potluck

The last Young at Heart meeting before summer will be a potluck cookout on Wednesday, June 15, beginning at noon, at the home of Pat and Frank Chaves.

Call Judy Knox at 860-643-6824 for more information.

## Fire Department Food Drive

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will host a food drive Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the fire department, 11 School Rd., to benefit the Andover Food Pantry.

Especially needed are cook-out essentials needed such as: hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, relish, barbecue sauce, pickles, etc.

Monetary contributions welcomed. Make checks payable to Andover Food Pantry.

## Dean's List

Andover residents Jenna Kelly and Ashley Kolodziejczyk made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. Both are studying nursing.

## History Museum Open Monthly

The Andover Historical Society will next open its Museum of Andover History on Saturday, June 18, from 4-6 p.m. The museum is located in the Old Town Hall on Monument Lane.

Additional openings are planned for Saturdays, July 1, Sept. 17, Oct. 15 and Nov. 19, from 4-6 p.m. each day.

New items are continuously being added to the display.

## Movie Coming Up

The 2002 movie *All Hail* will be shown in the Town Hall community room, 17 School Rd., on Wednesday, June 15, at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Bring your own snacks and drinks.

In the movie, a famous TV weatherman becomes Public Enemy Number One when he fails to predict a terrible hailstorm. He's forced to flee Buenos Aires. The movie stars Guillermo Francella, Peto Menahem and Romina Fernandez. Rated TV-MA, the film runs one hour and 58 minutes.

Transportation for seniors is available; call Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.



## Calling All Cooks!

The Andover 175th Anniversary Committee is creating a cookbook with recipes from local people to celebrate our town. Recipe forms are available electronically on the committee's Facebook page; search for "Andover CT 175th Anniversary" as well as in print form at Town Hall and the Andover Public Library.

People can submit as many recipes as they

want. Recipes from kids or for kids are particularly encouraged.

Recipes must be submitted by Aug. 1, as the committee hopes to have the cookbooks for sale by Nov. 1.

For more information, contact Shirley DeFlaviis at [shirleydef@aol.com](mailto:shirleydef@aol.com) or 860-742-9238.

## Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School is provided. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email [andoverctchurch@gmail.com](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://www.andoverctchurch.org).

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

church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is June 22. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is June 15.

**Prayer Requests:** All are invited to email the church any prayer requests they have.

**Sunshine Stammers:** All are invited to join this group, which meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. to make greeting cards.

**Bingo & Baskets:** Friday, June 24. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., bingo at 6:30 p.m.

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

**Lunch at Town Hall:** Friday, June 10, outdoors if weather permits. Seniors can enjoy the Andover Elementary School sports day and free ice cream for dessert courtesy of AES. Reserva-

tions mandatory. For a ride, call Palazzi.

**YAH Picnic:** Wednesday, June 15. On June 22, the movie *All Hail* will be shown at 1 p.m. at Town Hall.

**Rides to Food Pantry:** The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m., and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

**Rides** are also available to all town events and meetings, as well as to medical appointments. Call Palazzi for a ride. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you. Masks must be worn on the bus.

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

## Library News & Notes

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, has announced the following programs. For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428.

**Outdoor Storytime Returns:** Wednesday, June 15, at 10:30 a.m. Children's programmer Cathy Campen will read to kids on the library's patio. This program is appropriate for toddler-age kids to kids in the younger grades. Future storytimes are planned on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.; in the event of rain, they will be moved inside the library.

**Mr. Magic:** Wednesday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. Mr. Magic (also known as attorney Richard Rothstein) personalizes kids' stories, giving the audience members fictitious names, and getting kids to help with the show. Admission is free. Andover Friends of the Library sponsors this event.

