

News Bulletin

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

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Ohmigod, You Guys... The Young People's Center for Creative Arts will perform *Legally Blonde: The Musical* July 21-24, at East Hampton High School. From left are cast members Riley Briggs as Elle, Mattingly Veilloux as Serena, Lily Cordeiro as Margot, and Ella Briggs as Pilar. Bruiser is being played by Layla the Maltipoo. See story on page 16.

Colchester Selectmen Halt Book Inventory

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen unanimously passed a motion rescinding First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos' directive for the library director to review all the books in the children's department.

During the board meeting on July 7, the selectmen criticized the "book inventory" and the first selectman's handling of a situation last month where he asked the town's library director to remove a children's book – an action condemned by the Connecticut Library Association.

"You need to come to the Board of Selectmen. You don't have unilateral decision making," Democrat Rosemary Coyle told Bisbikos during the meeting. "It's the most arbitrary request I've ever heard asked of a public library."

While Bisbikos disagreed with the motion, he voted in favor of "pausing" the inventory – language that needed to be clarified after.

Coyle told the *Rivereast* that the inventory wasn't paused; it was revoked in its entirety.

She also stated that the first selectman refused to add any item to the meeting agenda to discuss the inventory as well as his handling of a complaint he fielded from a parent regarding "graphic depictions of women" in one of the pages of *Who is RuPaul?*, a biography of well-known drag queen and TV host RuPaul Andre Charles.

Last week, Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that "no discussion on any matters pertaining to the library was scheduled with the Board of Selectmen."

Bisbikos made a brief statement at the beginning of the meeting, denying that any "censorship" or "banning" of reading material had taken place.

Coyle said this week she and the other selectmen decided they needed to express their own opinions on the situation.

"We had a right to express our statements, as well," Coyle said after the meeting. "I felt we needed to do something to stop the review that was based on nothing."

Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that, according to the motion, the inventory "will not move forward."

However, he said that community members should still come forward with any concerns they have with any reading material.

"Citizens who identify books that they feel need to be reviewed are encouraged to engage in the process to ensure that books are age-appropriately placed in the library."

Dozens of community members spoke during the July 7 Board of Selectmen meeting, which was held virtually via Zoom. Nearly all the comments relate to the library situation.

Bisbikos received support from some speakers and parents who praised him for standing up for the town.

John Thomas, who is also a member of the Board of Finance, said Bisbikos had "the guts" to support the town.

Others, however, criticized his actions, calling them an "abuse of power" and that it was a "self-inflicted public relations crisis."

A few citizens even called on the first selectman to resign; Bisbikos responded that he has no intention of doing so.

There were many people at the meeting, including Board of Selectmen members, who urged him to use more restraint on social media. It was a pair of posts on Facebook last month.

See *Book Inventory*, page 30

Portland Boat Crash Kills One, Injures Several

By Jack Lakowsky

A day of summer fun on the Connecticut River ended in tragedy for eight people last weekend when their boat crashed on the Portland shoreline.

The crash occurred just north of Petzold's Marina, according to a Portland Fire Department press release.

One man, 60-year-old Wayne Hamler of Waterford, was killed at the scene, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

The accident left a woman in serious condition, as well as a 6-year-old child in serious but stable condition. On Monday, Portland fire chief Bob Shea told the *Middletown Press* the child incurred a "critically injured extremity." (Shea could not be reached by the *Rivereast* for comment.)

The boat's other riders have been treated and released, according to state officials. Another crash victim was a 12-year-old. The children were brought to Connecticut Children's Medical Center, NBC Connecticut reported.

According to Portland fire chief Bob Shea, the local fire department, along with mutual aid marine units from Middletown and the South District Fire Department, responded to 911 calls reporting a serious boat accident with multiple victims.

Portland Marine 7 arrived on scene and found multiple victims in the water and on the shore rocks, near the Portland Fair Grounds.

Upon arrival, responders requested more ambulances and paramedics.

The injured were brought to a staging area or treated on-scene and brought to the hospital.

Shea said DEEP and the U.S. Coast Guard were notified.

DEEP is investigating; a cause had not been identified as of press time. DEEP said there's no indication the driver was drinking alcohol, though this is being investigated.

State officials said the vessel was a 21-foot Yamaha jet boat.

"The vessel ultimately collided with the rocks on the bank of the river," causing numerous occupants to be thrown off.

"On behalf of the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police, we offer our most sincere condolences to the family and friends of the people involved," officials wrote in the news release.

Portland first selectman Ryan Curley offered

See *Boat Crash*, page 26

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Andover • Andover

Mountain Bike Races Return to Local Trails

By Sloan Brewster

This summer, mountain bike racing has returned to the trails behind Andover Elementary School.

The trails, which Town Administrator Eric Anderson built several years ago, connect the school to the Doris Chamberlain Nature Pond – named for a longtime principal at the school – and link the pond to the Hop River rail trail.

A five-kilometer loop Anderson described as “a very mellow mountain bike single track trail” has been in use for four or five years and is the trail the used for the mountain bike races.

The racing series, which take place on the first Thursday of the month throughout the summer, was started in 2018 by avid bike rider and selectman Jeff Murray, who is a member of Manchester-based bike club Expo Wheelmen.

“I said, ‘This is a cool place to start an event,’” Murray said.

This year, the series was organized by fellow cyclist and bike club member Joe Tarbox of Ellington.

“Selfishly I wanted to have a race, so I thought I’d organize and be able to race in it and get the guys to help me out,” Tarbox said.

As it turned out, Tarbox and fellow club members are taking turns running the race and participating in it. He said he took to the trail last month but worked behind the scenes at the July race.

“I worked the race and other guys were able to do it,” he said.

He said he will likely race again in August and work during the event in September.

The race is open to folks of any age, including children and, according to Anderson, has been a magnet for families.

Most of the kids who take part are in a local junior cycling team, Tarbox said. Most kids race in the A leg of the event, the first race of the night, which is two laps around the trails and

takes about 40 minutes.

The second race is more advanced and longer, he said. Both the A and B legs have men’s and women’s divisions.

Tarbox said he wanted the races to be low-key and beginner friendly.

While participation has been small, with about 24 at June’s race and about 20 this month, Tarbox said the Wheelmen don’t mind too much as a smaller crowd is easier to manage.

“It’s not our goal to become a huge race,” he said.

Tarbox said he has been riding bikes since he was 16 and got his first bike in high school in 1980. In 2008, he found more time in his schedule, dug his bike out of the basement and started riding again. He raced seriously until about 2012 or 2014 when he tapered it down.

Now, he said he needs to get fit again.

“I feel like I’m out of shape and part of the reason I wanted to have a race was because racing was really what gives me to get in shape,” he said.

He said when he hit the course back in June he started in the back of the line but quickly moved up to fourth or fifth place before falling back again.

“I went over my limit, I sort of blew up as they say,” he said.

He said he ended seventh out of 10.

“It was fun to really pedal hard again,” he said. “You have to really concentrate and find that thin line between riding really hard and staying focused.”

According to the write-up on the Expo Wheelmen’s website, the race is a non USA Cycling sanctioned event, and racers do not need race licenses.

Online registration for the August and September races was not yet open as of press time. For the June and July races, registration was done via www.bikereg.com and in-person on



A mountain biking race series has returned to the trails behind Andover Elementary School, and is open to junior cyclists.

the day of the race until 30 minutes prior to the start.

Participation is \$10.

B Race starts at 6 p.m. and goes 40 minutes, and A Race starts at 6:45 p.m. and lasts approximately 45 minutes.

Juniors may race in either category.

The course is approximately 2.5 miles long and mostly flowing single track, according to the write-up. The course has been recently improved to provide for more places to pass.

Senior Movies

Andover Senior Movies are open to all and are shown in the Andover Town Hall Community Room on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Bring your own snacks and drinks. If you need a ride, call Cathy Palazzi two days in advance at 860-916-6122. The movies are:

July 20: *Going in Style*. In the movie, three seniors, who have been wronged by the company they worked for 30 years and are living social security check to check, decide they have had enough. So, they plan to rob the bank. With

Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, Alan Arkin, Ann-Margret and Matt Dillon. Rated PG-13, this 2017 film runs one hour and 36 minutes.

Aug. 17: *Rescued by Ruby*. In the film, an energetic dog named Ruby is hours away from being euthanized when a police officer meets her, is smitten, and decides to pursue his dream of being a canine officer. This is the true story of how these two underdogs found their dream together. Rated G, this 2022 movie runs one hour and 32 minutes.

Summer Reading Challenge

Andover Public Library’s Summer Reading Challenge for 2022 is called “Get the Scoop!”

The library is challenging readers (kid readers vs. adult readers) to read as many books as possible by Aug. 20. For each book read, the reader will receive one “scoop” to contribute to their respective team’s “ice cream bowl.” In addition, for every book read, the reader will also have one chance added to the library’s end-of-summer drawing which will include one gift basket for each group. For the library’s purposes, kids will be defined as grade six and

younger.

Readers are encouraged to read any book they like, as long as it’s checked out from Andover Public Library. (Books borrowed through interlibrary loan, audiobooks, and ebooks checked out via Libby or the Palace Project count as well.) Sometime in August – date to be determined – the library will host an ice cream social.

Stop by the library to pick up a reading log. The library is located at 355 Route 6. For more information, call 860-742-7428.

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.

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. Visit the senior page at andoverct.org for all senior events and information.

Shopping Dates: Willimantic on Tuesday, July 19; Manchester on Tuesday, July 26. Masks are available on all vehicles.

Luncheons: On Friday, July 22, Carolyn Bourget will provide entertainment. The next luncheon after that is Aug. 26, and will feature Hawaiian dances performed by Taire Kahana, who has returned from Ecuador. The luncheon on Sept. 23 will feature special guests Congressman Joe Courtney and Wes Skorski, candidate for state House of Representatives. Reservations required.

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now avail-

able 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 to all town events, town meetings, referendums or board meetings, and all medical appointments, are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.

New Seniors Welcome: New seniors are welcome to all events. Call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs. Call Judy Knox at 860-643-6824 to join Young at Heart, call Georgia O’Brien at 860-742-9947 for all trip information, and call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057 for all movie information.

Library News & Notes

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, has announced the following programs. For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428.

Frogs and Toads: Tuesday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. Retired Department of Energy and Environmental Protection wildlife biologist (and Andover resident) Julie Victoria will discuss the similarities and differences between frogs and toads, share their different calls, and even help people decorate their own toad abode. All ages are welcome; pre-registration requested by calling the library.

Christmas in July: Monday, July 25, 6 p.m. Mrs. Merry Claus will stop by and share a story, and then there will be a Christmas decoration activity. All are invited.

Monster Puppet Time: Thursday, July 28,

6:30 p.m. Ellen Repay, a retired teacher and a Friend of the Library, will read the book called *Monster Party* and then help kids make a monster puppet creation of their very own. Space is limited to 8 participants; to register, call the library.

Andover Gazebo Concert: Friday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m., with Tex’s Troubadours. This four-piece band features top-notch musicians from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. The gazebo is located at 17 School Rd., between Town Hall and Andover Elementary School. In case of rain, the show will be held inside the Town Hall community room. The Andover Friends of the Library, which sponsors this free concert, will sell pizza, ice cream, soda, water, 50/50 tickets, and quilt raffle tickets. For more information, call the library.



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“Pane in the Glass”

*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

By Mike Thompson

I was very sorry to hear about the recent passing of Marlborough resident Dieter Zimmer.

When I was a wet-behind-the-ears new college grad, and started out covering Andover and Hebron for the *Journal Inquirer*, Dieter was on the RHAM school board. And while the board saw a lot of turnover during my time covering Hebron, Dieter remained a fixture.

That said a lot about Dieter.

Dieter was a class act. He was a nice, warm guy, but he was also a straight-shooter, and he never let politics get in the way of his decision-making. You certainly couldn't say that about everyone.

Dieter would wind up serving on the RHAM board for more than 25 years – and was so beloved by the voters that, even after he left the regional board, he kept getting elected – and most recently was serving on the Marlborough Board of Finance.

Dieter's community involvement went beyond town boards and commissions. As his obituary, which appears in this week's paper, notes, he was involved with PTA, the Colchester Garden Club and the local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He and his wonderful wife, the late Linda Zimmer, were fixtures in the Marlborough Girl Scouts for close to 30 years.

Dieter was a delightful guy who I know impacted many; he'll definitely be missed.

* * *

Speaking of Marlborough residents, congrats to Robin Green, who's the state representative for the 55th House District – which covers Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. The Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) recently released its '2022 State House Voting Records' annual report, and Green received a 100% score for her support of what the association called

"business-friendly legislation."

"One of my priorities has always been to ensure the legislature is doing everything we can to support our small, medium, and larger sized businesses," Green said in a press release. "As a business owner myself, I know first-hand many of the challenges and obstacles others may face, so I'm proud to have been recognized for my support of pro-business policies and opposition to the types of overreaching government mandates and onerous regulations that would make their individual success more difficult."

In the press release, the CBIA stated it annually rates lawmakers based on their votes in committee or the House floor on a series of 'key bills' determined by the association on Connecticut's economic competitiveness and business climate. Votes that support the business community's position would reflect positively, while votes in opposition would result in a lowered score.

Fellow *Rivereast* state representatives Christie Carpino, who covers the 32nd District of Portland and Cromwell, and Irene Haines, who covers the 34th District of East Hampton, East Haddam and a portion of Colchester, also scored a 100%. They were three of only 41 state representatives who received a perfect score from the association.

Now, Green, Carpino and Haines are all Republicans. The only Democrat from *Rivereast*-land who's in the state House, Brian Smith of Colchester, scored a 50%. Why only 50%? He went against CBIA's wishes by voting in favor of three bills: SB 163 – a bill that permits employees to leave workplace meetings where they believe religious or political matters are discussed; HB 5039, which saw Connecticut adopt California's emissions standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks,

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



Cornhole Champs... Winners of Bacon Academy Project Graduation's second annual Cornhole Tournament included Rick Gray and John Hathaway, third place; Kirsten Cianci and Shawn Reilly, first place; and Thomas and Connor Egan, second place. Story on page 9.

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Running for State Rep

To the Editor:

I am the party-endorsed candidate for the 34th District state representative. The 34th House Seat represents East Hampton, East Haddam and western portions of Salem.

As a resident of our community for more than 30 years and having served on many committees, including the Board of Finance, I have a deep understating of our needs and wishes. My primary focus will be to direct state legislation and state resources to support local initiatives, such as our schools and infrastructure. This includes a closer coordination between the state Department of Transportation and town leadership.

Kurt John Comisky – East Hampton

Marlborough Charter Chaos

To the Editor:

Last November, the voters of Marlborough were asked to approve numerous changes to the Town Charter. The Charter Review Commission members had boasted about holding over 60 meetings over the course of a year and a half to review and revise the charter. The CRC then handed their suggestions to the Board of Selectmen for final review and presentation to the public and most of the changes were approved.

Well, it seems like the Charter Revision Commission failed to fully evaluate the consequences of their actions and now we are left with a Charter that is a confusing mess. It also fails to allow for a smooth transition between First Selectman and Town Manager.

At the June 21st meeting of the Board of Selectmen, there was an agenda item entitled

"Discussion of Possible Issues with 2021 Charter Revision." Board member Joe Asklar "requested clarification with Section 3.1 that deals with the role of the BOS Chair and the duties of the First Selectman...."

You see, ever since the Board of Selectmen chose Amy Traversa as the new chairman of the BOS (by a 3-2 party line vote), Amy became the acting town manager. The question of who is in charge was clarified last week when a legal opinion confirmed that the acting town manager will take over the powers of the first selectman, who was elected in 2019 and whose term expires in November 2023.

Yes, the charter as presented last November was poorly written and failed to take many issues into consideration. So, now we are left with a real mess.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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

Kinney Road History, Pt. 2

To the Editor:

Hebron is home to an ancient bedrock proudly called Hebron Gneiss. This distinctive metamorphic rock was formed about 400 million years ago and extends from Massachusetts down to East Haddam. Our namesake bedrock has shaped our landscape and continues to have a great impact on the Hebron we know today. According to a report by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team on the geology and hydrogeology (groundwater) of 17 Kinney Rd., "Most domestic wells in this area are recharged by bedrock aquifers. ... Water is only

Bulletin Board

"Well," I said, "I think I've finally figured out why I'm tired all the time."

"Because you're lazy?" asked my wife.

"This is no joking matter," I retorted. "This is a serious affliction."

"Science has decided that couchitis is an actual disease?"

"Couchitis?"

"That would be the irresistible compulsion to recline on the nearest couch regardless of time of day, leaf raking that needs to be done, trash that should be taken out ... shall I continue?"

"For your information, I think I might have pathological altruism."

"Pathological what?"

"Pathological altruism. It's a disease that was discovered a few years ago by some lawyers representing the former bookkeeper for the Mark Twain House in Hartford. She embezzled over a million dollars before she got caught. It put the operation in a financial hole, forced layoffs of staff and nearly destroyed the Mark Twain House."

"How is that altruistic?"

"She spent most of the money on her dysfunctional extended family—well, except for a few tens of thousands of dollars she spent on clothes and stuff for herself. Anyway, her lawyers and a variety of really smart academics said she shouldn't go to jail because her pathological altruism toward her family was really to blame."

"She was sick."

"Right. Like me. My pathological devotion to my family simply wears me out. That's why I'm tired all the time."

"I won't quibble with the pathological part, but I hardly think you suffer from an overabundance of altruism. What was it you told the Widows and Orphans Fund when they called the other night?"

"All I said was that maybe they should contact a dating service."

"I'll admit, you certainly establish a new level for altruism."

"It's simple common sense."

"What about the staffers that lost their jobs because of this bookkeeper you were talking about? She sounds to me more like a run-of-the mill common thief than a philanthropist."

"You're not taking the personal sacrifice aspect into consideration. She presumably knew she'd get caught some day, but she kept stealing anyway."

"Yeah, because she wanted the money."

"No, no, it was the disease. Pathological altruism is like running into a burning house to try to rescue a neighbor you don't like. Or like donating both your kidneys. Or like when I force myself to eat your mother's cabbage rolls."

"Excuse me?"

"Actually, they're not that bad. If you like cabbage."

"Uh huh."

"I mean, they're pretty good as cabbage rolls go."

"Really?"

"You know, I think I need a nap."

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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able to enter well-bores through fractures that the wells intersect. ... Several NNW-SSE topographical lineaments, where increased fracture density may be encountered, pass through Hebron... “

Most importantly, two of these fractures pass directly through 17 Kinney Rd. and the proposed site of the Public Works facility. The ERT Report ominously continues “greater fracture density also suggests increased permeability and faster rates of groundwater dispersal and also faster rates of dispersal of potential contaminants that may enter the groundwater system.” The conclusion is clear, “Potential negative impact... involves accidental introduction of toxic substances into the hydrological systems, both surface and groundwater... impact of serious accidents will likely be felt down-slope, both in the natural surface drainage basins and in the bedrock groundwater aquifer.”

The ERT Report was created in June 2000 and provided to the Hebron Conservation Commission. The construction of a Public Works facility and 2,000-ton salt shed, with the resulting industrial truck traffic, truck washing bays and underground toxic waste water storage, clearly pose an imminent danger to the groundwater, bedrock aquifer and well water on Kinney Road. With the risk of aquifer contamination known for over 20 years, why does the Hebron Board of Selectmen continue to push their dangerous plan? Please visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook for more information and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Know Before You Dig!

To the Editor:
There is further need for a documentary study of the Horton Boulevard property before the area’s development. Archaeological work has been done on the proposed public works site and along the boulevard. The public works site yielded few artefacts, but the Boulevard site yielded a large number of 18th and 19th century ceramics, the source of which has not been located and needs to be before development takes place.

Important information is missing is the form of a comprehensive title search for the entire town owned property formerly owned by Gov. John S. Peters, Sylvester Gilbert (Hebron Revolutionary War leader), Henry Peters (African-American farmer and Cesar Peters’ son) and Levi Backus’ family, the world’s first deaf editor. Current research suggests the boundaries of four significant farms, as well as partial boundaries of a 1702 Proprietor’s lot. Not all stone-walls are historically significant because they lack documentary context like the wall in the Douglas Library Parking lot. However, stone-walls marking boundaries before the town’s incorporation, associated with historically significant people increase their historic value. Furthermore, Sylvester Gilbert was a major slave-owner and Henry and Horace Peters were African-American farmers, thus, a significant number of these walls represent African American craftsmanship. Preservation of these walls warrants further study.

