



# News Bulletin

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

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**Strong Start to Season...** Bacon Academy girls' basketball has started the season with six straight wins under new head coach Kevin Fennell. On the court, the Bobcats are led by all-state senior captain Marissa Nudd, who recently surpassed 1,000 career points, and junior captain Cara Shea, who scored a career-high 17 points in a win over RHAM last week. For more on that game, see page 14.

## Court Gives Go-Ahead To Senior Center

By Michael Sinkewicz

Following weeks of uncertainty surrounding the future of Colchester's new senior center project, the town received a favorable ruling during a widely anticipated court hearing last week, essentially allowing the construction of the building to move forward.

Last Friday, New London Superior Court Judge Karen Goodrow denied an injunction request sought by Board of Selectmen member Jason LaChapelle and Colchester Republican Town Committee Chairman Taras Rudko. (LaChapelle, in addition to being a selectman, is also vice chair of the RTC.)

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

Now, following the court's ruling, the Board of Selectmen is scheduled to vote on entering a contract on Thursday, after press time, ending the legal battle that has engulfed the town for over a month.

The three-day court hearing, which spanned from Dec. 28 through Dec. 30, offered clarity into whether the town had violated the terms outlined in a 2021 referendum where residents authorized the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$9.5 million for the design and construction of a new senior center.

In her ruling, Goodrow stated that the town "has not appropriated funds in excess of \$9.5 million" and therefore, has "not violated the referendum."

"The plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden of proof," she said.

During her explanation, Goodrow acknowledged that evidence presented during the hearing

did indicate that the total project budget will likely be in the range of \$10.2-\$10.8 million, but that budget estimates do not equate to actual expenditures.

Those estimates, she added, are speculative and the actual cost of the building may ultimately be over, or even below, the \$9.5 million threshold.

Goodrow stated that if the cost did go beyond the referendum-approved amount, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos would need to take measures to cover the shortages, which could include a referendum asking for an additional appropriation, a town meeting, or the Bendas estate money, which was donated to the town.

However, taking any of those measures at the current moment, Goodrow said, was premature.

Following the court's decision, Bisbikos posted a statement on Facebook, stating that the town was moving forward with the project. He also confirmed that a vote awarding the contract to BRD Builders would take place at the Jan. 5 selectmen meeting.

Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that legal fees resulting from the hearing would cost the town somewhere between \$15,000-25,000. He called the end result a "big relief."

The controversy surrounding the project began after Tony Tarnowski, chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, alerted the boards of selectmen and finance in November that there was a shortfall in the construction budget. Tarnowski and the boards reviewed potential avenues to appropriate additional money so that the project could continue under its current timeline.

The bid opening began on Oct. 13, and BRD See *Court Gives Go-Ahead*, page 7

## Library Director Receives National Appointment

By Michael Sinkewicz

Cragin Memorial Library Director Kate Byroade was appointed last month as the Connecticut Library Association's representative to the American Library Association (ALA).

Byroade, who has served as Colchester's library director for 13 years, will represent Connecticut as a chapter councilor in the ALA Council, the governing body of the ALA.

She will continue in her role as head of the Colchester library.

There are 50 chapter councilors, one from each state, in the council.

In total, there are 186 council members made up from a variety of personnel, including an additional 100 councilors-at-large and other executive positions.

Byroade will fill Connecticut's vacant council

seat and serve out the remaining time left in the term, which is about a year and a half.

"I'm very pleased and honored to serve in this role," Byroade told the *Rivereast* this week.

Previously, she served as the president of the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) from 2018-19. Currently, she is chair of the association's Legislative Committee.

Her new role in the ALA officially started on Dec. 15.

Byroade explained that the CLA had been searching for a candidate to fill the seat, and initially, a few people appeared interested.

"I considered it and put my name forward," she said. "I'm looking forward to the work."

Byroade has been active in the library profession since she was a teenager and her passion

never went away.

"I love it," she said, explaining that there's always more work to do. "I've been doing library work my entire life and this is an opportunity to learn and grow and make a difference."

She was appointed to the position by Douglas Lord, president of the CLA and director of the Cyrenius H. Booth Library in Newtown.

This week, he told the *Rivereast* that Byroade was the "perfect choice" for Connecticut because she "represents a great combination of skills, knowledge and can-do attitude."

"Kate has been a library professional for something like 25 years and has served the public in multiple types of public libraries, ranging from suburban to rural and has been a leader in

See *Library Director*, page 24

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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Last week saw the passing of a journalism giant, as Barbara Walters died at the age of 93.

Walters was a pioneer in almost too many ways to count – including becoming the first woman to ever anchor an evening network newscast. I think it's fair to say she was an influence to generations of young women who entered the world of journalism.

So I thought, as a tribute, I'd share some particularly thoughtful quotes of hers from over the years.

"To excel is to reach your own highest dream. But you must also help others, where and when you can, to reach theirs. Personal gain is empty if you do not feel you have positively touched another's life."

"The hardest thing you will ever do is trust yourself."

"Work harder than everybody. You're not going to get it by whining, and you're not going to get it by shouting, and you're not going to get it by quitting. You're going to get it by being there."

"Life sometimes brings enormous difficulties and challenges that seem just too hard to bear. But bear them you can, and bear them you will, and your life can have a purpose."

"Success can make you go one of two ways. It can make you a prima donna – or it can smooth the edges, take away the insecurities, let the nice things come out."

"Don't let the bastards get you down."

"This is what I tell, especially young women: fight the big fights. Don't fight the little fight... Be the first one in, be the last one out. Do your homework, choose your battles. Don't whine, and don't be the one who com-

plains about everything. Fight the big fight."

"A good laugh makes any interview, or any conversation, so much better."

"A conversation isn't a competition."

Politics "is the hottest, most dangerous subject in the land. It's not only a conversation-wrecker, it's a friendship-wrecker, a family-wrecker, a job-wrecker, a future-wrecker."

"Show me someone who never gossips, and I'll show you someone who isn't interested in people."

"Deep breaths are very helpful at shallow parties."

"Every genius I have met could be classified as crazy by most people. They possess the highest level of sanity that us people find difficult to understand and accept."

"The way you dress is the billboard that tells perceptive people how you feel about yourself."

"If it's a woman, it's caustic; if it's a man, it's authority. If it's a woman, it's too pushy; if it's a man, it's aggressive in the best sense of the word."

"I think most working relationships could benefit by excluding personal matters from the office chatter."

"Wait for those unguarded moments. Relax the mood and, like the child dropping off to sleep, the subject often reveals his truest self."

"To feel valued – to know, even if only once in a while, that you can do a job well – is an absolutely marvelous feeling."

"A job is not a career. I think I started out with a job. It turned into a career and changed my life."

"When you're interviewing someone,

**Editor's Desk continued on page 4**



**The Peoples Choice... Glastonbury-Hebron Probate Court Judge Sean M. Peoples (left) was sworn in to his third elected term in office by the Hon. Cesar A. Noble (right) at Hartford Superior Court on Jan. 3.**

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

## Thank You

To the Editor:

The family of Orus Reid Coffield IV extends our gratitude to the many people who provided love, care, food, flowers, contributions and sympathy during our time of loss.

Thank you!

**Coffield Family  
Marlborough/Portland**

Performing good deeds, when you can, makes a difference.

**Frank Zitkus – Hebron**

## Totally Blessed

To the Editor:

As we begin 2023, I would like to take a moment to thank all those who have helped me during the past year of 2022 to have a successful luncheon program for our Andover seniors. Included in this message are those who worked or donated to our tag sale in the fall. Each year our number of seniors increases who attend and enjoy this program and for that I am totally blessed.

Thanks to Andover Pizza, Eric Anderson Town Administrator, Tiu and Ylo Anson, Linda Armstrong, Jeff Ballard, Sup. Valerie Bruneau, Elaine Buchardt, Chris Burbank, C.E.R.T. Team, Frank and Pat Chaves, Gerry and Anne Crème, Jacqueline Crespan, Lori Eastern, Rachael Elam and her daughters, Isabelle, Audrey, and Ella, Dave and Grace Gostanian, Mark Hand, Tanya Hughes, Julia Haverl, Kim Hawes, Suzanne Heise, Karen Hunter, Charles Jones, Paula King BOS, George and Judy Knox, Beth and Don Lundberg, Adrian Mandeville – BOS Vice Chair, Norma Maudsley, Jeff Murray BOS, Charlotte Nelson, Resident Trooper Sebastian Nesci, Georgia O'Brien, Mike Palazzi, Marina Pandolfi, Scott Person BOS, Lois Popoff, Lisa

## Thanks for Muddy Pushhhh!

To the Editor:

Jan. 1 – a good day to start the new year off with a local hike. After my ground-soaked adventure, my attempt to return home turned into a muddy mess. Stuck in the muddy parking area, my next move appeared to be a long walk home. Unbeknownst to me, a couple had pulled over to assist! A helpful gentleman enthusiastically attempted to push my car out of the quagmire. No use. What to do? Then a carload of more helpers quickly appeared out of the blue! With four push-men, we successfully unearthed my now mud-splattered car. With muddy shoes, everyone beamed with smiles knowing that they had performed a New Year's Day good deed.

Thank you very much to Mark Raes, Dylan Raes, Ryan Arnold and the initial helper (I knew I should have asked for his name!) for your assistance; it is very much appreciated.

**News copy deadline for *The Rivereast News Bulletin* is Monday 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 Monday 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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RIVEREAST

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## Bulletin Board

[Jan. 1, 2023] Dear Diary:

Well, here it is, the year 2023 has arrived. I looked out my window this morning and there were no rainbows or frolicking unicorns. Same as last year, except this morning it was raining. Whoopie.

Time sure passes quickly. Maybe too quickly. They had a special segment on TV over the weekend listing all the famous people who died in 2022. Two of them, news icon Barbara Walters and former Pope Benedict, waited until the very last moment and barely got in under the wire. Most of the other noteworthy departures seem to have been in the entertainment business. I guess these are the figures of greatest importance in today's world.

I will admit to being out of the loop when it comes to these celebrities. Of the lengthy assortment of actors, singers, rappers and comedians and whatnot, I recognized maybe a half a dozen. I was not exactly overjoyed to discover that quite a few of them were considerably younger than I am.

I was also surprised to see that the newly departed included a handful of people I thought had died years ago. Apparently, they were merely predeceased by their careers. Out of sight, out of mind. Perhaps poor abused Harry and Meghan—who have worked so hard to give new import to the term "royal pain in the arse"—will show us some consideration over the coming year and join this parade of unmemorables on the dust heap of obscurity, though I am not optimistic.

I didn't do any special celebrating last night. Son #1 asked if we were going to any parties. I said no. I'm too old to stay out late and have too many drinks and maybe wrap up the year by getting arrested for driving while intoxicated. He said, "Why don't you just call an Uber?" I don't know why he thinks calling a German submarine is going to solve the problem. I mean, I don't even know anybody who lives by the water. Kids. Geez. They think they have all the answers.

So, I stayed home and watched TV for a while. Naturally, they showed a lot of New Year's celebrations with a focus on New York City. Maybe it's my advancing years, but I really don't see the attraction of joining a gazillion strangers down in Times Square just to watch some lighted ball drop while maybe getting my pocket picked.

I suppose one advantage of being elbow to elbow in such a mob is that nobody has room to swing a baseball bat at your head, but other than that, I don't really see the point. I mean, what if you have to go to the bathroom or something? I studied the crowds quite carefully and I failed to detect a single porta-potty. Son #1 says the fact that I would even consider this a problem—never mind obsess on it—is illuminating. I told him he'd be a little less smug if we could exchange bladders for the night.

On the other hand, while watching the activities at home on television provides the convenience of a nearby bathroom and access to a refrigerator, you are compelled to listen to the inane commentary of various TV hosts—many of them "news channel" celebrities—who are paid to make events seem more exciting than they actually are. Sort of like prostitutes, I guess. Let me just say that every time Anderson Cooper and his ilk show up on my screen I offer fervent thanks to the unknown individual who thought to include a mute button on TV remotes.

Having said that, I can understand why folks are celebrating the end of 2022. Goodbye and good riddance. I do think it might be wise, however, to temper that enthusiasm about ending the year gone by with a little skepticism that things will dramatically improve in the year to come.

As I mentioned earlier, I didn't see any unicorns in the yard this morning and while it's possible they were struck down by hit and run drivers in one last tribute to good old 2022 (does anybody actually stop after running someone down in the street these days?), I tend to think these magical creatures are wisely keeping their distance until we manage to get our act together.

It could happen. In the meantime, at least I welcomed 2023 without a hangover. There's something to be said for that.

**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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Kurtz, Ed Sarisly, Bob Siminski, Wes Skorski, Marie Smith, Jacke Stafford, Marion Takoudas, state Rep. Steve Weir, Pat White, and Gerry Wright.

