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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Top Two Students...RHAM High School Class of 2022 valedictorian Ava Zito, left, and salutatorian Ryan Russo recently shared with the *Rivereast* memories, thoughts about academics and the philosophy of leadership. See the story on page 9.

PHS Class of '22 'Nothing Short of Incredible'

By Kate Corliss

To kick off Portland High School's Class of 2022 graduation ceremony on Monday, class vice president Brynn Hennessey said she was "grateful" to stand alongside her peers as they celebrated their perseverance and unique gifts.

"The difference that we have made in this school is unprecedented," Hennessey said. "Ninety-nine of us, each made out of pure talent and dedication."

Class president Michael Quesnel echoed Hennessey's point, quipping that he recognizes the group's strength because "been stuck with these guys for nearly [his] entire life."

"I can personally attest that frankly, the Class of 2022 is nothing short of incredible," Quesnel said.

Family members and friends filled the school's parking lot, cheering for the graduates, who sat donning caps, gowns and eager smiles in bleachers by the stage. Quesnel expressed his gratitude for them, too – specifically, teachers and parents.

"Regardless of when we deserved it, you parents were always there, a compass to guide us when the waves of life turned choppy, a light in the darkness," said Quesnel, who then turned from the audience back to face the bleachers. "Someday, class, you may be those parents out there and you'll be looking in, and you'll be thinking, 'Wow, that Mike kid was really incredible.' But you will realize how lucky you were to have parents like these."

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton also recognized the positive impact that Portland families and community members have had within the school, and encouraged graduates to "go forward with an open heart and an open mind and help us continue to bend the arc of history towards justice."

"You are now expected to go forward and help us continue to make the town of Portland, the state of Connecticut, and the entire United States strong, vibrant, and compassionate," Britton said. "We all recognize that there are no lack of problems for us to confront, that there are no lack of issues that divide us. But we also recognize that there are more things that unite us, more common goals."

Salutatorian Kendra Schoeps addressed some specific challenges that her class faced, particularly the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, but celebrated the positive moments that they were able to experience despite it all.

"While we spent practically half our time at PHS with masks on and through a screen, this year, we've gotten the chance to get back to normal," Schoeps said. "We've been able to have music concerts, the band trips, sports events, and many senior activities that the previous two classes didn't get to fully enjoy."

Schoeps acknowledged that the Class of 2022 will continue to encounter obstacles throughout their lives, but told her peers that even these supposed setbacks can turn into useful lessons.

"There will be unexpected challenges, some that irrevocably change us, that may cause you to rethink your journey altogether, but taking these setbacks and allowing yourself to learn from them is the most significant life skill," Schoeps said.

Teachers and class advisors Dylan Bernard and Krista Larson delivered the faculty address to the graduates, noting various memories recounted by teachers from Valley View School – where many of the students started pre-kindergarten.

See PHS Class of '22, page 3

Residents Split on Armed Guards in Schools

By Jack Lakowsky

East Hampton High School has an armed security presence, but the three schools for Belltown's younger learners do not.

At a Monday night East Hampton school board meeting, the public and board members gave detailed thoughts on whether all town schools should have an armed presence.

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith introduced other new security initiatives, all of which the board approved.

On boosting armed presence in schools, be it a "live-in" town police officer or full-time private security guard, the board gave Smith the go-ahead to consult with the chief of police and town manager.

Smith will gather information on adding armed security to the district, especially its

practicality and feasibility. He is due to report the information Aug. 1, at the board's request.

After that, the board intends to engage the public in the conversation.

The topic of enhancing school security has become pervasive in the wake of the killing of 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

In addition to the Uvalde tragedy, East Hampton officials are taking action in response to a threat against the high school. A 15-year-old student allegedly wrote a social media message calling for the genocide of Jewish people, gay people and Spanish people, and specifically threatened a teacher.

Police determined the threat was not credible. The district's immediate response to the al-

leged threat came under fire from parents, who posted on social media and reached out to the *Rivereast*.

At Monday's meeting, the board adopted a statement to be included in student handbooks and in communications to the community, declaring that hate speech and violence won't be tolerated in Belltown schools.

As for adding armed guards to the middle school, Center and Memorial, public opinion on Monday, at least of those present, appeared about evenly divided.

Resident Matt Englehardt said he participated in a recent march to support more firearms regulations and met family members of victims of the Columbine, Parkland and Sandy Hook mass

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ECSU Dean's List

The following area students made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut State University:

Amston: Brendan Burke, who majors in physical education; Mollylynn Doherty, who majors in computer science and data science; Alex Katsarakis, who majors in psychology; Brylene Laws, who majors in English; Tyler Lettieri, who majors in business administration; Abigail Moore, who majors in communication; Rebecca Ristow, who majors in theatre; Ericka Sandstrom, who majors in business administration.

Andover: Ava Byers, who majors in finance; Julia Carso, who majors in communication; Jessica Golemba, who majors in elementary education and English; Mikayla Oman, who majors in criminology.

Colchester: Caroline Banning, who majors in mathematics; Matthew Benjamin, who majors in psychology; Evelise Boenig, who majors in criminology; Kailee Dickinson, who majors in psychology; Sarah Eslami, who majors in psychology; Emory Francis, who majors in early childhood education and psychology; Megan Gabriel, who majors in health sciences; Nicole Gorski, who majors in art; Rachael Lebiszczak, who majors in health sciences; Courtney Losier, who majors in English; Patrick Mawhiney, who majors in business administration; Riley McConnell, who majors in communication; Jacqueline Navickas, who majors in communication; Cassandra Neudecker, who majors in psychology and criminology; Catheryn Neudecker, who majors in music; Sidney Petro, who majors in social work; Delaney Pike, who majors in early childhood education and psychology; Avery Raber, majors in labor relations/human resources management; Vimarsh Rana, who majors in computer science; Sara Swift, who majors in secondary education and English; Julia Terranova, who majors in exploratory (undecided); Pranav Thaker, who majors in business administration; Ashley Todaro, who majors in criminology; Alyssa Tracey, who majors in health sciences; Noah Violette, who majors in accounting; Rexford Welch, who majors in English; Caroline Wilcox, who majors in health sciences; Benjamin Williams, who majors in English; Jonathan Willson, who majors in business administration; Paula Yanez, biochemistry; Olivia Zumpano, who majors in English.

East Hampton: Grace Adams, who majors in elementary education and liberal studies;

Hannah Barrientos, who majors in criminology; Joseph Caruso, who majors in criminology and sociology; Enrique Diaz, who majors in art; Isabella Diaz, who majors in health sciences; Zachary Fauvel, who majors in criminology; Joshua Hull, who majors in political science; Allison Ireland, who majors in social work; Kristina Lintz, who majors in secondary education and English; Carolyn McDonald, who majors in business administration; Cecylia Swajger, who majors in communication; Noelle Vaillancourt, who majors in psychology; Nalaeh Valley, who majors in communication; Amanda Weech, who majors in social work.

Hebron: Lindsay Anderson, who majors in exploratory (social sciences); Kelly Ayen, who majors in social work; Heather Clough, who majors in elementary education and English; Ashley Gentile, who majors in health sciences; Douglas Glode, who majors in criminology; Jordyn Holbrook, who majors in health sciences; Elliott Kalisher, who majors in new media studies; James Lukow, who majors in business administration; Jaclyn Santella, who majors in English; Colby Scott, who majors in communication; Daniel Sousa, who majors in business information systems; Hannah Tingley, who majors in psychology.

Marlborough: Margaret Bielaczyc, who majors in English; Matthew Bielaczyc, who majors in business information systems; Timothy Bielaczyc, who majors in business administration; Cristina Catarino, who majors in early childhood education and psychology; Daniel Cormier, who majors in accounting; Gracey DuBois, who majors in business administration; Gregory Gomez, who majors in exploratory (professional studies); Kevin Hartley, who majors in computer science; Cory Hunt, who majors in physical education; Gabriella Johnson, who majors in psychology; Jenna Lord, who majors in elementary education and English; Kaitlin Nicol, who majors in elementary education and liberal studies; Cameron Soulagnet, who majors in environmental earth science; Jessica Tardif, who majors in social work.

Portland: Brendan Albert, who majors in criminology; Julia Berthiaume, who majors in health sciences; Kaitlin Capello, who majors in sport and leisure management; Bryan Dinis, who majors in finance; Nicholas Kelly, who majors in criminology; Anna Maselek, who majors in elementary education and communication.

Cover Story • Cover

★ PHS Class of '22 cont. from page 1

garten – all the way up to Portland High School. Noting the Class of 2022's close-knit bond and mixed feelings about leaving this chapter of their lives behind, Bernard reminded graduates that if they "take a step back and allow [themselves] the gift of a wide perspective, [they] will see that the end of something is not sad, but the next incredibly beautiful thing."

"A very important part of you will always have a home here at Portland High School," Bernard said.

Valedictorian Jack Turecek also recognized his class's permanent connection to their hometown community, delivering his speech as a letter to the school itself.

"Dear Portland High School, I remember when I first walked through your hallways as a scared little freshman on August 29, 2018," Turecek said. "I was scrawny, five-foot-two, had a horrendous buzz cut and sported the most braces-infested smile a pubescent teen could manage."

Turecek reflected on the laughter that he and his classmates shared in the years that followed, mentioning that he would regularly "get cramps from cackling down the hallways so frequently during passing times."

With these fond memories in their back pockets, Turecek said that it was time for the Class of 2022 to leave those halls behind.

"Portland High School: we, the Class of 2022, are breaking up with you," Turecek continued with a grin. "It's not you, it's me. I think we should see other people. You need someone who can love you for you, and I can't give you what you deserve. I've been seeing someone else — hello, UConn!"

Turecek noted how happy he is to think that Portland High School will continue to nurture future generations of successful students, saying that he can "rest assured" that the school will give every other class "the friendships, the culture, the memories, [and] the family" that the Class of 2022 enjoyed.

"We'll both move on and start our next adventures," Turecek concluded, having noted how happy he is to think that Portland High School will continue to foster future generations of successful students. "But just promise

us one thing: Make sure we are the ex that you never forget."

The members of the Portland High School Class of 2022 are:

Angelina Aguilar, Katelin Binezewski ♦^, Callie Brennan, Nathaniel Brookes, Hannah Brunk +^, Owen Brunk +, Emilian Burek, Julia Capello ^, Landry Carroll, Victoria Cohen, Molly Coleman +^, Nikolai Connolly, Jenna Converse, William Crawford ♦, Devin Cruz, Tess Currier +, Ashton Curry-Oakliff, Sabrina Czapiga, Grace D'Angelo, Nicholas D'Angelo, Kaile Day, John Delaney, Owen Delisle +^, Jack DeToro, Michael Dillon, Giuliana Discenza +♦^, Zachary Doncet, Connor Egan ♦, Eli Evison, Tara Fitzgibbons *+^, Emma Flaum, Mason France, Kaylee Gaffney, Grace Gaudino, Jacob Hanks, Brynn Hennessey +♦^, Matthew Hernandez ♦^,

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Lindsay Renk *+, Rasheam Riley ♦, Caitlynn Robertson ♦, John Paul Runte, Kendra Schoeps *+^, Allison Scott *+^, Paige Sorrell, Jaime Spooner, Maxwell Strycharz ♦, Brady Talerico ^, Seth Tate, Genevieve Tatro, Derek Tewksbury *^, Trevor Tewksbury ♦, Jake Thompson +♦, Precious Torres, Kaitlyn Tripp +♦, Jack Turecek *+^, Kelly VanEver, Britney Viele, Sydney Wallengren, Theodore Williams +, Joseph Wright, Ryan Wright ♦, Katelyn Yankowski, Didismay Yedra ♦+^.

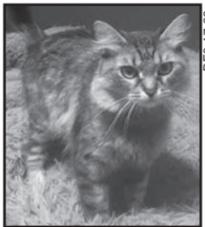
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

One of the quieter holidays came and went this week; in fact, I don't blame you if you didn't even notice – but it was a pretty important one.

Flag Day was this past Tuesday, June 14. It commemorates the day in 1777 when the United States approved the design for its first flag. Here are some fun facts about the holiday, courtesy of *USA Today*:

Flag Day was founded by a school teacher named Bernard J. Cigrand, who began observing the day with his class at Stony Hill School in Wisconsin. In 1885, he urged his students to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday." He later wrote an essay published in a Chicago newspaper urging Americans to also celebrate the flag annually on that day.

Support for the idea grew – although, with seemingly all things involving Washington, it took a while. In May 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation establishing the June 14 as Flag Day. He said he hoped Americans would show "significant expression to our thoughtful love of America" each year.

It's of course part of American lore that Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross made the first flag. But, according to *USA Today*, there's no proof she did.

No official documentation has been found to confirm Ross was responsible for sewing the very first flag. However, it is believed Col. George Ross – a signer of the Declaration of Independence and her late husband's uncle – recommended her for the job.

Meanwhile, some historians say the first flag was made by Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress

and signer of the Declaration of Independence. He also played a role in designing seals for departments within the U.S. government.

Okay, so now we know who came up with the idea to celebrate Flag Day and who may – or may not – have sewed the very first flag. But what's the history of the flag itself?

Well, again according to *USA Today*, on June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, saying: "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."

There have since been 27 official versions of the flag – with the last change being made July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state. (I personally feel it's well past time for Puerto Rico to be the 51st state, but that's a story for another week, I suppose.)

Another question I'm sure you have about the flag (and if you don't, just humor me, people): Why is its nickname 'Old Glory'? Well, *USA Today* reports the flag got its "Old Glory" nickname from William Driver, a Massachusetts-born resident of Nashville who hid his homemade flag from Confederate troops.

During the Civil War, Driver remained loyal to the Union and sewed "Old Glory" into a quilt for safekeeping, according to Tennessee Encyclopedia. When the Union army occupied Music City, Driver gave the flag to the troops to be flown for a short time over the State Capitol.

Driver is buried in the Nashville City Cemetery. "Old Glory," meanwhile, is exhibited at

Editor's Desk continued on page 5

Bulletin Board

It will probably come as no surprise to those of you familiar with the wide range of knowledge displayed in this column from week to week that I am the go-to guy in my family on all questions regarding wildlife.

As a former Boy Scout, I am the one who knows that wearing a bell while hiking in brown bear country can help avoid surprise encounters. I am also the one who knows that the difference between brown bear scat and grizzly bear scat is that grizzly bear poop has bells in it.

So it was no surprise when my sainted mother approached me earlier this spring for advice on how to discourage a rogue chipmunk that has been finding its way onto her screened-in porch and getting into the seed she keeps there for her bird feeder. The little guy runs away when she comes out, only to appear outside in the yard where it sits and stares resentfully toward the house—once even making what might have been a throat-cutting gesture with one of its paws. Nothing like a rodent with an attitude.

A quick run through YouTube showed me a variety of ways to get rid of chipmunks ranging from the inconveniently humane to the absolutely diabolical. I am personally acquainted with both ends of that spectrum, including one softhearted friend who corrals chipmunks in catch 'em live traps and then releases them on the local golf course (an interesting demonstration of passive-aggressive behavior I won't go into now beyond noting that her husband is an avid golfer and their lawn needs mowing).

Moving toward the other end of the spectrum, my sister-in-law in upstate New York (chipmunks apparently being a national rather than a merely regional scourge) sets out large jawed traps that leave their victims well beyond any hope of resuscitation—or, for that matter, reassembly if her "kill photos" are any indication.

Another permanent solution that is not for the faint of heart involves setting up a bucket of water with a ramp and a baited trap door on top. (True meanies—typically people who have spent a boatload of money replacing the chewed-up electrical wiring on their car—sometimes accompany these contraptions with a little sign placed at chipmunk eye level advising "Don't forget your swim suit.")

This is the kind of stuff that can keep you up at night if you believe in karma and would rather not be reborn as a cockroach, but it's also a very efficient way to rid the world of chipmunks, assuming you have the stomach for it. I personally do not. I've got chipmunks boldly running all over the place at my house, partly because I once caught my finger setting a rat trap and I'm not about to risk it again, but mostly because I find them more likable than most people. I should add, however, that this could change in a heartbeat should the little critters decide to relocate into the walls of my house or start using my car air cleaner to store winter provender.

Anyway, when I told my mother about the lethal trap solution (I omitted the catch 'em live option as I have no intention of transporting chipmunks to the other side of town given present gas prices), she gave me a look of horror and I assumed—rightly as it turned out—that she wasn't going to resort to such barbarism over a few sunflower seeds.

(As a social aside: It is my opinion that the blame for our unwillingness to take a harder line toward nuisance vermin can be directly attributed to the American cartoon industry. All those hilarious cartoons about little Alvin and his equally endearing chipmunk brothers, Simon and Theodore—my goodness, they even cut an album of Christmas songs—has done about as much to encourage chipmunk control as Bambi did to popularize deer hunting.)

So last week I went over to my mother's place and I looked out on her porch and there was birdseed scattered all over the place. Over by one wall was some kind of barricade constructed out of a couple of bricks and a towel. "Still got your chipmunk, I see," I observed.

