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News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 39

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October 20, 2023

Marlborough Couple Debuts Feature Film

By Michael Sinkewicz

Two Marlborough filmmakers recently debuted their first feature film, *Blow Up My Life*, fulfilling their “lifelong dream.”

Abby Horton and Ryan Dickie first met while working on the set of a small movie and have since been married for six years. In October of 2020 — during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic — the couple embarked on their most exciting and rewarding journey: directing, and shooting, their very own movie.

In September, the picture made its debut and has been touring AMC Theaters for the past month. On Thursday, their film was shown at the Cinestudio, an independent theater on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford. But moviegoers have plenty of time to grab their popcorn for the on-demand release: the film hits iTunes/Amazon on Nov. 28.

Last week, the filmmakers shared all the details of their project with the *RiverEast*, showcasing their efforts to create what *MovieMaker Magazine* called “one of the coolest and most ambitious films we saw this year.”

“A Once-in-a-Lifetime Moment”

“The story had been brewing for a couple of years,” Dickie expressed.

Blow Up My Life is a comedy/thriller starring Jason Selvig — who fans may recognize from the comedy duo *The Good Liars* — as well as Kara Young, Davram Stiefler and Reema Sampat.

Selvig plays a disgraced pharmaceutical employee who accidentally uncovers a deadly opioid vape conspiracy, resulting in a chase to reveal the crime and the ensuing wake of chaos.

“It’s been our lifelong dream,” Horton said of making a feature film.



Marlborough residents Ryan Dickie, left, and Abby Horton recently saw their lifelong dream come true, when their independent film *Blow Up My Life* made its big-screen debut.

Fulfilling that vision during the pandemic was understandably challenging, the couple explained, with progress on all films being impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

“It was very complicated,” Dickie said.

Still, the couple found their angle. They scaled down their concept from an international scale to a suburban scope and ultimately put together a nine-member crew — including themselves — made up of their closest friends and colleagues.

With many filmmakers looking for work, a window of opportunity had presented itself. Money was raised and financing was secured by the couple, and it was time to film.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime moment,” Horton said.

While Dickie and Horton had each worked on movies in the past, crafting your own film from start to finish is a different experience; making one with your spouse is even more special.

To make it easier, the two tailored the project to things they knew best. And working together was a strength, not an impediment.

Dickie stated it was easy to find common ground while working with his wife. He said creative differences are not only expected, but necessary in order to reach the best outcome — and that often, decisions were settled before the two even arrived on set.

“We do come at it from different viewpoints,” Dickie said. “It can easily be a metaphor for normal relationship stuff.”

Horton added that she and her husband have a strong working candor.

“We trust each other so much,” she said.

The film also represented a homecoming for Horton, who grew up in the film’s primary filming location of Middletown and studied film at Wesleyan University. Other local spots were featured, too, including Hamonnaset, Bradley International Airport and Bushnell Park.

Horton acknowledged that the return home wasn’t planned, but it turned in a blessing for the production.

“Coming back to Middletown, you see it with new eyes,” she said. “There’s plenty of places to film.”

And with the difficult circumstances imposed on the crew due to the pandemic, her familiarity was an asset; her husband is originally from

See Feature Film, page 27

Landmark Season for PHS Volleyball

By Josh Howard

This fall, Portland High School’s volleyball program created history by competing at the varsity level for the first time.

Head coach Mary Tobias said her Highlanders have grown leaps and bounds since they first started as a junior varsity team in the fall of 2021.

“To see the growth in them is why you coach,” added Tobias. “They’ve grown into the sport and they understand the skills and have gotten better at the skills.”

When the team took the court for their first official varsity game on Sept 7, it was the payoff for a project that was started three years ago by Bella Hettrick-Rivera.

Hettrick-Rivera grew up around the sport of volleyball, but the high school didn’t have a team, so she took matters into her own hands — using her Capstone Project as an opportunity to bring a volleyball program to Portland High.

“The idea came my junior year and originally I thought it would be too late to make my Cap-

stone, but I wanted to complete it anyways because I wanted to play,” recalled Hettrick-Rivera. She said she had previously played club volleyball outside of school, and “wanted to bring that community to Portland High School.”

After numerous meetings with school administrators and sending a proposal to the Connecticut Interscholastic Association Conference (CIAC) — the state’s governing body for high school sports — Hettrick-Rivera’s dream became a reality the fall of her senior year when the Highlanders made their debut, playing a handful of road games at the junior varsity level.

“I knew it wouldn’t be the level I was used to, but I was totally okay with that. I was just excited to have that kind of experience with my fellow classmates,” recalled Hettrick-Rivera, who graduated after that initial season.

Following another season at the junior varsity level in 2022, the Highlanders took on a varsity schedule this fall with a roster full of eager players aiming to elevate the program to the next

level.

Elvira Medunjanin, Katie Laverty and Ella Royea have been with the program since day one and have now assumed the captain’s chairs for the initial varsity team.

Along with being the most vocal player, Medunjanin is the lone senior captain, using her outgoing personality and positive attitude to influence the team.

“Being the only senior captain is cool; it gives me a feeling of leadership,” stated Medunjanin, who added that her goal this fall was to get the team to communicate more. “Everyone gets more connected. It helps us out on the court and in school, and everywhere.”

Laverty and Royea, both juniors, said that Medunjanin has influenced the entire team in a positive way.

Tobias agrees, adding, “Elvira is always positive. No matter what anybody does on the court, she finds that positive piece. She is our cheer-

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AHM Family Resource Center Offerings

The AHM Family Resource Center will offer the following new sessions for young children starting in November. Children attend with a parent or caregiver. To register, visit ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home. Program scholarships available; applications are at ahmyouth.org/program-scholarship-application. For more information about these programs, contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or Ashlee Parks at ashleep@ahmyouth.org, or call the Family Resource Center at 860-228-0871.

Sparkler Fun and Learning Group: This free group for children ages Birth-5 and adults will be held Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m., starting Nov. 9. While children play, parents and caregivers will learn how to use the free Sparkler App from the state Office of Early Childhood for screenings, activities, and parenting tips. Snacks provided. Registration required. Translation will be available during this group for non-English-speaking families. This group is free, but registration is required.

Play and Learn Groups: For children ages Birth-5 and adults. Held at Gilead Hill School on Wednesdays, 10-11:15 a.m., from Nov. 1-Dec. 13. All enrolled families will be offered a free developmental screening for their child. Cost is \$60 family for the seven-week session.

Messy Hands: For children ages 2-5 and adults. Will be held Fridays, 10-11 a.m., in the Family Resource Center at Gilead Hill School, starting Nov. 3 and running for six sessions. Fee is \$45/family.

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Flu, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

The Chatham Health District has announced several opportunities for area residents to receive their flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. No appointment is necessary.

All ages 6 months and over can receive the flu vaccine; children ages 12 and up can receive the COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna and Pfizer). Both vaccines may be received at the same time.

Upcoming clinics are: Friday, Oct. 20, noon-1:30 p.m., Colchester Housing Authority, 283 Westchester Rd., Colchester; Monday, Oct. 30, 9-11 a.m., East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., East Hampton; Tuesday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-noon, at Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland; Thursday, Nov. 2, 4-6 p.m., East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton; Friday, Nov. 3, 4-6 p.m., Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlbor-

ough; Monday, Nov. 6, 9-11 a.m., Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

Please bring a copy of your insurance card and a filled out, printed copy of the consent forms (one for each vaccine) for each person receiving a vaccination. The form is found at www.chathamhealth.org.

The Following Health insurances are Accepted: Medicare (Part B); ConnectiCare; Aetna; Cigna; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. People who are covered by these insurance plans must bring their cards to the clinic. Please note that UnitedHealthcare and other insurances are not accepted.

Call the Chatham Health District at 860-365-0884 for more information. Contact the office for proof of vaccination if needed.

Volunteers Sought for AARP Tax Foundation

For many years, the senior centers in Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough, Columbia, East Hampton and East Haddam have hosted the AARP Tax-Aide Program, which provides free income tax preparation services for residents of these towns and surrounding communities.

Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS. The program is looking for people to join its volunteer team. You don't need to be an ac-

countant or tax professional; the volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds. Training and support are provided.

To volunteer, go to aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer, or call 1-888-AARP-NOW (888-227-7669).

For additional information before signing up, contact your local senior center and you will be connected with a local Tax-Aide volunteer.

Conservation District to Hold Meeting, Awards Ceremony

The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District – which includes several *Rivereast* towns – will hold its 76th annual meeting at Long Table Farm Saturday, Nov. 4, from 2-4 p.m., for a look back on the district's 2022-23 accomplishments, a ceremony to honor its conservation award winners, and a talk and tour highlighting ecologically-based and climate-smart management practices at the farm.

Long Table Farm is located at 256 Beaver Brook Road in Lyme.

A brief business meeting will precede the program. After the tour, there will be time for refreshments and conversation. RSVP to Sandy Weiss at 860-346-3282 or sweiss@conservect.org. This event is free and open to the public.

Annual Conservation Awards presented at the meeting include: Tom ODell Outstanding District Service to Jeanne Davies, executive director (retired) of Connecticut Resource

Conservation and Development; Cooperator to John Halfinger, Halfinger Farms, Higganum; Public Official to state Rep. Christine Palm (D-36); and Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Milardo, Durham health director and sanitarian (retired).

The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, a nonprofit organization based in Middletown, works to conserve natural resources through technical assistance and education in the towns of Berlin, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Hebron, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Marlborough, Middlefield, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, Rocky Hill, Salem and Westbrook.

Visit www.conservect.org/ctivercoastal for more information about the district's programs and services.

Thank You

To everyone who sent cards, emails, texts, flowers, food, donations for Kevin's boys, love, support, hugs, a shoulder to cry on or just stopping by to check on us, we can not thank you enough for all your kindness.

Taking charge of the huge turnout at Kevin's celebration of life, the area restaurants that donated all the food so we didn't have to think about anything else that day, the pasta dinner fundraiser that was held with the overwhelming number of raffle prizes, and the many people who came to support the boys, and anything else that I haven't listed.

Our whole family is so grateful to our community. We are blessed to have so much support during this very difficult time.

We will never be able to thank everyone individually but please know that we have felt the love and support from all of you.

*We thank you from the bottom of our hearts,
The entire Kevin Schadtke Family*

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\$17.99

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

We're heading into the final stretch, folks! After today, there are just two more issues before Election Day. That means just two more weeks to get those campaign letters in – and just one more week if you want to send in a negative letter.

Yep, next week's *Rivereast*, the Oct. 27 edition, will be the last one in which letter-writers can attack other candidates, or raise any new issues. If you have some final jabs and digs you want to get in, next week's your last chance.

Then it's time to, as the old song goes, accentuate the positive.

The following week's issue, Nov. 3, will contain **positive letters only**. No letters attacking any of the candidates.

Negative letters submitted for that week will be rejected, and folks that remain mostly positive but *just have to sneak in* a quick hit will see their letters edited accordingly.

Also, remember the deadline for letters to the editor is noon Tuesdays. Not 1 p.m. – not even 12:30. But noon, on the dot. For space reasons, I cannot make exceptions.

And please, folks, include your contact phone number. Most of you do, but the past few weeks I've been noticing an increasing number of those who don't. If you don't submit a contact number, I cannot guarantee your letter will be printed. Remember, the contact number is never published; it's simply for verification purposes.

As always, thank you to everyone for your cooperation.

Some of you have already gotten your flu shot, and your updated COVID-19 vaccine. If you haven't, though, the Chatham Health District has you covered. There will be multiple clinics in area towns over the next few weeks. No appointment is necessary.

All ages 6 months and over can receive the flu vaccine; children ages 12 and up can receive the COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna and Pfizer). Both vaccines may be received at the same time.

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Oct. 30, 9-11 a.m., East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., East Hampton; Tuesday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-noon, at Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland; Thursday, Nov. 2, 4-6 p.m., East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton; Friday, Nov. 3, 4-6 p.m., Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough; Monday, Nov. 6, 9-11 a.m., Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

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Call the Chatham Health District at 860-365-0884 for more information. Also, contact the office for proof of vaccination if needed.

It hasn't been a good season for the New England Patriots. But I read an interesting stat recently that really highlights just how bleak things have been for Bill Belichick and company.

Up until last Sunday, the Boston Red Sox, who didn't make the postseason this year and thus only played one game this month, had actually outscored the Patriots for the month of October. In that one game the Red Sox played this month, they scored six runs. Meanwhile, the Patriots, over the first two games in October, scored a combined three points.

The Patriots finally put some significant points on the board this past Sunday – though they still lost, 21-17.

The Patriots were so successful for so long; it truly was an amazing run. However, nothing lasts forever. They're such a smart organization, I'm sure they'll be back in the high life again before too long – but for the moment? Yeah, pretty grim.

See you next week.



Book & Bake... The Andover Friends of the Library group conducted its annual Book & Bake Sale last Friday and Saturday at the First Congregational Church of Andover. Library director Amy Orloski (left) and acting president Julie Victoria report over \$1,000 was raised to support the Andover Public Library, and wish to acknowledge the volunteer efforts of the library community as well as all the sale donations made by so many. Photo by Janice Bazzani.

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

STEAP Grants

To the Editor:

I read with interest last week's article about the STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant that Portland had recently received. I had no knowledge of STEAP until reading your article and was interested in looking at how much of this funding Colchester has received. I was astounded to learn that Colchester has not received a STEAP grant since 2014.

Colchester received three grants totaling \$765,000 (2010, 2011, and 2014) since the program was initiated in 2005. To put this in perspective Andover has been awarded eight grants (\$2,093,205), Columbia has been awarded nine grants (\$1,417,511), and Hebron and Marlborough have each been awarded 11 grants (\$3,538,830 and \$3,865,205 respectively).

Has Colchester applied for these funds? It is incumbent upon our town leaders to investigate these sources of revenue instead of continuing to use taxpayer dollars or ARPA funds for projects that could be funded under STEAP. Perhaps it's time for Colchester to recognize the value in having a dedicated part-time or full-time individual, i.e. a grant writer, to pursue alternate sources of revenue.

Thank you.

Shirley Boron – Colchester

Voter Responsibility

To the Editor:

The following is a quote by Samuel Adams: "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote, that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society, for which he is accountable to God and his country."

Sue Culance – Hebron

Support for Andover Board of Selectmen

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support for Paula King's candidacy for reelection to the Andover Board of Selectmen. In her letter to the editor, Paula has highlighted the progress that has been achieved during her tenure on the board, and I believe she is the right person to lead our community for another term.

Over the past four years, Paula King has demonstrated a genuine commitment to the town of Andover and a strong dedication to improving the lives of its residents. Her collaborative approach to governance, as she described it, where board members work together seamlessly and support one another when needed, has been instrumental in our town's accomplishments.

Paula's list of achievements, including crucial infrastructure repairs, upgrades to public facilities, and the initiation of long-awaited community projects, reflects her ability to translate her dedication into tangible benefits for the community. Paula understands the unique qualities that make our town so special, and she is committed to preserving its small-town charm and close-knit community spirit.

I have had the privilege of witnessing Paula King's dedication to Andover through her active involvement in various community groups and events. Her passion for serving our town is truly commendable, and I believe her continued presence on the Board of Selectmen is essential for our community's future success.

In addition to endorsing Paula King, I would also like to voice my support for the other candidates she has endorsed: Adrian Mandeville and Jeff Murray. Together, as a united board, they have the potential to build upon the progress made thus far and explore new avenues for improving our community.

Bulletin Board

A recent reference to the classic old movie "Citizen Kane" and lead character Charles Foster Kane's legendary dying utterance, "Rosebud," got me to thinking about final words in general.

It occurs to me that most of us probably exit this life without a lot of fancy oratory, particularly if we happen to leave somewhat prematurely. A few common exit lines in such cases might include unmemorable observations such as:

- Oops.
- What could possibly go wrong?
- Hey, watch this!
- You shut off the power, right?
- Honey, I know you're not mad at me anymore, but this coffee tastes a little bitter.
- I'm pretty sure that's a dolphin.
- It looks safe enough.
- What a cute little spider!
- Hold my beer while I reload, will ya?
- I can't believe all these crazy drivers are going the wrong way!
- [And, of course, that all-time classic that sort of sums it all up]: Oh, s---!

I expect my own final words (time permitting) will be something craven and cowardly like, "Why me?!" or maybe "I'm not leaving without my wallet" or (gesturing feebly at whomever has the misfortune to be at my bedside) "Take him, why don't you!" or something similar.

I doubt I'll have the poise that Oscar Wilde displayed upon his death in a hotel room in 1900. Disgusted with the room's décor, the famed Irish playwright's final words were, "Either that wallpaper goes, or I do."

Drummer Buddy Rich was being prepped for surgery in 1987 (he did not survive) when a nurse asked him, "Is there anything you can't take?" Rich replied in what reportedly proved to be a final observation, "Yeah, country music."

Standing before a firing squad in Utah in 1960, waiting to be executed for murder, James W. Rodgers was asked if he had a last request. He replied, "Bring me a bullet-proof vest."

Then there was famed frontiersman Kit Carson (1809-1868), whose last words were, "I just wish I had time for one more bowl of chili." Stan Laurel, of the comedy duo Laurel and Hardy, assured his nurse, "I'd rather be skiing," immediately before expiring in 1965.

I could only hope to be so eloquent.

Poor Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, dying of an assassin's bullet in 1923, found himself (as most of us probably would) at a loss for words as he started toward the Great Beyond, gasping out a final request, "Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something."

And that's just what those idiots wrote down as his last words. Go figure.

Pancho's dilemma leads me to suggest that, if these things matter to you, it is best to be prepared for the inevitable with a suitable exit line. Even if events do not allow you to use it at the actual moment of truth, you could always imitate famous Irish comedian Spike Milligan (call it Plan B) and use your gravestone as the tablet for your parting words—speaking from beyond the grave, if you will.

A jokester to the end, Milligan, who passed away in 2002, left instructions to have his tombstone inscribed with the simple accusation, "I told you I was ill."

I'm not one given to empty accolades, friends, but you gotta love the Irish.

Jim Hallas

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Letter Writers: Letters must be 300 words or less, and must be submitted by Tuesdays at noon. Email is preferred; send to bulletin@glcitizen.com. All letters must be signed, and include the writer's town of residence and daytime contact phone number. Writers are limited to one letter per week. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity, and are also subject to fact-checking. No form of harassment or personal attack (such as bullying or name-calling) will be tolerated. There is no guarantee that all letters will be published.

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Rivereast Hours of Operation

The offices of the *Rivereast News Bulletin* and *Glastonbury Citizen*, located at 87 Nutmeg Lane, Glastonbury, are open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Phone: 860-633 4691. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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As residents of Andover, let's rally behind Paula King and her fellow candidates to ensure that our town continues to thrive and grow.

Sincerely,
Bree Lanzieri - Andover

LeMay for Hebron BOE

To the Editor:
Over the summer, I announced my candidacy for the Hebron Board of Education. I told the people of Hebron about my experience as an educator (almost 20 years as both a classroom teacher and as an administrator) and as a mom of two school age children who have thrived in Hebron's schools. I shared my commitment to this community, and my desire to ensure that the high quality of education that my children have experienced here continues.

Since that time, I have had the pleasure of meeting many new people here in Hebron. I have walked through neighborhoods all around town, knocking on doors and learning more about what matters to my neighbors. I have spoken to former educators who remain concerned about the state of schools here in town, despite the fact that their own children are grown. More than a few new parents have opened doors holding baby monitors, happy to chat for a few minutes while their little ones napped, and have shared their desire to learn more about what's happening in our schools, even though they are still a few years from their own children enrolling.

Last spring, when our BOE budget was in jeopardy, I felt a renewed sense of obligation to speak up for my kids and for yours. Talking about education with so many new neighbors has further fueled this commitment for me. Now more than ever, our children need engaging programming that provides opportunities both for enrichment and remediation. Our teachers and administrators need to know that we support them. As a member of the Hebron BOE, I will work to meet these goals and to increase transparency in town politics. I hope you will support me with your vote on Nov. 7!

Eleisha LeMay - Hebron
Candidate for Hebron Board of Education

Republicans Tilting at Windmills

To the Editor:
Two weeks ago, Paul Bureau, Colchester's Republican Town Committee vice-chair, wrote a bizarre letter titled 'Wacky Wacky'. 'Wacky Wacky' would have been more accurate. Republicans' long history of spreading false conspiracy theories, like Pizzagate, Frazzledrip and Jewish space-based lasers to name a few, are alive and well in Colchester. Mr. Bureau warned us that we are trapped in the *Matrix* and additionally living in *The Truman Show*. Said we are at the precipice of a final war between good and evil, and that we need to question everything so as to connect the dots to reveal the hidden Deep State.

So let me question Paul. Is an 'end of days' paranoia required for being a Colchester Republican? Do you all reference fictional Hollywood movies instead of using verifiably true historical associations to make your points? Does a *Children of the Corn* horror lurk in the Savitsky Farm corn fields? Should canoeists avoid the Black Ledge and Jeremy Rivers confluence, lest locals deliver another *Deliverance*? Was the shaky *Blair Witch* video filmed in Salmon River State Forest? Will Colchester Republicans finally get to the bottom of Babcock Pond to reveal if *Nessie* is responsible for missing boaters? Is Harry's Place a *Sweeney Todd* copycat? I ask these questions because it appears Paul has the most experience knowing about such things.

Republicans keep 'tilting at windmills', diverting us from real battles between good and evil. Their policies and actions, or lack thereof, have created and/or exacerbated increasingly destructive climate change disasters, endless cycles of mass gun deaths, an emboldened nuclear armed Putin threatening WWII and science-approved vaccines being scorned. Step out of your fictional Hollywood fantasies, and start reading real history. I'll lend you my eight-volume *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* so you can understand why you need to stop calling yourselves Republicans.

Edmund Smith - Andover

Proud of Portland Public Schools

To the Editor:
Our three children all went to Portland Public Schools. They were well-educated in Portland schools, and now have successful careers in the areas of finance, law and health care.

I am very proud of our children. I am very proud of the schools that educated them. I deeply appreciate and want to thank Portland Public Schools, the taxpayers, the teachers, administrators, support staff and Board of Education members. They are the best!

The incumbent candidates for the Board of Education are Laurel Steinhauser (chairman), Meg Scata (vice chair/secretary), Sarah Spear and Kim Maruschock. These Board members believe in our schools and have enrolled their own children in the Portland Public School District. They know the importance of teaching children and getting them ready to take their rightful place in our society. Kim, Sarah, Meg and Laurel have collectively worked more than 12 years serving on our Board of Education. And now, they are asking for your vote in order to continue this work.

On Nov. 7, please vote for the best for Portland Public Schools - vote for the four currently serving, incumbent members of the Board of Education, Laurel Steinhauser (Chairman), Meg Scata (Vice Chair/Secretary), Sarah Spear and Kim Maruschock.

Thank you,
Susan Bransfield - Portland

Supports Baker

To the Editor:
I am writing this letter in support of my friend, Maura Baker, who is running for the RHAM Board of Education. A resident of our small town since 2002, Maura has always sought community involvement. I met Maura through Girl Scouts, where our daughters met and became steadfast friends. Maura was a resolute Scout Leader from her daughter's kindergarten class all the way through high school graduation. Her commitment to scouting lasted throughout the years, through numerous changes and the merging of multiple troops as the girls got older. Maura embraces and exudes the very nature of Girl Scouts: a movement dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence, and character. She herself is a person of integrity: dependable, hard-working, and honest.

Maura's career as an actuary makes her predisposed to organization and analysis. She is an open-minded, active listener. She arrives at informed decisions through due diligence, thoughtfully deliberating options and calmly mitigating arbitration between opposing viewpoints. As a vice president at Travelers, she is well versed and comfortable in a leadership role. A female corporate leader, she brings firsthand knowledge of the importance and value of diversity and inclusion.

With two children attending our schools, Maura has witnessed firsthand the triumphs and hurdles within our school system. She has unwavering trust in the importance of a good education and is eager to play a role in the success of our local educational system and policies. I recommend Maura without hesitation. I am certain Maura would do an outstanding job representing the values of our community on the RHAM Board of Education.

Robyn Minella - Hebron

Ready for a Change

To the Editor:
The November elections are fast approaching and I for one am ready for a change. I am especially ready to see a change in the Andover Board of Education. For far too long, this board has supported bloated budgets with minimal transparency, budgets that hamstringing the needs of the town and alienate the trust of our citizens. It's time for a fresh perspective. It's time to elect members who are conservative, independent thinkers and are not afraid to vote against the status quo; it's time for members willing to look deep into the AES budget and identify the areas of wasteful spending while committing to the quality education Andover is known for.

Kimberly Person is one such candidate with the courage needed to do this job. Kim consistently involves herself in the Town meetings including BOE meetings and is well-versed in the intricacies of Andover's government. And, as a lifelong resident of our beloved community and parent whose children went through AES, Kim brings a unique perspective and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of Andover Elementary School (AES), the children, the town, and our seniors.

With her commitment and dedication to fiscal responsibility and budgetary transparency, Kim will work tirelessly toward a budget that will serve the educational needs of children, while also considering the needs of the town and while working to rebuild the trust of our valued citizens.

Liz Lokiec - Andover

Road Maintenance

To the Editor:
I hope I would be correct in assuming that you drive a car to work every day. While you most likely take exceptional care of your vehicle, the same cannot always be said about how our local governments maintain the roads we drive on. My family resides off of Stanavage Road in Colchester, where poor visibility, sharp curves, overgrown plants and narrow lanes are all too familiar for people who live there and on surrounding streets. I am aware of many newer drivers including myself who found these conditions daunting upon first learning how to properly operate a motor vehicle - learning how to drive is made harder when the roads you learn on are neglected. Additionally, damaged roads can result in

damaged vehicles, costing car owners up to \$2,900 per year according to the National Transportation Research Group.

I feel it would be in the best interest of many citizens in this area for our local government to consider this topic in future town legislation, as if the possibility was presented for roads to obtain many new improvements for Stanavage Road and surrounding neighborhoods, the majority of residents here would likely vote in favor of this despite increases in monthly taxes. These benefits would improve the physical and mental conditions of many drivers, as it would lead to reduced accidents and less driver frustration. Some improvements may include widening lanes, adding streetlamps, and increasing signage warning of sharp curves. Additionally, homeowners in these areas may consider trimming down bushes and other vegetation in front of driveways which may obstruct these already narrow lanes.

I would like to extend my highest gratitude for your acknowledgement of my views on this local issue.

Sincerely,
Johannes Liebenberg - Colchester
Senior at Bacon Academy

It Takes A Village

Dear Colchester:
Coming to Colchester a few years ago with one baby in tow and another on the way, finding "my village" was paramount to myself and my family's happiness and success in our new community. Discovering the groups of fellow parents and caregivers that I have through the Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3), CASTLE, CES, and more, has been incredible. By volunteering my time, I've been on the receiving end of support, resources, and everything I could ask for as a parent in town.

Running for Board of Education now, the irony isn't lost on me that it takes "a village" to run Colchester, as well. Collaboration and communication between our local boards, elected officials, and within Town Hall is critical to keeping our community thriving.

