



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 02

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January 27, 2023



Ukrainian Scouting... Hebron Troop 1028 Scoutmaster Sam Izzarelli presented Hartford Area Plast Ukrainian Scoutmaster Maria Briggs with a Troop 1028 patch, and neckerchief woggles in the colors of the Ukrainian flag, at a recent Ukrainian Scouting ceremony in Hartford. See more about the ceremony on page 24.

Local Author Captures River Valley's Richness

By Jack Lakowsky

Ask Portland author and historian Alain Munkittrick what's so interesting about the history of the Connecticut River Valley...

"I would say everything is here," Munkittrick told the Rivereast this week.

It's hard to argue the point - just about every period of American architecture, industry, agriculture and cultural output can be identified and appreciated along the Connecticut's banks...

Earlier this month Munkittrick, a Portland resident who cowrote a book on Middletown's history, published the culmination of a three-year project photographing and researching the Connecticut River region's history.

Of all the region's fascinating history Munkittrick's book, an entry in the recognizable Images of America series, focuses on exactly as the title says: Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley.

The series' publisher, Arcadia Publishing, usually focuses on hyperlocal projects, but gatekeepers made an exception and published Munkittrick's regionally focused book.

"There's 400 years of history represented by the architecture up and down the Connecticut River," from 1650 to 2020.

As he researched, Munkittrick learned he could do "three of four" more similar books.

"I thought at first it was going to be a challenge to find enough great houses." Happily he proved himself incorrect, and to fit all the his-

tory, the publisher printed the book with 30% more pages than usual.

"I'll use the book as a starting point to explore some other places," he said. "I really wanna get people excited...each house tells a little story."

Though he hopes the book appeals to many people for many reasons, Munkittrick's ideal reader is the curious sightseer who uses the book as a guide as they travel the valley, learning history and stories that may otherwise be lost.

While a smaller member of the huge number of valley towns, Munkittrick's cover comes right out of Portland.

The photo is of Oscar Hedstrom and his wife at their Main Street home. Hedstrom is known as the "dean of motorcycle designs," the brain behind "modern motorcycle design," inventing hand throttles and carburetors...

New England's varied architecture was built by magnates like Hedstrom, their opulence manifested in their massive estates. Munkittrick has a chapter on New England industry barons.

The book is arranged thematically, rather than chronologically. Historic houses are grouped thematically to tell the stories of the valley's development. For example, the chapter "River Makers" highlights the homes of significant manufacturers...

"River Gentry" features the great estates and gentlemen farms which changed the valley's character in the 19th-century, while "River Masters" is a peak at the homes of important artists, writers, scientists, and intellectuals.

New England's industries operated alongside See Local Author, page 22

Church Welcomes First Woman Leader

By Jack Lakowsky

As they did when 20-year pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber retired, Marlborough Congregational Church's parishioners have gone above and beyond welcoming the church's new pastor, the Rev. Valerie Fenton-Seaver.

Fenton-Seaver is a local history-maker too. She is the 275-year-old church's first ever woman to stand at the pulpit and lead worshippers.

She takes the place of former Faulhaber, who retired at the end of December.

When Faulhaber first came on, Congregational Church faithful renovated the church's parsonage, entirely redesigning his young son's room.

Two decades later and churchgoers still have the same selfless, welcoming spirit, redoing Fenton-Seaver's office, painting, bringing in like-new donated furniture or buying pieces at

tag sales, repainting and rearranging the office, which has more of a relaxing, serene artist's studio vibe. The office's bathroom is also being redone with donated materials, the pastor said.

"The welcome, the love has been wonderful," she said.

The "celebrity" treatment isn't going to her head, though.

This week Fenton-Seaver, who last year retired after 35 years as an Eversource supervisor (a job, she said, that prepared her for anything), said she takes the work of guiding people's spirituality and souls as a serious task.

In her first few weeks alone, Fenton-Seaver has already officiated at two funerals. She was an intern at the church for four years; she was originally a member of a church in East Haddam, and joined Marlborough not long before

the pandemic began.

She said, at a low point in her life, she felt called to ministry, but her views did not align with the religion she grew up in. Upon discovering the United Church of Christ, she fell in love because UCC focuses on, well, love.

"I felt at home," she said. "I didn't know God could just be love."

Fenton-Seaver said she appreciates how UCC accommodates humanity, not impugning, but exploring and working through, doubts in their faith.

"At the end of the day we can all believe in love," she said.

The pastor said she wants to keep her sermons relatable and brief, working in current events in news, politics and science, an ode to

See Marlborough Church, page 26

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Tri-County Legion Baseball

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

To be eligible, players must be between ages 13 and 19, and 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 try-out 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.telegion.com or contact GM Len Lampugnale at Lampugnale@comcast.net or at 860-295-0437 for more information.

Scholarships Available

Residents of Andover, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland can apply for American Savings Foundation scholarships. These renewable scholarships can be used at a range of four-year colleges and universities, two-year colleges, and at accredited technical and vocational programs.

The foundation is accepting applications from high school seniors, college students and nontraditional adult students who will be enrolled for the 2023-24 academic year. Students can apply online at www.asfdn.org, and applications are due March 31. The website also has links to other area scholarship programs as well as resources for learning about financial aid.

"Because this scholarship is renewable, most of our scholars receive support for up to four years of college," said Heather Hokunson, scholarship program officer for the American Savings Foundation. "Our goal is to help reduce some of the financial stress that can keep hard-working students from achieving their dreams

of a college education."

In 2023, the Foundation expects to award a total of \$815,000 in support to nearly 400 new and renewing scholars who will be studying in Connecticut and across the country. Applicants must live in one of the 64 Connecticut towns served by American Savings Foundation. Scholarships are awarded primarily based on financial need, with consideration given to academic performance, community involvement, and other indications of a strong desire to achieve goals through education. Current high school seniors must be ranked in the top third of their graduating class or have a 2.5 GPA or higher. Current college students must be maintaining a 2.5 GPA or higher.

For more information and to apply, students and parents can visit www.asfdn.org or call the foundation at 860-827-2556.

Radon Test Kits Available

January is Radon Awareness Month. If you would like a free radon kit, the Chatham Health District has acquired a limited number of radon test kits from the Connecticut State Health Department.

One test kit is available per residence for those living within the district. Once the test is complete, you will need to mail the kit in for analysis at no charge to you. The results will be sent to you and will not be public information.

Test kits are available while supplies last; please only take one if you are committed to following the directions and mailing it out.

If interested in a test kit, call 860-365-0884.

Scholarships Available for Area Students

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all resident seniors can apply.

Deadline for applications is April 1. Visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship for an application, ask your school's guidance counselor for one.

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

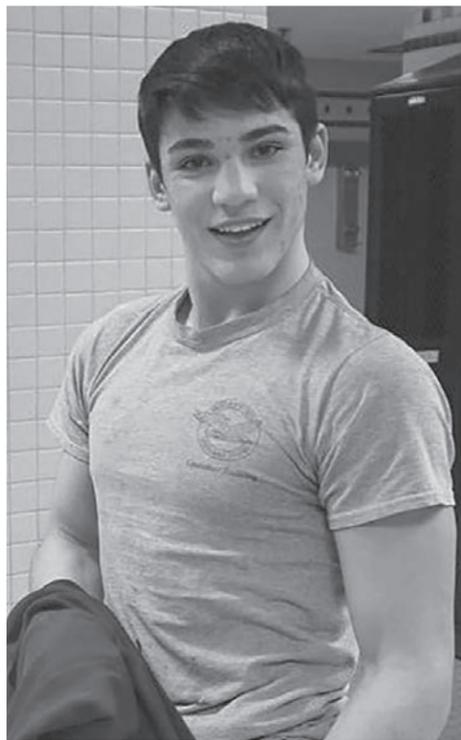
Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of Jan. 16-22:

Carson Brown - Bacon Academy High School (Wrestling): Brown placed third in the 152-pound bracket, defeating Matt Gish of Cromwell/Portland by decision (8-3) in the consolation match, at the Casey Yates Invitational in Lebanon. Brown and the Bacon Academy wrestling team will next host the Matt Bishel Bobcat Classic, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4, at 9 a.m. The multi-school event is in its 12th year and is named after Bishel, a former wrestler and graduate at the high school who passed away in 2011.

Max Czarnecki - RHAM High School (Track): Czarnecki broke his own school record in the 55 meters, running a 6.72, at the East Coast Invitational in Providence, R.I. It was the second time in a matter of weeks that the senior sprinter had set a new mark in the event. Czarnecki also teamed with Sam Fortin, Konrad Jadzinski and Cam Rhodes to break the school record in the 4x800 relay, running 8:33.25 to shatter the previous mark by 10 seconds.

Evan LoPresti, Alex Rivard-Lentz, Robert Stanford, Alexander Urban (Track): LoPresti, Rivard-Lentz, Stanford, and Urban combined for a third place finish in the 4x400 relay race at the Shoreline Coaches Invitational. The four-some ran a time of 3:54.65, finishing ahead of eight other teams at the conference meet at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven. Next up for the Bellringers is the Shoreline Conference Indoor Track Championship at Hillhouse High School on Friday, Feb. 3, schedule to start at 5:30 p.m.

Harrison Collins - Portland High School (Basketball): Collins scored 22 points as the Highlanders held off East Hampton 64-62 in overtime on Jan. 20. Portland relied on clutch free-throw shooting and a strong defense in the extra session to defeat a Bellringers team that entered PHS having won three of their previ-



Bacon Academy junior Carson Brown was named an Athlete of the Week after finishing third in an invitational in Lebanon. The Bobcats will host an invite next weekend when they welcome schools to Bacon Academy High School for the Matt Bishel Bobcat Classic on Feb. 4.

ous four games. Collins, a senior, is the leading scorer for a Highlanders team that is currently 8-4 and will next travel to Haddam-Killingworth for a game on Friday, Jan. 27 (7 p.m.).

With questions or to nominate someone as a Standout Athlete of the Week, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.



New state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) was recently sworn into his first year at the state legislature, with his wife Cathryn and daughter Kayla at his side.

DeCaprio Sworn into First Term

On Jan. 4, state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) was sworn into his first year at the state legislature, with his family at his side.

DeCaprio will be serving on the appropriations, public health and transportation committees over the next two years.

The 48th General Assembly District includes the towns of Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and part of Lebanon.

"There is good energy in the House Chamber this year, as many members seem pleased to be meeting in person again," DeCaprio said. "I will do my best to keep everyone in Colchester and

the other three towns updated, and if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out and let me know. I am here now to work on your behalf, and this is a great honor for me to serve our community in this office. I would like to thank all the people of the 48th District for this opportunity to serve our community."

For more information, and to sign up for email updates, visit www.RepDecaprio.com. DeCaprio is on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/RepDecaprio.

The 2023 Connecticut Legislative Session started Jan. 4 and adjourns on June 7.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Hey, parents of young kids: Have you introduced them yet to the wonder that is your town public library? If not, next Saturday, Feb. 4, would be a great day to start.

On that day, public libraries throughout Connecticut – and across the country – will celebrate the 12th annual Take Your Child to the Library Day with free events and activities for children and families.

“Taking children to the library helps them develop a love of reading and learning,” said Ellen Paul, executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, the nonprofit organization that supports Take Your Child to the Library Day. “Choosing and checking out their own materials helps children learn independence and sharing. Library books and technology open access to the world and fuel children’s curiosity and passions. And library programs provide countless opportunities for learning, discovering, making friends, and having fun!”

Paul, before becoming executive director of the consortium was head of East Hampton Public Library for four years, added, “If you want your children to become thoughtful, engaged citizens, start by bringing them to the library on Take Your Child to the Library Day or any day.”

In the *Rivereast* area, there are multiple programs taking place Feb. 4, to celebrate the day. They include:

Colchester: Cragin Memorial Library will have a 10:30 a.m. Race Car Storytime, and will also offer a Foodie Fun take-home kit. For details, call the library at 860-537-5752.

East Hampton Public Library: There will be crafts, face-painting, and other activities.

For details, call the library at 860-267-6621.

Marlborough: All are invited to Richmond Memorial Library at 10 a.m. for a magic show with Matt Matthews Magic. There will also be storytime at 1 p.m. and drop-in activities and projects all day. Register for the magic show through the library website, richmondlibrary.info.

Portland Public Library: The library is celebrating the 10th anniversary of *Paw Patrol* on Take Your Child to the Library Day with a scavenger hunt, games, and crafts. School-aged kids can meet Magnus, Portland’s own K9 police dog, and learn about his role on the police department during an 11 a.m. program Registration required, at portlandlibraryct.org.

Also, **Andover Public Library** will hold a belated celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, Feb. 25, with a special winter storytime and craft. For details, call the library at 860-742-7428.

Wondering what other area libraries might be doing? Give them a call and find out! To locate a library near you, visit takeyourchild-tothelibrary.org/ct.

I was recently alerted to the passing of a longtime Marlborough resident who, while she was before my time, seems like she made quite an impact in town. Ethel Fowler passed away Jan. 4, at the age of 95. Born in Marlborough in 1927, she lived here until moving to Niantic in 2003.

Ethel was heavily involved Marlborough. According to her obituary, she was Marlborough Town Clerk from 1976 until her re-

Editor's Desk continued on page 5

Bulletin Board

Here we are not even through January of the new year and I find my world (astrologically speaking) threatened by stargazers who would deprive me of my sign of the zodiac.

It seems there is a contingent of mean-spirited astrologers out there who would strip me of my sign—the fiery and much-coveted Sagittarius—and consign me to some bogus 13th sign of the zodiac called Ophiuchus. This supposedly has something to do with a wobbly earth and changes in the alignment of the planets, though I am inclined to think it’s actually the work of malicious Virgos, who are well known for their blind envy.

My wife (b. July 20), a Cancer who barely escaped being reassigned to Gemini under the proposed shake-up, finds my new designation hilarious.

“Really?” she said after I broke the news. “Ophiuchus? Wasn’t that the name of the goofy little kid on ‘The Andy Griffith Show’ back in the 1960s?”

“Very funny,” I retorted. “I thought Cancers were supposed to be caring and nurturing. And besides, his name was Opie.”

She giggled.

“There must be some mistake,” I complained. “I’m a model Sagittarian: freedom-loving, respected by all, enthusiastic, energetic, optimistic, gregarious, full of life...”

She appeared to be choking.

“Are you all right?” I asked. “I don’t really want to have to get up off the couch unless it’s a genuine emergency.”

She nodded her head and waved a hand helplessly while continuing to make a gagging sound.

“And listen. I found this on the Internet about Sagittarians,” I added. “‘People born under the sign of Sagittarius usually have a large and well-shaped skull, a high, broad forehead, a slender and well-formed figure. They stand high and walk high like a Centaur.’ I mean, this fits me to a T.”

She fell on the floor.

Finally, between convulsions, she managed to squeak, “And what about Ophiuchus traits?”

“All wrong. Their element is water. My element is clearly fire.”

“Are you sure it’s not cheap beer?” she asked.

I ignored her. “It also says ‘the person will feel a soft corner for sick people.’ I can’t stand sick people.”

“That’s true,” she agreed. “You’re not very empathetic.”

“All they do is whine.”

“What else do they say about Opies?”

“Ophiuchus,” I corrected her. “Have some respect. Well, it says they are seekers of knowledge and wisdom. That’s a bit more on the mark. Also that we like plaids and bright colors.”