Yes, she said. She had tried to keep him out by blocking his presumed entry point with bricks. She had actually seen him squeeze around the barricade, so she added a towel "plug" to the mix. So then what happens? She comes out the other afternoon to find the little rascal sound asleep in the towel. "It was so adorable!" she said.

Next thing you know she'll be knitting the darn thing a Christmas sweater.

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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



Scholarships Awarded... Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary members Heidi Moody (right) and Christine Grossman (left) recently presented, from left to right, Alexander Grossman, Katherine Chapman and Ava Catherine Zito with the auxiliary's sixth annual scholarship award.

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

Generosity in Remembrance

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the organizers of the Kenny Fletcher Memorial Car Show for their wonderful donation to the Portland Food Bank as well as many other worthwhile causes and organizations.

This is an annual event to honor a very special individual who was taken from us too soon and is a way to remember him in a special way by the generosity of donations in his memory.

Portland Food Bank is honored to be part of such a wonderful tribute to such a special person who touched the lives of many.

Thank you again!!!!

Sincerely,

**Ruth Maio, Director
Portland Food Bank**

Kurt Comisky

To the Editor:

My husband, attorney Kurt John Comisky, is a candidate for the 34th District state representative. One of his passions is changing our collective cultural perception and dialogue on what constitutes a high school graduate's path to ultimate career success and fulfillment. If you're someone who "works with their hands," an in-

sulting euphemism by the way, you no doubt will cast a skeptical eye at an attorney pontificating on the virtue and value of the trades and how trades should be given equal value with the college route.

That's because you were not witness to a then-20-year-old Kurt looking down at his shoes as his father told him he loved him but there was no place for him in the family construction company, or on the day we hosted his parents, excited to show them the progress we had made on the house we were building, and watched his father's face twist in horror as he blurted "Who the hell poured this floor?"

Kurt comes at this from the opposite direction. Someone who somehow did not get the "builder" gene and, while not intentional, was made to feel inadequate. That intellectual gift to see things spatially, whether it is building a fancy pool house with no plans or modifying an engine, did not make it into Kurt's genetic makeup.

Kurt found his own way. The FAA got a highly skilled and fair negotiator and if things go well for all of us, the 34th will get one dynamite state representative.

That is the way it should be, but how many accountants and executives take up cabinet-making or farming or music in retirement, with

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

the old memories of their parents wrapping their arms around them, beaming with pride, as they bragged to the neighbors that their kid will be the first one in their family to go to college?

Kerry Comisky – East Hampton

Election Defense Fund

To the Editor:
Election Defense Fund was a marketing tactic. There was no such fund. Donald Trump, members of his family and close associates have personally benefitted from donations that were advertised as going towards election fraud claims. Trump campaign raised \$250M off the big lie. Trump was told he lost repeatedly, from his campaign manager, from his attorney general, from his top advisors and from his legal team. His own daughter knew he lost and so did Trump. But then he lied to his followers.

The big lie was also the big rip-off.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Spring Swing Support Thanks

To the Editor:
RHAM Youth Baseball would like to thank all of our sponsors that support our program and also help to make our annual Spring Swing golf tournament a success. We appreciate your support in providing and maintaining a quality youth baseball program for our community's kids. Thank you to the following:

Blackledge Country Club, A.I.R./BluSky, Putnam Plaza Super Liquors, Gina Marie's, Paul's Auto Repair, Rivereast Power Equipment, Hebron Veterinary Hospital, Melzen Pet Supply, Hebron ACE, FennAgain's, Flour Girl Bakery, Discovery Zone, Modern Concrete, Ted's IGA, Marlborough Pizza, Country Tree Experts, Oakwood Virtual Golf, Country Carpenters, Century 21 – Jim Celio, Creative Remodeling & Construction, O'Connell Wealth Management, Hebron Family Chiropractic, Marlborough Family Dental, C. Folsom Company, Mosquito Shield of Central Connecticut, Raney Orthodontics, Persnipity, On Board Charcuterie, Boomer's Boards;

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RHAM Youth Baseball

Park Rules & Regulations

To the Editor:
With summer fast approaching, we begin to make plans for fun under the sun at the town parks. The following list serves as a reminder of the safety rules and regulations for swimming, boating and recreation at Lake Terramuggus and other town athletic fields.

General Rules:

1. The following items are strictly prohibited at all town parks and fields: use or sale of alcoholic beverages; operation of unauthorized motor vehicles; feeding or annoyance of wildlife; unauthorized camping; pets (except service animals); smoking; glass containers; firearms or weapons.

2. No mooring of boats or boats with engines greater than 3.3 horsepower.

3. Parking is restricted to designated areas and for use by town residents with a town parking sticker.

4. Beach closings may occur if one or more inches of rain have fallen within 24 hours.

5. Take out what you take in.

6. Open fires and cooking is restricted to designated areas with permission only.

7. One or more Lifeguards may be on duty between Memorial Day until the end of the season.

8. Parks and athletic fields are open from dawn to dusk.

For a full list, please visit the Parks and Recreation link through the www.marlbroughct.net homepage.

**Louise Concodello, Member
Marlborough Lake Advisory Commission**

Moving On

To the Editor:
In 2020, Donald Duck could beat President Biden; Donald Trump cannot. Neither will be a candidate.

It will be interesting to see what happens to \$250 million raised for an election fraud fund that doesn't exist, more clever accounting will help. Check your MAGA hat it will say Made In China, let's move on, please? There is alot of hate and anger out there and it's easy to unload on Pres. Biden. It's not helping. I have found watching shows on TV at night that raise the blood pressure isn't helpful either. A gallon of gas cost as much as a gallon of milk. With the war in Ukraine, fires, floods, wars, famine, it's easy to do nothing. The devil's in the wireless. Can't see Russia or China surviving the information age. Gonna be alot of change and hurt in the next generation, we should try and get it right.

Tim Rinell – East Hampton

Mark DeCaprio for the 48th

Dear Colchester Residents:
It is with great pleasure that I express my support for the election of Mark DeCaprio to represent our 48th District as state representative this November.

I have known Mark professionally for 20 years as he led the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as the Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division as division director. During that time, Mark was a consummate professional enforcing Connecticut environmental law put forth by the legislature. On a personal note, I have had many discussions with Mark on his views on preserving our constitutional rights, personal liberty, economic freedom, rule of law, parental rights and leadership.

As a Navy nuclear submarine veteran he understands the commitment to serve his country, community, and people of our district. He has worked as a volunteer at the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic since 2017 and is an elected official on the Lebanon Board of Selectman, Zoning Board of Appeals, and served on the Board of Education. In my opinion, Mark will work hard to help make Connecticut more affordable, as every day we continue to have people move out of Connecticut due to the high cost of living. Mark will also fight hard to preserve our municipal rights, local control of planning and zoning, and affordable housing the current state democratic led legislature wants to change in order to further state government control over placement of affordable housing in our community.

The residents of Colchester, Bozrah, Franklin and Lebanon deserve a leader with years of service to their state and country. Leadership that makes honest promises, delivers real results and represents the best interests of the people of the

48th District. Please support Mark with your vote this November.

Sincerely,

Jeffery J. Duigou – Colchester

Thank You to Race Sponsors

To the Editor:
On behalf of the Marlborough Lions Club, I would like to thank these local business owners who so graciously supported our May 29 Marlborough Lions 'Round the Lake 5K.

This year's sponsors included Sena Brothers of Hartford, Dr. Kullen Gallagher with Marlborough Family Dental, Village Green Pizza, Dutch Oil, Ken Hjulstrom with Coldwell Banker Realty, The Shops at Marlborough Barn, Hebron Veterinary Hospital, Dr Steven Rafalowsky, Gano's Power Equipment of Colchester, Toyota of Colchester, Fuller Paving, The Kids Club Daycare of Marlborough, Mark Merritt with Lawns and Stuff, and Risinger Orthodontics.

I would encourage you to support these businesses, just as they supported our annual 5K. These businesses helped to make this year's race a huge success.

**Ken Hjulstrom, Secretary
Marlborough Lions Club**

Prentice Logic

To the Editor:
Our local right-wing correspondents see the losing battle on gun control and the rapidly deteriorating status of Donald Trump and want to change the subject. They go for an oldie-but-a-goody: global warming. To understand their suggestions, you must learn something we might call Prentice logic.

Sam Prentice recently demonstrated this, suggesting that increasing CO2 levels are beneficial, since plants need it. Other instances of this "more of a good thing" theory: Since one beer is good to drink, a few cases must be much better. If a gallon of distilled water in the fridge is good, then flooding the kitchen with water can only be an improvement. Eight hours of sleep a day is good for your health; 20 hours can only make you healthier. Absurdities, all.

He suggests we read the blog of science denier Tony Heller (a.k.a. Steven Goddard) to learn about his imagined conspiracy of scientists, journalists, politicians, and others – who seem to be after mind-control or some such. To learn about this site, visit the review from the media bias checker at mediabiasfactcheck.com/real-climate-science, which rates it "conspiracy-pseudoscience," with a "Moderate" conspiracy rating and a "Quackery" pseudoscience level. It was presumably named so that it could be mistaken for the excellent www.realclimate.org, which is "pro-science," with the highest

rating for factual reporting (mediabiasfactcheck.com/realclimate).

I applaud Mr. Prentice for listing some sources, but pointing to a shoddy, meaningless site that happens to agree with one's bias is hardly a powerful argument.

And then there's the logic of suggesting that the party of death is not the party in favor of gun proliferation, the party rejecting infant formula relief, the party that led us into unwinnable wars in the Middle East, but instead the party that opposed all this.

Prentice logic is... quite interesting, no?

Sincerely,

Scott Sauyet – Andover

Delayed Gratitude

To the Editor:
I was inspired to send this note after reading the letter sent by Irena Daigle describing the kindness of a stranger who found and returned her license.

Last summer I stopped by to drop a package at the UPS box near the library and continued on to take my vehicle in for some repairs at G&S. I walked home past the library stopping in to look at the books for sale. Unknowingly, I dropped my license outside the library.

After returning home, I reached in my pocket to return my license to my wallet and realized it was not there. I panicked because we were flying out in two days for a trip. I needed my license to get on the plane. I began re-tracing my steps and searching frantically, making phone calls, etc.

About a half hour later, there was a knock on my front door from an East Hampton Police Officer holding my license. He explained to me that kids found it near the library and approached him with it as he was directing traffic around road work. I asked who the kids were as I wanted to offer them a reward. He said there was no need as he thanked them on my behalf.

It bothers me that I didn't take the time to express my gratitude then. I hope that the parents of these kids read and share this with them.

Thank you to those kids who took the time to do the right thing and alleviate a lot of stress for me. I appreciate that they noticed and took action. With so much negativity in the world and so many horrible things happening, it's comforting to know that there is more good than bad in this world.

Susan Ondas – East Hampton

Here They Go Again

To the Editor:
When Joe Biden took office, inflation was 1.4%; now it is 8.6%, with \$2.78 trillion added to the national debt. When Joe took office, we were energy independent, exporting more oil

See Letters, page 6

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Now, why exactly are the colors of the flag red, white, and blue? Well, the Continental Congress left no record, *USA Today* said, but PBS reported that in 1782, the Congress of the Articles of Confederation chose the colors for the Great Seal of the United States with these meanings:

White for purity and innocence; red for valor and hardiness; and blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice.

So, there you go. Take your pieces of Flag Day trivia and use them wisely – hopefully they'll help you to victory at your next pub trivia night.

Before I go, you may have been noticing a new byline in the *Rivereast* the past couple

of weeks. We've got a summer intern this year: Kate Corliss, a Hebron resident and 2020 RHAM High School graduate, who just wrapped up her sophomore year at American University in Washington, D.C.

Kate is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in journalism as well as a Bachelor of Arts in public health. At American, Kate also works for the student-run newspaper, *The Eagle*, where she serves as the Campus Life editor.

This summer, Kate's doing stories for the *Rivereast* as well as our sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*. She's been doing an impressive job so far, and I think she'll have a good career in journalism if she pursues her path.

See you next week.

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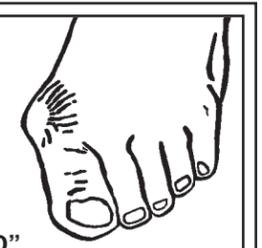
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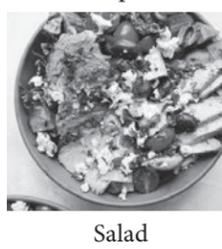
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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

than we imported; regular gasoline averaged \$2.39 a gallon. It now averages \$5.01 per gallon, with diesel averaging \$6.24 per gallon. We are all affected by skyrocketing prices at the grocery store and the fuel pump.

At a time when the Connecticut legislature should be looking for ways to lower the burden on taxpayers, they voted to raise your taxes. While they tout the 25-cent-per-gallon tax holiday, they neglected to tell you that does not apply to diesel, which includes home heating oil. Effective July 1, the diesel tax, which currently

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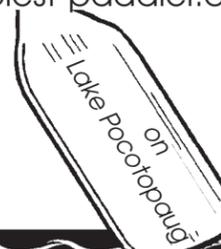
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stands at 40.1 cents per gallon, could increase by more than 10 cents per gallon.

On Jan. 1, 2023, the Highway Use Tax takes effect and is predicted to add \$90 million to annual trucking costs. The tax is a per-mile tax applied to trucks. The truck mileage tax and the high cost of diesel fuel will be passed on to Connecticut taxpayers in extra costs for food, consumer goods and home heating oil.

The Dems proposed a two month 25-cent tax holiday and Connecticut House Republicans shamed them into extending it to the end of the year. The Republicans put forth an amendment to repeal the Highway Use Tax, but it failed on a 53-94 vote, with only one Democrat joining the Republicans. See a pattern? Dems in Washington, D.C., with their war on fossil fuels, gave us outrageous gasoline prices. Dems in Hartford added on some extra taxes to increase the pain.

Linda Ursin – East Hampton

Hebron's Founders' Fields

To the Editor:

I was sadly not surprised to read the Hebron Board of Selectmen report of no "significant findings" in their archeological study at the proposed site of a new industrial Public Works development at 17 Kinney Rd. In a clear case of not seeing the forest for the trees, the BOS is missing the important fact that the 300-year-old hedgerow farmland is itself the historic artifact. These fields were the gift of the Mohegan Sachem Attawanhood to his fellow soldiers in King Philip's War of 1675. These fields are the original lots divided up among Hebron's first settlers in 1704. These fields were cultivated by Henry Peters, the son of the enslaved Cesar Peters, who was freed by the people of Hebron in 1787. There was no settlement, there were no buildings, there are no artifacts except those left by Native Americans as they hunted the fields or those misplaced by colonial farmers as they worked the land. These pristine fields represent a rich and diverse history that needs to be protected, preserved and celebrated.

The ancient stone walls and historic laneways that run through the fields are a vital connection to the first settlers of Hebron. I know of no other town in Connecticut where the proprietor's lots are still in cultivation. Kinney Road itself appears in the first map of Hebron, created in 1741, and was certainly part of the design for the town created in 1704. To place an industrial development in this location is to desecrate our history. And once it is lost it can never be restored. Please let the BOS know you oppose this plan; there are many options for the DPW and for 17 Kinney Road. Please visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and follow #Save17 for more information, photos and videos.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Ledyard

To the Editor:

Imagine being a sports parent traveling to support your daughter's team. Imagine watching your daughter playing a "more physical team." Imagine feeling your daughter was not getting the foul calls. Imagine one parent so angry they needed a friend to separate them from Ledyard's AD.

Imagine a sport's parent that heard her daughter was referred to as a N-word. Imagine their reaction and level of anger. Imagine at least one parent took their anger out into the parking lot.

Now imagine the pain felt by both teams' daughters. A pain resulting from cruel social media exchanges. The pain of seeing their parents in pain too.

Feb. 5th, some Colchester parents started on an interesting personal and social journey. They were described with the R-word. The new trigger word of the 21st century.

Parents again got a bad call. "They" did not hurl racial slurs at Ledyard players. "One," based upon police reports, may have used a racial slur in a private conversation in passing.

A state's attorney decided not to issue an arrest warrant. Our First Amendment rights extends to using racial slurs in public if they were not "fighting words." Yet, his decision, I am sure will not make the anger and pain go away.

Therefore, I am glad our first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, made a public commitment to try and heal both communities. He offered an olive branch to Ledyard's school Superintendent after he read the police reports. He recognized the teams will have to play in the future. The air needed to be cleared.

In closing, I pray progress is made in the healing process. I pray politics stays out of the way. The young women on both teams deserve it.

James D. McNair III – Colchester

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Relocate Missing Honor

To the Editor:

My paternal grandfather heard Abraham Lincoln speak. Later, when word of Lincoln's assassination arrived, his uncle knocked a man to the ground who celebrated the news. Sgt. Rufus Hurlbutt, on my mother's side, died at Fort Griswold fighting overwhelming British forces led by Benedict Arnold. Even into modern times, some Hurlbutts refused to speak the traitorous Norwich native's name. Thomas Hurlbut, who later settled Wethersfield, in 1637 was with Lion Gardiner at Saybrook when they were set upon by a band of Pequots. Two of the colonials threw down their guns and ran, two were shot dead, but Thomas, though shot through the thigh with an arrow, slowly retreated with Gardiner and a few others, using their single shot muskets, and then long swords.

