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# News Bulletin

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

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October 13, 2023



Webelos Woods... Cub Scout Pack 109 Webelos Den recently spent a weekend at "Webelos Woods" held at Camp Workcoeman in New Hartford. The scouts earned several badges for outdoor activities. Pack 109 is sponsored by the Westchester Church in Colchester. For more information about the pack, email westcong-church@gmail.com. Pictured at Webelos Woods are, from left, Liam Raulerson, Drew Martin, Den Leader Becky Berta and Delaney Berta.

# **Bill Black Remembered For Service, Devotion**

### By Michael Sinkewicz

Former Marlborough First Selectman Bill Black, who passed away last week at the age of 81, was fondly remembered for his dedicated community service and devotion to his town.

Black, a Democrat, amassed a lengthy career in local government that spanned decades, beginning in 1979 with a seat on the Board of Finance. He would later earn a spot on the Board of Selectmen in 1982, returning for a stint in 2003, according to the town clerk's office.

In 2006, Black won a special election to finish out a term as first selectman. The following year, he then won a full term, which concluded in 2011.

Along with his time as the town's chief executive, Black also spent time serving in a variety of capacities, including the Zoning Commission, Planning Commission and Charter Revision Commission.

"He was very respected in Town Hall," said Town Clerk Lauren Griffin.

Riva Clark, who served on the selectmen with Black, described him as a "private person" who was "wonderful to work with."

"He was generous with his knowledge, gracious and witty, and always provided agendas and documents prepared for meetings to give us time for review," she said. "As first selectman, he was instrumental in getting sewers and sidewalk projects started, after being stalled for years."

Clark praised Black's 40 years of municipal work, expressing that "Marlborough will be forever a better town for the service he provided."

Tax Collector Barbara Murray served with Black when he was in office and was personal friends with both him and his wife Gerry. "He was an absolute joy to work with," she said. "He was always a gentleman and everyone loved him. He was very bright."

Murray recalled with a laugh a time when Black stumbled upon her and a previous town clerk chatting, and told them both to get back to work.

Murray responded, "Bill, you go back to your office and finish *your* work."

Black shook his head: "Oh, you Republicans." The story was emblematic of Black's character, Murray explained.

"He could take a joke and he never raised his voice or said anything bad about anyone."

During his tenure, she continued, Town Hall ran smoothly.

"Everybody respected Bill and there was no drama when he was here," she expressed.

The town, she added, will remember him.

"It's a loss," she said. "He represented our town very well."

Gerry Black worked in several capacities in town, including a period in Murray's tax office.

"She was a wonderful, dedicated worker," she recalled.

Outside Town Hall, a black and purple funeral bunting was displayed to honor the life and public service of Black.

Town Manager David Porter said he signedoff on the flag, expressing that it sets a precedent moving forward to remember individuals who contributed to Marlborough.

"I think we should continue to do the same thing," he said.

While Porter, who in August became Marlborough's first-ever appointed administrator, was not present for Black's achievements, he *See Bill Black Remembered, page 34* 

# Benny's Run Promotes Wellness, Advocacy

### By London Brazal

Last Saturday, Oct. 7, was a chilly, rainy day, but still more than 100 runners of all ages turned out for the Benny Fund's annual Benny's Run 5K and Kids Fun Run. On Oct. 7, more than 100 runners of all ages came together to support the organization and participate in the two races.

Tim Seidl of Somers won the race with a run time of 19:19, Erica Wilcox from East Hampton was the fastest female at 25:14, and Leo Giambarresi won the kids' race.

The Benny Fund founder Holly Neiweem was happy with the turnout despite the weather. "The event went great despite it being a pretty rainy day. The kids' run was held after the 5K and was incredibly cute!" said Neiweem. tion strives to promote open discussions about mental health within households, schools, and the community, while simultaneously working towards eradicating the stigma and silence surrounding these issues. This is achieved through various mental health advocacy campaigns, including Benny's Run and #projectlove, as well as donations for educational programs focused on mental health and suicide prevention. In addition, scholarships are granted to high school students.

Erica Wilcox is a licensed professional counselor with her practice, Wilcox Wellness, in town. Through counseling and programs, she has witnessed the impact of mental health stigma on her clients and in her personal life. "Over the last three years, I have certainly seen an increase in mental health education, awareness, and conversations," said Wilcox. "We as a collective community are moving in the right

### direction."

As a participant in the race, Wilcox was happy for the community to come together to support the same cause. She especially loves writing messages of hope on the race bibs taped to the Sears Park pavilion. "Movement is medicine and I have found on a personal and professional level how empowering and healing running can be for mental health and overall well-being," added Wilcox.

To continue to fight against the stigma surrounding mental health, Wilcox provided three points to help: education and empathy, advocacy and support, and building trust and connection.

Education and empathy are the start of un-

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 RHAM

 Raptors Prep for Stretch Run.....pg 23

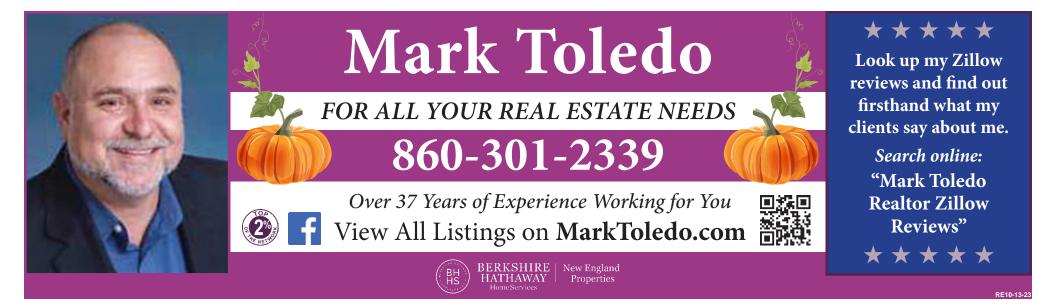
 Hebron

 Next Steps for Public Works? .......pg 24

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 Charter Commission Formed ......pg 25

The Benny Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to the enhancement of mental health and the prevention of suicide through advocacy and education. The organizaderstanding mental health. "The more correct and up-to-date information, the easier it becomes to learn that nobody is immune to *See Benny's Run, page 33* 





### Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

### **Community Fund Issues Call to Apply for Funds**

Andover's Greater Together Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has released its open call for 2023 project proposals. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to one or more proposals. To date, \$22,261 has been awarded.

All projects must benefit the residents of Andover. For further details on project guidelines and how to apply, visit hfpg.org/Andovercf. Project applications or grant proposals will be accepted until Nov. 10.

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation established a \$100,000 Greater Together Community Fund for each of the 29 towns in the Foundation's region, which includes the town of Andover. The purpose of the Greater Together Community Funds is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in their towns, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement and anchor the Hartford Foundation in each town.

In January 2022, the Hartford Foundation gave an additional \$50,000 to each Community Fund with half of the funding being maintained in the fund's endowments and the remaining half to support current grantmaking efforts.

Current members of the Andover Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee are: Marianella Chalfant (co-chair), Michele DeLuco, Kirsten Erlandsen, Jody Gross, Suzanne Heise (co-chair), Lori LaCroix, Amy March, Bill Penn, and Chip Ware.

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Page 2

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### Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

### Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following items have been updated for Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled. If you want to attend any events, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Also call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs, including rides to medical appointments. For all Young at Heart events including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for all trip information. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, and overct.org.

Senior Luncheon: Friday, Oct. 20, at noon, at Town Hall, with lunch from Chili's. Speaker will be Mark Hand, a broker who will explain the various changes in senior benefits for 2024. Reservations required for all lunches - no walkins accepted.

Shopping: Tuesdays. Manchester - Oct. 17 and 31. Willimantic - Oct. 24.

Trips: Christmas Party, Dec. 1, at Villa Louisa's, Christmas Show, Friday, Dec. 8. Contact Carol Lee for information.

Flu Clinic: Held at the town hall community room on Thursday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.;

### Congregational Church News

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

www.andoverctchurch.org. Children's Church: Sunday school is provided

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The Foodshare Van comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30

### **Revolutionary War Headstones**

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m., Andover Public Library will welcome Randall Nelson of Nelson Architectural Restoration in Willington with a talk about "Revolutionary War Headstone Replication at the Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford."

Nelson will provide a brief history of the oldest cemetery in Connecticut - Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground – and the work involved

The Andover Friends of the Library group will hold its annual Book & Bake Sale this weekend.

New this year is a "Preview Sale" on Friday, Oct. 13, from 6-8 p.m. On Friday night, admission to preview is free for Library Friends and \$5 for others. The regular sale, free to all, is Sat-urday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Both Friday

### **Absentee Ballots** Now Available

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 municipal election are now available in the town clerk's office at Town Hall, or online at andoverct.org.

### **Book Book & Bake Sale**

The Andover Friends of the Library group is preparing to hold a Book & Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 14, and is in search of gently-used books - fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children - as well as playable DVDs, CDs or game discs.

Donations may be brought to Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, Andover, until Monday, Oct 9 at 7 pm. Do not leave donations outside the library or in the library's book drop. Dropoff hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call the library 860-742-7428.

no reservations necessary. COVID boosters and pneumonia shots available if needed. Bring your insurance cards, Medicare or Medicaid cards. Questions, please call Palazzi.

Health Clinic: Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. in Vernon. If enough seniors are interested in going transportation will be provided.

Movie: Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1 pm. Transportation available. Call Palazzi.

Vendor and Tag Sale: Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Andover Elementary School gym, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. All monies will benefit the senior luncheon program.

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry - all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

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

a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.

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

Sonshine Stampers: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. Bingo and Baskets: Oct. 27, 5:30 p.m., dinner; 6:30 p.m. game. Cost is \$12 per person.

Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck: Thanksgiving Day, 3 p.m. Early sign-up is preferred. To RSVP, call the church. State who you are and how many people will attend and what you are able to bring to contribute.

# in making replicas of the four badly deteriorat-

ed headstones for four Revolutionary War veterans. Nelson will also talk about the problems involved with researching the histories of these vets, as well as provide a bit of history of brownstone quarrying in Connecticut.

RSVP is not required but is requested for planning purposes. To do so, call the library at 860-742-7428.

### Library Friends Book & Bake Sale

evening and Saturday sales will be conducted at the First Congregational Church of Andover, 359 Route 6, across the street from the library.

For directions or more information, call the library at 860-742-7428 or visit the library's Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT.

### Vendors Wanted

Andover seniors are looking for vendors for Saturday, Nov. 4, to sell their wares at a combined tag and vendor sale to be held at the Andover Elementary School gym from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost of a table will be \$20 for one table or \$30.00 for two tables. If you would like to be a vendor, contact Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

### Andover Halloween **Fun Day**

Andover Halloween Fun Day will take place Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m., rain or shine, outdoors at the Town Hall gazebo area on School Road, between the Town Office Building and the elementary school. Attendees are asked to come dressed in costume. Decorate your car or truck "trunk or treat" style for the trunk-decorating contest. Call/text Annmarie Daigle at 860-983-7442 to reserve a spot. Vehicles must be parked by 12:45 p.m.



### **Pumpkin Patch** Fundraiser

The Andover Congregational Church Food Pantry is holding a Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser to benefit the food pantry.

The patch is located next to the church at 359 Route 6 in Andover, and will remain open daily from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., right through Halloween.

The pantry will be selling regular and specialty pumpkins that were grown on an Indian Reservation in New Mexico, locally grown apples, cider, mums, home-baked goods and apple fritters.

A local craftsman will again have on display his refurbished antique wheelbarrows and benches to sell.

Purchases will benefit the food pantry.

Nothing is to be distributed by trunk participants. The event is rain or shine.

### **December Events** for Seniors

A pair of events are coming up for Andover seniors in December. For more information, call Carol Lee at 860-989-6988.

Christmas Party: Friday, Dec. 1, at Villa Louisa in Bolton. There will be a buffet luncheon, music, dancing and raffle prizes. Cost per Andover senior is \$20.

A Christmas Carol: Friday, Dec. 8. Andover Seniors will travel to the Legacy Theater in Branford to see the 2 p.m. performance of A Christmas Carol. Cost is \$20 per Andover senior. Call Lee to reserve a spot. Transportation will be provided for the first 20 people to sign up.

### GLASTONBURY \$870,000

### WILLIAM RAVEIS $\sqrt{MARGARET}$ WILCOX TEAM



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

By Mike Thompson

In the mood for a movie that has some local flavor? Well, next week you're in for a treat.

Next Thursday, Oct. 19, Cinestudio in Hartford is going to be showing the comedy/thriller *Blow Up My Life*, which was written and directed by Marlborough couple Abby Horton and Ryan Dickie.

The movie tells the story of Jason Trumble (played by Jason Selvig), a disgraced pharmaceutical employee who accidentally discovers a deadly opioid vape conspiracy. The discovery sends him on the run to expose the crime – with a trail of chaos in his wake.

The indie film – which was released last month – has generated some positive reviews so far, with *MovieMaker Magazine* calling it "one of the coolest and most ambitious films we saw this year." The movie also won the Best Film Award at the Harlem International Film Festival.

Not only was the film made by a couple of Marlborough residents, it was shot in Middletown and other area towns.

Next Thursday's showing at Cinestudio will also feature a Q&A with Horton and Dickie. It's a one-night-only event, with showtime at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$10. For tickets and more information, visit cinestudio. org/film/blow-up-my-life.

If you like cheese, and you like to hear good things about local businesspeople, then I've got some news for you.

Lily Orr, the pasteurized cheesemaker at Cato Corner Farm in Colchester, has signed on as the new ambassador for Connecticut Grown, a state program whose mission is to sustain and grow Connecticut agriculture and aquaculture.

Orr, who was raised on a multigenerational dairy farm in Thompson, will be "highly visible" throughout the state's entire agricultural landscape, the state Department of Agriculture said in a press release. Her duties will include range from making video content and social media posts to appearances at agricultural fairs and visiting farms in every corner of Connecticut.

Orr was raised at Fort Hill Farms in Thompson, a third-generation dairy farm committed to sustainability and diversification. After graduating from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science, she worked at Connecticut Farmland Trust, assisting with easement acquisition and managing the CT Farm-Link program.

"We are excited to welcome Lily Orr to the CT Grown team," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. "Lily is a great asset to the Connecticut agricultural community and an ideal candidate for this role. She has the education, experience, and personality to make a strong connection with the people of Connecticut and demonstrate the value of our agricultural industry by showcasing the amazing farms, farmers, and producers throughout our state."

As part of her ambassadorship, Orr will regularly meet with farmers to help amplify their presence and spread awareness about the foods and products they are producing. She will also produce content for social media, blogs, and newsletters — including creating informative and educational videos.

"I grew up on a farm that was very diverse; we had dairy cows, a plant nursery, pick-yourown berries, a corn maze, an ice cream shop, a biodigester – you name it," said Orr. "Through it all, my grandparents and parents instilled in me to be proud of what we grow, produce, and give back to the local community. I'm honored to assume a role that will help spotlight Connecticut farmers and the growing agricultural potential of our state with the CT Grown brand."

That's pretty cool news for an employee of a **Editor's Desk continued on page 8** 

# **Bulletin Board**

I was cooling my heels in the doctor's office a while back when I picked up a magazine about home décor that included an article on something called "feng shui." (Someday I'm going to find a doctor or dentist who subscribes to Micro Brews Monthly or Scandinavian Beach Thong Graphic, but I'll probably have to move to Texas first.)

Anyway, for those of you who lack the necessary intellectual curiosity (actually, I got tired of looking out the window at the parking lot waiting for someone to back into somebody else's car) to read an article about home decorating, feng shui is an Asian philosophy.

Feng shui maintains that the proper arrangement of your furniture can enhance the channels of positive energy in your life. For instance, the article claimed that it's beneficial to locate your "romantic space" in the eastern part of the house (I'm thinking this may have something to do with the fact that the sun always rises in the east); your trophy room in the south (not applicable in my case since my "athletic career" ended before the advent of participation awards); and your kids in the west (which, I should point out, makes perfect sense since it is as far as you can get from the east).

The writer also talked a lot about mirrors and the importance of not allowing people to sneak up behind you, which (not being from New York City) struck me as a bit peculiar. But, in all fairness, I guess it's tough to be completely serene if you're constantly worrying about somebody pussy footing up behind you and giving you a crack on the back of the head.

Now if you read this column with any regularity (indeed, if you've merely read the first three paragraphs here), you have probably recognized that I am not what you would describe as a particularly deep thinker. I am not embarrassed to admit that my most passionate concerns mostly revolve around issues such as "What's for dinner?" and "I hope it includes gravy"

mostly revolve around issues such as "What's for dinner?" and "I hope it includes gravy." Questions such as "What is the meaning of life?" and "Why am I here?" rank well below puzzlers such as "Why do middle-aged men have more hair growing out of their ears than on the top of their heads" and "Do you think people who watch football will ever drink Bud Lite again?"

Nevertheless, personal boorishness aside, it turns out I've practiced feng shui for over 20 years—in fact, ever since I got married—I just didn't know what it was called. Soon after our marriage, as my bride and I moved into our new abode, she saw where I'd placed the couch and asked, "Don't you think the couch would be better over there under the windows?" Silly me, I thought it was a question.



*Fall Festival Fun...* Pumpkins, mums, apples and scarecrows were all in attendance Saturday and Sunday at the annual Fall Festival at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron. The mums and pumpkins were various shapes, sizes and vibrant colors. The happy scarecrows are, from left, parishioners from the Baez family – Erica, Jeff, and their children, Ella and Eva; the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, rector, and his daughter, Anna Engler. If you missed this event, the pumpkins and mums are available for purchase daily on the church grounds until gone. A portion of the proceeds will be given to another community nonprofit organization, as is St Peter's policy.

### Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

### Tree Removal Thanks

To the Editor:

A great big thank you to Colchester Parks Department and Todd's Tree service for cutting all the dead trees on Jurach Road. Much safer to drive and walk on our street.

Paulette Armandi – Colchester

### Hamas

To the Editor: The Hamas brutal attack on Israel has support from Iran and Russia. The Hamas terrorists were trained by Russia's Wagner group. The same Wagner group committing atrocities in Ukraine. "Hamas apparently knew how to get around Israel's Iron Dome defenses... And who gave it to Russia? Looks like it was Donald Trump, at the request of Putin." (Thom Hartmann) Israel Said to Be Source of Secret Intelligence Trump Gave to Russians. Mr. Trump boasting about some of Israel's most sensitive information to the Russians could damage the relationship between the two countries and raises the possibility that the information could be passed to Iran, Russia's close ally and Israel's main threat in the region. (New York Times, 5/16/2017) Trump says he had 'absolute right' to share info with Russia (ABC News, 5/16/2017) Trump revealed highly classified information to Russian foreign minister (Lavrov) and ambassador (Washington Post, 5/17/2017).

The \$6 billion funds came from oil sales that were

### RIVEREAST -

### News Bulletin

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

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allowed and placed into accounts set up under the Trump administration. The U.S. unfroze \$6B in Iranian money during a prisoner swap. The money is in a bank account in Qatar monitored by the U.S. Treasury and can only be spent on humanitarian aid. All purchases must be verified by the U.S. Treasury Department. (CNN, Meidas Touch)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

### Vote for Transparency

To the Editor:

I've had the privilege of holding a front-row seat for the past two years to view how the town operates. It is clear there is a need for greater transparency and efficiency, and to that end, I'm pleased to support John Matra and Claudia Riley for the Hebron Board of Selectmen.

One need only observe meetings to know that a change is needed. Like many of you, I am deeply troubled by the way individuals are treated differently during public comment or in written communications, simply because they hold a different opinion than the status quo. There is an unwillingness to share information with the public. And there is resistance to truly listening to what the town wants, particularly when it comes to the future of the Horton Property.

That's why we need individuals like John and Claudia, who bring decades of experience in management, human resources and volunteer service. They deeply love this town, care about its future, and have pledged

"No," I said.

### "Oh," she replied.

But it wasn't just a little "oh"—a mere verbal acknowledgement of my differing opinion. No, it was one of those "ohs" that comes rife with meaning, all of it bad for me—the kind of "oh" the Spanish Inquisitors murmured when one of their inquisitees suggested that maybe using contraception wasn't really such a bad thing considering how tough it is to send 27 kids through college; the kind of "oh" your mother mouths when your latest girlfriend remarks that she supports her three children from two prior marriages by working full time as an exotic dancer; the kind of "oh"... well, you get the picture.

"You know," I said, "on second thought, I think you're right. The couch would look much better over there under the windows."

"I thought so, too," she said.

So there you have it, harmony through the arrangement of furniture. You can call it feng shui if you want. I call it survival.

Jim Hallas

### Rivereast Hours of Operation

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### Reader Forum • Reader • Rea

to listen to all town residents, even those with different opinions than their own. John and Claudia will commit to creating a more transparent town government, while identifying areas where we can be more fiscally efficient to assist during tight budget years ahead. Most importantly, they will treat everyone with respect and explain their reasoning behind the decisions they make.

Hebron needs a shift in tone and a change in direction. We have much work to do to ensure that our rural town character remains intact while we plan for the future. John and Claudia are up for the task, and I ask you to join me in voting for them on Nov. 7.

### Sincerely, Tiffany V. Thiele – Hebron

**Note:** Thiele is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said she is writing as an individual.

### A Vote for Hebron

Dear Hebron Citizens:

Who are we? We are your neighbors, friends, teachers, coaches, and community volunteers seeking to continue to serve Hebron and its residents. We are a group of individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences who work collaboratively with our town officials and residents to address the important issues facing our great town. We will hear your concerns, listen to your ideas, and find answers to your questions. We will ensure that your voices are heard; that your tax dollars are used responsibly; that our schools are financially supported; that parents remain involved in their children's education; and that our town remains accessible and affordable for all families, old and young.

We know Hebron. We know its history, values, and people. In combination, our slate of candidates has resided in Hebron for 218 years. We are invested in this town, in the families that live here, in the schools that teach our children, and in the businesses that support our community. We shop at the same stores you do, buy gas at the same gas station, and eat at the same great local restaurants in town. When you vote for us, you are voting for people who care about what matters to Hebron and its residents.

Who are we? We are the Hebron Republicans (Row B) and we are asking for your vote on November 7th. In Collaboration,

Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl, Jim Dedonato, Keith Petit, Mann Hasen, Peter Kasper, Sera Coppolino, Michael Beaulieu, Joe Margaitis, Steve Weir and Kim Hills

### **Remembering Bill Black**

To the Editor:

Marlborough lost one of its best last week. Bill Black served on its Board of Finance, the Charter Commission, Board of Selectmen, and as its first selectman. When it looked like there was just not going to be enough money to complete our sewer system project, Bill came up with a solution – one so ingenious that no one else could have come up with it. We have sewers thanks to Bill Black.

He was the right guy at the right time for our town. We both liked cars. He'd always wanted to go to Carlisle. We went. He wanted to go to Hersey. We went. In June of 2010 I drove my then 40-year-old Cadillac to California for a tour with other vintage Cadillacs. My wife Barbara had enough sense to fly. Bill would call me every day to see how the trip was going, and midway across Kansas it was not going well. On our phone call he said he was growing concerned. "Bill, YOU'RE concerned??? You are sitting in an air-conditioned office looking out your window at cars going by on picturesque North Main Street on a beautiful summer day. It's 90 degrees and humid here in Russell, Kansas, 1,500 miles from home, in a car older than most of our town's residents, unable to exceed fifty on I-70, with a no-longer-working air conditioning, and a local tornado warning? YOU'RE concerned? Have I got that right?" A couple days later, I learned the cause of my car problem, and I mentioned it to Bill. "Yeah, I figured that was what it was." Yup. Vintage Bill Black. Marlborough lost one of its best; I've lost a good friend.

Jack Murray - Marlborough

### Bats Are Not Spooky

To the Editor: Halloween is just around the corner, and bats are often associated with the ancient holiday. Bats are far from spooky, but this is the perfect season to shed light on these fascinating creatures of the night. Therefore, Oct. 24-31 is International Bat Week, an annual celebration designed to raise awareness about the need for bat conservation. Bats are captivating animals that play a vital role to the health of the natural world and therefore global economy. Worldwide, bats are at work eating tons of insects, pollinating flowers, and spreading seeds that grow new plants and trees. Our local bats consume insects that destroy crops and/or spread disease. Without bats, we would be in trouble. As a state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, I have

been caring for injured and/or orphaned bats for more than 25 years. Nine kinds of bats call Connecticut home. All are insectivores, and each fills a particular niche. Unfortunately, due to many factors including a warming climate, habitat destruction and a devastating fungal disease (white-nose syndrome), eight of the nine kinds are endangered.

To celebrate bats, allow me to introduce our local bat buddies through a series of species profiles, starting with the big brown bat (Eptesicus fuscus), a true farmers' friend because of its insect diet, which includes many crop and forest pests. It's the only bat not currently listed as endangered although its numbers, too, have been steadily falling. The remaining "endangered eight" control pests such as mosquitoes that spread disease and moths that produce crop-destroying larvae, but they don't prey on "good" insects such as bees and butterflies.

In upcoming letters read about all nine kinds, each of which is unique. View bats in their true light; you'll come away with a new appreciation of bats and see the need to conserve them.

### Thank you, Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

Paper Shred Postponed

To the Editor: The Hebron Green Committee is announcing that our annual paper shred event normally held in November of each year will be postponed until April of next year. We have not chosen a specific date yet, although we hope to schedule it close to Earth Day which is April 22. Just as a reminder, this event is open to residents (no businesses) of the RHAM towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough, with a limit of five boxes or bags of papers per vehicle. We always see a huge turnout at these events, and want to make sure that everyone can participate who wants to. So stay tuned over the winter for our announcement of the specific date for our 2024 paper shred.

Mike Harder Hebron Green Committee

### Wanat for Town Council

To the Editor: Service. Advocacy. Activism. Three words that immediately come to mind when I think of Karen Wanat. Wanat is running for East Hampton Town Council and has my vote.

I met Karen as a PTO volunteer almost 10 years ago when my children attended Memorial School. Karen was in a leadership position at the time and I remember wondering, "How does this small business owner and mother of three have the time, energy and passion to contribute so much to our school community?" Over the years I've had the pleasure of following and working with Karen on a number of community projects within and outside of our schools. It's clear to me that Wanat is a candidate who cares about people, is a critical and creative thinker, and ready for anything. Never afraid to stand up for human rights and justice, I admire Karen's hard work for the benefit of the whole. This is the type of leadership I want for East Hampton, a town I've called home for nearly 50 years.

I'm voting for Karen because we deserve representation that will listen to understand and work to make progress, rather than pretend to listen and then just respond with the same old politics as usual. Vote Karen Wanat for Hampton Town Council!

Leslie Fielding Cygan – East Hampton



### **Time for a Change in Colchester** To the Editor:

I have been a Colchester resident for 73 years and have always been active in the community, whether as a volunteer, an appointee to a commission, or as an elected official.

I served on the Board of Selectmen for eight years as well as the Sewer & Water Commission, Youth Services Commission and the Commission on Aging. Through all the years of attending many, many meetings I have never witnessed the chaos I have seen these past two years. The bullying, name-calling and disrespect from our first selectman has been unbelievable. Is he even aware of The Southeastern CT Council of Governments? This is an organization of representatives of several neighboring towns who meet monthly to share ideas, programs and solutions to potential problems. Is he too busy preparing for his next photo op and can't be bothered to attend these meetings?

Mr. Bisbikos' two-year term has been a continuous display of childish behavior, petulance, poor time management and misdirected priorities. (Banning books?) This is an embarrassment to the entire community, including both political parties. It's time to make a change!

On Nov. 7, we must vote for Bernie Dennler to restore civility, professionalism, experience and decency to our local government. Bernie and his entire team will bring Colchester back together again. Please vote "Row A" on Nov. 7.

Goldie Liverant – Colchester

### Bullying is Not Leadership! To the Editor:

This is actually a difficult letter for me to write. I prefer writing letters that state the strength of our candidates and what they stand for, i.e., education, decency, tolerance, and open-mindedness. However, after reading the letter from Jeff Murray stating that our Board of Selectmen would continue to serve with "professionalism and integrity" I had to respond.

For years I taught management supervisory skills. I explained that good leaders do not use intimidation. Leadership is not screaming, swearing, and threatening people. Genuine leaders lead by example. Decisions are made for the good of all. Leaders focus on issues. They are mindful that personality should not factor into decision-making. Bullying is not leadership and displays a definite lack of integrity. Andover's vice selectman is anything but professional.

We recently celebrated our town's 175th anniversary. The vice selectman, who now wants to be the first selectman, offered no assistance or support for our celebration. He did not even attend our dedication. This is a town leader who had zero interest in the commemoration of our town.

As we see on a grand scale in this country, controlling and dictating is not governance.

Creating animosity and discord among one sector while catering to another is not a recipe for success. Leaders understand that everyone has the right to be heard and not discounted. Everyone has value. And all Andover residents deserve respect. No elected official should feel he or she has the right to verbally abuse any resident.

Please consider the future of Andover. Consider the need for civil debate. Consider the need for ideas to bring families to our town.

Catherine Magaldi-Lewis – Andover Note: Magaldi-Lewis is chair of the Andover Democratic Town Committee.

### **East Hampton EDC**

To the Editor:

I am writing to extend a heartfelt invitation to you to join our local Economic Development Commission in East Hampton. As the chairperson of the commission, I understand the vital role that engaged community members and business owners play in shaping the future of our town.

Our commission is dedicated to fostering sustainable growth, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the overall economic well-being of our community. By becoming a member, you can contribute significantly to these objectives while enjoying numerous benefits:

1. \*\*Influence and Impact:\*\* Your expertise and insights can directly shape policies and initiatives that will benefit our town's economic landscape.

2. \*\*Community Pride:\*\* Being part of a group dedicated to improving the local economy is not just a responsibility but a source of pride, showing your commitment to the well-being of our town.

3. \*\*A Voice in Decision-Making:\*\* As a member, you'll have a direct say in how we allocate resources and prioritize projects that can positively impact our community.

Your involvement is essential to our mission's success. We meet regularly to discuss strategies, address challenges, and implement initiatives that benefit our town. Your unique perspective and experience as a business owner will be a valuable addition to our team.

If you are interested in joining our commission or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at edc@easthamptonct.gov. Togeth-See Story, page 6



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Thank You, Derek

### Reader Forum • Reader • F

### \* Letters cont. from page 5

er, we can work towards a brighter economic future for East Hampton.

Thank you for considering this invitation. We look forward to welcoming you to our commission and working together to make a meaningful difference in our community.

> Warm regards, Marlene J. Geary, Chairperson **East Hampton Economic Development Commission**

### **Supports Spear**

To the Editor:

I am supporting Sarah Spear in her candidacy for the Portland Board of Education. This is an easy choice to make. I have known Sarah as a neighbor for five years. She is energetic, smart and deeply committed to the children, parents and schools in Portland. I've been impressed by her gracious manner and ability to look at an issue from different angles. She also has financial experience and a history of work in the nonprofit sector focused on young people. She is a team player and an excellent listener.

I'm sure that, if elected, Sarah will work diligently for each and every student in the Portland school sys tem.

### Barbara Sequenzia - Portland

### New Friends in Portland

To the Editor:

Having lived in Portland for 15 years, I relied on a busy career (with significant Hatch Act restrictions) to justify my failure to connect with the people or governance bodies of my own community. I followed Portland politics through the Rivereast and other local newspapers. Recently, one year into retirement, but with preconceived notions firmly intact, I looked online to find what I expected to be a small, minimally active group of local Democrats.

After attending only two Democratic Town Committee (DTC) meetings and participating in a funfilled trivia contest fundraiser at Farrell's, my eyes (and mind) have been opened! I take the opportunity of this letter to report that Portland has an active, vibrant, inclusive and warmly welcoming group of Democrats working hard on multiple levels to assure that our community and its leadership representatives remain diverse and attentive to the social and economic needs of all Portland's residents.

With member concerns ranging from light bulb and brochure supplies in DTC's Portland Fair tent to reviewing grant-funded sidewalk installation to finding cost-effective community water sources and using the town's educational resources appropriately, this committed, knowledgeable and hard-working group has its collective fingers on the pulse of Portland. As is evidenced from the DTC Facebook page(s), members also manage to have fun while doing so.

As a still-new community member (at least by many of Portland's multi-generational resident standards) and a registered Democrat who has just begun looking to become politically involved, I write as a citizen to invite other until-now-uninvolved community members to join me in continuing to check out the DTC. You won't be disappointed!

### Cynthia L. Tyler - Portland

### **Know Your Candidates**

To the Editor: I've been a Hebron resident for 35 years. It's only been recently that I've gotten involved in town politics. I never knew how much I didn't know about how our town government works. It's been eye-opening.

The candidates running on the Hebron Democratic ticket are so very impressive. They were all thoroughly vetted and are running for positions based on their strengths. They aren't simply running because we need to fill a seat which is often the case. We deserve better than that and the Hebron Democratic candidates are ready, willing and able to serve.

I invite you to check out their bios on hebrondems. com. You'll be as impressed as I am. Be informed. Stay informed.

Kim Goldberg - Hebron

### Thank You, Colchester

To the Residents of Colchester:

Thank you to the residents of Colchester who voted for me in the NOV 2021 election to the Board of Assessment Appeals. It has been a privilege to serve you these last couple of years as the Chairperson of the BOAA.

At this time, I will not be able to re-run as your incumbent this November due to family medical issues. Please continue to support the town of Colchester as change starts at the municipal level.

Sincerely, Karen Godbout - Colchester

### Well Well - Water

To the Editor: 'Yet, this chamber is, for the most part, silent -

ominously, dreadfully silent. There is no debate, no discussions, no attempt to lay out for the nation the pros and cons of this particular war. There is nothing, we stand passively mute...." -the late Sen. Robert Byrd When political candidates turn their backs on wa-

ter conversations, they turn their backs on the people. Which in turn means, the people generally turn their backs on those candidates. When it comes to the Raymond Brook Watershed in Amston, a.k.a. 17 Kinney Rd., the old Horton property, the town's 88 acres, in the past two years, only about five people, political or not, have publicly mentioned drinking water. However, the state's leading well water remediation expert met with residents twice, spoke before

Hebron's Green Committee and wrote two important letters. Letters warning our boards and committees about serious threats to surrounding residential wells. Meanwhile, misquoted by Hebron's BOS chairman, the expert was being called back into court to defend yet another case of well water contamination here in Connecticut.

It is political season and not one word from local candidates about fractured bedrock aquifers, clean drinking water, safeguarding soils or saving 17 Kin-ney. Nada. Nothing. It appears the "Demo-Publicans" running our towns and country are intimidated and therefore refuse to broach such real-life issues. Instead, we read about candidates in glowing letters reminiscent of grade-school report cards. The future of the USA clearly stands in the hands

of the public. If you want discussions, about residential water protections, start reading. Be prepared to defend water yourselves because, at this point, no local candidate has volunteered to defend it for you. #Save17 is still non-partisan and still determined to protect Hebron's RBWatershed.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

### Supports Engelhardt

To the Editor: As a parent in the East Hampton Public School District and an educator in higher education, I support Matt Engelhardt, a Democrat running for East Hampton Board of Education. I have been fortunate to get to know Matt since moving to East Hampton eight years ago and have always been impressed by his commitment to the community and to our education system. He has worked tirelessly to support public education both in his career and in his personal life.

Matt's career has been in communication strategies in both K-12 and higher education which provides him with the ability to build bridges in communication between the Board of Education, Town Council, and the Board of Finance. He also has experience in coordinating focus groups and conducting data analysis in superintendent searches across the entire state. These skills will be critical as we enter a search for new superintendent.

In addition to his experience, he possesses multiple characteristics that make him a strong candidate for Board of Education: integrity, teamwork, and a good sense of humor. Matt is a deep thinker who has a strong commitment to honesty and fairness. He is a hard worker who takes on challenges and knows how to be a supportive team member. He also has a good sense of humor, which helps him make connections with others. Matt's experience and personal qualities make him a strong candidate for Board of Education

where he can continue to support our community. I will be voting for Matt Engelhardt on Nov. 7 and encourage others to do the same.

Respectfully, **Courtney Broscious - East Hampton** 

To the Editor: The Trustees and Proprietors of Bacon Academy which manage the historic Bacon Academy built in 1803, the Day Hall which houses the Colchester Cooperative Nursery School and the Foote House built

in 1702 would like to thank Derek who owns Grundmann Landscaping in Colchester. Derek, who played baseball at Bacon Academy and

went on to play in college took it upon himself to refurbish the historic Town Green's baseball base paths/ infield a few years ago. Just this week Derek said "it's time to give the basepaths a refreshing look" and cut and cleaned the existing basepaths.