Unfortunately, bipartisanship, civility, and treating-each-other-as-neighbors-first has been lost over the past two years. Wherever our national politics stand, we can and should be willing to work with each other. And our

See Story, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

local officials can and should work for all of our citizens. I'm beyond grateful for the support of the Democratic Town Committee and am proud to be part of an incredible slate of candidates. Leading the charge is Bernie Denner - whose experience working under two different leaders in his work at Lebanon Town Hall (one Democrat and one Republican) is unmatched. His professionalism, innovative ideas, and long term commitment to the Town of Colchester is exactly what our town needs.

As a new face on the BOE, I hope to work alongside my fellow board members and with other town board members on behalf of our youngest and oldest citizens, alike. I'm committed to being an open-minded, critical thinker, and to bring a fresh perspective to Colchester. I look forward to your support on Nov. 7th (and beyond).
Sincerely,
Stefanie Tracey-Calash - Colchester Candidate, Board of Education

Great Candidates

To the Editor:
As my six years on the Portland Board of Selectmen (BOS) end, I did want to highlight the great selectman candidates that I will support.
I have known Andrea Alfano since our adult children started preschool. She did a great job for years on the Board of Education. During that time, she showed an astute ability to implement policies, push hard on sound budget paths and advocate for our children.
Jillian Crawford is an active volunteer for several Port-

land organizations. She is working towards a law degree and would provide a fresh perspective on the challenges that a selectman will face.
Since 2021 John Dillon and I have worked with the BOS to ensure that projects that former First Selectman Bransfield and past BOS have set in motion were completed. With our fellow selectmen, we put forward fair budgets during these challenging times and successfully dealt with issues that arose. His Portland knowledge is invaluable.
Jim Tripp and I have worked as selectmen as well as on other organizations to improve Portland. We teamed with the park committees to ensure that the Portland Recreational Park became a reality. It's enjoyed by many each day. Together on a BOS subcommittee we worked to balance water and sewer budgets and began work on an alternate water source, an effort he continues as Chair of the Water and Sewer Commission. For many years he has chaired the Brownstone Quorum, a nonprofit organization of volunteers who developed the beautiful Riverfront Park. He has been a leader of the Portland Lions and we have volunteered together to benefit those in need in Portland. He continues to volunteer at the Food Bank.
Please support these great candidates on Nov. 7. I know I will.

Ralph Zampano - Portland

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

Supports Coppolino

To the Editor:
I am writing to support Sera Coppolino as an excellent candidate for the Hebron Board of Education. I have known Sera for over 10 years. We both moved to Hebron as new mothers and have a background in education from teaching math and science in the private setting. We both made the move to public education around the same time given the need and our investment in the support of public education. Sera is dedicated to improving our schools and positively impacting our town.
Sera has been an educator for nearly 20 years, with the past 10 years at RHAM High School in the science department. She is currently a member of the Hebron Board of Education, coaches youth soccer, and has been involved over the years in many committees and extra curricular activities through the schools. Sera will continue to be an asset on the board because she brings a wealth of knowledge about the education system as well as a passion for doing what is best for kids, while also being diplomatic and humble in her endeavors.
Sera is a brilliant forward-thinking human, who is a clear choice. Sera has my endorsement.

Dr. Mary Holzer
Educational Psychologist
Hebron

Revitalize Boards

To the Editor:
Perhaps you've noticed several large signs around town promoting the current first selectman. Note this: just yelling the loudest doesn't equate to virtue or competence. Pumped-up campaign spending does not guarantee professionalism in office.
To restore civility and competence to Town Hall, let's elect more competent people! Many of our town boards have not been plagued by the same upheavals as selectmen and finance, but can be reinforced against Republican power struggles and ultra-conservative collusion by electing Democratic candidates.
Please vote to reelect Chris Rivers and Michelle Millington to the Board of Education, to retain their competence and pro-student passion. Chris is the liaison to the Board of Finance, while Michelle serves as the budget communications committee liaison as well as the student wellness liaison and youth and social services liaison. Also vote for Stefanie Tracey-Calash, who would be the only board member that is a parent of young children: an important perspective indeed! These folks on the Board of Education will help make the correct decisions to benefit schools and children in the most realistic, cost-effective manner.
Vote to keep Andrew Cournoyer on the Board of Assessment Appeals for his steady hand and institutional knowledge. Andrew has always worked towards sensible, non-partisan appeals solutions. And elect Krista Kardys, whose years of practical experience as a registered nurse and community volunteer will bring balanced and capable consideration to this important function.

John Barnowski - Colchester

Support David Rose!

To the Editor:
David Rose is seeking election to Hebron's Board of Assessment Appeals. His desire to volunteer more of his time to our community is, well, appealing!
As I have served as a long-time member of Hebron's Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, I met with David to introduce and hike many of Hebron's open space preserves, mostly unknown and hence unexplored by our own residents. In concurrence with a companion endeavor by resident Girl Scout Gold Awardee Catherine Chester, David took on a grand initiative to walk, GIS map and create a website of Hebron's open space trails. This wonderful website, <https://hebronpaths.org> was donated by David to the town recently and is Hebron's "go-to" site to learn of Hebron's trail systems.
David not only has agreed to maintain this vital website, he designed and is placing black-over-yellow QR codes to mark the trailheads of these trail systems. You may have met David "working in the field" or leading a guided hike as he is also a volunteer Hebron Trail Ranger co-leader.
As a community leader, David serves on the Hebron Greater Together Community Advisory Committee, a program of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Amongst its missions, the committee provides grant awards for local endeavors to benefit the community. And, David is in the midst of assisting the Hebron Historical Society on a soon-to-be-completed series of Hebron Center Historic QR Code Tours.
As you can see, David is a very appealing and committed community volunteer. Let's provide him with our support on Election Day!

Respectfully,
Frank Zittkus - Hebron

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Endorsing Alexander

To the Editor:
I am writing to endorse Elizabeth Alexander for the Hebron Board of Education and to encourage all residents to exercise their right to vote on Nov. 7. Elizabeth's dedication to our community and her passion for education make her the ideal candidate to serve on the board.

What sets Elizabeth apart is her ability to listen and collaborate. She believes in open communication and values input from community members. Elizabeth is not just looking to make decisions; she wants to make informed decisions that benefit all stakeholders. Her collaborative approach will help foster a positive and productive environment within the board.

As Election Day approaches on November 7th, I urge all eligible voters in Hebron to cast their ballots in support of Elizabeth Alexander for the Hebron Board of Education. Her dedication, experience, and vision make her the candidate we need to help shape the future of our schools.

Our community's future depends on the education we provide to our children, and Brittany is the right person to help guide that future. Let's come together as a community to support her candidacy and make our voices heard at the polls.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Eng – Hebron

John's the Man!

To the Editor:
This letter is being written in support of John Dillon's quest to be reelected to the Portland Board of Selectmen. I have known John for over 50 years and can attest to the fact he is a valuable member of any organization of which he is a participant. He is of impeccable character, trustworthy, ambitious, intelligent and always willing to help whenever or wherever there is a need.

John is a 4th generation of Portlandites all of whom are part of this town's history of giving back to their community. He has been the chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, an assistant scoutmaster, vice president of the Portland Fair, a Portland Inland Wetlands Commission member, held many ancillary positions for various town events, and was the recipient of the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award – all while working as director of the Connecticut Department of Social Services, retiring in 2022. He can now be seen sitting on his front porch pondering what he can do next to benefit us all.

In addition to his civic duties, John is an active member of St. Mary Church, including being a lector, a member of the Freestone Knights of Columbus Council #7 and, most recently, was appointed chairman of the Parish Council.

John is passionate about working on the long-term planning of all future opportunities for the town. His expertise and levelheadedness will be an asset to make these enhancements all come to fruition for the betterment of all our residents – young and old alike.

If having the privilege of being reelected to the Portland Board of Selectmen, you can rest assured that your best interests will always be of priority to this candidate. Won't you join me in voting for John Dillon to serve us on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Janet Capello – Portland

You'll Foot the Bill

To the Editor:
When the Democrats, if elected to either the Town Council or Board of Finance, get through with their spending spree, with you, the property owner footing the bill, the only sign you will see is "For Sale." They will make East Hampton unaffordable for many more.

It is your choice. Vote for the spending spree to begin or fiscal constraint and responsibility. Vote Republican or the entire Row B for people committed to responsible, thoughtful spending.

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

The Price of Disagreement

To the Editor:
How often have Hebron selectmen beat the same old drum that no one volunteers to serve on town committees? Why are there currently 20 vacancies?

Recently, I applied as an alternate to the Hebron Historic Properties' Commission since after spending \$200,000+ the Peters House is peeling paint and has major structural problems.

I have served on the Commission twice before and have certain life experiences that are relevant to this position:

- Degree with Distinction, magna cum laude, focused on Connecticut Studies from UConn
- Masters+ 90 credits in education
- An apprenticeship in historical woodworking from Old Sturbridge Village
- Years of woodworking experience for New England museums
- Years of museum employment in research, education, and craftsman demonstrations
- Graduate-level instructor for a number of classes on the Value of Historic Preservation.

The result – Hebron's town manager and Board of Selectmen turned me down for the second time!

See Letters, page 8

Grateful for Her Dedication

To the Editor:
I have known Ally Nadeau-Schmeizl for the last three years through the board and the school system. She has served our board for a full term already and has a strong track record that her values and actions are always in the best interest of our children. When I think of Ally, I think of someone who is passionate, dedicated, highly intelligent with over 15 years of behavioral health experience, an individual of high values and well respected in our community.

Ally has been a part of BOE team and is running for a second term. She is part of the community in so many ways, whether it's the PTA, part of the curriculum team, AHM Board to name a few. We are grateful to Ally for her dedication, her time and for all she is doing for our community and our precious children. I know she will have the support of all of the parents in Hebron.

Vote 'yes' to Ally Nadeau-Schmeizl for a second term on the Hebron Board of Education!!!!

Diana Morales – Hebron

Emily Timreck for BAA

To the Editor:
It is essential to deliver fair and equitable assessments and appraisals for all Andover property owners.

Emily Timreck previously served on the Board of Assessment Appeals for three years. She has taken real estate courses, consulted with numerous town assessors, completed training for the BAA, and most importantly, has successfully contested the BAA's assessment of her real estate property. She has a bachelor's degree in computer science with a minor in math from CCSU.

Emily served on the Andover Publication Committee and Andover Beautification Committee. She has helped fundraise for the Friends of the Library, and Andover Senior Luncheons. She has volunteered her time to the Andover 175th Anniversary Committee, Hebron Fair Craft Building, East Hampton Art Association Hospitality, and Andover Lake Property Owners Association.

Our Board of Assessment Appeals will be well served by Emily's background, experience, and dedication. She believes "community service is both a duty and a responsibility to be undertaken with a serious commitment to work for the betterment of our community." Emily feels it is the responsibility of the BAA to show respect for all Andover residents and to carefully examine and consider all concerns brought before the BAA. Please vote for Emily Timreck on Nov. 7.

Gerard Cremé – Andover

Vote for Nastri

To the Editor:
Mike Nastri has been an excellent member of the Marlborough Board of Finance and in recent years has served as the BOF chairman. Mike's experience with our town's finances will be a valuable asset to Marlborough as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Marlborough will be facing a lot of challenges in coming years regarding expensive infrastructure projects, what with bridges, culverts, and roadways in need of repair. Other town facilities and buildings will also, need attention as they age. We need people on our Board of Selectmen who will carefully weigh the needs of our community, while managing expenses in a manner that minimizes the impact on our taxpayers.

On Nov. 7, please join me in supporting Mike Nastri for Marlborough's Board of Selectmen. His experience and thoughtful decision making will greatly benefit us all.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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

The Power of Music

To the Editor:
I'm a senior at Bacon Academy and through my years in the Colchester public school system, I was made into the person I am today through the programs the schools offer and all the opportunities they provide to kids. Widening their horizons and allowing them to grow and develop as people. One of the programs that was cut was the free instrument lessons. Now in order for a child to want to learn to play an instrument they have to pay in order to have access to that specialized education. As a musician myself music has always been a large part of my life, either as a way to express myself or just to have something to do in my spare time. I had benefited from being able to play the piano, a skill I still have to this day.

By making it pay to play, families who are not financially well off will not be able to put their kids through music education. If they have a child who decides one day they want to play the guitar, their parents will have to tell that kid no, because they can't afford it. It's a heart-breaking story, and I couldn't even begin to tell you what that would have done to me as a kid if my parents had to tell me I wouldn't be able to pursue my passion.

Sam Ringuette – Colchester

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*** Letters cont. from page 7**

While I personally find this amusing, there is a serious sinister side to this scenario. A Hebron town manager's email informed me on 9/19/2022 the way you have conducted yourself in your correspondence is not helping your cause or generating cooperation from myself or the elected officials of Hebron. Clearly advocating for the preservation of Hebron's historic heritage of African Americans, Indigenous people and Hebron's Jewish community with the State Historic Preservation Office is forbidden and subject to reprisals.

So why are there so many town committee vacancies? Indubitably, there's a lack of sycophants supporting their values! Could Hebron's BOS be promoting their own agenda and not that of the electorate? Is this systemic racism?

Readers beware – opposing Hebron's supercilious white men brings threats and reprisals. At least, I had the pleasure of furnishing the Peters House without BOS condemnation and no thank you note either!

John Baron – Hebron

Terrorist Organizations

To the Editor:

Palestine: Hamas; Lebanon: Hezbollah; Afghanistan & Sudan: Taliban; Iraq & Syria: ISIS; Yemen: Houthis and al-Qa'ida. www.cia.gov. All exploit religion for political purposes. All claim their religion is the superior religion and should rule over all others. All to divide the people. Donald Trump praised the Hezbollah and called the terrorists "very smart" on his Truth Social platform. He wants the same here and calls on his followers to commit acts of violence.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Vote for Alison Walck

To the Editor:

Alison Walck is just the right person to serve, once more, on East Hampton's Town Council. In her two terms on the council she made very measured common-sense decisions, and explained her opinions and actions straightforward.

Alison is not politically rigid, but firm where the town residents' best interests are concerned: there's no parroting a party line nor lecturing with vague values. Don't get me wrong: values are very important in politics, but they must be applied to reality, which is what Alison does and will continue to do.

Walck deserves our votes!

George Coshov – Middle Haddam

Meet the Democrats!

To the Editor:

Please come out and meet the Democratic candidates this Saturday, Oct. 21, from 4-6 p.m., at Concentric Brewing Company at 91 Main St. here in Portland.

Our candidates are looking forward to listening to your thoughts and concerns and answering any questions you have about our local elected boards.

**Thank you,
April Graves, Vice Chair
Portland Democratic Town Committee**

O'Donal a Great Choice

To the Editor:

There are a lot of fine people running for office in Colchester this year. But I wanted to focus your attention on one of them – Cliff O'Donal. He is running for the Board of Selectmen in town and he would be a great choice for your vote.

Cliff has had great success as the owner and president of a sizeable, multi-state business which is based right here in Colchester – Nutmeg Construction. While he has worked hard at his business, he has also given back much to the town at the same time. He has been a leader with the Colchester Lions, the Colchester Business Association and has served on the Zoning Board. He has also had four children graduate from Bacon. And Cliff also has the unique perspective of having been both a business owner and a union member.

I am writing this letter because Cliff is not a loud man who tries to become famous. So others have to tell the story of his good qualities; he is quiet and thoughtful and bright and friendly. He also has a great wife in Bev. Maybe that doesn't really matter for our purposes, but it shows Cliff makes good choices. And he will make great choices for all of us if we elect him as one of our new selectmen.

I hope Colchester people will join me in voting for Cliff O'Donal on Nov. 7.

Andrew Norton – Colchester

Person for Board of Education

To the Editor:

The November elections are fast approaching, and I (for one) am ready for a change. I'm especially ready to see a change in the Andover Board of Education. For far too long this board has supported bloated budgets with minimal transparency, budgets that hamstringing the needs of the town and alienate the trust of our citizens. It's time for a fresh perspective. It's time to elect members who are conservative, independent thinkers and who are not afraid to vote against the status quo; it's time for members who understand the educational needs of the children while also respecting the needs of the town and its seniors; it's time for members willing to look deep into the Andover Elementary School (AES) budget and to identify the areas of wasteful spending while committing to the quality education Andover is known for.

Kimberly Person is one such candidate with the courage needed to do this job. Kim consistently involves herself in the town meetings including BOE meetings and is well-versed in the intricacies of Andover's government. And, as a lifelong resident of our beloved community and parent whose children went through AES, Kim brings a unique perspective and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of AES, the children, the town, and its seniors.

With her commitment and dedication to fiscal responsibility and budgetary transparency, Kim will work tirelessly toward a budget that will not only serve the educational needs of children, but she'll do so while considering the needs of the town and while working to rebuild the trust of our valued citizens.

Liz Lokiec – Andover

Quality Man

To the Editor:

Now that we have Andreas Bisbikos as first selectman we want him to continue being first selectman. We never had a first selectman like him before. This quality man has made Colchester feel like a better town. We are so thankful to you, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, for uplifting our town. We want you to continue your meaningful work for Colchester. You are working for us. Thank you!

We want to reelect First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos on Nov. 7!

Pat Kelly – Colchester

Vote for Bernie and Democrats

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7, Row A – A vote for Bernie Denner for first selectmen and his Democratic team will bring Colchester back from chaos, dysfunction and disrespect to good governance. Your vote will restore respect, civility, unity, competency and bipartisanship to Colchester.

B - Best Choice
E - Experience
R - Restore Respect
N - Not the Other Guy
I - Ideas and Innovation
E - Expect Excellence

Sheila Horvitz – Colchester

Character Counts

To the Editor:

Jim Radavich is running for the East Hampton Board of Finance. He is a man with a strong moral compass and unwavering personal convictions. When Jim gives you his word you have something of value. These traits are hard to find today. He's the real deal!

Having a background in finance and having served on the Board of Education Jim will bring a wealth of knowledge, and experience to the Board of Finance.

I will be honored to work with Jim.
Please vote for Jim Radavich.
Vote line B.

Alannah Coshov – Middle Haddam

Hebron's More of the Same

To the Editor:

For all the talk of transparency and building confidence in Hebron, it appears that residents are being set up for more of the same closed door and closed-minded town government. In last week's article on the Oct. 5 Board of Selectmen meeting, Michael Sinkewicz reported a Public Works Action Committee will be formed; however, "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 town manager will distribute updates to the community." What exactly is meant by the "viability of constructing a new DPW facility"?

This is the same selectmen and Town Manager that repeatedly stated, "There is no Plan B" for a Public Works facility. Can they be trusted to act in good faith and create a plan to update the facility at Old Colchester Road? Will the Public Works Committee meetings be available directly to the residents on Zoom or hybrid? A project of this magnitude needs to be truly transparent, not filtered through select channels.

I am grateful for the efforts of selectman Tiffany Thiele, who stated last week that the community needs to have a "greater voice." This was reiterated in her Letter to the Editor where she wrote, "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... there is resistance to truly listening to what the town wants..."

It is vital that new elected officials support these efforts to change. On November 7th, please vote for John Matra and Claudia Riley for Board of Selectmen, and Frank Zitkus, Janet Fodaski and Davis Howell for Planning and Zoning.

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

You Win When Matra Wins

To the Editor:

Have you ever met someone and knew instantly that they are a good, decent person?

Have you ever spoken to someone about your expectations and hope for the town, your children, your ability to age-in-place in Hebron, taxes, and reasonable and transparent government and felt truly heard? If you have answered "yes" to these questions, then you have met John Matra.

John is running for the Hebron Board of Selectmen and has heard you, will continue to listen to you, and will govern in an open, responsible, and reasonable way. He will make you proud of the town's government again.

A vote for John Matra is a vote for you and your best possible future in Hebron.

Denise Rodosevich – Amston

Pleased to Live in East Hampton!

To the Editor:

Ray and I moved to East Hampton more than 50 years ago and are grateful that we made that decision. I became involved in the Democratic party and have supported many positive changes for East Hampton. Growing up, our family was a mix of parties and ideas and it gave me the insight to make the choices that I made.

My years of service on the Board of Finance and the Town Council have provided me with the opportunity to share my ideas and thoughts for the future of East Hampton.

The Democratic Town Committee is very grateful to have candidates with different ideas and backgrounds. This is a very positive opportunity for East Hampton voters. We have chosen a group of like people, with diverse ideas and made them a powerful group that can help make a difference in our daily lives in East Hampton. I have had that opportunity to sit and listen to them discuss ideas and thoughts about future years. They listen to each other... that quality is very important!

Our candidates for Town Council are working to-

gether to plan for positive changes and plan to include the public in those decisions. Their thought process is very inspiring and includes positive growth for our older community, working community and children!

Election Day is Nov. 7 at the East Hampton High School. This is an important opportunity and I urge you to take the time to vote! Please Vote Line A for a positive future!

**Barbara Moore, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee**

Hammond and Renner for BOE

To the Editor:

I plan to cast my vote this November for Angela Hammond and Karen Renner, both strong conservative women running for Portland's Board of Education. Both these candidates have open minds and listen with their hearts to citizens' concerns. Their only agenda is working hard, and moving the Portland schools in the right and decent direction that Portland parents choose for their children. They recognize the importance of safety and a solid infrastructure to keep every child safe, comfortable, and secure. In these trying times we need to have team players who work well together to make good, responsible decisions. I feel both Karen and Angela will do exactly that.

Join me in voting for the right candidates to advocate for Portland schools to be their best.

Joe Spada – Portland

Vote Arndt

To the Editor:

Everyone should support common sense members for the EH Board of Education. This is why I am voting for Augie Arndt. Augie is not a politician, he is a parent who tried to talk some sense into the Board of Finance this past budget season. Augie doesn't believe in the BOE as a political battleground. He's the parent and taxpayer that you want to represent you.

Please vote for Augie.

**Thank you,
Gregg Vaillancourt – East Hampton**

Consider Cunningham

To the Editor:

I worked on staff at the state capitol for 16 years. I met many different people there who were elected to office. In light of that I would like to enthusiastically support Deb Cunningham for town council in the Town of East Hampton. Deb is a rarity among those who would seek office. If you vote for her you can be sure that you, the voter, will be her top priority. We need her to help. Please consider voting for Deb Cunningham for Town Council!

Marian G. Krivda – Middle Haddam

Common Ground

Hi There Neighbor!

I am writing as a concerned citizen because with the upcoming elections, some people have apparently forgotten the fundamental rights we are all guaranteed under our Constitution: that is free speech, freedom of thought, and the right to vote for the candidates of our choice. Recent behaviors have not only attempted to suppress those rights, but have actually been illegal. Come on, folks! We are all neighbors and we have much in common, in particular, a love for our wonderful little town. Let's focus on what we have in common and respect each other's right to choose. That is what makes us American. In closing, a little poem I wrote.

Common Ground

In making choices
We create connections.
Build neighborly bridges
With warm words spoken.
Nurture new networks
Through time well taken.
Reinforce foundations
A smile can strengthen.

Mary Rose – Hebron

Choosing Cunningham

To the Editor:

I support Deborah Cunningham for the East Hampton Town Council. I have known her for several years and she has been a voice of reason in East Hampton politics. She considers every issue carefully and consistently looks for new ways to solve problems and new ways to address the needs of the town while considering all populations of the town – students, public protection, government services and taxpayers. I have been impressed with some of her ideas to improve how we deliver services to the citizens of East Hampton. She is also a breath of fresh air where she is perpetually professional in her demeanor. During a tough budget season, she remained dignified as a member of the Board of Finance.

I encourage all to vote for her on Nov. 7.

Erika Bonaccorso – East Hampton

Supports Ockman, Thibeault

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge my fellow residents to vote for Adam Ockman and Brian Thibeault for the Board of Finance in Hebron in the upcoming election on Nov. 7.

Brian has had a professional career in finance with an emphasis on detail and data and fiscal responsibility. His skills will help the Board of Finance respond to the varying needs of our town's citizens regardless of their financial or family situation. As a parent of a child at Hebron El and one at RHAM, Brian understands the pressures the town is under and the need to be responsive to all Hebron's residents.

Adam has over 20 years of financial experience and he is running to preserve the investments we make in the safety of our residents, in the quality of life in the town, and in the education of the next generation so that they can compete in the global workplace. Learn more about both at www.hebrondems.com

It is only a few weeks to go and I ask you to vote for Adam Ockman and Brian Thibeault for the Board of Finance in Hebron in the upcoming election on Nov. 7.

Please vote only the Democrat Row A on November's ballot to make Hebron an even better place to live.

**Sincerely,
David Rose – Hebron
Member, Hebron Democratic Town Committee
Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals**

East Hampton Resources

To the Editor:

I am running for the East Hampton Town Council to help move our town forward for our residents and their children. My priorities include an outstanding educational system investing in our children and the resources to provide their education. Their future and the town's future go hand in hand. My career was enabled by education and I passed that knowledge to my children.

As a member of the Lake Commission, I have been working to provide a clean lake for our residents. These efforts are beginning to make a difference and we can be proud of a healthier lake.

Our volunteer organizations, including the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, deserve our support and encouragement. These first responders are valued residents who give support to those in need – "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

I support the Clean Energy Task Force. They volunteer their time to identify ways to improve our residents' home insulation, heating and cooling systems.

These efforts need to be continued and expanded. I look forward to talking with residents and to hearing their ideas and concerns.

**Sincerely,
Jack Solomon – East Hampton
Democratic Candidate for Town Council**

Vote for Michael Beaulieu!

To the Editor:

I would like to endorse Michael Beaulieu for the RHAM Board of Education. Michael has lived in Hebron for over 27 years and has two children who have attended RHAM. He knows the town and our educational system well.

Today we see that schools across America are facing challenges on several fronts: from social to financial issues. In our town the lion's share of our budget goes toward education and we need people to make pragmatic decisions with an eye on parent empowerment and fiscal responsibility.

Michael is the candidate that will do just that! He has a BS in finance from Central Connecticut State University and works as a compliance manager for a large financial services firm. He has experience that will be valuable when consideration is being given to complex regulatory and financial issues that will come before the RHAM board.

I am confident that he will be an excellent member of the RHAM Board of Education so please vote for Mike Beaulieu on Nov. 7th!

June Danaher – Hebron

Term Limits

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter in support of First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos' proposal for term limits. The main reason can be summed up in a single word: complacency.

Career politicians are a major obstacle to progress in government at the local, state and federal levels.

In this era of political entrenchment, these perennial candidates measure their terms not in years, but in decades, and even in half-centuries. They have joined death and taxes as the only certainties in life.

One remedy for this stagnant situation would be the establishment of term limits.

In our community and elsewhere, term limits would enable citizens to thank office holders for their service and bid them farewell in a timely way.

I wholeheartedly support the Bisbikos plan for term limits in Colchester.

**Sincerely,
Rich Tanner – Colchester**

Thank You, Oakley and Wick

To the Editor:

Nancy Oakley and Martha Wick will end their tenures on the Board of Education at Monday's meeting, as neither are seeking reelection. Both have been committed to serving the district and will continue to be celebrated for their hard work as community volunteers. Nancy and Martha are role models for the progress that is made when residents can collaborate for the betterment of East Hampton, regardless of political affiliation.

Martha: thank you for your friendship, and for being a cheerleader for your fellow Board colleagues. Nancy: your poise and dedication will always be inspiring. Thank you for being a true mentor. It has been an honor to be seated alongside you.

Christina Tammaro-Dzagan – East Hampton

Note: Tammaro-Dzagan is chairperson of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Bipartisanship Works

To Andover Town Residents:

Several years ago I was asked to represent the Republican Party on the Andover Board of Assessment Appeals. One of the board members also newly appointed was Linda Armstrong, a Democrat whom I had never met previously. We both took the offered training and found that we both were interested in fairness for our fellow residents. We applied what we learned and feel that we stayed true to being impartial as we heard cases.