These family stories encouraged an early interest in American history and honor. Later, bicycling America in my teens and twenties, I took breaks in Southern libraries, absorbing the Civil War from the traitorous, dishonorable viewpoint. My half-sister Marilyn, a Congressional researcher, provided room in her house for six months while I worked nights at a bowling alley to restore my traveling funds. Many days I pedaled into Washington D.C., enamored of Smithsonian museums, Congress, the Supreme Court, Library of Congress, etc.

Standing on those experiences, and immersed in political trends today, America needs to relocate its missing honor lest the founders' dream perish under our watch. Today's Republicans fraudulently misrepresent the 2nd Amendment. Schoolchildren cover themselves in dead friends' blood, hoping to survive, because Republicans feel impotent without their weapons of slaughter. Republican propaganda machine Fox News helped incite, and now refuses to cover, the Jan. 6th hearings highlighting Republican attempts to overthrow our government.

Refuge for neo-Nazis, white supremacists, anti-science know-nothings, traitors – ignorant Republicans are proudly dismantling Republican Lincoln's 'last best hope on Earth.'

Edmund Smith – Andover

Apathy!

To the Editor:

Issues that will affect you are determined by your elected officials. If you don't care who gets elected, then perhaps you don't care how they run things. On the other hand, it is not a stretch to say that, at any given time, most elected officials are unpopular with a significant segment of their constituents. Often, there is a similarly significant segment that is satisfied. Of course, such metrics (i.e., extrapolations from opinions voiced in social media of any format) are misleading. We never know how the average citizen feels about their government because the average citizen does not participate in government! Too many do not even vote!

Votes cast in the 2021 election of Colchester's First Selectman: 5,302, out of 11,219 active registered voters: 47% turnout. Only 317 votes separated the winner from the loser. Barely a quarter of Colchester's voters chose the person to manage our town for two years. Referenda turnouts are substantially lower. Voters appear to be apathetic.

According to a definition of democracy, one of four key elements is active participation of the people, as citizens, in politics and civic life. Voting is the easiest way to actively participate, yet too few people do even that. And yet (in another form of shaky extrapolation) conversations with friends and neighbors often exposes a distrust of politicians and dissatisfaction with taxes. Could it be that participatory democracy could fix this?

Democracy dies not with a bang but with a

whimper: apathy. If the electorate does not care enough about the issues and the candidates, then they don't vote, and some small minority controls the direction of policy and spending: how the town/state/nation is run. Don't be apathetic.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Affordable Connecticut

To the Editor:

We need to do more to address the state's soaring gas prices and overall cost of living. Rising prices are making an already expensive state even more unaffordable. The temporary tax cuts provided in the state budget simply do not go far enough to help people make ends meet. Gas prices are already higher throughout the state than when we initially paused the gas tax.

Back in May I stood with my colleagues to propose a \$1.2 billion tax relief plan. Instead, the budget contained temporary tax cuts totaling approximate half of that, many sunset after one calendar year. I am again standing with colleagues to propose solutions. I support a new \$746 million tax cutting plan that will provide immediate relief to residents and businesses by addressing inflation. The plan focuses on lowering energy and travel costs, including diesel fuel, and making everyday items more affordable to you.

The plan includes:

Reducing the income tax; expanding the current gas tax holiday to include diesel; suspending upcoming diesel fuel tax increase (scheduled for July 1); eliminating the highway user tax (truck tax); reducing the state's sales tax; eliminating the tax on prepared meals.

Anyone that's gone to the grocery store or filled up at the pump knows it's time to take meaningful action. We are asking the majority to listen to the voice of the people and act on these proposals.

I will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

**State Rep. Christie Carpino
R-32nd District
Portland and Cromwell**

Portland Library Thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Portland Library Board of Directors, I would like to extend thanks to all who came out last Saturday to celebrate the Portland Library's 125th (+2) Anniversary. It was a beautiful day to celebrate our library and the Portland community.

The board wishes to thank the many people who helped make our celebration a success. Thank you to Maureen Muir and the Friends of the Portland Library for their generous, ongoing support of the library; Don Gouin, Bob Shea and our friends at Portland Public Works for helping us put on a safe event; Lynn Tracey and J-Walk for the entertainment; Amanda Murphy for the community video celebrating what we love about our Library; and Chris Chenier for designing our promotional materials. The board is indebted to our team of incredible volunteers without whom our celebration would not have been possible – with an extra-big thank you to the Scouts, Leos, Library teen volunteers, and PHS students who showed up ready to work hard and impressed us all!

We are so thankful for all of our community partners who participated in our celebration: Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Youth & Family Services, the Waverly Center, Portland Fire Department, Portland Police, Clean Energy Task Force, Committee on Solidarity, Chatham Children's Connection, Middlesex Land Trust, Brownstone Quorum, Complete Streets, Portland Garden Club, Fire Ring Farm, Healthy

Futures, Collins Parenting, Community Emergency Response Team, families of Portland and Middletown, Dance with Miss Alicia, Face Painter Ana Ughetti, Artist Brigette Roy, Portland Poet Laureate Naji Chester-Payne, Portland Historical Society, and Sharon Hoy and her dog Bo.

And finally, to Library Director Jan Nocek and our library staff, we are beyond grateful for all that you do every day to make the Portland Library such a special place. Happy Anniversary, Portland Library!

**With gratitude,
Laurel Steinhauser, Chair
Portland Library Board of Directors**

Ecologically Sensitive

To the Editor:

Nine years ago, I met a farmer. "Where do you live?" he asked. So I tell him. "Oh" he replies. Smiling, he looks down and kicks the dirt with his shoe. "What is so funny?", I asked. "Oh nothing. That's the Horton property, right?". "Yes", I reply. "Kinda' wet over there isn't it? That's a tough piece of property." "Yes" I replied again.

Over the winter a tree professional came out to help with the dead ash trees. "What's new?" he asked. "Well, now that you mention it, the town has chosen our street for a large development."

"What?!" the man exclaimed, "You cannot develop that land. That is an important watershed and the headwaters of the Raymond Brook." "Yes, yes it is."

What's interesting to note is the level of knowledge, about this land, that both these gentlemen share. Especially when we learn that neither one of them is from Hebron, they do not read our version of the *Rivereast*, they are not involved in Hebron town politics, one lives upstream, one lives downstream, one is nearing retirement, while the other is just starting out. For them, by simply being outdoorsmen and knowledgeable about our region, they immediately knew the property and the land's strengths and weaknesses. Since, at least, 1999, Hebron town leaders have also known the strengths and weaknesses of this land, when it was deemed ecologically sensitive and home to interesting wildlife and, therefore, rejected as the new home for RHAM High School. If this property is too ecologically sensitive for a high school how can it be considered appropriate for a municipal/industrial development?

It is not too late to change course in Hebron and rethink what is best for the wildlife, the water, and the communities, both, here and downstream.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Hackable Animals

To the Editor:

Yuval Noah Harari is a recent World Economic Forum darling historian/philosopher/and transhumanist. The Israeli professor recently gave a lecture on the future of the human species and how the elites plan to assimilate us into a "hive mind."

Harari: "Humans are now hackable animals. The idea that humans have this soul or spirit, they have free will and nobody knows what's happening inside me – so whatever I choose whether in the election or in the supermarket, that's my free will? That's over. Today, we have

the technology to hack human beings on a massive scale. Everything is being digitalized and monitored. If you know enough biology and you have enough computing power and data – you can hack my body, my brain and my life. You can understand me better than I understand myself. You can know my personality type, my political views and my deepest fears and hopes. And you can do that not just to me, but to everyone. In the past, many tyrants and governments wanted to do it. But nobody understood biology well enough, and nobody had enough computing power and data to hack millions of people. Neither the Gestapo nor the KGB could do it. But soon, at least some corporations and governments will be able to systematically hack all the people."

Many are dismissive and vow, "I would never do such a thing," but they don't realize that they are actually doing it right now. A Musk brain chip is what most people conjure up when they hear such a quote, but they are unaware of the technologies being pioneered today in nanotechnology and biochemistry and that these technologies are actually injectable. When it comes to capturing your mind, do you believe a would-be tyrant will give you a choice?

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Another Dog and Pony Show

To the Editor:

Another day, another dog and pony show. If Democrats were a little more honest, the American public might find them more endearing. That would circumvent the need for dog and pony shows like the one currently fouling our television programming.

As an extension of Trump Derangement Syndrome, the Jan. 6 Committee hearings are nothing more than a foolish and desperate attempt by Democrats to rescue themselves from a disastrous, incompetent, and grossly negligent executive branch. We are witnessing the political misdirection machine in action. P.T. Barnum was right...there is a sucker born every minute, and some of us are the suckers. I won't name any names. You know who you are.

In the last 17 months, we've seen Afghanistan, Russia/Ukraine, ridiculous inflation, trillions in spending follies, gas/oil prices, millions of unfettered illegal crossings at the border, fentanyl smuggling and deaths, violent crime sprees, adolescent suicide attempts, and a sinking stock market. Is there anything important that I missed?

Oh that's right...overt threats of violence if Roe v. Wade is overturned, a push for changes in gun laws that will only stroke Chris Murphy's ego while doing nothing about the mass shootings that take place every weekend in Chicago, Philly, Atlanta, and Detroit, illegal protests outside Supreme Court judges' homes, an alleged murder attempt on Justice Kavanaugh, threats on Justice Coney-Barrett, and new revelations about everyone's favorite son...Hunter Biden. But we need to focus on Jan 6 because that was the real threat to our democracy.

The real threat to our democracy is Democrats. They know that if all of the above took place under President Trump, Democrats would lobby for the first televised execution in history on the White House lawn.

Honesty. The Democrats should try it some time.

**Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**



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"Pane in the Glass"

Andover • Andover

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 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. Reservations mandatory. For a ride, call Palazzi.

YAH Hosting Movie: Wednesday, 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.

Calling All Cooks!

The Andover CT 175th Anniversary Committee is publishing a community cookbook and is looking for people to submit their favorite recipes. All who submit recipes will have their names printed with them.

Recipe forms are available online to download and print on the Andover 175th Anniversary Facebook page, the Andover Support Network Facebook page and the Andover town website, www.andoverconnecticut.org. Printed forms are available at Town Hall, Andover Food Pantry, First Congregational Church of Andover and the Andover Library.

To submit recipes: Print the form, complete and mail it to the town office at 17 School Rd.,

Andover CT 06232 c/o Andover CT 175th Anniversary Committee;

Drop off the printed copy to Town Hall; or Copy and complete the form, and submit as it an email attachment to Shirley DeFlaviis at shirleydef@aol.com.

Return recipes by Aug. 1, as the committee said it hopes to have the cookbooks for sale by Nov. 1. The number of recipes and orders received will dictate the cost of the book. All profits from the sale of our cookbooks go directly into the Andover CT 175th Anniversary Events Fund.

For more information, email shirleydef@aol.com or 860-742-9238.

East Hampton • East Hampton

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>.

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.

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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Heather Edwards, Kyle Stamm and Kaitlin Tassmer made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Southern Connecticut State University.

East Hampton residents David D'Antonio, Ashlee Fife and Alexis Harris made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

D'Antonio and Harris are studying nursing, and Fife is studying special education.

Dean's List

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

Tyler D'Anna, a business administration major, who is studying in the Grossman School of Business; and Emilia Winquist, a mathematics major who is studying in the College of Arts and Sciences.



What Is This?... Chatham Historical Society member Don Burr recently came across this old stone structure near Pocotopaug Creek in East Hampton. He's wondering what it was – and what was its purpose. If anyone has any information, Burr would appreciate if you contacted him at DBurr10289@aol.com.



Scholarships Awarded... Anchor Lodge No. 112 of East Hampton recently held its 29th annual awards ceremony, and presented two \$1,000 scholarships. The Anchor Lodge Scholarship was awarded to Austin Goldman, who graduated from East Hampton High School and will attend the University of Connecticut majoring in environmental science. Ava Zito, graduated from RHAM High School, and will attend the University of South Carolina, majoring in international business. The lodge also presented 40 pins and certificates to members for their years of service.



Baseball Stars... East Hampton baseball senior captains Hunter Peszynski (left) and Daniel Cascio were selected to All-Shoreline Conference (SLC) teams. Cascio was selected to the 2nd team and Peszynski was selected as honorable mention.

"Pet of the Week"



Meet Sir Lancelot! He is a 12 year old Beagle/Labrador Retriever mix who weighs 40 lbs. This guy definitely is ALL hound and has quite the nose with his personality and energy level. He is SUPER social and CRAVES human attention – he just wants to be your shadow. Sir Lancelot's home MUST have a securely, physically fenced yard to keep him safe.

Carmella is a quiet and gentle soul. She enjoys the company of older children and adults. Carmella would do best in a house with another adult cat or she would be fine as an only cat. She enjoys playing with wand toys and snuggling with her humans. She is hoping to find a home with no dogs.



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Rep. Haines Aiming for Third Term in Hartford

By Jack Lakowsky

Republican state Rep. Irene Haines, who has represented the 34th District towns of East Hampton and East Haddam since 2018, is hoping for another round in the capitol.

The district also currently includes the Westchester section of Colchester, though, due to redistricting, following the November election it will include a portion of Salem instead.

Haines is also first selectman of East Haddam.

Haines said residents of the 34th will soon see her campaigning around town, knocking on doors and speaking to voters about what they think Hartford needs to tackle.

"I love knocking on a door," Haines told the *Rivereast*, "I love to hear what people have to say."

If she wins, Haines said one priority will be helping the state recover from the damage and setbacks of the pandemic, aiding businesses and individuals in becoming whole again.

Affordability is another issue Haines would look at if reelected, "taking some of the financial stress" out of people's lives.

Gas prices are skyrocketing across the country, and Connecticut is no exception, with price records being consistently broken. In response, the state temporarily halted its 25-cent tax on gas, though prices are still soaring.

Haines said while she agrees with the tax cut, she's confused as to why diesel wasn't given the same break. She said she's hoping for a special session of the legislature to put through a break on the diesel tax.

Haines said of her years in office, she's most proud of her accessibility to voters, responsive when they need guidance on navigating complex issues.

One of Haines' committee assignments is vice chair of the higher education committee.

In this role Haines helped get through reforms for the state's colleges. At a 2021 meeting with voters Haines detailed new regulations requiring colleges to report accidental deaths on campus, which followed the accidental death of a Connecticut student at a Colorado university.

The legislature also made it so college students reporting sexual assaults cannot get in trouble if, at the time of the incident, they were consuming drugs or alcohol.

Last week, Haines said this work was "truly

bipartisan."

This year Haines joined a large majority of legislators, passing legislation to make mental health services more accessible to young people. Its goal is "eliminating barriers" to the "expedient licensure" of qualifying mental health professionals. Many media reports point to a mental health crisis among young people across the country.

Haines also back bills expanding definitions of domestic violence and forbidding discrimination against individuals for their hairstyle.

Haines resisted many bills in the last two sessions, including this year's act expanding abortion care in Connecticut and the one loosening outdoor dining restrictions.

She also opposed other bills alleging racism is a health crisis in Connecticut, addressing inequities in housing and an expansion of the rights of tenants.

Haines said when voters ask her about her resistance to or support for a bill, she helps them dig a bit further into the act's language. She said rarely does she oppose a bill's entirety, but specific provisions that need removal, improvement, or other amendments.

She said for example the recent affordable housing bill requiring towns to increase their stock of affordable housing. Single-family homes make up the bulk of Connecticut's housing stock.

She said there's more to affordable housing than income.

"You can't put a building in the middle of the woods without the infrastructure," she said, explaining many smaller towns-which typically lack adequate affordable housing stock- don't have the water/sewer systems to support large buildings.

Haines said the bill doesn't address these infrastructure needs.

Haines' ratings and endorsements from Hartford lobbyists and other organizations are mixed, with high marks from the Connecticut Business and Industry Association and the National Federation of Independent Business's Connecticut chapter. She also has a 91% endorsement from the National Rifle Association (NRA).

The Connecticut AFL-CIO rated her a 30% in the 2019-20 session.

Haines has two previous wins and in Novem-



Republican state Rep. Irene Haines, who serves East Hampton in Hartford, is looking to keep the seat another term. Haines is seen here recently collecting worn out American flags at East Hampton town hall.

ber, both East Hampton and Colchester voted to change their executive boards from majority-Democrat to majority-Republican. These factors seem to indicate Haines' chances are solid.

But she's not taking victory for granted, she said.

"I'm going to work just as hard." After two terms, she said she's more equipped to navigate the choppy waters of politics than she was a few

years ago.

"Now that I'm first selectman in East Haddam, I get a good understanding of how [state] things affect the local level, and it's made me a better legislator.

"I think I bring a lot to the table and work very hard," Haines said. "I love it; I love what I do."