Derek and his crew (Grundmann Landscape Company) should be commended for this service to and for the Trustees. Derek and Gerard Grundmann are owners of the company.

Once a baseball player, always a baseball player. Thanks Derek.

Donald Levine - Colchester

### **Climate Change Misinformation** To the Editor

Responding to the letter from Mr. Prentice in Andover regarding his comment that he was grateful his grandchildren were attending Catholic school to prevent them from "contamination and indoctrina tion of fear-mongering climate-change fools," I would like to enlighten him. I am not Catholic but I can read. From "Catholic Social Teaching 101" I quote: "Catholic teaching insists that climate change is a grave moral issue that threatens our commitments: to protect human life, health, dignity, and security; to exercise preferential options for the poor; to promote the common good of which the climate is part; to live in solidarity with future generations; to realize peace; and to care for God's good gift of creation."

In a papal encyclical letter, Pope Francis declared "that the science of climate change is clear and that the Catholic Church views climate change as a moral issue that must be addressed in order to protect the Earth and everyone on it."

Pope Francis further "shamed and challenged world leaders (on Wednesday past) to commit to binding targets to slow climate change before it's too late, warning that God's increasingly warming creation is fast reaching a point of no return.

I doubt very much that this will influence Mr.

Prentice into accepting the reality of scientific evidence of climate change, but he should at least know where his religious leaders stand on this issue

Sandra Marshall - East Hampton

### What I Stand For

To the Editor:

Lots of letters and misinformation are floating around about myself thanks to Mr. Werme.

Serving on the Board of Finance you have to look through the lens of what is 'affordable' based on our revenue stream. Nobody wants to deprive children of quality education. I certainly do not! But what I did vote for was a reduction (again not a cut) from the BOE 2023-2024 budget because I believe we found some savings and opportunities, which by the way did not include eliminating teachers! I also voted to support the armed security officers, the police lieutenant and the hiring of a police officer. Which the later was rejected by all seven Town Council members, including two Democrats.

Running for Town Council includes many responsibilities to our taxpayers and education is a part of our town's budget. But my goal is to secure grant money to lessen burden on our taxpayers.

I will work to commission our new firehouse creating a Public Safety Plan that would build out a road map of short- and long-term goals for police, fire and EMS services. I will support the care and upkeep of our beautiful lake. And yes, I will work to improve services for our senior community, not just the senior center but holistic services that serve many not just a few who attend the center.

I will always keep a sharp eye and weigh all the data in my decisions that have financial implications to our town. Yes, Mr. Werme, it's not always easy to make tough decisions that impacts our residents' pocketbooks.

Looking forward to serving on Town Council and thank you for your vote on Nov. 7!



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### School Start Times

To the Editor

I am a student at Bacon Academy in Colchester. I am writing to you to address why Connecticut school start times should be pushed back later.

Set that alarm later! Evidence shows that a later start time for middle and high school students would be beneficial. There is the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) that recommends that middle and high schools should delay their start time until 8:30. Overall quality of life, it improves productivity, and improves health. The National Sleep Foundation out of Washington, D.C., also recommends more sleep. Minneapolis and Minnesota schools found that starting school at 8:40 a.m. improved attendance, and led to less sleeping in class, more productivity, and less depression. CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and the AMA(American Medical Association) also find that they are beneficial. Usually the common ground between schools following this policy has a start time at around 8:30. The delay starting time improved grades, less suicides, less drug use, obesity, etc.

As a senior in Bacon Academy I have struggled with getting up in the morning within my past six years of being at WJJMS and Bacon Academy. Talking with many students, many also feel that school starts

### Reader Forum • Reader • F

way too early and it is impossible to get a good night's rest. I feel as though pushing school start times even an hour can greatly compensate for students' lack of sleep. Many students, especially teenagers, need 8-10 hours of sleep per night.

Sincerely, Gabe Mahon – Colchester

### Supporting Augie Arndt

To the Editor:

I'm in support of Augie Arndt running as a Republican for Board of Education in East Hampton. He is honest, has integrity, is a good businessman and is family oriented. I also like his time spent volunteering in various rolls with sports in town.

He does his research, comes to Board of Education meetings prepared and is aware of the many issues facing the Board of Education.

I also support him for his stance on armed security guards in our schools. Please consider voting for Augie in November.

### Jim Radavich – East Hampton Republican Board of Finance Candidate

### Vote for Wilkinson

To the Editor:

Relief was what I felt when I heard that Marcus Wilkinson was running for alternate on the Marlborough Board of Finance, much like I felt when he was chosen to be on the committee to select our new town manager. I felt relief because we need as many people like Marcus in our government as possible. Yes, Marcus brings years of experience in law and conflict resolution and practical business experience. But far more than that for me is his character. Marcus brings reason, sensibility, practicality and civility. He is committed not only to the betterment of the town but to the betterment of the town processes—through inclusion, collaboration, transparency and communication.

I encourage everyone to vote for Marcus, but a special shout out to those that don't normally vote. Ironically, those who don't vote because they think they don't make a difference are exactly the people who can make a difference. Vote for a capable person who wants to bring people together and make the town a better place. See you at the polls.

### Catherine Schuster – Marlborough

### Logical Choice!

To the Editor:

I would like to express my complete support for Edie DeSimone for Board of Education. She brings with her 22 years of experience within the field of education, which I find unique amongst those presently on the board. She believes in supporting educators and parents while always keeping the focus on maximizing the greatest success of all students. She also recognizes that while achieving this, there must also be a balance within the towns budget for the benefit of all. As someone who has recently achieved the honor of being considered a senior citizen, I very much appreciate this perspective. She has expressed that a high quality school system is equal to a highly desirable town which attracts families. This ensures growth of the town and the ability to ensure quality of life for the residents of East Hampton. I ask that you support Edie DeSimone on Nov. 4, for the Board of Education.

> Thank you, Gail Cavanaugh – East Hampton

### Andover Needs Anne!

To the Editor:

To the Editor:

This election, Andover has a chance to restore some quiet sensibility to the Board of Selectmen. We can elect Anne Creme. Ann is quiet and reserved, which can sometime mask her steely core. Anne is a woman of strong values, someone who will listen carefully to all sides before making a decision. Anne's presence will bring some much needed balance to the Board of Selectmen.

Andover needs Anne! Please vote for Anne Creme for the Andover Board of Selectmen.

You have probably noticed the lack of decorum and the increase in conflict on the BOS lately. Vote for Anne Creme for her leadership qualities! Julia A. Haverl – Andover Don't Blame the Media

To the Editor: An article dated Oct. 6 in USA Today was titled "President Biden Blames the Media for Americans Negative Views on the Economy." The Biden Administration ignored warnings that trillions in spending would damage the economy and spur inflation. The Biden Administration doubled down on reckless spending with the misnamed and misguided Inflation Reduction Act. Why weren't funds still left over from prior relief bills spent?

Food, energy and shelter are still rising. Go to the gas station, grocery stores or go home and be reminded that your paycheck, if you are employed, is less valuable. For those in the lower and middle class, including myself as a retiree, inflation disproportionately affects us. President Obama's own economic adviser Larry Summers, an outstanding economist, warned President Biden of the dangers of inflation.

The Biden Administration has ignored, denied and dismissed the blame for the damage it has done for the economy for far too long. It is time the Democrats be held accountable for what they have created. Don't blame the media for negative views.

Victor Bonanno - Portland

### Supports Alfano

To the Editor:

My friend Andrea Alfano is perfect for the Portland Board of Selectmen. She is smart, thoughtful in her decisions and is not afraid of the hard choices necessary. We have volunteered side by side from preschool events, Junior Women and school fundraisers to many community projects in between. She served on the Board of Education working tirelessly for years on behalf of our kids. Andrea understands budgets, balance, collaboration and hard work. She is both responsible and responsive. I'm proud to support her campaign.

Please join me in voting for Andrea.

Bernice Zampano – Portland

### Supports Coyle

To the Editor:

Very few people have worked harder for the people of the town of Colchester over the last 30+ years than Rosemary Coyle. Whether or not you intend to vote for her, I believe that she has earned our gratitude and our respect.

That said, I also believe that she deserves our vote in November. No candidate for Board of Selectmen is more qualified or has a better track record of successful projects and tasks completed for the town of Colchester.

We need a town government that can operate from a position of competence, respect for others, honest disagreement and good faith discussion.

I am very proud to support Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Dave Koji, Bernie Dennler and the other fine Democratic candidates this November. We need adults in the room who know how the town works, and are willing to work together to get things done.

Respectfully, Vincent Rose – Colchester Colchester Democrats' Message To the Editor:

The Democrats in Colchester are running on a togetherness theme. Yet, who do they feel specifically needs to be brought together and how is unclear to me

Some people feel our government and schools are too underfunded. Some do not.

Some people feel racism is a local public health issue. Some do not.

Some people feel it's okay to prominently display a book about drag queens in the children's library. Some do not.

Some feel Republicans won in 2021 using dirty tricks. Some do not.

So, are Democrats trying to get together with people that don't agree with them? Or getting together with those that support their agenda? I hope this is made clear before the election.

Be well to all, James D. McNair III – Colchester

### Vote Yes on Open Space

To the Editor:

There will be a public meeting (Special Town Meeting) at the library on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m., to approve the purchase of the O'Connor property, a 115-acre lot in the southwest corner of town, and a 5-acre lot behind St Peter's Church that is a strategic addition to existing open space.

It is vital that supporters of these projects, and supporting friends and family members in town (one person: one vote) actually turn up on that Thursday and vote to secure these properties for the town and our heirs.

Please vote 'yes.'

Yours sincerely, David Rose – Hebron

### An Essential Civic Duty To the Editor:

With Election Day just a few weeks away, I have recently found myself reflecting on the importance of voting to American democracy and I want to stress how vital it is for our community members to engage in active participation in elections at any level. During my academic career at UConn, I was deeply involved with the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) and their ongoing campaign to increase voter registration and election participation; however, through my work on the project, I noticed a common sentiment among non-voters that feel as though their vote doesn't matter and therefore actively choose not to participate in elections of any kind, whether federal, state, or municipal.

Voting is an essential civic duty, a fundamental right and an active responsibility granted to every American citizen in the United States Constitution. By voting in elections, individuals uphold and protect the democratic values upon which our nation was founded and shape the future of their communities, allowing citizens to have a direct hand in the governmental decision-making process and ensuring that their concerns are adequately represented. Additionally, voting is a way to honor the efforts made by the countless individuals who fought for suffrage and equality throughout American history. By exercising their right to vote, Americans pay homage to those who advocated for democratic principles and paved the way for uniform political franchise not restricted by an individual's race or gender. Voting is a tangible demonstration of appreciation for the rights and freedoms that have been won through the struggles and sacrifices of previous generations.

I encourage all Portland voters to prepare for the upcoming November 7th municipal election. In our small town, it only takes one vote to distinguish between winner and loser: your vote matters.

Sincerely, Jillian Crawford – Portland Candidate for Board of Selectmen

### **Endorses Loudenback**

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong endorsement for Brittany Loundenback as a candidate for the Hebron Board of Education. Brittany's dedication to our community and her passion for improving our educational system make her an outstanding choice for this important position.

Having known Brittany for several years, I can attest to her unwavering commitment to providing our children with the best possible educational experience. She has consistently shown a deep understanding of the challenges facing our schools and a strong desire to work collaboratively to find solutions.

One of the qualities that sets Brittany apart is her ability to listen to the concerns and ideas of parents, teachers, and students. She is approachable and empathetic, making her an excellent advocate for the voices within our community. Brittany believes that every child deserves access to a high-quality education and is dedicated to ensuring that our schools meet the needs of all students.

I wholeheartedly endorse Brittany Loundenback for the Hebron Board of Education and encourage all residents to support her in the upcoming election. Let's work together to ensure that our schools continue to thrive under her leadership.

> Sincerely, Lindsay Eng – Hebron

### **Democrats for Andover**

To The Editor:

It's impossible to count the good reasons to vote for Andover's Democratic slate. The competence, the experience, the compassion of the candidates speaks volumes. Note the long-town involvement of people like Kim Hawes for Fire Commission and of Emily Timreck and Linda Armstrong for BAA. Note the compassionate but quiet determination of Anne Cremé for BOS. Note the fierce educational advocacy of Shannon Louden and Caitlin McIntosh Greenhouse for BOE. Oh yes, and note the sheer number of women running on the Democratic ticket!

In 2023, there are uncountably many reasons to vote against Republicans.

When the country elects Republicans, we get the current House caucus, which cannot accomplish anything other than backstabbing and infighting. (When *See Story, page 8* 



When it comes time to vote for Marlborough's Board of Selectmen candidates on Nov. 7, I would encourage you to consider casting your votes for Joe Asklar and Mike Nastri.

Joe Asklar has proven his dedication to our community over the course of the last several decades as an elected official, longtime fire marshal and as a member of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department. Joe's continued membership on the Board of Selectmen will provide a valued level of continuity, which would greatly benefit our community.

Mike Nastri has also proven himself as a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, including time as the BOF chairman. I feel that Mike can carry that experience forward as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Marlborough will be facing many challenges going forward and a lot of critical decisions will need to be made in coming years regarding the funding of future projects as well as addressing the issues pertaining to business development, maintenance of infrastructure and responding to the needs of our residents. Joe Asklar and Mike Nastri have both proven that they would be well equipped to face these challenges.

Please join me in supporting Joe and Mike on Nov. 7.

### Ken Hjulstrom - Marlborough

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



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### Reader Forum • Reader • Forum • Reader

★ Letters cont. from page 7

the Democrats last had control with a similarly thin majority, they passed significant legislation and had absolutely no spectacle.) Or we get a so-called president whose continual lies incited an insurrection, and who, despite numerous serious indictments, looks certain to win another nomination.

When states elect Republicans, we get Florida banning books; excising discussions of slavery, Jim Crow, and George Floyd; and waging war with its largest private employer – and biggest tourist attraction – simply because they had the temerity to speak out for their gay employees.

When Connecticut towns elect Republicans, we get the clown show in Colchester described every week on these pages, with a mini-despot banning books, single-handedly conducting sham investigations into an employee for political reasons, tearing up agendas, screaming at voters, and who knows what else? Or we get the Connecticut town whose Republican Town Committee which, knowing that a man was recently arrested on charges of domestic assault, still chooses to nominate him for local office.

So again, Andover has numerous great reasons to vote for Democrats, and numerous great reasons to vote against Republicans. More details at andoverctdems.com.

### Sincerely, Scott Sauyet – Andover

### A Great Success

To Members of the Marlborough Community: It was an honor to bring the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corp Muster by the Lake back to Blish Park the weekend of Sent 16 Once an annual

Blish Park the weekend of Sept. 16. Once an annual event, the Muster by the Lake had been on hiatus for over a decade. However, with a renewed and growing membership supported by active parent volunteers, the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corps (MJAFDC) was more than excited to bring this family fun, community event back to Blish Park.

The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corp would like to thank its parent volunteers, the members of the Colchester Continental Fife and Drum Corps, and more than 30 MJAFDC Alumni who came to support. Members of the Marlborough Town Crew, Marlborough Parks and Recreation, Marlborough Fire Department, Marlborough and State Police Departments, Board of Selectmen, Marlborough Congregational Church, Marlborough CERT team and many local businesses for their time and support. As well as the Marlborough community who came out to enjoy the parade and muster.

This was truly a team effort and everyone's support made this event not only possible but a great success. On behalf of the entire MJAFDC, thank you!

### Respectfully,

Sheryl Dougherty, Secretary Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corps

### I Won't Support Liars

To the Editor:

Bernie Dennler, Democratic candidate for Colchester first selectman, believes Colchester should spend more money it doesn't have to employ "grant writers"! I can only speculate that's because he doesn't know how to find or write competitive grant applications himself. In fact, I suspect he doesn't know how to do much at 27 with no professional degree and little experience beyond obediently following the ulterior motives of Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle, legal or not (like when she helped lead a coup at the Annual Town Budget Meeting in which he participated). Bernie even admitted that he only does "a little bit more than secretarial work" in his town office job. I envisage he'll only "show up" to do Rosemary's bidding, like he did in attempting to have a current Selectman falsely charged with a crime.

I absolutely don't want a FS who follows a mob mentality to the detriment of its citizens. Who would? Certainly Rosemary and Denise Turner since they need his assistance in that regard. Speaking of Denise, she recently stated one reason she and her fel-

### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

local business. Congratulations, Lily!

Did you know this week is Fire Prevention Week? Don't worry, I didn't either. But it is, and the theme of this year's campaign is "Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." "Cooking fires are the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries," Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), said in a press release. "This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign works to highlight when and where cooking fires happen most often, along with simple ways to minimize those risks." low wayward sisters on the BOS refuse to represent their constituents in person at meetings is because the FS doesn't provide them documentation until the day of the meeting. That's patently false. The correspondence for the 9/6 meeting reflects the FS made documentation concerning the town clerk available for their review several days before the meeting.

I'll never condone nor will I support liars, conspirators, or bearers of false witness to lead my government in any capacity at any level. I want leaders who actually lead, not submissively follow, and who show up for real, rather than phoning it in and armchair quarterbacking. That's not Rosemary Coyle, not Denise Turner, and definitely not Bernie Dennler.

Not for hypocrites, DeAva Lambert – Colchester

### It's Your Choice To the Editor:

In recent letters, the Democrats seeking public office have portrayed the Republicans as being childhaters, education-deprivers and, worse, as non-caring callous individuals.

These folks are trying to convince you that those on the Board of Finance and Town Council are hellbent and determined to reduce the quality and quantity of Education students in East Hampton deserve. All they say is we cut, cut, cut.

Reductions in requests are not cuts. They are reductions.

What is their solution? Drastically raise our property taxes. Or worse, dig deeply into the Town's fund balance which is not to be used for ongoing expenses such as what they propose. Deficit spending, as the education Department did this past year, is not acceptable. Debt is costly.

It's your choice. Elect candidates who will raise taxes considerably, making the town out of reach for more, or elect those who are vigilant and aware of the pitfalls that lie in front of us when budgetary constraint is not practiced.

And Republicans remember that taxes are your money during the budget season and beyond. Alison Walck – East Hampton

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

### **Bisbikos Deserves Your Support** To the Editor:

As we are well into the election season, it has become evident that the Democratic candidate for first selectman, Bernie Dennler, has not presented a clear platform. This raises questions about whether he can offer promises that our current first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, hasn't already fulfilled or initiated, suggesting a lack of clear direction on Mr. Dennler's part.

When evaluating accomplishments and vision alone, the most logical choice is Andreas Bisbikos.

In terms of economic development, Andreas has attracted numerous new businesses to Colchester, including Fornarelli's, Wagging Tails Pet Shop, Pokemoto, The Color House, Central K-9, Town & Country Early Learning Center, and Moran Restaurant. Additionally, he is the only first selectman in 15 years to make progress on the old Jack's Chevrolet building, with the Granite Group set to expand into that location.

Regarding his vision for Colchester, Andreas plans to collaborate with prospective businesses to bring them to town, and oversee the completion of the Lebanon Avenue Streetscape Revitalization. He also intends to expand the operational quarters of the police department, supervise the construction of the Town Hall roof, modernize Town Hall's HVAC, and refurbish the water towers. These are just a glimpse of Andreas's extensive plans as he continues the great 'Colchester Comeback.'

Colchester Comeback. Andreas Bisbikos deserves your support, as does the entire Republican slate.

See you at the polls!

Colchester or not:

### Sincerely, Rich Tanner – Colchester

Thank You!!! To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and enjoy The Portland Fair this past weekend. As you entered the main gates of the grounds hopefully you were able to appreciate the display of flowers and artifacts created by The Portland River-Valley Garden Club welcoming all visitors and pollinators that happened to be flying by! This autumnal floral welcome would not have been possible without the extremely generous donation of many, many mums from Jen & John Halfinger of Halfinger Farms Greenhouses, Pumpkins & PYO Daffodils in Higganum as well as enormous ferns and coleus from Jerry Groeper of Tall Tale Antiques in Portland.

It was our club's pleasure and honor to be asked again to create this focal point. See you next year!!! Sincerely yours,

Colleen M. Brede

Portland River-Valley Garden Club

### My Agenda

To the Editor:

Thank you to my hometown of Hebron for all the support they have shown the Hebron Democrats! I apologize we got things started early this year. Hebron is known for electing Republicans even though there are more registered Democrats in town. In the past, political affiliation did not matter because people agreed on a certain set of values that everyone held as a standard. But somewhere along the way, we lost that. Growing up, I remember Mrs. Emt umpiring softball games even though she did not have a daughter that played. The Snack Shack at St. Peter's Field – there were no mandatory family shifts. People stepped up to help. Now people spend their free time arguing with neighbors on Facebook.

In talking to people in town, they have had enough They are concerned with the lack of transparency and respect from some elected officials, primarily Republicans. As the chairperson of the Hebron Democrats, I take my position seriously. Personally, I would prefer feeling a sense of "no matter who wins, the town will be okay." But I love my hometown too much to live outside reality. Hebron is not perfect, and the Republicans are trying to push the idea that everything is wonderful because they are the ones that hold the majority on the boards. If they admit things need to change, they are admitting they are not doing their job. Hebron residents deserve better. So, I am asking my hometown to rally behind me and the candidates that I know will move Hebron forward with respect and civility. That is my only agenda. I am not running for office and there is zero personal gain for me in this election.

Vote for the Hebron Democrats on Nov. 7. This hometown girl needs you and thanks you.

Erin Bussiere, Chair

Hebron Democrats

### Vote Bisbikos

To the Editor,

For the last two years, I have sat back and watched our first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, get criticized and ridiculed for trying to do his job.

When first elected, he was put in the position of cleaning up the previous administration's problems, that were previously swept under the rug. Since taking office, Andreas has always and successful done what's in the best interest for the citizens of Colchester.

In two short years, we have had many businesses call Colchester home. Andreas has also cleaned up many eyesores around town, which were left neglected by previous administrations. With Andreas Bisbikos at the wheel, the ship is moving in the right direction and that is a path we all should follow.

It's time to put the political banter aside and do what is right for the future of Colchester.

Please join me in voting for Andreas Bisbikos on Nov. 7.

Sincerely, Duane Palmes – Colchester

### Enthusiastic Endorsement

To the Editor: I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Karen Pakulis Paul for the Marlborough Board of Finance (BoF). Karen's training and work experience in finance provide her with extensive knowledge of taxes, setting and tracking budgets, and maintaining capital projects. Her work on the BoF as an alternate ensures that she is familiar with Marlborough's financial matters, able to provide valuable insight and expertise immediately. Equally important is the fact that Karen attends BoF meetings, is actively engaged in matters before the Board, is committed to understanding the implications of budget proposals, and is deeply concerned about the financial viability of Marlborough. Karen has further demonstrated her commitment to ensuring the long-term health and well-being of Marlborough residents by her active participation in the town's Sustainable CT initiative. Her insight into the issues that are relevant to ensuring that Marlborough can attract new businesses and young families while addressing the needs of our seniors, and her willingness to research and thoroughly understand the issues under consideration have been vital to the team's efforts. I have been especially impressed with her organizational skills, which have been essential for our team's efforts to monitor various initiatives. Her attention to details has enabled us to keep on track, and to meet important deadlines. I particularly appreciate Karen's commitment to ensuring open communication with the residents of Marlborough, which is one of the initiatives in the Sustainable CT program that Karen is spearheading. That commitment to open lines of communication is also crucial for all members of the BoF. Please cast your vote for Karen for Marlborough BoF on Nov. 7.

To the Editor: Davis Howell is running for Planning and Zoning Alternate in Hebron and we should all support him. Davis has been in town for nearly 40 years and has seen the town change from 4,000 residents to the

**Davis Howell for PZA** 

seen the town change from 4,000 residents to the nearly 10,000 residents that call Hebron home today. Davis and his wife made their home in Hebron all those years ago because Hebron was affordable back then. Davis wants to see a more affordable Hebron; he understands that the decisions made in Town Hall and by the boards and commissions in town help shape the Hebron we all live in. Davis is looking to spend more time "doing" and Hebron is going to benefit in return.

Please join me in voting for Davis Howell for Planning and Zoning Alternate on Nov. 7.

Cathy McSweeney – Amston

### Improve the BOF

To the Editor:

Two outstanding Colchester residents want to serve on the Board of Finance. Each brings significant financial experience to the role as well as years of community service. Scott Chapman is a Colchester business owner with over 20 years in financial planning and investment management. He has served his country (U.S. Navy, ret.) and now wants to serve his community. He is an active member of the Colchester Business Association. Karen Belding brings her experience as a project manager, overseeing multimillion-dollar IT implementation projects for a major insurance company. She is an active volunteer in St. Andrew Church, and is President on the board of the Colchester Baseball and Softball League. Karen also wants to serve Colchester in a meaningful way through the Board.

The skills Scott and Karen bring to the task are prime examples of how the Democratic team will restore professionalism to Town Hall. Putting Scott and Karen on the Board of Finance will go a long way toward correcting the flaws and inaccuracies that Colchester has seen in fiscal management for the past couple of years. They have the experience to review budgetary needs and bring realistic town and education budgets to referendum. They will work with department staffs to regain public trust in the process and the outcome. You can do your part to make this happen by voting for these two fine citizens on Nov. 7. John Barnowski – Colchester

### Arab-Israeli War

To the Editor:

Imagine if you lived in a country which had the power to shut off your electricity, water, and oil. (Israel is now doing that to the Gaza Strip.)

Or, suppose you lived in a country which has expressed a desire to wipe you off the face of the earth. (Hamas has been doing that for decades.)

Folks, both populations have legitimate grievances dating back to the late 1940s. The lives they lead today are direct results of the past.

Both populations have evidence of the rightness of their grievances, both sides believe their acts of violence are justified by what has been done to them. Each side dehumanizes the other. Each side sees the other as threatening or stealing their land. Each side fears and hates the other and has deaths and destruction to justify their "responses."

Hamas has just committed a horrific attack on Israel. Israel is conducting a horrific retaliation. An unimaginably large civilian population in Israel has been killed, wounded, and kidnapped in the past couple of days. An unimaginably large(r) civilian population in Gaza is about to be killed by Israelis.

Each death, on either side, hardens the hate.

Neither side will consider peace until the last atrocity is avenged. And there is always a new atrocity to be avenged. Neither side will hear any defense of the other as anything but biased and undeserving of consideration.

... and the beat goes on. and the hate gets fed. "When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?"

If you've read this far, many of you will feel angry because I'm supporting the "other side." And the "other side" feels that I'm supporting your "side." Therein lies the problem. "When will we ever learn, when will we ever learn?"

In support of the campaign, local State Farm agent Paul Catalano recently donated a Fire Prevention Week kit to Colchester Fire Department, which included home fire safety and prevention activities and information for children and adults.

"State Farm encourages homeowners to make fire prevention an important part of their overall home safety plan," said Catalano. "Fire Prevention Week reminds us that cooking with caution should be at the top of the list. This also is a good time to check your smoke alarms to ensure they are functioning." NFPA shared the following cooking safety • Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove to prevent spills and burns. .

tips through this year's Fire Prevention Week

campaign. They're tips that, obviously, would

be handy for everyone, whether they live in

• Always keep a lid nearby when cooking on the stove. If a small fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

• Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

• If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

• Keep kids and pets 3 feet from the stove/ oven and where hot foods and liquids are being served.

• Watch what you heat. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

• Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

• Be alert. If you are tired or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove/oven.

For more information, visit www.fpw.org.

\*

See you next week.

### Peggy Golfin - Marlborough

### Know the Facts!

To the Editor:

Once again the Democratic candidates for East Hampton municipal elections have fallen short on their understanding of the facts.

Mr. Jordan Werme, just like other Democratic candidates, seems to have difficulty remembering the Board of Education budget process. Plain and simple, regardless of your party, an increase of over \$1,300,000 for 2023-24 over the previous year is no "cut" as the Dems would have you believe. It was a reduction of the amount asked for by Board of Ed and Paul Smith, superintendent. And Mr. Smith announced possible teacher layoffs, not Town Council. Town Council has no authority to recommend teacher cuts; only Paul Smith has that authority.

More importantly, when will Mr. Werme announce his thoughts on other important issues? Such as a new firehouse, water system, grant writer, lack of volunteers filling other boards, town road maintenance and many other issues which will come before Town Council will require time and attention.

So hopefully in the future, Mr. Werme's letters to his future possible constituents will be accurate and truthful. And in broader scope in addressing the multitude of issues which come to Town Council.

### Sincerely, Mark Cunningham – East Hampton

### Reader Forum • Reader • Forum • Reader

### Exactly Who We Need

To the Editor:

Democrats Bryan Smith, Amy DeCesare and William Alexander are exactly who we need for Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals. Bryan Smith has been a voice of reason and transparency during his first term on the ZBA, and I know he'll continue to be an asset for our town and community. Newcomer Amy DeCesare is ready to roll up her sleeves and work for Hebron. Her insurance background and experience as an attorney, her having three kids in the schools here, and her husband being a small business owner all position her to understand the various needs of our town. Will Alexander – who is running for ZBA alternate – also has a keen understanding of the ZBA role with his background in construction management.

This trio has what it takes to bring fair and equitable government to Hebron. Vote for Smith, DeCesare and Alexander for Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals on Nov. 7.

Janet Fodaski – Hebron

### Supports Wanat

To the Editor:

This letter has a simple intent: to show my support for Karen Wanat. I have not known Karen for very long, but she has left a profound impression on my family. She has continuously gone above and beyond for her community, and repeatedly shown that our youth is her biggest priority. When I think of someone I want to represent my voice in the upcoming election, I can think of no one better than Karen. Her intentions to protect and serve are blatantly obvious by a simple search on social media where she continuously respectfully voices her opinions, moderates a very active town page, and consistently keeps the safety of others in mind. Karen is actively involved in our school community, volunteering whenever she can, and is currently accepting donations for the food bank whilst providing a wonderful Halloween display.

I can think of no one better than Karen to represent myself, my family, and my community.

I appreciate your time and consideration in my support.

### Amber Defond – East Hampton

### A Choice for Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:

Last week, the Colchester Business Association hosted a Q&A session between myself and my opponent in the race for first selectman. I want to thank the CBA for giving us this chance to present our competing visions and demonstrate our different leadership styles face-to-face.

I was grateful for the opportunity to discuss a longterm vision for Colchester. Our work should include improving streetscapes, walkability, and parking in our commercial areas; supporting investments in the public water and sewer infrastructure our business community relies upon; improving recreation opportunities; and supporting the schools and families that help bolster our local economy.

The event was also a clear demonstration of just how different my leadership style is from my opponent's. I've been involved in managing personnel since my days working in journalism, prior to my work in municipal government. I believe in building teams, empowering others, bringing people together, and also leading by example. My opponent has a very different style which was on full display at the CBA. His style is bombastic, theatrical, and extremely partisan. His closing comments in which he personally attacked members of the audience by name were some of the most divisive I've ever heard in local government. I think the contrast between the two of us could not have been clearer.

You don't have to take my word for it, check out the video for yourself. Visit BernieForColchester.com and click the button that says "Debate Video."

Then, on Nov. 7, I hope you will vote for the candidate you trust has the experience, vision, and professionalism needed to bring Colchester together. The choice is yours.

> Sincerely, Bernie Dennler – Colchester Candidate for First Selectman

### **Restore Competence to BoF**

To the Editor:

Parents, please come out to support Scott Chapman and Karen Belding for the Board of Finance (BoF). Scott and Karen are both champions of education, and both were there as a part of the fight to restore funding to our schools as a part of the Vote No, Too Low campaign earlier this year.

Remember that it was the Republican members who broke the public's trust. The Republican BoF chair, Andrea Migliaccio, led with disorganized presentations, inaccurately posted meetings, errors in handouts, and blatantly inaccurate numbers. She went out of her way to discourage and impede citizens from participating. She even called the superintendent a liar on top of mocking the efforts of teachers. After the first referendum failed, she mocked the citizens who dared vote against her devastating first budget and then declared that she would remove the too-low/too-high questions for the second referendum. She also threatened to cut funding further should the second referendum fail. Finally, the BoF chairwoman and the first selectman either underestimated or hid town revenue to justify cutting the education budget.

Andrea is running again, along with newcomer Michael Dubreuil. Michael Dubreuil recently posted on Facebook that the citizens should be ignored. Remember what happened the last time they ignored us? The budgets failed – as we told them they would. This failure cost the town tens of thousands of dollars in lost interest revenue on top of the administrative costs of another referendum. More importantly – public trust in Town Hall is at an all-time low.

Vote for change in November – help defeat Andrea Migliaccio and ensure that Michael Dubreuil does not win a seat on the BoF. Vote for Scott Chapman and Karen Belding.

Jeremy M. McKenzie – Colchester

### Walk the Dog

To the Editor:

Ed Smith, thank you for patronizing me, your flattery will get you nowhere. First off, I didn't call anyone names. *The Rivereast News Bulletin* specifically states "no form of harassment or personal attack (such as bullying or name calling) will be tolerated". If my letters were calling anyone names, my letters wouldn't be published. So, please, as is typical for you, stop spreading lies and misinformation. Go back to walking your dog; the skillset suits you.

Second, never said Democrats of today represent former Civil War Southern Democrats who birthed the KKK. Editor, please read back exactly what I wrote? I stated that I want today's Democrat to admit that "their party was responsible for the confederacy, didn't want to abolish slavery, continued to support segregation and founded the KKK." Their selective memories won't allow them to think back that far. Must you continue with the lies and misinformation?

My lack of knowledge of Lincoln, the original Republican. What about your knowledge of original Democrats like JFK, do you think Clinton, Obama and Biden are original Democrats? Why do you think RFK Jr isn't going to be recognized by the Democrats as a suitable contender to Biden? At least the Republicans are having some kind of debates between choices.

Accused of not quoting Annie or any other writer to let you know what in particular I find offensive. Again, editor read back my letters? What I find offensive, really? Border crisis with illegal immigrants flooding into our country as well as the drugs, crime in Democratically run states and cities, economy, inflation, unaccounted-for aid to Ukraine, a puppet POTUS suffering from dementia, career criminals back on the streets while someone who showed up in DC on Jan. 6 gets 5 years in prison. Should I continue?

The majority of your last letter talks about walking your dog, that part of your letter was great, plenty of fact and no fiction. Why don't you just stick to writing about the dog? You do have the perfect skillset for it. **Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough** 

### Vote Dems for BOF To the Editor:

Like many in Hebron, I was appalled by the behavior of Republican Board of Finance members this past spring when they literally called the cops because kids were trying to give public comment supporting education at a Board of Finance meeting. When certain adults are so afraid of an 8-year-old reading a short speech asking for school funding that they call for police backup, it's beyond time for change.

And change is here in Democrats Adam Ockman and Brian Thibeault for Hebron Board of Finance. While I am confident they won't call the cops on kids, I am also extremely impressed with the financial background they'll bring to this role. Both are actuaries who know how to find workable solutions to difficult problems. Both are also parents with kids in the public schools. They understand the need for balanced budgets and funding models that take into account the needs of all members of our town. Above all, they are empathetic and caring people who love the Hebron community.

Vote Ockman and Thibeault for Board of Finance and all Row A on Nov. 7.

Meg Clifton - Amston

### Kamins for Andover Board of Finance

To the Editor:

I am endorsing Jay Kamins for the Andover Board of Finance. There are many reasons to endorse Jay, a few being that he is principled and reliable. Jay has a unique ability to remain unbiased throughout a disagreement.

Every town committee is better with members who can acknowledge an opposing opinion and offer rational reasons for their point of view. Not everyone can problem solve but doing so helps bring both sides of the issue to a resolution.

Jay and his wife Kimberly have lived in Andover for 20 years. Their daughter attended Andover Elementary and graduated from RHAM with honors. In the past, Jay has volunteered for the town as an Assistant Registrar of Voters and he created the original version of the Andover website. Jay works as a Principal Designer at Medtronic in North Haven, working on the next generation of Surgical Robotics that assist doctors in treating patients safely and helping them heal faster.

Throughout the years, he's written several editorials for the *Rivereast* urging political consensus and collaboration. Jay is empathetic, respectful, and exactly the type of representative needed on the Board of Finance. Please give him your vote this November. Thank you,

Brian Briggs - Andover

### Equity in Education

To the Editor:

Last week, the East Hampton Education Association hosted a candidate forum. It was a nice event that provided many of us with a great opportunity to address the teachers in our community, as well as hear a bit about the educational priorities of the respective candidates.