“So do clowns,” she observed, bursting once again into uncontrollable giggles.

“You know,” I said sternly. “You should take this more seriously. This change could affect our entire relationship. I know this may come as a shock to you, but what if we’re no longer compatible?”

Have you ever seen anyone laugh so hard they drool on themselves? Then I realized she was trying to say something.

“What?” I said. “What is it?”

She tried again, but couldn’t get the words out.

“Call an ambulance?” I guessed.

She shook her head.

“Honey, I don’t know what you’re trying to tell me!”

She swallowed a couple of times and choked out, “I get the house!”

I had no idea Cancers were so mean.

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.



Honoring Dr. King... Colchester celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Cragin Memorial Library on Jan. 21 with a community reading. Among the participants were, from left, Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann, Resident State Trooper Sgt. Zachary Cash, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Colchester Senior Center representative Mary Ann Czaja, Colchester Federated Church Pastor the Rev. Lauren Ostrout, Cragin Memorial Library Director Kate Byroade, Friends of Cragin Memorial Library President Noreen Bibee, and Rabbi Ken Alter of Congregation Ahavath Achim.

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

Generous Outpouring

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Volunteer Fuel and Food Bank would like to thank the citizens of East Hampton for their generous outpouring of support during this past Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Food and monetary donations came in record numbers.

Food Bank hours are Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon. Citizens of East Hampton are allowed to come every two weeks if needed.

Debbie Markham – East Hampton

Snow

To the Editor:

There is something so fascinating about snow. Atmospheric alchemy – a mixture of water, altitude and temperature working in harmony. Simply clear flakes that reflect the light to appear white. Layers of flakes. Frozen water in geometric precision. Imitated yet never duplicated by man. Enhanced silence as the ground is transformed from drab to white.

Ah, finally a hint of winter. I say, rather refreshing after all.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

A Heartfelt Thank You

To the Editor:

The members of Zion Lutheran Church Grace Guild in Portland want to thank the local community for recently supporting our Homeless Drive for Streetfire Ministries. Streetfire serves the less fortunate of central Connecticut in many different ways. Your thoughtfulness, caring and generosity helped us to make this event a huge success.

We never imagined the enormous impact we made for so many of our local houseless people. Your kindness helped to make their Christmas holiday a lot warmer, brighter and merrier. Thank you again for helping us spread kindness to others in need.

**Sincerely,
Donna Berndtson
Grace Guild Member
Zion Lutheran Church**

Ned Lamont & the Democrats

To the Editor:

The Democrats have “ruled” Connecticut for nearly three decades and what a mess they’ve made. Working-class men and women and small businesses have taken it on the chin!! Thousands of family-run businesses have closed shop thanks to the policies of Ned Lamont and the Democrats. Unfunded mandates, obtrusive code restrictions, and regulations have put a noose around the necks of the independent business community.

Lamont’s Accomplishments:

- 1) 50th worst state to open a business. Look it up!
- 2) # 1 in the country highest per capita tax liability.
- 3) #1 highest electricity rates in the country.

News copy deadline for *The Rivereast News Bulletin* is Tuesday at noon. Please address all letters & news articles to: *Rivereast News Bulletin*, P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

4) Promised to eliminate the income tax on Social Security benefits to seniors, many living on fixed incomes – one of only five states. Despicable, and he lied to us.

5) The boondoggle at New London Pier, Ned's wind project – started at \$93 million, has now ballooned to over \$255 million, and now it's been reported that the company running the job has ignored the bidding process and is giving itself millions in contracts – no oversight!! Now there is strong evidence that the "whistling" of the wind units disorients whales and they are washing up on shore at an alarming rate – especially Humpbacks and Pilot whales. Tragic.

6) Has made Connecticut a M.A.G.A. state – Marijuana, Abortion, Gambling, Alcohol – maybe to raise more tax dollars. Prostitution and brothels are in our future?

7) Ned's administration is once again in a special category – being one of four states that did not fully pay back the federal government for the COVID/unemployment loans that were made in 2020-21. So instead of using the \$5 billion surplus Ned claims we have, he is making a "special assessment" to all businesses based on their payroll!!

More to come.

Don Denley – Andover

Davos 2023

To the Editor:

After a two-year hiatus, our mostly unelected and unaccountable rulers met in Davos, Switzerland, at the World Economic Forum's annual conference. In attendance were the heads of industry, banking, pharma, media, technology, the military, and over 100 world leaders (presidents and prime ministers). While some dismiss concerns about this as "paranoid conspiracy theorizing," you have to wonder what exactly is happening when you see such a cozy and orchestrated relationship between business and governments...the collusion of the two resulting in fascism.

While much of what happens at Davos occurs behind the scenes, we do know that thousands of the world's elite arrived on their own private jets and spent a week in the lap of luxury while scheming how to convince us all that we peasants are killing the planet with our gas stoves and hamburgers. The conference employed thousands of Swiss military for security as well as importing high-end prostitutes from all over Europe to keep the attendees comfortable and satisfied.

Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry, banged

the drum of anthropomorphic climate change, repeating the decades-old "time is running out" mantra and took the opportunity to toot his own horn, saying that it's an awesome responsibility to sit in a room surrounded by his fellow "select group of humans" and "talk about saving the planet"...calling it an "almost extra-terrestrial" responsibility.

Although the plotting of the elite to oppress the masses for their own benefit is nothing new, I'm glad to see him finally admit that they are acting more like alien invaders because the trans-humanist future that they are advocating for will forever alter homo sapiens into the Human 2.0 future they desire...a future of an augmented, connectable and controllable humanity where your God-given inalienable rights are sacrificed for omnipresent surveillance and smart contracts.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Colchester Together

To the Editor:

Over the last week, I've been honored by the positive response from fellow residents who have reached out to me about my campaign for first selectman. I am inspired by the people from a variety of backgrounds and political beliefs who have said they are ready for change in Colchester. In the last week, I've talked to farmers and other business owners, parents, seniors, and other residents of town from a range of economic backgrounds.

I appreciate that I've heard not just from Democrats, but also Republicans, unaffiliated voters, and others. As several people have said: we do not need to solve the country's problems here in Colchester. Instead, we need to put the focus back on community issues.

I have also heard that people are interested in more than just campaign promise laundry lists. They really are looking for leadership that will level with them and talk straight about the issues. People say they feel a lack of trust with the town right now. We cannot tackle big ideas without trust.

I'm running because we deserve both transparency and honesty from our first selectman.

One question I've been asked is if I will serve full-time if elected. The answer is 'yes.' While I love my job, I know Colchester Town Hall needs a full-time leader and the residents of Colchester deserve a first selectman whose attention is focused on them.

I am enjoying the opportunity to hear from neighbors around Colchester about how we can move forward together. If you would like to fol-

low the campaign or get in touch with me, you can visit BernieForColchester.com or email me at bernie@bernieforcolchester.com.

Let's talk about how we can work to bring Colchester together.

**Bernie Denler
Candidate for First Selectman
Colchester**

Reading to Honor MLK

To the Editor:

Colchester celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Cragin Memorial Library on Jan. 21 with a community reading. Readers for the event represented Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester Federated Church, Colchester Senior Center, State Police Troop K, Colchester Hayward Fire Department, Congregation Ahavath Achim, and the first selectman's office.

Dr. King Jr.'s work and words continue to serve as examples of strength, compassion, and a commitment to equality, justice, and inclusion. Dr. King Jr. exemplified the words "service to all." Our community readers do the same, they have a commitment and focus of "service to all" in Colchester.

We are proud to have started a new celebration in town. We look forward to more opportunities to connect and build a stronger sense of community and inclusion for all. The MLK event was organized by the first selectman's office, the CORE Commission, and Cragin Library.

**Andreas Bisbikos, Shawn Pelletier
and Kate Byroade**

Two Sides to Story

To the Editor:

I am glad to see new voices joining the discussion on the proposed Public Works plan in Hebron. However, there are some important issues that need to be recognized. The Public Works information presented on the town's website is only one side of the story, promoting the benefits and ignoring the risks. Vital evidence recognizing the dangers of placing a public works facility at 17 Kinney Road is not presently available on the website. For many months information from documented and respected sources has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen, town manager and other officials, yet it is being ignored. Shouldn't the people of Hebron have all the information available?

The Environmental Review Team report of the Kinney Road site, dated June 2000, notes the fractured bedrock that feeds local wells and the high risk of contamination spreading throughout the area, "greater fracture density

also suggests increased permeability and faster rates of groundwater dispersal and also faster rates of dispersal of potential contaminants..."

A letter, dated December 2022, by the respected hydrogeologist William Warzecha clearly states, "the town is using poor judgment in locating a public works facility on Kinney Road and the facility should not be built in that location." Mr. Warzecha is a recognized expert on road salt contamination of ground water, whose testimony is still being used by CT DEEP in legal proceedings.

On Jan. 12, 2023, the Hebron Historic Properties Commission received documentation on significant historical information linking the 17 Kinney Rd. site to the most prominent figures in Hebron history. From pre-historic Native occupation to the Mohegan Sachem Attawanhood, from Governor John S. Peters to the emancipated slave Cesar Peters, this scenic landscape is a living time capsule and treasure trove of history.

For more information, please visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and #Save17.

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

Power

To the Editor:

When President Dwight Eisenhower spoke of a rise in "misplaced power" he could easily have been referring to think tanks and public relations firms. These organizations use cleverly worded sound bites and catch phrases that come from outside the realm of power, with no personal responsibility for their outcome. Basically, these are "people making policy that have zero accountability to the voter." -Karen Kwiatkowski.

Mark Cuban's philosophy on using PR firms? "Be your own best salesman. You should be able answer any and all questions accurately. If you are not fully versed on your own business, hiring a public relations firm won't help. You will not know where your problems lie or how to direct the firm you are hiring."

Hebron's Board of Selectmen have considered hiring a PR firm to help educate residents on the plus side of putting industrial and municipal development on corn and hay fields, in the Raymond Brook Watershed. (17 Kinney Rd) Fields that are, surrounded by water, slanted towards acres of wetlands and up hill from the Raymond Brook Marsh and "the town's future supply of drinking water." (BOS agenda 1/5/23, Horton Property Purchase, 2/26/19)

Purchasing property only protects it when
See Letters, page 6

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

retirement in 1996, and had also served as the town's tax collector from 1967 until 1975.

In addition, Ethel was a founder and the first president of the Marlborough Arts Center, a member of the Hartford County Town Clerks Association, and a former member and vice chairman of the Marlborough Republican Town Committee.

Fellow Marlborough Republican, and former town first selectman, Cathi Gaudinski spoke with me about Ethel earlier this week, and remembered her fondly. She recalled Ethel was one of the first people she met when she and her husband moved to town in 1985.

"She was warm and welcoming to us, and it made us feel as Marlborough was the right choice to build our home and raise our family," Cathi said.

She said that Ethel also encouraged Cathi to get involved with the Republican Town Committee, as well as local boards and com-

missions. "Her demeanor and encouragement made it easy to get involved in town as newcomers," Cathi shared.

Cathi grew up west of the river, so she enjoyed hearing Ethel's stories about growing up in Marlborough "when it was much smaller in population and amenities."

"She loved the town and history was important to her," Cathi recalled.

And, Cathi remembered, Ethel was very good in her job.

"As town clerk, she paid attention to every detail, was very professional in her position and was not reluctant to stand her ground when need be," Cathi said.

It sounds like Ethel was a wonderful lady, and I'm sure many in town will miss her.

To leave an online condolence for Ethel's family, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

See you next week.

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

we are conscientious and leave it unspoiled. It would be sadly ironic if the BOS used “misplaced power” to sell the Public on this idea of watershed development, only to ruin “the town’s future supply of drinking water” in the process. A better choice, for this fragile and historic ecosystem, is putting it into Open Space and rebuilding our Public Works and municipal

buildings at their present locations.

Beware of backwards information. Nuclear power is not a renewable source of energy and upland development, surrounded by wetlands, does not protect water that is already safe. #save17.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

\$250,000

To the Editor:

As reported in last week’s *Rivereast* (see page 13), on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School, there will be a public hearing and town meeting to address a request for a special appropriation in the amount of \$250,000.

This special appropriation was requested by

the Board of Selectmen. The funds would be applied towards a settlement for a long-time matter of litigation.

At the town meeting, members of the public will be afforded the opportunity to either approve or disapprove the request.

I would encourage you to attend this meeting in order to learn more about this request and to then make an informed decision on how to vote on the matter. I will refrain from personally making any recommendation, but I do feel that it is important for the public to have a say when addressing a request of this magnitude.

Therefore, I hope to see you at the public hearing/town meeting on Feb. 1.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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



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Andover Turns 175

To the Editor:

This May marks the 175th anniversary of Andover. A “dedication” will be held at the Gazebo on Thursday, May 18, Andover’s confirmed incorporation date with guest speakers, music and refreshments. Andover Elementary students will bury a time capsule and place a plaque at the site.

On Saturday, May 20, there will be a festival at the elementary school featuring inflatable games and rides, food trucks, and more. Other events through May and June will include garden tours, cemetery tours, Rail Trail hikes, and more. Detailed information can be found on Facebook at Andover CT 175th Anniversary as well as the Andover town website and Andover Support Network. As the date gets closer we will have brochures available online and at the town hall, library, and post office.

Our committee has relied solely on donations and selling t-shirts, ornaments, calendars, and cookbooks. You can still donate online on our 175th Facebook page which provides a link to our Givebutter Fundraising platform (givebutter.com/2UCJqO). If you prefer to write a check, please make it out to Andover CT 175th Anniversary Committee and mail it to Carol

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Lee at the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road. We can provide a receipt donation form should you need one, just include your email address.

Volunteers are needed for the May 20th Festival to help us check that the games are going smoothly, that there are no lines at the inflatable obstacle courses and inflatable slide, and to answer questions that may arise. If you are available to volunteer, please contact Catherine Magaldi-Lewis at andover175@gmail.com. Please plan on celebrating this historic occasion. One hundred and seventy-five years is a significant event!

Catherine Magaldi-Lewis
Chair, Andover CT 175th Anniversary Committee

Trump vs. Perceived Enemies

To the Editor:

Judge sanctions Trump and his lawyer nearly \$1 million for 'frivolous' lawsuit targeting Hillary Clinton.

U.S. District Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks, who called the suit a "political manifesto" when he dismissed it in September, rebuked Trump in a scathing 46-page order.

A federal judge on Thursday sanctioned former President Donald Trump and one of his top attorneys nearly \$1 million for filing a sprawling lawsuit against Hillary Clinton and other perceived political enemies "that should never have been filed."

U.S. District Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks of Southern Florida said in his 46-page order that Trump, lead attorney Alina Habba and Habba Madaio & Associates were jointly liable for \$937,989 in the suit, which he dismissed in September.

"This case should never have been brought. Its inadequacy as a legal claim was evident from the start. No reasonable lawyer would have filed it," Middlebrooks wrote, adding that the suit was intended "for a political purpose."