Special thanks to our excellent drivers, Ricky Kauffman and Ellie Skoog. To our luncheon workers a huge thank you: Carol Lee, Town Clerk, Alicia Lee, Andi Lee, Carol Kukucka, Linda Armstrong and Roberta Dougherty, Municipal Agent.

If any names have been omitted, please forgive me it was not intentional as I appreciate everyone! Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Palazzi  
Andover Senior Coordinator

### Rails to Trails

To the Editor:

A New Year brings New Year's resolutions and the yearly increase of traffic on the Rails to Trails. A few things to remember:

Pedestrians (people walking) have the right of way. Bikers should slow down and announce their intention to pass someone walking, either verbally or with a bell. And walkers should stay to the right. Folks walking dogs should have their dog on a leash. Voice control doesn't always work when the other dog is "reactive" or unfriendly. We are blessed to have this incredible resource. Let's all enjoy it together...

Tom Stribula – Andover

### Resolution Run Thanks

To the Editor:

I would like to recognize and thank Val Gato, the Youth Services team and volunteers and all those who assisted on the course for a great Resolution Run on New Year's Day. It was such a well-organized and enjoyable event that brought people together from Colchester and many other places as well.

Having worked directly with Sean Shoemaker and John Jones in the past, their breadth of experience and depth of commitment to the safety of all in Colchester was evident in the Town's response during the most recent storm.

And while administrations and approaches change with elections, it is the people like Val, Sean, John and others in Town Hall who provide the continuity and excellence in service delivery we have all come to rely on.

Respectfully,  
Stan Soby – Colchester

### Change for Colchester

To the Editor:

The New Year has me reflecting on the many Colchester-related stories we've seen in the *Riverast* over the last twelve months and wondering what 2023 will look like in our community. Colchester has certainly been a newsworthy town over the last year -- Dramatic firings! Police escorts! Book ban! Referendums! Law-suits! The list goes on and on....

Over the last year, I've been hosting a Facebook Live webshow with town businessman Dave Koji ("The Colchester What's Happening Show"). In each episode, we discuss news affecting our town and interview some of the players involved. All of these stories have given people like us plenty to talk about, but it leaves me feeling more than a little concerned about the overall direction of our community. It seems like Colchester keeps hopping from one crisis point to the next and the tenor of the political fights around these issues keeps getting higher.

Despite this, I am hopeful for 2023 because I think for many of us the last year has also been a wake-up call. This is the moment to get involved in the future of our town and schools. One thing that stood out to me in 2022 is that while the chaos has understandably turned off some people, I have seen so many new names and faces getting involved and speaking up for Colchester for the first time from across the entire political spectrum.

2023 is a moment to get involved and stand up. With municipal elections coming up this

fall, this is the time to work together for a better direction in our community. 2023 can be a year for change in Colchester – change we will make possible together.

Bernie Dennler – Colchester

### Coach Russell

To the Editor:

I am writing about Jack Lakowsky's article "EHHS Hoops Coach Shoves Student". I am a parent of two EHHS basketball Players. I attended that game. Coach Russell is a verbal and animated coach and unfortunately during one of the plays, with no malicious intent, he ended up pushing a player on the court to get her to her proper position. I don't feel this action should be overlooked but I feel that the disciplinary measures taken should be commensurate with the action he took. I fully support the previous determined suspension that has been served.

Every one of us can reflect on a time in our lives where we have a momentary lapse in judgment and immediately regret it. I'm considering Coach Russell's overall body of work through the years at EHHS, his character as a person, what he has meant to the school, players and sport program.

What many people have not seen is his love and concern for each of his players. I know this firsthand by attending each awards ceremony. If available through recording, please take the time to watch the person I have gotten to know. He takes the time to express his love and appreciation for each individual and what they have meant to the program, to him personally, and he does it with genuine emotion that many times brings him to tears. He speaks of their qualities, strengths, and what an instrumental piece each one was to the team, regardless of playing time.

EHHS has a great coach in Russell who teaches the girls not only to play basketball but also to work hard, be dedicated, believe in themselves on and off the court. I could not ask for a better coach and athletic director for the school.

Sincerely,  
Yadira Russell – East Hampton

### Cooking With Gas

To the Editor:

Merriam-Webster deemed gaslighting, "the act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one's own advantage," as its top word of 2022 because it's the "favored word for the perception of deception."

Mr. Smith, our resident scientism buff and promoter of one-world global government, should take notice. He perennially gaslights our readers, saying our problems come solely from an orange-skinned celebrity – not an entrenched political duopoly controlled solely by corporate influence.

In his latest gastric episode Smith attempts an ad hominem attack to distract from the fact that the WEF's 4th Industrial Revolution is quarterbacked by fans of the 3rd Reich. The WEF founder, Klaus Schwab, is a Kissinger protege as well as son of a Nazi-aligned industrialist, Eugen Schwab, who managed the Ravensburg factory of Escher Wyss, which used forced prison labor to produce flamethrowers and turbines for the Nazis. The WEF, a globalist organization made up of the top 1,000 global companies, uses its influence to "infiltrate cabinets" and control political discourse. (Schwab ad-

mitted on camera that his WEF trained "global leaders" held over half the cabinet positions in Trudeau's Canada.) Back in 1972, the annual gathering of the WEF in Davos, Hermann Abs, the top Nazi banker as well as board member of IG Farben (Zyklon B) and 44 other German companies, was tapped as "Chairman" of the meeting.

More recently, Schwab released a book called *Covid-19: The Great Reset* within weeks of the pandemic's start, where he illustrates how the pandemic was the perfect opportunity to promote complete societal change and embrace the 4th Industrial Revolution to usher in acceptance of transhumanism, nanotech, mandatory medicine, and global "stakeholder capitalism." These are clear dots to connect, with the UK awarding vaccine passport contracts to Entrust, a company owned by Josef Goebbels's step-grandchildren. Hmmm....

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

### Let's Work Together

To the Editor:

Being a member of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) requires you to research issues, make good decisions in the best interest of Colchester, and to problem-solve. Those are the principles I stand by.

The citizens of Colchester voted by almost a 2-to-1 margin to build a new Senior Center (SC). When the SC bids were higher than anticipated, our responsibilities as elected officials were to find solutions to the problem. The SC building committee made adjustments in anticipation of higher costs due to inflation and building supply shortages, but it wasn't enough. The chair of the SCBC presented these facts to the BOS and BOF.

Unfortunately, a small, but loud, group of Colchester citizens tried to stop the project moving forward by filing for an injunction. It almost succeeded until Judge Karen A. Goodrow ruled for the town on Dec. 30. This will allow the town to enter into a contract with BRD

Builders by Jan. 11, the day the bid would have lapsed. The judge ruled against the plaintiffs on every issue. Though if you're a Facebook follower, the plaintiffs' spin is they succeeded. The truth is the town succeeded in keeping this most important SC project moving forward.

What financial challenges that may lie ahead can be resolved with everyone working together to find solutions. The senior center received a \$575,000 undesignated memorial gift that must be spent on the senior center. Our town charter allows for additional appropriations with all over 2% of the budget going to town meeting or referendum.

Colchester makes progress working together. The outspoken will of a small group should not outweigh the needs of citizens. Colchester seniors have waited almost 20 years for a new SC. Let's work together to accomplish this town project.

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

### Lack of Accountability

To the Editor:

I was disappointed to see Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos used his year-end editorial to turn criticism of his communication during the recent winter storm into a partisan issue by attacking town Democrats.

Access to information prior to a weather event is extremely important. As a former EMT and home health nurse I am well aware of the issues citizens need to prepare for such as power outages for those on oxygen. Surrounding towns had links on their town pages with information, and important contacts their citizens may need during the storm. Colchester initially only received a notice that Town Hall would be "closed."

As the storm was well underway, citizens  
See Letters, page 6

### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

you're in control. When you're being interviewed, you think you're in control, but you're not."

There are lots of lessons there – not only about journalism, but about life in general.

Barbara Walters was a very wise woman, and she'll definitely be missed.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs.

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

were asking about contacts for downed trees, power outages, and if a warning center would open. These were sincere concerns. To be crystal clear, the criticism was never directed at the town's response to the storm, but at our Selectman's inability to communicate important storm planning information.

Our FS has the inability to accept criticism and take accountability. Instead of reacting to questions and concerns professionally, he used

the selectman's office Facebook page to attack the previous first selectman regarding tree removal. The reality is that for six years on the Board of Finance, Bisbikos fought any additional spending, including increases to the tree removal budget that were proposed by his predecessor.

Accusations of political motivations are really disingenuous as this is the leader who readily can communicate his concerns about a children's book, but not about a winter storm.

Communication is a matter of record – you either did or you did not. So, First Selectman Bisbikos, think of this as an area of opportunity to communicate better the next time as it is a long winter.

Krista Kardys – Colchester

Backlash

To the Editor:

In 2003, Hebron applied for STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) funding

to help install John Horton Boulevard. A report was conducted and can be found at portal.ct.gov. The report outlines specific criteria from the surrounding land including topography, effluents, GA water, history and wildlife. It further suggests studies be done on noise and traffic.

This STEAP report references the June 2000 ERT/CBD (Central Business District) report done on the north side of Kinney Road. ERT stands for Environmental Review Team and the report was conducted in January 2000 by The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team. Over half the report deals with important water concerns.

Hebron confidentially applied for STEAP funding, in part, from the lengthy ERT/ CBD report. An interesting side note is that, as a hydrogeologist and employee of CT DEEP, William Warzecha was directly involved in the research and preparation of this report. He also contributed to the 1992 ERT done on the south side of Kinney Road. Question? If Mr. Warzecha's work was good enough for CT DEEP for 36 years, on paper, in the field and in court, and the June 2000 ERT report was comprehensive enough to support Hebron's STEAP application, why is Mr. Warzecha being dismissed and misquoted now?

We live in an age where the power hungry are gaining control by confusing people. By telling people their instincts are wrong. By deliberately ignoring basic science, education and life experience, in exchange for development and corporate regulations that benefit the few. These benefits are causing long term, often life threatening, situations for the public. Short-term profits for the few, long-term problems for everyone else. Surely, Hebron can do better. Let's focus our efforts on putting the Raymond Brook Watershed into a stringent land conservation program. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Police Rumor

To the Editor

An unsubstantiated rumor can have devastating and polarizing effects on our town. Re-

See Letters, page 25

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★ **Court Gives Go-Ahead cont. from page 1**

Builders LLC's bid was \$8.9 million. After \$370,000 in alternates to the bid were accepted, the final construction cost came in at just over \$8.6 million, leaving a \$976,030 shortfall. The total cost of the project, the plaintiffs argued during the hearing, would exceed \$10 million and therefore violate the result of the referendum.

The low bid was set to expire on Jan. 11 if a contract is not agreed to by both parties' lawyers and reviewed by the state before that time.

This week, Tarnowski told the *Rivereast* that he had received a draft of the contract from the town attorney and forwarded it to BRD Builders. He expressed that although the timeline is tight, it's likely that an agreement will be reached before the deadline. The builder, he said, could also agree to extend the deadline by a short period of time if necessary.

"I think one way or another, we will get a contract in place," Tarnowski said. "I'm confident."

As litigation threatened the project, many residents and senior center members, expressed their fears that construction would be setback months.

Tarnowski expressed that "it's time to get excited again."

Still, construction on the site likely won't begin until late March, he said.

**The Hearing**

Before the court even considered the main arguments, Goodrow denied a motion made by the plaintiffs seeking to disqualify Shipman & Goodman LLP from representing the Town of Colchester in the case.

The main argument regarding the decision whether to grant the injunction revolved around if the town had appropriated funds exceeding \$9.5 million.

Several witnesses testified during the hearing, including Bisbikos, Tarnowski, LaChapelle, Rudko, and David Stein, the architect with Silver/Petrucelli & Associates, who developed the schematic design of the project.

Andrew Zeitlin, an attorney with Shipman and Goodman, argued that the total costs incurred by the town to date, including fees committed to Silver/Petrucelli & Associates and Construction Solutions group, was around \$702,000.

That amount, combined with the BRD Builders contract of \$8.6 million, would bring the total budget to around \$9.3 million – below the \$9.5 million threshold.

Bisbikos testified that the town was not currently at the point of going over budget. If the moment arrived in the future, the town would consider what he called appropriate measures to cover the overage.

During closing arguments, Donald Brown, the attorney for LaChapelle and Rudko, argued that it was almost inevitable that the project would be over budget, given the evidence presented.

"Stein and Tarnowski testified that they're aware that the project is substantially over budget and will exceed \$9.5 million," he said. "The town intends to go full steam ahead and enter into a contract."

In response to Brown's argument, Goodrow asked, "What evidence is there of irrefutable harm if an injunction isn't granted?"

Brown stated that would "violate the will of the voters."

However, Goodrow seemingly disagreed, stating that there was "reliable testimony that the cost could go up or down" and that Brown was asking for an "extreme remedy."

Because the testimony from witnesses including Rudko in regard to potential overages was based on estimates alone, Goodrow asked, "Why isn't this attempt at injunction premature?"