Thank you to the EHEA for allowing us the chance to speak to your members. Hopefully our message will resonate with the educators in attendance to pass on to their colleagues who could not attend. EHEA President Neil Shilansky asked some good questions, and Democrats and Republicans alike gave thoughtful answers.

Each topic discussed, such as school safety, educator retention, and budget, are all important. But one subject presented – supporting educator efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion – is a tough order to understand and answer.

The Republican candidates were asked about DEI; the Democrats were not. While I am on the blue team, I'd still like to offer a response.

As a candidate, it's easy to say you are welcoming to all people, regardless of race or religion. Yet DEI is complicated and goes far beyond skin color or creed. Diversity is not limited to race. It covers a huge spectrum of classifications, including wealth disparity, special needs, age, gender, sexuality and more.

A good school system must be equitable to all types of students. It's one thing to provide Chromebooks to everyone; it's another to ensure that every student has the skills to use that technology effectively. To be truly equitable and inclusive, education must be differentiated.

It's a tall task, but our East Hampton teachers are skilled and prepared to support the learning needs of all students. I applaud their efforts, which strengthen our schools and community.

### Sincerely, Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton Candidate for the Board of Education

### **B-E-E for B-O-E**

To the Editor: I am supporting the team of Brittany (Loudenback), Eleisha (LeMay) and Elizabeth (Alexander) for Hebron's Board of Education. These three women have what it takes to serve this amazing community of Hebron and its most precious residents - our children. These local moms were vocal during the recent budget referendums, providing actual solutions to get the budget to pass. They have the trust of so many people in this community, which is one of the most important aspects of volunteering on a board. They respect one another and will work together to make sure our schools are the best that they can be. Voting for Brittany, Eleisha and Elizabeth is the right choice for Hebron, our students, teachers, and administrators

It is time for fresh faces to move Hebron forward. Vote for Brittany Loudenback, Eleisha LeMay and Elizabeth Alexander on November 7th. Nicole Lotko – Hebron

### **RTC** Tribalism

To the Editor: As I sat down to read the *Rivereast* last week, I could not help but notice Taras Rudko was criticizing First Selectman Bisbikos again, this time for a terrible debate performance along with his poor decisionmaking. It reminded me of Rudko and other's previous criticism of Andreas Bisbikos' abysmal record as first selectman of Colchester. Not long ago, the Colchester RTC voted no-confidence in the first selectman. Let's revisit that sad history.

Just over a year ago, Rudko wrote on his Facebook page that First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos does "not reflect our values." He asserted that Bisbikos' "actions and behavior toward citizens of this community . . . have been embarrassing to say the least" and that he has used his position to "dissuade public participation in debate." Rudko then blasted the first selectman's "media stunt in an attempt to ban a book from the library that caused a global response." The RTC ultimately voted that they had no-confidence in Bisbikos and said that they would search for another candidate, but here we are with Bisbikos at the head of the ticket again.

In the same post, Rudko wrote, "I believe it boils down to something simple. The answer, in my mind, is tribalism. It is the idea that our team can do no wrong. It is supporting bad behavior, whether that be unethical, deceitful, nontransparent, or the abuse of power." Yet, here we are one year later with Rudko and the rest of the RTC supporting, even if it is weak support, Bisbikos's reelection. It seems more of the same tribalism that Rudko was referring to. I recommend that the voters listen to 2022 Rudko's assessment – Bisbikos is unfit for office and does not deserve another term. Restore civility and professionalism to town hall – vote for Bernie Dennler.

Nicole McKenzie – Colchester

### Vote for Bright Future

To the Editor:

I do not think there is a single property-owning resident in town who is against a fiscally responsible budget given the current state of inflation. However, fiscal responsibility has never equated to the lowest possible taxes. Only focusing on keeping taxes to a minimum is quite irresponsible. Raising taxes or mill rates slightly to ensure we maintain good schools and *See Story, page 27* 



# Stuart L. Jablon, D.P.M.

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### ARE REGULAR DENTAL VISITS REALLY NECESSARY?

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**P.S.** Like humans, giraffes also have 32 teeth, but most of them are positioned in the back of their mouths, which is why giraffes don't have pearly white smiles!

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ommunication disorde

are easier to spot when

you know the signs.

# Colchester • Colch

# Town's Aa3 Rating Affirmed by Moody's

### By Michael Sinkewicz

Moody's Investors Service this month confirmed Colchester Aa3 issuer and general obligation unlimited tax (GOULT) ratings following its review of information from the town's 2022 fiscal performance.

A review was initiated on Aug. 4 due to a lack of sufficient information for the 2022 fiscal year, according to a Moody's press release.

Moody's stated that the Aa3 rating "reflects the town's moderate debt burden, low pension liability and strong wealth and income profile."

"Colchester's financial operations have generally been balanced, and the town has used surpluses to add to fund balance in recent years," the statement read. "The town's available fund balance and liquidity ratios are in line with Connecticut peers despite being lower than the Aa3 rated peers in other states.'

Moody's also said the town's "strong revenue performance resulted in a small surplus in 2022."

"We expect the town to continue to show surpluses in 2023 and 2024. The town has steadily paid down its debt, which has kept the fixed costs ratio low."

Colchester has around \$27.3 million of debt outstanding as of June 30, 2021, the release stated.

The Aa3 rating signifies that financial obligations are "judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk," according to Moody's rating scale.

Colchester Finance Director Mary Williamson told the Rivereast this week that the notifications means that "our rating is not in jeopardy anymore."

. After handing over draft financial documents,

### **Farmers Market Wraps Up Sunday**

The Colchester Farmers Market will wrap up this Sunday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Town Green.

The market will feature various vendors selling fresh vegetables, local fruits, meats, cheeses and more. There will also be crafts, sweet treats and a food truck.

Check out the market's Facebook and Instagram pages (@ColchesterFarmersMarketCT) for more information.

Williamson explained that the town's rating was affirmed. However, she added, the town only utilizes the agency for one major bonding obligation, the William J. Johnston Middle School roof project. Another agency, S&P Global Ratings, which the town predominantly relies upon, has not yet sent the town its rating.

Williamson explained that S&P will base its decision around the same financial information provided to Moody's, and will pose similar questions, including why the 2021-22 adult process was significantly delayed. With major projects coming up, including the bonding of the new town senior center, a healthy rating is essential.

"It's highly unlikely that we'd experience anything negative," Williamson said, expressing confidence in the outcome.

Colchester Board of Finance Chairman Andrea Migliaccio previously confirmed that the town had been placed on a fiscal watchlist as a result of a long overdue financial audit report. The alert was a "heads-up" but not an actual penalty, she said, and the notice came from one rating companies that the town "doesn't use" Moody's.

The 2021-22 finical audit has yet to be completed. When it's concluded, the finance department will move onto the 2022-23 audit (the town is currently in the 2023-24 fiscal year).

Williamson said people have a "misunderstanding" regarding how the audit is conducted. It is not done in-house; information is sent to the auditor, and the town responds to questions as

### **October Project Graduation Fundraiser**

All are welcome to play miniature golf on the Colchester Town Green Sunday, Oct. 15, during the Colchester Farmers Market.

This portable mini-golf fundraiser will be set up from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$5 for those under 10 years old, and \$10 for those 10 and older. Donations will also be accepted, and hole sponsorships are still available. Visit baconacademyprojectgrad.org for more information.

All proceeds will benefit Bacon Academy Project Graduation, whose mission is to enhance drug and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy.

they arise. She called the process a "collaboration." "It's very complex," she said. "My number one goal is to make the best financial decisions."

Still, she acknowledged that residents or officials who constantly press for the prompt com-

pletion of the report are justified. "I understand that," she said. "It's scary to not have it?

She added, "we're on the home stretch."

Williamson couldn't pinpoint a specific date, but estimated that the audit would be done by the end of the month.

"I'm proud of the effort," she said.

Longtime Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove retired in June, 2022. Williamson, who took over earlier this year after Cosgrove's predecessor, Debbie Kratochvil, and has been steadily working to prepare the documents for an audit, on top of normal day-to-day responsibilities.

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in action against the Tolland Eagles on Oct. 1, and then against the Plainfield Panthers on Oct. 8. Here is how they fared:

Seniors: Defeated Tolland, 38-18, to move to a 5-0 record for the season. The offensive line had solid blocking all day to provide running lanes and rushing touchdowns by Noah Garvie, Dominic Helm, Xaden Medina and two touchdowns for Mason Howard. Vinny Arrigoni also scored a touchdown on a kickoff return. The defense was solid all game with first half interceptions by Adam Bigelow and Mason Howard and two second half fumble recoveries by Xaden Medina. The following week, the seniors shut out Plainfield 46-0, to move to a record of 6-0. Scoring started early with rushing touchdowns by Xaden Medina and Noah Garvie. Colton LaFlash and Jameson Grant each added their first career touchdown runs while Dominic Helm returned an interception for a TD and Xaden Medina returned the second half kickoff for his second TD of the day. Mason Howard made 5 of 6 extra point kicks. Cody O'Bryon, Brendan Kastrup and Charlie Gorman made big plays all day on both sides of the ball. Sam Collazo, James Wissler, Gavin King, Noah Garvie and Jake Hashem made big tackles all game.

Juniors: Topped Tolland, 39-21. The offense, led by QB Jakob Sheehan and RBs Nik Ibriham, Liam Beeler and Keegan King, had its best performance of the season so far. The defense led by Jack Wissler and Allen Marshall came up

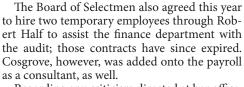
### **Champions Karate Party**

On Saturday, Oct. 28, Champions Karate will celebrate its second year of being a Colchester business. From 6-9 p.m. that night, it will hold its second annual birthday and costume party.

If interested in learning more about martial, you are welcome to come by and talk with Sensei Josh Seals.

Champions Karate is located at 199 Old Hartford Rd.

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Regarding any criticism directed at her office, Williamson said she "doesn't necessarily view that harshly."

"I understand why," she said, adding that people often jump to conclusions.

Still, Williamson encourages patience as the process unfolds.

"It's hard for the people that come in every day and work their butts off in the trenches," she said. "It undermines their hard work."

According to Connecticut General Statutes, "All municipalities shall have all their financial statements audited at least once annually."

### Youth Football Recap

with some huge stops on 4th down.

The following week, the Juniors had a hardfought loss against Plainfield on Sunday. The offense came up short on a last-minute drive. The team will put everything they have into getting a big win vs. RHAM this week.

Micros: Defeated Tolland, 26-20. Down 20-19 with 3 minutes left in the game, the Cougars started what would be their final drive and take the lead 26-20 with just over 30 seconds left on the clock. The offensive line showed their strength pushing Tolland back and creating running lanes for the backs, who fought for every yard. On the defensive side of the ball many different players contributed to making the plays when needed.

The following week, the Micros fell to Plainfield, 33-13. The Cougars never seemed to get it on track throughout the game, falling behind early in the first half and never managing to overcome the deficit. The Cougars were heavily penalized throughout the game including having touchdowns called back.

Peewee: Despite the obvious physical differences in both clubs, Colchester gave a good effort in its loss against Tolland. The morning did not go without some shining moments: the high motor of Sullivan King resulted in King breaking into the back field from the DT position for several tackles for loss, to include a fumble recovery. The Cougars also had their first completed pass of the year. Teddy Ramer snuck out of the back field into the flat and caught a perfectly thrown ball from QB1 Braden MacFarland for an 8-yard gain.

The following week, against Plainfield, the Cougars made several attempts to work the ball down the field with several running backs against a tough Plainfield defensive line. Sullivan King eventually busted out over 70 yards for his first touchdown of the year. Two stiff arms and a spin move and he was off to the races. The Cougar defense played well, forcing several three and outs. The Cougars look to build on their efforts this weekend against RHAM.

120 Linwood Avenue (Route 16) Colchester, CT 06415 860-537-4256 • 800-545 GANO Monday-Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 8am-5pm www.ctrentme.com





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### Aid and Support After Pregnancy

Knights of Columbus Spellman Council 6107 will hold the initiative Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) from Oct. 7-31. The Knights will collect supplies for new mothers in need.

Suggested items include diapers, formula, clothing, wipes, and toys.

Donation containers, for new and gently used items for babies from birth to age 1, will be placed in the vestibule of St. Andrew Church,

### Absentee Ballots Available for Election

Town Clerk Gayle Furman has announced that absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 municipal election will be available in the town clerk's office from Friday, Oct. 6, through Monday, Nov. 6.

Absentee ballot instructions: Fill out an application for an absentee ballot. You may obtain an application in the town clerk's office or online at colchesterct.gov (click on Departments, then Town Clerk then Forms), or visit oabr-sots. ct.gov. This will link you directly to the Secretary of the States website where you can fill out a downloadable form. You must be a current Colchester voter at the time of the application.

After the town clerk's office receives the completed application, you will be given an absentee ballot to fill out. If you apply in person, you can fill out the ballot at that time or take it with you

Colchester Senior Center is offering a pair of trips. Call 860-537-3911 for more information. Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18. Senior center membership is free for Colchester residents aged 55 and older. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester

Pacific Northwest & California: April 14-21, 2024. Explore the natural beauty from Seattle to San Francisco. Trip includes transportation to airport, airfare, hotels and 11 meals (six breakfast, one lunch and four dinners). Double occupancy is \$3,529/person if booked before Oct. 14. Registration can be made at the senior center.

### Meet the **Candidates Forum**

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 2-4 p.m., AARP Chapter 4019 will hold its annual Meet the Candidates event, at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave.

Candidates for first selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education are invited to be on the panel. Other candidates are invited to be in the audience. Attendees are invited to bring their questions. Come early as space is limited. Light refreshments will be available.

128 Norwich Ave., and at the handicapped-accessible entrance Monetary donations are also appreciated and those checks should be made to KofC Council 6107 and clearly marked for ASAP initiative.

The checks can be left in the marked collection box located by the donation containers or mailed to KofC Council 6107, P.O. Box 46, Colchester, CT 06415.

to return within the specified period.

Deadlines for receiving the fully filled-out ballot and enclosed envelopes are:

If delivered in person, it must be delivered to the town clerk no later than Monday, Nov. 6, at 4:30 p.m.;

If delivered in person by a family member, or qualified designee (such as a caretaker, police officer in town, or registrar/deputy registrar of voters in town), it must reach the Town Clerk's office by the end of polls on Election Day;

If delivered by mail it must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Election Day; or

If put in the Election Drop Box, must be placed by the 8 p.m. close of polls on Election Day.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 860-537-7215.

### Senior Center Trips

New York Botanical Gardens - Holiday Train Show: Thursday, Dec. 7, leaving at 8 a.m. See model trains and trolleys zip along over winding tracks past replicas of more than 140 New York landmarks made from plant material such as pinecones, orange slices and cinnamon sticks. You will also spend some time on Arthur Avenue, the "Little Italy" of the Bronx. Cost is \$112/per person. Sign up before Nov. 7 or until sold out. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester.

### Pumpkins & Pooches

Pumpkins & Pooches is back, and will be hosted by the Colchester Dog Park at Hop Culture Farms & Brew Company on Cato Corner Road. The event will take place Sunday, Oct. 29, from noon-6 p.m.

This will be a day filled with pet-related vendors, a cornhole tournament, canine costume contests, raffle, and, of course, beer. Pumpkin decorating and other activities for the kids will be available.

Families, kids and dogs are welcome. Dogs must be vaccinated and on leashes. No retractable leashes, please.

Pre-registration is needed for the cornhole tournament. Cost is \$25/two-person team. The tournament is double-elimination; boards provided. Email tagnobark@gmail.com to register by Oct. 23.

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# **Two Weekend Crashes** Lead to Serious Injuries

### By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester Fire and Emergency Medical Services responded to two separate motor vehicle accidents on Sunday morning, resulting in serious injuries and the temporary closing of the highway.

Fire Chief Steven Hoffmann did not have an update on the individuals involved in either accident as of press time.

According to state police, two individuals were transported to Hartford Hospital via Lifestar helicopters following a crash near the Exit 17 on-ramp on Route 2 in Colchester.

The vehicle was traveling west bound and drove off the right shoulder due to an "unknown reason" while executing a left turn, police stated.

The car struck a concrete culvert, causing it to roll over multiple times and ejecting the occupants of the vehicle. The suspected driver, Quashaun Whitehead, 38, of Bloomfield, was being treated for suspected serious injuries and the passenger, Terry Broadnax-Snype, 36, of Hartford, was being treated for suspected minor injuries, according to police.

Emergency personnel responded to the scene at 4:17 a.m., according to Hoffmann. Colchester officials were joined by units from Salem, Hebron and Middletown.

Hoffman said the surrounding the scene

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

American Legion Post 54 will host a Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Saint Joseph Polish Club, 395 South Main St.

While donations of all blood types are needed, the Red Cross especially needs type O Negative and type B Negative blood donors right now. Download the American Red Cross app or go to the Red Cross website at www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment. Walk-ins can also be accommodated.

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

by exit 17 was shut down for nearly six hours, reopening around 10:30 a.m. While response crews cleared the area by 6:00 a.m., the state police's accident reconstruction team continued to investigate the scene, he said.

Two minutes prior to that incident at 4:15 a.m., Colchester personnel responded to a motorcycle accident call on Route 16 at Cemetery Rd. Hoffman stated that the individual was riding an ebike.

The male rider was transported to the hospital via ambulance, Hoffmann said.

"The injuries weren't critical," he stated.

Hoffmann expressed that electric bikes can reach high speeds - most can exceed 20 miles per hour - which are accelerated by the hilly roadway.

"You get a good amount of speed going down," he said.

The particularly section of road has been prone to incidents and hazardous conditions.

"We get a good amount of accidents on Route 16," Hoffmann said. "We go there quite a lot."

On Sunday morning, Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos notified the community that local crews had been dispatched.

"Let us pray for their recovery and keep them in our hearts," he wrote on Facebook.

### Dine & Donate!

All are invited to support the nonprofit group Girls on the Run Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Oz N Bones BBQ, 43 Hayward Ave.

From 5-8 p.m., 10% of all sales (dine-in or takeout) will be donated to Girls on the Run, a nonprofit organization that designs programming intended to strengthen girls' social, emotional, physical and behavioral skills to successfully navigate life experiences. There is a local Girls on the Run team right in Colchester, at Jack Jackter Intermediate School.



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### Calling All Artists!

Colchester Music Boosters is in need of a design to launch its group and help get its first fundraiser off the ground. The winning design will be printed on T-shirts to be sold as a fundraiser to support music education in Colchester Public Schools. The winner will receive a free T-shirt.

Colchester Music Boosters is a group of parents and community members dedicated to sup-

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. Unless noted, registration is required for all programs. For full descriptions and to register, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or visit www.colchesterct. gov.senior-center.

Monday, Oct. 16: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 9-11 a.m., Flu/Covid Vaccine Clinic, by appointment; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1:30 p.m., Keys, Bags, Names, Words Movie Screening.

Tuesday, Oct. 17: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; no Bingo today; 1:30 a.m., AARP 'Meet the Candidates' Forum.

Wednesday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., County Fair luncheon; 1:30 p.m., Sewing Circle, Line Dancing. Thursday, Oct. 19: 7:15 a.m., Krucker's trip

### A Look at Historic Art

All are invited to take a look at Colchester's historic art this Saturday, Oct. 14, at 2 p.m., at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques, 168 South Main St.

The forum "Needle and Thread" will feature rare needlework treasures made in Colchester between 1780 and 1815. This Invitation to Learn forum will be led by Nathan Liverant and Son's third generation owner, Arthur S. Liverant, and historian Kevin J. Tulimieri.

The forum is free and all are welcome. For more information, visit www.liverantantiques.com.

### 325th Birthday Gala **Tickets Still Available**

All are invited to Colchester's 325th Birthday celebration gala on Friday, Oct. 13, from 7-10 p.m., at Priam Vineyards, with music, passed hors d'oeuvres, and a free beverage. Gluten-free and vegan food options will also be provided. Cocktail attire required.

Tickets are \$40 each. Tables can be reserved in groups of eight or 12. All attendees will receive a free commemorative book with pictures of Colchester's history.

Tickets can be purchased in the recreation or town clerk's offices during normal business hours. For more information, call the recreation office at 860-537-7297.

porting the music programs of the Colchester Public Schools. Through fundraising, the group said it hopes to provide funds to help cover costs of music field trips, guest musicians, and other music opportunities not normally covered by traditional school budget funds.

More details can be found on Facebook at Colchester Music Boosters, Inc., or by emailing colchestermusicboosters@gmail.com.

departs; 9 a.m., Exercise w/Ann; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Shopping Trip; 11 a.m., yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling by appointment only; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Oct. 20: Senior center closed, as the floors are being cleaned. There are no programs, lunch or transportation today.

Pumpkin Centerpiece: Thursday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m. In this crafting session, make a centerpiece out of real pumpkins, ribbons and silk flowers. Cost is \$5 for supplies. Space is limited.

Halloween Costume and Pizza Party: Tuesday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m. There will be traditional Halloween festivities including games and a costume parade and contest. The festivities will be followed by a lunch of pizza, garden salad, choice of soda or bottled water, and spooky desserts. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Tickets are \$6 if you wear a costume and \$7 if you do not. Tickets are on sale through Friday, Oct. 27, or until sold out.

### **Polish Dinner**

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will have a dine-in or takeout polish dinner Friday, Oct. 13, from 5-6 p.m. Dinner will include pierogies, golumpki, kielbasa, kapusta, rye bread with butter, and a dessert.

Advanced ticket sales on sale now. Tickets are \$15/each and on sale at the bar during normal business hours: Monday-Friday, 4-10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-10 p.m

Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

### Ahavath Achim News Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon

Ave., has announced the following schedule:

Tuesday: Aggadata class, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m. on Zoom; call for link.

Shabbat Schedule: Friday at 6:30 p.m., inperson and on Zoom - Shabbat; Saturday morning, 10 a.m., in-person and on Zoom -Shabbat service.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page; Ask the Rabbi and Jewish Trivia are also featured.

For more information, or a link for services or classes, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fire Department Open House

Colchester Fire Department will hold an Open House event Sunday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at 52 Old Hartford Rd. All are invited to come meet their local firefighters and EMS providers.

There will also be equipment on display, and fire prevention and safety information available.

Events will include: vehicle extrication demonstration, fire extinguisher training and demonstration, firefighter gear try-on, blood

Parks & Rec News & Notes

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following programs and events. Registration required unless noted. For full descriptions and to register, visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. Parks and Rec.

can also be reached at 860-537-7297 or at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. 325th Birthday Events: Use the Passport to view the schedule of events, restaurant week, tours and more on the Parks and Rec. website. Use the passport page to collect stamps of all the places you visit. Drop off your stamped passport for a chance to win one of three prizes. Printed passports are available at the Town Hall as well.

Pumpkin Painting: Wednesday, Oct. 18, 3-4 p.m. Bring a pumpkin and decorate it at the RecPlex pavilion. Supplies provided; just bring your own pumpkin. Wear clothes that can get messy. All ages welcome.

Trick or Trunk: Saturday, Oct. 28; rain date Oct. 29. Decorate your car/truck "trunk" with a Halloween theme and hand out candy to the trick-or-treaters; please bring two bags of candy per child. Register by Oct. 22. Limited to the first 50 trunks.

Young Yogis: Wednesdays, Oct. 18-Nov. 8, at Colchester Elementary School. Each class will combine yoga and mindful practices. This class is for children enrolled in CES in grades K-2. The instructor will meet students after school and walk them to the location of the class in CES. Parents/guardians will sign out their child at 4:30. Cost: \$50.

Introduction to Pottery Wheel Course: Wednesdays, Oct. 25-Nov. 15, 12:30-2:30 p.m., at 43 Hayward Ave., second floor. This course is a way to advance beyond clay hand building and learn how clay can be shaped by using the pottery wheel. Students have free access to the use of open studio time over the four

### Land Trust Hike

Colchester Land Trust will hold a 14-mile hike on the Richard H. Goodwin Trail Sunday, Oct. 22, at 9 a.m. Board member Lisa Hageman will lead the hike.

Meet at the Chapal Farm Preserve parking lot on Route 82 in East Haddam. Hikers will be transported to the eastern end of the trail at Darrow Pond in East Lyme. The trail is an easy to moderate hike. Approximate duration: 5 hours.

Hikers must register by Wednesday, Oct. 18, at www.colchesterlandtrust.org. The hike is free for CLT members, and \$5 for non-members.

For more information, contact Lisa at lterrillhageman@comcast.net or 860-918-1537 (text or call). Bring adequate water and snacks for the hike. No dogs are permitted on the trail.



pressure screenings, an ambulance tour, Touch-a-Truck, Smokey Bear visit, Gator UTV and marine units on display, CPR/Lucas device demonstration, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) demonstrations, state police seat belt convincer, and more.

Also, hot dogs will be available for lunch while supplies last, and the fire museum at 100 S. Main St. will be open for tours. There will be antique fire truck rides to the museum.

weeks that the course takes place. Class limited to four participants. Cost is \$225.

Gentle Yoga: Mondays, Oct. 30-Nov. 20 or Nov. 27-Dec. 18, via Facebook Live. Ages 45 and up will explore yoga postures, breathing techniques and meditation. All levels of fitness or yoga experience are welcome. Cost: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Ghost Run: Saturday, Nov. 4. The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton are collaborating along with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host the 20th annual Ghost Run, on the 13.1-mile certified half marathon Air Line Trail course. Runners registered by Oct. 8 will receive a T-shirt. Registration deadline is Nov. 1. There will be no race day registration. Cost is \$45 per runner, \$100 per relay team. Register at runsignup.com/Race/CT/Hebron/AirLineTrailGhostRun.

Ski Club - Register by Nov. 3: This program is for students at Bacon Academy in grades 9-12. Parks and Rec. will offer weekly trips to Ski Sundown on Fridays, Jan. 5-Feb. 2, 2024. Depart from Bacon at 2:30 p.m. each week and return to Bacon at approximately 9:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Nov. 3. Price includes the coach bus. Package prices can be found on the Parks and Rec. website. Chaperones Needed: If interested in helping chaperone the ski trips, contact Matt at parksandrec@colchesterct.gov or 860-537-7297.

### Ukrainian Food Dinner

On Saturday, Oct. 14, St. Mary Ukrainian Church, 178 Linwood Ave., will have a traditional Ukrainian dinner from 1-6 p.m.

The dinner features kielbasa, kraut, stuffed cabbage, and pierogis. borscht soup, dessert and drinks will be also available for sale. The dinner will also include Ukrainian music and arts and crafts tables, and more.

The event is eat-in or takeout. All are welcome. For more information, call 860-537-2069.

### Vendors Wanted

Colchester Federated Church's annual Fall Market will be held Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – and vendors are wanted.

The event will showcase local crafters, vendors and farmers, as well as an Upscale Tag Sale, bake sale and raffle.

For a table at the fair, contact Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

### Avoid Senior Scamming

On Monday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m., the Colchester Commission on Aging, in partnership with the Colchester Senior Center, will present "Tips to Avoid the Target of Scammers."

Chuck Maynard, assistant vice president of Colchester Dime Bank, and Gary Dawson, learning and development manager of Dime Bank in Norwich, will discuss phishing, calls or



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emails from persons who pretend to know you, changing your passwords, money mule scams, grandparent scams, gift card scams, etc.

All are invited to come and hear how you can protect you and your loved ones' personal information and privacy. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited, so register with the senior center at 860-537-3911.



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# Two Awarded the Ralph Paley Spirit Award

### **By London Brazal**

Two outstanding citizens have been honored with a community leadership award for their contributions and dedication to their fellow residents.

On Sept. 21, the Waverly Senior Center honored Nancy Jones and Kevin Backman of Portland with this year's Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland awards

The awards, named in honor of a man wellknown for his dedication to the town, recognize folks who share the late Paley's passion for giving back to the town.

In 2009, the Portland Senior Center introduced the Town Spirit Award to recognize the "unsung heroes" of Portland. Following the sponsorship by members of the Paley family in memory of Ralph "Mickey" Paley, the award was renamed in his honor.

Paley made Portland his home for most of his life, co-establishing Paley Brothers Hay and Shavings alongside his brother, Hyime. Together, they successfully managed the business for over half a century. Paley was an active member of the Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue and quietly supported numerous organizations and individuals through anonymous donations.

Senior Services Administrator Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, who presented the award, said Jones exemplifies dedication and selflessness, enriching the lives of numerous Portland residents through her tireless efforts.

Brookelyn, a student in Middletown, is the

daughter of Eric Grant and Erin Stannard

Grant. She has prepared a family story about her

tions, or to register, visit portland.recdesk.com

or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is

Where to Start?: Wednesdays through Oct. 25,

6-7 p.m., at Riverfront Park. Drop-ins welcome.

Oct. 21, at Riverfront Park. Registration for

runners ages 19+ is \$25. Walkers and runners

under 18 years old pay \$20. Register by today,

Sept. 29, for a free T-shirt.

19th Annual Come on Over 5K: Saturday,

Curious About Yoga, But Don't Know

Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

required.

impact in Portland is nothing short of inspiring," said Elliott-Caratasios. She added that Jones' steadfast commitment to volunteering with Meals-on-Wheels has guaranteed that elderly neighbors receive not only nourishing meals but also much-needed companionship.

Elliott-Caratasios also praised Jones' initiative of crafting bears for those facing adversity noting that the bears have brought comfort and joy to countless individuals. Jones' "tireless efforts have touched the lives of so many, providing comfort and support to those in need," Elliott-Caratasios said. "Nancy's generosity knows no bounds, and her compassion has become a cornerstone of our community."

Backman was described as someone with a heart filled with compassion and a deep understanding of community. "Kevin's heart is as genuine as they come," said Elliott-Caratasios. For years, Backman has devoted himself to volunteering at the Portland Food Bank, ensuring that individuals in need have consistent access to nutritious meals.

Backman has also reached out to assist individuals facing adversity or experiencing homelessness, and is a volunteer with the Parks and Recreation Department.

At the event, Portland First Selectman Ryan Curley spoke to celebrate the spirit of Jones and Backman. Elliott-Caratasios also commemorated the volunteers at the senior center for their

### **Family History Program**

On Sunday, Oct. 22, the Portland Historical Great-Grand Aunt Gracie, a Portland resident Society will present a special program entitled who is now in her 90s. Brookelyn will describe "My Aunt Gracie" by Brookelyn Grant. The what her Aunt Grace Larry has told her about program will begin at 2 p.m. and will be held in growing up in one of only 15 Black families in Portland, where she went to school, her church the Mary Lou Rice Room at the Waverly Senior and other memorable events.

> All are welcome. The event is open to all, free of charge, and refreshments will be served.

### Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Oct. 21, at Riverfront Park. Times are 9:30-Portland Parks and Recreation offers a variety of programs for adults and children. For a 10:15 a.m. on Wednesdays and 10:30-11:15 a.m. complete list of programs, full course descripon Saturdays.

Adult & Youth Dance Classes: A variety of tap, ballet, jazz and cardio classes for ages 6 months to adult. Classes are held at Dance with

Adult & Youth Martial Arts: Classes for children ages 3 and up are held at The Inner Circle

Inner Circle.

# Miss Alicia studios at 332 Marlborough St.

at 332 Marlborough St.

Youth Gymnastics Classes: Classes for toddlers and children ages 6 and up are held at The

Self-Defense for Women: Sundays, Oct. 15 or Nov. 12, 6-7 p.m., at The Inner Circle.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold the last Household Hazardous Waste collection event of the year on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Rd., Higganum.

This free collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG, region which includes East Hampton & Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed.

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

Nancy Jones, left, and Kevin Backman are the winners of this year's Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland awards.

work, including Carlotta Lord, June Martin, Alexis Chiccarello. "It truly takes a village," El-Judy Thompson, and Administrative Assistant liott-Caratasios said.

### Methodist Church Planning Holiday Bazaar

Portland United Methodist Church will hold its Holiday Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 18. The event will feature hand-crafted gifts, a bake sale, and several kinds of soups. A portion of the proceeds will go to charity.

Also, in 2024, church pastor the Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold the pastor is planning a series of Wednesday night child-friendly Quiche, Coffee, Cookies and Questions Suppers in her Portland home, for residents considering becoming part of the church but who have questions about God, the Bible, and the United Methodist Church. Reservations will be necessary.

Portland United Methodist Church is a member of the United Methodist New England Conference. Johnson-Siebold may be reached at 518-729-8215 and/or johnsieb60@ gmail.com.







### **Resident Named Commended Student**

Principal Kathryn Lawson of Portland High School announced last week that Aleksandra (Sasha) Connolly has been named a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), Sasha Connolly

which conducts the program, was presented by Lawson to Connolly.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2024 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Best in Snow!... Public Works employee Brian Steffman recently attended the **Connecticut Association of Street &** Highway Officials (CASHO) Snow Plow Safety Competition and took home first place for the Town of Portland. "Congratulations to Brian and the entire DPW crew on a job well done!" First Selectman Ryan Curley shared on Facebook.

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# Portland • Portland Agricultural Fair Draws Strong Crowds

### By John Leavenworth

The Portland Agricultural Fair took place this past weekend and was met with much attendance.

The festival took place at the Exchange Club fairgrounds last Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and apart from the usual positivity of local crowds, a physical fight broke out between fairgoers that warranted police intervention and investigation.

According to Portland Police Officer Micheal Revicki, the incident took place at the expo Friday night, and involved a verbal and physical altercation between fairgoers.

First Selectman Ryan Curley was in attendance at the fair, and said he was "not surprised something like that would occur."

"99% of people are friendly," he said. "Unfortunately [fights do] happen."

The first selectman added that the squabble was "quickly resolved," and the incident did not overshadow the more positive aspects of the weekend.

Revicki said the act is still under investigation and that no charges were made at this time.

The fair had probable record attendance on Sunday, according to Curley.

He said "Sunday was the day where people said let's go to the fair."

He said although he and other fairgoers were expecting rain, Friday was also well attended.

The weather proved to be warm on Friday and it was "great to have a fair where you're not bundled up," he said.

Due to rain, the fair was lightly attended on Saturday, he noted.

The first selectman, along with the town's board of selectmen, opened the expo on Friday, and formally "thanked the fair committee for all they do to make the fair a success."

Adding to how the weekend went, Fair Vice President Kelly Chester said, "Friday provided the usual local crowd, which is always great."

"I'd say it's more of a Portland high school reunion for all grades," she said. "And of course

### First Congregational Church News day, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday,

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. On Sunday, Oct. 15, worship is at 10 a.m. Deacon Louise Wright will lead the worship and her sermon is titled, "Who am I?"

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and ThursWednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@ gmail.com for more information. For more information, email first.church.

pct@sbcglobal.net or call 860-342-3244, or follow the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

### Youth Soccer Recap

Portland's youth soccer teams were in action last weekend. Here are some highlights:

U9 Boys Red Raptors: The travel soccer team came out on top of a 4-2 battle on Saturday against South Windsor. The teams played to a 1-1 tie at halftime with Elliot Parmalee scoring the goal for Portland. A rainy second half could not stop Clayton Trojanowski from scoring to give Portland a 2-1 lead. Trojanowski and Wilder Yardis scored additional goals to round out the offense while goalie Max Finkelstein recorded an amazing 26 stops to secure a 4-2 victory.

On Sunday, the Red Raptors hosted, and defeated, Rocky Hill. Solid footwork skills and passing opened the field as the team consistently dominated the play. Jackson Coiteux and Max Finkelstein split time as goalkeepers,

### 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. Services are held 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.

The church's Parish Pantry Providers are continuing to help stock the shelves of the Portland Food Pantry. The Providers are collecting school supplies for the month of September.

The church is also collecting new and gently used children's books for Covenant to Care for Children to distribute to families to encourage children's literacy. There is a collection container at the front entrance to the church.

The church's 235th Anniversary Celebration will be held Sunday, Oct. 29, from 4-9 p.m., at the Inn at Middletown. Tickets are \$75 and include a social hour with music, hors d'oeuvres, dinner,

while Elliot Parmalee anchored the defense. Clayton Trojanowski, Jackson Coiteux and Nolan Heller all found the back of the net multiple times while Declan Stachelek, Isaiah Curzan and Wilder Yardis each added a goal apiece. The team is currently 6-1-1.