"Mr. Trump is a prolific and sophisticated litigant who is repeatedly using the courts to seek revenge on political adversaries. He is the mastermind of strategic abuse of the judicial process, and he cannot be seen as a litigant blindly following the advice of a lawyer. He knew full well the impact of his actions," Middlebrooks wrote. "As such, I find that sanctions should be imposed upon Mr. Trump and his lead counsel, Ms. Habba." (NBC, CBS, Yahoo, Politico, CNN, Reuters, Axios)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Thoughtful Growth

To the Editor:

Having lived in Hebron for almost 40 years, I have seen many changes. Where Burnt Hill Park is, was Strickland's Chicken Farm. Diagonally across the street was Chuck Smith's Beef Cattle Farm. At the entrance to Burnt Hill Park was a run-down rental property, the Peters House. The Hebron Historical Society saved it from being torn down. We have our town's building department in another redone old house. The old high school and middle school were replaced by beautiful new ones. When the sewers went through town, we took most of the fill from that project, and filled and leveled the land that is now Veterans Memorial Park. Adding walking trails that run from the park to Loveland Road and the rear of the car wash. Our landfill (dump) became a transfer station.

We have progressed at a mindfully slow pace. John Horton Boulevard is the next step in that thoughtful growth. I am hopeful that once the road is continued through to Kinney Road, that historical markers would be installed. They would highlight things like Caesar Peters once resided here, and be made accessible to all, with walking paths and sidewalks.

The history of our town IS important, but it needs to be put in perspective. When I was in Ireland some years ago, there was a new building that halted construction, as a Viking village was unearthed during excavation. The local historians were given one month to salvage and remove anything they wanted to save before construction was resumed.

I am hopeful that the DPW project will move forward sooner rather than later, without any more artificial roadblocks! There are only so many Band-Aids that can be put on the old facility.

Todd Habicht – Hebron

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Smoking

To the Editor:

Cigarette smoking has been declining worldwide, including in the U.S. The result did not come easily or cheaply. Now, however, it appears our leaders are breathlessly ushering in marijuana smoking without much public dissent.

My fear and loathing of the foul habit of smoking is rooted not just in its health consequences, although looming cancer diagnoses are quite sobering in themselves.

Human lungs are meant exclusively for an 80% - 20% mixture of nitrogen and oxygen, not for a fluid of partly burned carbon laced with countless carcinogens. This singularly uncouth habit is also expensive and a bad example for our youth.

As for any easy revenues, I am afraid disease and crime together will exact many times the revenue the new smoking brings in.

Cherackal Chacko – Portland

Deplorable

To the Editor:

In response to article "Town to Shell out \$250,000 to Settle Lawsuit": I am sure that many residents are curious to see what exactly we would be paying for. When this ordeal is settled, Amy Traversa should write a letter of apology to Mr. Foley for all the stress, pain and suffering she caused him.

Amy went to great extremes to set up obstacles for Mr. Foley to get his FMLA. It appears Amy is an impaired leader who lacks empathy. After reading the 70-page "nightmare" (Foley vs. Town of Marl), Amy did everything in her power to interfere and put-up barriers. His ENT clearly provided the necessary cert along with recommendations. Amy continued to challenge that looking for anything to deny Mr. Foley's his rightful leave. This is deplorable. This gentleman was suffering from tinnitus. For anyone that has experienced "ringing in their ears," come on, let's be sympathetic to someone that suffers from this to the point of insomnia. At least Mr. Foley was not out operating heavy equipment.

It is an embarrassment that this dirty laundry had to be aired out because it is now cheaper to pay him off. How much was spent in legal fees and how many hours did Amy spend trying to come up with barriers. Makes me also question, is this how the Town of Marlborough handles all FMLA requests or is this case unique? If this is the norm, it is time someone does a reform in the town hall.

I support reimbursement for Mr. Foley. If Amy had done her job, we would not be here and the town could use the \$250,000 in a more constructive way – like the library addition! The bottom line, his MD did the cert, he qualified.....480 hours used, FMLA done.

**Submitted,
Laura Gutt – Marlborough**

More Public Works Ideas

To the Editor:

Last week, I introduced an option of locating the Hebron Public Works facility on the Hebron Lions grounds. This week, I want to offer some ideas that could vastly enhance this option regarding the State of Connecticut DOT sand/salt facility adjacent to the Lions grounds.

1.) The Town of Hebron currently owns and uses a sand/salt lot on Saltbox Road in the northern part of town. What if the Town were to offer this property to the State in exchange for the property adjacent to the Lions grounds? The central location should be adequate for all of Hebron's trucks to load up, and the Saltbox Road lot may in fact be an improved location for State trucks. I'm guessing this option would require the Town and our State elected officials to get together and work this out. If the Lions agree to locate the Public Works facility on their grounds, this would take on greater urgency and value.

2.) Sand/salt is a necessary tool for keeping our roads safe, but it is seasonal and a volatile expense. The weather is unpredictable and can either create shortages of this tool, or excess that just sits around needing to be stored for next year. Managing this has to be difficult. Most likely, the State with its huge volume usage secures the best of bulk pricing versus individual towns.

If the land swap is too difficult to get done... another idea to explore: what if the town were to reach an agreement to buy sand/salt by the truckload from the State facility, again from the location adjacent to the Lions land?

Cost sharing with the state seems to make sense, not just for Hebron but for many small towns across the state. I contacted Senator Osten's office asking if this was something she

would be interested in looking into, but after three weeks...I have had no response. Go figure...(elections are over).

It would be nice if both forms of government could play nicely in the sandbox and actually create a solution that would get rid of the need for additional sand and salt spots, while perhaps saving small towns the need to pay more!

Kirk Smalldge – Hebron

Dedicated Students

To the Editor:

The Portland Parks & Recreation kindergarten, first- and second-grade basketball program has kicked off in the new year. It is the first year in over 13 years that I will not be volunteering to run and coach the program. I just wanted to take a minute to recognize all the great high school students that volunteered over the years to make this program a truly great one.

The students, many whom were players at their high school, would show up for six weeks from 7:45 a.m. to noon to help me instruct the young children. And the children looked up to them with admiration and improved over the years from their coaching. Most volunteered to meet school requirements but pretty much completed those requirements in the first year. However, they continued to help, several of them doing it from sixth grade until they were ready to graduate.

I was truly blessed to have high school students willing to show up early in the morning on a Saturday week after week. I wish I could bottle whatever worked to make that happen so I could to give it to parents but there was no magic potion. It was just the dedication of the students. Parents of these kids, I want to let you know that I appreciated their help and the support you all gave to our basketball program. Please let your children know that I am saying "Thank you" again.

**"Coach Ralph" Zampano
Portland**

Chaos, Drama for Colchester

To the Editor:

I'm thrilled that the judge rejected all counts of the lawsuit filed by the chair and vice-chair of the Republican Town Council (RTC) against the senior center. We can finally move forward

on a well-deserved and popular project!

In a previous *Rivereast*, there was a curious statement by members of the RTC that the chair and vice-chair acted alone in suing the town and almost costing the town millions of dollars. But then the RTC chair called that statement libelous while reminding everyone the RTC passed a motion of no-confidence in Andreas Bisbokus. Then the vice chair of the RTC resigned out of protest.

All of this drama is likely related to the total failure of the lawsuit to do anything but waste time and taxpayer money. Andreas Bisbokus and members of the RTC must be trying to distance themselves from losing so dramatically. I'm not fooled, though. We know they'd applaud and cheer if the lawsuit succeeded and the senior center had to start over.

This group is so busy causing chaos and drama while fighting among themselves. The question is, how are Andreas Bisbokus and the RTC doing anything good for the citizens of Colchester?

John Farrell – Colchester

The Power of Fear

To the Editor:

The emergence of COVID in March 2020 changed the world for all, for some more than others. Some drank 'bottoms up' to the COVID propaganda Kool-Aid and obediently masked up anywhere and everywhere, gleefully took the jabs, and some continue to behave similarly three years after COVID onset. This group is mind-controlled as fear peddled by many 'trusted' organizations and individuals

overwhelmed the ability for group members to critically think – this is Group Fearful.

A second group of people, Group Skeptical, did not drink 'bottoms up' and questioned the narrative. Many followed the masking and jab dictates, however, for numerous reasons including being influenced by the continuous bombardment of COVID propaganda from mainstream media, medical professionals, 'experts,' politicians, employers, family members and friends.

The third group, Group Intrepid, are individuals who didn't imbibe the Kool-Aid and who questioned the value of masking and emergency use authorized vaccines and boosters as most

See Letters, page 26

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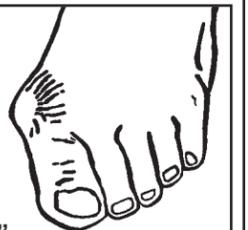
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Andover's Last Eagle Scout?

By Michael Sinkewicz

In a bittersweet ceremony earlier this month, Andover may have celebrated its last Eagle Scout, as Troop 124 is shutting down indefinitely.

The troop held an Eagle Court of Honor for Kinkade Knox-Silvia on Jan. 7, the highest recognition in Scouting, which only a small percentage of people are able to achieve.

Scoutmaster Bill Penn has been involved with the troop for 20 years, he told the *Rivereast*, and has seen the membership both climb and decline over the years.

Part of the reason, he said, is that Andover is simply a small town. Only one new Cub Scout made the transition to Boy Scouts, and the troop failed to reach the required threshold to continue operating.

"We just never got that replenishment," he explained. "A lot of parents focus on the sports element, and Scouts sometimes takes second fiddle."

Now, the troop is "going dormant."

Penn isn't ruling out a return at some point, but it's difficult to forecast community interest moving forward.

"Hopefully they'll revive it," he said. "It depends on the growth of the Cub Scout pack."

Knox-Silvia's achievement has now become a significant moment for the troop and for those who appreciate the value of Scouting.

Penn expressed that once it became evident that this would be the final ceremony, he reached out to a number of past Eagle Scouts and former leaders. Overall, nearly 30 people, including some from out of state, returned to Andover to participate and Penn tired his best to incorporate them into the ceremony.

His intent was to bring everyone back together one last time.

"We consider ourselves a family," he said.

Knox-Silvia's mom, Amy Knox, said her son was a "hard worker" who benefited heavily from the Scouting program.

"I'm thrilled he got to be a part of it but sad to see that other kids won't have the opportunity," she said. "It's a lot of fun, but it's a lot of work. He learned to be a leader and it allowed him to do it in his own way."

Knox said she got to be involved with the Scouts and participated in some of the camps, giving her further insight into its importance. Her son is quiet by nature, and Scouting presented opportunities that he otherwise wouldn't have experienced.

"Scouts rounded him out," she said, expressing that he earned merit badges that forced him to explore new hobbies, some of which he's continued to embrace, like rock climbing. "He got more out of it than other kids. It'll be a part of who he is forever."

Knox-Silvia is 18 years old, but was 17 at the time of his Eagle project. Currently, he is applying to numerous colleges and will likely study computer science.

Knox said she believes the skills and lessons instilled through Scouting have adequately prepared her son for his next chapter and will translate to anything he pursues in the future.

While Knox-Silvia is a National Honor Society member, Knox said her son has "more tricks in his bag" following his Scouting experience and will "help him be successful in whatever he chooses."

Even now, she has noticed a change in mindset, particularly at school, expressing that he's more involved in programs and more comfortable in reaching out to other individuals and groups.

She credited the work and commitment of the troop leadership, especially Penn, for sticking with Knox-Silvia and allowing him to complete his Scouting journey, and reaching Eagle Scout.

"They really made it happen," she said. "Bill worked with him and gave him the skills to become a leader. I'm just grateful."

Through his conversations with neighboring troops, Penn said that Andover's situation was not unique. Strategies to recruit and increase membership are happening in many towns, he added.

"I still think Scouting performs a great value," Penn said. "We teach a lot of life skills and learning through merit badges also teaches them. There's still a ton of value in Scouting."

Young adults, like Knox-Silvia, also have an "enhancer to those resumes," Penn said.

The pandemic may have impacted Scouting. Knox said that in her opinion, Andover handled that obstacle well, pivoting to outdoor meetings to keep the troop operational. It's possible, though, that recruiting during that period became difficult.

Paula King, a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen, attended the ceremony and is a strong supporter of Scouting.

She described the event as "extra special" and "bittersweet" giving the circumstances.

In her view, the pandemic and lockdowns were "detrimental to the Scouting program." Having the troop shut down is difficult for her and the town. She also has children go through Scouting and she helped the leaders.

"I see the value in helping out the community," she said. "Maybe this will spark someone to pick it up in the future."

In 2021, the Associated Press reported that the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA had seen dramatic falls in membership.

The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts program went from nearly 2 million members in 2019



Kinkade Knox-Silvia (center) recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout – and he may be the town's last Eagle Scout. He's shown here at his Court of Honor with, from left, mothers Reilly Silvia, and Amy Knox, and grandparents George and Judy Knox.

to 1.12 million in 2020, a 43% drop. The Girl Scouts saw a similar trend, with membership decreasing around 30% over the same period.

While some figures released earlier this

month suggest that membership may be recovering slightly, it will be difficult to match organization's peak from 1970s, when the Boy Scouts over four million people.

Upcoming Library Events

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, has announced a pair of upcoming events. All are welcome, and while registration is not necessary it is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

Saturday Storytime: Jan. 29 at 10:30 a.m. Andover Friends of the Library will read a story about Chinese New Year and afterwards show kids how to make a dragon puppet. Admission is free.

Take Your Child to the Library Day:

Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10:30 a.m. During this event, Ellen Repay of the Andover Friends of the Library will present a story about winter and/or snow, followed by a craft. Officially, the 12th annual Take Your Child to the Library Day is Saturday, Feb. 4, but the day will be celebrated all around Connecticut during the month. All attendees at this Feb. 25 program will have their names put into a drawing to win a bookbag filled with goodies. No purchase is necessary.

Library Friends Membership Drive

The Andover Friends of the Library group is holding its annual membership campaign – and all community members are invited to join.

Donations to join this 501(c)(3c) nonprofit organization are: \$3/senior or student, \$5/individual, \$10/family, \$25/business, \$150/lifetime, \$500/patron. Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be mailed to Andover Friends of the Library, P. O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232.

The Library Friends provide financial support for print and audio books, DVDs, children and adult programming, a \$1,000 educational scholarship for an Andover high school senior, subscriptions, as well as equipment, supplies and facility enhancements beyond the library's

current budget. Events and fundraisers include the annual goods and services auction, a free summer gazebo concert, an ice-cream social, the book/bake sale along with the quilt raffle, a visit with Mrs. Claus, and the Basketpalooza.

Membership forms are emailed to current and former members and are also available by visiting the library at 355 Route 6, by calling 860-742-7428 or online at tinyurl.com/3zk7kd42.

Included is a section to indicate opportunities to volunteer, from baking, gardening, book sales and tech support to serving on a committee or sharing a talent or hobby via a program.

The Library Friends welcome ideas and suggestions, by emailing andoverfol@gmail.com.

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday school is provided.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Feb. 1. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Feb. 8.

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

Sonshine Stampers: Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

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: Tuesday, Jan. 31, to Willimantic. Masks available on all vehicles.

Senior Luncheon Dates: Fridays, Feb. 3 and Feb. 17. Reservation required 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 pantry – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

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

New Seniors Welcome: New seniors are welcome to all events. Call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs. 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.

Senior Transportation Info

Andover Senior Transportation is available for free to all Andover seniors, all veterans, and all disabled. A caregiver may accompany any person that requires assistance or if under the age of 21.

The transportation service picks people up at their home and takes them to their medical appointment; the driver then waits for them and returns them home.

