



News Bulletin

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

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Welcome to the Legislature... Hebron resident Steve Weir was sworn in last week as the new state representative for the 55th District, representing Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury. He's shown here with, from left, father Dennis, daughter Alexia, wife Allegra, and daughter Meredith. Read more about Weir's swearing-in on page 3.

Colchester Selectman Quits GOP

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester Board of Selectmen member Jason LaChapelle announced last week that he is leaving the Republican Party and will act as an unaffiliated member of the Board of Selectmen. In addition, he resigned from his position as vice chairman of the Republican Town Committee and is no longer a member of the organization.

LaChapelle made the initial announcement during a selectmen's meeting on Jan. 5, before following up with a lengthy post on Facebook the next morning.

"Ultimately, it became clear to me that not only was this the right thing for me to do, it was the only thing I could do," he wrote.

He stated that a portion of the RTC "who control the party through their connections, reputation, influence, and money have rallied behind a brand of Republicanism that is antithetical to nearly everything I believe."

LaChapelle referenced a meeting of several prominent local Republicans that took place Jan. 3. Although he wasn't in attendance, LaChapelle stated how that meeting was the "impetus that pushed me over the edge."

He referenced the town's handling of the senior center project, which presented a clear divide between town Republicans.

Last month, LaChapelle and RTC Chairman Taras Rudko filed litigation against the town,

seeking an injunction that would prevent the town from entering a construction contract associated with the project. However, the court denied that request, allowing the town to continue as planned.

LaChapelle took issue with the lack of RTC accountability towards First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos.

"Beyond the lying about the senior center project, this group of political insiders, elected officials, and purse string-pullers has also failed to hold our town government accountable for banning books, bullying citizens, a complete lack of honesty and transparency, a blatant disregard for FOI laws, abuse of police powers, and a litany of other things," LaChapelle wrote.

He added that while it's "their right to advocate for whatever political brand they want, [local Republicans] have turned it into a brand that I can no longer be associated with."

He said his "principles are far more important than any letter next to my name and my biggest regret is allowing the campaign to so badly twist those principles in the name of the very tribal politics I detest."

This week, LaChapelle told the *Rivereast* that he considered taking these actions for months, but held off because he didn't want his opponents to "win."

"I don't think I have any chance of making change from the inside," he said, referring to the RTC.

LaChapelle, who was elected to the Board of Selectmen in the fall of 2021, was originally a Libertarian. He was later convinced to join the Republican Party and run for public office.

"I wanted to bring change to the party and try
See Selectman Quits GOP, page 13

Belltown Awarded \$1.4M for Air Line Trail

By Jack Lakowsky

This week East Hampton had a reversal of fortune – a good one, town manager Dave Cox told the Town Council Tuesday.

Late last year, the town applied for \$1.4 million from the federal government to complete a 1,200-foot portion of the Air Line Trail that regularly floods and was declared a wetland by the Army Corps of Engineers. There are also old Eversource utility poles the company is just about finished removing, Cox told the *Rivereast*.

The area is effectively impassable, the town manager said.

The designation as a wetland complicated things, with the area needing a delicate touch of development. Specifically, it needs a boardwalk put in – a surprisingly costly, laborious venture, Cox said, one the town cannot fund on its own.

The project has languished for several years, and late last year, appeared to hit a wall.

"As the council will recall, we had previously been advised that it was rejected at the committee level" in Congress, Cox said in the meeting. "Apparently, through the efforts of Congressman [Joe] Courtney and other Connecticut members of Congress, the work was included" in the federal government's budget, signed into law by

President Joe Biden in December.

A few details need to be worked out – most importantly, if the town has a match, which Cox anticipates being around 20%, and in this case, he'd seek state help – but the money is guaranteed to reduce the town's out-of-pocket expenses.

Cox said he gave a "tip-of-the-hat" to the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG), which helped formulate the town's successful application. RiverCOG is, among other roles, a major player in helping the region preserve and revitalize natural resources, playing a quiet, behind-the-scenes hand.

The 1,200-foot section of the trail is near the corner of routes 66 and 16, Cox said.

Aside from a few gaps in Portland, this project makes the Air Line Trail continuous right up to Pomfret in the state's northeast corner.

While Cox attributed the application's success to the work of federal delegates, U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney (D-2) credited the town's effort, telling the *Rivereast* the town manager is up to the task.

Of the 63 towns in Courtney's district, he was limited to pushing to Congress just 15 requests.

East Hampton was one of the few to make the cut. Members of Congress can ask the legislature to fund in-district projects from nonprofits or municipalities.

"You have to sort the requests to come up with a package that's ready to go, that really fits all the criteria," Courtney said. "Kudos to the town; they submitted a strong request."

Courtney said satisfying the Army Corps' requirements "takes real elbow grease."

The congressman said the project was attractive to officials because, though centered in Belltown, the work benefits a great tract of eastern region towns.

"That was a major selling point," said Courtney. "The multitown regional benefit really jumps off the page when competing against other requests."

The project also has health benefits for residents.

If they were so inclined, ambitious hikers could start their trek in East Hampton and make their way all the way to the Quiet Corner where, Courtney said, another trail, the Quinebaug, received funding to be made handicapped-accessible.

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Stunning Edgewater Hill Home
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SOLD IN 5 DAYS
Columbia \$529,900
Gorgeous Farmhouse Colonial with Wrap Around Porch
 One will be impressed by the workmanship, interior & exterior architectural details of this charmer. Beautiful entry offers a two story staircase with open railings & soaring ceilings. Great room w/corner FP, oversized kitchen w/ center island & large breakfast area. Primary bedroom offers oversized tray ceilings, windows & walk in closet. Large upstairs walk in laundry room tops it off.
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SOLD IN 7 DAYS
Bolton \$398,700
Beautiful Open Floor Plan Home
 This 2,100 sq. ft. new construction home sits on a gorgeous level lot backing to woods. Vaulted ceilings in the great room and dining room, large rooms, open floor plan and beautiful finishes, propane gas fireplace, granite in kitchen and bathrooms, completely finished lower level with laundry and shower stall bath.
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SOLD
Middletown \$259,000
Wesleyan Hills Raised Ranch
 Wesleyan Hills - one of Central CT's premier planned communities w/walking trails & ponds and fantastic rec facility. Well-maintained home sits on beautiful, level lot surrounded by mature plantings, trees & gardens. Main floor offers great open family room, country kitchen dining area, large bath, and 3 good-sized bedrooms. Walkout lower level boasts laundry room/half bath & family room w/wood-burning FP. Oversized 2-car garage & access from your finished lower level to your yard.
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Middletown \$168,000
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RE14-23

Area Lawmakers Mourn Middletown Rep's Sudden Death

By Jack Lakowsky

The City of Middletown suffered a shock late last week when state Rep. Quentin "Q" Williams (D-100) died in a car accident. He was 39, and leaves behind a wife, Carrissa, and the mother who raised him on her own, Queen.

Grief from local, state and federal officials poured in, describing Williams' death as a massive, premature loss of potential.

"This is devastating news, and I am incredibly saddened by this tragedy," Gov. Ned Lamont said in a statement. "Quentin had an infectious optimistic personality, and he absolutely loved having the opportunity to represent his lifelong home of Middletown at the state Capitol."

Lamont added his prayers are with Williams' family "as well as his friends and colleagues in the General Assembly."

Some of those colleagues include lawmakers from Portland, Middletown's neighbor.

In a statement to the *Rivereast* state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), whose district includes Portland, East Hampton and Colchester, called Williams' passing a "catastrophic" loss.

"Q was a friend, a colleague and someone who earned your respect for his advocacy in fighting for causes important to him, his com-

munity and the state," Needleman said. "More importantly, he was simply an all-around good person. There are some people who, when you see them and talk to them, you come away from them feeling good and positive. Q was that person."

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-34) said her "thoughts and prayers go out to Rep. Quentin Williams' family during this difficult time. Such a tragic loss. Q always had a kind word to share. I will miss his positive outlook and dedication to public service."

State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55), new state rep for Marlborough, Hebron and Andover, told the *Rivereast* he was "shocked to learn of Q's passing."

"While I only met him briefly right after we were sworn in, we had a pleasant exchange, and I was really looking forward to working with him on the Labor Committee," Weir said. "Everyone has described him as a gentleman and consummate professional, and I'm disappointed not to have had the opportunity to know him better. I pray for strength upon his family and friends in these difficult times."

Middletown Mayor Ben Florsheim said the city has lost its "biggest, brightest smile," saying Williams was a tireless fighter for "equity,

education, worker's rights and justice."

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) called Williams a present and future leader.

"What a loss," Murphy tweeted.

Williams was a lifelong resident of Middletown who rose through the ranks at various levels of public service, taking great pride in championing equitable solutions for all, Roberts wrote.

Williams was the first Black person to represent Middletown in the Connecticut General Assembly. He previously served as executive director of Middletown's Downtown Business District, and also served as Middletown city treasurer and chair of the town's Planning & Zoning Commission, prior to becoming a state representative.

Portland First Selectman Ryan Curley posted a mournful message on his office's Facebook, sharing that he was "devastated by the news."

"As anyone that ever met Q will tell you, he was that rare type of person with a personality larger than life," Curley wrote.

"Having graduated from the same university [Bryant University], I had the privilege of watching Q's career blossom over the years," the first selectman added. "I offer my heartfelt condolences to Q's wife and family. The Town of Portland mourns this tragic loss with our friends and neighbors of Middletown."

According to state police, the crash occurred on Route 9 in Cromwell. Williams was pronounced dead at the scene, as was the other driver, was identified by police as 27-year-old Kimiede Mustafaj of Manchester. She was also pronounced deceased at the scene.

According to police, Mustafaj was driving the wrong way, striking Williams' car head-on. Police said Williams' vehicle was "fully engulfed in flames."

Williams was on his way home from an inaugural ball in Hartford. He had just been ap-



Middletown state Rep. Quentin Williams was killed in a wrong-way car accident last week, prompting lamentations from officials at all levels of government.

pointed chair of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

Williams was first elected in 2019. A graduate of Middletown Public Schools, Williams earned a bachelor's in business administration from Bryant University, a master's of public administration from Villanova University, and a diversity and inclusion certificate from Cornell University.

Williams was pursuing studies at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

The crash is under investigation. Witnesses are asked to call state trooper Michael Dean at 860-534-1000.

Tri-County Legion Baseball

Registration is open for those interested in participating in tryouts for one of Tri-County American Legion baseball program's 2023 summer teams. Deadline to register is Jan. 31.

Serious players who will be between the ages of 13-19 in 2023 – and who have a parent residing in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon or Marlborough – are eligible. Depending on interest, Tri-County is again preparing to enter teams at all four levels of American Legion

baseball: 19U, 17U, 15U and 13U.

Tryouts will begin on weekends in February at some nearby indoor facilities. The tryout dates are available on the Tri-County Legion website but age group schedules will be finalized and shared with registrants after the deadline.

Interested players should register at www.tcleion.com or contact GM Len Lampugnale at Lampugnale@comcast.net or at 860-295-0437 for more information.

Standout Athletes Of the Week(s)

By Josh Howard

Here is a double dose of *Rivereast* standouts for the previous two weeks (Dec. 26-Jan. 8):

Dylan Devine – RHAM High School (Wrestling): Devine has been a monster on the mat to start the season, winning 10 of his first 11 matches this winter. The senior has picked up right where he left off a season ago when he finished as the runner-up in his weight class at the Class M state finals. Devine, a 4.0 GPA scholar-athlete, is currently ranked No. 6 overall in his weight class for the entire New England region.

Thomas Morton – East Hampton (Track & Field): Morton shined at the Shoreline League Meet on Jan. 5, running a personal-best (38.62) to finish as the runner-up in the 300 meters (38.62) and covering a personal-best distance of 16'10" in the long jump to place 3rd. Morton, a senior, also teamed with Robert Stanford, Alexander Urban, Aidan Maiorino to win the 4x200 relay race at the event, held at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven. The Bellringers placed third overall at the early-season conference meet.

Megan Braga – Bacon Academy High School (Track & Field): Braga placed third in the 55 meter hurdles, running a personal-best time of 9.79 at the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Developmental Meet at the Providence Career & Technical Academy in Rhode Island. Braga, a senior, then placed 6th in the same event at the Robert Saulisbury Invitational at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven on Dec. 30.

Cole Bates – Portland High School (Track & Field): Bates won the pole vault, cleaning a personal-best height of 10'06" at the Shoreline League Meet at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven on Jan. 5. Bates, a senior who was a first-team all-conference soccer player this past fall, was also on a pair of running relay teams at the conference track event.

Max Czarnecki – RHAM High School (Track & Field): Czarnecki broke the school record in the 300 meters, running a time of 38.11 to place 4th overall at the Elm City Invitational in New Haven on Jan. 7. The senior also had a top-five finish in the 55 meters and placed 8th in the 55 meter hurdles at the annual event held at the Floyd Athletic Center. The Raptors placed 6th overall as a team, finishing ahead of 19 other schools.

Elijah Black – Bacon Academy High School (Basketball): Black scored a team-high



RHAM High School senior Dylan Devine is back leading Raptors wrestling, winning 10 of his first 11 matches this winter.

17 points, hitting three shots from beyond the arc, as the Bobcats held off Montville 65-53 on Jan 4 at Bacon Academy High School. Black, a senior, led a balanced scoring attack that also had Luke Grimord (16), Keegan Appleby (10), and Troy Johnson (10) score in double figures. It was the defense that allowed Bacon to take the lead and never look back, holding Montville to seven points in the second quarter and taking a commanding 33-19 lead into the halftime break.

Kali Trapp – East Hampton High School (Track & Field): Trapp vaulted a personal-best 7'06" to finish tied for 2nd place at the Shoreline League Meet at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven on Jan. 5. Trapp, a junior and academic standout at the school, also competed in the 55 meter dash and the high jump at the event as the Bellringers placed 8th overall as a team at the conference meet.

Tyler Quinn – Portland High School (Wrestling): Quinn placed 2nd in the 160 lbs. Division at the Casey Yates Annual Memorial Invitational on Jan. 7. Quinn, a junior, defeated Sam Montgomery of Rockville, Russell Stewart of Griswold, and William Depault of Stafford to reach the championship bout. The Highlanders took fifth overall as a team at the yearly event that takes place at Lyman Memorial High School.

Needleman Sworn In for Third Term

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) was sworn in at the State Capitol last week for his third term as the state senator representing the 33rd Senate District.

The district includes the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

Needleman was elected to his third term in November.

"It is an honor to hold this seat and represent our communities for another term, and I'm grateful for my constituents' support," said Needleman. "As we begin the legislative session today, with work ongoing through June, I know there is much to do to make Connecticut

a better place to live. Rising costs, especially energy costs, will draw my attention through my work as senate chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, as just one of many important and pressing issues. I'm looking forward to rolling my sleeves up for the hard work ahead."

Needleman was initially elected to the senate in November 2018, and has since helped provide oversight of state electric companies through the "Take Back Our Grid Act," in addition to supporting state programs benefitting workers and children's education.

Needleman will serve as senate chair of the energy and technology committee and vice chair of the planning and development committee, and as a member of the commerce, finance and transportation committees.

Weir Takes Oath, Receives Committee Assignments

Last Wednesday, state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) took the oath of office for his first term representing the 55th General Assembly District, which includes the towns of Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron, and Marlborough.

For the 2023-24 legislative session, Weir has been assigned to the labor, higher education, and housing committees.

"I am both excited and honored to begin serving in the Connecticut House of Representatives," said Weir. "While there are many issues facing Connecticut, I look forward to working alongside my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find common ground wherever we can. I am committed to doing my best work for the residents of the 55th Dis-

trict."

Last Wednesday's ceremony kicked off the start of the legislature's "long session," which runs from through June 7. Connecticut's legislature is part-time, with regular sessions held from January to June in odd-numbered years, and from February to May in even-numbered years. The "long session" is used to establish a state budget and introduce bills of a general nature. In the even-year "short session" the legislature can only consider bills directly related to the state budget, revenue, and financial matters, as well as committee bills or resolutions, and those matters certified to be of an emergency nature.

Weir can be reached at Steve.Weir@house-gop.ct.gov or 860-240-8700.

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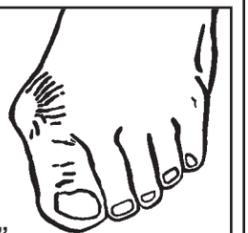
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

To answer a question that probably a few of you have, yes, the *Rivereast News Bulletin* will be open Monday, Jan. 16, which is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

More importantly, our deadlines will remain the same. Therefore all submitted copy – such as letters to the editor, press releases, event listings, etc. – need to be into me by **noon Tuesday, Jan. 17**. No exceptions will be made.

Now, many places are closed Monday – including schools – to honor the civil rights icon, who was born Jan. 15, 1929. And there are a couple of events taking place in the *Rivereast* towns on Monday to mark the occasion.

In Portland, the MLK Day Youth Basketball Tournament will take place at the town's high and middle school complex. The tourney will begin at 9 a.m. and include boys and girls travel teams (grades 5-8) from Portland, Milford, Branford, Groton/Mystic, East Hampton, Guilford, New Britain and Colchester.

Teams will gather at 11:30 a.m. in the high school gym to honor King and bring awareness to the role of sports in civil rights activism.

This tournament is free, but donations to a charitable organization supporting civil rights and youth outreach will be accepted. For more information, contact Harrison Collins at hcollins23@portlandct.us.

If basketball isn't your thing – or even if it is – there's another, more traditional MLK celebration taking place Monday night in Hebron.

From 6:30-8:30 p.m., Hebron's Coalition of Diversity & Equity (CoDE) will sponsor a special event at St. Peter's Episcopal Church's Phelps Hall, 30 Church St.

The event will feature dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by a presentation of Episode 4 of the PBS series *Making Black*

America. According to pbs.org, Episode 4 of the four-part series, which debuted this past October, "reveals a fervent desire for Black spaces and institutions that provide a safe place to debate, organize and celebrate." The host of the series, writer and professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., "explores how Black cultural and political movements – from Black Power to Black Twitter – embraced a radical consciousness that championed a new generation."

After viewing the episode – which runs for an hour – participants will then have the opportunity to discuss the film in small groups.

There is no charge for the event, but donations to cover the cost of food will be accepted. Registration is requested; email the hosts at code.diversity1@gmail.com, stating the number of people attending. The deadline for registration is Saturday, Jan. 14, by noon.

The Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) is a resident-led, grassroots organization whose mission is to build more diverse, vibrant and equitable communities. Though based in Hebron, CoDE also serves Marlborough, Andover, Columbia and surrounding towns. Its goals include increasing community awareness and access to housing, education and jobs. For more information about CoDE, visit www.code-diversity.org.

Lastly, here are some inspirational quotes from the late, great Dr. King. While King is often quoted, especially this time of year, I feel it's often the same quotes over and over again. And while "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" is indeed a great line, there are so many more wonderful, challenging, thought-provoking things King said over the years.

Editor's Desk continued on page 7

Bulletin Board

My lawyer suggested recently that I might want to revisit my will. This indicates one of two things to me: 1) I don't look as good as I think I do (highly unlikely) or 2) He thinks I make more money than the guy who changes the oil in my car.