Before a vote is taken to develop the site, more information for the entire town owned parcel needs to be recovered. This will affect state funding of the project. The Boulevard archaeological report needs to be accurately updated and the Public Works archaeological report needs a thorough title search since it was not done when the town acquired the site. Care needs to be taken to avoid repeating a scenario like Burnt Hill Park where significant historic factors were ignored and important links to the past were destroyed.

John Baron – Hebron

Liberals

To the Editor:
Liberals really need to get over themselves. They swallow both feet...choking on their socks and shoes.

Just out of curiosity, do those of you who believe that Andreas Bisbikos committed an “egregious act” upon the Cragin Memorial Library also believe that shutting down non-violent and non-threatening Twitter and Facebook accounts are equally egregious acts? I am inclined to think not, as is evident by the feather ruffling caused by the former and the dearth of articles and letters decrying the latter. The irony is “trumped” only by the hypocrisy.

In the Cragin situation, a parent voiced concern about access to pictures of drag queen, RuPaul. Actions taken by First Selectman Bisbikos were considered “censorship,” as “he chose to ignore long-standing town policies and procedures, and to subvert due process.” Due process? You mean like the due process afforded in the Jan. 6 hearings? You mean like the due process in the investigation of the Bacon Academy/Ledyard girls’ basketball game? Like the due process in the Southern Border Patrol “whipping” incident?

But I digress. The first selectman was not advocating for a book-burning, so let’s relax. Apparently, those of you who disagree with the first selectman’s actions feel it was an overreach of his authority because the “censorship” in question was contrary to your beliefs (and, more importantly, subverted due process). Oddly, there are myriad examples of censorship perpetuated by the very people who decry censorship. (Have you ever tried striking up a conversation about hydroxychloroquine with a liberal?)

Hopefully, in the spirit of non-censorship, Cragin allows access to books on genital piercing and autoerotic asphyxiation in addition to cross-dressing. Better yet, I hope Cragin carries *The Real Anthony Fauci* by Robert Kennedy Jr., and *Profiles in Corruption* by Peter Schweizer. Liberal minds want to know...

Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

No Longer a Democracy

To the Editor:
In four years as a selectman, nothing is clearer to me than Hebron is no longer a democracy. Policies are commonly enacted that benefit the few at the expense of the majority. Nowhere is this more apparent than the proposed \$50M “municipal complex” on the Horton property, a decision that will adversely affect every resident of Hebron now and for generations to come.

As previously shown, the town government routinely violates the town charter, our blueprint for democracy. For example, Jan. 7, 2021, the day after the insurrection, I made a motion condemning “...the Trump-inspired assault on the capitol on January 6, 2021.” The vote failed with Mr. Larson voting no and Mr. Rubera, Ms. Richmond, and Mr. Kasper abstaining (effectively voting no). The vote was a shameful, embarrassment to our town, but the cover-up was worse. In defiance of the town charter and state law, the vote was not recorded in the Jan. 7 BOS minutes and, despite the town attorney’s opinion, is still not recorded.

A democracy requires a healthy opposition party. However, the Democrats have shown themselves to be timid followers of the Republican majority. For example, the DTC did not support the BOS resolution condemning the insurrection. Instead, the DTC Executive Committee, notably Ms. Thiele, Ms. Fodaski and Mr. Leitcher, wrote that while the Insurrection was “disturbing,” they “applauded those who have taken a stand including...the Republican Town Committee,” giving support to the very people in town government who refused to con-

demn the overthrow of our government. These are the same people that are jamming through the municipal complex using undemocratic methods. The brave Ukrainians have shown us that democracy demands courage. Hopefully, we will find the courage to stop the municipal complex and to restore our democracy.

John Collins – Amston

Excellent Idea

To the Editor:
As Conservation Commission chairman, I would like to congratulate Jarret Lundberg, who is working towards his Eagle Scout badge, for his excellent idea to improve the recycling area at the Andover Transfer Station where the Collecting Andover’s Returnable Treasurers (C.A.R.T.) volunteers work each Saturday.

Jarret shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board of Selectmen at its regular meeting on Feb. 15. This presentation showed how it was possible to improve the area where the collections and sorting of recyclables were done each week. His presentation included a sorting table that swings out for easier sorting, removal of an old storage fence cage, placing five bins with wheels and labels for easy moving where recyclables are to be deposited, and the removal of old tires to a more secure area. C.A.R.T. workers can now operate in a safe, well-protected covered building, that is neat, clean and easily manageable. Job well-done!

Residents bringing their recyclables should put them into the correct bins which will make the new process much easier for the volunteer workers.

Thank you,
Mike Palazzi, Chairman
Andover Conservation Commission

Healthy Buildings

To the Editor:
The air we breathe should be as clean as the water we drink. Those in charge of managing public buildings should read a new report from the Lancet COVID-19 task force – “The First Four Healthy Building Strategies Every Building Should Pursue to Reduce Risk from COVID-19.” The report recommends: 1) ensuring that existing buildings are operating as designed; 2) maximizing outside air; 3) upgrading air filters to minimum efficiency reporting

value (MERV) 13; and 4) supplementing with portable air cleaners, where needed.

Other solutions mentioned include the use of newer UV-C technology, and indoor air quality or carbon dioxide monitoring to measure whether outdoor air ventilation is sufficient.

Benefits documented beyond disease transmission include: improved cognitive function, work performance, and academic performance; reduced reports of building-related symptoms and illness; reduced asthma; reduced absenteeism; and healthcare cost savings. In addition, energy savings and extended equipment life would be realized.

All these benefits are achieved regardless of which variant of COVID-19 or which other airborne pathogen is circulating in the air. The question for officials in all our towns is: are these improvements being made, especially in school buildings?

Bill Sullivan – Portland

Small Business Under Attack

To the Editor:
You may not know what a catalytic converter is or what it does, but if it was stolen, you’d certainly know it once you start your vehicle. In addition to a warning light on your dash, it would sound like a dragster going down the road. Catalytic converters, or “cats,” are part of a vehicle’s emission control system, and have been in use since the 1970s. Cats contain precious metals, including platinum, which command a hefty price in the scrap metal market, and can be sold for hundreds of dollars each. The rise in thefts as noted by my fellow business owners is significant. This Tuesday, 7/12, we came to work to find that seven of our vehicles had the “cats” stolen overnight, rendering the vehicles inoperable. Security cameras revealed a gang of criminals showing up in the dark of night, stealing these parts off of vehicles, then escaping out of the area.

Theft is disruptive to a business and community as a whole. One result is that some of our employees will have no work without an operable vehicle. This will impact their family finances. Another result is that customers who depend on us to respond promptly to their emergencies will not benefit from our prompt service. Our direct repair costs may exceed \$35k, on top of the missed opportunity cost.

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

The business owners' recourse is to contact the police, who respond reactively, and conduct an investigation.

The passage of the "Police Accountability" bill in 2020, which our state senator, Cathy Osten voted for, has discouraged proactive policing and emboldened criminals who know the penalties will be light. When will our Democratic lawmakers in Hartford join Republicans in calling for this bill to be fixed? The bill works well for criminals. When will it work equally for law-abiding citizens?

Steve Weir – Hebron

Note: Weir is a candidate for state representative for the 55th House District, which starting in November covers Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and a portion of Glastonbury.

A Sad Day

To the Editor:

Upon hearing the news about the assassination of the former prime minister of Japan, whilst delivering a speech, I was stunned and shocked. This bizarre, rare and unprovoked act of violence happened in Japan, I thought? This is a common occurrence in the U.S., not Japan. My mind was scrambled. Something was amiss, wrong and so un-Japanese about the story.

I emailed a dear friend who lives in Tokyo about the event. She called me back within minutes and we chatted for over an hour. She said, and I quote, "We have been stung. The pain has the country in a state of disbelief and betrayal. We have been stung, Alison."

There are very few firearms in Japan. And to use one on the former prime minister in a senseless and ruthless act of slaughter was beyond her scope of thought. She was numb and in shock hours after the event took place. The country just stopped in a collective state of disbelief.

Why am I writing this story down and asking the *Riverast* to publish it? Very simple. We as a country hear these stories originating from within all too frequently. They no longer "sting" us. We are numb and accustomed to the state of disbelief with the headlines flashed across our sources of news. It doesn't happen every day

of course, but we are almost treating it as such.

It is a sad day for the folks of Japan, who's society's norms are based on trust, respect and tradition. It's even sadder to think maybe the negative influence of the actions within our borders are rubbing wrongly on those half the planet away.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

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

We Must Work Together

To the Editor:

Free public education, a cornerstone of our society, is based in the Constitution's 14th amendment, equal protection, and the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* that concluded "separate but equal" has no place in our schools.

Free public libraries have the same fundamental characteristics. They're open to all, and every community member can access the collection free of charge. Library usage in no way forces the use of every book or service provided. Everyone has a choice.

My profession was education, advocating for all children. As a teacher you teach and meet the needs of your diverse classroom population.

What has transpired over the past two weeks is so disheartening to me as a lifelong educator. It hits at the core of what free public education and free public libraries try to provide for communities – opportunities, inclusiveness, diversity, and welcoming to all.

At the last Board of Selectmen meeting (BOS), the BOS members had the opportunity to weigh in and express their positions on the first selectman's decision concerning the Ru-Paul book. The BOS wasn't in agreement with his unilateral actions and his requirement to inventory the entire collection in the Children's Library. The motion I made was "The BOS rescinds the First Selectman's directive to the Director of the Library to review the 25,909 items in the Children's Library Collection," and it was passed unanimously. This stopped, not paused, the review. Any review of a book will follow established library procedures.

Colchester is a town meeting form of gov-

ernment, with a representative BOS. Discussion and decisions on issues should come to the BOS. By charter (C-402H), the BOS shall oversee the internal operations of all town departments. This issue should have followed library procedures and come before the BOS. If we work together, Colchester's government works.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Free Speech vs. Censorship

To the Editor:

Recent news stories, local and around the country, bring this issue to the fore. The question of how far free speech extends is at the crux of the matter. In my humble opinion, a reasonable line can be drawn if one considers the intent or effect of what is being said. What ideas are being expressed and how can those ideas help or hurt people? Does what is being said involve an aspect of choice?

First of all, anything being said or written can be ignored; the matter of choice belongs to the recipient or target of the message. But, the message may be about something over which there is no choice, like skin color, and the target of the words may not be the audience. From this perspective, there are limits to what should be acceptable in free speech debates. If the speech in question threatens harm to a person or group because of some intrinsic feature or value, then such speech should rightfully be censored. If the words are incendiary, meant to arouse negative feelings and cause harm, they are repugnant and deserve to be shut down. See United States Supreme Court cases (*Schenck v. United States (1919)* and (*Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)*).

Books that describe the world, without calling for action, can be read and agreed with or not.

Flyers that espouse racism, anti-Semitism, or homophobic violence fall outside the bounds of civilized free speech. Some may agree with those ideas, but such people are dangerous. Such people inflict harm in places like Newtown, Chicago, Philadelphia, Tulsa, Uvalde,

Buffalo, and too many others.

Rights come with responsibilities. Speech is irresponsible if it results in inciting or producing imminent lawless action, not if it only describes something.

John Barnowski – Colchester

DeCaprio for State Rep.

Dear Colchester Residents:

I am Mark DeCaprio from Lebanon and I'm running for state representative for the 48th District which includes all of Colchester, and the towns of Bozrah, Franklin & Lebanon.

I believe we need change in Hartford and fresh ideas to help bring solutions to the following: As we are all aware, our friends and neighbors that live in the Colchester and in the towns of the 48th have new financial challenges caused by our current economy's high fuel prices, high inflation, high unemployment and high Connecticut taxes. I believe state government should "live within its means" and so we need to "Change Course Connecticut" to a new course where we work to make our state more affordable for all!

I strongly oppose the current tax and spend policies and I will work hard to bring fiscal discipline, efficiency and balance back to Hartford! I am committed to help create a more business friendly environment, which will attract new business and high paying jobs, and lessen the flow of residents and companies that are leaving Connecticut for lower tax states.

I support public safety agencies which include police and fire. Hardening our schools for the safety of school children is also a high priority. Parents send their children to school to get a good education and expect a safe school environment for their children.

I love Connecticut and I am committed to a brighter future for us and will work tirelessly for our small-town values to be heard in Hartford. Thank you for the opportunity to earn your support!

Sincerely,

Mark DeCaprio – Lebanon

Republican Candidate for the 48th District

Alternative View on Abortion

To the Editor:

I noticed quite a few letters in the *Riverast* over the past few weeks addressing the recent SCOTUS decision involving abortion. I happen to agree with the court regarding their analysis of *Roe v. Wade*, at least about the Burger court's illogical reasoning. I remember, when I first read the decision in law school, hating the broken logic used by the Burger court to get to the right to privacy as enumerated in that decision.

However, I also happen to be pro-choice so this presents a conundrum for me regarding the current court's decision. So, I guess, you can say I have a nuanced opinion.

What surprises me most by the clamor from the left (I'd normally say far left, but I think the distinction has all but dissolved away at this point) is their cry for equality. What, you say? How can you talk about equality when women's rights have been stripped away?

Easy. Let me ask you, after conception, what choice did men have? None. Did we get to opine whether we wanted to become fathers? Nope. Did we get to shirk our responsibility to pay support for said child? Nope. We got threatened with incarceration if we failed to pay court-ordered child support.

Ladies, welcome to our world, where neither parent now has a choice about becoming a parent. How do you like it?

Scott McGowan – Colchester

Riverast Wrecking Crew

To the Editor:

The *Riverast* wrecking crew is a small clique of MAGA disciples who share their stunningly superficial points of view every week. They remain completely blind to just how embarrassing their paranoid views, vulgar opinions, unhinged conspiracies and inferior logic is to the rest of the world. For this reason, the first rule to remember before inviting an intellectually dishonest, or willfully ignorant Trumpublican to deliberate on the broader themes of equality, dignity, compassion, reason, or tolerance is learning to distinguish, who deserves an explanation, who deserves a brief answer, and who deserves absolutely no response.

Debating abstract constructs with someone who harbors sophomoric worldviews is futile. They will never understand those who look ahead and strive for cooperation over competition. They will never value new ideas without rigid reactions. They will not appreciate the humanity in caring about the welfare of other peo-

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ple; their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights, or their civil liberties. Ultimately, they will never grasp the concept of human dignity.

This cadre of social misfits are paranoid conspiracists who pledge allegiance to confederate flags, unregulated free markets, Fox propaganda and a proliferation of military-style weapons. The politics of the radical right is the politics of frustration. Fox News stokes a constant sense of outrage among its viewers, largely by highlighting narratives of white resentment and threats to Christianity. As a result, Trumpublicans blame gays, the liberal media, Blacks, immigrants, environmental regulations, Sharia Law and people saying “happy holidays” as the root of their problems. The reality is this paranoid subculture gravitates towards bumper-sticker politics and sound-bite solutions simply because they find themselves unable to grasp, let alone command the complex realities of a heterogeneous society, and their version of a one-size-fits-all government is just easier to understand.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

July 4 in Hebron

To the Editor:

Thank you, Hebron!
Columbia may have a parade, and the Lions may give us fireworks (sadly never on the 4th), but Hebron does know how to put on a meaningful ceremony celebrating the founding of our country!

Our tradition is short but sweet. Thanks to Dan Larson, our Board of Selectmen chairman, who welcomed everyone; Holly Habicht, TTCF's president who explained the One Word project and created, together with Kaitlin Hersey, our large poster – keep an eye out for it – it will start turning up in unexpected places! We so appreciated Jaclyn Coffey singing The National Anthem, David Rose, in period dress, reading the Declaration of Independence (in a British accent, how cool is that!), Tom Brancato representing the brave men and women who serve in our military, Andrey Stolyarov's beautiful piano playing and singing, Scott Ennis, another veteran, reading his original poetry and Nina Wang's eloquence on what she loves about America. Her essay will be posted on The Town Center Project website (www.thetown-centerproject.org). Special thanks to Mary Ellen Gonci and the Historical Society for their continual support and generosity.

And lastly, to the Hebron community, who remind us that what we do is worthwhile.

**Enjoy the summer,
Judith Podell, Chair
July 4th Program
The Town Center Project, Inc.**

Please Check Your Facts

To the Editor:

Last week we received several lectures. It's good to learn new things, but only if the lecturer has the facts.

James Mathias lectured us on fetal development, explaining what anyone who ever took a health class should already know. Then he editorialized. He tells us that after the egg is fertilized, “Any termination of that process along life's continuum ends a human life.” He fails to mention that fully two-thirds of fertilized eggs do not make it as far as birth. If he wants to take that up with someone, pro-choicers are a much smaller issue than Mother Nature or whatever god(s) he worships.

There is a consistent pro-life position, but it's exceedingly rare. It implies that you can be forced to donate blood – or a kidney – because someone else might need it, that an adult can be forbidden from having a drink, because it might interfere with someone else's development. If we reject that, then under what theory should a 13-year-old be forced to carry her rapist's child to term?

Don Denley lectured us on gun rights. He tells us that the Second Amendment is an absolute right. Does that mean anyone may own any armament, regardless of age, criminal record, mental illness, history of violence? Can I keep a tank in my garage? How about anthrax? Absurd, yes, but then this a gun advocate.

Also, he suggests I am a strong Biden supporter. No, Biden was not in my top ten in the Democratic debates. He's infinitely better than his predecessor, but I think Biden is the worst president of my 56 years, save only a few: Nixon, Carter, Reagan, both Bushes, and, of course, Trump, our worst president ever.

In any case, lectures are fine. But first, please check your facts.

**Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover**

Correcting the Record

To the Editor:

I ask that *Rivereast* editor Mike Thompson and Publisher Kevin Rarey consider implementing consequences for letter writers who knowingly fabricate untruths about other letter writers. Don Denley frequently misrepresents me. His untruths require me to defend myself and correct the record.

Last week Denley, either a pathological liar at worst, or at best a lazy reader who skimmed over my previous letter that addressed a potential second Civil War, wrote, “Mr. Science’ Edmund Smith advocates another Civil War.” In fact, I advocated against another Civil War. I had written, “A majority of polled Republicans say they would be happy if red states separated from blue states. Texas Republicans are openly discussing secession.” I then detailed how the Republican Party was leading our nation down the path towards a second Civil War, with threatening organized militias, widespread assault rifle ownership, state gerrymandering, the attack upon our Capitol and refusing to recognize the legitimacy of President Biden, just as earlier secessionists refused to recognize Lincoln's legitimacy. I clearly posited it was Republicans advocating for another Civil War, walking our nation towards disunion.

I closed with “When war comes, I say, let them go this time. Let each state take its vote. The red states become the Confederacy, the blue states the Union. Differentials in economics, education, health care, good government and much more will then settle the score – better than any war could do.”

When a writer proves misrepresentation, as I have here done concerning Denley, *Rivereast* should offer the offender a chance to publicly apologize, or forfeit future letter submissions. *Rivereast* readers deserve honest writers, not childish fabricators. Serious writers who research facts to ensure accuracy. *Rivereast* is diminished when resident trolls relentlessly sling baseless accusations. Nations disassemble when liars commandeer governments and the media presents lies and truths as coequals.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Tree a Wonderful Gift

To The Editor:

As a member of the 175th Anniversary Celebration that happens in 2023, I want to thank the Public Works foreman, Jay Tuttle, for his suggestion we plant the beautiful 6' blue spruce tree that was donated in honor of the 175th celebration, at the Historical Museum. He and his men, very early before their actual job began, planted the tree for us, while Mike and I stood in awe of how much work it was and how dedicated they were to getting it perfect! Jay and our selectman, Scott Person, finished the planting by topping it off with mulch and other viable top soil to make sure this tree gets a good start. The tree has been planted at the Andover Historical site on the hill.

