



A Blessing for Harry... St. Peter's Episcopal Church held its annual Blessing of the Animals ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 8. The Rev. Ron Kolanowski blessed each animal brought to him by their human family. Here, Harry, a 6-year-old Australian Kelpie, is given a blessing and pets of gratitude for service to his human family.

Affordable Housing Discussed at Forum

By Michael Sinkewicz

Various local and state leaders gathered in Hebron Tuesday to explore how communities can develop more affordable housing options, dispelling myths and addressing a crisis experienced across Connecticut.

The forum was sponsored by the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE), which serves Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and Columbia. Residents who packed the parish hall at St. Peter's Episcopal Church had the opportunity to ask questions, along with the event's moderator, Hebron's Claudia Tejada Riley, vice president and community liaison officer at Webster Bank.

"I think it was very positive and I think it caught people's imagination on what's possible," the Rev. Ronald Kolanowski, the vice president of Commons Community Development Corporation and the rector at St. Peter's, told the *Rivereast*.

Kolanowski was joined on the panel by four other members: Brandon L. McGee Jr., the deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Housing; Pamela Krist Atwood, counselor and owner of Atwood Dementia Group; Carline Charmelus, collective impact and equity director at Partnership for Strong Communities; and Beth Sabilia, director of the Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity of Eastern Connecticut.

For over an hour, the panel fielded questions and explained the importance of expanding affordable housing options. Roughly 25% of households in CoDE's four member towns are cost-burdened, meaning that they spend over 30% of their income on housing, according to CoDE. The percentage skyrockets close to 70% for renters.

Atwood, who is also a Hebron resident, said the problem was clear: "I'm a taxpayer in this town and I can't afford my taxes anymore."

She added that as an employer, "the people who I need to hire can't afford to live anywhere near me."

McGee emphasized that the crucial component for thriving communities is housing.

"Affordable housing isn't an issue," he asserted. "It should be considered a basic need that everybody has a right to."

McGee stated that the existence of an affordable housing crisis is "extremely complicated." A combination of factors, including transportation, employment and supplies impact each community. Connecticut, he continued, has a long history with housing discrepancies, and the state contains some of the country's most affluent and burdened towns.

The panel discussed numerous myths regarding affordable housing and CoDE provided documents refuting many claims, including impacts to the mill rate and property values.

Kolanowski indicated that while mistakes have been made in the past, the intention is not to plague municipalities with rundown buildings. Instead, residents should take pride in new "affordable" developments and units, which are effectively indistinguishable from other structures.

"We're creating homes, not houses," he expressed. "Establishing home is what empowers us as people, helps us grow as families, provides the center of our identity and honors the basic dignity of every human being."

Charmelus stated that the average price of a home in Connecticut was around \$260,000 and that zoning regulations and policies often inhibit large scale developments from prevailing in rural areas. The incentive to build in those

See Affordable Housing, page 24

Campaign Signs Swiped, Found in Stream

By Michael Sinkewicz

Roughly 30 political lawn signs supporting local Hebron Democratic candidates were stolen earlier this month from private residences.

According to Hebron Democratic Town Committee (DTC) Chairman Erin Bussiere, the signs were retrieved over a week later and have been returned to the property owners.

Bussiere said the signs — which displayed the names of individuals running for office in the upcoming municipal election — were taken from the Amston Lake area on Oct. 7. After posting about the incident on social media, a Hebron candidate was contacted by Democrat Bernie Dennler, the office manager to the Lebanon first selectman — who's also running for Colchester first selectman this election cycle.

Dennler said the signs had been found in a stream behind a Lebanon residency.

Bussiere stated that Democrats from Columbia, Colchester and Lebanon worked together to locate the signs. Heather Summerer, who is seeking reelection on the RHAM Board of Education as a Hebron representative, waded through the water to collect some of the submerged signs.

The DTC chairman did not contact the police; she said she didn't want to waste resources on a political matter. But she indicated that due to the scale of the theft, the incident may have been planned.

"It was pretty calculated the way it went down," Bussiere said.

Bussiere said she's not blaming or accusing any local Republicans, but she believes the opposition should've been more vocal in condemning the act.

"I would've made a statement," she said. "They stayed quiet."

As community members asked questions regarding the incident, a statement would've helped clarify the situation and conveyed that Republicans took the issue seriously, she claimed.

"It would've been a good opportunity for that," Bussiere said.

Republican Town Committee (RTC) Chairman Keith Petit, a member of the local school

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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: 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.



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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 accountant 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.

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM


AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following. For more information, contact Jenn Boehler, prevention coordinator, at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org or 860-228-9488 ext. 22. **National Take-Back Day:** Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron. Medications should be in the original container with the name crossed off and please no sharps. The first 50 cars will receive a free SAFE Rx Locking Pill Bottle to keep medications safely stored. **Screenagers: The Next Chapter:** Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., at AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron. This is a documentary that explores the impact of screen time and digital technology on teenagers and their families. Parents, educators and youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend. RSVP to jenniferb@AHMyouth.org. This showing is free.

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.org. **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. **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 for the seven-week session.

HEALTHCARE



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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

ORAL HYGIENE HABITS TO IMPROVE
OVERALL HEALTH

Practicing good oral hygiene is essential to keep teeth and gums healthy. Good home-care habits such as brushing and flossing twice a day and avoiding smoking and sugary drinks, as well as regular dental checkups and getting fluoride treatments will help sustain the overall health and structure of strong, natural teeth. However, oral health is about more than cavities and gum disease. Research shows there is an association between the health of a person's mouth and overall health. Without timely treatment, tooth decay or gum problems lead to pain, self-confidence issues, and tooth loss. These issues can then lead to malnutrition, speech problems, and other challenges socially and in work and school.

As part of your healthcare team, we are concerned about all aspects of your health. If a medical condition comes to our attention during a dental exam, you can be sure we will discuss the issues with you as well as any other healthcare provider if you choose. We bring you our dental column as a way to inform our friends and neighbors of the many benefits of professional dentistry. For gentle dental care for the family, please call us for an appointment.

P.S. Over 90 percent of bad breath originates in the mouth, usually due to poor dental hygiene.

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

We’re nearing the end, folks!

Election Day is roughly a week and a half away – on Tuesday, Nov. 7. And if you’re a veteran reader of the *Rivereast*, you know what that means.

Next week’s issue, the Nov. 3 edition, will feature positive letters to the editor only; no letters attacking other candidates (or their supporters), and no letters raising any new issues. If you wanted to do stuff like that, well, this week was your last chance.

I impose this restriction every year, as it wouldn’t be fair for candidates to be attacked with no time to defend themselves before Election Day. Anybody who was criticized this week will be able to defend themselves next week – provided, of course, that they can do so without attacking other people in the process. That last part may be a bit of a challenge, but I am fully confident you’ll be able to do it.

Though, as I wrote last week, it’s not like you’ll have a choice in the matter. Negative letters submitted for that week will simply be rejected, and folks that remain mostly positive but just have to sneak in a quick hit at their opponent will see their letters edited accordingly.

In the past, I’ve made exceptions for letters about national politics, but I won’t this year. After all, it’s tough to say, for example, “no attacks on local Republicans” but then allow national Republicans to get slammed. They’re all members of the same party, after all.

So the usual suspects – and you know who you are – can lay off Biden, Trump, et al., for a week. Don’t worry, you can return to the national scene for the Nov. 10 installment.

Now here comes the biggest change for next week. As you’ll notice in the ensuing pages, the *Rivereast* received a *ton* of letters to the editor this week. And I expect a similar amount next week. Due to the sheer volume

of it all, we’re moving the deadline up one day, for next week only.

All letters to the editor for the Nov. 3 issue must be submitted no later than noon Monday, Oct. 30. The other submitted copy – such as press releases and event listings – will still have the same Tuesday deadline. But letters must be in by noon Monday. No exceptions will be made.

Also, don’t forget: all letters to the editor must have a daytime contact phone number. The number is never published; it’s just for me, for verification purposes and in case I have questions about a particular letter. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published.

* * *

On a more fun note, next Tuesday is Halloween! If you find yourself not quite in the spirit yet, there’s an event coming up in Colchester that may push you along.

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

The day will feature a cornhole tournament at 2 p.m., and canine costume contests at 3 p.m. There will also be various pet-related vendors, raffles, and pumpkin-decorating and other activities for the kids (while supplies list).

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

It sounds like a very fun day! I’ve been to Hop Culture before; it’s a beautiful setting, and the owners are great people. Oh, and the beer is pretty tasty too.

* * *

See you next week – and Happy Halloween!!



Just Chillin’... Meet Cole and Brooke, a scarecrow couple relaxing with a beverage while playing a game of cards. They are sitting at the beginning of Horton Boulevard on Route 66 in Hebron. The road leads down to Colebrook Village, a senior living facility. The couple was created, for Hebron’s “Scarecrows on Main” display, by the enthusiastic residents of Colebrook to depict the daily events and activities available to folks who live there.

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Much Work to Be Done

To the Editor:

Life presents us with a multitude of paths, each carrying its own set of promises and outcomes. Some paths, though laden with assurances, yield little in the way of tangible results. Conversely, there are paths that offer promises, but they require dedication and hard work to achieve success.

Personally, I have a preference for promises that are not only made but also upheld. It's evident that there is much work to be done for the betterment of Colchester, and I wholeheartedly endorse Andreas Bisbikos in his endeavors to enhance our town and schools. I believe that my background in the business world equips me to contribute valuable insights and a commitment to finding practical solutions for the daily challenges that inevitably arise. For Colchester to evolve into a superior place to reside and raise a family, it must retain affordability for all its residents.

The collaborative efforts of our community are essential in achieving this goal. I humbly request the honor of your vote on Nov. 7 to serve as your representative on the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Colchester.

Cliff O’Donal – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

The Future Looks Bright

Dear Colchester Residents:

A new playground, new pickleball courts, new field irrigation, new signs, and a new pavilion roof are the Parks & Recreation enhancements in term one. This is what the first selectman has done for the community in his two years for our children. He also took a long-neglected splash pad and properly enhanced it so it wouldn’t break down in the future. We, as a community, are very fortunate that our first selectman has made our children and their families a priority.

In his second term, he is committed to continuing his Fields of Dreams initiative to ensure that our Parks & Recreation facilities have the best fields in the state. He has also publicly stated that he is willing to help the Board of Education investigate their main fields and collaborate in their enhancements as well, which may mean a turf field in the future. Our First Selectman is also committed to adding additional parking down at R8 and making a community Ice Skating Rink a top priority. Rumor has it that he will be bringing in former Hartford Whalers players to open the ice-skating rink during its ribbon-cutting.

He is also committed to establishing a sub-committee to identify a new location for a Youth/Community Center and making the current Youth Center a home & museum for Colchester’s veterans. And what about the recent news? The Bisbikos Administration, in collabora-

Bulletin Board

It pains me to admit that with all the excitement in the world these days, I completely forgot about National Marshmallow Day, which takes place every Aug. 30. In my defense, I consider it a lasting stain on the media in this country that such an important event got about as much publicity as Flag Day or Change Your Diaper Day.

Actually, I am not sure there is an official Change Your Diaper Day, but if there is, the national news media has certainly been very lax about informing us of the details (though much of what I see being served up as “news” might appropriately fill a diaper). On the other hand, I am quite certain there is a thing called Flag Day, though the occasion seems to be generally ignored. Perhaps celebrating the American flag intrudes on somebody’s safe space or something and we certainly can’t have that, can we?

By the way, an internet search for “National Change Your Diaper Day” did turn up an offer to show me “Images of National Change Your Diaper Day,” which I lacked the courage to explore further. (It seems I still suffer diaper-related PTSD from raising two boys all these years later.)

But I digress. Back to National Marshmallow Day.

The roots of this festive occasion are “obscure,” I am told, but I suspect they have their origins in the political connections of the powerful marshmallow lobby—a shadowy group whose conspiratorial shenanigans and lack of concern for the public health have managed to remain below the Nanny State radar through countless American summers.

At least for the most part.

A few years ago, the U.S. Forest Service (of all things) issued an advisory addressing the health and safety issues involved in toasting marshmallows (who knew?)—specifically singling out the hazards of s’mores, that legendary treat that millions of campers have happily constructed over the years with graham crackers, chocolate and a marshmallow roasted to perfection over a cheery campfire.