Brown stated that he believes the matter is of "grave public concern."

Zeitlin, during his closing argument, emphasized the "premature" nature of the complaint, arguing that the plaintiffs had "not met their burden."

During his *Rivereast* interview, Tarnowski stated that based on the estimates, "we said all along the project will go over \$9.5 million."

If the project does untimely go over budget, he said, the town will "follow the charter."

Tarnowski expressed that his committee has control of the budget and can move items around to create space, as well.

"Right now, we can build the building with what we have," he said, adding that the litigation was largely an attempt to disrupt the plan. "They saw this as an opportunity to stop this project from happening. We're going to move

forward."

Bisbikos stated that the town has a "game plan" if it finds itself over budget, although he emphasized that Colchester has a history of coming in under budget.

"We prepare for all types of scenarios," he said.

In a Facebook statement after the ruling, LaChapelle stated that the judge "left open the door for us to renew our request for injunction should the town exceed the \$9.5 million cap imposed by referendum."

He added that the judge established the \$9.5 million as a hard cap, and that he was "extremely happy with the ruling."

This week, he told the *Rivereast* that he still won't be voting in favor of entering a contraction during the selectmen meeting because the town "has provided no evidence that it won't cost more than \$9.5 million."

"Voting on this is shortsighted," he said. LaChapelle disagreed that town officials had followed the town charter. He argued that there were prior attempts to utilize the Bendas estate money without taxpayer approval.

During the hearing, Bisbikos testified that he sees the estate money as a "grey area" and a "glorified contingency fund."

When asked what the positive takeaway was from the hearing, LaChapelle said the case "went as well as we expected it to."

"A permanent injunction is nearly impossible," he said. "We wanted to protect the voice of the citizens and I believe we did that. It's disappointing that we had to go to court."

LaChapelle argued that the initial framing of the shortfall was misleading to the community. He stated that in November, officials were looking for additional funding in order to move forward with the project. Without that extra funding, the town would not be able to enter into a contract, LaChapelle explained.

In court, LaChapelle said he heard a different explanation of the issue and that the town wasn't currently over budget and looking for additional funding.

Now, he faces a rift with the other members of the Board of Selectmen.

"It's unfortunate," he said. "I just disagree with them on this issue and I get it, but what choice did I have? All of this could've been avoided."

**RTC Statement**

Following the hearing, the Republican Town Committee passed a motion stressing that Rudko and LaChapelle were acting on their own and "without the support of the RTC." In the motion, the committee added it "regrets the town's wasteful expense of fighting these lawsuits," and also offered congratulations to Bisbikos for his "successful fight on behalf of the future Colchester Senior Center."

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# Selectmen Talk Juneteenth, Pot, Hiring Struggles

By Jack Lakowsky

On Tuesday the Marlborough Board of Selectmen reconvened after a holiday hiatus, coming to a plate of marijuana, hiring struggles and a renewed commitment to inclusivity.

## Marijuana Talks Buddin

While nearby towns have already made decisions on what they're doing with retail sales and commercial cultivation of cannabis, Marlborough just started its talks this week. Retail marijuana sales begin in Connecticut Jan. 10.

The board made no decisions this week, intending to continue talks in further meetings. None seemed openly opposed to the idea.

Town Planner Peter Hughes told the board it has two routes. It can ban cannabis consumption within Marlborough outright, or it can send it to the local zoning board to craft policy – the path taken by the Town Council in nearby East Hampton, which is allowing retail sales.

Hughes, who did some research and paid a visit to the dispensary in Northampton, Mass., said towns with dispensaries make “hundreds of thousands” of dollars.

As to drawbacks, Hughes said, on a tour of a few Colorado small towns, families had been alienated from public spaces like town greens, preferring not to be around pot smoke.

Surrounding towns are a patchwork. Some still have moratoriums, like Glastonbury, and some, like Lebanon, allow cultivation, but no

retail. In the short term, the selectboard agreed, the town will make sure it's clear that where there's no cigarette smoking – i.e., town buildings and parks – there's no cannabis smoking. Hughes mentioned the City of Milford designating about 15 feet of public sidewalk as a smoking area.

One concept that seemed to startle a few board members was the thought that, now, people can grow several plants on their own “with the tomatoes on the front porch,” in the words of selectman Greg Lowrey.

Lowrey also said telling people where they can consume cannabis as opposed to where they can't will deter “negative outcomes” and “disrespectful behavior.”

“People will smoke somewhere,” said Lowrey.

Lowrey said college campuses are beginning to designate smoking areas for of-age marijuana users.

The board was largely resigned to the inevitability of more visible marijuana consumption, and interim town manager Amy Traversa said any ban would be nearly impossible to enforce.

Further, Lowrey said the town can't interfere in medical use or delivery services and trying to ensure exclusively medical use would be highly impractical.

## Town Officially Adds Juneteenth

In a 3-1 vote, with Republican selectman Joe Asklar dissenting, the board added Juneteenth – the celebration of the emancipation of enslaved peoples – to its 2023 holiday calendar, giving the town's 70+ employees a day off. The town set the day for Monday, June 19.

It's the first time Marlborough has officially commemorated the holiday.

Lowrey said it's one step towards making the town more inclusive and attractive to future employees. He said he hopes acknowledging Juneteenth spreads a little education.

Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. It originally commemorated the proclamation freeing slaves in Texas in 1865, more than two years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation outlawed slavery in the United States and has since come to honor the freeing of humans-made-property and highlight existing inequities.

It wasn't until 1980, more than a century later, that Texas made Juneteenth a state holiday. And, far more recently, the federal government made Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Traversa said Marlborough needs to commit itself to “inclusiveness and equity and diversity.”

Before the vote Asklar asked about what each holiday costs the town, which is about \$6,500, Traversa answered.

Lowrey said he doesn't see holidays as lost productivity. He said employees are given their work, and if it's completed, especially in a blitz

before holidays, then the town hasn't actually wasted wages.

Lowrey also said the town observes holidays the federal government does not, like Good Friday, suggesting the town update its holiday calendar.

Despite Lowrey's explanation, Asklar still voted 'no.'

## Town Jobs 'Woefully Underfunded'

For the past several months the town has struggled to find a permanent finance director, and that struggle doesn't seem to be ending soon.

To complicate matters the person who was overseeing the town's finance department had a family emergency and is out, Traversa told the board.

“We really have to talk about salaries,” said Traversa.

The town's wages and benefits packages, especially for administrators and other high-skilled positions, haven't kept up with private industry, the interim town manager explained. She described the jobs as “woefully underfunded.”

“We have to talk about addressing this or we're going to lose people,” she said. While not everyone can get a pay jump, the town must put a “premium” on higher-skilled positions.

“We're vulnerable,” she said, adding she's not sure if “it'll all wait till budget season.”

Another issue: towns, for need of talent, are “cannibalizing” each other's workforces, and that Marlborough needs to make itself more attractive to employees new and old.

## 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. 9:** 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: grape juice, beef hot dog on hot dog bun, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit; cards, 1-3 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 10:** Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Quilling, 9 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Mahjongg, 1-3 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 11:** 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: Italian sausage, baked ziti/parmesan cheese, broccoli florets, garlic knot, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 12:** Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon. Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 13:** 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal,

noon. Menu: meatloaf with mushroom and onion gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned corn, wheat dinner roll, fresh fruit.

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

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

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

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

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## Historical Society Calendars Available

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The cost is \$20 and can be purchased online at [www.marlboroughhistory.org/store](http://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.

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### Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday worship services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St., are at 10 a.m. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

**Jan. 8:** Worship will be led by the Rev. Val Seaver, with an anthem from the Chancel Choir.

**Dorcas Women's Fellowship:** Will meet Friday, Jan. 13, at noon, upstairs in the lounge. Guest preacher will be Megan Lloyd from the Lions Club. All women in the community are welcome.

**AA** meets downstairs in the Great Hall

Wednesdays with two meetings, one at noon and another at 7:30 p.m.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop:** Closed until Feb. 3, to set up for late winter and spring selling. Donations will be accepted in January; call the church office to make arrangements. The shop also sells items year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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

### Parks and Rec Programs

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

**Youth Programs: Netto Indoor Soccer:** Indoor soccer for fifth- and sixth-graders. Games will begin week of Jan. 9, and will be played after school on Mondays and Wednesdays at Marlborough Elementary School. Games will conclude at 4:30 p.m. Fee for this program is \$75 and participants will receive a T-shirt.

**Lego: Winter Wonderland Engineering:** For grades K-4. Tuesdays, Jan. 17-Feb. 28, 3:15-4:45 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

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

**Adult Programs: 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.

### 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.

**Family Faith Formation:** This is a new program to focus on active faith formation within the family is underway for families of kindergarten through middle school students; registration is required on the church's Faith Formation website and will close at the end of September.

**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).

## Town Pens Wishlist to State Senator

By Jack Lakowsky

Interim Town Manager Amy Traversa, with Town Planner Peter Hughes, told the Marlborough Board of Selectmen this week that she sent a list of town needs to state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19), to see what the state might be able to fund.

Traversa said Osten asked specifically for a list of Marlborough's needs.

"2022 has been a year of significant change for Marlborough," Traversa wrote, "and in many ways a difficult year."

Sinkholes and culverts were the first need Traversa named, calling them "unanticipated and expensive."

The town has spent nearly \$100,000 to repair several sinkholes, money not accounted for in the current budget. Affected roads include South Buckboard Road, North and South Main streets, and Ogden Lord Road. The culvert on Hodge Road is bandaged, but the town needs to fully replace it, a cost of about \$550,000. A survey of culverts is underway, meaning this cost could go up.

Traversa wrote that the town, last April, applied for a \$1.4 million grant from the state Department of Transportation to help repair the South Buckboard bridge. Traversa said DOT said it would send the money last July, but still hasn't. Traversa also asked for more state money for local road repair, often among a town's biggest expenses.

Next, Traversa asked for the status of an apparently abandoned DOT garage on South Main Street, vacant since the state moved operations to East Hampton.

"The site is adjacent to our own [public works] facility; we would certainly use some of the land or the entire facility if the state plans to sell it."

Traversa also hopes to make Marlborough greener, requesting information on funds for a new senior van and for electric vehicle charging stations, of which the town has none. Traversa requested three, one at town hall, at the senior center and at the library. The town also wants more solar panels on public buildings.

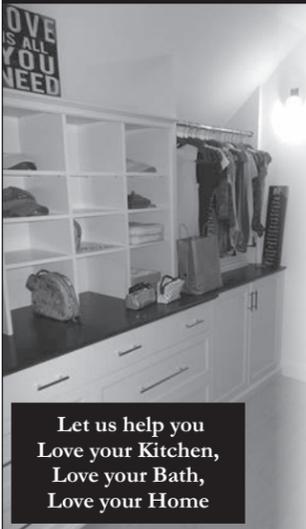
Town hall needs HVAC repair, Traversa wrote, work expected to cost up to \$400,000. Originally built as a school in 1949, Town Hall's HVAC system is outdated and "completely inadequate," leading to "serious concerns" about indoor air quality and circulation.

"There are days when one side of the building is as cold as a meat locker while employees on the other side of the building have to open windows," said Traversa.

Traversa added, "While the dream is to someday build a new town hall/community center, I don't believe we have taxpayer support at this time."

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**Hitting the Beach...** John and Kathi Karp of Marlborough brought the *Rivereast* with them on a recent trip to Riviera Maya, Mexico.

## 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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Rivereast Helps Celebrate 100 Years!...** Marlborough resident Linda Earley celebrated her Aunt Mary's 100th birthday with cousins at Fox Hill Sunday, Dec. 11.



**Up, Up and Away...** Ernie and Ginger Boughton from Colchester recently went on a beautiful, bucket list, birthday hot air balloon ride with CT Voyager Balloons. And of course, they brought along the *Rivereast*!



**Ahoy Mateys...** The *Rivereast* spent some time with pirates Mary Sawyer and Andrzej Lipski (Portland) and Stacy and Jonathan Constantine (Marlborough), at King Richard's Faire in Carver, Mass.

# Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?  
Bring along the *Bulletin*!**

Submit your travel photo holding the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, and you will win a \$25 Gift Card to Campagna Restaurant if your photo is one the four entries selected!

To enter, email your photo and address to: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)

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★ *Letters cont. from page 6*

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

First, the state is nearly 200 troopers below the 1,093 authorized positions in the adopted budget. Second, if a town already had its own municipal police department, it is almost assured the state would reject any such petition to convert to RST. The legislature has long wanted more rather than fewer municipal police departments. Third, as pointed out by Chief Dennis Woessner, our department needs a lieutenant (eliminated over 10 years ago) to support administratively the chief in a proper chain of command. This position could have been funded at a cost of \$25,000 and was proposed in the fiscal 2022-23 budget presented to the Town Council from the Board of Finance, only to have the Republican majority nix it. Be mindful that our chief will be supervising and training the three armed security officers in our schools, placing another responsibility on him and the department.