I would also like to thank Cathy Desrosiers for helping my husband Mike water the tree. We are each taking days to make sure it stays healthy. Scott continues to oversee this project (we are grateful for that) to make sure it is properly taken care of. What an honor it is to see this majestic tree looking healthy and overlooking our busy Route 6 where hundreds of people can see it. We are planning to put tiny white lights on the tree for the month of December and hope residents will come to celebrate this wonderful gift that was donated to our town.

**Thank you,
Cathy Palazzi, Secretary
175th Anniversary Celebration Committee**

Smells Like Freedom

To the Editor:

While many countries are pumping the brakes on COVID-19 vaccinations for children, America has just approved them for 6 months to 5 years ...despite the fact that children have no statistically meaningful risk from COVID, zero long-term data on the jabs is available.... but don't worry, they are safe and effective! At least that's what Dr. Fauci tells us, who despite being double-vaxxed and double-boosted came down with a doubleheader bout of COVID that had him taking the newly-approved Pfizer drug, Paxlovid, twice, to fight it. But thank God he is vaccinated, otherwise it could've been so much worse....Science!

The world is continuing to become more unstable and food riots are breaking out all over. Luckily the UN/Paris Climate Agreement are coming to the rescue and save us from CO2. Sri Lanka adopted the goals of the Paris Agreement and put into place heavy restrictions on CO2, nitrogen, and banned fertilizer/herbicides. The

result? Sri Lanka has collapsed into chaos as the crops are failing, food is unavailable, and hordes of hungry people are storming the presidential palace and burning government buildings down. But it could of been so much worse if Sri Lanka didnt have such and amazing ESG (Environmental Social Governance) score of 98!

Despite this plan's obvious shortcomings the Netherlands wants to also institute it. They plan the culling of 30% of farmers' livestock as well as limiting their ability to grow crops. The Netherlands is one of the largest food exporters in the world; as a result, farmers have banded together in protests around the country as these “environmental” moves would bankrupt them. Farmers blocked city streets and sprayed liquid manure on government buildings. ... Agriculture!!

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Flush

To the Editor:

“Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink.” This famous line from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (circa 1834) by Samuel Taylor Coleridge could soon become the motto for the USA, replacing, “The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.”

An estimated 63 million Americans wake each day to face the problem of unsafe drinking water. 63 million and the numbers are rising. As new generations of politicians are being sworn into office, corporate regulations increasingly crumble. When Charles Koch was quoted as saying he wanted to not only change the way Americans think but “to pull government out by its roots,” he was not kidding. (book, *Dark Money*, Jane Mayer)

Corporate deregulation is the most effective way to increase profits and power. Power to groom new judges, CEOs and politicians to think, act, and vote in favor of deregulation. One goal of Dark Money supporters, like the Koch brothers, is to change the way people, of all ages, think. To educate them with corporate ideals. To create poverty. To turn away from liberally based institutions, public education and basic human rights. To “flush” all the healthy social progress the USA has gained since the

1970s. And to flush millions of gallons of toxic chemicals into waterways with, little or no, negative impact on their lives or private businesses.

According to cancer.org, 1,762,450 new cases of cancer were reported in the USA in 2019. How much of this cancer stems from poor or toxic drinking water? And, if the Raymond Brook marsh, Hebron's pride and joy, still boasts an abundance of clean water, why is Hebron so eager to join the ranks? By ignoring science and placing an industrial complex upstream we greatly increase our risk for contaminated waters headed downstream.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Truth and Transparency

To the Editor:

Gov. Ned Lamontomy, I am sickened and ashamed at the waste and condition of our state. Take any exit off the highway, and one finds the litter is just pathetic. Also, the construction on I-91 should have been completed long ago. If it were non-union crews doing the work, it would have been completed by now.

Hartford, our capitol, is a filthy pit. Gov. Lamontomy, leave your office and take a stroll down Franklin Avenue. Enjoy the sights and sounds of fireworks, gunshots, and ATVs having no regard for pedestrians or motorists. Rats are everywhere, and cops sit idly as cars speed by them, all because of lack of leadership, like your buddy, Biden. He thought because he was vice president his new job would be easy. Kind of like riding a bike, but we all know how that turned out.

“Comon Man, Make no Mistake!” – Joe's favorite sayings. Huge mistakes you have made: Afghanistan, lives loyal to the USA, abandoned, trillions of dollars spent with no results, and many lives lost.

Biden wants to bail out union pensions, costing billions. Why the heck should non-union taxpayers cover the lost funds? Taxation without representation; I've heard that somewhere before. Get the money from your union brothers and sisters. That's what socialists are supposed to do. All for one and one for all.

Lord help us, and let's all pray for Ned and Joe, for they know not what they do.

Kevin Berry – Andover

Editor's Desk continued from page 2

blocking high-emissions vehicles from being sold in the state; and HB 5245, which allows the deputization of nonprofit organizations and unions to sue employers on behalf of employees that had agreed to settle disputes by arbitration and to bundle unrelated claims. (Smith was actually a co-sponsor on that one.)

* * *

In closing, this is pretty cool: Manchester resident Tim Cate, a Cheney Tech and UConn graduate who was drafted by the Washington Nationals in 2018, was promoted to Double-A ball this week – just in time to play the

Hartford Yard Goats.

The Nationals' Double-A affiliate, the Harrisburg Senators, is in Hartford through Sunday, playing the Goats. Cate was actually scheduled to pitch for Harrisburg last night, after press time.

Hopefully he did well. I know the song says to “root, root, root for the home team,” but when a member of the opposition is from your hometown – well, I think that takes priority.

* * *

See you next week.

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OFF MY WAVE.

Ocean Beach native and local surf legend Steve Bettis was diagnosed with MS in 2006. Although surfing is still central to his life, he hasn't been able to get out on the water in 10 years. For a man whose daily routine always included a few waves, more than a decade out of the surf is just too long. This is why the National MS Society teamed up with his buddy Robert “Wingnut” Weaver and used virtual reality to get Steve back on his wave. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at WeAreStrongerThanMS.org.

Together We Are Stronger.

MS National Multiple Sclerosis Society

All-Rivereast: 2021-2022 Standout Athletes of the Year

By Josh Howard

It was an amazing year for local teams and athletes at the four local high schools: Bacon Academy High School, East Hampton High School, Portland High School and RHAM High School. For the first time since the COVID-19 cancellations and restrictions, complete conference and state tournaments were played, and state champions were crowned across the state. Throughout the year, the *Rivereast* recognized weekly standout athletes, so now we present the inaugural *Rivereast* Standout Athletes of the Year.

Boys Cross-Country – Liam Calhoun (RHAM): Calhoun broke numerous running records this year, including the 5K mark in fall when he ran a 16:26 at the State Open at Wickham Park in Manchester on Nov. 5. The departing senior, who will run at Wesleyan University, went on to break a half dozen other records at RHAM during the outdoor and indoor track seasons throughout the winter and spring.

Girls Cross-Country – Jordan Malloy (Bacon Academy): Malloy wrapped up an incredible cross-country career by placing 3rd at the Class M championships at Wickham Park in Manchester in November. During her four years at Bacon, Malloy won a pair or Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) cross-country title and numerous races during indoor and outdoor track season. Malloy will run for Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Football – Teddy Williams (Portland): Williams was named as one of the Top 25 football players in the state by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association after starring as a three-way player for the Cromwell/Portland co-op team that won the Class S state championship. Whether it was on offense, defense or special teams, Williams shined – scoring 30 touchdowns, including a dozen trips to the end zone during the team's four-game title march through the playoffs.

Boys Soccer – Aidan McLoughlin (Bacon Academy): McLoughlin earned all-state and was selected as an Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) First-Team All-Star after thriving as a dominant defender and so much more for the Bobcats, who advanced to the Class M quarterfinals in the state tourney. The recently graduated senior will continue his soccer career at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts.

Girls Soccer – Kendra Schoeps (Portland): Schoeps earned all-state and first-team All-Shoreline Conference (SLC) after captaining

a Highlanders team that finished as the runner-up in the conference tourney. The senior, who will attend the University of Vermont, was also named one of Portland High's scholar-athletes for her outstanding work on the field, along with excellence in the classroom and community.

Girls Volleyball – Sarah West (RHAM): West, a junior, helped the Raptors win a state championship in the fall, leading the team in kills (284) – averaging three per set – and was second on the team in blocks (64). She earned all-state for her efforts and duplicated that achievement in the winter by also making the all-state basketball team.

Boys Basketball – Eli Evison (Portland): Evison made all-state and was named to the first-team All-Shoreline Conference after averaging 15.3 points, 7.4 rebounds, and 1.5 blocks per game as Portland won a pair of state tournament games to reach the quarterfinals in Class S. The departing senior was also part of the Highlanders state championship golf team, finishing 7th individually overall at the state tournament. He will play basketball at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Girls Basketball – Valerie Luizzi (Bacon Academy): Luizzi was a team captain and floor general for a Bobcats team that won 18 of 20 regular season games and advanced to the state championship game. The senior, who will play basketball at Keene State, averaged 14.8 points per game, 5.2 rebounds per game, and a team-high 3.3 assists per game. She was also the team's best defensive player, averaging an eye-popping 3.5 steals per contest.

Gymnastics – Sydney Nalette (RHAM): Nalette, a recent graduate of RHAM High School, competed for Patti Dean's School on Gymnastics in Hebron, posting incredible scores across the board. Despite the school not having a team, the graduating gymnast was coveted by multiple colleges across the country, ultimately choosing Simpson College in Iowa where she will continue her high-flying career for the next four years.

Boys Indoor Track & Field – Nicholas Rivard-Lentz (East Hampton): Rivard-Lentz won the Shoreline Conference champions and the Class S championship in the pole vault, also finishing as the runner-up at the State Open. The senior took his talents to new height during the outdoor season this spring, vaulting a personal-best 14'3" at the New England championships in June. He will attend the University of Con-



East Hampton's (l-r) Brylee Montanari, Nicholas Rivard-Lentz, and Kaylee Gravel at the Indoor Track & Field all-state banquet. The three were each selected as Rivereast Standouts of the Year.

necticut.

Girls Indoor Track & Field – Brylee Montanari (East Hampton): Montanari, a senior, won the 55-meter hurdles and placed 5th in the 55-meter dash at the Class S championship this winter, helping the Bellringers to a runner-up finish at the event. Montanari will continue her track and field career at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Boys Wrestling – Zackary Kanaitis (RHAM): After winning a state championship in 2021, Kanaitis had another incredible year on the mat, which culminated with a runner-up finish at the Class L finals in the 138-pound division. The recent graduate, who won his 100th match during his senior season, will attend Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston where he will major in architecture.

Girls Wrestling – Emma Heslin (RHAM): Heslin made history, becoming the first female wrestler in school history to win a state title when she defeated Elena Quintaro of Southington at the State Invitational in February. Heslin – who will wrestle at Western New England University – along with her brother Jackson Heslin (Xavier High School), also became the first brother and sister duo to win wrestling state championships on the same day.

Cheerleading – Sierra Koss (Portland): Koss was named first-team All-Shoreline Conference and then became the first cheerleader at PHS to be named all-state since 2015. The recent graduate will attend the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Boys Golf – Luke Stennett (Portland): Stennett followed up his fantastic freshman year with an even better sophomore season, finishing at the medalist in each match as the Highlanders went undefeated as a team and won both the Shoreline Conference (SLC) championship and Division III state championship. Stennett tied atop the leaderboard at both the SLC and state championships, helping Portland repeat as champions in both events.

Baseball – Jack Novak (Bacon Academy): Novak did it all for the Bobcats, leading the team from both the plate and mound this spring. The senior led the team in hits (34), RBIs (34), and home runs (7), and finished tied for the team-lead with 24 runs scored. He was also the team's ace, winning eight of his ten starts, pitching five complete games and one shutout, while striking out a team-high 72 batters. Novak, who made all-state this spring, will play baseball at Mitchell College.

Boys Lacrosse – Sam Blumberger (Bacon Academy): Blumberger is headed to play soccer Bloomsbury College, yet the multi-sport star ended his illustrious high school athletic career with an all-state season on the lacrosse fields this spring. The senior scored a team-best 53 points, netting 25 goals and a team-high 28 assists. Not too shabby for a second hobby.

Girls Lacrosse – Sarah Newton (Bacon Academy): Newton scored 82 points, scoring team-high 60 goals and dishing out 22 assists during an all-state spring. The recent graduate also scored her 100th career goal during the season and will now play lacrosse at Springfield College.

Boys Outdoor Track and Field – Jake Martino (Bacon Academy): Martino broke the school record in the discus and won the Class MM championship in the event in June. The junior also represented the school in the decathlon in New Britain on June 15, finishing 8th out of 50 athletes.

Girls Outdoor Track and Field – Kaylee Gravel (East Hampton): Gravel won the 800 meters at both the Shoreline Conference finals and the Class S championship, running a personal-best 2:20.53 at the class meet on May 31. The recent graduate will now run competitively at Central Connecticut State University.

Softball – Hadley Marchand (RHAM): Marchand served as the team's pitching ace, winning a dozen games from the mound, allowing only 67 hits and striking out 165 batters. The junior also drove in a team-high 21 runs and smacked five home runs on 22 hits. Her efforts earned her all-state, along with all-conference honors for a second straight season.

Boys Tennis – Patrick Gavrylchuk (East Hampton): Gavrylchuk was the Bellringers No. 1 singles player, performing at a high level as East Hampton won 10 of 14 regular season meets and a tourney qualifying match over Cromwell. The senior defeated Cromwell's No. 1 singles player Tyler Daniele (6-3, 6-1) to secure one of the Bellringers five wins in the tourney match.

Girls Tennis – Addison Brown (RHAM): Brown made all-conference, teaming with Grace Baran to create a dynamic doubles team that was nearly unbeatable. Along with doubles duties, Brown helped captain a Raptors team that reached the second round of the state tourney. The graduating senior will attend Central Connecticut State University.

RHAM • RHAM

AHM Charity Golf Tournament

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold its 19th AHM Charity Golf Tournament Friday, July 22, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m., with a 9:30 a.m. shotgun start.

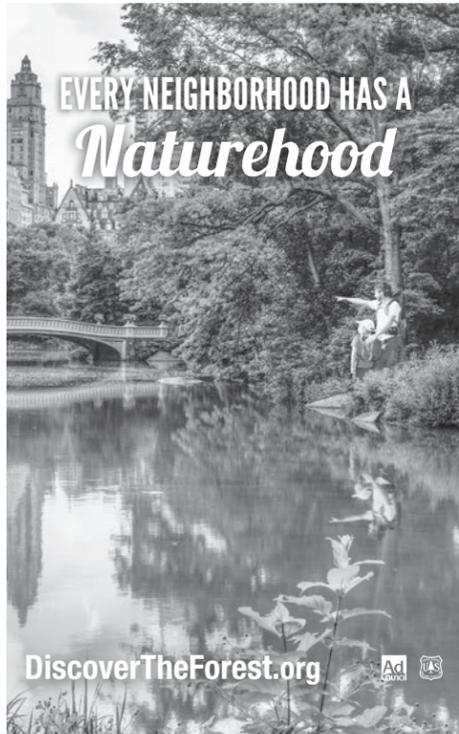
The cost of this year's tournament is \$125, which includes a cart, 18 holes of golf, and entrance into Hole-in-One contests (donated by Ferguson and McGuire Insurance). Ted's IGA Supermarket will host an afternoon barbecue luncheon. A complimentary hospitality hot dog cart also donated by Ted's IGA will greet each player on the course. The tournament ends with

the presentation of trophies in multiple divisions.

All proceeds from this tournament support a range of human and mental health services for Andover, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough children, teens, young adults and families.

Every player will receive a hospitality bag, with beverages, snacks, treats and a commemorative AHM logo golf shirt.

To register to play in the tournament, as a single or as part of a team, visit www.ahmyouth.org. Beginners and seasoned golfers welcome.



Class of '82 40th Reunion

There will be a 40th reunion of the RHAM High School Class of 1982 at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron on Saturday, Aug. 13. The event will be in the evening; specific time and additional details will follow.

Find out more by joining the Facebook group "RHAM High School Class of '82" or email Sara Tarca at sarastarc@comcast.net for information or an RSVP.

First Steps in Music

The AHM Family Resource Center will host First Steps in Music this summer for children and parents or caregivers:

The class will meet Thursdays, July 28-Aug. 11, from 9:30-10:15 a.m., at the AHM building, 25 Pendleton Drive. Fee is \$45/family. This group is led by musician and teacher Mallory Kokus who is trained in this method.

Registration is at ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center. Contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or Laura Beeler at laurab@ahmyouth.org or 860-228-0871 for more information.

Tri-County Legion Fall Baseball

Tri-County's American Legion baseball program is looking for prospective players for its fall season.

Serious players whose parent resides in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon or Marlborough are eligible. The fall league is primarily designed for players who will be between the ages of 12-19 in 2023, and teams will be organized at several age groups, depending on interest.

Go to www.tcleion.com for more details on the fall format, team makeup and fees.

Deadline to register is Aug. 8, but some age-group teams are expected to fill up prior to that date.

The fall program will serve as a preliminary tryout for selection to Tri-County's summer 2023 Legion teams, which will be filled through the fall program as well as winter tryouts.

Interested players are encouraged to contact General Manager Len Lampugnale at 860-295-0437 or at Lampugnale@comcast.net for more information.

Colchester • Colchester

Project Grad Cornhole Tourney Raises \$2,800

The Bacon Academy Project Graduation committee recently held its second annual Cornhole Tournament at Hop Culture in Colchester and raised \$2,800 for the organization. The top three winning teams were Kirsten Cianci and Shawn Reilly, first place; Thomas and Connor Egan, second place; and Rick Gray and John Hathaway, third place.

The event sponsor was RJ's Lawn Care LLC. Other sponsors include InCord Custom Safety Netting Solutions; Family Orthodontic Care, Berkshire Hathaway Home Service – Joyce Covone; and Oz 'N Bones BBQ.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project

Graduation is to enhance drug and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy. Project Graduation's most critical event is a graduation night party that keeps seniors together and off the roads that night.

All Project Graduation events and initiatives to benefit Bacon seniors are entirely paid for through the fundraising efforts and contributions of Bacon Academy parents, students, businesses, and community members. No tax dollars are ever used. For more information, go to www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Sunday School is held during worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are wel-

come. 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.

Vacation Bible School: Registration closes July 10. VBS is a free program open to the community and 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.

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.

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 reimaged 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.

West Point Campus Tour: Thursday, Oct. 20, 7:30 a.m. Take a trip to Thayer Hotel's Bountiful Buffet, then participate in a guided tour of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Cost is \$127/person; a non-refundable payment is due at the time of registration.

A Christmas for Carol at Newport Playhouse: Tuesday, Dec. 6, departing at 9:30 a.m. There will be a buffet lunch before the show and a cabaret show afterward. Proof of vaccination required. Cost is \$132/person and is non-refundable.

Cragin Book Club to Meet

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, July 25, at 6 p.m. This month, read *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk.

The book club meets 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 Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

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

Stroller Walks

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) will host Stroller Walks on the Air Line Trail this summer on Tuesday, July 19, Tuesday, Aug. 9, and Thursday, Aug. 25, at 9:30 a.m. each day.

Free and open to all, these gatherings allow families to meet, connect and enjoy the outdoors with their little ones. All are welcome. Meet at the dirt parking area at Route 149/Westchester Road.

For more information and to register, go to ColchesterC3.org.

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 westcongchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

Residents Graduate

Colchester residents Madison Bis and Hannah Corsa recently graduated from American International College in Springfield, Mass.



Baby & Me... The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) is offering a free mini-session of *Baby & Me Mondays* through Aug. 1 at 10:30 a.m., at the Colchester Jazzercise Studio. This class, for parents and caregivers with their child up to 2 years old, features music, movement and activities designed to promote healthy development and social connections for families. For more information and to register, go to ColchesterC3.org. Pictured is the facilitator, Kaitlin Cassidy, with her daughter, Kinsley.