For all transportation appointments, call Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

Dean's List

Meghan Davis of Andover made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Mass. Davis is majoring in communication sciences and disorders.

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.

Dean's List

Keller Griffin of Andover made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire.

Griffin earned Honors.

Senior Fundraiser Feb. 5

Andover's annual senior fundraiser will be Sunday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School (AES) gym, 35 School Rd.

There will be baked goods, baskets, books, crocheted items, decorated boxes, dip and soup mixes, greeting cards, home products, jewelry, Tastefully Simple, Color Street Nails, pizza, beverages, popcorn, and more.

Call 860-916-6122 for more information.

Learn CPR

All are invited to learn CPR Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9-11 a.m., at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, 11 School Rd. Classes include use of training materials, CPR/AED/Choking for adults/child/infant, and two-year certification from the American Heart Association.

Cost is \$20 and registration is required; to do so, call Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074.

Souper Bowl Grinder Sale

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold its 31st annual Souper Bowl Grinder Sale Sunday, Feb. 12.

Grinder selections are ham, turkey or tuna. Chili, in quarts and pints, will also be sold, as will be garden salads. All options include chips and a soda. Pick-up will be on Feb. 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Pre-order is requested.

To pre-order, leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 or access an order form at www.andoverctchurch.org.

Portland • Portland

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 take-out-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.

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 eeuprl.com/h5m35f.

Youth Listening Circle: Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 6-7:30 p.m., at a location to be determined. YFS is looking for students in middle and high school that are interested in having a discussion on race, culture, diversity, equity and more. Join students from East Hampton, Durham and Middlefield and have your voice heard. Call or email Jesse to sign up.

Afterschool Drop-In & Draw: Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 2:30-4:30 p.m., on the first floor of the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. This is time for students to come after

school and do some semi-structured art. Come when you want, and stay as long as you want.

Drop-In & Draw Meet-Up: Friday, Feb. 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the BFCC. This month, make a patriotic popsicle stick gnome for Presidents' Day.

Prevention & Wellness Council: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at BFCC. Help work as a community on youth substance use prevention, positive mental health, and making Portland a recovery-friendly community. Contact Revicki or just show up if you're interested in joining in.

Youth Services Advisory Board: Tuesday, March 21.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 1.

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.

'Chill for Change' Returns Feb. 11

Middlesex YMCA and Camp Ingersoll will hold the annual Chill for Change at Jobs Pond in Portland on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m.

At the Chill for Change, folks jump into Jobs Pond in the middle of winter, all to raise money for a cause. Costumes are optional, but encouraged!

People can support the event by jumping into the pond or donating to a jumper. This year's goal is to raise \$30,000. All funds raised go directly to supporting camp scholarships and life-changing camp experiences. Donate, register as a single jumper, or register a team at CampIngersoll.org.

Library Friends Receive Art Books

The Friends of the Portland Library group recently received a large selection of art books from a private collection including books on master artists, impressionism – both French and American – and art collections in museums around the world.

These books, along with puzzles, games, DVDs, and fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, are available 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

ersoll.org.

All jumpers must preregister and raise at least \$100 to participate.

Awards are given for Best Costume, Best Team Theme, and Biggest Piggy Bank (most funds raised). The individual who raises the most money will receive a certificate for a free session of camp. This certificate can be used for your own family, or gifted to anyone you know.

For more information, contact Ben Silliman at bsilliman@midymca.org or 860-342-2267, or search for YMCA Camp Ingersoll on Facebook.

puzzles and games are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff. All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the Library's Museum Pass program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

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

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.

Transfer Station Solar Project Heads to Voters

By Jack Lakowsky

For almost two years the Town of Portland has tried building an array of solar panels at the former Sand Hill Road landfill, and now the project, which could save the town \$2 million in 20 years, heads to voters for approval.

Voters will discuss and vote on the project Feb. 1, starting with a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. followed by a special town meeting at 6:45 p.m., in the Buck Foreman building on Main Street.

If voters approve, construction should start later in this year, likely late summer or early fall.

The town's consultant on the project, Robert Klee, recommended the town partner with solar installation North Haven-based firm Greenskies Clean Energy, which of the five bids proposed the most conservative, cost-effective, legally unmarred project, which won't need much redesign.

Klee said the design was also practical and effective.

The Greenskies proposal saves the town about 2 million over 20 years, with a projected first-year savings of about \$106,000. Some of the projects estimated they could save the town even more, but were too ambitious for the site, and probably would've needed scaling back.

Portland First Selectman Ryan Curley, who along with the rest of the selectboard sent the

project voters last week, said Portland has a "good shot" at success.

The town plans to take advantage of the state's Virtual Net Metering (VNM) program, saves rather than generates the town money, keeping the generated electricity in town to fuel streetlights, schools, and the like.

The town has to apply for the program by March 14. If successful, along with saving money, the project will reduce the town's carbon footprint.

The project hit a detour last year and had to be delayed, the town learning it hadn't met some state requirements.

Klee the proverbial iron is hot, with the state allowing more robust solar panel development than it did the first time Portland tried getting the panels.

Klee said the panels' installer must maintain them throughout the two-decade lease and have financial incentives to do so.

In November, selectperson Ralph Zampano said he wants these for the town, that the landfill is unproductive space, but the numbers must be practical.

"We do have a good shot," Curley said last Thursday morning (Jan. 19), saying the fact the array is going up at a transfer station is attractive to developers; the town won't have land to clear.

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's annual meeting will be held Sunday, Feb. 5, following the church service. The meeting is for the purpose of electing wardens, clerk, treasurer, pledge secretary and members of the vestry, along with any other business that may come forward.

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.

Little League Registration

Portland Little League Registration for the spring season and winter clinics runs through March 1. There are baseball and softball programs offered for players ages 5 through 14.

Visit www.portlandctlittleleague.com to register.

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

If interested in joining, visit www.portlandexchange.org for more information.

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.

Portland • Portland

Shots Fired at Maple Avenue Home

By Jack Lakowsky

Last Friday, Portland police responded to reports of gunshots fired at a home on Maple Avenue.

There were no injuries, police reported. At around 2:30 a.m. officers responded to the home and found multiple shell casings on the road and several bullet holes in the east-facing portion of the multifamily home.

At this time police have no identified sus-

pects, and are currently investigating.

The suspects fled the scene in a grey colored sedan travelling east on Airline Avenue toward Route 66, fleeing into Middletown via the Arrigoni.

Police said there is no threat to the public. Police urge anyone with information to call 860-342-6780.

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.

Foodshare: Monday, Jan. 30.

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: Light Aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Syncosize II Dance fitness, 10:30 a.m. Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If

you would like to donate, call 860-342-0809; Watercolor Lessons, 9:30 a.m.-noon (to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m.; Dulcimer Progressive Class, 6 p.m. Wednesday: AARP Tax Preparation, appointments from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (last appointment at noon, to register call Lynn or Alexis at 860-342-6760); Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m., multipurpose room; Tai Chi Qigong, 1:30 p.m. (just for 2/1). Thursday: Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. Friday: Light aerobics, 9:30 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.

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 vgross@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.

President's List

Madeleine Thompson of Portland made the fall 2022 President's List at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash.

KoC Baby Shower

The Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Baby Shower Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 4 and 5 and Feb. 11 and 12. All items donated at the Gathering Space at the Church of St. Mary will be shared with the local Portland Food Bank, and Birthright.

Birthright provides a wide range of support services for expecting and new mothers, including no-cost non-judgmental pregnancy testing, prenatal health care, and maternity/baby supplies.

Donations should be new and unwrapped. Items needed include diapers, sleepers, blankets,

rattles, bibs, bath towels, wipes, lotion, shampoo, bottles, baby bath items, pacifiers, comb and brush sets, socks, stuffed animals, blanket sleepers, crib sheets, sweaters, hats, diaper bags and booties.

A box for "Respect Life" cash donations will also be available. Donations can also be mailed to Freestone Council, PO Box 7, Portland CT 06480.

For more information, call David Shovlin at 860-342-4259.

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, but encouraged. 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. 29, the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service will include a sermon by Karen Retchick titled, "From Cocoon to Butterfly." Beau Doherty will read the scriptures, Joshua 1:1-9 and Hebrews 11:1-3,32-40,12:1-3. Under Kasha Breaux's direction, the choir will sing the anthem "The Road to Zion," written by Mike Hudson and arranged by Breaux. 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.

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.

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, Feb. 20, for Presidents Day.

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 for a mitten to color and hang on the library 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.

Drop-In Playdates: Thursdays through Feb. 23 (no program Feb. 16), at 10:30 a.m. Children ages birth to 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: Preschool 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.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Saturday, Feb. 4. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Paw Patrol franchise, and the library is celebrating. See if you can find Marshall, Rubble, Chase, Rocky, Zuma, Skye, Everest, Ella, and Liberty in the library scavenger hunt and create crafts to take home. Sgt. James Kelly will be at the library here with Portland's police dog Magnus for an 11 a.m. program for school-aged kids. Registration for the police dog program is required and space is limited.

Minecraft Unplugged: Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., Feb. 2, 9 and 23. Grades 3-5 are invited for some Minecraft-themed offline games, crafts, challenges and more. Space is limited.

Family Fort Night and Nocturnal Animal Hunt: Friday, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m. Come after the library has closed to create reading dens, have a bear-themed snack, and search the library once the lights go out for some animals hiding in the book stacks. Space is limited.

Family Craft Night: Foam Mitten Wreath: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. Make custom foam mitten wreaths. 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.

Readers' Theater: The Mitten: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1-2:30 p.m., for grades K-3. Everyone will be assigned a part and given a script when they arrive. Kids will then play some theater games and be ready to put on a performance for friends and family by 2 p.m. Space is limited.

Wildlife in Winter: Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m. Staff from the White Memorial Conservation Center will discuss a variety of ways that animals survive the winter, from staying active to migrating to hibernating. There will be a story, some props and even some local animal friends. Space is limited.

Teen Advisory Group Meeting: Monday, Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m. Share your thoughts on what you would like to see the library offer in terms of programs, materials and more. Snacks will be offered, and teens will earn community service hours.

Monster Mitten Craft and Valentine Snack: Monday, Feb. 13, 3:30 p.m. Create a sweet or scary mitten friend while snacking on some Valentine treats. Registration is required.

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

Katharine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood: Jan. 31, 6 p.m., via Zoom, presented by the Connecticut Historical Society.

Book Discussions: 1st Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid will be discussed. **Talk About Books (TAB):** Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1 p.m. *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m. *The Stills* by Jess Montgomery will be discussed.

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

Adult Paint Party: Thursday, Feb. 9, 6 p.m. The party will have a Valentine theme.

Black History Month Programs: Who We Are: Monday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m. This documentary will be shown, followed by a discussion. **Summer of Soul:** Thursday, Feb. 23, 1 p.m. This is the award-winning film about the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival.

Seed Library: Will soon be available for garden enthusiasts, whether beginner or seasoned. You will find free seeds available for your garden. Have some leftover seeds? Donations are welcome. For more information, call Jan Nocek at 860-342-6771.

Vocal Chords

Awarding Scholarships

The executive board of the Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is offering college scholarships.

Scholarships will be awarded to students from Middlesex County pursuing a career in nursing or music who have been accepted at an accredited college or university. The review committee will consider academic records, extracurricular and community service activities, the student's ability to articulate his/her career goals and the recommendations of references.

The \$1,000 scholarships will be paid directly to the recipients at the Spring Concert at Portland High School, Saturday, April 29, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School. Applications are available at the school guidance office or by calling Dianne at 860-344-0743. Deadline is Friday, March 24.

Visit vocalchords20.org for more information.



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Historical Society to Hold Annual Meeting

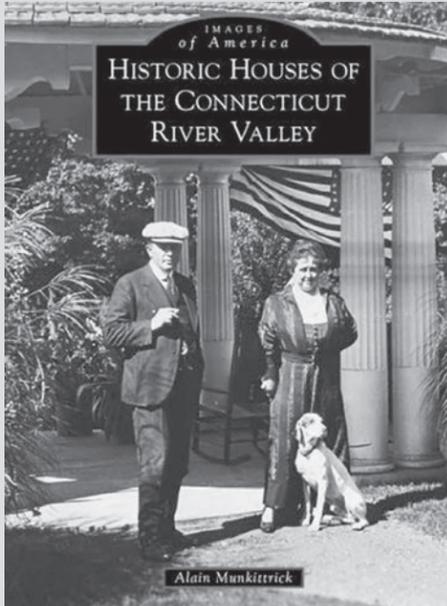
The Portland Historical Society will host its annual meeting for election of officers and executive board members Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m., in the Portland Public Library's Mary Flood Room.

After a brief update on society activities around town as well as at the museum on Main Street, restoration architect Alain Munkittrick will present a program related to his new book *Historic Homes of the Connecticut River Valley* (published this month by Arcadia for its Images of America Series).

Munkittrick is an architect, architectural historian and advocate for historic preservation. In this book, he curates historic photographs from the archives of local historical societies, museums, libraries, and private collections throughout the valley. Many of these images are being published for the first time, along with research that reveals their history. Munkittrick will also update the society on the three historic houses being preserved at Brainerd Place.

All are welcome. Autographed copies of his book will be available for sale with a percentage going to support the mission of the Portland Historical Society.

Also at the meeting, several local residents and groups will be recognized for their role in helping to preserve Portland's history in 2022. Light refreshments will be served.



Architectural historian Alain Munkittrick will present information and photographs from his new book *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley* at the Portland Historical Society's annual meeting Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m., at Portland Library.

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.

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. People do not have to be a Portland resident to attend the Foodshare, and they're asked to please bring bags.

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

Vocal Chords Seek Tenors, Basses

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is looking to expand its tenor and bass sections.

No auditions are necessary. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m., at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St. Francis Church, 10 Elm St., Middletown, as the group prepares for its spring concert, taking place 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.

Dean's List

Charlie Hasselman of Portland made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

Dean's List

Julia Fitzsimons of Portland made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire.

Fitzsimmons earned High Honors.

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.

School Board Adopts 4% Budget Increase

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week the Portland Board of Education voted to adopt a modified version superintendent Charles Britton's 2023-24 budget proposal of \$24 million, just under 4% more than the current spending plan.

This year's budget process was a cohesive one, with most debate surrounding where to add and/or remove support staff.

Originally, Britton proposed hiring more assistants for district administrators while cutting several paraprofessionals and a teacher.

Parent April Graves, in a budget workshop earlier this month, took issue with this plan. She said cutting student support in favor of administrative support isn't support by the current environment, when test scores in districts across the country are dropping, an event attributed to pandemic learning loss.

Eric Martin, the district's curriculum and technology director, said the new assistant would've made his department whole from cuts made a few years ago, and that his staff is struggling to keep up with workloads, causing delays in key services like repairing student computers.

Graves said the district should put "resources towards students."

Last week, after discussion, the board modified Britton's proposal, removing an administrative assistant intended to be shared between a high school vice principal and the director of curriculum and adding a paraprofessional at

Valley View.

This resulted in a small savings, and Britton suggested using the leftovers to fund a stipend position supporting high school athletics.

Unexpectedly, the district is also saving on health insurance costs, about \$77,000. Britton and most of the board agreed on using the money to secure a full-time at the high school that was in jeopardy. Britton pointed out the budget still calls for an overall staff reduction, cutting three paras and a teacher, a move that reflects the district's declining enrollment, which in the last several years has gone down by nearly 100 students.

