



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Who's Walking in Portland?... Pictured from left are Mary Sienkiewicz, Dolores Jarzabek and Irene Salisbury, who all live at The Atrium of Portland. They walk at The Atrium every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. For more on the ladies, see page 10.

More Armed Guards For Belltown Schools

By Jack Lakowsky

This week the East Hampton Board of Education unanimously gave district superintendent Paul Smith permission to begin the process of hiring armed guards for the middle school and the town's two elementary schools, Center and Memorial.

Parents, staff and the board have paid significant attention to the issue. According to a survey schools sent out, many parents and staff want armed security, though a vocal minority has opposed.

No student opinions have been surveyed or recorded, at least not publicly.

There was, however, a common thread among detractors and supporters alike: an armed guard can't and won't be a catch-all; rather, they said, it has to be part of a multilayered preventative approach to school violence, including early intervention, mental health resources and structural security.

Nancy Oakley, school board vice chair, said whatever one's opinion is, this is an unpleasant topic.

"Addressing security is an ongoing process," said Oakley. She said every time she hears public input or does her own research, she learns something new.

She said of adding armed guards, "we can make this program what we want it to be," committing to crafting thorough policy, speaking with Smith about requirements, training and other parameters.

Oakley said the district uses a multilayered approach, also suggesting a review and strengthening of measures.

Resident Matthew Garcia, who had a long career in law enforcement, said he wasn't happy talks had come to this point.

"It's not an 'all or nothing,'" said Garcia, who supported armed security. "It must be a multi-faceted approach involving various disciplines."

Garcia said that, in an ideal world, the additional armed guards could eventually be phased out.

Local resident Matt Engelhardt urged the board to consider the inconclusive evidence of the effectiveness of armed guards. Citing information from a UConn study, he said when school officers return fire against a shooter, they hit their target less than 50% of the time.

"All research suggests early intervention is the best way to stop violence," he said.

Engelhardt said he was worried about funding. The price tag of the guards is expected to near \$150,000. He said he believes the East Hampton Town Council is hostile to the schools, mentioning a recent *Rivereast* letter from councilor Alison Walck questioning why so many district students made honor roll, asking if standards are too lax.

Board member Ken Barber said to help secure annual funding, he wants the town to include the cost in its capital expenses, not put the cost on the school board, making it more vulnerable to cuts.

"It's beyond our scope," he said, adding the board needs to focus on educating Belltown's kids.

Several parents, and board member Nancy Kohler, asked that funding the armed guards not interfere with funding educational needs. Kohler suggested that hiring the guards hinge on not disrupting funds for learning needs.

Board chair Christina Tammaro-Dzagan said having armed security is a fundamental need.

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Former White House Butler Shares Stories

By Jack Lakowsky

Alan DeValerio, a former White House butler who penned a book about the history of entertaining at the president's home, recently stopped by East Hampton to share his memories of serving various 20th century icons.

DeValerio, who visited the parish center hall at St. Patrick Church last week, said he worked White House banquets and dinners for years. He started at the tail end of the Carter administration and worked through the Reagan years; during this time, he also learned about the dining and entertainment preferences of such prior presidential administrations as Johnson, Kennedy and Eisenhower. He opened with a story about his early days working for Jimmy Carter.

"The Carters were big on figure skating," he said. To enjoy their favorite sport, the First

Couple arranged for a figure skating show at the White House.

As the day waned, so did the temperature, a cold winter's night setting in. DeValerio, young and perhaps not the most judicious, thought it a good idea to run some hot chocolate over his hands.

He didn't mention anything about any scalding, but he was embarrassed when the Carters came for a cup of hot chocolate; he'd run the machine dry.

Carter's successor, Ronald Reagan, assumed office in 1981, and held his first function as president soon after his inauguration.

Among the first people DeValerio saw that evening were famous sportscaster Vin Scully and the legendary Ray Charles.

"So you can imagine the guest list," he said.

That same night, DeValerio met more 20th century legends, including Johnny Carson, Frank Sinatra (whom he met several times over the years, he added) Wayne Newton and Tony Bennett.

On another day of the Reagan presidency, he bumped into Bob Hope in the bathroom, and he once also heard Carol Burnett belt her famous Tarzan bellow.

DeValerio said he liked Reagan-hosted functions. The Reagans, he said, "weren't night people," typically retiring by midnight – considered an early shift for White House waitstaff, even though the day started at 9 a.m.

Through his conversations with White House staff past and present, DeValerio learned Eisenhower redefined White House dinners and food

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

A few weeks ago, I wrote about the drought conditions in Connecticut, which were starting to get a little dire. Things haven't gotten much better since then. Despite a couple quick showers and a summer thunderstorm here and there, the water situation is pretty bleak – as anyone with a brown, crunchy lawn can attest.

But the problem goes well beyond cosmetic. (Although, seriously, lawns shouldn't crunch when you walk on them.) Now it's getting dangerous.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) last Friday issues a press release reminding residents that forest fire danger levels are elevated from "High" to "Extreme" throughout Connecticut – and will remain that way until there is significant rain. And, according to The Weather Channel, that won't happen in the area until next Monday or Tuesday – at the earliest.

So, it's time for visitors to state forests – such as the beautiful Meshomasic – to be extra vigilant. In the words of our old friend Smokey Bear, only you can prevent forest fires.

"If you are enjoying the outdoors at a state park or forest, always limit your campfires to the stone or metal rings provided and be sure your fire is doused thoroughly when done," DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes said in the press release.

DEEP suggested that those enjoying the state's parks, forests and open spaces should use fires with caution and follow these recommendations:

Obey local laws regarding open fires, including campfires;

Keep all flammable objects away from fire; Have firefighting tools nearby and handy; Carefully dispose of hot charcoal; Drown all fires; and Extinguish smoking materials with caution.

Property owners are reminded to be vigilant as well. DEEP issued some other tips to help residents protect their families and homes from forest fire. These tips include:

Making a fire-safe zone around your house. Clean flammable vegetation and debris from at least 30 feet around the house and any out-buildings;

Pruning away the lower limbs of evergreens that are within the fire safe zone. Evergreens catch fire easily during dry periods and burn quickly;

Removing any limbs which overhang the roof or chimney;

Regularly removing leaves and needles from gutters;

Not storing firewood in the fire-safe zone; Using fire-resistant roofing materials;

Making sure firefighters can find and access your home. Mark your house and roads clearly and prune away limbs and trees along your driveway which do not allow fire truck access;

Staying with outside fires until they are completely safe and dead out; and

Disposing of wood ashes in a metal bucket, soaking them with water before dumping them.

So, be careful everyone. Hopefully the drought ends soon, but until it does, we all need to be on our best behavior. Connecticut

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Troop 109 Summer Camp... Scouts BSA Troop 109 of Colchester recently spent a week in July at Camp Webster in Ashford where they took part in swimming, canoeing, biking and many other activities and merit badges. This picture is of Troop 109 at the entrance to their campsite. Pictured from left, front row, are leaders Alice Csere, Marc Nettleton, Scouts Quintin Henley, Rocco Cusano, Harrison Winicki, Dom Cusano, leader Kevin Winicki; back row: Scouts Nicholas Gupta, Ben Winicki, Cody Friberg, leader Bob Friberg, scout Marc S. Nettleton. Troop 109 and Pack 109 are sponsored by the Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester. For more information email westcongchurch@gmail.com.

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

Bulletin Board

The other day I went to cut my grass and the lawn tractor wouldn't start. Seems I'd inadvertently hit the headlight switch on the thing when I put it away the last time and the battery had drained.

This is one of those small things that leads to much larger questions: i.e., who in the hell came up with the idea of putting headlights on a lawn tractor in the first place? And why?

Now a little research into formal documentation would probably reveal that the idea for headlights on lawn tractors was proposed by some engineer and was then analyzed for a number of years by a committee of engineers (no doubt throwing their pocket protectors at one another as they argued ad nauseam over whether the light switch should be the toggle type or push type) before finally going into production just before technological advances made manual switches unnecessary.

But who do you suppose came up with the actual idea of placing headlights on lawn tractors? I'll bet it was somebody's wife.

I say this not out of commitment to any sexist doctrine, but because I know how men think. And cutting the grass in the middle of the night by headlights (unless it's a baseball or football field or you're trying to get back at your neighbor for leaving a dead possum in your mailbox) just goes against the longstanding American doctrine that farm work should cease when the sun goes down.

Don't ask me why this should be. That's just the way it is. You might as well ask why God loves chili dogs (I have this on good authority) or North Korean dictators foam at the mouth. The fact of the matter is, most of us will never use the headlights on our lawn tractor unless the car won't start and we need to get to the package store before closing time.

I have given lawn care considerable thought (as opposed to action) over the years and I have come to the realization that that many of us cut the grass for reasons that go beyond mere personal pride in a well-kept lawn.

Some of us like the solitude. Cutting the grass allows us to put on ear protection or headphones, thereby shutting out the world at large (which may include screaming children, phone calls from telemarketers or irritating observations from one's partner that someone needs to learn how to close the cupboard doors and to stop leaving beer cans in the shower).

Others find comfort in the destruction we wreak—venting our general hostilities on helpless blades of grass that dare to defy us by growing to ungroomed-looking heights. Call it constructive destruction.

Then there are those of us who get a sense of self-importance out of riding the lawn tractor—donning our John Deere hat and tooling pompously around the yard like we're king of 10,000 acres of prime bottomland aboard an honest to goodness farm tractor instead of some toy-like version intended for guys who are too lazy to walk and wouldn't know a callus from a boll weevil if it punched us in the eye.

But most of us adult males (I can't speak for the women I see doing this task) cut the grass because we're told to (or we fear being told to). And in most cases the person doing the telling is (you know it's true) your wife (in most cases a woman), generally because they are the more responsible party in the relationship and would rather not be known around town as "those derelicts down the road who are trying to recreate their very own version of Dogpatch."

If you're wondering how all of this relates to headlights on lawn tractors, all is about to become clear.

It is my belief—based purely on personal experience, idle speculation and anecdotal input from misogynistic friends—that at some point in the distant past, a wife remarked to a husband, "Honey, the grass needs cutting."

And this poor slob, who was probably stretched out on the couch watching a baseball game or lying in a hammock eating potato chips and wondering hopefully if dinner would feature something with gravy, fobbed her off with the excuse, "It's going to be dark soon," having no idea of the catastrophic chain of events he was about to initiate.

And that, my friends, is how we got headlights on lawn tractors.

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.

Correction

A caption that ran last week on page 4 misidentified East Hampton resident Colleen Connelly. A corrected version of the photo and caption appear this week, in the East Hampton section.

Also, in the story last week on the Democratic primary for state representative for the 34th District, the printed vote count was inaccurate. The total votes cast actually numbered around 1,070.

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

Vote for Democracy

To the Editor:

Voting is one of the most precious and underappreciated rights that Americans have. But, as evidenced by voter turnout in most elections, we seem to not care who gets elected to all but the highest office. Citizens neglect the local offices and local issues, likely thinking that their local politicians, their neighbors, will take care of things.

Many people have gotten so tired of partisan politics that they believe all candidates, all parties are corrupt and disingenuous. Voters see their daily lives mostly in light of fiscal issues, and often vote their pocketbooks ... only to be disappointed when their taxes and the cost of living go up regardless of who wins elections, thus confirming their negative view of politi-

cians.

But our standard of living is more than just dollars and cents. Unless a specific citizen is affected by legislation or regulation, they are not compelled to vote for or against advocates of social programs. They ignore the ramifications of government intrusion or neglect, yet they are affected, even if only indirectly. And they pay for those choices, or lack thereof.

Apparently, many Americans do not appreciate or understand that to be an American requires that we act like Americans. This includes voting. We have a constitutional right to vote and elect representatives to reflect our collective will. If you (yes, you: each individual) decline to vote, you relinquish your right. In the process, you undermine the collective will of the people and we get minority rule. You get what someone else decides you get. None of us ever gets all that we want; in a democracy we accept the will of the majority. Without a majority of citizens voting, how can we get a majority result? We can't. Exercise your right! Vote!

John Barnowski – Colchester

Save Kinney Road

To the Editor:

In response to Selectman Larson's statement that those objecting to the proposed municipal project on Kinney Road may indicate "personal benefit" contrary to a benefit for the town – Selectman Larson, the citizens of Hebron ARE the town of Hebron.

Since the selectmen believe the Public Works

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and salt storage facility are of great importance to the town, with no negative effects on the environment or property values, perhaps there is a suitable site on Hope Valley Road, which is Selectman Larson's lovely neighborhood.

The municipal facility and salt storage are wrong for Kinney Road. Vote 'no' and save Kinney Road!

Sue Custance – Hebron

Thanks, Portland Election Staff

To the Editor:
I would like to take a moment to thank the Portland election staff and registrars of voters who set up the polling place, performed all the preparation work, and oversaw the primary voting on Aug. 9. Additionally, I would like to thank the middle school staff, especially Linda Martin, for their support and cooperation. In total, 634 people from Portland voted in the two primaries.

**Michael Tierney
Portland Town Clerk**

Neighborhoods

To the Editor:
We are all connected, through history, science, the arts and more. And we all benefit from being outdoors, visiting quiet historic spaces and living in neighborhoods that fit our lifestyle. I still cry on 9/11 when they ring the bell because I feel a connection to those Americans who lost their lives and to their families as well. We used to take care of each other. We used to be more thoughtful. The old Depression mentality of saving and taking care of what we have has slipped through our fingers and waste surrounds us.

I started this project in an effort to save our neighborhood, but it has morphed into a discussion about America. Split down the middle, Kinney Road has become a symbol of our coun-

try. Open space on one side and an industrial complex looming on the other.

Recently we went door to door to meet our neighbors and see how they felt. Every household reported moving here for the same reasons and every household, but one, opposes the development and all for the same reasons. But the most surprising and interesting part of our conversations wasn't town politics, but the stories people wanted to share about their lives and why they have stayed. Some households have been set up down here for over 50 years. But our life's work and love of, and loyalty to, our neighborhoods means nothing in today's world. And the things that make many neighborhoods unique are being erased bit by bit nationwide.

"You would think there would be some sort of government agency which would say, you know what? Instead of destroying the reason why people want to come to this neighborhood in the first place, why don't I help support the culture?"

Thank you Dave.
Thank you Steve.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Taxes and Hypocrisy

To the Editor:
Republicans think inflation is caused by Democrats. But a Coca Cola cost 5 cents when I was born and the price has risen steadily over all administrations.

Concerning taxes, Don Denley is outraged his are going up. He pines for the old days when Andover administrators kept taxes low by ignoring deteriorating roads, bridges, culverts and much more. It's easy to look good by putting off long-term operating and maintenance costs until the next year, or next decade. Our current administration is doing its best to play 'catch-up'. Denley complains "we get nothing," especially himself who lives in "the lake district." But every day when he gets into one of his cars

he is standing next to the newly surfaced road that the current administration paid for.

Denley complains he gets "no garbage pick-up." Yet in Andover, a transfer station sticker costs \$40 per year and every Wednesday and Saturday you can dump as much as you want, no limits. How many other towns in Connecticut or anywhere have such a deal? Don might acknowledge the multiple improvements at the transfer station, or the newly replaced road culverts he drives by. But until he gets his "senior center" or "senior discount," there's no mollifying him. It's all about him.

Hypocrisy is too tame a word to address Trumpian behaviors. Trump stole top-secret documents that can only be viewed in secure, approved government facilities, lied that he had given them back, and ignored repeated requests since June to return them – forcing the FBI to attempt to recover them. Do we hear "Lock him up!?" Nope; only "Defund the FBI!" while Fox News incites nutcases to get in their cars with their guns to settle the matter. Trumpians will start a new Civil War if they don't get their way.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Hebron's Democracy

To the Editor:
It would appear that .00657462196% of Hebron's elected officials have convinced .0828402367% of Hebron voters that the Horton property is the only site in Hebron for a new public works garage and new Hebron Center. If that is the case, it's important not to repeat the same mistakes made at Burnt Hill Park, where like the Horton Property, a working farm with stonewalls and fields dating back to the town's inception, were bulldozed and replaced with spaghetti-like roads that changed the natural drainage pattern.

If creating Hebron's own version of Disney World's Main Street USA is a foregone conclusion, hopefully State Historic Preservation Office mandates to further research and preserve historic stonewalls, lanes, shade trees will be followed and the site put on the National Register

As a local historian, I have a mixed reaction to replacing productive farmland with town

government buildings mimicking Colebrook Village. Horton Boulevard has failed to attract new businesses and reduce taxes. The Horton property represents a unique role in Hebron's past associated with the integration of disabled individuals and a unique example of how manumitted African-Americans blended in to Hebron's social structure as paid laborers – the total opposite of southern sharecropping and without Jim-Crow-legislation – an important chapter in Connecticut history.

Relocating Hebron Center is a precarious move. It was last attempted in the 1730s. The town split into parishes with Moses Hutchinson torching the Meetinghouse. This would still hasn't healed, it still matters if you come from Amston or Gilead. To open up this wound again leaving the Hebron's historic center behind, seems unwise aesthetically, historically, financially and politically, but .00657462196% have determined this is what Hebron's majority needs and are determined to make it happen. Once America's purest democracy, traditional New England town government no longer exists in Hebron.