What could be wrong with s’mores? Millions of former Girl Scouts (the recipe appears as early as 1927 in the Girl Scout handbook) want to know.

The issue, apparently, is the chocolate. The Forest Service advisory suggested that we leave the chocolate off the s’mores and substitute a “healthier alternative” like pineapple or a slice of banana. And if we’re feeling especially martyr-like (i.e., masochistic), we can reduce calories even further by cutting back on the amount of marshmallow and substituting angel food cake for the graham cracker.

Really? Angel food cake? Pineapple? How about a piece of cardboard?

I’m not sure what this all adds up to, but it sure as hell ain’t a s’more. Not in my America.

Why the Forest Service felt compelled to weigh in on s’mores in the first place escapes me. I realize bureaucrats hate it when you’re having fun, but it seems to me the Forest Service might have better things to do than go off on some kid who’s only offense is enjoying a gooey marshmallow with a bit of melted chocolate attached. Doesn’t somebody have to clean up after the buffaloes or something?

In fairness, I should add that the same Forest Service advisory properly cautioned people not to build campfires next to their tent, trees or other flammable objects (for those of you from New York City, a tree is that tall thing with leaves) and recommended using a stick at least 30 inches long when toasting marshmallows or pineapple slices or your draft card or whatever it is you’ve decided to incinerate on your safely built campfire.

It’s especially important to keep an eye on kids, warned the advisory, adding, “Some experts advocate a 10-foot rule between young children and a campfire.”

Now, I’m no mathematician, but it seems to me that it’s going to take quite some time for a kid located 10 feet from a campfire to toast a marshmallow on the end of a 30-inch stick, but I guess I’ll have to defer to the government experts.

In conclusion, the Forest Services advised that anyone craving more information about campfire safety should “let Smokey Bear guide you.”

He’d be the big furry guy in the hat trying not to gag on a pineapple s’more.

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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ration with key stakeholders – including state representative Mark DeCaprio, secured \$500K for Norton Park. He is ready to expediate that project in term two.

While his opponent is empty on accomplishments, experience, and vision. Andreas Bisbikos has a proven track record of getting the job done, despite any obstacles or politically motivated naysayers.

Sincerely,
Michael B. Begun – Colchester

End Insider Misrule

To the Editor:
Hebron's November election is the most significant in a generation. After decades of insider misrule, it is time to vote out Mr. Larson, Mr. Kasper and their cronies and replace them with a government that listens to its citizens. (For a definition of cronyism, see the recent appointments Mr. Kasper and PBC members to the new DPW committee to presumably advocate once again for the DPW/municipal complex in the town center.) If you are fed up with unrelenting tax increases that make the town unaffordable; if you voted down the budget in May; if you believe rural Hebron is worth saving; then please vote Row A only on Nov. 7.

Surveys show that Hebron's citizens value the town's rural character, its safety and the quality of its schools. Yet, Mr. Larson, Mr. Kasper and their cronies have promoted just the opposite. They have pushed for unnecessary town building projects, taxpayer-subsidized development in the town center, and decreased school funding.

It's not over. The PBC commissioned yet another study of town buildings that was low-bid or "bought" by a multinational consulting firm. (Its bid was magnitudes below the next bidder. Why, you might ask, if not to have an advantage in the next massive construction round?) Coming down the road, we can expect more gold-plated proposals for hundreds of millions of dollars of unnecessary town building projects to be paid for by Hebron taxpayers.

The town government has been broken by a group of insiders. In the service of these insiders, the Town Charter has been twisted and violated. The town's majority is taxed but is not represented. It's time to show Mr. Larson, Mr. Kasper and their cronies the exit.

To fix our broken government, Vote Row A only.
John Collins – Amston

Supports Person

To the Editor:
Tuesday, Nov. 7, Andover residents will be going to the polls to vote. We are fortunate to have excellent candidates this year running for the Board of Education (BOE). Incumbent Steve Fuss has not only shown his dedication for an excellent education for the children but respect for the school budget as well. He shows great strength by looking at the entire budget and where best the dollars can be spent. Steve is dedicated to his children who attend AES and volunteers as a coach for RHAM junior football.

Kim Person has lived in Andover all her life and is very familiar with the AES BOE having served as a past member. Kim will bring her experience to the BOE. She understands the importance of an excellent education for all children. Kim will bring fresh ideas and her knowledge to the BOE. Kim is a portioning candidate on row G of the ballot.

As busy as Caitlain Greenhouse is she attended the Andover Community/Senior Center Building Ground-breaking Ceremony. She was the member from the BOE who supported the seniors. This impressed me enough to find out a little about her. She tries to get both parties working together for the betterment of the children and Andover. Caitlain looks at both sides of the picture before voting and takes this important job seriously. She deserves a continued place on the BOE.

Sincerely,
Cathy Palazzi – Andover

Note: Palazzi is the Andover Senior Coordinator but said she is writing as an individual.

Public Service with Experience

To the Editor:
In less than two weeks, Marlborough voters will be going to the school community room to vote in the municipal election.

I am running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen. I have a passion to serve and this is reflected in my volunteering in our town for over 38 years. I am proud of what I have been able to accomplish with all the boards and commissions that I have served on and look forward to accomplishing more on the Board of Selectmen.

There are three open positions for the Board of Selectmen and four candidates are running for the three positions.

I ask that you join me in voting for Joe Asklar, Mike Nastri and myself, Louise Concodello. We all have the experience and willingness to do the work as part of a team, and make sure Marlborough's needs are met.

Sincerely,
Louise Concodello – Marlborough

Note: Concodello is a member of the Marlborough Board of Education and the Parks & Recreation, Lake Advisory and Nature Trails commissions, but speaking as an individual.

Vote for Experience

To the Editor:

We are endorsing Peter Castelli, who is seeking re-election to the Portland Board of Assessment Appeals. He has served for nine terms on this committee and is currently a senior member.

Peter is a lifelong Portland resident who has always striven to serve the people and the town of Portland regardless of party affiliation. He was the 2019 recipient of the Portland Community Service and Citizenship Award; he has had 30 years of expertise in the travel and technology industry and was a founder and COO of a travel consulting company that collaborated with Fortune 500 companies to assist them through all phases of procurement, business expansion and technology solutions. Peter is a longtime member of the Portland Knights of Columbus, council 7.

Please join us in endorsing Peter Castelli on Nov. 7.
Experience Counts,
Ruth & David Shovlin – Portland

Safeguard Integrity of BAA

To the Editor:

To safeguard the integrity of the office of Board of Assessment Appeals, it is crucial to advocate for a separation of roles and responsibilities within our local government. In the spirit of this crucial separation of roles, I am supporting the Republican incumbent candidate, Al Roy, who has steadfastly worked for fairness in assessment appeals for the citizens of Andover.

Mr. Roy stepped into this role on the BAA to fill a vacancy when another member stepped down. After his personal experience in navigating a complex and unfair appeal process in town, he saw this as an opportunity to make a difference and to fix this unfair review process.

Since taking on this role, Al and Linda Armstrong, (in a bipartisan fashion), have worked together toward ensuring a fair, equitable and transparent appeal process for all Andover taxpayers.

The choice to re-elect Mr. Roy (along with Linda Armstrong and Emily Timreck) will ensure the transparency, fairness and impartiality that the Board of Assessment Appeals demands.

Liz Lokiec – Andover

The Choice Is Clear

Dear Colchester Residents:

Two visions for Colchester's Board of Finance are on the ballot for Nov. 7. You could vote for more of the same with Republican candidates. Or you can bring your board back to work for all of Colchester with a vote for Karen Belding and myself to serve.

In comparison to the last two years, we'll bring sensible fiscal responsibility back to the board, having tough conversations about budget efficiencies and adjusting as needed. But we'll do so with common-sense consensus building so our budgets are no longer political cudgels.

We'll cease the alienation of our fellow boards and work collaboratively to bring passable budgets the first time. During budget season, we'll take community feedback and work towards what's best for our students to our seniors. We won't ignore you or tell you to "sit down."

Unlike our last budget referendum, we'll ensure the "too low – too high" survey questions stay on the ballot to inform the board(s) if the budgets align with the town's expectations. And if we don't get it right the first time, we'll work towards compromise instead of using threats of cuts to force the taxpayer's hand.

We'll be stewards of the town's purse, applying accountability while collaborating with the finance department and the first selectman to complete timely audits in contrast to the current absence of fiscal transparency and lack of a completed municipal audit, which could still negatively impact our bond ratings.

I've heard a lot of talk from our Republican opponents on everything from transparency and affordability to promises to fund our schools and seniors adequately. But, as the expression goes, "Don't listen to what they say; look at what they do." If past is prologue, the choice is clear – vote for Row A.

Sincerely,
Scott Chapman – Colchester
Candidate, Board of Finance

Thank You, Paul Smith

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith on his much-deserved retirement, effective June 2024. He has been an educator for the last 40 years, and has led our district for the last 9 years. Paul has led us through the most challenging of times. He stood firm in what he felt was best for our children and our district during the pandemic which resulted in minimal loss of learning compared to surrounding districts. That is great leadership!

Superintendent Smith: thank you for welcoming me onto the BOE. You always had time for my questions, my suggestions, and of course you always made time for a coffee. Our district will carry on, although there will be big shoes to fill, but your leadership is what will allow us to forge ahead just as strong as you'll leave it. Our town owes you much appreciation. I wish you many happy and healthy years of enjoying your family, traveling, and whatever else comes your way. Thank you, sir!

Augie Arndt – East Hampton

Note: Arndt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education but said he is writing as an individual.

Make Andover Great

To the Editor:

The following residents of Andover have volunteered to represent fellow Andover residents in the following elected positions. They are asking for your support by voting for them come Tuesday, Nov. 7. Voting will be at the Town Community Room from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

· First Selectman - Adrian Mandeville; Selectmen -Jeffery Murray, Paula King; Board of Finance - William Desrosiers, Kelly Wood; Planning & Zoning - William Jed Larson; Andover Board of Education - Steven Fuss, Brianne Lanzieri; Petitioning Candidate for Andover Board of Education - Kim Person; Zoning Board of Appeals - Kathleen Skorka, William Desrosiers, Fred Oliver; Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate - Joan Ross; Board of Assessment Appeals - Alan Roy, Adrian Mandeville; Fire Commission - Wallace Barton; Town Clerk - Carol Lee.

Please put your vote for the above residents.
Help the Republicans make Andover great.

Carol Barton
Former ARTC Chair

Will You Remember Me?

To the Editor:

If at my last gasps
I try and kill you
Will you remember me?
For the sorrow and suffering
You brought to me
Born in a prison
blue skies I see
Freedom was not for me.
Like a brood of vipers
You subjugate me
If you were me
The viper you'll see
Jerusalem is lost.

Tim Rinell – East Hampton



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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*
Corps.
At the age of 6 Wade Al-Fayoume was stabbed 26 times. Ahmed Rehab, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) was told by Wade Al-Fayoume's father that, "Part of the reason we came here was to escape the settler violence in which situations like this could occur with impunity and it chased us all the way to the United States."
Because someone was told to fear an other (the space between an and other has purpose) Wade Al-Fayoume died (his mother was stabbed 12 times, almost dying). What is an other? It took a little time for me to flesh out an answer. It's easy to answer but it's a hard answer for some to hear
Other, defined as, "denoting a person or thing that is different.." I think that might be as soft of an answer as I can think of. Maybe saying his name again would help explain, Wade Al-Fayoume. 6yrs old.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover

Supports Karen Wanat

To the Editor:
It is an honor to write this letter in support of Karen Wanat, who is running for a seat on the East Hampton Town Council. I have known Karen for five years and

have served on the East Hampton Elementary PTO Board with her. During our time on the PTO board, I have seen Karen volunteer countless hours to fundraisers and events that directly benefitted the students and schools. As the current PTO president, I know Karen is a person who I can contact if I need a volunteer or help with a fundraiser. Karen is the first to volunteer and always gives 100% effort.
Last May, Karen was instrumental in organizing a group of East Hampton citizens to help educate the town on the budget process. Karen researched topics and reached out to town officials to get answers to questions that arose during the budget process. She relayed this information to the town in a clear and concise manner while separating out her own personal beliefs.
Karen is selfless with her time, intelligent, organized, and hardworking. She is a leader who willing to do the work, perform the research, and ask the tough questions. These qualities will make her an effective and important member of the East Hampton Town Council. I look forward to walking into the polls on Nov. 7 and voting Karen Wanat for Town Council.