Nevertheless, it doesn't hurt to be prepared, so I've been giving some thought as to how I want things handled when I punch out on life's time clock.

--All of my earthly possessions will go to my beloved wife, provided that she a) doesn't bring her new boyfriend to the funeral and b) that she agrees to come to the cemetery and throw herself on my casket while screeching, "Take me, too!" instead of "Hurry this thing up; I have to catch a plane to Aruba!"

--An appropriate sum of money shall be set aside to pay for police to handle the massive crowds at my memorial service (see below in the unlikely event that turnout is less than anticipated).

--I realize that a) many of my wide circle of grieving friends and relatives may be unable to attend my services because they have to clip their toenails or there's a breakfast special at Denny's or b) (and better yet) I will outlive everyone I know and the only people to show up will be my creditors. Therefore, I direct that a sum of money be set aside to pay professional mourners \$20 each as may be necessary to fill at least 30 percent of the seats at the service. Mourners who break out in periodic wails of "Why! Why! Why!" and "He was a veritable saint!" shall be entitled to \$22.50.

--Anybody at my funeral service who says, "He looks so natural" shall be immediately removed from the premises. Anybody who remarks that they showed up to make sure I was really dead shall be treated similarly. Anyone carrying a wooden stake shall be required to leave it at the door.

--I realize it will be difficult to list my multitude of accomplishments and attributes in an obituary that does not run on for many thousands of words. Just don't forget to note that "He did *The New York Times* crossword puzzle in ink." You don't have to include that "It was usually impossible to determine what he wrote down since he kept writing new words over his mistakes."

--Also, since obituaries are supposed to be nice, you're allowed to exaggerate a little, so you might want to say something like, "His family was the most important thing in his life" instead of "He only thought of himself" or "He never picked up his socks." I doubt if anyone who knows the truth will write a letter to the editor about it.

--I leave my treasured painting of Dogs Playing Poker (I know I promised to take it to the dump, honey, but I hid it behind the old refrigerator in the garage just in case you happened to die first) to my niece who never failed to mention the expanding bald spot on the back of my head. As for that collection of well-thumbed vintage Playboy magazines also hidden behind the fridge, I have no idea where they came from.

--If you want me to truly rest in peace, please do not leave unopened cans of Budweiser beer on my gravestone. It's not nice to tease dead people.

--Do not donate my underwear to the Salvation Army. I don't care if "it's still perfectly usable," I don't want homeless people running around in my shorts. It's creepy.

--I know that you will honor my wishes as if they were your own. My faith in you all is unshakable. Also, if you violate my sacred trust, I will find a way to come back from the dead and stare at you while you're sleeping.

I mean it.

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.



Citizen Karahja!... Several years ago, the Gilead Congregational Church was honored to assist a family transitioning to the United States. The church recently shared that Mr. Karahja is now a U.S. citizen and is in the process of starting a family business. Pictured is the Karahja family during the celebration of this milestone.

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Correction

At the end of the story last week on the Colchester Senior Center, there was a statement that was reported to have been made by the Colchester Republican Town Committee. However, the motion and statement reported on were actually made by *members of the committee* and not officially by the committee itself.

The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

Senior Center Debacle

To the Editor:

As we have seen with presidential elections, state elections, and now even with a senior center, that when Republicans disagree with a public vote, they utilize the courts to try to reverse the outcome they disagree with. Fortunately, the courts, even those with Republican-appointed judges, have ruled consistently against these frivolous cases due to a lack of evidence and rule of law. What these cases do cause are wasted time and money.

God forbid the last town budget presented had been an increase of \$25,000; it would have

been voted down – but we spent possibly that much to have attorneys represent the town. Perhaps a fairer outcome would have been a ruling that the plaintiffs cover the legal fees and costs?

F. Dana Ferris – Colchester

Political Awareness

To the Editor:

The philosophical differences between progressive and republican worldviews are a continuum of political awareness. On one end of the arch is a fractious state which is both culturally and spiritually stagnant. The other embraces a mindfulness of politics which expands liberties.

The lower end of this continuum is driven by competition and emotional turmoil. A worldview that subscribes to fear and anger, which separates people into associations of race, religion, and gender. This lower consciousness conveys hatred towards everything from socialists, immigrants, minorities, women, and gays to their own government. In turn, this absence of values and moral compass creates a fractious and volatile culture of insurrection, anti-science, climate skepticism, and election deniers. The results are social misfits in perpetual turmoil, who believe vaccines are a government

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Letter Writers: Due to space constraints, letter writers must limit their letters to **300 words or less. Letters must be submitted by Tuesday at noon.** No exceptions will be made. Email is preferred. Word or text documents are best. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published nor will anonymous letters or letters submitted by someone other than the person who wrote it. We cannot guarantee all letters will be published.

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Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor

Mike Thompson, Editor

Staff Reporters:

Jack Lakowsky—East Hampton, Portland & Marlborough

Michael Sinkewicz—Colchester, Hebron & Andover

Art Department

Jeanne Giovann, Julie Kristoff

and Julie Misuraca

Advertising Representatives:

Jason Baran, ext. 231 • jason@glcitizen.com

Lisa Snietka, ext. 232 • lisa@glcitizen.com

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plot, equitable health care is Marxism, reasonable gun legislation is government tyranny, and public power is repressive.

In contrast, the higher end of the continuum is a progressive state of awareness. A worldview where cooperation, in the service of humanity holds higher sway than oppositional posturing, relentless conflict, competition, and individual need. In turn there exists a mindfulness that believes in universal healthcare for every citizen. Free education, 100% renewable energy, a corporate top tax rate of at least 39%. Funding for infrastructure, the arts, music, public education, funding for anti-poverty programs, clean water, clean air, consumer protections, workplace protections, food safety, reasonable gun legislation, policies to protect against environmental degradation and action to address the climate catastrophe that is unfolding.

When you divorce power from consciousness, you get the modern Republican Party. A constituency that may not always agree with the lunatic fringe of Trumpaholics and MAGA extremism, but it's also not a dealbreaker either.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

DPW Idea

To the Editor:

I just wanted to toss this idea to those who challenge the plan to locate Hebron's DPW on the Horton property...all those who know the history of this property might consider composing a book out of what they know. It doesn't have to be professional or polished, just a story with the history and what is projected and what has been attempted to change the proposal. This can be done for free online with word processors like Google Docs. Then it can be uploaded for free onto Amazon's book list and then the person doing the work is now a published writer.

The real goal, however, is to get interviewed for this work. Local colleges like UConn, UHart, Wesleyan, and Bridgeport have radio stations with weekly progressive news programs that go nation-wide. Be interviewed by Connecticut public radio, engage with podcasts from WGBH in Boston to be spread by NPR, get the word out nationwide in time for Black History Month, be interviewed by national groups. Meanwhile those who know of the environmental impacts can do the same. The goal will be to get national attention to the issue rather than only fight locally and individually. There may be help from groups in other small towns on what works and what does not.

Thank you for your time.

Goeff Gaspar – Hebron

Weaker Speaker

To the Editor:

First, briefly, it's been a month and no Trump-supporting letter-writer has denounced his suggested "termination" of the Constitution. And these people pretend to be conservatives? Ha!

Our main topic: After an exhausting few days, the House has selected Kevin McCarthy as Speaker. It's the first time in a hundred years the vote has gone beyond a single ballot. We'd have to go back to the Civil War to find a race with more ballots; only four in history required more.

What was the obstacle? Juvenile right-wing members throwing hissy-fits about not being in power. Plus the lack of credible alternatives. The Republican Party is pulling itself

apart. While sitting on the sideline, holding up "GOP in disarray!" signs is amusing, this is serious. McCarthy compromised on spending and House rules – a sure signal the Republican House will again play games with our nation's credit-worthiness over the debt ceiling.

After Nancy Pelosi – likely to go down in history with the greatest Speakers ever, such as Henry Clay, Schuyler Colfax, Henry Thomas Rainey, Sam Rayburn, and Tip O'Neill – McCarthy comes in severely weakened, in charge of a caucus uninterested in governing. Can you imagine the likes of Lauren Boebert, Matt Gaetz or Paul Gosar with over-sized influence on our country's direction?

To be fair, certain concessions are long overdue. Smaller bills with more time for deliberation are a clear win. But mostly they hobble the House and its Speaker. Never forget: our current fractious politics are not some necessary result of history. They are the results of Newt Gingrich's Speakership: more interested in bombast and prurience than in running the country. I doubt McCarthy has that in mind, but he's sacrificed so much authority, he probably can't stop it.

Okay, just once, then: "GOP in Disarray!!!"

Sincerely,

Scott Sauyet – Andover

MLK Day & Hebron

To the Editor:

Martin Luther King Day focuses on community reflection and racial equity. So how does Hebron (97% white) recognize its people of color, especially African Americans?

Only two small Witness Stones commemorate Hebron's multiracial past. Yet, people of color have lived in Hebron for millennia.

The Jonathan Peters House at Burnt Hill Park is claimed as a Connecticut Freedom Trail site in town documents. In actuality the designation is for the archaeological site of a blacksmith shop where Cesar Peters' family lived in 1783. That state identified site, along with Indigenous sites, were bulldozed. Recent documentation reveals the family's abduction happened elsewhere.

Initially, the town had planned to put a sidewalk through the Cesar Peters' home site. Preserving the site is now cited as the reason for excessive sidewalk cost.

Citizens recently cleaned up most of the African American burial ground. The town has yet to remove the debris they dumped there.

Cesar Peters' son Henry's house was demolished as part of the John E. Horton Boulevard debacle. Henry Peters' lane was renamed.

In the early 1800s, people of color lived side by side with Yankee neighbors along Route 66. Today, there's only parking lots and no markers.

Hebron only commemorates white Civil War veterans.

In the early 1800s a regionally significant

agricultural cash economy developed between Center Village elites like Governor Peters and nearby African Americans. Soon that key site which Cesar Peters, his sons and other African Americans created will likely lie under a salt garage.

Attempts to research and identify Hebron's Indigenous and African American sites through a state grant sat on town officials' desks for almost two years, while other grants were filed expeditiously!

Whether through prejudice or ignorance, local government sworn to preserve Hebron's "rural, historic character" has obscured or destroyed the legacy of Hebron's people of color. What does MLK Day really mean in Hebron?

John Baron – Hebron

Failure and Opportunities

To the Editor:

When the administration substituted FEMA funds to pay for funerals, the pandemic proved Social Security's \$255 funeral reimbursement was insufficient. As Social Security is supposed to be self-funded, this needs fixing.

Since Social Security taxes are a percentage of wages and the minimum wage has increased, the tax proceeds have increased. Yet, funerals' benefit wasn't increased.

Privately, life insurance pays this benefit. Life insurance has properties and benefits which will both fund this benefit and keep the system solvent. How?

The U.S. stock market is the world's great wealth generator – even our enemies (oligarchs, etc.) invest to become rich. Yet, zero is invested by US's largest retirement system (Social Security). Should enemies receive a benefit/advantage denied Americans? 59% of American citizens realize this and want a small percentage of Social Security taxes invested in the stock market.

Life insurance permits a portion of the premium to be invested in the stock market. Like compounded college savings plans, the life insurance's investment can compound for 70+ years and be converted to a separate retirement annuity providing additional Social Security income.

Life insurance, per IRS, creates an instant asset. So, 300 million people times \$50,000 per policy would create a \$15 trillion asset to offset the national debt – before any investment

growth. This asset can be borrowed against at market rates.

Additionally, this fix starts retirement at birth, reduces Medicare and Medicaid entitlement costs, increases medical research funding, increases all Americans investment participation, increases Social Security retirement payments, provides pandemic economic stimulus to the States/municipalities, and increases financial services diversity and compliance. Tacit Congressional approval exists.

The Connecticut Insurance Department's Broker Academy copied this proposed use of taxes for health insurance in disadvantaged areas and reportedly were amazed at the money generated.

**Respectfully,
Ted Earl – East Hampton**

Save Energy Money

Dear Reader:

If you wish to save money on your electricity bill, check: energizect.com. There, click on "Supplier Rate Finder," choose your utility provider (Eversource or U.I.; residential or business) and compare offers. There is now a 100% REC offer (Renewable Energy Certificates) at 15 cents per KWh locked in for 34 months! This compares with Eversource's current 24.17 cents per KWh generation charge. In Connecticut, there are no termination fees charged to customers if they change suppliers, even when "locked in." Have an electricity bill handy and follow directions to sign up online.

For households that fall within income limits, there is also energy payment assistance found at: portal.ct.gov/heatinghelp/Connecticut-Energy-Assistance-Program-CEAP.

It's great to find a 100% renewable energy electricity option being offered right now, when we really can use it! Hope this info is of help.

**Sincerely,
Ann and Frank Zitkus – Hebron**

Big Holiday Thank You

To the Editor:

We need to express our heartfelt thanks to those who helped make possible the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for approximately 400 families as well as toys to make many children's wishes come true this Christmas!

We received donations from many including
See Letters, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

Winchester Café, Portland Schools, Portland Churches, Portland Library, Friends of the Library, all Portland Civic Organizations, Gildersleeve Spirit Shop, Gotta's Farm, MHS Primary Care-Portland Office, Bartlett Hills Association, Daniels Oil, Bordonaro Family, Men's Softball League, Snyder Civil Engineering, Little Bear's Adventure Center, Petzold's Marine Center, Jarvis Airfoil, River Valley Garden Club, Life Family Chiropractor, Jeff Myjack (Cans for a Cause), Portland Garden Club, Middletown Rotary, Haddam Neck Fair Association, Grandview Farms, Airex Rubber Products, Paley Farms LLC, Middletown Chapter 406, CSEA, Knights of Columbus, Liberty Bank, Portland Fire Company No. 1, Adams Market, and Portland Youth Services. There were countless individuals who also helped with monetary donations. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive

me and know that it was truly appreciated. I would also like to thank anyone who helped by "adopting" a family for Christmas. This year, more than ever, Portland residents stepped up in such a big way to help and I would like to say thank you to everyone who did.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank those dedicated and hard-working Food Bank volunteers because none of this could have happened without the many hands that helped out.

**Ruth Maio, Director
Portland Food Bank**

More Concerns

Hebron Residents:

I wrote last week regarding the proposed Public Works Facility on Kinney Rd, and I have some more concerns that I would like to share.

The park at Burnt Hill currently has baseball

fields a football/lacrosse field and several other soccer/mixed use fields, a pavilion and bathroom facility, the Parks and Recreation maintenance facility along with a storage area for wood chips and mulch that the town uses at its parks.

There has been mention of using Burnt Hill Park to also house a portion of the Public Works Facility. That would certainly be a safety concern for any parent that has children participating at a sporting event with large trucks and equipment coming and going from the only entrance to the park. Especially at the end of the town public works employees' day between 3:30 and 4:30 when many after-school sporting events take place. When the town first purchased the land and designed the park, they entertained the idea of putting the Public Work Facility there. After the actual fields and buildings were constructed and re-arranged to ac-

commodate wetlands and ledge, there was not a contiguous eight-acre parcel to put the facility there.

I was in the paving, grading, and excavating business for 20 years, and was involved in the construction of at least a dozen CT DOT salt shed facilities. The design then was very safe and successful and has since been improved upon. The biggest concern to me is how much salt is put on the roads and will run into storm drains along with the oil that drips from many vehicles on the road today.

Todd Habicht – Hebron

Plans A, B, C, D

To the Editor:

Thank you to Hebron's Public Building Committee for stepping forward with four alternative concepts to the disastrous plan to place a Public Works facility at 17 Kinney Rd. Finally, we have moved past the "No Plan B" scenario presented by the Board of Selectmen and town manager. The hard work, dedication and willingness of the PBC to explore options A, B, C and D are appreciated.

For many months a wide variety of Hebron residents have attended meetings, submitted documents and written letters supporting responsible alternatives. This is not about keeping a massive Public Works facility out of "My Back Yard." I do not want it in "Your Back Yard" either. Hebron does not need an oversized industrial facility; it needs to improve the working conditions and update the safety measures at the current facility.

This can be accomplished by relocating the Transfer Station and allowing Public Works to expand at its existing location on Old Colchester Road. On Oct. 12, 2022, I submitted to the Public Building Committee several locations available for the transfer station. These options are based on the PBC's own property search presented in 2019. Moving the Transfer Station is a simple solution that would open up ample room at the current Public Works site. This idea is supported by the facts, plain common sense and now offered as an option by the Public Building Committee.

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The environmental issues posed by placing a Public Works facility at 17 Kinney Rd. are important, but they are only part of the features at risk. A unique and highly significant historical story is emerging there as well. Hopefully the issues of impending groundwater contamination can be put to rest soon and this exciting story can be shared. For more information, please visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Smells Like Fox News

To the Editor:

Ok, still not impressed but it is humorous that Don likes to use all caps; maybe I should start

wearing ear plugs when I read his letters.

I apologize for not remembering the name of the letter writer that broached this subject in two previous letters but after hearing the speech by Kevin McCarthy after accepting the Speaker of the House gavel from Hakeem Jeffries my head hurt and felt that fear mongering had been spoken once again.

"I know the night is late, but when we come back, our very first bill will repeal the funding for 87,000 new IRS agents" - Kevin McCarthy. The current staffing level at the IRS is about 78,000 with 50% expected to retire in the next 5 years. There is money in the Inflation Reduction Act spread out over the next 10 years to hire customer service people on the phone, for IT, janitors, security, administrative positions,

the mail room, and yes even some auditors will be hired. In short, the money will be used for everything it takes to run a massive agency.

With the number of employees to be hired and expected to retire the staffing level at the IRS will be at 100,000 a number it had been at previously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover

Sausage and Laws

To the Editor:

Samuel Clemens (a.k.a. Mark Twain) once said, "Those that respect the law and love sausage should watch neither being made."

We all watched the struggle to select a new Speaker of the House, which was an extremely interesting process. We can argue about whether or not the outcome will result in productive changes to how Congress works, but it certainly sent a strong message to the new Speaker, Kevin McCarthy.

For me, I would prefer to focus on what is going on right here in Marlborough. Our recent revision to our town's charter could easily be equated to the making of a very messy, and bad-tasting, sausage, and I expect this upcoming budget season may be no less messy.

It is matters like these, and a desire to make substantive changes, which led me to join others on a new path, resulting in a new line of Independent Party candidates on our November 2023 ballot.

As we move into the 2023-24 budget season, and then into the fall municipal campaign, I would encourage everyone to keep an eye on how the sausage is made. Perhaps, just perhaps, if we get enough voters to pay close attention, we can clean up the process, improve transparency and demand true accountability.

But in the end, it is up to you, the voters of Marlborough. You vote on the budget and you vote for the candidates. Watch closely and vote

wisely. The future of Marlborough is in your hands.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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

Trumpublicans

To the Editor:

I worry about my Trumpublican friends still supporting Trump. Don Denley, Ed Kozlowski, Sam Prentice, et al. The Republican House speaker debacle was pretty rough on the Donald. Matt Gaetz and Lauren Boebert ignored 'his' commands. Did so with smiles on their faces, even telling Trump to go reconfigure his attitude concerning Kevin McCarthy.

So I went to visit one of their own, the guy running the 'Let's Go Brandon' a.k.a. 'Trump for President' store in North Windham. I've been there several times. Once again numerous Trump flags were outside fluttering in the breeze. This was the store's last day until it supposedly reopens in April. The Trump guy put on his best face and confidently predicted "When Trump starts his rallies, and I guarantee he is 100% running for president – we'll reopen with new 2024 Trump for President merchandise."