U10G Red Pandas: Lost their league match to Berlin on Friday under the lights, 7-0. Berlin maintained possession throughout the game. Red Panda midfielders Anya Pereira, Gabriella Lardizzone, and Ellie Heller demonstrated improved passing and field vision to produce a handful of quality counter attacks, while Charlotte Cyr's speedy runs caught Berlin's defense by surprise several times. Fullback Olivia LeCara's relentless defensive effort held off Berlin's pressure on several occasions.

dessert and live entertainment. There will also be a silent auction and cash bar. For tickets and information, email trinitychurchportlandct@ gmail.com or call 860-342-0458.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., and there is also 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

### **St. Mary Church News**

### St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located website for more information.

45 Freestone Ave. The church office can be 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.

Sunday we had a great crowd for the Mud Bog." On how the festival did monetarily, Chester

said the profit was unknown at this time. "We still have large bills that are coming in and we had some additional expenses this year due to grounds maintenance," she said.

"The entertainment pricing went up. [The] goal is to simply break even," she said. "Sometimes we do and sometimes we don't."

Chester, in a statement to the Rivereast, thanked the fairgoers and those who worked at the event.

"I would like to thank every single person who attended the fair," she stated.

"We hope you had fun – we do it for you! I would also like to thank every person who vol-

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has an-

nounced the following events. Registration re-

quired for all programs unless noted. To register

and for full program descriptions, visit www.

portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770. The

p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8

Community 'Craft and Conversation' Ses-

sions: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and

Thursday, Oct. 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The library

is in the midst of a long-term planning process

that will guide its priorities over the next several

years, and it wants to hear feedback from the

public. Paint a pumpkin coaster and share your

thoughts on the library's future. All supplies and

light refreshments will be provided. Limited to

are invited to social meetups at the library on

the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Support groups will meet on the third Wednes-

day of the month, with a parent and caregiver

support group running concurrently in another

room at the library. For more information, con-

Fire Truck Storytime: Saturday, Oct. 14, at

11 a.m. on the Town Green. The storytime will

be followed by a visit from Portland firefighters

**Trinity Church** 

Anniversary Celebration

235th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, Oct. 29,

Trinity Church in Portland is hosting its

Tickets are \$75 per person and include a so-

cial hour with a cash bar, passed hors d'oeuvres,

live entertainment by Two Beers and Accola, a

full sit-down dinner (prime rib, salmon, chick-

en or vegetarian lasagna, dessert, coffee), silent

To attend, go to www.trinitychurchportland-

ct.org, click 'Anniversary Celebration' on the top

line, download and fill out the form, and return

it with a check made out to Trinity Church by

Oct. 25. Email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.

Local Students

**Run for Eastern** 

and women's cross-country teams are off to

the races as they begin their fall 2023 seasons.

The men's roster includes 14 runners, while the

Among the student-athletes are three Port-

Eastern Connecticut State University's men's

LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups: Teens

ages 11 and up. Space is limited.

tact Jenn Renk at 860-342-6770.

from 4-9 p.m.

auction and more.

com for more information.

women's roster includes seven.

library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

p.m. Masks are optional.

unteered, especially our grounds crew: Erik Meadors, Mark Chester, Bill Hanna, Brian Adamaitis, Jim Kelly, Mark Chadsey, Taylor and Marshall Meadors, Mike Lastrina, Jenna Lastrina, Amy Heffernan, Bobby Hetrick, Sue Colby, Jack Sundell, Scott Meadors and Tommy Hetrick. If I forgot someone, I truly am sorry and super tired."

Chester added, "Thank you also to all the businesses who advertised in our fair book and who sponsored a race truck and who leveled up. Lastly, I would like to thank the board of directors: Mark Chadsey, Bill Hanna, Amy Heffernan, Mark Chester, and Danielle Piatti and all the fair coordinators."

### Portland Library News & Notes

and a fire truck. No registration is required.

Spooky Science: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Oct. 19 and 26, for grades K-5. Make Frankenworms come to life, use static electricity to raise some ghosts, and experiment with some potions and Halloween candies. Space is limited.

Save the Date: T-Rex Tea Party: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m., for kids in pre-k through grade 2. Have some light refreshments while enjoying dinosaur songs, stories and more. Wear your fanciest or fiercest attire.

Late Fall/Early Winter Storytimes: The next session begins Nov. 14. Registration is required and begins Monday, Oct. 30. Schedule: Preschool Storytime: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 14-Dec. 19; Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., Nov. 15-Dec. 20.

Teen Programs: Gingerbread Haunted Houses: Monday, Oct. 30, 3:30 p.m.

Paint Your Pet: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 4-6 p.m., for ages 13 and up. Local artist Nancy Roman will walk teens through creating watercolor portraits of their favorite four-legged friends. Bring a 5x7 photo of your pet to the program. If you don't have a pet, Roman has photos you can use.

Adult Programs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1 p.m. The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton will be discussed.

A History of Huskies Hoops: Legacy of Greatness: Monday, Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m. Celebrate the history and greatness of the UConn basketball teams with this presentation hosted by award-winning sportswriter and author Marty Gitlin.

Coffee Tastings & Food Pairings: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6:45 p.m. Wake up your taste buds and palates with different types of coffee.

Knifty Knitters: Saturdays 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Knitters (and Crocheters) of Portland are open to new ,adult members of all experience level. Beginning fiber artists welcome. Later this fall the library's display cases will feature a selection of works that the members of this group have donated to the Friends of the Portland Library to auction off.

### **Exchange** Club **Seeks Members**

The Exchange Club of Portland is looking for new members.

The Exchange holds various fundraising events year-round that contribute toward area organizations in supporting their effort to helping others in need.

Members of the Portland Exchange will serve from their food booth at the upcoming Portland Fair. All are invited to stop by and meet current members and see the enjoyment and gratification members get out of being together. If interested in joining, visit www.portlandexchange.org for more information.

### Page 14

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

land residents. Julia Berthiaume and Kayla La-Malfa each run for the women's team. Berthiaume is a junior who majors in health sciences, and LaMalfa is a sophomore who majors in health sciences.

Jake Thompson runs for the men's team. Thompson is a sophomore who majors in business administration.

### **Resident on Soccer Team**

Caiden Hettrick-Rivera of Portland plays forward this fall for the men's soccer team at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Hettrick-Rivera is a sophomore who majors in finance.



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### 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.

Zion will hold its first Sunday School gathering of the season, known as Rally Day, on Oct. 15, from 10:15-11:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Families with school age children (3-12) are invited to see what Zion's religious instruc-

tion program is all about. There will be games, activities and snacks for the kids, and coffee and conversation for the adults. Call Sylvia LeShane at 860-342-0658 if you plan to attend or have any questions.

All are welcome. For more information 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.

### Friends' Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library will hold its annual Fall Book Sale on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Portland Library, located at 20 Freestone Ave.

There will be a special preview sale for Friends' members only on Friday, Oct. 20, from 3-8 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a Friend can join at the door. Members will receive an imprinted reusable bag as a thank you for their support.

The sale will offer thousands of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games.

### 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 Donation Info: The senior center asks that residents 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 senior center. People are asked to only leave donations for the Food Bank, and only during food bank hours.

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SynoCize Exercise, 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 bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); watercolor class, 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.; Tai Chi Quong, 1 p.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room. Thursday: Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. Friday: Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.

Trip to Blue Iris Farm: Thursday, Oct. 19, bus leaves the senior center at noon. Cost is \$20/ person, plus a \$5 transportation fee paid to the

# Free Paper Shredding The Lower CT River Valley Council of Gov-

ernments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Ave., Chester.

This event is free to residents of the River-COG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/householdhazardous-waste for more information.

### **Blessing of the Animals**

In remembrance of Patron Saint of the Animals, St. Francis of Assisi, the Blessing of the Animals will take place Saturday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m. (weather permitting) on the rectory lawn of St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave. All pets – furry, scaly, feathery – as well as stuffed animals are welcome to receive a Blessing from the Rev. John Antonelle. This gathering is open to all members of the community.

At Friday's members-only preview sale, all books will be available for \$10/bag. On Saturday, books will be available for \$10/bag from 10 a.m. -11:30 and books and DVDs will be available for \$10/bag from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. On Sunday all items will be available for \$3/bag (but

only \$2/bag for members!) The Friends of the Portland Library is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the Portland Library in its efforts to offer quality services and programs. If you would like to help with the Fall Book Sale, contact Maureen at MLTSherman@gmail.com.

# driver. Seating limited; call Sarah or Alexis to

register, at 860-342-6761. Oktoberfest: Monday, Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m.

Food by Sarah's on Main, music by Dave Goclowski on the accordion. Seating is limited; call Sarah or Alexis to register at 860-342-6761.

Blood Pressure Clinics: 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (note: if that day is a holiday, the clinic is the following week).

Free Hearing Screenings: The second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m., with Virginia Duclos of "All Ears" in Portland. No registration is necessary

Medical Rides: The center provides seniors and disabled with rides to the doctor. Cost is \$5/ person round trip. Two-week notice requested. Masks required.

Cans-4-A-Cause: Drop off washed cans and bottles in a bin in the rear parking lot of the center. For details or to volunteer, email Jeff Myjak at myjakjeff@gmail.com.

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

### **Absentee Ballots for November Election**

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 municipal election are now available from the town clerk's office at Town Hall, or by visiting www.portlandct.org/voting-info. Call the Portland town clerk's office for

more information, at 860-342-6743.



860-342-6758.

nounced the following. For more information or full descriptions, like and follow YFS at on www.facebook/PortlandCTYouth or www.instagram.com/PortlandCTYouth, or visit www.

portlandct.org/youth-services. If you have any questions or are interested in ways to help out, contact Courtney at Cfitzkee@portlandct.org or Youth & Parent LGBTQ+ Support-Style

here - will play their first Halloween Extravaganza concert Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1

p.m., at Concentric Brewing, to benefit Portland Food Bank. Costumes are optional.

**YFS News and Notes** 

Groups: Wednesday, Oct. 18, 6-8 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. There are separate groups for LGTBQ+ youth and parents of those youth; the groups are co-facilitated by Q+ and local volunteers. If you're a local business and looking to support these groups, contact

YFS POWER Up Portland: Prevention & Wellness Council: Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., on the first floor of the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. All are invited

Portland Youth and Family Services has anstance use prevention, positive mental health, and becoming a recovery friendly community.

Halloween On Main: Friday, Oct. 27, 4-6:30 p.m. Businesses welcome trick-or-treaters on Main Street! Look for the pumpkins in their windows to signify their participation in the event. YFS will allow businesses not located on Main Street to set up in front of Brownstone Intermediate and on the basketball courts. Reach out to Courtney to sign your business up. A map will be out a week prior to the event.

**Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night**: Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6-8 p.m., in the library.

### **Crafters Wanted**

Portland High School Project Graduation is hosting a Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafters and vendors interested in a space may contact Portland Project Grad 2024 at phs.project. grad.2024@gmail.com for an application.

Deadline to sign up is Saturday, Nov. 11.







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### Art Exhibit at Library

A collaboration of artists is exhibiting their work in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., through Oct. 18.

The artists represent employees of the library, members of the Portland Library board and members of the executive board of the Friends of the Library. The exhibit has been assembled to illustrate the many aspects of creative expression. Among the works displayed, curated by Lucinda Patrick, will be paintings, needlework, baskets, miniature books and photographs.

### **Residents Graduate**

Portland residents Brooke Delissio, Ryan Cyr and Desmond Cleary recently graduated from the University of Hartford.

# 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.



Hitting the Beach... The King, Hlasyszyn, Gould, Walsh, Ward and Levasseur families - all from Colchester - recently visited Outer Banks, N.C.!





From Marlborough to Michigan... Frank and Jane Valvo of Marlborough brought the Rivereast to a family reunion at Ryerson Lake in Fremont, Mich.



Top of the World... Joe Balskus of Portland is shown here on Mt. Cheam in Agassiz, British Columbia, Canada. Balskus visited and worked on a dairy farm in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains.

Where in the

World

Money, That's What I Want... Pictured are East Hampton residents Molly (left) and Maureen Maturo at Money Island, which is one of the Thimble Islands, located off Stony Creek.

# 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



### East Hampton • East Hampton

# **Celebrating 275 with Caribbean Music**

### **By London Brazal**

To kick off a large celebration, the Congregational Church of East Hampton will host the St. Luke's Steel Band as part of the Sunday service on Oct. 29.

In November, the Congregational Church of East Hampton will be celebrating 275 years. Before the church was established, the Ecclesiastical Society was petitioned three times. Studies show that the Connecticut Colonial General Assembly approved the request to establish an Ecclesiastical Society in East Hampton on Nov. 30, 1748, once the necessary funds were collected.

The first petition was presented April 29, 1743, because none of the established churches were close to the village center. The second petition was sent to the Honorable Assembly on Oct. 8, 1744, as the first request was not satisfied. The third petition, dated April 29, 1746, affirmed that specific rights had been granted in response to the 1744 petition. It also stated that they had successfully employed a pastor for eleven months annually and were on the verge of constructing a new meeting house.

**Congregational Church News & Notes** The Congregational Church of East Hamp- a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Ha ton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for services with the Rev. Amie McCarthy every Sunday at 10 a.m. All services can also be ac-

cessed via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org. Saint Luke's Sacred Steel: Sunday, Oct. 29, during the 10 a.m. service.

Church school classes meet every Sunday. The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30

9/20: Kurt Comisky, 64, of 62 Wopowog Rd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

9/28: Jeffrey Gorham, 56, of 4 Smith St., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, police said.

10/3: William DiPoalo II, 36, of 127 Flatbrook Rd., was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

At the October 1748 Honorable Session, it was reported that the church was officially settled and granted liberty to the Congregational Church. In 1948, the church was rebuilt in a Greek Revival architectural style, replacing its predecessor, the South Congregational Church, which had been destroyed by fire in 1941. Prior to that, two previous churches had stood at the same location: one erected in 1755, followed by another a century later.

The church acts as a central hub for both social gatherings and enjoyment, featuring a front lawn that doubles as the town's green space, hosting concerts, picnics, and various other activities. Individuals from various faith backgrounds can attend the worship services. The church describes services as traditional yet intimate. The religious community serves on the motto, "No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

One member of the congregation, Karen Gallmon, attended a service at the Congregational Church of Newington where the St. Luke Sacred Steel band performed. During the service,

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.

For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

### **Police News**

10/3: Richard Vezina, 57, of 143 Colchester Ave., was arrested and charged with seconddegree failure to appear, police said.

10/5: Joseph Albert III, 41, of 49 Grove St., Portland, was issued a summons for misuse of plates, traveling unreasonably fast and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

From Sept. 25-Oct. 3, officers responded to 38 medical calls, nine motor vehicle crashes and 10 alarms, and made 30 traffic stops, police said.

Gallmon described the post-prelude as a joyous celebration. "Everyone was standing, bouncing around, and clapping along," explained Gallmon. "One woman that could barely stand was still bouncing and loving the music."

After seeing the band perform in January, Gallmon knew she wanted to host the group in town. With the 275th anniversary coming up, she said it was the perfect time. Last year, the congregation hosted the New England Chamber Choir and had a strong attendance.

"It was uplifting to see people that I haven't seen in 25 years or so to come to the event. And I hope they do the same this time," said Gallmon. She also explained that this should not be looked at solely as worship. "It's a fun musical event to celebrate the joy of music. And anybody is welcome to join."

In 1999, after being inspired by a visit from the Heavenly Fire, a liturgical steel band hailing from Massachusetts, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in New Haven made the decision to establish its own steel band. Beyond their church performances, this ensemble became recognized throughout Connecticut, participating in concerts and events across the state. The expansive community steel band is guided by its current leader, Kenneth Joseph.

Ever since the inception of the St. Luke's Steel Band, a subset of its members has been dedicated to performing liturgical music during mass. This particular ensemble, now identified as St. Luke's Sacred Steel, is under the leadership of Director Debby Teason and Assistant Director Donna Johnson.

Sacred Steel delivers a Caribbean Mass at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in New Haven on a monthly basis and makes visits to other churches in Connecticut for special services throughout the year. The ensemble has a repertoire of liturgical music in various styles and enthusiastically collaborates with choirs at their home church as well as those they visit.

Much like the congregation of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the members of the band predominantly hail from the West Indies, representing the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

St. Luke's Sacred Steel will play at the Congregational Church's regular weekly service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. Families and all members of the community are encouraged to attend regardless of religious denomination.

### Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton, invites all to online or in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. Refreshments are served after the service.

Operation Christmas Child: Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child delivers shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items to children in America and around the world who live in difficult circumstances. We welcome community participation in this wonderful mission project. The boxes are available at the Church Office and need to be returned by Nov. 12.

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.

Children's Ministry: For children in grades K-5, held in Fellowship Hall during our worship service. The theme is "Friends with God" and is taught though Bible stories where the characters are friends with God and tell about God's love for us. A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

Vocal Choir: Choir rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome.

Adult Bible Study: Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The study is on the Book of Revelation.

Office Info: The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. The church website is www.hncovenantchurch.org.



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### FOR TOWN COUNCIL

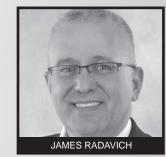
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# East Hampton • East H

# **Anxiety Speaks to Host Community Fundraiser**

### **By London Brazal**

Two students use the power of advocating to help students struggling with anxiety and foster a safe learning environment. Jewel Miranda and Charlotte Cascio started a nonprofit called Anxiety Speaks, built on helping other students because they know how it feels to deal with anxiety.

Miranda graduated from East Hampton High School (EHHS) earlier this year. For her capstone project, Miranda created Anxiety Speaks. She was interested in starting a program as she struggled with anxiety in school and noticed many other classmates feeling the same way. A special education teacher, Steve Krupp, suggested creating a nonprofit, and after loads of paperwork, it was officially registered. Miranda attends Southern Connecticut State University and is studying special education. Her goal is to bring Anxiety Speaks to the collegiate level.

"The biggest challenge was trying to get through all of the paperwork. Now, it's coming up with cool fundraiser ideas," said Miranda.

During freshman year, Charlotte Cascio, a member of the EHHS Class of 2024, wrote an essay about anxiety. It mainly expressed the concern that teachers were not noticing when a student was struggling with anxiety and the problems in her eighth-grade experience. A year later, she read her speech in a YouTube video and presented it to the teachers at a monthly staff meeting. Cascio said many of the teachers were in tears and supportive of the cause.

Cascio created lanyards with the phrase, "Anxiety stops here," to remind teachers to ask students about their day. "This gives students an

opportunity to be more comfortable about talking about their day," Cascio said. She also noted that Assistant Principal Jackie Russell has been a major supporter and always wears her lanyard.

One challenge Cascio talked about was the fact that some teachers became complacent, reverting to how things were the way before. Cascio wants to keep pushing and remind teachers to notice anxious signs.

After seeing Cascio's work with the lanyards, Miranda asked to team up. For one fundraiser, the two sat at a band and chorus concert talking about their nonprofit. They raised over \$500. With the money, they put together fidget toy baskets with journals and various fidgets such as pop-its and stress balls for each classroom.

"We wanted to put in fidget toys that were quiet so they didn't distract others in the class," Miranda said. "The journals are for people to keep or just write once and put it back."

During last school year, the two had their own table on Mental Health Day. They had various giveaways, and by the end of the day, all of the fidget toys and candy were gone. Anxiety Speaks also hosted a yoga event with the Technology Coordinator Irene Kuck as their yoga master.

On Oct. 29, Anxiety Speaks is hosting a fundraiser at Lakeside Bar & Grill from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. With a theme of Rock N' Roll Bingo, a \$50 admission ticket allows guests to play, eat food donated by Lakeside, and enter a raffle to win a 28" Blackstone Griddle donated by Ace Hardware. Cascio and Miranda are very grateful for the donations from local businesses. Prizes for bingo winners come from small businesses

### Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail. com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093. The library's P.O. Box number is 123

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

Mahjong: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Experienced and new players welcome.

Fiber Arts: Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome.

Local Mushroom Informational Walk: Saturday, Oct. 14, with Judy Buonocore. Meet at the library at 12:30 p.m. to carpool, or at the Hurd Park Pavilion at 1 p.m.

Write Here - Writers' Group: Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Get away from the distractions at home, come down to the library and write. Contact the library to pre-register and for further information.

### Dick's Barber Shop Open Wed & Fri 12-5PM 89 Main St., East Hampton 860-267-9189 or 860-754-4709

**Reception - AC Proctor Recent Paintings:** Saturday, Oct. 21, 2-4 p.m.

Medicare & Health Insurance Explained: Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m., with Springli D. Sage.

Banish the Blank Page (Writers Workshop/ Meet-up Group): Monday, Oct. 30, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be writing exercises, constructive criticism, and an opportunity to seek the opinions of other writers. All genres. Contact the library to pre-register and for further information.

CommuniTea: Saturday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m.noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors, friends and other library patrons. Have a cup of tea; coffee-drinkers welcome.

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

## EHMS Basketball and Cheerleading Student/athletes who are interested in try-

ing out for boys' basketball, girls' basketball or cheerleading teams can register online through FamilyID.com.

Athletes must have a physical within a 13-month period in order to tryout. Deadline for registration is Sunday, Nov. 5.

For more information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.



including Paul's and Sandy's, Po's Rice and Spice, Old Bank Flowers and Greenery, Le Chic Boutique, Salon D'Amore, and other donations from family and friends.

The two are very grateful and thank everything for their support. They are excited to see it all come together. "I'm excited to see everyone there and we are fortunate for Lakeside for donating all of the amazing food and their venue," Cascio added. There are a total of 60 spots with only a few more open. To ask about purchasing a ticket, go to anxietyspeaksjm12 on Instagram.

With the money raised, Anxiety Speaks is going to host a guest speaker at the high school to talk about their experiences. Cascio and Miranda are looking to get The Benny Fund's founder, Holly Neiweem, as her organization aligns closely with Anxiety Speaks' message. The two also like the fact she is from East Hampton and has spoken at the school a long time ago.

In the future, Cascio and Miranda said Anxiety Speaks wants to start spreading its message to the other schools in the district, and then expand statewide. The two are motivated to spread awareness of anxiety and help other students going through the same experiences.

### East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St, has announced the following. Registration required unless noted; to register, or for full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit us at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org, or on Facebook at facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary.

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

Family Pumpkin Decorating!: Saturday, Oct. 28, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Drop in to decorate a pumpkin, then take it home to display. All ages are welcome to participate, and all supplies will be provided. One pumpkin per family. Registration required. Pumpkins are donated by Paul's and Sandy's Too.

Monday Movie Madness: Frankenweenie: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m. Bring blankets and get comfy (some chairs will be available). Popcorn will be served. Movies at the library are sponsored by the East Hampton Prevention Partnership

Children's Programs: Storytimes: Toddler Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years; Stories & Songs: Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

Bubbles & Beats!: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Sing songs, dance, and pop some bubbles. For ages 18 months to 5 years. Drop-ins and siblings welcome

DIY Days: Grades K-8 - Homemade Stamps: Saturday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat

### **Appetizers With Our Candidates**

The Republican Town Committee will be host "Appetizers with Our Candidates" Thursday, Oct. 19, from 6-8 p.m., at The Dublin, 42 E. High St. All are invited to come visit with East Hampton's Republican candidates.

There will be complimentary appetizers and a cash bar, as well as a raffle basket fundraiser. For more information, email ehctgop@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/EHCTGOP.





Anxiety Speaks founder Jewel Miranda (right) teamed up with Charlotte Cascio (left) to help other students struggling with anxiety. The nonprofit works to help students with anxiety and create a safe environment at school.

together. These activities are available while supplies last. No registration required.

Family Storytime: Saturday, Oct. 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Best for ages 3-5. Sing songs and read books; families can stick around after for a craft, sensory play, and socializing. No registration required. Siblings welcome.

Halloween Happening!: Monday, Oct. 30, 10:30 a.m. Ages birth-5 are invited to a special Halloween storytime and craft. Costumes encouraged. No registration required.

Teen Programs: Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m. Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to discuss programming, collection development and more. TAB meets monthly and always welcomes new members.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Grades 6-12: Saturday, Oct. 21, 2-3:30 p.m. Play with friends and discover new games. All skill levels welcome.

HallowTween! Grades 4-8: Saturday, Oct. 28, 1 p.m. Play ghoulish games and enjoy some treats. Costumes are welcome. A movie matinee will start at 2 p.m.

Adult Programs: Book Club: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m. Valerie Perrin's Fresh Water for Flowers will be discussed. Books are available at the circulation desk.

Belltown Book Brunch: Friday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m. Drop into the library on select Fridays for coffee or tea, a breakfast treat, and bookish banter. Register or drop in.

Music in the Library: Celtic Halloween with Ringrose & Freeman: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m. Learn the origins of some Halloween traditions with a mix of stories, singing and upbeat instrumental tunes with fiddle and guitar. Light refreshments to follow performance.

### KoC Spaghetti Supper

The Knights of Columbus St. John Paul II Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church will sponsor its semi-annual spaghetti and meatball dinner Friday, Oct. 20, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the church parish center located at 47 West High St.

Takeout 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

and a punch drink. Canned soda and bottled





Kenneth Barber, Esq.

John H. Porter, Esq.



Joseph Cassidy, Esq.

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water will be available for \$1. Proceeds will support local charitable programs. Raffle prizes will be offered as well.

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

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

### Save a Horse – Buy Art!

Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) invites all to join them Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20 and 21, for an opportunity to purchase selected artwork by painters and photographers at the Essex Art Association, 10 North Main St., Essex. Admission is free.

Opening night, with refreshments, is Friday, Oct. 20, from 6-8 p.m. Gallery hours on Saturday are 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Proceeds from art sales benefit CDHR, a nonprofit organization, located in East Hampton, that is dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter.

For more information on the event or to check out the rescue work of CDHR, visit www. ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

### Page 19

### East Hampton • East H

### Art Association Show Saturday

The East Hampton Art Association will hold its 43rd annual Fine Art Show Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St. in the Village Center. It will be held on the lawn if the weather is nice or in the church fellowship hall in case of rain.

Lesley Braren will be the judge. Original artwork will be accepted; no crafts. There will

### Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers, supply priest.

**Donations:** Food items for East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church. Clean returnable bottles and cans are collected in cans by the shed.

**Sunday School:** The Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard and Emily Vick will lead the group, which meets at 9:55. New students are always welcome. Contact neelrichard16@gmail.com for information/dates.

**Save the Date:** The Autumn Leaves Fair will take place Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Crafts and baked goods are needed.

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** Sign up in the Parish Hall to make a donation. Food is needed for four families this year.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0278 or contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472.

### **Free Paper Shredding**

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Ave., Chester.

This event is free to residents of the River-COG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/householdhazardous-waste for more information. be first, second and third prizes awarded as well as two purchase awards. The Purchase Award by the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission of \$300-\$500 must depict an East Hampton theme/connection or created by an East Hampton artist will be presented as a gift to an East Hampton facility. There will also be a \$100 purchase award by Serra Associates.

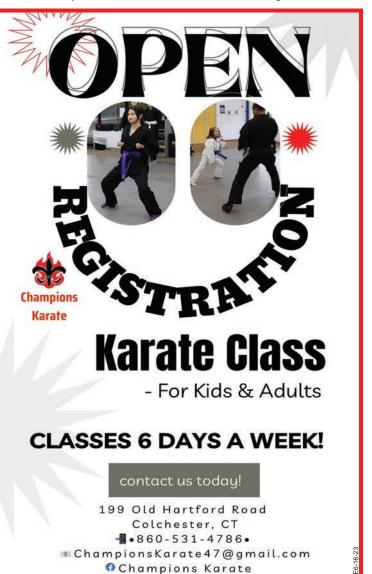
For more information, call 860-267-9061.

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame will induct the following at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday, Oct. 27, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron: Kelsey Booth, 2008 Girls Cross Country Team State Champions, Charles "Sonny" O'Neil and Michael Mercaldi. Tickets and information for the event are available by contacting Mike Vasquenza (860-308-6621, mjvasquenza@gmail.com) or Tom Seidl (860-543-4782, seidlt@sbcglobal.net).

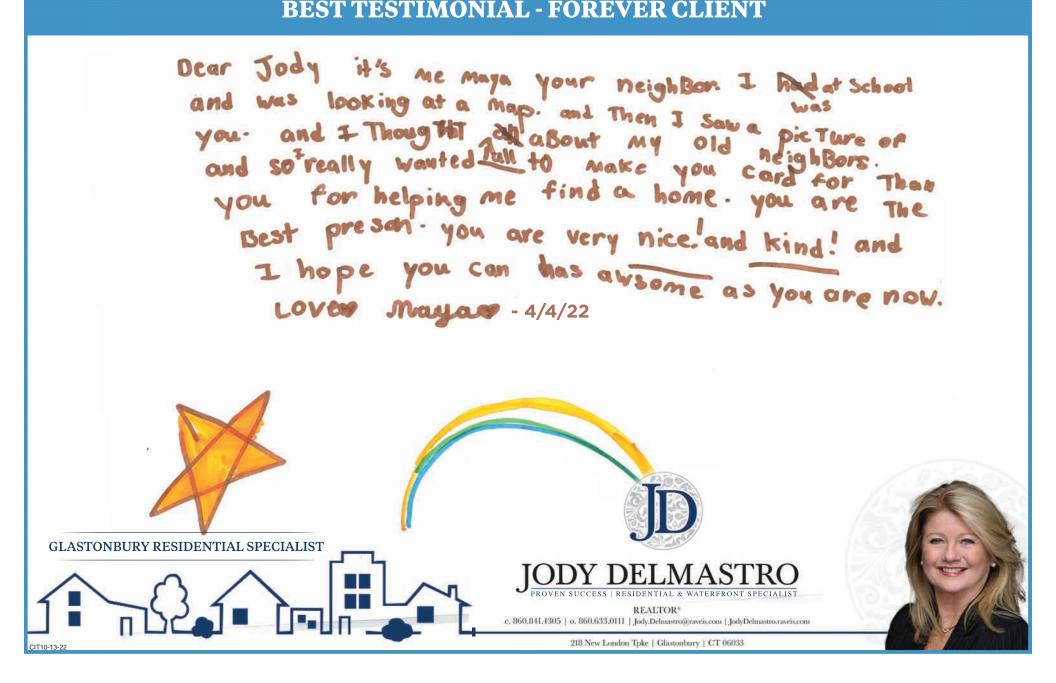
Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet

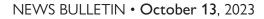
MPAG Fine Italian Restaurant and bar Five Course menu offering on Sun, Mon Tues and Thur Five Course Meal \$30.00 \$15 plate charge for sharing **APPETIZERS PASTA COURSE** Peena Aglio Olio Stuffed Mushrooms mushroom caps stuffed with seafood stuffing Penna with garlic and oil Zuppa D' Mussels Penna Marinara Penna Alla Vodka Sauteed in fresh tomato sauce Asparagus, sun dried tomatoes in a vodka blush sauce or white wine sauce Fried Mozzarella **SOUP OR SALAD** Topped with marinara sauce Cup of soup of the day or Garden Salad **DINNER CHOICES Chicken Parmigiana Eggplant Rollatini** Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers **Chicken Marsala** Sauteed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce **Stuffed Pork Chop** Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce **Stuffed Sole** Crab meat stuffing served over spinach **Balkan Meatballs** Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce **DESSERTS** – Ask your server for our selections Wednesday Serving Prime Rib WINE & DINE MENU **Every Thursday &** is \$80 per couple / \$50 for single Served Every Friday and Saturday Friday Night! Pasta Night! 151 Marlborough St. (Rt 66), Portland • (860) 398-5411

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### East Hampton • East Hampton • East

### Republicans Meet Next Week

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee will be held Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 6:30 p.m., at The Lakeside Bar and Grill (upstairs meeting area), located at 81 North Main St.

All are invited to come help continue strategizing for the 2023 municipal election. The public is welcome to attend. Email ehctgop@gmail.com for more information.

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., is proud to announce its search for a new pastor is over. All are invited to welcome Pastor Jamie Stall-Ryan to our congregation.

Stall-Ryan has an extensive military background and has recently retired. His last post was chaplin at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Groton.

Also, the church will hold a free spaghetti dinner in the parish hall Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

The church holds Bible study on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. Services begin every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. Sunday school is held during services.

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East Hampton • East H

### **Transportation Lunch & Learn**

A Transportation Lunch & Learn program will be offered at East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., on Monday, Oct. 16, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

River Valley Transit and the Kennedy Collective will share the changes to the public transportation including the Dial-A-Ride service for older adults. The changes should make your ride more enjoyable, the senior center said. The mobility specialist from the Kennedy Center will share how they can assist you in using the transportation system.

Call 860-267-4426 to register and for transportation if needed. Marlborough Healthcare is sponsoring the lunch.







# **Medicare Made Clear Open Enrollment Begins** October 15<sup>th</sup>

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# East Hampton Democrats

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### **MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE NOV 7**



**POLLS OPEN GAM-8PM** EAST HAMPTON **HIGH SCHOOL** 

For Town Council Rich Knotek Dean Markham Jack Solomon Karen Wanat Jordan Werme

Paid for the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, Terry Concannon, Treasurer

Page 22

East Hampton • East H



### Garden Club **Presentation on Bats**

All are invited to come learn about bats at the Belltown Garden Club's next presentation on Monday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St.

Guest speaker Maureen Heidtmann will present "Bats: Winged Wonders," an overview of bats of the world, with an emphasis on local species. Heidtmann is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator focusing on bats, and she has been for over twenty years. She also holds a master wildlife conservationist certificate, and a permit from USDA to keep non-releasable bats for educational purposes. For more information, call Kathy at 860-575 0077.

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### Lake Drawdown **Starts Today**

The owner of the dam for Lake Pocotopaug is planning a lake drawdown to begin today, Friday, Oct. 13.

The drawdown will give residents an opportunity to work on seawalls and do beach cleanup. Residents are reminded that activities along the shoreline may require an Inland Wetlands permit.

Residents should call the Land Use Department at 860-267-7450 as soon as possible concerning questions and applications before doing any work in the lake watershed.







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### RHAM • RHAM

# **RHAM Wrestler Goes National**

### By Josh Howard

Ben Fournier, a senior at RHAM High School, is proof that wrestling is a lifestyle.

After winning a class title and finishing as the runner-up at the State Open last winter, Fournier has taken the next steps in his wrestling journey by competing in tournaments across the country.

Earlier in October, Fournier competed at the Journeymen Fall Classic in New York and he now preps for his next stop in North Carolina where he will compete in the SUPER 32 Challenge, one of the nation's preeminent preseason high school wrestling tournaments set to take place this weekend.

"This year was obviously a big year because it is my senior year – I wanted to go to all the big tournaments," said Fournier. "It's fun traveling and seeing how I can compete and hold up against everyone in New England and nationally."

After exploring a variety of athletic endeavors throughout his formative years, Fournier continued to play football and lacrosse into high school before realizing he had to make a difficult choice.

In an effort to further excel on the mats, he chose to forego both field sports prior to his junior year. The decision to wrestle year round yielded immediate dividends as he quickly worked his way up the local wrestling ranks.

As a junior last winter, he was crowned the 106 lb. Class M State Champion, defeating Cesar Rodriguez of Platt in the title match.

Following his class title, he finished as the runner-up at the State Open, falling to Xavier High School's Raekwon Shabazz, who was later crowned the New England Region Champion and National Champion in the weight class.

Fournier's feats from a season ago have earned him the distinction of being ranked No. 1 in Connecticut and No. 2 throughout New England in the 106 lbs. weight class.

To sharpen his skills in the offseason, Fournier invested his time and efforts into training with luminaries of the sport. He spent an intensive two weeks in Pennsylvania training with several NCAA Division I wrestlers; including reigning national champion Pat Glory of Princeton University. This training allowed him to brush shoulders with other top national prospects, elevating his game to new heights.

"Before I was [wrestling] just doing it for fun, but it's cool to get the experience of being able

to go places with it – it's been a lot of fun," noted Fournier.

Fournier said the countless hours of training and preparation that goes into being a year round wrestler can be draining, yet the rewards outweighs the daily grind.

"Some days are better than others, but when you get your hand raised after winning the match that is the real goal," he added.

Heading to the national tourney in North Carolina is the next venture in what has been a wild ride since Fournier entered RHAM High School. He had wrestled throughout youth and then had his freshman year at the high school canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He admitted that he was feeling a little "burned out" by the sport at the time but recalled having that spark reignited after RHAM wrestling head coach Ryan Fitch talked with him following a football practice in the fall of his sophomore year.