Sincerely,
Christine Coyne – East Hampton

Note: Coyne is the current president of the East Hampton Elementary PTO, but said she is writing this letter as an individual.

Clean Energy Fair

To Residents of East Hampton:
The Clean Energy Task Force has identified Community Solar as an opportunity to lower energy costs for many of us. Community Solar is widely used in Massachusetts and allows residents to lower their electricity costs using solar even when they cannot put panels on their roof. Our Task Force is working to do a similar project in East Hampton to lower your electricity costs and the towns' energy costs.
In particular we think that the senior living facilities, Laurel Ridge, Mallard Cove and Edgemere could be interested in participating in Community Solar. Come to the Energy Fair(sponsored by the Clean Energy Task Force next Saturday, Nov. 4, at the high school, at 1 p.m. We will get together to discuss how to make this project happen.

Jack Solomon – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council

Positive Change for Colchester

To the Editor:
As the tax collector of Colchester, I strive to provide the public with accurate information pertaining to my responsibilities to the citizens of Colchester. My opponent chose to use his letter to the editor last week with some inaccurate information. It's the same tactic that our

first selectman uses – twist information to make your opponent look bad.
The tax collector's office is mandated by state statutes to collect current taxes and delinquent taxes. When residents don't pay their fair share of taxes, this impacts what the rest of Colchester residents have to pay. The tax office does not want to see residents go into collections and works with town residents to come up with a plan that works for them. As much as I want to help, I must always follow the oath that I took to follow the rules and our town charter.
I am a Certified Connecticut Municipal Collector (CCMC). I'm also a Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO) received from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. I am the president of the New London County of Tax Collectors and serve as a board member of the CTX; Connecticut Tax Collectors Association. My financial and customer service experience comes from 9 years in banking, 10 years in the finance department as a contract administrator for IBM, 4 years managing a medical store and 8 years as tax collector for Colchester.
While door-knocking I have had a great time talking with residents about our town. Your message has been loud and clear that we need a change on Nov. 7. I am asking for your vote and also to vote for Row A, the team led by Bernie Dennler, so that we can work together to bring a positive change to Colchester.

Thank you,
Michele Wyatt
Colchester Tax Collector

The Ideal Candidate

To the Editor:
Angela Hammond is the ideal candidate for the Board of Education in Portland, and I wholeheartedly endorse her for this critical role. Angela's compassion is one of her most defining qualities. She genuinely cares about the well-being and success of every student in our community. Her dedication to creating an inclusive and nurturing educational environment is unparalleled.
Angela's exceptional ability to budget effectively is another crucial asset. She understands the importance of managing educational resources efficiently, ensuring that funds are allocated where they are needed most. Her financial sharpness will enable the Portland school district to make the most of its resources.
Furthermore, Angela's status as a lifelong Portland resident strengthens her commitment to the community. She knows the unique challenges and opportunities our schools face, and her deep roots in the area make her dedicated to the town's future. In summary, Angela Hammond is a compassionate, fiscally responsible, and deeply rooted candidate, making her the perfect choice for the Board of Education in Portland. Her leadership will undoubtedly benefit our students and the entire community.

Donna Delesdernier – Portland

Two-Mill Increase

Dear Colchester Residents,
I want to support Andrea Migliaccio and Michael Dubreuil for the Board of Finance. Last year many on the Democratic Team were in support of a two-Mill increase, primarily due to a nearly 10% budget increase for our school systems. As a mother to one teacher and one former teacher, I totally support our schools and our children's education – but a two-mill increase would have been devastating to many families and businesses.
Fortunately, the leadership of Andrea Migliaccio this budget season and many of the other Board of Finance members – kept the overall impact very low while still getting the children what they needed. Andreas Bisbikos, the first selectman, was also very important in that equation as he brought forth a flat budget and used all the town revenue to help the schools. Michael Dubreuil not only supports the schools but has a fiscally conservative approach that will aim to keep taxes low while helping the town get the services they need.
On Nov. 7, vote for Andrea Migliaccio and Mike Dubreuil for Board of Finance, as well as the entire slate of candidates on Row B who want to ensure that Colchester remains affordable for everyone.

Sincerely,
Demetra Bisbikos – Colchester

Ready to Work

Dear Colchester Residents:
For two years, this paper has been filled with headlines that reveal the chaos and disorganization that have rocked Town Hall. I'm running for first selectman because Colchester needs leadership with real experience managing a municipal environment to lead us out of this turmoil.
I'm a lifelong Colchester resident. As a volunteer in our town, I've served as vice-chair of the Board of Finance and Economic Development Commission. For over five years, I've also served one of our neighboring towns, working under both Republican and Democratic leadership in the Lebanon First Selectman's Office where I serve as the office manager.
In that role, I've been involved in almost every aspect of managing a municipal government. From managing hiring processes and recommending candidates for director-level positions to coordinating operations between departments in emergencies, my role requires me to do a little bit of everything while also fielding the day-to-day concerns of residents and making government work better for them.
In 2018, when floods hit, I spent weeks roadside, in the mud, gathering data for FEMA. I spearheaded a year-long HR process to improve the working environment for a department that was paralyzed by grievances and other issues. I was the municipal liaison to a multi-million dollar building project – interviewing bidders, attending construction meetings, and ensuring effective coordination between town departments and our construction contractor and other vendors. These are just snippets of the work that goes on everyday to ensure a town government that functions properly.
When you vote for First Selectman, you're hiring someone to do a job. My experience makes me the best choice to clean up the mess we are in. On Nov. 7, hire me. I'm ready to work for you.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman



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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

that are at the heart of the issue. To the public they portray MFL as people who want *To Kill a Mockingbird* or Mark Twain books removed from school libraries. They pretend that classic literature with worthwhile themes is what MFL stand against. The truth is MFL is a group of concerned mothers that don't want their children to have access to books that contain age-inappropriate subject matter/themes. Many of these books revolve around children who are questioning their sexuality/gender identity and include graphic depictions of sexual acts or fantasies. Is it appropriate for a child to have access to *50 Shades of Grey* in the children's library...would a person be labeled a "domestic extremist" for dissenting? If you are the SPLC the answer would be YES. Why do so many "progressive" Democrats seem to support this oversexualization of children? Why is this subject such a inflammatory issue?

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Restored Our Tradition

Dear Colchester Residents:

In two years, I have seen Andreas Bisbikos, the first selectman, do wonders for the town. I am proud we have a first selectman who will stand up for our American values and traditions.

Two years ago, the Democratic first selectwoman Mary Bylone failed to follow through on a parade and even acknowledge Memorial Day. She has no problem labeling our town as having a "Racism Public Health Crisis" while Bernie Dennler and the Democratic Town Committee were cheering her on.

On day one, the first selectman followed through on his promise to remove the racism public health crisis proclamation. He reestablished the Memorial Day Parade and increased its funding. 57th Fest was resurrected as Celebrate Colchester. The Town Green and Gazebos project was thawed out after years of zero progress into a resounding success. The Old Town Hall (current Youth Center) saw a new roof and internal modifications after decades of neglect. The first selectman honors all holidays and has fun on Thanksgiving with a community turkey pardon.

What about the future? He is committed to preserving our historical buildings and enhancing areas like Norton Park for our families. The town just secured \$500K to further enhance that site. In 2024, the Senior Center, a community Ice Skating Rink, and the Lebanon Avenue Streetscape Project will be completed.

On Nov. 7, let's vote for Andreas Bisbikos for first selectman and together let's keep the American Spirit soaring high.

**Sincerely,
John Thomas – Colchester**

Thank You, Rosemary

To the Editor:

Having volunteered in town for over a decade, first serving as a committee member and currently as chairman of the Open Space Advisor Committee, I have had the pleasure to work with Rosemary Coyle in her capacity as an elected town official. Rosemary has been the committee-connection to Colchester leadership as the representative from the Board of Selectmen. Rosemary participates in monthly meetings, engaging in conversation on related issues, and continues to work to find solutions to advance Colchester's goals to protect and strengthen the rural character and open space that we all enjoy. Despite all of priorities and pressing issues that emerge in town government, Rosemary always has time to work with the committee on the issues at hand and takes action on items that will strengthen and improve our community and the quality of life that defines our town. Her commitment to the town is unwavering and I believe we all benefit from her dedication and service.

Thank you, Rosemary, and thank you for choosing to run again to support our community!

**Respectfully submitted,
Will Hochholzer – Colchester CT**

A Truly Exceptional Slate

To the Editor:

The 2023 budget season was difficult for many small towns in Connecticut and Hebron was no exception. The fight to pass the education budget brought out the ugly side of local politics, culminating in a meeting that saw the Republican chair of the Board of Finance requesting police presence because children were attempting to have their voices heard.

However, it also brought out the best in our community and that's evidenced in the Democratic candidates running for the BOF.

Adam Ockman and Brian Thibeault are both actuaries with decades of experience in the financial and insurance sectors. They are both fathers with young children in the public school system, which means that they each have quite a bit of skin in the game. They are not seeking election to the BOF as people looking to decrease the mill rate and promising a decrease in taxes. When elected, they will be coming to the board with fresh eyes and ears. They will be looking toward the future, which means working cooperatively with P&Z on housing, working with the Board of Education on an equitable and supportive budget, and holding accountable those who've taken for granted their 'rights' over other entities in town. Both Brian and Adam are invested in helping our town to thrive and become the vibrant community we all know it has the potential to be. I can say without question that they will both listen and learn, and that they are each capable of the insight and growth that we should all seek in our elected officials.

The Democrats are running a truly exceptional slate of candidates this year. It's my sincere hope that you agree and that you will come out to vote for every single one of them by voting 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.



Coyle for Board of Selectmen

To the Editor:

I have known and worked side by side with Rosemary Coyle for the last nine years. I have never seen a woman more dedicated and committed to helping and assisting the residents of Colchester than Rosemary. Through our involvement together in the Senior Center Building Committee, ARPA and the Commission of Aging, I have seen firsthand how her determination to know the facts, research the information, tell the truth and determine how best the outcomes can help our citizens have amazed me. Her integrity, morals, and ethics are unwavering. Her commitment to our Town and its' residents is commendable.

Since the inception of the possibility of a new senior center well over 10 years ago, Rosemary has been an advocate and champion for our cause. She was on many early committees, several sub-committees, task forces, and as a current member of the Board of Selectmen and liaison to the Senior Center Building Committee, has worked tirelessly to move this project forward. She continues to advocate and promote issues relevant and important to seniors. She listens and hears what is important to them.

Rosemary knows and wants what is in the best interest of our seniors and all residents of Colchester. As a member of the Board of Selectmen, I am confident she will continue in her role to assist, advocate, promote and be a strong, positive voice for all residents of Colchester. I encourage you all to re-elect Rosemary Coyle to the Board of Selectmen on Nov. 7. Thank you.

Marge Mlodzinski – Colchester

Note: Mlodzinski is chair of the Commission on Aging, and is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Zoning Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am a 21-year-old UConn student running for Zoning Commission Alternate. I was motivated to run by the discourse I saw in our town regarding building new housing. I witnessed constant scare tactics about how the planned projects on Main Street were destructive to our town's character. Though I strongly disagree with these arguments, I understand why some residents feel this way. I don't know what it's like to have a neighborhood you've lived in for decades radically change. My parents' part of West Road is practically identical to how it was when we first moved here in 2005.

The only perspective I can offer is my own, that of a young person who grew up in Marlborough. Our town is totally, utterly unaffordable. There is no reasonably priced housing that I could rent to remain close to family and friends. Though apartments are in the planning stage, will those options be affordable for young professionals, recent graduates, young families? Are \$300,000+ condos really affordable? No apartments, no townhomes, no condos, and no ADUs in the price range of someone just entering the real world. And whenever any of the above is proposed to be built here, the pitchforks come out. The ensuing discussion is dominated by fear, anger and obstruction.

What we need is a cheerleader for new housing on the Zoning Commission. Someone who promotes its benefits, instead of fear-mongering. Years of opposition to housing has made this beautiful town unaffordable and unable to attract new residents and families, but it is never too late to change course. It is never too late to vote for a new approach.