**Book Discussion Group for Teens:** Middle school and high school readers are invited to an informal meet-up (with snacks) on Wednesday, June 22, at 6 p.m., and check out the books the library has selected to talk about: *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia for the middle schoolers, and for the high schoolers, *The Fountains of Silence* by Ruta Sepetys. The library is looking for input on how readers would like to meet (via Zoom, in-person, or both), and an approximate idea of

how many might like to participate.

**Other Activities:** The library is planning a summer of activities for kids and adults. A flyer with all of the details is available at the library, but here's a short version: Wednesday, June 29, 11 a.m., Creating Paper Daisies; Wednesday, July 6, 3 p.m., Kaleidoscopes & Pinwheels; Monday, July 11, 6 p.m., "A Whale of a Tale," with Storytime and Craft; Wednesday, July 16, 6 p.m., Beginners Origami, Tuesday, July 19, 10:30 a.m.; Toad vs. Frog, with wildlife biologist Julie Victoria; Wednesday, July 20, 10:30 a.m., Western Storytime & Horse Craft; Monday, July 25, 6 p.m., Christmas in July with Mrs. Merry Claus and a Christmas-themed Craft; Thursday, July 28, 6:30 p.m., Monster Storytime and Puppet-Making with Ellen Repay.

**Free Concerts:** The Andover Friends of the Library group is sponsoring two free concerts at the Andover Gazebo this summer. The first happens Friday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m., and features The Hot Flashes. This trio of ladies showcases vocal harmonies and jazzy acoustic stylings; the group's backup band is The Men O'Pause. The second concert takes place Friday, Aug. 5, and will spotlight the traditional country and bluegrass music stylings of Tex's Troubadours. Both shows are sponsored by the Andover Friends of the Library.

**Obituaries cont.**

★ *Obits cont. from page 32*

Monday, June 13, at noon, at Ss. Isidore and Maria Parish at St Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Friends may call Sunday, June 12, from 1-3 p.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. A private burial will be held for family at a later date.

For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

**Portland**

**Benjamin Jude Brower**

Benjamin "Ben" Jude Brower of Portland passed away Saturday, May 28. Ben was born June 19, 1974, in Mount Kisco, N.Y.



Ben was raised in Newtown, where he graduated from Newtown High School in 1992. Post high school, Ben attended the University of Vermont graduating with a degree in psychology. He later attended Boston College where he earned a master's of finance. His brilliant mind for numbers led to a career on Wall Street, trading futures contracts on the American Stock Exchange, venture capitalist work, and owning his own stock trading business. He loved snowboarding, boogie boarding, lacrosse, travel, reading, golfing, and cooking. Most of all, Ben loved spending time with his children. They were the loves of his life.

Ben is survived by his two children, Caleb and Ellianna Brower; his wife, Deanna Brower; his parents, James and Margaret Brower; his in-laws, Wayne and Brenda Sleeper; his brother, Jason Brower and wife Kristin; his sister, Caitlan Kane and husband Mark; his brother, Jon Brower; his sister-in-law, Belinda and Greg Chambers; and his nieces and nephew, Caitlan Brower and Addison Brower; Annalise Kane, Finn Kane, and Madelyn Kane; Alexa Chambers and Jackson Chambers. He will also be missed by his numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Please join Ben's family on Saturday, June 11, at 1 p.m., for a memorial service at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland. In loving memory of Ben, close friends and family will gather for a luncheon directly following the memorial service, at Farrell's Restaurant in Portland, until 5 p.m.

Ben was incredibly proud of his sister's non-profit and their mission to improve the lives of those affected by heart disease and stroke. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations be made to Sisters at Heart, [www.sistersatheart.org](http://www.sistersatheart.org).

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

**Colchester**

**William Abrams**

William "Bill" Abrams, 87, of Colchester, husband of Elisabeth Abrams, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, on Saturday, May 28. Born in Butler, Pa., on July 4, 1934, he was the son of William and Catherine Abrams Crowe.