Board member Tim Lavoy, who voted against the budget proposal, said he would prefer to see that money taken out of the budget, rather than redistributed, saying it would show the public good faith.

Lavoy pointed out that, without \$200,000 flowing from state sources, the district's budget request would actually be a nearly 5% increase.

"We have a savings, but we aren't reducing the [budget] number," said Lavoy.

Now that it's officially the Board of Education's budget request, the proposal now moves to the Board of Selectmen for further deliberation, followed by a springtime decision by the budget's last stop – voters.

Class of '73 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1973 will celebrate its 50th reunion Friday, May 12, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Red Fox Restaurant in Middletown.

All 1973 graduates from Portland High School Class of '73 and their spouses, partners or significant others are invited to attend. The cost is \$65 per person, and includes a buffet dinner, music, memories and more. There will be a cash bar.

The reunion planning committee is still searching for contact information for 15 classmates. If you have not been contacted or know a classmate who has not yet been contacted and is interested in attending, please call or text Don Milardo at 508-259-5526 or Diane (Kollias) Bascom at 860-985-1861 for more information and/or to request an invitation.

Brownstone Quorum Annual Meeting

The Brownstone Quorum annual meeting will be held 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 Cactus and Succulents society, on cacti and succulents in Connecticut.

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

Resident Completes Graduate Degree

Danielle Hall of Portland graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Saint Joseph during the December commencement exercises.

President's List

Autumn Tewksbury of Portland made the fall 2022 President's List at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Tewksbury is majoring in intelligence analysis.



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RE12-22

Colchester • Colchester

Bacon Basketball Doesn't Back Down

By Josh Howard

Despite a 12-point loss to RHAM last Saturday, Bacon Academy boys' basketball showed the resolve of a team that never quits.

The Bobcats trailed by as many as 20 points in the second half before cutting the deficit in half in the fourth quarter and battling until the final whistle.

"I'm proud of them for not giving up because they could have folded and they didn't," Bacon Academy head coach Craig Kupper said following the loss.

Trailing 43-23 in the third, senior Luke Grimord led a 12-2 run that bled over into the fourth quarter.

Grimord scored six straight points during the run – hitting a spinning layup off the glass and added two more buckets in transition – and had a three-quarter-court assist to Troy Johnson to pull the margin to 45-35 with 6:23 to play in regulation.

It was the second time that the Bobcats had to claw their way back into the contest.

They fell behind 8-0 within the first few minutes of the game before Grimord drained a three-pointer and Elijah Black hit a pair of free throws on the following possession to cut the deficit to 8-5.

Grimord finished with a game-high 25 points and 10 rebounds, while Black added 16 points and 10 rebounds.

RHAM's defensive pressure, highlighted by the team's full court press, gave the Bobcats fits throughout the game.

During the slow start, Kupper used a timeout to remind his team of game plan they designed

to break the defensive pressure.

"We started making the extra pass and we got better shot attempts," added Kupper. "We made more baskets because of it."

Grimord, Black and senior Keegan Appleby are Kupper's three court captains.

Kupper said each captain has a different approach, yet they have all been working towards the same goals in practice and in games.

"They all have different leadership styles and lead in different ways, but I think that has helped push the guys to where we are trying to be," added Kupper.

The team entered the game against RHAM on a three-game winning streak – defeating Plainfield, Waterford and Stonington within a six-day span.

Grimord had pair of monster games in the win over Waterford and Stonington, combining to score 58 points and grab 25 rebounds in the two-game stretch.

He scored a career-high 30 points against Waterford on Jan. 17 and grabbed 15 rebounds in the win over Stonington on Jan. 19.

After starting the season with four consecutive losses, Kupper said the team was doing all the right things during the three-game winning streak.

"We've been working so hard and everyone is sharing the ball," added Kupper, whose team stands at 6-6.

The fifth-year coach hopes to see that same execution as the team enters the stretch run, starting on the road at Griswold this Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.

Kupper added, "Offensively we have to get a little bit better and get better shot attempts, but everyone is being good teammates from the bottom of the bench all the way up to the starters."



Bacon Academy senior Elijah Black controls the ball at RHAM High School on Jan. 21. The Bobcats lost to the Raptors, yet have won six of their last nine games.

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. 30: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fit; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong; 12:45 p.m., setback; 1 p.m., bridge.

Tuesday, Jan. 31: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Gourd Birdhouse Painting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know with Patty; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Feb. 1: 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.

Thursday, Feb. 2: 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, Feb. 3: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide by appointment only; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Free Cupid Bingo; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Cupid Bingo: Friday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. Take a chance to win chocolate-themed prizes sponsored by Apple Rehab. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Space is limited. Register by Feb. 2.

Black History Month Presentation: Monday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. Shawn Pellitier, chair of Colchester's Commission on Racial Equality will discuss the importance of the month and will also provide an overview of the commission's mission and what they hope to do moving forward. Refreshments will be served.

Healthy Living for Brain And Body: Tues-

day, Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m. The senior center has partnered with the Alzheimer's Association to bring a four-part monthly series covering various topics around the disease. In this first workshop, learn about the latest research providing insights into how we can make lifestyle choices that may help you keep your brain and body healthy as you age. This is a free program. Registration is required.

Valentine's Cookie-Decorating Workshop: Thursday, Feb. 9, 2-3:30 p.m. Carrie Milton from Carried Away Cakery will help people master the art of decorating. Cost is \$15/person, and includes three Valentine's Day-shaped cookies to decorate and all the icing to complete them. Register by Monday, Feb. 6.

Super Super Bowl Lunch: Friday, Feb. 10, noon. The meal will consist of a bowl of Corn Chowder, a roll, salad, and a Super Bowl-themed dessert. Wear your team's colors and be entered to win a prize. Cost is \$5/person. Register by Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Luv Bug Valentine's Luncheon: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m. There will be musical entertainment by Bill Benson, followed by a lunch featuring braised beef tips with mushroom sauce, mashed potatoes, carrots and peas, brownie sundaes and juice. Cost is \$9/person for members aged 60 and over. Space is limited. Register in the office by Feb. 8.

Block-Printed Apron Workshop: Tuesday, Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to come and design an apron using various textile stamps and fabric paint. Both floral and geometric stamps will be provided. Cost is \$10 includes an adult sized canvas apron, use of stamps and paint. Space is limited. Register by Feb. 17.

Youth Lacrosse Registration

Colchester Youth Lacrosse has announced registration is open for boys and girls in grades K-8 to join lacrosse teams. Players from all towns are welcome, and can register at Colchesterlax.org.

President's List

Colchester residents Sarah Brigandi, Ariana Golias and Hayden Dubiel made the fall 2022 President's List at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, N.H.

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Bisbikos Makes Surprise Presentation

By Michael Sinkewicz

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos made a surprise presentation this week – and caused yet more controversy – when he provided several ideas for relocating the town’s youth center and food bank, and expanding the police department.

Bisbikos conducted a slideshow presentation during a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and ARPA Committee on Monday.

The main takeaway of the presentation was that a buyer was purchasing the property at 120 Main St., the former Jack’s Chevrolet building, and giving the town an opportunity to negotiate a deal that would potentially involve the town renovating and buying the site in the future.

The 15,000 square-foot building has been unoccupied since 2009, he said, and has become an “eyesore” for the community. Bisbikos wrote in his presentation that a “group of buyers have formally signed the contract to purchase the property” and that the contract would be official in February.

At that point, he will “begin serious negotiations with the buyers on behalf of the town.”

He did not reveal who the buyer was, but stated during the meeting that they were “friends of Colchester.”

The first selectman stated that he’s had “ongoing conversations with perspective buyers and sellers in hopes of making progress.”

To begin his presentation, Bisbikos said that a tentative agreement with the buyers had been made that would let the town use the site’s parking lot, which has around 150 spaces. This agreement, however, could change if the town doesn’t ultimately acquire the building, because there would likely be other entities utilizing the spots.

The building, he continued, could serve as a shared location for the youth center and police department expansion.

To make this happen, Bisbikos stated that the town would request \$228,000 of ARPA funds for the police department and \$800,000 of ARPA funds for the youth center.

In addition, the town may look to utilize Bendas estate money, which was donated to the town. This would include a supplementary amount of \$300,000 for the police department and \$575,000 allocated to the food bank. On top of that, the sale of the current senior center building could provide \$300,000 for the town.

Altogether, the total amount of money included in Bisbikos’ presentation is \$2.1 million.

That full amount, he said, would cover the acquisition and renovation of the building at a future date, if the town moved forward with that idea. The town would negotiate with the current buyer to purchase the property.

A second option, Bisbikos explained, would involve negotiations with the buyer, but without the end goal of purchasing the property. The town would look to lease space, which would still allow the transition of the youth center, police department and food bank. However, the space would likely include other entities or businesses leasing the property.

A third option outlined by Bisbikos involves doing nothing with the property, which would result in the police department expanding at Town Hall and the youth center searching for a new home.

Bisbikos’ announcement signifies a major development for the community, regardless if the town commits to purchasing the property itself, a decision that likely would require a town meeting or referendum.

“Whether we move forward or not, a business will fill in,” he said during the meeting.

More Questions than Answers

Still, the presentation seemed to spark more questions than answers, with members of the

ARPA Committee and Board of Selectmen pressing for more details.

Bisbikos declined to say who was purchasing the property, because the acquisition was still fluid. He also couldn’t provide any details of the contract negotiations, but stated that the deal was not contingent on the town repurchasing the site at any point.

“Jack’s Chevrolet will move forward,” he said. “It’s going to be a whole new ballgame.”

While he emphasized that he was merely presenting potential avenues for the town and boards to consider, Bisbikos framed a decision regarding the property as either the town will take advantage of “prime real estate” or let retail businesses occupy the space.

Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat on the Board of Selectmen, expressed that any negotiations with the likely buyer were not brought to the selectmen ahead of time.

“We need to work together,” she said.

Coyle stated that one of the options could be workable, but it would potentially eliminate other projects that the town could pursue with its remaining ARPA funds.

“We have to weigh those consequences,” she added.

Bernie Dennler, a Democrat running for first selectman, expressed concerns with the way the presentation was brought forward, stating that there was “a lot of secrecy.”

In response, Bisbikos said he was “not interested in the politics or conspiracies” being pushed by Dennler.

“I have done something that others have not done,” Bisbikos said. “There’s no backroom deals.”

As debate over the project continues, more details will likely emerge regarding the contract

and the buyer, including their intentions with the property.

Bisbikos declined to answer direct questions from the *Rivereast* about his presentation. He did not elaborate on when or how his discussions with the buyer began and how many took place, or if any other town officials were included in the discussions.

It’s also not clear if the town explored buying the property itself, instead of entering negotiations with another buyer.

Instead, Bisbikos sent the *Rivereast* a statement.

“Jack’s Chevrolet closed in 2009 and gradually became an eyesore on otherwise beautiful South Main Street,” he wrote. “Fourteen years is a long time for the location to sit idle. No one appeared to be doing anything about it and one of my campaign promises when I ran for offices was to work diligently on trying to see this property reclaimed and renovated.”

He continued by stating that he did “present a few different options to the BOS and ARPA committee, those are merely options, and I am not advocating for one in particular. I will be ecstatic to see the property renovated, in a matter consistent and acceptable to our Historic District. In respecting the wishes of the both the buyer and the seller, this is all I can disclose.”

Valerie Geato, director of youth and social services, offered further insight into the need for a new youth center location.

“It’s a dump,” she said, adding that water damage has turned the building into a “rotten haunted house.”

A new site, she expressed, could potentially attract new kids, as well. Currently, around 140 kids visit the center per week.

Lions Offering Scholarships

The Colchester Lions invite all Colchester residents in their senior year of high school to apply for one of several scholarships.

Applications are welcome from all graduating students planning to attend any accredited college, university or trade school. It doesn’t matter if students attend public, private, charter or magnet high schools, or if they are home-schooled. Applications are available through the Bacon Academy guidance office or at colchesterlions.org.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Bes-

sette at elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com. Bacon Academy students should submit their application to the Bacon Academy guidance office. All other students should email their application to elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com or mail them to Colchester Lions Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415.

Applications must be received by Friday, March 10.

Dean’s List

Tabatha Olivia Peltier of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Ala.

Dean’s List

Colchester residents Margaret Melendez, Clare McIntyre and Isabella Crowell made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire.

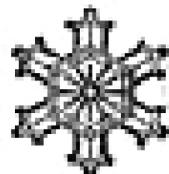
Melendez earned High Honors, and McIntyre and Crowell each earned Highest Honors.

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. All are invited.

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.

The breakfast is free for CLT members, and \$5 for non-members. Space is limited to 30 people; RSVP to Natalie at nat-samoore@gmail.com by Feb. 5. The barn is unheated, so folks should dress for the weather. Warm drinks will be served.



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Lions’ Breakfast Buffet

The Colchester Lions Breakfast Buffet will return to the St. Joseph’s Polish Society on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 7:30-11 a.m. This is a full breakfast with eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, home fries and pancakes, with juice, coffee, tea or water.

Pre-sale prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for children age 5-12, and free for kids 4 and under. At the door, prices are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for children age 5-12, and free for kids 4 and under.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at Dime Bank, 139 S. Main St., or by calling 860-537-1093 and leaving a message for Julie.

Dean’s List

Jamison Lombardi of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at Keene State College in Keene, N.H.

President’s List

Madeline Sullivan of Colchester made the fall 2022 President’s List at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Sullivan is majoring in communication sciences and disorders.

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Colchester • Colchester



The Colchester Hayward Fire Department has two new career firefighter/EMTs: Austin Grous, left, and Ryan Burdick.

New Career Firefighters at CHFD

The Colchester Hayward Fire Department (CHFD) hired two new career firefighter/EMTs in 2022: Austin Grous and Burdick.

The new hires are filling existing vacancies, one from a retirement and one who moved on to another department.

Grous and Burdick both come to the department with past fire and EMS experience as well as required certifications. They came through the volunteer fire service, and Burdick still volunteers in his hometown with the local fire department.

CHFD is a combination fire department, which means that both career and volunteer personnel providing personnel staffing. As many departments across the country continue to see a decline in volunteers joining their organizations due to such reasons as time restraints, training requirements and cost of living increases, there is more of a need to augment staffing with paid personnel.

The first career firefighter, Dan Rowland, was

hired by Chief Norman Gustafson in 1974. The next career firefighter, Robert Brown, was hired in 1983. Another increase in staffing did not occur until the fire department assumed the ambulance responsibilities from Intercounty Ambulance in 1993. In 2013, the fire department was awarded a SAFER grant through FEMA which increased the staffing. In 2020, two additional career firefighter/EMTs were hired with the increase in call volume and shift coverage needs.

The fire department currently maintains a career/paid staff of 11. This consists of a fire chief, deputy chief, fire marshal, lieutenant and six firefighter/EMTs as well as an executive assistant to the fire chief. The department also maintains a volunteer staffing model of personnel who maintain various levels of certification and criteria (such as interior firefighter, EMT, or fire police) for services being provided. Through this combination model, the fire department provides service to Colchester and surrounding communities.

Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host Incoming Kindergarten Story Time sessions in March, April and May, for 4-and 5-year-old Colchester children who will be entering kindergarten during the 2023-24 school year.