**Respectfully submitted,
Nick Hale – Marlborough**

Likes LeMay

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Eleisha LeMay who is running for the Board of Education for the Town of Hebron. Yes, Eleisha is my wife, and some may say that makes me biased, but I beg to differ! I say it gives me insight on how excellent Eleisha would be at this position that very few others are privy to.

Eleisha and I have been together since she was a student teacher in the East Windsor school system. I have watched her grow as a teacher, a dean of students, and now as an assistant principal at the CREC Academy of International Studies Middle School in Bloomfield. When she worked as an English teacher I watched the countless hours she put in grading papers and checking in with children's families. I heard the sometimes-heartbreaking stories of some of her students and watched her work tirelessly to help them both academically and socially.

Since Eleisha has worked as school administrator I have seen her work long into the night and on weekends and holidays to help ensure that things run smoothly at her school. She genuinely cares about each and every one of the students and wants to give them a wonderful learning experience.

Eleisha's professional experience has made it much easier to navigate our own children's school lives in Hebron. We have an excellent education system in our town and I have no doubt that Eleisha's presence on the Board of Ed would help to continue that great tradition. Thank you for your time.

**Sincerely,
Jeff LeMay – Hebron**

Don't Let Him Fool You Again!

To the Editor:

I believe we need to support Ukraine to repel the Russian invaders and to support Israel from the invading Palestinian Hamas but this new \$100,000,000 Ukraine-Israel bill also has other large spending attachments with it, like more money for our border crossings, 8,000 illegals crossed our open borders last month, alone! Joe Biden has been in office for nearly three years and I can't comprehend how many of these criminals we have paid for and continue to pay for. Why do we have more spending for our border crossings attached to it?

The last spending bill for increased numbers of border agents was not to stop these criminals, it was to process them quicker. Joe, more recently, got more money for building border walls. If you think constructing them in places where there are very little crossings is a good idea, then you're thinking like Joe, that's what he is doing. Anyone with a brain would build them where the most illegal crossings take place, unless you're trying to fool our citizens.

In the next presidential election, I don't know who I'm voting for but I do know who I'm not voting for!

Frank Blume – Colchester

Vote for Joe!

To the Editor:

It is with great confidence that I express my support for Joe Margaitis' candidacy for re-election to serve a second term on the Hebron Board of Education. Joe has a proven record of service on the Board including but not limited to helping to successfully keep schools open safely in 2020 and actively contributing to budget development in response to significant student enrollment increases over multiple years. Joe is also a proven leader, currently serving as chair of the Resource Management Committee and secretary of the Board of Education.

I have served with Joe for the last four years and have had the opportunity to work alongside him on multiple initiatives in service to Hebron's families and schools. Everyone who knows Joe knows that he is fearless in his pursuit of transparency and will stop at nothing to ensure community members and parents have a voice in BOE budget discussions. I, and many others, have witnessed Joe stand up for youth voices to be recognized and heard. He is a loving father and dedicated volunteer who actively listens in search of solutions and ideas. It will be a pleasure to continue to serve on the Hebron Board of Education together and I strongly encourage you to vote for Joe Margaitis on Nov. 7!

Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl – Hebron

Note: Nadeau-Schmeizl is a member of the Hebron Board of Education; submitting as an individual.

Ignorance is Bliss

To the Editor:

Ignorance is certainly bliss when all you see is one party's danger to democracy and not the other. I caution Andover's Scott Sauyet to not openly call out people like Jim Jordan as "the Republicans' best candidate for Speaker." One should be asking the same question about "the Democratic Party's best candidate for POTUS," Biden Inc. People complained Trump played too much golf while POTUS; seriously? Biden takes more time off in Delaware and media says the POTUS job can be done from anywhere, except for maybe a golf course?

Over 50 years in office and you can't name any legislation Biden sponsored, and he was against the crime bill and the killing of Osama. The protégé of KKK's grand cyclops, Sen. Robert Byrd. Bidenomics? Believing a fraction of the corruption Biden Inc. is accused of puts him on par with anything Trump is accused of.

Best Democratic Party candidates like Shelia Jackson Lee and how she treats staff swearing at them and belittling them, sued multiple times for staff treatment. Then there is Menendez, "Gold Bar Bob" – hidden cash, gold bars, Mercedes Benz, wife not charged with DUI. Best the Democratic Party has to offer? The Squad's disdain for the Israelis & Jews? Bernie Sanders giving campaign funds to his wife and sons' nonprofit. Ilhan Omar, Cori Bush and Maxine Waters misappropriate campaign funds to family members. Way more than 16 years in office between them and can you name any legislation they created? The Clinton Foundation and the squeaky clean Obamas, you must mean all those best slate of incredibly incompetent, uncompassionate and inexperienced Democratic politicians right?

Just like Ed and Annie, you hate Republicans so much. The ignorance is bliss hypocritical world you live in blinds you that the Democratic Party contains only "incredibly competent, compassionate and experienced politicians" and that none of those I mentioned needs to come to their senses? Vote common sense!

Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough

Guzman For Marlborough BOF

To the Editor:

I was born and raised in Marlborough. However, I have not spent my entire life in Marlborough. After graduating college with an undergraduate degree in Finance from Quinnipiac University and getting my MBA from Syracuse, I went off to live in Dallas, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio, where I was fortunate enough to meet my wonderful wife. Together, we moved back to Connecticut and eventually settled back in Marlborough in 2018 where we are now raising our two young kids. I have always been proud of Marlborough and still describe it as a "one spotlight town". I am proud of our history and proud to be from this town.

I am now running for a seat on our town's Board of Finance – the same Board my father sat on years ago. I am running for a variety of reasons but mainly because I want to provide my children the same experience I was provided growing up in this wonderful town. I am deeply invested in our community's wellbeing. I want to honor our past while still looking forward to our future. I believe these two ideas are not mutually exclusive. My wife and I chose to invest our family's future and buy a home in Marlborough because we believe the future is bright in this town. I want to ensure that for my children and yours.

The Board of Finance plays a crucial role in shaping the financial future of our community. It is tasked with managing our town's finances, making budgetary decisions, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. I humbly ask for your vote for the Board of Finance. Together, we can ensure a financially stable and prosperous community for all. Thank you for your consideration and support.

William Guzman – Marlborough

Candidate for Board of Finance

Thank You, Senator MD!

To the Editor:

We're writing to express our gratitude to Sen. MD Rahman for the tremendous work that he has done during his first term as our senator!

Andover residents are extremely fortunate to have Democrat MD Rahman as our state senator. In just one year in the senate, MD sponsored 25 bills and his hard work resulted in Andover's receiving: (1) \$500,000 in a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for the Andover Recreation Facility Enhancement Phase 2, which requires a \$150,000 match from the town; (2) \$275,000 for Andover's Municipal Parking Hub, which requires a Town match of \$75,000; (3) \$118,125 for funding to support the hiring and retention of school mental health specialists for the 2024 through 2026 school years, with the care of children's mental health having been the Senate Democrats' top legislative priority in 2023; and (4) \$100,000 through a Department of Economic and Community Development Grant included in 2023's state budget to build a trail connecting the Andover Town Hall area to the Hop River Trail.

MD had a 100% voting record and has been recognized for his charitable and philanthropic work. He generously donates to charities and those in need in all of the towns that he represents. The Andover Democratic Town Committee ("ADTC") encouraged the Senator to donate to two critical charities that support the Andover community: the Andover Food Pantry and the AHM Family Resource Center for its Project Graduation. Senator Rahman told the ADTC, "We must always be there when our community needs help."

By the time this edition of the *Rivereast* is circulated, MD will have donated \$1,000 to the Andover Food Pantry and \$500 to AHM for Project Graduation. Thank you, Senator MD!

**Sincerely,
Andover Democratic Town Committee**

Reminder to Colchester Citizens

To the Editor:

Back in March the town and school budgets were proposed. Six days later a workshop was held for the town budget. It was not until six weeks later that a budget workshop was held for the BOE budget.

I did my due diligence and looked back at every single meeting, besides attending them, to confirm. When it was brought up on multiple occasions that workshops were not being held or had been canceled, we were blatantly lied to by the BOF chair. When we begged for transparency we were never given any. In fact, the numbers given to us were constantly wrong, miscalculated, and the BOF chair herself showed confusion of her own numbers on numerous occasions. When a BOF member questioned if the numbers were accurate before going to referendum he was immediately told to abstain, all because he was asking for clarification, just like everyone else. Citizens showed up week after week begging for answers, none were given. When the BOF chair was told that she wasn't listening, she told us she was, she was not. This was proven during the first referendum when the vote no/too low voters came out in full force to fail the budget. Finally forced to listen they came up with a number we had been asking for all along, if they had just listened to our pleas to look into forgotten revenue.

The BOF chair did not do her job correctly, nor did she listen to the citizens she was voted in to represent. The process did not need to take so long. Citizens should feel heard. We need competent leaders, leaders who listen and can admit when they are wrong. This is why I will be voting for Karen Belding and Scott Chapman on Nov. 7!

Beth Tiezzi – Colchester

Prepared to Serve

To the Editor:

First, I want to thank everyone who serves on any of Hebron's boards and commissions. These volunteer positions require commitment, passion, and stamina. I've found this during my own run for the Board of Finance, as I've been attending the board's meetings regularly for the past few months. Through these and other local meetings, I've learned about all the people and services that make this town what it is today. If you are looking for a new adventure, I encourage you to look into your town government – there are vacancies to fill, such as on the Charter Revision Commission, the DPW Action Committee, and the Green Committee (none of which involve running for election!).

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, Hebron held the multi-board town meeting that kicks off the annual budget process. I'm proud to say that Democratic candidates attended, representing all the involved boards (Selectmen, Finance, and Education). Clearly, we are preparing for the budget season, even before we are elected. Thanks to my running mates, John Matra, Claudia Riley, Brittany Loudenback, and Heather Summerer for attending with me.

I would have liked to hear the perspectives of the Republican Board of Finance candidate at any meeting since the campaign began. While my running mate Brian Thibeault and I have been attending BOF meetings, our opponent has not. In fact, I haven't seen evidence that he has ever attended a BOF meeting. How does he expect to get up-to-speed on the board's responsibilities? If nothing else, this board requires preparedness and attention to detail.

Vote Row A on Nov. 7. We have demonstrated that we are able and motivated to preserve our quality of life in Hebron. Thank you and best regards to all who participate in our community.

Adam Ockman – Hebron

Candidate, Board of Finance

We Haven't Flat-Lined Yet

Dear Colchester:

Bipartisanship is not dead. But it is on life support in Colchester.

On the campaign trail I've been fortunate to meet and talk with hundreds of local residents and they are tired. They have felt the whip lash of the past two years and are ready for change. Retirees and elderly residents want to be considered by local officials, not to be an afterthought. Caregivers and parents want to see policy makers advocating for their children, not fighting to cut budgets that are already thin. Young professionals want to grow in Colchester and get involved in our town business, not be ridiculed for "packing the room" at meetings.

Bipartisanship is possible. Collaboration is possible. Professionalism is possible.

The current BOE is a great example of that — a Republican-majority board who know what it takes to work for our youngest and oldest citizens, alike. Unfortunately, they have been the exception to the rule recently.

On Nov. 7, Bernie Dennler and our entire Democratic slate are looking to usher in the change we all need. Our incredible team is excited to work for Colchester. We're thrilled at the opportunity to think of every corner of our town in our decision-making and to make sure our community members are heard. It won't be easy, but it is possible.

We haven't flat-lined yet, Colchester, but our days are numbered under our current leadership. Please vote for professionalism, civility, collaboration, new ideas, and experienced leadership when you head to the polls in two weeks.

I, and the rest of Row A, will see you there!

**Sincerely,
Stefanie Tracey-Calash – Colchester**

Candidate for Board of Education

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

Arrigoni Bridge - A Legacy

To the Editor:

Two months ago the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a new stamp depicting Portland's famous Arrigoni Bridge. One of Portland's most recognizable landmarks, the Arrigoni Bridge is an architectural icon, facilitating the transport of over 30,000 vehicles every day. This marvel of engineering has contributed to economic growth, tourism, recreation and the development of community identity within our small town. In the eight decades since its construction, the Arrigoni Bridge has grown to represent a sense of local pride and unity among the residents of the region: it has truly become our treasure.