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

**James “Pete” Brown, Kevin Reich, Dean Markham  
East Hampton**

*Note: Mr. Brown and Mr. Reich are Democratic members of the East Hampton Town Council, but said they are writing this letter to the editor as individuals.*

**Historic Happening Jan. 10**

To the Editor:

A historic moment for Hebron is fast approaching. On Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m., the Planning and Zoning Commission will host an online meeting and vote on the designation of Kinney Road as the second Scenic Road ever proposed in town. I urge all residents of Hebron to join in and show your support for this significant milestone.

The designation of Kinney Road as a Scenic Road will serve to recognize its historic, cultural and visual significance. It is one of the oldest roads in Hebron and is featured in the earliest map of town, created in 1744 by Isaac Pinney. The bucolic views of the 300-year-old farmland, stone walls and mature trees are quintessentially scenic and work in perfect harmony with the ever-popular Raymond Brook Preserve. Protecting Hebron’s “rural historic character” is stated as the guiding principle of our town government and supports the quality of living we have enjoyed for generations.

The residents of Kinney Road have worked diligently to finalize the Scenic Road request. We are thrilled to present P&Z with a thorough application that meets, and actually exceeds, all requirements established by town ordinance. As confirmed by Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux, “My review of the request and supporting materials finds that all requirements have been met.” In addition, 17 out of 18 households on Kinney Road signed the petition and support Scenic Road status. The acceptance of Kinney Road as Hebron’s second Scenic Road will ensure that its beauty will be preserved well into the future.

Login details for the Jan. 10 meeting will be provided when the P&Z agenda is posted on the town website, [hebronct.com/agendas](http://hebronct.com/agendas); click on Planning and Zoning Commission. The login and additional information will also be posted on Kinney Road Matters on Facebook. Thank you for your support.

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

**Treasured Letter**

To the Editor:

Last week, Colchester’s Ed Kozlowski garnered first place for authoring the most sophomoric *Rivereast* letter ever written. I’ll treasure it forever. In the midst of his full-blown taunting meltdown attacking me, he had a moment of mature reflection and wrote “explain to all of us (*Rivereast* readers) the connection between me and Ted Kaczynski.” As I explained earlier, because he has for so long used mocking nick-

names for myself and other writers, I wanted to see how he stomachs his own medicine. So I dubbed him T.Ed ‘Unibomber’ Kozlowski. I used ‘Unibomber’ and not ‘Unabomber’ so as to avoid upsetting Ted Kaczynski who, serving life, has lots of free time to sue me for slander. Both men are known for their anti-leftist beliefs and blame socialists for many of society’s problems. Both frequently attacked educators. T.Ed ‘Unibomber’ Kozlowski in his multitude of *Rivereast* letters has likely already exceeded Ted ‘Unabomber’ Kaczynski’s 35,000 word manifesto. Lastly, there are poetic rhyme and meter similarities between the two names. Perhaps now the Colchester ‘Unibomber’ will edify *Rivereast* readers why he has named other writers “The Hammer” and the “Toilet Paper Mafia” and “The Cackler.” We await his coherent and reasoned explanations.

Two weeks ago, Portland’s Peter Kushkowski, who always dubs himself “Almost Heaven”, commented that “Without Easter there would be no Christmas” and also mentioned “The Christmas story of Jesus’ birth.” Unfortunately, Jesus was not born on Christmas, nor even close to it. The early Christians simply co-opted the Roman’s ‘Saturnalia’ and other winter solstice celebrations so as to smooth the way for recruiting, transitioning and retaining new followers. Who doesn’t like a party and gift-giving? Google “Pastor tells children in the mall ‘There is no such thing as Santa’” to see that Peter is not alone in his false beliefs.

**Edmund Smith – Andover**

**New Year, New Center**

Dear Colchester Residents:

On Friday, Dec. 30, the Honorable Karen A. Goodrow denied the senior center project injunction and ruled in favor of the town in the case of LaChapelle v. Town of Colchester. Furthermore, all allegations against the town were dismissed including violating the charter, subverting the rights of voters, exceeding its authority, the deprivation of civil rights, and violating the 14th Amendment.

At referendum, the voters approved a project whose amount was not to exceed \$9.5M. In her ruling, the judge allowed the town of Colchester to sign a contract with BRD Builders to a sum of \$8.625M. In adding all other encumbered costs to the project, the sum would land at \$9.325M – well below the \$9.5M threshold. The project will now go through value engineering, further reducing the overall cost of the project. The William J. Johnston Middle School project finished \$4M under budget. Perhaps, this project will have similar fortune.

What about the \$575K that Stephan Bendas donated to the senior center? The judge ruled that the donated dollars were unrestricted and could be utilized if the project was at a point where the town were to expend one cent over \$9.5M. Other appropriations were subject to the rules laid out in the charter, including a town meeting and referendum. Seeking these dollars now would be premature.

The Town of Colchester has weathered the storm and the Senior Center Project will move forward. The plaintiffs lost on every count and their influence should now be considered impotent. Nonetheless, their legal fees cost taxpayers over \$10K. As the man in the arena, I have faced adversity from far-left and far-right extremists; yet continue to deliver. My commitment to our seniors and our community will be no different.

**Sincerely,  
Andreas Bisbikos  
Colchester First Selectman**

**Public Works Concerns**

To the Editor:

Hello, fellow residents of Hebron. I have lived in Hebron for close to 40 years. Rarely do I dip my toe in the water when it comes to issues that the town faces. Now it is time to do just that. I have read many letters written to the *Rivereast* regarding the proposed Public Works facility on Kinney Road, and I have some concerns.

It is my understanding that the entire town of Hebron has a GA ground water rating. Not just the Kinney Road area. Meaning that anywhere in town a salt storage shed would be built would potentially suffer the same potential contamination. The sanitary sewer system that is available at the Kinney Road site is crucial to directing the highly salinized water into the sanitary sewer instead of the storm drain system. Currently the only sanitary sewage system in Hebron is south of route 66, and east of route 85, primarily Amston.

Twenty or so years ago, when the John Horton Boulevard project was conceived, the then town planner, Mike O’Leary, had shown a planned vision of things to come. Mixed-use develop-

ment that included shopping plazas, ball fields, commercial buildings. It also showed the road connecting to Kinney Road as an alternate route around Route 66 in the event that there was an event going on the Main Street through town.

As for paying for the project, the a few major bonded projects such as RHAM High School, the Co. 2 Fire Station, and the purchase of Burnt Hill Park are all nearly paid for and this new Public Works project would allow us to see no or minimal tax increases. Regardless of where it goes, it is needed, and will have to be paid for.

**Sincerely,  
Todd Habicht – Hebron**

**Public Works Location**

To the Editor:

With all of the discussion about the location of a new Hebron Public Works Department, I have not heard any of the naysayers propose a different specific location. I suspect that any location that is proposed will result in a “not in my neighborhood” response. I spoke with a relative who has retired from the Inland Wetlands Division of DEEP who was of the opinion that a facility built to the most up-to-date standards for pollution control would cause little chance of contamination. That said, no system is perfect, accidents happen and people make mistakes.

There is one additional step the town should look at, the design of the remediation ponds at the intersection of interstates 91 and 691. Those ponds were created to filter run off from the highways before the water entered local streams. If you go by that area you will see the ponds have become a successful wildlife habitat.

**Louis Palshaw – Hebron**

**Embedded Jobs**

To the Editor:

Embedded in the recent article about a shoving incident, Jack Lakowsky did a marvelous job of taking several jabs at some of those serving on the Town Council – I being one.

He stated that a councilor writing letters “openly questioning school procedures” is not appropriate. Jab #1. When is it considered inappropriate to question in whatever forum is available to do such? Why is questioning something necessarily a bad thing to do? Isn’t that the duty of someone serving on any board to question?

Mr. Lakowsky added this jab into an article that nothing to do with the Town Council or councilors. He was “reporting” about a shoving incident between a player and a coach!

Mr. Lakowsky also hastened to mention the hiring of the ASOs and that “the council agreed after shaving \$20,000 grand [sic] from the position’s proposed salary.” Jab #2. Again he did not add any reason as to why that amount of money was “shaved” off. The truth is the positions were not full but half year positions so only half of the original amount of money requested (\$150,000) was actually needed.

Mr. Lakowsky is neither a journalist or reporter. He is a mouthpiece of the liberal media

who slant stories to suit their tastes and not actually report the truth and record accurately an event or incident. Clearly in this story he collaborated with others who steered him to write against the Republican majority on the Town Council. His writing is very deliberate and often carries the overtone of political bias and distrust for anyone who offered opinions and questions that seemingly stroke his fur the wrong way.

Jack should be writing on the “Opinion” page instead of writing articles that are supposed to be neutral, unbiased, truthful and with depth as to inform the public in an accurate forum.

**Alison Walck – East Hampton**

*Editor’s Note: Lakowsky did not state in the article that a councilor writing letters was “inappropriate.” That quote was attributed to Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith – and it was actually in reference to a comment council chair Mark Philhower had made regarding a potential school budget request, not in regards to a letter questioning school procedures.*

**Noose Incident an Outlier**

To the Editor:

I have been a RHAM substitute teacher for 13 years, working in all subject areas at both the high school and middle school. As such, I’ve had countless opportunities to engage with students, observe their behavior, and sit in the same classroom with full-time teachers watching them interact with kids.

Never in that time have I witnessed any form of racial insensitivity, bias or bigotry, either by the students themselves or the faculty/administration. I have experienced an environment which fosters caring for all, concern for any who carry emotional issues into the classroom and a commitment to providing resources as needed for the individual, regardless of racial or ethnic background. Moreover, I have been impressed by how minority students are accepted and befriended in normal ways, i.e., students of various racial and ethnic backgrounds co-mingle and interact with one another as one would expect in any racially homogenous group.

Additionally, it is apparent to me that both the RHAM faculty and the curriculum reflect a commitment to a transparent, factually supported historical description of racial and ethnic injustices in our society.

This is not to deny the existence of racism in District 8 towns, but again – what I have experienced at RHAM is a progressive, liberal approach to supporting and protecting all of its students, which includes constant messaging emphasizing zero tolerance for all forms of racial and social injustice.

The noose incident at RHAM is an outlier, not in any way indicative of some racist undercurrent hiding in the shadows. Pushing for major changes at RHAM is unnecessary. Those changes have already been made. Thinking the school needs to reassess what it is doing may give some comfort, but it will not change the bias-free, racially tolerant learning environment which already exists.

**Gary Gott – Andover**

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**PVFD Pancake Breakfast**

The Portland Volunteer Fire Department invites everyone to an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Sunday, Jan. 8, from 7-11 a.m., at Engine Company 1, 7 Middlesex Ave. (right behind the Post Office).

The meal will feature sausage, all-you-can-eat-pancakes (chocolate chip, regular, blueberry), and assorted beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

There will also be Ceramic Pancake Coffee Cups for sale with our logo and a cartoon character squirting syrup on a stack of 'cakes, these are for sale for \$20 and each time you return with the "clean" cup PVFD will subtract one dollar from your breakfast.

For more information, or to be placed on an email notification list (sign up list at door), or call Wayne Mergel at 860-759-6921.

**First Congregational Church News**

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

On January 8, the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service will include a blessing of the gifts collected by the church school students for community mission projects. Sharon Kandro will read the scriptures Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-17. The Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon is titled, "We Are Witnesses." Under Kasha Breaux's direction, the choir will sing the anthem, "Jesus, the Light of the World" by George Elderkin.

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.

**Book Sale, Read & Recycle**

The Friends of the Portland Library group has puzzles, games and DVDs, as well as fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc and puzzles and games are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

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

The Friends welcome donations of gently used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No textbooks, business books, computer books, self-

help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition. The Friends cannot accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition.

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

Visit our website at www.friendsofportlandlibrary.org for more information or email questions to friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

**YFS News & Notes**

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

**Drop-In & Draw:** Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 1:30-4:30pm in the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. Come when you want, stay as long as you want.

**Drop-In & Draw Meet-Up:** Friday, Jan. 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at BFCC. There will be a seasonal craft for kids home with their parents and caregivers to come in and work on.

**Prevention & Wellness Council:** Wednesday,

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

**Youth Listening Circle:** YFS is looking for students in middle and high school that are interested in having a discussion on race, culture, diversity, equity and more. Call or email Revicki to sign up.

**LGBTQ+ Support Groups & Meet-Ups:** YFS said it hopes these groups will start in January. Watch for more information.

**Little Hikers:** This group is hibernating for the next couple of months and will start up again in April.

**Watch Elf, Have Maple Spaghetti**

St. Mary Youth Group in Portland invites teens in grades 7-12 to come Saturday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m., to watch *Elf* and try some of his favorite foods.

If you always wanted to try spaghetti with maple syrup, this is the place to be. For those less sugar inclined, there will also be marinara sauce. Since elves try to stick to the four main food groups of candy, candy canes, candy corn

and syrup, there will also be plenty of those to enjoy.