We are both up for reelection and we would like to endorse each other, as we respect each other and the process. Please take the time to vote in the upcoming election. Bipartisanship works, and involvement is critical to our democracy.

**Alan Roy with Linda Armstrong
Andover**

Reelect Roy

To the Editor:

I am writing today in support of the reelection of Mr. Alan Roy to the Board of Assessment Appeals in Andover.

Mr. Roy has lived in Andover for 18 years. He has served one term by special appointment on the Board of Assessment Appeals. It is now his desire to continue in this position to assist the town and its residents. He provides a unique perspective on the value of the Board of Assessment Appeals and it's importance to the residents of Andover. The purpose of this board is to provide a checks and balance to avoid unreasonable tax burdens.

Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester



On Saturday, the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees kicked off its multimillion-dollar campaign to restore and renovate Old Bacon Academy. Sen. Richard Blumenthal even stopped by! Pictured from left are, back row, Don Levine, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan, Cathy Marvin, Arthur Liverant, Blumenthal, Tom Desureault, Andrew Norton and Ron Goldstein; front row, Brian Smith, Phyllis Moroch, Dolores Sawchuk and Jean Kubit.

Old Bacon Kicks Off Campaign

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Andrew Norton, chairman of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, kicked off a day of informational sessions and tours of Old Bacon Academy on Main Street. He also announced the launch of a multimillion-dollar campaign to restore and renovate the building to bring it up to code to make it useful once again as an educational facility anchoring the Town Green.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) joined the celebration and said that he, along with all Colchester residents, values the historic monument to higher education. He said he will work with the Trustees to further the endeavor to raise funds to restore the building, and will also assist in any way he can to get National Historic Landmark status for the building that was constructed in 1803 and is one of the oldest contin-

Dean's List

The following Colchester residents made the summer 2023 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford:

Caroline Banning, Amanda Boulay, Marie Cahill, Anne Pederzani, Ashley Varjenski and Amanda West.

uously-operating public schools in the nation.

The Trustees have announced that Dolores Sawchuk will be the honorary chairman of the Capital Campaign and over the next few months the community will learn more about the effort and how funds will be used to help the building, inspired by Pierpont Bacon, continue to enhance educational opportunities in the town he called home.

The event this past weekend, which coincided with Colchester's 325th Birthday celebrations, included a presentation by historical architect Marilyn Ackerman, who has done extensive research on the building and suspects there are many historically important links to architecture of the time, to include links to the U.S. Capitol. Ackerman has also produced plans for how the building can be restored in a historically appropriate manner, but also be modernized to provide the town with a symbol of the importance of education in Colchester.

Anyone interested in supporting the effort either through a monetary donation or to volunteer for upcoming special event fundraisers can contact Cathy Marvin at info@baconacademy-trustees.org P.O. Box 67, Colchester, CT 06415.

Community Conversation with Dennler

Colchester residents are invited to join first selectman candidate Bernie Dennler for a Community Conversation/Meet-and-Greet Thursday, Oct. 26, starting at 7 p.m., at Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill, at 232 New London Rd.

This is a chance to meet Dennler, ask questions, and share your ideas or concerns about

the future of Colchester.

All are welcome. Residents can also contact Dennler at bernie@bernieforcolchester.com or at [Facebook.com/BernieForColchester](https://www.facebook.com/BernieForColchester) for information on future events and other community conversations at local businesses.

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-

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.

Aid and Support After Pregnancy

Knights of Columbus Spellman Council 6107 is holding the initiative Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) through Oct. 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,

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.

'Barns of Colchester'

As part of Colchester's 325th birthday celebration, local fine artist Julianna W. Cameron has created a commemorative calendar entitled "Barns of Colchester." The original artwork is on exhibit at Cragin Memorial Library through Nov. 30, with a reception Oct. 21 from 1-3:30 p.m. in the Norton Room.

Cameron is a lifelong resident of Colchester and the third generation to live on Wasniewski

family Centennial Farm. "The simple, yet interesting and functional architecture of barns has always fascinated me," the artist said. And, Colchester's agricultural heritage provided her with many barns to choose from.

Cameron said her goal is to promote our local farms and farmers as they have supported the community. She thanked the Colchester Lions Club, which supported this project with a "Night of Giving" grant. The calendars are available to purchase at the Colchester Parks and Recreation office in Town Hall, and at Cragin Memorial Library.

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.

Senior Center Trip to Botanical Gardens

Colchester Senior Center is offering a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens on Thursday, Dec. 7, to see the Holiday Train Show.

Bus departs 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.



Snowflake Bazaar
 Saturday, Nov. 4th
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Markham Meadows Cpgd
 Sponsored by Westchester Congregational Church

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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 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.

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.

Wednesday: Hebrew, 2:30 p.m., Jewish Literacy, 3:30 p.m.

Shabbat Schedule: Friday at 6:30 p.m., in-person 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.

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.

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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.

Absentee Ballots Available for Election

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 municipal election will be available in the town clerk's office 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 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 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. 23: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, CoA Presents Tips to Avoid Storms; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, Oct. 24: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 11 a.m., Lunch & Learn: Senior Bullying; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 12:30 p.m., In the Know with Patty; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting (via Zoom).

Wednesday, Oct. 25: 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; 1-2 p.m., AARP Smart Driving Tek; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming I; 2 p.m.,

Cardio Drumming II.

Thursday, Oct. 26: 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, Pumpkin Centerpiece Craft.

Friday, Oct. 27: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit Video, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga, Lunch Bunch; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., Ham Radio.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 Sun-

down 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.

Yoga, Mindful Tools and More: Tuesdays, Nov. 28-Dec. 19, or Wednesdays, Nov. 29-Dec. 20, afterschool at Colchester Elementary. This class will have children making, using and taking home tools to help support yoga and mindful practices. The class is for children enrolled at 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 pick up their child at 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$55. There is a maximum of eight students allowed.

Holiday Homecoming: Saturday, Dec. 2. Santa will arrive on the decorated firetruck and will visit with every child. Enjoy hot cocoa, hot cider and cookies. Pick up your annual Colchester holiday ornament. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for the police "Stuff a Cruiser." Bring your letter to Santa to mail in the special mailbox-make sure your child's name, address and age are clearly written on the letter. Every child will receive a letter in return from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Attend the Colchester Choir and Orchestra performance at the Colchester Federated Church at 6:30 p.m.

Gingerbread House Decorating Competition: Drop your gingerbread house off at the Recreation Department at Town Hall from Dec. 1-5. The houses will be displayed through December. All visitors will be encouraged to vote for their favorite gingerbread house. Each house will be awarded a superlative. Families and friends are encouraged to work together to submit creative entries.

Holiday Home and Business Decorating Contest: Register your home or business by Nov. 30 and decorate it by Dec. 5. Print your free map and view all of the decorated sites; maps will be available online or on the Parks and Rec. Facebook page. Vote for your favorite home and business decorations on Facebook from Dec. 5-31.



The Colchester Cougars Seniors topped RHAM 37-0 last weekend, to continue their undefeated season. Supporting them all the way were the members of the Senior Cheer Squad, pictured here.

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads took on the RHAM Rams last weekend. Here is how they fared:

Seniors: Won 37-0, to give them a 7-0 record for the season. The Cougars jumped out to a quick 24-0 lead in the first quarter thanks to touchdowns by Noah Garvie, Dominic Helm and a blocked punt return by Mason Howard. Noah Garvie added one more score late in the second quarter and Adam Bigelow got his first touchdown of the season in the second half. The defense featured strong tackles from James Wissler, Sam Collazo, Xaden Medina and Malik Jacques-Morales.

Juniors: Lost against rival RHAM. The offense was led by Keegan King and Tristan Cote. The defense was led by Blake Allard and Jack Wissler. The team will look to bounce back strong and grab a victory against Griswold to finish out the season.

Micros: Won RHAM, 34-6. Offense, defense and special teams were all pretty well executed by the starters and backups. The players didn't go penalty-free but made it more difficult to find reasons to flag them. They also answered almost every penalty immediately with another big play.

Pee-Wee: Colchester had numerous offensive alignments and personnel but struggled to move the ball effectively. Offensively, the longest play of the day came from Lucas Nunez Melendez as he knifed through a few tackles to gain eight yards. Braden MacFarland was all over the field defensively. MacFarland stopped a long run at the one, which produced a fumble on the next play that was pounced on by Asher Titterington. Shortly thereafter he picked up a loose ball and took it 80 yards for the only score of the day. The squad will close out their season against Griswold this weekend.



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Candidates Spar Again at Heated Forum

By Michael Sinkewicz

For the second time this campaign season, the candidates for Colchester first selectman publicly exchanged their visions for the town's future — clashing on several issues, including the community's ongoing senior center project, book-banning and political partisanship.

The Colchester AARP's annual candidates' forum, hosted Tuesday afternoon at the senior center, represented a significant opportunity for candidates on both the Republican and Democrat slates to pitch themselves to an important voting bloc, with Election Day now less than one month away.

For over an hour, the panel answered questions from the audience, predominately comprised of senior citizens. Not surprisingly, most of the questions were directed toward incumbent first selectman, Republican Andreas Bisbikos, and his Democratic challenger, Bernie Dennler.

While the majority of the forum remained largely civil, it saw an abrupt ending following a heated exchange between the two first selectman candidates, causing the chapter's president, former Democratic first selectman Mary Bylone — who lost her own reelection bid in 2021 to Bisbikos — to shut down the event.

"This is getting out of hand," Bylone said. The question that spawned the intense back and forth inquired how each candidate's leadership style would chill the severe partisanship in the community.

Bisbikos asserted that he didn't believe the town was divided and that difficult moments naturally arise in government.

"Have the meetings gotten a little contentious? A little bit. But that is part of the process unfortunately," he said, adding that it's important to focus on the outcome. "We are getting things done and the town is moving towards the future. Just drive around town and you'll see that our community is far better off than it was two years ago."

In response, Dennler, who currently works as the office manager to the Lebanon first selectman and who previously served as vice chair of both the Colchester Board of Finance and the Economic Development Commission, stated that the level of division in town has resulted in dysfunction, making it strenuous to get tasks done.

"We have seen Board of Selectmen meetings, Board of Finance meetings that have gone completely off the rails," he said. "The subject matters that were supposed to be dealt with never even made it because police get called; it ends in chaos, it ends up with headlines in the newspaper that embarrass Colchester in the region and statewide."

Dennler said the first selectman has a responsibility to bring officials and the public together.

"I will not as first selectman poke and prod at the other members of my board in order to get a reaction," Dennler said. "We have seen that over and over again, and that has been so destructive to the process over the past couple years."

Bisbikos then took the opportunity to denounce a Democrat on the finance board, who he said "verbally assaulted" the town's finance director and threatened another selectman.

"When you are turning a blind eye to the toxic behavior to members of your own party, that's not leadership," the first selectman stated.

As he pivoted to items of alleged corruption being ignored by Democrats, the event moderator, John Malsbenden, interjected, "let's not go there." The dialog, he suggested, was not pertinent to the resident's question — which had to do with cooling partisanship in the town.

Bisbikos continued, arguing that "transparency isn't always pretty and sometimes it's important that the information comes out."

"I will always do what's right for our community and I will always hold our morals high. I will hold people accountable, like Rosemary Coyle's husband, when something wrong is done."

The comment referred to Stephen Coyle, the former chairman of the Sewer and Water Commission and husband of Democratic Selectman Rosemary Coyle, who was formally removed from his position in June following a 2-1 vote by the selectmen.

Bisbikos' remark generated substantial outcry in the room, including calls to "sit down."

Dennler seized the microphone and declared, "This is what we have to stop."

"He calls it transparency sometimes but often what he says is him being transparent is him lying about people in this room, people who have served the town, people who have had their reputations and livelihoods potentially destroyed in the name of politics," Dennler said. "Look at the mail he sent yesterday. Look at the lies on it and tell me that you think that that's good for Colchester — it is not; it is wrong. And we together have got to put a stop to this."

The Bisbikos campaign had released a mailer this week with several assertions about Dennler. "Unfortunately, Bernie, everything on that mailer is true," Bisbikos said.

After the forum, Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that he didn't feel the event escalated at all. The moderators, he stated, didn't like his comments referencing Stephen Coyle.

"It is factual that [Coyle] was removed for things that he did that were inappropriate," he said. "They didn't like me bringing attention to this matter and they ended the forum abruptly as a form of silence."

Following the forum, Dennler expressed that nothing that took place surprised him. The sequence, he said, aligned with what typically happens at selectmen meetings.

"Things actually start off sometimes pretty well, pretty civil," he said. "People are able to have constructive conversations, disagreements and then somewhere along the way it just goes off the rails."

Regarding the personal tone of the campaign, Dennler said, "I'm not surprised; it's why I'm running."

The Senior Center Project

Many of the questions understandably related to the town's senior center project.

A referendum is slated for next month on whether to approve additional funding for the new senior center, which currently faces a significant budget shortfall. Without the supplementary appropriation, substantial portions of the facility would be incomplete and the build-

ing likely wouldn't receive a certificate of occupancy, according to the head of the Senior Center Building Committee, Tony Tarnowski.

A town meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 14, with a referendum marked for Tuesday, Nov. 28; both dates are after the upcoming municipal election.

In 2021, Colchester residents approved at referendum the spending of up to \$9.5 million for the project, but escalating costs quickly revealed that more money would be necessary to finish the building as designed.

At next month's referendum, voters will be faced with two questions. Question 1 will ask for permission to use \$32,691 of American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] funds and \$575,000 of funds from a donation received from the estate of Stephen J. Bendas. Question 2 will ask if the town should spend "an additional sum not to exceed \$892,309" to finish the project.

If both questions are approved — meaning that \$607,691 was acquired (through question 1) and \$892,309 was acquired (through question 2) — the total budget would reach the building committee's target of \$11,000,000. In addition, the town acquired a \$2.5 million state grant that will further bring down the total cost of the project for a total bonding amount of \$8.5 million, with \$7.89 million coming from taxpayers.

Tarnowski has stated that both questions need to be approved in order for the building to be fully completed — if only the first question passed, "There'd be quite a bit left on the table," he said.

During this week's forum, Dennler criticized the timing of the referendum.

"There is not a realistic path to getting the building to a certificate of occupancy if these referendum questions failed," he contended. "I believe this referendum should've happened back in January. I'm disappointed that it didn't but it's time to stop delaying."

In defending the timeline, Bisbikos stated that going to referendum in the winter would've been "convoluted," especially with the municipal and school budget process ongoing. The project, he asserted, could've been put at "significant risk."

While all the candidates said they'd vote 'yes' on the referendum questions, Taras Rudko — the chairman of the Republican Town Committee who is seeking election to the Board of Selectmen — offered a distinct assessment of the project.

In December, Rudko and selectman Jason LaChapelle sought an injunction that ultimately landed the town in court.

New London Superior Court Judge Karen Goodrow denied the injunction request, allowing the town to enter into a construction contract with BRD Builders LLC, the apparent low bidder for the project. She stated that budget estimates placed the total project cost somewhere between \$10.2-10.8 million, which would be over the agreed to amount established at the original referendum; an additional referendum would be required to expend those estimated amounts.

Now, with ground already broken on the building, there's no alternative but to vote in favor of the additional funding, Rudko said Tuesday.

"What are we going to do, leave it at 90%, uncompleted?" Rudko quipped. "At this point in time, we don't have a choice but to vote 'yes.'"

He added, "The fact of the matter is, there was

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 Jacker Intermediate School.

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.redcross-blood.org to make an appointment. Walk-ins can also be accommodated.

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

fraud in selling that to the people and that's the part I disagree with. When we say \$9.5 [million], and we knew day one, which came out in court, that it was going to be \$11 million, that's fraud."

Rudko also said that while officials tout the reduced price tag of the building — since the grant, ARPA funds and Bendas Estate reduce the bonding amount below the originally expected \$9.5 million — the funding was still coming from tax dollars, which could've been more appropriately distributed to the community. He defended the lawsuit, which cost both himself and the town legal expenses.

"It's called accountability" he said. "It's putting your money and my money where my mouth is."

He argued that the town could've negotiated and avoided going to court, but chose not to pursue that option.

Rosemary Coyle — who is seeking reelection — also criticized the delay in setting a referendum date.

"The decisions that were made are the reasons why we're here know and the reason why we're not going to referendum until Nov. 28."

She assured the crowd that this additional appropriation would be the last; the town would not seek even more money at a later date.

"I don't see that," she said, adding that the building committee "will not come back for more money because they know that this is what the town expects from them."

Book Banning

Bisbikos was asked for his criteria on how and when it was appropriate to ban a book.

In June of 2022, Bisbikos asked for a biography of the well-known drag queen and TV host RuPaul Andre Charles, which was part of a Pride Month display in the children's section at Cragin Memorial Library, to be removed from circulation following a complaint of "graphic depictions of women" on one of the book's pages.

He also instructed Library Director Kate Byroade to conduct an inventory of all the children's department books in the library — approximately 26,000 books — and check all the images in them; the request was later rescinded by the selectmen.

"I don't believe in banning books," the first selectman said at the forum. "I believe that our books should be in the age-appropriate section for our young children. Sexualized books should not be in the little kids' section of the library, period."

He added that "while my opponent may think that's okay, I don't think it is at all."

In the mailer sent out to residents, Bisbikos included a bullet point that said Dennler "supports sexualized books in the little children's section of the library."

"That is deeply offensive, one. And two, not accurate," Dennler said. "It is up to librarians, library directors, people who are experts in this subject matter to make that decision — not politicians who want to make waves and make news because they're trying to pull themselves up. It's just wrong. I don't support it and I'm really appalled that we continue to go there."

Dennler told the *Rivereast* that Bisbikos' intention with the library book was evident.

"I think it's pretty clear that this is a dog whistle that he was using then, a dog whistle he's using in this campaign," he said, adding that the mailer was transparent. "I think it's proof that he hasn't learned his lesson. If the community members who spoke out 18 months ago when this issue came up felt that they were able to correct him and stop his worst impulses on this issue, look at what he's saying now, look at the mailers that he's sending."

He added, "This guy is signaling that he will double down on this in the future if we embolden him with a second term."

Pie, Cookie Dough Fundraiser

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild of Colchester is sponsoring a Lyman Orchard pie and cookie dough fundraiser to support the guild's annual high school and college scholarships.

Order forms are available at the church or you may order online via tinyurl.com/4vcpf8sj.

Completed order forms and payment can be mailed to St. Andrew Church in Colchester or dropped off at the rectory. Cash accepted; checks made to Guardian Angels Parish.

Pickup will be Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9-11 a.m., at St. Andrew Church parish hall, 128 Norwich Ave.

For more information, call Kathleen at 860-917-7616.



Ribbon-Cutting at Priam... Priam Vineyards' new owners, Ryan Winiarski and Meredith Lanoue, are celebrating with a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Oct. 26, at 5 p.m. The vineyard is located at 11 Shailor Hill Rd. and is one of the newest members of Colchester Business Association. The vineyard was first established in 1998 and includes a 40-acre farm certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a natural bird and wildlife habitat.

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New PHS Track is on Schedule

By John Leavenworth

Construction of the new track at Portland High School is continuing right on schedule.

The latest development, a rubber coating for the loop, was applied to the concrete foundation this past Wednesday, according to First Selectman Ryan Curley.

This past Tuesday, a subcontractor for the build, ATT Sports Inc. out of New Jersey, completed an 11-millimeter rubber base coat on the shot put and high jump areas of the track, before applying the same 11mm coat to the main track on Wednesday, according to Facilities Director and Portland Fire Chief Bob Shea.

The main contractor for the build is Classic Turf out of Woodbury.

According to Shea, the rubber base is “recycled SBR rubber,” that’s been “processed and chopped [to a] 1.3mm size.”

On Wednesday, he told the *Rivereast* the first

layer would take around “a week and a half” to fully cure and dry after being applied, weather permitting.

He said the 2mm top coat, which will be the surface athletes compete on, is a “red polyurethane granular mix,” which is sprayed onto the 11mm base.

If weather permits, the second layer will take three days to cure, he said.

“When that’s done, they’ll inspect [and] test the quality” of both coats, he said.

In addition to the main loop, crews have also applied a rubber base to the pole jump and long jump areas on the outside of the track.

In a past interview with the *Rivereast*, the facilities director said the cement base of the track employs a state-of-the-art “post tension” system.

He said the system involves a “human ten-

don-like” web of tensioned steel wires that, when fed through the concrete foundation, increases the “compressive tensile strength” of the track, allowing the surface to “float” above any water that would otherwise cause problems.

In addition to the new surface of the ring, crews also installed new chain link fences around the site, as well as new metal bleachers.

The total cost for the track was \$1,362,000, with \$500,736 of that coming from a state grant, First Selectman Ryan Curley told the *Rivereast*

previously. The town contributed the remaining \$861,264.

Shea said once the rubber surfaces are set, ATT Sports will be responsible for painting start, stop and lane markers on the track.

He said the paint will be a “polyurethane mix.”

The director said he expects Portland athletes will be able to use the track by the first or second week of November, if the weather is good.

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots

The municipal election will be held Nov. 7. Voting will run from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Portland Middle School, located at 93 High St.

Absentee ballots are available from the Portland town clerk’s office, by calling the office at 860-342-6743, or by visiting www.portlandct.org/voting-info for online application options.

The last day to register to vote will be Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Portland registrar of voters’ office, located at Portland

Town Hall. The registrar of voters will additionally be holding a limited registration session in their office on Monday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., for those who have moved into town, become citizens, or turned 18 after Oct. 31.

Election Day registration will be available at the polls, for those needing to register. Once registered, people will be able to vote in the election.

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.

Foodshare: Monday, Oct. 23, 1 p.m.

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.; Set-back, 1 p.m.; Dulcimer class, 6 p.m. – to register, contact Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761; **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.

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.

Police News

10/11: Robert Carlson, 41, of Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and second-degree threatening, Portland Police 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 Port-

land 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.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following events. Registration required for all programs unless noted. To register and for full program descriptions, visit or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional.

Community ‘Craft and Conversation’ Sessions: 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 ages 11 and up. Space is limited. Can’t make it? Share your thoughts through the survey online, at tinyurl.com/4zdbp2cd.

LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups: Teens 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 Wednesday of the month, with a parent and caregiver support group running concurrently in another room at the library. For more information, contact Jenn Renk at 860-342-6770.

Spooky Science: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Oct. 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: A History of Huskies Hoops: Legacy of Greatness: Monday, Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m. Celebrate UConn basketball with sportswriter and author Marty Gitlin.

Book Clubs: 1st Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, Nov. 2, 6:30 p.m. *The Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott will be discussed; **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m. *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed; **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m. *Two Nights in Lisbon* by Chris Pavone will be discussed.

Coffee Tastings & Food Pairings: Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6:45 p.m. Try different types of coffee.

Knifty Knitters: Saturdays 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Knitters (and Crocheters) of Portland are open to all adults, regardless of 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.

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.

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.

Halloween Extravaganza
Portland’s Tony Rome and the Peacemakers 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.

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 pghs.project.grad.2024@gmail.com for an application. Deadline to sign up is Saturday, Nov. 11.

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Andover Honors Dedicated Veteran

By Michael Sinkewicz

Andover honored one of its former residents who has been a leading advocate for veterans in the community and who spearheaded the effort to establish an Agent Orange Memorial at the town's Veterans Memorial Park.

Gerry Wright, a Vietnam War veteran, whose life has been impacted by Agent Orange — a chemical compound that was sprayed constantly during the war — was integral in raising money and constructing the memorial in 2021, which has become a beacon of the town. He also sold bricks honoring local veterans, whose names were inscribed on them and placed on a new walkway in the park.

Now, to honor Wright, the town has installed a bench overlooking the park with a plaque dedicated to his legacy. It reads in part, "For his advocacy of veterans rights and his contribution to Veterans Memorial Park."

Wright was also a driving force in getting a portion of Connecticut Route 316 from the intersection of U.S. Route 6 to Monument Lane — near the park — designated "Agent Orange Memorial Highway."

"I was very humbled," Wright, who moved to Tennessee last year, told the *RiverEast*. "I can't believe they did that."

The initiative was led by selectman Jeffrey Murray, who felt that Wright needed to be honored for his unmatched efforts.

"He deserves to be recognized," he said. "His generosity, his commitment to veterans — it was an insurmountable amount of work and he was able to pull it off."

Murray discovered a veteran in Windsor who restores park benches and donates them to fellow veterans and police officers injured in the line of duty. He reached out the man, Ed Cutler, an Army veteran, who agreed to refurbish and provide the bench, which Murray then picked up and installed himself.

Cutler estimated that he's completed roughly 250 benches over a 10-year period. At 83 years old, he enjoys working in his garage, which has transformed into a workshop, and expanding his "Benches for Heroes" initiative.

"When somebody comes to me, I do my best," he said during a phone call.

He remembered embarking on Wright's

bench over the summer, although the details of each unique story often blur together.

"It was for a veteran," he expressed. "That's all I needed to know."

And he doesn't plan on slowing down — the mission remains important to him and to the lives he impacts.

"I get a boost out of it," he explained. "And the veteran feels that he's not forgotten and is appreciated."

Wright remains active in veterans' affairs in his new community, but still holds a special bond with Andover. Besides his own brick, his two brothers are represented in the walkway along with his grandfather, mom and dad.

He remembered going in front of the Board of Selectmen and asserting his interest in the memorial project — the park was in poor shape at the time, he said.

"I'd like to have at it," he recalled saying. "I knew what it needed to look like and it came out beautifully."

The town dug up the area to install irrigation and electricity, which keeps the area in pristine condition. In 2022, the park was included on the Tour of Honor, where veterans ride motorcycles across the country to visit memorials and monuments.

At night, the park looks particularly stunning, Wright said. He's encountered individuals who have expressed gratitude for the brick path; one person pointed out his father's brick. Those interactions, he shared, "makes everything worthwhile."

As he reflected, emotions naturally came back up. The park, he said, could mean different things for each person and veteran.

"It can be a place for mourning, of solitude, of remembrance," he said. "It's heartbreaking sometimes."

He added, "It's a place to go to reflect." The bench will now be a perfect spot for just that.

And after the highway was renamed, Wright felt further vindication. His message to those trying to make a difference: "don't take no for an answer."

Wright thanked Town Clerk Carol Lee for her assistance with the project, as well, along with

town officials who provided all the resources to help bring it to fruition. Rep. Joe Courtney (D-2) was also instrumental, he said.

"I'm so proud of it," Wright said. Murray explained that the town is trying to highlight its most dedicated residents. The new "Andover's Finest" initiative recognizes those who make an effort to help their community.

"We have so many people in town who did things who don't get recognized," he said. "There's an incredible amount of people committed to the community."

Wright was a special case.

"He's gone above and beyond," Murray said.

According to the National Library of Medicine, from 1961 to 1971, during the Vietnam

War, Agent Orange was sprayed in substantial quantities across Vietnam and neighboring countries. Following studies looking at potential links between Agent Orange and developmental disorders, the chemical herbicide was discontinued in 1970.

At least 11 million gallons of Agent Orange was sprayed during the conflict, according to the library. The exact number of U.S. servicemen and women exposed to all herbicides during the war is unknown. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes over a dozen diseases likely linked to exposure.