However, despite its undeniable significance to Portland and Connecticut, there is a lack of identifying markers or signs displaying the name of the bridge. As a selectman in our town, I vow to work with my fellow selectmen on the board, the City of Middletown and with our state legislators, state Sen. Norm Needleman and state Rep. Christie Carpino. We will respectfully petition the State of Connecticut to simply install "Arrigoni Bridge" signage on both the Middletown and Portland sides of the bridge. Let's give the Arrigoni Bridge its rightful acknowledgment. This is a vital way to preserve the Arrigoni Bridge's legacy and ensure that our community receives the respect it deserves for years to come.

Jillian Crawford – Portland
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Tierney for Town Clerk

To the Editor:

In January 2022, Portland was lucky to gain Michael Tierney as town clerk when Ryan Curley left the position to become first selectman. Michael has lived in Portland his entire life and has given back to this town with many organizations. I have personally seen his dedication to Boy Scout Troop 2 over the past 12 years. Michael has always treated everyone, kids and parents, with the utmost respect and is one of the kindest people I have ever met. When he started the town clerk position, he was very excited about the new opportunity and how he could give back to the town he loves. He has continually worked to improve on the position since he started. He has been working with surrounding town clerks to learn their practices and bring back new ideas to our town.

I am excited to support Michael Tierney in his run for town clerk.

Aimee Dinnis – Portland

28 Years?

To the Editor:

Louise Concodello is running for Marlborough's Board of Selectmen, but I have a few questions.

After Louise's 28 years on the Board of Education, why did it take until this year to finally put a school resource officer in our elementary school?

After Louise's 28 years on the Board of Education, why did it take until this year to put a dedicated facility manager in our elementary school to oversee maintenance of Marlborough's largest asset, our school building?

As a member of the last Charter Revision Commission, Louise boasted about holding more than 60 meetings over the course of a year and a half. But we ended up with a mess of a charter that created even more "politics" by placing increased power in the hands of whatever party is in the majority and shifted control away from the taxpayers, who no longer have a say in special appropriations as high as \$100,000. We then witnessed a year-long logistical mess when First Selectman Greg Lowrey was ejected from his office prematurely by Amy Traversa... more fallout from a poorly structured charter that failed to provide for a smooth transition from first selectman to town manager.

Over the years, Louise Concodello has failed to watch out for the public's welfare by not thinking proactively and by failing to make thoughtful decisions. The public made their concerns known when Louise failed to win a seat on the Board of Selectmen in 2022 and again when she lost at the Republican primary last month as a Board of Education candidate.

On Nov. 7, I will be voting for those who have demonstrated that they will work in our best interests. Louise has failed to win my vote.

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

Vote Row B

To the Editor:

"To build a state where liberty...can triumph; where compassion can govern and where people...can prosper because of government and not in spite of it"

Words by Ronald Reagan, the champion of Republican principle that is practiced even today.

Vote Row B – for common sense governance and fiscal constraint.

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

Air Conditioning at Bacon

To the Editor:

The air conditioning in Bacon Academy, and the lack thereof a couple of weeks prior, has affected me along with my other peers and even my teachers. The air conditioning broke during a heat wave where the temperatures were above 90 degrees for three days in a row. We had to have two half days because it was too hot to be in the school during the peak temperatures for the day. When the body is subjected to thermal discomfort, maintaining homeostasis becomes the mind and body's priority, making it harder to concentrate on schoolwork. The lack of focus created by the heat caused a lack of completing schoolwork during that time.

However, now that the air conditioning is fixed, it is freezing in the building, especially the music hall. Teachers are even putting on winter coats to try to combat the cold. I go to class shivering, which makes it incredibly hard to focus on the task that I am supposed to be doing. Studies have shown that studying in a room that is too hot or too cold can reduce the ability to comprehend information. My suggestion would be to decrease the temperature that the air conditioning is set to, and to also make the temperatures the same throughout the school. Another solution could even be to give the teachers the ability to control the temperatures in their room to the changing seasons.

McKayleigh Capone – Colchester

Thanks from the Friends

To the Editor

Friends of Cragin Memorial Library wishes to express appreciation to its many supporters and volunteers. Celebrating a successful fiscal year, which ended on September 30, 2023, our group is blessed with tremendous growth in our membership, in our number of volunteers, in book donations, and in patrons' generosity. We owe special thanks to our many volunteers who donate their time and talents. Our non-profit group is managed and operated 100% by volunteers.

The Friends support a wide range of materials and programs offered at Cragin Memorial Library for a broad spectrum of ages and interests, and support library events to ensure community involvement and inclusion. Our three book and bake sales in 2024 are already scheduled for March 1-6, June 7-12, and Oct. 4-9.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. Colchester. All meetings are held in person and they are open to all.

If you would like to join Friends of Cragin Memorial Library, please contact me at noreenbibee@gmail.com.

Noreen Bibee, President
Friends of Cragin Memorial Library

Vote for DeDonato

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7, residents of Hebron have the opportunity to elect members of our community to various positions for which they are willing to volunteer their time and talent through service on town boards. Please take the time to support the candidates by exercising your right to vote. When you do, I encourage you to vote for Jim DeDonato for Board of Finance.

I have known Jim and his family for a number of years and consider him to be an excellent choice for the Board of Finance. Jim is a lawyer with a strong educational background who works in the insurance industry where he leads a team of professionals in making informed decisions, including financial decisions, that impact others. He understands the importance of making reasoned and fiscally responsible decisions through collaboration with others. Jim appreciates the significance of a positive educational experience for all children in Hebron, having two children who have gone through the Hebron school system and his wife who has served as a teacher and a principal in other school districts. Jim has served our Hebron community in various ways before choosing to run for a municipal position, including as a coach of youth sports and as a religious education instructor for children at the Church of the Holy Family where he is a parishioner.

Jim chose to run for a position on the Board of Finance because of his continued desire to serve his community and a dedication to working with others to make fiscally responsible decisions that are in the best interest of all Hebron residents. I encourage you to join me in supporting Jim DeDonato for Hebron Board of Finance on November 7.

Michael McCormack – Hebron
Select the Best

Dear Hebron Residents:

I have been reading so many letters and social media posts recently about Republicans vs. Democrats or vote one row. I find it so hard to find out what the candidates are all about through that noise. I have voted Republican, and I have voted Democrat over the years. I vote for who is going to do the best job for the people.

I write today about the Board of Education positions that are available this year for the Hebron Public Schools. I see many familiar names on signs and some new ones. For those up for reelection I want to say, I remember what you did when the pandemic hit. I remember the endless hours you spent reading publications whether from the state, CDC, parent letters, teacher letters, etc. I remember the time you spent listening to each person that stood up with a different view, a different suggestion. I know I would not have been able to do any better in your position. You were and are dedicated to our children and our schools. You make the difficult decisions; let's face it, we have some very strong opinions in Hebron.

I appreciate every person that is in the running for the Board of Education positions. You all have the same goal in mind, to put our children and schools first. I am excited to see the best people, no matter their political affiliation, be elected in November. Hebron, I encourage you to vote, I encourage you to read up on all candidates, be informed, elect the best for our town, vote for the person not the affiliation. Go vote on Nov. 7!!

Kathryn Hnat – Amston

Lack of Integrity

To the Editor:

At the Aug. 8 meeting of the Senior Center Building Committee, during citizens' comments, Republican candidate for Board of Finance Michael Dubreuil stated that I "lacked integrity" and the other members of the committee do not hold me accountable.

Did I lack integrity when in the early 1980s I worked on securing a \$750,000.00 grant to build rec. fields 3 & 4, the football field, rebuild the tennis and basketball courts and put lights on all the fields. Did I lack integrity when as Chairman of the William J. Johnston middle school project in the mid-1980s we renovated and built an addition to the middle school, under budget and on time. Did I lack integrity when as a member of the recently completed Johnston Middle School project we came in \$3.8 million under budget?

When you attack me, you also attack my family and other multi-generational families of Colchester. I am one of six generations who have lived in and worked in Colchester. We have a history of volunteering to make Colchester a great place to live in. Mr. Dubreuil has lived in Colchester for a total of 12 years yet he knows what the town should be.

You have also disparaged the members of the Building Committee who have volunteered hundreds of hours over the past four plus years to bring this center to fruition. All these committee members have served or are serving as volunteers on other boards and commissions in town.

What lacks integrity is that you are the best that the Republican Party in Colchester can find to run for such an important position. A person who attacks the volunteers who have worked hard for the community.

Tony Tarnowski – Colchester
Note: Tarnowski is chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee but said he is speaking as an individual.

Excellent Candidates

To the Editor:

Both Portland committees of Republican and Democratic parties offer online information on their candidates, including notices of "meet and greet" opportunities to talk to the candidates. I was able to attend a Democratic event that included those who are running for reelection to the school board and a candidate for selectmen.

All had excellent relevant experience and ability to work with others. I know from personal experience that BOE candidate Laurel Steinhauser has amazing energy, skills, and dedication and she does have three perfect reasons to continue to work for an affordable and effective school system, as the mom of three children attending Portland schools. BOS candidate Andrea Alfano was available and I was impressed not only with her background but with her statements showing consideration of opposite view points. I will be voting for Andrea Alfano, and hope for a more representative Board of Selectmen than the currently all-male board.

Thanks to all candidates for stepping up to offer to work for continuous improvements to our town!

Sincerely,
Janet Nocek – Portland

Dennler for Colchester's Future

Dear Colchester Residents:

As our election in November nears, I want to encourage you all to vote. Our voices need to be heard. This election has two candidates with very different styles. I urge you to view the video of Colchester Business Association's First Selectman Forum (https://youtu.be/xxs7E-lUpkPA8), because their styles are very clear in the video. It will help define your choice.

I am supporting Bernie Dennler because he is collaborative, honest, ethical and intelligent. He will work with town members to get things done. Bernie is focused on our town and our residents. Bernie will learn as he grows into the job. He listens to people, both constituents and opponents, with a calm thoughtful approach. Colchester needs this. Bernie will work for our residents and not by party lines. The current drama of the town hall and town meetings work against improving Colchester and slow down actions. Bernie has a plan but needs our votes to put it in place. He is hosting many opportunities for you to meet and talk to him in the next coming weeks. I encourage you to seek him out and view his platform on his website, BernieforColchester.com.

I know who I feel will be our best next first selectman: Bernie Dennler. But please make an informed choice. Colchester needs collaborative leadership to move forward.

Gussie Gilberti
Colchester Resident for Over 30 Years

Vote Row A

To the Editor:

Why am I voting for the Democratic slate? They advocate for our oldest, our youngest, and everyone in between. Many of the Democratic candidates were instrumental in getting the budget passed in the spring, avoiding further education cuts that would impact students and families. The candidates visited Colebrook Village last week to speak with its senior residents and hear their concerns so Hebron meets their needs as well.

The Democratic candidates support affordable housing that will make Hebron a viable option for those who otherwise would get priced out of town. They support responsible economic development that will expand our tax base and encourage people to buy local.

The Democratic candidates are resilient and ready to roll up their sleeves to bring transparency and trust back to the town boards. When Democrat signs in Amston mysteriously disappeared and were found in Lebanon dumped in the river and on the banks, Democratic candidates literally put on waders, retrieved the signs, cleaned them up, and got them back to the lawns of the Hebron residents from whom they were stolen.

When I vote for Row A on Nov. 7, I know I'm supporting those who support a vision for a better Hebron.

Meg Clifton – Amston

Businessman Needed In Portland

To the Editor:

How do we:

1. Maximize sale of unneeded school buildings,
2. Profitably develop the riverfront brownfield,
3. Create an independent water/sewer system,
4. Reroute Rt 66 and 17 roadway traffic, and
5. Provide citizens with a CT River boat launch.

Answer: Elect Jim Tripp to Board of Selectman

Elwin Guild – Portland

Save Our Schools

To the Editor:

Parents, if you care about your kids' education, you must vote for Scott Chapman and Karen Belding for the Board of Finance. The choice is clear; a vote for the two Republicans running – Migliaccio and newcomer Dubreuil – is a vote against our schools and children's futures. There is only one choice if you're pro-education – that is the Democrats who are running for office.

The Colchester RTC has had a longstanding vote-no, cut-it-all ideology. When we moved here in 2014, we bought in Colchester because it had a gifted and talented program. They cut the gifted and talented program after we purchased our house. Other cuts have included multiple teaching and staff positions, instructional supplies, security, and essential maintenance. The education budget has plummeted by over 4.6 million in 2022 dollars, with per-pupil expenditures decreasing by almost \$1,000 per student since 2020. In addition, we've lost key staff, including a beloved French teacher at Bacon (who was a native speaker) and the Drama Club leader who left because of the economic insecurity associated with Andrea Migliaccio's broken and dishonest budget process. All this data is available on the Republican-led Board of Education website: https://www.colchesterct.org/board_of_education/education_budget.