Police News

5/21: After an investigation into a two-car crash at the intersection of Lakeview and East High Street, Joaquin Negron, 57, of 49 Edgerton St., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to yield and operating with a suspended driver's license, East Hampton Police said.

5/25: A 13-year-old female of East Hampton was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny after allegedly stealing \$227 worth of baby formula from Stop and Shop, police said.

5/26: Michael Stevens, 34, of Middletown,

was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

6/2: Robert Conroy, 49, of 1 Middletown Ave., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

6/5: David Heriot, 37, of 8 West Ave., was arrested and charged with second-degree threatening, police said.

Also, from May 23-June 5, officers responded to 31 medical calls, six motor vehicle crashes and 20 alarms, and made 56 traffic stops, police said.

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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 or contact Cap Egan at 860-395-7844 or capegan2015@gmail.com.

Water Gardens – Big and Small

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club will meet Monday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m., at Ballek's Garden Center in East Haddam.

Attendees will learn about the different types of water gardens that can be created in our own gardens and the plants that can be featured in them. Nancy Ballek McKinnon of the garden center will be the presenter. There will be plants and containers for anyone interested in creating their own water garden. The meeting will be held rain or shine as there is a covered area in case of inclement weather.

The club generally meets the fourth Monday evening of each month, and always posts meetings and events in the *Rivereast*.

All meetings are open to the public and the club welcomes new members.

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

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

Dean's List

Sarina Michaud of East Hampton made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Curry College in Milton, Mass.

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Concert Series to Start

The Joseph N. Goff House Concert Series will kick off its 2022 season with a performance of Caribbean Grooves by the Reggae Band Moto on Thursday, June 23, at 6:30 p.m., at the Center School Gazebo in the East Hampton Village Center.

Bring your friends and family, chairs, blankets and picnics and enjoy the free show. Bathrooms will be available at the Congregational Church of East Hampton.

The remaining schedule is: June 30, Centerline Band (playing classic rock); July 7, Dave Palla Trio (jazz); July 21, Jessie Liam Band (pop favorites); July 28, Jolly Beggars (Celtic Folk); Aug. 4, Big Deal Rock (hits from the '70s to present).

Visit goffhousehct.blogspot.com for more information.

Dean's List

Taylor Engel of East Hampton made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

East Hampton • East Hampton

Top Two Learners Played Big Roles at EHHS

By Jack Lakowsky

East Hampton High School Class of 2022 valedictorian Victoria Schiavoni and salutatorian Ben Nafis fully immersed themselves in school activities.

For two years, Schiavoni was class president. In a chat earlier this month, she said in this role she learned good leadership and how to effectively plan events.

She was also secretary and treasurer of the French club.

She'll be carrying this experience in leadership and accountability to the University of Connecticut in the fall, where she'll major in biomedical engineering.

"I'm quite proud of myself," Schiavoni said. With her degree, Schiavoni wants to break ground in the field of biotechnology, aiming to become a doctor or work in pharmaceuticals.

Schiavoni's subject was well-addressed in her time at EHHS, saying she had an especially passionate and understanding advancement placement (AP) biology teacher.

The pandemic affected the latter the half of the pair's high school careers, striking when they were sophomores.

Overall, Schiavoni feels the pandemic made her a better student.

"You had to learn accountability," she said. "You had to be more proactive reaching out for help."

She said the pandemic did affect her social life, hindering chances to make new friends.

One memory Schiavoni will carry with her happened at a soccer game her sophomore year. It was a tournament match during a very cold day.

"The field was ice. We were slipping everywhere," she said.

To lift some spirits, her coach arrived sporting a crop of blue-dyed hair.

Nafis said distance learning during the pandemic was, at first, difficult. In-person learning is his strong preference, he said.

"It definitely slowed things down socially," Nafis said.

Like Schiavoni, Nafis had a leadership role at EHHS, heading the mountain biking club. High school principal Eric Verner said Nafis was "instrumental" in making the biking club a success.

He also assistant coached at the middle school. Nafis is strong academically, athletically and musically, inducted into the Tri-M music society.

Another commonality between the two: Nafis is also an aspiring scientist, starting his collegiate education in Storrs.

Nafis will major in biology, planning work in the world of microbiology, and hopes to make advancements in the field.

Both students named an EHHS history teacher – Geoffrey Lucas – as a positive role model and superb educator. Previous graduates have also named him as their favorite.

Verner, who at an earlier point in his career was a history teacher, remarked at how telling it is when students name as their favorite a teacher whose subject had little to do with their interests.

Nafis and Schiavoni were also inspired by the literature at the high school. The valedictorian named *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, a memoir by attorney Bryan Stevenson, recounting his experiences defending underprivileged clients.

"It gave me a good perspective on the prison system," Schiavoni said.



East Hampton High School Class of 2022 valedictorian Victoria Schiavoni and salutatorian Ben Nafis recently looked back at their time in school.

Nafis named the Maya Angelou's classic collection *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and a work he read on his own, the anthropological history book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari.

Verner said, "I'm so proud of Ben and Victoria. They're perfect models of well-rounded students. They have a lot to look forward to in their next chapter."

Old Home Days 'Glorious Celebration' is Back

Old Home Days will celebrate its 42nd anniversary this July 14, 15 and 16 at the Center School grounds, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

The Old Home Days Committee will dedicate the 2022 festivities and event to the memory of Red McKinney, the perennial master of ceremonies, who passed away in December 2019. In his honor, the theme for this year's celebration is "Paint the Town Red."

President of this year's committee is Pam Joslyn, vice president is Jim Vick, treasurer is Laura Engel-Peterson, and secretary is Mary Rose Coll.

Committee members and organizers are: Carl Guild (honorary chairman of the event), Kyle and Allison Dillon, Sue Beal, Elisha Milton,

Cap Egan, Ashley Wolf, Denise Painter, East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner, Shelly Grendzinski, Steven Kelley, Linda Wallace, Mitch Gaudette, David Johnson, Jennifer Marozzi, Lynn Minnick, Ceara Yanaros and Jen Collingwood

The official event emcees for 2022 are Melissa Engel, John Tuttle and Bo Tinson.

This event is free for all who attend, but sponsors are sought. Call or text Jennifer Marozzi at 860-918-1302 for more information on sponsorship opportunities.

Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Chatham Historical Society will again sponsor the Town-Wide Tag Sale Saturday, June 18.

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

Maps will be given out in the center of town and in the Stop & Shop parking lot.

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

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.

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Resident Named Nonprofit's 'Person of the Year'

By Kate Corliss

More than 10 years ago, a kitten wandered into Ryan Donohue's nightclub in Hartford. Donohue, who had never cared for a pet before, took him to his local humane society to learn more about how to give the cat a happy and healthy home.

Now a senior media strategist for iHeartMedia, Donohue, an East Hampton resident, uses his platform to support the Connecticut Humane Society by organizing adoption events, facilitating adoptions and raising funds.

"That relationship started with that first pet and when I had the opportunity to take [the humane society] on as a client with iHeartMedia, it gave me an opportunity to go back and thank them," said Donohue.

For his efforts, the Connecticut Humane Society recently honored Donohue as its 2022 Person of the Year.

According to a press release announcing Donohue's selection, the award recognizes "a local community member whose support goes above and beyond in helping the humane society make significant strides in its mission to improve animal welfare through adoption services, medical care, education, and prevention of cruelty."

Donohue, who has been working in partnership with the Connecticut Humane Society through his position at iHeartMedia for nearly a decade, said that his team's extensive work with the organization has led to the development of "some flagpole events" that help garner support for animal welfare.

"We've created just these very cool wheels of awareness for the organization, between creating 'Pet of the Week' features, between ongoing support for their galleries and their auctions and things like that," Donohue said.

Donohue played a large role in developing the Connecticut Humane Society's "Puppy Pick 'Em" event, which has run annually for the past six years, to spotlight the organization's adoptable pets.

Shortly before the Super Bowl, shelter pup-

pies are presented with two bowls full of treats, each representing one of the competing football teams – whichever one they decide to eat from indicates their "predicted" winner. Interestingly, the dogs have guessed correctly each year.

"This has grown to having all the TV media groups [become a part of it] and it's become such a staple event and so turnkey for us now that we've obtained great sponsors for the event," Donohue said. "And when we get the sponsors for the event, we're raising a tremendous amount of money for the humane society, which is what it's all about."

Donohue pointed out that, in conjunction with promoting pet adoptions, fundraising is a crucial part of supporting animal charities like the humane society.

"It's not just getting the puppies or the kittens or the rabbits adopted," Donohue said. "It's also finding ways outside of the grant money and the state money [and small donations] that they receive. It's a way to keep them paying their bills."

Reflecting on all of his marketing work to support the humane society, Donohue described receiving the Person of the Year award as "humbling."

"Nothing I do on any of the charity levels is to be recognized or to be showcased or spotlighted for, and you never normally do, so to be recognized for it, you feel hugely appreciated," Donohue said.

While Donohue noted that the humane society is always in need of volunteers, he said that anybody who is interested in supporting animal charities could help the cause by getting involved with one of the numerous nonprofit adoption organizations out there. He also wants people to know that volunteering their time is not the only way to make a difference.

"A lot of people are spending so much time working to pay their bills that they don't have any free time to be able to volunteer, and so sometimes it's not even necessarily manpower and the physical volunteering," Donohue said. "Bringing food, items, toys, things like that



East Hampton resident Ryan Donohue was recently honored as the Connecticut Humane Society's 2022 Person of the Year. Donohue is pictured with Susan Wollschlager, the marketing and communications manager for the Connecticut Humane Society.

down to the humane society goes so far."

He also suggested that, when planning events, hosts could make donations in the name of every guest in lieu of handing out party favors.

Donohue recommended visiting the organization's website at www.cthumane.org for more

specific information about how to get involved. For people looking to donate to the humane society, items on its wish list include towels, large garbage bags, clay cat litter and Kong toys for dogs. Donations may be dropped off at any time at 701 Russell Road in Newington.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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

Children's Programs: 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.

Teacher Read-Aloud Series: Monday, June 27, 4-5 p.m. Center and Memorial school educators will read stories at the library. Additional dates are Mondays, July 11, July 25 and Aug. 8.

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: 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.

Teen Friday: Aug. 1, 3:30 p.m. There will be crafts, games, snacks and more.

Adult Programs: 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.

Epoch Arts Seeks Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts is preparing for its annual fall tag sale – and will accept tag sale donations the second and fourth Saturday of every month from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. People are asked not to leave donations any other times than these Saturdays.

There will also be a drop-off time during the Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 18, from 1-4 p.m.

People are asked to donate gently used, clean items and only things that are not on Epoch's "Not Accepted" list: recliners, couches, headboards, mattresses, bed frames, high chairs, cribs, car seats, computers, printers, keyboards, TVs, VCRs, exercise machines, textbooks, encyclopedias, and old-style phones.

For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

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 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 or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Masks are required for all, regardless of vaccination status. Visit the senior center online at www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

Lunches: Served at the center to ages 60 and up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call the center to reserve a meal or sign up online. Reservations for the next day's meal are due by 11 a.m. the day before. Masks are encouraged, but not required. 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.

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 yesterday. 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. 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.

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Joy-Walking the Air Line Trail – All of It

By Mary Jo Shafer

Editor's Note: *Mary Jo Shafer is a Middle Haddam resident in her 70s who recently walked the entirety of the 60-mile Air Line Trail, stretching from Portland to the Massachusetts border. She graciously shared this first-hand account with us. Thanks, Mary Jo – and congratulations!!*

And in the spring of the third year of the pandemic, I walked the entirety of the 60-mile Air Line Trail.

I walked from Portland to Thompson, starting in early March and I finished in May.

It was my therapy to deal with the pandemic that was refusing to die, Putin's war, a spring that was way to slow in arriving, and my too-high cholesterol.

The Air Line State Park Trail currently stretches from central Connecticut to the very Northeast corner of the state with just a few gaps, I found out.

A map of this trail appeared in my local post office in February. It contained the information that I needed to drive and park at certain points along the way.

I was very familiar with Portland and East Hampton, but this folding, credit-card-sized map inspired me to continue with curiosity and a sense of adventure.

One to two days a week, I would drive to where I last left off, walk two to three miles, do an about-face and return to my car. Every time, it was a new exploration.

Mostly I was alone, but occasionally a friend was with me. I couldn't get lost on the trail and when I encountered others, it was always friendly. I did take precautions: cell phone, an app which let my son know where I was, a knapsack with basic first aid, pepper spray and a foghorn.

Hiking boots were not necessary, but in March there was some ice and mud. I treated myself to a \$66 pair of black leather walking shoes. I could walk through an inch of mud,

have dry feet and my shoes remained the same color.

Walking was for me the simplest, most enjoyable way to see the birds, trees and the lay of the land. A bicycle would have been difficult and riskier alone for this 70-plus-year-old, and not suitable for parts of the trail beyond Pomfret where the surface intermittently had two to three inches of rocks. (A wide tire bike would work better in the last half of the trail.)

This was not a power walk or any great feat. It was just a joy walk – a walk to commune with nature at a pace of my choosing on days of fair weather, resting when I wanted to, seeing the quite Northeast Corner with its wonderful towns on foot.

The Air Line Trail in East Hampton has the first major gap in the trail: a section in the vicinity of routes 16 and 66. The trail becomes a stream with telephone poles in the middle. East Hampton has some of the best sites with its viaducts, benches to sit on and picnic tables.

Colchester has its "spur," which I didn't know about until that little map came out. Lebanon, Hebron and Columbia had plenty of beauty, some benches, and well-kept and marked trails.

In Willimantic, the trail went practically straight through the town with signs that said: "bike trail." I would recommend having a friend for this section. Just north of Willimantic/Windham, the trail was lined with white pines and there's a bog where herons nest atop the trees. Another sign a little further on highlighted a Northern White Cedar bog.

The trails continue to be well-marked at this point with trail access information, the name of the road one would come to, etc. This would change as I continued to amble northeast.

Pomfret has a major parking area with a lot of maps, trail history and a small station. But beyond Pomfret, the surface was rocky and muddy in many places. Pomfret was clearly working

on major improvements, with numerous fairly new underpasses and overpasses.

Putnam had the other major disconnect in the trail. The trail was collapsed on an elevated section, which was easy to get around but offered me the opportunity to see how it was built with large rocks underneath. The trail then abruptly went downhill to the Quinebaug River and a footbridge crossing to the city – but offered no signs to tell you where to pick it up. So, I walked straight into the center of Putnam and spoke with someone in a town truck, who said that coming off the Air Line Trail, you follow the Putnam River Trail to the left.

The river trail was beautiful but did not reconnect to the Air Line Trail. My maps told me to go to Mechanicsville, an unincorporated section of neighboring Thompson, less than a mile north, for the continuation of the Air Line Trail. All in all, there's a two- to three-mile disconnect in Putnam, but if you take the time in Putnam, it's a town worth discovering, with its history of the 1955 flood and mills. Just beyond Putnam, it's a little noisy as you parallel Route 295 for a few miles.

Finally, Thompson, the last town in the very Northeast corner, which was a bit of a drive (almost one and a half hours) from Middle Haddam, where I live.

These small towns – mostly old mill towns with a fascinating history – were very much part of my adventure.

The Putnam to Thompson stretch of the Air-line Trail was not marked well and even my maps (Google, All Trails app and DeLorme Atlas and Gazetteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island) disagreed on the name of one intersecting road.

The last few miles before the Massachusetts border were in good shape, with a lot of information about a four-train crash in the area.

Thompson also had the only porta-potty, where the trail intersected with a road. The sign inside said: "Compliments of the Thompson Trails Committee." So, thank you Thompson Trails Committee!

I planned to end my March-to-May adventure at the border at the Massachusetts border, but wondered how far it continues into that state. Now I know: It goes for about 10 miles before it connects to active railroad tracks. In Massachusetts, it's called the "Southern New England Trunkline Trail."

Then I figured that I might as well do an additional two-mile-loop which goes to the tri-state marker (Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island). This was a very steep, rocky trail which cut one mile south, as the northern border of Connecticut and Rhode Island are offset by a mile.

The Air Line State Park Trail was a wonderful way to bring in spring and discover the many historical towns and country roads that help you get there along the way.

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 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 per-

centage 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 or www.ctdraftrescue.org.

Driving for Drafts

The eighth annual Driving for Drafts fundraising event, to benefit the CT Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR), will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Portland Golf Course, 169 Bartlett St., Portland. Shotgun start is at 1 p.m., with check-in beginning at noon.

Cost is \$150/person and includes golf as well as grilled lunch and a buffet dinner, along with raffles, auctions and prizes. Sponsorships are also available, including an "In Memoriam" sponsorship to honor a loved one or a pet. All proceeds benefit the rescue horses of the CDHR.

Registration closes Sept. 1. To sign up as a participant or become a sponsor, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org/2022-golf-registration or email cdhr.golf@gmail.com.