Special Olympics Golf Fundraiser

Colchester Special Olympics will hold its 13th annual Golf Fundraiser at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron Friday, Aug. 12. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., and there is a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

People are invited to play, be a sponsor, or donate a raffle prize – 100% of contributions support the local team. This fundraiser provides the opportunity for Colchester Special Olympics to offer year-round sports training and competition in bowling, swimming, track

& field, and golf for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Colchester Special Olympics is a registered nonprofit organization and any donation made would be tax-deductible. A light breakfast, lunch and a buffet dinner are included in golf registration.

Golf and sponsorship registration is at give.soct.org/colchestergolf. Email any questions to Tim at teamcolchesterso@gmail.com.

Cragin Family Fun Nights

Family Fun Nights at Cragin Library are back on Wednesdays this summer, offering entertainment for the whole family. The schedule is:

Timed Tickets Mystic Touch Tank: July 20, 6-8 p.m. There is special registration July 18-20. Register to get an up close and personal look at some underwater animals. Participants with tickets rotate every 20 minutes; see the library for tickets.

Lutz Children's Museum: July 27, 6:30

p.m. Learn about the beach's ecosystem and different animals that live there.

Book Bingo: Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m. Play bingo to win books.

Carnival: Aug. 10, 6:30 p.m. Attend an ocean-themed carnival with games, prizes and more.

Cragin Memorial Library is located at 8 Linwood Ave. For more information, call the Cragin children's department at 860-537-7201.

Next Boy Scout Shredding Event

Due to the availability of a shredding truck, Boy Scout Troop 72 was not able to run a financial records shredding event as planned for this spring. However, one is tentatively scheduled for the fall.

The troop hopes to hold a shredding event Saturday, Sept. 17. Residents are advised to keep their financial, business and medical records until then, when they can be safely shredded.

Contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Chris Gatesman and Aidan Lynch made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Gatesman is in the computational mathematics program, and Lynch is in the chemistry program.

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.

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.

Flip-Flop Fundraiser

On Sunday, July 16, the Colchester Lions will be at the Lions' Pond from 10 a.m.-noon, to collect new flip-flops. These flip-flops will be donated to local homeless shelters to be used as shower shoes.

The Lions need all sizes and for all genders. They will also accept cash donations to purchase more.

For more information, follow the Colchester Lions Facebook page.

Benefit for Ukraine

St. Joseph's Polish Society, at 395 South Main St., is hosting a benefit for Ukraine Saturday, July 30, from 4-10 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

The Tongue and Groove Band will perform from 4-6 p.m., followed by country music star Frankie Justin. There will be food available from 4-7 p.m., and cornhole starting at 5 p.m.

Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

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, Aggadatan 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.

Dean's List

Tessa Lee Komoroski of Colchester made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C.

Bacon Principal Resigns, Reason Still Unclear

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education voted July 6 to approve a separation agreement with Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel – though it's not clear exactly why he is leaving the school district.

Peel – who has been on administrative leave since May 26 – and the district mutually agreed to part ways, according to the separation agreement obtained by the *Rivereast*.

No official reason has been provided for the separation. Interim Superintendent of Schools Thomas McDowell and Board of Education Chairman Alex Oliphant did not return a request for comment. Peel could not be reached for comment.

In a public statement, Peel announced that he was leaving the district after seven years as principal.

"This has been a very difficult decision for me as I have cherished my time in Colchester," he wrote. "It has been my true honor to be the proud principal of Bacon Academy."

The statement was shared with the *Rivereast* from a parent who saw it on a Facebook page dedicated to Bacon Academy parents. It was also shared via the district.

"We have accomplished so many great things during my tenure," Peel wrote, "including growing the most impressive career and technical education program in CT, developing a dual enrollment program that offers fifty different courses that our students can take to earn college credits, our teachers have grown in their instructional, grading, and assessment practices,

and we preserved through the difficult pandemic and came out on the other side in excellent shape while never shutting down due to Covid."

Peel wrote that he was also thankful for the support he's received from students, parents, faculty and the community.

"That support has shown me that my work in Colchester was fruitful, and I take solace in knowing that I am leaving my mark but taking with me many lasting friendships," he said in the statement.

He concluded by saying Connecticut is a "small state" and he's sure "our paths will cross again."

"Until that time, please know that I will always be your proud Principal Peel."

In a tweet last week, Peel also thanked the town, saying, "You have done, and will continue to do, great things."

While details are slim, the parties did agree that the resignation is not an admission that the board harmed Peel or violated his rights in any way. The separation agreement also does not constitute an admission that Peel engaged in any misconduct or committed acts that would warrant disciplinary action.

According to the separation agreement, Peel's resignation goes into effect on Dec. 31 or when he commences new employment at a new educational institution, whichever comes sooner.

Peel will receive his full annual salary rate during that period as well as his insurance and benefits plan. He will also receive a severance

payment.

His insurance plan will continue until June 30, 2023, or until a new employer provides it.

In the agreement, the interim superintendent agrees to write Peel a reference letter, as well.

The agreement includes a comprehensive waiver that prevents Peel from taking any future action against the board in relation to his separation.

Any public statement made by Peel must be mutually agreed upon with the interim superintendent.

Krista Kardys, a parent who started a petition to reinstate Peel after he was placed on leave in May, said she was disappointed to see Peel depart.

"I think it's a great loss for the district," she said. "He was a great leader."

When she saw Peel's statement, she said it helped give her closure – and let her know he was content with his decision.

"It helped me; I knew he's leaving in a good space."

Kardys said she's also proud of the petition – which gained hundreds of signatures – and all the comments from community members and students.

"It serves as reinforcement for him," she said. "It speaks to his character and I was very happy to know he would see it and read it."

Still, Kardys said she believes the district could have communicated better with parents and provided more details. Parents who previously spoke to the *Rivereast* were disappointed that Peel was unable to attend the graduation ceremony last month.

"It was terrible," Kardys said. "It was disrespectful and unkind."

During the Board of Education meeting on July 12, McDowell stated he hopes to have new sitting principal by October, and that he wants to "involve as many people as we can" in the hiring process.

He said he expects a job description to be sent out this week.

Also at its July 7 meeting, the Board of Education unanimously voted to approve Amy Emory as the new director of pupil services and special education for the district.

Glenn McGrath, the interim director, said during the meeting that the pupil services and special education department conducted a survey of the characteristics and attributes of candidates they were looking for.

McGrath said the survey showed families wanted someone with communication skills that could effectively build relationships and help move the district forward.

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. Items marked with a (Z) are held via Zoom.

Monday, July 18: 9 a.m., Making Memories; no Exercise with Anne or Sittercize today; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, July 19: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Senior Golf League; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, July 20: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston (Route 85); 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Live Well with Chronic Conditions (Z); 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, July 21: No Exercise with Anne or Sittercize today; 10 a.m., Wii Bowling; 11 a.m.,

Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, July 22: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group, Mystery Trip departs; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: AARP Driver Safety Class: Wednesday, July 27, noon-4 p.m. You'll learn how you can manage and accommodate age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time and may qualify for a discount from your insurance provider. Open to anyone 50 and over. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Register by July 20.

Sun Safety Lunch & Learn: Friday, July 29, 11 a.m. Katelyn Lebreton, OT, regional director of Fox Rehab, will share the importance of sun protection and hydration during the summer months. The presentation will be followed by a lunch of assorted wraps and salads sponsored by Colebrook Village. Pre-registration is required by July 22 for this free program. Space is limited to the first 30 to register.

Ahavath Achim Chicken Barbecue

Congregation Ahavath Achim will hold its kosher chicken barbecue will be held Sunday, July 24, at the synagogue, 84 Lebanon Ave. Dinners will be takeout-only and will be served from 3:30 p.m. until sold out.

Dinners are \$18 and include half a barbecue kosher chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll and a dessert cookie.

Tickets will be available at the door the day

of the event but advance sales are strongly recommended. No reservations will be accepted. Advance tickets can be obtained by remitting payment to Ahavath Achim, P.O. Box 5, Colchester, CT 06415 and tickets will be mailed to your address provided.

For more information, call the synagogue at 860-537-2809. Local delivery in Colchester will be available if requested.

CCT Presents Broadway Junior Revue

The Colchester Community Theatre Summer Children's Workshop will present *Broadway Junior Revue: Raise Your Voice* on Saturday, July 23, at 2 p.m., in the Bacon Academy High School auditorium.

This show is presented through special arrangement with MTI Raise Your Voice is a brand-new revue featuring songs from across MTI's *Broadway Junior* collection. The show will feature songs from *Broadway Junior* musicals based on classic titles like *Guys and Dolls* and *Oliver!* to Disney shows like *The Little Mermaid* and *Mary Poppins*. All are invited to

see such characters as Ariel, Artful Dodger and Oliver, Mary Poppins with Bert and the chimney sweep chorus and more.

Tickets are \$6 each (adults and children) and may be purchased at the door on the day of performance. All audience members are asked to wear a mask for the safety of the performers as well as all attendees.

For more information, call Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or email Laura Brown at RTR1982@aol.com. CCT is sponsored by Colchester Recreation Department.

Resident Graduates

Rachel Marvin of Colchester recently graduated from Bentley University in Waltham, Mass

Marvin graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing and liberal studies with global perspectives and a minor in public policy and Dean's List honors.



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Chicken Barbecue July 16

Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., will host its annual Chicken Barbecue Saturday, July 16, from 4-6 p.m.

Meals will be available by drive-through takeout only; no ordering ahead. The meal is a barbecued half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, butter and dessert.

Cost is \$15, payable by cash or check made out to "WCC."

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Selectmen Approve Business Grant Funds

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Board of Selectmen and the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee voted Monday to finalize the funding allocation for small business grants – a major step in the town's ARPA process.

The board had previously approved over 100 local businesses for ARPA funds for the town's "Colchester Comeback Grant Program."

The town had earmarked \$1 million for local business as part of the program. During Monday's meeting, the board had to trim the amount of each grant by an "equitable amount" to stay within the allocated amount.

Each business requesting below \$10,000 received their request in full. However, those above that amount were reduced by just over 50%, but not more than \$10,000.

Earlier in the application process, businesses were able to apply for up to \$25,000.

Dave Koji, chairman of the ARPA committee, said during the meeting that businesses that requested that amount or close to it were made aware their grant would be altered.

"This shouldn't be a surprise to any business owner," he said.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos said small businesses are the "heartbeat of the community" and that he plans on beginning the distribution of funds this week.

With the business grants approved, both the Board of Selectmen and ARPA committee will likely return to working on municipal project ideas.

Bisbikos told the committee on Monday that he would be providing them his ARPA playbook and detailed information on different ideas.

He told the *Rivereast* that he's predicting "more success" moving forward.

"The Board of Selectmen and the ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee will diligently review proposed projects and initiatives. There will be healthy debate and deliberation," he said.

During their regular meeting last week, the selectmen discussed Bisbikos' ARPA playbook.

Democrat Rosemary Coyle cautioned Bisbikos that he was moving too fast with the initiatives, and she'd like to slow down to allow for more concrete planning.

"You're in such a hurry," she told Bisbikos. "Let's do it in the best interest of the town."

Bisbikos stated that they were there to "have a conversation" and that he "wants to move forward collectively."

While board members identified top ARPA priorities, including items such as Town Hall roof repairs, Coyle was pushing for detailed cost breakdowns for items and a long-term plan before agreeing to anything.

One item that Coyle wanted more information on was a plan to expand the town's police department space.

Besides the cost, Coyle was curious if it would require the displacement of the officers who work there.

Following these discussions, Bisbikos promised the board that he would bring them detailed outlines of the ARPA money already spent, as well as the projected costs of their top priorities.

Following the vote on Monday approving the funds, Bisbikos said, "When we work together, we can achieve a lot."



The Scouts of Troop 72 recently went to the White Mountains in New Hampshire, for their annual Big Trip. Pictured on Mt. Pierce are, from left, Luca Corticelli, Zachery Jodoin, Ben Salemi, Sai Parekh, Adam Laspino, Jackson Koziol, Alex Lapsino, Lucas Jodoin, Brendan Reas and Sam Salemi.

Troop 72 Takes Big Trip

Troop 72 went to the White Mountains in New Hampshire for its annual Big Trip during the last weekend in June. The scouts did hikes on the Friday and Saturday of that weekend.

Scouts who did not hike were able to participate on a bicycle ride on the Presidential Rail Trail for more than 25 miles. Over the course of two days of hiking, Scouts from Troop 72 hiked to the top of Mt. Washington, Mt. Monroe, Mt. Eisenhower, Mt. Pierce, Mt. Potash and Black Cap. The Black Cap hike was a 1.1-mile hike each way for watching the sunset from the 2,369-foot summit. The Scouts and leaders had to use headlamps for some of the hike back to

the trailhead.

Scouts working on hiking awards spent extra time in the area and also climbed Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Carrigain. Siblings of Scouts also attended.

When high temperatures made hiking potentially dangerous, several Scouts swam on Sunday in the local streams to beat the heat.

During the school year, Troop 72 meets at Colchester Federated Church. For more information, call Scoutmaster Ben Smith at 860-237-2749 or email T72CTScoutmaster@gmail.com, or check out the troop's Facebook page, "Boy Scout Troop 72 Colchester."

Parks & Recreation News

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

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.

Splashpad: The Splashpad is open daily 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.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Rissa Currie, Gabrielle Gamache and Ethan Kirkpatrick made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of Maine.

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I'm Being Followed by a Windjammer... Rich and Peggy (taking the picture) Barstow enjoyed Windjammer Days in Boothbay Harbor, Maine – with the Rivereast, of course. Taking a vacation or day trip, or even staycation, this summer? Bring along the Rivereast, snap a photo with it, and email it to bulletin@glcitizen.com. You may win a prize!

'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 register@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.

Arts Center Outdoor Concert

The Saturday, July 23, outdoor concert at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., features Sal Basile and David Spitzer – better known as "Dually Noted."

The two bring music of the '50s and '60s, along with folk, country and the blues. They also share personal stories of the music world. In this concert, in addition to singing, they will also

play various guitars, as well as bass, keyboard and synthesizer.

The concert begins at 2 p.m. and is free, but a \$10 donation per person is suggested. Bring your own seating. There is on-site parking. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors to the Charles W. Hall Art Gallery.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday, July 27, from 1-6 p.m., at the American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Thanks to Discovery, all who come to give blood or platelets in July will automatically be entered for a chance to win an exclusive Shark Week merchandise package that includes a beach bike, a smokeless portable fire pit, a paddle board, a kayak, and a \$500 gift card to put toward accessories.

To make an appointment or for more information, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

From the First Selectman's Desk...

My term as first selectman has concluded. Based on the language in the 2021 Marlborough town charter, the chair of the Board of Selectmen shall exercise the authority and will perform all of the duties as town manager (obviating the need for a first selectman) for a period not to exceed 90 consecutive days. I will continue to serve as a selectman on a volunteer basis (as do selectmen Bourbeau and O'Brien).

Whatever successes occurred during my service as the last in a line of Marlborough first selectmen, they were the direct result of the diligence, thoughtfulness, and capability of town staff and independent service providers. I ask that everyone pause and consider the character, experience, education and focus necessary to provide the exemplary municipal services we enjoy here in Marlborough. From my first interaction with the town, through my years as radio operator for a line of dedicated emergency management directors, Judy Ceramicoli has been a prepared, energetic and mythically resourceful chief of staff. Thank you to Ken Slater, town counsel, for his encyclopedic knowledge of municipal law. Always delivered gracefully, I regret not having the opportunity to engage more with Ken.

Peter Hughes, director of planning and development, possesses a combination of technical expertise and the patience of a mentor. The town clerk is the communicator for the town. We are very fortunate to have Lauren Griffin in the town hall. Lauren started, here in Marlborough, as a board clerk and is now overseeing the flow of information for the town. Barbara Murray has an excellent track record as collector. Welcome aboard to Jim Grossman, Public Works supervisor, Clare Strickland, director of finance, and Simon Wake, assessor. Nowhere have I found a more efficient accounting team.

Jay Kehoe, director of public safety, began with the town after a career at Glastonbury PD. I have known Jay for almost 30 years. Jay has an amazing breadth of experience and knows when to lend just the right brand of assistance. Ray Bull has demonstrated incredible resiliency and cooperation during the pandemic. Vi Schwarzmann has adapted to the changing needs of seniors.

Townpeople benefit from subject matter experts that choose to work in Marlborough to share their expertise in public health, public safety and public works. The Marlborough administrative staff can modulate from routine to seasonally busy to emergency operations with nimble, humanitarian, grace. Thank you to Rich Antonelli, Scott Fleehar and Todd Gianetti for choosing to serve as directors of emergency management and homeland security here in town.

Paid staff and volunteers rise from a sound sleep to respond to calls for service. Mark Merritt, chief of service at the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, is among the most helpful people I have ever met. Law enforcement is available 24/7, respected, supported and funded. For efficiency and quality, the town engages with many nonprofit entities. These charities provide a range of quality and efficient services including, veteran services, food, medicine, volunteer fire company, bibliographical, and ambulance services for all ages, public health, watershed protection, youth and social services.

I stepped on some toes, at times for a greater good. Other times, because of missteps on my part.

In addition to people, the town operates within myriad sets of rules, including federal law, state law, town charter as well as board and commission procedures. I inherited a bundle of rules when I took office. Some of those changed. Police body cams are an example of a new mandate. We also adopted revisions to the town charter, including changing our form of government to a five member BOS & town manager as CEO. I welcome the founding members of the Office of Ethics, Aimee Cunningham and Joe Blanco.

Several external shocks buffeted this term. COVID-19, veering economic impacts, and geopolitical strife brought supply shortages and cost increases that affected even life's basic supplies as well as sorrow for those who suffered from medical impacts of the pandemic. We lost many good people during my short time in office. We will miss them.

Marlborough enjoyed high incidence of working from home prior to COVID, easing a part of the impact of lockdown. Increasingly, we enjoy modern communication infrastructure. Marlborough Elementary remained open with minimal interruption. Town finances and town staff morale remained strong. Mill rates declined. Let's take steps to promote each of these trends. As a community, we were prepared, we adapted and we recovered from various crises.

Greg Lowrey
Marlborough First Selectman

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday worship services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St., are at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Sunday, July 17: Worship service will be held in the pavilion at Lake Terramuggus at 10 a.m. due to repaving of the church parking lot. The service will be led by Pastoral Associate Val Seaver and singer, guitarist, and Christian Education Board member Steve Pozzato.

Sabbatical: Church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber is on sabbatical in July, with pastoral care provided by Seaver.

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop will be closed July and August, and will reopen Sept. 9; however, appointments to shop during the summer can be made by calling the church office. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MC-Cebay.

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call the church office.

Dean's List

Liz Lynch of Marlborough made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Lynch is in the bioinformatics and computational biology program.

New T-Shirts Available

New Marlborough Lake Terramuggus T-shirts are now available.

The shirts are sponsored by the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee. For details, email karenpakulis@yahoo.com.

ADVERTISERS

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Per New Charter, First Selectman's Office Dissolved

By Jack Lakowsky

Marlborough's town attorney, Ken Slater, dropped a bomb on the town's Board of Selectmen last week – one that blew the first selectman's position to smithereens.

Republican Greg Lowrey then officially stepped down as first selectman on Sunday.

Democrat Amy Traversa, who is chair of the Board of Selectmen, is now acting town CEO and will oversee the town's operations, per the new charter, which was approved last November and changed the board's format from first selectman and three-member board to a town manager/five-member board. She is not an interim town manager – nor is she a stranger to running the town, having served as first selectperson from 2015-19.

In Tuesday's meeting attorney Slater said the town's new charter, approved by voters last year, states that in the absence of a hired town manager, the Board of Selectmen chair serves as acting CEO.

"The office of first selectman no longer exists with the new charter," meetings minutes quote Slater as saying.

"In the absence of a town manager the person voted as chair of the BOS will perform all responsibilities for 90 days." According to Slater, these 90 days began in May, when the board was elected. This means a solid chunk of the allotted time passed without the board knowing.

Traversa said the selectmen have the authority to extend those 90 days if necessary.

On Tuesday, Lowrey told the *Rivereast* this sudden change makes the search for a town manager all the more urgent.

Lowrey said he foresaw himself stepping down soon after the charter's revision. What he

didn't expect was doing so before a town manager took the reins.

Lowrey will remain on the board as a volunteer member.