The reality is that Colchester is falling behind area districts: we are ranked 16th in per-pupil expenditure versus area districts, while our median income is ranked 5th. We can afford to do more for our students, and it is time for parents to tell the anti-education vote-no crowd again that we have had enough! The vote no, too low movement this summer was no fluke. Vote for Belding and Chapman for the Board of Finance and make an impact for our children and our town.

Jeremy M. McKenzie – Colchester

Vote for Dillon

To the Editor:

The Town of Portland is fortunate to have John Dillon running for the Portland Board of Selectmen. John is a current selectman; his public service resume includes volunteer work for several Portland community service organizations and serving on town boards & commissions. Among them, the Inland Wetland Commission and Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

John knows Portland; he is a fourth-generation Portland resident, a graduate of Portland High School and Central Connecticut State University. He knows the challenges our town faces and will work with the other Board of Selectmen members to develop policies that provide both basic services and quality of life opportunities for all of Portland's residents, while being mindful of keeping property taxes affordable.

Good government needs good people. On Election Day please join me and vote for John Dillon.

Fred Knous – Portland

Happy Place with Rudko.

To the Editor:

I have known Taras Rudko a few years now. He is a very intelligent civic-minded honest person. He spends most of his time trying to keep the towns tax rates low for the average person. At the town's meetings he is always the (adult in the room) the check and balance person pulling apart the layers of bureaucracy in complicated issues trying to get to the truth.

Please reward him for all his hard work for the people by voting for him for Colchester selectman Nov. 7; he deserves it! He will take us to our happy place without wasting a lot of money!

Thank you,
Leo Tupay – Colchester

Politics of Personal Destruction

To the Editor:

Last Tuesday (Oct. 17) the Colchester chapter of the AARP hosted its annual candidate forum. In general, it was its usual lively exchange of views. However, early in the forum, one of the panel members claimed – without evidence – that the Senior Center Building Committee was involved in "fraud." This is an example of the politics of personal destruction that has become so prominent in the last two campaigns for local office. On behalf of the leadership of the AARP, I want to apologize to the members of the SCBC for this outburst of political outrage. I have known at least three members of this committee for many years. The is no one who has ever worked harder for our town than its chairman, Tony Tarnowski. Tony has spent countless hours as have the other committee members. I can also testify to the tremendous amount of work done by Joe Ruiz and Marilyn Turner. This attack on their integrity was mean-spirited and an insult to our town.

Later in the meeting, another candidate attempted to smear the character of our town clerk. Gayle Furman has served in this position for many years and has done so with both integrity and efficiency. She has worked for the people of Colchester to resolve problems with multiple state agencies and with other town departments. She deserves to be reelected and the politics of personal destruction needs to be defeated. I hope that the people will join me in voting for Gayle Furman.

I hope that Colchester joins me in supporting positive campaigns while rejecting the politics of personal destruction.

John F. Malsbenden – Colchester

Vote for Dean Markham

To the Editor:

I am supporting Dean Markham for Town Council on Nov. 7. Dean brings a long history of community involvement. He has been a strong advocate for education, our police department, and fiscal responsibility. I know he will do an exceptional job for all of us. I had the privilege of serving with Dean on the council for two terms from 2018-21. His quality of work was superb.

During the COVID-19 pandemic when the Democrats led the Council, Dean's efforts to develop our general government, education and capital budgets led to no increase in our mill rate and property taxes; while maintaining teaching positions, restoring a long-vacant police officer and assistant librarian.

It is a pleasure to endorse Dean Markham for the East Hampton Town Council. Please join me in voting for Dean and the entire Democratic ticket. They will bring responsible, transparent and responsive leadership for all our citizens.

James "Pete" Brown – East Hampton
Note: Brown is a member of the Town Council but said he is writing as an individual.

Vote for A-L-L

To the Editor:

I want to urge all of your readers in Hebron to vote for Elizabeth Alexander, Eleisha LeMay and Brittany Loudenback for the Hebron Board of Education.

Elizabeth's son has benefited greatly from the excellent school system and wants to bring this experience together with her authenticity, optimism, service, and hard work to become an asset to the town of Hebron.

Eleisha is a school administrator with almost 20 years' experience in education, both in and out of the classroom. She brings a knowledge of school policy and procedure and awareness of the realities of the post-pandemic classroom.

Brittany's role in a nonprofit that raises funds for higher education has provided her with immeasurable insight into the importance of education. She has come to understand how a well-rounded and solid educational foundation can impact a student's success, and can bring those skills to the board.

Please remember to vote for A-L-L: Alexander, LeMay, and Loudenback for the Hebron Board of Education in the upcoming election on Nov. 7.

Learn more about all three at www.hebrondems.com Voting only the Democrat Row A on November's ballot will select all the candidates best suited to making Hebron an even better place to live.

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

See Letters, page 14

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

Fulbright Scholar Thrives in Scotland

By Michael Sinkewicz
Joan Tremblay is thriving. In 2018, she graduated from Bacon Academy before heading to UConn, where she earned dual degrees in English Literature and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Now, Tremblay, 23, is studying overseas at the University of Glasgow in Scotland after being awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. In September, she began her new journey, which will culminate with a MLitt — a specialized Masters degree — in environment, culture and communication in the field of environmental humanities. She's a long way from home in Colchester, but is enjoying immersing herself in a setting with fresh challenges. "I genuinely like connecting with other people and cultures," she told the *Rivereast*. "There's definitely a sense of adventure I didn't realize I had before." The Fulbright Program allows scholars from over 160 different countries to exchange ideas with each other. Each year, the program awards more than 1,700 fellowships, permitting 800 U.S. students to go abroad and 900 visiting students to travel to the U.S. LuAnn Saunders-Kanabay, the former assistant director in the Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships at UConn and the Fulbright Program Advisor, counseled Tremblay to pursue the scholarship and she began examining potentially suitable programs. Tremblay knew she wanted to study in the United Kingdom, and the Glasgow program offered exciting possibilities that caught her attention. She took a gap year, which essentially

turned into a mental health year, but after a rigorous application process, she was ultimately selected to participate. "It was really exciting," she said. "I'm definitely proud of myself." Arriving at that moment shouldn't have been a surprise. All her life, Tremblay has been an outstanding student, earning distinctions such as class valedictorian in high school. Growing up, her passions almost seemed to conflict though, and it was challenging to identify the best path to capitalize on her drive. Tremblay liked animals, so she considered being a veterinarian — but surgery was a non-starter, and that idea was scratched. She liked science, English, mythical creatures, wildlife conservation: how could these subjects overlap? "I wanted whatever I did in life to have practical importance," she recalled. Some issues, such as climate change, are difficult to directly take on due to its decisiveness. Instead, embracing topics with a curiosity regarding how different cultures approach issues can be informative. "I'm more interested in how people can reconnect with each other and find common ground," she said. One of her current passions is Celtic folklore and mythology, which can influence modern civilization. Tremblay explained that peoples' values often affect behavior and motivations. "Myth and legend get to the heart of our values," she said. "That seems to be an interesting overlap." For example, she's currently studying how Irish fairy stories, which are often linked to the

environment, impact today's thinking. Builders will purposely avoid certain hills associated with stories and chose to plan roads around them, she said. "There's a certain level of respect there," she expressed. While roaming around the Dumfries Campus, which is removed from the main city, a surreal feeling sunk in — "I can't believe I get to be in this place." She's the only Fulbright scholar at the university, but there's around five more scattered around Scotland and about 50 more in the U.K. The whole group met in London for orientation and have continued to bond, there's even a group chat. "That's when I felt the weight of the award," she recalled as she mingled with her fellow scholars. The whole experience will last a year, at which point she'll have to make a decision to pursue a thesis or a work placement. It's a small, tight-knit campus — in contrast to a few of the large scaled UConn halls — but there's also field trips that expand the instruction. Her studies are enriching, but sometimes what takes place outside the classroom can be even more rewarding. "The people in Scotland are the nicest I've ever met," she said. And she's not just being exposed to one new culture; there's students from India, the Maldives and others from the U.S, all bringing their own indue backgrounds. Still, Tremblay has picked up on a few notable differences from her home country. There's a better "work-life balance," she said, describing the approach as more "wholesome." Some small things, like the ways doors open or the proper side of the street to walk on, can be

tricky to master. "There's been some adjustments," she jokingly, acknowledging that there may have been a few embarrassing moments. One of her priorities is to fully embrace and learn Scottish culture. She enrolled in a dance class, separate from the university, that has allowed her to interact with the locals. "Most people are mystified with why I'm there," she said. "But they're welcoming." She has observed a lot of public drunkenness, just apart of the daily life. As part of her cultural engrossment, she had to visit Loch Ness, the famous lake of the Scottish Highlands, and its hidden monster. "As someone into folklore, I couldn't not look for Nessie," she said. Her adventures have instilled many lessons. Before, she recalled, her mindset was straightforward. "I put a lot of pressure on myself to achieve certain standards," she said. Tremblay explained that there's now more acceptance and confidence with failing. "I say 'yes' to going to wild places," she said. Colchester's Fulbright scholar expressed that she's willing to laugh at herself, especially when she's dancing.

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.

Dine & Donate!
All are invited to support the nonprofit group Girls on the Run Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Oz N Bones BBQ, 43 Hayward Ave. From 5-8 p.m., 10% of all sales (dine-in or takeout) will be donated to Girls on the Run, a nonprofit organization that designs programming intended to strengthen girls' social, emotional, physical and behavioral skills to successfully navigate life experiences. There is a local Girls on the Run team right in Colchester, at Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

Dot's Annual Pasta Dinner
On Sunday, Oct. 29, from 5-7 p.m., the Colchester Democrats will host Dot's Annual Pasta Dinner at St. Joseph Polish Society, 395 S. Main St. This gathering is the last fundraiser for the Democratic Team before municipal elections. The event will also raise \$250 for the Dot Mrowka Scholarship, and typically brings many guests from the state and federal level to our town. Cost is \$20, with kids 10 and under free. Many varieties of pasta and dessert will be served. Contact Monica at 860-465-7909 for more information.

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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.

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.

Voter Registration Session

The Colchester registrars of voters will hold a registration session Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., in the registrar's office at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

This is the last regular session for admission of electors for those who become 18 years of age, U.S. citizens, or residents of the town on or before Oct. 31.

Those whose rights as to age, citizenship or residence mature after the above date may apply in the office on a daily basis until the opening of the limited session on Nov. 6, or at such limited session.

Avhath Achim News

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

Tuesday: Aggaddata 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.

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.

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.colchester-ct.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.

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. Registration deadline is Nov. 1. There will be no race day registration. Cost is \$45 per runner, \$100 per relay team. Register at runsignup.com/Race/CT/Hebron/AirLineTrailGhostRun.

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

Pumpkins & Pooches This Sunday!

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

The day will feature a cornhole tournament at 2 p.m., and canine costume contests at 3 p.m. There will also be various pet-related vendors, raffles, and pumpkin-decorating and other activities for the kids (while supplies list).

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

Indoor Tailgate Barbecue

The St. Joseph's Polish Society at 395 South Main St. is hosting its second annual indoor tailgate barbecue Sunday, Nov. 5. Advanced tickets are required for this event.

Wings will be served at 2 p.m. The rest of the buffet will be served at 3 p.m. and will include brisket, pulled pork, chicken, meat bombs (bacon meatloaf), kielbasa with sauerkraut, mac & cheese, and baked beans.

Cost is \$20 per person. This is an in-person event and will not have a takeout option. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 29.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

Annual Fall Market

Colchester Federated Church's annual Fall Market will be held Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church, 60 Main St.

The event will feature over 40 local crafters, artisans, vendors and farmers. Have lunch at the Rustic Streets food truck, pick up some goodies at the bake sale, and visit the Upscale Tagsale. There will also be a raffle table.

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To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
The second installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2022 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on October 1, 2023. Payments must be postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by November 1, 2023 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting November 2, 2023 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of October 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.

View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours. Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.

If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.