In 2015, CDHR rescued a neglected, ema-

ciated Clydesdale from shipping to a slaughter auction in Pennsylvania to soon discover that this horse was Duke, a former Budweiser Clydesdale. As he regained his health, Duke quickly became a local celebrity at the CDHR, making appearances at events, including the golf tournament, and posing for pictures with visitors. Sadly, Duke passed away about a year after his rescue, surrounded by his loving volunteer caretakers. To honor Duke's memory, the CDHR named this annual golf tournament after him.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. For more information, volunteer opportunities, or to donate, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to worship Sundays at 9 a.m. 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.

Lake Friends Raffle 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 or call Greg Davis at 860-267-2629.

Mercy Honor Roll

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

Highest Honors: Grade 11: Harper Carlson; Grade 9: Sianna Fagan, Courtney Klewicki, Payton Polsonetti, Clara Romero and Sage Svalstad.

High Honors: Grade 11: Mairan Hall; Grade 9: Gretchen Lee and Riley McCormick;

Honors: Grade 10: Brooke Adams; Grade 9: Olivia Arcari and Jerica Leary.

Business of the Year

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the 12th annual Small Business Awards.

Bevin Brothers Manufacturing of East Hampton won Business of the Year (1-50 employees).

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.

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.

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).

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, 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 for more information.

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.

Summer Session of First Steps in Music

Local mom and musician Mallory Kokus is offering a summer session of her First Steps in Music class for children ages birth through 6 and their grown up. The class will meet Tuesdays at 10 a.m. from June 28 through Aug. 9 (no class July 19), at Creative Dance Center, 2 Barton Hill Rd.

Children and their grown-ups will dance, sing, wiggle, bounce and more. Cost is \$75 per family for the six-week session, or \$15 per class for drop-ins.

Registration and more information can be found on Facebook (Music with Mallory) or by emailing mallorykokus@gmail.com. This program is supported by a grant from the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission.

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.

Resident Graduates

Kate M. Rivard-Lentz of East Hampton recently graduated summa cum laude from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, and with highest honors in psychology.

Portland • Portland

Perfect Spring for Portland High School Golf

By Josh Howard

Perfection isn't easy, especially in golf. But the golf team at Portland High School hit the equivalent of a hole-in-one this spring.

The Highlanders swept through all 16 regular season matches before winning both the Shoreline Conference championship in May and Division III state championship at Fairview Golf Course in Harwinton on June 7.

It was the team's second straight state championship and the program's fifth title in the past six seasons.

Dynasty, anyone?

Head coach Joe Santavenere said the program's success is so much more than what takes place during the tournaments.

"I think people assume they are just good at golf. There is a lot of hard work that goes on in practice and on the weekends. They help each other out and they are a really strong team," said Santavenere. "The team dynamic is great and it's one of the best groups that I've had. That support and camaraderie they have is outstanding."

Sophomore Luke Stennett again shined this spring, tying his close friend Colin Murphy of Coghinchang as the medalist during both the SLC and state championship events.

In the state finals, Stennett needed some late magic and shot an eagle on the final hole to finish tied atop the leaderboard.

"I had no idea where I was standing and I couldn't really think of a number I needed. I just played it the best I could," Stennett recalled of his mentality prior to the 18th hole.

Stennett pushed his tee shot near the trees and needed to battle around 220 yards uphill into the wind to reach the green.

"I ended up having a good lie, but the stance was awkward. My mindset going into it was to try and go left because the entire right is out of board," recalled Stennett, who used his six-iron for the miraculous shot. "I took deep breaths and told myself to swing smooth. I was hitting

irons good all day so I had confidence that I could hit it well."

Stennett crushed the ball, which arched high into the sun-filled sky before dropping and rolling within 10 feet of the cup. He said he was "shocked" at the ball's eventual location and was confident he could tap in the eagle despite the fact that he had previously struggled on the greens.

"I went from my putting being a disaster to knowing I would make that putt. It was the best stroke I had all day and it went dead center into the cup. I'm not going to lie, I did a first pump," recalled Stennett.

It was the second straight year that Stennett had risen to the occasion on the final hole, shooting a birdie to win the tournament outright a season ago.

Santavenere called his young golf prodigy "clutch" and added that Stennett had a couple of bad breaks throughout his championship round, but played his best golf when it counted the most.

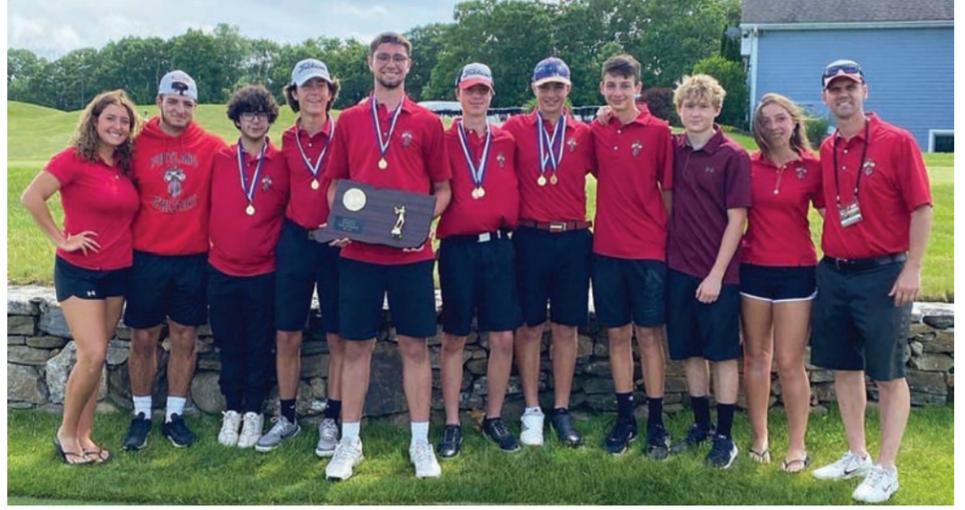
"If you look at what he's done in these two years, it's pretty special," said Santavenere. "He can turn the page and move on to the next hole. He's grown a ton since his freshman year with that mental part of the game."

Stennett's eagle putt was the exclamation point to another dominant performance from the Highlanders, who bested runner-up St. Paul Catholic by 15 strokes.

Quinn Lapinski shot a 75 (+3) to finish 3rd, Eli Evison shot a 78 (+6) to finish tied for 7th, and Joseph LaMalfa shot an 84 (+12) to tie for 23rd.

Evison joined the team a season ago and was on the JV team at a junior. Following an off-season of crafting his game on the links, he is now leaving PHS as a state champion.

"He committed himself and he wanted to become part of something special and he did it," stated Santavenere. "That is his legacy and something that you can show the younger



Portland High School golf won a second straight state championship at Fairview Golf Course in Harwinton on June 7. Pictured from left, Hannah Brunk, Owen Brunk, Joe LaMalfa, Giovanni Discenza, Eli Evison, Quinn Lapinski, Luke Stennett, Aidan Peterson, Ty Mazzotta, Ava Hurley, head coach Joe Santavenere.

player as an example of what you can do. Who wants to be that next Eli?"

Evison, who will play college basketball at Eastern Connecticut State University, was one of four multi-sport seniors on the team this season. Twins Owen and Hannah Brunk, along with Ava Hurley provided the team depth on the course and intangibles off of it, which upped the team's morale.

Owen was an all-state football player and wrestler, while Hannah starred on the soccer fields and basketball courts. Hurley played basketball and was normally a star tennis player during the spring season, but chose to join the golf team this spring as she recovered from an injury.

Santavenere praised his seniors, calling the Brunks "outstanding leaders" and crediting Hurley with making great strides as a first-year golfer.

The four departing players are the latest in a series of impactful senior classes that Santavenere has had during his time at PHS.

"All the kids get along and that has been the culture the last five, six, seven years. As a coach, you couldn't ask for anything more than that," added Santavenere. "They collectively wanted to do something special and they did whatever they need to do to reach that team goal. I couldn't be more proud."

Stennett and Lapinski's performances at the state championship qualified the duo for the State Open at Black Hall Club in Old Lyme on June 11. Stennett shot a 77 to tie for 8th and Lapinski shot an 86 to tie for 21st.

"We've been fortunate to have those kids every year that come in and work really hard and they make an impact," said Santavenere, who has coached the program for a decade. "It's neat to see that culture carry on from one year to the next."

Stennett said the individual accolades are rewarding, yet it's the team titles that carry more meaning. He added that prior to each match the players each tell one another, "good luck, play well, have fun."

"Obviously winning the state championship and shoreline is a great team accomplishment, but what I think makes it stand out for me is the hard work and dedication that went into these matches. We were all working towards the same goals and wanted to accomplish them together," added Stennett.

As for a three-peat next spring? "The goal is to stay there," said Stennett. "We have to keep trucking along and making a statement that Portland is a small school, but we have some amazing athletes that can do some great things."

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 "JCSF+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.

Methodist Church News

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

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.

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.

Annise 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.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Through Oct. 22, the hours for the Portland transfer station will be:

Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The scale closes 30 minutes before closing.

Local Business Wins Award

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the 12th annual Small Business Awards.

Chris Cote's Golf Shop of Portland won the Business Growth & Expansion award.

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.

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Superintendent Calls for Guard in Schools

By Jack Lakowsky

At a Portland Board of Education meeting last week, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton said he supports bringing in a security officer to serve all five town schools.

"It's important for us to have this conversation," Britton told the board.

Britton introduced the idea to the board as something to be discussed going forward. He said the schools could fill in a "district resource officer" position, or DRO.

"In light of our efforts to improve safety, this is a very valuable potential next step," said Britton. Britton was soliciting the board's "willingness and desire" to pursue an armed guard.

"What questions does the board need answered to be comfortable with the officer?" said Britton.

Regionally, East Hampton and Marlborough are also discussing posting armed guards to their respective districts, all in response to a gunman's killing of more than 20 teachers and students at an elementary school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

The board agreed to discuss the matter in an executive session next meeting.

Members raised multiple talking points they want addressed.

Board chair Sharon Peters, a Democrat, said the board needs all the information about the existing security plan first.

Peters said Britton touched on issues of policy and funding, but not on exactly why Portland schools need the added security. She also

suggested looking into a cost sharing agreement with the town.

Board member Tim Lavoy, a Republican, said the boards had previous conversations about this, and they all came down to one thing: money. He said schools could be adding a certified police officer to the town's payroll. He said there are many ways this issue can be approached.

Lauren Christensen, board Democrat, said she wants hard data on if armed guards actually improve school safety, not just "anecdotal" evidence.

Laurel Steinhauser, also a Democrat, said her concerns remain the same from when the board discussed this a few years ago – saying no definitive evidence proves armed guards better school security, and that their presence can make an unsafe environment for students of color.

According to a 2019 study by the New York State Schools Boards Association, it's unclear armed guards deter school violence or shootings.

The board enhanced security measures last year. They did not include an armed guard. Local police currently have a presence in schools, Britton said last July.

The new security software included two products; one called Raptor, the other Navigate360 (Nav360).

Raptor was probably the most noticeable change for district parents and school visitors.

Raptor is a visitor check-in system that requires a driver's license to be presented to and scanned by front office staff. The person's license is run through the state police's sex offender database.

If a person is flagged, they're to leave school grounds. If not, they get a badge saying they're allowed to proceed.

Everyone is required to get scanned, Britton said.

Britton told the *RiverEast* if a person is flagged, police may be called.

However, "[s]imply being on a registry or in the [databases] may or may not necessitate notification to police," and whether police should be called will be "determined on a case-by-case basis."

Raptor is a product of Raptor Technologies. According to the company's website, its product screens instantly "every visitor, including contractors, guardians and volunteers [against]

the most reliable and [current] U.S. sex offender databases in all 50 states."

If an individual is deemed a risk, an alert goes out to administrators and security personnel, according to Raptor's website.

The website also reads that 35,000 K-12 school districts use the software, with a 98% client retention rate.

Navigate360, Britton explained, is an app allowing real-time reporting of emergencies. At the start of this school year, Portland staff have this app on their phones.

Board member Meg Scata, a Democrat, said the board needs to know how an officer fits into the existing school safety system. Scata advised looking at security comprehensively, including at any discrepancies in district infrastructure.

Scata said there's also a mental health component to the topic.

"This is a big discussion," said Scata.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

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: This year's program theme is "Beyond the Beaten Path." A schedule of upcoming events is posted on the library website. Registration is underway.

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 begins 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.

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: An Afternoon of Renaissance Lute Music: Saturday, June 18, 1 p.m. Explore the music of the Renaissance with New York City lutenist Daniel Keene as he performs 16th and 17th century Italian, English, and French lute music on period instruments. There will be works by John Dowland, Anthony Holborne, Francesco da Milano and Marco dall'Aquila, as well as intabulations of French chansons. Discussion and questions follow performance.

Library at Juneteenth: Also on Saturday, June 18, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the library will have a table at the Portland Solidarity Committee's Juneteenth celebration, being held at Portland Riverfront Park on Middlesex Avenue.

Mystery Lovers' Book Club: Tuesday, June 21, 1 p.m. *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippman 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.

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.

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.

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.; Massage with Joanie on the Spot, available 10 a.m.-4 p.m., fee is \$50/hour, appointments necessary. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; Watercolor Lessons: 9:30 a.m.-noon – email bivenne@yahoo.com to register; Coupons for Troops, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Stretch & Flex: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Tap Exercise, 1:30 p.m. 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. **Thursday:** Dancercise, 10 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:30-4 p.m.; Scrabble, 1-4 p.m.; Lunch from Sarah's on Main at the Senior Center: 12:15 p.m. – fee is \$5, pay and order by June 20. **Friday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Free Hearing Screenings: 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.

Trip: Quinnipiac Linear Trail Wallingford and Gouveia Vineyards for BYOB Picnic: Friday, June 24. Bus leaves the senior center at 9 a.m. Ride fee is \$5. If you need a ride from your home, let the senior center know; this will be an additional \$5 ride fee. Return time is anticipated by 1:30 p.m. Bring your own small picnic cooler. Seating is limited.

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.

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.

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Seniors Sought for Pen Pals Program

Local seniors are sought who want to correspond with youth, ages 10-15, over summer vacation.

The Portland Parks and Recreation Summer Quest Camp program is sponsoring an intergenerational program of called "Pen Friends for the Ages." The writing program will begin July 5. Each week, the pen friends will write back and forth, with a meeting at the end of the camp in August.

Seniors interested in participating should call Lynne or Alexis at the Waverly Center, at 860-342-6761.

Candidate Meet-and-Greet

Portland Republicans invite members of the community to come and meet Brandon Goff, candidate for the state senate, 33rd District, on Thursday, June 23, from 5-7 p.m., at Portland Ale House, 188 Main St.

The 12-town 33rd District includes the Rivereast communities of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

'Spirit of Portland Award' Nominations Sought

Nominations are due soon 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 to request one.

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

Dean's List

The following Portland residents made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Southern Connecticut State University:

Autumn Church, Alyssa Couture, Olivia Delisle, Allison Long and Morgan Sartor.



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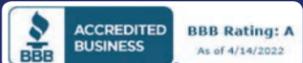


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Narrow Gate Worship... Narrow Gate Worship invites all to come out for an evening of praise and worship at Picture Perfect Landscape and Christmas Decor (to the right side of Hebron Ace) on Tuesday, June 21, from 6-7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and listen as the group takes part in the Hebron Make Music Day. From left are group members Don Chase, Crandall Yopp, Ann Riley and Freddy Brehant.

St. Peter's News & Notes

Starting this Sunday, June 19, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., will hold summer services of Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m. This schedule will run through September. Coffee Hour will be held after the service.

Meetings and Events: Balancing Class: Mondays, 10-11 a.m. – cost is \$5; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts: Wednes-

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

Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, June 22, 1-6 p.m.

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

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

Church of the Holy Family News

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

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Greatest needs: \$10-\$15 Stop and Shop gift cards for gasoline to mainly support clients who are living in their cars; \$10 Walmart gift cards; travel size shaving cream, body lotion, bar soap, shampoo and conditioner; men's & women's disposable razors; finger and toe-

nail clippers; men's knit boxer briefs (L, XL, XXL); women's briefs (sizes 5-9); shea butter or aloe Epsom salts; laundry detergent pods (no liquid; pods are individually handed out); AA and AAA batteries; 13-gallon trash bags; sturdy backpacks; large tarps (10'x12' or larger; dark colors, no bright blue); disinfectant spray; and water bottles. Additional needs: insect repellent with Deet (wipes, if possible); body and hygiene wipes; men's flip-flops (M, L, XL; used as shower shoes); men's and women's stick deodorant; tent stakes, rope and cord; flashlights and lanterns; and rain ponchos. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m., an in-person Divine Service is held. Masks are optional. People can also watch worship live at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

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

Sunday Adult Bible Study: Starting June 19 at 10:15 a.m., "A Fresh Look at Some Old Sunday School Stories."

Caring Shepherds: Has open pantry hours at Christ Lutheran. The next open pantry will

be in September; date to be announced. Caring Shepherds distributes household and hygiene items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles, and prayers. For more information, call Caring Shepherds Ministry at 860-494-0431.