Lowrey said he understands his stepping down could cause confusion, especially among his supporters, but that regardless, he wants residents to view the town's future optimistically.

"We're heading in a good direction," he said. "Folks should raise their eyes to the horizon and look at where we're headed."

Lowrey said the ends the town seeks are more important than any "bumps in the road."

Lowrey was elected first selectman in 2019, defeating Traversa by a 1,294-875 tally.

This past May's special election shifted the Board of Selectmen from GOP-majority to Democratic control. Soon after, the board in a party line vote elected Traversa as chair. Several local Republicans then called the vote into question; citing the charter, Republicans like finance board member Ken Hjulstrom and selectperson Joe Asklar called the vote into question, saying a 4/5 was needed, not 3/5, seemingly looking to nullify Traversa's chairpersonship.

These questions, along with several others, led the board to seek clarity from the town attorney. Slater said Traversa's election stands. He did, however, say the board does need a supermajority when it finds an official town manager.

When asked if calling the charter into question was a way of usurping her seat, Traversa said she wouldn't speculate on the motivations of others – but that she doesn't discourage the notion.

Though they've butted heads at past board

meetings, Lowrey this week was complimentary of Traversa, saying, "the board elected a chair with experience in town policies and is known to town staff."

Soon, Lowrey said, selectmen will establish a search committee charged with finding a suitable town manager. Its first task will be finding a search consultant.

The 2022-23 budget, Lowrey said, doesn't fund a town manager's position, though there are a few options, including an appropriation from the finance board. Lowrey said the town will save money not paying his salary, helping fund a new manager.

Lowrey floated a few salary figures of nearby town managers, mostly in the \$140,000-\$145,000 salary range.

"We have to look at options for something interim," said Lowrey.

No matter the board's make-up, Lowrey said its goal is to run the town efficiently. Lowrey said the town has high morale, low mill rates and strong financial standing backing the efforts of local government.

In a column in this week's *Rivereast*, Lowrey thanked his staff and administrators and town volunteers, saying "whatever successes occurred during my service as the last in a line

of [first selectmen] were the result of the diligence, thoughtfulness, and capability of town staff" and contractors.

Lowrey said during his tenure he's "stepped on some toes" for the greater good and, sometimes, because of his own missteps.

"Several external shocks buffeted this term," Lowrey wrote. "COVID-19, veering economic impacts and geopolitical strife brought supply shortages and cost increases that affected life's basic supplies, as well as sorry for those who suffered from the medical impacts of the pandemic. We lost many good people during my short time in office. We will miss them."

Lowrey pointed to town achievements, saying the town's elementary school mostly stayed open throughout the pandemic, mill rates declined, and morale remained strong.

"As a community we were prepared, we adapted and we recovered from various crises," Lowrey wrote.

Traversa also emphasized the need to speed up the town manager search.

"For me this is an unexpected development," she said. "We're going to work diligently to get through this period of time until we find a town manager."

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.

Youth Programs: Netto Summer Day Camp: For grades K-7. Weekly through Aug. 12, at Blish Park. There will be 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: All lesson levels are offered. All lessons are held at Blish Park. Fee per session is \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

Acrylic Landscape Painting: Grades 1 and 2 meet July 19-21 from 9-11 a.m., and grades 3-6 meet July 26-28, also from 9-11 a.m. Classes held at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee is \$80/resident, \$85/non-resident.

Drawing – Grades 3-6: July 19-21, noon-1:30 p.m., at MES. Cost is \$75/resident, \$80/non-resident.

Skyhawks Flag Football Camp: For ages 6-10. July 18-22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fee is \$150/resident, \$155/non-resident.

Skyhawks Mini-Hawk Camp (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball): For ages 4-6. Aug.

1-5, 9 a.m.-noon, at Blish Park. Fee: \$140/residents, \$145/non-residents.

Safe at Home: For grades 4-6. Thursday, July 21, 5-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$25/resident, \$30/non-resident.

Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners: Mondays, Aug. 1-Sept. 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Beginner-level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

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

Adult Programs: Zumba: Tuesdays through Aug. 16 (started July 12), 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Blish Park pavilion. Fee: \$50/resident, \$55/non-resident, or a \$12 drop-in fee.

Pickleball: Wednesdays through Sept. 28, 9-11 a.m., at the Blish Park tennis courts. No fee.

Dean's List

Jordan Frey of Marlborough made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Frey has a primary major of exercise science/applied exercise science.

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 (two alternates); Conservation Commission (alternate); Water Pollution Control Authority (two alternates); Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission (alternate); Commission on Aging (alternate); Planning Commission (alternate).

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.

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.

Pots with Pizzazz: Learn how to brighten shady spots with pops of color in this in-person program held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 20. Jana Milbocker is the author of *The Garden Tourist's New England* and *The Garden Tourist's Florida*. Registration is required.

Dog Man and Friends Summer Camp Supa Packs: Kids are invited to stop by the library on Mondays through 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.

Outdoor Scavenger Hunts: Families are invited on a new scavenger hunt each week. Pick up a list of items to search for in the marked container outside the library entrance and take a prize when you're done. New lists are available each Saturday through Aug. 20.

Babytime in the Sunshine: Wednesdays through Aug. 24, at 10:30 a.m., outdoors, though inclement weather will move the program indoors. There will be stories, songs, lap bounces and rhymes for babies and toddlers ages birth to 2 and their caregivers. Registration is highly recommended as space is limited.



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Vintage Motorcar Meet

The Belltown Antique Car Club will present the 55th annual Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet Sunday, Aug. 7, rain or shine (field conditions permitting), at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds. Gates open at 8 a.m., show car registration closes at 11 a.m., and judging begins at noon.

This is a judged show for stock antique cars and trucks that are at least 40 years old; 1982 is the cut-off year. "Belltown Bell" trophies will be awarded in 17 classes. There will be brass-era cars, pre-war classics, '50s cars, sports cars, muscle cars, pickups and more. This year's Featured Marque is the Ford Model T.

The show also includes a flea market catering to the old car hobby, a car corral and two display-only classes for non-stock collector cars and hot rods built up to 1982 (not judged).

Show car registration is \$10 and includes event admission for occupants (Ford Model Ts get in for free). General admission is \$5; children under 12 are free. Food service will be provided by the East Hampton Masonic Lodge.

Haddam Neck is on the east side of the Connecticut River; head south on Route 151 from



The Belltown Antique Car Club will present its 55th annual Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet Sunday, Aug. 7, rain or shine, at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds.

Cobalt or north from East Haddam and watch for signs. For more information, visit www.belltownantiquecarclub.org.

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-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Labor Day, the library will be open Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

Mindful Movements – Outside: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., at Seamster Park/Memorial School. For ages 18 months and up; siblings welcome. Register online.

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.

Touch-a-Truck Storytime!: Wednesday, July 20, 10:15 a.m., at Seamster Park. This week's storytime will feature a special visit from the local fire department. Kids are welcome to explore a real fire engine at this touch-a-truck event. Rain date: Wednesday, July 27.

Teacher Read-Aloud Series: Monday, July 25, 4-5 p.m. Center and Memorial school educators will read stories at the library. Reading will be: Mary Sawyer, fourth grade teacher;

Class of '67 Reunion

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

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



Rivereast Scales a Mountain... East Hampton resident Brian Gay had the opportunity to climb Mount Washington last weekend with his father, Jack, in celebration of his 70th birthday. And they brought the Rivereast along for the climb! Taking a vacation or day trip this summer? Be sure to take the Rivereast with you, snap a picture with it, and email it to bulletin@glcitizen.com. You might see your picture in the paper – and you also might win a prize!

Lake-Smart Award Program

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug group is sponsoring a Lake-Smart Award Program of free grants of up to \$150, to folks who complete certain Lake Pocotopaug-friendly projects.

To have property evaluated to see what you can do to get the award, and learn what projects to work on, contact Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Department (860-267-7300 or jhall@easthamptonct.gov) or Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Department (860-267-7450 or jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov) or any members of the Conservation & Lake Commission. An appointment will be arranged for a C&LC member(s) to visit the owners and help them evaluate their property. If there is a deficiency, owners will be given suggestions on improving their property. If they achieve all the goals, they will receive a Lake-Smart Award.

The seven criteria property owners will be evaluated on are:

A "buffer zone" between their property and the lake; rain gardens and diversion ditches, etc., that contain stormwater runoff before it reaches the lake; refraining from using chemical fertilizers containing phosphates and nitrates or using pesticides and herbicides; when mowing their lawn, keeping their lawn at 2 1/2-3 inches and use a mulching blade instead of bagging grass clippings; covering bare soil areas with mulch or plantings; refraining from feeding water fowl, and discouraging them from coming onto their property; and preventing leaves and grass clippings from entering the lake.

Once you know what projects you need to do to improve your property, get a grant applica-



The Lake-Smart Award sign is awarded to Lake Pocotopaug or watershed homeowners who have made improvements to their property to prevent phosphates, nitrates and other impurities from polluting Lake Pocotopaug. Photo by Marty Podskoch.

tion by contacting Friends member Cap Nelson at capegan2015@gmail.com, or by mail to: Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, c/o Cap Nelson, 6 Lakewood Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

Garden Party... The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission hosted its first Garden Tour and Plein Air painting event Saturday, July 9, featuring six East Hampton gardens. Gardens ranged from private homes to community gardens at the Air Line Trail and Epoch Arts. The commission thanked all who attended.

East Hampton • East Hampton

New Program Lead Aims to Grow Parks & Rec

By Jack Lakowsky

Following up on a June meeting, East Hampton parks and rec director Jeremy Hall again pressed to the Town Council the need for a full-time program lead at the department.

In June, the council signaled resistance. At that time Hall presented a position funded by both the town and parks & rec revenue.

On Tuesday, Hall presented an updated request, with the new lead entirely funded by the department. The council, in a 4-2 party line vote, approved Hall's new proposal.

Parks and rec currently has a part-time program lead. The job's new full-time salary, with benefits, is at about \$62,000, Hall told the *Riverast* on Wednesday, funded by department revenues.

The council's Republicans all approved the new job, while its Democrats voted against. Democrat Pete Brown said he felt the town should fund the position entirely, that the new programs designed by the lead would pay dividends on any new expenses to taxpayers.

Brown said it's rare town staff ask for a new position that would make such profits.

Council chair and Republican Mark Philhower reiterated he is diametrically opposed to new town-funded positions.

"We really do need this position," Hall said before the council approved his request. He said the position would help design and implement new parks & rec programming, diversifying its services, possibly introducing more senior-friendly activities.

East Hampton's senior population is projected to grow significantly over the next decade.

"We had a great year, and we want to keep

moving forward," Hall said.

The position, Hall said in June, is a response to a survey the department conducted. Residents named a list of parks & rec wants and needs, and new programming was a popular answer.

Dan Roy, vicechair for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, pressed for the original, mostly town-funded request.

Roy said the program lead would help the department balance "goals with reality". He said the department has proven its dynamism, growth and benefit to the town.

The increase in demand, Roy said, has stretched the department thin.

"I ask the council to look at the original proposal," he said. "It's in the best interest of East Hampton."

Deb McKinney, parks & rec board chairperson, said the full-time lead - an expansion of an existing part-time manager - allows for a seamless expansion of parks & rec programming. McKinney also "strongly" called for the council to approve the original funding plan.

Hall also said the original plan is still preferable, but that he's determined to make it work either way.

Councilor Reich said he was disappointed with the council's decision, saying many local kids take part in parks & rec activities, and that fully funding the lead would allow the department to grow its offerings to seniors.

In June the town's parks & rec consultant, Art Thatcher of the firm BerryDunn, assisted the department in developing a survey disseminated to the public earlier this year.

The survey was meant to gauge the towns-

people's wants and needs for the town's recreation facilities and parks.

A renovation and "reimagining" of "loved to death" Sears Park, an indoor multisport complex, better pedestrian infrastructure, public access to the Connecticut River, a dog park and a splash pad were all items locals included in their request.

Another popular request, Thatcher said, was an indoor aquatics facility. Townspeople also want better communication from the town, specifically through email and social media.

Thatcher named as themes in many surveys

needs for more facilities, better maintenance, connections to the Air Line Trail, and a need for more gathering places.

People asked for "nontraditional" sports opportunities, such as bowling and biking, as well as more fun for teens and preteens.

Thatcher said the survey yielded 292 responses, nearly a fourth of East Hampton households.

Hall said when the lead bumps to full time, he expects them to "bridge the gap" of adult programming, adding more adult, and senior, activities.



Summer Crafting, Had Me a Blast... A Summer Craft Pantry was recently unveiled at East Hampton Public Library, in the children's section. Thanks to the support and sponsorship from Kindness with Kids and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, hundreds of arts and crafts projects are available to the community, free of charge all summer. All participants are welcome to share their finished products on the Kindness with Kids Facebook page. Pictured are Kelly Oren of Bethlehem Lutheran Church; Jillian Meacham, Amie Meacham and Cameron Meacham from Kindness with Kids; from East Hampton Public Library, Stephanie Smith, adult/YA librarian, and Tim Kellogg, library director; and Diana Marsh of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

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.

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/ct-draftrescue.

Dean's List

Evan Selger of East Hampton made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Selger is in the electrical engineering technology program.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093.

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

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

Mahjong: Mondays at 11 a.m.

Calling All Authors

The shops on Main Street in East Hampton invite all to attend an Author Trail on Sunday, Aug. 14, from 1-4 p.m. Organizers are also seeking local authors who would like to participate.

Visitors will stroll the shops and eateries along the historic village center and meet a different author at each location. They will have a chance to learn about their books, writing experience, and purchase signed copies.

If you are a local author and would like to participate in this free event, send an email that includes your name, title of your book and genre to jackmatthewsauthor@gmail.com. Authors will be matched with shops and eateries on a first-come, first-assigned basis.

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.



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YPCCA Marks 40 Years of Performances with *Legally Blonde*

By Kate Corliss

Student performers from across central Connecticut are preparing to hit the stage for The Young People's Center for Creative Arts' annual summer musical.

At the end of the month, a cast composed of 80 Connecticut youth — ranging in age from sixth graders to high school seniors — will perform *Legally Blonde: The Musical* as part of YPCCA's senior theater camp program.

YPCCA was founded at East Hampton High School in 1982 by sixth-grade teacher Mike Mansfield, who felt that Connecticut youth needed more opportunities to engage with theater as budget cuts were doing away with arts programs in local schools.

Mansfield's daughter, Rachel, now serves as East Hampton High School's theater director. She is directing this year's production, noting that she and fellow YPCCA collaborators decided to put on *Legally Blonde* because they felt it important to "[choose] a show that features our strong young women being proactive, taking chances and risks and really pushing themselves to be successful people in life through the characters in the show."

The musical adaptation of *Legally Blonde* opened on Broadway in 2007. The show is based on both the 2001 novel by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film of the same name, which stars Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls in Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner only to discover how she can use her legal studies to make a positive

impact on the lives of others while defying misogynistic stereotypes.

Rising East Hampton High School junior Riley Briggs, who will play the role of Elle in YPCCA's performance, said that the show is "probably the biggest production that [YPCCA] has done in a long, long time."

"It's great. It's so much fun, but there's no time to waste at all," Riley said. "We're constantly going and going and going."

While cast members agreed that working on the musical has been a big commitment, they are confident that their efforts will pay off. The production will feature a two-story set, numerous costume changes, and even two of the counselors' dogs — a Maltipoo to stand in as Elle's beloved chihuahua Bruiser and a bulldog to play the part of Rufus, Elle's manicurist Paulette's pet.

"It's so much work to put together, but you wouldn't put in all that work for a show that wasn't absolutely spectacular to watch," said Mattingly Veilloux, a rising senior at Mercy High School who will co-star as Elle's best friend Serena.

Mansfield said her main goal as the show's director has been to "strike a balancing act between the quality of the show and the quality of the camp," ensuring that students are able to pull off a production that they're proud of while still enjoying themselves in the process.

"You can put up a fantastic production of *Legally Blonde* and the kids can be miserable be-

cause you're working them nonstop and there's no time to go play games and just hang out and be kids and have other creative endeavors that they're working on at the same time," Mansfield said. "So there really has to be a moment as a staff when we pull back and we say, 'Okay, we're pushing them too hard. We need to just go have some fun and they need to have some bonding time.'"

According to cast members, this freedom to balance their passion for theater work with opportunities to connect with peers makes YPCCA a great experience. Ella Briggs, an incoming freshman at East Hampton High School who will perform alongside her sister Riley as Elle's friend Pilar, described the camp environment as "a safe space for a lot of people."

"Even if you're not a huge role, it doesn't matter," Riley said. "Everyone is part of this family and part of this group, and we all get to make something beautiful and fun together."

Rising East Hampton High School freshman William Faber, who will play Elle's father, noted that collaborating so closely on the musical has helped the cast to establish this sense of camaraderie.

"They say music is a great connector and I was kind of like, 'Okay, what the heck, it's just a saying,' but I've seen it here because everyone comes together," William said. "It's a team. We work together and then we do things together and we have hard times together, we have good times together and then when the curtain goes

down on opening night, we rejoice together."

Devon Mansfield, a rising senior at East Hampton High School who will co-star as Elle's love interest Emmett, is the grandson of YPCCA founder Mike Mansfield. He encouraged local residents to come out and support the show, explaining that the cast's tight-knit relationship and their devotion to the arts will be reflected in the quality of the performance.

"We want the show to be as exciting as possible for the audience," Devon said. "We want it to move as quickly as possible, which means a lot of work for us, but ultimately, it means that there's a really good end product for the audience and I think they're going to enjoy it quite a bit."

William said he hopes the production will give the community a chance to soak in the joys of musical theater, noting that he remembers every show he's been to because "they're such a highlight."

"Think about it: You could stay home, you could cook dinner and then you can go to bed, or you can watch 80 people sing and dance to the best music," he said. "And I mean, which one makes your life better?"

YPCCA's production of *Legally Blonde* will run from Thursday, July 21, through Saturday, July 23, at 7 p.m. each night, with a matinee Sunday, July 24, at noon. All shows are at the East Hampton High School auditorium. Tickets are \$15 and available for purchase online at www.yppcca.org/shop.

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 will resume in September.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30

a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters and crocheters are welcome.

A chicken barbecue dinner will be Saturday, July 30.

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.

East Hampton • Portland • East Hampton • Portland • East Hampton

With Help from Grant, Land Trust Looks to Preserve 150 acres

By Jack Lakowsky

The Middlesex Land Trust has been awarded a \$364,000 grant to help fund the preservation of a 147-acre property bordering the Meshomasic State Forest, which spans both Portland and East Hampton.

To mark the occasion the land trust renamed the acquisition, calling it the Rattlesnake Brook Preserve, named for Rattlesnake Brook, which runs through the property, feeding Great Hill Pond.

The new acreage adds to the 15,000-acre forest, according to information from state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33).

In a release, land trust member Chantal Foster wrote "creating a buffer for the brook and ensuring clean water in the pond is of great importance to the community, as well as many native species who call this land home."

Foster called the grant one of the first steps needed to protect the land permanently. Next, the land trust needs to fundraise; it has to pay about a \$300,000 match.

According to Chantal Foster, land trust mem-

ber, the area is home to the elusive timber rattlesnake, as well as multiple native plant and animal species.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the timber rattlesnake as "least concern," however it is considered endangered across New England, including Connecticut, according to state wildlife information.

Foster said this is one of the trust's larger preserves, near the size of its largest space, a 160-acre property in Middletown.

On fundraising, Foster said "we're really going for it."

"It'll be challenging," she said. "We'll be soliciting grants from other organizations and starting our own fundraising campaign."

Foster said the trust will also talk to Portland about using its open space fund.

Plans are still in early stages, Foster said, but locals can expect an "onslaught" of communication and updates.

For more information and to get involved, visit www.middlesexlandtrust.org.

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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 encouraged, but not required. Visit the senior center online at www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

Lunches: Served at the center Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. 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. 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, July 21, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other Wednesday (next date July 20), at 9:30 a.m. The group will meet outdoors, weather permitting; otherwise it will be indoors or via Zoom.

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. 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 \$15 per class.

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.

Light Up the Lake

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug will hold "Light Up the Lake" Saturday, Aug. 6, starting at 7:30 p.m. (Rain date is Aug. 7.)