Bill joined the United States Navy and served proudly during the Korean War. He served as a sonarman on submarines and surface ships, and as a Naval Aviator, earning both his Silver Dolphins and Gold Wings. He was awarded the Noel Davis Trophy for leading the National Anti-Submarine Warfare Helicopter Challenge to victory. Bill was one of the few Navy Mustangs and retired as a Naval Commander. He married his "Sweet Pea," Elisabeth Ruben, on Sept. 1, 1956. The couple shared 65 years of

a God-centered marriage, full of love, fun, and joy with their family.

Before his retirement, Bill enjoyed a long and successful career as the founder, owner and operator of Seaquest Associates and Seatrac, International, oceanographic consulting firms. He held patents from the U.S and Denmark. His oceanographic work included the Alaskan Pipeline Project, the North Sea Oil Project, Scotland, as well as work in Thailand, New Zealand and the Indian Ocean. When the space shuttle Challenger tragedy occurred on Jan. 28, 1986, NASA called Bill and flew him to Cape Canaveral, where he and his team located the crew's cabin in over 100 miles of water, using side-scan sonar he had developed.

As a Messianic Jew, Bill's faith was vital to him. He and Liz served together in churches, youth groups, and co-founded the New Life Singers. Bill went out of his way to make people feel respected and appreciated. In addition to his faith, Bill's greatest passion was his family. His joy in life was providing for them, loving and nurturing them.

He will be sadly missed by his precious wife; their children, Judy Abrams and Susan Abrams of Colchester, and Rachel Olson of Connecticut; grandchildren, Becky (Tim) Chamberlain of Guilford, Benjamin Abrams of Texas, Matthew (Christina) Smigiel of Manchester, N.H., Jordan (Mariah) Smigiel of Wallingford; great-grandchildren, Eliza, TJ and Emily Chamberlain; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his siblings, Dewey Crowe and Betty Godwin; nephew, Terry Crowe; and grandson, Daniel Smigiel.

The family thanks Bill's fantastic medical team: Dr. Benjamin Newton, Meg Wallace, Claudia Cooper, Kathi Karp, Smilow Cancer Center, Oxford Healthcare and Beacon Hospice.

Bill will be buried with full military honors and laid to rest in a private ceremony. His memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 25, at 2 p.m., at Grace Fellowship Evangelical Church, 102 Providence-New London Tpke. (Route 184), N. Stonington ([www.gracefellowshipefc.org](http://www.gracefellowshipefc.org)). Due to COVID-19 and family health, masks are required.

In lieu of flowers, you may donate to Jews for Jesus ([www.jewsforjesus.org](http://www.jewsforjesus.org)) or Faith2Faith Ministries ([www.f2fmi.org](http://www.f2fmi.org)).

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

**East Hampton**

**Timothy M. Flannery**

Timothy M. Flannery passed away peacefully Monday, May 9, with his mother, Mary Flannery, by his side. He is predeceased by his father, James Flannery, and his brother, William Flannery.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his siblings, Peter Flannery, Karen Ganson and Kathy Flannery. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews: Amy, Sarah, Marissa, Clint, Jessica, Jason, Ross, Cody, Madigan and Arlene.

Tim was a lifelong resident of East Hampton. He worked with computers and was always available to lend a helping hand. He enjoyed getting together with friends and family, especially at Uncle Teddy's pool to swim and play dominoes. He had an extensive love for dogs, music, and sitting on his porch smoking a good cigar and waving to friends going by. He will always be in our hearts and will be deeply missed.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 11, at 9 a.m., at St. Patrick's Church, with burial to follow.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Connecticut Humane Society at [give.cthumane.org](http://give.cthumane.org), or a charity of your choice in Tim's memory.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

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★ *Armed School Guard cont. from page 1*

a special appropriation. Otherwise, the board could simply include the position as an item in its next spending plan, assuming voters approve said plan.

Given the chair and superintendent's letter, and the vocal support from the public, MES seems poised to get a guard in soon.