Early Childhood Center: Open to all faiths, the center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school educational opportunities, as well as a Summer Camp experience, in a Christian environment. Briana Manginelli is director. The camp registration is open now, call 860-228-5134 or email brigidutz@gmail.com for availability and pricing.

Dean's List

Sean Cruess of Amston and Jessica Delton of Hebron made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Resident Graduates

Olivia Rose Knightly of Hebron recently graduated from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., with a Master of Arts degree in community development and planning.

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, 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.

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Spreading Cheer Through Music... The residents at Complete Care at Harrington Court in Colchester were graced with a visit from the Bacon Academy Marching Band on Sunday, May 30, when they marched down to the facility to perform for them. It was the day of the Colchester Memorial Day Parade and the students continued marching down to the facility to bring cheer to the residents. Band director Thomas Kessler made the arrangements. Photo by Paul Ofria.

CCT Summer Children's Theater Workshop

The Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) will hold its Summer Children's Theater Workshop July 11-22. Auditions will be held Sunday, June 12, from 1-3 p.m., and Monday, June 13, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Congregation Ahavath Achim (Colchester Synagogue) on 84 Lebanon Ave.

The workshop is open to all children entering grades 2-12 in the fall.

Every child must audition to attend the program. There are no exceptions. Pre-registration for auditions is required as well. Registration can be completed at tinyurl.com/nh-kk97ja. Each child is to bring sheet music or an instrumental recording and be prepared to sing. An accompanist will be provided.

After auditions, those chosen to participate will be sent an invoice for the workshop fee of \$135 per child (additional \$15 Town of Colchester processing/administrative fee included).

The workshop will be held at the Bacon

Academy auditorium, Monday, July 11, through Friday, July 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, culminating in a show on Saturday, July 23, at 2 p.m. CCT will follow the Colchester Public Schools and CDC guidelines during auditions and the workshop for the health and safety of performers, patrons and staff.

CCT will be producing *Broadway Junior Revue: Raise Your Voice* for this workshop. *Raise Your Voice* is a brand-new revue featuring songs from across MTT's *Broadway Junior* collection. Songs will include works from *Guys and Dolls*, *Oliver!*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Mary Poppins* and more. CCT will also customize the show through interstitials (i.e., transitions) between numbers.

For more information, contact Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or Laura Brown at RTR1982@aol.com. CCT is also seeking for an accompanist who can volunteer their time on the audition dates. Contact Johnson or Brown with availability.

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.colchesterfederated-church.org under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

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

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.

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.

Invitation to Air Line Trail Toastmasters

All are invited to learn the art of public speaking by joining the Air Line Trail Toastmasters Club, which meets virtually on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Email contact - 6976@toastmastersclubs.org for more information.

The Air Line Trail Toastmasters covers any towns within driving distance of Colchester – including Amston, Hebron and East Hampton.

Bacon's Top Two Students Look Back

By Michael Sinkewicz

Michael Barnett and Kelly Goodwin – the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Bacon Academy Class of 2022 – are both excited and nervous as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

In a recent interview with the *Rivereast*, they reflected on the challenges they overcame and what's next in their academic trek.

"There's so many kind people that have helped me through this journey. I never could have made it here without them," Barnett, who told the *Rivereast* his grade point average was 4.8, said.

Both students expressed how challenging it was navigating their advanced placement (AP) courses during the hybrid-learning system due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's already a lot of material and then it gets squished into half the time and half of it's online. I think that was definitely a huge challenge," said Goodwin, whose grade point average is 4.6.

Barnett added that having the right support system helped him navigate through a difficult course load at the beginning of his junior year.

"I pushed through it. Friends and family were super helpful in that time but it was definitely the biggest challenge I had to face," he said.

In the fall, Barnett will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York to study computer science. He was accepted into their accelerated BA-MS program and will aim to receive his master's degree in six years.

A memorable high school moment for Barnett came while he was working on a programming assignment. Barnett recalls how impressed his teacher, Laurie Lindsey, was when he used a technique she had never seen before.

"It felt nice to have that recognition," Barnett said. "She's super kind and always supportive and having her and having that moment always stands out to me."

Back in middle school, Barnett set the lofty goal to never get below an "A minus" in any class—a goal he nearly achieved.

After learning about the valedictorian title, it felt natural for Barnett to make it his new target.

"It's always been a goal for me. I've always strove for it," he said.

Barnett found out he was in the running for valedictorian at the end of his junior year.

Many of his peers believed Barnett was guaranteed the top spot and they congratulated him throughout the year. He was officially told in May that he would be valedictorian.

Family and members of the community would come up and congratulate Barnett, which was a "surreal" feeling.

"It kind of helps you ground yourself and I'm thinking 'I did this,'" Barnett said. "It's incredible that I got this far in four years."

Goodwin, meanwhile, is staying in Connecticut and pursuing a degree in biomedical engineering at the University of Connecticut (UConn). She'll be taking pre-med electives that'll leave the possibility of attending medical school open, as well.

For Goodwin, it was an AP bio class that taught her the most and helped her build new friendships.

She believes her competitive nature helped her achieve academic success and ultimately the title of salutatorian. Like Barnett, she also realized during her junior year that she was towards the top of the class, which motivated her.

"I knew that I was really close and definitely in it for salutatorian and that's when I really set my mind that that was something that I wanted," she said.

Goodwin was an active member in the school's choir, which was one of her favorite activities. Regardless of what she's involved in, she's always giving it her strongest effort.

"I'm kind of a perfectionist so even if I didn't have a concrete goal in mind I just wanted to do the best that I possibly could," she said.

Even though Goodwin believes being salutatorian is a "serious accomplishment," her high standards make her feel like there's always more to accomplish.



Michael Barnett, valedictorian of the Bacon Academy Class of 2022 and Kelly Goodwin, salutatorian pose in front of the school.

"Sometimes it's hard to be proud of myself because I still didn't do the best that I could and there's still more that I could've achieved," she said.

For both students, it's going to be hard to say goodbye to all the friends they made during high school. They also reflected on their busy schedules and wished they had participated in more clubs.

Academically, both students are members of the National Honor Society.

Barnett has a passion for martial arts that he pursues outside of school and is a second-degree black belt. Still, he thinks Bacon Academy offers a lot to students.

"There's so much stuff in this school that I wasn't a part of and I really wish I had taken advantage of that."

Goodwin will miss her supportive choir community, but after recently attending an orientation at UConn, she feels more confident that she'll fit in seamlessly.

"I was able to meet a lot of really interesting and cool people so that makes me feel a lot better that I'm going to have other people going through the same thing as me," she said.

Both students are excited to be delivering speeches during the in-person graduation ceremony June 17.

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Bacon Principal Placed on Leave

By Michael Sinkewicz

Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel has been placed on administrative leave, according to a letter sent to Peel by Interim Superintendent of Schools Thomas McDowell on May 26.

While the reasons for his leave are unclear at this time, parents the *Rivereast* spoke to expressed surprise at the move – and are campaigning for his reinstatement.

In the May 26 letter, obtained by the *Rivereast*, McDowell states that after meeting with Peel earlier that day, he is placing Peel on administrative leave “pending a final determination and further action concerning the matters in question.”

McDowell wrote in the letter that the leave will last “until further notice.”

Human Resources Director Shannon Ramsby and William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Christopher Bennet also attended the May 26 meeting. Bennet was present as a union representative, according to the letter.

In an email sent to the Board of Education on May 26, McDowell alerted the board that Peel was placed on administrative leave.

McDowell stated that Charles Hewes, the director of teaching and learning, would serve as acting principal until he has completed an investigation and determined the “appropriate consequences,” if applicable.

In an email to the *Rivereast* on June 14, McDowell confirmed that Hewes was still acting

principal at Bacon Academy.

McDowell declined to elaborate on the circumstances that led to Peel being placed on leave.

“Due to this being a personnel matter, I cannot comment further,” he wrote.

Board of Education Chairman Alex Oliphant did not immediately return a request for comment.

As of Wednesday morning, an online petition to reinstate Peel as Bacon Academy principal had over 750 signatures.

Members of the Colchester community as well as former students at Griswold high school, where Peel previously worked, signed the petition.

Krista Kardys, who started the petition and is a parent of a Bacon Academy student, told the *Rivereast* that she wanted to support Peel in whatever way she could.

“I want him to know the impact he made,” she said.

While she was overwhelmed at how quickly the petition grew, she wasn’t surprised with the support Peel was receiving from fellow parents and students.

Kardys believes Peel was able to earn the respect of parents because he was “very compassionate” and always tried being open with the community.

“I felt connected with the school because he

communicated all the time,” she said.

Kardys also expressed disappointment with how the school handled the situation, expressing that parents have not been provided with any information regarding why Peel was put on leave.

Instead, parents received an email explaining that Hewes would be taking over as acting principal until further notice.

Kardys said the lack of clarity from the school was “cold” and “disrespectful.”

While she acknowledged that the district has to follow certain procedures involving personnel decisions, the absence of Peel just weeks before the June 17 high school graduation is disappointing for parents.

“You can have compassion for students,” said Kardys, who believes the graduating class deserves to have Peel present for that ceremony.

Dawn Lesinki, who has three students at Bacon and two graduating this year, expressed her disappointment with the superintendent’s decision.

“I was pretty shocked,” said Lesinki, who also hasn’t received any details on why Peel was put on leave.

Lesinki said her children experienced several challenges at school, and might not have graduated without support and guidance from Peel.

“He’s been very positive at that school,” she said. “He’s supportive and holds the kids responsible.”

Both Lesinki and Kardys said they hope Peel comes back to Bacon Academy and argued any district would be lucky to have him.

Lesinki said she expects that students will always find a way to persevere through any unexpected challenge.

“Kids are resilient,” she said “but it’s just a disappointment.”

Without an official explanation from the district, parents have been sorting through rumors on social media as to why Peel was put on leave. *Rivereast* has not verified any of those reports.

Last month, former schools superintendent Jeff Burt resigned following allegation of bullying by Peel.

The *Rivereast* reported that in January, Peel

filed a formal complaint against Burt, alleging “workplace bullying” and years of mistreatment that led to a hostile work environment.

Peel did not return a request for comment.

At the Board of Education meeting on June 14, the board did not discuss Peel’s leave of absence.

The board did announce that it’s going to be looking for a member since Jessica Morozowich – a Democrat – is leaving Connecticut.

McDowell also wanted to change the job title of Hewes – who currently serves two jobs for the district – to assistant superintendent.

McDowell expressed that the change in title would move Hewes up in the decision-making “hierarchy.”

Chris Rivers and Mary Tomasi, two Democrats on the board, were hesitant to go along with the change.

They expressed that there was not an updated job description in front of them and that the public has not had an opportunity to weigh in.

Ultimately, the board voted 4-to-2 in favor of changing Hewes’ job title.

* * *

The board also unanimously approved changes to the 2022-23 education budget.

The budget proposal of \$42.02 million passed by a 793-750 vote at referendum last month.

The Board of Finance had cut \$200,000 from the bottom line prior to referendum and it was up to the education board to determine where those cuts would come from.

McDowell presented the board with a proposal that included not rehiring the positions of two people who resigned in the past year; this would cut \$176,000. In addition, a communications/public relations official professional at the central office recently left, cutting \$41,191 – leaving the education budget with a \$17,251 surplus.

Despite the loss of staff, McDowell said he believes the cuts will not affect the operation of the district.

“I think we’re going to be fine,” he said during the meeting. “I see this as pretty seamless right now.”

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.desk.com/Community/Home. The Parks and Rec. office is located at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

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.

Tag Sale June 18

On Saturday, June 18, from 8 a.m. until noon, Westchester Congregational Church will host a tag sale at the parsonage, located at 95 Cemetery Rd. in the Westchester section of Colchester.

There will be a variety of items available. Parking is available across the street in the church parking lot.

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.colchestercougars.org for more information and to register.

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.

Upcoming Programs: “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 in 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.

‘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.

Cragin Book Club

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, June 27, at 6 p.m. This month, read *The Gun- cle* 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.

Juneteenth Celebration

Colchester’s Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission is hosting its first Juneteenth celebration on Sunday, June 19, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Farmers Market on the town green. The CORE Commission will have a table on the opening day of the Farmer’s Market.

The Juneteenth Celebration will consist of educational materials, children’s games, and hearing from a few members of the community on what this means as a Colchester resident.

Resident Graduates

Audrey E. Mecca of Colchester recently graduated magna cum laude from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics.

President’s List

Morgan Darling of Colchester made the spring 2022 President’s List at the State University of New York at Potsdam.

Darling’s major is literature/writing.

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Rivereast Goes Abroad... Where in the world is the *Rivereast News Bulletin*? Well, Colchester resident Marion Spaulding took the *Rivereast* with her on a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland. She stayed at the Waldorf Caledonian, and had this picture taken with Edward McGill, the doorman at the hotel. Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring along a copy of the *Rivereast*, snap a picture with it, and email the picture to bulletin@glcitizen.com. You might win a prize!

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

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

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

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

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

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

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

Berkshire Railroad Foliage Express: Sunday, Sept. 25, 8:30 a.m. Includes lunch at the Freight Yard Pub. On the way home, there will be a stop at Whitney's Farm & Market. Cost is \$123/person.

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

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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, Aggadadah class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page.

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.

Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream.

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

For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org.

Mercy Honor Roll

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

Highest Honors: Tallulah Malz, Grade 10; High Honors: Sarah Lynch, Grade 11; Honors: Sydney Barber and Calle Dennis, Grade 12.

look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

Westchester Church News

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

For more information, email westconchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

Resident Graduates

James and Sandra Clark are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Morgan Clark, from the Boston University College of Communications.

Clark graduated summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations and minors in art history and political science.

Scholarship Awarded

Each year, the Bacon Academy Friends of Football awards a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior on the football team. This year, Jayson Robitaille is the recipient.

In the fall, Robitaille will attend Mitchell College in New London, where he will major in sports management.



Eagle Court of Honor... Boy Scout Troop 13 recently held a Court of Honor for Eagle Scouts Will Girard, left, and Joseph Tyler. Girard completed his Eagle project, building picnic tables for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department's Schuster Park Pavilion. Tyler built handicapped accessible picnic tables for William J. Johnston Middle School. The two are the 80th and 81st Eagle Scouts in Troop 13. Eagle projects provide a means for Scouts to practice and develop planning, communication, and leadership skills while serving the community. To learn more about Scouting in Troop 13, contact the troop through its charter organization, St. Andrew Church, Guardian Angel Parish, Colchester.

June is Dog Licensing Month

Town Clerk Gayle Furman is informing the public that June is dog licensing month. All dogs are required to be licensed in the state of Connecticut.

To register a dog, you will need proof of a rabies vaccine with an expiration of July 1, 2022, or later and proof that your dog is neutered or spayed. To obtain your license you can either visit the office or mail your request to: Town Clerk, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope and a check for the

proper amount. There is also online registration for currently registered dogs at colchesterct.gov on the town clerk page. The online registration does include processing fees for this service.

The license year is July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. A spayed or neutered dog is \$8 and a not spayed or unneutered dog is \$19. Penalty charges of \$1 per month are added if licenses are not renewed by June 30.

For more information, email townclerk@colchesterct.gov or call 860-537-7215.

Local Students Honored

Several Colchester students were recently honored at Eastern Connecticut State University. Sarah Eslami, a junior who majors in psychology, was inducted into the Psi Chi international psychology honor society; Megan Gabriel, a senior who majors in health sciences, was recognized for being an Outstanding Junior; Alexandria McKelvey of Colchester, a senior who majors in social work and sociology, was inducted into

the Phi Alpha national honor society; Jacqueline Navickas, a junior who majors in communication, was inducted into the Lambda Pi Eta national honor society; Cassandra Neudecker, a senior who majors in psychology and criminology, was inducted into the Psi Chi international psychology honor society; and Noah Violette, a junior who majors in accounting, was inducted into the Delta Mu Delta business honor society.

History Museum Open Sundays

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. through Dec. 4. The museum, adjacent to the Cragin Memorial Library, is free and offers both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history.

For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

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.

Dean's List

Sydney Rochette of Colchester made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Resident Graduates

Kellen Beaton of Colchester recently graduated from Pomfret School in Pomfret.

Resident Graduates, Wins Award

Wilkes University student Sydney Rochette of Colchester was recognized during the 2022 Academic Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 20. Rochette received the Academic Achievement in Environmental Engineering award.

The following day, May 21, Rochette received a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering and a minor in geology at the 75th annual Wilkes University Commencement ceremony.

Wilkes University is located in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Local Student Honored

The University of Saint Joseph held its fourth annual Hooding and Award Ceremony for the Class of 2022 graduates of the physician assistant studies program – and a Colchester resident was among those honored.