The Friends invite people to decorate their boat, dock, Lake Association beach or home on the lake with lights. Boats are encouraged to cruise around the lake at no wake speed starting at 7:30 p.m.

Residents can view the lights from Sears Park.

Visit www.flpeh.org for more information or call Cap Egan Nelson at 860-395-7844.

Concert Series Continues Weekly

The Joseph N. Goff House Concert Series will continue with shows Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Center School Gazebo in the East Hampton Village Center.

All concerts are free. Bring chairs, blankets and picnics. Bathrooms will be available at the Congregational Church of East Hampton.

The remaining schedule is 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 goffhouseehct.blogspot.com for more information.

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.

Register online.

Trouble Signing Up?: Having trouble with signing up for programs on Myactivecenter.com? Stop in for a half-hour session on Tuesday, July 19, at 9:30 a.m., to learn and re-learn the ins and outs of the senior center's online registration site.

Art with Karen: Sunday, July 24, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through beginner steps of creating an Acrylic Painting. The class cost is \$5 for supplies. Pay Williams the day of the event. Pre-registration is necessary.

Corn Hole: Wednesday, July 27, 10:30 a.m. Played inside or outside. This is a competition with junior rules. Pre-registration required.

Old Home Days Today and Tomorrow

Old Home Days will continue today and tomorrow, July 15 and 16, at the Center School grounds.

Food vendors and a variety of fair booths will be in operation, selling a variety of the Old Home Days attendees' favorite foods, handi-crafts, jewelry, collectibles, health care items, home décor, and town and organization information booths.

Also, there will be the Old Home Day Parade Saturday, July 16, at 11 a.m. To join the parade, fill out the parade request form at www.ehohd.org. Note: this is a rain or shine event.

Since this year's Old Home Days is in honor of the late Red McKinney – a driving force

behind Old Home Days and longtime emcee of the Old Home Day Parade – organizers are asking all parade viewers to wear anything red, such as a shirt or hat, wave a red flag or make a red sign to help honor McKinney's memory.

For more information, email ParadeOHD@gmail.com or text Kyle Dillon at 860-301-1601.

Camps Underway

Parks and Recreation offers Middle School Sun & Fun Camp, as well as Sears Park Summer Camp, each week 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.

Whether you're new to town, a long-time resident, or just passing through for Old Home Days, we're glad you're here!

Visit our booth during the glorious celebration, meet us and learn what we love about our community!

			
<i>Peter Bates</i> 860-823-8765	<i>Danielle Casey</i> 860-202-6203	<i>Amy Chamberlain</i> 860-608-3458	<i>Brian Hamel</i> 860-878-2667
			
<i>Mike Mallon</i> 860-338-5037	<i>Elisha Milton</i> 860-655-2743	<i>Lea Poresky</i> 860-368-9437	<i>Jim Harrington</i> 860-966-9966

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All proceeds for the car show to go to East Hampton Food Bank.*

Saturday, July 16, 2022

Old Home Days Weekend

9:00am - 1:00 pm • Cruise at 10:15 am prior to parade
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Come Enjoy Old Home Days With Us!



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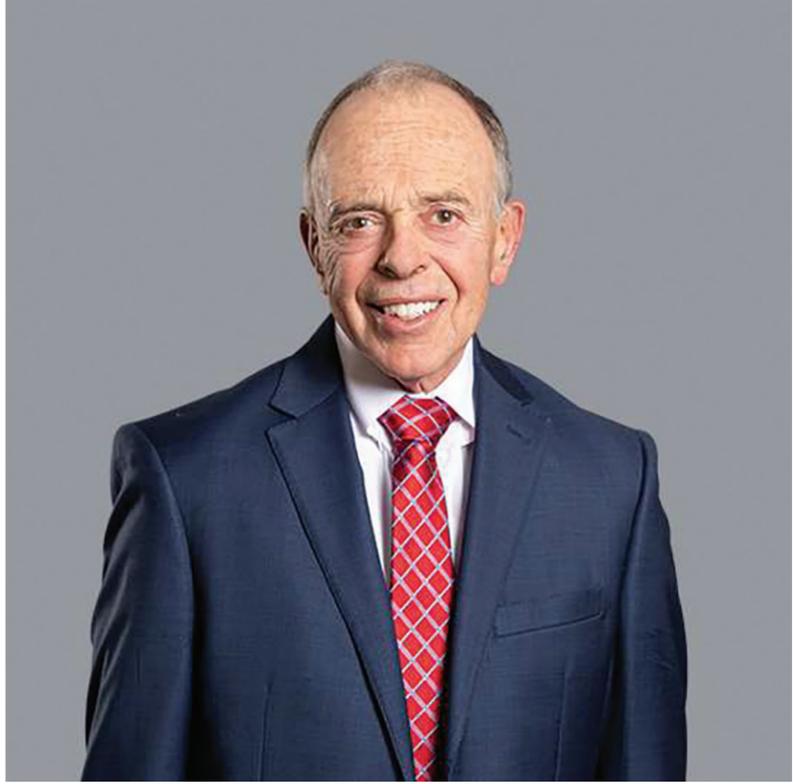
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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tony Flannery 860-250-9118 or
Michael Bellobuona 860-707-4231

RET-15-22

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RET-1-22

East Hampton • East Hampton

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.

EHVFD Fireworks Return

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department has announced its annual fireworks display will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, on the grounds of

the East Hampton High School on North Maple Street. The rain date will be Sunday, Aug. 21. Additional information will follow.

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 benefit the East Hampton Food & Fuel Bank. To register, email John Tuttle at tuttlekahn@gmail.com.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, July 16, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Woodside Intermediate School, 30 Woodside Rd., Cromwell.

The event is open to residents of the River-COG region, which includes Portland and East Hampton. No commercial or business waste is allowed.

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

Historical Society Open House

The Chatham Historical Society museum, at 6 Bevin Boulevard, will be open Saturday, July 16, Old Home Day, from 1-3 p.m.

Once again, on Old Home Day, the society will raffle off a Christmas tree covered with Connecticut lottery tickets. Tickets for the tree can be purchased on the Center School grounds under the Rotary tent tonight, Friday, July 15, from 6-10 p.m. and on Saturday on the grounds from 1-8 p.m.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help support the maintenance of the two museum buildings and 1840 one-room schoolhouse.

Republicans to Meet

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee will next meet Tuesday, July 19, at 6:30 p.m., at the Lakeside Bar and Grill (second floor), 81 North Main St.

Several candidates have been invited to attend this meeting and will be available for questions afterwards. The public is welcome to attend.

Police News

6/28: Michael Fazzino, 22, of 11 Birchwood Rd., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

6/29: Christopher Scaplen, 37, of no certain address, was arrested and charged with violation of conditions of release and a total of five counts of sixth-degree larceny, police said.

7/3: Julian Welch, 46, of Manchester, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

7/8: Luke Noll, 30, of 32 Middle Haddam Rd., was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a minor, police said.

Also, from June 20-July 3, officers responded to 23 medical calls, 10 motor vehicle crashes and 18 alarms, and made 80 traffic stops, police said.



East Hampton Old Home Days

July 14, 15 & 16

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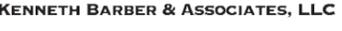

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Tea Bells \$10: Jon & Val Wright • Bob & Tuesday Warley • Irene Harasimowitz • Barbara Hass

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RES-13-22

Portland • Portland



State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) recently donated blood at the Waverly Senior Center in Portland. Carpino and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) co-sponsored the July 11 blood drive.

Carpino, Needleman Sponsor Blood Drive

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) sponsored a blood drive at the Waverly Senior Center on Monday, July 11. Carpino also participated in the event as a donor.

The 32nd House District covers Cromwell and Portland, while the 12-town 33rd state Senate District includes the Rivereast towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

The Red Cross reports that every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. The organization is in continual need of donations.

"I am so proud of our community's participation and the fact that we were able to help the Red Cross make a positive impact on so many patients in need," Carpino said. "Thank you to

everyone that took the time to donate. I hope events like these inspire others to donate during future opportunities."

According to the Red Cross, the event resulted in a collection of 35 pints of blood – enough resources to help 105 patients. Blood donations help accident victims, burn survivors, and many others with both acute and chronic needs.

"With a national shortage on blood donations, every blood drive and every donor can and will save lives," Needleman said. "I encourage everyone eligible to donate to find a local blood drive and am happy our local community is working to help others."

To find additional donor opportunities, visit www.RedCross.org.

Portland's New Pace Car Initiative

Portland's Complete Streets Group (CSG) invites Portland residents to participate in the Pace Car program by signing a pledge to drive safely, courteously, within the speed limit, and to share the road with pedestrians and cyclists.

The Pace Car program is an educational and awareness campaign with a goal to encourage drivers to be more aware of their habits and set positive examples within their community. This pledge is only meant for each individual driver to be aware of and reflect on their own driving habits, not to evaluate other drivers or attempt

to enforce laws. Pace Car participants will receive a free decal to put on their back windshield upon signing the pledge.

Pledge forms can be found at the Portland Police Department and will be available soon on the Portland town website, www.portlandct.org. Completed forms must be submitted to the Portland Police Department to receive the decal.

For more information, visit the "Complete Streets Portland" Facebook page or call Portland PD at 860-342-6780.

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

The First Congregational Church of Portland invites all to its annual Ecumenical Vacation Bible School program – which this year is entitled "Food Truck Party."

Vacation Bible School will be held Thursday and Friday, Aug. 25 and 26, from 5-7 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be recreational games, crafts, music, skits, stories, snacks and more. Each registered camper will receive a custom-made "Food Truck Party" T-shirt and a music CD.

Four-year olds (it is recommended that they have completed a year of preschool) through fifth-graders are invited. Registration is now open. Cost is \$40 per child. Download registration forms from www.firstchurchportlandct.org

Deadline to register is Aug. 1.

Also, adult and teen/tween volunteers are needed. For more information, call the church at 860-342-3244 or email Ann Labby at labbyannm@gmail.com.

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.

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 through Aug. 1, 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 through Aug. 3, 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 through Aug. 2, 11 a.m. Each week, enjoy a different aspect of summer, from traditional camp crafts to learning survival skills. Registration is required.

Free Family Shows: Wednesdays through Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m. Most shows are on the Town Green. Shows are: 7/20: **Animal Embassy:** Learn about (and meet) several types of animals, such as a pig, peahen, peacock, owl, rabbit, snakes, a chinchilla and others. 7/27: **Ben Anna Band:** This is a high-energy musical duo that performs children's songs with a twist,

focusing on inclusion. 8/3: **StoryFaces:** Artist Christopher Agostino will bring a classic folktale to life by painting the faces of volunteers to help set the scene as he tells his story.

Teen Programs: Line Art Embroidery: Thursday, July 21, 3 p.m. No painting or sewing experience required. The library will supply everything needed to create a line art masterpiece. Registration is required and space is limited.

National Library Lock-In: Friday, July 29, 7-10 p.m. Teens are invited to visit the library after closing time. The night will include games, crafts and food. Registration is required and space is limited.

Adult Programs: 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. 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.

Paint Party for Adults: Thursday, July 21, 6 p.m. Registration required.

Multi-Generational Drumming Circles: Mondays, July 25 and Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m., on Waverly Green, or indoors at the library if weather is inclement.

Portland Library App: Wherever you find your apps, look for Library Connection Mobile. Find eBooks, the library's webpage and Facebook; reserve items including books, DVDs, yard, and museum passes. Connect to the library calendar to find out what is happening at the library including public meetings and library programs. Search the library catalog and many online resources.

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.

Primary Voter Enrollment Session

The Portland registrar of voters will hold a voter enrollment session at Portland Town Hall, 33 East Main St., on Tuesday, July 26, from 1-7 p.m., in advance of the upcoming primary election.

Residents may register to vote, and the registrar of voters will also hear requests for adding names to the registry list by persons removed.

PHS Class of '72 Reunion

Portland High School Class of 1972 will have its 50th reunion Sept. 17 at Red Fox Restaurant in Middletown. If your address, phone or email has changed, you're asked to see PHS72 on Facebook to update.

For more information, call Dineen Coughlin Rivera at 860-833-3042 or Sue Sciacca Larson at 860-918-4906. Organizers are missing info on several class members, so people are asked to provide updates on Facebook.

Lawn Irrigation Inspections

During 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.

Police Find Boat

The Portland Police Department is in possession of a boat which was located in town unattended. Anyone wishing to claim ownership is asked to call Sgt. Jim Kelly at 860-342-6780 ext. 1303.

Dean's List

Nick Dawson of Portland made the spring 2022 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Dawson is in the software engineering program.

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YFS News & Notes

Portland Youth & Family Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/youth-services or the YFS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PortlandCTYouth, email Jrevicki@portlandct.org, or call 860-342-6758. To receive email updates about YFS programs and events, sign up at eepurl.com/h5m35.

Drop-In for Board Games: The YFS board games groups continue over the summer in the community room. There will be a selection of board and card games available from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, for middle and high school-aged kids. Next month, dates are Aug. 3 for Brownstone Intermediate students and Aug. 17 for middle and high school-aged kids.

Backpacks Program: YFS is looking ahead to the start of the next school year, and will provide backpacks and school supplies for Portland students in need. Contact Jesse at YFS to sign up. Backpacks will be handed out in August.

Little Hikers: There are multiple hikes scheduled for August. There will be an inter-generational one Friday, Aug. 5, at 10:30 a.m., at the Rec Complex, where local seniors are going to join in. Local high school student Annette LeShane will lead two other hikes as part of her capstone project and the library's "Off the Beaten Path" Summer Reading Program.

Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

The first is Saturday, Aug. 6, at 10:30 a.m., at the Portland Reservoir for kids ages 6 to 8. The second hike is on Friday, Aug. 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the Portland Reservoir for kids ages 3 to 5. Check out the YFS or library websites for more info and to sign up.

Drop-in and Draw: July's Drop-in and Draw was this week. The next one is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 9, from 1:30-4:30 p.m., in the YFS Community Room, 265 Main St. This mostly unstructured program gives youth of all ages a chance to meet up and spend some time doing artwork, of whatever they want. Drawing materials, paints, stencils, stamps, and more will be available. Parents of younger children are encouraged to participate. Kids can come when they want and stay for as long as they want.

"This is Us, Portland" Prevention Council & Wellness Council: YFS is building up its Prevention & Wellness Council to work on local issues, such as: education about drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products; coordination of healthy community events; promotion of positive mental health and wellness; and prevention through programs and community discussions. If interested in learning more, including how to get involved, call 860-342-6758 or email Meg at mcsata@portlandct.org.

other Sundays this summer.

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

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

School Facilities Focus Groups

For the past year, the Portland School Facilities Committee has been addressing the capital needs of Portland schools and in doing so has investigated the best modernization plan for the town's elementary schools.

Portland residents are invited to attend a focus group where their input will help this committee deliver a recommended plan to the Board of Selectmen. Forums are scheduled for Monday, July 25, at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., at the Portland High School Library. There will also be a focus group Wednesday, July 27, at 3 p.m., also at the PHS library.

Methodist Church News

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

Dean's List

Alyssa Young of Portland made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of Tampa. Young was a freshman majoring in psychology.



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Books for the Beach Sale

All are invited to stock up on books for their vacation reading at the annual Friends of the Portland Library Books for the Beach sale, which runs until Friday, July 29.

Shop during regular library hours for mysteries, fiction, romance, teen and children's books. The library is located at 20 Freestone Ave.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. There are also mystery and general fiction books that have been removed from the library collection, all for a special price of

four for \$1.

The Friends group also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. Stop by the library and fill a bag with enough great titles to last through the summer.

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

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

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone. Facial mask-wearing is optional. The worship service is livestreamed, and also available for later viewing, on the church's YouTube channel: First Church of Portland CT.

For the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, July 17, the Rev. Toni Smith is the guest preacher. The scriptures are Psalm 15 and Luke 10:38-42. Music director Kasha Breau will provide special music including "I Will Be Here" by Steve Curtis Chapman. A time for fellowship and refreshments follows the service.

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

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

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

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

St. Mary Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Portland Class Reunion

There will be a 1981 and 1982 Portland class reunion Saturday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m., at Campagna Restaurant, 151 Marlborough St., Portland.

All graduates from the Portland High School, Xavier, Mercy and Vinal classes of 1981 and 1982 are invited. Cost is \$40 per person, and includes a buffet dinner, music and more. There will be a cash bar.

Text Jill Weiner Marocchini at 860-634-4385 if interested. Details will follow.

Art Show Save the Date

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

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

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

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

Dean's List

Nathan Lavoy of Portland made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of Maine.

Lavoy, a graduate of the Portland High School Class of 2020, is a member of the UMaine Class of 2024. He is a forestry science major, minor-ing in environmental and conservation law enforcement.

Grace and Mercy Church News

Grace and Mercy Family Ministries Church, 13 Waverly Ave., has announced a modified Sunday worship service schedule. Through August, the Sunday morning worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

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Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Tai Chi for Long Life: Wednesdays through Aug. 10 (no class July 20), 9:15-10:15 a.m., at Buck Foreman Community Center, or Saturdays through July 30, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at Riverfront Park. Fee: \$7 to drop-in.

Summer Concert Series: Concerts are Tuesdays at Riverfront Park, 284 Brownstone Ave., starting at 6:30 p.m. The schedule is: July 19, Great Hill Mountain Band; July 26, Changes in Latitude; Aug. 2, Mixed Signals; and Aug. 9, Juice Box. Bring chairs, a blanket, and picnic dinner if desired. Rain dates, if needed are Tuesdays, Aug. 16 and 23, at 6 p.m. For updates, call 860-262-7234.

Summer Quest: The camps (Kiddie Camp – age 3-5, Base Camp – entering grades 1-6, and Teen Camp – entering grades 7-9) are underway. More detailed information is on the Parks and Rec. website.

Yoga with Cyndi Mazzotta: For questions about either program, contact Mazzotta at anandayoga.20ct@gmail.com. **Sunset Yin Yoga:** Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., through July 20,

at the Riverfront Park stage; fee is \$29 to drop-in. **Parent/Toddler Yoga:** For parents and children 3 years old and under. Wednesdays, 9-9:45 a.m., through July 20, at the Riverfront Park stage. Fee is \$20 to drop-in.

Junior Golf Workshops: Registration is currently open for these workshops for children in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. This program takes place on Mondays from Sept. 12-Oct. 3.

Portland Youth Flag Football: There is an eight-week season and playoffs. Games and practices take place at Bransfield Park (Rose Hill). Visit CTFlagfootball.com to register. Each player receives a jersey and flag belt.

Summer Fun Runs: Wednesdays through Aug. 17 (started July 6), 5-7 p.m., at the Portland Rec. Complex. There are four different races based on age range: Kiddos (6 and under): 400 meters; Intermediate (7-10): 800 meters; Juniors (11-13): 1,800 meters; High School (14-18)/Open (19-44)/Masters (45-59)/Grand Masters (60+): 3,200 meters. All are invited.

Slamma-Jamma Basketball: Aug. 8-12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., for children in grades 3-8. All participants will receive a free ball and a free shirt. The camp will be led by PHS head boys' basketball coach David Bradbury and members of the boys and girls high school basketball teams.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is held during the service. Children ages 4-12, baptized and unbaptized, are welcome to attend Church School.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., and there will also be a gathering in the church office at the same time, for Anglican Prayer beading at the same time. No prior beading experience is required. All are welcome.

The church will celebrate "First Sundays on Main" again this summer, with services on our lawn at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 7 and Sept. 4 (weather permitting). All are invited; bring a chair.

Check out more information, donate or listen to past sermons at www.trinitychurchportlandct.org. If you have any other prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

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

Grant Awarded for Meshomasic

The Middlesex Land Trust (MxLT) has been awarded an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant by the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$364,000 toward the purchase of a 147-acre property bordering the Meshomasic State Forest to the north and east (in both Portland and East Hampton) and in close proximity to Great Hill Pond at the southwestern end.

Rattlesnake Brook, the tributary that feeds Great Hill Pond, runs north to south through the entire property; as such, the land trust has named it Meshomasic's Rattlesnake Brook Preserve.