John Baron – Hebron

Text Amendment Changes

To the Editor:
On Aug. 4, the P&Z Commission held a meeting regarding text amendment changes to zoning regulations, which included changes to corner lot zoning requirements.

The text change benefited corner lot property owners by lifting the burden of the second front yard setback requirement which was not required for interior lots, thus reducing the secondary street setback to be equal to interior lot zoning. Other text changes included clarifying definitions of existing regulations, and making changes to fencing requirements, accessory dwellings, and pet-grooming businesses.

As a member of the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals, it become apparent to me that numerous variance applications, such as fences or sheds on corner lots were coming before the board for property improvements. To meet the requirement to receive variance approval the

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is a beautiful state, and we need to keep it that way.

Some longtime *Riverast* residents may remember the name Stewart "Chip" Beckett. When longtime state senator Mary Ann Handley announced her retirement in 2010, Beckett, at that time a Republican, ran against Democrat Steve Cassano to take Handley's place in the Fourth Senatorial District – a district which at the time included Marlborough but now includes Andover instead.

Beckett narrowly lost that year, but he remained involved with politics in his hometown of Glastonbury. And now he's trying for state office again.

Beckett is no longer a Republican; he left the party in 2021, telling *The Hartford Courant* that he felt the GOP no longer represented American laws and values at the national level. He told the newspaper that while the party, at the federal level, had been "going in the wrong direction for a long time," the last straw was Republicans' refusal to accept that

Donald Trump had lost his 2020 re-election bid to Joe Biden.

So now, Beckett is a member of the Independent Party, and he's running for lieutenant governor, as the running mate of Rob Hotaling, who is running for governor.

The Independent Party will hold a nominating caucus for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of the state, attorney general, comptroller and treasurer next Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m., at the Guilford Community Center, 32 Church St., Guilford.

All Independent Party members are eligible to vote to select these constitutional officers.

Beckett said he and Hotaling "ask for your support to represent the middle of the political spectrum to make Connecticut a better place for everyone."

Anyone who has questions about the campaign or needs assistance getting to the caucus can contact Beckett, at Chip.Beckett@beckettvet.net.

See you next week.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

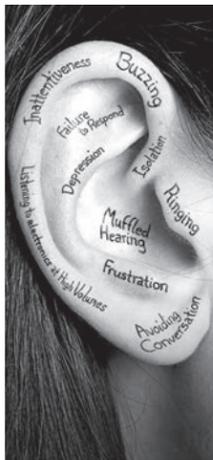
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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

applicant must prove a legal hardship with the land that would prevent the improvement of the lot to its zoned use. As numerous applications for variance requests came before the ZBA, the board's opinion was that the zoning requirements were too restrictive for corner lots.

It was apparent the regulations needed to be changed to be more in line with society's changing demands that would allow corner lot property owners more usable space and privacy in the rear yard without seeking a costly variance.

After two years of working on the text changes with members of the ZBA, P&Z Commission, former ZEO John Herring, and former Planner Mary Dickerson the changes were approved.

Thank you to all board and committee members who volunteer their time to move these text changes to approval, which will better serve the community.

**Rose Aletta – Portland
Chairwoman of Portland ZBA
and Candidate for State Representative**

Charlatans, Frauds, Scammers

To the Editor:
Charlatans, frauds, scammers. Sound familiar, Edmund? Democrats are still dealing with a hangover from a week-long political bender

after the FBI staged a panty raid at Mar-a-Lago (Oops! Did I say "raid"?). Apparently, President Trump was hiding schematics for a hypersonic nuclear warhead in Melania's underwear drawer. With such sensitive information hanging in the balance, why did the FBI wait 18 months to pursue justice? I think we all know...

Democrats are now giddy with self-validation. Democracy is alive and well, and the FBI finally got their man. This is the same FBI that handled the Larry Nassar case. The same FBI that allowed Whitey Bulger to bury bodies throughout Boston with impunity. The same FBI that absolved Hillary Clinton (where are those emails, dammit!). The same FBI that ignored warnings about the Parkland shooter. The same FBI that fabricated the Whitmer kidnapping hoax. And let's not forget Ray Epps, who was caught on video urging a crowd to "go into" the Capitol on Jan. 6. What happened to him? Nothing. And it is curious how Roger Stone, Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, and Peter Navarro all required some form of public display of handcuffs, shackles, and automatic weapons. Hmmm. What do you suppose the reason for that is?

Mar-a-Lago was nothing more than another unscrupulous attempt by Democrats to tighten their stranglehold on American democracy. They are desperate to stop Trump because they

know he will derail the gravy train on which their careers have been riding at taxpayer expense. The Biden Administration has been a domestic and foreign disaster, and the Toilet Paper Mafia knows that if Trump's administration was this bad, they'd want Trump electrocuted in front of a firing squad, sentenced to three consecutive life prison terms, and then impeached...in that order.

Charlatans, frauds, scammers.

**Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

Kinney Road Thanks You

To the Editor:

Many thanks to all those who wrote in letters last week to defend Kinney Road and take a stand against the proposed Public Works complex. I am grateful to all those that stopped me in the street to voice their support and concern over this dangerous and destructive plan. I am hopeful that the vast majority of Hebron's residents will join in the efforts to preserve our environment, agricultural heritage and historic spaces.

Over the last week I have been moved to encounter so many like-minded people as the effort to save this important landscape continues to spread. This includes Jonathan Kinney at the State Historic Preservation Office, whose letter to the town acknowledges that the property at 17 Kinney Road is a candidate to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B. The eligibility for this important designation is supported by the connection of this land to several distinguished people from

Hebron's illustrious history. Among them are the Hon. Sylvester Gilbert and his family, whose personal prestige and the success of his children with hearing loss gave Hebron a distinction for prosperity and inclusion during the mid-19th century. The property also includes a connection to the free Black community in Hebron, centered around the family of the emancipated Cesar Peters and his son Henry Peters.

This also includes Dr. Sarah Holmes, the archeologist who studied the property and acknowledged the importance of the stonewall laneways and two ancient white oak trees. One of these trees has a trunk diameter of 14 feet and 6 inches and the branches span over 100 feet across. This magnificent tree is certainly hundreds of years old and should be studied, protected and celebrated. For more information, maps and photos please visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and #Save17.

**Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston**

Measurable Progress

To the Editor:

Some good news, a couple of decades ago it would of taken two men to carry \$100 worth of groceries....now it can be done by my eight-year-old twins. That's what you call measurable progress!

Thankfully, because of the redefining of the word, we are not officially in a "recession." We are in the greatest economic recovery ever seen in the history of the US. Also, we can be thankful that inflation is at 0% for July. Just forget that it's up almost double digits for the year...

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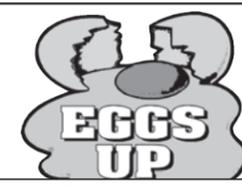
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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

let's focus on the positive: 0% guys!!! For a while there I was really beginning to worry about the economy but luckily we are building back better and diligently preparing ourselves for a great reset by inflating our currency and destroying the monetary system as we know it.

We have had our fair share of turmoil the past couple of years – the pandemic, the coordinated and fiery color revolution that swept across the country, watching our democracy almost die in a heinous insurrection, and the selection of the greatest president ever to live...but you got to have a little faith and believe that America's best days are ahead of us! To be honest, I think they are right...can you imagine how great it would be if we were all millionaires? It may cost you a couple grand to do a grocery run but if you want to play (not starve) you got to pay! Simple economics, folks!

The silver lining here is that 87,000 new IRS agents are going to be added to the force....so sleep well knowing that not only are all our tax returns going to be going way up in the future but maybe someone at the IRS will actually be able to pick up the phone next time you call.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Character Assassination

To the Editor:

Hebron Board of Selectmen Chairman Daniel Larson recently commented that a rise in anger and hostility from citizens who oppose a public works facility at 17 Kinney Rd. is motivated by personal gain. I suspect many Americans have become leery of an elected official who publicly airs this type of unfounded character assassination and personal grievance.

Kevin and Jean Tulimieri have been advocating to protect Kinney Road from future development. In their attempts to educate the public on the environmental impacts of this project, they have not demonstrated hostility or anger towards what has been described as a majestic, \$50 million, multi-phase construction project. In fact, they have remained consistently civil in presenting their argument and supporting their claims.

Andrea Lattanzi recently noted, "It is inappropriate for an elected official to publicly admonish the electorate who are sharing their knowledge and expressing their concerns in a respectful manner. As selectman, Mr. Larson should not be railing against the citizenry." Per-

haps we should also remind the chairman that in this country; it's not only permissible to question our elected leaders, it's our responsibility.

In view of Mr. Larson's recent remarks, and his previous comments defending Donald Trump's self-indulgent and unethical leadership, this type of public retribution, airing of grievances and heavy-handed governance from an elected official is as unseemly in Hebron, as it is in Washington. Davis Howell may have summed up the underlying issue best with his question "Why do you want to feature what is essentially a back-office function, in the middle of town?" To date, Mr. Larson's response has been that he believes constructing a "showcase public works facility that other towns will be envious of" in the middle of Hebron, is exactly what the town needs.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

What a Joke

To the Editor:

I recently read a letter to the editor in a Hartford newspaper that this Jan. 6 Committee is made up entirely of anti-Trump people! No independent-minded or pro-Trump people, just anti-Trump. The writer stated that cross-examination is not allowed. No witnesses with opposing views are allowed. Hearsay is allowed and promoted!

It is hard to believe that this would be allowed to happen in a democracy. Maybe we are no longer a democracy. Something like this could only happen in a socialist or communist country.

Kind of makes me wonder...

Frank Blume – Colchester

Wheels of Justice

To the Editor:

This is to sympathize with Ms. Moraga who wrote to complain about the "car cemetery" that she felt was polluting the air, soil and water in Marlborough. We have been protesting against the air, water and pest infestation produced by a small farm near us for the past two months. In spite of the fact that the ordinances for manure management were in our favor, the offending individual was able to find excuses and extensions that allowed him to take more than eight weeks to remove the nine-month collection of animal waste. He was able to delay compliance

until the due date for fines was only three days away.

The wheels of justice apparently move slowly; we spent our summer smelling the manure and enduring hordes of flies invading our property. I spent over \$90 on fly traps that were foul in smell but actually did trap the insects. Traps that were designed to last for a month were full in 3-4 days, but we were told by authorities that the flies could not be "proven to come from the neighbor's manure pile."

It takes a lot of patience to actually win a battle like this. Every town is afraid of "offending" someone. There apparently is always a lawyer available to defend the violating party. We see this in the news every day.

Good luck. I hope you can make a difference.
Sandra Marshall – East Hampton

Supports Rivers

To the Editor:

I am writing this in support of Chris Rivers for the state representative in the 48th District. I believe Chris' background and experiences will make him well prepared for this job. Chris is a combat veteran, a West Point graduate, an engineer and a former diplomat. His life experiences have given him the knowledge and people skills it will take to do this job as the 48th district's state representative!

Chris Rivers wants to hear your issues and concerns!

Let's keep the 48th District moving in the direction that works for all of us! In November, vote for Chris Rivers!!

Catherine Ryan – Colchester

Facts on Proposed Facility

To the Editor:

We are responding to the letter of 8/5/2022 by John Collins in regards to the DPW Facility.

He is correct that the Public Building Committee in their 9/12/2013 report to the Board of Selectmen asserted that maintaining part of the existing DPW facility on Old Colchester Road "has many advantages that lead us to recommend it...It would keep the fueling station and the salt storage at the current site while minimizing the environment impacts and regulations."

However, his comments fail to mention the full context of what our recommendation was. The other critical part that was omitted was that "the Offices, Maintenance and Equipment Garage could be then located adjacent to the current Parks and Rec Facility at Burnt Hill Park." This proposal was advanced in part because the original park development plan included space for the major operations of the DPW. In the following years, subsequent reviews by the Town's Consultants determined that the buildable land was inadequate to support any meaningful part of the DPW's operations.

Simultaneously, the attempts to procure adequate vacant land adjacent to the existing Old Colchester Road site failed to generate enough buildable acreage. There have been two profes-

sional evaluations of the existing facility, and they both have deemed it as not restorable. The only way that new construction can be undertaken in a safe and effective manner, while the existing DPW remains in operation, is that there needs to be adequate land to build on. There is not. This is what led the PBC and the town to pursue other locations for a main DPW facility, while planning on keeping the existing site as a recycling center, and fueling station, etc.

These are the reasons that those two plans were shelved. Not "because of demands for ever larger offices, training facilities, worker dormitories..."

Hebron Public Building Committee
Wayne Warwick, Chairman
Mal Leichter, David Foster, Richard Steiner

Bocce!! Huzzah!!

To the Editor:

Greetings all.... It was with joyous smiles that I read about the Colchester Bocce Club in the latest issue of *Rivereast*.

That was fun. I spent 25 years as a historical reenactor doing 18th century military impersonation, as the 6th CR. Over the years, dealing with the sometimes boredom in the camps, I hand turned a set of bocce balls in my shop, for camp use. I wanted something for the group to do in the after hours, after the public has gone home.

We would also play at our campsite, when we weren't at battle. We actually were able to have the public get involved in our bocce games, which was a terrific way to break the ice.

Now, truthfully, the balls I made were not perfectly round, nor was the Paline... I used a 4"x4" Pierce of hardwood timber, with checks and cracks, but do what, this was 18th century military camp game.

But truthfully it didn't matter, we were not playing on bocce courts, we were playing wherever we could, in camp. We christened it, country bocce – and to this day, it is still the only game I can play, with a drink in one hand, and the ball in the other. It is said, that George Washington had a bocce court at Mount Vernon.

I still have the set I hand turned, and while I have retired from reenacting, I still occasionally pull out the set and play on my country court. And it's still great fun...

Thanks for the fun and carry on, CBC...

Richard Swartwout – Andover

Hideous Legislation

To the Editor:

This new "climate" bill is one of the worst pieces of legislation we've ever seen. It's a complete boondoggle stuffed with pork designed to only benefit Democratic special interests. It will do nothing to improve the climate.

Other than the nonsensical virtue-signaling Democrats are expressing, not one of them bothers to tell us the specific benefits this idiotic bill will have on CO2 emissions or temperature – it will have zero effect. These scientific charlatans

See Letters, page 29



Better Dental HEALTH

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

TEACHING KIDS TO BE KIND TO THEIR TEETH

Most parents know to avoid giving their children drinks like soda because of their extremely high sugar content, but even sugar-free sodas contain enough acid to eat away at the enamel on their teeth and cause cavities. Replacing powdered and other artificial juices with 100 percent real fruit juice seems like a good idea, but even those have copious amounts of sugar and natural sugar is also bad for oral health. In most cases, the best drink you can give your child is simple tap water because it usually contains fluoride. Milk is also a tooth-healthy drink because it helps strengthen enamel. Black and green teas come in a wide variety of flavors and also fight bacteria in the mouth.

We believe you and your family deserve the highest quality dental services available today, and we are committed to providing just that. From sound advice on dietary habits to all-encompassing, high-tech dental care from a rigorously trained compassionate staff, you'll know you're in the right place the moment you walk through our doors. Office hours are by appointment; please give us a call. We can make financial arrangements for extensive treatment plans.

P.S. Getting children to switch to tooth-friendly beverages can be difficult, so weening them off the sugar with drinks like chocolate milk and flavored seltzers may help ease the process.

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UK Guitar ‘Phenom’ Coming to Carter Farm

By Jack Lakowsky

Glenn Holley, promoter for an upcoming rock show at the Farm at Carter Hill, said guitars are meant to be played, not left to gleam untouched in a display case.

Twenty-five years ago, Holley produced an album for guitarist Danny Gatton, an innovator people in the industry regard as an unknown great.

After producing the album, Holley bought Gatton’s iconic 1954 Gibson ES-295.

“I’m not a guitar player or collector,” Holley said. “But I had a special interest in that guitar. I wasn’t just gonna let it sit on a wall in a case.”

To keep his idol’s legend alive, Holley lends the Gibson to guitarists.

“It’s been played by a lot of different people over the years,” he said.

So legendary was Gatton and his instrument that one musician in particular is crossing the Atlantic the strum its strings and grip its neck.

“I’m bringing this fella over from the UK to play three gigs,” Holley said.

James Oliver from South Wales is slated to make his United States debut Sept. 2-4 in venues in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Known for his explosive picking technique, Oliver plays a high-energy mix of blues, rockabilly, rock-n-roll, and country with his own distinctive flair.

“James Oliver is one of the UK’s most revered and incredible next generation guitar masters,” remarked Giles Robson, a multi-award-winning blues harmonica icon from the UK.

These sentiments were echoed by John Leckie, the legendary producer for John Lennon, Pink Floyd and Sammy Hagar who called Oliver the “best guitarist in the UK”.

Oliver was named the 2020 “UK Emerging

Artists of the Year” at the UK Blues Awards.

Oliver’s coming all the way from Wales to Marlborough, performing high-energy rock, blues and rockabilly staples – such as Muddy Waters and Johnny Cash – on Sunday, Sept. 4, from 1-4 p.m., at the Farm at Carter Hill, located at 86 East Hampton Rd.

“To have such an accomplished player come over and play my Danny Gatton guitar, it’s just a thrill,” Holley said. “He paints with such a diverse palette.”