Olivia Anderson was inducted into the Pi Alpha Honor Society, in recognition of academic achievement, service, research and commitment to lifelong learning.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Haylee Skoog, Liah Brown and Casey Hart all made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

Marlborough • Marlborough

Arts Center Seeks Volunteer Webmaster

The Marlborough Arts Center in Marlborough is seeking someone competent in the use of Word Press and interested in collaborating on the organization's website as webmaster. The website is active, the center said, and needs only a few hours of updates a month, which are written by board members in Word and sent on as attachments. Our Webmaster is moving away and will help with the tran-

sition. The Arts Center is a totally volunteer nonprofit regional center for the arts and offers art shows, exhibitions, classes, and musical events such as 4th Griday @ the Arts Café and outdoor summer concerts. Anyone interested in volunteering their computer skills and joining this creative organization may call Joan at 860-295-9565 for more details.

'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. For information on becoming an organ donor, go online to registerme@neds.org.

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 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. 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.

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**

Fife and Drum Corps Seeking Members

The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corps is now recruiting children between the ages of 8 and 17 to join the ranks.

Members learn to march and play the fife, snare drum or bass drum from our very capable instructors, free of charge. Members have opportunities to travel throughout New England while the Corps performs at parades, musters and other events.

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

For more information, visit Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps on Facebook or visit www.MarlboroughJrAncients.com.

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.

Pea 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

Marlborough residents Tommi Bonomo, Kara Brough, Owen Carroll and Brendan Rizza made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Southern Connecticut State University.

Mercy Honor Roll

Marlborough residents Elizabeth Brown, Samantha Magro and Skylar Swanson made the Mercy High School honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2021-22 school year.

Brown, Grade 12, made Highest Honors; Swanson, Grade 9, made High Honors; and Magro, Grade 11, made Honors.



The Jim Schriber/Bill Kimball jazz guitar duo will perform a concert at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Saturday, June 25, at 2 p.m.

Summer Concert Series to Start

Marlborough Arts Center's Summer Outdoor Concert Series begins the season Saturday, June 25, at 2 p.m., at the center, 231 N. Main St.

The Jim Schriber/Bill Kimball jazz guitar duo will perform a wide variety of traditional and contemporary jazz, as well as smooth jazz instrumentals.

The concert is free of charge, but a \$10/person donation is suggested. Bring your own seating. Masks are recommended. On-site parking is provided.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Lauren Costa and Kendra Veneziano made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Costa is studying nursing, and Veneziano is studying special education.

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Against Resistance, Lowrey Resolute: Cell Tower ‘Essential’

By Jack Lakowsky

In a meeting of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen last week, selectpersons called for alternative sites to house an 80-foot cell pole proposed for the Blackledge River Valley, near the intersection of West Road and Jones Hollow Road.

All board members except Lowrey voted to table discussion pending further information on alternative sites, and the project’s scope.

Lowrey included consultant work for the tower in the 2022-23 town budget, which voters approved in May.

That area, according to Lowrey, residents and local communications experts, is a total dead zone. Lowrey, a volunteer for an ambulance service, says this is hazardous for anyone in an emergency. Their 911 calls could be disrupted, or dispatches may have a hard time reaching first responders.

Residents have been resisting the project for months, saying it will lessen property values, emit unhealthy radiofrequency waves and ruin the river valley’s natural beauty.

Lowrey and experts who attended the meeting have said the tower won’t be visible through the woods (and emission levels must comply with federal limits).

Opposers frequently state they agree good service is important, especially for emergencies, saying they instead want it put elsewhere.

Last Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen directed Lowrey to explore alternatives, not swayed by Lowrey’s claim all other practical options have been ruled out. One place often mentioned is the fire station on West Road.

Richard Denno, a resident living near the tower, has advocated for the project.

Denno’s late wife was a transplant recipient with significant medical needs. One time, she had a fall. The poor service prevented Denno from immediately reaching help with his cell, so he used his landline. Luckily, the couple was able to get the help they needed.

Last week Denno said if the power’s out, people in the area who, like him, are forced to rely on their landline can’t get through to emergency

personnel.

Denno has previously told the *Rivereast* the story could’ve had a much sadder ending. He said cell service is abysmal from Standish Drive “all the way up to Hebron.”

“I don’t want this to be a situation where someone’s injured and you can’t get help,” Denno said. Denno said his chief concern is the wellbeing of his neighbors.

“I want people to be safe,” he said.

Lowrey and the select board have been criticized for not publicizing the project, and not fully explaining its scope. Board chair Amy Traversa has apologized for this lapse, committing to improving messaging to the town.

Lowrey has posted two graphics to the town’s website, a site plan detailing where it will improve cell service.

The tower’s most vocal opponent was selectman Joe Asklar, saying transparency on the project has been deficient.

He also shared information sent to the town from the proposed engineering firm, an invoice advising the town to “revise concept layout to reflect future additional tower height.”

Asklar said he was not aware of this, and neither was the public. The board, except for Lowrey, all agreed they didn’t have enough information to make an informed decision. Asklar said

he wants to explore different sites that achieve the same goal.

Traversa commented on the project’s speed, saying she thought it was down the road, but now – as Lowrey stated in the meeting – the project has permits from several town commissions.

Lowrey, pressing his stance, said the local fire chief has said the town needs communications improved.

“This is essential,” said Lowrey.

Selectman Deb Bourbeau approved the funding for the consultant while she sat on the town finance board. She echoed Traversa and Asklar, saying she voted without enough information from Lowrey. After hearing from residents, Bourbeau said it’s “very clear things were happening in their neighborhoods” that residents were unaware of.

Bourbeau said the narrative on the project has also changed. She said when she was on the finance board, Lowrey characterized the tower as a “moneymaker,” and is now emphasizing its need for emergency communications.

Traversa said though she doesn’t know what the resolution is, she said it will help if Lowrey and other experts put together a presentation.

“We don’t have enough information to make a decision,” she said.

Richmond Library News & Notes

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

Summer Saturdays: The library has returned to Summer Saturday hours. The building is open 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Summer Reading Kick-Off Night: Thursday, June 23, 6 p.m. Patrons of all ages (birth through adult) are invited to sign up for summer reading, snag some info about upcoming activities, make some camp crafts, play some giant games, and listen to stories around the library “campfire.” Registration is not required.

Bark: Get to Know Your Trees: Tuesday, June 28, 6 p.m.; meet at the Marlborough Elementary School parking lot. Naturalist Micheal Wojtech will guide participants around one of the walking trails at the school, as he teaches those in attendance about tree bark textures, leaf shapes, branching patterns, and other tree traits. Inclement weather will bring the program inside the library. Registration is required.

Dog Man and Friends Summer Camp

Supa Packs: Kids are invited to stop by the library on Mondays, June 20-Aug. 22, to pick up a packet of activities starring Dog Man and his friends. Registration is not required. New packets will be available every Monday, while supplies last. The week of July 4, packets will be available on Tuesday, July 5.

Campfire Charcuterie: Explore this summer’s “Off the Beaten Path” theme by reminiscing about s’mores by the “fire” outside and create your own campfire charcuterie plate, packed full of s’mores goodies, in a program with Food Explorers on Wednesday, June 29, at 2 pm. You’ll also play a round of grocery games to get your creative juices flowing. This program is for children ages 5 and up. Registration is required. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com or call 860-295-6210.

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.

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.

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Residents Sought to Serve

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is seeking residents who are interested in serving on the town’s various boards and commissions.

While applications are accepted at any time for all boards and commissions, the selectmen are providing notice and encouraging residents to apply to fill current vacancies on the following boards and commissions:

Economic Development Commission (full seat and alternate); Conservation Commission (alternate); Commission on Aging (alternate); Water Pollution Control Authority (two alternates); Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission (alternate); Marlborough Board of Educa-

tion (full seat).

Those interested in applying can complete the application form at tinyurl.com/ycx4x7n4.

In accordance with the town charter, and based on the current composition of the various boards and commissions, party affiliation or other qualifications may or may not be considered when appointments are made. People who are unaffiliated and those who belong to minor parties, as well as Democrats and Republicans, to apply.

Residents are welcome to attend any of the public board and commission meetings to learn more.

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A Foggy Day in Marlborough-Town... Marlborough Town Assessor Simon Wake sent us this photo he snapped of a foggy morning at Town Hall on Friday, May 27. Thanks, Simon!

Resident Graduates

Alexander J. Dursin of Marlborough recently graduated magna cum laude from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology.

Resident Graduates

Isaiah Vrabie of Marlborough recently graduated from Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, Vt., with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer software engineering.

Cover Story • Cover

★ Armed Guards cont. from page 1

killings. He said they want “real solutions” like banning high-capacity magazines, not “for the violence to be solved with more guns.”

He said there’s no statistical evidence supporting the oft-cited “good armed person versus bad armed person” argument. He cited the fact that in Buffalo, N.Y., where a gunman targeted and killed Black people in a grocery store, had an armed guard. The guard was killed defending citizens, media reports say.

Jordan Werme also opposed a districtwide guard, citing information saying in the past several decades, the uptick in school shootings has paralleled the rise in the number of school guards, which he took as proving guards don’t deter shootings.

He said in a set of 75 incidents where a gun was fired in a school, guards were credited with stopping 34 of the shootings. In the remaining 41, the guards themselves were the shooters, he said.

He said guards can lead to more arrests for noncriminal behavior. He named a 2010 story out of Middletown, when a stun gun was used on a student for taking food from a school cafeteria.

According to the *Middletown Press*, the student was combative with school officers after they confronted him for taking the food. Police defended stunning the 17-year-old as appropriate.

Werme said special needs students and students of color face a disproportionately high rate of arrests.

“Treating kids as criminals doesn’t foster trust,” Werme said. He said kids who struggle to self-regulate don’t need a “body slam” or a gun pulled on them.

Resident Victoria Fielding also said there’s no conclusive association between employing armed guards and the deterrence of violence.

She said because many mass shooters have been suicidal as well, and an armed guard could actually encourage them to violence.

Fielding said the board should instead focus on engaging in meaningful conversations about student mental health, consulting with in-district experts.

Resident Dominic Secondo, and later board member Mike Buck, said statistics don’t show the number of shootings armed guards prevented. Both Buck and Secondo are police officers.

Secondo said, when he’s been an officer in a school, community reaction is overwhelmingly

positive.

Residents Kim Fentress and Sam Cruz also called for armed security at the three schools. Cruz said officers and/or armed security officers. He said schools without them are easy targets.

“I don’t see no other way around it,” said Cruz. He also advised board members look up the most current information on the topic.

Existing, Possible Security Measures

Smith detailed the schools existing security measures, which includes an armed guard – who is not a police officer – at the high school.

All schools in town use a buzz-in system, background checks for visitors and employees, safety glass, and inside and outside cameras. Schools have regular safety drills as well.

Schools also closely monitor student activity on their Chromebooks.

District staff will soon engage in more mental health training, and the local Rotary Club is hosting a mental health first aid course.

Other safety efforts include a new anonymous reporting system to be introduced in the coming winter; in the meantime, schools will use an internal system, said Smith. The district is looking to revitalize its Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) group.

Smith, contemplating the guards at the three younger schools, advised the board to not give a “unilateral assignment without giving people a chance to say what they feel.”

Smith said when officials put in the high school guard, the EHHS community largely approved.

Board members on Monday expressed openness to the conversation, but few hard opinions. Board member Buck did make his view known, saying nowadays guards are simply a “necessity”.

“No one wants guns and schools to be synonymous,” Buck told the board.

Buck, a state police officer, said he was among the responders who went to Sandy Hook after the massacre there. He said he hopes that sort of trauma never happens in East Hampton.

Board member Ken Barber said he wants members of the police department to serve as guards, not a “regular” security guard.

Board chair Christina Tammaro-Dzagan said eventually the board will have a public hearing, after Smith finishes his fact-finding. She asked any conversations on this topic be respectful.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Thomas J. Sas, John McKaig is deacon emeritus and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone or email at stjohfisher30@yahoo.com.

COVID-19 Protocol: For the fully vaccinated, masks are optional. For the unvaccinated, masks are required. Call the office for more information.

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome.

Weekday Mass: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 4-4:45 p.m.

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

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

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

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday in-person worship services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St., are at 10 a.m. All are welcome; masks are optional. The service is also livestreamed each week at mcc.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 19: The service will be led by Pastoral Associate Val Seaver. Her sermon title is “Let’s Reset.” As the Centering Moment, singer and guitarist Carolyn Brodgerski will offer a special Father’s Day song. Also at the service, an infant baptism will be officiated by the Rev. Bob Faulhaber.

Mission-giving for June will go to the AHM

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.marlbrougharts.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.

Artist’s Works at Town Hall

Carole Jeffries, an award-winning national artist, is exhibiting a selection of her works at Town Hall through the end of December. The exhibit is open to all who visit the Town Hall during its normal opening hours.

Jeffries is a member of Marlborough Arts Center. For those who might be interested in purchasing any of her works, means of contacting Jeffries directly are available at Town Hall.

Dean’s List

Grace Leonard of Marlborough made the spring 2022 Dean’s List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Marlborough residents Jenna Cieslowski and Colin Donnelly made the spring 2022 Dean’s List at Curry College in Milton, Mass.

Architectural Conservation Analysis

The Marlborough Historical Society is offering free Architectural Conservation analysis and condition assessment on any historic house (pre-1900s) in Marlborough and surrounding towns.

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

For more information, contact Romano Ghirlanda at 860-916-4031 or mhs@marlborough-history.org.

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 Named Pitcher of the Week

Endicott College sophomore Nicholas Cannata of Marlborough earned Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) Baseball Pitcher of the Week accolades during two separate weeks in April.

He earned Pitcher of the Week for the week ending April 18, and then again for the week ending May 2.

They were Cannata’s third and fourth, respectively, career weekly awards.

LEGALS

TOWN OF ANDOVER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday June 29, 2022 to solicit comment on 1) The application of Nick Glowacki, 17 Lakeside Drive. The applicant is seeking relief from Sections 14.1 and 11.2 (dimensional requirements) of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to construct a 26’ x 32’ attached barn on the property and 2) The application of Andrew Osgood, 161 Lake Road. The applicant is seeking relief from 11.2 (dimensional requirements) so as to reduce setback requirements so as to allow for the construction of two utility sheds. The meeting will be held virtually via ZOOM:

Join by Computer:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88677064492>

Join by Phone:
+1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 886 7706 4492
Passcode: 284951

Comments/questions will be taken during the hearing. Written comments submitted a minimum of 48 hours prior to the hearing will be read aloud and entered into the public hearing record.

Additional details can be found on the Town of Andover’s web-site (andoverct.org - Zoning Board of Appeals page) or by visiting/contacting the Building & Land-Use Office at 860.742-4036 or at 17 School Road, Andover.
Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

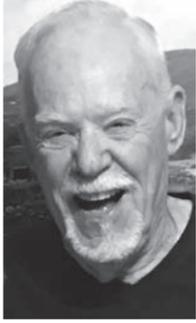
2TB 6/17, 6/24

Obituaries

Portland

David V. Tripp

David V. Tripp, 81, of Portland, beloved husband of JoAnne (Mello), passed away peacefully in the early morning of Tuesday, May 24. David was born in New Bedford, Mass., son of Irving and Rita (Valentine) Tripp.



Besides JoAnne, his wife of 55 years, David is survived by his son Ronald and his wife Debra, son James and his wife Elizabeth, daughter Lori and her partner Daniel, and son David and his wife Anastasia. He is also survived by twelve grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

David was proud of his service in the Marine Corps and of his 40-year career in the telecommunications industry. However, he was most proud of his family. David grew up playing baseball, hunting and fishing. He shared his love of nature and sports with his family, coaching his children in youth sports and teaching them to fish on the Westport River.

Following his retirement, he rekindled his love of painting. For over a decade his artwork, which depicted natural settings and wildlife from northern Maine to southern Florida, was featured in a southwest Florida gallery.

He loved to entertain his friends and family. He loved to cook, loved a good joke, and was always ready with a story. He had a passion for life. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

The family is planning a memorial gathering to be held on Saturday, June 25.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to St. Jude's Hospital or to the Everglades Coalition.

East Hampton

Raymond R. Maselek Sr.

Raymond R. Maselek Sr., 94, of East Hampton, entered into eternal peace Friday, June 10, with family by his side at the Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation Center. Ray was born Feb. 16, 1928, in Wilson, he was the son of the late Joseph and Anna (Najduct) Maselek.



He proudly served our country in the United States Army from 1946-1947 with the 78th Quartermaster Base Depot in the Philippine Islands. Following his time in the service he worked several jobs with his favorite as a route delivery man for Sealtest Foods. He also spent several years as a life-lesson instructor with Dale Carnegie Associates, where he received several awards for his leadership and service. He retired in 1991 after working as a service dispatcher for Automatic TLC Oil Company.

Ray enjoyed traveling, spending summers at the beach and golf. He was also a handyman and spent countless hours in his workroom making, fixing or creating furniture and other items. Of all of these, his favorite thing to do was spend time with his family. When he wasn't with them, he was talking about them. He was proud to talk about his kids, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and did so wherever he went.

Ray was predeceased by the love of his life, Anna C. Maselek, in 2007. Since her passing, he volunteered at the Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation Center, where he became part of their family. He helped the staff and patients, entertaining them with his stories, jokes and smiles. After struggling with his own health issues, he moved to Chestelm in 2018 and he continued to volunteer every day.