The chat with Fitch would pay big dividends as he rejoined the wrestling team the winter of his sophomore year where he would finish fourth overall in Class M and sixth overall at the State Open in 2022.

Fournier says he feels a "night and day difference" between now and when he first stepped back onto the mats as a second-year high school wrestler.

"It's the small thing that takes you from being good to great at different levels," added Fournier, who pointed to his improved speed and balance while wrestling. "It doesn't sound like much, but when you're on the mat competing those can make a difference."

Fournier's excellence isn't restricted to the mat. He is also actively involved in his community serving as a volunteer of his local Hebron Fire Department and as BSA Scout where he has a full calendar as he is currently on the precipice of obtaining his Eagle Scout Rank and is currently serving as Troop 28's current Senior Patrol Leader.

Along with his outside interests, Fournier also wants to wrestle at the next level and has been in active discussions with local and regional college wrestling programs, exploring opportunities that would cater to both his academic interests in criminal justice studies and his refined wrestling talent. Though many institutions expressed interest, Fournier is still currently evaluating his options where he will pursue his future goals and

# Raptors Shake Loss, Prep for Stretch Run

### By Josh Howard

Head coach Ray Bell's message to the RHAM boys soccer team following the Raptors 1-0 loss to Rocky Hill last Friday was simple, yet inspiring.

ing. "This is a defining moment," Bell told his team after the defeat.

"This could be good for us as a team," added Bell. "We'll have to see how we rebound after this – that's the key."

Prior to the loss, RHAM had been exceeding expectations, losing only one game in their first eight contests while racking up five quality wins.

Following a scoreless first half at Rocky Hill High School, the home Terriers took the advantage for good when a deep kick from Rocky Hill senior captain David Czubat slipped through the arms of RHAM goalie T.J. Machowski in front of the goal before Noah Kazmierczak scored what turned out to be the game-deciding goal in the 57th minute. aggressive team, yet said the way RHAM played was not indicative of the first eight games where they played with a sense of urgency and went toe-to-toe with the top teams in the area. The Raptors started the season with a 3-0 win

The Raptors started the season with a 3-0 win over rival Bacon Academy and also posted victories over Tolland (1-0), Manchester (2-0), South Windsor (3-1), and conference powerhouse Glastonbury (1-0).

Miller has been the main force offensively, scoring the game-deciding goals in the pair of 1-0 wins, scoring on a spectacular bicycle against Tolland and hammering home the crucial kick against Glastonbury.

Captaining the team on the field are senior defender Alexander Grillo and senior midfielder Jacob Dooley.

Bell said his captains are "lead by example" type of players that have set a standard for how to play the right way.



RHAM senior Ben Fournier, shown competing at the Central Connecticut Conference tournament last winter, will compete in the SUPER 32 Challenge in Greensboro, N.C., on Oct. 21-22. *Photo by Glastonbury Sports Photography*.

is also considering careers in ROTC and military leadership training.

But for now, Fournier is focused on competing in the Super 32 Challenge that will take place Oct. 21-22 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The national tournament will be excellent preparation for the upcoming high school wres-

tling season as he seeks to repeat as Class M champion and hopes to add a State Open title to his growing list of accomplishments this winter. He also aims to help RHAM bring home their first state team title since 2002 after the Raptors finished as the runner-up last winter, losing to Avon by a half point on a controversial call.

Bellringers defeated New London 4-3 on Oct. 4.

Correia, a freshman, led a Bellringers offensive

unit that scored their most goals in a game since

a season-opening 6-1 win over North Branford/

Hale Ray on Sept 9. Marissa Martin and Rachel

Boudreau also scored in the win over New Lon-

don, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Bellringers next host Bolton on Wednesday,

Ava Maselek - Portland High School (Soc-

**cer):** Maselek scored a pair of goals as the Highlanders defeated Westbrook 3-0 on Oct. 3.

Maselek, a senior, led the offensive charge that

also got a goal from Camryn DiMauro. Portland's defense – headed by Gracie DeRing, Lilly

Carroll, Katie Hickey and Elli Hannah - post-

ed their fourth shutout of the season and then

blanked their fifth opponent on Monday, down-

ing East Granby 1-0. The Highlanders travel to

Cromwell this Saturday (Oct. 14) for a confer-

ence clash with the Panthers at 9 a.m.

Oct. 18 at 3:45 p.m.

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

# Standout Athletes of the Week

### By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts for the Week for the week of Oct. 9 - 15:

Ava Machowski - RHAM High School (Soccer): Machowski, a senior, has continued to light up the scoreboards, scoring three goals in the Raptors 4-0 win over Plainville on Oct. 5. Machowski's hat trick upped her goal total to 18 through the first eight games as RHAM have won seven of those matches, qualifying them for state tournament.

Kiera Stewart - Bacon Academy (Volleyball): Stewart dished out 22 assists as the Bobcats defeated Killingly in four sets on Oct. 6. Stewart, a senior setter and team captain, is coming off consecutive all-state selections during her sophomore and junior seasons on the court. On Tuesday, the Bobcats won a second straight game, defeating Wheeler in three set and next host Waterford today (Friday, Oct 13) at 5:30 p.m.

Olivia Correia - East Hampton High School (Soccer): Correia scored a pair of goals as the

# STEAP Grants Target Infrastructure Upgrades

### By Michael Sinkewicz

Hebron, Marlborough and Andover each landed substantial Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants last week, allowing the communities to make significant local improvements.

The grants were part of a \$24.5 million bundle distributed to 60 towns across the state. Broadly, they aim to address infrastructure improvements, including road projects, sewer and drainage upgrades, sidewalk and pedestrian upgrades and recreational facility repairs. Hebron will receive \$474,000 for the Hebron green pedestrian connection and parking improvements; the town will match \$80,000. The Hebron Green District contains 36 acres across 33 different properties, located around the intersection of routes 66 and 85. Notable buildings in the district include the current and former Town Hall, Douglas Library, American Legion, Public Records Building, amongst several others. The funding represents a considerable contribution to the Hebron Center Plan, which looks to safely connect residents between local sites through walking, while lessening the impact of vehicles on the community. For Marlborough, the town was allotted \$262,000 for the Blish Memorial Park Boat Ramp reconstruction and ADA improvements; a \$256,839 town match is attached.

Andover was awarded \$500,000 for phase II of its recreation facility enhancements; the town will contribute \$150,000.

State leaders celebrated the announcement, including state Sen. MD Rahman (D-4), who represents Andover; state Rep. Cathy Osten

Late in regulation, RHAM nearly tallied the equalizer in similar fashion when senior Zuriel Sarosh found the back of the net after the ball slipped out of the hands of Rocky Hill's goalie Kyle Demarest. However, the goal was waived off after the official determined that Demarest was interfered with while having both hands on the ball at the time of contact.

The controversial call kept is a one-goal deficit and senior Troy Miller fired one final desperation shot in the closing seconds that was just off the mark, officially snapping a two-game winning streak and dropping the Raptors to 5-2-2.

"This wasn't an indication of the first eight games of the year. We didn't really play as a team tonight," said Bell. "I think we were more worried about officials rather than worrying about our play, and we tried to pick up our intensity the last five minutes when it should have been like that for 80 minutes."

Rocky Hill head coach Paul Horta was impressed with his team's ability to battle with RHAM, who he called Class M title contenders.

"If we play this team ten times they might beat us nine times, but it will always be a battle," added Horta.

Bell credited Rocky Hill for being the more

The veteran coach also credited Machowski, who has been in net for five shutouts so far this season.

"He's saved our butts plenty of times," Bell said of his keeper.

Following the loss to Rocky Hill, RHAM rebounded with another quality win, defeating Farmington 2-1 on Tuesday, earning win No. 6.

Miller scored a goal and dished out an assist, feeding Michael Thatford for the team's other goal. The victory qualified the Raptors for a spot in the Class M and kept them atop the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) East where they remain undefeated (3-0-1) within the region.

RHAM now enters the stretch run of the regular season, playing five of their final six games at home, including a conference bout with East Catholic on Monday (Oct. 19) at 3:45.

Bell hopes that his team is consistenly playing with anticipation "rather than reaction" by the time the state tourney starts in November.

After competing at a Class L level a year ago, where they won in the opening round of the state tourney and almost upset No. 2 seed Xavier in round two, the Raptors are playing at a Class M level this fall.

On Aug. 8, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen applied for the state grant to address boat access to Terramuggus Lake. (D-19), whose district includes Hebron and Marlborough; and state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55), whose district includes Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

"I am grateful to Gov. Lamont's administration for their support of these important local projects," stated Rahman, whose other towns also received state funding. "They will provide meaningful support and improvements for housing in Glastonbury and local recreation in Andover and Bolton. I'm looking forward to the community benefits this support will help create"

Osten expressed that the grants are "particularly useful for eastern Connecticut towns because they are small-town grants, not urban grants, and they are specifically tailored to preserve the historical integrity and beauty of our small towns, while at the same time improving the local economy and quality of life."

She added, "Both of these grants are going to have a positive impact for folks in Hebron and Marlborough, and I hope local leaders keep the ideas coming for future grants."

On Facebook, Weir highlighted the specific areas the funding would be targeting, calling the grants "great news for the 55th District."

# Hebron • Heb

### By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Board of Selectmen took two major actions during their Oct. 5 meeting regarding the Department of Public Works (DPW) building project: the town's survey committee was officially disbanded and a new nine-member committee was formed to handle the next steps with the project.

The "Department of Public Works Action Committee" will include members of the Hebron Public Building Committee, former members of the Building Project Survey Committee and resident taxpayers interested in serving.

While the new committee was formally established, members will officially be appointed by the selectmen during their next meeting on Oct. 19, after which the new body will be activated.

The committee will be charged with the dayto-day operations of the ongoing project, answering to town officials and the selectmen, who will sign-off on all committee expenditures. Included in their duties will be determining the costs and viability of constructing a new DPW facility. Their reports will be provided to the selectmen, and the town manager will distribute updates to the community.

Both motions to disband the survey committee and form the new group passed by 4-0 tallies; selectman Gail Richmond was absent.

During the Sept. 21 selectmen meeting, the board had expressed interest in dissolving its survey committee, who had completed its objective of creating and disseminating a town wide survey.

The new committee will use the results to guide their decision moving forward. Perhaps most significantly, the committee has a firm grasp on the community's preferred site choice. The survey results revealed that the public is largely against relocating the town's Public Works facility to Kinney Road. Instead, the majority of the 725

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 municipal election are now available at the town clerk's of-fice located at 15 Gilead St.

To request an absentee ballot, complete and submit an application, online, by mail or in person, to the Town Clerk, Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. There is a ballot drop box located at the front door of the Town Office Building that can be used for

Alexa Odoy of the Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps will lead a presentation on the history of fifing and drumming at Old Town Hall, 26 Main St., on Wednesday, Oct. 18. The program, which is offered by the Hebron Historical Society, will begin at 7 p.m.

The colonial music style of fifing and drumming has been kept alive throughout the centuries, in large part due to the efforts of Connecticut musicians. Over the years, fife and drum corps have proven to be not only a military tool, but a source of some of the state's finest artists. respondents preferred keeping or expanding the current site on Old Colchester Road.

When asked for a preferred DPW site choice, 69% of respondents selected the Old Colchester Road location. Construction at Kinney Road or the Horton Property — was the second highest vote with 16%. A hybrid option that would primarily involve the Kinney Road, but with a proposed salt storage shed being placed at an off-site location, was listed at 10%.

Even with the town's pivot back to the Old Colchester Road site, several factors remain uncertain. Town Manager Andrew Tierney previously stated that the availability of an adjacent Eversource parcel is uncertain, and official confirmation won't be received until the end of the year. Without the expansion, he warned that the transfer station would likely need to be eliminated or relocated from the site.

Selectman Tiffany Thiele, a Democrat, said during the meeting that the town "needs to be creative and think about how we can develop proposals that keep the transfer station open."

This week, she told the *Rivereast* that the town should also be proactive with determining the future of the Kinney Road property. She expressed that it will be important that the community has a "greater voice" in what happens with that parcel. That perspective could be communicated in many ways, she added, including the formation of another committee.

Peter Kasper, the selectmen's former liaison on the survey committee, will likely serve on the newly formed action committee. During a phone call this week, he said the body was formed to be a "catalyst" for ideas and to focus on the next steps, acting as the "point committee" to accelerate a potential idea to a future referendum.

The DPW project continues to be a focal point

### **Absentee Ballots for Election**

depositing applications and ballots at any time. Town office hours are: Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, call 860-228-5971 ext. 125.

In-person voting for the Nov. 7 election will be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

### **Generations of Drum Production**

The most renowned drum makers of the 19th century were the Brown family, hailing from what is now known as Bloomfield. Rudimental drummers across the country are dedicated to the preservation of these historical artifacts.

In Odoy's presentation, she will discuss the significance of Connecticut's fife and drum tradition, the history of the Brown family, and her experience restoring a Brown-made snare drum.

All are invited to the program. Donations are appreciated.



in the community. Through public hearings, a survey and the hiring of a consulting firm to assist the town, progress has generated passionate reactions throughout town — namely from Kinney Road residents who objected to the facility being built near their homes, amongst other concerns.

Kasper acknowledged that he "wishes it could've moved faster," but overall, the project is being handled correctly.

"The next step is the right one," he said.

Previous decisions and actions were done to "build the most confidence" and to be "transparent" to the community. He added that the thought process was, "How do we do it the right way?"

Kasper, a Republican, is running for reelection to the Board of Selectmen this November. As a potential member of the new committee, he emphasized that residents should not be compelled to vote for him out of fear of the project potentially being stalled.

"I'm a volunteer," he said. "If the public wants another volunteer, I fully respect that."

If he did lose his selectmen seat, Kasper indicated that he would most likely step down from the action committee.

"I wouldn't want to overshadow anyone," he expressed, adding that he was confident that whoever wins would do a good job in serving the committee.

### Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. Registration required for all programs, unless noted. To register, and for more information and full program descriptions, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. The senior center newsletter is online at https://hebronct. com/town-departments/senior-center.

Hope Farm Animal Sanctuary Craft Fair: Sunday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Coventry Firehouse, 1755 Main St., Coventry. Proceeds support the many rescue animals at the farm: cows, horses, pigs, sheep, bunnies, dogs and cats. If you'd like to donate raffle items, reserve a craft table (\$30) or volunteer to help with the farm's daily chores, call Lisa at 774-289-4361.

Veterans' Appreciation Lunch: Wednesday, Nov. 8, noon. The lunch is free for any veteran and a guest. Doors will open at 11:45 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Meal will be tossed salad, pasta with meatballs, garlic bread, dessert, tea and coffee. Pre-registration is absolutely required for everyone by Friday, Nov. 3, at noon.

**Bus Trip to Cracker Barrel:** Tuesday, Oct. 24, leaving at 11 a.m. and returning approximately 2 p.m. Travel to the Cracker Barrel in East Windsor for lunch and browsing in their store. Cost for the bus is \$5, lunch is on your own. Seating is limited.

**Tips for Cooking for 1 or 2:** Tuesday, Oct. 31, 10:30 a.m. Lindsey Kent, registered dietitian at ShopRite, will lead a talk all about cooking for 1 or 2. This event is free.

**Mason Jar & Rock Painting:** Wednesday, Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m. All supplies included; cost is \$5 per person. If you'd like to stay for lunch that day (\$3 suggested donation), sign up by Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 9:30 a.m.

Flu/COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic: Wednesday,

### Trunk-n-Treasure

Gilead Congregational Church will hold its first Trunk-n-Treasure event Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church, 672 Gilead St. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 22, from noon-4 p.m.

There will be a tag sale event, and will also feature some crafters. There will be over 20 trunks/

### **Indigenous Peoples Day Proclamation**

Also at their meeting last week, the selectmen approved a proclamation for Indigenous Peoples Day, which was observed on Monday Oct. 9; it was approved by a 3-0 vote, as Democrat Mark Rubera was absent for that part of the meeting. The proclamation was read by Thiele, who added that the statement was written by Amy D'Amaddio, president of Hebron's Coalition on Diversity and Equity (CoDE).

The proclamation acknowledged that before Hebron was "founded," there were indigenous communities that lived on the land, including the Mohegan and Wangunk tribes.

It continued by stating that Connecticut recognizes five indigenous tribes under state law — the Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, and Paucatuck Eastern Pequot — each with distinct qualities, history and contributions to the community.

Therefore: "The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Hebron, in the pursuit of shared responsibility and promotion of knowledge about indigenous peoples, unifying communities, combating prejudice, and eliminating discrimination against indigenous peoples, recognize Monday, October 9th as Indigenous Peoples Day, and encourage residents to educate themselves and their children about the role, culture and traditions of indigenous people."

enter News & Notes Nounced Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., sponsored by

Chatham Health. Ages 18 and above are also welcome. It is expected the new COVID-19 vaccine will be available. Pre-registration not required.

**RHAM Bingo:** Held the third Wednesday of each month beginning Oct. 18, from 2:30-4 p.m. The games will be run by the RHAM National Honor Society students. The games are free and prizes are awarded. To sign up, call the center.

**Chatham Health Monthly Presentation:** Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2 p.m., dealing with lung health. There will be raffle prize giveaways for the participants.

**Watercolor or Acrylic Art Class**: Fridays, Oct. 20 and 27, 12:15-2:15 p.m. Cost of class is \$25.00. Pre-registration by Oct. 17 is required.

Lunch & Learn: Wednesday, Oct. 25, noon, at the senior center, sponsored by Marlborough Health and Rehab. Heather Hitchcock, CDP Bristol Health community educator, will present more information on dementia. Bagged lunch will be either turkey or tuna sandwich, chips, a big cookie, and water. Deadline to register is Monday, Oct. 23, by 10 a.m.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Fridays at noon. Upcoming schedule: Big Y, Oct. 20; Walmart, Oct. 27; Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.

Massage Therapy: By appointment Mondays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Massage therapist Beverly Williams will perform 25-minute (for \$25) or 50-minute (for \$50) chair or table massages or hot stone massages. Call the senior center to make an appointment.

**Bus Transportation to Mobile Food Truck and Food Bank:** Every other Tuesday; call the center for dates. Pick-ups start approximately 10:30-10:45 a.m., and the food truck arrives at 11:15 a.m. at the Church of Hope/Red Barn at the corner of routes 85 and 66. Food bank arrival is approximately 11 a.m. Bring your own bags. Must sign up by 10 a.m. the day before.

Senior Transportation: Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for





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medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended – and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

Hebron John Strength Car Wash OPEN 24/7 Everyday Low Price \$10.00 Basic Wash 18 Liberty Dr., Hebron (behind the Hebron Post Office) 860-228-WASH

### Hebron • Heb

# **Selectmen Form Charter Revision Commission**

### By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Board of Selectmen last week established a Charter Revision Commission consisting of seven volunteers from the community.

The members of the commission will be recruited throughout the month and are expected to be approved on Nov. 2.

The board unanimously agreed to launch a commission at the selectmen's Oct. 5 meeting. The vote was 4-0; selectman Gail Richmond was absent.

Following its official appointment, the commission will begin a year-long process that includes a series of public hearings. A draft report from the commission will be submitted to the selectmen, who will approve a finalized version. Ultimately, any revisions would be presented to residents at a town-wide referendum for approval.

As per town charter, the charter is to be reviewed every five years. Hebron last examined its charter in 2019, with a nine-member commission

So far, there are 12 different items identified for potential review. The commission may specifically address certain aspects, or elect to open the entire charter up for inspection.

Town Manger Andrew Tierney told the Rivereast that he'll solicit concerns from town departments leaders that the commission may want to address.

"I think that there's different issues coming from different areas," he said.

One potential item included on the list is a revision that would adjust the current threshold that triggers a special town meeting to sign-off on a municipal grant match. That threshold, if increased, could improve town operations, Tierney speculated.

information and full program descriptions, visit

theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/

indoors, and are also broadcast on Facebook

Connecticut and on YouTube at www.youtube.

Life Groups: Meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at

the Caseys' home in Hebron, and the second

Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30pm at

the Swensons' home in Columbia, for worship,

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission

of the group is to support the youth of Hebron

and surrounding towns in their spiritual devel-

opment. Meets every other Sunday directly after

the service; lunch is provided. Upcoming meet-

**Cookie-Decorating Class** 

hosted by Sweet Meg's Creations on Saturday,

Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Hebron

how to create spooky and cute cookie designs.

Get into the Halloween spirit as we show you

All are invited to a cookie-decorating class

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship!: Typ-

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m.,

www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenter-

calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

com/@theworshipcenter9733.

prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

ing: Oct. 22.

Church of Hope.

A significant item up for review is a revision regarding the town clerk. Currently, the seat is an elected position; however, the commission may examine a revision to make it be an appointed one.

"I would be in favor of it being appointed," Tierney said.

Republican Daniel Larson, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, agreed, saying that the "responsibilities of that position have grown" and that there are ramifications to having a town clerk unprepared for the job, or without updated certifications.

Larson argued that it's difficult to find qualified candidates in the community with adequate resumes. After serving as Hebron's town clerk for 23 years, Carla Pomprowicz retired earlier this year, and her replacement, Francesca Villani, filled the position after previously serving as the assistant town clerk.

"We got lucky," Larson said during a phone call this week. "My fear is when someone not of that caliber gets elected."

Another item flagged on the list is the bifurcation of the town and local Board of Education budgets.

Democratic selectman Tiffany Thiele told the Rivereast that she's personally in favor of splitting the two spending plans, calling the issue "one of the most crucially important topics for the commission to examine."

Her constituents have asked for the item to be reviewed, she said, indicating that there's "confusion over how [the budgets] are combined." While Thiele expressed that there's pros and cons to both sides of the argument, her perspective is that there are "slightly more advantages to [the budgets] being separated."

### The Worship Center News & Notes The Worship Center, a non-denominational

ically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church. Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

**One-to-One Confidential Christian Care:** Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office.

Upcoming Community Events: The Worship Center will participate in both the Hebron Harvest Moon Festival (Oct. 21, booth in front of Ted's) and Trunk or Treat (Oct. 27 at Burnt Hill Park) with games, giveaways and candy. All are welcome.

Donations Sought for HIHS: The Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) food pantry is in critical need, and The Worship Center is helping to collect monetary, food and goods donations. Items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings, or donate directly to HIHS at 26 Pendleton Dr., Hebron; hours are Tuesday/Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m. Contact HIHSCT.org to give online, or email hsfoodpantry@gmail.com for more information.

Bucket of Blessings: The church's outreach team has been collecting snack-type food and monetary donations as a love offering for local first responders. To get involved, email jessicalbain@gmail.com.

The way the process unfolds now, she explained, if residents support the school budget, for example, but have an issue with the town budget, they're left with a "difficult choice."

"It puts people in a difficult decision," she said.

With the current format, advisory questions can be included on the ballot, which offer insight into why residents voters for or against a particular aspect of the spending plans.

Thiele stated that she finds the presence of the questions helpful; this past budget season, she said they informed the selectmen on how to effectively amend the capital improvement budget. However, revising the charter represents an "exciting opportunity" to examine the voting process, she said.

Larson saw the bifurcation topic differently, stating that he's "totally on the fence."

He expressed that people often view the potential revision with "rose colored glasses."

Through Hebron's levy of the RHAM Board of Education budget, the town has a grasp of the negative impacts of budgets being split up, he argued. For example, if that budget is approved, and the other budgets fail, town officials cannot amend the approved spending plan, which produces an extra strain.

If that guideline is extended to the local school and town budgets, certain approved numbers will be locked-in, while the other budgets remain essentially in limbo. While the boards look to resolve the issues in the meantime, final tax bills will be delayed and the town will still have to pay for additional referendums, Larson expressed.

"You can't move funds around at that point," he said. "There's no latitude."

Larson added that residents often overlook that municipalities absorb unfunded state mandates that further complicate the budget process. The labor pool is also creating issues, he said, especially with many officials either retiring or leaving town for higher paying gigs.

Republican selectman Peter Kasper said this week that the list of items up for consideration are "good starting points."

They can look at everything," he said, adding that the commission also has the freedom to tackle only a few of the topics.

While Kasper didn't have any specific topics he wanted to inspect, he was interested in the issues already being raised, including bifurcation and the town clerk selection process.

"There's good dialog," he said. "That's good and healthy for the town."

Whatever topics and revisions the commission addresses will be recommended to the selectmen, who will then vote and forward potential revisions to the community - which will ultimately deliver the final verdict.

light funding opportunities and efforts to create

mixed-income housing. The forum is spon-

sored by the Coalition on Diversity & Equity

tinyurl.com/housing-for-all or visit www.code-

Registration is required. To register, go to:

### Public Invited to 'Housing for All' Forum Andover and Columbia. They will also high-

(CoDE).

The public is invited to a forum to explore why and how rural communities can create more housing choices. The Housing for All forum will be held in person on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the Parish Hall of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron.

In this Community Conversation, a panel of professionals will discuss the housing affordability crisis throughout the state, including in rural communities like Hebron, Marlborough,

diversity.org. Any questions can be sent to code. diversity1@gmail.com.

### **Christ Lutheran News & Notes**

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran more information, call Caring Shepherds Min-Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St. Pastor is Gary Boye.

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. People can also watch live online at www.facebook. com/clchebron/live.

Sunday Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 10:15 a.m., following Coffee Hour.

Fundraiser for "Elaina's Lift": Dec. 2; this will be a craft fair and free quilt show. Interested vendors can request more information at CLCHebron.Fellowship@gmail.com.

Caring Shepherds: Caring Shepherds distributes household and hygiene items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles, and prayers. For istry at 860-494-0431. Early Childhood Center: The center offers

childcare, preschool and before/after school in a Christian environment. The center is open to all walks of faith. Ande Shutler is director. Call 860-228-5134 for more information. Application forms are at www.clecchebron.org.





This in-person event is for all ages and skill levels. Refreshments provided. Admission is \$55, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting The Town Center Project. Reserve your spot at tinyurl.com/5n6nkdt7. For

**Turkey Shoots** Coming Up Skungamaug Fish and Game Club will hold its annual turkey shoots Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., from Oct. 22 through Nov. 19, at the club, 423 Jones St., Hebron.

860-228-3952

more information, call 860-208-8466.

### **PUBLIC HEARING** LEGAL NOTICE **TOWN OF HEBRON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

The Hebron Board of Selectmen has scheduled a Virtual Public Hearing for Thursday, October 19, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. regard ing a proposed ordinance establishing the Housing Choices Advisory Committee, including the purpose, term, membership powers and duties. The Public Hearing will be held virtually:

Public Hearing Ordinance Establishing Hebron Housing Choices Advisory Committee October 19, 2023, 6:30 PM (America/New York) Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://meet.goto.com/751451669 You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 751-451-669 United States: +1 (224) 501-3412 This ordinance will be considered for adoption at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Douglas Library Community Room, 22 Main Street, Hebron, Connecticut. The complete text of the proposed ordinance is available at the Hebron Town Clerk's Office or by visiting https://hebronct.com/

1TB 10/13

agendas/. Residents are encouraged to attend this Public Hearing and express their opinions.

Andrew J. Tierney Town Manage

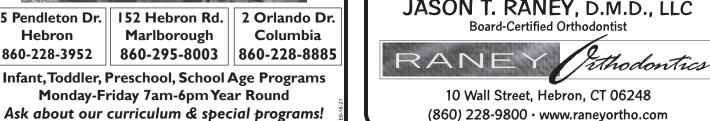
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### Hebron • Heb

### SAL Grinders to Go



Happy Birthday!!... Happy 40th birthday to Kelly Pinto!

### Harvest Moon Festival

The Town Center Project hosts Hebron's Harvest Moon Festival on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 1:30-6:30 p.m., along Main Street. The festival will feature two events, in which everyone can participate.

**Parade your Pooch!:** Do you have a great Howloween costume that your pooch rocks?

Then walk them down Main Street in a parade at 2 p.m. Meet in front of the Church of Hope, 1 Main St. All dogs are welcome – big or

### from **Pumpkin Carving Contest!:** Register your pumpkin on Oct 21 near Douglas Library 22

small. The parade is free.

pumpkin on Oct. 21 near Douglas Library, 22 Main St., by 5:30 p.m. for judging. There will be first-, second- and third-place prizes in all three categories: children, teens and adults. No advance sign-up is necessary.

For more information on either event, or the Pumpkin Festival in general, visit thetowncenterproject.org.

### Advisory Committee Seeks Members

The Hebron Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is welcoming new members. Application deadline is Oct. 15.

The committee is charged with managing the design and implementation of a grant program that funds projects that improve the quality of community life in Hebron. Meetings are held monthly in person.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has provided the funds for the grants awarded, which total \$25,000 in 2022 and \$25,000 in 2023. The next round of grants will have \$25,000 available for projects in 2024.

The Hartford Foundation created the Greater Together Community Fund program in Hebron and 28 other towns in the region for the pur-

### **Church of the Holy Family News** e Holy Family, 185 Church and briefs (sizes 8 and up). **Cleaning Supplies:**

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

**Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter:** The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The shelter is now preparing for the overnight stay program, which starts Nov. 1. Needs are: **Men's:** athletic crew and winter weight socks; sweat pants and hoodies (M,L,XL,2XL); and boxer briefs (M,L,XL,2XL). **Women's:** athletic crew and winter weight socks; sports bras (M up to 4XL); T-shirts (M and up); baby powder; tam-

tee Seeks Members pose of taking ownership around the needs of their town.

Applicants must be Hebron residents, and must not be town elected officials. Application requirements: provide your contact information: name, address, phone, email; identify your career interests; identify your volunteer affiliations with nonprofit organizations (if any); explain why you are interested in serving on the Hebron Community Fund Advisory Committee; and share any other special interests or goals that you'd like to mention.

Submit your application to HebronCommunityFund@gmail.com. All qualified applicants will be contacted for a phone or in-person interview.

Size XL disposable latex-free gloves; Windex;

toilet bowl cleaner; and shower cleaner. Gift

Cards: \$15 Stop & Shop for gas to assist people

living in their cars; and \$15-\$25 Walmart cards

to purchase items needed immediately. Please

call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards. Miscel-

laneous: inexpensive ear buds; rain ponchos;

hand warmers; office supplies - black Sharpies,

masking tape and yellow highlighters; sturdy

adult backpacks; washcloths; pillow cases;

toothpaste & toothbrushes; first aid supplies;

paper towels; toilet paper; and 13- and 55-gal-

lon trash bags. Place donations of goods in the

designated collection box next to the church's

Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations

in the Cry Room. For more information, call

Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

a.m.-1:30 p.m. Advance orders are recommended. Email Ron at park1969@comcast.net or call 860-402-0904 to order your choice of ham, turkey or Italian combo, with optional provolone or American cheese, tomato, lettuce, onions and choice

The Sons of the Hebron American Legion will

be selling foot-long grinders with a bag of chips for \$12 each on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 11:30

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds two services of Holy Eucharist each week, at 8 and 10 a.m. All are invited to the church hall for coffee and conversation after the services. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

**Meetings and Events:** Balance Class, Mondays, 10-11 a.m.; Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop): every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Tuesof condiments mayo, mustard, oil and vinegar.

Pick up at the American Legion, 18 Main St., with easy drive-through service to your car. Have cash or check made out to SAL Squadron 95. There will be extra grinders available for drive-ups until sold out. SAL members are sons of veterans with the mission to support the American Legion.

### St. Peter's News & Notes

days, 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Vestry: third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

**Outreach: Food Donations:** Items for various local food pantries can be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall.

For more information, visit stpetershebron. com, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email office@stpetershebron.com.

### **Gilead Congregational Church News**

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the church bulletin at gileadchurchucc.updates.church, email gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call 860-228-3077.

**Worship:** Worship is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. Services are also available on You-Tube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

**Scheduled Events/Meetings:** 10/15: Chili Cook-Off following worship service; 10/16: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 10/17: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 10/18: Choir Practice, 7 p.m.

**Trunk-N-Treasure: Saturday,** Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be many treasures to comb through in open trucks/tailgates. There will be some crafters as well. Call the church office for more information.

Card-Making with Gayle: All are welcome to

### **Douglas Library News & Notes**

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For more info and full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org.

**Friday Films:** Fridays at 1 p.m. Schedule: Oct. 13, *Jules* (PG-13); Oct. 20, *Golda* (PG). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

Meet and Greet New Library Director: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 3-5 p.m. All are invited to stop by and meet new director Drusilla Carter. Refreshments will be served in the community room.

**Book Discussion**: Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., at the American Legion, located next door. *Daisy Darker* by Alice Feeney will be read and discussed. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk, and also available on Libby. Must be over 21 to attend.

**Bobcat:** Connecticut's Secretive Wild Cat: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. This presentation by Paul Colburn, certified master wildlife conservationist, focuses on the natural history of bobcats in Connecticut, and offers an overview of habi-

### **Parks and Recreation News**

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering many summer programs. For full program descriptions and to register, visit hebronct.recdesk.com or call 860-530-1281.

Ghost Run Half Marathon: The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester, and East Hampton are collaborating along with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host the 20th annual Ghost Run on the 13.1-mile certified half marathon Air Line Trail course. Registration fee is \$45 per individual runner, and \$100 per relay team. Pre-registration is required; there will be no registration on race day. Register at runsignup.com/Race/ Events/CT/Hebron/AirLineTrailGhostRun. Registration deadline is Nov. 1. Youth Basketball: Registration runs through Oct. 22 for the Recreational and Travel basketball programs, open to grades K-12. Visit the Parks and Rec. website for more information.

register for the next event, which will be Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. Walk to End Alzheimer's: Saturday, Oct. 28.

All are invited to join the GCC Team or donate at act.alz.org (just follow the links for the Walk to End Alzheimer's and search for Gilead Congregational Church). To further support this cause, there will be a chili bake-off on Oct. 15, following worship, and a bake sale on Oct. 22, also following worship.

**Fall Clean-Up:** Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m. All are invited to join the Trustees in the annual fall clean-up of the church grounds and facilities.

**Revision – Annual Meeting:** The annual membership meeting will be held Sunday, Nov. 5, following the worship service.

**Faith, Film and Food:** Friday, Nov. 3. Bring a dish to share. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., followed by dessert and a movie.

tat, behavior and current research efforts. Bobcat artifacts will be shared with the audience.

Art for Anxiety: Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m. Join Amy from Studio 13 will lead guided meditation and breathing exercises, then will take people through a relaxing art process using watercolors and ink. Registration is required as space is limited.

**Teens – Haunted Library Canceled:** The Haunted Library, which was scheduled for Oct. 21, has been canceled. Teens are invited to come Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. to help decorate the library for Halloween. Snacks will be provided and this will count toward community service hours.

**Children's Goblin Bash:** Saturday, Oct. 28, at 1 p.m. Kids, wear your costume and watch magician Chris Lengyel while having Halloween treats.

**Chess Night**: Pickup games are held every Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

**Knitwits:** The knitting circle meets Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Crochet and needle pointers are welcome as well as all skill levels. No registration required; bring your project or questions.

**Halloween Paint Party:** Tuesday, Oct. 24, 4 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation office, 148 East St. Ages 8 and up are invited to join in step-bystep painting a spooky Halloween kitty. All mate-

pons, sweat pants and hoodies (M,L,XL,2XL);

### Grant Deadline Approaching

The Hebron Greater Together Community Fund, which is a program of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, has announced a Nov. 1 deadline for grant applications to support 2024 projects that improve the quality of life for the citizens of the town of Hebron.

The objectives of the HGTCF are to improve diverse impact of current programs and create innovative new projects for underserved populations.

Eligible grant applicants are non-profit 501c3

### Community CPR Training

**CPR Training** The Hebron Fire Department (44 Main St.) is offering free AHA Heartsaver CPR classes for those who live or work in Hebron. Adult, child and infant CPR and choking emergencies are covered.

The classes will be offered from 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15. Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve your seat. organizations that serve the citizens of Hebron. Individuals or group of citizens may submit an application in partnership with a registered non-profit that has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent of the proposed project.

Grant requests may range from \$500 to \$5,000. Each grant applicant will be interviewed by members of the HGTCF

Advisory Committee and grants for 2024 projects will be announced in December.

For application forms and more information, visit hfpg.org/hebroncf.

Last year's 2023 grant projects included: Sanctuary Performing Arts Concert Series at St. Peter's Episcopal Church; Memory Café at Atwood Dementia Group; CoDE Waking Up White seminar; Hebron Historical Society walking tour; Veterans Memorial site improvement; Hebron Community Chorus concerts; Hebron event pet stations; pollinator pathway; Hebron summer concert series – Town Center Project; Animal Bond Foundation student support groups in middle and high schools.