He said most guitarists stick to one genre, but Oliver is omnivorous, mastering several styles.

“He’s exceptional,” Holley said.

Holley said other players have said using a legend’s guitar, telling him the Gibson “had an aura, it oozed a vibe.”

“It’s a work of art and I want to share that work of art with as many people as possible,” he said, “it needs to be played to keep Danny Gatton’s name alive and out there.”

To collectors of prize guitars, Holley strongly suggested letting one or two out of their cases and into the hands of a respectful, appreciative player.

“Sadly, that’s a bit rare,” he said. “Some people have great pieces in their collection, locked up in a vault. They need to be shared. James feels the same.”

Holley said “in a perfect world” a professional promoter will discover Oliver and organize him a bigger tour.

“As a musician who has immersed Americana guitar styles deeply into my playing, I am beyond ecstatic to be performing in the states for the first time,” Oliver said in a release.

“A highlight, I am especially looking forward to playing Danny Gatton’s legendary Gibson on Sept. 4, which is Danny’s birthday. He is one of my all-time favorite guitarists and a big influ-



A local promoter is bringing an “exceptional” guitarist, James Oliver, across the Atlantic to play a high-energy performance. It will be part of Oliver’s U.S. debut.

ence on my playing.”

For tickets to Oliver’s Marlborough show, visit Eventbrite.com and search “James Oliver.”

For more information, call 860-558-8165 or email grholley01@yahoo.com.

Arts Center Concert

The Marlborough Arts Center’s next Summer Saturday Concert, on Aug. 20 at 2 p.m., will feature Flute Loops, a community-based adult flute choir that comprises all skill levels. The center is located at 231 N. Main St.

Directed by Erin Vivero, Flute Loops has grown from three members to 15, and has performed at Gillette Castle, as well as cities and towns all over the state of Connecticut and now in Marlborough. Members also come from all over the state. The concert will

consist of large ensemble pieces as well as small chamber pieces with music that will be familiar to the audience, as well as some new pieces.

The arts center is fully accessible and has on-site parking. Masks are recommended but up to the individual. Summer concerts are free and open to the public, but a \$10 donation is suggested. Summer heat dictates that concerts will be played inside the air-conditioned Charles W. Hall Art Gallery.

School Starts Aug. 31

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough will open on Wednesday, Aug. 31. School hours are: Grades K-6: 8:35 a.m.-3:05 p.m.; Morning Pre-K: 8:15-11 a.m. (M, T, Th, F); Afternoon Pre-K: 12:15-3 p.m. (M-F).

Registration of New Students: New residents with children entering the elementary school are asked to register them before the first day of school. The school office is open from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the summer. Families registering children for school (K-6) are required to provide proof of their child’s age, most recent physical, immunization record and proof of residency.

Transportation: Bus schedules will soon be posted on the school website, www.marblborough.k12.ct.us. The school arranges transportation to and from the child’s home address. If transportation will be different from the home address, please contact the school as early as possible so adjustments can be made before school starts. This includes children attending MECCA. Families must notify the school office in writing whenever a child will be picked up from school. The note must include the child’s full name, the teacher’s name, the full name

of the person picking up the child, and the full legal signature of the parent/guardian. Anyone picking up a child from school may be asked for a photo ID.

Health Assessments: All students entering the school for the first time (such as kindergartners or new students) must have the blue State of Connecticut Health Assessment Record on file with the school nurse before the start of school. Incoming kindergarten children must have all immunizations completed prior to the first day of school. Call the health room at 860-295-6225 with any questions or medical concerns.

School Supplies: Classroom supply lists are available on the school website.

School Cafeteria: Money for meals, snacks and bottled water may be sent to the Marlborough School Lunch Program (checks should be made to Marlborough School Lunch Program, with your child’s name and ID number on the envelope). Free or reduced-price meal application completion for Marlborough Elementary School (applications available at the school office or on the school’s website) provides Marlborough Public School information to determine eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches and other programs. (i.e., Season of Sharing in December, field trip assistance). Information provided will be kept strictly confidential. Families can also use MySchoolBucks.com, an online payment system that allows families to deposit funds via a credit card into student meal accounts. Through this online system, families are automatically notified by email when the meal account goes below \$20.00 to allow time to replenish the account before no funds remain.

For more information, call the school office at 860-295-6220.

Marlborough Day Returns Aug. 28

On Sunday, Aug. 28, the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Marlborough will present Marlborough Day from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

This family-focused festival was last held in 2018. Craig Robinson of It’s So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe and Committee Chair said, “We are so excited to have this event back in town. We have missed all coming together the past few years, and this is the perfect opportunity to come out and enjoy Blish Park.”

Chamber President Jessica Olander said the committee has been hard at work with Parks and Rec, scheduling activities, entertainment and gathering civic organizations to participate. “This event is free for all to attend, thanks to our

generous sponsors. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!”

Activities will include the popular Roaming Railroad, photo booth, live entertainment, dance demos and fife and drum performances. The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department will hold a demonstration by the lake, next to paddleboard and kayak activities. A prize walk for the little ones will be next to the Welcome Tent, and civic group and businesses will have booths throughout the park.

Also, there will be food trucks, including Blue Chip Creamery, Cook Strong LLC, Cousins Lobster and the New England Coffee Guy.

For more information or to sponsor or reserve a booth space, visit www.crvchamber.org/events.

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One Sinkhole Filled, But Two More Open

By Jack Lakowsky

In Tuesday's Board of Selectmen meeting acting town CEO and board chair Amy Traversa said while the Hodge Road sinkhole has been filled in time for school busses, South Road repair is delayed.

Because everyone's headaches want to stick around a while, two more sinkholes opened up, Traversa said. One on Ogden Lord Road and the other on Hickory Road.

Concrete has been poured on Hodge Road. It's not pretty, Traversa said, but it's passable. Paving will come soon, she said.

South Road is another story, with resources shortages causing a delay, and it's a more complex job.

"It may not be done by time school opens," said Traversa, estimating work will complete in mid-September. Marlborough Elementary School and RHAM have been notified, she said.

Traversa said a possible reason why these four sinkholes opened are the recent extremes in weather, with heavy rain and long drought.

"We're not alone in this," she said. "I wish I had a better explanation, but I don't."

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. In August, worship services are held upstairs in the air-conditioned Thienes Lounge. A separate area is set aside for children and activity bags are available. Child care for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

Aug. 21: Worship will be led by Senior Youth Director Scott Reid.

AA meets downstairs in the Great Hall

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.

All Ages Take & Make Kit: Available while supplies last, these kits are for anyone who would like to design their own travel mug. Use crayons, colored pencils, or paint (your choice but not provided in the kit) to color one of several paper inserts or design your own with a blank insert. Insert will need to be removed before washing the mug and mugs are hand wash only.

Dog Man and Friends Summer Camp Supa Packs: Kids are invited to stop by the library Monday, 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 Hunt: On Saturday, Aug. 20, families can pick up a list of items to search for in the marked container outside the library entrance, and then take a prize when they're done.

Babytime in the Sunshine: Wednesday, Aug. 24, at 10:30 a.m., outdoors, though inclement

Wednesdays with two meetings, noon-1 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call the church office at 860-295-9050.

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.

Nature Explorer Backpacks: Now available at the library. Each backpack is organized around a different outdoor theme (Beach Walk, Bird Watch, Bug Hunt, Discovering Trees, and Nature Trail) and contains a book, a set of binoculars, magnifying glass, compass, activity sheets, and a dry erase marker. The Bug Hunt and Nature Trail backpacks also contain a bug-catching kit.

STEM Explorers: Tuesdays in August, at 4 p.m., for ages 5-12. Registration is required; contact the library to do so.

Pop-Up Prize Parties: Everyone will walk away with a prize from these parties! The final one will be Monday, Aug. 22, from 2-4 p.m.

Man Arrested for Drug, Gun Possession

By Jack Lakowsky

Jonathan Rivera, 28, from Hartford, was arrested July 22 for allegations ranging from drug and gun possession to reckless driving and endangering a minor.

State police stopped Rivera on Route 2, alleging he was driving 100 miles per hour.

Police said Rivera was slow to pull over and saw him fumbling with things in the car before coming to a stop.

Rivera's Vermont license plate, police allege, did not belong to the vehicle, and that Rivera had a suspended driver's license, no

insurance and lapsed registration.

Police searched the vehicle, and allegedly found a pistol, multiple bags of drugs (type unspecified) and paraphernalia.

Rivera was charged with both sale and possession of a narcotic substance, carrying a pistol without a permit, sale/purchase of a large-capacity magazine, risk of injury to a child, reckless driving and money laundering.

He was released on a \$35,000 bond and has a court date in Manchester Superior Court for the Aug. 26.

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.

Police News

8/10: Dominik Marini, 19, of Naugatuck, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, disobeying the signal of an officer, failure to drive in proper lane, failure to obey stop sign, driving without a license, and failure to display lights, state police said.

8/15: Victor Cho, 30, of Norwich, was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear, police said.



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

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School Board Chair Stepping Down

By Jack Lakowsky

Board of Education Chair Sharon Peters has stepped down to pursue a new opportunity as a hearing officer with the state Department of Labor.

Peters has chaired the school board for about five years and has had a presence on town boards and commissions for 20 years. Her resignation was effective starting last week.

Until July, she ran her own law practice, closing up shop to focus on her new position.

"I'm excited," she told the *Rivereast*. "My brain is full of all kinds of new information. Administrative law isn't my practice, but I'm getting better."

Peters said she saw the opportunity and decided to take it, believing in the importance of looking for new challenges in your career.

The state labor department receives federal funding. Due to the Hatch Act, employees of the department can't serve in partisan elected positions.

She said of her accomplishments as a vol-

unteer and elected official, she's most proud of how the school board navigated the pandemic, with minimal closures and disruptions, addressing complaints and issues in a civil way.

"We were also open to have those hard talks," she said, saying whenever the board had debates or tough discussions, everything was done appropriately, that this speaks highly to Portland's character.

"We worked to the betterment of the town and the kids," she continued. "I'll miss the involvement with the board, I think they do a lot more than people realize. I'm definitely going to miss the presentations at our meetings different groups show us, I always like those."

One thing she won't miss: the late nights.

Previously, she served on the planning and zoning and economic development commissions, as well as the Board of Selectmen from 2005 to 2011, taking a few gap years before returning to the school board.

Peters, a Democrat, maintained her seat

through the 2021 local election, and Democrats kept their majority on the board through an election that locally, Republicans otherwise swept.

Over the past few years school boards across the state and nation have been under a dubious spotlight as tensions over divisive topics like masking and book bans.

To this Peters attributed national politics permeating everyday life "to an extent that it hasn't in the past."

Last week district superintendent Charles Britton wished Peters well, thanking her for her work and leadership.

Ryan Curley, Portland first selectman, said Peters "has served Portland admirably, both as a member of the Board of Education and as a

former member of the Board of Selectmen.

"Sharon's expertise will be greatly missed, but there are many accomplishments to be proud of doing her tenure," he said.

Susan Bransfield, former first selectwoman and longtime acquaintance of Peters, said Peters is a strong leader who advocated tirelessly for quality education in Portland.

"She has done an outstanding job as chairman of the Board of Education," Bransfield said, pointing to Peters' many positions.

"I think the world of Sharon and can't thank her enough for her dedication," said Bransfield.

Peters thanked the town for its support over the years.

"It's been an honor," she said. "I know the board will keep doing great work."

Soccer Club Fall Registration

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) is now accepting registrations for the fall 2022 club soccer season. Registrations will be accepted until Sept. 11, and those received after Aug. 21 will be charged an additional \$25 late fee.

PSC will only accept registrations online, at www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub.

Pre-K sessions will be \$60, and will play 8:45-9:30 a.m. Saturdays. Dribbler will be \$75, and will be 9:15-10:15 a.m. Saturdays. Kicker and Striker sessions will also be \$75, and will have games Saturdays from 10-11 a.m., with practice on Wednesdays. (Note: If there aren't enough Striker-aged players, they will be mixed in with Kicker.)

Full team uniforms for Dribbler, Kicker and Striker divisions, and shirts and balls for Pre-K, are included in the registration fees and will be

available for distribution prior to and during the first day of play. The club-recreational program will run Sept. 10-Oct. 29 (eight-week session). All games will take place at the Portland Recreational Complex.

U4 (born in 2019) will be in Pre-K Club Recreational; U5 (2018) and U6 (2017) will be in Dribbler Club Recreational; U7 (2016) and U8 (2015) will be in Kicker-Club Recreational; and U9 (2014) and U10 (2013) will be in Striker-Club Recreational.

For more information, contact PSC president Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com or 205-999-8842; vice president Chris Donahue at donahuecj@sbcglobal.net or 860-638-7400; or registrar Stephanie Bolstridge at stephaniebolstridge@gmail.com or 860-478-9693.

Who's Walking in Portland?

By Midge Malicki

Who's walking in Portland? Well, meet Dolores Jarzabek, Irene Salisbury and Mary Sienkiewicz.

Dolores, Irene and Mary, whose ages range from 81 to 92, have been lifelong walkers. Dolores and Mary grew up in Portland and said that, "As a kid, if you wanted to get anywhere you had to walk or ride a bike." Irene lived in East Hampton and would drive to Portland and walk along Main Street, where she enjoyed seeing historic buildings. She said that the sidewalks were not the best and not everyone shoveled after it snowed, which made walking dangerous.

Now they all live at The Atrium of Portland, where they walk every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. Dolores said that sometimes they do more talking than walking, so times vary between 30 minutes to an hour.

If the weather is nice, they walk outside, as they did during the pandemic to get fresh air. They are surrounded by beautiful landscaping, trees and seasonal decorations, so there is always something nice to see. They said there is no excuse on bad weather days because they have three floors on which to walk inside. Whether walking inside or out, everything is straight and flat so they do not have to worry about tripping.

"It's a happy walk," said Irene. "Everyone is friendly and likes to socialize. We admire decorations on all of the doors inside and

there is always something nice to say about every doorway."

The first floor is nice and cool in the summertime, so walking is enjoyable. It can get hot on the third floor, but the decorations on the doors are always so nice that they are motivated to walk up there too. They have a delightful ritual of knocking on the door at the end of each hallway, da, da, duh-duh-duh... da, da! If they don't knock, it doesn't count, so they always knock.

When asked if their exercise habits changed in recent years, they replied in unison, "Completely."

"If something doesn't work, we change to another thing we can handle." Mary said that she has been working to build up her stamina, and that her kids have noticed the change and worry less about her now.

Their advice to someone who is considering starting a walking routine or any exercise program is to, "Ask yourself how bad do you want to live, how bad do you want to be in good shape, be a good person, move your limbs and be happy with yourself? You just have to get out and do it. Get motivated to walk, get some exercise, begin to breathe better, feel better, and get to know people. We're young at heart and we can handle it."

So can you.

Malicki is a member of the Complete Streets Group in Portland.

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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.

PHS Class of '63 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1963 will hold its Reunion Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at Farrell's Tavern, 245 Marlborough St. Attendees will order off the menu; pay as you go.

If interested in attending, call or text Linda at 860-262-1398, Lenore at 860-550-2873, or email Bill at williamorganek@gmail.com as soon as possible.

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.

Hemlock Grange Tag Sale

Hemlock Grange will have a tag sale Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Grange Hall, 17 Sage Hollow Rd.

Individuals may join the tag sale and have a space in the parking lot for a \$10 fee. Individuals need to provide their own table. The Grange will also accept donations of most items, including small workable appliances. No furniture or clothes will be accepted.

For more information on the tag sale, call Betty Jane at 860-267-7512. Leave a message with your name and number, and your call will be returned.

KoC Soccer Challenge

The Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Soccer Challenge at the Portland Recreational Complex, 301 Gospel Lane, on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 9 a.m.

Girls and boys, ages 9 through 14, can participate and there is no charge to enter the competition. Sign up will be held onsite on the day of the event.

Scoring is based on 15 attempts from the penalty kick line at roped targets within the soccer goal.

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.

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.

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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.

Summer worship services are on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The worship service is live-streamed as well as available for later viewing on the church's YouTube channel: First Church of Portland CT.

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.

Local Artisan Showcase

On Sunday, Sept. 11, Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., will host a reception from 3-5 p.m., showcasing local artists.

All are invited to meet and chat with Portland artists of all levels and abilities from professional to hobbyist. Original paintings and drawings, as well as photography, ceramics, textiles, folk art, wood carvings, collages and jewelry, will be for sale.

There will be a silent auction of donated artwork from 30 participating artisans, a raffle by Zion's Grace Guild and a spinning wheel demonstration of fiber being turned into yarn. One of the featured tables at the showcase will highlight the TV series, *The Chosen*, a multi-season

series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. *The Chosen's* display table will have information about this "totally free show" that is available to download onto one's cell phone or computer, DVDs from the first and second seasons, and the artwork commissioned by the show's producers, entitled "You Are Mine."

Light refreshments, consisting of wine, cheese, and crackers, will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

Funds raised from the silent auction and raffle will be used towards the renovation of the church lounge. Call 860-342-2860 for more information.