The movie will be shown in the Parish Hall at the Church of St. Mary on 51 Freestone Ave. Teens and their families are also welcome to come for the Teen Mass at 5 p.m.

Registration is not required but welcome. For more information, contact Sandy Franco at 860-395-8498 or SFRanco@comcast.net.

**Trinity Episcopal Church News**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

**Winter Storytimes:** The schedule is: Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Jan. 10-Feb. 28; Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose, Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., Jan. 11-March 1.

**Tinkerlab:** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 12, 19, 26, for grades K-8. Practice your engineering and coding skills. No registration required.

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

with supervision. Space is limited.

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

**Teen Programs: Teen Advisory Group Meeting:** Monday, Jan. 9, 3:30 p.m. Teens are invited to share their thoughts on what they'd like to see the library offer in terms of programs, materials and more, while having some snacks. Teens will earn community service hours for each meeting they attend.

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

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

**Book Discussions: T.A.B. (Talk About Books):** Tuesday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m., *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m. *Razorblade Tears* by S.A. Cosby will be discussed.

**Wednesday Movie:** Jan. 11, 1 p.m. *Jerry & Marge Go Large* will be shown.

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

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

**Brownstone Quorum Annual Meeting**

On Monday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m., the Brownstone Quorum will hold its annual meeting in the Mary Flood Room at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. The meeting to elect officers and present awards will be followed by a presentation by David DeLucia, past president of the Ct. Cactus and Succulents society, on cacti and succulents in Connecticut.

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

**Vocal Chords Seek Tenors, Basses**

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

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

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

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**United Methodist Church News**

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

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

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# Superintendent Proposes 4% Budget Hike

By Jack Lakowsky

This week, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton proposed an almost 4% increase in school district spending for the 2023-24 school year, totaling about \$23.7 million, close to \$1 million more than the current spending year.

Though an increase, Britton proposes multiple staffing cuts, including four paraprofessionals and at least one high school teaching position. Britton also requested to add a few parttime positions, and kept support and central office at current levels.

Salaries invariably make up most of any government's budget, and increases are rarely negotiable. This year's bump in district salaries is about 1.7%, ringing out at about \$14 million total.

The district could see a sharp increase in buildings and equipment costs, up 24%, to \$284,000, highly driven by a need to buy teacher computers, according to Britton's proposal.

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

Britton provided the board with a written narrative about the budget, including priorities.

First, Britton said schools are prioritizing student safety, a discussion renewed after the massacre at the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. Nearby districts like East Hampton and Marlborough have approved armed guards for coming school years. Portland has not, so far, gone in this direction.

The district has upped security in recent years, including check-ins and background checks at entrances, staff training for reporting and collaborated with a Middletown police detective, who audited the school's security and made suggestions.

The pandemic was, undeniably, a disruption. Britton is trying to use it as a learning experience, with his budget saying schools want to

use "data and experiences" from the pandemic "to advance and strengthen curriculum, instruction and assessment."

"Immediate focus will be to restore student achievement to pre-pandemic rates as expeditiously as possible," emphasizing existing learning gaps, he wrote.

Britton wrote the district is also continuing its work in advancing social justice and equity, as well as fostering civil discourse "amongst all Portland Public Schools stakeholders." To this end the district will perform "equity audits," aiming to find and repair "instances and issues of inequity and exclusion to bring out schools and classrooms into ever-greater alignment with our district equity statement."

Since 2020, the district has made a consistent effort to improve equity, spurred by a survey that year. In it, students said they'd experienced racism, systemic and personal, in the district. Portland has a diverse student body, with a significant percentage being of color, according to 2021 information.

By attempting to tackle its internal racism, Portland schools are an outlier locally. East Hampton schools, for example, have had only rote policy discussions about equity statements, without concrete plans of rooting out in-district racism.

The district's also confronting a massive, districtwide facilities overhaul, which over (at high estimates) 10 years will cost more than \$30 million.

Options range widely, Britton has previously said, and could include closing or repurposing a building, or buildings.

Things are still in early stages, and a fleshed-out plan has yet to be designed. Britton and the committee have been holding focus group meetings with a range of district community members, like staff, administrators, parents and residents with or without kids in school.

This week Britton told the board he expects a presentation of the facilities committee's find-

ings in springtime, though he previously expected to have it done at the end of last year.

Britton said, when a plan is finalized, he will quickly inform the community, blitzing emails, social media, town meetings, and "any number of efforts."

After sharing his plan, Britton expects he'll either be sent packing or met with approval.

On some issues the committee wants to address, Britton said there's "universal consensus." On others, not so much.

Britton said people are universally aligned on high quality academic spaces, promotion of a positive climate and culture, maximizing school security, HVAC improvements (a longstanding problem, especially at Brownstone), optimizing energy efficiency, accommodating for enrollment increases, improving student accessibility, particularly anything that helps the district comply with the American with Disabilities Act and a community space for athletics and arts.

"Our master plan will make sure we accomplish those things," said Britton.

These priorities will be kept no matter the plan's course. If all five buildings are kept, then their energy efficiency will be maximized.

The plan is subject to the times, Britton said. "We know Valley View, Brownstone and Gildersleeve were designed by architects way before Columbine, who didn't have the same concerns about security we have today," Britton said.

In fact, Portland experienced a school shoot-

ing years before Columbine, when a disgruntled 8<sup>th</sup> grade student shot and killed a custodian.

"Whatever we do, school security is super important," said Britton.

People start to disagree, Britton said, about the district's future "configuration," whether all current buildings will be kept.

"That's when you start to get some divisions," he said. "You get more nuanced questions."

"We run three elementary schools for 650 kids," he added, "clearly, nobody will get behind the idea that all those get renovated new. There are some ideas that are nonstarters."

Britton asked rhetorically if streamlining the district-making it so kids don't have "go all over town for their first six years of life" and teachers know each other a little better.

As ever and as always, the biggest question is money.

Britton said the committee learned their work is eligible for state reimbursement, up to 52% of the price tag.

"This is the most important thing we have to consider," he said. "We won't enjoy town support if we cost them a lot of money."

Britton said the committee's aware people in town don't have kids in school, living on fixed incomes and contending with inflation.

"We have to create win-win," Britton said; an effective plan that won't blow peoples' tax budgets out of the water.

"I want to bring the town together over an exciting proposal," he continued. "I think we can accomplish some great feats."

## 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.

**Next Week's Programs: Monday:** Light Aerobics 9:30 a.m., Syncosize II Dance Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Blood Pressure Clinic, 10:30-11:30 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 return Jan. 17 from 9:30 a.m.-noon (to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Chair Yoga, 11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m., multipurpose room; Tai Chi Qigong, 1 p.m. **Thursday:** Knit & Stitch,

10 a.m.; New Cardio Drumming, 10:15 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9 a.m.; Family History Fun with Ken Doney, 10:30 a.m.

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

**Free Hearing Screenings:** The second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m., with Virginia Dulos 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.

**Lunch Trip:** Wednesday, Jan. 11, to Baltic Restaurant. Bus departs senior center at 11:15 a.m. Ride fee is \$5. Lunch is pay on your own. To register, call Lynn or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

**Event:** Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. Music night with students from the Connecticut Valley Music.

**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.

## 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.

## St. Mary Church News

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

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

website for more information.

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

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

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

## 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 zionlutheranportland.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.

## Museum Celebrates 2022

All are invited to visit the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History this Sunday, Jan. 8, from 2-4 p.m. The museum will celebrate local events from 2022.

The museum is located at 492 Main St.

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## Christmas Tree Pickup

The Department of Public Works will begin its annual Christmas Tree Pickup Tuesday, Jan. 3, and continue through Friday, Jan. 13. Residents may place their Christmas trees at the curb or edge of road for pickup. Residents may also bring their tree to the Transfer Station on Sand Hill Road at no cost.

## Police News

12/23: Michael Ferrara, 50, of 186 Ames Hollow Rd., was arrested and charged with second-degree assault, police said.

12/31: Justin Williams, 22, of 19 Commerce St., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

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# Bobcats Win Battle of Unbeatens

By Josh Howard

Playing in front of a packed house, Bacon Academy girls' basketball rallied to edge RHAM, 46-43, in their annual grudge match on Dec. 29.

Both teams entered the contest undefeated, yet it was the home Bobcats that remained unblemished thanks to a memorable night from junior Cara Shea.

Trailing by six points heading into the fourth, Shea scored nine of her career-high 17 points to help erased the deficit and improve the Bobcats to 5-0.

Shea, who also had a team-high five steals, said it was the team's work on the defensive end that allowed the Bobcats to claw back into the game.

"We had to get back at it and get those steals to get the offense going," Shea said of the team's approach heading into the final quarter. "Once we got those first steals we felt like our old selves and got that confidence we needed."

In the opening minute of the fourth, Shea made a layup to start a 10-0 run and later knocked down seven free throws down the stretch to single-handedly outscore the visiting Raptors (9-7) over the final eight minutes.

Shea did a little of everything on the night, also grabbing five rebounds and dishing out five assists. The versatile junior has taken over as the team's point guard this winter and head coach Kevin Fennell said that Shea is thriving in the role of floor general.

"Cara is a very opportunistic player; she finds an opportunity and takes advantage," stated Fennell. "She had a couple of big stops on defense that ended up being the difference in the game."

Fennell is in his first year back leading the

team after previously coaching the program from 1999-2007.

It's been a triumphant return for Fennell, who has yet to lose since retaking over a program that is coming off a Class M state championship appearance a season ago under previous head coach John Shea.

Guiding the team with Fennell is assistant coach and longtime friend Brian Fleming, who has college basketball coaching experience.

"Brian is one of my closest friends and we have always discussed hoops for the past 25 years," said Fennell. "We finally have an opportunity to work together."

Also helping Fennell's transition back to the sidelines is that he works at the high school, teaching health and physical education.

"There is already a rapport I have with [the players] and it's been fun to work with them in this setting as well," added Fennell. "They have been very coachable, they work very hard, and they're one unit."

Shea and senior Marissa Nudd are Fennell's captains on the court.

Nudd, a Southern Connecticut State University basketball-commit, recently surpassed the 1,000-point career mark in a win over Ledyard on Dec. 20.

Following an all-state junior year, Nudd has returned as the team's leading scorer and has embraced the role as senior leader.

"Honestly it has been really easy, because we have a team full of athletes and a team full of players that want to win," Nudd said of her role as a senior captain. "We all want to be here, we all want to get better, and when you have a team full of friends it's not hard at all."

Playing against RHAM's defensive standout Sarah West, Nudd struggled to find her range in



Bacon Academy's Cara Shea drives towards the basket as RHAM's Maddie Graves plays defense during the Bobcats 46-43 victory on Dec. 29.

the win, yet scored four straight points during a Bacon Academy 10-point run in the decisive fourth quarter.

After RHAM responded with back-to-back three-pointers to temporarily retake the lead in the fourth, Katelyn Novak (12 points) tied the game on a baseline jumper and Shea ended the game with the final four points from the foul line.

Fennell said the late trips to the foul line made the difference in the fourth.

"It was a matter of kids taking the ball strong to the basket in the fourth and going through the contact and getting to the line," added Fennell.

Nudd added, "We talked about valuing every possession we have."

On Tuesday, Bacon Academy improved to 6-0 with another come-from-behind victory (40-38) over Fitch, ending the contest on a scoring 16-0 run.

Freshman Alannah Baehr scored with 4.3 second left to cap the miraculous comeback. Nudd scored a team-high 13 points and Novak scored nine of her 10 points in the fourth to help the Bobcats dig out of a 14-point hole.

The Bobcats next host Brookfield this Saturday, Jan 7. Tip-off at Bacon Academy is 1:30 p.m.



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### 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](http://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.

### 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](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center).

**Monday, Jan. 9:** 8:30 a.m., Commission on Aging meeting (Town Hall); 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge

**Tuesday, Jan. 10:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Regional LTC Ombudsman meeting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, CHOICES; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting (via Zoom.)

**Wednesday, Jan. 11:** 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; 10:15 a.m., Across the Ages; 1-2:30 p.m., Creative Life Review Journaling; 2:30 p.m., Staff Meeting

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

**Friday, Jan. 13:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group to Harrington Court; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1-4 p.m., AARP Tax Training (closed meeting); 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Upcoming Programs:** Snowflake Social Luncheon: Wednesday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m. Jennifer DiSapio from That's Heavenly Entertainment will perform. After the performance, there will be a lunch of meatloaf with mashed potatoes & gravy, sugar snap peas, cookies and juice. Tickets are \$9 each and available until Jan. 11 or sold out. Register in the office.

**Mental Health Self Care Lunch & Learn:** Friday, Jan. 20, 11:30 a.m. This program, sponsored by National Health Care, will feature self-

care strategies and ways to put your own mental health first. This is a free program and space is limited. A lunch choice of a turkey or tuna sandwich will be offered. Register in the office.