Wright has never met Cutler, but said he hopes to do so soon. He said he wants to thank Cutler for what he has done.

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 in-

involved in making replicas of the four badly deteriorated 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.

Tag Sale to Benefit Senior Lunch Program

Andover seniors are hosting a tag and vendor sale on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School gym, to raise money for their senior luncheon programs.

There will be a variety of vendors and many tag items to choose from. For more information, call Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

Craft Vendors Sought for Fair

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, is looking for craft vendors for its annual Christmas Fair, coming up Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A table and two chairs are included for \$20.

There is only space for six, so people should reserve a spot early if they're interested. Call the church at 860-742-7696 or email andoverctchurch@gmail.com to request an application.

Veterans Day Tea

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Veterans Day Tea Saturday, Nov. 11, from 1-3 p.m.

The event will include an assortment of teas, a basket raffle and homemade treats. Admission is \$10, and reservations are required. Leave a message at the church office, 860-742-7696, to reserve seats.

History Museum Open Saturday

The Andover Historical Society will open its Museum of Andover History Saturday, Sept. 21, from 4-6 p.m. New items are continuously being added to the display.

The museum is located in the Old Town Hall on Monument Lane.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, Oct. 27, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

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.

Funky Monkey Artisan Fair

Over And Over Barntique and Scott's Tree Farm, owned by the Fitch Family Farm, are hosting their fourth Funky Monkey Artisan Fair on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Andover. Parking is at 11 Bunker Hill Rd.

There will be over 25 amazing local artisans representing the best of their craft, from jewelry to furniture, glass-art, salvage finds, rustic barn treasures, woodworking, pottery, candles, mixed media, wall art, resin crafts, embroidery, wearable art, repurposed fabric goods, handbags and more: There will be two food trucks — Skyscraper Sandwiches and Square Peg Pizza — and Alta May Cookies.

This event also celebrates the seventh anniversary of Over AndOver who is also raising

funds for JDRE, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. View all the gift baskets filled with items donated by the participating vendors to raise funds for the cause. Donations can also be made on the JDRE page located on www.ove-randoverct.com; just click on JDRE.

Vendors stretch from Scott's Tree farm to Over AndOver. Walk the path or take the golf cart shuttle sponsored by My-Tech Plumbing & Heating to connect up or down for more vendors and food trucks. View the full vendor map on www.overandoverct.com.

The show will go on in light rain. Heavy rain date is Sunday, Oct. 22; follow [@overandoverct](https://www.instagram.com/overandoverct) on Instagram or Facebook for updates or call 860-306-3858.

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, andoverct.org.

Shopping: Tuesdays. Willimantic — Oct. 24; Manchester — Oct. 31.

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

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.

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday school is provided.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to

the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesday, also from 9-9:30 a.m.

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

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

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.

Youth Basketball Starts Next Week

The Andover Youth basketball practice will start Monday, Oct. 23. The schedule is:

Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m., fifth- and sixth-grade boys; Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., third- and fourth-grade girls; Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., fifth- and sixth-grade girls; Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m., third- and fourth-grade boys; Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., fifth- and sixth-grade boys.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 hfp.org/Andovercf. Project applications or grant proposals will be accepted until Nov. 10.

Veterans to Meet Saturday

The next Andover Veterans meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 21, from 1-3 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. All veterans and currently servicing military members are welcome.

For more information, call veterans representatives Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481.

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 Brantford 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.

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Finance Board Approves Funds for BOE Deficit

By London Brazal

The Board of Finance Monday unanimously approved using funds to shore up the Board of Education's budget deficit.

After calculating final transactions, the Board of Education (BOE) concluded a budget deficit of \$330,000 for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The overspending was mostly caused by special education outplacements including tuition and transportation. Though, other reasons for the deficit are linked to the increase of interventionists who work one-on-one with students, long-term substitutes, and a reduction in Title I benefits which provides financial assistance to low-income families.

Superintendent Paul Smith noted that in the budget process for the upcoming year, they only budget for student outplacements that they are aware of. Since Smith's arrival in 2016, the outplacement line has only included the costs for students that they can confirm. "And that has always worked for us," said Smith.

Last year, there were three additional outplacements as a result of students moving in after the budget was passed or children requiring outplacement after the school year started. The itemized budget is available upon request from the town clerk.

The 2022-23 budget was approved last year on May 17. The BOE budget was roughly \$34.27 million which roughly had a 3.6% increase from the previous year. Almost 60% of voters were in favor of the budget passing. Last year, at the time of the referendum, Smith explained the budget to accomplish changes to the elementary school math curriculum and committed the district to bringing more robust science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming to the middle school.

In a discussion regarding the deficit, finance director Jeff Jylkka explained where the funds would come from to cover the deficit. The town received a Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA) grant that will cover a majority of the deficit. As described by the state legislature, the program is a "non-lapsing general fund account designed to fund several state grants to municipalities." The grant covers about \$250,000 of the deficit. The other funding comes from the motor vehicle mill rate cap/interest income of about \$76,000. The two streams of revenue were unanticipated.

With little debate, the Board of Finance unanimously approved the use of funds. The proposal now moves to the Town Council for

final approval.

In terms of the town's budget, the BOF unanimously approved the transfer of funds to zero out departmental deficits for the fiscal year. The board also authorized Jylkka to make any additional transfers, up to \$5,000 total, that may be needed to close out the books.

This was the last Board of Finance meeting until Election Day. Three seats will be available. Deb Cunningham and Matt Bennington are not seeking reelection and noted how they are grateful for their time spent on the board. The next Board of Finance meeting will be held on Nov. 20.

At the most recent Board of Education meeting on Sept. 25, Smith also reviewed the 2023-24 budget to date, noting that it is very early in the year to forecast accurately and will be reviewed at the end of the month. In new business, he presented the request to consider a substitute rate increase since filling vacancies with certified is more costly. School Business Manager Karen Asetta provided a comparison of surrounding districts' substitute daily rates. Their goal is to make the rate more competitive to attract more substitutes to the dis-

trict.

As recommended by Asetta and Smith, the proposed increase for the substitute daily rate was \$110 to \$120. Board member Ken Barber made a motion to increase the rate to \$130 but after more discussion about the projected costs, the board compromised on changing the rate to \$120. After the new year, the board may look into the additional \$10 increase. The final vote to change the pay to \$120 was unanimously passed.

In other updates, the middle school roof project was completed. The project was anticipated to come in \$500,000 below the approved budget of \$2.3 million. During the roof committee's meeting, they explored the possibility of utilizing a portion of the savings for the repair of the portico and pillars. This repair work would not be considered a component of the roof project and would not be eligible for reimbursement, even though the damage is a direct result of the roof's poor condition. The committee can make recommendations but the Town Council has final control of the funds disposition. The next Board of Education meeting will be held next Monday, Oct. 23.

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.

Autumn Leaves Fair

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd. (Route 151), will hold its annual Autumn Leaves Fair Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Parish Hall.

Various baked goods, jellies, jam and pickles, handmade items, silent auction offerings, pottery, and artisanal crafts will be for sale.

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.

Registrar of Voters News

Municipal elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St., from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. The ballot will include candidates for Town Council, Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The last day to register to vote prior to the election is Tuesday, Oct. 31. The registrar's office will be open from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Election Day registration will be available the day of the election at the polling location.

Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet

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 Vasquez (860-308-6621, mjvasquez@gmail.com) or Tom Seidl (860-543-4782, seidl@sbcglobal.net).

Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 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 accessed 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

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.

I'd be happy to carve out some time for your real estate needs!



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Congregational Church Turkey Dinner

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a takeout turkey dinner Saturday, Oct. 28. Dinners are \$15 each and include turkey, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, cornbread, and apple or pumpkin pie.

Pick up orders at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, on Oct. 28 from 5-7 p.m.

Orders must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 25, by calling Melissa at 860-993-5311.

Visit www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org for information.



Snowflake Bazaar Nov. 4... This Gift Card tree will once again be featured at the Snowflake Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground in East Hampton. Sponsored by the Westchester Congregational Church, the bazaar will offer the famous Cookies by the Pound, as well as crafters and raffles. All proceeds benefit the church.

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Epoch Arts' Original Haunted House Opens Tonight

By London Brazal

Epoch Arts brings Halloween spirit to town as their annual thrill-seeking Haunted House opens tonight.

Each fall, students at Epoch Arts perform in and create a two-weekend original Haunted House. Students in seventh grade and older sign up to participate in the event annually. The dedicated and passionate cast of the Haunted House has been preparing rooms for the past month and making final preparations for the highly anticipated opening night.

Instead of the clown haunted hayride, there will be a new Zombie Playground behind the building. Without spoiling any scary surprises, the theme of this year is the underground. The theme is tailored to the absence of natural light and the fear of what lurks in the shadows. Last year, the theme was time-warped, paying homage to *The Rocky Horror Show*.

One student involved, Ruby Casey, described the Haunted House as a thrilling event. "This is honestly a really fun experience," Casey said. "The actors, tech, and fire watch put a lot of time and effort into putting this together every year and it always comes out really cool and really scary."

All of the money raised from the Haunted

House goes right back to Epoch Arts' programs. Casey said any donations help make Epochs' classes "better for years to come."

In late September, a group of volunteers were trained by the fire marshal's office for the Haunted House Fire Watch. The student's first rehearsal was on Oct. 1 and they have been working hard to bring an authentic and scary experience. In preparation, students have created intricate designs of splatter-painted blood on canvases, eerie-looking props, and much more.

With flashing lights and jump scares, the Haunted House is recommended for ages 13 and older. This attraction is not meant for those who do not like getting scared. Visitors will encounter creepy characters, navigate through dark and enclosed corridors, and come face to face with creatures from the underground.

Tickets are available for \$15 per person on epocharts.org/haunted and reservations must be made online. The Haunted House and Zombie Playground begin tonight and continue tomorrow, and will also run Oct. 27 and 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. all four nights. Select an hour time slot and then choose a group number within that hour. Groups of five will enter at five-minute intervals. Epoch Arts asks groups to arrive 10 minutes before the specified time to check-



The students of Epoch Arts are ready to scare as the annual Haunted House opens tonight. Visitors should be prepared to jump, shiver, and be frightened as they travel through the "Underground."

in. There will be a list of online reservations by name. Epoch Arts is located at 27 Skinner St.

To kick off the spooky season, Epoch Arts hosted a Halloween Costume Dance on Oct. 14. Dressed in their Halloween costumes, students had their photos taken, enjoyed festive treats, and danced to a live DJ. Prizes were awarded for the most unique, most festive, and craziest costume.

Also coming up next month is Epoch Arts' annual "Artopia." The art festival is a free com-

munity event suitable for families, featuring a student art exhibit, an adult art exhibit, live music, art demonstrations, craft activities, interactive art sessions, vendors, food, and more. Artists looking to showcase their work at the art festival are encouraged to register; all are welcome to participate. Entries must be dropped off at Epoch Arts on Nov. 4 or 6 at designated times. Participants can fill out a form and submit up to three pieces of art, all art types are accepted. The event will be from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11. Any questions can be sent to Amanda Morris at amanda@epocharts.org.

Epoch Arts is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the arts.

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.

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 ten-summitst@gmail.com.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., has a new pastor: Jamie Stall-Ryan. All are invited to meet him.

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.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Stephanie Kimball, Brikena Sefa and Veronica Tozzi made the summer 2023 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

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Anniversaries Celebrated at Fall History Festival

By London Brazal

The Chatham Historical Society recently hosted its eighth annual Fall History Festival to celebrate two significant anniversaries.

Beneath the Lions Club tent, a live band entertained the audience throughout the afternoon. Guided tours of the three-building museum complex were offered, along with complimentary cider and doughnuts.

The three museum buildings had a substantial collection of artifacts that illustrated East Hampton's history. There was a significant exhibit of bells manufactured at the Bevin Bell Factory, along with a vast array of toys produced at the Gong Bell Co. and the N. N. Hill Brass Co. Additionally, there was a display showcasing the witch hazel industry, donated by the American Distilling Co., and a new exhibit featuring CCC history and memorabilia was also on display.

Established in 1963, The Chatham Historical Society commemorated its 60th anniversary. CHS is a private, not-for-profit museum and schoolhouse dedicated to preserving the history of East Hampton. They firmly believe in the importance of safeguarding historic locations and events, as it serves as a vital connection to the past, reminding individuals of their origins and identity.

For the fall festival held on Oct. 7, past officers, members, and their children were invited to share their stories. One of the members, Dean Markham spoke about the early history of CHS.

On May 2, 1963, individuals with a shared interest in establishing a local historical society convened at Memorial School. The group named the new organization, appointed Donald Markham as President Pro Tempore, appointed a nominating committee, and passed a resolution to keep charter membership until the following April. A month later, the CHS officially elected Donald Markham as President, Barbara Felgate as Secretary, and various other officers and committees were selected.

In July 1963, the East Hampton Board of Selectmen granted permission to the Chatham Historical Society to utilize the former library building located at 62 Main Street for their meetings and various other activities. By July 1965, the society had 101 members.

The most significant event during its formative years occurred in September 1963 when Chauncey G. Bevin donated a house and the accompanying land on Bevin Boulevard to the society. The house, originally built in 1795 by Daniel Niles at 11 Summit St., had a significant history. The land had

been sold to the town in 1912, leading to the construction of the Central Grammar School there in 1913. Bevin Bros. Manufacturing later acquired the structure, relocating it to 4 Bevin Blvd. and renting it out to tenants until it was gifted to the Chatham Historical Society.

Subsequently, the house was raised after the fire department burned the structure for training exercises. In the 1980s, the society oversaw the salvage, transportation, and reconstruction of the old Chestnut Hill Schoolhouse at the Bevin Boulevard location. With the construction of the museum and the annex, this site remains the home of the Chatham Historical Society.

The second anniversary celebrated was the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was initiated on March 31, 1933, as part of President Roosevelt's "New Deal" program, aimed at alleviating the poverty and unemployment caused by the Great Depression. The camps, each housing approximately 200 men, were overseen by the U.S. Army and established within state parks and forests.

East Hampton operated two CCC camps: one in

the Salmon River State Forest and another in Cobalt on Gadpouch Road. Single and unemployed men aged 18 to 25, with fathers receiving relief, enrolled for a six-month term, working a 40-hour week for a monthly stipend of \$30. The government sent \$25 per month back home to their parents, leaving the enrollees with \$5 in spending money. Participants were provided with quality food, uniforms, shelter, and medical care.

The CCC members undertook a wide range of tasks, including building trails, roads, campsites, and dams, stocking fish, constructing and maintaining fire tower observer's cabins and telephone lines, firefighting, and planting millions of trees. The CCC was disbanded in 1942 due to the demand for men in World War II.

The Historical Society releases a yearly calendar including educational programs for local elementary school students, monthly guest speakers and authors, historical walks throughout town, and many other activities. The Chatham Historical Museum and School House are located at 6 Bevin Blvd. and are open to the public on the first Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Weekly Activities: **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. (note the new time); **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Cross-Stitch & Embroidery with Shannon:** Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. -- Bring projects to share and work on together; **Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m.; **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. -- let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjong:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon -- call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play; **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

Wii Bowling: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Nov. 2.

Cornhole: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Nov. 9.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet in-person or via Zoom.

Art with Karen: Sunday, Oct. 22, 2-4 p.m. This is a beginner acrylic painting class. All supplies provided. Cost is \$5 per class. Bring payment day of class.

Mindful Meditation with Victoria: Monday,

Oct. 23, 1-2 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude in a group setting.

Chatham Health Chat - Lung Health: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 10:30-11 a.m. A representative from the Chatham Health District will lead the program.

Design and Create Craft Program: Friday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Make your own shell or sea glass Christmas trees. This program is free.

Senior Bike Ride with Airline Cycles: Friday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. Exercise on the Air Line State Park Trail with Kimberly Clouser of Airline Cycles, who will lead the ride. Bring your bicycle, helmet and water.

Trips: An Afternoon at Lyman Orchards - Middlefield: Wednesday, Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch will be on your own at the Athenian Diner in Middletown on the way. Cost is \$4 for transportation. Register in advance at the senior center.

Lunch for Seniors at Windham Technical High School: Thursday, Nov. 30. Have lunch prepared by the school's culinary students. Choice of shepherd's pie, chicken Marsala or chicken Caesar salad, with cranberry apple tart or pumpkin cheesecake for dessert. Cost is \$17 and includes transportation. Departure from the senior center at 10:15 a.m. Pay in advance at the senior center.

Christmastime Holiday Show: Saturday, Dec. 2, at Reagle Music Theatre in Waltham, Mass. There will be a pre-show lunch at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham. (Entrée choice due in advance.) Cost is \$159/person. Departure is at 11 a.m. from Stop & Shop, 11 East High St., East Hampton. For information call the senior center.

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

'Energy In Action' Coming to Fair

The Energize CT "Energy In Action" mobile exhibit will be a feature of the East Hampton Clean Energy Fair Saturday, Nov. 4, from 1-4 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 Maple St. This exhibit teaches children how to become an Energy Efficient Generation by making smart, energy-saving decisions daily.

"We were lucky to get this exhibit for our Fair" said David Price, the event director. "It is a valuable resource that is much in demand."

In addition to this exhibit, the Clean Energy Fair will show ways people can reduce energy use and save money. Snacks and drinks will be available. No registration required; all area residents are welcome.

This event is sponsored by the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force. For more information, visit ehctef@gmail.com.



The "Energy In Action" mobile exhibit will be featured as part of the East Hampton Clean Energy Fair on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 1-4 p.m., at East Hampton High School. Photo by Roz Kaplan.

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Annual TANGO 2 Banquet Set Next Month

By London Brazal

The TANGO2 2023 Banquet and Auction is set to take place next month with international guests, raffles, music and more.

Hosted by Mike and Kasha Morris, the annual banquet and auction is an evening filled with speakers and entertainment to fundraise for the TANGO2 Research Foundation. In 2018, the TANGO2 Research Foundation was founded by the Morrisses to help speed up the lack of research. Their son, Ryan, was diagnosed with TANGO2 disease in 2017 by a geneticist at Yale New Haven Hospital. During that time, all the family knew was the disease was life-threatening and had many severe symptoms.

After researching the disease, there were only a couple of studies published. However, Kasha and Mike found a Facebook group with nine families with kids who were also diagnosed with TANGO 2. While learning more about the children in the Facebook group and hearing their stories, Mike wanted to work with the other families to create a foundation. The goal is to find treatment options, fund more research, and provide more genetic testing for the disease.

The annual banquet serves as the foundation's biggest fundraiser. It will be held on Nov. 5 at St. Clements Castle in Portland from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. During the event, guests receive a three-course dinner. Tickets will be available to purchase to participate in raffles, a wine pull, restaurant row, and guests can also bid in an auction for different experiences. Raffles range

from themed baskets to local business gift certificates. The wine pull includes various brands ranging from \$10 to \$150. Some of the auction items include getaway vacations to Ireland and South Africa.

The banquet will also have professionals speak about the research progress and for guests to meet an international group of other TANGO2 families including one from the Netherlands.

"None of this could have been done without the support of this local community," said Kasha. "We have made great progress. And now have a potential treatment to help prevent the life-threatening symptoms and improve quality of life."

This year, there were multiple committees that worked together to plan the event, including the organization of the travel package, silent auction, wine pull, restaurant row, and teacup raffle. Furthermore, volunteers help plan the entertainment, presentations, and outreach. On the night of the event, many volunteers help with all of the various tasks, from greeting guests to keeping track of bids.

Dr. Seema Lalani, a clinician and researcher from Baylor College of Medicine who wrote the first published article on TANGO2, will also be in attendance. She joined the foundation's Board of Directors and in 2019, Lalani started a natural history study for the genetic disorder.

Over the last five years, the foundation has funded about 15 studies and given away around

\$800,000 to TANGO2 research. They also have hosted two Family Conferences and the next one is in the planning stages for June 2024.

Prior to the banquet, the research foundation is hosting its second virtual symposium to share the latest research and broaden the research network. In partnership with the Baylor College of Medicine, the event will take place on Friday, Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Among the speakers is Agustín Luján, MD, PhD from the Centre for Genomic Regulation in Spain. To register for the link, visit tango2research.org/2023-symposium.

The Morrisses said they are grateful to everyone who has donated to the foundation and purchased tickets. They thanked the various local businesses who contributed to the raffles, as

well as event sponsors Reynolds Subaru, Tokio Marine, Town Fair Tire, Smart Start Pediatrics, Lakeside Bar and Grill, and Walt Jedziniak Photography.

There are still a few tickets left for purchase and cost \$85 per person. For more information regarding the banquet or to donate, visit justgiving.com/page/banquet.

The TANGO 2 Research Foundation's mission is to take the lead in discovering a cure for TANGO2-related deficiency disorder. The foundation aims to achieve this by providing support to fund, organize, and steer scientific research that advances the comprehension of how TANGO2 mutations impact individuals at the fundamental cellular and biochemical pathway levels.

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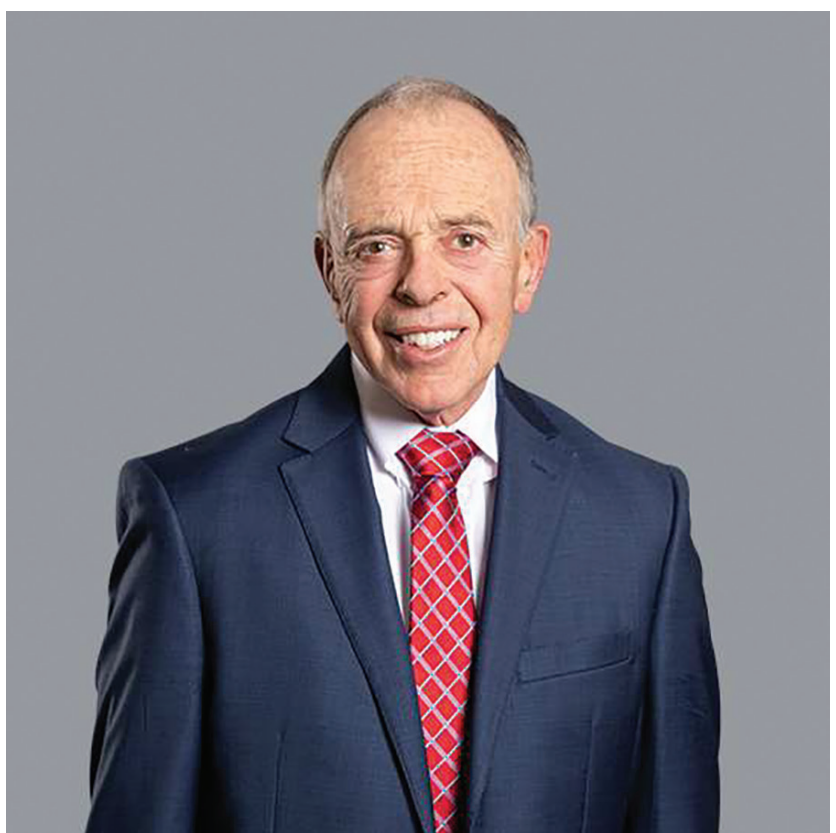
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East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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.

Family Storytime: Saturday, Nov. 4, 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.

Teen Programs: 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: 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.

Art Association Meets Next Week

The next meeting of the East Hampton Art Association (EHAA) will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m., in the Community Room at East Hampton Public Library, located at 105 Main Street.

This month will be a special program where all members are invited to bring one or two pieces of their own artwork to present and discuss. The group will collaborate about member interests, values and vision for future programming as it relates to the direction of the EHAA.

The meeting will address workshops, trips, art shows, grant opportunities, volunteerism, philanthropy, and related topics. Attendees will

have the opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions and break-out sessions as time permits. Refreshments, coffee and tea are provided.

The meeting is free to EHAA members, with a suggested donation of \$4 for non-members. People may sign up to become a member at any time; cost is \$15/year for individual membership and \$20/year for family membership. Programs/demonstrations and meetings are always free for students.

Following the October meeting, the EHAA will next meet in December; there will be no November meeting.

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 through 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.

EHNS Touch-a-Truck

East Hampton Nursery School will hold a Touch-a-Truck event Sunday, Nov. 12, from 2-4 p.m., rain or shine, at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.

There will be police cars, fire trucks, construction trucks and other trucks and vehicles. There will also be local food trucks, face-painting and a 50/50 raffle.

Suggested donation: \$5 per person/\$20 per family. Cash or Venmo accepted.

All proceeds will support the operating costs of East Hampton Nursery School and its students.

For more information, contact EHNS at ehnsfundraisers@gmail.com.

Helping Hands to Reopen

Helping Hands is reopening on the first and third Saturdays of each month beginning Oct. 21. Helping Hands is a ministry of Cornerstone Bible Church and offers free clothing, household items, toys, books, etc., to anyone in need.

Donations to this ministry are accepted on the Saturday Helping Hands is open from 9-11 a.m. and on the Thursday before it is open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Helping Hands is located at 27 Skinner St., East Hampton.

For more information, contact Judy Holmquist at judyhlm49@yahoo.com.

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Parks and Rec Upcoming Events

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following upcoming events. For more information or to register, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonct.myrec.com.

Trunk or Treat: Oct. 25, 5:30-7 p.m., at East Hampton Memorial School. For East Hampton residents only. Parks and Rec. is also looking for vehicle hosts.

Zumba Class: Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Center School. Drop-in fee

is \$10, or buy a 10-class card for \$50.

Halloween Cookie Decorating: Monday, Oct. 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Memorial School, for students in grades K-3. Fee: \$25.

Riverside Reptiles: Monday, Nov. 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Memorial School, for students in grades K-3. Fee: \$25.

Trip: New York on your Own: Dec. 2, 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Depart via coach bus from Town Hall. Cost: \$75.

Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

The East Hampton Lions Club is conducting its fourth annual scholarship raffle, which funds four \$1,000 awards to graduation East Hampton students.

The raffle this year will offer a \$2,023 grand prize. First place will be \$223, with two winners, second place will be \$123, also with two winners, and third place will be \$53, also with two winners. First-, second- and third-place

winners will be reentered for the grand prize drawing.

The raffle runs through Oct. 21. The drawing will be at the Lions Club Pavilion, 62 N. Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 2:23 p.m.

Seven hundred total tickets will be sold, at \$10 each. For more information on tickets, call Tom Denman at 860-519-4951.

Air Line Trail Cleanup Day

The East Hampton Air Line Trail Committee will hold its fall cleanup day Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 a.m.-noon.

Shawn Mullen, acting director of recreation, has described the morning as not heavy labor but “tidying up” by removing fallen sticks, and maybe a limb or two, and smoothing out wash-outs. The town’s public works department takes care of anything requiring power equipment or

vehicles. Mullen has said with a few more teams the committee could also clean up a few other sections in the Cobalt or Bull Hill areas.

To participate, call 860-267-7300 or sign up online at www.easthamptonrec.com. Those who just want to show up can meet at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street at 9 a.m. with steel rake or shovel in hand.

HNCC Barbecue Chicken Event

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru Takeout or Sit-Down Event on Saturday, Nov. 4, by reservation only.

This is the same barbecue chicken recipe the church has sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a barbecued thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, corn on the cob, coleslaw, dinner roll and water. Cost is

\$15; cash only, please.

Call in your reservation to the church office at 860-267-2336 and indicate your pick-up time: noon-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m., 3-4 p.m., or 4-5 p.m. Order deadline is Oct. 31.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-noon.

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 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.