MxLT said the awarding of this grant is one of the first steps involved in protecting this land in perpetuity; a fundraising campaign for the matching dollars needed to bring this project to fruition will take place over the next several months. If you wish to become a supporting member or to find out more about how to be part of this project, visit www.middlesexlandtrust.org and sign up to receive the trust's email newsletters.

MxLT is a mostly volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Middletown.

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.

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light aerobics, 9 a.m.; Joanie on the Spot Massage, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – cost is \$50/hour; contact Joanie directly at 860-301-6507 for appointments. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; Coupons for Troops, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:15-11 a.m.; setback, 1 p.m. **Thursday:** No Dancercise today; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Stretch & Flex, 11:30 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:30-4 p.m.; Scrabble, 1-4 p.m.; **Friday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Free Hearing 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.

Trips: Harkness Memorial Park and Lunch On Your Own: Monday, July 18. Depart from the senior center at 9 a.m. A 3:30 p.m. return is anticipated. There is a \$5 transportation fee.

CT Sun Basketball Game: Tuesday, July 19, bus leaving at 10 a.m. The trip is sold out; this is a reminder.

Volunteer Drivers for Meals-on-Wheels: The senior center is currently recruiting a volunteer coordinator to assist with the administration of the Meals-on-Wheels Volunteers, and is also looking volunteer drivers once again for the Meals-on-Wheels program in Portland. Community Renewal Team (CRT) delivers the hot meals to the center Monday through Friday, where they are packed in thermal containers for the volunteers to pick up and deliver to the homebound. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Alexis or Lynn at the Senior Center at 860-342-6761.

Cover Story • Cover

★ *Boat Crash cont. from page 26*

his, and the town's, deepest sympathies to the victims and their families.

"This horrific accident occurred right along the shores of Portland," Curley said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim, and we wish them a quick, full recovery."

Curley thanked the town's first responders, saying they arrived on-scene in minutes and tri-

aged patients immediately.

Curley said to his knowledge, none of the boaters were locals.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Environmental Conservation Police Department at 800-842-4357 and reference case number 22-10902.



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IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life. For more information visit IdentifyTheSigns.org.



Ladder safety should not be learned on the fly.

Climbing on a ladder might be the most dangerous thing you do all year. Foot and ankle fractures can result from unsafe ladder use. Make sure you have the balance and strength to use a ladder. Take the time to secure it properly. Don't stand above the marked level and always wear lace-up shoes or boots.

Check our website for more ladder safety tips.

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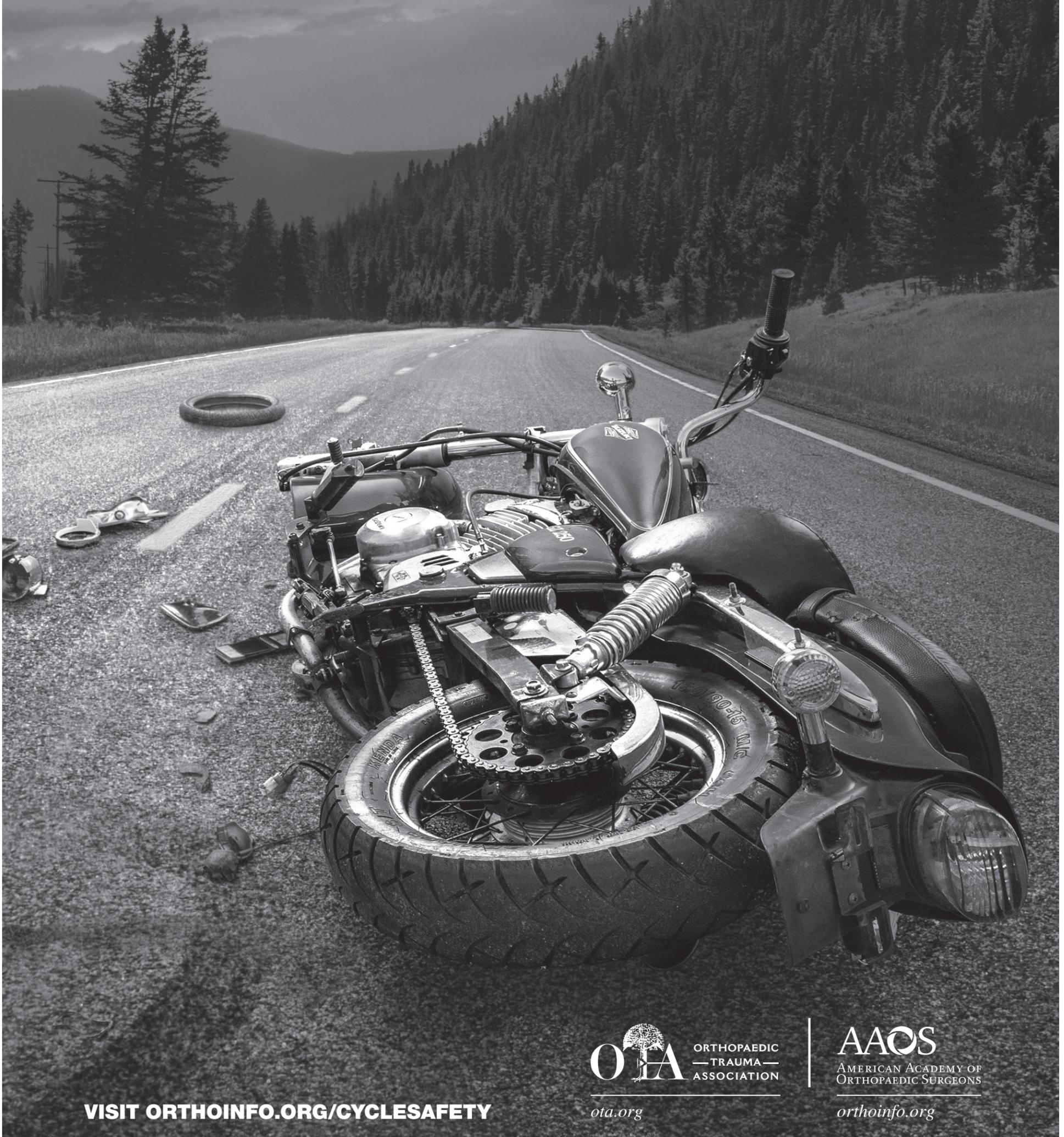
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Obituaries

East Hampton

Robert Eric Moore

Robert Eric Moore, 56, formerly of East Hampton, passed peacefully Thursday, July 7, in Syracuse, N.Y. He was born Jan. 14, 1966, and was the son of Raymond and Barbara Moore.



Bob was a free spirit and traveled and lived throughout the country. He always enjoyed the outdoors, gardening and was passionate about nature. One of his greatest memories was hiking the Appalachian Trail. Bob was envied for his green thumb and he created a garden wherever he lived.

His family is grateful to the physicians and staff at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y., for their kindness and compassion. They took wonderful care of him over the last several years.

He will also be missed by his sisters, Renee Gaudette, who resides in Marlborough, and Robyn Steinman, who resides in Lambertville, N.J.

At the family's request, they ask that donations be made in his memory to the East Hampton Food Bank.

East Hampton

Joseph A. Landry

Joseph A. Landry, 84, of East Hampton passed away peacefully Monday, July 4, at Middlesex Hospital and is now reunited for eternity with the love of his life Barbara Reed. Born Feb. 21, 1938, he was the son of the late Walter F. Landry and Ellen Monahan.



He was proud to have served in the Army for two years and then as an airman first class in the Air Force for four years, before pursuing a career in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning where he retired from KV Mechanical after 30 years.

Joseph is survived by his son Joey and his husband Tony of Alameda, Calif.; his son Jim from Maryland; Barbara's son Kevin and his wife Amanda of East Hampton and her daughter, Theresa Eck and her husband David Eck of Keene, N.H.; six grandchildren, Amber (Brian), Cayla, Sara, Bryce (Rachael), Morgan, Jared; and two great-grandchildren, Konnor and Cassidy.

Funeral services will be private.

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

assisting inmates in pursuit of General Educational Development (GED) certificates. Bruce did this for several years, traveling around the state to institutions to help those in need.

Professionally, Bruce was an active member of Phi Delta Kappa throughout his career. He also contributed to the Connecticut Association of School Administrators (CASA) and was a member of Rotary International since 1956. Bruce was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary, and held offices in club chapters including Essex, Ellington and, most recently, East Hampton. Bruce is remembered by his fellow Rotarians for his consistently positive comradery, his hard work as a leader and member of the Scholarship Committee for many years and involvement in charitable fundraising.

Bruce will always be remembered by his loving family as our beloved patriarch, for his genuine kindness and concern for others, his quiet and unassuming demeanor and his ever-present good nature. He will live on in our hearts and memories forever.

A public memorial service will be held at noon Thursday, Aug. 18, at the Fellowship Community Church, at 24 South Rd., Marlborough. A private family interment will take place the following day.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation be considered, either to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice (<https://middlesexhealth.org/donate>), to support their wonderful programs, or to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (<https://alzfdn.org/support-us/donate>) to help combat the devastating effects of dementia, or to the Rotary Club of East Hampton, P.O. Box 358, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

(Ekaterine), Heidi Scranton and Kacey Reinholtz; and eight great-grandchildren: Carter and Mackenzie Douglas, Logan, William and Hunter Supinski, Anthony and Jack Pitrone and Kaylee Scranton. She also leaves several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m., in the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam. Burial will follow in the family plot in Union Hill Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Miriam's memory to the Chatham Historical Society, care of Michael Doran, treasurer, 6 Bevin Blvd., East Hampton, CT 06424, or to the Second Congregational Church Ladies' Society, P.O. Box 206, Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

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

Marlborough

Dieter Zimmer

Sept. 22, 1942 - June 30, 2022

Dieter Zimmer, 79, of Marlborough passed away from mesothelioma Thursday, June 30, with his loving daughter by his side.



Dieter was born and raised in Germany where he went to university and obtained his mechanical engineering degree. He came to the United States in 1970 on an internship and ended up meeting the love of his life and married Linda Fenner in 1972.

His mechanical engineering career brought him many opportunities worldwide and multiple accomplishments and awards. Working for companies such as Gildemeister, Stanadyne and JDS gave him the desire to innovate and be a leader, and he was never one to say 'no' to helping others.

Once Dieter and his family moved to Marlborough in 1979, he realized that he wanted to make a difference in the community that he and his wife were raising their daughter in. A difference is what he made, in spades. Dieter started out small by volunteering in the school library once a week and in the classroom. This quickly led to being treasurer of the Marlborough PTO, Ice Cream Chair with his wife, Linda, Band Dad, soccer coach, etc.

Volunteering within the school soon led to being involved at the town and regional level. He became a citizen of the United States in 1987 and soon after started his journey among town politics. This 35-year journey would include the RHAM Board of Education for over 25 years (18 of which he was the treasurer), Marlborough Board of Finance, multiple school and town committees and subcommittees, CERT team, Colchester Garden Club (he was treasurer for many years), and of course Girl Scouts for almost 30 years in Marlborough.

Dieter was a gentleman and true community advocate. He did not choose party lines, did his homework and spoke from the heart on what was best for the community, not caring if his view was unfavorable or not. His goal was to make a positive impact on his community, and an impact is what he made.

When he was not preparing for board meetings, budget hearings, etc., Dieter loved to travel, birdwatch, garden, volunteer with town cleanups, tinker with things in order to repurpose them, and spend time with his daughter, son-in-law and his beloved grandsons.

Dieter is predeceased by his father, Karl Dietrich Zimmer; mother, Gabriele Zimmer; brother, Wolf Zimmer; and his soulmate, Linda Fenner Zimmer.

He is survived by his daughter, Heidi Zimmer Rerech, her husband Brian; his grandsons, Dominick and Noah; his brother Klaus, his wife Inge and their children Michael and Sabine and their families; his sister Helga, her husband Gert; his sister Carla, her husband Reinhard and their son Berhard; and countless Scout daughters and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dieter Zimmer Memorial Fund to benefit Church Youth Groups, c/o Liberty Bank, P.O. Box 188, Marlborough, CT 06447.

East Hampton

Bruce H. Strong Sr.

Bruce H. Strong Sr., 75, of Salisbury, N.C., formerly from East Hampton, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family and dogs, Henry and Gus, on Wednesday, July 6. Born Aug. 5, 1946, he was the son of the late Charles and Helen (Torkelson) Strong. Bruce is now reunited for eternity with the love of his life Nancy.



Bruce battled MS for over 45 years and did not let his illness discourage him from living life. He loved fishing, boating, camping, wood-working, doing puzzles, listening to music, and going to the beach. He was an avid fan of NASCAR and the New England Patriots. Bruce loved his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. His greatest memories were made at Camp Harkness for persons with disabilities with his family camping, fishing, and enjoying the ocean.

He is survived by his daughters, Wendy (Strong) Coleman and husband Thomas of Salisbury, N.C., Jennifer Strong of East Hampton, and a son, Bruce Strong and wife Dawn of East Hampton; his brothers, David Strong and wife Laurie and Charles Strong; his grandchildren Andrea, Anthony (Tori), Kyle (Katie), Adam (Madison), and Alysa (Chris); and six, soon to be seven, great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at Lakeview Cemetery Monday, July 18, at 11 a.m.

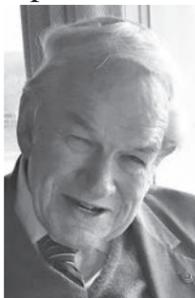
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bruce's memory to Camp Harkness 301 Great Neck Rd Waterford, CT 06385.

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

East Hampton

Bruce C. Shepard

Bruce C. Shepard, of East Hampton, passed away Sunday, July 3, on what would have been his 68th wedding anniversary, after a long illness. He was 94. Bruce, the son of the late Harold B. and Gladys B. Shepard of Wethersfield, was a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.



Bruce's wife, Barbara P. Shepard of Waterford, predeceased him in 2012. He is survived by his children, B. Scott Shepard and his family of Ellington; his son, Ethan L. Shepard and his family of Rye, N.H.; and his daughter and caregiver, Elizabeth P. Shepard of East Hampton. He is also survived by his sisters, Merle Salling and her children of Middle Haddam, and Gail Kuzmak and her family of Glastonbury; five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and seven nieces and nephews and their children as well.

Bruce enjoyed spending time with his family, and holiday gatherings at the Shepard home or that of his sisters was a frequent occurrence. He loved boating and fishing, annually attending the Connecticut Jazz Festival, the New Hampshire Highland Games and the Eastern States Exposition with his kids. He was an avid American history buff and took his children throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic to visit historic sites and museums every summer. Bruce was a devoted UConn football and basketball fan, as well as the New York Yankees and Giants and never missed a game on television.

Bruce graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in political science, from which he went on to accomplish a master's degree in education in 1956. He served the State of Connecticut with distinction for more than 40 years as an educator, with roles as teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools for the towns of New Hartford, Essex, Haddam, Ellington and Windham. After retiring from Windham in 1990, Bruce went back to his roots and took on the role of

Middle Haddam

Miriam Hallberg Scranton

Miriam Hallberg Scranton of Middle Haddam, passed away at home Wednesday, July 6, at the age of 95. She was born Aug. 28, 1926, in Middle Haddam, to the late Elmer Walter Hallberg and May Bamberger Hallberg.



Miriam was married to the late retired Middletown deputy fire chief Donald R. Scranton for 45 years. She attended schools in Middle Haddam and East Hampton. She worked as a secretary for the General Adjustment Bureau and Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford.

Miriam made handmade teddy bears and taught classes on how to make them. Miriam also enjoyed playing bingo and during the pandemic, enjoyed playing zoom bingo through the East Hampton Senior Center. Miriam and her husband Don were 4-H Horse Club Leaders for many years. They had many horses, ponies, dogs, cats, sheep and goats. She enjoyed spending time at the family cottage up on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. She was a member of the Chatham Historical Society, Middletown AARP 3394 and the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam.

Miriam was predeceased by her parents, husband and grandson, David Scranton. She was also predeceased by her brothers: Walter, Frederick and Robert Hallberg. She is survived by her three children: Michael Scranton (Denise) of Middle Haddam, Kathleen Reinholtz (George) of East Hampton and Daniel Scranton (Gail) of East Hampton; eight grandchildren: Ryan Scranton (Colleen), Erin Pitrone (Tony), Kevin Scranton (Mari), Nicole Supinski (Kevin), Gretchen Douglas (Evan), Donald Scranton

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than a family can afford."

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Obituary Policy

The Riverast News Bulletin charges \$75 to place an obituary. Obituaries may be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen.com.

Obituaries cont.**Colchester****Jeffrey L. Habicht**

Jeffrey L. Habicht, 68, tragically passed away in a house fire Tuesday, July 5, at his Colchester home. Known as Jeff, a.k.a. "the Wizard," he was born in Hartford Dec. 29, 1953, to William Homer Habicht and Janice (Barker) Habicht.



Jeff attended school in Glastonbury. His innate love of all things mechanical was displayed at an early age when he began to dismantle and repair any lawnmowers and small engines that he got his hands on. Jeff was a National Honor Society student throughout his high school years, graduating early in order to compete in the National Plymouth Trouble Shooting Contest which took place in Los Angeles, Calif.

Jeff pursued further education at both the General Motors Institute in Michigan, and the University of Hartford, where he graduated at the top of his class, summa cum laude while earning his business degree. Along the way, he completed ASE certification, making him a certified mechanic. Jeff's work life began at Root's Garage, continued at Monaco Ford, and eventually led to a successful career as an entrepreneur. As owner and president of C&D Construction in Glastonbury, Jeff was featured in numerous business newspapers and magazines and was named entrepreneur of the year by *The Glastonbury Citizen*.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed downhill ski-

ing, tennis and spending time at White Sand Beach with his family. Many nights and weekends were spent at Riverside Park where Jeff participated in modified stock car racing and the demolition derby. He spent much of his time with close friends working on cars, especially his 427 Shelby Cobra and was known by all as an accomplished storyteller with a quick wit.

More recently Jeff appreciated spending time with Briana and Haley, who were the loves of his life. He was so proud of both. He enjoyed watching Haley grow up, always marveling at everything she did, and he enjoyed talking and a shared love of cars with Briana.

Jeff is predeceased by his parents and is survived by his only child, Briana Elis Habicht; a granddaughter, Haley Eve Weissinger; a sister, Susan Mayne and her husband Doug; a brother, Todd Habicht and his wife Holly; his former spouse, Marilyn Alverio-Habicht; and several nieces and nephews, Ben, Henry, Kevin, Brian, Cara and Grady.

Jeff's family received relatives and friends at D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, on Wednesday, July 13. This was directly followed by a graveside service that afternoon at Hockanum Cemetery, 47 High St., East Hartford. A celebration of Jeff's life, followed by a commemorative car show, took place Thursday, July 14, at the Glastonbury Elks, 98 Woodland St., South Glastonbury.

Memorial contributions in Jeff's name may be made to Colchester Hayward Fire Department, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415. The family extends our sincere appreciation for their care and professionalism.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.

East Hampton**Terrence D. Archer**

Terrence D. Archer, 66, of East Hampton, formerly of Portland, passed away unexpectedly after a sudden illness on Monday, July 4, at Middlesex Hospital, Middletown, with his wife by his side.

Terry, better known as "Arch," was born in Machias, Maine, moved to Connecticut with his family when he was 9 years old, and graduated from Portland High School, Class of 1974. He went on to earn his HVAC certification from the New England Technical Institute and was employed as an Industrial HVAC Technician for Alstom Power (formerly ABB Combustion Engineering) from 1983 until 2012, when he joined the Town of Plainville Community Schools System.

Terry is survived by his wife, Kimberly (Kogut) Archer; his mother, Sylvia (Foster) Archer; his brother, Gregg and wife Cathe; his nephew, Michael and wife Ashley; his niece, Cheryl and husband Todd Richards; great-nephews, William and Owen; great-nieces, Emily and Rylynn; his sister-in-law, Kathy Kogut; nieces, Jessica and Laura; and several great uncles, aunts and cousins.

He was predeceased by his father, Lynn E. Archer.