### **Pet Food Drive**

The Shake a Leg! pet care business is hosting a pet food drive through Dec. 1, to benefit the Hebron Dog Pound, the Hebron Interfaith Human Services food pantry and the Marlborough food pantry.

Shake a Leg! is collecting canned dog and cat food, dry food and cookies/treats, clean blankets/dog beds, and cat litter. All donations are appreciated.

Pick-up in Hebron, Amston or Marlborough can be arranged, or items can be dropped off in Amston. Contact Suzanne Savage via phone/ text for details, at 860-368-9125. rials and instruction are included. Cost: \$25.

**Trunk or Treat:** Friday, Oct. 27, 5-7 p.m., at the Burnt Hill Pavilion. There will be trunk-ortreating, pumpkin-decorating, bounce houses, wagon rides and music. Decorated vehicles are needed; if anyone is interested in decorating their vehicle, contact Parks and Rec. to sign up.

Home Alone Safety for Kids: Monday, Oct. 30, 5-6:30 p.m., for boys and girls ages 8-13 who are preparing to start staying home alone. This interactive course will cover safety concerns parents have when their children are by themselves. Cost is \$45.

**Restorative Yoga and Sound Bath:** Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m, at the Douglas Library community room. Enjoy 60 minutes of restorative yoga, focused on extended holds, deep breathing, and calming the body with the soothing sounds of gongs and Tibetan bowls. Suitable for all bodies and skill levels. Led by Amie Meacham (YTT-200 Certified Yoga Instructor) and Amy Ordonez, Artist/Sound Healer. Fee: \$25.

After School Holiday Crafting: Mondays, Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 11, for grades 3-6, at the Hebron Elementary School library. In this program, students will listen to holiday music and participate in a new craft each session. Cost is \$100.

### Reader Forum • Reader • F

### \* Letters cont. from page 9

public safety helps maintain high property values, which are good for East Hampton's economic status overall.

As we approach the upcoming election, I want representatives to focus on the big picture, who care about our present and future, and who know whatever decisions they make today may impact the whole community positively or negatively for years to come. I want members who care just as much about benefiting parents with school-aged children as they would for residents in their golden years or those living single lives. I want them to be present in the community regularly, showing their dedication beyond the words and votes generated behind the microphones at Town Hall. For these reasons and those mentioned above, I would like to encourage our residents to consider voting for council candidates Jordan Werme and Karen Wanat as well as Board of Education (BOE) candidate Paul Wisniewski.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with these individuals through their community volunteering and activism. All three are kind, compassionate, hard-working, and dedicated individuals who go above and beyond for our community regularly. They care about the voice of residents across party lines while considering reasonable spending and what the council's decisions will mean long term.

In short, I know votes for Jordan, Karen, and Paul will help ensure thoughtful due process on our council and BOE and a bright future for East Hampton.

Stephanie Heine – East Hampton

### Portland ZBA

To the Editor:

I am running for election to the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals to continue my dedication to community service. I will be running alongside a fellow Democrat, Cindy Roman who will be on the ballot for the term beginning in November 2024.

Together we will continue working to bring experience and leadership to the board and provide fair and unbiased decisions for each applicant coming before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

When elected I will bring my 20 years' experience in real estate and 4 years of experience as chairwoman of the ZBA. As a member of ZBA, I will continue to work with the Land Use Department to find opportunities to ease zoning regulations for Portland property owners to avoid costly variances.

On Nov. 7 you will find my name and Cindy Roman's name on Row A

Rose Aletta - Portland Candidate for Zoning Board of Appeals

### See for Yourself

To the Editor: In a world dominated by social media it can be tough to know how to find reliable sources for infor-

mation about candidates. Last week, the Colchester Business Association

graciously provided a wonderful source for voters by hosting a 'Meet the Candidates' night. All the parties with candidates in the race for this Nov. 7 were invited and everyone was able to do a quick introduction.

In addition, the candidates for first selectmen were invited to participate in a question-and-answer style debate.

Lucky for us - this part was recorded and everyone can view it for themselves. One place you can find the video is at Bernie Dennler's campaign website - bernieforcolchester.com.

Please take advantage and watch it for yourself! I personally feel like both candidates showed very clearly who they are as people and as leaders. Watch it for yourself and see if you agree that Bernie is the clear choice to bring Colchester together!

Sincerely, Karen Belding – Colchester Candidate for Board of Finance

### Supports Dedonato for BOF

To the Editor:

It gives me great pleasure to announce my support for Jim DeDonato for Hebron's Board of Finance. We've gotten to know Jim, his wife Tracey, and their wonderful family through our kids' activities in Hebron. Jim and Tracey have lived in Hebron for 21 years, and understand what makes Hebron tick. Several years ago, when our youngest girls played basketball, Jim and I coached together. I admired his level of patience, understanding, and a desire to connect with the kids and parents alike. Jim, who is a well-accomplished attorney in the general field of insurance, has always struck me as detail oriented, thoughtful, and most importantly, ethical. Jim is in the business of reviewing finances and working towards a fair settlement. In our many chats over the years about community service and making a difference, Jim has expressed an interest in getting involved. I've observed Jim in many business and personal interactions over the years, and his willingness to listen to opposing viewpoints in a diplomatic way, while not abandoning his principles, is impressive to me. Jim, like many Hebron residents, has raised a family here, and wants to remain here for years to come. A BOF member must give consideration to the needs of residents, whether they are just starting out, are well-established, or are retired on a fixed income. Jim's level of financial acuity, coupled with his experience in listening and talking with people will make him an outstanding member of the BOF. If you don't know Jim, you can certainly learn more about him on the Hebron Republicans' website or Facebook page. I look forward to continuing to support Jim, and I hope that you will join me in supporting him also.

### Made You Look To the Editor:

It is a pleasure to support Joan O'Connell's desire to run for election for the Marlborough Planning Commission. Joan is an upstanding lifelong Marlborough resident, and I am grateful to have worked with Joan professionally for 17 years. Her leadership is commendable. She provided direction, support, and encouragement to co-workers during difficult situations. She is a well-respected citizen who has selflessly dedicated a significant part of her life to helping and serving others.

In addition to serving the greater eastern Connecticut community as a registered nurse and international board-certified lactation consultant, Joan displays an exceptional, genuine commitment to the well-being and success of other individuals in her community. For example, she has consistently been involved in many community programs and committees such as volunteering her time sewing clothes for the underprivileged, co-founding a medical equipment exchange program that repurposes used medical equipment to people in need, and mentoring children thorough the AHM Lanterns Mentoring Program. Joan continues to proactively and positively educate others about their own health and the need to embrace sustainability for our environment. For example, Joan composts waste at her house to use for garden soil and has used non-plastic reusable bags long before such a practice became mainstreamed.

Joan will add immense value to this committee with her innovative ideas and excellent solution-oriented skills which intern will assist the committee in accomplishing its initiatives and goals. Not only will she will be an asset to the Planning Commission, but more importantly the citizens of Marlborough. Her positive, enthusiastic attitude will allow her to inspire and motivate everyone she has the opportunity to interact with to join in the collective effort in making Marlborough more sustainable.

Jennifer Lombardi - Marlborough

### Hills for Hebron BOE

Dear Hebron Citizens:

I write to enthusiastically support Kim Hills for Hebron Board of Education. A lifelong resident of Hebron, a career public school educator, and mother of three, Kim is best qualified to help lead our excellent schools. Kim understands the challenges facing our schools and believes that a strong partnership between educators and families is key to ensuring that our schools continue to deliver the best education to our children. Kim will work to ensure that our schools continue to receive the financial support needed while promoting fiscal responsibility so that Hebron continues to be an affordable place for all families, young and old. Collaboration and compromise are keys to having a successful BOE, and Kim is committed to working with board members and families of all views to create the best learning environment for our students.

I have known Kim and her family for many years. Kim and her husband Greg are excellent parents, local business owners, and most of all, just good people. My daughter was fortunate to have Kim as a teacher at RHAM HS and considers her one of her "favorite" teachers of all time! We need people like Kim to help keep our schools operating at their highest levels. A vote for Kim is a vote for public education. Please join me in voting for Kim Hills for Hebron BOE.

Sincerely, Jim DeDonato - Hebron

### **Colchester Debate**

To the Editor:

I watched the video of the debate and was so impressed by first selectman candidate Bernie Dennler at the Colchester Meet the Candidates event for the CBA. Bernie laid out a clear vision for Colchester and proved that he has what it takes to lead. Bernie was articulate, classy, but also firm. He has exactly what it takes to manage Town Hall and stand up for Colchester residents.

While Andreas hurled insults at people in the audience, Bernie Dennler showed what a real First Selectman should act like. It was a breath of fresh air.

Please vote for Bernie Dennler for first selectman on Nov. 7! Colchester needs this change.

Stacy Silberman - Colchester

### Hebron is Our Home

### **Running for Tax Collector** To the Editor:

My name is Barbara Lazzari and I am running for tax collector for the Town of Marlborough. Many of you know me as the chair of the Marlborough Parks and Recreation Commission or maybe you remember me as the chairperson of the Blish Park Playscape Renovation Committee. What many of you may not know is that I am a former tax collector and assistant town clerk of the Town of Wethersfield. My experience in the Tax Office in Wethersfield will be valuable in this position of tax collector of the Town of Marlborough. I am also a broker associate with William Raveis Real Estate and have gained extensive knowledge of municipal government including land records, assessment, and tax information needed to assist buyers and sellers. I feel I have the experience and knowledge needed to perform the duties of the tax collector and I have the passion to execute the duties of the tax collector for the betterment of the Town of Marlborough.

I am asking for your vote on Nov. 7 and I assure you that I will do my very best to fulfill the duties of the tax collector and the Town of Marlborough.

Thank you, Barbara Lazzari - Marlborough

### **Endorsing Wanat**

To the Editor: I wish with this letter to present my endorsement for the East Hampton Town Council.

I am happy to endorse Karen Wanat for the East Hampton Town Council. Karen is an exceptional community leader who has consistently demonstrated her dedication, passion, and ability to make a positive impact on our town.

One of Karen's contributions to our community has been her involvement in organizing our children's school play. She has taken on this role with unwavering dedication, ensuring that these productions are of the highest quality. Her commitment to fostering creativity and providing a platform for our young talents is truly commendable.

Karen's ability to bring people together and create memorable experiences for our children speaks to her leadership qualities. She approaches every task with a positive attitude and an incredible work ethic. Her attention to detail, organizational skills, and creative flair have made a profound difference in our community, enriching the lives of our children and their families.

It is clear to me that Karen's passion for community service and her ability to deliver results would be invaluable on the Town Council. Her proven track record of dedication and her commitment to excellence make her an ideal candidate for this role. I have no doubt that Karen will approach her responsibilities on the Town Council with the same level of enthusiasm and determination that she has shown in everything she does.

I ask everyone to support Karen Wanat for the Town Council. With her tireless dedication to our community and her proven leadership skills, she is well-equipped to advocate for the needs and concerns of our town. Karen's vision and passion for a better East Hampton are qualities that our local government needs, and I am confident she will be an exceptional representative for us all.

### Kindly, Lynnette M. Méndez-Galarza – East Hampton

### Vote for Augie!

To the Editor: Augie Arndt is reasonable. He cares about people. He listens and strives to understand all points of view. The "R" next to his name should stand for "real." Worry not what party he runs with, for he is a good human and that's all that matters. A military veteran

and a hard-working father. There are people on both sides who claim they don't care about the parties, then all they do is support candidates for their party and demonize the other. Both sides have their issues, and "voting the line" is not the answer. Vote the person, not the party. Vote for Augie, a man who has proven to stand up for what's right, even if it meant elected officials from his own party. There is no room for liars in our town government and Auggie has proven to have a level of integrity that is second to none.

> Respectfully, Michael Buck - East Hampton

### Insults vs. Integrity and Experience To the Editor:

If you have not seen the CBA debate on 10/03/2023 between First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos and Democratic candidate Bernie Dennler, you should! This is an opportunity to see and hear from each candidate for first selectman.

Our current first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos was loud, aggressive, and out of control. He could not focus on the business-related questions. Instead, he lashed out and repeatedly insulted his opponents and others in the room. He wasted his closing remarks, pointing and shouting about the "Democratic Town Committee" and going down a laundry list of insults aimed at our tax collector, town clerk and our selectwomen Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner.

In stark comparison, Bernie Dennler remained calm and professional in presenting his views and visions with a clear understanding of Colchester's current issues with clear plans for Colchester's future. Bernie's professional municipal experience and knowledge were absolutely apparent to everyone present. At no time did Bernie engage in insults or disrespect, even as his opponent took cheap shots at him. Bernie understands what divides us and what will bring Colchester together.

Leadership, character, integrity and professional-ism matter! The clear choice is Bernie Dennler for first selectman!

You can find the debate video BernieForColchester.com.

Krista Kardys - Colchester Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals

### **Bisbikos Supports Veterans**

To the Editor: In December 1863, President Abraham Lincoln penned, "We honor the soldier and sailor everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause. We also honor the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as best he can, the same cause."

As the spouse of a Marine Corps veteran, I intimately comprehend the mixed emotions that come with being part of a military family - pride and sacrifice, joy and heartache, all intertwined.

Treating veterans with the dignity and respect that they've so rightfully earned is not only the least we an indebted nation - can do, but it's also an important aspect of ensuring our security, for both current and future generations.

We need leaders at all levels of government who not only understand the sacrifices made by our veterans, but who honor them, as well.

In his first term, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos has exemplified this commitment to our veterans.

He reinstated the Memorial Day Parade and boosted its budget. Moving forward, plans to transform the current Youth Center into a new museum and veterans' center.

Let us not forget that veterans are our neighbors, friends, and family members. Their dedication and sacrifices have shaped our nation, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they receive the support and recognition they rightfully deserve.

Andreas has a solid plan for the future of our town, and will remain committed to our local veterans.

This Nov. 7, I will proudly cast my vote for Andreas Bisbikos for first selectman of Colchester.

Sincerely,

### Andrea DePaola - Colchester

### Send Summerer Back to BOE To the Editor:

Longtime Hebron resident Heather Summerer believes we have a responsibility to be involved and engaged where we work and live, and that the school system is the heart and soul of a small community. This is why Heather is seeking your vote to send her back to serve on the RHAM Board of Education. Heather has a track record of success, saving the school district money. She actively participates in meetings and as part of additional committees, she consistently represents the good people of Hebron. She has navigated through some rough waters but has emerged as one of the strongest leaders Hebron has.

So please join me in voting for Heather Summerer for RHAM Board of Education on Nov. 7. She is ready to continue her work and if anyone can bring all sides together, it is Heather.

Amy Dunnells - Hebron

Supports Alexander

### State Rep. Steve Weir R- 55th District

Note: The 55th Assembly District includes Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, Bolton and Glastonbury.

To the Editor:

Welcome to Hebron! One of the things I love about being the Republican Town Committee chair is meet-ing new families in town. Whether it's by email from them reaching out because they too want to volunteer and give back to our community, or if I meet them canvassing the beautiful streets of Hebron, I love talking with families new to town. To see that same happiness in them that I felt when I moved to Hebron. The sense that this is home. They are all so happy to have moved here. I know I still feel that way almost eight years later.

The feeling of safety, acceptance, and community that comes from neighbors who are all invested in our community. They volunteer in local organiza-tions like the Lions, the VFW, or The Town Center Project. They serve on Committees and Boards in town government. They give their time to our children by coaching, helping the PTA, or working with the RHAM Music Boosters. We all pull together to make this community our home. Hebron Republi-cans have led our town for decades, making sure that Hebron remains the beautiful town we all call home. We are committed to making Hebron a place that will continue drawing in new families, while ensuring that those who have already come here still feel at home.

Help us to keep Hebron beautiful, affordable and accepting of all. Please come out and vote Republican on Nov. 7.

> Keith Petit, Chair Hebron Republican Town Committee

Note: Buck is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said he is writing as an individual.

### Avoid Harassment

### To the Editor:

People disagree. One of the things that make this country great is that they are free to express their opinions, however unpopular they may be. That right is guaranteed in our Constitution. On the other hand, they do not have the right to threaten or harass others with whom they disagree.

Unfortunately, last weekend at the Portland Fair, there was harassment against volunteers at one tent by attendees who disagreed with the political views expressed at that tent. That sort of behavior, regardless of who perpetrates it, is unnecessary and uncalled-for. In the run-up to the last presidential election, a Portland supporter of one candidate had a sign on his lawn using profanity in reference to the other candidate.

It is (or at least should be) possible to have reasonable discussions and debates without resorting to profanity, harassment, and insults. I am disappointed that these discussions are not happening. The Golden Rule tells us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

### Sincerely,

### Martha Taylor Dumas - Colchester

Note: Dumas is a member of the Portland Democratic Town Committee, but said she is writing as an individual.

To the Editor

I am writing to endorse Elizabeth Alexander for the Hebron Board of Education. Having known Elizabeth for several years, I am confident that she is an excellent choice to serve our community in this important role. Her leadership qualities, collaborative spirit, and strong work ethic make her an ideal candidate. She possesses the necessary skills to work effectively with other board members, parents, teachers, and administrators to make informed decisions that will shape the future of our educational system.

Elizabeth's commitment to enhancing our educational system is evident in her involvement in various school-related activities and her dedication to improving the overall quality of education in Hebron. She has actively engaged with teachers, administrators, and fellow parents to foster an environment that promotes excellence and inclusivity. Her passion for educational equity ensures that every student, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to succeed.

I believe that Elizabeth Alexander's passion for education and her commitment to our community make her a fantastic choice for the Hebron Board of Education. I am so happy to endorse her candidacy and encourage you to vote for her in the upcoming election. With Élizabeth's leadership, I am confident that our schools will continue to thrive and provide our children with the best possible education.

Sincerely, Lisa Bennett - Hebron See Letters, page 30

### Marlborough • Marlborough

# **GOP Selectmen Hopefuls Tout Experience**

### By Michael Sinkewicz

Marlborough Republicans are aiming to retake control of the Board of Selectmen at the upcoming municipal election in November. The party believes it is offering three candidates with the right experience to lead the town.

Last week, the Rivereast sat down with selectman Joe Asklar, who is seeking reelection; Mike Nastri, an unaffiliated candidate endorsed by the GOP who currently serves as chairman of the Board of Finance; and Louise Concodello, who has served on several committees, including 28 years on the local school board.

Republican Town Committee (RTC) vice chair Judy Kelly, who was also present at the sitdown, described the candidates as a "powerful" trio that "can work really well with the town."

With a strong public safety background, Asklar — who Kelly labeled as a "fixture in town" - believes he and his fellow nominees have decades of exposure to local government and municipal issues.

"Between the three of us, we have a tremendous amount of experience to bring into the Board of Selectmen office and that's absolutely huge," he said, adding that the key to their pitch was simple: "We're offering public service with experience."

### **Priorities and Goals**

Nastri expressed that over the next few years, several projects will likely need to be bonded and the town needs to plan accordingly. Effectively utilizing and developing town-owned space will supplement the burden placed on the tax base, he argued.

With a recently appointed town manager, David R. Porter, the first in the community's history, beginning in August, Nastri believes there are newfound opportunities.

Namely, the candidates pointed to the potential development of an industrial park at Marlborough Commons as a long-awaited, and stalled, initiative.

"David can establish stronger connections with legislatures because we've seen similar types of projects get grants and funding through the state?

Concodello expressed her intention to keep taxes down and potentially reducing the mill rate slightly each year. Echoing the needs for local development, she emphasized that the town is making progress with apartments and condos, but the underlining rural character of the town must remain.

"This isn't Glastonbury, it's Marlborough," she asserted

The 2023 election offers a new dynamic for officials. With Porter in the corner office at Town Hall, the first selectman position has effectively been eliminated. Municipal business will likely look different moving forward. The Republican candidates believe Porter will have a positive impact on governing.

"He is a professional and this is what he does best," Asklar said, expressing that with an elected first selectman, there's typical a years-long learning curve.

Concodello said she was pleased that the town manager was a politically neutral position; Porter doesn't even live in Marlborough, she noted.

"That's exactly what we needed in this town," she said.

For the selectmen, Porter essentially becomes the point person for projects and issues throughout town.

"He's going to be leading the Board of Selectmen," Nastri explained. "He's going to help shape the vision and come with lots of ideas. It's going to make our roles a lot easier."

Apart from their own visions, elected officials listen to the thoughts of their constituents.

Asklar said that based on his community interactions, different age groups have different needs. Residents ages 25-35, he said, care mainly about the library, the lake, and things that appeal to their children. As their children get older, the priorities shift to athletic fields and town programs.

He said parents in town tend to be "childrenoriented," focused not on what the town can provide them, but what the town can provide their kids. "And that seems to carry a lot of weight," he said.

While planning and zoning regulation changes may help with the issue, Asklar expressed that children who grew up in the area have a challenging time affording to move back.

"That is a real problem," he said. "They can't find real estate here; it doesn't exist.'

### **Representing the Community**

Asklar stated that an objective of the selectmen would be to put aside party politics.

"Once you are voted [in] by the public, you have to say to yourself, I am not an 'R,' I am not a 'D,' I'm not a 'U," he said. "I'm here to serve the people who put me here. Past administrations, we've had that problem."

But, he added, the issue has been getting better: "It's not as heavy or as important as it used to be."

Concodello believes she was able to separate political affiliations on the school board, saying that it hardly shaped her decisions.

"When they're really sitting there and discussing something, they're not saying, 'we're two Ds, we're going to vote this way," she said. "We vote what's best for the children."

And for the selectmen, she added: "What's best for the town."

Nastri stated that he also was able to act independently, especially with his party status.

"Being unaffiliated, I've been able to bridge the gap on many issues that Board of Finance has had," he said. "I really look at things impartially and try to see what really does make sense."

In September, the three RTC-endorsed candidates survived a Republican primary election. They held off Sue Stolfi and Chris Barella, who petitioned themselves onto the ballot.

### 4th Friday @ the Arts Café

The Marlborough Arts Center's 4th Friday @ na of Siena, Italy, a Certificate from Curs Interthe Arts Café will present Handler & Levesque, nacional de Musica Vila-Seca Conservatory in Spain, and a diploma from Aspen Music School. a husband-and-wife duo on guitar and mandolin, on Friday, Oct. 27, at the arts center, 231 N. She teaches at a private studio in Vernon. Main St. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. playing with rock and blues bands, then became

The duo plays a blend of classical, Latin American, klezmer, jazz, Celtic and folk music. Visit marlborougharts.org to hear some audio

"I think the primary was good," Asklar asserted, referencing the importance of adhering to state statutes and the rules of elections.

"We had the primary, we had the vote and we have to respect the vote of the primary, and that's the most important thing," he said. "There are some people that may be bitter — it's irrelevant."

He added, "It's a part of the system and I think it's excellent.

Another party dispute involved the Independent Party Slate Committee, whose core makeup features many former Republicans who left the party after the 2022 election.

While it was recently announced that the committee would ultimately be removed from the upcoming election ballot due to a missed filing deadline, the group did plan on running several candidates, including sitting Republicans such as Joe Asklar's son, Kevin, who planned on running on "row C" for the Zoning Commission.

"I respect them," Joe Asklar said. "They had the right to do that and if anybody frowned on it, you shouldn't.

He continued: "They did not like what the RTC was doing; they were hoping for some change, they didn't get the change that they were asking for. Maybe the RTC should've been a little more patient, maybe better listeners, so that it wouldn't have gotten to that point so there could've been a compromise."

Concodello said that while the committee would not be involved with the 2023 election, it could potentially regroup for the following campaign.

'They probably will get back together and come back in the 2025 municipal election. They still have another chance to do it."

Regarding any division and tension between the RTC and Independent Committee, Kelly brushed off any lingering animosity.

"We're changing internally," she said. "We're growing and it doesn't serve any justice to inter-

Parks and Rec Fall Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program 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.

Safe at Home: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-6. Participants will learn skills designed to prepare them to be safe when home alone. Fee: \$48/resident, \$53/non-resident.

Artventures - Where the Wild Things Art!: Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 17-Nov. 28 (no class Nov. 7), at MES, for grades K-4. Kids will explore many whimsical and original art forms and techniques, discovering clay and collage, painting and drawing, mask-making and decorating, and more. Fee: \$115/resident, \$120/nonresident.

Acrylic Landscape Painting: Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., from Oct. 18-Nov. 8, at MES, for grades 3-6. Students will be guided through the techniques of landscape painting. All materials are provided. Fee: \$90/resident, \$95/ non-resident.

### Truck or Treat at MCNS

Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School will hold Truck or Treat Saturday, Oct. 21, from 2-5 p.m., at the school, 35 S. Main St.

There will be trucks, kids' activities, trick or treat, food trucks, raffles, face-painting dance lessons by Alyson's School of Dance, a costume contest, and more. Cost is \$5/person or \$20/family.

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act like that. Really what happened is in the past and we need to move forward."

But for the election in front of the candidates, they each believe that the tone should remain civil.

"I've never been a proponent of attacking anybody," Nastri said. "I'm a proponent of telling people my views and answering questions. Everyone's got their own personal opinions and thoughts."

Effective governing also contributes to a respectful environment, he said.

"If we do a good job of managing the town, we shouldn't have those issues."

With the town manger perhaps stifling the politics in the community, the tone has already evolved, Concodello claimed.

"You walk into town hall now and everyone is smiling and happy," she said. "It really is a difference."

Asklar offered a blunt stance on what the tone of the election should be.

"It's important that all of us keep it as professional as possible," he said. "And if someone takes a shot at you, don't lower yourself to that level. The three of us will be professional; we will keep it as high as possible; we will keep it to the subjects that includes the business of our town and that's it — no drama."

As a ticket that prides itself on experience, where does the desire to serve the community come from?

For Asklar, he believes the trait is passed down from parents.

Concodello gave a simple explanation.

"I think it's in your blood. I think it's in your body that you just want to volunteer," she said, adding that residents often pass along compliments about the school or town, which motivates her. "When you hear all that stuff coming back to you out in the public, it makes you feel good. You take pride in it all."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Parents' Night Out: For grades K-6. Fridays, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m., at the Marlborough Senior Center. Drop off the kids and enjoy an evening out at a movie, dinner or shopping for a few hours. Kids will have the option of participating in arts and crafts activities, games, sports or watching a movie. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Registration fee is \$20 per child resident, \$25 per child non-resident.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest: Design your pumpkins and bring them to the Recreation Department. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Scariest pumpkin, Funniest pumpkin, Most original pumpkin. Two age groups for prizes: Ages 4-8 & Ages 9-13. Pumpins will be accepted until Oct. 25.

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up. Days and times are flexible. Fee for four lessons: \$200/residents, \$205/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Pickleball: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park tennis courts. There is no fee.

Adult Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee: \$5 per week.

Zumba - Fall Session: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$60/residents, \$65/non-residents. There is a \$10 drop-in fee. Start date to be determined.

Trip: N.Y. Giants vs. N.Y. Jets: Sunday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m., at Met Life Stadium. Trip includes

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Handler's musical background includes a Master of Music from Hartt, Bachelor of Music from Cincinnati College Conservatory, a Diploma of Merit from Accademia Musicale Chigia-

thesizer orchestration. He has resear from all over the world and has written many arrangements for the group. Levesque also teaches at a private studio in Vernon.

hed mu

VISA

Levesque started guitar at age 10, quickly

interested in other styles including jazz, classical

and international. He composes instrumental

music and songs, as well as working with syn-

The arts center is handicapped-accessible.

SINCE

charter bus, upper-level end zone ticket to the game, cookout before the game, food after the game, cornhole tournament, pickem pool, music, games and prizes on the bus. Fee is \$335. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride at 6:30 a.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m.

### **Openings on** Commissions

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is looking for people to join one of the following commissions:

Economic and Community Development alternate, Water Pollution Control Authority regular seat plus two alternates. The application form can be accessed at www.marlboroughct. net; the link is at the bottom of the page on the left-hand side.

For more information about any of these commissions, email CEO@marlborough.ct.net.

### **Police News**

9/9: Anthony Tufares, 51, of 4 Laurel Trail, East Hampton, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence, State Police said.

### Marlborough • Marlborough

### **Calling All Artists and Fine Crafters**

The Marlborough Arts Center is accepting submissions for its Holiday Art and Gift Sale, which will take place Fridays through Sundays from Nov. 10 to Dec. 9.

Artists may display up to five paintings. Crafters may display small crafts subject to reasonable space limitations. A fee of \$10 is required. Items must be priced under \$200.

### Masquerade 5K Road Race

The Marlborough Lions will hold their annual Masquerade 5K Road Race Sunday, Oct. 29, starting promptly at 10:30 a.m.

This certified 5K will feature runners in costume and will follow the same course around Lake Terramuggus as the Lions' Memorial Day weekend race. The race will utilize electronic timing with computerized race results.

Entry fee is \$30 per runner. Shirts will be provided to those who pre-register by Oct. 15, with additional shirts being available on race day subject to availability. There is also a \$60 package price for families (immediate family members only) participating in the race. Same-day

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. Transportation is Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; call 36 hours in advance of your appointment to guarantee a ride.

Also, the Food Bank is located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008) and 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.

Monday, Oct. 16: Assistance, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; bingo, 1-3 p.m.; setback, 3-4 p.m.; Congregate Menu: stuffed pepper w/ gravy, rice, vegetable medley, wheat bread, fresh fruit.

Tuesday, Oct. 17: Assistance, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Flu Clinic, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Girl Scouts, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 18: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool,

### **Congregational Church News & Notes**

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed live every Sunday at mcc. marlcongchurch.org and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. All children in the community are welcome 7:30 p.m.

and invited to attend Sunday School. Contact Gwen Lawson at the church office at office@marlcongchurch.org for more information. Oct. 15 service will be led by the Rev. Valerie

Seaver. Her sermon title is "What Are You Wearing?" based on Psalm 106:1-6 and Matthew 22:1-14.

Women's Circle, led by Seaver, will meet Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m., upstairs in the lounge. Women of all ages are invited.

Faith Formation (Bible Study) is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. upstairs in the lounge. All are welcome.

Outreach: The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshipers to bring their donations. The Drive Thru Café provides a takeaway hot meal at the church to Marlborough Food Bank clients usually on the last Sunday of every month (except July and August). Once a month the youth groups pre-

Paintings and craft items can be dropped off at the Arts Center Saturday, Oct. 28, or Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1-4 p.m.

For more information, visit www.marlborougharts.org, call the Arts Center at 860-647-6363 or email marlboroughartscenter@gmail. com.

registrations are accepted. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course which circles Lake Terramuggus.

The Lions Club supports programs which address various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addition to supporting local organizations such as the Marlborough food and fuel banks.

To register or for more information, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or email meadams9182@hotmail.com. Registration forms are also available online at ItsYour-Race.com.

### Senior Center News and Notes

10 a.m.-noon.; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: cracker crumb cod with tartar sauce, mashed potatoes, green and yellow wax beans, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Dancers, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 19: Transportation, 8 a.m.; Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; PD Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 20: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, mild beef and bean chili, shredded cheese/ baked potato, sour cream/sliced carrots, 100% whole wheat bread, chocolate pudding with topping; Cards, 1-4 p.m.

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

pare and serve a meal to residents at Florence Lord

Housing. Once in May and November, the church sponsors the evening meal at the St. Vincent De-Paul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.

AA: Meets downstairs in the Great Hall with three scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at noon and another at 7:30 p.m., and Thursdays at noon. ACOA: Meets in the Youth Room Tuesdays at

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop is

open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Dec. 23. For more information, contact the church office. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432 or email pastorval@marlcongchurch.org.

### **Resident on** Volleyball Team

Gabriella Johnson of Marlborough is playing on this fall's women's volleyball team at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Johnson, who wears number 12 and plays pin, is a junior who majors in English.

### From the Superintendent's Desk...

### Pre-Budget Development Community Forum

In educating the whole child at MES, our goal is for each child to develop academically as well as socially-emotionally to their fullest potential. We are committed to meeting learners where they are and leading them to acquire fundamental knowledge and skills. We create learnercentered conditions where students are active in their acquisition of knowledge as they build meaning, ask questions, and explain their reasoning. We hold high expectations for all students and their progress is monitored regularly so that appropriate instructional and programmatic adjustments can be applied for their benefit. In support of academic aims are our school values of respect, responsibility and safety. Through strong relationships between students and teachers, with families as partners, our students are thriving and experiencing the joys of MES. MES' recognition as a State School of Distinction in Math and ranking 15th out of 182 schools on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessment in 2022 as well as exceeding state accountability targets in 2023 represent our improvement efforts and investments in students.

The Marlborough Board of Education will be engaging in the development of its annual budget, beginning with the Board of Finance Budget Kickoff Meeting on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in the MES library, followed by the Board of Education's Pre-Budget Community Forum on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. in the MES library. The public is invited and encouraged to attend these public meetings. Information about the school's budgeting process can be found on the newly updated school district website at www.marlborough.k12.ct.us under the budget tab.

Our budgets are designed to provide the necessary investments in staffing, curriculum, instruction, professional development, and operations as outlined in the district's Strategic Continuous Improvement Plan to run an outstanding, safe, and happy school. With the support of the Town, Board of Education, and the residents of Marlborough through the funds the budget provides, as well as through grants and revenue funds, we have been successful in:

• Retaining and recruiting a highly-qualified and caring staff within community-valued class sizes as well as maintaining critical supports for students through related services including utilizing multi-year grant funds for Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) to build upon our Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program to meet students needs.

• Implementing a Literacy Program which is aligned to the Science of Reading- including comprehensive, explicit and systematic foundational instruction in grades K-3.

Implementing the K-6 Math Program with fidelity and positive student outcomes.

· Supporting a robust Essential Arts and After-School Club program providing students with a well-rounded learning experience.

 Expanding our integrated PreK program serving three and four year olds with special needs as well as peers.

• Investing in school safety and security systems as well as the addition of a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO).

• Updating instructional technology in all learning spaces and launching an improved school district website.

• Investing in Facilities and Technology to maintain and improve upon the school infrastructure, including plans to conduct an Architectural Study to inform Capital Planning.

We are deeply grateful for the support of MES families who send us their wonderful children everyday and greatly appreciate the community's support of our collective commitment to the elementary children of Marlborough.

> Holly Hageman Marlborough Superintendent of Schools

### Art Classes

The Marlborough Arts Center is offering a class in creative journaling for teens, with parents welcome to participate. Classes will meet Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., through Nov. 8. Instructor Susan Hourihan will guide the class in using creative techniques to work through anxieties.

One-session drop-ins are accepted; dropin fee is \$60. Registration forms are available at www.marlborougharts.org.

For more information, please call the Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or email Susan: susanhourihan1994@gmail.com.

### Fall Cemetery Clean-Up

The annual cemetery fall clean up is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

Residents are asked to remove any personal items and decorations prior to the clean up. All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, items hanging from trees, pots, or items beyond the front of the stone. Consult the town website, www.marlboroughct. net, for a complete listing.







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### Reader Forum • Reader • Rea

### \* Letters cont. from page 27

### Generation Z Speaks Up To the Editor:

It is exciting, encouraging and even inspiring to see a young man, Nick Hale, step forward to run for office on the Democratic slate in Marlborough.

Nick grew up in Marlborough, attended both MES and RHAM, and is now a UConn student studying Political Science. He is particularly concerned about the availability of housing for young people starting careers being able to afford to live in Marlborough. He is a candidate for the Zoning Commission, alternate position. He grew up in Marlborough and values the quality of life in this wonderful town.

Thank you, Nick, for stepping up. We need to hear from the perspective of young people whose future is impacted by decisions made by today's leaders.

Let's elect Nick Hale on Nov. 7 to bring the concerns of generation Z to the table.

Respectfully submitted, Dianne Dunn – Marlborough

### **Experience and Empathy for BOE** Dear Colchester:

While I haven't taught children professionally in some time, the bedrock of my career is built on doing just that. I remember watching my peers in high school and college take on odd jobs to make extra cash. That was simply never my path. I yearned to make even the smallest difference in other young lives.

Babysitter. Parks & Rec Camp Counselor. Infant, Toddler, Preschool Teacher. Dance Instructor. Paraprofessional. Tutor. Graduate Leader. Mentor.

Those were just some of the hats I wore. Each one shaped who I am today. Through every milestone, I was in the thick of it. Sometimes that meant reading on a rug in an organized fashion. Other times that meant being a shoulder to lean on, a caring presence, a behavioral model even on my toughest days. As a parent, today, I've grappled with knowing that

As a parent, today, I've grappled with knowing that my children won't spend every waking moment with me as they get older. They'll spend more time with their teachers in their first 18 years of life. Knowing that, I will continue making an impact however I can, so that our local teachers – and in turn, our children – are set up for success.