**Chinese New Year Celebration:** Monday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit in Chinese culture. To celebrate, there will be a catered buffet from Po's Rice and Spice including chicken and mixed vegetables, beef and broccoli, vegetable lo mein, pork fried rice and steamed white rice, and egg rolls. The event will also feature traditional Chinese games and a round of Chinese New Year *Jeopardy!* Tickets are \$15 and are on sale through Jan. 12 or until sold out.

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

**Free Gift Card Bingo:** Wednesday, Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m. All prizes in this game will be gift cards from various locations donated by our friends at Complete Care at Harrington Court. Register in the office by Wednesday, Jan. 18, or until the program is full.

## New Year's Eve Crash Injures Four

By Michael Sinkewicz

Four people, including two Colchester residents, were transported to the hospital following a car crash last Saturday night on Route 16, according to police.

The driver of the car, Hunter Fellows, 20, of Colchester, was taken to Hartford Hospital with significant injuries police said.

The front seat passenger, 20-year-old Nicholas Anderson of Colchester, was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Two backseat passengers, Chance Fish and Mason Fish, both of Norwich, were ejected from the vehicle and taken to the hospital with serious injuries, police said.

According to authorities, the 1991 Pontiac

Sunbird was traveling westbound on Route 16 Saturday night at around 10 p.m. when the car veered off the left side of roadway at the intersection with Cemetery Road. The car then collided with a tree.

On Sunday morning, Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos posted a statement on Facebook following the incident.

"Our community is united in prayer for those involved in last night's accident. Our hearts belong to them and their loved ones this new year," he wrote.

The collision remains under investigation. Any witnesses to the collision are should contact State Police at Troop K in Colchester, 860-465-5400.

### Land Trust Events

Colchester Land Trust has announced the following events – one for CLT members and one for non-members.

**Winter Backpacking Introduction:** Sunday, Jan. 8, noon, at Devils Hopyard State Park. For members only. Meet near the covered bridge. Get an introduction to cold weather backpacking. The CLT will discuss filtering water, pitching a tent, and cooking. If you have a backpack or any gear, bring it along. Space is limited to 15 people; RSVP to Russ at [russcmoore314@gmail.com](mailto:russcmoore314@gmail.com). The length is about three miles, and the CLT said the terrain is difficult. Hiking poles and boot spikes are recommended if icy. Dress appropriately for the

weather and bring backpacking gear such as backpack, stove, food, snacks and water, but no equipment is necessary.

**Pancake Breakfast and Timber Framing Overview:** Sunday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m., at 23 Lee Court. Members and non-members welcome; cost is \$5 for non-members. Park in cul-de-sac and walk down driveway. Meet inside 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. Space is limited to 30 people; RSVP to Natalie at [natsamoore@gmail.com](mailto:natsamoore@gmail.com) by Feb. 5. The barn is unheated, so folks should dress for the weather. Warm drinks will be served.

### Upcoming Senior Center Trips

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

**Canadian/New England Cruise:** May 12-20. Sail the St. Lawrence River and Northern Atlantic while visiting ports in Canada and New England. Arrive in Montreal by deluxe motor coach, then set sail with stops in Quebec City, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Bar Harbor, and Boston. Includes overnight accommodation in Montreal, a three-hour tour of Montreal, 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, 2023. You can come into the senior center to register in person or register online at [gateway.gocollette.com/link/1102385](http://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1102385).

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### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

Abundant Life Church, a Christ-follower church that believes salvation through Jesus Christ, is located at 85 Skinner Rd. For more information, call 860-537-3082 or visit AbundantL.com.  
**Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service

is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.  
**Power of Prayer:** If in need of prayer, call the church to be placed on the prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.

### Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The services are also available on Zoom; visit [westchesterconchurch.org](http://westchesterconchurch.org) for login information.  
 Sunday School meets during the worship service.  
**Meetings:** The church hosts several groups meeting weekly: AI-Anon, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; AA, Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA

Troop 109, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; and Cub Scout Pack 109, one Thursday per month at 6 p.m.  
**Outreach:** The church has a white wooden Blessings Box in the lower parking lot with non-perishable food items and other useful items. Anyone in need or who wishes to donate may stop by and take or leave a few items.  
 For more information, email [westcongchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westcongchurch@gmail.com) or call 860-267-6711.



### Dean's List

Olivia Berard, a junior nursing major from Colchester, made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C.

### Spring Baseball, Softball Registration

Registration for Colchester spring baseball and softball teams is at [www.cbsl.org](http://www.cbsl.org). Anyone interested in coaching should sign up for that volunteer role when registering a player. People can also volunteer for any of the different volunteer roles via the "volunteer opportunities" tab on the website as well.

### Ahavath Achim News

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule:  
 Tuesday, Aggadatah class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom and in person; Wednesday classes, 2:30-4 p.m. – Hebrew Conversation, Jewish Literacy and Jewish Business Ethics on Zoom. Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., hybrid in-person and on Zoom; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.  
 There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page. Also on the page: "Ask the Rabbi" and the Positive Affirmation of the Day.  
 For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are: Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream.  
 For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit [christianlifechapel.org](http://christianlifechapel.org).

### Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.  
 For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

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**Building Birdhouses...** Cub Scout Pack 109 recently held its December pack meeting at the Westchester Congregational Church meeting hall. Pictured are scouts Delaney Berta and Drew Martin building birdhouses, assisted by Cubmaster Aaron Berta. Before working on the birdhouses, the following Scouts were awarded badges for their achievements: Liam Raulerson earned the Bobcat Rank badge, and Liam, Delaney, and Drew all earned the Grin and Bear It and Critter Care awards. Cub Scout Pack 109 is sponsored by Westchester Congregational Church and is open to boys and girls ages 5 to 10 and their parents. For more information email westcongchurch@gmail.com.

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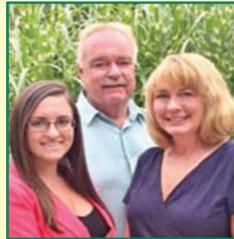
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### Christ Episcopal Church News

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](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com) for directions. This Sunday, the Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated by the Rev. Dexter Cheney. A Holy Baptism will be conducted during the service.

**Coffee Hour:** A special coffee hour cake will be served this week in honor of Epiphany.

**Sunday School:** The children will dress in royal and exotic costumes to portray the Wise

Seekers who come to adore the baby Jesus.

**Donations and Contributions:** Place all returnable bottles in the barrels next to the shed. Items for donation to the East Hampton Food Bank are collected in the black containers next to the rear door of the church.

**Save the Date:** The annual meeting will occur after the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 29. Be sure to turn in all reports by Jan. 9.

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.

### 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](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://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 Programs:** 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.

**Special Stories & Songs and Sweets!:** Wednesday Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years. Share cupcake-themed stories then decorate our own to eat.

**Cupcake Decorating:** Wednesday, Jan. 11, 4-5 p.m., for grades K-5. Drop in after school to decorate (and eat!) a cupcake while you grab some books.

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

**DIY Days – Lego Refrigerator Magnets:** Saturday, Jan. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a

different toy, game, or treat together. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

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

**Pre-Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, Jan. 17, 4:30 p.m. All in grades 6-8 are invited to come share their ideas for the teen space at the library. Register online or drop in.

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

**Adult Programs: Chatham Historical Society Cabin Fever Series:** Saturday, Jan. 7, 1 p.m. On select Saturdays through winter, enjoy the return of the Cabin Fever series, presented by Chatham Historical Society.

**Libraryyoga with Amie!:** Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m. Join Amie Meacham at the library for all-levels yoga. Registration is required and space is limited.

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

**Belltown Book Blast:** Thursday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. Meet in person for coffee or tea and bookish banter at 10 a.m. or hop on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. from the comfort of your home. No registration needed in person; just drop in. For Zoom, register online to get the link.

## Over Holiday, EHPD's Lights Shone Bright

By Jack Lakowsky

The past two weeks have been busy ones for the East Hampton Police Department, with multiple traffic arrests for a variety of offenses.

On Dec. 21, police, after investigating a car-vs.-guardrail incident on Route 16 near Comstock Bridge Road, charged Wesley Pearl, 43, of Colchester, for driving under the influence and failure to drive right.

The following day police were dispatched to a three-car collision at the intersection of Route 16 and Smith Street.

A car rear-ended another, and the second

car was pushed into a third. Two of the three drivers were sent to the hospital, and after investigation, police ticketed 38-year-old Julio Rincon-Sanchez, of Waterbury, for following too close.

On the 23rd, EHPD investigated a two-car collision near East High Street. A vehicle crossed lanes and struck and oncoming car head-on. Tedford Kreder, 25, of Colchester, Police report no life-threatening injuries.

On New Year's Day police arrested East Haddam's Lauren Blankenship for driving under the influence.

### 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:** Held every Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. The study looks at various ways to approach Bible reading to enhance the ability to hear what God says.

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. The church website is at [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

### Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

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

Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30

p.m. All voices are welcome.

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

For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon.

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### Some Other Helpful Tips:

- Inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips.
- It's best to check the tires when they're cold, meaning that they have not been driven on for at least three hours.
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# After Shoving Student, Athletic Director Suspended

By Jack Lakowsky

East Hampton High School Athletic Director Shaun Russell, who last month was recorded shoving a female basketball player across the court during gameplay, has been suspended from the district.

The *Rivereast* was first to break the report of the shove, after an anonymous source reached out. Since the story broke, state outlets have picked up the news.

At first, and the *Rivereast* was unable to confirm this, Russell was suspended for three days. He's also head coach of the girls' basketball team, and has a highly successful record, winning shoreline conference titles and leading undefeated seasons.

The anonymous parent was concerned about other potential incidents not caught on video and unreported.

In the past, Russell has been highly praised for his work. The girls' basketball team was 5-0 until Tuesday, when they lost to Cromwell.

The allegedly brief original suspension appears to have changed, according to new

information from Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith. The district now says it's investigating the incident.

"Regardless of the excitement of an athletic contest we expect our coaches to temper their behavior to represent the high ideals of East Hampton Public Schools" Smith said in a statement.

The suspension is for basketball coaching only. Russell is still athletic director.

Results of the investigation will be brought to the East Hampton Board of Education. Meanwhile, Russell's consequences, if any beyond public disgrace, are unclear.

Last year he was named Shoreline Conference Coach of the Year.

Last year, Russell achieved 400 wins as coach. He has led the school's athletics for nearly 20 years, coaching the team for 25 seasons. The win over Valley got the Bellringers to a 3-0 season.

In the 2020-21 school year, Russell coached the team to an undefeated season that ended in a Shoreline Conference title.

## Lions' Humanitarian of the Year.

For their 14th year, the East Hampton Lions recently sponsored a Humanitarian of the Year contest, in conjunction with Lions District 23-C. The Lions placed an article in the *Rivereast*, asking the public to nominate individuals they felt deserved to be honored as a humanitarian. This year, Robert "Bob" Atherton was chosen.

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

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

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

## Epoch Arts Winter Classes

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of artistic classes for preschool through 12th grade.

Sign up for classes like improv theater, ceramics, polymer clay and art, or sign up to perform in an original two-act play. Classes begin Jan. 9, run for eight weeks, and are held at 27 Skinner St.

For more information, visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org).

## East Hampton Energy Fair

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force is hosting "An Energy Fair" Monday, Jan. 23 (snow date Feb. 6), from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 Maple St.

All are invited to come learn about ways to save energy and money, including programs to help pay for such improvements as energy audits, insulation, heat pumps, solar power, smart thermostats, insulating windows and more.

Snacks and drinks will be available. No registration is required.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call 860-267-7300 or visit [easthamptonct.myrec.com](http://easthamptonct.myrec.com).

**American Red Cross Babysitting Course:** Friday, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Town Hall community room. Cost is \$100.

**Wolf Pack Game:** Friday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. Lower-level seats are \$20 per ticket.

## Chatham Historical Society Cabin Fever Series

As part of its Cabin Fever Series, the Chatham Historical Society will feature a prerecorded interview with Doris Lawson, a longtime resident of East Hampton, on Saturday, Jan. 7, at 1 p.m., at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St.

Lawson will reminisce about her childhood, schooling, first job, farm life, her recollections of the war, and businesses and stores in the village center. This interview was recorded by professional photographer Ralph Phil of RJ Phil Studios.

Call the library to register, at 860-267-6621.

## EHACC Accepting Grant Applications

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

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



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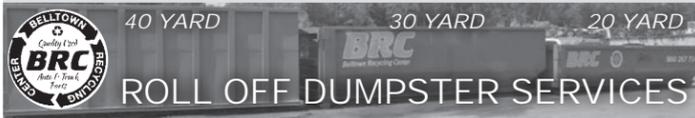
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**Senior Center News & Notes**

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is open. Registration required for all programs unless noted; register at myactivecenter.com or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Masks are encouraged, but not required. Visit the senior center online at [www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center](http://www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center).

**Lunches:** Served at the center Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. Call the center to reserve a meal or sign up online. Reservations for the next day's meal are due by 11 a.m. the day before. Meals are free, though a \$3 donation is requested.