Terry loved his home state of Maine but, more so, home life with his wife, three cats and a trio of Jack Russell terriers, most especially his best



'Bud,' Forrest. Terry was a longtime rider and collector of motorcycles and was known as "the go-to man" for his motorcycle mechanical expertise; but his softer side enjoyed flower gardening, watching the birds he encouraged to nest nearby and admiring his hummingbirds. He tinkered endlessly, rejuvenating or repurposing anything broken or tossed, large or small, and he treasured his many collectibles.

Terry was kind-hearted and friends knew he could always deliver a good laugh, prank or great stories about his younger days and motorcycle adventures.

The family would like to thank and applaud all the ICU, critical care and respiratory therapy staff of Middlesex Hospital, and especially RN Heather and pulmonologist Dr. Bishop, for their superb care, sincere compassion and respect they showed Terry and his family.

Biega Funeral Home, Middletown, was entrusted with private services held Saturday, July 9.

Donations in Terry's memory will be appreciated by "Jacks Galore, Inc.," a tax-deductible, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and the Jack Russell Terrier rescue organization Terry supported. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 545, Hinsdale, MA 01235 or made online at www.jacksgalore.org/donation.



RIDERS AREN'T ALWAYS IN THE RIGHT. BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS FRAGILE.



In addition to being vastly outnumbered by cars, bike riders are much more exposed.

So, even when a rider does something boneheaded, remember—your broken

headlight is easier to fix than their broken bones. Take the high road and give bicyclists

the space they need to ride safely. Check our website for more road sharing tips.

VISIT ORTHINFO.ORG/BIKESAFETY



ota.org



orthoinfo.org

Cover Story • Cover Story

★ **Book Inventory cont. from page 30**

by Bisbikos regarding the RuPaul book that brought on hundreds on responses.

Resident Bernie Denler III criticized the first selectman for understanding the ramifications of his actions, but not caring.

“The optics of the situation didn’t bother you enough,” he said.

There was also a fundamental disagreement with the image itself – with some finding it offensive and others not seeing anything inappropriate.

Many citizens praised the response by Library Director Kate Byroade and expressed their support for her and the library.

Byroade told the *Rivereast* that she was listening in on last week’s meeting and was appreciative of the all the comments.

“I was really heartened by the support from the community,” she said.

Byroade expressed that she always tries to make going to the library and interacting with staff a positive experience. She felt that all the support from the town during the meeting was representative of that.

“The library has earned the trust of the community,” she said.

While Byroade stated that Bisbikos has not reached out since the meeting to discuss the audit, it’s her understanding that it’s officially gone.

She supports the Board of Selectmen’s decision to rescind the order, expressing that it was an “unworkable task.”

She previously stated that the inventory – which would involve nearly 26,000 books – would be an “enormous undertaking” and likely require 450 work hours per staff member to complete.

Byroade has been consistent with stating that the first selectman brought the parent’s complaint to her on Monday, June 27. However, the *Rivereast* has learned that Bisbikos was in the library with the parent a few days earlier, on Friday, June 24.

Byroade said that a complaint or any concern was not brought to her attention that day.

The parent confirmed that he reviewed the book with the first selectman on June 24.

“I brought it to his attention in person firsthand. We both wanted to sleep on it before making a decision,” he said.

Bisbikos said he did visit the library on June 24 to “see the image in question, the placement of the material, and to listen to the parent.”

Bisbikos added that he and the parent both decided to “reflect on our discussion before making a prompt decision.” Bisbikos said that, after he and the parent spoke that weekend, he decided to address it with Byroade the following Monday.

Byroade confirmed last week that a formal written complaint had been filed by the parent – the first complaint she’s fielded at Cragin Memorial Library since she arrived over 12 years ago.

She expressed that normally, complaints are handled privately between the community member and herself. Through dialog and dis-

ussion, the complaint is usually resolved before a formal complaint is actually filed.

Byroade said she welcomes any parent who has fears about a book to come speak with her and have a respectful discussion.

Bisbikos also made a claim during the meeting that the biography was mixed in with second grade reading material in the children’s department.

Byroade did confirm that the RuPaul book is targeted for fourth- and fifth-graders, but said the claim that it was mixed in with lower reading levels was a “not a clear characterization of what’s happening.”

She explained that the book was in a display for PRIDE month with other reading material appealing to different age groups. She said the intent is for the display to include picture books and other biographies in order to present a thorough representation for that particular topic.

She added that the space the RuPaul biography was located in was “typical” for a “mixed-age” display.

Still, Byroade stated that parents should “decide what’s appropriate for their children.”

Byroade added that in her view, it was not a biography that would attract the attention of a four-year-old, saying it would be “invisible” to them.

**TOWN OF ANDOVER
LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

The Andover Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., July 18, 2022 to solicit input on proposed amendments to its Zoning Regulation; more particularly Section 15 (signs) in their entirety and Section 17 (Alcoholic Establishments. The later, as proposed, would address the location of establishments intended for the sale of cannabis products. The hearing will be held via Zoom utilizing the following:

Join by Computer:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89771155135>

Join by Phone:
+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 897 7115 5135
Passcode: 451994

Comments, concerns, and questions may be presented at the public hearing or be submitted to the Andover Building and Land-Use Office in writing a minimum of 48 hours prior to the time/date of the Public Hearing. Copies of the proposed changes are available for review on the Planning & Zoning Commission page of the town’s web-site (andoverct.org) or at the Building and Land-use Office, 17 School Road.

Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

2TB 7/8, 7/15

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**TOWN OF ANDOVER
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
7:20 p.m., July 18, 2022
(or to immediately follow the previous Public Hearing slated for 7:00 p.m.)
TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY**

Join by Computer:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89771155135>

Join by Phone:
+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 897 7115 5135
Passcode: 451994

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to solicit input on Public Act 21-29, more specifically the “opt out provisions” in Section 3, subsection 3(j). Public Act 21-29 establishes specific steps to encourage the development of affordable housing throughout the state. Opting out of specific requirements of the act would allow the Town of Andover to encourage affordable housing, and thereby comply with the intent of the act, while maintaining control at the local level through its land-use regulations. The hearing would provide a basis for a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to opt out in accordance the aforementioned Act.

Comments can be made and/or questions raised at the hearing or submitted in writing a minimum of 24 hours prior to the hearing. Questions/comments may be submitted, or additional information requested, by contact the Building and Land-Use Office, 17 School Road, electronically at zoning@andoverct.org or via telephone at 860742-4035.

Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

2TB 7/8, 7/15

**TOWN OF ANDOVER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ACTION NOTICE**

Please be advised that the Andover Zoning Board of Appeals took the following action at a Special Meeting held on June 29, 2022: **APPROVED** the application of Nick Glowacki, 17 Lakeside Drive. The Board approved relief from Section 11.2 (side yard setbacks) and Section 14.1 (Prohibition of non-farm accessory buildings in front yards) so as to allow for the construction of a 22’ x 36’ barn on the property in accordance with the application and plan on file in the Building and Land-Use Office of the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road, Andover.

Please direct any inquiries to the Zoning Agent at the Town Hall, 17 School Road or zoning@andoverct.org.
Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

Published 7.15.22
1TB 7/15

**TOWN OF ANDOVER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
7:00 P.M., JULY 20, 2022
COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL
17 SCHOOL ROAD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will host a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of July 20, 2022 to solicit public comment and entertain questions on the following applications: APPLICATION OF MATT EUCALITTO - GARRETT HOMES, LLC/MCG ANDOVER, LLC, 580 LAKE ROAD.

Applicant seeking relief from Section 23.4.D of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to eliminate the requirement that the driveway off Lake Road be a single property (as opposed to a common driveway).

APPLICATION OF EDEN CONTRACTORS, LLC - PROPERTY LOCATED AT 12 CENTER STREET.

Applicant seeking relief from Section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to provide relief from front yard and side yard setbacks so as to construct a single family dwelling with a deck.

APPLICATION OF TOWN OF ANDOVER - PROPERTY LOCATED AT 15 CENTER STREET.

Applicant seeking relief from Section 1) 11.2 and 2) 5.0 of the Zoning Regulations so as to seek relief from the front and side-yard requirements in order to replace the existing structure (Old Fire House) with a new structure (garage/storage facility) and so as to allow for the construction of a structure to allow for parking of public vehicles and ancillary storage.

Comments and/or questions will be entertained during the hearing or written comment may be submitted prior to the hearing will be entered into the record. Such written comments shall be submitted to the Building and Land-Use Office at 17 School Road, Andover or, electronically, at zoning@andoverct.org. Such written comments shall be submitted a minimum of 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

2TB 7/8, 7/15

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.:

Petition 2022-7 - Subdivision Application of Richard Matschulat & Elizabeth O’Callaghan of 7.753 acres at 155 Reidy Hill Road into two (2) lots, R-2 District. **Approved with conditions:** 1) Prior to the filing of subdivision mylars, the following items shall be addressed: a. The executed Conservation Easements in the form approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission dated March 1, 2019, shall be submitted to the Town in a form acceptable to the Town Attorney, b. Any such dedication, regardless of the method used, shall be completed prior to the endorsement and filing of the final subdivision plans to the Town Clerk. 2) The edge of the Conservation Easement shall be marked in the field each 50 feet with plaques provided by the Town. 3) A fee-in-lieu of open space in the amount of \$8,580 shall be paid to the Town. The fee shall be paid to the Town before the sale of the lot or before the issuance of a building permit whichever is sooner. A notice to this effect shall be placed on the subdivision plans filed in the Town Clerk’s office. 4) Prior to the issuance of building permits, lot corner pins and easement corner pins shall be installed. 5) All improvements and conditions required by the approval (including driveway apron, address sign, site stabilization, and installation of Conservation Easement plaques) shall be installed prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy. 6) Prior to the construction of the driveway, driveway apron, or commencement of site clearing on Lot #2, specimen trees of 24 inches DBH or greater shall be located and demarked for the purpose of avoiding and protecting those trees if possible, to be reviewed by Town staff.

The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/bb3fc6ea0c5826b0ad-7f834ec2bb2f47f8c22c3c3d8e99670b136377bf96d0c2c>
Legal Notice will be published in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* on July 15, 2022.

1TB 7/15

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

CROMWELL: 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Col in desirable Chelsea Estates. Built by LaCava Builders, this 4 level home is over 2600 sq ft. Brand new gas furnace. Central Air, Central vac, irrigation system. City water/sewer. Fenced in back yard. \$449,900. Pam Ritzy, Berkshire Hathaway (860-) 833-3456

RENTALS

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT IN GLASTONBURY. 54 Hubbard Street. Includes: Washer / Dryer, cable, internet and garage. \$1350. No Smoking/ Vaping. Call Len 860-593-6623

AMSTON LAKE SEASONAL COTTAGE: Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms, air/heat, screened porch, washer/ Dryer, lake view. Avail weekly \$925 plus security and cleaning or monthly rates calculated based on length of stay. Available August 7th through Oct 31st. 113 Deepwood Drive Lebanon. Contact Rita 860-207-7680

FOR RENT IN EAST HAMPTON: 1 Bedroom townhouse. Full bath, living room with plank floors, kitchen with appliances, large closets, private deck, parking for 2 cars, on-site laundry, beautiful grounds, easy access to Routes 2 and 66. 860-633-7319 or 8960-841-6496 Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm.

HOME FOR RENT IN EAST HAMPTON (LAKE RIGHTS). Immaculate 3-4- bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Fully furnished & Appliance. Incs. lawn care and snow removal. \$2500 / month. 2 year minimum. Jim 860-885-4578. let’s talk, no texts.



FREE PACHYSANDRA & PERIWINKLE GROUND COVERING IN EAST HAMPTON. Come over and dig it up and it’s yours for free. Call Tal 860-212-6559

RE7-15-22

FREE

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF. Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, oil lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy 860-874-8396.

PETS

DOG OBEDIENCE / AGILITY classes starting soon. Offering: Agility, Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Want/ Need, CGC Therapy. Over 20 years experience. Michelle Larson, PAWS-N-HEEL DTC, 860-267-6040 paws-n-heeldogtraining.com



NICK SELLS HOUSES

– LOCAL LUXURY AGENT –

15 Years of Nick Selling in Your Town!



Scan for **FREE price report** or text **“value” to 860.300.3861**

BOYDEN Real Estate CO 232 S. Main Street Colchester, CT 06415 860-537-9559

Your local friend in Real Estate

Life is short, live it.
Love is rare, grab it.
Anger is bad, dump it.
Memories are sweet, cherish it.

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Better Real Estate

860.883.9005
angelaaresko@sbcglobal.net
www.angelaaresco.com

Skyview REALTY

OPEN SATURDAY 11-1

51 Pinebrook Road, Colchester Offered at \$384,900

Move right in to this spacious cape with front porch! Hardwood floors throughout. Remodeled kitchen features a 9 ft island and floor to ceiling fireplace. There is also a separate formal dining room and Living room. Primary bedroom with cathedral ceiling, also 2 other bedrooms with walk-in closets. Full basement with walk out to private backyard. 2 car garage with bonus room above. Large Kloter Farms shed. *Dir: Rt 16 to Pinebrook Rd.*

860-214-1147 • www.skyview-realty.com
35 Hayward Ave., Colchester, CT 06415

LEGALS

Legal Notice Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on July 11th, 2022:
 • Application #**IWWC 22-08**: Chris Morrell, **340 Lake Road**- Replacement of existing steel septic tank with new tank and effluent filter in the 200-foot Upland Review Area of Andover Lake.
 The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.

1TB 7/15

TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on July 27, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions:

- Niantic Bay Group LLC – Special Permit (2022-007)** – Proposed 20 unit multi-family residential project on approximately 6 acres in the Town Center Village district and Aquifer Protection Zone.

At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).
 Planning and Zoning Commission
 Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 7/15, 7/22

Town of Marlborough CORRECTED Official Notice of Republican Primary State and District Offices

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the Republican party listed below will be held in Marlborough on August 9, 2022 for nomination to each office indicated below.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, if any, for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party endorsed candidates, if any, are indicated by an asterisk. Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

Office	Party	Candidate	Address
United States Senator	Republican	*Themis Klarides	66 Governors Way, Madison, CT 06443
		Leora R. Levy	59 Pecksland Rd., Greenwich, CT 06831
		Peter Lumaj	745 Mill Plain Rd. Fairfield, Fairfield 06824
Secretary of the State	Republican	*Dominic Rapini	4 Mariners Way, Branford, CT 06405
		Brock Weber	17 Lancewood Ln., Wolcott CT 06716
		Terrie E. Wood	50 Saint Nicholas Rd., Darien, CT 06820

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 24 day of June, 2022.

DENISE W. MERRILL
 SECRETARY OF THE STATE

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State, in accordance with Section 9-433 of the General Statutes. As provided in said notice, a primary of the referenced party for nomination to the state or district offices therein specified will be held on August 9, 2022. The hours of voting at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

HOURS OF VOTING: 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Elmer Thienes Mary Hall Elementary School
 25 School Drive
 Marlborough Connecticut

VOTING DISTRICT

1

Dated at Marlborough Connecticut this 24th Day of June 2022

Lauren A. Griffin
 Town Clerk
 Town of Marlborough

1TB 7/15

**HOUSING
DISCRIMINATION
IS ILLEGAL For Help
Call 888-247-4401**



EMPLOYMENT

LOOKING FOR CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT: Seeking a motivated, experienced individual to join the office team at the front desk of a busy chiropractic office. Ideal candidate must have experience working in a medical office environment, knowledge of basic administrative skills including answering phones, preparing paperwork, and basic computer knowledge favoring Microsoft Office, and internet. The electronic medical software that we use is ACOM Chiropractic RAPID Documentation and RAPID Patient Management. Must be able to multi-task, handling a patient load ranging from 20-50 patients per day. Must possess excellent phone, organizational, and social skills. Must be cheerful, dependable, and pleasant. Hours are 8am to 6pm with an hour lunch break for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. 8am to 12:30pm on alternating Saturdays. Can increase hours after training to cover for other employees Tuesdays from 8am to 3 pm. Pay scale will be determined by level of experience. Please call Colchester Family Chiropractic Office at (860)-537-0086 for inquiries.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT POSITION IN PODIATRY OFFICE IN MARLBOROUGH CT. Four days per week. Job Description: Rooming patients and review intake forms. Cleaning rooms after each patient. Take X rays. Set up minor office surgical procedures. Instrument sterilization. Supply inventory. Back up front desk assisting patients with appointments. Light office cleaning. Qualifications: Medical assistant experience preferred. Must be reliable, punctual, pleasant and organized. Benefits: 401(K), 401(K) match, Profit Share, PTO
HELP WANTED: CASO'S HVAC, LLC, East Hampton, CT is now hiring Commercial & Residential HVAC Mechanics/Technicians. B2 or S2 License Required. Must have at least 5 years experience. We offer competitive hourly wages. Please email resume to casohvac@comcast.net or call 860-267-5851.

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 in a first grade general education classroom, 6 hours/day, Monday through Friday. Position begins 8/31/22.

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]

5TB 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12

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PT/FT DISHWASHER / CLEANER WANTED. Stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery for an application.

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

HELP WANTED: Part-Time Book-keeper wanted. A/P, A/R Quickbooks and basic data entry in legacy software. Flex time. No remote. Call 860-658-0808 leave message and phone number or email wnarog@bmicad.com

PART-TIME NURSE 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, 3 days/wk. Please call Christal at Greystone Retirement Home 860-342-2509

PT CAR WASH ATTENDANT needed weekends. Diamond Sparkle Car Wash Colchester. Call 860-531-9182

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

Full Time Maintenance Mechanic/Counter Assistance Help Wanted For Rental Business

Job will include maintenance on multiple types of equipment, including small lawn and garden equipment, chippers, skidsteers, sharpening hedge trimmers and other tools, & helping assist with phones and customers at the counter. Applicant must have own tools, be able to operate multiple types of equipment, have a valid driver's license, and work well with customers, and other employees. Will train as needed on different types of equipment, but a general mechanical knowledge is a must! Pay rate based on experience.

Call 860-537-4256 and speak with Tony or Jason

REF-1-22

EMPLOYMENT

PART-TIME TAX CLERK

The Town of Marlborough is seeking applicants for the following position:

Part-Time Tax Clerk - position provides clerical and office administrative assistance to the Tax Collector in preparation of bills and the collection and crediting of taxes and related billings. Excellent computer and interpersonal skills required. General expectation is up to 24 hours per week. Starting wage \$19.00-24.00/hour based on experience.

Please submit a letter of interest and completed application to the address above. Employment Application and Job Description available online at www.marlbroughct.net or from the Town Clerk's office, (860)295-6206. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

2TB 7/8, 7/15

Volunteer. The Benefits Are Extraordinary!



Extraordinary Benefits:

- You'll feel really, really good!
- You'll meet delightful dogs, fabulous felines, and some pretty special humans too!

PROTECTORS
 OF ANIMALS

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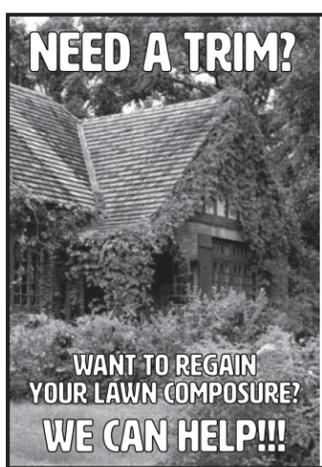
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END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT. Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. The Glastonbury Citizen 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

TAG SALES

LARGE TAG SALE IN AMSTON / HEBRON July 16th & 17th, 9am-5pm. Collectables, Antiques, Tools, Copper, Brownware, Glassware, Pewter, Kids Kayaks, Yamaha PW80, Trampoline, Furniture and MUCH more. Dealers Welcome! Rain or Shine! 283 Hope Valley Rd.

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE: Friday and Saturday July 15th and 16th 8am - 4pm. 8 Deer Rock Drive, Amston. Parking available on the corner of Hope Valley Rd and Deer Rock Drive. Unusual items, household, garage, tools furniture and much more!

MOVING SALE: Saturday, July 23rd 10am - 1pm. 27 Mai Road, AMSTON. Solid Cherry armoire, Precor Elliptical, Ping Pong Table, Cherry end tables, China Cabinet, patio furniture, antique glassware, vintage pink glassware, household items, skis, upholstered footbench and much more!



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