As he said this I looked around and saw lots of unsold inventory on the shelves, in boxes on the floor and hanging from the walls. Everything was half off. I was the only customer there. There was a wide selection of stuff with 'F—k' Biden or 'F—k' You if You Voted for Biden and so on. I preferred the flag with Trump riding a dinosaur while armed with a rocket launcher. It'll be a collector's item someday. You can make good money selling real Nazi memorabilia to current neo-Nazis, most of them Republicans. The store guy was so happy to make a sale he let me help myself to anything in several boxes near the door. I took a tee claiming America would be all red by 2020 except for California. I'm looking forward to the GOP-

See Letters, page 22

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

Here are but a few:

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

"Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge, which is power; religion gives man wisdom, which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

"The evils of capitalism are as real as the evils of militarism and evils of racism."

"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

"The time is always right to do what is right."

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

"Capitalism forgets that life is social. And the kingdom of brotherhood is found neither in the thesis of communism nor the antithesis of capitalism, but in a higher synthesis."

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

"The curse of poverty has no justification in our age."

"The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important."

"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will."

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

See you next week.

Andover • Andover

Will Andover Get a Town Planner?

By Michael Sinkewicz

Does Andover need a town planner?

According to Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Jed Larson, the answer is 'yes.'

During the Board of Selectmen meeting on Jan. 9, Larson made the case for adding the new position, which he argued would not only benefit the Commission, but the whole town.

Overall, he said, it's challenging for a volunteer group such as the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) to implement all the recommendations in the plan of conservation and development.

To this end, hiring a professional who could assist with any planning decisions and be retained by the town, could solve that problem.

Larson stressed that he commits a lot of time and effort to the commission, which he enjoys, but that the job would become easier with further help.

"I like working, like doing what I'm doing – just would like to take advantage of some of those other things," he said.

A planner could help attract commercial business to town, he said, as well as assist with executing the affordable housing plan and prepare regulation changes.

One of the responsibilities of the PZC is to follow the town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

The commission works to ensure that proposed developments are in compliance with the plan. Further tasks the planner could help with include applying for grants and promoting the goals and policies of the commission to the boards and town officials.

"I do think it could significantly benefit the town," Larson said.

Specifically, he expressed that the town might be missing out on potential grants. There are many opportunities, he said, that could help future developments in the town, which a planner could potentially seek out.

"I just hate seeing Andover not being able to take advantage of more of that money that's out there that I think we could put to good use," he said.

A part-time individual, who would work around 16 hours per month, was not ideal, Larson stated.

Instead, he pushed for a planner, whose responsibilities and title could also include being the economic development coordinator, at 10 hours per week. This would likely cost around \$20,000-30,000 a year, Larson said.

First Selectman Jeffrey Maguire expressed that adding the position was worth considering

in the future.

"I think we all feel your pain," he said. "I think you've done an exceptional job."

Larson emphasized that town planning "was a marathon, not a sprint." While Andover is a small town, there are still tasks that need to be accomplished and that a professional could help out with.

"It's definitely something we'll take under consideration," Maguire said. "We need to provide resources for people who are willing to volunteer and willing to put in the time to sit there and do things within the community."

Other Business

The selectmen also took action recommending that the finance board use the fund balance for a deposit for a new full-sized plow truck. The payment would be around \$60,000.

The town plans on entering a five-year lease option for the truck, which will likely cost around \$260,000 – a price the town cannot afford to outright purchase.

Along with approval from the finance board, the funding would also need to be approved by residents at a special town meeting.

The deposit would come out of fund balance and would not impact the current fiscal year, the selectmen agreed. Then, the money for the lease agreement would be included in the next budget proposal.

Ideally, the truck would arrive later this year, in time for the next winter season.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson previously told the *Rivereast* that the town is on a 15-year plan for equipment need plan in order to help split up the costs over a long period of time.

Expensive items cannot be bought all at once, and some reoccurring items are on set purchasing cycles, including trucks, Anderson said. He said the trucks have an effective lifespan of around 15 years. Every five years, the town tries to replace one of the trucks and rotate an older model out of service.

About four years ago, the town acquired a new truck outright for \$195,000. Anderson said that truck was actually a better model than the one the town is currently looking to lease, but due to inflationary costs, a different model was reviewed.

STEAP Grant

In September, Andover was awarded a \$275,000 grant through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program [STEAP] that will help finance a new municipal parking hub.

The town matched \$75,000, which is expected to cover the entirety of the project proposal.

Anderson previously called the grant a "big win" for the town.

During the selectmen meeting, Anderson expressed that according to the town charter, the funding actually needs to be approved at a town meeting.

Basically, he said, any grant above \$2,500

Rahman Sworn in for First Term

State Sen. MD Rahman (D-4) was sworn in at the state capitol last Wednesday, Jan. 4, for his first term as the State Senator representing the 4th Senate District, which includes Manchester, Glastonbury, Andover and Bolton.

Rahman, who was elected to the Senate last fall, succeeds six-term state senator Steve Casano in the role.

"Today is a day I'll never forget, because I would not be here without the support of my community," Rahman said last Wednesday. "There are countless people throughout our four towns who selected me to represent them, and countless more whom I'm responsible to represent. I do not take that responsibility lightly. With today's swearings-in comes the start of the legislative session, and as we begin our

work in committees, I'll remember the importance and gravity of this seat every day, working for the good of our towns, our communities and our state. America embraced me and my family, and I will not forget that as I fight for all of us."

Rahman immigrated to the United States decades ago; today, he owns several businesses in health care, construction and real estate. Prior to his election, Rahman worked to acquire and distribute personal protective equipment and food for the community during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rahman will serve as senate chair of the planning and development committee, vice chair of the commerce committee and as a member of the aging, finance, public safety and public health committees.

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following items have been updated for Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled. If you want to attend any events, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, andoverct.org.

Shopping Dates: Tuesdays. Willimantic: 1/17, 1/31; Manchester: 1/24. Masks are available on all vehicles.

Senior Luncheon Dates: Fridays, Jan. 20, Feb. 3 and Feb. 17. Reservation required by 1/18 for the 1/20 lunch; by 2/1 for the 2/3 lunch, and by 2/15 for the 2/17 lunch.

Rides to Fundraiser: The annual senior fundraiser will be Sunday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School gym, and rides are available by calling Palazzi. There will be baked goods, basket and raffle tables, and several vendors. Pizza will be available for purchase at 12:30 p.m. If you would like to bake something for the fundraiser, let Palazzi know.

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 pan-

try – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

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

New Seniors Welcome: New seniors are welcome to all events. Call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs. For all Young at Heart events including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Georgia O'Brien at 860-742-9947 for all trip information.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, Jan. 20, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

Marlborough • Marlborough

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); and Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission (alternate).

Those interested in applying can complete

the application form at marlboroughct.net; the link for the form is at the bottom of the page on the left-hand side.

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.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Thomas J. Sas, John McKaig is deacon emeritus and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone or email at stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com.

COVID-19 Protocol: For the fully vaccinated, masks are not required. For the unvaccinated, masks continue to be encouraged. Call the office for more information.

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

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

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

Confirmation Community: The church's active 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program continues. Registration is required as well.

Adult Worship Choir: Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information can be found on the church website.

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank; you may also bring non-perishable food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank continues to supply fresh produce each week and volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

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

Historical Society Calendars Available

Marlborough Historical Society has announced 2023 calendars are now available. This year's theme is 'Historic Newspaper Articles.'

The cost is \$20 and can be purchased online at www.marlboroughhistory.org/store or by mail at MHS, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447. All proceeds go to support preservation initiatives and upcoming events by the Marlborough Historical Society.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Austin Dupre and Stella Henderson made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

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. Worship is and is broadcast live every Sunday and recorded for later viewing at mcc.cong-church.org.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

Jan. 15 worship will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. The Chancel Choir will sing. Seaver's sermon, "Where Are You Looking For?", is based on John 1:29-42.

Women's Circle, led by Seaver, is open to all women in the community and will meet upstairs in the lounge on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 6:30 p.m.

276th Annual Financial Meeting: Held in

the meetinghouse on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 11:15 a.m., for the Approval of the 2023 Budget, 2022 Statistics, and 2022 Report of the Treasurer.

AA meets downstairs in the Great Hall Wednesdays with two meetings, one at noon and another at 7:30 p.m.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Closed until Feb. 3, to set up for late winter and spring selling. Donations will be accepted in January; call the church office to make arrangements. The shop also sells items 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 or Pastor Val Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432.

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information.

Monday, Jan. 16: Senior center closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Quilling, 9 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Mahjong, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 18: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: grilled kielbasa, potato pancake, capri-blend vegetables, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 19: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-noon; Commission on Aging meeting, 11 a.m. at Town Hall; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: stuffed pepper with tomato sauce, farfalle noodles, Prince William blend vegetables, oatnut bread, fresh fruit.

Congregate Meals: All meals are served with milk, bread and margarine. Suggested donation: \$3 or what you can afford.

Transportation: Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and non-medical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required. Masks are also required, as well as appropriate distancing.

Food Bank: Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008), the food bank is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need of food. Transportation for seniors and/or physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center if you need a ride.

Income Tax Prep: AARP will do free Income Tax Preparation at the senior center Thursdays, Feb. 9 and 23, and March 9 and 23, from 9 a.m.-noon each day. To sign up, call the senior center.

Weather-Related Closings/Late Openings: In instances of inclement weather, tune to WFSB-TV 3 or NBC Connecticut for the latest.

Holiday Closings

Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center and Public Works Department will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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Discovery Zone learning Center



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



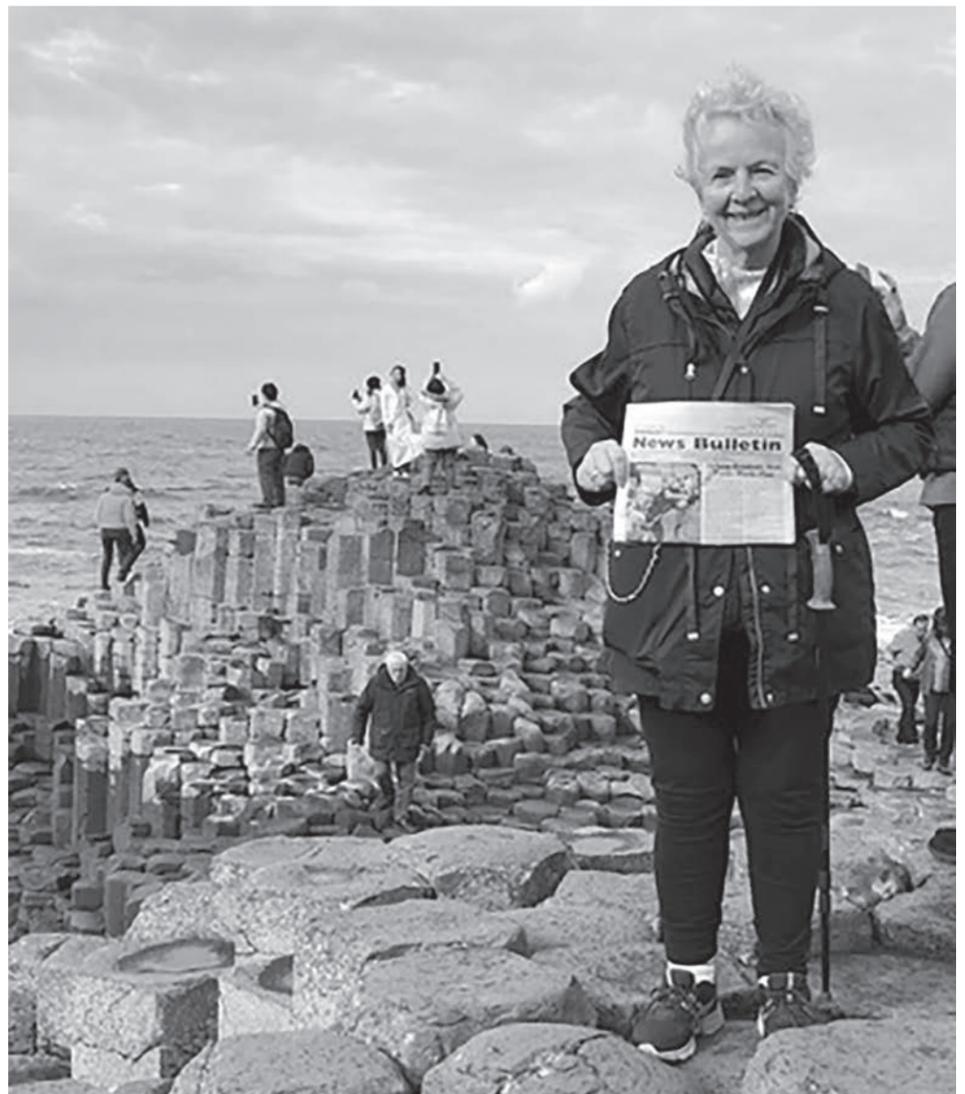
Rivereast Goes to Egypt!... Barb and Cliff Libby of East Hampton brought the *Rivereast* with them on a trip to see the pyramids of Giza, Egypt!



An Audience with the King... Leslie Dinunzio of East Hampton and her children, Carys and Chase, recently sailed on the Disney Magic to Kings Wharf, Bermuda. They brought along their *Rivereast* for a photo!



Taking the Trail... Tom and Ann Sweeney of East Hampton recently visited the Great Lakes Seaway Trail in St. Lawrence County in upstate New York.



Checking Out the Causeway... Kathleen Connolly of The Village at Loveland Hills in Hebron recently visited the natural wonder of The Giant's Causeway in County Antrim, Ireland

Where in the World?

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Various Areas Squeezed in Budget Trimming

By Jack Lakowsky

Throughout the process of its creation, local school district administrators and superintendent Charles Britton made hefty cuts from the proposed 2023-24 operating budget of about \$24 million, almost 4% up from the current plan.

Britton told the school board Tuesday that had he approved all the requests the district made, the budget proposal would more than an 11% increase.

Board member Dave Murphy, normally a fiscally conservative “numbers guy,” raised a questioned about the disparity between the 11% and the actual 4% request, saying there’s always a gap between district requests and the school head’s proposal, but not one normally so large, more than \$2 million, Murphy estimated. “What needs are we not fulfilling?” Murphy asked.

The first part of Britton’s presentation addressed needs not expected to be met. “Each bullet point is something we’re giving up that effects the quantity and quality of what we provide here,” Britton said.

To make the budget palatable to taxpayers,

officials broke out the scissors.

While the budget lists student mental health as a chief priority, it seems the district’s special education programming was most targeted for trimming.

Firstly, as the budget stands now, the Brownstone school and the middle school will keep sharing a special ed teacher, which is causing “challenges”, Britton said.

“We’re gonna have to make it work for another year,” he said.

Gildersleeve School’s three special education teachers might be facing higher caseloads. Right now, the school has four, one of which is grant funded, funding set to end soon. Britton is looking to “move this up a little,” moving one of the special ed positions to teach an adult learning program.

Further, before Britton made his request, he told administrators to make 5% cuts across the board. For student support services, this means nearly a \$100,000 cut, while for individual school buildings, it meant cuts in the few thousands.

Students who struggle in math, whether spe-

cial needs or not, may find more difficulty next school year. A high school math teacher is retiring, and Britton doesn’t plan on refilling the positions, raising math class sizes significantly, most going from class numbers in the teens to the low and mid-twenties. This would seem to contradict the district’s stated goal of recovering learning lost at the height of the pandemic.

Britton said high school enrollment is declining, and the district must answer in-kind.

Students might also expect longer bus rides. The district plans to cut a route, going from 10 to 9. Last year, during the statewide bus driver shortage, the district was down to as few as 6. Recovering to 9, Britton feels this number of routes is accurate, but it will make for busier

buses and longer routes.

Also facing possible cuts is athletics. Denying requests for two assistant coaches might mean cutting team numbers.

The district faces several price hikes as well. Britton’s proposal calls for a sharp increase in buildings and equipment costs – up 24% to \$284,000, an increase highly driven by a need to buy teacher computers.

Transportation costs are also spiking, up more than 30%, from about \$2 million to \$2.5. The district got a break in maintenance and repairs, dropping 23%, from more than \$400,000 to a bit over \$315,000.

The board continued budget deliberations Thursday night, after press time.

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 not leave Food Bank donations at the senior center unless the food bank is open. The food bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Also, the senior center does not need any donations directed toward the center; please only leave donations for the food bank, and only during food bank hours.

Free Grab-and-Go Meals: The senior center is offering Waverly Senior Center members, who reside in Portland only, one free Grab-and-Go meal starting in February. You must be able to pick up the meal yourself, at 11:45 a.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, in the Mary Lou Rice room. Please do not arrive before 11:30 a.m., as there are programs in that room. Note: You are not eligible if you are already receiving Meals-on-Wheels. You must register one week in advance for a Grab-and-Go Meal. For information, or to sign up, call at 860-342-6761.

Next Week’s Programs: Monday: Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. 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 return Jan. 17 from 9:30 a.m.-noon (to register, email

bivenne@yahoo.com); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m.; Dulcimer beginner class, 6 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Chair Yoga, 11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m., multipurpose room; Tai Chi Qigong, 1 p.m. **Thursday:** Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Tech class with two Portland High School seniors, 10:30 a.m.

Blood Pressure Clinic: 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (unless the first Monday is a holiday; then the clinic is the following week).

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.

Volunteer Drivers Sought for Meals-on-Wheels: The senior center is currently recruiting volunteer drivers to help deliver meals to the homebound Monday-Thursday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Alexis at 860-342-6761.

Exchange Club Seeks New Members

The Exchange Club of Portland is looking for new members.

The Exchange holds various events year-round that contribute towards area organizations in supporting the club’s effort to helping others in need.

In 2022, the Portland Exchange helped the Portland food and fuel banks, Middlesex Hospice, New Horizon’s Domestic Violence Shelter, Gilead Community Services and more.

The Exchange also annually gives out the John Goodrich Scholarship to an area high school senior, and contributes to other local scholarship programs.

Members of the Exchange hand out flags during the Portland Memorial Day parade and hold a Touch-A-Truck events each year that supports a veteran’s charity.

If interested in joining, visit www.portland-exchange.org for more information.

Food Bank, Foodshare Truck

Portland Food Bank is located in the lower level of the Portland Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. The food bank is open Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon, except for holidays. The food bank will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

To access the food bank’s services, people are required to register with the food bank (copy of an ID and recent piece of mail or utility bill) and be a Portland resident. Donations are only taken during food bank hours. Call 860-342-6795 for

more information or for volunteer and donation opportunities.

The Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center every other Monday from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays. People using the Foodshare are required to form a line and everyone will have an opportunity to “shop” at the truck once it is set up. You do not have to be a Portland resident to attend the Foodshare; please bring bags.

The next Foodshare is Jan. 30 at 1 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

All who are vaccinated may remove their masks. All who are not fully vaccinated are asked to wear their masks.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., and there will also be a gathering in the church office at the same time,

for Anglican Prayer beading. No prior beading experience is required. All are welcome.