**Weekly Activities: Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m. **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m. **Setback:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 p.m. **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom. **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. **Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon; call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play. **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

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

**Mighty Magnificent Men's Group:** Monday, Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m. All men are invited to come to this monthly social hour of fun facts, activities and snacks.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m.

**Senior Bowling League**

All seniors (age 55 and up) are invited to join Winter League Mixed Bowling at Kickback N' Bowl,

9 Bear Swamp Rd. The 10-week program begins Wednesday, Jan. 11, and will be held from 2-4 p.m. each week.

Cost is \$12 per week (plus a \$4 shoe rental if needed). For more information, contact Jack Anderson at 860-882-3752 or jackande52@aol.com.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church News**

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

There is also a livestream link at the church's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH).

*Heirloom Garden* by Viola Shipman Wade will be discussed.

**Movie Day:** Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1-3 p.m. *My Octopus Teacher* will be shown. Light refreshments served.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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](http://www.easthamptonct.gov).

**KoC Spaghetti Supper**

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

Take-out and dine-in meals will be offered.

Meal prices are \$13 for adults and \$12 for seniors. Children 5 and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert, coffee,

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

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

Contact Jim Radavich at 860-319-9288 or email [jradavich@yahoo.com](mailto:jradavich@yahoo.com) for more information.

**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](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://middlehaddamlibrary.com) or call 860-267-9093. The library has a new P.O. box number: 123.

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

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

**Mahjong:** Mondays, Jan. 9, 23 and 30, 11:30 a.m. All players welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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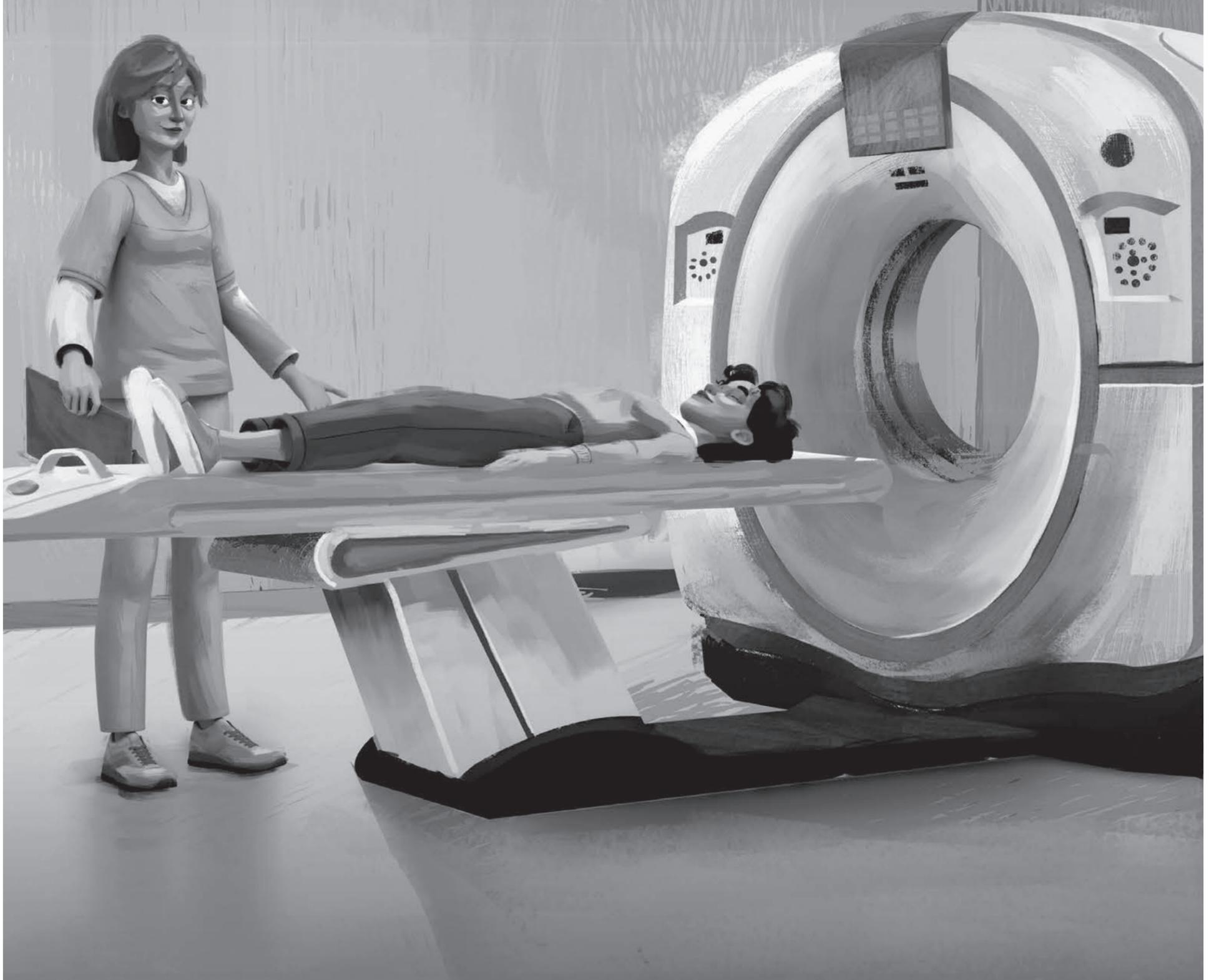
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## Obituaries

### East Hampton

#### Richard Bolles Sr.

Richard Hoyt Bolles Sr. of East Hampton, widower of Clara E. (Keith) and Margaret (Thienes), passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family Thursday, Dec. 29. Having reached 102 years old, he lived a full and celebratory life.

Born June 15, 1920 in Hartford, he was the son of the late John F. and Myrtle (Hoyt) Bolles. In his early 20s, having already started a family, Richard proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was a member of the VFW Post 5095 of East Hampton and a 75-year member of the Anchor Masonic Lodge of East Hampton. Richard was also a longtime member of the East Hampton Congregational Church.

He was an accomplished carpenter and builder, having helped restore the iconic Goodspeed Opera House in the early 1960s and later retired as carpenter foreman for Wesleyan University. In addition, he loved turning the soil each spring to plant his vegetable garden, but his favorite pastime was traveling to Cape Cod where he waded the beaches to rake another basket of clams.

Forever fortunate for his large and loving family, he is survived by six children: Richard H. Bolles Jr. (Karen) of Yarmouth Port, Mass., Susan Bolles Petell (Al) of East Hampton, Kathleen A. Bolles (Wayne) of Glastonbury, Joanne B. Murphy (Tim) of Eastham, Mass., Keith F. Bolles (Jane) of Essex, James T. Bolles (Suzy) of Old Lyme; and his sister, Josie M. Eaton of Pawcatuck. He is also survived by 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his three brothers, John F. Bolles Jr., Thomas Bolles and Robert Bolles.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday Jan. 10, from 4–7 p.m. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., in the East Hampton Congregational Church. Burial will be private in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Anchor Lodge 112 AF&AM, VFW Post 5095 or East Hampton Congregational Church.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Colchester

#### Clarence Henry Marvin

Clarence Henry Marvin, fondly known as Bing, passed away early Monday morning, Jan. 2, at his home with his loving family by his side, as they have been through all the days of his life. He was 93 years old. A lifelong resident of Colchester, he was born there on May 8, 1929, a son of Dwight Henry and Cecilia (Rathbun) Marvin.

Bing was a graduate of Bacon Academy with the class of 1949 and soon after, went to work for a short time with Hamilton Standard before starting his own heavy equipment construction business known as CH Marvin Construction. Many homes and infrastructure in Colchester and the surrounding towns were developed with Bing's workmanship. He was a member of the Linwood Cemetery Association, where he opened and closed the graves for family,



friends, and neighbors for many decades.

In his free time, Bing loved gaming of all kinds, paraplanning in his own backyard, or spending time at the Waterford Speed Bowl with the Marvin Racing crew. Bing was well-known throughout the town of Colchester. He was always ready to lend a helping hand, share stories about the locals, past and present and most fondly, he will be remembered for his easy-going manner and salt-of-the-earth nature.

His passing will be sadly felt by all who knew him, especially his children and their spouses, Dennis (Marge) Marvin, Mike (Maureen) Marvin, Cindy (Tom) Prescott, Tim (Heidi) Marvin, all of Colchester; siblings, Frances Brown and Flora Gustafson, both of Columbia, Reynold Marvin of Colchester; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson; a longtime friend, Claire Nadeau; and a host of extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by five siblings, Edith Congdon, Loren Marvin, Dwight "Bumble" Marvin, Cecilia Rogers, Carolyn Marvin; and a grandson, Dennis Marvin Jr.

Calling hours will be held Sunday, Jan. 8, from 1–4 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, and again at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 9, followed by a funeral home service at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Linwood Cemetery.

To share a memory or express a condolence to the family, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Department, 54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

### Andover

#### Mary Ellen Bushey

Mary Ellen (Horn) Bushey, 72, of Andover, born May 17, 1950, wife of the late John Pyle Bushey, ascended into Heaven on Saturday, Dec. 24, to reunite with the love of her life, surrounded by loving family, at 8:38 p.m. She was the daughter of the late Michael Horn and Jennie (Nycek) Horn.

Mary Ellen was a devoted and loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved and enjoyed life in so many ways – playing cards, games, crocheting, cooking breakfast for her grandkids, listening to music, shopping, bingo... and most of all spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In her spare time, she would love to bake and decorate cakes. She had a contagious smile and would give anything to help anyone she would meet. She was such a genuine, kindhearted soul that was a Mama Bear to everyone.

Mary Ellen was not the typical grandma. Time with her was not quiet but rather packed with jokes, singing, dancing, stories of the past and crying about how much everyone loved and missed Poppy. It's safe to say we all aspire to attain a love like theirs. Inseparable. Sweethearts from the start. Even in her last days, when she was tired and weak, the talk of their love would suddenly light her up and literally make her sing. They had endless love songs that they could have sworn were written just for them.

She loved being silly with Snapchat and she loved polka dancing, being loud in public, and didn't mind swearing to add emphasis to her opinion. She was always on her phone Facetimeing, coloring or on Facebook staying connected to us all. She loved being involved and



contacting us multiple times a day, not just the quick check-in, but the daily decisions, the updates on our latest meal, talk of all the yarn she just bought or the new toy or clothes that she couldn't help but buy for the great-grandchildren.

We confided in her like a friend – seeking advice, helping us lighten up. She was always able to relate, help you feel heard, simplify, and make you laugh. Endless projects – her home stuffed to the brim with material. Always creating and always giving. Poppy and Grandma's house, their home in Andover, served as the centerpiece to so many childhood memories. Running around the house, hanging on the porch, talking around the kitchen table, cook-outs in the back and the pantry and cupboards full of snacks. Radio on, cold air blasting, laughter coming from both kids and the adults. The door was literally always open. Family love at the core of all that they did. We are forever thankful to see these core values displayed with such honor and loyalty. She played such a huge role in everyone's life and will be truly missed.

Mary Ellen is survived by her children, Karen and Jim Lussier of Mansfield, Kim and Rick Boisvert of Lebanon, and Deborah and Gary Doucette of North Windham; grandchildren, Emma and Abbey Lussier, Ashley and Brittney Lovett, and Cody and Kyle Doucette; great-grandchildren, Lincoln John, Novah Jade, Zoey Jane, & Aria Sky

She preceded her brother Michael Horn in death and is survived and loved by many: siblings, sister Patricia and Russ Billings, brother Gene and Robin Horn; many cousins, nieces and nephews

Relatives and friends called Monday, Jan. 2, at Bacon Funeral Home, 71 Prospect St., Wilimantic, followed by a Celebration of Life that night at Blondie's Diner, 1681 Main St., Wilimantic.

To send an online expression of sympathy, please visit [www.baconfh.com](http://www.baconfh.com).

### Portland

#### Vivian Ann Dower

Vivian Ann Snyder Dower, 93, of Pinehurst, N.C., passed Wednesday, Dec. 28, at Pinehurst Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Pinehurst. Vivian was born March 9, 1929, in Middletown, to Thomas Wilfred Snyder and Margaret Olive Carling Snyder. She lived most of her life in Portland.

After leaving Portland High School she worked for Bell Manufacturing and Standard Knapp in Portland. She then married Walter Dower, Jr. and raised four children, remaining a 'stay-at-home mom' as the children grew. She planned the family summer vacations, which were spent at various lakes in New England, and helped her husband Walt in building a summer cabin in Maine.

She was active in the First Congregational Church of Portland, as Sunday School teacher and in the Women's Fellowship. Vivian was a charter member of the Portland Historical Society and very active in the organization, working with Patricia (Pat) Csere in the early days of the organization collecting and sorting historical data and materials, and later helping to organize historical materials and displays at the Ruth Callander House. Vivian was a den mother for Pack 15 of the Cub Scouts. She was an avid doll collector and donated a portion of her collection to the North Carolina Museum of Dolls.