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Candidate Removes Self from Ballot

By Michael Sinkewicz

A Republican who was seeking another term on the Board of Fire Commissioners has been removed from the upcoming municipal election ballot.

Kurt Boehm voluntarily dropped out of the race last week, according to Republican Town Committee Chairman Carol Barton. He remains on the board, according to town records, although his term expires next month.

In March, Boehm was charged strangulation in the second-degree, risk of injury to a child, disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call, according to state records. He scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 16.

The charges stem from a domestic incident that took place in March, according to an affidavit obtained by the *Rivereast*.

A sample ballot posted online by the Andover town clerk does not have Boehm listed as a candidate.

During a phone call this week, Barton stated that she hadn't known about the arrest when it happened, but was at least partially aware of it by the time the Republicans finalized their slate over the summer.

"I knew something but not all that was going on," she said, adding that after discussing the matter with Boehm this month, he volunteered to end his candidacy. "It's not my business. His issue is his issue. Now that he's off [the ballot], he's off."

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Catherine Magaldi-Lewis stated that she is focused on Democratic candidates for the upcoming election.

"We worry about our own people," she said. Wallace Barton Jr., chairman of the fire commission declined to comment, but said in an email, "I believe you are innocent until proven guilty."

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 Wednesdays, 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.

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: Manchester: Tuesday, Oct. 31; Willimantic – Thursday, Nov. 9.

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

Election Day Rides: Rides to the polls are available on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7. Call Palazzi if you need one.

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.

Halloween Trick-or-Treaters

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, will welcome trick-or-treaters on Halloween, Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Kids are welcome for candy treats, non-candy treats, and more.

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St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds two services of Holy Eucharist each week, at 8 and 10 a.m. All are invited to the church hall for coffee and conversation after the services. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

Meetings and Events: Balance Class, Mondays, 10-11 a.m.; Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop): every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednes-

days at 10 a.m.; Vestry: third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

Outreach: Food Donations: Items for various local food pantries can be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall.

For more information, visit stpetershebron.com, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email office@stpetershebron.com.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St., on Sundays at 9 a.m., with the Rev. James Wiese. People can also join worship live online at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

Sunday Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 10:15 a.m., following Coffee Hour.

Craft Fair and Free Quilt Show: Saturday, Dec. 2; this is a fundraiser for "Elaina's Lift." Interested vendors can request more information at CLCHebron.Fellowship@gmail.com.

Movie Night: Saturday, Oct. 28, 2-5 p.m., at the church. Open to the public. There will be

Halloween candy, crafts and a yet-to-be-determined movie.

Caring Shepherds: The next Open Pantry is Saturday, Oct. 28, starting at 9 a.m., at the church. Caring Shepherds distributes household and hygiene items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles, and prayers. For more information, call Caring Shepherds Ministry at 860-228-1152.

Early Childhood Center: The center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school in a Christian environment. The center is open to all walks of faith. Ande Shutler is director. Call 860-228-5134 for more information. Application forms are at www.clecchebron.org.

Grant Deadline Approaching

The Hebron Greater Together Community Fund, which is a program of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, has announced a Nov. 1 deadline for grant applications to support 2024 projects that improve the quality of life for the citizens of the town of Hebron.

The objectives of the HGTCF are to improve diverse impact of current programs and create innovative new projects for underserved populations.

Eligible grant applicants are non-profit 501c3 organizations that serve the citizens of Hebron.

Individuals or group of citizens may submit an application in partnership with a registered non-profit that has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent of the proposed project.

Grant requests may range from \$500 to \$5,000. Each grant applicant will be interviewed by members of the HGTCF. Advisory Committee and grants for 2024 projects will be announced in December.

For application forms and more information, visit hfgp.org/hebroncf.

The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors, and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenter-Connecticut and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733.

Life Groups: Meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Caseys' home in Hebron, and the second Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30pm at the Swensons' home in Columbia, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after

the service; lunch is provided. Upcoming meeting: Nov. 5.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship! Typically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church.

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care: Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office.

Trunk or Treat: The Worship Center will participate in Trunk or Treat today, Oct. 27, at Burnt Hill Park. There will be games, giveaways and candy. All are welcome.

Donations Sought for HIHS: The Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) food pantry is in critical need, and The Worship Center is helping to collect monetary, food and goods donations. Items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings, or donate directly to HIHS at 26 Pendleton Dr., Hebron; hours are Tuesday/Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m. Contact HIHSCT.org to give online, or email hsfoodpantry@gmail.com for more information.

Bucket of Blessings: The church's outreach team has been collecting snack-type food and monetary donations as a love offering for local first responders. To get involved, email jessicalbain@gmail.com.

Turkey Shoots Through Nov. 19

Skungamaug Fish and Game Club will hold its annual turkey trap and shoots Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through Nov. 19, at the club, 423 Jones St., Hebron. The shooter with the best shot on their turkey paper target wins a frozen turkey.

SAL Grinders to Go

The Sons of the Hebron American Legion will be selling foot-long grinders with a bag of chips for \$12 each on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Advance orders are recommended. Email Ron at park1969@comcast.net or call 860-402-0904 to order your choice of ham, turkey or Italian combo, with optional provolone or American cheese, tomato, lettuce, onions and choice of condiments mayo, mustard, oil and vinegar.

Pick-up at the American Legion, 18 Main St., with drive-through service to your car. Have cash or check made out to SAL Squadron 95. There will be extra grinders available for drive-ups until sold out.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

Selecting Shilosky

Dear Colchester Voter:

On Nov. 7, I will be pleased to cast my vote for Art Shilosky for the Colchester Board of Selectman. As many are aware, Art served four successful years as first selectman, negotiating the Bloom Energy Fuel Cell project, and raising the town’s bond rating to AA+. It was a smooth transition for him to then serve two years on the Board of Finance. This combined knowledge and experience is a significant benefit to the town, and as a member of the Board of Selectman, it will be invaluable.

Please cast your vote for Art Shilosky.

Thank you,
Bev O’Donal – Colchester

Return to Respect

To the Editor:

I have served two and a half terms on the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and three terms on the Board of Assessment Appeals. As a Democrat, I’ve sat with fellow board members from different parties. Once on a board, party was never in play, and everyone concentrated on the issues of the town until these last two years. Our current first selectman has spent the better part of his term dividing the BOS politically. His toxic behavior at meetings has made it difficult to conduct necessary business. He has tried to control the abilities of the board by consistently manipulating the agenda, even tearing it up and ignoring it. He has also ignored motions that were voted on and passed by majority vote of the board. As much as the first selectman talks about transparency, he has often neglected to provide the board with supporting documentation so that fiscally smart decisions could be made. He has made a total mockery out of our board meetings, insulting board members, and even at times insulting citizens who spoke during citizens’ comments.

I would again like to see a time when elected officials can work together amicably across party lines to move Colchester forward. I believe that Bernie Dennler and our team have the ability to make this happen. Please vote for me and the rest of the Dennler team on Nov 7.

Thank you,
Denise Turner – Colchester

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

What is Bisbikos Hiding?

To the Editor:

Acta non verba, action not words. Andreas Bisbikos says he is running on a platform of transparency, but watch what he does rather than listen to him speak. He and his party canceled this week’s Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen meetings. Canceling the last sessions before the election is awkward timing for sure. Perhaps he doesn’t want any uncomfortable questions about the disgusting mailer he sent, or he does not want to discuss his failure to ensure the pending audit was completed on time? Speaking of the audit – why is it delayed until after the election? The timing seems convenient.

One also wonders about all of the unfulfilled Freedom of Information requests. Curiously, requests from his party that meet his political objectives are immediately filled. Even more curious is that information leaks out of town hall like he is pouring water in a sieve. My husband recently submitted two requests to the town hall that have yet to be fulfilled. First, he asked for copies of all employment settlements during the term of Andreas Bisbikos. He also requested any personnel complaints against the current First Selectman. Then he asked for the employment contracts for the first selectman, the HR director, the business director, and Maggie Cosgrove. He also requested a description and scope of duties for all the employees listed above. The requests were filed nearly a month ago, and so far nothing from Mr. Andreas “Transparency” Bisbikos. What are you hiding, Andreas?

It is time for new leadership in Colchester Town Hall. Leadership that will follow through with making Colchester more transparent; leadership that will represent all of Colchester, not just their party’s petty politics. Vote for Bernie.

Nicole G. McKenzie – Colchester

Supports Thibeault

Good Morning:

I am writing in support of Brian Thibeault, who is running for the Board of Finance for the Town of Hebron. I am doing so for a number of reasons, but the most important one is simply that Brian is such a good person. I could talk about how smart he is, and about how his experience as an actuary makes him an ideal candidate for this position, but what really sets him apart is who he is. Brian is calm, even-tempered, sincere, and trustworthy. He even has a good joke or two every so often!

I am not by nature a very political person. I want nothing more than to know that the people helping to run our little town are reasonable people who are willing to work with others to come up with reasonable decisions. Brian Thibeault more than fits that bill.

Sincerely,
Jeff LeMay – Hebron

Experience We Need

To the Editor:

I was a longtime small business owner in Colchester, but a couple of years ago sold my business to become a stay-at-home dad. From a business perspective, it’s important that our town is stable and that we’re building a long-term plan for sustainability.

As a parent, I want to make sure that we have long-term plans for our schools. By the time my young children get to Bacon Academy, I want to make sure that plans have been made that the buildings and facilities are fit for purpose. One of my children will start kindergarten next year, and I worry about another budget cycle where full-time kindergarten is threatened by steep budget cuts.

I transport my children to and from school and make most local commutes by bicycle and I would like to see the town have safer streets for cycling and walking.

These are things that I know the Democratic candidates in Colchester all care about. Bernie Dennler has the experience to be an excellent leader in our town. Long-term planning, finding grant support, and road safety are all part of his priorities.

I’m going to be voting Row A to bring the experience we need to town government in Colchester.

Todd Szoka – Colchester

Enthusiastic About Shilosky

To the Editor:

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Art Shilosky for the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Art’s past experiences as Colchester’s first selectman, his extensive negotiating skills and knowledge of Colchester budgets/audit reports, makes him the ideal candidate.

Art has integrity and is willing to work with all members of the board regardless of their party affiliation. He will listen and research the issues that will be presented and understands the town charter. These key elements of his character and experiences will help move Colchester forward.

Art has demonstrated his ability to lead, listen, and collaborate with fellow board members. This is why I firmly support Art Shilosky for the Board of Selectman. Please join me and vote for Art on Nov. 7th!

Deborah Bates – Colchester

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

Would Be an Honor

Dear Portland Residents:

My name is Jim Tripp and I am running for election to the Portland Board of Selectmen.

I have been an active volunteer in the Portland community for over 20 years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to lead service organizations such as the Brownstone Quorum and Portland Lions, and to work on various committees and commissions, including Parks and Recreation, the Route 17 Park Building Committee, and currently as Chair of the Water and Sewer Commission. I also had the honor of being elected to and serving on the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen.

There are several issues we will need to address during the next couple of years that have long-term implications for our community. These include addressing infrastructure needs, including the transition to Portland owned water source, and decisions about how best to move forward with our schools in a way that maintains the high quality of education we provide our children while addressing long-term facility needs. As a member of the Board of Selectmen, I will work hard to find balanced and fiscally responsible solutions to these issues and get things accomplished for the residents of Portland.

This week we have included a flyer in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* that provides information on the Democratic candidates. I am proud to be running on a ticket with a team that has experience and expertise associated with the positions for which they are running. Please take a moment to review the flyer, or simply put it on your fridge as a reminder to vote.

It would be an honor to serve our community as a member of the Portland Board of Selectmen. I ask for your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Sincerely,
James K. Tripp – Portland
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Need Accountability and Change

To the Editor:

The chairman of the Colchester BOF, Andrea Migliaccio, canceled both BOF meetings in October. Yet our 2021/22 audit is ten months late to Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the year-end transfers of 13 town departments that exceeded their budgets for the 2022-23 budget are still outstanding.

Instead of a published budget on the town website, the Munis report for the 2023-24 budget year was printed. The Munis report is not a budget document. It has no revenue component, does not compare to previous year’s expenditures/revenues per line item and provides no reports per department.