‘Fall Into Christmas’ Fair

On Saturday, Oct. 21, the Congregational Church of East Hampton will hold its “Fall into Christmas” Church Fair from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall located in the church at 59 Main St.

The fair will include various fall-, Halloween-, Thanksgiving- and Christmas-themed items. Shop the kitchen booth for Rada Cutlery, aprons, tea towels, soup and other jar mixes. Find hand-knit/crocheted Christmas gifts made

by the Yarners. A cookie bake sale will also be included in addition to crafts and gifts for the holidays. Local vendors will include Sherry’s Country Crafts, Photographs by Barbara, Don’s Book Boxes, Tastefully Simple with Jutta, Welcome Gnome! at Majocho Marketplace with Melinda, and Honey by Ralph Phil.

A free cup of hot chocolate will be offered to all who attend. Folks can also visit the Downtown Village Stroll from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.



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Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com 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 or call Mary Boretz at 860-267-0365. Food is needed for four families this year.

For more information or if in need of assistance, contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehyrb@gmail.com.

Middle Haddam Public Library Concert

Local musician Carolyn Brodgerski will perform at Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 3-4:30 p.m.

Brodgerski will perform on the Celtic harp and mountain dulcimer, which have Celtic and Scots-Irish roots. This interactive program includes a brief history of each instrument as well as performances of traditional and original music on each. Questions are encouraged throughout. Following the musical performance, participants will be given the opportunity to play a mountain dulcimer. Carolyn is certified as a therapeutic musician, teaches dulcimer, and is also a member of the band Seat of Our Pants.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by emailing middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com or calling the library at 860-267-9093 during business hours, which are Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 3-6 p.m.

All profits from the concert will benefit the Middle Haddam Public Library.



Carolyn Brodgerski

President's List

Stephanie Kimball of East Hampton made the summer 2023 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

EHMS Basketball and Cheerleading

Student/athletes who are interested in trying 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.

Yarners Meet Weekly

The East Hampton Yarners, a knitting and crocheting group in its tenth year, is going strong each Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon. The Yarners meet at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., and new members are welcome.

The group makes items for the Middlesex Cancer Center, Middlesex Hospital and Hospice, East Hampton Food Bank, St Vincent de Paul in Middletown, and for others in need. The Yarners also learn from each other and work on their own projects. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

The Yarners are also accepting yarn donations that are clean full skeins.

For more information, contact Judy Hoffhine at jhoffhine@gmail.com.

Band to Perform at VFW

VFW Post 5095 will present the band Wastin Bullets Saturday, Oct. 21, at 8 p.m., at the post, 20 N. Maple St.

There will be a \$10 cover charge at the door.

Haddam Neck

Congregational Worship

Worship services for October at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Neck, will be held will be held Sundays at 10 a.m.

Members of Second Congregational Church will join throughout the month and then host services for the month of November at their church. All are welcome.

Visit www.haddamneckcongrwgtional-church.org for more information.

Holiday Boutique Sale

The East Hampton Senior Center will hold its annual Holiday Boutique Sale during the Village Center's December Business Saturday event on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the senior center, 105 Main St.

The sale features quilted seasonal runners and small quilts, aprons, ornaments, potholders, knitted hats, scarves and mittens, woodcrafts and other items handcrafted by the center's seniors. Jewelry and yarn also included.

The center's boutique is always open Monday through Friday during regular senior center hours.



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DINNER CHOICES

Chicken Parmigiana

Roller 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

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Loving Legoland!... Willow and Eamon Mahon of Marlborough recently visited Legoland in New York!

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.



Gorgeous Goreme Valley... Linda and Richard Stachelek of Marlborough recently visited Goreme Valley in Cappadocia, Turkey!



Hail to the Kelleys... The Kelleys of Portland went to the White House! Pictured are Joseph, Seraphina, Julius, Melissa and Declan.



Down the Delaware... Scout Troops 28 and 1028 of Hebron brought the *Rivereast News Bulletin* on their stay at Ascalona Campground in Barryville, N.Y., a stop on their annual 70+-mile canoe trip down the Delaware River. They're pictured here with the campground's new owner, Kevin Ting.

Where in the World?

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Obituaries

Glastonbury

Ruth Alice Johnston

Ruth Alice Johnston, 98, passed away Monday, Oct. 9, at The Hearth in Glastonbury, her home for the last six years. She was the daughter of the late Alvin H. Phillips Jr. and Alice Phillips. She grew up in Longmeadow, Mass., and Somers, Connecticut, graduating from Rockville High School.



She attended a secretarial program at Boston University in the 1940s, leading her to a job as an editor of the MIT alumni magazine. She enjoyed her time living in the Boston area and while there she met E. Russell Johnston Jr. They married in 1951, and Ruth became an academic wife, supporting Russ in his work as an engineering professor as they moved with their two sons from Lehigh University, to Worcester Polytechnical Institute, and, finally, for the longest part of their time together, to The University of Connecticut. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2001.

Ruth was a committed mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. While her sons were young, she served as a Cub Scout den mother and taught Sunday school. While her grandchildren were young, she attended Sunday school Christmas pageants, dropped in on swimming lessons, and hosted overnights at her house.

After her sons left home, she earned a degree from Manchester Community College. She enjoyed traveling, and she visited much of the United States. In 1971, she, her husband, and youngest son spent most of an academic year traveling around the world. Closer to home, she spent a lot of time on genealogical research, gardened, and painted.

Ruth was predeceased by her parents, husband, brother and sister. She is survived by her sons, Russell (Gail) and Bruce (Jan); three grandchildren, William, Robert and Rebecca; four great-grandchildren; and three nieces and a nephew.

A service for the family was held at the Potter Funeral Home in Willimantic on Saturday, Oct. 14.

For an online memorial guestbook, please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

William Francis Jolly

William Francis Jolly, 87, of South Pasadena, Fla., formerly of Colchester, was welcomed home into the loving arms of his savior on Tuesday, Aug. 15. He passed peacefully in his sleep.

Born September 7, 1935 in Youngstown, Ohio, he was the eldest of three children born to Marion Lucille and Harold William Jolly. Robert Jolly of Texas predeceased him, and Margaret Walcher of North Olmstead, Ohio, survives him.

He was a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame, having been a member of the marching band. He was a loyal Notre Dame Fighting Irish football fan.

In May of 1957, he married the love of his life, Carolyn Joanne, who has been awaiting his arrival since October 2018. We're so happy they are finally reunited.

From April 1958-June 1963, he was a corporal in the Army National Guard, Co. A 112TH Engineering Battalion. He was a medical corpsman as well as an MP. He was a dedicated employee of the Heublein Corp., having been a manager of internal auditing.

He served the Lord well throughout his life as a CCD teacher, Cursillo sponsor, parish counsel

member, lector and RCIA instructor. He valued the fellowship of the men's prayer groups of which he participated.

Dad's true calling was to his family, being a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather; generous, protective and sacrificial. He was a true superhero, our Captain America.

He is survived by many, namely his children: Edward Jolly of South Pasadena, Fla., and his wife Vicki Torres of Columbia, Terri and Paul Miffitt of Clearwater, Fla., Lynne and John Pinto of Colchester; grandchildren: Jordan (Amber) Jolly of Lynchburg, Va., Ashley (Matt) Aguilar of Huntington Beach, Calif., Alicia (Anthony) Cerrato of Zelionople, Pa., Amanda (Simo) Kraguljac of Cheshire, Amy (Mark) Raleigh of Marlborough, Danny (Catherine) Pinto of Colchester, David Pinto of Colchester; his sister, Margaret Walcher (Aunt Marge) of North Olmstead, Ohio; and many nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren.

We miss you, Ga, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Calling hour will be Saturday, Nov. 4, at 10 a.m., at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Colchester, followed by a memorial Mass at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, we respectfully request donating to local Maui recovery charities, as Mom and Dad loved their time in Maui over the years: mauifoodbank.org, hawaiicommunityfoundation.org, mauiunitedway.org.

Marlborough

Beverly Mosher

Beverly Mosher, 96, of Marlborough, widow of Raymond Mosher passed away Friday, Oct. 13, at Hartford Hospital. Born Sept. 20, 1927, in St. Johnsbury, Vt., she was the daughter of the late Frank and Laura (Greenwood) Granger.



Beverly had worked at Arbor Acres in Marlborough for many years. She was a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department for many years. She loved bingo and enjoyed playing cards.

She is survived by her three sons and their spouses, David and Donna Mosher of Marlborough, Dennis and Robin Mosher of Hebron, Dwayne and Beth Mosher of Marlborough; three daughters and their spouses, D'Ann and Raymond Bergeron of Castleton, Vt., Darlene and Edward Tourville of Glastonbury, Darcy and David Bean of Westchester; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her son Douglas Mosher, and her five brothers and one sister.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Sunday, Oct. 22, from 4-6 p.m. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family in Marlboro Cemetery.

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

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★ Feature Film, cont. from page 1

Texas. "It was great to have a knowledge of the area because we were moving quickly," she said, adding that the community was "gracious and hospitable" to them.

After 18 days in the field, filming was complete.

"For Us, it's Everything"

The next step in the process was editing, which Dickie was more than willing to embrace. "My first love was editing," he said. "I was excited to do it."

But, like the rest of the film, overseeing every aspect is laborious.

"It was a much more dense dream than we realized," he said. "You can't really train to do it."

Once the editing was complete, then it was time for a whole different type of agonizing. As the film was presented last different festivals and theaters, a sense of nervousness overtook the couple's systems.

"There's a certain stomach ache you get before a screening," Horton said. "You want the film and story to connect with people the way you hoped."

With many movies distributed straight to digital platforms these days, seeing *Blow Up My Life* land on the big screen was important to them.

"For us, it's everything," Dickie said. As they tour the festivals, watching their film and answering questions from moviegoers, there is something surreal about the experience.

"I'm proud that we were able to accomplish this dream," Horton said.

So when is their *next* film coming out? For now, the couple is trying to appreciate the moment. But they said they both enjoyed the endeavor and they both have scripts they feel have potential for the silver screen.

"I need to rest for a moment," Horton joked.

There was a lot of inspiration poured into this 80-minute feature, along with personal connections. Dickie explained that the topic of opioids was relevant during the pandemic, but he's also had loved ones impacted by addiction; he's approached the subject in prior works.

"This time, I wanted to come at it from a different point of view," he said, adding that a character had to emerge and try to make a change in the industry. "It felt like a compelling dynamic."

To execute their blueprint, they turned to Selvig, who is friendly with the couple.

"Jason's comedic timing is spot-on and he's a fearless person," Horton expressed. "He's not afraid to take risks."

The couple moved to Marlborough around five months after wrapping shooting. Dickie described their community as a "wonderful place to rest in."

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:

- 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.
- Petition 2023-08** - 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.
- 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)
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2TB 10/13, 10/20

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

At its October 12, 2023 meeting, the Hebron Conservation Commission took the following actions:

Petition 23-01, 90 Hope Valley Road, Amston, Steven and Patricia Schiavi. Construction of a garage within the upland review area - **Approved**, with the following conditions:

- Applicant contacts the Conservation and Inland Wetlands agent prior to the commencement of construction and the emplacement of silt fencing.
- Material will be stockpiled toward the north end of the proposed garage, and as far away from the wetlands as possible. Silt fencing shall be emplaced downgrade from the stockpile.
- Stockpile be dispersed on dry areas of the property, away from the wetland, and hayed and seeded during the growing season.
- Construction to commence during the growing season of the year.

Petition 23-02, 220 Meeting House Road, Hebron, James Van Houten. installation of an inground pool within the upland review area - **Approved**, with the following conditions:

- Applicant contacts the Conservation and Inland Wetlands agent prior to the commencement of construction and the emplacement of silt fencing, and during re-grading in 2024.
- Drained pool water will not be discharged on the premises and will be removed off-site.
- Construction vehicle access will be an adequate distance from the regulated area.
- Soil not suitable for the project will be removed. Remaining soil is to be dispersed on the property, re-graded, and seeded with fast growing seed appropriate to the season.

Petition 23-03, Lot 46-8A (between #s 193 and 201) North Street, Hebron, c/o Mark Peterson, Gardner and Peterson Associates, LLC. Construction of a single-family residential dwelling with driveway improvements along an existing roadway within the upland review area and a minor wetland disturbance near WF-1 through WF-5 - **Received for consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting of November 9th, with the following guidance:**

- Applicant acquires the review of the project and a report from the town engineer.
- Applicant considers, if deemed warranted by the town engineer, the installation of appropriate means of energy dissipation and dispersal of possible sheet flow from the east and west sides of the driveway as it approaches the pond and wetlands to the south.
- Town engineer assesses the condition and suitability of the culvert.
- Applicant shows the edge of the pond on the map.
- Additional silt fencing and excess soil placement, in suitable areas, is shown on the plan.
- Minimize the amount of clearing along the driveway to buffer the adjacent wetland.
- Include a cross-section of the road in the vicinity of Wetland Flags 1 and 2.
- Show limits of clearing required for the leach fields (and other areas of the property) on the plan.

1TB 10/20

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RE 10-20-23

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 26, 2023
6:30pm at Town Hall
LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following: Application 590 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 16 Schoolhouse Lane, Middle Haddam - to repair a chimney - for applicants Steven and Paul Funk. The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 10/20

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the regular meeting of the Colchester Conservation Commission held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, the following action was taken:
W2023-3078 - 203 Amston Road; Stephen Fedus - applicant/owner; Assessor's Map 21-00-003-000; 19 proposed apartments with upland review area impacts. - APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.
Dated October 12, 2023
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 10/20

MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its regular meeting on October 5, 2023, and at their special meeting on October 11, 2023, took the following actions:
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED; APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:
APPLICATION #Z-05-23 5 Hebron Road, SunEV Inc. (Applicant) C&G Properties LLC. (Property Owner) Zone change VCD3 to VCD1
APPLICATION #Z-06-23 5 Hebron Road, SunEV Inc. (Applicant) C&G Properties LLC. (Property Owner) EV Café & Charging Station SIGN APPLICATION 4-8 E Hampton Road, 17 East Hampton Rd LLC.
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 10/20

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Democrats Ready for Election Day

By Michael Sinkewicz

With Election Day less than one month away, Marlborough Democrats are looking to secure support for their slate, which they feel offers a "diversity of experiences," according to interim town committee chairman, Jack Fidler.

Last week, the *Rivereast* spotlighted candidates on the Republican ticket; this week, the Democrats made their own pitch to voters.

Fidler is seeking reelection on the Board of Finance. His candidacy is based primarily on "bringing stability" to the board and the experience needed to govern efficiently. He expressed that the members have been able to work together, which is likely to continue.

Across the slate, he sees candidates that are "representative of Marlborough as a whole and captures different views."

In a quest for stability, the implementation of a new town manager, David Porter, will prove to be a beneficial transition, Fidler argued.

"We all want to do what's best for our town," he said during a phone call. "It's town over party."

And the goals between the two major parties — the independent slate was removed from the ballot — are largely aligned, he asserted. They share similar objectives, although "how we get there can differ."

"We try to keep the focus on us," he said. "We keep our heads on what we are working on and steer clear of extracurriculars while putting together a strong, competitive slate."

The tone of the campaign, which is well underway, should remain civil, he contended.

"We are all neighbors and friends to some level," Fidler said.

Amongst the priorities of the slate, promoting the school system, and the town's condo development — an issue both tickets have referenced. With economic development, Fidler expressed that expansion, while important, should come with certain limitations — "Keeping the small-town charm while promoting growth."

John Rizza is the committee's candidate for Board of Selectmen. A 25-year resident of Marlborough, Rizza is a political newcomer — so what makes him the ideal candidate?

"I am not discounting the experience of my opposition, but when talking to the voters it is clear they are looking for a new perspective and a new direction for the town that will ensure a hopeful future for generations to come," he stated, adding that he's a part of an experienced slate.

His background is in property management and he's worked with condo boards, overseeing contract negotiations and with individual owners. However, his best accomplishment: "having the opportunity to be a stay-at-home father, coaching Marlborough Youth Athletic League where I helped coach basketball, baseball and soccer for my three children along with many others from Marlborough. This experience taught me more about working together than any job ever could."

Rizza echoed the objective to stay above partisan politics. For priorities in office, he stated that his goal is to make the community one where "our children can afford a home while keeping the small-town charm."

"In order to pursue this goal it is essential that we make the cost of living in Marlborough more affordable through responsible development," he stated. Other goals, he said, include adequately funding the town's schools — "it's not just a building, it's filled with dedicated teachers and staff as well as the future of Marlborough."

Candidates should ignore political labels, which can often obstruct the ability to find common ground, he added.

"It is about the person, not their party affiliation," he said. "As time has gone on, labels have exacerbated corrupt politicians only getting involved for personal gain."

He stated that the new town manager will help the board because Porter can "resolve issues before they get ugly."

"The mood at Town Hall has also been improved, folks seem to approach their work with a newfound optimism and that is a reflection of David's commitment to the citizens of Marlborough," Rizza said. "Credit must also be given to the present BOS who assembled a dedicated search committee who ultimately presented Da-

vid's name for consideration. With David overseeing the day-to-day issues it gives the members of the BOS to focus on larger projects within the town."

Karen Pakulis Paul, is one of the three Democrats seeking a full seat on the Board of Finance. She currently serves as an alternate member, whose role is essentially to fill-in when a regular member is unable to attend a meeting.

But with that experience and her own financial background as a controller, financial analyst, human resource manager and facilitator, she's ready for the new gig.

"I'm ready to step up," she asserted. "I have the willingness to devote time and energy. When people are working and raising families, they don't have the time. They need people who want to spend time on their behalf."

The key aspect of being an effective member of the finance board, she said, is being transparent. You have to lay out what's happening in the community and what's actually feasible.

"You say, 'this is what the town can afford,'" Paul said. "When people hear the reasoning they're likely to be understanding."

With custody of the budget, she said the goal should be on the schools: "The future of any town, any state, any country, is going to be your next generation. Your biggest asset is the children."

Marcus Wilkinson is running for an alternate seat. He's a 26-year resident who's been a business lawyer for the last 35 years, giving him experience with financial and legal issues, while pursuing optimal solutions.

While he wouldn't have a vote, unless filling in for a full member, Wilkinson would still embrace being an alternate.

"I don't think that being an alternate on the Board of Finance will make a big difference," he said. "Alternates are encouraged to be fully engaged in all meetings and to ask probing questions."

He expressed that the finance board will have to handle several issues moving forward, including large infrastructure projects, which if approved, will need attention.

"The town will need to decide how best to finance those projects," he said, adding that options include short-term bank loans, bonds and grants.

An evergreen issue for the board is maintaining low property taxes. He also stated that viewing the budget process in a long-term perspective is important, including "matching budgets and financing plans to the town's projects over the next five years."

Regarding differences in party, he stated that "every person who volunteers to serve in town government has the town's best interests at heart."

"I have great respect and admiration for the town's leadership, and I am encouraged to see that in recent months the focus has been on working together and getting things done," he said. "I am also impressed that the Democrats are so united and motivated to serve the interests of all Marlborough residents."

Wilkinson served on the Town Manager Search Committee, and was satisfied with Porter's selection as he continues to settle into the new role.

"I think the transition to a town manager form of government is a very positive development for Marlborough," he said. "It will lead to greater continuity and allow the town's chief executive officer to focus on good management and stay above the political fray. I don't anticipate that the transition to a town manager will affect my role if I am elected to the Board of Finance, although I do expect that there will be a high degree of coordination between the Board of Finance and the town manager."

Paul added that as someone fairly new to politics, she finds campaigning "interesting."

"I enjoy serving on the board," she expressed, adding that it is "a little bit nerve-racking."

Historical Society Upcoming Events

The Marlborough Historical Society has announced two upcoming events, to which all are invited. For more information on either program, visit marlboroughhistory.org, email mhs@marlboroughhistory.org, or call or text 860-916-4031.

Cemetery Flashlight Tour: Sunday, Oct. 22, 5:45 p.m. A guided tour through Marlboro Cemetery and Century Cemetery will be given by Romano Ghirlanda. Learn about some of the forgotten people buried in these historic cemeteries. Walking shoes are required. Flashlights are recommended. The tour meets at the Richmond Memorial Library parking lot, and is free, but suggested donations of \$10 to help support

the Marlborough Preservation Society will be appreciated.

Historic Teas of the Past: Sunday, Nov. 5, 1-4 p.m., at the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St. This drop-in event is open to the public where different types of medicinal teas are available to sample. Have teas from the past and complimentary snacks. People can also ask questions, learn about historic teas, and enjoy a fall afternoon sipping tea with friends. Packaged teas will be available for purchase. Door prizes will be available. Entrance fee is \$15; children under 12 are free. All proceeds go to support the Marlborough Preservation Society.

Special Voter Registration Sessions

The Marlborough Registrars of Voters will hold special sessions to register voters before the Nov. 7 municipal election. Sessions will be Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Both sessions will be at Town Hall, 26 North Main St.

Voter registration deadlines are: mail-in registration must be postmarked by Oct. 31; in-person, Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m.; online voter registration (via the Secretary of the State website), Tuesday, Oct. 31, at midnight.

After Oct. 31, people can register up until 5 p.m. on Nov. 6 if: they turn 18 between Nov. 1 and Nov. 6; become a naturalized citizen between Nov. 1 and Nov. 6; move into town between Nov. 1 and Nov. 6; are an active serviceperson, or former serviceperson who has been discharged within the calendar year; or any person who has been out of the country.

There will also be Election Day registration Nov. 7, in the large conference room at Town Hall, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Proof of residence in Marlborough is required. In order to cast a ballot on Election Day, the applicant must be registered to vote and cast their ballot no later than 8 p.m. Applicants who continue to be in line after 8 p.m. will not be able to participate in the election. All applicants must have completed the EDR process before 8 p.m. in order to cast a ballot on Election Day.

Absentee ballot applications are also available, in the town clerk's office. The office can be reached at 860-295-6206.

A copy of the Election Day ballot can be viewed at www.marlboroughct.net.

For more information, call the registrars at 860-295-6166.

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.

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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Sewer Use Bills Due

Homeowners in the sewer district are reminded that the last day to pay their sewer usage bill, without interest, is Wednesday Nov. 1. Late bills will be charged interest at 1.5% per month reverting to the due date of Oct. 1. The tax office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday from

8:30 a.m.-noon. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the usage fee or interest. Please make checks payable to MWPCA. For more information, contact the tax collector's office at 860-295-6205 or Taxcollector@Marlboroughct.net.

Arts Center Seeks Artistic Gifts

A Holiday Art and Gift Sale will take place at the Marlborough Arts Center from Nov. 10 to Dec. 9. The gallery will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Artisans, artists, and fine crafters are encouraged to drop off hand-crafted gift items including jewelry, woven and knitted or crocheted items, pottery, wooden bowls and carvings, ornaments and notecards.

Artists may display up to five paintings. Craft-

ers may display small crafts subject to reasonable space limitations. A fee of \$10 is required. Items must be priced under \$200.

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 and to download drop-off forms, visit www.marlborougharts.org, call the Arts Center at 860-647-6363 or email marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com.

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.marlconchurch.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 and invited to attend Sunday School. Contact Gwen Lawson at the church office at office@marlconchurch.org for more information.

Oct. 22: The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "God Knows Your Name," based on Isaiah 45:2-7 and Matthew 22:15-22.

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 worshippers to bring their dona-

4th Friday @ the Arts Café

The Marlborough Arts Center's 4th Friday @ the Arts Café will present Handler & Levesque, a husband-and-wife duo on guitar and mandolin, on Friday, Oct. 27, at the arts center, 231 N. Main St. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The duo plays a blend of classical, Latin American, klezmer, jazz, Celtic and folk music. Visit marlborougharts.org to hear some audio clips.

The arts center is handicapped-accessible.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, Nov. 2, from 1-6 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccine don't affect donor eligibility. To make an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

All who donate will receive a \$10 gift card by email to a restaurant merchant of their choice. They'll also be automatically entered to win a \$5,000 gift card. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Lunch.

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Absentee Ballots Available for Election

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 election are now available in the town clerk's office, 26 North Main St., during regular business hours. Applications must be filled out to receive a ballot.

Call Lauren or Martha at 860-295-6206 for more information or if you need any help obtaining an application.

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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. T-shirts may be 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 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.

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 ItsYourRace.com.

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. 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. 23: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Stop & Shop; Assistance, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; congregate meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, wheat bread/spinach, wholegrain fruit bar; bingo, 1-3 p.m.; setback, 3-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 24: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y; assistance, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; Girl Scouts, 3:15-

4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 25: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: roasted pork loin with mango sauce, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, wheat bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 26: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; PD Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 27: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: smothered chicken with gravy, Lyonnaise potatoes/spinach, 100% wheat bread, fresh fruit; Setback, 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.

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.

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. Pumpkins 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 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.

Election Day Bake Sale

The Marlborough PTO will hold an Election Day Bake Sale Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. or sold out. The PTO will sell baked goods and coffee in the school cafeteria.

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*** Letters cont. from page 9**

through. What experience does he have when it comes to helping make ends meet in a small business environment? Not only did my son work to help his family, even through the thick of COVID-19, he is the only candidate that meets with small businesses on a weekly basis to promote them.

As a small business, we never applied for ARPA funds because we felt that other businesses deserved them more. We distinctly remember the mean-spirited and slanderous attacks from Mr. Dennler's supporters last election cycle.

**Sincerely,
Demetra Bisbikos – Colchester**

Unplayable Courts

To the Editor:

In March I went to play tennis on the courts by the Recplex in Colchester and found them locked. When I asked why I was informed by Mr. Bisbikos they were being repaired and would be ready the following week. Two months later they opened. The "repairs" are so sub-standard the courts remain unplayable. Cracks that were filled in are still an inch or two below the playing surface. All I received from Mr. Bisbikos was lip service. It's disgraceful a town this size has seven courts in such poor condition that four are still closed at the high school. Just one of the reasons I'm for a change in leadership.

Craig Harger – Colchester

Keep BOE Non-Partisan

To the Editor:

As parents and educators, we are writing to express concern about the candidacy of any individual for the Portland Board of Education who names "parents' rights" as a priority or reason for running.

Parental involvement in our schools is critical, and as parents to two Portland students, we know the Portland Schools do a lot to encourage parental involvement and seek input and feedback from families. Parents in Portland have always had the right to opt their children out of particular activities if they so choose. The Portland schools have worked to make all school curriculum, PreK through high school, accessible to the community through the district website. We know this must have been a massive undertaking and appreciate the effort towards transparency. The schools and our children's teachers treat us as partners in their educational experiences and we value that partnership.

The fundamental purpose of a Board of Education is to provide a quality education for ALL students. Let's be clear: "Parents' rights" is coded language, made popular by Moms for Liberty, used to get ultraconservative activist candidates elected to local Boards of Education in an effort to ban books, censor school curricula, and undermine principles of equity, inclusivity, and evidence-based decision-making that our education system should uphold.

We haven't had any of this hyper-political nonsense that we see in other districts on our Portland Board of Education. We hope to see it stay that way. A BOE is no place for prioritizing personal political agendas over the broader educational needs of our diverse student body.

Let's stay focused on student achievement and providing an excellent, well-rounded, equitable education for every student. On Nov. 7, we'll be voting for incumbents Kim Nagy-Maruschock, Meg Scata, Sarah Spear and Laurel Steinhauer and we hope you do too.