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 Oct. 5 (started Aug. 17), 9:30-10:15 a.m., at Buck Foreman Community Center, or Saturdays through Oct. 1 (no class Aug. 20), 10:30-11:15 a.m., at Riverfront Park. Fee for each session is \$40, or \$7 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 Summer Concert Series: All are invited to stop by Riverfront Park Wednesday,

Aug. 23, at 6 p.m., for a concert featuring Juice Box. This will be the final concert of the year.

Sunset Yin Yoga: Wednesdays, Sept. 7-28, from 6-7 p.m., at the Riverfront Park stage. Fee is \$65 for the four-week session, or \$20 to drop in.

Children's Yoga: Wednesdays, Sept. 7-28, from 5-5:45 p.m., for ages 5-10. Fee: \$60 for the four-week session.

Saturday Morning Yoga: Saturdays, Sept. 10-Oct. 1, on the Riverfront Park stage. **Parent/Toddler Yoga** is 9-9:30 a.m., and **Yoga for Beginners** is 7:45-8:45 a.m. Fee for each four-week session is \$40, or \$15 to drop in. Contact instructor Cyndi Mazzotta for more information at anandayoga.20ct@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: There's still time to track your reading and win some prizes. Visit the library to pick up your registration kit, which includes your reading log, a scavenger hunt card, and your first summer reading badge. Each day you read 20 minutes or more counts towards your summer reading goal. Earn prizes and new badges each time you reach five days. There are other ways to earn badges besides reading. Learn some survival skills, go letterboxing, and take a picture of your favorite place to read in the summer.

Nature Hike: Saturday, Aug. 20, 10:30 a.m., for ages 6-8. All are invited to Portland Reservoir for a guided hike and learn about some of Portland's history and wildlife from rising high-school senior Annette LeShane. LeShane has been hiking at the Reservoir since her childhood. She is leading the hike as part of her high-school Capstone project. Registration is required and space is very limited.

School Supply Bingo: Wednesday, Aug. 24, 6:30 p.m., on the Town Green and win some school supplies. Registration is not required for this drop-in event.

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.

Historical Society Exhibit: The library's

125+2 celebration continues with Portland Historical Society's exhibit in two cases at the library. The exhibit brings back Portland's days as an important economic force in the late 1890s, the time of the library's birth. Also, many Portland residents and state and local dignitaries have sent in their comments in honor of Portland Library. Ask to view the comments on the "Library Love" video.

Multi-Generational Drumming Circle: Monday, 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.

President's Honors List

Theresa Rodriguez of Portland made the spring 2022 President's Honors List at the University of Hartford.



Tony Rome and The Excuses will play a concert to benefit the Portland Police Union on Sunday, Sept. 4, at Concentric Brewing.

Concert to Benefit Police Union

Local rocker Tony Rome will wrap up a successful 2022 Reckless Records tour of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut where it all began – with a concert in Portland.

Tony Rome and The Excuses will play a concert to benefit the Portland Police Union on

Sunday, Sept. 4, at 2 p.m., at Concentric Brewing, 91 Main St.

Rome said contributions to the police union can be sent to the Portland Police Department, 265 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 – attn: Sgt. Scott Cunningham.

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.; Crafting with Tracy, 10 a.m.

Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, call 860-342-0809; Watercolor Lessons, 9:30 a.m.-noon – to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; 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.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m. **Thursday:** 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: Kent Falls: Monday, Aug. 22. Bus leaves the senior center at 11 a.m. There is a \$5 transportation fee. If you need to be picked up at your home, it will be an additional \$5 fee. Bring your own picnic lunch. **Mystery Lunch:** Thursday, Aug. 25. Bus leaves the senior center at 11 a.m. There is a \$5 transportation fee, and a \$5 additional fee to be picked up at your home.

Trivia Night: Tuesday, Aug. 23, 6 p.m. Register with Lynn or Alexis at the senior center. There is a \$5 entrance fee.

Volunteers Sought 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 Thursday, 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.



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Health and Wellness Fair

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., will hold a Health and Wellness Fair Monday, Sept. 12, from 1-3 p.m. There will be free admission and parking.

Health practitioners and vendors include Juniper Home Care, Joanie on the Spot Massage, QMedic, Chatham Health District, Caption Call, Autumn Lake Rehab, Symmetry Physical Therapy, All Ears Hearing Services, Mark Lee & Associates, Middlesex Hospital – breast care awareness, Beacon Hospice, The Residence at Ferry Park, Visiting Angels, Ed Cleveland --

sound therapy, High Hopes – equine therapy, Dr. Micheal Vajda – acupuncture, Inner Balance – Reiki, October Kitchen -- fresh meals prepared and delivered daily.

There will also be a Fall Prevention Presentation by Yale student Julie Zeller, given promptly at 3 p.m., at the conclusion of the fair. There will also be raffles, refreshments, and Kasha Breau on harp.

To register or for more information, call Lynn or Alexis at the center, at 860-342-6761.

Second-Hand Prose Bookshop

The Friends of the Portland Library have an assortment of DVDs as well as fiction, romance, teen and children's used books in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc unless marked otherwise.

There are also mystery, general fiction, teen and children's books that have been removed from the library collection, all for the special

price of four books for \$1.

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

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

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

Golf Event Coming

Hops on the Hill, a farm brewery in Glastonbury, has announced a first-ever golf event, partnering with Chris Cote's Golf Shop of Portland.

"Hops on the Hill Closest to the Pin Golf Contest" will take place Sunday, Aug. 21, from 1-6 p.m., at the brewery, located at 275 Dug Rd., South Glastonbury. Prizes will be awarded to the top three golfers who hit their ball closest to the pin.

No pre-registration required; cost is \$5 per swing or \$20 for 5 swings. Chris Cote's Golf Shop will record, tally and inform each participant of their results.

Winners will receive gift cards to Chris

Cote's Golf Shop and Hops on the Hill Farm Brewery. First-place winner will receive a total of \$500 in gift cards, second-place winner will receive \$300 in gift cards, and third-place winner will receive \$150 in gift cards.

Hops on the Hill owner Al Gondek noted, "I would like to thank Chris Cote for partnering with us on this special golf event. We're really looking forward to having the contest, as many of our customers have asked for a golf event at the brewery."

For more information or to see other upcoming events, visit www.hopsonthehillbrewery.com.

Electric Car Show Sept. 24

The East Hampton and Portland Clean Energy Task Forces will hold the fourth annual Electric Car Show Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St. (Rain date is Sept. 25.)

The show is part of National Drive Electric Week. Electric, hybrid and alternative fuel cars will be showcased, from private owners and various dealerships.

Owners who want their cars to be on display at the show are asked to register before the event. Bikes, scooters and anything else pow-

ered by electricity are also welcome.

Registration is free; to do so, go to www.tinyurl.com/ehcarshow. Owners can also email the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force at ehcetf@gmail.com or call 860-748-5165 and request a registration form.

Groups, nonprofits, clubs and associations interested in using less fossil fuel for vehicles can request booth space at the show, by emailing ehcetf@gmail.com.

There will be food, ice cream and music as well.

Dean's List

Micky Ely of Portland made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of Maryland.

Class of '77 Reunion

The 1977 Portland class reunion is Friday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m., at Campagna Restaurant, 151 Marlborough St., Portland.

All Class of 1977 graduates from Portland High School, Mercy, Xavier and Vinal are invited. Cost is \$45 per person, and includes a buffet dinner and music. There will be a cash bar.

Email Colleen Kimball @kimball7984@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP. Venmo payment to Colleen Kimball @Colleen-Kimball-4.

Spirit of Portland Awards Ceremony

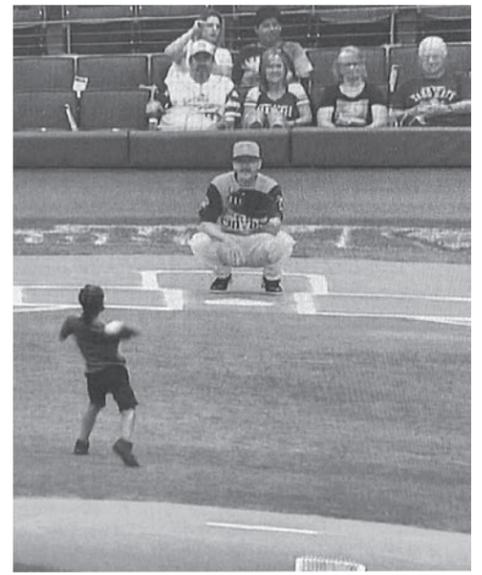
The Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland award is awarded each year to show gratitude for Paley's giving spirit to the Portland community.

On Thursday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m., the Waverly Senior Center will hold its Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Awards Ceremony at the center, 7 Waverly Ave. The public is invited to attend.

Seating is limited, so register no later than Aug. 25 with Lynn or Alexis by calling 860-342-6761.

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.



The Goats and the Dogs... On July 29 at Dunkin' Donuts Park the Hartford Yard Goats hosted the Portland Sea Dogs for the "Housing Night in America" baseball drive to support the CONN NAHRO Scholarship Program that annually provides three or more scholarships to graduating high school seniors and current college undergraduates who are residents of housing authority or Section 8-managed housing. The Portland Housing Authority invited and purchased its Chatham Court residents' tickets. Two young tenants got to pitch the first ball, Travis LaFountain (R), age 7, along with his sister, Savannah LaFountain (L), age 5.

Vocal Chords Looking for Singers

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) is looking for new members. New members in voice parts alto, tenors and basses are especially welcome.

No auditions are necessary; just a love of music, singing and a commitment to rehearse every Tuesday night. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required for all members.

Rehearsals start Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 6:45 p.m., at St. Francis Church, Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St. Middletown, in preparation the group's winter concert on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School.

New members will be accepted through

Sept. 13.

Proceeds from MHVC concerts are given back to the community in the form of scholarships bestowed upon high school seniors from Middlesex County who are pursuing a career in nursing or music. The Vocal Chords also sing at various community activities such as the annual Hospice Service and the Veterans Day Dinner at Portland High School.

For more information, visit www.vocalchords20.org, find the group on Facebook (search for Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords) or Instagram ([mhvocalchords](https://www.instagram.com/mhvocalchords)), or call Joyce at 860-342-3120 or Diane at 860-347-2787.

Portland Exchange 'Touch A Truck' Event

The Exchange Club of Portland will hold its annual "Touch A Truck" event Sunday, Aug. 28, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Portland Exchange Fairgrounds.

The Exchange will have trucks and vehicles of all types for children to come and sit in. The event will be horn-free from 11 a.m.-noon.

All proceeds from the event will benefit The 100 Club of Connecticut, a nonprofit that provides support for surviving spouse and children of fallen police officers, volunteer and paid fire-

fighters and corrections officers who have given their lives in the performance of their duties. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, and can be purchased at the gate. Hot dogs, ice cream and refreshments will be available for purchase. Parking is free.

If you have a vehicle of any type for the Touch A Truck event, call Jamie Leonard at 860-301-6998.

Be prepared, not scared.

Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

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Get Smart, Get Lake-Smart... Colleen Connelly (right), who lives on Wangonk Trail on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton, recently received the "Lake-Smart Award" from Cheryl Lobo, a member of the East Hampton Conservation and Lake Commission (C&LC). After having her home evaluated by the C&LC, Connelly worked to divert water from the roofs of her home and garage and driveway that went into the lake and might have contained phosphates, nitrates and other impurities. The evaluators showed Lobo how to create rain gardens, used stones to stop soil erosion, and planted grass on steep slopes. Residents who own properties on Lake Pocotopaug or in the watershed and would like to be evaluated should contact Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Department at 860-267-7300 or jhall@easthamptonct.gov, or Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Department at 860-267-7450 or jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov, or any members of the C&LC. *Photo by Marty Podskoch.*

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.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other Wednesday (next date Aug. 31), at 9:30 a.m. The group will meet outdoors, weather permitting; otherwise it will be indoors or via Zoom. Register online.

Wii Bowling: Thursdays, Sept. 1, 15 and 29, at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

Birthday Celebration: Tuesday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m. All June, July and August birthday babies will be celebrated. All are invited, even if it's not your birthday. There will be cake, drinks and gifts. Pre-registration requested.

Chair Yoga with Kitch: Wednesdays, Aug. 24-Oct. 26, 11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m. The class meets in the community room at Town Hall, as well as virtually via Zoom. Register online at MyActiveCenter.com. The 10-week session is \$20. Payment may be mailed or dropped off to the senior center, check payable to the Town of East Hampton. Note: The Aug. 24 yoga will be at Sears Park at 1 p.m., during the picnic.

East Hampton Speaks: Friday, Aug. 26, at 10:30 a.m. Discuss Belltown days gone by. Bring your memorabilia and memories. Pre-register.

Art w/Karen: Sunday, Aug. 28, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through the beginning steps of creating an acrylic painting. Cost is \$5 for supplies; pay Karen the day of the event. Pre-registration is necessary.

Corn Hole: Wednesdays, Sept. 7 and 21, at 10:30 a.m. Played inside or outside. Pre-registration requested.

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

Haddam Neck Fair Returns Sept. 2-5

The Haddam Neck Fair will be held Friday, Sept. 2 through Monday, Sept. 5, at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds, located at 26 Quarry Hill Rd. in Haddam Neck. (GPS users must use the East Hampton zip code 06424.) The annual fair offers a variety of attractions, exhibitions, contests and more. Here are some highlights:

Truck and Tractor Pulls: One of the fair's major attractions are the motorsport competitions, including truck pulls and tractor pulls. On Friday, Sept. 2, the truck pull starts at 7 p.m., and on Saturday, Sept. 3, the truck pull starts at 6 p.m. Mike and Mary Jean Wall of East Hampton are longtime chairs of the truck pull events at the fair; this is the 20th year they've been running the truck pull. The Friday night events include the following classes: Street Gas, 6500 lbs.; Street Enhanced, 6700 lbs.; Street Diesel, 8000 lbs.; Work Stock Diesel, 8500 lbs.; and Open Diesel, 9000 lbs. The Saturday night classes include Super Stock 4x4, TWD, Modified 4x4, 9000 Open Diesel, Big Block Modified Tractor and Super Farm Tractor.

Exhibits: Other highlights of the fair are the exhibits entered by children and adults in many departments. The following departments have entry times only on Thursday, Sept. 1, from 3-8 p.m.: Haddam Neck General Store, 4H and Educational Booth Exhibits, Arts and Hobbies, Baked Goods, Canned Goods, Fancy Work and Quilts, Flowers and Horticulture, Photography, Spinning and Fiber and Vegetables and Fruit. The entries for cattle, rabbits, goats and sheep are mail in only and the application can be found on the fair website or in the 2022 Haddam Neck Fair Book. All exhibits must be removed between 5 and 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5.

Contests and Games: Also, the weekend will feature a variety of contests for children as well as adults. The Skillet-Throwing Contest

(women only) is on Saturday at 10 a.m., and the beard competition takes place Saturday at 1 p.m. Also, people can enter their sunflower that they grew from seed. The

Multiple Birth Contest is on Sunday, as is the Red Neck Strongman Contest. The Baby Show will be held Monday, Sept. 5, at 2 p.m., at the bandstand, honoring the prettiest baby, the most charming baby, and the chubbiest baby, in three different age groups up to 18 months. As part of the Baby Show, a Haddam Neck Fair Heart-throb Trophy will be awarded to the baby girl and baby boy deemed best dressed for a country fair.

The Pedal Tractor Pull will be held Monday, Sept. 5, at noon. This is for younger tractor pullers, both boys and girls ages 4-7.

On Monday, Sept. 5, the Cornhole Tournament is back again, and new this year is the Last Man Standing Off-Road Cycle Race, which will follow a short off-road course that may include obstacles.

Also, every day there will games for children including watermelon-eating, bubblegum-blowing, hula-hooping, and egg toss.

For more information on the fair, including how to enter exhibits and how to register for the truck pulls, go to www.haddamneckfair.com.

RTC 'End of Summer' Gathering

The Republican Town Committee will host an "End of Summer" gathering at The Dublin, 42 E. High St., on Thursday, Aug. 25, at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the public.

Food and beverage will be the responsibility of the attendees.

EHVAA to Host EMT Class

The East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association will host an EMT class starting Sept. 6. Classes are Tuesdays from 6-10 p.m. and two Saturdays a month from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and will run until Dec. 20. The class is conducted by On Scene Training.

The training includes the textbook and an AHA CPR card. Email onscenetraining911@gmail.com to register. Financial help may be available by contacting info@ehems.org.

You do not have to be a town resident to take the class. Some previous members have gone on to medical school to become doctors, physician assistants and nurses, and have also become paramedics, career EMTs, policemen and firemen.

Class of '67 Reunion

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

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

EHHS Sports Boosters Night

All are invited to the East Hampton High School Sports Boosters Night at the Hartford Athletic game on Saturday, Aug. 20. Game time is 7 p.m. A portion of every ticket goes to the Boosters.

Purchase tickets at hartfordathletic.group/ehhsathletics.



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Goff House Concerts... The Joseph N. Goff House 2022 Concert Series concluded on Aug. 4 with a performance by local favorite Big Deal Rock. Organizers said the weather and attendance couldn't have been better for this year's shows, held six Thursday evenings in the East Hampton Village Center. Here are a few shots from the final show, with more available on the Joseph N. Goff House Museum blog at goffhousehct.blogspot.com.