During each of the three sessions, children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers, while parents learn about the registration process, the kindergarten curriculum, readiness

expectations, the school day, school policies and transportation. A question-and-answer period will be available at each session.

Sessions will be Tuesdays, March 14, April 4 and May 9, from 11:10-11:40 a.m., in the media center at CES, 315 Halls Hill Rd. Parents and children are invited to attend multiple story times. Topics for parent information change each month. No pre-registration is required.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trips – and reservations are due soon.

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, din-

ner, 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.

Upcoming Programs at Cragin

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following programs. For more information, call 860-537-5752 or visit www.colchesterct.gov/library.

Celebrating Black Inventors: Take and Make Crafts: Mondays in February, stop by the Children's Department to pick up craft kits that teach kids about Black inventors and their inventions.

Mini Art Show Opening Night: Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m. All are invited to come take a look at the pieces of art created by members of the Colchester community. Snacks provided.

Take Your Child to the Library Storytime: Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a special all-ages storytime about race cars.

Take & Make Foodie Fun: Saturday, Feb. 4, for kids and teens. Grab a bag and create a sweet snack.

In Person: Animal Heart Craft: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6-7 p.m. Come to the Children's Department for an animal craft in the shape of a heart.

Movie Night: Thursday, Feb. 9, 5:45 p.m. *Remember the Titans* will be shown. Rated PG, the movie runs two hours. Snacks provided.

Winter Seed Sowing: Saturday, Feb. 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn to winter sow native flower seeds to create a habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators in your own garden. Winter sowing is the process of planting seeds outdoors in a container (milk jug) during the winter months. All materials will be provided. This program is a partnership between the

library and the Colchester Garden Club.

In Person: Valentine Cards: Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 13 and 14, all day. Drop in to the children's department and make someone special a Valentine's Day card.

In Person: STEAM Challenge: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 6-7 p.m. All ages are invited to the children's department for a gumdrop STEAM challenge.

Teen Craft: Foam Clay: Thursday, Feb. 16, 3-3:45 p.m., for grades 6-12. Stop by the teen room for a craft.

Starting a Vegetable Garden: Thursday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.: Wellstone Farm operator, and Master Gardener instructor, Ian Gibson will present. This program is sponsored by the Colchester Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library.

Teen Gaming: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 3-4 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try a new game or play with friends on the Nintendo Switch.

Game Night: Thursday, Feb. 23, 6-7:30 p.m. Come by with your family (or a group of friends) to try out board games from the library's collection. Snacks and games provided.

Cragin Craft Swap: Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bring in unwanted craft supplies to the library Wednesday, Feb. 15, through Thursday, Feb. 23, and then come for a Craft Swap, to pick up some new-to-you supplies.

Cragin Book Club: Monday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m., at the library. Ask at the Adult Circulation Desk for this month's book! For updates on the program, sign up at tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub.

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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: Card-Making Class: The third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., at Town Hall. Upcoming dates: 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.

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

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.

Spring Clean-Up: Saturday, April 22, at 8 a.m., on the Town Green; rain date: April 29. Jobs include spreading mulch, raking, weeding, picking up garbage, and more. Locations include the schools, town buildings and parks. Meet up afterward at Mel's Downtown Ice Cream for a free ice cream as a 'thank you.'

Food Festival on the Town Green: Saturday, May 6; rain date is May 7. There will be vendors, games and food. Watch www.facebook.com/FOODIEAFF for more information.

Provost's List

Cierra Caron of Colchester made the fall 2022 Provost's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

The Provost's List recognizes students who earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Caron's major is psychology.

Wrestling Tournament Fundraiser

The Bacon Academy Wrestling 14th annual Matt Bishel Bobcat Classic will take place Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Bacon Academy gym. Wrestling starts at 9:30 a.m., with finals at around 5 p.m.

Cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

All admissions and 50/50 raffle donations along with monetary donations will go to the Matt Bishel Scholarship Fund, which is used to send student athletes to wrestling camps and seminars along with continued education in the sport of wrestling.

There will also be hot food and drinks sold all day, with proceeds supporting the wrestling team with equipment costs and other essentials.

The community can help by donating to the tournament. Already, organizers have received food donations from several stores and restaurants, along with gift cards and checks from several others.

If interested in donating, or for more information, email coach Drew DeBowsky at jlrconnection@yahoo.com.



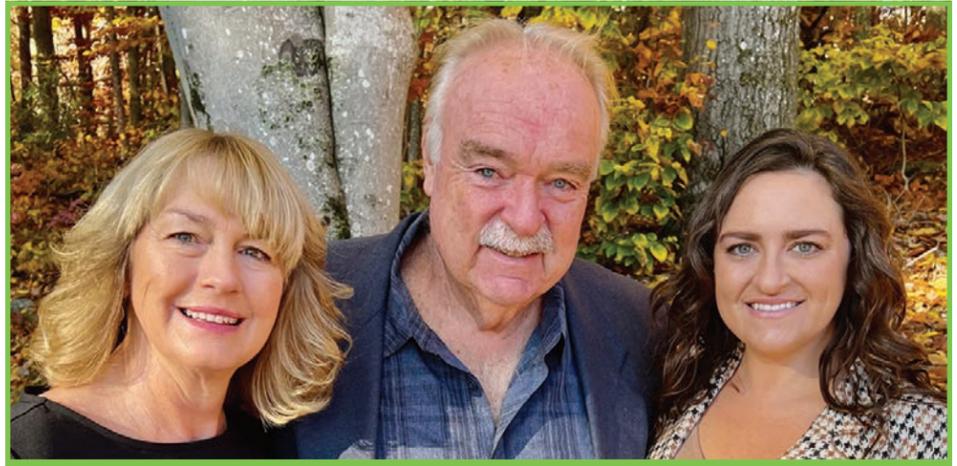
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Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full descriptions or to register, visit marlboroughct.recdesk.com and click on "programs," stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203.

Youth Programs: Acrylic Landscape Painting: For grades 1 and 2. Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., Feb. 1-29, at Marlborough Elementary School. All materials are provided. Students are encouraged to bring a snack. Fee is \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

Adult Programs: CPR Certification: Saturday, Feb. 25, 9-11 a.m. What is covered: Adult, child and infant CPR, foreign-body airway obstruction, and automated external defibrillator (AED) usage. Cost is \$87/residents, \$92/non-residents.

Historical Society Calendars Available

Marlborough Historical Society's 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.

Zumba: Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at MES. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee each week.

Adult Drop-In Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee is \$5 per week to drop-in. Session runs through June.

Adult Drop-In Basketball: Sundays, 8-10 a.m., at MES, for ages 18 and up. Fee: \$5 per week. Session runs through March.

Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners: Tuesdays, Feb. 7-March 14, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. These are beginner-level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

Trip: UConn Huskies vs. St. John Red Storm (Men's Basketball): Saturday, Feb. 25, noon. Trip includes charter bus to Madison Square Garden, tickets to the game and free time in New York. Fee is \$109 for baseline seats or \$140 for sideline seats. Bus leaves from Glastonbury Park and Ride.

New York Knicks vs. Boston Celtics: Sunday, March 5, at the TD Garden. Trip includes charter bus, tickets to the game (balcony) and free time in Boston. Registration fee is \$170. Bus leaves from Glastonbury park and ride.

Dean's List

Marlborough resident Taryn Olin made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson.

Taxes Due

The second installment taxes for real estate, motor vehicle, personal property and the first installment of the supplemental motor vehicle tax were due Jan. 1, and the last day to pay without interest is Feb. 1. Interest will accrue at the rate of 1.5% per month, reverting to the due date. Minimum interest is \$2.

Taxes of \$800 or less are due in one installment.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest. New homeowners who do not have a copy of their tax bill should call the tax office at 860-295-6205.

Taxes can be paid at the tax collector's office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

People can also mail payments to Barbara

C. Murray, Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447; make checks payable to the Town of Marlborough. To obtain receipts when mailing a payment, send copies of the bills with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Tax payments can also be made online at marlboroughct.net using a credit card, with a 3% charge; debit card, with a \$1.50 charge; or ACH (automatic checking). Online, you are able to look up the taxes due and the total taxes that were paid in 2022. There is also a box to the left of the Town Hall door for payments – checks only.

Questions concerning the assessment of vehicles should be directed to Simon Wake, assessor, at 860-295-6201 or assessor@marlboroughct.net. Call the tax office regarding any tax questions at 860-295-6205 or taxcollector@marlboroughct.net.

Arts Center Membership Drive Underway

The Marlborough Arts Center is holding its 2023 membership drive. Memberships are valid from January through December each year. New memberships are welcome and renewals encouraged.

The Arts Center is a regional nonprofit organization which includes all the towns in the Marlborough area. Artistic and cultural activities are offered throughout the year, including fine art shows, classes, and musical presenta-

tions.

Membership forms can be downloaded from www.marlborougharts.org, printed, and submitted with a check to Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough CT 06447. Payments can also be made through PayPal by using a link on the webpage.

The Arts Center phone number is 860-467-6353.



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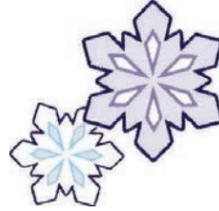
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Chicken Marsala

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Stuffed Pork Chop

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Balkan Meatballs

Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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Arts Center Exhibit at Town Hall

Marlborough Arts Center has a new exhibit at Town Hall. Featured is artwork by artists who are members of the center's board of directors.

There are watercolors by Audrey Carroll, acrylic paintings by Roy Wrenn, wire sculpture by Neal Alderman, mixed media and acrylic

paintings by Laurie Gelston Alt, and watercolors by Mary Horrigan.

The exhibit is open to the public during business hours at Town Hall: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Fridays from 8 a.m.-noon.

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.

Dean's List

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

Leonard is majoring in film studies and production.

4th Friday @ the Arts Café

The Marlborough Arts Center will open the new season of 4th Friday @ the Arts Café concerts with the band Driving Route 9 on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m., at the arts center, 231 N. Main St.

Driving Route 9 is an East Haddam band that performed on the lawn of the arts center last summer. The band plays modern Folk/pop, with a Celtic twist. Fronting are Becca Gripp of Wilmington, Del., and Barry

O'Doherty, of Donegal County, Ireland, who have been a songwriting duo since 2017. They are accompanied by Paul Emmerling of East Haddam on bass guitar and Dana Takaki of California on violin.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., but the doors open at 7 p.m. Admission at the door is \$10/person. Facemasks are optional. The arts center is handicapped-accessible and provides on-site parking.

President's List

Alexander Demosthenous of Marlborough made the fall 2022 President's List at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass. He is a freshman at the school.

Dean's List

Daniel Edward Orzech of Marlborough made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Orzech is majoring in criminal justice.

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Second Blessings to Reopen

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located on the ground floor at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., is reopening Friday, Feb. 3. The shop will be open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through June 24. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours.

All shelves and tables in the shop are restocked with featured winter and spring merchandise along with vintage and antiques, including side chairs and furniture, toys and games, puzzles, baking and cooking, entertain-

ing, decorating, gift-giving, and more. The corner nook displays quality handbags along with newly arrived jewelry including name-brand and artisan pieces. The Holiday Room is open year-round and showcases Christmas and winter holidays.

New merchandise arrives every week. Unique and higher-quality items are sold year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

For more information, call the church office at 860-295-9050.

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. 30: Not Just Quilting, 9:30 a.m.-noon; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Lunch, noon. Menu: chicken Alfredo with penne pasta, broccoli florets, garlic knot, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 31: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Mahjong, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 1: 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: grape juice, country fried steak, mac 'n cheese, stewed tomatoes, wheat bread, frosted cake; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Rummikub – a fast-moving rummy tile game, 1-3 p.m.; Parkinson's Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 3: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2

p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, chicken pot pie with potatoes, peas 'n carrots in crust, roasted Brussels sprouts, 100 percent whole wheat bread, slice of pie.

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

Free Baked Goods: Bread and bakery goods are available for free at the senior center, courtesy of Big Y and Stop & Shop.

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.

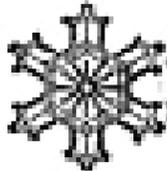
Weather-Related Closings/Late Openings: In instances of inclement weather, tune to WFSB-TV 3 or NBC Connecticut for the latest.

Donations Sought for Tag Sale

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 North Main St., will hold a tag sale Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – and donations are sought. Drop-off dates and times are: Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10-11:30 a.m.; and Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 6-7 p.m. Items may be left at the lower level next to the door.

People can donate various items and working household goods; please, no books, TVs or clothes.

Snow date for the tag sale is Saturday, Feb. 11.



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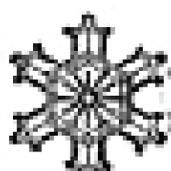
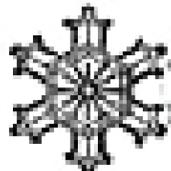
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Pre-Kindergarten Screening Information

All public school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The Early Childhood team at Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for current resident children interested in the pre-kindergarten screening for the 2023-24 school year.

If you are interested in your child participating in this process, eligible children must be at least 3 years old by Sept. 1 and parents/

guardians must complete and return a questionnaire no later than Thursday, March 23. Note: children identified as kindergarten eligible (those turning 5 by Dec. 31, 2023) are not eligible for the PreK program for the upcoming school year.

Contact Marcy Spellman at 860-295-6236 or mspellman@marlborough.k12.ct.us to receive a screening questionnaire or for more information regarding the program.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

COVID-19 Protocol: For the fully vaccinated, masks are 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).

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Sight & Sound... Members of St. Mary Church in Portland, as well as folks from several surrounding towns, brought the *Rivereast* a trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pa.



Rivereast Goes to Thailand... Kayleigh Kinsella of Portland brought the *Rivereast* to see the Wat Chiang Man temple in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during a recent trip.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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.



Adventures in Aruba... Mary Ann and Dennis Wall and Teresa and Dave Shulman, all of East Hampton, recently brought the *Rivereast* to Aruba. This *Rivereast* was special as Red McKinney's Golf Tournament was the front cover. Aruba was Red's favorite place, so the four said they wanted him to make another trip there.



Beautiful Budapest... Deborah Wilcox-Loos and Donald Loos recently visited St. Josef's Cathedral in Budapest, Hungary. Debby and Don stepped off their Viking River cruise on The Danube to visit the beautiful city of Budapest.

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Local author Jack Matthews, center, will appear at new local brewery Rule of 3 on Sunday, Feb. 5. Matthews is shown with the brewery's co-owners, John Vitale, left, and Scott Cross, right.

Drink Beer, Read Books at Brewery Event

By Jack Lakowsky

On Sunday, Feb. 5, from 1-4 p.m., local authors will team up with Rule of 3 Brewing in East Hampton for "Books and a Brew."

John Vitale and veteran brewer Scott Cross opened their new brewery this past August and offer a wide selection of beers brewed on the premises, including IPAs, stouts, porters, pale ales and Kolsch-style beer.

Vitale and Cross recently met with local author Jack Matthews and came up with the idea to hold an event featuring both local craft beers and local authors.

Matthews reached out to other authors in the area, who eagerly responded when invited to participate in the event. As a result, anyone who stops by on Sunday, Feb. 5, will have a chance

to chat with local authors, buy signed copies of their books (hint: Valentine's Day is right around the corner) and enjoy a locally brewed craft beer.