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

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

Brownstone Quorum Meeting Rescheduled

The Brownstone Quorum annual meeting, planned for Jan. 23, will now take place Monday, April 24, at 7 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

The meeting to elect officers and present awards will be followed by a presentation by David DeLucia, past president of the Ct. Cactus and Succulents society, on cacti and succulents in Connecticut.

The public is invited, and light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School has announced kindergarten registration for the 2023-24 school year.

Parents/guardians whose children will be five years of age on or before Jan. 1, 2024, should contact Valley View School at pgross@portlandct.us to indicate you will register your child for kindergarten. Provide your child’s full name, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.

Dean’s List

Ella Bankoski of Portland made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Bankoski is a freshman in the speech-language pathology program.

KoC Free-Throw Contest

The Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual youth basketball free-throw contest Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School.

Portland girls and boys, ages 9 through 14 can participate in the event. Medals will be awarded to top finishers in their age and gender groups based on best of 15 free-throws. Registration forms will be provided at the event.

Call 860-342-0881 for more information.



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Preschool Screening

Valley View School in Portland will conduct a preschool screening Friday, Jan. 27, for children ages 3-4. The screening is designed to answer any questions or concerns about a child's development as well as identifying children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening, children will meet with members of Valley View's preschool team and participate in a variety of activities that assess different developmental areas including cognition, communication, fine and gross motor

skills and social interaction. During this time, the parent/caregiver will meet with another member of the team to discuss the child's adaptive and personal social skills.

Following the screening, parents/guardians will receive a letter stating their child's results.

In order for the child to attend Valley View's preschool program, they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View at 860-342-3131.

Book Sale, Read & Recycle

The Friends of the Portland Library group has puzzles, games and DVDs, as well as fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the 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 and puzzles and games are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

Also, the Friends of the Portland Library's Read and Recycle program will accept donations on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the Mary Flood Room of the library.

The Friends welcome donations of gently used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games.

No textbooks, business books, computer books, self-help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition. The Friends cannot accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition.

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

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



Lauren DeMerchant, left, and Avery Berard, right, are the winners of the 2022-23 fire prevention poster contest.

Fire Poster Contest Winners

The Portland Fire Marshal's Office has announced the local winners of the 2022-23 Fire Prevention Poster contest.

Fire Marshal Raymond Sajdak announced that Lauren DeMerchant and Avery Berard won this year's contest. This year's theme was "Fire Prevention – Everyone/Every Day." Lauren is a fourth-grader at Gildersleeve School; her teacher is Jennifer Martinez. Avery is a fifth-grader at Brownstone Intermediate School; her teacher is Eileen Moynihan. The art teacher for both is Patricia Allen.

Both students will receive checks for \$75 and move on to the county level.

Two county winners from each grade will then be chosen, and move on to the state level. The state winner will be used to promote fire prevention throughout the State of Connecticut and will be the Official State Poster.

All winning posters on the county level will be exhibited at the State Capital during the month of October. The county winners will be awarded a \$150 check, and the state winner will receive a \$750 check. In addition, a matching grant will be awarded to the state winner's school in the amount of \$500.

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest is a cooperative effort of the Office of State Fire Marshal, the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association, Connecticut Fire Chief's Association, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, State Board of Education, and the Connecticut Fair Plan (representing the insurance industry).

Sajdak offered thanks to all teachers for their assistance with the contest, as well as all the fourth- and fifth-grade students who participated.

Mid-Winter Chocolate Fest

The Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church in Portland will host its 25th, and final, Mid-Winter Chocolate Fest on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 1-4:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the church, 554 Main St. All are invited to drop by and experience an afternoon of chocolate treats and valentine delights.

The Chocolate Mousse Café will be a takeout-only booth where one can purchase a variety of delectable desserts including their always favorite Double Truffle "Black Beast," Lemon Truffle Pie and Turtle Cheesecake. The Baked Goods Booth will offer a variety of breads including cardamom, muffins, bars, cookies, and pies in both chocolate and non-chocolate flavors. The Candy Booth will have an assortment of items including English toffee, candy coated pretzels, chocolate covered

cherries, candy rose bouquets, and lollipops in all shapes and sizes.

The Valentine's Craft Booth will have gift mugs, small gift baskets for all ages, jewelry and unique greeting cards. The children's area will include gift items and a combination craft/grab bag. New this year will be a sale room where one will find a variety of items including vintage treasures.

The snow date will be Sunday, Feb. 5, from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free.

As this is the last time this event will be held, the Women's Fellowship said it would like to thank everyone for their support and participation through the years.

For more information, call the church at 860 342-3244 or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org.

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 adionne@portlandct.org.

Adult Drop-In Programs: Volleyball: Wednesdays at Gildersleeve School. Non-competitive play is 5-6:30 p.m., and competitive play is 6:30-8 p.m.

Men's Drop-In Basketball: Tuesdays, 7:30-

9 p.m., at Portland Middle School. Watch for details on Women's Drop-In Basketball, coming soon.

Kids' Blast After School Program: Mondays-Fridays, 3-6 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School, for grades K-6. Cost to attend is \$18 a day. There are currently openings for January, purchase a Kids' Blast membership on the Parks and Rec. website, email adionne@portlandct.org or call 860-342-6757.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional.

A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheran-portland.org.

Sunday School meets the first and third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m., following worship. Ages 3 to 16 are welcome.

Adult Bible study takes place on the second

and fourth Sunday of the month, following worship at 10:15 a.m. The focus is on season two of the television series *The Chosen*. Anyone may join at any time. Call the church for details.

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

St. Mary Church News

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

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

website for more information.

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

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

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

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Vocal Chords Seek Tenors, Basses

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords, under the direction of Samuel Tucker and accompanied by an orchestra, is looking to expand its tenor and bass sections.

No auditions are necessary. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 6:45 p.m., at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St. Francis Church, 10 Elm St., Middletown, for the upcoming concert on Saturday, April 29, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School. New members will be accepted through Jan. 31. You do not need to be affiliated with Middlesex Health in order to join.

For more information, visit vocalchords20.org, look for the group on Facebook or call 860-342-3120.

Little League Registration

Portland Little League Registration for the spring season and winter clinics is now open. There are baseball and softball programs offered for players ages 5 through 14.

Visit www.portlandlittleleague.com to register. Registration for the spring season ends March 1.

United 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. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold.

A Fourth Sunday weekly Communion service at 1 p.m. replaces the regular 9 a.m. service on those Sundays.



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MLK Day Basketball Tournament

All are invited to honor Martin Luther King Day and support young athletes on Monday, Jan. 16, at the Portland high and middle schools. The MLK Day Youth Basketball Tournament will begin at 9 a.m. and include boys and girls travel teams (grades 5-8) from Portland, Milford, Branford, Groton/Mystic, East Hampton, Guilford, New Britain and Colchester.

Teams will gather at 11:30 a.m. in the high school gym to honor King and bring awareness to the role of sports in civil rights activism. This event is free, but donations to a charitable organization supporting civil rights and youth outreach will be accepted.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Harrison Collins at hcollins23@portland-ct.us.

YFS News & Notes

Portland Youth & Family Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/youth-services or the YFS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PortlandCTYouth, or contact Jesse Revicki at jrevicki@portlandct.org, or 860-342-6758. To receive email updates about YFS programs and events, sign up at eepurl.com/h5m35f.

Drop-In & Draw Meet-Up: Friday, Jan. 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m., on the first floor of the Buck Foreman Community Center (BFCC), 265 Main St. This month, parents and caregivers can work on a fork-painted polar bear craft.

Youth Services Advisory Board: Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 4:30-6 p.m., on the first floor of the BFCC. This is a town-appointed advisory board that is open to the public.

Prevention & Wellness Council: Wednesday,

Jan. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. Help YFS work as a community on youth substance use prevention, positive mental health, and becoming a recovery-friendly community. If interested in joining, contact Revicki or just show up.

Ryan's Story: A Father's Hard-Earned Lessons About Cyberbullying and Suicide: Thursday, Jan. 26, 7-8 p.m., at the Portland Middle School auditorium. Parents will get an unambiguous message that they need to step up and take responsibility for how their child uses technology and interact with their peers in person and online. There will be a student presentation in the school on Friday, Jan. 27.

LGBTQ+ Support Groups & Meet-Ups: YFS said it is finalizing details for these, and plans to hold them every other Wednesday at Portland Library. Watch for more information.

Cover Story • Cover

★ Selectman Quits GOP cont. from page 1

to bring a more youthful look to Republicanism," he explained.

Over the last year, LaChapelle has become one of the most outspoken and visible Republicans in Colchester. Whether through social media posts or heated exchanges with other selectmen, he has consistently voiced his opinions.

There were several moments that contributed to his growing distaste for the Republican party in town. However, the main issue was style of politics on display by certain officials, which he called "destructive."

"I could no longer continue to be associated with that group," he said. "I couldn't do it anymore."

LaChapelle said he helped foster the very culture that he was referring to in his comments.

"I helped create it," he said, referencing personal attacks he made during the 2021 campaign.

But now, he said, that part of his political career is finished.

"In that regard, I have changed my ways," he said.

Residents voted for LaChapelle as a Republican, not an unaffiliated member. In his post, he stated that the Secretary of State's office confirmed that his decision doesn't affect his standing on the board.

However, in the long term, LaChapelle will need to secure support from his constituents, including Republicans, if he wants to continue serving.

He expressed that despite his estrangement with the Republican Party, he still plans on running for the Board of Selectmen again.

"I have no intention of not following through to the very end," he said, adding that his goals were not limited to one term.

He also emphasized that his concerns were not necessarily related to the broader Republican Party, but rather a smaller faction of influential leaders.

Rudko told the *Rivereast* that there's a group of individuals in the RTC who are "not in alignment."

Rudko said he believes LaChapelle likely saw the RTC as an "encumbrance" to what he wanted to accomplish in town.

Although there may be disagreement within the party, which he described as a "generational shift," he stated that the RTC will "get through it."

For LaChapelle, the latest disagreements with the party don't come as a surprise. He argued that "this is what politics looks like."

"There should be head-butting in politics," he said. "There should be ugliness and fights. Everybody can't agree on everything and that's not bad. These are important issues."

>>>RTC Meeting Controversy<<<

On Jan. 3, the RTC was expected to hold its regularly scheduled meeting. However, that morning, Rudko posted a statement to the Colchester Republicans' Facebook page announcing that the meeting was canceled.

"Yesterday an email was distributed to the entire RTC membership that tonight's RTC

meeting for January 3, 2023 is canceled. Various members are either under the weather or have holiday scheduling conflicts. We will resume next month, Tuesday, February 7."

Still, a meeting between around 12 RTC members, he said, took place that night.

The following morning, John Thomas, RTC treasurer and also a Colchester finance board member, sent the *Rivereast* what he called a "press release from the Colchester Republican Town Committee."

The release stated that the committee unanimously approved the following statement: "Have the public know that the Chairman, Taras Rudko and Vice Chairman Jason LaChapelle of the RTC in their recent lawsuit of the town, were acting on their own, and without the support of the RTC. The RTC regrets the town's wasteful expense of fighting these lawsuits to the taxpayers in the town. The RTC congratulates the First Selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, in his successful fight on behalf of the future Colchester Senior Center."

Neither Rudko nor LaChapelle, who was still serving as vice chairman at the time, were not at that meeting.

Rudko told the *Rivereast* that because he canceled the meeting, and the gathering was not called by either himself or the vice chairman, that the meeting was not legitimate RTC business.

"They met as a group of individuals, not as the RTC," he said.

Therefore, he argued, the statement should not be recognized as an official RTC communication.

He confirmed that the cancellation was put in writing and distributed to RTC members. Some members, he said, pushed back, expressing their desire to hold a meeting that night.

Thomas did not return a request for comment before press time.

This week on Facebook, RTC member Kasiani Bisbikos – the first selectman's sister – argued that even though the chairman and vice chairman were absent, the meeting was legal.

She stated that when those two individuals cannot attend a meeting, "then it is the other two main members to call, create, and attend the meeting – if there are enough members. In the past, meetings needed to be voted on by members in order to be canceled, not by one individual."

Rudko stated that this interpretation of the RTC and state bylaws was incorrect.

In another comment, Bisbikos stated that "we held a meeting, which was announced and there was an agenda, created by John Thomas – there were enough RTC members for a quorum."

Later in her post, she said the statement "gives the public understanding that not all of us stand behind Jason and Taras' lawsuit attempt the senior center."

The press release was published in an article in last week's *Rivereast*. Rudko posted a statement online calling for a retraction of the "libelous statement."

"We plan on taking any and all actions to rectify this situation," he added.

First Congregational Church News

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

On Jan. 15, the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service will feature a guest preacher. Cari Klick's sermon is titled, "God Is Still Speaking." George Law will read the scriptures. Under Kasha Breaux's direction, the choir will sing the anthem, "Come, Follow Me" by Barbara Bridge. Church school and infant/toddler care are offered this Sunday. Coffee hour follows the

service. First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

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.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following events. Registration required for all programs unless noted. For more info, to register, and for 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. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

Artist Reception for Pamela Hanks: Saturday, Jan. 21, 1-3 p.m. Sponsored by Friends of the Portland Library. Hanks writes and illustrates children's books. She has a sizeable collection of alien paintings that were born of COVID and her strong urge to paint with traditional acrylic paint.

Youth Programs: Winter Reading Challenge: Smitten with Mittens: Runs through Friday, March 3. This year's theme is inspired by Jan Brett's picture book version of the classic folk tale "The Mitten." Visit the library on or after Jan. 9 and get a mitten to color and hang on our bulletin board. Each time you check out materials in January and February (up to once per day), the library will add a new winter animal to your mitten. Once you've added all eight animals from the story, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize.

Special Events: Save the Dates: Wednesday, Jan. 25: Mitten PJ Storytime and Activities; Saturday, Feb. 4: Take Your Child to the Library Day; Friday, Feb. 10: Family Fort Night and Nocturnal Animal Hunt; Tuesday, Feb. 21: Readers' Theater: *The Mitten*; Saturday, Feb. 25: Wildlife in Winter program from White Memorial Conservation Center.

Drop-In Playdates: Thursdays through Feb. 23 (no program Feb. 16), at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 0-5 and their caregivers are invited for an hour of socialization and open play with the story room toys. No registration is required.

Winter Storytimes: The schedule is: Pre-

school Storytime, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Feb. 28; Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose, Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. through March 1.

Tinkerlab: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 19, 26, for grades K-8. Practice your engineering and coding skills. No registration required.

Family Craft Night: Mitten People: Wednesday, Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Space is limited.

The Mitten: PJ Storytime and Activity Night: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m. An evening of fun based on Jan Brett's book *The Mitten*. There will be crafts and activities, hot cocoa, and a visit with a special guest from the story.

Teen Programs: Celebrate National Pie Day: Monday, Jan. 23, 3:30 p.m. Make a hedgehog book craft, then taste-test different kinds of pies and vote on your favorites.

Teen Lock-In: Friday, Jan. 27, 6-9 p.m., for students in grades six and up. After the library closes for the night, get the party started with food, games and surprises. Space is extremely limited.

Adult Programs: Mitten Tree: Bring in mittens and gloves for children or adults to be distributed by the Portland Food Bank.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m. *Razorblade Tears* by S.A. Cosby will be discussed.

Winter Seed Sowing: Native Perennials Garden Program: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. Co-sponsored by the Portland River Valley Garden Club. In this hands-on workshop led by Master Gardener Lynn Keller, people will have the opportunity to plant a variety of native perennial seeds which will be ready for transplanting in the spring and early summer. Bring an empty milk jug to bring home starter seeds.

Wednesday Movie: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1 p.m. Ticket to Paradise will be shown.



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Colchester • Colchester

Selectmen Award Senior Center Bid

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Board of Selectmen approved a series of motions on Jan. 5 relating to the construction of a new senior center as the town continues to move forward with the project following a favorable court ruling.

Most notably, the selectmen awarded the construction bid to BRD Builders LLC in the amount of \$8.6 million. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote; selectman Jason LaChapelle abstained.

The motion allows the attorneys for both sides to begin negotiating an official construction contract, which would then be presented back to selectmen for final approval.

The action was made possible following a ruling by New London Superior Court Judge Karen Goodrow that denied the injunction request sought by LaChapelle and Republican Town Committee Chairman Taras Rudko.

Goodrow also lifted the temporary injunction

previously granted by the court that was preventing the town from entering a construction contract with BRD Builders, the apparent low bidder for the project.

Still, despite awarding the bid, the offer from BRD Builders was set to expire on Wednesday if a contract was not agreed to by both sides and reviewed by the state.

On Wednesday morning, Senior Center Building Committee Chairman Tony Tarnowski told the *Rivereast* that BRD Builders did receive state approval.

He also said that BRD Builders agreed to extend the deadline to sign a contract until Jan. 20, and would not increase the cost.

Currently, he said, the attorneys for both sides are reviewing the contract details and finalizing a document.

“Once the two sides agree, I will send [the contract] to the Board of Selectmen for review

and to sign the contract,” Tarnowski said.

Ideally, a copy will be emailed to the selectmen by the end of the week, allowing sufficient time for review before a vote likely sometime next week.

“Everything is going the way it’s supposed to,” Tarnowski added.

In order to satisfy the terms of the contract, the building committee approved a series of line-item budget transfers this week totaling in around \$570,000, he said. The transfers within the budget opened up enough money to enter into a contract.

The bid opening began on Oct. 13, and BRD Builders LLC’s bid was originally \$8.9 million.

After \$370,000 in alternates to the bid were accepted, the final construction cost came in at just over \$8.6 million, leaving a \$976,030 budget shortfall. During the court hearing, the plaintiffs argued that the total cost of the building would exceed the amount approved at a town referendum.

During the selectmen meeting, LaChapelle, who indicated beforehand that he likely would not support a motion awarding the bid to BRD Builders, asked if this vote was binding.

He wanted further clarification on whether awarding the bid meant that the town would be forced to enter into a contract at a later date, no matter what. If it was binding, he continued, then he would prefer to review a physical con-

tract document before awarding the bid.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos responded by stating that the board could still decide against signing a contract, even if the bid was awarded that night.

The town had previously attempted to award the bid in December, but the temporary injunction prevented the board from doing so until the court weighed in.

During the hearing, Goodrow agreed that the current project budget estimate is between \$10.2-10.8 million – well above the \$9.5 million approved at referendum.

However, she did not find that entering a contract would cause “irreparable harm” or violate the terms of the referendum, town charter or the will of the voters.

The court did agree that Bisbikos credibly testified that he would take measures to acquire the appropriate funding if the project did become over-budget.

At the meeting, Rudko expressed that despite the injunction denial, the court’s ruling still provided valuable information, including that the \$9.5 million amount was a hard cap.

“There will come a time when that project will run out of money,” he said.

Bisbikos has stated that legal fees associated with the court hearing will cost the town somewhere in the range of \$15,000-25,000.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, Jan. 16: Senior center closed for Martin Luther King Jr holiday.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 18: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Snowflake Social Luncheon.

Thursday, Jan. 19: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Jan. 20: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30

a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Mental Health Self-Care Lunch & Learn; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Chinese New Year Celebration: Monday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit in Chinese culture. To celebrate, there will be a catered buffet from Po’s Rice and Spice including chicken and mixed vegetables, beef and broccoli, vegetable lo mein, pork fried rice and steamed white rice, and egg rolls. The event will also feature traditional Chinese games and a round of Chinese New Year *Jeopardy!*. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale until today, Jan. 13.