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/ctdraftrescue.

Hall of Fame Nominations Open

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame Association (EHAHOFA) is accepting nominations for 2022.

If a nomination for 2020 or 2021 was submitted there is no need to do so again; the induction process has been on hold the past two years due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. EHAHOFA's intent is to hold an induction banquet Friday, Oct. 28, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Nominations will close Sept. 10. If you are interested in nominating an athlete, coach or contributor, email seidlt@sbcglobal.net to request a

nomination packet.

Association members continue to search for volunteers as well to serve on nomination and scholarship committees. There is not much commitment other than attending a couple of Zoom meetings, the association said. EHAHOFA is non-profit and seeks to recognize past athletic achievements in East Hampton as well as reward two high school seniors with scholarships annually. If interested in helping, contact Tom Seidl at seidlt@sbcglobal.net.

Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts is accepting tag sale donations the remaining two Saturdays in August from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. These will be the last three days that people can drop off donations for annual Tag Sale in September; they should not leave donations on any other days.

People are asked to donate gently used, clean items at 27 Skinner St. Items not accepted: recliners, couches, headboards, mattresses, bedframes, highchairs, cribs, car seats, computers, printers, keyboards, TVs, VCRs, exercise machines, textbooks, encyclopedias, and "old-style" phones.

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.

Garden Craft in the Park

The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton will meet in Sears Park at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 22, for a garden craft activity.

People will create their own mosaic pots for use either outdoors in a garden or as an indoor plant container. Materials will be supplied but people may wish to bring their own terracotta pot along with any embellishments that could added to the exterior, such as stones, beads or small tiles.

Members of the public and prospective members are always welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a \$5 charge for non-members who wish to participate.

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs. For more information, call Kathy at 860-575-0077 or Judy at 413-328-8059 prior to the meeting.

Electric Car Show Sept. 24

The East Hampton and Portland Clean Energy Task Forces will hold the fourth annual Electric Car Show Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St. (Rain date is Sept. 25.)

The show is part of National Drive Electric Week. Electric, hybrid and alternative fuel cars will be showcased, from private owners and various dealerships.

Owners who want their cars to be on display at the show are asked to register before the event. Bikes, scooters and anything else powered by electricity are also welcome.

Registration is free; to do so, go to www.tinyurl.com/ehcarshow. Owners can also email the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force at ehcetf@gmail.com or call 860-748-5165 and request a registration form.

Groups, nonprofits, clubs and associations interested in using less fossil fuel for vehicles can request booth space at the show, by emailing ehcetf@gmail.com.

There will be food, ice cream and music as well.

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-Nelson Mandela

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EHVFD Fireworks Saturday

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department is presenting its annual end-of-summer Fireworks Display on the grounds of East Hampton High School Saturday, Aug. 20; rain date is Sunday, Aug. 21. This year's show is dedicated to all military veterans.

The "gates" to the high school will open at 6 p.m. and all event activities (such as food and ice cream vendors and the live band) will take place behind the high school building. The pyrotechnics will launch from an area in the far northwest corner of the high school property, beginning promptly at 9 p.m., and residents are encouraged to plan their arrival accordingly. (Note that the venue is school property and no alcohol, pets or personal fireworks are allowed.)

Traffic flow for entry and egress will be monitored and controlled by the East Hampton Police Department, the Colchester Fire Police and EHVFD firefighters. Street parking will not be permitted on North Maple Street between Route 66 and Beechcrest Drive, the entire length of Hills Avenue and the upper portion of Sherry Drive. Signs will be posted accordingly.

There is ample space for spectator parking on the high school grounds and there will be a sizable area reserved for appropriately identified vehicles eligible for handicapped parking access. Once a vehicle enters the high school property, however, that vehicle and its occupants must stay until the conclusion of the show. Residents wishing to drop off spectators should not enter the school property; a

drop-off area will be established at the northwest corner of the North Maple / Hills Avenue intersection. The same area will be used for pick-up after the show.

Normal traffic flow in both directions on all local streets will be maintained for the duration of the show, with the exception that North Maple Street will be closed to northbound traffic at 8:00pm from Route 66 to Hills Avenue. After that, late-comers will be directed to use North Main Street to Hills Avenue to reach the high school.

At the show's conclusion, vehicles will be directed to utilize two exits, depending on their parking location. Approximately half the vehicles will be directed southbound on North Maple Street (using both lanes to exit) to Route 66; the remainder will exit eastbound on Hills Avenue (single lane) to North Main. The traffic light at the intersection of Route 66 and North Maple Street will be manually controlled to facilitate egress from the show site.

Vehicles arriving to pick up passengers after the show should approach the high school area via North Main Street to Hills Avenue, turn right onto Fairlawn, left onto Beechcrest, left onto North Maple and stage on North Maple at the pick-up location. Again, signs will be posted to guide motorists to the drop-off/pick-up area.

In the event of inclement weather requiring a schedule change, a notice will be posted on the EHVFD's Facebook page.



Light Up the Lake... On Saturday, Aug. 6, the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug held its first "Light Up the Lake" event. More than 30 boats participated along with homeowners and beach associations to Light Up the Lake. Pictured is one of the creative boats.

Live Acoustic Music Concert Fundraiser

All are invited to Hootenanny for the Horses at Autumn Ridge, the CT Draft Horse Rescue (113 Chestnut Hill Rd.) on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 6-9 p.m.

People can learn about the rescue, meet the horses, take a tour of the farm, and enjoy an evening of live acoustic music while helping the herd and supporting local musicians. The musicians are acoustic singers/songwriters and play their own material as well as covers from Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon, The Low Anthem, and more. Have a picnic and bring your

family, friends, lawn chairs and blankets.

There are farm tours from 6-7 p.m., and live music from 7-9 p.m. Performers are Karen Stein, Terri LaChance, Sweet Polly and Kevin Day.

Tickets are \$25 per person (free for kids 10 and under) and must be purchased online (tinyurl.com/mty94ury). No dogs allowed on the property.

For more information – read before purchasing your ticket – visit www.ctdraftrescue.org/hootenannyforhorses.

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.

STEM Project Bags: Tuesday, Sept. 6. Explore science, technology, engineering, and math with take-home bags full of guided hands-on activities. First come, first-served, while supplies last. No registration required.

Church Accepting 'Bits and Pieces' Donations

Haddam Neck Congregational Church Ladies Aid is accepting donations of fabric, yarn and sewing notions for an upcoming "Bits and Pieces" sale in October. For drop-off and pick-up information, call Darcy at 860-301-4994.

STEMtastic: Roller Coaster: Monday, Sept. 12, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 1-5, in the library community room, Registration required; begins Aug. 22. Learn science and math skills through hands-on building activities. This week, build your own roller coaster and learn about how they work.

Teen Programs: Teen Trivia – Warrior Cats: Monday, Aug. 22, 2 p.m., for grades 6-12. Fandom-related prizes will be awarded to the winner of each event.

Preteen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Aug. 23, 5:30 p.m., for students in grades 6-8. Provide your input to expand our YA/Teen collection and help plan programs.

Teen Friday: Friday, Aug. 26, 3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. There will be crafts, games, snacks and more.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons: Wednesday, Sept. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience required. The library will provide basic, fifth edition, level four characters, all supplies and snacks.

Adult Programs: Cookbook Club – Time to Tailgate: Tuesday, Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m. Bring game-day favorites and 12 copies of the recipe to share. The library will provide plates and utensils. Bring your own chair and head for the upper parking lot. Cookbook Club will meet indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate.

Focus on Fitness: Tuesday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m. Talk about your fitness successes and struggles with guidance from certified personal trainer and nutrition coach Amie Meacham and other guest speakers. People can also engage in a monthly challenge, with prizes.

Book Club: Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. Anita Shreve's *The Stars Are Fire* will be discussed.

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. All players

welcome.

Featured Artist: Thomas McLean will present "My Back Pages," an art show inspired by light and music, through Sept. 9.

Painting with an Artist: Saturday, Aug. 20, 3 p.m., with artist Bill McDonald on the lawn. Bring your paints and brushes and paint next to McDonald or bring your wine or beverage and watch he do a watercolor demonstration.

Bridge: Are you interested in playing bridge? A group is forming and looking for players. Contact the library for more information.

Philippine Disaster Relief Fundraiser

Anchor Lodge is holding its Philippine Disaster Relief Fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 20, from 3-7 p.m., at VFW Post 5095 located at 20 North Maple St.

The event will feature authentic Philippine cuisine, along with information about its culture and the need for assistance to help communities there recover from a devastating typhoon and tornado. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$30 each and will be available at the VFW Post 5095. Contact Richard F. Denno to reserve your seats at toursone@comcast.net or 860-508-3787 by 11 a.m. Saturday.

Police News

8/10: Luis Clausell, 42, of 11 Starr Pl., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order, East Hampton Police said.

8/11: Todd Bower, 33, of 230 Old West High St., was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order.

Also, from July 26-Aug. 14, officers responded to 29 medical calls, seven motor vehicle accidents and 20 alarms, and made 87 traffic stops, police said.

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.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Zoom availability is also available for this service. Coffee hour follows worship.

For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-267-0287 or Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472. Current information regarding parish activities can be found by visiting www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com.

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.

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The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department gratefully acknowledges the consideration and support provided by the East Hampton Police Department, the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, East Hampton Dept. of Public Works, East Hampton Park & Rec Department, East Hampton High School, Haddam Neck Fire Department, Colchester Fire Police, Marlborough Fire & EMS, Stop & Shop of East Hampton, and the outstanding members of the East Hampton Lions Club!!! Special thanks to the hundreds of individual donors whose "Fill-The-Boot" contributions continue to make this event successful!!!

Cover Story • Cover Story

★ **More Armed Guards cont. from page 1**
 one that must be addressed if all other school operations are to go on normally.
 Most parents supported the measure. Brian Wilcox described himself as an “educator in a nearby district” that has armed security, and has for 12 years.
 Wilcox described armed guards as “overwhelmingly beneficial,” a good deterrent and way to have students interact positively with law enforcement.
 He said the officer at his school has stopped issues that, without her intervention, would’ve been “major threats.”
 Wilcox also called for more mental health resources and ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) for staff.
 Board members each gave their take.
 Martha Wick said she works with students with severe emotional issues, and about these students she worries.
 She said authority figures tend to target kids with mental issues, that she wouldn’t want an armed guard to intervene if they’re having an

episode.
 “Let’s identify these kids early and get them the help they need,” she said.
 Wick added that an armed guard could create a false sense of security. She said the district likely won’t be arming guards with military-grade equipment, such as the kind used in several recent mass shootings.
 “Uvalde didn’t make me feel any better about this,” said Wick, alluding to the heavily-criticized police response to the May elementary school shooting in Texas, which killed 19 children and two adults.
 Sal Nucifora said armed guards are an insurance policy, though his support was qualified. He said he doesn’t want schools to feel like prisons and expects periodic reporting about the new school security guards, their activity, if any.
 Nucifora said he doesn’t want guns pulled “for kids smoking in the bathroom or getting into a fight.”

Nucifora also said he hopes the program can be, in time, removed.
 Board member Mike Buck staunchly supported the measure. At one point, Buck tried to have a member of the public with law enforcement experience address the board directly. This was against board procedure and after Barber said it was improper, chair Tammara-Dzagan stopped it.
 Buck, a state police officer, then went on to say opposition to armed guards stems from ignorance, denial and a lack of understanding on the issue, saying he “takes ownership” of his not speaking up before, that he sometimes finds himself angry at opponents of guards.
 He said armed officers are why the Uvalde shooter killed 19 children and not more.
 Buck balked at the suggestion of metal detectors, saying it will kids feel criminalized.
 In the previous public hearing on school guards in late July, Smith said they’d likely start in fall of 2023.



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Andover • Andover

New Principal Ready to Start

By Michael Sinkewicz

As the new school year approaches and familiar faces line the halls, one newcomer is especially looking forward to getting started.

Taylor Parker is taking over as the new principal at Andover Elementary School and as the calendar rapidly approaches fall, she is putting the final touches on her design for the school year.

On Aug. 31, Parker, and administrators across the state, will have to navigate a unique education climate, including the lingering pandemic and the effects it has on the learning process.

Formerly an assistant principal in Vernon, Parker is eager to get started in her new role in Andover – although she technically began earlier this summer, by settling in with the town.

“It’s been very exciting getting to know the staff and community,” she said.

Parker emphasized that through some events during the summer, she was able to meet families and students – a valuable opportunity for a new principal.

She described the welcoming reception she received since arriving. It’s of course positive to get off to a good start, which the Andover parents helped with.

“The parents are very passionate about education,” Parker said. “It really is like a family here.”

The elementary school serves around 200

students from pre-K through sixth grade. While it’s not a huge school, Parker said she believes the passion for learning there is high.

“We’re small, but thriving,” she said. “You walk in and feel the excitement.”

One of the main issues principals are tasked with facing is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While the number of people testing positive is trending down in Connecticut, according to the U.S Department of Health and Human services, that doesn’t mean school districts are moving on completely.

Parker stated that the elementary school would be 100% in-person learning this year, but stressed that student safety is always at the forefront.

She hopes that this back-to-school trip for students and staff will feel more routine.

“I’m excited about returning to some normalcy,” she said, adding, “Making sure kids are in school is our priority.”

Recovering from the pandemic is also a challenge for schools, too.

While there may be a return to pre-pandemic methods, there’s some catching up to do with students.

Parker expressed that the pandemic affected learning, and that some students may have fallen behind.

“There’s a focus on accelerating learning,” she said, asserting that the school is ready to address that need.

There’s also plans to bring teachers up to speed, and ensure that they’re also ready for the new school year.

“We’re planning professional development for teachers,” Parker said.

Parker highlighted a few events planned for the school year, but indicated that more will be added as the year begins.

For now, she’s eyeing a back-to-school event on Sept. 22, which will welcome students’ families to the into the elementary school.

The event allows parents to see the classrooms and interact with the staff. There’s also a dinner provided to everyone in attendance. Parker is looking forward to the magic show, which will be part of the event, too.

“It’s an exciting way to start the year,” she said.

Parker believes events like this generate enthusiasm in the school and for her, it gives her another opportunity to get to know her students while also highlighting the features of the school.

She said it was a chance to “bring the school to life.”

There will be a similar event held in the spring, as well. Parker is also looking forward to holding school concerts, including a holiday one in the winter.

Parker has been at the elementary school, planning and organizing everything for the upcoming year.

As of now, she’s ready to get started and believes the school is ready to begin.

“We’re in really good shape,” Parker said.

Andover Pumpkin Patch

Starting next month, Andover Food Pantry will sponsor its first-ever “Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser” behind the pantry, in the historical field at 359 Route 6 in Andover.

This will run from the end of September throughout the entire month of October.

Featured for sale will be pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks, bales of hay, apples, cider, jellies and jams, and more. Take a photo with your family in the photo-op area. Different events

will take place throughout October.

All are asked to consider donating their no-longer-needed wagon or special outdoor fall decoration to the pantry for this fundraiser. People can drop it off behind the Andover Congregational Church where the food drop-off boxes are. A tax donation letter will be given to you upon request.

For more information, call Food Pantry Director Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

Summer Reading Challenge in Final Days

Andover Public Library’s Summer Reading Challenge for 2022 is called “Get the Scoop!” – and it’s in its final days.

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 inter-library loan, audiobooks, and ebooks checked out via Libby or the Palace Project count as well.)

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.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School is provided. The service also streams live on the church’s Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The Foodshare Van comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Aug. 31. The senior food pan-

try is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Aug. 24.

Prayer Requests: All are invited to email the church any prayer requests they have.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

Sonshine Stampers: All are invited to join this group, which meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. to make greeting cards.

Route 6 Prayer Stop: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. All are invited to stop by to receive free, drive-thru prayer.

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. A new events calendar will be posted for September and October.

Shopping Dates: To Willimantic Tuesdays, Aug. 16 and 30, and to Manchester Tuesday, Aug. 23. Masks are available on all vehicles.

Luncheons: The next luncheon is Friday, Aug. 26, and will feature entertainment by Taire Kahana. 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 available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

Annual Steak Dinner

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department’s annual steak dinner will be Saturday, Sept. 24, from 5-7 p.m., at the firehouse on School Road. This meal includes sirloin steak, baked potato, salad, fresh-baked bread, beverages and dessert. Eat-in or takeout.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$8 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased from any member on Wednesday evenings at the firehouse, or by calling Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074 or Chief Ron Mike at 860-335-0264. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Live Concert

There will be a live concert with the band Sonic Theory Saturday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m., at the Town Hall Gazebo, 17 School Rd.

This is a free event sponsored by the Andover Recreation Commission.

Farmers Market Sept. 7

The next Andover Farmers Market will be Wednesday, Sept. 7, from 4-7 p.m., outdoors at First Congregational Church, 359 Route 6. There will be several farmers, bakers, a food truck and music.

The next market after this one will be Wednesday, Oct. 5, with the final market on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Nov. 5 market will include crafters.

History Museum Open Monthly

The Andover Historical Society will next open its Museum of Andover History on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 4-6 p.m. The museum is located in the Old Town Hall on Monument Lane.

Additional openings are planned for Saturdays, Oct. 15 and Nov. 19, from 4-6 p.m. each day.