Vivian is survived by her beloved husband of 74 years, Walter A. Dower Jr., and by their three daughters and their spouses: Linda and Mark Masley of St. Augustine, Fla., Jeanie and Richard Riordan of Pinehurst, N.C., and Debra and Dennis Genovesio of Portland. Vivian leaves behind her sister, Roberta Scribner of Harrison, Maine, and her brother, Thomas Snyder of Tilton, N.H.

She was preceded in death by her son, Richard Walter Dower; her grandson, Gabriel Dower; her sister, Louise Ferguson of Killingworth; and her brothers, Randall Snyder of Portland and Ronald Snyder of Bethel, Maine.

Vivian leaves behind nine grandchildren: Jennifer Hintz, Katherine LeBoeuf, Matthew Dower, Amy Grady, Christopher and Brian Genovesio, Kelly Cahill, Melissa Davis and Shana Proulx. She also had 14 great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to all of Vivian's caregivers, especially the Liberty Hospice nurses.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Service arrangements have been entrusted to Boles Funeral Home.



### Glastonbury

#### Karen Anne Miller

Karen Anne Kaiser Miller, 67, went home to be with the Lord Saturday, Dec. 31, after a valiant fight with pancreatic cancer. She believed deeply in her faith and loved Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Karen was born Dec. 23, 1955, in Philadelphia, Pa. The family moved to Manchester in 1959, when her father, the Rev. Paul Kaiser, became pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church. In 1968, the family moved to Glastonbury. Karen was a member of the Glastonbury Sing-Out group, and graduated from Glastonbury High School in 1973. She then graduated from Paier College of Art and pursued a career in graphic arts.

She was the first female manager at Treasure Chest Advertising, at the age of 26. After leaving Treasure Chest, she began a 25-year career at *The Glastonbury Citizen* as a paste-up artist, also doing the weekly cartoon under the name "Minky." After leaving *The Citizen*, she began a second career of 20 years with Combined Insurance of America, where she was still employed at the time of her passing. In addition to her main career, she was a professional Middle Eastern dancer known as "Karina Amara," who performed throughout the United States and Europe.

Karen was predeceased by her father; step-father, James Casserly; nephews, Mark Albert and Sloan Critchfield; uncle, Clarence Hyland; cousin, Kristen Engengro; and her beloved cat, Zacchaeus.

She is survived by her mother, Jane Casserly of Glastonbury; her soulmate of 30 years, Taso Dionisopoulos of Amston; her siblings, Deborah Albert-Morse of Tennessee; Frederick Kaiser of Meriden; Lisa Matteson (Seth) of Florida; David Kaiser (Jessica) of Massachusetts; James Casserly (Kathy) of D.C.; Patricia Critchfield (David) of Maine; and Michael Casserly of New Jersey.

Karen also leaves her aunts, uncles, several cousins, nieces and nephews, and special family friend, Russell Fredrikson. She will be lovingly remembered by her many dear and wonderful friends who were so loving, caring, and supportive throughout her life and illness.

The family would like to thank all of the devoted healthcare workers who cared for Karen during her 15-month illness.

The memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, at noon, at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT 06040.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mount Zion Christian Fellowship, P.O. Box 9215, Bolton, CT 06043; Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT 06040; or a charity of the donor's choosing.

### Marlborough

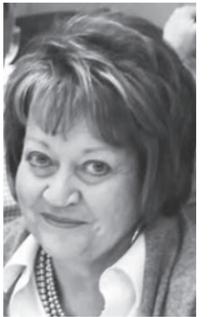
#### Denise F. Kaczorowski

Denise F. Kaczorowski, 69, of Marlborough, beloved wife of Michael Kaczorowski for 45 years, passed away Thursday, Dec. 29, surrounded by her loving family, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 14, 1953, in Meriden, she was the daughter of the late Primo and Genevieve (Staniszevski) Fontanella.

She was a 1971 graduate of Maloney High School. She attended Eastern Connecticut State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in 1975. She went on to get her master's in elementary education from Central Connecticut State University.

In 1975, she began her career as a teacher in the East Hampton school district. Denise was fondly referred to as "Mrs. K." She taught kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 4th grade. The highlight of her career was spent at Memorial School in Room 7 as a kindergarten teacher. She enjoyed a special relationship with all her students and fellow teachers. These relationships continued even after she retired from teaching after 39 years. Denise was always so proud to share in her students' accomplishments. She was often heard saying, "I had them in kindergarten."

Denise loved to host and entertain her family. She was a wonderful cook who was always ready to share a home-cooked meal. When asked to share a recipe she somehow would always "forget" to mention an ingredient. De-



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## Obituaries cont.

nise's favorite holiday to host was Christmas Eve. Mike and Denise's house on Christmas Eve became a family tradition.

Denise was a passionate UConn men's and Women's basketball fan; she enjoyed rooting for both teams. The New York Yankees were also a favorite of hers as well.

Denise was blessed with and so proud of her two daughters, Amy and Lauren – Amy and her husband Kevin Romanchuck of Marlborough and Lauren and her husband Byron Bennett of Castle Rock, Colo.

Denise's greatest joy came from her four grandchildren. She enjoyed attending their events, hearing about their days and always cheering them on! Genevieve (12) and Cullen (7) Romanchuck and Everett (3) and Madelyn (1) Bennett. Denise loved to spoil all four with homemade treats, new outfits or books.

Denise is also survived by her sister Joan Fidler, sisters-in-law Linda Malloy and Carol Kaczorowski. She leaves her nieces and nephews, Frank Malloy, Margo Denning, Jack and Jeffrey Fidler, and their families. She was predeceased by her brothers-in-law, John Fidler and Michael Malloy.

Denise's family invites you to a celebration of her life Saturday, Jan. 7, at 10 a.m. at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Friends may call at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Friday, Jan. 6, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in Denise's memory to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

### Amston

#### Carol A. White

Carol A. (Toscano) White, 77, of Amston, passed away peacefully at home with her husband by her side on New Year's Eve of 2022. Born Nov. 18, 1945, in Hartford, Carol was a graduate of Bulkeley High School.

She worked and then retired as a secretary in the Department of Public Health for the State of Connecticut. She married her husband, Richard White, 28 years ago. For 20 years, Carol has volunteered and served as a board member of the Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) which provides food and other necessities for those in need.

In her spare time, she loved to spend time with her husband, daughters and grandchildren; to be out on the water – she adored fishing and spending time outdoors; along with UConn basketball and the Boston Red Sox.

She is survived by her husband, Rick White; daughters, Tracey O'Brien, Lisa (Jesse) Roy; grandchildren, Alisa and Ashley; and numerous other extended family and friends.

She is predeceased by her siblings, Carmella Fulton; Lucille, John and James Toscano.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org), or to Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS), [www.hihsct.org](http://www.hihsct.org).

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To share a memory or express a condolence to the family, please visit: [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

### East Hampton

#### Mildred Kastner

Mildred Rose Marie (McQuade) Kastner, 73, of North Windham, formerly of East Hampton, beloved wife of Frank Kastner, passed away Saturday, Dec. 31, at her home. Born Jan. 26, 1949, in Perth, New Brunswick, Canada, she was the daughter of the late Clarence and Zelda McQuade. Mildred was the owner and operator of D&S Cleaning Service before her retirement.

Besides her husband Frank, she is survived by her daughter, Kathy Benjamin and husband Raymond Benjamin, son, Michael Perry and wife Terry, son, Kevin Stackhouse and wife Patricia Stackhouse, son, Kenneth Czajka and girlfriend Miranda Lavallee, stepson, Scott Kastner and wife Marlene Kastner, stepdaughter, Stacey Kastner and boyfriend Alan Stockwell; grandchildren, Joshua Gondek, Lisa Gondek and fiancé Paul Michael Meikle, Jacob Courchesne, Ethan Stackhouse, Kaelan Czajka, Kyle Czajka, Michael Kastner, Daniel Kastner, Kaitlyn Johnson and husband Brett Johnson, Amanda O'Connor, Timothy O'Connor, Jonathan Perron; great-grandchildren, Peyton Gondek, Jayden Meikle and Grayson Meikle.

She was predeceased by grandson Jeffrey Gondek.

Millie raised four kids, mostly on her own. She was not only a mother figure to all of them, but also had to be a father figure. A loving ear to listen to them, a stern voice to discipline them. A friend when they needed her. The backbone and matriarch of the family. She kept moving forward and never let her past stand in her way. Her unrelenting work ethic provided everything her family needed and gave her the things in life that she could only dream of while young and working on a potato farm in New Brunswick.

Her hobbies and passions gave her great happiness and she enjoyed sharing them with her closest friends. She enjoyed country music. Those sounds filled her life and decorated her home. Concerts were times to enjoy with

her friends and all the people who were so important in her life. She met Frank, the love of her life, at one of those concerts and went on to spend the next 32 years with him. Frank and Millie traveled to Europe and went on cruises. They took road trips to Nashville and back to Maine and Canada to visit family. Together they made a home and shared it with all they could.

Millie loved to cook. She always had the newest gadgets in her kitchen and used them to feed everyone. Her spaghetti sauce and Polish food will be missed. Millie loved to play cards. Her game was Rummy, and she was a master of it. She would never let you win until you earned it. She gardened and filled her yard with colorful flowers. She picked apples and blueberries and made fresh pies to give away to family and friends.

She lived a full life, and at the end of the day, it all came back to family. She loved her kids, and she loved the children that her kids had just as much. She was a proud grandma and great-grandma to all the children in her life. She never missed a family gathering and always came with more food than could ever be eaten. She enjoyed being surrounded with animals that she rescued and brought into her home.

Her life was full of love, and she shared it with anyone and everyone she could. She'll be missed by anyone whose life she touched and there'll always be a hole that will be impossible to fill without her.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Sunday, Jan. 8, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to A Second Chance for Ziva at P.O. Box 291, Chatham NJ 07928 or [www.asecondchanceforziva.org](http://www.asecondchanceforziva.org).

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Colchester

#### Declan Joseph Szurek

Declan Joseph Szurek, son of Gregory and Katherine (Viniconis) Szurek, passed away suddenly on the early morning of Wednesday, Dec. 7. Declan was born Nov. 26, 2021, in Hartford, at St. Francis Hospital.

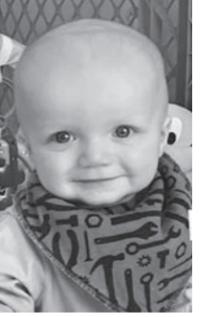
Declan was full of happiness and laughter. Just learning to walk, he was always on his feet laughing and playing with his brother and sister. In the time that Declan had, he was able to experience so much. He was always so happy to greet his family members at the door and always had to wave goodbye. Declan will forever leave a lasting impression and smile on anyone that met him. He will always be smiling upon us all.

He will be eternally loved and remembered by his parents, Greg and Katie; siblings, Patrick and Kaleigh Szurek; paternal grandparents, Stanley "Bud" and Cynthia Szurek of Hebron; maternal grandparents, Stanley and Suzanne Viniconis of East Hartford; Uncle Daniel and Aunt Aimee Viniconis of Hebron; and numerous other extended family and friends.

He is predeceased by his aunt, Reagan Szurek.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Jan. 7, from 2-4 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415, followed by a chapel service at the funeral home. Burial will take place at a later date in the spring.

To share a memory or express a condolence to the family, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



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# LEGALS

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON IWWA ACTIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on December 21, 2022 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:  
Application IW-22-028: Jarrod and Leah Post, 128 Lake Drive, Construction of New Single-Family Home in Upland Review Area. Map 08A/ Block 70A/ Lot 9 – Approved  
Application IW-22-029: Anthony Flannery, 1 Marshall Road, Construction of New Single-Family Home in Upland Review Area. Map 08A/ Block 70A/ Lot 15 - Approved  
Chairman Joshua Wilson

1TB 1/6

## 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.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.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

## 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](http://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 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoTo-Meeting Platform, on the following:  
1. **Petition 2022-11 and 2022-12** – Petition of Roger G. Barrett, Jr. to amend the Special Permit and Site Plan for a legal, non-conforming use at 326 Gilead St. Application filed under Section 6.B.3 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 19th day of December 2022.  
Natalie Wood, Chair  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Tue, Jan 10, 2023 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EST)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
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**Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on December 30, 2022 and January 6, 2023.**

2TB 12/20, 1/6

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## 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](http://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



## Ladder safety should not be learned on the fly.

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

Check our website for more ladder safety tips.

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Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for a Paraeducator for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. 5 days per week, Monday-Friday, 6.5 hrs/day. Please send a letter of interest, application, resume and references to Holly Hageman, Superintendent, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447 or email to [cmonte@marlborough.k12.ct.us](mailto:cmonte@marlborough.k12.ct.us). For application see website, [www.marlborough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marlborough.k12.ct.us). (District, Employment Opportunities, Non-Certified Application) or call 860.295.6236. EOE

1TB 1/6

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# TREE & LANDSCAPING

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