Bingo Players Luncheon: Tuesday, Jan. 24, 11:30 a.m. This event is free for members who have played a minimum of 10 Bingo games in the past six months. All others may attend for \$10 per person, as space permits. Pre-register in the office by today, Jan. 13.

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trip. 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.

Canadian/New England Cruise: May 12-20. Sail the St. Lawrence River and Northern Atlantic while visiting ports in Canada and New England. Arrive in Montreal by deluxe motor coach, then set sail with stops in Quebec City, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Bar Harbor, and Boston. Includes overnight accommodation in Montreal, a three-hour tour of Montreal, dinner, all meals on board, daily activities, nightly entertainment, casino, and deluxe motor coach

back to CT from Boston. Prices start at \$1899 per person for twin. Final payment is due Jan 28. You must have a valid passport. Call or visit the senior center for more information or call Friendship Tours directly at 860-243-1630 or 800-243-1630.

Spain & Portugal: Costa Del Sol to the Portuguese Riviera: Oct. 14-25. Taste some of the delicacies of this southern Spanish region. Includes 10 breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners. Cost is \$5,029 per person for double, if booked before March 15. You can come into the senior center to register in person or register online at gateway.gocollette.com/link/1102385.

Spring Baseball, Softball Registration

Registration for Colchester spring baseball and softball teams is at www.cbsl.org.

Anyone interested in coaching should sign up for that volunteer role when registering a player. People can also volunteer for any of the different volunteer roles via the “volunteer opportunities” tab on the website as well.

Resident Completes Research Project

Regan Kahal of Colchester, a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Impact of Place on Climate Change Perception and Behavior.

Kahal is a member of the class of 2024 majoring in biomedical engineering (BS).

CLT Pancake Breakfast

Colchester Land Trust (CLT) will hold a Pancake Breakfast and Timber Framing Overview Sunday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m., at 23 Lee Court. CLT members and non-members welcome; cost is \$5 for non-members.

Park in a cul-de-sac and walk down a driveway. Meet inside the barn. All are invited to this pancake breakfast in a traditional timber frame barn on the property of board members Russ and Natalie Moore. Kids welcome. Warm drinks will be served.

Space is limited to 30 people; RSVP to Natalie at natsamooore@gmail.com by Feb. 5. The barn is unheated, so folks should dress for the weather.

People Empowering People

The Collaborative for Colchester’s Children (C3) will offer UConn’s People Empowering People program on Wednesday mornings from Jan. 18-March 22.

This free 10-week course is an innovative personal and family development program with a strong community focus, which is designed to build on the unique strengths and life experiences of the participants by engaging in profound discussion and self-discovery. PEP emphasizes the connection between individual and community action. The class will take place at Bacon Academy and free childcare is available for participants.

To learn more and to register, go to ColchesterC3.org.

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Crescent Street OB/GYN has joined Middlesex Health. As a result, Crescent Street OB/GYN now has a new name — **Middlesex Health Crescent Street Obstetrics and Gynecology**. The practice will continue to operate offices at 49 Crescent Street in Middletown and 3 E. Hampton Road in Marlborough. Its Guilford office has relocated to 1353 Boston Post Road in Madison.

For more information about Middlesex Health Crescent Street Obstetrics and Gynecology, visit [MiddlesexHealth.org/CrescentStreetOBGYN](https://www.MiddlesexHealth.org/CrescentStreetOBGYN).

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Resident Promoted to Executive Director

Senior housing provider Benchmark Senior Living announced this week that Jody Abel of Colchester has been promoted to executive director of The Village at Kensington Place, a Benchmark assisted living and Mind & Memory Care community. She has been with Kensington Place's sister community, Crescent Point at Niantic, for over eight years as its director of business administration.

Abel brings over 30 years of health care human resources experience to the role. Before joining Benchmark, she was the director of human resources for a local skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility for almost four years.

"Jody has been such a tremendous asset to Benchmark over these past eight years," said Justin Grady, regional director of operations for Benchmark. "I'm thrilled to have her in this role and know she will help make Kensington Place an even better place to live and work."

Abel attended Bryant University, where she earned a bachelor's in human resources with a



Jody Abel

minor in biology.

"Benchmark felt good from the moment I walked in and, eight years later, it's a feeling I still get daily," said Abel. "Our associates never cease to amaze me with their caring and love for our residents, and I'm so proud to lead our team in my new role."

Dean's List

Colchester residents Sean Baldyga, Ryan Claffey and Jordan Malloy made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Polish Dinner-Dance Feb. 19

The St. Joseph's Polish Society at 395 South Main St. will host a Polish dinner-polka dance Sunday, Feb. 19. Dinner will be served from 1-2 p.m., and Dennis Polisky and The Maestro's Men will perform from 2-6 p.m.

The Polish dinner includes pierogies, golumpki, kielbasa, kapusta, rye bread, and butter. Tickets for the dinner-dance are \$25 per person. Tickets for a takeout-only dinner are \$18 per dinner. Advanced tickets are required for both. Takeout dinners are limited.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

Ahavath Achim News

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule:

Tuesday, Aggadath class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom and in person; Wednesday classes, 2:30-4 p.m. – Hebrew Conversation, Jewish Literacy and Jewish Business Ethics on Zoom. 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.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page. Also on the page: "Ask the Rabbi" and the Positive Affirmation of the Day.

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.

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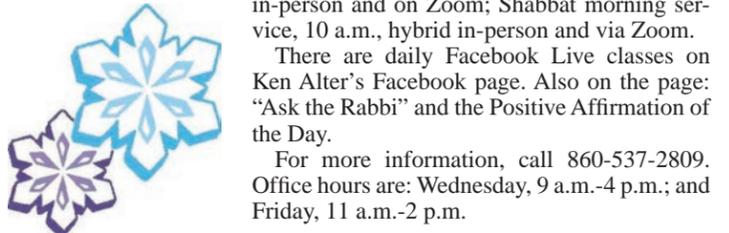
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or white wine sauce	Asparagus, sun dried tomatoes in a vodka blush sauce
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Chicken Marsala
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Parks and Rec News

Colchester Parks and Recreation, located at 127 Norwich Ave. (Town Hall), has announced the following items of interest. For more information or full descriptions, call 860-537-7297 or visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

Programs: Young Yogis: At Colchester Elementary School Tuesdays through Feb. 7 (started Jan. 10) or Wednesdays through Feb. 8 (started Jan. 11), for grades K-2. The instructor will meet students after school and walk them to the class location at Colchester Elementary School. Parents/guardians will sign out their child at 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$60. Enrollment: Max 8, Min 6.

Start Smart: Wednesdays, Jan. 18-Feb. 22, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at CES. Children learn basic motor skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, batting and agility. An adult partner must attend with each child. Cost is \$50/residents, \$55/non-residents.

Card-Making Class: The third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., at Town Hall. Upcoming dates: 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19. Cost: \$15 per class, per person (\$20 for nonresidents). A minimum of two people is needed for this class.

Senior Yoga: Mondays, Jan. 30-Feb. 27, 4:45-5:45 p.m., on Facebook Live, for ages 45 and up. Cost: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Zumba: Mondays, 6-7 p.m., Jan. 23-March 13 (no class Feb. 20), at Jack Jackter Intermediate School. Fee: \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident

Gentle Yoga: See the Parks and Rec. website for dates and times. Cost: \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Intermediate Yoga: Tuesdays, Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 5:45-6:45 p.m., at JJIS. Cost: \$70/resident,

\$75/non-resident.

Summer Employment: Through March 4, people can apply to join summer day camp staff. Applications are online. Parents are welcome as well; you will be paid for your time, and your child can participate for free!

Events: Puzzelpalooza: Friday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m., at Town Hall. Register as a team or individually. You can come with as many as four people; all teams get the same puzzle and the first one to finish wins a prize. A maximum of 10 teams will be allowed. Children can be included on a team, but there must be at least two adults on each team. Bring your own snacks.





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Dean's List

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




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Historical Society Calendars Available



This picture of the Bacon Academy 1951-52 basketball team is one of the featured images in the Colchester Historical Society's new 2023 calendars.

The Colchester Historical Society's 2023 Calendars are here! The theme this year is Sports in Colchester, and the calendars feature images of sports teams and games in Colchester from 1931 to 1973.

Do you remember watching the Colchester Inter-County League Baseball team playing on the town green? Did you, or your relative, play on the 1972 Bacon Academy basketball team? Or maybe you remember the Bacon Academy women's basketball team? Revisit those and more memories in the 2023 pictorial calendar.

The limited-edition 2023 Colchester Historical Society calendar sells for only \$12. This year, for \$20, the historical society will include a copy of *Historical Landmarks: A Historical Tour of Colchester*. This book features 50 historic sites throughout Colchester, many in walking distance from the center of town. For an additional \$20, you can also add the illustrated history of Colchester, *Images of America: Colchester*, written by Colchester Historical Society Collections Chairman, Gary Walter.

Calendars can be purchased at the Colchester

History Museum on Sundays through Jan. 29 (or sold out), from noon-2 p.m.; look for the "Calendars for Sale Today" sign in front of the museum. Calendars can also be purchased at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques at 168 South Main St.; hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The calendars and books can also be mailed for an additional shipping fee; contact the society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or call 860 537-4230. Calendars and books can also be purchased at www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1.

Calendar sales provide funds to support the historical society.

Dean's List

Alicia Grant of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean's List at The University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I. She is a communicative disorders major in her senior year at URI.



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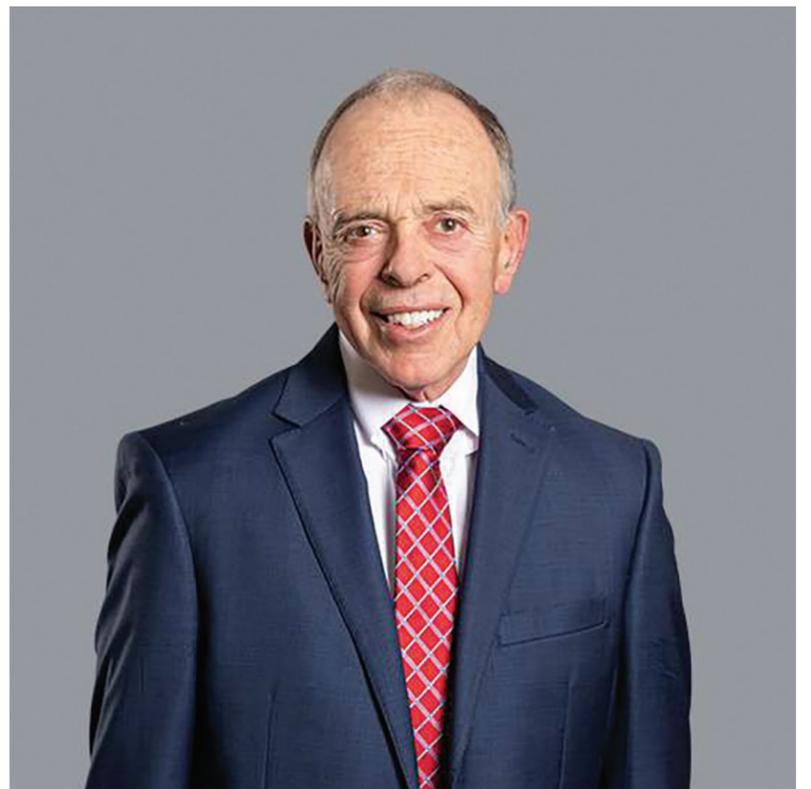


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East Hampton • East Hampton

Bellringers Boys Basketball Rebounds

By Josh Howard

East Hampton High School boys' head coach John Antolini has a young team that features only two seniors, yet the arrow is pointing up for a young, resilient squad that is right in the thick of things in the Shoreline Conference (SLC).

After losing by 30 points on the road to SLC rival Cromwell last Tuesday, the Bellringers quickly bounced back with a conference win over North Branford on Jan. 6 at East Hampton High School.

Antolini credited his two team captains, Nate Ireland and Brady Lynch, for keeping his team afloat through the early stages on the season.

The second-year head coach called his pair of court captains "very consistent."

"They have both stepped up. They are leading by example on the court and doing the small things that typically matter," added Antolini.

Ireland is one of the team's two seniors, joining Nicholas Chunko on a roster that also only features three juniors.

Lynch is a sophomore who has furthered expanded his presence on the court after starting as a freshman a season ago.

"His foul shooting has certainly improved and his midrange jumper has improved immensely," Antolini said of Lynch, the team's leading scorer at over 20 points per game. "He's become a better all-round player and gotten better defensively."

The captains didn't have their best night in the loss to Cromwell as turnover doomed the team in the first half.

Cromwell went on a 14-3 run in the second quarter behind the talents of junior Victor Payne, who scored 22 of his game-high 24 points in the first half.

An 18-2 spurt by the Panthers ended any doubt of a second half rally for East Hampton.

"We didn't play really well today; we came out flat," Antolini said after the loss to Crom-

well. "They out-rebounded us and that's where a lot of their points came from in the first half. We tried to limit it by putting a little pressure on them but they were the better team tonight, period."

Despite the loss, there were some positives that came out of the loss to Cromwell.

The Bellringers came out aggressively in the first half, getting the reigning SLC champs into early foul trouble and the game was tied at 8-8 midway through the first quarter thanks to a pair of buckets from Ireland.

East Hampton also had balanced scoring, with seven Bellringers scoring in the loss.

Three nights later, East Hampton put the loss to Cromwell behind them with a 64-62 win over North Branford.

Lynch led the way, scoring 27 points and grabbing nine. Ireland added 15 points, 11 rebounds, and four assists.

Lynch and Ireland also delivered from the line, combining to make 13 or 16 free throws.

It was a terrific all-around shooting night for the team, who shot 79% from the charity stripe and 52% from the field in the win.

Sophomores Austin Cuthbertson and Jadin Sawyer also came up big. Cuthbertson chipped in 10 points and Sawyer added eight points, knocking down a pair of shots from downtown.

In the program's first year under Antolini, the Bellringers qualified for the Division V state tourney after winning 13 games, including a victory in the opening round of the SLC tourney.

Antolini believes his current team has that type of potential again as long as they take care of the ball and cut down on turnovers.

"We've done a good job at points this season," added Antolini. "We need to limit our mistakes as we move our way throughout our Shoreline schedule, but if we do that I like our chances the rest of the year."

On Tuesday, East Hampton improved to 5-2



East Hampton sophomore Brady Lynch defends Cromwell's Jack Corona at Jake Salafia Gymnasium inside Cromwell High School on Jan. 3. The Bellringers lost to the Panthers before rebounding with a pair of conference wins.

with another conference win, defeating Hale Ray 58-47.

As of publication, the Bellringers five wins ranks behind only Cromwell and Portland for

the most wins in the conference.

The team will next host Cogenchaug on Wednesday, Jan. 18 in another SLC test. Tip-off is 5:30 p.m.

Belltown Garden Club Meeting

The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton will meet this month at Balleck's Garden Center, 91 Maple Ave., East Haddam, at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23.

Nancy Balleck-McKinnon will give a presentation on the types and care of orchids. Participants are encouraged to bring an orchid they have and may need help with understanding

why it is not reblooming.

Members of the public and prospective members are welcome. The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.

Call Ellen Pettengill at 860-754-8403 for more information.

Police News

12/29: Jennifer Lafave, 48, of 1074 Portland Cobalt Rd., Portland, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

12/30: Michael Bower, 32, of 230 Old West High St., was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, and two counts of violating a civil order of protection, police said.

The next day, 12/31, Bower was also arrested and charged with two counts of violating conditions of release and six counts of criminal violation of a civil order of protection, police said.

1/2: William House, 63, of 200 West High St., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor

vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

1/5: Brittany Lane, 24, of 148 Airline Ave., Portland, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and unlicensed motor vehicle, police said.

1/5: Nicholas Urian, 27, of 28 Raymond Rd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

1/5: Daniel Field, 30, of 18 Oak Knoll Rd., was arrested and charged with operating under the influence, police said.

Also, from Dec. 26-Jan. 8, officers responded to 36 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made 66 traffic stops, police said.

Taxes Due

Taxes for the second installment of real estate, personal property, and supplemental motor vehicles were due and payable Jan. 1. The last day on which to pay without penalty is Feb. 1.

The supplemental motor vehicle tax bills were mailed Dec. 9. There is not an additional mailing for the second installment of real estate and personal property bills.

Make checks payable to: Town of East

Hampton. Payment can be made at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive. Hours of collection: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Payments may also be mailed to: Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. People can also pay online by visiting www.easthamptonct.gov.

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 us at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org, or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary)

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

Children's Programs: Storytimes: Toddler Time: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. for children ages 18 months to 3 years, Stories & Songs: Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. for ages 3-5 years, Mindful Movements: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Held in the library community room. For ages 18 months and up; siblings welcome, Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. For children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. Held in the library community room.

Kids Comic Creators: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wednesday, Jan. 18, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5. Learn how to make comics using *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* as your inspiration. Registered patrons may also take home a diary that they can customize on their own.

DIY Days - Lego Refrigerator Magnets: Saturday, Jan. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

Valentines for Seniors: Saturdays, Jan. 28-Feb. 11. Stop by the children's room and use the supplies provided to design a Valentine's Day card for a local senior citizen.

Nintendo Switch Tournament: Grades 1-5: Saturday, Jan. 28, 2-3:30 p.m. This is a Nintendo Switch game tournament for elementary school-aged kids. All skill levels welcome. Registration required.

Teen Programs: Keep Calm and Relax On: Saturday, Jan. 14, 2-3 p.m. Drop in for a relaxing craft. Meditation will also be offered, by Irene Kuck of East Hampton High School.

Pre-Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Jan. 17,

4:30 p.m. All in grades 6-8 are invited to come share their ideas for the teen space at the library. Register online or drop in.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m., for grades 9-12. New members are always welcome. Drop in or register on the library website.

Teen Friday: Friday, Jan. 27, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Kick off your weekend with a variety of games, activities, and crafts.

Adult Programs: Book Club: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. Book Club kicks off another year with Lily King's short-story collection *Five Tuesdays in Winter*. Pick up a copy and let the library know if you're coming.

Belltown Book Blast: Thursday, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, or Friday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m., in-person. Meet with the adult librarian and get a sneak peek at the library's newest titles, upcoming new releases, and chat about what everyone has been reading. The in-person gathering will feature coffee and tea. No registration needed for the in-person gathering; just drop in. For Zoom, register online to get the link.

Author Event! Sarah Grote: Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m. Grote is an award-winning photographer and painter residing in central Connecticut. Her first book tells the story of Spencer and Oliver, Percheron geldings rescued and nurtured by the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue, which is located right here in East Hampton.

Republicans Meet Jan. 19

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee will be held Thursday, Jan. 19, at 6:30 p.m., at The Dublin, 42 East High St. Please note the change of date and location; this is a one-time change to the normal third Tuesday at Lakeside Bar and Grill.

All are invited as the committee starts strategizing for the 2023 municipal election.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Council Honors Rotary Club's 80th

By Jack Lakowsky

In 1943, the world was focused on fighting the Nazis genocidal conquest of Europe. Hard to imagine anyone could focus on their own small town in the midst of something so huge, so consequential.