Erin Livensparger and Jeremy Stone – Portland

Election Day Isn't Far Away

To the Editor:

As a sixth-grader at East Hampton Middle School, I know we don't have enough teachers. In order to hire more educators, we need good planning. This is where my father, Matt Engelhardt, comes in. As a parent, he understands what the schools need in order to thrive, and his excellent leadership skills make him the perfect candidate for the Board of Education.

In the upcoming election, make the right choice for the students and vote for Matt Engelhardt for the Board of Education!

**Sincerely,
Kayla Engelhardt – East Hampton**

Time for a Change II

To the Editor:

As previously described in the Readers Forum on 10/13/2023, I have been providing much-needed pro bono services over the past two years to the town. This was voluntarily performed to move projects and committees forward that have stagnated due to the lack of experience or long-term comfort of serving on boards or commissions by our Democratic elected officials. It is time for a change.

During my campaign, I have gone to hundreds of residences in town and have gathered the following information on my opponent as job performance grievances taxpayers have encountered with our current tax collector Michelle Wyatt: bullying, disrespecting, gaslighting residents. Telling an active lieutenant colonel of the Army currently serving and a resident of Colchester that Wyatt has no boss while he was seeking assistance on a tax issue. Telling a widowed senior citizen she will be evicted from her home if she didn't pay her taxes? Programs exist in every municipality to provide tax relief to, among others, senior citizens, disabled persons, veterans, certain manufacturing entities, owners of farmland, and so on.

Ms. Wyatt, you may find out who your boss is come Nov. 7. The taxpayers of Colchester are your boss! They will be voting for a change on Nov. 7. For 30+ years as a business professional serving the public and private sector, one of my responsibilities was managing professional development and overseeing the performance of my staff. Based on feedback from Colchester taxpayers, I would have no choice but to terminate Ms. Wyatt's employment based on her job performance.

Abuse of power by our elected officials can no longer be tolerated. This municipal election season, vote for Jeffery Duigou, line 7B on the ballot.

**Respectfully,
Jeffery J. Duigou – Colchester
Candidate for Tax Collector**

Likes Tripp

To the Editor:

Jim Tripp: Good, Attentive, Intelligent, Calm, Thoughtful, Experienced. Jim is one of the most clear-thinking, pro-Portland persons in town, and we'd be well served with him as a selectman.

**Regards,
Andy Bauer – Portland**

Not the Same Behavior

To the Editor:

Andover Republicans are very upset that I told the truth about their vice selectman. Their reply is that one of our members called a BOS member a bad word during a meeting. Seriously? Not quite the same I'm afraid.

Yes, this happened. It is true. During a BOS meeting, a member of the DTC became frustrated and swore. She did not realize she was unmuted. She made the mistake that many people make daily—saying something about a person under their breath. We all do it and we all know we do it. It was unintentional and unfortunately, we heard her. The difference is also that after this "mistake" she resigned as a chair from one of our boards.

This is completely different from a town leader deliberately calling me to scream, swear, and tell me that I will never get "another F#\$%^& thing from the BOS." Completely different. As I have already stated, no elected official has the right to call any resident and verbally abuse them. No one. I have heard similar comments from other Andover residents but I can only speak to what happened to me. Making a mistake in the heat of an argument is one thing. Bullying residents is quite another. Not only did the vice selectman not resign, but no apology was ever given. This behavior is inexcusable.

**Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Chair
Andover Democratic Town Committee**

Have You No Sense of Decency?

To the Editor:

In 1954, Boston Attorney Joseph Welch asked then-Senator Joseph McCarthy, "Have you no sense of decency?" This statement finally broke the fever of McCarthyism. Today, I ask the same of our toxic first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos: Have you no sense of decency, sir? I ask my neighbors to see Andreas for what he is – a schoolyard bully.

The first selectman sent a flier to all of Colchester claiming that he would fight against toxic behaviors – yet under Bisbikos's leadership, Town Hall has seen a literal exodus of employees fleeing from his toxicity. The three women who serve on the Board of Selectmen – one Republican and two Democrats – refuse to attend meetings in person due to his incessant bullying.

My husband recently requested to inspect or obtain copies of all public records regarding any employment settlements during the term of Andreas Bisbikos. He also asked for any personnel complaints against the current first selectman. So far, the first selectman has failed to provide this information promptly – what are you hiding, Andreas?

Have you no sense of decency, Andreas? If asked directly, he would most likely attack someone else with a false claim as a distraction without addressing the question of his own behavior. Bisbikos would open some farce investigation into some wild conspiracy. He would tear up a meeting agenda like a toddler throwing a fit (this actually happened and is recorded).

Ask yourself: do Andreas' values represent your values? Would you think it is okay for your kids to treat other people the way Andreas does? If the answer to these questions is no – then you know what to do in November. Andreas and his toxic brand of politics have no home in Colchester.

Nicole G. McKenzie – Colchester

Have a Plan to Vote

To the Editor:

Election Day is Nov. 7; make sure you have a plan to vote. Every two years everybody stresses the importance of voting in our local elections, yet turnout lags behind even the subpar turnout for state and national elections. Voting for your local leaders has more impact on your day to day lives than the national elections that pull in much more voter turnout. If you need a ride, both political town committees offer rides to the polls. If you're going to be away, absentee ballots are available at the town hall now.

Every election is important, and I'm glad that kids nowadays are being taught civics in school again to stress the importance of participating in our democracy. Speaking of students, I'm excited to participate in the candidate forum they're hosting at the town hall Thursday evening. They're the future of this town and country, and their voices deserve to be recognized. I hope to meet many residents there, and when you do vote I hope you'll consider voting for myself and my Democratic friends on row A, to bring transparency back to the town of East Hampton.

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

Get Your Facts Straight!

To the Editor:

Oh Mr. Werme, once again you were not paying attention last year when Brandon Goff pitched the idea of a 'contracting' not 'hiring' a grant writer. Appears you were not at the meeting or attended workshops during budget season where these discussions took place.

And Mr. Werme you keep saying that the BOF did not support the hiring of the lieutenant and additional police officer. This is false! The three Republicans, Bonocorso, McLennan and Cunningham along with the two Democrats, voted for these positions. The Town Council, 7-0 defeated the hiring of the additional police officer. So I might ask that you get your facts straight again!

And while we are at it, the GOP strongly supported the ASOs and the funding of additional security measures. You appear to not have a clear understanding of the duties of the Town Council versus serving on the Board of Education! I would suggest that you read our town charter to make sure you understand the differences and responsibilities.

Our Town is at a crossroads where we are going to have to make some really tough decisions using sound judgment and a knowledge of the facts.

This is why I am supporting my wife, Deborah Cunningham for Town Council!

Mark Cunningham – East Hampton

Bernie for Colchester

To the Editor:

I am excited to vote for Bernie Dennler this November! His experience in municipal government, unwavering professionalism, and intent to bring our community together are a few of the reasons I believe he is the best candidate for the job.

Bernie is a proud, lifelong resident of Colchester, who currently works in the Lebanon Town Hall as an office manager for the First Selectman. In this role, he has successfully worked with both Republican and Democratic administrations. He has also volunteered extensively in Colchester, including serving as vice chair for the Board of Finance.

Bernie remains professional at all times and actively fosters a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

For these reasons, and many more, I will be voting for Bernie Dennler on Nov. 7.

Nina Minella – Colchester

Broken Government

To the Editor:

The Hebron BOS recently voted to form yet another committee to determine the fate of the DPW. After 13 years, and millions of wasted dollars, we are back to square one. The committee will include selectman Kasper, who pushed strongly for the DPW in the town center ("no Plan B"). If past is prologue, despite budget votes and surveys to the contrary, Mr. Kasper will again be proposing a new palatial DPW/municipal complex in the town center "as the only feasible alternative."

The DPW saga is just one example that shows Hebron government is broken. The last referendum showed that there is a clear majority of citizens who believe the town budget is too high. These citizens have long been held in contempt by the tax-and-spend Republican town government. High taxes are driving the less affluent and elderly out of town, but this broken government doesn't care. It's just not right.

In November, let's vote in representatives who respect us. We shouldn't have town officials swearing at us at public meetings. We shouldn't have a Republican BOF chair calling the police when a courageous sixth grader rightfully tries to voice their opinion. And, we should not reelect Mr. Kasper, who has represented the powerful few at the expense of the community and has become the willing face of this broken government.

If you voted against the budget in May and oppose building the DPW in the town center, please vote Row A. We need representatives who are not just rubber stamps of the local political machine. BOF candidates Mr. Thibeault and Mr. Ockman, and BOS candidates, Ms. Riley and Mr. Matra, have the courage to stand for themselves and for us.

Let's fix this broken government. Vote Row A only.

John Collins – Amston

Democrats Wanted

To the Editor:

Calling all Hebron and Amston Democrats: Hebron needs you on Nov. 7! The Hebron Democrats have worked hard these last two years to show our town who we are and why we are the better leaders for the town we love so much. But we cannot do this alone. While we love what we do all year round, we need your votes to make our hard work pay off. Our candidates would appreciate the opportunity to represent all of you because we feel we have the right personalities and temperament, the personal and professional backgrounds to understand the complexities of being on a board and we are actively engaged in town, as a group and as individuals.

Our candidates were chosen because they'll be an asset to our town; not because we needed them to fill a spot so the other side didn't win. That's not what we're about. So please show up so our hard work pays off and so all of you can feel reassured that the people running this town, are in it for the right reason. If Dems show up, we win. Plain and simple. There are more Dems than Republicans registered in town. Need a ride to the polls? Sign up early by emailing Chair@hebrondems.com. Thank you Hebron.

**Erin Bussiere, Chair
Hebron Democrats**

A Crucial Opportunity

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7, we have a crucial opportunity to shape the leadership of our town in a manner that reflects our core values.

If you prioritize character, civility, and the capacity to foster composed, cooperative, and respectful leadership, then Bernie Dennler emerges as the unequivocal choice. Similarly, for those who highly value fiscal responsibility, Bernie Dennler stands as the most suitable candidate. You might question how a Democrat can exemplify greater fiscal responsibility than the incumbent Republican.

The current "conservative" first selectman boasts spending millions in taxpayer dollars in his campaign commercials, all while accumulating substantial expenses due to high employee turnover and costly lawsuits, reflective of his lack of leadership and managerial skills. Many Colchester residents are disheartened by this spending behavior from a supposed "fiscal conservative," compounded by the turmoil and missteps our town has endured over the last two years. How do you feel about our town constantly being in the news for the wrong reasons? If you want to go back to the days of sound leadership that carries quiet and effective town management, then Bernie Dennler is your choice.

Experience is an invaluable asset, and Bernie Dennler possesses a wealth of it. Having served as the office manager in the Lebanon town hall for years, he carries the knowledge and experience essential for immediate and effective leadership in Town Hall. Conversely, the past two years witnessed an investment in the education of the current first selectman, an investment that, regrettably, failed to yield a stable and well-managed town of Colchester.

I urge my fellow residents to stand with me in voting for Bernie Dennler on Nov. 7. Let's make a choice that truly reflects our values and sets our town on a path toward progress and prosperity. Head over to www.BernieforColchester.com to see the debate video that shows the difference between the two candidates.

**Dave Koji -- Colchester
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

Lies and Scare Tactics

To the Editor:

As a newcomer to politics in Colchester, I'm getting a crash course in how nasty the process can get. What constantly surprises me is the tactic of just using half-truths, straight-up lies, or false allegations to try to discredit good human beings.

While I have not been the target of any of the horrid statements so far, I am disgusted watching this happen to my fellow teammates who are attempting to serve our community. Calling names or twisting contentious situations that you yourself create is definitely toxic and if that is what happens in public, imagine what happens behind closed doors! I can see why 30 different people have left Town Hall during this current administration. The first selectman thinks he can scare good people away from running for office by lying about them and tricking voters into believing his false accusations.

We, the Democratic candidates for office, do not deserve to be viciously attacked or even lied about in front of our friends and families. My running mates are kind, qualified people; fellow citizens and neighbors looking to volunteer their time to save Colchester from being torn apart by this sort of vitriol. Running for office is hard enough. It should not be complicated by the bullying behavior of an incumbent first selectman.

I urge voters to support our slate so that we can bring civility back to town government. The difference between our team, led by Bernie Dennler, and the other is clear. You can see for yourself by watching the full video of the CBA dinner candidate debate on bernieforcolchester.com.

**Sincerely,
Karen Belding – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Finance**

False Allegations

To the Editor:

I am Gayle Furman, your town clerk for the past nine years.

Andreas Bisbikos, Colchester's current first selectman, continues to slander me personally regarding his accusations that I have misappropriated funds.

First, if Mr. Bisbikos was any kind of leader, he would have simply spoken with me about any concerns, and we could have resolved it like adults.

Regarding his accusation that I used taxpayer money for hotel rooms: The funds I used to attend State and Connecticut Town Clerk's Association conferences came from a fund that is designated for "Town Clerk use only." Connecticut law stipulates that this money does not go into the town's General Fund. Therefore, it is not Colchester taxpayer money as he wants you to believe. I have used these funds for conference expenses not covered by my budget for the past nine years, under both parties' administrations.

Regarding his accusation of my buying a refrigerator out of grant money. Yes, I did. I bought it for the registrars' office for a total of \$158. They use it to store perishable items for the election poll workers.

It is very clear the Mr. Bisbikos is trying to slander my name so the Republicans can take the town clerk position. This concerns me because elections need to be carried out in a nonpartisan way. I worry that he would try to influence an inexperienced town clerk.

Mr. Bisbikos also talks about stopping toxicity in Town Hall. Believe me when I say that he is the cause of the toxicity. Every day at Town Hall I encounter disgruntled employees due to his inability to manage.

I'm asking you to not vote for Andreas Bisbikos for first selectman this November. Vote for Bernie Dennler, who truly has Colchester's best interest in mind.

**Gayle Furman
Colchester Town Clerk**

Reelect Arndt

To the Editor:

Please reelect Augie Arndt to the BOE. Augie demonstrates professionalism through clear communication, listens to and works with all sides and has a vision for our schools that includes fighting for our students and promoting educational fundamentals. He is a veteran, coaches Little League and is a certified election moderator.

Ray Zatorski – East Hampton

Meet the Candidates

To the Editor:

On Thursday, Oct. 26, the East Hampton High School AP Government class is performing a great service to the community when it hosts a Meet the Candidates event. The evening promises a chance for the community to get to know the candidates without the filters of social media or tailored press releases.

I encourage as many people as possible to attend, beginning when Board of Education candidates take the microphones in Town Hall at 6 p.m. Board of Finance candidates will follow at 6:45, and Town Council candidates will speak at 7:30.

I hope parents and community members attend the event in significant numbers. Forums present the opportunity for candidates to speak candidly (well, mostly) and honestly about why they are seeking office. There are stark differences in the platforms of the local Democrats and Republicans, and voters deserve to know where candidates stand.

Municipal elections may not have the intrigue as presidential or gubernatorial races, yet local politics bear a much greater impact on residents. These will be the leaders determining tax rates, services available to seniors, funding for local infrastructure, and educational policy.

The latter makes it even more appropriate that students will be moderating the event. The actions and decisions of East Hampton leaders will directly affect the quality of education and the strength of the community, regardless of voting eligibility of the students asking the questions. It is civics in action and a chance for students to think critically about the impact of local government.

I am proud to be running for the Board of Education on the Democratic ticket and look forward to joining my colleagues in an honest discussion with students and the community.

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

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

I Support Our Democrats

To the Editor:

Over the past 12 years, I have made my home here in East Hampton. We looked at many of the towns in this area as my family decided where we wanted to move. East Hampton was at the top of our list. It is a great place to live! I love driving past Lake Pocotopaug every morning as I go to work. I value the education that my daughter received from what I consider to be one of the best school systems around. When I fell ill in 2017, I am grateful for the ambulance workers who were able to quickly and effectively deliver the medical attention I needed.

All of these things are important, but they don't just happen out of thin air. It takes all of us together, supporting these values, and making sure that those people elected to serve our community share those values. From my perspective, the Democratic slate of candidates are dedicated to continuing support of these three critical components of East Hampton life – fast and friendly emergency services, excellent schools, and a beautiful environment in which to live.

As Election Day grows closer, I wholeheartedly support our Democratic candidates. When new families consider East Hampton as a place to make their home, I hope that it remains the kind of place that is appealing, safe, and a good place to raise their kids.

Scott Slater – East Hampton

Strong Support for Hetrick

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for Bobby Hetrick in his bid for reelection to the esteemed position of Board of Selectmen. Having closely observed Bobby's performance and dedication to public service over the past term, I firmly believe that he is the right person to continue serving our community.

During his tenure on the Board of Selectmen, Bobby has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and a deep commitment to the well-being of our community. His sound decision-making, and genuine concern for our citizens have greatly contributed to progress within our community.

Bobby has worked to engage with residents, listen to their opinions, and incorporate their feedback into policy decisions. This approach has helped build trust and foster a sense of unity within our community.

As an active member of our community, I have had the privilege of working with Bobby in many different community service and fundraising events. His ability to work with fellow board members, local officials, and community organizations is a credit to his character.

I wholeheartedly endorse Bobby Hetrick and urge the voters to support his candidacy.

Michelle Donahue – Portland

Note: Donahue is a member of the Portland Republican Town Committee, but is writing as an individual.

Team Curley for Portland

To the Editor:

Since his election as Portland's first selectman in 2021, and winning a majority on the Board of Selectmen, Ryan Curley has kept his promises to advance Portland and create the conditions for needed economic growth. Ryan and his Board of Selectmen team have demonstrated true commitment to this mission.

They have secured over \$2.3 million in various grants, while carefully managing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to address our capital needs and working to ensure that important projects such as the redevelopment of Brainerd Place and long-overdue renovations to the PHS track and Senior Center moved forward.

Ryan is a collaborative, forward-thinking leader. He puts Portland's long-term needs ahead of other considerations. To continue his mission to advance Portland, it's critical to re-elect Ryan and his Board of Selectmen team of Bobby Hetrick, Mike "Julio" Hernandez, Shaun Manning, and Mike Pelton. They are all deeply committed to a strong, fiscally sound Portland community.

Of equal importance is to elect our other candidates, especially our two candidates for the Board of Education, Angela Hammond, and Karen Renner. Angela and Karen will bring a responsible, fresh perspective to the BOE and help to craft responsible plans to address student achievement, mental health needs and the significant unmet facilities needs in our schools.

I urge voters in this election to vote for Team Curley for Portland on Nov. 7. Learn more about all of our candidates for Portland at www.goppportlandct.com/candidates.

**Tim Lavoy, Chair
Portland Republican Town Committee**

A Winning Play

To the Editor:

As a mother and a proud member of our community, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the reelection of First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos. I firmly believe that his past achievements and forward-looking plans position him as the ideal candidate to guide our town towards a brighter future.

One of the most remarkable aspects of his leadership is his commitment to improving our recreational facilities. Our children are the heartbeat of our community, and the improvements he has already achieved demonstrate his dedication to their well-being. Our children have greatly benefited from the new playground, pickleball and basketball courts, as well as upgraded signs.

Moreover, his successful initiatives in securing funding for the Field Irrigation project and increasing investment in grounds maintenance and fence repairs demonstrate his vision for a more vibrant community.

These improvements not only make our town more attractive, but also create safe and enjoyable spaces for our youth.

His vision to continue the Fields of Dreams program is particularly promising. It ensures that our children will have access to excellent recreational facilities, fostering their physical and social development.

I firmly believe that re-electing First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos is the best choice for our community. He boasts a proven track record of accomplishments and a clear vision for our town's future. Let us rally behind his continued leadership and keep our community on the path to progress.

**Sincerely,
Andrea DePaola – Colchester**

Passionate, Intelligent, Kind

To the Editor:

As Democratic Party chair, my most important job is to identify qualified candidates to run for office. That task was challenging this year. Repeatedly, people told me that while they would love to serve Colchester, they, or their family members, were worried about the personal attacks that Andreas Bisbikos and the Republicans would launch against them. Many turned away because our current first selectman has perpetuated a culture of fear.

Eventually, fourteen brave souls came forward to accept nominations to run on the Democratic ticket. All are highly qualified, experienced, passionate, intelligent, kind individuals who love Colchester and want to dedicate their free time volunteering to serve our community. They want to make Colchester a kinder, more civil place to live where things get done. I am proud of them for being courageous enough to run for office knowing that they may be the targets in Bisbikos' infamous campaign strategy he proudly calls "death by 1,000 cuts."

Andreas has launched relentless, horrible assaults on Democratic candidates, especially women, most recently in a vile campaign mailer plastered with vicious mistruths, misrepresentations, rumors, innuendos and outright lies. Rather than discuss substance or run a campaign rooted in ideas, Bisbikos resorts to ad hominem attacks and scare tactics.

Candidates who are good people do not deserve to be bullied in front of their children, families, and friends simply for wanting to serve their town representing the political party on the other side of Bisbikos.

Unlike our opponents, whose party is in disarray, we support one another as Bisbikos goes out of his way to hurt candidates' personal and professional reputations. Things can only change if Colchester votes Andreas Bisbikos and his toxic behavior out of office on Nov. 7. To learn more about the Democrats, please visit colchesterdemocrats.org.

**Sincerely,
Monica Swyden, Chair
Colchester Democratic Town Committee**

Thank You, Colchester

To the Editor:

It's been a busy week as candidates are approaching the Nov. 7 elections. We are door knocking, meeting people and holding community conversations.

I am so incredibly proud to run for the Board of Education on the Colchester Democratic ticket. Our slate of candidates have integrity, solid work ethic and a commitment to our community unlike any other. This past week while Mr. Bisbikos and company wasted hundreds of dollars on negative (and blatantly untrue) campaign flyers attacking us, we have been focusing on the town's people and their needs.

We hear you Colchester! You are tired of the negativity, the drama, the bad press. You have told us through your huge outpouring of support. You have text us, messaged, called, emailed and welcomed us in your homes. The resounding request – let's focus on the town's work and get the toxicity out of Town Hall.

We agree. We are ready to work. We have work to do and no time to waste on name-calling and cyberbullying.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has reached out to support me. Many people I don't even know have shown support and are tired of the games.

Colchester, you have a choice to make and a voice to make it with. On Nov. 7, you can choose to move past the drama, the lawsuits, police calls to town meetings and a first selectman that attacks his community. A town leader is supposed to represent everyone, even those who didn't vote for him.

"Blowing out someone else's candles doesn't make yours shine any brighter." We deserve better. Please join us in voting Row A on Nov. 7.

**Michelle Millington – Colchester
Candidate, Board of Education**

Beyond Disappointed

To the Editor:

We are beyond disappointed to see that a chapter of Moms for Liberty was established in Connecticut. Under the umbrella of parental rights in the classroom, this group supports issues that include book bans and limiting discussion about race and LGBTQ+ identities. Supporters of Moms for Liberty proliferate homophobia, transphobia, racism, and xenophobia. One of the objectives of this national group is to elect like-minded members to local boards of education to control the narrative being taught to children.

When a small group of radical parents start advocating to remove books from schools, they are no longer only making decisions in the best interests of their own children. They are making decisions for all the children...including yours and ours. That is not how public schools should work. If a parent isn't comfortable with the public-school model, that parent has other options.

We are running for the RHAM Board of Education to work for the representation of all students – and all parents. We want our LGBTQ+ students to be represented. We want students from all ethnic and racial backgrounds to be represented. We want students of all abilities to be represented. We want students who participate in sports, Band, DECA, Math Team, Cheerleading, Drama United, computer club, you name it, to be represented. This is what our students need and deserve, and those should be the values of our local board of education.

Our families live in Hebron and our children have attended both Hebron and RHAM schools. We ask for your vote on Nov. 7. A vote for us will be a vote for all RHAM students and families.

**Maura Curran Baker and Heather Summerer
Hebron**

Division

Dear Colchester Residents,

It's time to talk about how we got here.

Since I launched my campaign for first selectman, I have been focused on sharing a positive vision for our town and the importance of bringing our community together. Unfortunately, you can't solve a problem unless you're willing to confront and acknowledge the root of it.

For the last two years, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos has used his office to put the 'bully' in 'bully pulpit' -- censoring books, threatening his opponents with partisan investigations, defaming volunteers, and using employee personnel matters to manufacture political stunts.

He has abused his position as chief of police to intimidate his former assistant and to create drama at public meetings. The chaos has driven away talented staff and saddled our town with embarrassing newspaper headline after headline.

During campaign season, the cruelty has come to a head – delivered straight to mailboxes in vile political mailers, blasted out on social media, or blown up at public meetings. This month, Bisbikos called women on the Board of Selectmen "mushroom heads" in front of members of the Colchester Business Association. His Facebook foot soldiers have mocked the appearance of the Democratic team with comments about candidates' weights. One regular mouthpiece told a female candidate to "lay off the cheesecake."

These juvenile, schoolyard tactics expose the failing of leadership at Town Hall. Over the last 10 months, I have spoken to hundreds of residents who are begging for an end to the chaos and incivility. This is not the Colchester we know.

Democrats, Republicans, and everyone in between... we can all agree: this behavior has no place in Colchester.

Let's bring Colchester together; we can start by rejecting the kind of politics being used to divide us.

**Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman**

Plan to Vote

To the Editor:

In terms of government, no election impacts the everyday lives of citizens more than the people we elect to municipal office. They make the decisions that directly govern towns, with the most influence on quality of life, education, responsible spending, care for seniors, and a host of other issues.

Yet a frustrating trend emerges every two years. While voters come out in force to elect presidents, governors, and congresspeople, municipal elections typically draw poorly. In 2021, about 36% of registered voters turned out to vote for their East Hampton government. Most voters stayed home, and as a result, a relatively small amount of people determined our leadership. Draw your own conclusions on how that turned out.

We are less than a month from this year's municipal contest, and the stakes are high. No matter which way you lean politically, your voice should be heard, especially when a few votes can mean the difference between our leadership. As Nov. 7 draws nearer, now is the time to make a plan to vote.

If you are unregistered, there is plenty of time to register to vote. You can even register online at voterregistration.ct.gov.

The pre-election registration cutoff is seven days before Election Day. However, Election Day registration is available for anyone who misses the deadline.

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall. If you can't make it to the polls at East Hampton High School, you are welcome to vote absentee in advance.

Curbside voting is easy and is available at the high school on Election Day.

Please make voting a priority this November. The stakes are high in East Hampton, and your vote really does make a difference.

**Sincerely,
Brian Corvo – East Hampton**

Tired of Negativity

To the Editor:

I used to think that politics (especially local politics) was about solving problems on behalf of a community. Disagreements are certain to happen and we can work through those based on the structures and processes we have.

However, it's clear to me now that some people really do believe the way to winning is just attack, attack, attack. Attack with everything you have. Mix truth, lies, and a bunch of grey area in between to flood the zone. Unfortunately, this has been all too effective in the past at various levels of government.

We are seeing the same sort of offensive approach play out again this year. That is plain for all to see.

What many probably can't see is the impact it has on our town.

First, it is a giant distraction from the actual issues our town faces. The vast majority of the issues we face don't have partisan lines.

Second, good people are getting worn down, and I'm not just talking about people currently running and/or elected. I also know a bunch of people in town who are just tired of the negative theater, and people (from both parties) who would want to get involved refuse to be based on the current political climate.

Our town can't afford to keep losing volunteers and employees (both literally keep our town running) based on such a negative political climate.

That's why I choose not to engage in the "attack attack attack" philosophy.