While my career trajectory changed, my passion for education never wavered. Through volunteer opportunities like C3's Parent Council and serving on CASTLE's Board, I have brought my experience and education to Colchester. I've spent the past few years advocating for children knowing that—if we do our job right—they'll become our oldest and most celebrated community members.

If elected to the Board of Education, I'll bring educational mastery, direct experience, and above all else, empathy to my role. I'll work collaboratively with my fellow board members to adequately support our teachers and youngest citizens. I'll listen and learn.

I hope to earn your vote on Nov. 7th. Thank you!

Sincerely, Stefanie Tracey-Calash – Colchester Candidate for Board of Education

### **Congratulations Cheetahs!**

To the Editor:

Every year over Columbus Day weekend, Colchester soccer teams travel to Natick, Mass., to play in the Natick Fall Classic tournament. The Colchester Cheetahs (U13G) have been playing there since U9, and every year they struggle. The competition is fierce. Heck, there's been years they have failed to score even a single goal.

This year was different. After busting their butts all season, the girls not only scored some goals – they advanced all the way to the semi-finals! And while that game did not end the way we all would have liked, it most certainly could have as the girls left it all on the table and played their hearts out. For nearly the whole game, the Cheetahs dominated the ball and pounded the net. Luck, unfortunately, is rather fickle and it wasn't on their side yesterday. Still, what the girls were able to accomplish compared to a year ago was nothing short of amazing.

From the Colchester Cheetah coaches – congratulations and thank you! Thank you for an awesome weekend, some incredible fun, and most importantly all the memories! We'll show Natick we have what it takes to win the whole thing next year, without question. Now let's go out there and maintain our curAbove all else, Brian's family is his top priority. Brian is my biggest cheerleader, coach, and best friend. He is deeply engaged in our children's lives...reading the books they read, baking with them, and even watching *Gilmore Girls* a couple of times!

Brian will bring a thoughtful and grounded approach to the board. He will be committed to taxpayers in town and ensure tax dollars are used in a way that is prudent and supports our community in a way we can all be proud.

Please consider voting for Brian; I know from experience that he will serve the board and town well. Anne Thibeault – Hebron

### **Controversy, Confusion, Chaos** To the Editor,

All politics is local, right? All politics in Colchester is apparently loco, at least for the past two years, with our current first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos. Every Friday, the *Rivereast* newspaper reports on the shenanigans and discord and the costs to city business and the image of Colchester. His own party censured him, in an effort to rein in his conduct. Despite all of this, the Board of Selectmen has managed to appropriate ARPA funds to move projects forward.

A recent stunt consisted of inviting TV news and print media to a town meeting, under the guise of stopping corruption. The meeting was raucous and particularly egregious and nasty as the first selectman ripped up the agenda and publicly defamed and bullied the incumbent town clerk, Gayle Furman. Reality TV, oh joy! And now, a police presence has been requested at meetings. The voters of Colchester have been denied a clear

The voters of Colchester have been denied a clear contrast of candidates, as a debate was to be held at Bacon Academy. Bernie Dennler welcomed the opportunity but the first selectman declined participation. So, I guess, as Dirty Harry said, "A man's got to know his limitations."

Bernie Denler has the experience, good sense and the ability to see the big picture, with careful attention to detail. This ensures that city government can be successful without theatrics, unnecessary and costly lawsuits, injunctions and delays. Ruling by fiat needs to end. It costs the town time, money and efficiency.

Let's make some good news for the Rivereast. Vote for Bernie and the Democratic slate. They know how to govern.

### Nancy J. Butts – Colchester

### **Voting for Duigou** To the Editor:

As a resident, senior citizen and retired attorney, I am supporting Jeff Duigou, the Republican-endorsed candidate running for tax collector for the Town of Colchester. I have gotten to know Jeff over the past several years. Mr. Duigou was the campaign manager in Colchester for our state Rep. Mark DeCaprio who was elected in November 2022. I worked on the campaign with Jeff and observed his hard work, dedication and expertise in educating the Colchester residents/taxpayers on issues that were important to

them. Personally, Mr. Duigou has personally assisted me in defining my rights both as a senior residing in Connecticut and as a resident of Colchester. I know that he has provided pro bono services to the people of Colchester on various committees. His particular addition has been showing volunteer committees how to get things done. His 30+ years of experience working in the affordable housing market as a consultant has proven to me his knowledge of Connecticut tax law related to senior housing and seniors' rights. His years as a working engineer demonstrate that his education and his intelligence are exceptional.

Jeff has been an active citizen in all things Colchester. He's not only involved in town politics but also volunteer service to the town, his church, the Boy Scouts, etc. Jeff will make a fine tax collector and resource to the citizens/taxpayers of Colchester. Based on my recent unpleasant experience with the current tax collector, I am confident Mr. Duigou will provide knowledgeable, professional, and especially courteous service in the Colchester tax department when elected. I will be voting for Jeff Duigou on Nov. 7 and encourage Colchester taxpayers to vote for him as well.

> Respectfully, Michael Madden – Colchester

### **Supports BOE Incumbents**

dents and our schools. If you don't know much about these candidates yet, I would encourage you to look them up. They will surely earn your vote, as they have earned mine. I hope you will join me in supporting Laurel Steinhauser, Meg Scata, Sarah Spear, and Kim Nagy-Maruschock for the Board of Education.

Melissa Kelley – Portland

### Two of the Best To the Editor:

I cannot put into words how excited I am about the Democratic candidates for the Hebron Board of Selectmen. John Matra and Claudia Riley are two of the best a town could hope for.

From the moment you meet John or Claudia, you know that you're in the presence of intelligence and competence. They each bring different backgrounds and skills with them, each with a truly impressive history of volunteerism and dedication to their communities. They are thoughtful, insightful, creative problem solvers who prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Since moving to Hebron, John has been an active volunteer with Meals on Wheels, the Hebron Green Committee, and the DTC. He's also the president of the Amston Lake Association. He is the embodiment of the word dedication and when he commits to something, he gets it done.

I first met Claudia a few years ago when we were working on a different campaign together. She is a force. I can't even list her history of volunteerism here because there's a word limit, but please check her out on Hebrondems.com. She has dedicated much of her life to improving the lives of others and we should be so lucky as to have her putting her heart and talents into improving ours.

I encourage you to take the time to learn more about all of the candidates, both Republican and Democratic. And when it comes time to vote, please bear in mind that electing Keith Petit to the BOS will leave our schools vulnerable to an appointment on the Board of Education. We lucked out the last time that someone had to be appointed to his seat, we may not be so fortunate if it happens again. Vote Row A on Nov. 7.

Nicole Matthews – Hebron Note: Matthews is a member of the Hebron Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.

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### Striking Contrast

To the Editor: The Colchester Business Association kindly held a "Meet the Candidates" forum on Nov. 3. I had the honor of standing with a slate of candidates who have provided experienced leadership to Colchester and first-time candidates who offer innovative ideas and directly translatable professional experience to the roles we wish to serve.

At the top of our ticket, candidate for first selectman, Bernie Dennler, was provided an opportunity to engage in a Q&A forum with the incumbent first selectman. The contrast could not be more striking. Bernie Dennler presented a calm and professional leadership style and a unified vision of moving Colchester forward while putting the proper light on the litany of missteps made by the incumbent first selectman over the last two years that have genuinely set Colchester back.

In response, the incumbent first selectman engaged in bombastic attacks against his opponent, current serving board members, and the Colchester Democratic Town Committee. In between his theatrical attacks, he, at best, was only able to flaunt the poorly executed completions of vanity projects over the last two years funded by once-in-a-lifetime government funds via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). At worst, his demeanor and personal attacks only spoke to why he's not the right choice for Colchester on Nov. 7.

Bernie Dennler fully displayed how he has the vision and experience to lead us forward and bring people together. He'll bring stability, efficiency, civility, and true transparency to our Town Hall. I encourage everyone to visit bernieforcolchester.com, watch the Q&A video, and see why Bernie is the right choice for all of Colchester.

Sincerely, Scott Chapman – Colchester Candidate, Board of Finance Books should be in their age-appropriate section. Liberals are pushing the sexualization of our children too far. We don't need groomers in our libraries or in town hall. Sincerely,

Michael B. Begun - Colchester

### Happy Birthday Colchester Dear Colchester Residents:

This year, the great Town of Colchester will embrace a historic milestone as it celebrates its 325th Birthday on Oct. 13th, 2023.

Since its incorporation, Colchester has had a rich and storied history. It has been home to historic politicians, inventors, businessmen, sports dignitaries, and musicians. In the 1800s, Old Bacon Academy progressively allowed the education of women and non-white students, while also educating future governors, senators, and a Supreme Court justice. It was the Colchester Rubber Company that created the first basketball sneakers in the 1890s.

Our town is home to heroes. General Henry Champion served as the chief commissary of the Continental Army under George Washington and fought in notable Revolutionary War battles like Bunker Hill. William J. Johnston served in World War II and received the both the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart fighting fascist forces in Italy. His story is legendary. As German forces were overrunning his position, he manned his machine gun seriously injured and without rest to buy cover for his unit's withdrawal. He was able to make it back and provide valuable intelligence on German positions.

Colchester has also been a place where one's American Dream can come true. People like my parents, who left Greece with two children in hopes of a better tomorrow, settled in the beautiful town of Colchester. My family established a successful business here, educated their children through the Colchester Public Schools system, and made their friends here. The acceptance, opportunities, and love that Colchester has provided for my family will be forever cherished.

There are many who share similar stories. While Colchester may be "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow," it is also where dreams come true.

Happy Birthday Colchester and God Bless Us All. Sincerely,

Andreas Bisbikos Colchester First Selectman

### **Greener Grass**

To the Editor: In a shocking suprise attack, that "nobody could have predicted," Hamas launched thousands of rockets against Israel. Despite the "Iron Dome" and a complete failure of all human intelligence, the attack was carried out on the 50th anniversary of the October War. I guess the Israel Mossad forgot to mark that one on the calendar.

The response has been typical, with most calling for the leveling of Gaza and turning it into a glass parking lot. The conditions inside of Gaza are truly third-world; having been encircled/caged by Israel for 75 years, its inhabitants live in what amounts to an open-air prison. In response to the attacks, Israel has unleashed its most devastating attacks on Gaza, razing entire neighborhoods and destroying infrastructure.

The timing of the attack, although horrific, raises some curious possibilities. The Netanhayu government has been wildly unpopular as of late, with Israeli's participating in some of the largest protests in the countries history. Stemming from Netanyahu's push to give the Knesset (Parliment) the ability to override the Supreme Court, thereby creating a society beholden to the whim of politicians instead of actual laws. Many others have grown tired of Israel's rabid COVID-19 policies that require them to get constant updated boosters in order to gain entry into society.

What do governments do when they become wildly unpopular? Create a distraction and bring their people to war. All you need to do to accomplish your goals is provide and external enemy for the people to hate and rally against. Considering the fragile state of geopolitics right now, this couldn't of happened at a worse time. However, the big question is which country will be the biggest recipient of MIC aid this year.... Israel or Ukraine? Whichever it is, the grass is going to grow greener.

rently undefeated season in league play.

### Proud Coaches, Jason LaChapelle, Kristina Lenda, Brian Rago, Kelly Perry

### Vote for Brian Thibeault To the Editor:

I am pleased to share a unique perspective on Brian Thibeault, Democratic candidate for the Board of Finance in Hebron. I have been married to Brian for 19 years, so am biased, but I get the privilege to see a side of Brian that no one else does.

With regards to technical qualifications, there is no question that Brian has the requisite experience to be a knowledgeable and prudent member of the Board of Finance. In addition to studying economics and finance at Boston College, Brian pursued the highest actuarial designation, Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, while working full-time as we raised our family. This required working late nights and weekends, but when Brian is committed to something, he is all in. He is a trusted retirement actuary whose business partners know he will bring deep expertise, and a practical, pragmatic approach to solving problems.

Equally important is his commitment to the community. He launched the Hebron Run/Walk Club to bring more spirit to the community. He coaches soccer in town, and what no one sees are the hours and thought he puts in to find new ways to engage the kids.

To the Editor:

I have been able to attend many Portland Board of Education meetings over the last couple of years, thanks in large part to the district's commitment to streaming meetings over Zoom. (Thanks for making meetings accessible to parents so we can stay informed!) What I have seen during the meetings I have attended – steady leadership, thoughtful and respectful conversations, careful balancing of difficult budget considerations, and a lot of common sense – makes me proud to support incumbents Laurel Steinhauser, Meg Scata, Sarah Spear, and Kim Nagy-Maruschock.

As a parent to two Portland students, I appreciate that we have a Board of Education that works well together and doesn't often get bogged down in unnecessary drama. Laurel, Meg, Sarah, and Kim have consistently shown a real understanding of the diverse needs of our students, teachers, and families. Which shouldn't be a surprise as they are each parents (or in Meg's case, grandparent) to students in our Portland schools. I value the wide variety of backgrounds and expertise they bring to the Board, and I trust them to navigate the complexities of budgetary constraints while prioritizing the best interests of our children.

As our BOE considers future school facility improvements and wrestles with how to stretch our tax dollars to meet student needs, I am confident that these four women are the right individuals to lead our schools forward. Portland needs their experience, dedication, integrity, and commitment to our stuStanding Up for Our Children Dear Colchester Residents:

Why are the local Democratic Town Committee members and their surrogates supporting sexualized books in the little children's section of the library? Bernie Dennler, the Democratic first selectman candidate, uses the word "ban" to intentionally mischaracterize our first selectman who wanted a sexually suggestive book placed in the age-appropriate section. In my opinion, he is using the word "ban" to hide the fact that he supports sexually suggestive books in the little children's section of the library.

Why not place books in their age-appropriate section? We do that for movies; why not books? Should books like *Gender Queer* be placed next to *Clifford the Big Red Dog*? Should books containing images of drag queens be placed next to books about Winnie the Pooh? Bernie and the Democratic Town Committee sure created the appearance that we should as a town accept that.

Since Bernie supported the RuPaul book next to *Where's Waldo?*, will he support the utilization of tax dollars to support drag queens reading to our children? As a gay man, I find it disgusting. There is a time and place for all that exposure, yet I'm worried that Bernie will use your tax dollars to pay for it.

I applaud Andreas Bisbikos for standing up for our children. From his work to secure playgrounds, field irrigation, and taking a stand against the far left – I recognize his efforts. He believes that kids should be kids.

### The Best Choice for Colchester! To the Editor:

Over this past year I have witnessed the growing toxicity and foul behavior by many of our elected officials. This was proven again at the most recent CBA forum between our current FS and the Democratic nominee, Bernie Dennler. The current FS chose attacks when answering questions. He chose insults and his usual bullying as his way of getting his points across. In vast contrast, Bernie was calm and professional. He had intelligent, well thought out answers. He did not insult or attack our FS even once. He showed his true character and integrity. This is the type of person we should all want running our beautiful town.

Bernie has already proven to me how hard he is working for our town. His whole heart is in ridding our town of its current toxicity and working for the people by actually listening to the wants and needs of its citizens. Bernie has proven over and over that he is committed to working hard for Colchester and all of its citizens. He is the FS we deserve.

It is time to remove the insults, bullying and attacks that show up at every BOS meeting, BOF meeting, in the paper and on social media. It is time to remove the toxicity at town hall. It's time we have a FS who actually cares about our town. Bernie has the background and professionalism to move our town for-

### Reader Forum • Reader • F

ward in the right direction. It's time for our town to be represented by someone that not only is willing to work hard but truly believes Colchester is kind and wants it to stay that way. It's time to bring Colchester together.

Vote for Bernie Dennler and the entire Democratic slate on Nov. 7. Give Colchester the change it deserves.

Beth Tiezzi - Colchester

### Short-Term Memory Loss

To the Editor:

Going into this election season I feel compelled to provide a quick recap to the residents of Colchester regarding the Democratic initiatives that I have been opposed to. I'm not going to go into depth as I have already written about most of them. However, I want you to see a list in a single place.

This year's collective budget started with the school looking for a \$4M increase. Democrats, driven by unions, attempted to circumnavigate the charter by taking over the town meeting even after their request to the town attorney for a legal opinion came back to support the town.

Democrats in my opinion committed fraud against the town's people when they pushed through the senior center, knowing it was grossly under budget when they broke ground committing the town to a bottomless pit. This will cost the town a minimum of an additional \$1.5M on top of the committed \$9.5M.

The previous administration under Bylone had started the budget cycle with a 10% spending increase, which thankfully never passed.

During COVID-19, the Democrats attempted to put forward a budget increase without giving the citizens the ability to vote on it.

There should be a visible pattern forming here along with a pretty good idea of what Colchester and its citizens will have to endure should the Democrats take over in November.

A lot of ways to look at these challenges. Wants vs. needs, spending problem, or a revenue problem. Either way, I am asking for your support and your vote on Nov. 7 to allow me to continue to be a voice of reason.

### Sincerely, Taras W. Rudko - Colchester

Candidate, Board of Selectmen

Note: Rudko is also chairman of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, but said he is speaking as an individual.

### Kind, Compassionate Advocate To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to endorse John Dillon for reelection to the Portland Board of Selectmen. I have known John and his family for more than 30 years and find him to be a kind and compassionate advocate for the residents of Portland.

Please join me in voting for John, so we can continue to benefit from his service.

Jill Deane - Portland

### **CPA Endorses Colchester Treasurer** To the Editor:

I will be voting for Colchester's John Ringo for reelection as treasurer. John has a strong financial knowledge of the complicated financial issues a town faces. I had the opportunity to serve as Colchester's treasurer several years ago, and I know how challenging the treasurer position can be.

John Ringo is the right person for this job. Please join me in voting for John Ringo and the other Republican candidates for Colchester.

Brenden M. Healy, CPA - Colchester

### Shannon for BOE

To the Editor:

Andover, please vote for me for the BOE (Board of Education) on Nov. 7th! I'm an endorsed Democratic candidate on Row A of the ballot and want to continue to serve all students and citizens of Andover as a member of the important BOE.

I have worked on the BOE for eight years and want to persist in contributing to our community for the next four years. I care a great deal about the education of all students and, while ruffling some financial feathers, have been a strong advocate for all students to receive the resources required for their education while looking out for the best interests of Andover. I believe that Andover Elementary School (AES) is one of the best, if not the best, reasons to live in Andover and it needs to remain as such for the benefit of our Town. As a member of the BOE for the past eight years, I have volunteered significant time to: (1) negotiating the contracts for each of the employees of AES, working with the individuals and unions; (2) directly participating in the successful searches for Superintendent Bruneau and Principal Parker; (3) serving as the BOE's liaison to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee; and (4) currently helping to revise the BOE's policies for its manual. My parents relocated our family to Connecticut some 55 years ago because of its excellent public schools. I will be the voice on the BOE for those whose children benefited from AES' tremendous education many years ago and believe that it's important for the BOE to include members who do not have children attending AES. I would appreciate your vote for me for the BOE on November 7th so that I can keep on helping to determine the best solutions for our students and community. Thank you for your consideration.

### Would Be Great Asset

To the Editor:

I am so thrilled to see that Karen Renner is on the ballot as a candidate for Portland's Board of Education! She comes with such a broad amount of experience with school districts and advocating for children with special needs. She is going to be such a great asset to this Board and the community! I've never been more excited to vote for a position in this town! Emily Maxfield – Portland

### Historical Society Thank You To the Editor:

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) would like to thank the six families who opened their historic homes for the CHS Historic House Tour that was held on Sept. 30. Also, thanks to the 26 volunteers who conducted the tours of the homes. The tour was a great success at which approximately 100 people attended. A special thanks to the committee led by CHS member Debbie Day that made the tour a success. Funds raised from the event go to the maintaining of the three historic CHS museums and

the Building Improvement Fund working to raise \$15,000.

Marty Podskoch, Board Member **Chatham Historical Society** 

### **Candidate Forum**

To the Editor: The Colchester chapter of the AARP will host its annual Candidate Forum on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 1:30 p.m. at the Colchester Senior Center, 127 Norwich

Ave., Colchester. All of the candidates for first selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education have been invited to participate. All questions (except the first) will come from the audience and may be directed to any candidate although any and all candidates who wish to respond may do so.

This is the only forum in this election cycle where people may ask questions to candidates on the underticket (candidates other than those running for first selectman)

All residents of Colchester are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Candidates for positions other than those on the panel are also welcome to be present and may answer individual questions before or after the program.

This program has been very successful in past years and we hope that, with your help, it will continue to be so. in the future.

John F. Malsbenden Event Moderator

### **Support Our Schools** To the Editor:

Our Colchester municipal elections are coming up on Nov. 7, and I'm supporting Democrats Michelle Millington, Chris Rivers and Stefanie Tracey-Calash for the Board of Education.

Michelle and Chris are incumbents on the board who have provided leadership through some tough times in our school district over the past couple of years. They've worked closely with the republican members on the BOE to address some hard challenges in the district, resulting in better resources for special education and more professional district leadership. Stefanie is a parent with young children in the schools and a master's degree in Higher Education Administration. Together with their partners on the BOE, the three of them will be a great team to support our schools.

I moved to Colchester about 15 years ago and have two children in Colchester schools. My kids have been fortunate to have some very talented, caring teachers here, but there are challenges as well. Let's support our teachers and staff with leadership that understands today's challenges and has the creativity to meet them with new solutions. Vote for Michelle Millington, Stefanie Tracey-Calash, and Chris Rivers on Nov. 7.

### Susie Milner – Colchester

### **Candidates' Forum Thanks** To the Editor:

Thank you to the East Hampton Education Association and Neil Shilansky for hosting a candidates' create isolated and radicalized individuals.

I hope to be able to use my sociological education to work toward sustainable and systemic solutions to East Hampton's challenges and to prevent backward policy from derailing the future of this outstanding village.

Jordan Werme - East Hampton Candidate for Town Council jordanforeasthampton@gmail.com

### **Thanks, Portland Fair Committee!** To the Editor:

One of things that makes Portland such a great community is the spirit of volunteerism. That was on full display this past weekend. One of the events my family and I look forward to each year is the Portland Fair. However, we were not certain it was going to happen given the weather. To say the weather this year was challenging is an understatement. The summer flood and the inches and inches of rain in the weeks afterward resulted in extraordinarily difficult conditions at the fairgrounds and no one would have blamed them if they had canceled. But I am glad they didn't. They pulled it off.

Folks came out and enjoyed the beautiful weather on Friday and, after the weather threw them another curve ball on Saturday, came out and braved the soggy grounds on Sunday. It was great to see so many friends and neighbors having a great time!

Thank you to the Portland Fair Committee for all the hard work it took to pull it off!

With sincere appreciation, Jim Tripp - Portland

Note: Tripp is a candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen but said he is speaking as an individual.

### Hebron Hypocrisy

To the Editor: Last week, Mr. Petit, selectman candidate and leader of the Hebron Republicans, strangely apologized for Ms. Bussierre's letter. He need not have. Her letter was fine. However, his letter to the Rivereast several years ago trashing me and accusing me of being un-American, did seek "...to tear me down in pursuit of his own agenda." Of course, Mr. Petit has a right to express his opinion. What is not right is to claim sainthood while accusing everyone else of being haters.

Mr. Petit claims he supports fiscal responsibility. I don't remember him or any Republican supporting lower property taxes. In fact, in my first year as selectman, both Mr. Petit and Mr. Kasper opposed my proposal to lower the mill rate. We passed it anyway. He claims that he supports small government while advocating for the \$20M+ DPW/municipal complex that will explode the size of local government. Contrary to Mr. Petit, I think the town is quite

united in opposing Republican efforts shove expensive projects down our throats that will increase taxes. The DPW and turf grass proposals, which had broad support in the Republican leadership, were voted down overwhelmingly. The town budget was voted down twice because the Republican BOF refused to meaningfully reduce it. (They passed it on the third try by waiting out older and infirm voters.)

The Democrats, mind you, no great friends of mine, oppose the DPW/Horton proposal. They will form a citizens' committee to determine best alternatives for the Horton property. And, they have Erin Bussierre, who grew up here, and who despite Mr. Petit's letter, is the best person I've met in Hebron politics. We can trust them to bring needed ethical and fiscal reforms to Hebron government.

To save rural Hebron, vote Row A!

### John Collins - Amston

### **Bisbikos Has Heart**

To the Editor:

We love First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos. We have been paying attention to him even before he was elected first selectman. We have read all that he has written himself and everything that has been written about him. This sincere, capable man has completed so many projects to benefit Colchester and is working on more. We're sure everyone has read about his projects for his second term.

This guy has heart; he cares about Colchester. His actions are always to benefit Colchester. The town of Colchester has benefited from this sincere man's hard work. When we reelect him we are giving him the option. In June we agreed to bring in the labor attorney to discuss whether a position belonged in a specific union. It hasn't happened yet.

These are a few examples of the FS's authoritarian behavior over the last two years. I've worked hard to stand up to this FS to protect our town, but this behavior will continue until we change the leadership at the top.

I ask for your vote and for our entire team led by Bernie Dennler. Together we can reclaim the integrity and civility of our town government.

### Sincerely,

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

### Dennler's Professionalism To the Editor:

Bernie Dennler showcased professionalism, maturity, and respect during the CBA debate. Bisbikos ranted in a childish and petty way as he always does.

The choice for first selectman is easy this year. Dennler has got my vote. He's got the experience and character to make a great first selectman.

John Farrell - Colchester

### Affordability for Colchester

To the Editor:

I have been campaigning for the Board of Finance for almost two months, door knocking and meeting with our great citizens. The most common thing citizens tell me is, "please keep Colchester affordable."

It's not an easy task to continue to keep Colchester affordable while maintaining the great services. We have an amazing school system, excellent public safety, an incredible library, beautiful recreation areas, the list is endless. That's a priority for citizens and ultimately a priority for the Board of Finance to figure out how to pay for it.

We need to keep Colchester affordable to families and small businesses. I want us all to raise our children in Colchester and ultimately retire in our wonderful town. I want businesses to see Colchester as a place to invest. We raise taxes as a last possible resort. That's no easy task.

I'm up for that task. We do that through the careful analysis of both the town and school budgets. Unless there's a new initiative with widespread citizen support for increased spending we try to maintain our budgets. We don't simply inflation adjust our budgets, we take a look at the needs and adjust the budgets accordingly.

We also embrace transparency. Without transparent budgets it would be impossible to adjust the budgets based on the needs. It's why I'm an advocate for transparency software. We all need to review the numbers to make informed decisions. The Board of Finance does the work to craft affordable budgets and then we present them to the citizens for final approval.

Our motto is "People Before Government," and as a member of the BOF my goal is to make government work for the people.

### Sincerely,

Michael Dubreuil - Colchester Candidate, Board of Finance

### An Adult in the Room

To the Editor: I am writing to express my support for Bernie Dennler for first selectman of Colchester. If you

are a Colchester citizen and have not yet watched the discussion from the Colchester Business Association first selectman forum between the two candidates, I strongly encourage you to do so. Bernie came out as a strong candidate with fantastic ideas including tapping into grants to grow and improve our town. Bernie also showed his calm, cool demeanor and showed respect to all, including the current first selectman who, unfortunately, did not show the same respectful manner in his responses.

We need a first selectman who is an adult in the room, constantly working to bridge the gaps between the political parties in order to do what is necessary to support the town needs. This is a small town and should function as a team regardless of party and that is currently not occurring under First Selectman Bisbikos. I truly believe we need to bring back sensibility and strong leadership to town hall. A vote in November for Bernie Dennler will accomplish this goal!

### Sincerely, Shannon O. Louden - Andover

Note: Louden is secretary of the Andover Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.

forum. It was an opportunity for candidates to hear from each other and for education professionals in East Hampton to understand any differences between them. The differences are many, but they are not irreconcilable.

Two sensitive topics were illuminating. GOP candidates were asked to talk about diversity, but Democrats were not. I commend Brandon Goff for his response: if there's any discrimination happening in East Hampton schools, we need to put a stop to it now. I agree fully. But race was the only measure of diversity discussed.

For East Hampton to be welcoming to a diverse body of residents, we need to look at languages spoken by students and their families at home - if English isn't spoken fluently at home, engagement with students and educators is more difficult. We need to understand accessibility - if a student or family member is blind, deaf or unable to communicate with schools and government, civic life is inaccessible. True diversity is about thought and experience, and we need to be sure that those elements are addressed in our schools and government.

Secondly, the issue of school safety was a subject that both slates of candidates were asked to comment on. What I heard from the GOP candidates on this topic was outrageous. Candidates advocated for guns in teachers' hands and a return to corporal punishment in public schools. Public safety can only be established by addressing the underlying issues that portunity to enhance our town.

Reelect first selectman Andreas Bisbikos on Nov. 7. Pat Kelly - Colchester

### **Reclaim Integrity, Civility**

To the Editor:

When you first become a selectman, there's so much to learn. Functioning in a municipality is not the same as working in business because there are specific rules and regulations that guide your decision-making process - the charter and town policies.

The charter, the rules of our town voted on by its citizens, defines the roles and responsibilities of the first selectman (FS), the Board of Selectmen (BOS), and the Board of Finance. It's very specific what the roles of the BOS vs the FS are.

For two years, we've watched our first selectman ignore the charter and policies because it does not comply with his agenda. Each time he does this it creates conflict with the BOS.

He signs contracts without BOS approval the day after a BOS meeting and puts them in a news blast saving it was time sensitive, instead of adding it to our agenda. Authorization of contracts is the sole responsibility of the BOS by charter.

He holds illegal investigations without approval of 4 BOS members per the charter. Then he proceeds to make them a public spectacle for political purposes. He even went so far as to rip up the agenda.

We pass unanimous motions; he ignores the mo-

Jennifer Sevigny – Colchester

### Supports Augie Arndt To the Editor

If you had the opportunity to vote for an intelligent, kind, honest, collaborative, hardworking person, would you? Is your ideal candidate someone who keeps his cool under pressure and bridges divides, who acts with respect, humility and calm strength? You can vote for this very candidate on Nov. 7 - his name is Augie Arndt, and he is running to remain a member of the East Hampton Board of Education. Augie's many positive personal attributes are complemented by his deep understanding of economics and budget development. Augie is an experienced businessman who knows how to analyze a budget to ensure that it delivers the best value for the cost.

I have been very fortunate to serve on the Board of Education with Augie, getting to know him as a colleague, an education advocate and as a friend. I trust Augie to continue to work hard for East Hampton, while keeping the best interests of all stakeholders at heart. Join me in voting for Augie Arndt and let's elect the ideal candidate - a person of excellent character and ability.

### Nancy Oakley - East Hampton

Note: Oakley is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

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### Obituaries -

### Portland

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### McClure Ellsworth Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life will take place Saturday, Oct. 28, from 2-5 p.m., at the Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland, in memory of McClure "Mac" Ellsworth, who passed away after a short and unexpected battle with cancer on Sunday, July 30.



Mac's daughter Marissa and his sisters Deb and Sarah invite relatives and friends to enjoy food and music that Mac loved and to share fond memories and stories of him. Please let the family know if you will be attending by sending an email to Deb at ADells06480@gmail.com.

### *East Hampton*

### Bruce Moquin

Bruce Moquin, 68, of East Hampton, beloved husband to Mary (Evarts) Moquin, entered into eternal rest suddenly Monday, Oct. 9. He was born in Rockville to the late Richard and Bernice (Whipple) Moquin and grew up in Coventry.

Bruce worked many years as a butcher and meat

supervisor for many years at Ellington Super Market until opening a small restaurant, The Snack Shack, in East Hampton. Upon retirement he worked at Blackledge Country Club which gave him time to enjoy the outdoors.

He loved meeting and connecting with people; everyone was a friend. He enjoyed traveling anywhere warm and spending time with family. He was an avid Red Sox and UConn fan, and loved to fish and be outdoors, especially with his dog Bella.

Besides his wife Mary, he is survived by son, Mark and Jessica Moquin of East Hampton; daughter, Wendy and Shawn Defelice of Marlborough; stepsons, Andrew and Luke Brooks; stepdaughter, Emily Brooks; grandchildren, Khanur Defelice, Reagan and Ryder Moquin; and stepgrandson, Liam Pavlov; as well as two sisters and a brother.

He was predeceased by his parents and wife Joanne.

Friends and family will gather at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., on Monday, Oct. 16, from 5-7 p.m.

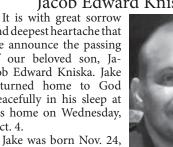
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Bruce's name to the Food Bank at 43 West High St. East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

### Colchester

Jacob Edward Kniska

It is with great sorrow and deepest heartache that we announce the passing of our beloved son, Jacob Edward Kniska. Jake returned home to God peacefully in his sleep at his home on Wednesday, Oct. 4.



1988, on Thanksgiving Day. From the moment of his birth until the time of

his passing he was loved and cherished unconditionally by his family and all who knew him.

Throughout Jake's life he had a lifelong passion for athletics. In his youth he participated in football, baseball, basketball, and tae kwon do in which he earned his black belt. In high school he participated in football, basketball, baseball, and track. In his junior year at St. Bernard High School, Jake found a love for wrestling. He was at a late age to begin the sport but through dedication and hard work he excelled at it. Jake continued to wrestle at the college level at Plymouth State University. In addition, he competed in numerous adult wrestling and grappling tournaments, some of which were with his brother at his side.

Jake found his real passion in all aspects of physical fitness. He became a dedicated personal trainer and nutritionist. He loved to help people be the healthiest and fittest that they could be. Jake loved the gym and working out. With his hard work he competed in competitive power lifting in which he excelled, breaking records for his age group. Jake's latest passion was that of professional body building. He dedicated himself to all aspects of the sport with hard work and sacrifice. Jake competed in numerous competitions with great success, the last one being only a few days before his passing. Jake also was an avid Dallas Cowboy fan. He watched and cheered his team on at every chance he could.

Jake will be dearly missed for his beautiful smile, infectious laugh, his sense of humor, and most of all his loving heart.

Jake leaves behind his beloved parents, Edward and Brenda Kniska of Colchester; his little brother, Dylan Kniska of Marlborough, for whom Jake loved and adored from the first moment he set eyes on him. Jake leaves behind his partner in life Kimberly Marcel, her three children and their two fur babies, Thor and Teddy. Kim was the absolute love of his life, and we will be forever grateful for the true love that she showered on our son.

Jake leaves behind a large and beloved extended family, consisting of numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Jake treasured and enjoyed hanging out with them all, especially at family holidays and gatherings. Jake also leaves behind a network

The Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home Family and Staff are honored to provide full services to all denominations with attention to every detail.



of friends, old and new, who he cherished.

Jake was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Robert and Janice Martingano; his paternal grandparents, Edward and Jean Kniska; his uncle, Robert Scott Martingano; and his auntie, Colleen Martingano Sellick.

The family asks in lieu of flowers that you do one kind thing for someone every day in Jake's memory, as this will make a difference small or large in their lives. In addition, tell the people who are the dearest to you that you love them at every opportunity, as this was Jake's daily practice. "I love you" were the first three words in his vocabulary.

We love you, our dearest boy, always and forever, until we are together again in God's heaven.

Services for Jake will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Calling hours will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15. Immediately following calling hours will be a celebration of Jake's life at the St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 S. Main St., Colchester. The family asks that you bring your fondest memory or story of Jake to share with all who loved him.

### Colchester

Priscilla D. Prior Priscilla D. Prior, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Oct. 5. Priscilla was born in Hartford Nov. 6, 1952, to the late George and Doris (LaChance) Dean. She graduated from Northwest Catholic High School in 1970, before attending dental assistant and then nursing school. She married her be-



loved late husband, William Prior, on March 30, 1985. The couple then settled in Colchester where they made their home and raised their family. After 28 years of marriage, Bill predeceased her Nov. 12, 2013.

Priscilla was a devoted wife and mother who loved her family above all else. She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her children, Christina Prior and Ken Patin, Matthew and Kaitlyn (Palmer) Prior, Jason and Ashley (Gattison) Prior. As anyone who met Priscilla was proudly told, she was also an extremely adoring Mémère to her grandchildren, Amelia, Noelle, Owen and Addison.

Priscilla will also be dearly missed by her siblings, Daniel and Cindy Dean, Robert and Gloria Dean, Mark and Carol (Dean) Gilbert, George Dean, James Dean, John and Jacqueline (Dean) Kiefel and their families, as well as a multitude of extended family and dear friends.