Resident Mark Merritt said a fully dedicated security officer is preferable to a satellite office of the local state trooper.

Merritt said this is "the only option as pure evil continues to seep through the cracks."

Hjulstrom said a school officer is better than a satellite, but the latter would be a good start.

"I think it's time to move forward and get more security at the school," Hjulstrom said.

In their letter, Hageman and Skorski wrote the tragedy in Uvalde has left them bereaved, calling it a "reminder violence can occur anywhere."

They called for an armed guard to be added "as soon as possible."

MES has both space and supply to accommodate a satellite office for a state trooper or local constable, where the officer would carry out their daily duties, they wrote.

The officials wrote the officer will give peace of mind to families and staff.

Skorski and Hageman said the board will discuss the matter in its June 16 meeting, adding they hope to meet with selectpersons beforehand.

Traversa said discussions about and with any potential guard will be held in executive session, as it will involve matters of personnel and security procedures.

Marlborough is not the only *Rivereast* town looking at adding armed guards. At its meeting next Monday, June 13, the East Hampton Board of Education will also discuss adding armed security, according to Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith.

**LEGALS**

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on June 13, 2022 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

Application ZBA-22-002: Atlantis Marketing, 1 Colchester Ave., 5 Colchester Ave. and 157 Main St for a variance to increase lot coverage from 30.4% to 36.9% and reconstruction and expansion of legal non-conforming use in the R-2 Zone. Map 7A/Block 56/ Lots 22, 21, and 24.

Application ZBA-22-003: Patricia Santangelo, 40 Eastham Bridge Rd., reduce front set back from 50' to 46' to build front porch. Map 24/Block 64/ Lot 4A-17. 2TB 6/3, 6/10

**Public Notice Town of East Hampton, Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency Wetlands Agent Approval**

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area.

Number: IW-22-011  
Applicant: Diana Murphy  
Location: 30 Blue Heron Drive  
Activity: Installing 20' x 34' inground pool in Upland Review Area. Jeffrey M. Foran  
Duly Authorized Agent  
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency 1TB 6/10

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE**

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on June 15, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions:

1. **Town of Colchester Affordable Housing Plan** - The Commission will consider public testimony regarding the Affordable Housing Plan, prepared in accordance with Section 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes

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 6/3, 6/10

**LEGAL NOTICE GLOBAL SELF STORAGE 244 Middletown Ave. East Hampton, CT 860.267.6639**

Will sell or otherwise dispose of such personal property on Thursday 6/23/2022 at 8:00 AM Via online auction service [WWW.storage treasures.com](http://WWW.storage treasures.com)  
Property previously owned by:  
R Carlson Units S27 10x23 & S76 10x10 2TB 6/10, 6/17

**TOWN OF HEBRON LEGAL NOTICE**

At their meeting on June 2, 2022, the Board of Selectmen declared a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Selectmen designate Friday, June 10, 2022, as the posting date for the vacancy notice. The 35th and final day by which nominations shall be received is Friday, July 15, 2022. The Board of Selectmen are now notifying the political parties and the general public of this vacancy. Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the Commission and discuss with the Chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved. All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest or questions may be addressed to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248 or call 860-228-5971. 1TB 6/10

**MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, June 16, 2022 6:30 pm at TOWN HALL LEGAL NOTICE**

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:  
Application 567 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 57 Middle Haddam Road -- to eliminate the aluminum storm windows and replace the 1950's windows with Anderson 400 series Woodwright double hung simulated divided light windows in a 12 over 12 or 6 over 6 configuration on three sides of the house --- for applicant George A. Selmont.  
Application 568 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 20 Knowles Road --- to install 25 ft of picket fence, and 25 ft of 6 ft fence on the right side of 22 Knowles Road, and to install a whole-house generator. --- for applicant Mary Jo Shafer.  
Application 569 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 2 Keighley Pond Road --- to replace 19 single hung windows with 6 over 6 dividers with 19 double hung windows with 6 over 6 divider inserts --- for applicant Michael Gingras.  
Application 570 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 64 Keighley Pond Road --- to pave an existing dirt driveway --- for applicant Daniel Bueno-Arce.  
The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.  
Dated: June 8, 2022  
Regina Starolis, MHHDC Clerk 1TB 6/10