Luckily for East Hampton, a group of 23 business and community leaders decided to found the East Hampton Rotary Club on Jan. 11, 1943.

Since then, the club has worked closely with many local organizations, and has seriously committed itself to giving scholarships to local students, awarding more than \$550,000, according to a town council proclamation.

The club started the Interact Club at East Hampton High School, provides Breakfast

with Santa, sponsors the annual Turkey Plunge supporting the local food bank and was among the first clubs to take part in the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

To honor the club, on Tuesday the East Hampton Town Council declared Jan. 11, 2023, as "East Hampton Rotary Club Day."

According to Encyclopedia Britannica Rotary International was founded as a civilian service club, made up of people from diverse personal and professional backgrounds, dedicated to fellowship and volunteerism.

The name "rotary" came about because the organization's founder originally proposed that meetings rotate between members' offices.

Lions' Humanitarian of the Year

The East Hampton Lions recently sponsored a Humanitarian of the Year contest, in conjunction with Lions District 23-C. The Lions placed an article in the *Rivereast*, asking the public to nominate individuals they felt deserved to be honored as a humanitarian. This year, Robert "Bob" Atherton was chosen.

Until recently, Atherton chaired the Commission on Aging and worked on the big picture of improving the lives of seniors. He's been very active on many levels of the senior center – recently organizing all of the volunteers and organizing the Meals-on-Wheels program. But his great love

is talking with other people. His own Meals-on-Wheels route should take a half hour however he spends more than hour with the extra time just touching base with the homebound. He is also extremely active in the Haddam Neck Covenant Church and has worked its chicken barbecue for years.

A banquet will be held at Saint Clements Castle in Portland on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 1 p.m. Atherton will be honored along with eight other humanitarians that were chosen by other clubs. All are invited to attend. Tickets are \$55 and may be obtained by calling Lion Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is open. Registration required for all programs unless noted; register 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: 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. **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. **Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon; call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play. **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The group will meet outdoors, weather permitting; otherwise it will be indoors or via Zoom.

Closet Organizing: The center's craft supply closet has grown out of control. Folks will gather to help organize the closet Wednesdays, Jan. 18 and 25, from 10 a.m.-noon. Sign up to stay for lunch too.

Beeyond/Potsdam: The German Versailles: Thursday, Jan. 19, 9:30-10:30 a.m. All are invited on a virtual tour of the Sanssouci, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. German chocolate cake will be served.

Family Tree: Friday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m. Ken Doney will continue to help participants search for the history of their families. Bring your own mobile device. One-on-one time will be available.

Art w/Karen: Sunday, Jan. 22, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will lead people through the beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Class cost is \$5 for supplies; pay Williams the day of the event.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW): Monday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m. This is a group key opportunity to meet others and share resources. The group determines the topics for discussion for the next month.

Chair Yoga with Kitch: Wednesdays, Jan. 25-March 29, 11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m., at Town Hall and via Zoom. Register online. The ten-week session is \$20. Payment may be mailed or dropped off to the East Hampton Senior Center; make checks payable to the Town of East Hampton.

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 Jewing@easthamptonct.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 prearranged designated spot.

Facing Price Hikes, Schools Chief Pitches 6% Budget Jump

By Jack Lakowsky

This week East Hampton Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith pressed his case for a nearly 6% budget increase in district spending for the 2023-24 budget year, on Monday telling the school board the jump is necessary.

Smith said financially the district has a tough year ahead, saying "we'll find ourselves in a difficult situation come next fall."

Smith said it was impossible to present his usual request of around between 3% and 3.5%.

The schools may face an uphill battle. Smith requested this figure despite late last year, when Republican Chair of the East Hampton Town Council Mark Philhower, after the council approved money for the district's three new armed guards (who started last week), admonished the district not to request anything more than 2% or 3%.

Before it reaches the council's desk, the school board will make any changes it wants, then, after approving it, send it to the Board of Finance, ultimately heading to voters in spring or early summer.

In all, the superintendent proposed a budget of more than \$36 million, up 5.8%, or more than \$2 million from the current spending plan. About \$7.5 million will come from state and federal sources.

Smith said the request "simply represents what we had this year" plus necessary increases in salaries and operating prices.

Smith said driving 80% of the request is salaries, up almost \$450,000. The remaining 20%, "non-staff" needs, Smith said has little wiggle room. A major pusher of this rise is the school's need for more paraprofessionals and interventionists, as student mental health needs have gone up significantly since the pandemic started.

He said if the board looks to cut, it will likely have to be from teaching staff, resulting in larger classes or reduced extracurriculars.

Same as last year, the district's cost of funding employee insurance plans is skyrocketing. Up 12%, almost \$600,000, insurance now accounts for almost 30% of Smith's requested increase.

The state, which runs the district's health plan, made modest increases until last year, when it started hitting schools with double-digit bumps.

Smith said East Hampton, like schools all over the world, are still "dealing with pandemic needs."

"This town has been very good about taking care of students," said Smith. Schools must keep on recovering pandemic losses, and keep focus on academic and personal growth, he added.

Smith's Monday presentation was a general overview, telling the board he'll have a line-by-line document at its next meeting.

KoC Spaghetti Supper

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton will sponsor its semi-annual spaghetti and meatball dinner Friday, Jan. 27, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the church parish center, located at 47 West High St. (Inclement weather date is Feb. 3.)

Take-out and dine-in meals will be offered. Meal prices are \$13 for adults and \$12 for seniors. Children 5 and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert, coffee,

tea, soda, water and punch drinks. Proceeds will support local charitable programs. Raffle prizes and musical entertainment will be offered as well.

The Knights of Columbus will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the East Hampton Food Bank.

Contact Jim Radavich at 860-319-9288 or email jradavich@yahoo.com for more information.

Foodshare Returns Jan. 19

The East Hampton Lions remind residents the Foodshare mobile food pantry will be at the St. Patrick Church's parking lot on West High Street next Thursday, Jan. 19, from 9-10 a.m. The truck leaves promptly at 10 a.m., so people are advised not to come at the last minute.

The food pantry is open to all; no proof of residency needed and there are no income requirements. A minimum of 50 residents need to attend each time to make sure the food pantry will return. However, the visits have been averaging 140 people each month.

If the line is long when they arrive, people may stay in your car until the line goes down some; however, they should get in line by 9:45 a.m. The other option is to come early; last time, the line started forming at around 8:30

a.m., the Lions said. The Lions added that they have arranged with St. Patrick Church to have a few chairs to sit on, for anyone that has difficulties standing in line.

In case schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Foodshare van will not come. However, if schools are merely delayed two hours, the van will still be there right at 9 a.m. For more information, call Mary at 860-977-5760.

Food choices vary each month, the Lions said. At the first Foodshare distribution there was primarily produce. The following time, there was produce, bread, milk, butter, creamer, pickles and some miscellaneous products. At another distribution, there were vegetables, fruit, bread, and an assortment of dairy products and juices.

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. The library has a new P.O. box number: 123.

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

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

Mahjong: Mondays, Jan. 23 and 30, 11:30 a.m. All players welcome.

Nimble Knitters: Thursdays through Jan. 26, 1 p.m.

Spinning Fibers: Now every Thursday, at 10 a.m. Bring your own wheel and fiber. All are welcome.

CommuniTea: Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering, at which folks can take out a book, have a cup of tea, and visit. Coffee-drinkers welcome.

Writer's Workshop: Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be constructive criticism, Q&A and writing exercises. Please register.

Walleye on the Fly: Monday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m. Have a discussion with Rowan Lytle on walleye, also known as yellow pike.



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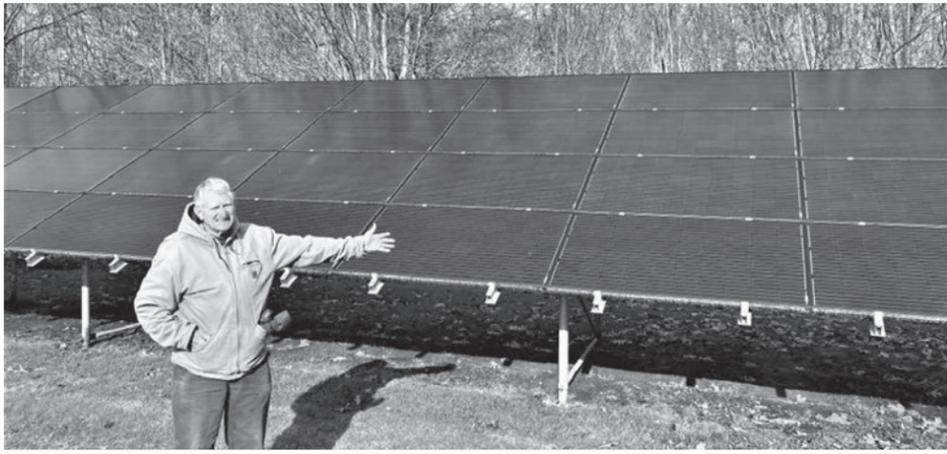
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Jack Solomon, a member of the East Hampton's Clean Energy Task Force, is shown with his field-mounted solar array in his backyard. Solar is only one of the items that will be talked about at the task force's Energy Fair planned for Monday, Jan. 23. Photo by Marty Podskoch.

East Hampton Energy Fair

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force will host an Energy Fair Monday, Jan. 23 (snow date Feb. 6), from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 Maple St. All are invited to come learn about ways to save energy and money, including programs to

help pay for such improvements as energy audits, insulation, heat pumps, solar power, smart thermostats, insulating windows and more. Snacks and drinks will be available. No registration is required.

Nursery School Seeking Help

Since 1968, East Hampton Nursery School (EHNS) has been preparing the town's youngest learners for kindergarten and beyond – but, after 55 years, it may be in danger of closing its doors for good. Due to COVID setbacks and increasing operating costs, EHNS may be forced to close, officials with the school said. The school did not receive any state funding during or after the pandemic, and now donations are needed to help keep the school running. EHNS alumni have gone on to become high school valedictorians, Top 10 scholars, and

members of the National Honor Society. They have also participated in many arts activities, sports groups, and organizations in town. The head teacher of the school attended it herself. Since EHNS is nonprofit, all funds raised go right back to the school and all donations are tax-exempt (06-0844605). A GoFundMe has been started for any donations; it is located at gofund.me/8f40a587. People can also donate via Venmo @easthampton-nurseryschool, and can send checks, made out to East Hampton Nursery School, to: P.O. Box 135, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Rev. Dexter Cheney will officiate on this Second Sunday of Epiphany. **Vestry Meeting:** The Vestry will meet Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are invited to come and see how the Vestry operates. **Sunday School:** There will be no Sunday School this week.

Donations and Contributions: Place all returnable bottles in the barrels next to the shed. Items for donation to the East Hampton Food Bank are collected in the black containers next to the rear door of the church. **Save the Date:** The annual meeting will occur after the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 29. For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0287 or Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472.

Resident Joins Carl Guild

Carl Guild and Associates has announced the addition of Chad Ghere to its East Hampton team of real estate professionals. The Ghere family relocated to East Hampton from Seattle in 2020. A portion of each of Ghere's real estate commissions will be donated to first responders, schools, churches or nonprofit organizations of his client's choice. Ghere and his family enjoy spending their



Chad Ghere

time across many sports or exploring the great outdoors. He has two daughters, aged 7 and 3, with his wife and high school sweetheart, Felicia. Ghere has been immersed in real estate for over 20 years. He has had a variety of roles, including rental management and flipping foreclosures, while a real estate agent in central Illinois. Beyond his experience with real estate, Ghere has worked for Caterpillar Inc, CAT Dealerships and Johnson Controls Inc, and also taught for several Illinois universities. He can be reached at Ghere.Chad@gmail.com or 309-255-6603.

Parents, Players Sound Off on Russell Controversy

By Jack Lakowsky

Responding to video of girls' basketball coach and East Hampton High School Athletic Director Shaun Russell, the embattled coach's supporters and detractors made their voices heard at an East Hampton school board meeting Monday. Most, including players, praised Russell's work, with some saying the suspension he's currently on goes far enough, that the ignominy aimed at Russell is overkill, as would be any firing. School board chair Christina Tammardo-Dzagan said the board is hearing and taking seriously the public's concerns, and that while she couldn't give further details, she said the event is under investigation. She said she hopes for a resolution quickly. Russell has had an undeniably illustrious career in East Hampton, with no-loss seasons, shoreline titles and personal accolades like the Shoreline Conference declaring him coach of the year. That record was besmirched last month, however, when a video of the Bellringer's game against Deep River's Valley Regional High School surfaced. In it, Russell clearly shoves a player across the court. She recovered her balance after stumbling across the floor. The *Rivereast* was first to report on the incident, and following publication, the story circulated among TV outlets, and other newspapers like *The Hartford Courant*. Not everyone felt Russell has faced proper comeuppance for shoving a player. Resident Steve Cappetta told the board Russell should be removed from all his positions. There's no other acceptable path, he said.

"This was not coaching," said Cappetta, "This was a grown man coming onto a court and launching a player halfway across it." Cappetta said that, had Russell shoved a colleague, he'd be out of a job already, and questioned why adults are given better protections than minors. Cappetta criticized the district's response, saying it attributed Russell's physical outburst to the "excitement of competition." He said it's "never okay" for an adult to lay hands on a child. Patricia Daly, to applause, said she supported Russell. She said she had three daughters go through Belltown schools, and that each loved playing basketball, finding "a man they loved" in Russell. She said Russell still "checks in" on her grown daughters, that he "knows what they're doing." Daly said while some retraining may be necessary, the "destruction of reputation and ruination" is too much. Several basketball players came out in support of their beloved coach. Jacquelyn Russell (no relation to coach Russell) said the team was "gathered here today out of love and support," that the publicity has negatively affected the team. She said Russell makes a "great impact" on each player. Multiple players spoke positively of Russell, saying while he may deserve reprimand, he's highly trusted and supported, that they've never felt unsafe, asking the board to consider the "drastic" impact firing Russell would have on the team.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton, invites all to worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. Refreshments are served after the service. **Puppet Ministry:** Each Sunday, the Church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and some of his friends from Farmer M's Red Barn to help explain the meaning of the message topic. **Kids Church:** Music and hands-on interac-

tive activities are offered for kids in the Fellowship Hall during the worship service. All are welcome. **Bible Study:** Adult Bible Study is held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. The study traces God's covenant with his people. **Zoom Bible Study:** Held every Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. The study looks at various ways to approach Bible reading to enhance the ability to hear what God says. **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.

Church Seeks Singers

The Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam is calling for local singers interested in joining a small choir. Ability to read music is a plus. The choir would participate in services twice a month at 9:30 a.m.; the service lasts approximately one hour. Rehearsals would be after church on Sunday. An organizational meeting will be held in January at the church, which is located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd. (Route 151), in Middle Haddam. To inquire, email Toni Leland at tonileland@gmail.com.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Skylar Vicino and Sara Roberts made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

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Parks and Rec. News & Notes

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonct.myrec.com. **American Red Cross Babysitting Course:** Friday, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Town Hall community room. Cost is \$100. **Wolf Pack Game:** Friday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. Lower-level seats are \$20 per ticket.

Troop 57 Bottle Drives Return

Troop 57 is returning to live in-person bottle drives beginning Saturday, Jan. 21. The drive will be held at the American Distilling parking lot at 31 East High St. (Route 66) from 9 a.m.-noon. The troop is discontinuing its porch drop-offs, so all are asked to save their bottles and cans for the in-person drives. Future drives will be March 18, May 20, July 22, Sept. 16 and Nov. 18.

KOCO4Kids Corner

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New School Officers Introduced... On Monday, school officials introduced to the Belltown school board the three new armed security officers (ASOs) that started working last week in Memorial and Center schools and the middle school. At left is Memorial’s new ASO, former East Hampton police officer Jerry Boynton, pictured with school principal Joey Bauer and vice principal Andrea Montovani. Boynton served local police for 24 years, and now lives in East Haddam with his family. In the middle, Center School Principal Chris Sullivan is shown with his school’s new ASO, Timothy Dowty. Dowty is also a former Belltown cop, retiring as a patrol sergeant. At right is East Hampton Middle School’s new ASO, Ken Precourt, flanked by school principal Christina Amaral and vice principal Emily Asklar. Precourt has been busy greeting students in the morning, Amaral said.

EHACC Grants Available

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts.

Deadline to apply is April 1; email applications to arts@easthamptonct.org or drop them off at the town manager’s office at Town Hall.

Eligibility: One of two \$500 grants are available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. The commission reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality of the organization and/or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success. The organization’s or project’s accessibility and service to the East Hampton community. Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

Evaluation: An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. An update of your progress will be required six months post-award date and a final report will be required one year post award date.

Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org

Grants Available for Capstone Project

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting applications from East Hampton High School juniors and seniors for \$200 grants to support an annual East Hampton High School capstone project.

Deadline to apply is Feb. 1. Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org and can be submitted to arts@easthamptonct.org or can be mailed/dropped off at the town manager’s office at the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Little League Registration Open

East Hampton Little League registration is now open for the 2023 spring season. Registration will be open till Feb. 12.

Head to Belltownll.org for more information.

EHMS Volleyball Registration

Student/athletes in seventh or eighth grade who are interested in playing for the boys or girls volleyball teams can register at FamilyID.com. Students must have a physical within a 13-month period in order to participate.

The deadline for registration is Monday, Jan. 30. For more information, call East Hampton Middle School athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

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

Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30

p.m. All voices are welcome.

Upcoming: Saturday, Jan. 14, 5 p.m., Chili and Bread Cook-Off; Saturday, Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m., Family Movie Night; Saturday, Feb. 4, Souper Bowl of Caring.

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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds live in-person services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Enter via the front door and ushers will assist you. The church is located at 1 East High St.

There is also a livestream link at the church’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

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★ Letters cont. from page 7

majority House speaker McCarthy pretending to be Nancy Pelosi. My prediction? Dumpster fire? Train wreck? Clown car? Combo? Stay tuned!

Edmund Smith – Andover

Finishing the Job

To the Editor: Colchester has gotten good news about the senior center project with the lifting of a judge’s injunction and the start of contract negotiations between the town’s and builders’ attorneys. However, there is still a long way to go for this project; the current administration would be premature to declare ‘mission accomplished.’

The lawsuit against the town appears to have cost us up to \$25k and leaves open the question of what will happen when the project exceeds its \$9.5 million budget voted on at referendum. It seems clear that the Bendas Estate funds can and should be used toward the project, but the mechanism to do this and legal implications are still murky. Soon, the Building Committee will be able to discuss value engineering with the builder to look for potential savings. The question arises: what happens if the builder does not offer enough savings within the scope of the project as bid?

The first selectman has wavered on the path forward, sending mixed messages to the Building Committee and to residents. Originally, he proposed using a mixture of the Bendas funds and other on-hand funds to make up the shortfall. He has since backtracked on that. In some cases, he has told people we will “build the shell” of the building. Seniors need a facility they can use – not just a shell. Right now, we

are totally in the dark about the first selectman’s plan to move forward. This is not fair to citizens and it’s not fair to the Building Committee which needs clarity on their charge going forward.

This was a project voted on by the people at referendum. If the estimates hold, the cleanest and fairest path forward is to give the people a say once again.