I hope you'll join me on Nov. 7 and vote for candidates who would rather focus on building solutions and helping our community grow rather than tear anyone down.

**Sincerely,
Christopher Rivers – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Education**

Support Dillon

To the Editor:

I urge all voters in the upcoming 2023 Portland municipal election to support John Dillon for another term on the Board of Selectmen, given that John has proven himself to be a strong and responsible leader, during his current first term as a selectman.

Also, I had the pleasure of working with him for six years, when John served as the chairman of the Portland Board of Assessment Appeals. He was always concerned about taxpayers' financial problems.

And I was very much aware, as the chairman for Scout Troop 49, of John's dedicated service as a scout leader, which included the commitment of weekly meetings, as well as monthly and summer camping trips, including an extended backpacking trip in Philmont Scout Reservation, New Mexico.

I am sure these are but a few of the many organizations in Portland that he has actively worked to support.

**Sincerely,
Tom Malecky – Portland**

Vote Blue, Vote Briggs

To the Editor:

Brian Briggs is an excellent candidate for reelection to the Andover Board of Finance. I have known Brian and his family since 2016 and have served with him on the Recreation Commission since 2019. Brian is always willing to offer his help or constructive advice, and always in a composed and thoughtful manner. A teacher and coach with Windham Public Schools, not only does Brian bring his intellect and experience to every meeting; more importantly, he is the type of person who does the right thing even when no one is looking.

Brian has a passion for serving his community and we need more people like Brian on our boards and commissions. Please cast your vote for him.

Annamarie Daigle – Andover

Endorses Engelhardt

To the Editor:

There are many factors that make a board an effective body. Individual members should bring a basic working knowledge of the task at hand and a willingness to learn more; a unique perspective that comes from their personal history as well as the ability to consider other points of view; a belief that there is always progress to be made and the integrity to do right by those they represent. When those individuals come to the table and work cooperatively together, the community, as a whole, benefits. I have had the privilege of sitting at that table with Martha Wick and Nancy Oakley for almost four years and am grateful for their dedication, thoughtfulness, wisdom, and integrity as they worked for the children and families of East Hampton.

As Election Day approaches, Martha and Nancy leave big shoes to fill. I believe Matt Engelhardt can fill them. A product of public education his entire life, Matt has a passion for making EHPS the best they can be. He brings with him a trove of relevant experience and strong communication skills. Matt was a journalist who covered boards of education throughout Connecticut as well as the state Department of Education. He served as communication coordinator to two of the state's Regional Educational Service Centers and has helped to coordinate dozens of superintendent searches. In addition to his professional experience, Matt's mother served as a social worker in East Hampton schools for over 40 years and he is the father of two daughters in the system. His family ties run deep.

I believe Matt has everything it takes to come to the table with thoughtfulness, wisdom, dedication, integrity, and a willingness to work together for the best interests of our students. Please join me in supporting Matt Engelhardt for Board of Education.

Nancy Kohler – East Hampton

Note: Kohler is a member of the Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.

Supports Democrats

To the Editor:

As we approach the 2023 elections, it appears that we may be headed toward a rematch of the budget referendum which took place earlier this year. At the time the voters responded that adequate funding was needed to ensure our most essential services were protected. Once again it appears our political parties have staked out positions on how our community will continue to progress in the immediate future.

While any family considering a move to East Hampton will need to know our property tax rate, their greatest concerns will be the quality of our educational system and public safety. We are most fortunate to have good schools, staffed by dedicated teachers and administrators. We are also afforded protection by our local fire and ambulance services, as well as, a fine police department led by an outstanding police chief. The people who provide these services need our support.

I am retired and am well beyond having children in public schools. I, like most of my acquaintances, do not have unlimited financial resources. However, a successful community requires investment based on assessment of needs and costs. This does not mean committing funding indiscriminately. Intelligent analysis conducted by knowledgeable individuals is essential in investing wisely. It is due to the aforementioned reasons that I fully support the Democratic slate of candidates. Their positions show visions of a community progressing and moving forward. This is essential if we are to stay competitive with comparable communities. Our votes will determine the direction for the foreseeable future.

David May – East Hampton

A Cut?

To the Editor:

Just to clarify the apparent confusion between cutting a budget and reducing a request, I submit this example...

The Board of Education has \$5 in their current budget. They request another \$5 from the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance only gives them \$3. That means the Board of Finance cut their request by \$2. But, they added \$3 to the Board of Education budget, raising it to \$8. In fact, they increased the Board of Education budget.

**Clarity,
Sincerely,
Melissa H. Engel – East Hampton**

We Work Together

To the Editor:

First, I thank everyone who came to the DTC caucus to support the current Democratic members. A special thanks to Carol Lee for her insight into matters related to town charter rules. Please know how much I appreciate your support.

Second, I want to clear up misconceptions regarding infighting amongst the BOS. We don't fight...we work together. This board has accomplished much during the last four years while being fiscally conservative. Not a day goes by that we aren't in communication with one another behind the scenes addressing issues arising each day. It's not a once-a-month meeting; it's a daily commitment we all embrace. We work together cohesively without problems because we put our personalities, party, and national politics aside for the health and well-being of our town. We care for and support each other. To my knowledge, there have never been any angry words, insults, or bullying. We respect each other for volunteering

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★ *Letters cont. from page 31*

time and providing personal expertise. We respect and listen to each other's opinion even if we disagree.

Third, I want to explain why this Board of Selectmen needs continued community support from everyone for this election. We want to address and keep working on improving communications between the BOE, BOF and BOS. We want to complete the community/senior center. And recently we received a \$500,000 STEAP grant for the installation of a playground for children, pickle ball courts and parking improvements at Veterans Memorial Field. These improvements will enhance Andover's recreational options for everyone of all ages.

As I stated earlier, the Board of Selectmen candidates need Andover's support to keep our town moving in the right direction. I ask for your support for selectmen and Planning and Zoning (member 10+ years), along with Jeff Maguire for first selectman.

**Sincerely,
Scott Person – Andover
Incumbent Candidate for Andover Board of Selectmen/Planning and Zoning**

Vote Person for Andover BOE

To the Editor:

A vote for Kim Person is a vote for all of Andover's residents. Kim is a lifelong resident of Andover and has roots not only in town but within the school system as well. She raised her children in Andover, they went to Andover Elementary. She coordinated and ran the C.O.O.L kids program as director for many years. This allowed her to foster and build relationships with countless parents and their children along their own journeys at AES. This offers her a unique and informed perspective of what not only AES needs but the relationship it must have with all of Andover and its residents. She understands the town, she understands the school, and she cares.

This isn't conjecture, I'm writing as a former AES/C.O.O.L student who attended alongside her own children. I've only known Kim to care and want what's right for the town, the school, and all who attend. I can't think of a better candidate for Andover's Board of Education. Vote Kim Person!

Eric Berry – Andover

Smear Campaign

To the Voters of Colchester:

This week we received a large, full-color, glossy, postcard, from the current first selectman which is filled with lies, innuendo, and not even inklings of truth. It is a disgusting smear campaign.

When some of the parents in this town exhibited bad behavior at an out-of-town sports competition it does not mean the "entire community" is racist, only some bigots. One book at the library, questioned by one parent, does not make the "little children's" section sexualized. We thank the librarian for not acting on his request for action on reading materials at the library.

All this from the candidate who had to have the police called to a meeting in which he had lost control and violence had been threatened.

FYI, socialism does not equate to Communism, so stop bad-mouthing and suggesting it is not a good thing. If you do not understand the difference, you slept through Social Studies class, so research and read about it. For one thing, capitalism is not a form of government it is an economic system. As retirees, we thank our Democratic government each month for the Social programs that allow us to continue living in decent conditions.

Please vote him and his minions out of office! Be smart; vote for Bernie Dennler and the entire Democratic team. Vote Democratic!

Tricia Heldmann and Cal Dufour – Colchester

Colchester Deserves Better

To the Editor:

I moved to Colchester with my family about 15 years ago, and since then we've enjoyed so many of the wonderful things about our small town, from our local farms and nature preserves, to participating in Colchester Community Theatre, to the fantastic teachers in our schools. We love Colchester.

Certainly, there were times when I disagreed with the direction of Town Hall, but I never hesitated to reach out to a first selectman or any board member with a concern or a topic of disagreement. When I did, I was always treated like a neighbor, with respect and responsiveness. We live in a small town. It has always been pretty easy to remember that we are all neighbors, which made it possible to work through differences collaboratively.

However, these last few years, I have witnessed that spirit of community in our town falling away. The mailer I received this week from the Colchester Republicans was so ugly, deceptive and mean-spirited that I couldn't believe at first that this was what we've come to. But we have.

Colchester residents, I'm asking each of you, is this really what we want for our town? Divisive, ugly attacks? Backroom purges of our traditional Republican neighbors from the RTC? A first selectman who espouses strategies like "death by a thousand cuts" and "strike hard and show no mercy" in his YouTube videos (<https://tinyurl.com/y239axx5>)?

I am hopeful and optimistic that we can elect people who care more about our town and its residents than about their own authority and egos. I'm voting for Bernie Dennler and the Democratic slate on Nov. 7 to restore professionalism and respect to town hall. Colchester truly deserves leaders who value residents as neighbors.

Susie Milner – Colchester

Maturity Over Age

To the Editor:

This year, we can vote for maturity and experience or we can vote for the opposite.

Last election we gambled on inexperience, expecting the victor to learn on the job and exhibit the skill and maturity needed to successfully govern. The result was rudeness and immaturity, not thoughtful dialog and debate.

At a recent CBA event one candidate exhibited childlike anger and petulance while the other was calm and self-confident, making points clearly and articulately (youtu.be/xs7EUpkPA8). This was Bernie Dennler, whose opponent falsely labeled as no more than a secretary in the Lebanon first selectman's office.

Bernie's opponent has mailed a flyer that calls out Ber-

nie's age. Bernie is 28 years old and has the maturity and civility his opponent lacks. Bernie's experience is real: he has served as office manager and chief aide to first selectmen of both major political parties in Lebanon. Anyone who has held a similar job can tell you what that means: primary liaison and point of contact for numerous departments/boards, legislators and outside agencies, as well as chief problem-solver for all constituent concerns and issues involving local businesses and vendors.

Being first selectman is not a "photo-op" job! Just ask Erin Stewart, five-term Republican mayor of New Britain, elected at 26 years old and who previously served as state Sen. Kevin Kelly's legislative aide. Or ask Ben Florsheim, Democratic mayor of Middletown, elected at the age of 27 and who previously served as U.S. Senator Chris Murphy's outreach assistant. Both these young and successful municipal leaders gained valuable experience working for seasoned government leaders, just as Bernie has.

Age matters sometimes but maturity and experience matter always. Vote for Bernie.

**Sincerely,
Brian T. Smith – Colchester**

Senior Center Referendum

To the Editor:

The Board of Selectmen has set a date for the town meeting of Nov. 14 to move to referendum on Nov. 28 to authorize an additional \$1.5 million to cover the budget shortfall for the construction of the new Senior Center.

There will be two questions on the ballot:
Question 1: Is asking for approval of both the \$32,691 of state American Rescue Plan Act funds that have already been awarded and the \$575,000 of funds from a donation received from the Estate of Stephen J. Bendas. Both of these appropriations do not include any taxpayer money.

Question 2: Is asking for approval of the additional bonding amount needed to complete the project which is \$892,309.

These three amounts total \$1.5 million. This is the total amount needed to complete the designed project, purchase all previously-chosen furnishings and have a complete workable kitchen.

**Sincerely,
Marge Mlodzinski -- Colchester**

Note: Mlodzinski is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee but said she is speaking as an individual.

Two Fantastic Women

To the Editor:

This year, the Hebron Dems are running two fantastic women for the RHAM Board of Education.

Heather Summerer has been serving on the RHAM board since her appointment in August of 2021. One of her children recently graduated from RHAM and the other is still a student there. Heather is not only a dedicated member, but a vocal and compelling one. She has strongly supported the rights of our students to feel safe and secure in school. Whether it be championing the early start of following the new laws to provide free period products, fighting an obstructive dress code, or combating the blatant racism we've seen rearing its head over the past year, Heather is present and engaged. Her vast public relations experience lends her highly effective communication skills, allowing her to bring clear messaging and open dialogue to the board.

Maura Curran Baker is a longtime resident of Hebron. Like Heather, she has one recent RHAM grad and one who is still enrolled. As a Girl Scout leader and involved parent, Maura has a strong history of volunteerism and community engagement that also includes school sports, music, and church activities. Maura is an empathetic and considerate listener who considers issues without having a knee jerk reaction. When she is elected to the board, her insightfulness and holistic approach to problem-solving will well serve our students, faculty, and staff.

My kids are not at RHAM yet, but, like most parents, my eyes are on their futures. I want for all of the children who attend our schools to have the best education in the safest, most inclusive environment possible, and I have no doubts that these women will pave the way. Vote Row A on Nov. 7.

Nicole Matthews – Amston

Note: Matthews is a member of the Hebron Board of Education but said she is writing as an individual.

Time for New Members

To the Editor:

The combined board meeting Thursday October 12th in the community room was quite enlightening. In case you missed it, here's the story of why the parking lot is closed at AES.

Members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education, AES superintendent, town administrator, and two lawyers attended this meeting designed to educate each other the roles and duties of each board.

Having excess budget funds, against the town's capital RFP process, the superintendent solicited bids to improve the parking lot with no specifications or open bidding. A contractor was hired by the school superintendent for \$128,000 despite the town having a public works manager and town engineer who are much more familiar with paving specifications. The town was alerted to this project when the contractor applied for the building permit. Once the town was made aware of this they immediately responded by working with the school to fix problems that needed to be addressed. There were drainage issues that needed to be taken care of, and the correct curbing needed to be installed instead to prevent plow damage. There were compacting specifications, asphalt thickness and other details that all needed to be finalized. After all this was finally completed, the paving contractor could not complete the project this year.

Unfortunately closing the upper lot without first contacting public works or the town engineer the Board of Education made it legally more difficult to open it until repairs were completed. This delay happened because many current Board of Education members failed to understand what a capital improvement is and that they needed to follow the town's correct purchasing policy. Since they cannot seem to understand proper procedures for capital improvements then it's time for us to vote for new members on the Andover BOE.

Marcie Miner – Andover

Civility is Not Lost

To the Editor:

There was once a time in recent history when our local elected officials worked together. They listened to different perspectives and found agreeable solutions for the good of the community. But overwhelmingly in the last two years, we've drifted into a new era. In a recent *Rivereast* letter to the editor the current Republican Town Committee chair went on a rampage, calling moderate Republicans RINO's and throwing any and all nasty names at Democrats. At first, I'd call this behavior adolescent, but that would be an insult to our youth who behave so much better. Name-calling is a complete disregard for our neighbors and of our community. How can we elect individuals who make it a priority to tear others down? We need to elect people who listen, who are kind to others, and care about the well-being of our community.

In the last budget cycle, we witnessed the Board of Finance chair (Migliaccio) talk rudely to community members who voiced concern over budget cuts. The BOF did not listen to the 100+ attendees who consistently voiced that the budget was not acceptable. It failed in round one, then passed in the second referendum after funding for critical programs was restored.

Watch recordings of Board of Selectmen meetings and see Andreas Bisbikos tear into fellow residents who speak during citizen comments. In addition to his abysmal behavior at town meetings, many of "his" accomplishments (as he promotes) are accomplishments others set in motion. He landed in that seat during a time when federal-funded projects were under way. It's easy to list accomplishments on campaign materials when others did the work. However, pay attention because without ARPA funds to achieve positive results, our community will be left with his divisive behavior that ultimately creates negative and low-performing results.

Please vote for civility by voting for the Democratic candidates.

Tamara Dimitri – Colchester

Republicans Are Ready!

To the Editor:

As Republican Town Committee chairperson, I am proud of our Republican candidates who are committed to moving our town forward and looking to the future and not the past! We are willing and able to do what is best for all of our residents of East Hampton and only have your best interest at heart. Yes, we are fiscally responsible and look to provide the services to our residents whether you are young or old. All of our candidates love our small-town charm, understand the needs of our residents and want to create a community that is inclusive to all! We believe we can serve our community well and bring it forward with our passion and affection for East Hampton.

As a candidate I was elected to the Board of Assessment Appeals and appointed to the Board of Finance so I have had a front row seat in understanding the day to day operations of our town financially as well as the tax burden that many of our residents face.

We need to balance our town's revenue stream without undue burden to our taxpayers. Work to foster better teamwork between our boards while emphasizing collaboration and open communication. Republicans have been accused of not listening to the parents and residents which is false! We made decisions based on the amount of money we generate from our tax revenue stream! We do not run our town on credit cards! We need to consider all residents, young and old!

I thank you for your vote for myself and all of our Republican candidates on Nov. 7!

**Respectfully,
Deb Cunningham – East Hampton
Chair, Republican Town Committee
Candidate for Town Council**

Person, Not Party

To the Editor:

As a resident of Colchester and an unaffiliated voter for 39 years, I have always voted for the person ... not the politician or political party. This is why I wholeheartedly endorse Bernie Dennler for first selectman of Colchester as he possesses the qualities of the person I want leading our town.

Bernie is smart, kind, articulate, mature, has many varied municipal experiences and is a positive leader! So often politicians and their backers will slander, threaten, lie and bully ... to intimidate, silence or discredit. That's not Bernie! He's the leader that will bring trust, civility, positive actions and true transparency to Town Hall.

Let's get Colchester back in the news for all the good things happening in our town! Please vote for Bernie Dennler for Colchester's first selectman!

**Sincerely,
Susie Hawkins – Colchester**

This is Who He Is

To the Editor:

We all had the displeasure of a hateful mailer from the First Selectman Bisbikos arrive in our mailboxes on Monday. As a candidate for office on the Democratic ticket, it was especially gut-wrenching for me to see how he attacked my fellow candidates, all good people who have done nothing other than to offer to serve our community.

They say when someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time. We are far past the "first time" with First Selectman Bisbikos. He bragged about his "death by 1,000 cuts" campaign strategy when he first ran for office two years ago. Relentless vicious attacks on citizens and other elected officials have been constant since his election to office. Recently, he was very aggressive at the CBA debate (see for yourself by clicking the link on [bernieforcolchester.com](https://www.bernieforcolchester.com)) and now the recent mailer takes "dirty politics" to a new level. This is who he is! We have seen it time and time again and he will never change.

It's time to put a stop to these attacks and restore the integrity of our town government. We are on the brink of a new and exciting time for the town of Colchester. I, along with my teammates, seek to bring bipartisan collaboration and civility back to town hall. This starts with your vote on Nov. 7 for Bernie Dennler for first selectman and the entire Democratic slate on Row A. We need your support to bring Colchester back together.

**Krista Kardys – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals**

A Farmers' Friend

To the Editor:

Of New England's nine kinds of bats, two are referred to as "brown bats." One is bigger than the other, thus the common names "big brown bat and little brown bat." However, the average adult big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) is only about 4" long with a 13" wingspan, and weighing about 18 grams. It's not very big, but it is brown. Its dorsal fur is reddish to dark-brown and glossy, and its ventral fur is a lighter brown.

Big brown bats are distributed throughout North and South America, and are found in urban, suburban, and/or rural environments and also forested regions.

As the bats forage, they consume huge quantities of night-flying insects, including crop and forest pests, making them quite valuable to farmers and gardeners. In a single summer, a colony of 150 big brown bats can consume one million two hundred eighty-seven thousand beetles and other crop destroying insects, all of which cause serious agricultural damage.

As cold weather approaches, big brown bats seek shelters that provide a steady cool/cold temperature where they enter into hibernation. They may hibernate singly or in groups. They come out of hibernation in the spring when females form maternity colonies beneath loose bark and in small tree cavities, where each pregnant female gives birth to one or two pups in June or July. However, as they are forced out of natural habitats due to encroaching human populations, bats often take up residence in man-made structures such as barns, bridges and house attics. But people and bats can help each other. Installing bat-specific artificial roosts, such as a bat house, is a good option to keep bats out of homes, yet near enough so that people can continue to benefit from the bats' insect-eating superpowers.

Next week: the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*).

**Thank you,
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton**

PDW

To the Editor:

"It was not just losing control of the conversation; it was the not-so-secret secrets that spooked people. [So] the system did what it has always done when challenged-it doubled down on everything. On illegal surveillance of our private lives. On abuse of our first amendment freedom of speech. On violations of our freedom of assembly. On our right to a fair trial. ... In the course of figuring out how to destroy the intruder, the cabal threw truth out of their vocabulary. Living in the U.S. became a political version of the Alice and Wonderland view of reality. The 'truth' became whatever lies would promote their narrative. ... The headlines attracted viewers. Truth be damned. It was entertaining and great chatter for the elites at cocktail parties. Plus, it made them feel good about themselves. ... And worse, when a truth somehow got through the morass of lies and hate, it was ignored. – *Political Prisoner*.

Admittedly, I'm not a Paul Manafort fan. However, this statement is awesome. It says everything. It says nothing. If Hebron residents want transparency, start sleuthing. Watch videos, including March 7, 2019. Read minutes starting in 2004. Investigate. The environmental reports speak for themselves. Well water remediation speaks volumes and will be your responsibility as taxpayers. You decide. It's your town. Your money. Your pride. Apparently the rest of us are just passing through. Oh and guess what? 17 Kinney Rd. is also....your history.

Meanwhile I will continue defending People's Drinking Water. I wonder if Michael Moore would be interested in helping. I've heard such great quotes and theories, in the past two years, it would be shameful to waste them. Maybe he can arrange a meeting with Mike Judge and Etan Cohen. Until then vote wisely and enjoy your water. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Dedicated, Fortright

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Linda Armstrong and Emily Timreck for the Board of Assessment Appeals. I served with Emily on the BAA, and have appealed my MV assessment before the board with Linda as a member.

I speak with firsthand knowledge of how dedicated, forthright and committed they are to providing fair and equitable decisions to citizens seeking to appeal their tax assessments. They approach their duty with objectivity and civility – no issues of misguided histrionics, or inappropriate comments regarding issues of personality or misinformation to influence the board's final decisions.

They respect the need for factual and relevant information, believe training for the board is essential and have actively sought it out. Linda and Emily recognize taxpayers bringing appraisals from independent licensed, certified appraisers will also be able have their appraisals given as evidence in Superior Court. Their appraiser can testify, under oath as an expert witness. This is compelling evidence.

Please vote for Linda Armstrong and Emily Timreck for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

**Thank you,
Joan Foran – Andover**

Vote for Our Schools!

To the Editor:

As a teacher and a parent, support for our schools in Colchester is one of my top priorities. During this past budget season, supporting our schools with what they need did not seem to be the main concern of our Board of Finance. I applaud the current Board of Education for their ability to work together in a bipartisan manner to put forth a budget that provided our town schools with what they needed. The Board of Finance did not work together in the same bipartisan manner, despite the attempts of Mike Egan and Mike Hayes and the repeated requests from citizens during public meetings. The chair of the Board of Finance (Migliaccio) consistently put forth inaccurate numbers and ignored the repeated requests of citizens to increase the budget, telling the collective that she knew more than we did and was giving us her best offer.

Elected officials should be in office to represent the citizens and they should listen to their constituents especially when it comes to spending our collective tax money. This is why I firmly support Karen Belding and Scott Chapman for the Board of Finance. Come November, a vote for them will be one for our schools!

Jennifer Sevigny – Colchester

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

Support Timreck, Armstrong

To the Editor:

It is our pleasure to support Emily Timreck for a position on the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA). We have found Emily to be a trustworthy individual who once becomes involved in any project puts her whole self into it. For example; she has three years' experience with serving on the BAA and previously had BAA training and part of that was involvement with other town assessors to gain more thorough knowledge of this job. Emily feels it is important to have fair assessments and appraisals for all property owners. She has volunteered with fundraisers held for the Andover Friends of the Library and Senior Luncheons. She is dedicated to complete a job when she is involved. Emily once arrived at Bradley Field from being on vacation and drove directly to Town Hall to work at a fundraiser for seniors so she did not disappoint the committee and wanting to help the seniors. Emily is quiet-spoken, pleasant and hardworking, shows fine integrity and deserves to serve our town on the BAA.

Also, we would like to endorse Linda Armstrong who serves on the BAA retiring from UConn, after 42 years. This indicates her steadfast determination to complete a job. She has served on the BAA for three years and would like your support to continue in this position. Linda has taken BAA training and has served the town on other voluntary committees: AES PTA, RHAM Lacrosse and Football parent organizations, Andover Cub Scout Pack 124 when her children were young. Currently, Linda volunteers for the senior luncheon program.

In Linda's own words: I believe in giving back to the Andover Community for being such a wonderful place to raise my children, and I believe in treating all residents who come before the BAA with fairness and integrity.

Sincerely,
Mike and Cathy Palazzi – Andover

Hebron BOE

To the Editor:

It is with great pleasure that I express my support for Kim Hills' candidacy for the Hebron Board of Education. Kim is a lifelong resident of Hebron and has been teaching for almost 20 years at RHAM High School. Her experience in education and her dedication to our community are key characteristics that will make her a strong teammate on the Board of Education. I know Kim as a fellow mom of elementary school age children and as an active community member. She is not new to getting involved, as she has taken time to participate in and contribute to Board of Education meetings and discussions in recent years. She is always willing to listen and share ideas in a calm and friendly manner. But don't let her calm demeanor deceive you! Kim is tenacious in her desire to support families and to make sure that our schools and children have what they need to be successful.

It would be a pleasure to serve on the Hebron Board of Education together and I encourage you to please vote for Kim!

Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl – Hebron

Note: Nadeau-Schmeizl is a member of the Hebron Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.

Decency, Respect and Kindness

Hi Colchester:

I'm not originally from Colchester. I served in the military and also grew up in a military family. We never spent a lot of time in one place. My wife and I moved here in 2013 and I can honestly say it is the first place that actually feels like home. We have three children, including two attending CES. We love spending time at the schools, library, town green and especially the RecPlex. It's the relationships we've built that make this place so special.

I recently received a political flyer that I believe undermines all the best qualities of this town. My wife and I have taught our children that the two most important things are to always try your best and to be nice to everyone. Maybe I'm old-fashioned but holding individuals running for office to those same standards seems like common sense. Human decency, respect, and kindness are more important than any singular issue this town faces.

Winning a political fight isn't winning at all if it comes at the expense of what makes this community special... the relationships. Tearing each other down for short-term political gain is not something we should support from any candidate running for office. I wish you all the best.

Seth Breitmaier – Colchester

Colchester's Amazing Schools

To the Editor:

An interesting fact is that among all the towns who have a full-service school system, Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade, and also receive the *Riverast*, Colchester has the #1 school system. That is according to Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System. A system to assess how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers, and life.

We do that while maintaining responsible budgets. That is based on the Next Generation Accountability Systems Per Pupil Cost. Portland is the lowest at \$19,200 and the highest is East Hampton at \$19,508. Colchester is in the middle at \$19,418.

You hear everyone say money can't buy happiness, and the truth is it also can't buy you a high performing school system. We need to thank our bright students and supportive parents for their commitment to education. We also have to recognize our teachers. Through their kindness and dedication to our children they are the foundation of our high performing school system.

I'm running as a Republican candidate for the Board of Finance. I have two children in Colchester's school system. During my six-year term I will have a child at every school from Colchester Elementary School to Bacon Academy. I can promise you, we will not underfund our school system. We will properly fund our school system to continue Colchester's excellent school performance.