**Legal Notice Town Of Hebron Connecticut Water Pollution Control Authority Public Hearing June 14, 2022 7:00 PM**

WPCA Public Hearing  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 7:00 PM (EDT)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/362029533>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122  
**Access Code: 362-029-533**  
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:  
<https://meet.goto.com/install>  
Notice is hereby given that the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Town of Hebron shall hold a Public Hearing on June 14, 2022 Virtual Location at 7:00PM. This hearing will be to adopt the budget for year 2022-2023 and to propose the annual sewer use charge at \$550 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). The payment schedule is as follows: Use charges equal to one (1) EDU or less will be payable in full on October 1st, of each fiscal year; use charges greater than (1) EDU will be payable in two equal installments, the first payment due on October 1st, the second payment due on April 1st of each fiscal year. A copy of the Sewer Use Charge System; Sewer Connection Fees and EDU Schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT.  
Clara O'Brien, Chairperson  
Water Pollution Control Authority  
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut this 27nd day of May, 2022 2TB 6/3, 6/10

**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, June 14, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

**Petition 2022-4** - Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations pertaining to Accessory Apartments, permit detached accessory apartments in compliance with new state requirements, and update associated use tables and definitions. Application filed under Section 2.G.7, Section 2.D.4, and Section 9.C of the Hebron Zoning Regulations.

**Petition 2022-6** - Petition of the Hebron Lions Agricultural Society requesting Special Permit approval for the sale of beer and wine on September 8th thru 11th, 2022, under Section 5.O.3 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, premise located at 347 Gilead Street, R-1 District.  
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 31th day of May, 2022.  
Natalie Wood, Chair  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Tue, Jun 14, 2022 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EDT)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/216325285>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
United States: +1 (408) 650-3123  
**Access Code: 216-325-285**  
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:  
<https://meet.goto.com/install>  
Legal Notice will be published in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* on June 3 and June 10, 2022 2TB 6/3, 6/10

**CLASSIFIEDS PAY**  
in The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

Email your Classified Line Ad to [nancy@glcitizen.com](mailto:nancy@glcitizen.com) & call with your credit card no.

- ❑ \$10.00 per week for 25 words or less in *The Glastonbury Citizen*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ❑ \$9.00 per week for 25 words or less in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ❑ \$18.00 per week combination rate, 20¢ for each additional word for insertion in both the *Citizen* and the *Bulletin*.

Please make checks payable to: *The Glastonbury Citizen*

Like us on Facebook  
**RivereastNewsBulletin**

**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the June 2, 2022 meeting, the following action was taken:  
**APPROVED with Conditions:** Application #21-16: 264 Main Street. Request for Special Permit for change of use within an existing building from commercial use to residential apartments. Applicant and Owner: 264 Main LLC Assessor's Map 28, Lot 48. Zone B3.  
**APPROVED with Conditions:** Application #21-17: 143 Marlborough Street. Request for Special Permit for small engine repair business to be located in existing rear building. Application of Chester Dumont. Property of 143 Marlborough Street LLC. Assessor's Map 20, Lot 214. Zone B2.  
 Dated at Portland, CT. this 7th day of June 2022  
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
 Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 6/10