Rule of 3 Brewing sports beers with such names as "1st Rule," "Heckyl's Revenge," "Jester Effect" and "Exception to the Rule." The brewery's new facility, set back from the road, on Rt. 66, features seating at both the bar and the tables scattered throughout the 4,000-square-foot premises.

The works of the 15 authors selected for the event represent a wide variety of genre, including murder mysteries, historical fiction, romance, children and young adult.

Rule of 3 Brewery is located at 201 West High St., Unit B1.

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.

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Knights of Columbus State Raffle

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering Connecticut State Council raffle tickets.

There are 10 prizes to be awarded. First prize is \$5,000; second is \$3,500; third is \$2,000; fourth is \$1,500; fifth is \$1,000; sixth is \$600; seventh is \$500; eighth is \$400; ninth is \$300 and tenth is \$200.

The drawing will be held Friday, May 5, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased through any of the Knights of Columbus members or by calling Bob DeMarchi at 860-267-5978.

Police News

1/8: Jason Zelaya, 20, of Centerbrook, was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

1/15: Emily Winalski, 30, of East Hampton was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, police said.

1/17: A 17-year-old male juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for second-degree threatening, police said. The juvenile

made the statement, "I should just get a gun and shoot up this place," referring to a school, police added.

1/21: Douglas Fellows, 29, of Meriden, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while registration or license is refused, suspended or revoked, police said.

Also, from Jan. 9-22, officers responded to 37 medical calls, 11 motor vehicle accidents and 12 alarms, and made 56 traffic stops, police said.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., announces the following. Registration is 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. **Mah-jongg:** 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.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group: Monday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources. The group determines the topics for discussion for the next month.

Movie Day: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1-3 p.m. *Remember the Titans* will be shown. Light refreshments will be served.

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group: Monday, Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m. This is a social hour of facts, activities and snacks, just for guys.

Book Club: Tuesday, Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m. *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Pecault will be discussed.

Closet Organizing: Folks are invited to help organize the center's craft supply closet Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m.-noon. Sign up to stay for lunch too.

Family Tree: Friday, Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m. Ken Doney will help people search for the history of their families. Bring your own mobile device. One-on-one time is available.

Beeyonder: Brazil/Black History in Bahia: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 3-4 p.m., via Zoom. See

President's List

Anin Daley of East Hampton made the fall 2022 President's List at Castleton University in Castleton, Vt.

Correction

An article in last week's *Rivereast* said the Middle Haddam Public Library was built in 1909. That is actually when the structure became a library; the building itself is from 1792.

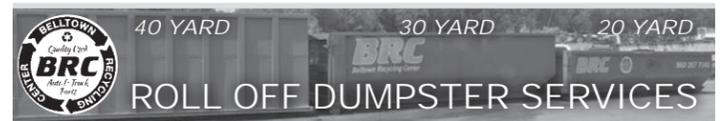
The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

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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 interactive 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: Thursdays 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.

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

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.

Valentines for Seniors: Stop by the children's room any day from Jan. 28 through Feb. 11 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.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Saturday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be

mini-golf and crafts from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and face-painting will be offered from 1-4 p.m. No registration required.

DIY Days – Slap Bracelets: Saturday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for children and families in grades K-8. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

Teen Program: Teen Dungeons and Dragons: Wednesday, Feb. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience is required. The library will provide basic fifth edition, level four characters and all the supplies needed to play.

Adult Programs: The Town of Iron Toys: The Mechanical Banks of the J. & E. Stevens Company: Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m. Demonstrating his collection of 20 mechanical banks dating from the late 1800s, Richard Donohue will lead this interactive presentation about the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell.

Cookbook Club – Casseroles!: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m. Bring in a dish of your favorite casserole, or try something new. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your casserole and 10 copies of the recipe to share. The Cookbook Club meets the first Tuesday of every month.

Violin & Valentines: An Evening of Music with Brunilda Myftaraj: Tuesday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m. Catch a performance by acclaimed violinist Brunilda Myftaraj. Light refreshments to follow.

Church Annual Meeting Feb. 5

The members of the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam are hereby notified of the annual meeting and budget meeting to be held after worship on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Nursery School Seeking Help

Due to COVID setbacks and increasing operating costs, East Hampton Nursery School may be forced to close, officials with the school said. Officials are seeking donations to help keep the school running.

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.

Foodshare Next Thursday

The East Hampton Lions remind all residents that the Foodshare mobile food pantry will be at the St. Patrick Church parking lot next Thursday, Feb. 2, from 9-10 a.m. The truck leaves promptly at 10 a.m., so don't come at the last minute.

The food pantry is open to all; no proof of residency or income verification needed. The Lions said they are hoping with this program it will cut down on people's grocery bills. The attendance appears to be increasing each time, the Lions said; the last time the pantry visited, 177 people showed up.

If the line is long when you arrive, the Lions advise stay in your car until the line goes down some; however, you should still get in line by 9:45 a.m. The other option is to come early so that when the truck arrives you'll be

one of the first in line; the line normally starts forming by 8:15 a.m. St. Patrick Church puts out chairs for people to sit on while they wait in line.

If East Hampton schools are closed due to weather, the food pantry appearance is canceled. However, if there is a two-hour delay, the food pantry will go on unless the Lions feel it is unsafe. If the Foodshare truck is canceled, the Lions will post it on the "Let's Talk East Hampton" Facebook page, or people may call 860-977-5760 for the status.

The Lions said they never know what Foodshare is going to bring. At the food pantry's first distribution there was primarily produce. Another week there was produce, bread, milk, pickles and yogurt. The last visit, there was produce, some dairy and also chicken.

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 Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers.

Sunday School: New students are always welcome. Call the Rev. Joane Neel-Richards at 203-671-3455 for details or contact her at jneelrichard16@gmail.com.

Bible Study: Contact the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn at bbobette@kahn.com for information and instructions. The class meets on Wednesday at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

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.

Reminder: The annual meeting will occur immediately after the worship service this Sunday. Copies of the annual report are currently online; hard copies will be available at the meeting.

Upcoming Event: Volunteers are needed to help with the Superbowl Sunday Chili Fundraiser. All profits will be donated to the East Hampton Food Bank. Contact Susie Karl for details.

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.

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. Regis-

ter at tensummitst@gmail.com.

Spinning Fibers: Thursdays at 10 a.m. Bring your own wheel and fiber. All are welcome.

Mahjong: Monday, Jan. 30, 10:30 a.m. All players welcome.

Walleye on the Fly: Monday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. Fly fisherman and guide Rowan Lytle has pursued walleye, one of Connecticut's most underutilized gamefish, catching trophy caliber fish each season since 2016. This talk highlights flies, presentation, and finding structure and conditions to catch walleye on local water and throughout their range.

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

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East Hampton

Robert Craig Atherton

Robert Craig Atherton, 72, beloved husband of Donna Daly-Atherton, died at home with his wife by his side Wednesday, Jan. 18, after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer little more than two months before. Bob was born in New London on Nov. 3, 1950, to the late Robert William Atherton and Elaine Lavin (Schoell).



Growing up, Bob loved Scouts, and in 1966, Bob became an Eagle Scout. After graduating in 1972 from what was then Southern Connecticut State College with a BS in special education, Bob worked at Horace Porter School in Columbia. In 1985, Bob and his first wife Gerri moved to Richford, Vt., where they bought a 22-room Victorian which they had hoped to turn into a bed and breakfast. While there, Bob became involved in the community, as he does everywhere he goes, working with several scout troops, serving as a Richford Trustee, town moderator, etc. all while teaching school in Bakersfield, Vt. In 1994, Bob received his MA in education from Johnson State College, with a focus on working with the gifted and talented.

During his years in Vermont, Bob worked in various other school districts and in the course of his work there, he and his wife took in several foster children. That's who Bob was – a man who cared deeply about children, a man who would do everything he could to make life better for those who were fortunate enough to cross his path.

Several years later, Bob moved to St. Albans, Vt., where he "retired," but for Bob, retirement just meant finding a different focus for his energies. From 1999-2000, Bob attended the Vermont Leadership Institute at the Snelling Center of Government to become more effective in community advocacy and leadership. In St. Albans Bob used his skills on the COSA team (Circles of Support and Accountability), working to support ex-offenders who were being released by helping them to find an apartment and a job. Around this time, Bob also created a nonprofit, "Read, Write, Communicate, and Succeed," through which he helped offenders learn to read, so they could become productive members of society.

After having been widowed, Bob married Donna Daly in 2013, thus bringing Bob to East Hampton, where he found new ways to contribute to his new community. This included volunteering at Middlesex Hospital for several years in outpatient infusion. Bob also volunteered at the senior center and eventually became chair of the Commission on Aging. In addition, Bob worked with Senior Resources and spent several years as a Medicare Choices counselor. During this time Bob also became interested in Tai Chi and began to teach a few classes at the senior center, all at no charge, to help others. When Bob joined the Haddam Neck Covenant Church community, again he quickly signed up to help with their annual chicken barbecue and Sunday morning socials.

As Donna often says when describing Bob, his heart was as big as his belly, and Bob never tired of doing whatever he could to make life better for those who were in need. In fact, Bob often felt as though he had not done enough.

In addition to his devoted wife and loving mother, Bob is survived by his sister, Christine Almquist of Ledyard; his brother, Stephen Atherton and his wife Tracy of East Lyme; and his brother Tim Atherton and wife Vivian of Le-

dyard; in addition to his nieces, nephews, and numerous great nieces and nephews. Also left to mourn Bob's passing are two of his foster children, several cousins, along with his five stepchildren and their families, including seven grandchildren whom he loved beyond measure. As far as Bob was concerned, being a grandpa was the best gift ever!

Bob was predeceased by his dad and his brother-in-law, Carl Almquist.

During his relatively short illness, Bob was well cared for by the staff at Middlesex Health and the Middlesex Health Hospice Home Care team, and Donna would like to extend her thanks to them, as well as to Dr. Robert Levy and Dr. Matthew Nichols for their compassionate care.

Friends and family are invited to call at the Spencer Funeral Home at 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 4-7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton, on Friday, Feb. 10, at 11 a.m. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family at St. Patrick Cemetery in Mystic.

In lieu of flowers, friends who wish may make memorial donations to Haddam Neck Covenant Church, 17 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424, or the East Hampton Food Bank, 43 W. High St. East Hampton, CT 06424, in honor of Bob's desire to help others.

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

East Hampton

Robert A. Desaulnier

Robert A. Desaulnier, 76, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Bonnie (Harris) Desaulnier, passed away surrounded by family at Hartford Hospital on Monday, Jan. 23. Born Sept. 29, 1946, in Danielson, he was the son of Irene Desaulnier and the late Wilfred Desaulnier.



Robert served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. He was retired from Pratt & Whitney, where he was an IT professional. Robert was in a pool league at the Glastonbury Senior Center. Robert was involved in the arts and was a member of the Connecticut Watercolor Society, Marlborough Arts Center, East Hampton Art Association, and won Best In Show at the Slater Museum art show in Norwich. He enjoyed fishing and he never missed his grandson's youth hockey games.

Besides his wife Bonnie and his mother Irene, he is survived by his son, Carl Desaulnier of Norwich; brothers, Wilfred Desaulnier of Enfield, Paul Desaulnier of Moosup; sisters, Michelle Racicot of New London, Anne Holmes of Ellington; his two grandchildren, Alyssa Silva and Hunter Desaulnier; his great-grandson, Cole Silva; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday Jan. 30, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Friends of Gibson County Animals at P.O. Box 806, Humboldt, TN 38343.

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

East Hampton

Patricia Sloan

Patricia (Jacobson) Sloan passed away unexpectedly at Middlesex Hospital Monday, Jan. 16.



Pat graduated from East Hampton High School in 1967, and shortly after embarked on many adventures, including hitchhiking across the country and attending Woodstock. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Eastern Connecticut University, then went on to nursing school at Norwalk Hospital. She worked as a registered nurse for over 40 years, including as a psychiatric nurse in the Middlesex Hospital emergency department for many years, and then in extended rehab care. She continued without hesitation to work as a nurse throughout the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consistent with her ambitious and fearless character, Pat went back to school to pursue a second career, earning her law degree magna cum laude from UConn Law School. She was a practicing attorney for several years before returning to nursing in order to spend more time with her children.

Pat loved spending summers at the beach and traveling, especially with her daughter Sarah in Europe. She also spent frequent time in New York City visiting her grandson, Leo Bear. She loved music, especially Motown and Andrea Bocelli, going out to restaurants with friends, visiting museums, watching tennis, and cheering on her beloved New York Knicks.

Pat will be remembered as a loyal family member and friend, a wonderful mother, and an incredible Grammy.

She is survived by her children, Sarah Joseph and Emily Stigers; her son-in-law, Jori Stigers; her grandson, Leo Bear Stigers; her brothers and sisters, Cindy Pond, Arthur Jacobson III, Martin Jacobson and his wife Sue, James Jacobson and his wife Liz, and Betsy Wall and her husband Stephen; her nieces and nephews; and many lifelong friends.

She is predeceased by her brother, Steven Jacobson.

According to her wishes, Pat's life will be celebrated with a big party at the beach this summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to any charity.

Colchester

Diane Marie McNichols

Diane Marie McNichols, of Colchester, passed away at Middlesex Hospital Monday, Jan. 16. She was 77 years old. Born on May 29, 1945, in Boston, she was the daughter of the late George and Gertrude (Codero) Hemsworth.

Diane was a successful realtor in the '80s, helping many families to find their perfect home. She later turned her talents towards the crafting world where she was a busy craft artist, creating many items for friends and family. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a woman who was fiercely devoted to her family. She loved caring for her children, grandchildren and anyone who walked through her door. She treated everyone as if they were family, and would always have fresh cookies to offer. She greatly enjoyed cooking for her loved ones and was happiest hosting family gatherings and holidays.

Her passing will be mourned by many, but she will always be remembered with love by her children, Lori Miller and her husband John Saitta of Rockfall, David McNichols of Montville, William Nantz, Jr. of Colchester, Mark Nantz of Colchester, Christine Foley and her spouse Richard Krepcio, Jr. of Colchester; her brother, Frederick Solmo of Colchester; eight grandchildren, Taylor and Heather Miller, Phoebe and Zander Nantz, Kyle and Ethan Foley, and Dylan and Emily Krepcio; as well as several nieces, nephews and extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, Diane was predeceased by her first husband, William Nantz in 1969 and her second husband, Ronald McNichols in 2005.

Funeral services will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Saturday, Jan. 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m., with a calling hour, and the funeral service at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow in Linwood Cemetery in Colchester.