I ask that you reelect Board of Finance Chairwoman Andrea Migliaccio and vote for me, Michael Dubreuil. We will work to understand the needs of the school system and listen to our citizens. With your support we will continue to keep Colchester affordable while maintaining our amazing school system.

Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester
Republican Candidate, Board of Finance

A Superior Candidate

To the Editor:

Karen Belding is a superior candidate for the Colchester Board of Finance. I have volunteered with Karen on the Colchester Baseball and Softball League (CBSL) board for the past five years. Karen has been on the board for over a decade in many capacities. Currently she is the president of CBSL. Karen has worked within CBSL and with the town to get field fencing repaired as well as make improvements to our fields to make them safe for our children. Karen also coaches for the league dedicating countless hours to all of our children.

Karen has the leadership skills Colchester needs! Karen listens and has open and pointed discussions with all stake holders to make proper decisions for all involved. Karen's passion for her community drove her to get involved in this year's disjointed budget process. Karen is an active volunteer throughout our community including at St. Andrew Church. Karen's business qualifications as a project manager overseeing multi-million-dollar IT implementation projects, more than qualifies her to oversee the finances of our town. Karen is the right person to bring more transparency, clarity and most importantly bipartisan help to our town.

Please vote for Karen Belding for Colchester Board of Finance on Nov. 7!

Margo Gignac – Colchester

Note: Gignac is a Republican on the Colchester Board of Education, but said she is speaking as a citizen.

Affordable Wars

To the Editor:

Another war is on the horizon – this one a “Holy War,” as the sanctity of murdering your enemies becomes, for some, a religious rite of passage in the Middle East. All the major world religions have peace and love as their central tenets but that won't stop some from taking up arms and participating in some old-fashioned ethnic cleansing...

While the United States continues to bury itself in unpayable debts, our treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, told Sky News “We can certainly afford two wars.” Fantastic! We just borrowed a TRILLION dollars in 90 days, more than half the country is living paycheck to paycheck, and we have quadrillions in unfunded liabilities on the balance sheet but money is always available for killing strangers halfway around the world! Despite our economic standing and international influence weakening, we just can't help ourselves when there are bombs to be dropped on civilians.

While the vast majority of both political parties support spending billions in both Israel and Ukraine, only those nutty MAGA Republicans that ousted McCarthy and paralyzed the Congress hold us back! Talk about some extremists!

On the local level, the Connecticut State Capitol building has the Israeli flag flapping in the breeze even though recent polling shows a majority of liberal voters sympathize with the Palestinians. It leaves us in a terrible predicament and most people are just plain confused.

To help clear up the confusion, how about we just stop supporting any wars. Nothing good comes of them and devoting your energies to defending or rationalizing your “side” requires too much mental gymnastics. Instead, focus on what you can do on a local level to make your town a better place. Nothing you say or do will stop what's going to happen overseas but you can affect your own sphere.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Support for Rosemary

To the Editor:

As a parent in Colchester who followed our BOE budgets closely this year and got more involved in town meetings, I was very happy to have Rosemary Coyle on our BOS. I fully support Rosemary for re-election on Nov. 7. Rosemary, and all the selectwomen for that matter, have worked very hard to keep meetings respectful and on task, even when they were met with no respect in return. Rosemary has worked hard for the town of Colchester for many years and will only continue to do so. She knows how wonderful our town is and wants to keep it that way. I know she will continue to work hard for the citizens of Colchester and work towards the same vision many of us have for this town.

I proudly support Rosemary Coyle, as well as Denise Turner and David Koji for our Board of Selectmen this November.

On a different note, I'd like to add that the mailer sent to every citizen in town by our current FS this past Monday was a disgusting use of campaign funds. Proving once again how fiscally irresponsible our current FS is by sending one of the most malicious fliers he could write to every single voter in town. But he continues to prove how unfit he is, even if he wants to claim that he “fights against toxic behaviors” when he himself is the biggest offender.

Do right by our town on Nov. 7 and be sure to vote for Bernie Dennler, Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, David Koji and all of the Democratic candidates. Its time for all of the toxicity to be removed and for our town to be run by competent leadership.

Beth Tiezzi – Colchester

Danger to Democracy

To the Editor:

As the *Riverast* letter deadline approaches, it's looking increasingly possible that the Republican party will elect Jim Jordan as Speaker of the House. It's looking increasingly possible that we're looking at the end of two-and-a-half centuries of democracy. It's looking increasingly possible that we'll cede our republican government to a modern fascism.

Jim Jordan is a legislator who's spent 16 years in office, creating no legislation: not a single bill. The Center for Effective Lawmaking places him below 99% of his peers.

Jim Jordan was a coach who overlooked the sexual harassment of his wrestlers. Jim Jordan was the closest Congressional ally to Donald Trump and strived to overturn a fair election. Jim Jordan is determined to hold hostage our country's financial future in order to win concessions on his pet issues.

In short, Jim Jordan is a menace. Yet he's the Republicans' best candidate for Speaker?

This is the modern Republican Party: entirely dysfunctional but determined to hold power by any means

necessary, even if they destroy all democratic norms.

But you can do something about this, even if Jordan becomes Speaker. You can vote out Republicans at all levels of government. If you have a local election next month, vote Democrat, vote Independent, vote Green, vote Libertarian. If you love your country, vote anything but Republican.

If, like me, you live in Andover, consider the Democrats' slate of incredibly competent, compassionate, and experienced candidates. The best thing you could do for your country is to vote against every Republican running anywhere until the party comes to its senses. If we do this, perhaps we can make it look increasingly possible that our country will heal from the divisions Newt Gingrich started and modern Republicans are trying to finish.

Vote Democratic!

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover

Endorsing Wanat

To the Editor:

I am writing this note to show my support for Karen Wanat, who is running for East Hampton Town Council. My family and I have lived in East Hampton for 8 years and have seen the countless hours of volunteer work that Karen has contributed to our community. She has contributed greatly to our school children with her PTO service, her service within the middle school drama department, and also her service with the Girl Scouts. Our children have benefited directly from her hard work.

In addition, Karen has taken the time to educate adults about their decisions within our town and exactly what we are giving up and or gaining with our taxes. Karen has been able to separate her own personal views and simply give facts so that residents can make educated decisions.

Karen has worked so hard for our town already and I have no doubt she is not only qualified, but will do an amazing job as town council. Karen loves our town and will work very hard for us, please vote for her this November.

Thank you,
Erika Tucker – East Hampton

Would Do Wonderful Job

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter as a full endorsement of Kim Hills as a candidate for the Hebron Board of Education. Kim has all the attributes that would make her successful in this role.

I have known Kim and her family since we moved to Hebron 41 years ago. She has grown into a wonderful mother, teacher, and coach. She gives back to her community and volunteers her time without hesitation to help others. She is thoughtful, respectful, and dedicated to all that she does.

Kim was always a leader growing up and continues in that role today. She was always involved in sports, first as a young player, then as a coach. She is now a teacher here in town passing on her knowledge to the town youth.

I personally had the pleasure of working with her at RHAM and saw firsthand how dedicated she is to her students by developing relationships and supporting their differences.

Kim is a strong leader, a good listener, a great parent whom I feel will do a wonderful job as a member of the Board of Education.

Maureen Brancato – Hebron

Get Out of Their Way!

To the Editor:

How does one plant those roots in a state where a family of four requires more than \$125,000 a year just to survive? What about when they live in a town run by those who care more about their own personal ambitions than they do about actually helping our citizens navigate this new world?

I supported the first selectman's plan of giving \$1 million in ARPA funds back to the people, which my fellow selectmen nixed. I advocated for giving \$500,000 back to the citizens, which my fellow selectmen also nixed. I then attempted to compromise with my fellow selectmen, asking to give \$300,000 back to a pool of citizens that included the middle class. While my fellow selectmen did not outright nix this proposal, they did reduce it down to \$100,000 (10% of the originally planned \$1 million) while somehow managing to tie access to those funds up behind government red tape. Typical.

I have been the only selectman who has fought for our local government to get out of our citizens' way. I am also the only incumbent selectman on the ballot who has not actively fought against reducing the burden felt by our citizens. In fact, I am the only selectman candidate on the ballot for this November who is even talking about our citizens' struggles to survive, let alone asking how our town government can get out of their way so they may live unencumbered.

As a Libertarian, I am not beholden to either major party or the special interest groups that drive them and their platforms. You know what's best for you; nobody else. My fight has always been to just get the government out of your way.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester
Libertarian Candidate for the Board of Selectmen

Asking for Your Vote

To the Editor:

Two years ago, the voters of Portland elected me to serve on the Board of Selectmen. I came to the board with 30 years of work experience in program administration, a deep appreciation for my hometown, and a desire for the board to be what it has always been; a group of individuals working together across party lines to put Portland first.

The following is just a partial list of the important issues that the Board of Selectmen has addressed during my tenure:

Riverfront brownfield cleanup/development; Brainerd Place development; Portland Public Schools facilities project; Municipal infrastructure maintenance; Municipal water source development; Sidewalks repairs/replacements; Fire Department apparatus replacement; Senior citizen service enhancements; Library service enrichment; Business outreach and economic development.

My time on the Board of Selectmen has provided me with a deep familiarity of these and other issues. I have also done my best to bring thoughtful dialogue, sensible fiscal policy, transparency, and realistic expectations to every issue discussed. In a small town like Portland, a delicate balance is always required to ensure that residents have access to all services and supports they have become accustomed to while keeping the mill rate at a reasonable level. I have always done my very best to strike that balance.

I hope to continue my tenure on the Board of Selectmen with First Selectman Curley to ensure that Portland will always be that amazing small town that people call home. I ask for your vote on Nov. 7.

John Dillon – Portland
Candidate for Reelection to Board of Selectmen

Tango2 Banquet

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Tango2 Research Foundation, we would like to thank everyone who has supported and/or donated to our upcoming banquet. Our mission is to lead the way in finding a cure for Tango2-related deficiency disorder by helping to fund, coordinate and guide scientific research that leads to a better understanding of Tango2.

We are very grateful to our major donors including: Reynolds Subaru, Town Fair Tire, Tokio Marine, RecDesk, Lakeside Bar & Grill, Smart Start Pediatrics and Walter Jedziniak Photography.

Hope is building around a potential treatment. Recent research is finding that B Vitamins prevent the most life-threatening of Tango2.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased by going to www.justgiving.com/page/banquet.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Nov. 5 from 5-9 p.m. at St. Clements Castle in Portland.

Jo Mycoff-Schultz and Donna Goodspeed
Tango2 Research Foundation Committee
East Hampton

Supports Engelhardt

To the Editor:

I am writing today in support of Matt Engelhardt for the East Hampton Board of Education. Matt has relentlessly advocated for East Hampton students by consistently attending and speaking at BOE, BOF, and TC meetings. He has written to the *Riverast* in the past and has developed working relationships with school officials and current board members. Matt is a thoughtful and caring parent and a well-educated and informed citizen; his comments and letters are always researched and well-articulated. I commend him for taking the next step to advocate for all of our children.

As a parent and educator in the district I wholeheartedly recommend that you support Matt for the position. Please join me in supporting and voting for Matt in November as I know he will work tirelessly for the betterment of East Hampton and our school community due to his intelligence and integrity. I have no doubt that he will make an excellent addition to our Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Cristin Flannery – East Hampton

We Deserve Better

To the Editor:

Observations of an unaffiliated voter and taxpayer of Colchester:

How is our money being spent? We really don't know. The last audited budget posted on the town's website was for FY 2020-2021. Auditing the 2021-22 budget should have been a priority – no excuses. Ask us for patience? That ran out months ago.

Most of the accomplishments being touted have been financed by federal funds.

The budget process has been nothing short of chaotic for the past two years.

During the recent budget process, the 2022-23 budget with YTD was on-line. The “legal” line-item in the first selectman's office was grossly over budget. In Colchester, if certain people don't like the outcome of a vote they file a lawsuit and we pay for their folly.

The 2023-24 budget proposal that included line-item information was very telling. While other departments budgeted for professional memberships, training and conferences, no such item was included for the finance department. Shouldn't the people who are overseeing the spending of our taxes be constantly upgrading their skills?

A recent letter to the editor suggested that the reason our current first selectman would not participate in a debate was because the reporter from the *Riverast* is biased against him. Two years ago, the then-candidate was invited by the Bacon Academy Young Republican, Young Democrat and Debate clubs to participate in a debate. He refused unless he was given the questions beforehand. Understanding the process and purpose of a debate, the students had no choice but to decline.

May I be so bold as to suggest we deserve better?

Eileen Furey – Colchester

On it.

Ending racial injustice requires all of us to work together and take real action.
What can you do to help?

- Educate yourself about the history of American racism, privilege and what it means to be anti-racist.
- Commit to actions that challenge injustice and make everyone feel like they belong, such as challenging biased or racist language when you hear it.
- Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.
- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

love has no labels
Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community.
Visit lovehasnolabels.com/fortheboard



LEGALS

INVITATION TO BID CENTRAL OFFICE RTU REPLACEMENT HEBRON, CONNECTICUT October 20, 2023 Bid # 2023-01

Regional School District 8 Board of Education ("Reg. 8") is seeking competitive bids for construction services related to the **roof-top unit replacement on the Central Office building at 85 Wall Street** in Hebron, CT. Scope of work for this project generally includes removing and replacing one roof top unit and installation of VAV boxes, as more fully described herein and detailed in the plans and specifications.

This Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents (as defined in the Instructions to Bidders) are available for viewing and downloading on Reg. 8's website https://www.rhamschools.org/departments/business_officer_f_p_bids. In addition, the Invitation to Bid will be published in a daily newspaper in the Towns of Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough, at least once a minimum five (5) days prior to the submission date of the Proposals.

A **mandatory pre-bid meeting** will take place on **October 25, 2023, at 9:00 AM**. The location of the pre-bid meeting is Central Office, 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248.

All Addenda will be published in the Reg 8's website. The Project is subject to prevailing wage requirements in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 31-53.

Bid security in the form of a Bid Bond in an amount equal to 10% of the base bid shall be required to be submitted with each bid as described in the Bid Documents. The successful Bidder will be required to provide a payment bond as provided in the Bid Documents.

Sealed Bids for "Central Office RTU Replacement" may be mailed or delivered in person to: Eva Gallupe, Business Manager, in the Central Office for Reg. 8 at 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 until **2:30 pm on November 8, 2023**. All bids will be publicly opened and will be read aloud. Bid Results will also be posted on the District's website for review within 24 hours of due date. Emailed or faxed Bids will not be accepted. To obtain or review the Bidding Documents refer to the Bidding Instructions. **Reg. 8 reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, in whole or in part. Any or all Bids may be rejected if there is any reason to believe that collusion exists among the bidders.**

Individual Bids may be rejected for irregularities of any kind, including without limitations, alteration of form, additions not called for, conditional Bids, incomplete Bids and unexplained erasures. Reg. 8 retains the right to waive any formality or procedural irregularities in the Bids received. Nothing should be construed to limit in anyway the right of Reg. 8 to reject any and all Bids, should Reg. 8 deem it to be in its best interest. No bidder may withdraw his Bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof. Any questions regarding the proposed work should be addressed, in writing, by e-mail to Michael Schlehofer, Director of Facilities at michael.schlehofer@rhamschools.org. Questions will not be considered past 2:00 pm on **October 30, 2023** and responses will be posted via addendum no later than 2:00 pm on **November 3, 2023**.

Eva Gallupe Business
Manager Regional School
District 8
85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248
(860) 228-2115
eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org

1TB 10/20



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on November 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following: Continued: PZC-23-014: Flanders Road Estates LLC, Flanders Road, Fifteen (15) Lot subdivision, (Home Acres Estates), Map 26/ Block 87/ Lot 6
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman
Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450. 2TB 10/20, 10/27

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on October 13, 2023, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2023-3087 - 12 Harvest Lane; Daniel Fish – Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 03-11-016-098; 12' x 20' Shed with gravel fill within 75' Upland Review Area - APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS
Dated October 13, 2023
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair
1TB 10/20

Legal Notice Town of Hebron Connecticut Water Pollution Control Authority Public Hearing November 14, 2023 6 P.M. Virtual

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/711373357>
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 711-373-357
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://meet.goto.com/install>

Notice is hereby given, the Town of Hebron Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a public hearing to provide information and hear comments on amending the Connection Fee rate for all properties connecting to the Town of Hebron Sewer system. It is proposed that the base Sewer Benefit Assessment, aka, Unit Charge or Connection Fee, will be increased from \$8,000 to \$10,000. The calculations for establishing the total connection costs will be dictated by the existing formulas using the Town of Hebron, WPCA Sewer Benefit Assessment Policy, Sec. 3, of the Sewer Regulation for Town of Hebron guide, dated 3-31-1993, using the revised and approved base fee.

This hearing will be held at 6 P.M., November 14, 2023. This will be a virtual meeting (go to meeting information). Residents, business owners and other interested individuals are encouraged to offer comments concerning the proposed change.

Chris Hemberger
Chairman,
Town of Hebron, Water Pollution Control Authority
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 16 day of October, 2023
1TB 10/20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

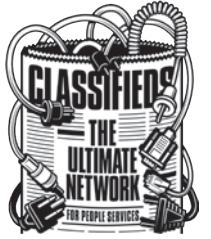
PETS

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, wood-working, 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.



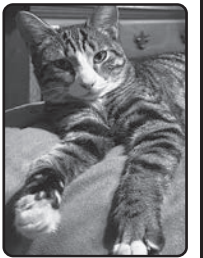
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"PET OF THE WEEK"



Becca, 3 years old, is a beautiful girl who is equally playful and calm. She will jump at the chance to chase toys, the laser light or a toy mouse. But, when you are done, so is she. She will be happy to curl up next to you for quiet time. Becca would like to be your one and only, no other cat friends please.

Minnie, 7 months, is sweet natured, fun-loving and beautiful. However, she can be quirky and wants to be loved on her terms. For this reason, she would be best in a home with older children and adults. Minnie is very social and loves to interact with people and other cats. She enjoys the company of other cats but can also be your one and only.



FOR MORE INFO ON ADOPTING CATS OR DOGS, CALL 860-569-0722
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED – CALL: 860-569-0722



Protectors of Animals, Inc. 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization,
rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs. WWW.POAINC.ORG

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 laundry. 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.



The East Hampton Housing Authority is accepting applications for the Senior/Disabled Housing beginning October 20, 2023 and closing on December 20, 2023
For more information call:
860-267-8498

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RE10-20-23

EMPLOYMENT

FT/PT CLEANER: helper wanted. Early until 2pm. Please stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery.

MARLBOROUGH WINE & SPIRITS: needs a part-time sales assistant. Great pay. Please call 860-295-9460 or stop in.

SATURDAY WAITRESS NEEDED: experience a must for a fun, friendly breakfast restaurant. Apply at Eggs Up Restaurant on Rt 66, Portland.

COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS: is looking for a part time liquor store clerk. Stop in person to apply at store. 99 Linwood Ave, Colchester.

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.

PAINTER OR HELPER WANTED: Year round. Commercial work. Transportation to Glastonbury Required. 860-916-6332.

WAITSTAFF NEEDED: at Marlborough Pizza. Stop in or call 860-295-8181.



RANEY ORTHODONTICS: is seeking a part-time front desk receptionist for Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45-5:15. Experience is preferred but we are willing to train the right candidate. Please email your resume to draney@gmail.com or call Sue 860-228-9800.

LICENSED P & C INSURANCE CSR: wanted for long haul trucking agency in South Glastonbury. CSR experience a must. Send resume and cover letter to deborah@1ndone.org.



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

CIT10-5-23

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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.

GLASTONBURY OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Individual offices or space up to 1000-1400 square feet suites. Use of conference room included. Call 860-633-3545.

GLASTONBURY VILLAGE CENTER: 2 Bdrm \$1,440. Including Heat/Hotwater. Center of Glastonbury. Large 2 bdrm, lvg room, 1 bath, kitchen w/dishwasher, gas range, laundry facilities. large storage area and private parking. Trash, heat, and hot water included. Excellent condition. Perfect for someone looking for a well-kept apartment. \$1,440/mo. 860-798-7403.

UNITS FOR RENT COLCHESTER: Multi-use/Shop/Storage space available for rent in Colchester. 2 sizes available. 68x24 or 30x24. Call 860-748-0206.

PRESENTED BY:

MARK KEHRHAHN

CENTURY 21 ALLPOINTS REALTY

(860) 638-9485

markk.realestate@gmail.com



CIT10-5-23

EMPLOYMENT

HELP MOM! Medicine Reminders, Meals, Transportation, Housekeeping, Companions. All of our caregivers are aged 50+, with many years of experience. Bonded, insured, background checked. We truly are **YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY LLC** COLCHESTER 860-967-0831 RE8-13-21

Zoning Enforcement Officer – part-time
Town of Portland, CT (EOE)
Deadline: 11/13/2023

Send resume with Town application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071 or Email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org

Enforce zoning regulations, conduct field inspections, review land use applications for zoning compliance. Flexible schedule, 20 hours weekly, attend monthly ZBA & PZC meetings, \$35.00 per hour, non-union, no benefits. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. **Qualifications:** Associates Degree from accredited college with emphasis on public administration, land use planning or closely related coursework; min. 2 yrs experience. Must have ability to enforce with firmness & tact; must have valid CT Driver's License. **Special Requirement:** Must become CAZEO Certified. 1TB 10/20

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, CT 06415 or email to beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com** RE10-6-23

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 RE10-28-23

Employment Posting
Children's Librarian

The East Hampton Public Library seeks a dynamic, friendly, and forward-thinking Children's Librarian who can lead our growing Children's department. The ideal candidate will create positive library experiences by providing reference, reader's advisory, and technology assistance to children and caregivers; design, plan and implement educational programming to children under the age of 12; and build relationships with youth and their families to promote and nurture pre-reading and reading skills. This person will develop and grow existing partnerships with local schools and community groups to promote and support services that meet the current and emerging needs of the community and the Library; develop, analyze and maintain collections appropriate for diverse populations; supervise and lead paraprofessional staff; and communicate effectively about issues and initiatives with both staff and the public. This is a full-time, bargaining unit position with a benefit package and a starting hourly rate of \$30.89. One evening per week and Saturdays on a rotating schedule are required. May also be asked to assist in other departments within the library. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application, no later than November 13, 2023, (or until filled), to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. A full job description, requirements and employment application may be obtained at www.easthamptonct.gov. AA/M-F/EOE. 1TB 10/20

HELP WANTED

Help needed in our **Printing Department.**

Hours available **Mon. - Fri.**

Email Jim for more information
jim@rarereminder.com

No phone calls please.
Must be 18 years old CIT9-28-23

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Dethatching • Plug Aeration • Over-Seeding • Yard Expansion
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Mini Excavator Service
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Tick/Mosquito Control
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HIC.0600529 Toper's Lawncare PLUS RE8-26-21

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CYCLONE RAKE FOR SALE: used two seasons. 6.5 Horse Briggs. \$1,200. Call 860-262-1127, before 8pm.



END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

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

CLASSIFIEDS PAY

in The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

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- ☐ \$10.00 per week for 25 words or less in *The Glastonbury Citizen*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ☐ \$9.00 per week for 25 words or less in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ☐ \$18.00 per week combination rate, 20¢ for each additional word for insertion in both the *Citizen* and the *Bulletin*.

Please make checks payable to: *The Glastonbury Citizen*

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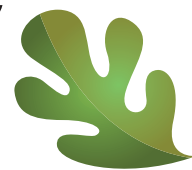


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TRUCKLOAD SALE

Thu. 19	Fri. 20	Sat. 21	Sun. 22	Mon. 23	Tue. 24	Wed. 25	Thu. 26
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All Sale Items Are **While Supplies Last** - We Will Custom Cut And Bulk Wrap All

Fresh Grade A All Natural
40LB Boneless Chicken Breast
Sold In 40lb Box
\$1.29 /lb.
Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$1.98 /lb

100% Pure Beef No Additives
90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef
Not Further Processed
\$3.98 /lb.
Sold in 9 - 10 lb Bags

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Boneless Angus Rib Eyes
Consists of Rib Eye Steak & Roast
\$8.98 /lb.
16 - 20 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole New York Strips
New York Strip Steaks & Roasts
\$6.98 /lb.
14 - 16 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Beef Tenderloins
Consists of Filet Mignon Steak & Roast
\$9.98 /lb.
4 - 6 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Bone-In Angus Prime Rib
Consists of Prime Rib Steak & Roast
\$7.98 /lb.
18 - 22 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives
Whole Bone-In Pork Loins
Bone In Pork Chops & Roasts
\$1.87 /lb.
14-20 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives
Fresh Genuine Spareribs
Consists of Spareribs & Riblets
\$2.25 /lb.
10 - 12 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives
Whole Boneless Pork Loins
Boneless Pork Chops & Roast
\$2.37 /lb.
8 - 10 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Prime Angus Top Sirloins
Prime Angus Top Sirloin Steak & Roast
\$6.98 /lb.
12 - 14 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Beef Eye Rounds
Consists of Eye Round Steak & Roast
\$4.88 /lb.
5 - 8 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Boneless Top Sirloins
Boneless Sirloin Steak & Roast
\$4.88 /lb.
14 - 19 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Prime Angus NY Strips
New York Strip Steaks & Roasts
\$14.97 /lb.
12- 15 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Short Loins
Porterhouse Steak
\$6.98 /lb.

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Bottom Rounds
Round Cube Steak & Roast
\$4.48 /lb.

Shoulder London Broil Steak
100% Pure Beef No Additives
\$4.98 /lb.

100% Pure Pork No Additives
Whole Pork Tenderloins
Bob's Family Deals
\$2.65 /lb.

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Beef Sirloin Tips
Consists of Sirloin Tip Steak & Roast
\$4.68 /lb.
8 - 10 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives
Whole Top Round
Consists of Top Round Steak & Roast
\$4.68 /lb.
20 - 25 lb. Average

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural
40 LB Chicken Drumsticks
Sold In 40lb Box
.50¢ /lb.
Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$1.48 /lb

Fresh Grade A All Natural
40 LB Chicken Thighs
Sold In 40lb Box
.98¢ /lb.
Also Sold in 10lb Bags \$1.98 /lb

Lessor Amounts \$3.99 /lb
Jamestown Bacon
3 / \$10.98 /lb.

Natural Casing Franks
Deutschmacher 2.5 lb Franks
\$12.98 2.5 lb.

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural
40 LB Boneless Chicken Thighs
Sold In 40lb Box
\$1.87 /lb.
Also Sold in 5lb Bag \$4.48 /lb.

Fresh Grade A All Natural
40LB Party Chicken Wings
Sold In 40lb Box
\$2.13 /lb.
Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$3.98

Fresh All Natural
40 LB Chicken Leg Quarters
Sold In 40lb Box
.67¢ /lb.
Also Sold in 10lb Bags 98¢ /lb

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1. OUR BUTCHERS CAN HELP YOU PICK OUT WHAT YOU NEED.
2. OUR BUTCHERS CUT IT TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS.
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Bob's Super Bundle
\$199.99

- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Pot Roast 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 8 Lbs. 90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 6 Lbs. Beef Chuck London Broil Steak 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 4 Lbs. Country Ribs 100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 8 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops 100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Stew Meat 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 10 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Drumsticks Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Thighs Bone In Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 3 Lbs. 3 - 1 lb Packages Of Bacon

Please Order 1 Day Ahead Available After 12 Noon

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