**Legal Notice  
Andover Inland Wetlands and  
Watercourses Commission**

At their regular meeting, the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission APPROVED the following applications on June 6th, 2022:  
 • **Permit Application IWCC 22-02:** Town of Andover, Shoddy Mill Rd and Birch Drive- Drainage improvements, pipe and catch basin replacement within wetlands adjacent to Shoddy Mill Rd, and relocation of a watercourse flowing onto Shoddy Mill Rd.  
 • **Permit Application IWCC 22-03:** Shane Verteufuille, 880 and 874 East Street- Replacement of two steel culverts in an existing driveway crossing over Burnap Brook.  
 If you have any questions, please contact the Andover Wetlands Agent at 860-742-7305 (extension 4221) or email (preferred) at wetlands@andoverct.org

1TB 6/10

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FREE**  
 "FREE" Generac GP5500 generator. Low hours, engine runs, unit does not produce electricity. You pick up. Rik 860 462-6863"

**WANTED**  
 WANTED 1 OR 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT IN THE PORTLAND AREA. Call Susan 860-685-1966

**WANTED TO BUY**  
 ALWAYS BUYING OLD TOOLS - Wanted, old, used, and antique hand tools and tool chests. Machinist, woodwork, engraving, and workbench hand tools. Also of interest, firearms and other related items. Honest offers made in your home. Please call Cory, (860) 322-4367.

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

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 RivereastNewsBulletin

**EMPLOYMENT**

**E2 ELECTRICIAN WANTED:** with residential experience. Call John 860-214-4045 or email gardelec@frontier.com

**KINDERGARTEN READINESS TEACHER/EXPERIENCED** Degree required. (Bring your child to work!) Our Children's Place Glastonbury seeks exceptional Full day educator, creative classroom planning, daily outdoor learning, CTELDS assessments. Txt or email your resume 860-985-4534 or jneidowner@aol.com leads to Asst Director for qualified applicant.

**PT BOOKKEEPER/PROPERTY MANAGER** Approx 15hrs/week. Independent, organized multitasker needed for property management company. Responsibilities include record keeping, communication w/tenants and coordinating building maintenance issues w/vendors across multiple properties. Pay dependent on experience. Submit resume to: Jill@kushnerdevelopment.com

**PCA NEEDED,** part-time. For appointments, shopping, errands, personal care, cooking and cleaning. Experience preferred. Excellent driving record required. \$17.25/hr. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016

**SEEKING CARING, COMPASSIONATE AIDE:** To join our team providing care for a disabled Vietnam Veteran in his home. Wife present, will train. WD /WE shifts available 860-262-0954

**SEEKING PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASST IN ROCKY HILL:** 15-20 hours per week. \$14/hr for more information email aladeptct@gmail.com or call 959-230-4168.

**FAST PACED, BUSY, FAMILY OWNED FULL SERVICE PAVING AND PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR SEEKING FULL-TIME BOBCAT OPERATOR AND GENERAL LABORERS.** Ability to follow instruction and assist in all our service areas. Growth and development opportunities available. Please call 860-633-7004 or email info@constantinepaving.com

**PART-TIME PERSON WITH EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** to call retail businesses. Mon-Fri 25 hours per week. Days. \$18/hour to start, plus commission. Permanent position. Glastonbury office. 860-633-6744

**COUNTER HELP AVAILABLE AT GLASTONBURY PIZZA HOUSE.** Willing to train. Fridays/weekends are a MUST! Accepting Applications. Please call 860-652-9900 or 860-652-9901.

**HELP MOM!** Medicine Reminders, Meals, Transportation, Housekeeping, Companions. All of our caregivers are aged 50+, with many years of experience. Bonded, insured, background checked. We truly are **YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY LLC COLCHESTER** 860-967-0831 RE8-13-21

**Andover Municipal Board Clerk**  
 The Town of Andover is accepting applications for a Board Clerk to take minutes at Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings. Potentially there are opening for other meetings including Board of Selectman, Board of Finance and Board of Assessment Appeals. Please submit employment application and or resume to Eric Anderson 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232 or eanderson@andoverct.org. These positions will remain open until filled. Application can be found at www.andoverct.org.

2TB 6/3, 6/10

**EDUCATION: PARAEDUCATOR**  
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