New items are continuously being added to the display.

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Bisbikos Limits Department Communications

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos sent a directive to town department heads constraining them from communicating with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee while he was out of town.

Bisbikos sent the email to department heads on Aug. 6, warning them not to discuss ARPA business with any committee members while he is absent; Bisbikos told the Riverast he was leaving the country for vacation Aug. 9 and returning Aug. 23.

Bisbikos' message to department heads was the culmination of a series of emails sent earlier that day.

Dave Koji, the chairman of the ARPA Committee, sent an email to the rest of committee outlining the ARPA goals and plans moving forward in the next two months – including reaching out to department heads for their thoughts or additional ideas.

In response, Koji received an email from Bisbikos stating that the plan was “an overreach of your position as a volunteer on the ARPA Committee” and that “department heads report to me, not you.”

“Any questions or concerns that the ARPA board may have regarding department heads is welcome correspondence in my inbox,” Bisbikos wrote. “If you are interested in setting a schedule to discuss projects with department heads, I can establish one.”

Bisbikos concluded his email by expressing that he would be notifying department heads about his concern.

“Because of your proposed email, I am going to instruct all department heads to not participate in ARPA meetings in my absence,” he wrote.

Following this exchange, Bisbikos sent a mass-email to all department heads, explaining

that the ARPA chairman intended to reach out to them in the near future, which was “circumventing established process.”

“In my absence, there is to be no correspondence, meetings, or conversations regarding ARPA dollars/projects with the ARPA Committee or any of its members,” Bisbikos wrote.

He stated that Koji was “demonstrating a gross overreach with his intentions” and that ARPA must be “handled carefully with discretion.”

Bisbikos concluded his email by expressing that he did not want to return home to any “ARPA surprises.”

On Aug. 8, Koji continued with his original plan and sent an email out to department heads. He told the Riverast that he does not expect to get many responses following the first selectman's email.

Koji expressed his frustration with the email exchanges, explaining that he was trying to do the “right thing” by reaching out to department heads. His objective is to still make progress with the ARPA Committee, but this development will “delay things further” with the town's municipal project initiatives.

“I'm just trying to get this done,” Koji said. “I find fulfillment and joy helping the town. I shouldn't be going through this as a volunteer.”

Meanwhile, Koji is continuing with his work – the ARPA committee met again on Monday – but his relationship with Bisbikos will be at the forefront when he returns later this month.

The ARPA Committee is an advisory committee that makes recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for final approval. Koji said he hopes that moving forward, he will be able to work with Bisbikos.

“I'm going to focus on the task at hand; I expect him to do the same,” Koji said, adding, “If

he wants to be the bottleneck, it's just going to waste time.”

Koji was also concerned with the tone of Bisbikos' email and the intent behind it.

“I think it comes down to control,” he said. “(Bisbikos) is not willing to offer empowerment to those trying to move the town forward.”

Bisbikos explained to the Riverast why he sent the email to the department heads and criticized the actions Koji took.

“As first selectman, it is my responsibility to be present and involved throughout the entire ARPA process. I find it disingenuous that Dave Koji would like to have these discussions without me there, specifically knowing that I am out of the country visiting family and loved ones,” he said. “

Bisbikos indicated that he was concerned with Koji's activity on social media, as well.

“Since my absence, Mr. Koji has taken to social media a conversation which I feel shakes the community's confidence in our ARPA Committee,” he added. “I cannot trust that he wouldn't exploit our department heads for his own social media purposes.”

The ARPA Committee has drawn significant

attention from the town in the past. The committee is working on its third stage, having already approved business and non-profit grant applications.

Bisbikos expressed that his level of confidence in Koji running the committee is uncertain.

“Dave has been working on ARPA since the committee's inception and there have been several missteps we have had to course correct,” he said. “ARPA funds are a significant asset to the town in which the Board of Selectmen are ultimately responsible for.”

Bisbikos did express that he appreciates the committee's dedication, but that “careful oversight” is necessary.

“It would not be good practice to hold meetings in my absence, especially with such a level of responsibility,” he said.

He also pushed back on Koji's claim that ARPA business will be delayed due to this directive.

“I am committed to achieving all ARPA objectives and continuing to move the town forward,” he said.

Free Ice Cream and History Event

All are invited to join the Colchester Historical Society Wednesday, Aug. 24, at 6 p.m., at the Colchester Burying Ground on Main Street, near Colchester Federated Church.

Kevin Tulimieri and Gary Walter will give a presentation on the history of this sacred ground and some new information that has emerged. Find out about the men who lived in the 1700-1800s and were the artisans who carved and embellished the burying ground's gravestones.

Free ice cream will be served.

Tulimieri grew up in New England with a background in historical research and genealogy and has long had a fascination with Col-

chester's history and relics. He has published many articles, including pieces in *The Magazine Antiques*, *The New England Antiques Journal*, and *Antiques and Fine Art*. He has been working with Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques since 1999.

Walter is the collections chairman of the Colchester Historical Society and is the author of an illustrated history of Colchester entitled *Images of America: Colchester*. The book is a history of the town with 200 documented and vintage images of Colchester's past and is available for \$20 at the Colchester Historical Museum.

Festival on the Green Craft Show

The 31st annual Festival on the Green Craft Show is now a one-day event Saturday, Sept. 24. Admission is free for the craft show, which is held on the picturesque town green.

More than 50 craft vendors are expected for the Craft Show, sponsored by the Colchester Lions Club, which continues to work closely with the Colchester Historical Society, the group that founded the event.

Exhibitors are expected to include a variety of arts and crafts, including woodworking,

painting, photography, pottery, stained glass and more.

A limited number of booths (10' by 10') are still available, at \$75 for a single space, or \$135 for a double space. All products must be personally crafted; no imports or mass-produced items are allowed.

For more information, call the event hotline at 860-222-0796 or email ColchesterLions-CraftFair@gmail.com.

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

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

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 sev-

en 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.

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Fall Market Vendor Fair
Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., will host its annual Fall Market Vendor Fair Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring crafters, vendors, food trucks and more.
If interested in being a vendor at the fair, email Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

JJIS Meet-and-Greet
Jack Jackter Intermediate School will hold a Meet-and-Greet on Monday, Aug. 29, from 3-4 p.m., for all incoming and returning third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students.
This is an opportunity for students to meet their teachers and see their rooms. To support current safety protocols, JJIS will divide the community into three groups. Enter through the main building entrance (double doors in the front) and exit through the double doors leading to the large staff/bus parking lot.

Stroller Walk
The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) will host a Stroller Walk on the Air Line Trail Thursday, Aug. 25, at 9:30 a.m.
The walks are free and all are welcome. Meet at the dirt parking area at Route 149/Westchester Road.
For more information and to register, go to ColchesterC3.org.

AARP to Meet
Colchester AARP 4019 invites all people ages 50 and up to its next meeting, taking place Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 2 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave.
There will be an update on the new senior center by Tony Tarnowsky, the chairman of the building committee. There will be a short business meeting at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

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REB-22

Bacon Academy's Soccer Star Shooting to WPI

By Josh Howard

Following an all-state senior season, Bacon Academy's 2022 graduate Aidan McLaughlin will continue to play soccer at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts.

McLaughlin, who will major in mechanical engineering, said that competing athletically at the next level was a bonus, and that he chose his next destination on academics first.

"My junior year, my mom and I sat down and looked at what colleges have good engineering programs and good architectural programs," recalled McLaughlin. "WPI was on the top of that list."

For as long as he can remember, McLaughlin has either been engineering something or had a soccer ball at his feet.

The two hobbies have consumed him for a better portion of his early life and McLaughlin said that when he wasn't practicing or playing soccer, he was spending his free time figuring out how things work or drawing sketches.

It was during his junior year that he figured out that he'd potentially be able to do both at the next level, saying that playing soccer for four more years at a place like WPI was a "dream come true."

Bacon Academy boys' soccer head coach Skip Starks called McLaughlin a "coach's dream" who was a great leader and praised his team captain for being the ultimate scholar-athlete.

After missing his freshman season in high

school due to a broken leg, McLaughlin returned from his rehab to post a trio of productive seasons.

During his three years as a starter, he shined as a defender yet his coach said he would have thrived anywhere on the field.

"He was a top defender in the state but he could have played any position," Starks said of his versatile star. "His on-the-field IQ set him apart. Not to mention his speed, foot skills, his demeanor, and he had the perfect attitude."

McLaughlin's senior season at Bacon set the stage for an easy transition to WPI.

The Bobcats won 11 regular season games and then a pair of tournament contests, including a memorable victory over Weston, winning on penalty kicks, in the second round of the Class M tourney.

"I liked how we all came together and stuck it out," recalled McLaughlin, who said the resiliency the team showed in the game was a reflection of the entire season.

Along with making all-state, McLaughlin made first-team All-Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) and was an ECC Sportsmanship Award winner. He was also honored as a Connecticut Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete, was selected to the Senior Bowl, and was one of 54 players nationwide that were named by the US Soccer Coaches Association as All-Americans.

"It was amazing," McLaughlin said of his senior year.

McLaughlin's older brother, Liam McLaughlin, was an all-state soccer player at Bacon Academy in 2015 and 2016 before graduating in 2017 and playing collegiately at King's College in New York.

After seeing his older brother's success, the younger McLaughlin made it a goal of his to follow in his all-state footsteps while at Bacon.

At WPI, he'll join a team led by Brian Kelly, who is entering his 10th season as the team's head coach and 14th year overall with the program. Kelly has won nearly 70% of his games since taking over as the head coach, along with guiding the Engineers to a share of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) regular season title in 2019 as the program won their first NCAA tournament game in 43 years.

"He went to the school for all the right reasons. He's a top student and that is one of the top engineering schools in the country," added Starks, who is entering his sixth season with the Bobcats. "He's going to make somebody proud and do something special. He's just one of those kids."

McLaughlin, who was born and raised in Colchester, said leaving behind his home base will be tough, but he added that the freedom to focus his energy on his passions is appealing.

"The things that I really like in my life are



Aidan McLaughlin will study mechanical engineering and play soccer at the prestigious Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

the things I'm going to be doing," he added. "I'm looking forward to representing a school at a high level."

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Upcoming Programs: Avoiding Fad Diets: Wednesday, Aug. 24, 11:30 a.m. There are always new diets promising the new thin you. TVCCA's registered dietician will discuss some of the pitfalls of following "fad diets" as well as some tips for safe weight loss. Pre-register for this free session.

Senior Golf League Season's End: Tuesday, Aug. 30, 11:30 a.m. The Co-Ed Senior

Police News

8/11: Salvatore Mangiali, 66, of East Hadam, was arrested and charged with failure to respond to infraction, state police said.

Church Auction Saturday

Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., will host an auction Saturday, Aug. 20, at 10 a.m.

The auction preview is at 9 a.m. and features furniture, holiday decor, housewares and more.

There will also be a baked goods table with fresh vegetables and plants.

Musicians

Sought for CCO

The Colchester Choir & Orchestra (CCO) is looking for new members. Seats are open in all sections – both choir and orchestra.

CCO will perform two concerts in the 2022-23 season. Sponsored by Colchester Parks & Recreation, the group plays a wide variety of music, from pops to classical. The group rehearses weekly at Bacon Academy, and looks forward to welcoming new members looking for a social orchestra and choir with a passion for music.

Choir rehearses Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m., and orchestra rehearses Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m.

To register, go to colchesterctrec.recdesk.com and look for "CCO 22-23" under registration.

For more information, visit www.colchester-choirorchestra.org.

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

Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m.

Golf League is finishing up its 16-week season, and it's time to celebrate. Members of the league will be meeting at the Chanticlair under the pavilion behind the clubhouse after their last session of golf. The lunch will consist of your choice of grinder, macaroni salad, potato chips, Arnold Palmer iced tea or water, and a dessert. Rain date is Sept. 6. RSVP at or by calling the senior center.

Ultimate Bingo: Wednesday, Aug. 31, 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$10/person, which includes two cards. Refreshments will be served. Pre-register in person, with payment by Aug. 26 or until sold out. Space is limited.

Ahavath Achim News

Aggregation 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, Aggadatah 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.

Celebrate Colchester

All are invited to Parks and Recreation's new community event Celebrate Colchester, being held Saturday, Sept. 17, from 1-5 p.m., on the Town Green. There will be community games and activities.

Also, all Colchester businesses and organizations are invited to set up a booth to share more information about their business/organization. There is no fee to set up a booth; people are asked to donate one item or basket to be used in the silent drawing. The funds raised by the silent drawing will be used to continue offering community events such as the summer concerts. Parks and Rec. will sell

tickets for the silent drawings and winners will be picked at the end of the event. Donations are due in the Parks and Rec. office at Town Hall by Sept. 5.

Booths may not have access to electricity, and the participating business/organization will have to provide any booth requirements (such as tent, table, chairs, etc.).

Parks and Rec. asks that there be no campaigning, and nothing that can be viewed as inappropriate or controversial at a family-friendly event.

Register to participate online at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also

broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 westchestercongregationalchurch.org for login information.

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

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Finance Board Faces Budget Hurdles

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance is close to finalizing a new town budget proposal, but faces new hurdles in approving the bottom-line number.

During its Aug. 10 meeting, the finance board was scheduled to build upon their previous meetings and potentially approve a budget that would then go to the Board of Selectmen. The finance board will now aim to finalize a number during its Aug. 17 meeting.

During a previous meeting earlier this month, the board largely agreed to substantial cuts after diving into each department's finances – cuts that would take the town nearly \$70,000 below current year spending.

However, during their latest meeting, the finance board was faced with a potential increase in commodity spending – including items such as salt and fuel – that could cost the town thousands of dollars more than originally projected and affect their new budget outline.

"Our proposal will take that into consideration," said Andrea Migliaccio, chairman of the finance board and a Republican, during the meeting.

Mike Hayes, a Democrat on the board, expressed that this development should've been caught earlier so the board could factor it into their proposal.

"I'm concerned we're just finding out about this now," Hayes said. "Somebody dropped the ball on this."

The finance board also faced pushback on potentially cutting a proposed senior services bus driver – a new initiative in the budget costing the town over \$18,000.

Numerous citizens spoke during the meeting urging the board to keep the initiative in the budget proposal.

Dean's List

Davin Roy of Colchester made the spring 2022 Dean's List at the University of New Haven. He completed his sophomore year majoring in exercise science.

Also, this past football season, Roy and his team made it to the second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

This week, Migliaccio told the Rivereast that the commodities issue should not cancel the work the board previously accomplished during previous meetings, and that the issue is not as serious as the board may have initially believed.

"Our board was in full consensus on reductions on Aug. 4 and recent interruptions in the process should not negate the work we did to reach that place," she said.

Migliaccio said that recent trends have potentially lowered the projected costs of commodities, "flattening that concern." She said the finance department manages that specific area and is "equipped" to handle it.

She also defended her stance during the meeting that the bus driver initiative should be cut from the budget.

"When Patty Watts [the senior center director] was asked by the First Selectman for a reduction due to the failed budget, she line-itemed reducing the bus driver and nothing else," she said. "Patty has priority spending and can get the driver, within the Senior Center's \$323k expenditures."

Migliaccio also said the senior center could potentially use inheritance money left to them and other town departments.

"The [Board of Finance] will be looking at the bus driver need and respond accordingly when the appropriate data is collected after the budget closes," Migliaccio said, expressing that

it will be a priority in the future. "I don't expect it to stay in the budget as Patty had recommended the reduction and the [Board of Finance] accepted it 6-0 on Aug. 4."

During the most recent meeting, the finance board discussed cutting another new initiative – "transparency software," as First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos referred to it as in his budget proposal. It would cost over \$13,000.

Hayes expressed that if the bus driver was going to be cut, then the software should also be cut, as well.

Tim Vaillancourt, a Republican on the board, stated that this was the appropriate way to proceed, expressing that "we're asking everybody to make sacrifices."

The board looked at a combination of factors that could ultimately reduce the mill rate.

Besides the proposed cuts, the board looked at increasing revenue estimates and also using

unassigned fund balance to cover the budget costs.

Art Shilosky, a Republican on the board, suggested that during their next meeting, the board should review budget proposals that keep both initiatives – the bus driver and software – and one that removes them, in order to see how the mill rate would be impacted.

He also cautioned the board on using too much money from the fund balance account, saying that he did not believe it was "the right way to go."

Migliaccio expressed that the total amount used would not be a large sum and that it wouldn't have negative effects.

Mike Egan, a Democrat on the board, expressed that "we can't get everything we want" in the budget. He asserted that regardless of the final direction they take, the board "should be united on whatever we propose."



Gov. Ned Lamont recently paid a visit to S&S Worldwide, the art and school supply company located in Colchester. Pictured with Lamont are, from left, S&S co-presidents Adam Schwartz and Hy Schwartz, and S&S chairman Stephen Schwartz.

Lamont Pays Visit to S&S

Gov. Ned Lamont recently paid a visit to S&S Worldwide, the art and school supply company located in Colchester.

The governor toured the 116-year-old company, which employs around 275 workers.

"S&S has always been a family-owned company and more than 75 associates are part of families that work at the company," said Hy Schwartz, who is co-CEO of the company with his brother, Adam Schwartz.