Always the caregiver, she had a long and fulfilling career as an LPN and group home manager before retiring from Oak Hill several years ago. When she wasn't working, she was volunteering with the Colchester Lions Club and at St. Andrew Parish in Colchester. She was known for her love of UConn basketball, the Green Bay Packers, Elvis and the Beatles. Priscilla loved people and had a unique gift of making everyone feel like family. She touched countless lives, and her spirit will continue to live in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Funeral services will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Calling hours will begin at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, followed by a memorial service at the funeral home on Saturday, Nov. 4, gathering at 10:30 a.m., with the services beginning at 11 a.m. Burial will be private.

Donations in Priscilla's memory may be made

### Simsbury

Karen Michaud Foley

Karen Michaud Foley, 74, of Simsbury, beloved wife of Michael F. Foley, died Wednesday, Oct. 4, with Michael at her side. She was born Nov. 22, 1948, in Hartford, daughter of the late Renaud "Mitch" and Carolyn (Emerson) Michaud and had lived in Simsbury for many years.



Mrs. Foley was a Connecticut State Police radio dispatcher for several years prior to her retirement from Konica Minolta in Windsor. Karen was a member of St. Mary Parish in Simsbury, She enjoyed her hobby of putting together beautiful family photo albums over the years, traveling around the United States and caring for her Yorkie "Prince."

In addition to her loving husband of 47 years, she leaves her children, Michael Foley and wife Lauren of Stockbridge, Vt., Matthew Foley and wife Liza of Hunter, N.Y., Nicole Foley Banks and husband Tracy of Rockville Vernon, her brother Clyde Michaud of East Hartford; her grandson, Damian Foley, granddaughter, Brooklyn Foley, granddaughter, Anne Marie Foley; many nieces and nephews and friends and neighbors.

She was predeceased by a sister, Kathryn M. Michaud of East Hartford.

Calling hours were held at the Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Hopmeadow St. in Simsbury, on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 4-7 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 13. Private burial will be in St. Bernard's Cemetery in Rockville Vernon.

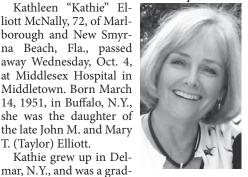
Donations in her memory may be made to St. Bernard Parish or St. Mary Parish.

Please visit Karen's Book of Memories at www. vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

### Marlborough

Kathleen McNally

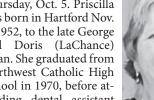
Kathleen "Kathie" Elliott McNally, 72, of Marlborough and New Smyrna Beach, Fla., passed away Wednesday, Oct. 4, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born March 14, 1951, in Buffalo, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late John M. and Mary T. (Taylor) Elliott. Kathie grew up in Del-



uate of the Marylrose Academy in Albany, N.Y. She later went on to achieve her bachelor's degree from Nazareth College of Rochester, N.Y., where she met her future husband, Thomas Mc-Nally, on Tom's first day of college. Kathie ultimately obtained her master's degree in teaching from Albany State.

Kathie taught 5th grade at St. Thomas School in Delmar, N.Y., and later went on to tutor English as a Second Language (ESL) in the Glastonbury school system. Her final position was at East Hartford High School where she taught ESL for 15 years.

Kathie was a woman of considerable faith, and attended St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough, and was a communicant of Our Lady Star of the Sea in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading and playing tennis, spending summer vacations with her extended family at Hanford Bay on Lake Erie or Lake Terramuggus, visiting the beach and hunting for the best bargain at TJ Maxx. She enjoyed playing games with family and friends and always had a smile on her face despite her illness. Her greatest joy in life, however, was her



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Family Serving Families

to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org/CT). To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Priscilla, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



### Obituaries

family and friends whom she loved more than anything else in the world. She embraced being a grandmother, "Nonnie", and loved every moment she spent with her grandchildren.

She will be forever loved and remembered by her husband of 49 years, Tom McNally; children, Ryan and wife Maureen McNally of Coventry, Laura Cowell of Amston, Patrick and wife Tracy McNally of Marlborough; grandchildren, Megan, Gavin, Savannah and Kenna McNally and Breena, Bailey and Bevin Cowell; sister, Marilyn Elliott Downing and husband Terry Downing of Williamsville, N.Y.; and numerous other extended family and friends.

Calling hours will be held today, Friday, Oct. 13, from 4-6 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a 6 p.m. chapel service at the funeral home. Burial will be private at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial donation in honor of Kathie to The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), www.curefa.org. The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the amazing, caring staff of "South 7" at Middlesex Hospital.

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

### Hebron

Martin Kalhok

Martin Kalhok was born Aug. 7, 1937, in Mor, Hungary. He passed away Saturday, Oct. 6. Marty came to the United States in 1952 by boat through Ellis Island in New York. He met his wife Stella in 1956 and was married on October 25th 1958.

A meat cutter for Colchester Packing of Hartford's regional market for

35 years, he worked with his cousin Joe Abele for 20 years, then worked as the "maintenance guy" at Stonecroft Apartments in Hebron til he retired at 78 years old.

Marty was a friend to everyone who met him. He never said 'no' to anyone or anything - even when we thought it might be too much for him, he'd do it anyway. He was fondly know to hun-dreds of people as "Uncle Marty," especially kids, who were just drawn to him and his kindness. He loved and was very proud to say he was a Hebron Lions member, beginning in 1991. He was a life member of the club.

Marty leaves behind his wife Stella of almost 65 years of marriage; his stepson Paul Arsenault and his wife Karen of Hebron; his daughter Mary Schadtle and her husband Bob of Hebron; and his son Marty and his wife Darlene, also of Hebron.

He made his home with Stella amongst his family members who were able to care for him for as long as possible.

Marty had six grandchildren and 12 greatgrandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, his two half-sisters, and his grandson, Kevin Schadtle.

Marty will be sorely missed by everyone whose lives he touched. May he now rest in Peace.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hebron Lions Club or Hebron Ambulance Department in Marty's name.

### Tri-County Memorials

### Colchester Ryan Matthew Gagne

Ryan Matthew Gagne of Colchester, recently residing in Rhode Island, left us too soon on Friday, Oct. 6. He was 32 years old. Ryan was born March 11, 1991, in Hartford, a son of Andrew and Patricia (Berard) Gagne. Ryan grew up in Colchester and graduated from Bacon Academy.

With his infectious energy and genuine spirit,

Ryan inspired everyone around him to let loose and be themselves. He was the bright light in any room, bringing joy and laughter wherever he went. Whether it was busting a move or belting out his favorite tunes, Ryan knew how to keep the rhythm going.

When he wasn't tearing up the dance floor, Ryan found solace in the loving embrace of his family and friends. He cherished every moment spent with them, creating memories that will forever be etched in their hearts. Some of his favorite places were along the shore of the ocean on any sandy beach. When it came to caring for someone, Ryan gave it his all, pouring his whole heart into those he held dear to him. His love for life was a testament to his spirited soul.

In his professional career, Ryan was a hospitality professional who knew how to serve up smiles with every interaction. He had a knack for making people feel welcome and creating unforgettable experiences.

Ryan's legacy will live on through the love he shared with family and friends. He is survived by his doting mother, Patricia (Berard) Gagne; proud father, Andrew Gagne; supportive brother, Michael Cosgrove; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends with whom some of his favorite memories were made.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Following the calling hours, a celebration of Ryan's vibrant life will be held at the St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 S. Main St., Colchester, where we will honor his memory in a way that would make Ryan proud.

Ryan will forever be remembered as a loving family member and a friend who could turn any gathering into a joyful spectacle. While our hearts ache with his absence, we will forever cherish the memories we made with him. In the words of Ryan, meow meow for now!

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

### Colchester

### Debra Lee Paris

Debra Lee Paris, of Norwich, formerly of Colchester, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Hartford Hospital, after a brief battle with cancer. Debra was 65 years old. She was born July 10, 1958, in Torrington, a daughter of the late Vincent and Agnes (Vranich) Baltas.

Debra grew up in East Hartford, where she attended school. She went on to earn an associate's degree in accounting and, later, trained to be an EMT for a time with the Colchester Volunteer Fire and Ambulance

### East Hampton

James "Jimmy" Donald Fries James "Jimmy" Donald Fries, 78, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully at Midstate Medical Center in Meriden with his beloved wife Sandra (Dorau) at his side.

He was born in Meriden to Donald and Lorraine (Harriott) Fries June 19, 1945. He attended Lyman Hall High School (Class of 1965), where as a

member of the FFA he developed a lifelong love for animals and gardening. Early in life, Jimmy met Sandra "Sandy," his best friend and dance partner for life. They have been married for over 55 years.

Jimmy proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. During his service in Vietnam, Jimmy was wounded and earned a Purple Heart, along with multiple other service awards. Upon his return he was employed by the Southington Police Department. After relocating to East Hampton in 1972 he worked at International Silver and then at Sikorsky.

Jimmy was a longtime member of Haddam Neck Covenant Church and for years he could be found cooking chicken at the fair for their annual fundraiser.

Jimmy is survived and missed by his loving wife of 55 years, Sandy, and his children, Jamie Dupre and her husband Normand "Chip" of South Carolina, Shane Fries of East Hampton, Jessica Fries and her partner William Clark of Westbrook. He is forever cherished and remembered by his five grandchildren, Sara Moorehouse, Claire Dupre, Christa Dupre, Colleen Dupre, Valen Clark, and his one great-granddaughter, Madison Moorehouse. His memory lives on with his brother, Fred Fries of Florida; his loving niece, Melanie Seeger; and his brother-in-law, Richard Dorau.

Jimmy was predeceased by his father, Donald; his mother, Lorraine; and his sister, Dorren Sward.

Jimmy loved to travel with his family and friends. He was a Disney fanatic and created many memories there over the years. He loved the outdoors and the sun. He enjoyed working in his gardens, snapper blue fishing, catching snakes, swimming with his grandkids, or just catching a few rays. He was the resident snake expert, and frequently called on to identify or wrangle many snakes. He enjoyed watching football and was an avid New York Giants fan. Jimmy could always be found night or day wearing his sunglasses and his signature Vietnam Veteran hat.

Jimmy had an unquenchable thirst for the latest technology. It was this love of technology and cameras that made him the unofficial family historian. He was always capturing special moments, rarely in the camera himself, he created a library of family memories that will always be cherished.

Jimmy was never scared to take on new opportunities and did everything with integrity. He had very strong values and was well liked by everyone, mostly due to his even temperment and welcoming personality. He always made time to help everyone.

Jimmy will forever be remembered for adding life to the party. He loved to dance in the kitchen or on the dance floor. He frequently played the harmonica for all that would listen. He was generally surrounded by family listening to him recount, generally embellished, stories. He loved his family with everything he had and while he may not have always showed it, we always felt it.

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We invite you to make a donation to the East Hampton Volunteer Food Bank or Haddam Neck Covenant Church in his honor, in place of sending flowers.

To honor Jimmy's memory, we are holding a memorial service at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, at Haddam Neck Covenant Church. We invite anyone who knew him to attend and remember his wonderful life.

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

### Gilead

### Maralyn Porter

Maralyn Ruschmann Porter, 96, passed away peacefully at her home in Gilead Sunday, Oct. 8. She was the beloved wife of 65 years to the late Wilbur Strong Porter. Born Oct. 4, 1927, in Willimantic, she was a daughter of the late Herman and Florence (Sweetland) Ruschmann.

Upon graduating from Windham High School in 1945, she was employed by Aetna in the typing pool where she was recognized for speed and accuracy. Maralyn later held several positions in the Hebron and Regional School District Eight school systems, retiring from RHAM High School. Maralyn's last and most enjoyable job was working at the Douglas Library where she was able to meet many new families and reconnect with old friends. In the early 1970s, Maralyn and her brother Mel owned the What'z - It Shop, antiques and collectibles, in Willimantic.

She enjoyed collecting antiques, rug braiding, baking, UConn basketball, and was an avid Red Sox fan. She and Wilbur traveled extensively in the USA and Europe especially after Wilbur's retirement from Porter Farm Inc.

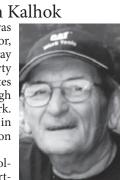
An active member of her community, Maralyn was a life member of The Hebron Historical Society and the Douglas Library Association. She was the secretary of Gilead Cemetery Association for over 40 years, served on the Commission on Aging for many years and was a member of Gilead Congregational Church for over 70 years. Additionally, she was active in the CT Farm Bureau, Gilead Grange, and supported many other community efforts through the years. The coffee pot was always ready and many visits were enjoyed with friends over a good cup of perked coffee (no instant, decaf or drip for her)!

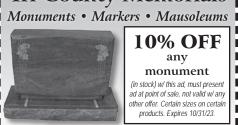
Maralyn was predeceased by her sister, Florence McComber; her brothers, H. Ira, Joseph, Melvin, and W. Ronald; niece, Jane McComber Demarais; and son-in-law, Mark Hollister. She is survived by her daughters, Susan Porter, Peggy (Robert) Gasper; grandchildren, Sarah (Mario) Costa, Kevin (Lindsay) Gasper; and great-grandchildren, Ryan and Gavin Costa and Easton and Paisley Gasper, all of Hebron.

A graveside service will be held at the Gilead Cemetery, Gilead Street, Hebron, on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Gilead Congregational Church Memorial Fund or Middlesex Hospice.

Obituary Policy Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.





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www.TriCountyMemorials.com tcmemorials@aol.com

Department.

Debra lived for most of her adult life in Colchester where she made her home and raised her family. The family also enjoyed vacationing on Cape Cod whenever they could. Debra worked for many years as a cardiac monitor technician at Backus Hospital in Norwich. In her free time, Debra was talented at knitting, creating beautiful blankets and garments which she generously gifted to family and friends.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her son, Kyle and his spouse, Sunita Paris of Vernon; grandson, Avery Ezron Paris; a sister, Cindy and her husband Richard Castiglioni; her former husband, Frank Paris and his beloved sisters; nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends; and her pet cats.

Donations in Debra's memory may be made to the Animal Rescue of one's choice.

Calling hours will be held Monday, Oct. 16, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd. of Colchester. Burial will be held privately.

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

### Cover Story • Cover

### ★ Benny's Run cont. from page 1

experiencing mental health problems," noted Wilcox. She explained that having these hard conversations can let people open up and create connections. As a counselor, many if not all of her clients want to be seen, heard, accepted, and loved. "Education and empathy allow us to be compassionate instead of critical."

Wilcox described that there are faults in the mental health care system with barriers to accessing quality care for mental health counseling and treatment. With organizations like the Benny Fund, being supportive of causes and contributing time is a great way to make opportunities accessible "It is so important, and wise, and it is my deepest hope that mental health care is as common and accessible as taking your car in for a tune-up or oil change," added Wilcox. She also suggests that workplaces and corporations need to provide access to mental health resources, education, and support.

Building trust and making connections is an-

other point made by Wilcox to help a person's experience. She explained that trusted relationships bridge the gap between someone who can heal and someone who struggles more. "The level of trusted support they have on a day-today basis is important," noted Wilcox. "These relationships need to be founded upon respect, honesty, trust, and compassion."

Wilcox Wellness is a trauma-informed and trauma recovery-focused practice. The practice is an inclusive, welcoming, and LGBTQIA+affirming practice, that values personal growth, efficiency, compassion, and collaboration. More information can be found at wilcoxwellness. com.



### Reader Forum • Reader • Forum • Reader

### \* Letters, cont. from page 34

### Voting for Democrats Just Makes Sense

To Our Friends in Hebron:

Frequent readers of the Rivereast will notice that the Hebron Democrats are on a roll. Our full slate of candidates is engaging the town, meeting its citizens, attending its local board meetings, and writing (and receiving!) many letters to this newspaper - all for volunteer positions. We are demonstrably motivated to do what we can for Hebron.

Imagine what we could do to help as motivated elected members!

If you'd like to reach out to us to meet us, ask us questions, or find out how to support us, we'll be at the Harvest Moon Festival on Saturday the 21st. Or you can contact us directly at dems@hebrondems. com. Or check out our website to learn more about us. We'd love to hear from you!

Adam Ockman – Hebron Candidate for Board of Finance

### **Seeking Reelection**

To the Editor:

My name is Joe Margaitis and I am seeking reelection to the Hebron Board of Education.

My family and I have been fortunate to see the transformative power of Hebron's schools. Because of this, I am committed to the ongoing enhancement of our two elementary schools.

With a degree from UConn and a career spanning over two decades in leadership roles with substantial responsibilities, I have had the opportunity to utilize these skills over the past four years on the BOE. My tenure with the board has been marked by significant milestones, including crucial decisions such as hiring a new superintendent and the re-opening of schools in the fall of 2020.

As chair of the resource management committee, I have advocated for responsible budgeting, especially in the face of a growing student population. Collaboration is key to our success. I have worked on the Shared Services committee, seeking ways to collaborate with neighboring towns and local boards to drive efficiency and savings. I believe there is more we can do, particularly in fostering communication and synergy with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen.

The heart of Hebron is our school district. It is a

beacon that attracts families to town, and it is our collective responsibility to nurture it for the long-term benefit of all.

In my spare time, I am also honored to serve as a coach for RHAM Youth Soccer (our girls are having another great season!).

I invite you to join me in this journey towards an even brighter future for Hebron. Together, we can create an educational landscape that empowers our children and ensures Hebron remains a community that prides itself on exceptional education.

Thank you for considering my candidacy, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving you and our town.

### Joe Margaitis - Hebron

### **Thoughts Welcome!** Dear Portland neighbors:

The Portland Library is in the midst of a long term planning process that will guide our priorities over the next several years. The Library Board of Directors and the Strategic Planning Committee want to make sure our decisions reflect your needs and aspirations for future library services. To that end, the Library will be hosting two Community Craft & Conversation sessions to hear from you, our community. The sessions will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday, Oct. 26, at 1:30 p.m. Please consider joining us to paint a pumpkin coaster and share your thoughts! Light refreshments will be provided.

You can register for either conversation by visiting www.portlandlibraryct.org and viewing the calendar of upcoming events. If you are unable to make it to either session, keep an eye on the library website for a survey coming out soon for another opportunity to share your thoughts and feedback! With gratitude, Laurel Steinhauser, Chair

Portland Library Board of Directors

### Hebron Crossroads

To the Editor: On Nov. 7, the voters in Hebron have an opportunity to make a choice. We are at a crossroads, one direction is dysfunctional business as usual, and the other direction is an exciting new future. A valuable asset has been identified within walking distance of Hebron center. Combining unique historical and vital environmental features, the property at 17 Kinney Rd., a.k.a. the Horton property, can lead Hebron into a future of unparalleled educational experiences and vibrant Eco-Tourism.

Utilized as Open Space and an outdoor classroom, 17 Kinney Rd. can enhance the 56 acres of commercial and mixed-use Village Square land available along Route 66 and Horton Boulevard. Imagine shops and apartments with a view of 300-year-old hedge row farmland and unique stonewall laneways. Imagine residents of new affordable housing having easy access to the beauty of nature. Imagine conservation and development working together. Preservation of 17 Kinney Rd. is now supported by the Land Preservation Manager of Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Bryan Avery, who shared his vision, "With minimal effort I can picture groups of moms pushing strollers down stone dust paths in these laneways, preschoolers playing peek-a-boo over the walls,

high school students researching how wildlife uses the forest blocks compared to field blocks, perhaps even a community orchard where elementary school kids can collect apples, all within walking distance of the town center." This will not only be picturesque, it will be a powerful economic engine, drawing scores of visitors each year.

It is time for new leaders to capture this new vision. I urge Hebron's voters to elect John Matra and Claudia Riley for the Board of Selectmen and Frank Zitkus, Davis Howell and Janet Fodaski for Planning and Zoning. Together we can create a new future and embrace our past. Please vote Row A only.

Sincerely, Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

# LEGALS

**Public Notice** Town of East Hampton, Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency Wetlands Agent Approval

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area. Number: IW-23-020 Applicant: Linda DiCaprio Location: 83A North Main Street Activity: Grade and landscape slope within Upland Review Area. Jeffrv M. Foran Duly Authorized Agent

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF ANDOVER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS 7:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. on the application of Vincent Grimaldi, at which a request for a variance for the property at 357 Lake Road, Andover will be heard. The public hearing will be held in person in the Community Room of the Town Hall, 17 School Road, Andover. The applicant is seeking relief from Section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to allow for the reduction in the sideyard setback requirements from 25' to 18' so as to allow for the construction of a 21' x 21' shed. Comments/questions will be taken during the hearing. Written comments submitted to the Building and Land Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the hearing will be entered into the public record of the hearing. Additional details can be found at the Building and Land Use Office, 17 School Road, Andover, or by contacting the Office at 860.742.7305 ext. 4220. 2TB 10/6, 10/13

### LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION **HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following

1. Petition 2023-07 - Petition of Paul Fichera requesting Special Permit approval for an accessory structure (garage) that exceeds 900 square feet on a lot under 5 acres in size, pursuant to Section 2.E.8. of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, premise located at 103 Burrows Hill Road, Residence-1 District. 2. <u>Petition 2023-08</u> - Petition of John Tarquinio / The Tarquinio Estate for a Special Permit to change a non-conforming use to a conforming Rural Business Use in accordance with Section 6.B.3.7. of the Hebron Zoning Regulations at 33 East Street, Residence-1 District.

3. Petition 2023-05 - Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to Amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations to delete existing 6.D Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments Proposed Section 6.C.5 Cannabis Establishments to address prohibition; and Identify "Cannabis Establishments" in the use table for each Zoning District as prohibited. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 11th day of October, 2023.

Natalie Wood, Chair Planning and Zoning Commission Oct 24, 2023, 7:00–10:00 PM (America/New\_York) Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://meet.goto.com/502373085 You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 502-373-085 United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

TOWN OF COLCHESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING October 26, 2023 6:30 p.m. Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT

1. To modify Town Ordinances, Chapter 129 Article VIII. Colchester Tax Exemption Ordinance for Volunteer Firefighters as recommended by the Colchester Fire Chief. The Board of Selectman at their October 5, 2023 meeting recommended sending the revisions to a Public Hearing on October 26, 2023 at 6:30pm at Town Hall 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT for public comment and subsequent approval by the Board of Selectmen

1TB 10/13

1TB 10/13

2. To adjourn said meeting. A copy of the proposed ordinances may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office. Dated at Colchester, CT this 10th day of October 2023. Gayle

Furman, Town Clerk Andreas Bisbikos, 1st Selectman

Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Jason LaChapelle, Selectman Debra Bates, Selectman Denise Turner, Selectman

### TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on October 3, 2023, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:

W2023-3086: 155 Westchester Road; Jeffery Naples-Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 05-14/016-000; Portion of proposed 28' X 44' accessory building, driveway, parking area, site grading and erosion & sediment controls within 75' Upland Review Area. APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS. Dated October 3, 2023

Conservation Commission Falk van Plachecki, Chair

1TB 10/13

### TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on October 18, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT, concerning the following matter: Notice of Zoning Violation and Order to Cease and Desist dated September 28, 2023 and issued to Niantic Bay Group, LLC of 1967 N. Rose Hue Path, Hernando, FL 34442 for failure to provide required affordable housing within the Jordan Lane Affordable Housing Development (P&ZC Application 2021-015) that was permitted pursuant to Section 8-30g of the CT General Statutes a/k/a the Affordable Housing Appeals Act. Niantic Bay Group, LLC has been Ordered to attend this public hearing to be heard; to demonstrate that the violations have been corrected, and to show cause as to why said Notice and Order should not remain in effect. Property Locations: 34 Jordan Lane (ID#03-00/001-514); 24 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-517); 22 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-518); 20 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-519); 16 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-520); 12 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-521); and 10 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-522). Zoning District: Suburban Use (SU). At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of the Notice of Violation and Order to Cease and Desist is available in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Planning & Zoning Commission Joseph Mathieu, Chair 2TB 10/6, 10/13



Cover Story • Cover

Black and purple funeral bunting was displayed outside Marlborough Town Hall this week in honor of former first selectman Bill Black, who passed away last week at the age of 81.

### ★ Bill Black Remembered cont. from page 1

recognized the importance of his legacy.

"He provided a lot of faithful service to the town," he said.

Ken Hjulstrom, who lost the 2007 first selectman race to the notable Democrat, said Black was admired by those who knew him.

"I ran against him and it came as neither a surprise nor a disappointment to me that he won by a wide margin," he stated. "Bill was a dedicated public servant and he was very wellliked by those in our community."

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: https://meet.goto.com/install Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on October 13, 2023 and October 20, 2023. 2TB 10/13 10/20

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PETS

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten; Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Scent Work. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, PAWS-N-HEEL DTC, 860-267-6040, paws-n-heeldogtraining.com.

### WANTED TO BUY

ALWAYS BUYING OLD TOOLS: old, used, antique hand tools. MACHINIST, woodworking, engraving, and workbench hand tools and tool chests. Hunting equipment and firearms also of interest. Fair and honest offers made. Call with confidence, Cory 860-322-4367.

WANTED TO BUY: loose and bulk change and old sterling silverware for cash. Also purchasing silver coins and any item made of sterling silver. Will make house calls. Call/text Dom 860-836-5013. email dmbappraisal@ sbcglobal.net.



CASH PAID for any Toyota Other makes, running or not, crashed ok. Will take other makes and models. Free pickup. Call any time: 203-600-4431

### NEWS BULLETIN • October 13, 2023

# REAL ESTATE

### RENTALS

EAST HAMPTON: One bedroom townhouse. First floor; kitchen, dining area, large living room, includes stove refrigerator, disposal, and dishwasher. Second floor; full bath, large bedroom, ample closets. Park-like setting, deck adjacent to lake, 2 parking spaces, on-site laundrv. Inquires call 860-633-7319, 8am-5pm.

GLASTONBURY CONDO RENTAL: Gorgeous 1 bd at Hale Farms. Recently remodeled with newer cabinets, appliances, flooring, contemporary bath. AC, open floor plan, large rooms w/lots of closet space, heat & hot water included, 2 pools. NO Pets. Credit/references required. \$1600. Armand 860-810-0550.

GLASTONBURY HOUSE FOR RENT: Beautiful house in quiet neighborhood. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, new appliances. Air-conditioned, Emergency generator. Private yard with cabin! Available Nov 1st. \$1,850/mo. Minimum one year lease. NO pets/ No deals. 860-944-2600 for appointment.

of Glastonbury. Large 2 bdrm, lvg room, 1 bath, kitchen w/dishwasher, gas range, laundry facilities. large storage area and private park-ing. Trash, heat, and hot water included. Excellent condition. Perfect for someone looking for a well-kept apartment. \$1,440/mo. 860-798-7403.

GLASTONBURY

VILLAGE CENTER: 2 Bdrm \$1,440. Including

Heat/Hotwater. Center

TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT: for rent in Hebron, 2nd floor. Recently remodeled. \$1600 per month plus security. . 860-604-6665.

UNITS FOR RENT COLCHESTER: Multiuse/Shop/Storage space available for rent in Colchester. 2 sizes available. 68x24 or 30x24. Call 860-748-0206.



213 SCENIC DRIVE, BERLIN \$619,900	A Les
<ul> <li>Built in 2019 Detailed Pictures</li> <li>3 Bedrooms</li> <li>2 Full Bathrooms</li> <li>Central Air</li> <li>Hardwood Floors</li> <li>Located at Beckley Farms</li> </ul>	
PRESENTED BY: MARK KEHRHAHN CENTURY 21 ALLPOINTS REALTY (860) 638-9485 markk.realestate@gmail.com	

Call for the scheduling

of an open house.

........





18 School Drive, Marlborough • \$279,900 Spacious home and conveniently located raised ranch. Home features 3 bedrooms, 11/2 baths on beautiful level lot. Nearby amenities include library, shopping, school, dining and town green. Come enjoy all that beautiful Marlborough has to offer!

Terri D. White, REALTOR Stone Crest Realty (860) 671-0987 terri white@live.com



### **\* \* \* \* OPEN HOUSE \* \* \* \*** Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 • 12:00-2:00PM 177 Reidy Hill Road, Hebron • \$589,900



Traditional Cape Cod home nestled on 2.29 acres of mature landscaping and beautiful perennial gardens. This rare home offers 4 bedrooms with 2 1/2 baths along with a huge rec room over the garage with a sitting area and 1/2 bath. Includes a screened in porch, lower-level

finished room with built-ins adds to the sq.ft. Country kitchen with stainless steel appliances and gas stove, family rm with gas FP, newer Buderus furnace, new septic system, generator hook-up plus an oversized 2 car garage with lots of storage space. Attached is an adorable in-law apartment with a living room, kitchen and bedroom with full bath, just adds to this unique property. Indora Chaviaras will be hosting this open house.



# EMPLOYMENT

Text best

9460 or stop in.

COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS: is looking for a part time liquor

LABORER WANTED: Hebron, minor landscaping, other outside assistance, transport provided as necessary. \$15-\$20/hr, paid daily. Good for high school students. 860-377-0188.

PAINTER OR HELPER HELP MOM! Medicine Reminders, Meals, WANTED: Year round. Transportation, Housekeeping, Companions. Commercial work.

# EMPLOYMENT

### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Offering not your average LPN shifts, per-diem shifts available on ALL shifts including 11pm-7am! Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401k

Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email CBaker@colebrookvillage.com

SEEKING DENTAL HYGIENIST: 1 day/ week. Your choice of day • M, Tu, or Th 8-5. Dental office in Marlborough.



**Certified Nurses Aide** (CNA) Assisted Living

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Offering not your average CNA positions ALL shifts including 3-11pm & 11pm-7am. Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401k

Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email CBaker@colebrookvillage.com



store clerk. Stop in person to apply at store. 99 Linwood Ave, Colchester

COOK WANTED: Stop in to the Greenleaf Cafe in Hebron or call 860-228-8148.

DRIVER & PCA NEEDED: part-time. For appointments, shopping, errands, cleaning, cooking and personal care depending on which position. Experience preferred. Excellent driving record required for driving position. \$18.25/ hr. Weekly pay through payroll company. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016.

FT/PT CLEANER: helper wanted. Early until 2pm. Please stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery.

Transportation to Glastonbury Required. 860-916-6332.

ATURDAY WAITRESS NEEDED: experience a must for MARLBOROUGH a fun, friendly breakfast restaurant. Apply at WINE & SPIRITS: needs a part-time sales Eggs Up Restaurant on assistant. Great pay. Rt 66, Portland. Please call 860-295-

### Mechanical CAD Drafter:

Seeking Mechanical Drafter skilled in AUTO CAD Microstation or similar to generate CAD fabrication and detail drawings based on contract plans. Experience with Microsoft Excel, Word, and Outlook, Extracting data from Contract Plans and creating detailed drawings. 3D experience, piping and hanger experience a plus. Microstation proficiency preferred. While proficiency in Microstation is preferred, we also accept candidates with expertise in AutoCAD. The ideal candidate should have a minimum of five years of drafting experience, demonstrating the ability to produce high-quality 2D drawings suitable for fabrication and construction. Salary is negotiable based upon experience. Benefits include: Health Insurance. Dental Insurance, 401K, Vacation, Life and Disability Insurance. Please send resume to: P.O. Box 186. Colchester, C1

06415 or email to beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com

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### Part-Time Library Assistant **Douglas Library of Hebron**

The Douglas Library of Hebron is looking for a Library Assistant I to assist us as we work to provide a welcoming, safe, and diverse environment for the members of our community. Ideal candidates will be technologically-savvy, passionate about providing excellent customer service, and can work independently and in groups

This position requires the ability to answer questions in person, on the phone, and through digital means. The Library Assistant I will need to interact with all age levels, be able to perform circulation functions using an automated system, shelve library materials and maintain shelf order. Must be comfortable with MS Office web services and consumer electronics. Interest or experience in assisting with teen programming a plus. Requires a high school diploma or equivalent; relevant work experience preferred. Starting wage is \$15.45 per hour. Nights and Saturday availability a must; 14 hours a week with occasional opportunity for more.

Please send a completed town application found here http:// hebronct.com/employment, a letter of interest and resume to the Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by November 3, 2023. EOE. 1TB 10/13



### East Hampton Public Schools is seeking **Substitute Teachers**

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree OR must be over 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and documented experience working with school-age children. The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. Per diem rate is \$120.00 per day.

Please apply online at: http://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/

For further information contact Mary Clark: mclark@easthamptonct.org

The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer

### Page 36



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SAND & GRAVEL

### ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising conv is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

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# CLEANING

**CARPET CLEANING:** Have your carpets deep dry cleaned. Eliminate problems associated with water (mold, mildew). Best method available for removal of pet stains, etc. Removes allergens. Immediate use. Upholstery cleaning. Completely safe. Experienced, references, insured. William Agostinelli 860-704-8486 calls only.





**AFFORDABLE** CLEANING RATES AS \$49 All Products Included We also include sanitizing, do groceries & run errands ALLOR 860-849-2768

I'D LOVE TO HELP: you juggle your busy lives by taking one dreaded task off your list... Cleaning. I love when my client walks in and says "WOW!" That's what I aim for every time. 860-301-5625.

HOUSE CLEANING

Need some help to get

your home clean? I'd

be happy to help. I have

10+ years of experience,

I offer reliable service

reasonable rates and I

do an amazing job. Re-

ferences upon request.

Please call or text for

free estimates. ARIANE'

S CLEANING, 860-331-

5309



### Page 40

# **TAG SALES**

& TOOL ESTATE SALE: October 13th & 14th from 9am-3pm, 19 Lake Road, Portland.

ESTATE SALE: 74 Pine Ridge Drive, Andover. Saturday, October 14th.

FIRST CHURCH SU-PER GIANT TAG SALE: 10/20, 12-6pm, 10/21, 9-3pm. Clothes, books, craft supplies, jewelry, collectibles, furniture, kids, holidav décor, household, Cider Donuts by Dude's! Much, much more! 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury.

IL LLINAS LAW

HALF-PRICE GARAGE SALE: 51 Hope Valley Road, Hebron. 50% off a great selection of new & used items remaining from several previous garage sales. Includes a few

furniture pieces, pictures & decorative accessories, linens, kitchenware, crafts, clothing, jewelry, games, collectibles, seasonal, & lots more stuff for gals, guys, & kids on Sat/Sun. Oct 14th & 15th



MOVING SALE: Sat 10/14 10am-2pm. 48 Carolvn Drive, Hebron. Household items, yard and work bench tools. Freezer/refrigerator.

> TAG SALE: Sat, Oct 14, 9am-2pm. 122 High Street Portland. Freezer, air conditioners, kids books-toys-clothes, linens, skis, kitchen items, tools, miscellaneous.

TAG SALE: Sat, Oct 14th, 9am-3pm, 86 Cricket Lane, Glastonbury. Christmas items, violin, guitar, skis, parlor stove, duck decoys, UCONN shirts, and more.

TAG SALE EVENT: Saturday Oct 21, 9am-2pm, Gilead Congre-gational Church, 672 Gilead Street. Hebron; Trunk-N-Treasure а event with up to 30 sellers & some crafters. Rain date is Oct 22, 1pm-5pm.

TAG SALE: Sat, Oct 21st, 9am-1pm, 2 Victoria Road, Portland. Rain or Shine. Golf clubs, fishing poles, small tools, garden plants, bulbs, & seeds. Clothing, electric fireplace, housewares & seasonal items.

# FOR SALE

CONOVER CABLE UPRIGHT PIANO: Model CC-43, polished ebony, bench included. \$2,900. Call 860-348-6220.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: cut, split, de-livered locally \$270/ CORD. Can custom cut to size. Multiple cord discount. Call/text 860-202-8950.

PLAN AHEAD FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Call Reggie 860-657-8052 or Ray 860-952-4741. \$270 a cord, \$170 for half. Make your reservation, to be delivered now or later.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: \$260 per CORD. Call 860-608-1919.

FIREWOOD SEASONED/SPLIT: hard wood. Full cord \$270. Half cord \$165. Delivery included to local area. Quick delivery. Call 860-633-5766.

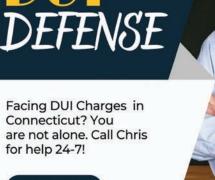
S E A S O N E D FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Call 860-883PONTOON BOAT FOR SALE: Lowe 22ft Sun Cruiser LS220, 2009. 115hp, Mercury Outboard and Karavan double axle trailer. One owner. Fresh water only. Easily tows a water skier or tube. Engine runs great! Well maintained. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$20,000 firm. 860-614-9376.

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