He is survived by his children, Linda Demick and her husband Alan, Lori Lechowicz and her husband Paul, all of East Hampton; his son Michael of Pittsfield, Mass., and Raymond R. Maselek Jr. and wife Laura of Manchester; his grandchildren, Jarad Demick and wife Avery, Kristen Brazile and husband Rob, Kaitlin Finn and husband Daniel, Erin Hurd and husband Sean, Kristen Tortoriello and husband Matthew, Brendon Maselek, Justin Maselek, Tyler Maselek and fiancée Colleen Grady, Jennifer Beer and husband Michael and Raymond R. Maselek III and wife MacKenzie; his great-grandchildren, Robbie Brazile, William Finn, Gabriel Finn, Tobias Finn, James Finn, Annmarie Finn, Riley Hurd, Conner Hurd, Caleb Tortoriello, Jackson Maselek, Greyson Maselek, Arianna Metzger, Faith Beer, Parker Maselek and Adam Maselek.

The family would like to express their most sincere love and appreciation for the care Ray received from Brenda and his friends and family at Chestelm. They treated him like family and he loved his time there.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, June 15, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A Mass of Christian Burial was held that morning at St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High St., East Hampton. Burial with military honors followed at St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Ray and his family would appreciate donations, in his name, to the Alzheimer's Association of Hartford, <https://www.alz.org/ct>.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Frederick B. Brehant

Frederick B. Brehant, 94, of Hebron, passed away peacefully in his home on the early morning of Saturday, June 11. Born May 30, 1928, in Hebron, he was the son of the late Frederick J. and Ethel (Rogers) Brehant.



Growing up in Hebron, he attended the Hebron Center School, which is now the Legion Hall. He used to walk to and from school and would often walk through puddles, which forced his teachers to send him home (well-played, Fred). He later went on to graduate from Windham High School in 1946, and then attended Windham Technical School where he trained to be an auto mechanic.

In 1950, he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. He served honorably and was engaged in combat for a total of 11 months and 21 days. In 1955, he married his wife, the lovely Carolyn Dunnack. Frederick's parents gave them the orchard lot off of their property; the newlywed couple built their house on that plot of land and settled down to raise their family. He worked from 1959 to 1988 at Hebron Wood Products as a cabinetmaker and sales clerk. In 1989 he worked as a clerk for Marlborough Country Barn. Growing up, Frederick learned the blacksmith trade from his father, and around 1960 he opened his own shop at his home in Hebron.

Frederick was a lifelong resident of Hebron and took pride in being a part of his local community, he volunteered as a Cub Scouts leader, was a member of the committee that organized the first Hebron Harvest Fair and was also honored to be the first recipient of the Hebron Lifetime Citizen of the Year award in 1984.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Brehant; son, Freddy and wife Terry Brehant; granddaughters, Sara-Beth Brehant and husband Michael Grondin, and Kathy Brehant, all of Hebron; sisters, Dorothy Taggart of Hebron and Winifred Chase of Willimantic; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his sisters, Barbara Burks and Bertha Fontaine.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, June 18, from 10-11 a.m., with memorial service at 11 a.m. directly at the Baptist Fellowship Church, 195 Route 6 in Columbia.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Richard Edmond Rogowski

Richard Edmond Rogowski, "Rich," of Colchester, passed away suddenly Sunday, June 12, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. He was 79 years old. Born Aug. 22, 1942, in Hartford, he was a son of the late Bo-leck "Bill" and Mary (Andrukiewicz) Rogowski.



Rich grew up in East Hartford and joined the Air Force right out of high school. He married his beloved wife, Virginia Younker on April 24, 1965. The couple settled in Colchester where they made their home and raised their family. Rich was an entrepreneur, a hard-working man, the owner and operator of a machine shop known as Dynetic Industries in Glastonbury and Manchester. He retired several years ago after a long and successful career.

In his spare time, Rich was an avid fly fisherman. He made his own reels, tied his own flies, and went fishing in Montana as often as possible. Along with his wife, Ginny, they traveled the world, landing on many of the continents at one time or another. Rich was known for his unique and fantastic sense of humor and was loved by all who knew him, especially his beloved family.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his wife of 57 years, Ginny; his children, JoAnne Roberts of Colchester, James and his wife Laurie Rogowski of Canton, Susan Rogowski of Marlborough; four grandchildren, Taylor, Austin, Alex and Jessica; a sister-in-law, Nijole Rogowski of Washington; a nephew, Jason Rogowski of Washington; and many friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, James Rogowski.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held on Thursday, June 30, from 3-5 p.m., at the clubhouse in North Woods of Colchester, located at 42 Center Court.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Colchester Fire Department at 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415 or to the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at St. Francis Hospital, sent to the St. Francis Foundation, 95 Woodland St., 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06105.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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**LEGAL NOTICE
 TOWN OF PORTLAND**

On 5/17/22 the Zoning Enforcement Officer of the Town of Portland issued a Certificate of Zoning Compliance for detached garage located at 507 Penfield Hill Road to Chris and Christine Damiani. An aggrieved person may appeal the Certification to the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with the provisions of Section 8-7 of the CT General Statutes, as amended.

1TB 6/17

**DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PARK ROAD AND NORTH MAIN STREET INTERSECTION
 TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT
 INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed Bids for the **Drainage Improvements Park Road and North Main Intersection** will be received by the **Town of Marlborough** by hard copy at the Issuing Office until **2:00 PM** local time on **Wednesday, July 13, 2022**. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. **The Project primarily consists of the installation of approximately 100 to 230 linear feet of storm drainage.** Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form. Bidding Documents are available for free download from the Project's bidding service webpage. To download Bidding Documents: go to the bidding service homepage listed below; select this project's solicitation; sign in and/or register as directed; and select the Bidding Documents for download. Notify the Issuing Office with questions in this regard. Digital ID is not required for this online bid. Bidding service homepage: <http://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/27674/home>. The Issuing Office is: **Town Clerk's Office, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut (860-295-6200)**. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents from the Bidding service or at the Issuing Office during Town Hall hours of operation. Printing Bidding Documents is the responsibility of the prospective Bidder. Printed copies will not be issued by the Town. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents that differ from documents available from the Project's bidding service webpage. A pre-bid conference will be held at **3:00 PM** local time on **Thursday, July 6, 2022 at Issuing Office**. Pre-bid conference attendance is encouraged but is not mandatory. The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Surety Company shall be licensed in the State of Connecticut and listed on IRS Department Circular 570. A Payment Bond and Payment of Prevailing Wage Rates will not be required unless Contract amount is equal to or greater than \$100,000. Bid Bond is not required. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty [30] days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids. The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed. All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations. If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver the Contract for Construction of a Small Project and furnish a valid Certificate of Insurance with full policies, a Performance Bond, and Payment Bond if applicable, to the Town prior to the start of any work. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid. This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town. The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary. This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer. The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so. The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply. Owner: Town of Marlborough, Connecticut
 By: Gregory J. Lowrey, First Selectman
 Date: June 15, 2022

2TB 6/17, 6/24

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF PORTLAND**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 157 of Public Act 17-2 (2017) of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, that copies of Portland Board of Education current collective bargaining agreements with the following administrators are available for public inspection at the Portland Town Clerk's office, 33 East Main Street Portland, CT and posted on the Portland Board of Education website.
Administrative, Office & Media Assistants
Nurses Bargaining Unit
Dated this 15th day of June 2022
Michael V. Tierney
Portland Town Clerk

1TB 6/17

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF ACTION**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on June 13, 2022 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive 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 uses in the R-2 Zone. Map 7A/Block 56/ Lots 22, 21, and 24. - Denied

1TB 6/17

**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
Property previously owned by:
R Carlson Units S27 10x23 & S76 10x10

2TB 6/10, 6/17

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY
Marlborough Town Center/Lake
Terramuggus Sewer DISTRICT
2022 - 2023 budget public hearing**

The Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall will hold a public hearing for the following:
2022 - 2023 Operation, Maintenance, & Repair Budget
2022 - 2023 Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) Allocation
2022 - 2023 Fee Schedule
2022 - 2023 EDU Charge \$541
At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard and written communication will be received, if you are unable to attend written communication can be submitted to the Building/Land Use Office, in Town Hall, 26 North Main Street.
All of the above Public Hearing Documents are on file for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Town of Marlborough Website - Marlboroughct.net under the heading Meetings & Agenda then go to Agenda 2022 then go to WPCA.
John A. Murray
Chair, Marlborough WPCA

2TB 6/17, 6/24

EMPLOYMENT

E2 ELECTRICIAN WANTED: with residential experience. Call John 860-214-4045 or email gardelec@frontier.com

PAINTER WANTED: Must have experience and transportation. Please call Mike 860-608-8376

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, CTEDLS assessments. Txt or email your resume 860-985-4534 or jneidowner@aol.com leads to Asst Director for qualified applicant.

PART TIME ATTENDANT / HOUSEKEEPER WANTED: For 22 bed Residential Care Home in Glastonbury. Duties incl: Light house keeping and resident supervision. This can be an enjoyable place to work. Call Ted or Darlene for more information. 860-633-4411

PCA NEEDED for East Hampton woman. Saturday & Sunday mornings. Willing to train. Application and background check. Contact (860)267-7012

**TOWN OF ANDOVER CT
VACANCY - MAINTAINER I**

The Town of Andover is seeking applications for a full time Public Works Maintainer I. Current Starting salary is \$22.22 per hour. This is a Union Position included in the Local 1303-368 of Connecticut Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO and subject to all conditions. CDL license is mandatory. The job description and application for this position are available at www.andoverct.org. To apply, send a completed application to the Office of the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 17 School Rd, Andover, CT 06232. Or email it to adminassistant@andoverct.org This posting will remain open until the position has been filled. EOE M/F

2TB 6/17, 6/24

Park Maintainer

The Town of East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications for the following Park Maintainer I positions:

- Park Maintainer I - Full time (40-hour workweek. Overtime as needed. \$19.27 per hour).
- Park Maintainer - Part time (19.5-hour workweek year-round. \$19.27 per hour).
- Park Maintainer - Seasonal (40-hour workweek. June - September. \$15.50 per hour)

This is a skilled position performing manual labor, in the operation and maintenance of municipal parks, facilities, grounds and athletic complexes.
Applicants must have knowledge and experience in the safe operation of equipment including but not limited to manual shift trucks, towing trailers with equipment, hand and riding mowers, hand and power tools, trimmers, paint machines and other equipment used in maintenance of municipal facilities, turf, athletic fields, recreational areas, etc. Custodial duties include cleaning restrooms, refuse removal, and general housekeeping. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and an employment application by 6/27/2022, or until filled, to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F.

1TB 6/17

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE OF ZONING PERMIT ISSUANCE

Per Conn. Gen. Stats: 8-3(f) The Town of Marlborough is giving notice that the Zoning Enforcement Officer has issued a Zoning Permit on June 1, 2022, for the construction of an Emergency Communication Tower at 200 West Road. Any aggrieved party has thirty (30) days to file an appeal with the Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeal

1TB 6/17

**LEGAL NOTICE
WETLAND ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
PERMIT ISSUANCE**

Per Conn. Gen. Stats: 22a-42a(c)(2) The Town of Marlborough is giving notice that the Wetland Enforcement Officer has issued a Wetland Permit on June 1, 2022, for the construction of an Emergency Communication Tower at 200 West Road. Any aggrieved party has fifteen (15) days to file an appeal with the Marlborough Conservation Commission.

1TB 6/17

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022 - 7 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

The Andover Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing to receive input on the Final Draft Report of the Charter Revision Commission, which recommends four amendments to the Charter.
Town electors are referred to the Final Draft Report of the Charter Revision Commission, dated June 7, 2022, in the packet regarding the June 13, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen on the Town website, or at the office of the Town Clerk.
Dated at Andover, Connecticut this 14th day of June, 2022.
Andover Board of Selectmen
Join by Computer:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83666117509>
Join by Phone:
+1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 836 6611 7509
Passcode: 865232

1TB 6/17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

At the regular meeting of the East Hampton Town Council held Tuesday, June 14, 2022, an ordinance amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton regarding Solid Waste and Transfer Station was adopted. The ordinance is available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk and shall take effect 20 days after publication.

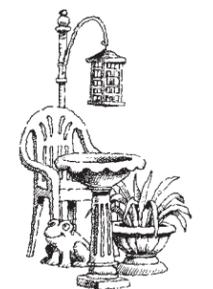
EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Mark Philhower, Chairman
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
Pete Brown
Brandon Goff
Eric Peterson
Kevin Reich
Alison Walck

1TB 6/17

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town of Marlborough Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the School Cafeteria, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT, 06447, to hear the following:
Sustainable Affordable Housing Plan 2022 - 2027
Interested parties may appear and/or submit written documentation. A copy of the Plan is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town Website for public review.
Dated at Marlborough, CT this 7th day of June 2022.
MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
Mark Stankiewicz
Chair, Marlborough Planning Commission

2TB 6/17, 6/24



**LIQUOR PERMIT
Notice of Application**
This is to give notice that I,
JOHN F VITALE
77 TARRAGON DR
EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424-1759
Have filed an application placarded 06/16/2022 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a MANUFACTURER BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at
201 W HIGH ST UNIT B1
EAST HAMPTON CT 06424-2139
The business will be owned by:
RULE OF 3 BREWING LLC
Entertainment will consist of:
Objections must be filed by: 07-28-2022
RULE OF 3 BREWING LLC

2TB 6/17, 6/24

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on April 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 117 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
PZC-22-006: James Marino, 27 Salmon Run for 2 lot Subdivision Map 35/ Block 95/ Lot 7/ 51 - Approved with conditions.
PZC-22-007: Carrie Sue Clausi, 124 Tartia Road, for 2 Sub-division Map 27/ Block 54/ Lot 7 - Approved with conditions.
Ray Zatorski, Chairman

1TB 6/17

EMPLOYMENT

Job Opportunities

Saint Clement's

CASTLE & MARINA

Join Our Team

Now accepting applications for the following banquet positions:

- (Part-Time)
- Prep-Cook
- Dishwasher
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- (Full-Time)
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www.saintclementscastle.com

RE6-3-22

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COLCHESTER 860-967-0831

RE8-13-21

**Andover School District
Full-Time One-to-One Paraprofessional**

The Andover School District is seeking qualified candidates for the position of full-time, one-to-one paraprofessional for a wheelchair bound student, to support participation in a first grade general education classroom, 6 hours/day, Monday through Friday. Some lifting and toileting assistance required. Position begins 8/31/22, with some training dates in July.
Requirements are as follows:
• At least 2 years of college credits (60), or
• Associates degree, or
• Successful experience working with children, preferably in a school setting.
Application is available online at www.andoverelementaryct.org and should be sent along with resume, transcripts and 3 letters of reference to:
Holly Maiorano
Andover Elementary School
35 School Road
Andover, CT 06232
[Or send via email to: maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org]

4TB 6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/8

**TOWN OF ANDOVER CT
VACANCY - Town Treasurer**

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To apply, send a Resume and Cover Letter to the Office of the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 17 School Rd, Andover, CT 06232, Or email it to adminassistant@andoverct.org This posting will remain open until the position has been filled. EOE M/F

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ESTATE SALE: 338 Windham Ave Colchester: Newer Magtag washer & dryer, furniture, tools, household, etc. June 24th 8am - 7pm & June 25th 8am - 2pm

JUNE 18th 145 CHESTNUT HILL RD EAST HAMPTON HUGE HUGE HUGE HUGE HUGE TAG SALE, CANT MISS!!! AUTOMOTIVE, AMERICAN GIRL, SIGNS, TOOLS, TONS OF DISNEY, FURNITURE

TAG SALE: Saturday, June 18th, 8 am - 1 pm 60 Main Street East Hampton, CT 06424. Star Wars & Star Trek collectable, new & used Craftsman tools, Patio and lawn furniture, nails and screws, furniture, glassware, toys, BBQ utensils, books, jewelry, baseball cards, home goods & much much more.

TAG SALE: EVERY SATURDAY IN JUNE 9am - 3pm. Rain or shine. 317 Waterhole Road East Hampton, CT Downsizing, misc items, house and garage. Hundreds of items. Top to bottom.

ESTATE SALE: 684 Middletown Rd, Colchester, Ct. Sat & Sun 6/11 & 6/12 AND 6/17 & 6/18 8am-2pm. Furniture, household items, collectibles, dolls, glassware, vases & more. Rain or Shine.

GIANT TAG SALE ON THE MARLBOROUGH TOWN GREEN 6/25 from 9am to 1pm (rain date 6/26). Bikes, housewares, tools, camping gear, home decorations, kitchen, children's clothes and toys, furniture, TVs, electronics and more. Proceeds go to MDTC

TAG SALE: 437 Moodus Rd East Hampton Route 151. Sat / Sun June 18th & 19th 8 - 3 pm. Pack & plays, crib, stroller, toys, babygirl clothes 0-12 months, furniture, linens, household, decorative wreaths and pots, house plants, scrubs, mens motorcycle leather and accessories.



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