Bernie Denner III – Colchester

Republican Mess

To the Editor: On 1/5/2023 I resigned from my position as vice chairman of the Colchester Republican Town Committee (RTC) and from the Republican Party. My reasons were numerous but I will spare you from the beating of a dead horse.

I hate to admit that it took the ire in which we ran our campaign to be used against my friends for me to start to realize the mess I had helped create and that’s a hard pill for me to swallow. The “Strike first. Strike hard. No mercy” slogan might be from a Hollywood movie but it was also the motto of the campaign leading up to our election and it’s the banner our first selectman operates under. It’s not just him, either, as he is supported and protected by those in the Republican Party who have the social influence and money to actually steer the party.

As an example, a sitting Republican on the Board of Assessment Appeals dug out a private family matter to attack me and my family in the email thread where I announced my resignation. Do you know who spoke out against it? Less than a handful of members. The current RTC chairman, Tim Vaillancourt of the BOF, and a couple private citizens were the only ones willing to go on the record and speak out

against such behavior.

Karma is a... well, you know. I accept that I have to lie in the bed I helped make. What I’m having a real hard time accepting, however, is that so few of my ex-colleagues in the Republican Party understand the mess they also helped create. They are so unwilling to say “I was wrong” that they have doubled and tripled down.

That is their prerogative. It’s mine to dissociate from them and their behavior.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

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

The Uniparty

To the Editor: Today’s Uniparty is a coalition of Democrats and RINO Republicans who have been entrenched in American politics for a very long time, certainly as far back as the early 1900s. Uniparty members are the ‘establishment.’ They are the deep state, the cabal, the cartel, which impose their will on ‘We The People.’ The Uniparty exists at the national, state and local levels.

The RINO wing of the Uniparty is most interesting. Unlike rabid Democrats of the Uniparty who clearly signal their values by registering as members of the socialist/communist Democratic Party, RINOs masquerade as Republicans while acting and behaving as Democrats. They are Democrats in disguise. They are frauds and pretenders. They are phony. They are the epitome of swamp creatures. And when confronted by individuals who stand against ‘business as usual’ in politics, swamp creatures swarm and

trash to extinguish dissenting thoughts. They attack, lie, deflect and deceive – to them, the ends justify the means. They are deplorable. They spit in the faces of our founding fathers.

This was on display recently at the U.S. House of Representatives as a new Speaker of the House was selected. A band of 20 patriotic Republicans took a stand to not elect a RINO speaker. Their votes against the RINO Kevin McCarthy were votes against ‘business as usual.’ And the majority RINOs did what they do best – they emerged from the primordial ooze, crushed the minority opposition, and selected their swamp creature.

Business as usual and ‘going along to get along’ are destroying our nation. The good news is patriots are slowly draining the swamp. More freedom-loving citizens are becoming involved in local politics and although often unpleasant, this is the battlefield to take back our country from the Uniparty.

Paul Bureau – Colchester

Note: Bureau is a member of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, but said he is writing as an individual.

‘Surge’ Overused

To the Editor: The storm “surge” pummeled... Covid cases “surged” across the region... Mud and debris “surged” over the road... The Dow “surged” 600 points...Lava rivers “surged” down the mountainside...Wildfire “surged” past... Water “surged” over the levee...Immigrants “surged” over the border...Crowds “surged” onto the tarmac...Retail sales “surge”...Inflation “surged”... Gas prices “surged” at the pump... a “surge” in crime...

It is a dramatic word and adds that extra boost

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

to describe and event or happening. Drama makes good headlines and sells stories. It is a great word but highly overused by today's media.

The verb "surge" is defined as an upward or outward movement. Or a sudden large increase, typically a brief one that happens during an otherwise stable or quiescent period.

How can we get around reusing an overused word? Synonyms work well and some are gush, rush, stream, flow, swell, rise, growth upswing, escalation, jump or leap.

Simple words without all the drama.

The overuse of the word "surge" and others have crafted the ordinary into the extraordinary and mundane becomes an experience. Exaggeration explodes into dramatic play on words and heightens the hype and show.

I'll take the simple ordinary explanation of an event without all the hype, special effects and drama oft found when using the word "surge" to describe something everyday and almost not noteworthy.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Public Works

To the Editor:

Best management practices for DEEP states public works should not be located on areas of GA groundwater. While much of Hebron is blessed with GA water, maps indicate the aquifer just below our transfer station is less than 100%. The UConn map is posted on the Board of Selectmen agenda for 1/5/23. On the map, peach-colored areas of groundwater are referred to as "GA, GAA may not meet current standards."

It's only natural the dump's GA water "may not meet current standards." Nearly five decades ago, the dump was relocated here without prior knowledge of an adjacent aquifer. A letter we received, written Sept. 14, 2022, by a former Hebron Water Pollution Control Authority member, stated, "The Old Colchester Road Dump is on the only deep water aquifer in Hebron and because we knew no better back then contaminated it. I was on the WPCA in 1986 when the sewers were going in. The records of that time will verify this sad fact. The people who were hired by Hebron at the time were the ones who told us about the dump at a meeting of WPCA. Why make another mistake?"

Secondly, town document "Horton Property Purchase" of 2/26/19 (BOS agenda 1/5/23) the 88-acre parcel contains approximately 35 acres of "on-site wetlands and a tributary of Raymond Brook, a class A watercourse. This tributary is upstream of the town's Groundwater Protection Zone (formerly named the Aquifer Protection Zone) hence protecting this watercourse protects potential future Town drinking water supplies."

Someday Hebron might need this groundwater. Given these facts, doesn't it make sense to keep our PW on Old Colchester Road rather than risking an accident on a valuable watershed such as the Raymond Brook? #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Road Safety

To the Editor:

Last Thursday morning, Jan. 5, I had the misfortune of being stuck on I-95 northbound because of an accident which occurred at around 8:30 in the morning. I found out later that the accident turned out to be a fatality. This was the same morning that Rep. Williams was struck and killed by a wrong way driver on Route 9 southbound highway. At the time I was thinking that people that speed and drive aggressively and recklessly seem to be thinking of one thing: that they are the most important person on the road and where they want to go. They're not thinking about any of the other people that are near them, or even the ones they love and care for. Choosing to drive fast, run lights, and weaving in and out of traffic have consequences. Most accidents are completely unnecessary incidents.

The accident on I-91 Thursday closed the road down for two or three hours. It also caused delays to thousands of people and truckers, which causes money implications. I am a licensed civil engineer, I know what goes into designing roads and highways, sight lines, curvature, safety barriers. I am for road safety, but believe the real problem is the individual behind the wheel. We are driving vehicles that are designed better and run faster than any time in our history. No measure taken will make us safe from people driving recklessly, driving at dangerous speeds and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There are no measures that can be put in place to prevent these types of accidents, no matter how well our roads are designed. People need to slow down. We need

more police presence on our roads and stricter enforcement of impaired driving.

Please slow down and be courteous.

Michael Wrang – Portland

Legacy of Selflessness, Service

To the Editor:

The magnitude of the loss of Quentin "Q" Williams is beyond profound, not just to Middlesex County, but to the entire state of Connecticut. He lived a life dedicated to the service of others and his potential to do genuine good was limitless.

Following his tragic death, it's been heartwarming to see how many people have come forward with stories of how Q made positive impacts on their lives. However, it's not surprising – he connected with everyone he met. Personally, I knew Q for over 25 years, meeting as trumpet players in the middle school band. In the years since, whenever I saw him, he had that familiar electric smile and kind word.

And that's what made him such an amazing leader. Q served Middletown and Connecticut selflessly, always putting the needs of his constituents first. He was an advocate for the impoverished, working diligently to ensure fair public housing practices. He made allies regardless of political affiliation, as evident by the bipartisan grief expressed since his passing.

Q was also a fierce believer in the power of education and the role of public schools. He fought for all students, sought to fix imbalances in the system, and exemplified what it meant to be a role model for thousands of children. Frankly, Middletown should rename a school in Q's memory.

Q showed us what true leadership is: dedication to selflessness and service, willingness to fight the fights that need fighting, and truly caring about the community you represent and the place you call home. He leaves us with a great legacy to follow, whether we are from Middletown or East Hampton or anywhere else.

May we all look for the Quentin Williamses among us.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Meta

To the Editor:

Meta Platforms Inc. (Facebook) has agreed to pay \$725 million to resolve a class-action lawsuit accusing the social media giant of allowing third parties, including Cambridge Analytica, to access users' personal information. Facebook allowed the British political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica to access data of as many as 250 to 280 million Facebook users. In June 2014, the Mercers and Steve Bannon formed Cambridge Analytica and launched a 'research project' in Russia — the same month that Kremlin-backed Internet Research Agency launched their campaign to interfere in the 2016 U.S. election.

Cambridge Analytica, now defunct, worked for Donald Trump's successful presidential campaign in 2016, and gained access to the personal information from millions of Facebook accounts for the purposes of voter profiling and targeting. Christopher Wylie, former Cambridge Analytica employee says, "here's what I know: when I was at Cambridge Analytica, the company hired known Russian agents, had data researchers in St Petersburg, tested US voter opinion on Putin's leadership, and hired hackers from Russia - all while Bannon was in charge." (Reuters, USAToday, CNBC, Popular Science, Yahoo, CNN, MSN).

Trump wasn't sent by God; he was sent by Putin.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Doublespeak

To the Editor:

It's said that the pen is mightier than the sword, but as time passes we see our language change in what's called "semantic shift," as the meaning or usages of words change...or is intentionally altered.

The past few years has seen a lot of linguistic upheaval as the definitions of words have been altered, new words introduced, and old words canceled. In the middle of the pandemic the definitions of both "herd immunity" and "vaccine" where changed to conform to the narrative that big pharma and the government promoted. As a result, our ability to fight our opposition with words weakens as their meanings become watered down. The altering of the lexicon is also a tool historically used by people in power to not only control what people think, but how they think.

During the summer of 2020 mass rioting and the destruction of inner city neighborhoods was

deemed "mostly peaceful protests." Biological males are nominated for "Woman of the Year" accolades, and one Supreme Court nominee is so confused she can't even tell you what a woman is.

In the political arena, our fearless leaders are doing their best to abolish all language that relates to the traditional family unit as they have banned the use of "mother/father/brother/sister/daughter/son" in favor of more gender-neutral words and actions – breast-feeding is now chest-feeding. Is this really the will of the people or part of an overarching political agenda?

During the House Speaker votes of the last week, dissenters not voting for McCarthy were labeled as "extremists, terrorists, and enemies"...by members of their own party. As the lexicon shifts, thanks to media-driven wedges, the polarity of the opposing parties only gets stronger while we can't even agree on the definition of simple words.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Bisbikos Can't Be Trusted

Dear Colchester Citizens:

I hope you are paying attention to the lack of transparency and fraudulent antics of Colchester's First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos. Bisbikos attended three separate public meetings in which he stated, on the record, that the town needed almost \$1 million more in taxpayer dollars to be appropriated for the Senior Center Building Project — in order for the town to enter into the contract with the low bidder. The reason he gave was that the project was "over budget" and the town could not move forward without appropriating these additional funds.

However, when First Selectman Bisbikos testified in court – under oath – he claimed that the Senior Center Building Project is not over budget and it was "premature" to appropriate any additional funds at this time.

So the big question that remains is:

Did First Selectman Bisbikos... lie to the citizens of Colchester, in town meetings, when he stated that additional funds were needed to move the building project forward or did he lie under oath to the court because it serves his political purpose?

Pay attention folks,

Deanna Bouchard – Colchester

Note: Bouchard is chair of the Colchester Independent Party.

2016 Public Works Plans

To the Editor:

It is a public record that in May of 2016, the Town of Hebron had established plans for the construction of a new Public Works facility and Transfer Station at the existing site on Old Colchester Road. This included a cost estimate from the architect on the proposed buildings and a cost estimate from the engineer for the site work. This also included the purchase of 34 acres from Eversource, which owns the adjacent property, to create adequate space for the project. Hebron's Open Space Land Acquisition Committee was interested in the remainder of the parcel for open space.

If construction plans and cost estimates had already been prepared for the existing Old Colchester Road site, why weren't these plans included in the current Public Works Building Project presentation? If these plans were feasible in 2016, are they feasible now? What happened to these plans? Is it plausible these plans might still be practical and doable?

Does it make sense to reconstruct at the current site which has already suffered salt and soil contamination rather than destroy historic farmland in the Raymond Brook Watershed area and risk salt contamination of residential wells on Kinney and Millstream roads?

Andrea Lattanzi – Amston

Police Rumor

To the Editor:

An unsubstantiated rumor can have devastating and depolarizing effects on our town. Recently, a rumor surfaced that Republican Town Council leadership felt that replacing our police department with resident state trooper(s) and a few local officers would reduce taxes while achieving adequate law enforcement services. We can only hope there is no validity in this rumor – its premise being devoid of fact.

First, the state is nearly 200 troopers below the 1,093 authorized positions in the adopted budget. Second, if a town already had its own municipal police department, it is almost assured the state would reject any such petition to convert to RST. The legislature has long wanted more rather than fewer municipal police departments. Third, as pointed out by Chief Dennis Woessner, our department needs a lieutenant

(eliminated over 10 years ago) to support administratively the chief in a proper chain of command. This position could have been funded at a cost of \$25,000 and was proposed in the fiscal 2022-2023 budget presented to the Town Council from the Board of Finance, only to have the Republican majority nix it. Be mindful that our chief is available to assist with firearms training of the three armed security officers in our schools.

And fourth, the need to consider the long-term goal of area policing that would be cost-effective for all our taxpayers. When East Hampton voters approved the new municipal office building and state-of-the-art police station, it anticipated a future of regional police services. Most of our surrounding communities have resident state troopers. With the infrastructure in place, East Hampton, in conjunction with our neighboring communities, could provide cost-effective regional policing and savings for all our taxpayers.

James "Pete" Brown, Kevin Reich, Dean Markham East Hampton

Note: Brown and Reich are members of the East Hampton Town Council but are writing this letter to the editor as individuals.

Thanks, Mr. Science

To the Editor:

I won! I got first place in the Edmund Smith "Full-blown, Taunting, Meltdown" competition. I'd like to thank my family, friends, and everyone who voted for me. But most of all, thanks to Mr. Science!

Edmund, thank you for clearing up the "Unibomber" issue. You made perfect sense. You are a good progressive liberal, synthesizing convoluted explanations for equally convoluted issues. But it is your right to believe, and say, any dumb thing you wish. Neither one is illegal. Happy trails...

Furthermore, "The Hammer" refers to Ed Gyllenhammer, our current *Rivereast* poet laureate. Can you guess why his nickname is "The Hammer"? "Toilet Paper Mafia" refers to the gaggle of progressive, anti-Trump, lefty *Rivereast* writers who wore useless masks and walked single file down a one-way grocery aisle during the Great Toilet Paper Shortage of 2020. To this day they're still being bamboozled by Lord Fauci. And "The Cackler" refers to the esteemed vice president of the U.S., Kamala Harris. If you don't understand that reference, you should probably get a hearing test. And from now on, I'm changing "Mr. Science" to "Sy" for short. Rolls off the tongue more easily...

Look, Sy, your "Unibomber" reference is fine. The slander comment about Ted Kaczynski, though, was weak because incurring a jailhouse lawsuit from Kaczynski is statistically improbable regardless of how you spell Unabomber. My only critique is that you may want to choose nicknames that don't refer to established murderers. They make you look more vindictive than intelligent (no surprise there). I use nicknames that are relatable to their target. And be careful of references to Polish heritage. That's anti-progressive, and one of your progressive brethren might take umbrage with you.

And you never answered my gas question, Sy. And please tell me you have solar panels on your roof!

Regards,

Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Diverse Members Sought

To the Editor:

Colchester's Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission is looking for new members to join the commission. Specifically, we encourage males to apply to balance out the gender membership. Ideally, the Commission should represent a mix of genders, races and ethnicities of all ages. It's important the CORE Commission represent the diversity that is in Colchester, as well as priorities and perspectives of all residents. The time commitment consists of one monthly meeting (1-2 hrs.), planning and participating in community events, fundraising 1x/year, and making small monetary investments (\$10-\$20) when needed to support community events (ex. signage, candy, mums).

The commission is seeking applicants who are open-minded, can engage and share diverse opinions in a respectful manner, and are willing and able to work with everyone. If interested, please go to the Town Hall website (www.colchesterct.gov), search for Boards and Commissions, Colchester's Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission and submit to the First Selectman's Office.

Thank you for your interest.

Regards,

Shawn Pelletier, CORE Chair

Obituaries

East Hampton

Shelley Bodamer

Shelley Bodamer, 57, of East Hampton, passed early Friday morning, Jan. 6, at Middlesex Hospital. Shelley was born Feb. 26, 1965, daughter of Marie Butterfield (Blazensky) and the late Robert Butterfield.

She is predeceased by her brother, John Hutson, and survived by her husband, Kerry Bodamer; her two children, Shannon Bodamer and Sean Bodamer; and her grandchildren, Skyler Bodamer and Hayley Bodamer.

Shelley was a kind soul, full of love, who truly cared about the people in her life. She spent most of her life as a PCA caring for the elderly, really making a difference in their lives. She loved her family and animals more than anything. She will truly be missed.

Her daughter has arranged a celebration of life at the Polish Club, 395 Main Street, Colchester, on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 3-6 p.m.



East Hampton

Anthony Joseph Razel

Anthony Joseph Razel, 74, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Barbara A. (Dwinnell) Razel, passed away suddenly doing what he loved, while hiking in Lyme Saturday, Jan. 7. Born July 7, 1948, in Scarsdale, N.Y., he was the son of the late Laszlo and Marjorie (Vogel) Razel.

Tony had earned his Ph.D. and was retired from Bristol Myers Squibb where he was a chemical database manager. He proudly served his country in the Reserves for 12 years. Tony was a very active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton and was the president of Meshomasic Hiking Club.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Timothy Razel and his wife Rebecca of Queens, N.Y.; his daughter, Melissa Szczerbicki and her husband Adam of Middletown and his beloved granddaughter Lilia. He was predeceased by his brother Richard Razel. He will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, Jan. 11. Funeral services will be held Monday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m., in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High St., P.O. Box 31, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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



Portland

Henri Barillaro

Henri Harrison Barillaro, 71, of Portland, died Thursday, Jan. 5. He was born Jan. 7, 1951, to the late John and Emma Barillaro and was raised in Wallingford.

Henri was a dedicated employee of Valley Oil for 50 years, working as an accountant. He enjoyed woodworking, music and spending time with his family.

Henri was a parishioner of St. Mary Church. He was especially proud to be "Papa Henri" to his three grandchildren.

Henri was predeceased by his loving wife Joy Landry Barillaro of 20 years. Additionally, he was predeceased by his mother-in-law, Janet Landry; his father-in-law, Rudolph Landry; and his brother-in-law Charles Shefcyk.

He is survived by his daughter, Dana Cerillo and her husband John; his son, Daniel and his wife Gina; his sister, Grace Kopakow and her husband Joe; his sister, Trudy Craig and her husband Allen; his sister-in-law, Jackie Shefcyk; his brother-in-law, James Landry and his wife Gail; as well as several beloved nieces and nephews. Henri was grandfather to Anthony James and Nathan Henri Barillaro, as well as Audrey Joy Cerillo.