The governor was joined by the leadership of Connecticut Innovations, a state supported source of business capital. Connecticut Innovations recently engaged with S&S as the school supply company recharges itself after the dual

challenges of COVID-19 and supply chain disruptions.

The same day of the governor's visit, the company happened to be celebrating its family connections by having an ice cream truck serve up cool treats to employees during the hot afternoon.

"It's just one of many special events we hold throughout the year," said Adam Schwartz. "We take pride in giving back to our employees and also the community where we work."

"The governor was happy to meet and talk with S&S associates about the company's turnaround and said it was a great story," Hy Schwartz said.

Boy Scout Car Wash

Boy Scout Troop 72 will hold a car wash Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St.

The goal of the fundraiser is to help Scouts earn the funds needed to maintain camping equipment and attend various multi-day trips.

In addition to the car wash, the Scouts will accept recyclable cans and bottles.

Donations are also appreciated. They can be made out to Troop 72 BSA and sent to the troop at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.



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Cragin Book Club to Meet

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, Aug. 29, at 6 p.m., outdoors at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave.; bring a chair. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be inside at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

The Missing Treasures of Amy Ashton by Eleanor Ray will be discussed. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk.

For weather-related updates, visit tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub. For more information, call 860-537-5752.

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Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip this summer? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo to bulletin@glcitizen.com.



Hitting the Beach... The *Rivereast* got some beach time recently at Coast Guard Beach in Truro, Mass., when Colchester residents Rachel Kosa and Brian and Alex Courtemanche visited Cape Cod.



Catching Some Waves... Landon Johnson, 6, and Harper Johnson, 8, both of Colchester, recently hit the beach in Corolla, N.C. – and brought the *Rivereast* with them!



Awesome Waterlife... Alana and Barbara Armfield of Marlborough visited the Atlanta aquarium while vacationing in Georgia – and they brought along the *Rivereast*!



Off to Vermont... Bob and Margaret Charney of East Haddam, with their dog Tynan, recently visited family in Wilmington, Vt., for a “Fun Day.” They’re shown here with the Mount Snow ski area in the background.

Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?
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Obituaries

Portland

William A. Mierzejewski

William A. Mierzejewski, 86, of Portland, beloved husband of 57 years to Noreen (Connelly) Mierzejewski, died Saturday, Aug. 13, at Middlesex Hospital.



Bill was born in Middletown son of the late William J. Mierzejewski and Phyllis (Hull) Bryan, along with stepmother Alegra. Prior to his retirement, Bill was employed as a book binder for Mueller Trade Bindery for 28 years. He was a dedicated volunteer at the Portland Food Bank, Meals-on-Wheels, the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Ward, and was a Communicant of Saint Mary Church in Portland.

Bill also leaves a daughter, Catherine Williams and husband Ken of Delaware; two sons, Mark Mierzejewski and wife Jenny of Berlin, William P. Mierzejewski and partner Maricel of California; two grandchildren, Hope Williams and Luke Mierzejewski; two sisters, Jeanne Bolstridge of Middletown, Janice Mierzejewski of Middletown; and many nieces and nephews.

A lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox and New York Giants, in his glory days he excelled in football and basketball at Middletown High School. In his spare time, he was an avid reader, and enjoyed softball, golf and bowling.

A funeral liturgy will be held today, Friday, Aug. 19, at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be held in Saint John's Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to: Portland Food Bank, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

Maris Bowers

Maris (Mary Isabelle) Bowers, 89, of Portland, passed away Friday, Aug. 12, at Hartford Hospital. Maris was born Jan. 18, 1933, to Alvin T. and Kathryn (Fitzsimmons) Bowers at Fort Mills, Corregidor Island, Philippines. She was predeceased in death by her father and mother.

Maris graduated from Marymount School in Tarrytown, N.Y., in 1950. She professed her final vows with the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in 1955. Maris graduated from Marymount College in 1954, and received her master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson in 1972.

Maris taught French and English at Marymount Academy and schools in New Jersey until instructing in Hamden ESL Program from 1974 until 1994. She traveled extensively and spent most summers studying language in Europe. After retirement, she became a fixture in the office at St. Mary Church in Portland and attended Mass regularly at St. Mary and St. Patrick in East Hampton. She loved her Westie Terriers, referring to them as her "kids". Maris was not one to hide her political views and was a lifetime member of the NRA.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 17, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance As-

soc. Jim Morris Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

East Hampton

Kathleen Cannon

Kathleen "Kaye" (Myers) Cannon, 95, of East Hampton, beloved wife of the late John "Jack" Cannon, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at Aaron Manor in Chester. Born March 4, 1927, in Detroit, Mich., she was the daughter of the late Jack "Otto" Walter and Eleanor (Watson) Myers.



Kaye grew up in Portsmouth, N.H., and was one of 10 children, survived by her sister Ruth Keene and her husband Bob of Portsmouth, N.H.

Kaye built, lived in and loved her home bordering the Meshomasic State Forest since 1958. She enjoyed many activities including gardening, playing bingo with her sister Alice, grandchildren and daughters, genealogy with her sisters Ruth, Helen and husband Jack and playing the slot machines with her friends, daughters and sister Helen. She enjoyed her family very much whether at her campsite at Indian Field in Salem, yearly family camping adventures, trips to Lake Ossipee, N.H., and Arundel, Maine, for annual family reunions, or taking her children 'down the hill' to Lake Pocotopaug to fish, swim or ice skate, she was a very active woman who enjoyed the outdoors. Kaye was also former member of the East Hampton 3rd Connecticut Regiment Fife and Drum Corps, where she was a fife and loved the Musters, Parades and parties during the 1976 era.

Besides her sister Ruth, she is survived by her daughters, Susan Bouton and husband Thomas of New York, Jillian Cannon of Ashford, Heidi Cannon of Groton and son William Cannon of East Hampton; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; one of the three is on the way.

She was predeceased by her eight siblings. A funeral service will be held Monday, Aug. 22, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in the family plot in Lake View Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home on Monday from 9:30 a.m. until the service at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

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

Portland

Gloria Duszak

Gloria (Kelley) Duszak, 74, of Southview Street, Cromwell, wife of Stanley Duszak for 51 years, passed away Friday, Aug. 12, in Middletown. Born Jan. 29, 1948, in Bennington, Vt., she was the daughter of the late William and Grace (Snow) Kelley.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her stepmother, Genevieve Kelley of Vermont; two daughters, Heather Estelle of Virginia Beach, Va., and Cariann Caron of Bristol; two brothers, Robert Augeri of Connecticut and William Kelley Jr. of Vermont, and also two sisters: Patricia (Kelley) Marechal and Linda (Kelley) Weidl of Florida.

She is also survived by five grandchildren, Breanna and Katelynn Estelle of Virginia Beach, Va., Nicholas Duszak of Connecticut, Samantha and Emilee Caron of Bristol. She was predeceased by her son, Marty Duszak, and

parents William and Grace Kelley.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Aug. 17, in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Oakdale

Douglas Everette Neal

Douglas Everette Neal, 71, of Oakdale, was received into the glory of his Lord Jesus Christ on Saturday evening, Aug. 13. He was beyond adored by his wife, Lynne. They were married on May 28, 1978 and they treasured every moment of a union made in heaven.



A graduate of Fitch Senior High School, class of 1968, Doug served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army from 1969-71. He received his BA degree in environmental biology from UConn in 1974 and subsequently worked in radiation control at Electric Boat, Bartlett and Connecticut Yankee, until its final shutdown. During his retirement, he enjoyed restoring life and beauty to old houses.

The greatest joy of Doug's life was his relationship with Jesus Christ. His faith was a tremendous example to his family whom he fervently loved and generously provided for. He received his salvation from Christ in 1992 and was a dedicated deacon of his church. Doug had a great love for the brethren and zeal for the lost. He was a faithful witness to men and a devoted servant of Christ.

Those who mourn his passing and survive him include his loving wife, Lynne; children, Kathleen Byrne, James Neal and Stacey Velez (Julio); grandchildren, Naomi Hauta (Devin), Samantha Velez, Israel Velez, Nathan Neal, and Cloe Byrne. He is further survived by his brother, Clifford K. Neal of Mystic.

A graveside service will be celebrated in the Salem Green Cemetery, 260 Hartford Rd., Salem, today, Friday, Aug. 19, at 10 a.m. A celebration of Doug's life will continue after his interment at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 900 Route 163 in Oakdale.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Doug's name may be made to, Cornerstone Baptist Church.

To share a memory or express a condolence to his family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Hannelore M. Koziol

Hannelore M. Koziol, known by many as "Lori", passed away on Sunday, Aug. 14, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was 79 years young.



Lori was born in Augsburg, Germany, on Jan. 9, 1943, to the late Johann Gruber and Klara Haunz, during a tumultuous time in a war-torn country. Lori's family survived, endured, and thrived while embracing their rich Bavarian culture, growing up just miles away from Neuschwanstein Castle. She participated in the musical arts of opera and theater during her childhood in Germany.

She made her way to the United States in her early 20s. She met Mitchel Koziol, a shop teacher, while working as a guidance secretary for the Tahanto High School. Following their marriage, they moved to Colchester and together they raised four children in Colchester.

Lori was very passionate about offering her-

self to her community. She was a Girl Scout leader and worked as a registrar for the Boy Scouts of America. Upon her early retirement due to health reasons, she continued to donate her time to the Boy Scouts. She was selfless in her commitment to various activities for Crop Walk, soup kitchen and many more ministries through the Colchester Federated Church. People easily recognized for her warm and welcoming greetings.

Lori was an energetic and meticulous homemaker. Her table was perfectly set, her food was always delicious and her attention to detail was unparalleled. She welcomed anyone to her table to share a homecooked meal. She was an avid knitter and crocheter. Lori took pride in her first-place ribbons for her knitted baby sweaters at the local fairs. Her favorite item to create were crocheted angels, which she made and would give to people who came into her life.

Lori loved music, especially Andre Rieu, Andrea Bocelli, and Sarah Brightman. She was also passionate in her love of Lady Bugs.

Hannelore will be sorely missed by her beloved husband, Mitchell Koziol; her children, Mitch (Kelly) Koziol, Marysia Koziol, Andrew Roy, and Christopher Roy; her grandchildren, in descending order, Madelyn Koziol, Jeffery Chabotte, Lily Koziol, Arwen Chabotte, and Jackson Koziol; and her brother Hans Gruber, residing of Germany.

Visitation will be held Sunday, Aug. 21, from noon-3 p.m., at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., in Colchester. Friends are invited to gather Monday morning once again at Aurora McCarthy from 9-10:30 a.m., before procession to the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester, for a funeral service at 11 a.m.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Jessie Marie Kisner

Jessie Marie Kisner of Hebron, widow of the late Edward Albert Kisner, passed away at age 94 Wednesday, Aug. 3, at Complete Care of Harrington Court in Colchester, where she had been residing for the past three years. Born April 2, 1928, in Providence, R.I., she was a daughter of the late Alfred and Jessie Sarnmark.



Jessie wore many different hats during her lifetime, each with style and grace. In her earlier years, while raising her four boys, she volunteered numerous hours, as secretary/treasurer of the Hebron youth football league, den mother for scouting, active parent in the 4H Hoofbeats Club and a member of the Hebron PTA. She retired several years ago after a career as an office administrator for Jack James Construction in Columbia and Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. Later in life, she sat on the committee of the Commission on Aging and participated in many of the senior trips and activities.

Jessie's happiest times were spent enjoying life with her family. Always ready to join in the fun with a great sense of humor and vitality for life. She was always happiest when she was with her boys and later in life with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jessie was a people person and enjoyed many activities, including dancing, setback tournaments and the walking club. Never one to sit on sidelines, and observe, she always played the game to her fullest. Some of our fondest memories are trips to Rhode Island, singing at cook-outs, dancing with her great-grandchildren, stories as a young girl and about life in the Kisner household. She was always able to find humor in difficult situations and focus on the positive side of life.

Jessie was a role model for her family and provided us with the foundation for living life to its fullest.

A special thank you to Ashley, manager of Stonecroft Housing, who provided friendship to Jessie for many years, and to Jennifer and Shala of Harrington Court for their kind and compassionate care.

Jessie leaves two sons, Mark and his wife Lynn of Coventry, David and his wife Donna of East Hartford; five grandchildren, Michael, Thomas, Sophie, Brian and Tyler; six great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her siblings and her beloved sons Paul and Stephen.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the ASPCA.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

are strictly focused on reducing CO2 emissions which have absolutely no measurable impact on temperature. We are just slightly above the long-term geological minimums for CO2 atmospheric concentrations which are normally at least more than double our current levels.

We need more CO2, not less. CO2 not only serves to fertilize the plants that all human and animal life on the planet depends upon, it also makes those plants more drought-resistant requiring less water. The last several decades of increasing CO2 volumes have produced a significant greening of the planet demonstrated by satellite imagery.

Alarmists love to falsely claim that the heat-trapping effects of CO2 have been long-proved. Svante Arrhenius is credited with formulating the theory that increasing CO2 atmospheric volumes will increase temperatures. (Interestingly, Greta Thunberg is his descendent.) But his so-called evidence was severely flawed. He tested the effects of increasing CO2 in a closed environment that prevented convection, but the open-spaced atmosphere utilizes convection to transport and disperse heat energy and allows its release into space in order to maintain energy balance.

This hideous legislation is going to impoverish Americans while doing nothing beneficial other than enriching the profiteering scammers preying on citizens by exploiting the climate lie. Promoting inefficient, expensive and excessively-polluting wind/solar foolishness over reliable and cheap carbon-based fuels is a fatal conceit.

Sam Prentice – Andover

Public Works Project

To the Editor:

Good day. As more questions are raised, more positive answers come in. Another state agency was questioned concerning ground and drinking water and, after review, cleared the project and gave the “green light.” The site has access to the required utilities for this kind of development. The project is both needed and is well past time to “get off the ground.” Please keep tuned in as more on this project and its merits are explored.

**Thank you,
Daniel Larson – Hebron**

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

The Raid

To the Editor:

Poor picked-on Donald Trump is now being abused by the FBI. Trump took boxes of things, including documents that are legally part of the official record of his presidency. He returned some months ago but has been reluctant to cooperate further. Now the FBI has apparently provided enough evidence to a judge to convince him to issue a search warrant.

I would like to remind the Trumpistas that the current head of the FBI was appointed by Donald Trump. In Trump world, apparently anyone who isn't wearing a MAGA hat is part of some vast conspiracy to thwart his efforts to save America. As Trump would tweet: Sad Sad Sad.

Dan Hatch – Colchester

Lowering Medical Costs

To the Editor:

When Wes Skorski's wife was diagnosed with cancer several years ago, the overwhelming cost of health care and prescription medicines really hit home. He was parenting two children, running a small business, and trying to manage the expensive cancer treatments for his wife.

After his wife lost her battle, he suddenly became an only parent. He was left to struggle with that loss, raise two adolescent children and pay off the medical debt the family had incurred.

Now Wes is running as the Democratic candidate for the 55th legislative district to ensure others do not have to experience this type of financial burden. He wants to ensure that health care and prescription medications will be affordable for families in Connecticut.

As this election cycle unfolds, the cost of health care premiums and prescription drugs is threatening to rise faster than inflation and health insurers have asked for double-digit insurance increases in 2023. These are terrifying increases for families who will be forced to decide between their medicine and putting food on the table and gas in the car.

Wes Skorski cares deeply about lowering these costs. He understands the daily struggles

and wants to help make sure families can afford all the essentials they need to stay healthy.

Another important aspect of health care is a woman's right to choose. Whether it's a right to have an abortion, the use of contraceptives, or invitro fertilization, Wes will always support women's reproductive rights. Wes understands that healthcare and women's reproductive rights have no business being part of divisive partisan politics.

Wes Skorski and the other Democrats representing voters in the 55th district have their backs. The 55th Legislative district represents Andover, part of Bolton, part of Glastonbury as well as Hebron, and Marlborough. On Nov. 8, WinWithWes.

Charlotte Nelson – Andover

Raid on Mar-a-Lago

To the Editor:

The raid on President Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Florida was unconscionable!! This was a blatant attempt to discredit and silence a political foe. The Biden Administration is using the Department of Justice and the FBI in a very shady way to strong arm the leader of the Republican Party. This is accepted behavior in communist countries but until now unheard of in our “free” society in the United States. This invasion was approved by Attorney General Merrick Garland – one of the many stooges appointed by Joe Biden; thankfully not put on the Supreme Court – and carried out by FBI Director Christopher Wray.

Never in our history has the residence of a president been subject to such treatment – to go “fishing” for probable cause of an alleged crime. Can you imagine if the Trump Administration had carried such a raid on Hillary Clinton or Hunter Biden? The left would be calling for a third Trump impeachment!!

Now I'm sure that Mr. Science Edmund – who would like to censor me and anyone who contradicts his socialist agenda and to silence the free speech of those with opposing views – was jumping for joy when the news broke the story.

“When war comes let them go” Edmund Smith admonishing me for calling out his warmongering hopes and predictions of another Civil War. Then we have “Beto” Sauyet who wants to confiscate guns from law-abiding citizens. Sauyet being the jaded mindless creature that he is professes that the right to bear arms means “if my government has tanks i must be able to keep one in my garage.” That is a delusional and demented statement. No guns – except for the bad guys and the armed security personnel for the elite left-wing politicians.