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



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- ✓ Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community. Visit lovehaslabels.com/fightforfreedom

ad COUNCIL

LEGALS

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

At its meeting of December 21, 2022, the Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:
Brian T. & H. Jean Smith and Garvin – Smith, LLC – 12 & 24 Broadway – Site Plan (2022-013) The Commission **APPROVED** the application for an addition to an existing barn and site improvements on 2 parcels to support a new banquet facility. All modifications/condition are on file in the Planning Department. A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk's office. Planning and Zoning Commission
 Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 1/27

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN TOWN MEETING LEGAL NOTICE

Wednesday, February 1, 2023
 7:00 p.m.
 MES Cafeteria

The legal voters of the Town of Marlborough are hereby notified and warned that a Town Meeting will be held at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purpose:
 • To vote on a special appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 for settlement of pending litigation as recommended by the Board of Finance.
 Board of Selectmen
 Deb Bourbeau, Chairman

1TB 1/27

LEGAL NOTICE CONSERVATION COMMISSION COLCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

The Colchester Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 7 p.m. to be held at Colchester Town Hall at 127 Norwich Avenue in Room #2 on the following:
W2023-3075: 200 Lebanon Avenue, ARK Distillery-Applcant, ARK Station LLC-Owner, Assessor's Map 22-00 Lot 039-000, proposal to fill 1,699 SF of wetlands to facilitate 14 parking spaces in rear of property.
 Dated at Colchester, CT, this 25TH day of January 2023
 Falk von Plachecki, Chairman

2TB 1/27, 2/3

LEGAL NOTICE, TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS WILL HOLD HEARINGS AND/OR DELIBERATIONS AT THE SENIOR CENTER: 17 SCHOOL DRIVE, MARLBOROUGH CT THE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
2022 REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY & 2021 SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LISTS
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 08 2023: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. SENIOR CENTER
2022 MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LIST
 WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20 2023: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. SENIOR CENTER
 Applications and other information will be available online on the Town of Marlborough's Assessor page www.marlbroughct.net under "Forms and Information" or in person from the Assessor's office.
 An application can be requested by email at assessor@marlbroughct.net from Wednesday February 1st and must be returned on or before the end of the working day Monday, February 20th. All applications must be physically returned to the assessor's office (no emails or postmarks) with an original signature or an appointment for hearing will be denied.

2TB 1/20, 1/27

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following:
Application #22-17: Proposed amendments to the Town of Portland Zoning Regulations:
 Article 2 Definitions, to amend people. Article 2 Definitions, to add Cannabis; Cannabis Establishments; Cultivator; Delivery Service; Dispensary Facility; Food and Beverage Manufacturer; Hybrid Retailer; Micro-cultivator; Product Manufacturer; Product Packager; Retailer; Transporter. Article 5.1 Permitted Uses Business Zones. Article 6.1 Permitted Uses Industrial Zones. Add Article 9.18 Cannabis; Add Article 19.18.1 Locational Requirements. Application of the Town of Portland Planning and Zoning Commission.
Application #22-18: 34 Gospel Lane. Proposed Special Permit for change of use to add 2,950 sq. ft. gym business to existing building. Application and property of MJS Realty Ventures LLC. Map 31, Lot 26. Zone IP.
 At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of these applications are available for review in the Portland Land Use Department.
 Dated at Portland, CT this 18th day of January 2023
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 1/20, 1/27

TOWN OF HEBRON LEGAL NOTICE

At their meeting on January 19, 2023, the Board of Selectmen declared a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Selectmen designate Friday, January 27, 2023, as the posting date for the vacancy notice. The 35th and final day by which nominations shall be received is Friday, March 3, 2023. The Board of Selectmen are now notifying the political parties and the general public of this vacancy.
 Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the Commission and discuss with the Chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved.
 All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest or questions may be addressed to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248 or call 860-228-5971.

1TB 1/27

LIQUOR PERMIT Notice of Application

This is to give notice that, I, **CHRISTOPHER D OZMUN**
44 SASHEL LN
COLCHESTER, CT 06415-2055
 Have filed an application to add live entertainment with the Department of Consumer Protection for my existing RESTAURANT WINE & BEER permit located at:
43 HAYWARD AVE
COLCHESTER CT 06415
 The business is owned by: **OZNBONES BBQ LLC**
 Live Entertainment Added: Acoustics (not amplified), Karaoke, Live Bands, Comedians
CHRISTOPHER D OZMUN

2TB 1/27, 2/3

TOWN OF HEBRON Revenue Collection Department Press Release

The Collector of Revenue for the Town of Hebron, Adrian MacLean, reminds taxpayers 2nd half Real Estate taxes are due, the payment stub for January 2023 was included with the original bill due back in June 2022. Motor Vehicle Supplemental bills are also being mailed separately. You may receive a Supplemental bill if you purchased a vehicle between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. Bills are due without penalty by February 1, 2023. Payments received or postmarked February 2nd or later will be subject to interest of 3% (1.5% per month from January 1, 2023). If you would like to pay your bill online using a credit/debit card or directly from your checking account, visit www.hebronct.com, the link is located by selecting Town Departments—Tax Collector—View & Pay Your Taxes.
 If you believe you should have received a bill or need a copy, please contact our office at 860-228-5971 x146. Our office encourages any taxpayer to contact the office if you need to make payment arrangements, while we must abide by state statute we will make every effort to work with you.
 The Tax Office and Assessor's Office does close Monday – Thursday from 12:30 – 1:15 for lunch. The Revenue Department would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year.

3TB 12/23, 1/6, 1/27

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTION TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Please be advised that the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at its 1.23.23 meeting:
 Approved: Applicant - Town of Andover. The amendments expressly allow for "municipal uses" in the ARD Zone (Section 5), change the regulations so as to require a number of specific "Uses of Right" so as to require a "Special Permit" from the Planning and Zoning Commission in accordance with Section 23 of the Zoning Regulations and modifies numerous terms in the the Definition Section (24) of the Zoning Regulations so as to provide clarity.
 The referenced Application is on file in the Andover Building & Land-Use Office and available on the town's web-site (andoverct.org). Please direct any inquiries to the Zoning Agent at the Town Hall, 17 School Road or zoning@andoverct.org or 860.742.7305, ext. 4220.
 Jim Hallisey
 Zoning Agent

1TB 1/27

TOWN OF ANDOVER LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in the Town of Andover are hereby notified that a Special Town Meeting for the Town of Andover will be held in the Andover Elementary School Gym – 35 School Road – Andover, CT on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. This Special Town Meeting is for the following purposes:
 1. To choose a Moderator for the Special Town Meeting.
 2. To vote on each of the following questions:
 a. Shall the Town of Andover finance the purchase of a Freightliner 114SD-Legacy plow truck for the Town Department of Public Works pursuant to a financing agreement with Freightliner of Hartford whereby the Town will pay the vendor \$58,888.95 each year for a period of five years beginning in 2023?
 b. Shall the Town of Andover accept a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant from the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$275,000 with a \$75,000.00 Town match required to be paid by the Town, possibly from the multi-use building fund of the Town?
 c. Shall the Andover Town Administrator be authorized to submit to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection a DEEP Recreation Trails grant proposal in the amount of \$52,000 requiring the Town to spend \$10,500 in locally generated revenue dollars, possibly from the Open Space Fund or Contingency Fund of the Town?
 d. Shall the Andover Town Administrator be authorized to submit to the State of Connecticut a Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) grant proposal for up to \$800,000, which will require payment by the Town of survey and engineering costs estimated to be \$30,000 to be expended from the Town Aid Road or Road Improvement Fund?
 3. Adjourn
 Dated at Andover, CT this 23RD day of January, 2023.
 Andover Board of Selectmen

1TB 1/27

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the January 19, 2023 meeting, the following actions were taken:
APPROVED with Conditions PZC Application #22-15: 1401 Main Street. Proposed 2 lot re-subdivision. Application and property of Cote Range LLC. Map 68, Lot 1. Zone R-25.
 Dated at Portland, CT, this 20th day of January 2023
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 1/27

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH LEGAL NOTICE

All persons liable to pay the January installment for Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax to the Town of Marlborough as levied on the October 1, 2021 Grand List are hereby notified the taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2023 and will be delinquent February 2, 2023. The mill rate for the Motor Vehicle and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax on the 2021 Grand List is 32.46 and the Real Estate, Personal Property mill rate is 35.55 Delinquent bills shall be subject to interest of 18% per year (1.5% per Month). Minimum interest is \$2.00 Tax payments may be paid at the Tax Collector's Office, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT or by mail to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447 Checks are to be made out to the Town of Marlborough. The Tax Collector's hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am to 4:30pm; Tuesday 8:30am to 7:00pm and Friday 8:30am to 12noon. Tax payments can be paid on-line at www.marlbroughct.net with a Master Card, Visa or ACH (automatic checking). A Drop Box to left of the main door to the Town Hall is available for payments as well as in the Tax Collectors office. Respectfully Submitted,
 Barbara C. Murray,
 Tax Collector

3TB 12/23, 1/6, 1/27

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
 The third installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2021 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on January 1, 2023. Payments must be postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by February 1, 2023 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting February 2, 2023 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of January 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.
 View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Office hours in January are Monday 8:15 pm – 7:00 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8:15 am – 4:00 pm. The office will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023 in honor of Martin Luther King Day. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.
 Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.
 If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.
 Eileen Curtin, Tax Collector
 Town of Andover
 17 School Road
 Andover, CT 06232

3TB 12/23, 12/30, 1/27

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 ½) 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

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE

Wednesday, February 1, 2023
 6:30 p.m.
 MES Cafeteria
 Zoom Link Below

The legal voters of the Town of Marlborough are hereby notified and warned that a Public Hearing will be held at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School Cafeteria, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. for the following purpose:
 • To discuss a special appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 for settlement of pending litigation as recommended by the Board of Finance.
 Board of Finance
 Mike Nastri, Chairman
 Topic: BOF Public Hearing
 Time: Feb 1, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81006041033?pwd=bnJzRnFUU2FJZ09eFhZlZk3lGjW9Uz09>
 Meeting ID: 810 0604 1033
 Passcode: 7aw2cg
 Dial by your location
 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
 Meeting ID: 810 0604 1033
 Passcode: 192584

2TB 1/20, 1/27

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ATTENTION ALL TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of East Hampton that the taxes for the second installment of real estate, personal property, and supplemental motor vehicles levied on the Grand List of October 1, 2021 are due and payable on January 1, 2023. The last day on which to pay without penalty is February 1, 2023. Real estate and personal property taxes are based on a mill rate of 34.66 mills which equates to \$34.66 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed value. Supplemental motor vehicle tax is based on the state capped mill rate of 32.46 mills. The supplemental motor vehicle tax bills were mailed on December 9, 2022.
 Late payments will be subject to interest penalty at the rate of 1 ½% per month or a fraction thereof, 18 % per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 145 and 146. Payments legibly postmarked by the USPS on or before February 1, 2023 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Tax Office. Payments received February 2, 2023 and later, including payments postmarked February 2, and later, are considered past due. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes and interest charges should the tax become delinquent.
 Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting www.easthamptonct.gov Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.
 Respectfully,
 Kristy L. Merrifield, CCMC
 Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/23, 1/6, 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 ½ % 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 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE

FREE: NEW VANITY MIRROR:
 Free 40" x 60" in original shipping container. Call or text 518-588-3388 to arrange pick up in East Hampton.



WANTED TO BUY

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- **East Hartford facility** – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

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EMPLOYMENT

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.

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HELP WANTED: DuBosar Irrigation Landscape Construction Company looking to hire laborers, technicians, and equipment operators. Great starting pay and work environment. Experience in industry helpful but will train. Reasonable workday hours, starting March-April. Valid driver's license a plus but not necessary. Immediate positions also available for snow removal. 860-206-4705

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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



WAREHOUSE POSITION: Seeking full time, energetic, organized individual for small local company. Great family type work environment. Occasional heavy lifting/Light phone duties/ Customer contact. \$20-\$25 an hour DOE /Plus benefits! Training provided. Apply in person at: Yost Associates 224 Eastern Blvd Glastonbury M-F 8:00-5:00 POSITIVELY NO PHONE CALLS!

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SHEET METAL MECHANICS & HELPERS: Full time, apprenticeship program offered, health insurance, 401(k) plan. Pay range \$20 - \$30/hour. Call 860-828-3762.

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SELL CHEESE AT AN AWARD-WINNING FARM Nationally-recognized cheesemaker seeks a cheesemonger (sales person) for our farm shop. Job description at www.catocornerfarm.com/contact

PART-TIME COOK / KITCHEN ASSISTANT: 3-4 days/wk, includes every other weekend. Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509.

WAITSTAFF WANTED: Flynn's Grill restaurant Monday-Friday 7am -2pm, hourly plus tips (19-23/hr). Apply in person 860-657-8159

PART-TIME RESIDENT CARE ATTENDANT: For 2nd & 3rd shifts. Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509.

COOK WANTED: Stop in to The Greenleaf Cafe in Hebron for details. Or call 860-228-8148

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Deadline: 3/10/2023
Salary Range: \$60,897 to \$65,868

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First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71,
Portland, CT 06480-0071
Email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org

1TB 1/27

Town of Coventry
Public Works Maintainer I

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1TB 1/27

HELP WANTED
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BOARD CLERK

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for part time Board Clerks for approximately 3 to 6 hours per month. This position is responsible for transcribing minutes and motions for boards and commissions. The position requires attendance at meetings on weeknight evenings. Candidates must have excellent writing skills and be proficient in word processing on a personal computer. A Town of Marlborough Employment Application and Board Clerk job description are available in the Town Clerk's office, online at marlboroughct.net or by calling 860-295-6206. Completed applications are to be submitted to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 29, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447.
Open until filled.
We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

3TB 1/13, 1/20, 1/27

Certified Nurses Aide
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Not your average CNA position available at Colebrook Village. We are looking for a family oriented, fun and dedicated CNA to join our team. Colebrook Village is a community of independent, assisted living, and memory care residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents and to work alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and want to be appreciated for the important work you do, reach out for details about this unique health care opportunity! 401k, Dental, Life Medical, Vision

Please call Kristina Pink: 860-801-1114

CITB-1-22

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Please call Kristina Pink: 860-801-1114

CITB-1-22

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TOWN OF ANDOVER CT
VACANCY - Accounting Associate

The Town of Andover is seeking applications for a full-time Accounting associate. This position is responsible for the daily operations of the finance department at the town of Andover. This position involves the performance of a variety of professional accounting and financial control functions for the Town of Andover. The job description and application for this position are available at www.andoverct.org. This position is 30 hours per week, Monday-Thursday. This position is in the AFSCME local 1303 of Council #4 AFL-CIO and subject to collective bargaining. To apply, send a Resume and Cover Letter to the Office of the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 17 School Rd, Andover, CT 06232, Or email it to adminassistant@andoverct.org This posting will remain open until the position has been filled. EOE M/F

3TB 1/20, 1/27, 2/3

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.

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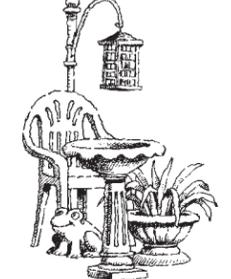
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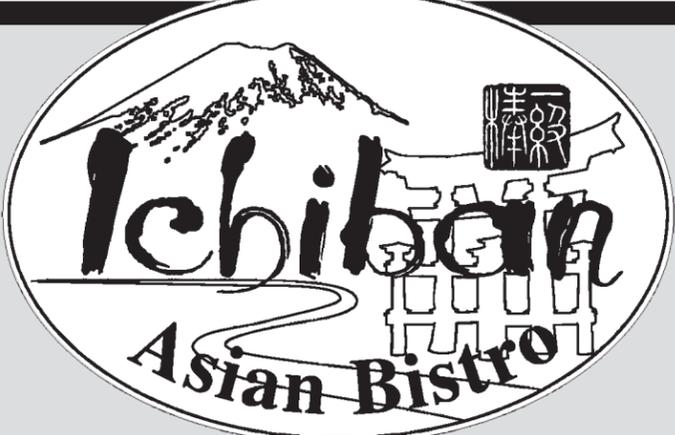
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