Henri was a model for stability and leading by example. He will be remembered for his level-headedness and generosity that expected nothing in return.

The family would like to offer special thanks to Dr. Otto Weis and Dr. Susanna Hong for the compassionate care and guidance given to Henri.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 11 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial was in the family plot in Center Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Tuesday morning, before the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave, Portland, CT, 06480, or to Middlesex Hospice Unit, C/O Development Office, 55 Crescent St, Middletown, CT, 06457.



Portland

Walter W. Tacke

Walter William Tacke, 89, of Portland and husband of the late Carol (Schlottmann) Tacke, passed away Saturday, Jan. 7. Walter was born March 11, 1933, in East Northport, N.Y., to Walter and Anna (Harms) Tacke. Prior to moving to Portland in 2006, he was a longtime resident of Commack, N.Y.

Walter grew up in the house his father built. At 12 years old, he began working with his father building homes. Walter enjoyed math and science and after graduating from Northport High School in 1951, attended SUNY at Farmingdale earning a degree in Building Construction in 1953. Her served in the U.S. Army from 1954-57 stationed primarily in Germany.

In 1958 he married Carol and they moved to Houghton, Mich., where Walter attended Michigan Technological University. He received a B.S. in civil engineering in 1961. Walter was employed as an engineer for companies in Kansas and California before moving back to East Northport with Carol and their growing family. Walter earned his Professional Engineer license in 1967. He completed a master's degree in environmental sciences from Long Island University (C.W. Post campus) in 1977.

Finally settling in Commack, the family lived in the house that Walter built. He was a terrific husband and father who enjoyed traveling, camping, assisting with Boy Scouts, square dancing, playing bridge and reading everything. He was an avid New York sports fan, beginning with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was innovative and resourceful around his house and was intrigued by technology.

Walter is survived by a son, William Tacke of Middletown; a daughter, Donna Cote and her

husband Chris, their children Danielle, Courtney and Bryce, all of Portland; a daughter-in-law, Tamyra Tacke, her children Drew and Ainsley, all of Oxford, Miss.

He was predeceased by two sons, Scott Tacke and Todd Tacke; his parents; his brother, Robert Tacke, and sister, Joan Fletcher. His sister, Dorothy Klewicki, survived him by two days.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and the Brueggemann Funeral Home, East Northport, N.Y. The funeral service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, East Northport, N.Y. A memorial service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Portland, in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to a charity of the donor's choosing would be appreciated.

East Hartford

Donald L. Magill



Our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Donald L. Magill of North Grosvenordale, flew with the eagles Sunday, Jan. 1, surrounded by loved ones, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge, Mass.

Donald, also known as Gilly, Mac, or Donnie, was born in Worcester, Mass., to the late Donald E. and Pearl (Dominique) Magill, and raised in Oxford, Mass. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Phyllis (Magers) Magill. It was love at first sight and they married 10 weeks after meeting. He is survived by three children, Donnie Magill Jr. and his wife Adella of Wylie, Texas; Melissa Magill of Worcester, Mass.; and Shelly Foster and her husband Bill of East Hampton. He was proud of his children and all their success.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Oscar Magill of Oxford, Mass., Elisa Magill and her husband Dane Uter, Brandon Magill and his wife Valerie of Wylie, Texas, Shayne Simpson and his wife Erica of Putnam, Asia Simpson and her husband Rocco Merolli of Southbridge, Mass., Ayden and Kole Rumford of Northbridge, Mass., Skylar Pignatella of Salem, Mass., Paul Pignatella and Nora Foster of East Hampton; great-grandchildren, Alex and Gian Simpson of Dudley, Mass., Valerie and Kayla Magill of Oxford, Mass., Maya and Zane Uter of Wylie, Texas, and Francis Merolli of Southbridge, Mass.; his sister- and brother-in-law, Kay and Johnnie Magers and their sons Jimmy and Roger Magers of Moundsville, W.Va.; nephews and niece, Joe Evans of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Lori Magers of Pittsburgh, Pa.

He is also survived by a friend, Donna (Magers) Bartley of Moundsville, W.Va.; a special cousin-in-law, Vivian "Sis" Taylor of Moundsville, W.Va.; his very close friend, Gail Davis of Oxford, Mass.; friends Kathy and Chuck Cyr of Saco, Maine, Rick Simpson of Putnam, Joe Pignatella of Branford, Tammy Ricci Julian of North Carolina; his "other daughters," Lisa (Cyr) Wright and her husband Jamie of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and Amanda (Cheever) Adair and her husband Joe of Dudley, Mass.; our neighbors, Joanne and Mark Fontanella (thank you for all the great food).

He was predeceased by his sisters and their husbands, Christina Ferro Forbes and her husband Freddie, and Pamela Magill George and her husband Don; his mother- and father-in-law, Mary Alvaretta (Bennington) Magers and Zane Magers; his granddaughter, Kayla Magill; and his very close friend, Phil Davis.

Donnie graduated from Oxford High School in 1964 and played every sport offered, including basketball, baseball and track. He continued playing on the United Parcel flag football and baseball teams and his beloved "Over the Hill Gang" softball team in Thompson, as well as various club and bar teams.

After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army for three years, spending 13 months on the border of South and North Korea during the Vietnam War.

Donnie worked at United Parcel Service in Shrewsbury, Mass., for 43 1/2 years, where he served as a dedicated union steward and was a thorn to management. He was a proud member of the Teamster's Local 170 Union. Previously, he worked at Pratt and Whitney for four years.

Donnie was a member of the Auburn Elks, the Disabled American Veterans in Webster, Mass., and the American Legion Post 58 and V.F.W. Post 5663, both in Oxford, Mass.

Donnie is remembered as a generous man, especially to his children and grandchildren. His generosity knew no limits. He was a mentor and role model for his grandchildren and loved to watch football on Sunday afternoons with his grandsons. His favorite team was the Philadelphia Eagles, closely followed by the New England Patriots.

The family would like to thank Dr. Gerald Chase and his assistant Denise Bourassa, his pulmonologist Dr. William Wong, his rheumatologist Dr. Karen Salomon-Escoto, and Day Kimball Hospice, for the exceptional care given to Donnie during his illness.

At Donnie's request, no services will be held at this time. A private graveside service will be held later at North Cemetery in Oxford, Mass., followed by a dinner for close friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301, or to the Rheumatology Research Foundation, 2200 Lake Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30319, or to Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio Street, Suite 500 Chicago, IL 60611.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Hebron

John D. Queen Jr.

John D. Queen Jr., "Skip," 83, of Hebron, passed away at home Thursday, Jan. 5, surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Joyce (Lyman) Queen.

Skip was born April 6, 1939, son of the late John and Virginia (Bernard) Queen, and lived in Hebron since the early 1940s. He grew up on Amston Lake and had fond memories of walking the train tracks that ran through town, rummaging around the distillery, jumping off the balcony of the mansion that his friend's father took care of during the winter and taking cars out on the ice of Amston Lake.

Skip loved cars and had an MG in the 1950s which was a catalyst to the 1966 Cobra he bought in his retirement. He loved the sound and speed of a sports car and could often be seen cruising around town in his Cobra.

After graduating high school, Skip joined the Pratt & Whitney machinist apprenticeship program. This led to his career in the machining industry and the ultimate founding of his own business, Highland Manufacturing in Manchester, which he and Joyce ran for 25 years.

Skip was proud of his Scottish heritage and played the bagpipes with the Manchester Pipe Band in the 1970s. Skip and Joyce enjoyed spending time fishing and camping on Nauset Beach, Cape Cod, where lifelong friendships were made. He was a longtime member of the Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association and we have fond memories of him playing bagpipes on the beach. After his retirement, he volunteered at the Mystic Seaport and took up woodworking and made beautiful furniture which will become family heirlooms. Skip could make and fix anything.

Family traditions such as a Sherry toast on Christmas Eve, 3rd Sunday suppers and celebrating Robert Burns Night were important to him and will be carried on for generations to come.

He is survived by his four children, Stacey Whitney and husband John of Lebanon, Shelly Ventrillo and husband Jay of Hebron, James "Jay" Queen and wife Sandra of Hebron, and Christian Queen and wife Holly of Glastonbury; 11 grandchildren, Jolene and husband Roy Eggers, Patrick, and Jamison Whitney; Cody Ventrillo and girlfriend Ciara Vecchiarino, Nick Ventrillo; Jocelyn Queen, Matthew Queen and fiancée Emily Sheehan, Seamus Queen; Raleigh, Kelly, and Reagan Queen; his sister, Bette Queen of Mexico, and his brother-in-law, James Lyman and wife Cheryl of Hinsdale, Mass.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides his wife Joyce and parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Ginny Queen.

Calling hours are Saturday, Jan. 21, from 1-3 p.m., at the Manchester Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. A memorial service at the funeral home will be held with a reception to follow.

To leave a message for his family, please visit www.manchesterfh.com.

See Obit, page 28

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Obituaries cont.

Amston

Ronald Francis Dabkowski

Ronald Francis Dabkowski, 79, of Weeki Wachee, Fla., passed away Thursday, Jan. 5. Ron was born in New Britain, grew up in Unionville attending Farmington High School (Class of '61), and raised a family in Amston, before formally moving to Weeki Wachee in 2018.



He served in the US Army from 1965-1971 as a Cobra helicopter pilot, retiring with the rank of Captain. One day, when a colonel asked him why he hadn't served in Vietnam yet, he was quick to reply, "Because I have a note from my mother!" Although it made the colonel laugh, he was ordered to deploy to Vietnam two months later where he earned several medals, including a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and two Air Medals.

Ron and his young family moved from Fort Bragg, N.C., to Amston in 1974, where he followed his passion and became an enthusiastic member of his church choir, and a member of American Legion Post 95 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8776. He supported the local Little League as a coach and president of the league, was a regular at his son's sporting events, and enjoyed cooking hamburgers at

the Hebron Harvest Fair for the American Legion, and spending time boating in Long Island Sound and on the beach at Napa Tree Point in Rhode Island. His passion for salmon fishing on Squam Lake in New Hampshire was eclipsed only by his fanatical support for the UConn Huskies basketball teams, his alma mater.

Ron was never short of a good joke, interesting story, or opinion about good customer service.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Virginia; sons, James (Christchurch, New Zealand), Robert (Laporte, Colo.), and Stephen (Nicholasville, Ky.); sister, Elaine (Burlington); and brother, Alan (Waterbury). He is also survived by his three grandchildren, Owen, Anna and Jack.

He is predeceased by his parents, Stanley and Hedwig (Unionville); brother, Greg (Deerfield, Mass.); and brother-in-law, Donald (Burlington).

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Colchester on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. He will be laid to rest with military honors at the convenience of the family at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial contribution to the Gary Sinise Foundation who serves our nation by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need at www.garysinisefoundation.org, or a charity of your choice.

LEGALS

TOWN OF PORTLAND

Legal notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Portland that the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes on the October 1, 2021 Grand List and the Supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2023.

Taxes not paid in full on or before Monday, February 1, 2023 become delinquent and are subject to interest at the rate of one and one half (1 1/2) per cent per month from due date (3%, if paid in February). Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable January 17, 2023. Payment not made in full on or before February 17, 2023 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from due date.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax. Please contact the Collector of Revenue if you do not have a bill. Tax information is available on the Town of Portland website www.portlandct.org.

Online tax payments are accepted by visiting our website www.portlandct.org and are subject to convenience fees. Payments are accepted at the Collector of Revenue's office, 33 East Main Street, Portland, CT or by mail: Town of Portland Collector of Revenue, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071. We do have a drop box for after hour payments by the back door.

Office hours are as follows:
Monday, December 26, 2022: CLOSED
Monday, January 2, 2023: CLOSED New Year's Eve
Monday, January 16, 2023 CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/23, 1/13, 1/27

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF COLCHESTER
ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS**

Notice is given to the Town of Colchester that the 2nd installment of Real Estate & Motor Vehicle Supplemental Bills on the Grand List of October 1, 2021 are due and payable on January 1, 2023 and become delinquent after February 1, 2023.

If any tax due on January 1, 2023, is not paid on or before February 1, 2023, the tax installment shall be delinquent and interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2 % per month) shall be charged dating back to the original due date of the bill. The minimum interest charge for delinquent taxes is \$2.00.

Taxpayers who did not receive a bill should contact the Tax Office immediately. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. Taxpayers may access tax bill information and pay on-line from the homepage of the Town of Colchester website at www.colchesterct.gov and clicking the "View and Pay Tax Bills" link under Online Services - fees apply.

Avoid waiting in long lines by using our on-line feature, return your payment by mail or use our night drop box. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before February 1, 2023, will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30 P.M. on February 1, 2023, will be deemed as paid late.**

Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector. Mail payments to the Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.

Michele Wyatt, CCMC
Town of Colchester
Tax Collector

2TB 1/13, 1/27

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting on January 5, 2023, took the following action:

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED/ APPLICATION CONTINUED:
#Z-08-22- Austin HGB, LLC Bill Gjonbalaj (Applicant / Property Owner), Map 6 Block 28 Lots 4,5,6, 12 and #25 South Main Street. Provide apartment housing by building (2) 48-unit buildings Application.

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:
#Z-12-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ, Cannabis Regulations (PERMITTING)
#Z-14-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ, Cannabis Regulations (PROHIBITING)

APPLICATIONS TABLED:
Amendments to Article Six A.1 Parking and Storage of Recreational Vehicles and Trailers tabled until February 2, 2023.
Amendments to Article Six tabled until February 2, 2023.
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 1/13

**TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the January 5, 2023 meeting, the following actions were taken:
APPROVED with Conditions PZC Application #22-06: Penfield Hill Road and Stephen Tom Road. Proposed 8 lot subdivision with wetlands on site. Application and property of Robert W. Olson. Map 61, Lot 14. Zone RR.

APPROVED with Conditions PZC Application #22-12: 378 Cox Road. Request for an 11-lot subdivision on a property containing wetlands. Application of Tom Briggs. Property of Synnot Properties, LLC. Map 78, Lot 21. Zone RR/Forest Neighborhood Overlay Zone.

Dated at Portland, CT, this 6th day of January 2023

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 1/13

**TOWN OF ANDOVER
LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m., January 23, 2023 to solicit public comment and answer questions regarding proposed amendments to its Zoning Regulations. More particularly, the proposed amendments involve changes to Sections 5.a.01, and Section 24 (Definitions) of the zoning regulations so allow for municipal land uses by way of a Special Permit in the Andover Rural Design Zone and to modify the definitions pertaining to municipal uses

Topic: Planning and Zoning Commission- Regular Meeting
Time: Jan 23, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88186144359>
Meeting ID: 881 8614 4359
Passcode: 560130

Dial by your location+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Comments, concerns, and questions may be presented at the public hearing or be submitted to the Andover Building and Land-Use Office in writing a minimum of 48 hours prior to the time/date of the Public Hearing. Copies of the proposed changes are available for review on the Planning and Zoning Commission page of the town's web-site (andoverct.org) or at the Building and Land-Use Office, Town Hall, 17 School Road.

Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

2TB 1/13, 1/20

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- \$9.00 per week for 25 words or less in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- \$18.00 per week combination rate, 20¢ for each additional word for insertion in both the *Citizen* and the *Bulletin*.

Please make checks payable to: *The Glastonbury Citizen*

LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Planning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria, located at 25 School Dr, Marlborough.

Public Forum Sustainable CT
Racial and Social Equity
Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building /Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.
Mark Stankiewicz, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 1/13, 1/20

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE**

At its meeting of December 7, 2022, the Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions. These changes will have an anticipated effective date of February 1, 2023.

1.) Town of Colchester- Regulation Amendment (2022-014)
The Commission APPROVED the application for a regulation amendment to the Colchester Land Development Regulations adopting regulations for adult-use cannabis.

2.) CMMMD, LLC - Regulation Amendment (2022-011)
The Commission APPROVED the application for a regulation amendment to the Colchester Land Development Regulations adding data technology buildings to the LSIA regulations.

A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk's office. Planning and Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 1/13

The East Hampton Housing Authority is accepting applications for the Senior/Disabled Housing starting January 15, 2023 and closing on March 31, 2023

For more information call:
860-267-8498

RE1-13-23

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH**

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the Audit Report for Regional School District No. 8 Hebron, Andover and Marlborough for the year ended June 30, 2022, is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.

DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.

Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk
Town of Marlborough

1TB 1/13

REAL ESTATE

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FOR RENT: 144 Broadway in Colchester. Cozy ranch located in center of town, nice yard. Newly painted, new carpets and kitchen has new appliances. Living room with propane fireplace. Washer dryer in basement with plenty of storage space. Attic is partially finished and also has plenty of room for storage. Close to all town amenities for shopping and recreation and close to highways. Credit check and 2 months security. No Pets, good credit and security required. Call Jack at Skyview Realty 860 214 1147

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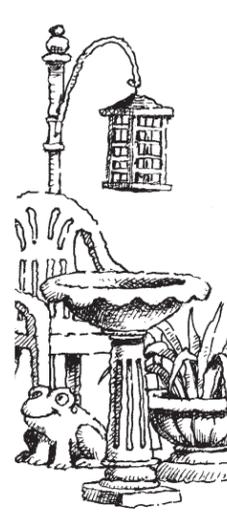
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THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST HAMP-TON is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to work in the Church Office an average of 10 hours per week. Responsibilities will include welcoming guests/visitors to the office, answering phones, church record keeping, assisting with preparations for Sunday worship services and other duties as needed. The right individual must have strong organizational skills, computer proficiency, and a pleasant, get it done attitude! Experience with MS Office and Google Docs is required, and experience with Breeze CHMS is a plus. Please forward resume/cover letter to Peter Strickland at sunbeam@comcast.net or send to 57 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424

HELP WANTED: CASO'S HVAC, LLC, East Hampton, CT is now hiring Commercial & Residential HVAC Mechanics/Technicians. B2 or S2 License Required. Must have at least 5 years experience. We offer competitive hourly wages. Please email resume to caso-hvac@comcast.net or call 860-267-5851.

HELP WANTED: Full time laser marking machine operator wanted. Set up and tend laser marking or engraving machines. Call 860-658-0808 leave message and phone number or email wnarog@bmi-cad.com

PART TIME -SECRETARIAL flexible afternoon hours. Must have good typing and grammar skills. Insurance Industry, working out of home based business, separate office. 18.00 per hour to right person. 5 day a week schedule. Call David at 860-922-9154. Serious Inquiries Only.

SHEET METAL MECHANICS & HELPERS: Full time, apprenticeship program offered, health insurance, 401(k) plan. Pay range \$20 - \$30/hour. Call 860-828-3762.

CAREGIVER NEEDED
 Non-medical, mostly companionship, meals & light housekeeping. Colchester. Part-time days. Great small caring agency. Must have caregiving experience, paid or non-paid & pass background check. Looking for long term employee. Mon-Sat hours. Older adults encouraged to apply. Immediate work. **Call 860-967-0831**

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RE-19-21

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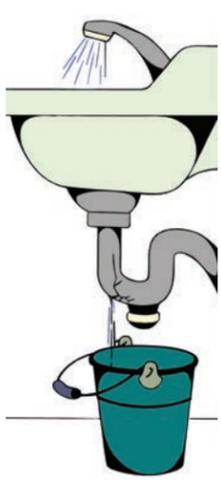
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CIT-21-22



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