Two men with very troubling and dangerous viewpoints.

Don Denley – Andover

Lemmings in Party of Trump

To the Editor:

The POT, a cult of true believers, will follow the Donald off the cliff into the muddied waters of a sordid history. This party votes in lockstep against legislation, which affects the welfare of everyday citizens. Recent legislation has passed without one Republican vote. If you are against governing, but only for obstructing the majority party, you should be voted out and replaced by one who will govern.

POT members now want to defund the FBI, investigate the Justice Department and continue the big lie regarding election fraud. We need no more lies of Benghazi, Benghazi, Benghazi!

These fascist true believers are ready to ruin our country and must be charged with fomenting its overthrow.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Buck Must Resign

To the Editor:

On Monday, Aug. 15, the EH BOE held its third meeting to determine whether to move forward with expanding armed guards into the middle and elementary schools. It's a complex subject, with no easy solutions. Everyone who spoke on Monday did so with respect, with one exception.

BOE member Michael Buck (R) used his time to condemn the “audacity” of those who disagree with his views. Buck said we are “in denial” and that “the human brain is an amazing thing, and it blocks realities that are difficult to accept.”

“I'm a huge believer in self-ownership,” he said, and “the thoughts and opinions that some of the board members and citizens have made, I find myself getting frustrated and maybe even angry. But it's innocent ignorance, it's just a

lack of understanding and I'm taking ownership of that.”

Principles of responsibility and accepting difficult realities would have been useful on the day in 2019 when then-State Trooper Buck made a meme of a detainee's photo and the words “You Raped Me.” Buck said (*Hartford Courant*, April 29, 2019) the meme was a joke, “our jokes are often in poor taste, as is common in the profession,” and simply meant as a “decompression joke” for his co-workers.

Buck now sits on the BOE, and claims to know better than anyone else who should be hired as role-models and protectors in our schools. Buck's actions are his own, not reflecting all police officers, but his actions and lack of judgment give me pause.

No one is in denial, Mr. Buck. Reality can be a hard thing for some of us to deal with. Reality is: armed guards do not prevent shootings; prevention requires early intervention; role models don't make rape jokes. The reality is you must resign from the Board of Education.

Jordan Werme – East Hampton

Church Auction Tomorrow

To the Editor:

An auction will benefit the Westchester Congregational Church tomorrow, Aug. 20, at 10 a.m. at 98 Cemetery Rd. in Westchester.

Among the items will be antiques, household goods, holiday décor as well as baked goods, plants and fresh veggies.

It will be an all-out push to clean out our parsonage before we begin renovations this fall. Bring your friends and family and discover your treasures – all for a good cause. Great prices, great fun! Free admission.

**Thanks for your ongoing support,
Melissa Engel
Prudential Chair
Westchester Congregational Church**

Clarification

To the Editor:

In recent articles written in the Rivereast about the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, reference has been made about there being three Democrats versus two Republicans on the board. I wish to clarify this and have it corrected.

Although I have been fully endorsed and supported by the MDTC for the Board of Selectmen, I am an unaffiliated voter and remain the balance on the current five-member BOS. This board consists of two Democrats, two Republicans, and one Unaffiliated (me). It is a balanced board.

I am extremely grateful to the MDTC. They asked me to run, and I agreed with the understanding that I am an independent thinker and will conduct myself as such. I want to take “politics” out of the conversation so that the five of us on the BOS can do what's best for Marlborough, not for a political party.

Therefore, please refer to me as an unaffiliated voter in any and all news articles in the future.

**Thank you,
Deb Bourbeau – Marlborough**

Note: Bourbeau is a member of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, but said she is writing as an individual.

Hard Worker, Deep Thinker

To the Editor:

Over the last several weeks, I have been door-knocking with Christopher Rivers. Rivers is the Democratic candidate for state representative in the new 48th State House District. I have gotten to know him, his positions, and his approach toward government and even life. Chris is both a hard worker and a deep thinker. He wants to solve problems - not just talk about them. He wants our government to work for the people of our district. He listens to people's concerns and is working hard to understand all issues. If he doesn't know something, he will talk to people that do.

Chris is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and has done further study at Georgetown University. He knows what service is. He knows what work is.

Chris is personable. Chris is hard working. While I thank him for his service in our nation's war zones, I look forward to his service in the Connecticut State Legislature. The people of the 48th District will be better off for his work. Our state government will work better and more effectively because of his oversight.

I hope that you will join me in voting for Christopher Rivers for state representative in the 48th State House District.

John F. Malsbenden – Colchester

Thanks for the Dinners

To the Editor:

On behalf of the residents of the East Hampton Housing Authority, we would like to thank the East Hampton Lions Club, and especially Mary Claire, for providing baked potato dinners on Sunday, Aug. 7! The dinners were enjoyed by all and allowed for wonderful resident fellowship in our community centers. We are most grateful for your kindness.

**Respectfully,
Sheryl Dougherty, BSW
Resident Services Coordinator
East Hampton Housing Authority**

Public Works Facility

To the Editor:

The Board of Selectmen has decided acreage in the center of town and adjacent land at 17 Kinney Rd. is the best location for its new Public Works facility. This geographic area includes a portion of the town center, an idyllic neighborhood, a charming country road, a nearby elementary school, across the street from a town open space preserve with a walking trail system and pollinator garden, and is home to 300-year-old pristine historic Hebron farmland.

BOS says its vision is in preserving Hebron's rural historic character in fact making “Historic Charm” part of the town's motto. On the contrary, BOS is planning a suburban, if not urban complex. Taking actively farmed land out of cultivation makes no sense given how few active farms are left in Hebron. How does BOS justify the degradation of these essential qualities and characteristics of Hebron's “Historic Charm” in addition to the significant negative impact on the vitality of the neighborhood and the living conditions of the residents of Kinney Road?

For more information, go to Facebook: Kinney Road Matters.

Andrea Lattanzi – Amston

Very Successful Event

To the Editor:

The fourth annual Portland Fill a Public Works Truck food drive was held at Adams Hometown Market. This event, cosponsored by the Portland Public Works Department and Portland Lions Club to support the Portland Food Bank, was in recognition of Public Works Week. The event was very successful, collecting \$2,058.28 in total donations. The donation was presented to Ruth Maio, director of the Portland Food Bank, on Aug. 11.

The success of the fourth annual Fill a Public Works Truck event directly reflects the outstanding support of the community. Thank you to all who gave so generously to support the Portland Food Bank!

We also want to extend our gratitude to Adams Hometown Market (Marlborough Street) for their support of this event and their hospitality. Store manager John Talento and his team supported this effort from the outset and could not have been more gracious during the event. This support was crucial to the overall success of this fundraiser.

On behalf of the Portland Lions Club and Portland Public Works Department, we thank all involved in making the fourth annual Fill a Public Works Truck event a tremendous success.

**With sincere appreciation,
James K. Tripp,
Event Coordinator, Portland Lions Club
And Robert Shea,
Former Director, Portland Public Works**

Disappointing Decision

To the Editor:

I was extremely disappointed to read that all five members of the Hebron Board of Finance shot down the Hebron Board of Education request for money from the town's rainy day fund balance to expand the extremely popular town preschool program.

With an additional classroom worth of students currently on the waiting list for the preschool, combined with the knowledge from countless studies that strong preschool programs set students up for academic and social success throughout their school years, putting money that is just sitting there toward the preschool program seems like a no-brainer.

Local politicians love to say that they want Hebron to be a family-friendly place that is affordable. Denying the BOE's request to expand the preschool program is neither family-friendly nor helping to keep Hebron affordable.

I don't know if any of the Board of Finance members have personally paid a daycare or pri-

See Letters, page 30

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

★ Letters cont. from page 29

vate preschool bill lately, but for families with young children, daycare and preschool bills eat up a huge chunk of their monthly income. The Hebron preschool program is extremely affordable, especially since it functions with a sliding scale so people with lower incomes can still have the opportunity to send their children to a highly recognized program with certified educators.

Ask most people in Hebron with young children why they moved to Hebron, and they will tell you because of the strong school system. For the Board of Finance to deny families the opportunity to send their kids to the Hebron preschool program is a slap in the face to all of those families.

I encourage anyone who supports a strong education program for Hebron's children to contact the Board of Finance at bof@hebronct.com.

Meg Clifton – Amston

Gazebo Concerts

To the Editor:

Music at the East Hampton Gazebo on this beautiful early August evening was surprisingly outstanding. The foursome played with amazing never-ending non-stop enthusiasm, treating its audience with many memorable rock numbers including "Sweet Caroline" and other great favorites. It's obvious that these virtually free concerts at the gazebo is a good deal and well-appreciated for those who attend. Sadly the attendance could be better, in spite of the heat. Looking to the future, there should be more community and business involvement with more willing sponsors that are needed to finance the promotion of the summer venue. This would allow the committee to selectively engage the best available which is key as evidenced by tonight's program.

Having attended at least six various town programs this summer, it amazes me how much great musical talent is available, and it can be just around the corner at the East Hampton gazebo. Please support it.

Ronald McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

Response to 'Andover Equity'

To the Editor:

Many thanks to Mr. Denley for making me super popular right now. You mean to tell me that we can't give our school a \$70k bump (even when that just barely covers our contractual obligations), but yet we can take all of the COVID federal money and just blindly dump it into a senior center? You are correct sir; I'd say that's far from equitable. My children lost out on two years of a solid footing for their education. The school hasn't actually realized a budget increase since 2015, meanwhile we all know what has happened to operating expenses for every entity in town since 2015.

I'm not at all "anti-senior" or opposed to a community facility that will improve the overall appeal of our great town, just as you say you support a quality education. I just think perhaps it's time for some fresh ideas to help us approach the equity you seek. One place to start might actually be in Jeff's idea to eliminate that budget meeting. That actually appears to be a conservative spending idea considering they informed us that it costs approximately \$4k each time we prolong the vote with a "no" and return to meeting. Maybe it will force us all to be more hyper vigilant about the proposals in the budget prior to referendum.

Mike Greenhouse – Andover

Obama's Presidential Records

To the Editor:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) assumed exclusive legal and physical custody of Obama Presidential records when President Barack Obama left office in 2017, in accordance with the Presidential Records Act (PRA). NARA moved approximately 30 million pages of unclassified records to a NARA facility in the Chicago area where they are maintained exclusively by NARA.

Additionally, NARA maintains the classified Obama Presidential records in a NARA facility in the Washington, D.C., area. As required by the PRA, former President Obama has no control over where and how NARA stores the presidential records of his administration. (Source: NARA)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough



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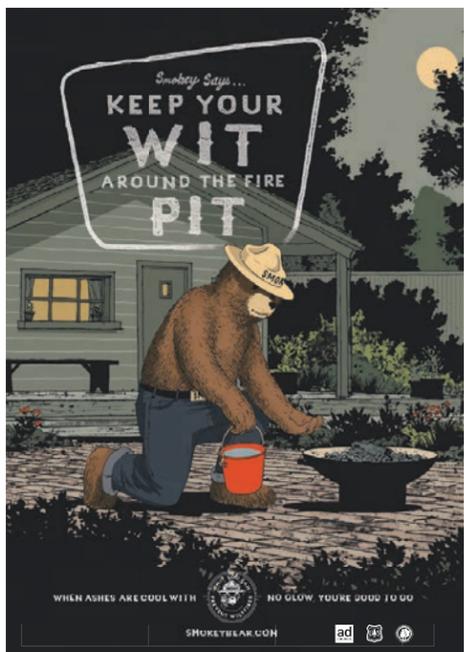
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LEGALS

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 August 11th, 2022:

• Application #IWWC 22-09: Donna Phillips, 57 Hendee Road- Construction of a 2-car metal garage for housing vehicles within the 200-foot Upland Review Area of Skungmaug River wetlands.

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 8/19

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION 15 GILEAD STREET, HEBRON CT

At its August 11, 2022 meeting, the Hebron Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission took the following actions:

Petition 22-07, c/o 10 Jeremy Way and River Road, Hebron, CT, Michael Makowski, KP Management LLC for the Mill at Stonecroft Condominium Association— Cutting of 2 dead trees within 100 feet of a wetland - **approved** with the following conditions:

1. No heavy Equipment is to be used in the Wetland during the cutting process.

2. Stumps are to be cropped to a reasonable height.

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/ee3a23fdebff8a779d3d0240d83dd522f2e1588b272b80b70220c7c078056acb>

1TB 8/19

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT STONY BROOK DRIVE STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS SYSTEM NO. 1 & SYSTEM NO. 4 INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for **Stony Brook Drive Storm Drainage Improvements, System No. 1 & System No. 4** will be received by the **Town of Marlborough** electronically via the internet bidding service or by hard copy via mail or drop box at the Issuing Office until **10:00 AM** local time on **August 31, 2022** at which time the Bids received will be opened and read aloud via teleconference open to the public. The bid opening teleconference meeting number is 877 304 9269 and access code to listen is 4236945.

The Project primarily consists of the installation of approximately 310 linear feet of storm drainage pipe and storm drainage structures for System No. 1 and approximately 560 linear feet of storm drainage pipe and storm drainage structures for System No. 4 and trench pavement and curb placement. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

Bidding Documents are available for free download from the Project's bidding service webpage. To download Bidding Documents: go to the bidding service homepage listed below; select this project's solicitation; sign in and/or register as directed; and select the Bidding Documents for download. A non-refundable \$35 fee to the bidding service is required to submit an electronic Bid. Notify the Issuing Office with questions in this regard. Digital ID is not required for this online bid.

Bidding service homepage: <http://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/27674/home>.

The Issuing Office is the **Town Clerk's Office, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut (860-295-6200)**. Printing Bidding Documents is the responsibility of the prospective Bidder. Printed copies will not be issued by the Town. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents that differ from documents available from the Project's bidding service webpage.

A pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 AM** local time on **August 24, 2022** at **Town Hall**. Notices of a virtual meeting will be available on the Town website and the Project's bidding service webpage. Pre-bid conference attendance is encouraged but is not mandatory. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the amount of five percent of the Bid.

The successful Bidder will be required to provide Performance and Payment Bonds each in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price.

The successful Bidder shall comply with the requirements of Prevailing Wage Rate Laws in accordance with Section 31-51 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Contract Documents require affirmative action of the Contractor and any subcontractors to ensure equal employment opportunity as noted in Governor's Executive Orders 3 and 17.

The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.

Unless provided for by the Instructions to Bidders, no Bid may be withdrawn until sixty (60) days after the Bid Opening. The Town reserves the right to: reject any or all Bids; waive informalities or defects in Bids; make extensions to review Bids; and accept the Bid(s) that, in the Town's judgment, will be in its best interests.

The Town of Marlborough is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

Owner: Town of Marlborough, Connecticut

2TB 8/19, 8/26

LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

Petition 2022-4 - Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations pertaining to Accessory Apartments, permit detached accessory apartments in compliance with new state requirements, and update associated use tables and definitions. Application filed under Section 2.G.7, Section 2.D.4, and Section 9.C of the Hebron Zoning Regulations. (**Public Hearing Continued from June 14, 2022**)

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 9th day of August, 2022.

Natalie Wood, Chair

Planning and Zoning Commission
Tue, Aug 23, 2022 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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2TB 8/12, 8/19

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TOWN OF ANDOVER ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ACTION NOTICE

Please be advised that the Andover Planning & Zoning Commission took the following action at their Regular Meeting held August 15, 2022:

1) Planning & Zoning Commission shall recommend that the Board of Selectman vote to opt out of the section of Public Act 21-29 of the Connecticut General Assembly which sets forth requirements pertaining to municipal requirements with respect to accessory apartments; and

2) Approved modifications to the Subdivision/Special Permit of George Corriea & Erik/Melissa Loteczka at 26 Old Farms Road so as to allow access to both lots of the subdivision off Pine Ridge Drive, with conditions.

Please direct any inquiries to the Zoning Agent at the Town Hall, 17 School Road or zoning@andoverct.org.

Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

Published 8.19.22

1TB 8/19

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Pursuant to Section 12-110 of the Connecticut General Statutes, any person claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the Assessor may appeal their assessment for motor vehicles on the 2021 Grand List to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Such appeal shall be made in person to the Board on September 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Hebron Town Hall, 15 Gilead St, Hebron, CT. Applications can be obtained in the Assessor's Office. Dated at Hebron, CT this 15th day of August, 2022.

1TB 8/19

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on August 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:

• PZC-22-009: Bryan Joy, 12 Summit St., for a site plan review for a shop for custom work in the Village Center Zone, Section 5.1.B.13. Map 06A/ Block 61/ Lot 1 - Approved with conditions. Ray Zatorski, Chairman

1TB 8/19

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FT DISHWASHER / CLEANER WANTED. Stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery for an application.

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REB-13-21

PICK YOUR TIME 8:30am - 1pm FOR HOUSE CLEANING / BOXING. High schools students are welcome. Pick your days and your hours for the month of August. Must provide own transportation. Call Mrs King 860-295-9466

PART-TIME HOUSE CLEANING NEEDED: Choose your own times and days for each week. Earliest start 8:30am, latest 2:00pm. Monday-Sunday. Great for High School students. Own transportation needed. Call 860-295-9466.

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