Andrea indicated that the audit is “on track.” On track? It was due on Dec. 31, 2022, 10 months ago. We are getting letters from OPM every two weeks asking, “Where is the Audit?” We have spent \$82,000 on two temporary employees and contracted the retired CFO at \$150 per hour to assist in the preparation of the audit. The BOF chair and FS won’t say how much we have paid our former CFO. All this when the town’s financial department is fully staffed, and the finance director is paid \$123,000 a year. But don’t worry Colchester – we are “on-track.” Seriously?

Regarding the year-end transfers, Andrea indicated that BOF approval of transfers between departments is not required if the full budget is under budget. But Article 1110 D of the town charter requires BOS recommendation and BOF approval of transfers between town departments. Does it surprise anyone who followed this year’s budget process that the BOF chair would not follow the town charter? She didn’t listen to our citizens during the budget process, so why would she follow the charter?

It is time for accountability. It is time for a change. Think about this on Nov. 7.

Mike Egan – Colchester

Note: Egan is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance but said he is speaking as an individual.

Proud To Be an American

To the Editor:

On Jan. 6, 2021, I’m proud to say that I became an American citizen. I said my oath of allegiance standing next to other immigrants beside plastic seats in a USCIS waiting room. Covid restrictions meant that there were no family members present. It was a moving experience to be there with just strangers, taking photos of each other, united by our newly shared citizenship.

I’m also proud to say that I’m now a member of the Colchester DTC. The democratic values of the United States begin at the local level. We live in a small town and all care about the quality of schools and local services. No one, regardless of party, wants to raise the property tax burden on those who are struggling financially. Local politics should mean working together on these issues.

But over my first two years as a U.S. citizen, under Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, I have seen the erosion of local politics. The budget process has been a mess. Town employees are quitting.

He has engaged in attacks on other elected officials and citizens for the purpose of political theater. Reasonable discussion is not allowed. He tore the agenda up and refused to deal with actual town business, going against the majority vote of his colleagues. Instead of doing real work Bisbikos made national news bringing culture wars

to Colchester by trying to ban a book on RuPaul.

I’m fed up with this anti-democratic first selectman. We live in Colchester because we love this wonderful small town, and we should be able to work together to make it the best place it can be. That’s why my first-ever vote for first selectman in Colchester will proudly be for Bernie Dennler.

Sarah Croucher – Colchester

Experience and Professionalism

To the Editor:

Colchester has been fortunate to have a highly effective town clerk for the last nine years. Gayle Furman handles requests with efficiency and professionalism, with a friendly manner and a sense of urgency for your needs. My visits to the town clerk’s office over the past nine years have been quick and easy, whether I needed to complete an absentee ballot, have a document notarized, or renew my dog’s license.

Gayle is also actively involved in the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, the professional organization for all town clerks in the state. She serves as the vice president for New London County. She’s also certified as a Connecticut and International Association municipal clerk, which brings our town’s operations to a higher level of professionalism. It’s important for our town elected officials to understand and play a role in the broader Connecticut community, and Gayle does that. She’s well-respected by her town clerk peers and is even entrusted with running the Connecticut Town Clerk Association’s elections.

Which brings me to the most important aspect of the town clerk’s job: Colchester’s elections have been run professionally and equitably under Gayle’s leadership. When you walk in to vote in Colchester, you’re met by a sea of volunteers and given the opportunity to vote without partisan influence or pressure. Gayle manages the volunteers and does a great job, and if you live in Colchester you know that we really like to run multiple referenda every year. Gayle works hard on behalf of all of us to keep our elections safe and free. That is not worth risking.

I strongly support Gayle Furman for Colchester town clerk, because experience and professionalism count.

Susie Milner – Colchester

Questions for ‘Mr. Transparency’

To the Editor:

To current Colchester First Selectman Bisbikos, who is running on a platform of transparency I would ask the following:

Why did you eliminate the advisory questions (too high/too low) on the last budget referendum?

Why did you end a BOS meeting before citizens’ comments denying those who had patiently waited for 2 hours their freedom of speech?

Why are you delaying some of the pending Freedom of Information requests?

Where is the town financial audit that is now 9 months late?

And why did it cost us an additional \$80,000 of taxpayer money this year?

How much did your administration go over budget last year?

Has your administration gone over budget this year?

Why did you not let town employees and poll workers defend themselves against false claims of fraudulent votes in a recent lawsuit by one of your friends?

And why did you not stick up for your employees and for the truth yourself?

Why have you eliminated “additions and changes” from Board of Selectmen meeting agendas for the first time in 50 years?

Why do you suspend the agenda at meetings when votes don’t go your way?

How much does it cost taxpayers every time you ask the court for a delay in the current lawsuit against you and the town?

How can you deny that a record number of people left Town Hall during your administration?

Lastly, will your “transparency” software give Colchester taxpayers answers to any of the above questions? I am fine with the software but software does not equal transparency.

We all know this is not transparent leadership. It’s time for change.

Respectfully,
Vincent Rose – Colchester

Change is Needed

To the Editor:

I am running for the Board of Finance to be part of a team that brings positive leadership back to Colchester. The tone and tenor of people in key positions and boards need to change so we can unite and move forward in a positive way. I run projects and one of the mantras I coach my team on is that the fish rots from the head – so if an endeavor is failing, look to the leadership.

Our town is floundering. We are not properly planning for infrastructure investments, maintenance, equipment, or programming so that services remain strong, but we don’t hit a financial cliff. No one wants their taxes to jump (not even Democrats!), but no one wants buildings falling apart, to be the only town in Connecticut without full-day kindergarten, unsafe fields, or grass growing knee high on town properties.

The senior center building was delayed by Republicans for a year and bonding for fire trucks was delayed by the incomplete audit – both will now cost more. The referendum process was fraught with inaccurate data. The first selectman talks about completing projects that were planned before his term and use free money from the federal government, but is not planning for the upkeep of these easy wins.

Instead of leading our town, the first selectman, the chair of the Board of Finance, and others feel that keeping the budgets razor thin with no investments or inflation built in is sound strategy. However, this pattern of not properly planning and ignoring degradation of services and infrastructure have put our town in a tough financial position. A change in course is needed to correct this trajectory.

That’s what the Democratic team and I will do if you elect us on Nov. 7. Learn more about us at colchester-democrats.org.

Thank you,
Karen Belding – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Finance

Supports Engelhardt

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Matt Engelhardt for the East Hampton Board of Education. Matt truly has the best interest of students and staff in mind, and would be an excellent addition to our BOE. He has been a regular attendee at board meetings long before he decided to run for a seat. He shares insightful and meaningful opinions and facts with the board, and I trust that he would bring this same thoughtfulness to the board as a member.

Please vote for Matt Engelhardt for the East Hampton Board of Education on Nov. 7.

Respectfully,
Irene Kuck – East Hampton

The Little Brown Bat

To the Editor:

Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) is an endangered species native to North America. It has glossy brown fur, ranging from tan or reddish to dark brown. Its belly fur is a lighter. It is not closely related to the big brown bat, which belongs to a different genus. The average adult little brown bat weighs 10g with a body length of 3” and a wingspan of 10 inches. Generally, females are larger than males.

Once very abundant, the little brown bat has experienced severe declines in eastern North America due to several factors including white-nose syndrome, an invasive fungal disease that has caused the death of millions of bats. The little brown bat was particularly hard-hit by the fungus, which is still spreading throughout the US. However, the bats’ natural lifespan is 30+ years.

In late to mid fall, little brown bats seek sites such as caves and mines where they enter into hibernation. But first, before they enter, mating takes place. When they emerge from hibernation in early spring, pregnant females form maternity colonies in large tree cavities, attics or bat houses. Due to a reproductive strategy known as delayed fertilization, a pregnant female will give birth to a single pup in May or June. The young grow quickly, and they are able to fly in about four weeks.

Males often roost under exfoliating bark, within cavities of live or dead trees during the summer, and sometimes in human-made structures.

Little brown bats forage over water where their diet consists of aquatic insects such as midges and mosquitoes. They also feed over meadows and farmland where they consume a wide variety of insects, many of which are damaging to crops. Individuals can catch up to 1,200 insects in one hour. Our backyard buddies!

Next: Autumn leaves, red bats!

Thank you,
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

Common-Sense Solutions

To the Editor:

As a first selectman, party affiliation should not matter when it comes to attracting new businesses, maintaining recreation fields, or supporting the well-being of our older residents. I know this firsthand as the first selectman of Essex for over a decade and serving 20 years on the Board of Selectmen where I have approved 10 budgets unanimously with bipartisan support. Hard-earned results that I attribute to a commitment to working together, finding consensus in difficult moments, and a focus on delivering a better future.

I see these same qualities in Bernie Dennler and how he has repeatedly brought Colchester residents together to find common sense solutions.

Bernie understands and is passionate about making the nuts and bolts of municipal government work to deliver town services that Colchester families and taxpayers deserve. He will use his background as an office manager to the first selectman of Lebanon and volunteer experience in Colchester to fight for all community residents. Serving under both Republican and Democratic administrations, he knows that division based on drama and partisan political scoring does not help community residents.

Like so many of you, he wants to move past the unfortunate divisions over the past couple of years in Colchester and get the first selectman’s office back to the business of best serving the needs of Colchester residents.

He will be a partner to all in bringing people together to steer Colchester in a thoughtful direction into the future. For these reasons, I ask you to join me in supporting Bernie Dennler to be first selectman of Colchester.

State Sen. Norm Needleman
D-33rd District

Note: The 12-town 33rd District includes the Rivereast towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland. Needleman is also first selectman of Essex.

Advocating Arndt

To the Editor:

By its very definition, progress cannot happen without a certain degree of change. With our upcoming municipal elections, our community has the chance to bring about meaningful change by electing boards that will preserve what makes East Hampton great while planning for, and investing in, what lies ahead. We, as voters, have the opportunity and responsibility to elect officials who will act as stewards of our future.

And while change is a necessary component of progress, consistency and reliability are important factors as well. Augie Arndt has served on the Board of Education for almost two years and has proven to be a most valuable member. Augie is a dedicated father with an extensive understanding of the school system. He also brings a vast knowledge of business and finance to the table that allows him to see things from multiple perspectives. Augie is trustworthy, thoughtful, level-headed, and willing to work cooperatively with his fellow board members to get things done. He has a tremendous sense of integrity and the best interests of the students of East Hampton at heart.

As you go to the polls on Nov. 7, please know your candidates. Consider the words and actions of those on the ballot and whether they share your vision for what East Hampton can be. Augie Arndt shares my vision for progress and for continuing to make our schools the best that they can be. I hope you will join me in supporting Augie’s re-election to the Board of Education.

Nancy Kohler – East Hampton

Note: Kohler is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.

See Letters, page 29

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Town Questions Lack of Recreational Space

By London Brazal

As the Park and Rec Tennis Club's appeal to schedule practices at East Hampton High School during school hours was denied, the town continues to face a shortage of recreational space, leaving residents with limited options for leisure and sports activities.

In September, the Park and Rec Tennis Club requested the Board of Education to consider waiving the policies that prohibit the organization from using the high school courts during school hours. The policy prohibits the "use of school premises for non-school activities during school hours." Due to initial safety concerns, the club decided to have everyone register through Parks and Rec. To solve the issue of parking, the club got permission to park at the VFW across the street during the designated meeting times. Furthermore, the club planned to ask the physical education teachers to provide schedules so they do not interfere with the students.

After a long discussion, the Board of Education decided to reject the appeal. However, the move only denies the club access while school is in session for the safety of the students. The Board thanked the club for being thorough with their registrations but it could still get confusing with

who is and is not allowed to be there. Another reason was to not add more work for the school's security and physical education teachers. Board member Nancy Kohler said, "Our staff already has a really difficult job and to put more on them is challenging."

Another perspective important to note was setting a new precedence if the appeal was granted. The Board of Education and Superintendent Paul Smith were worried that allowing one group would lead to allowing any group to use the facilities during school hours. "It's just during the school day," said Smith. "Even at the Elementary Schools, we keep young parents and their young children off the playgrounds during school hours. It's just a different time in schools."

The complaints are not against the group themselves. Smith added the problem is the precedence it sets in "a time of heightened security." The final vote was 8-1 to deny the appeal. The only member to vote in favor of the appeal was Salvatore Nucifora. He noted that the club went through some "extraordinary measures" to make sure the members were registered and vetted. Nucifora suggested the organization come up with another plan as the motion was made "without prejudice"

and does not completely ban a new appeal in the future.

In the discussion, Chairwoman Christina Tammaro-Dzagan noted how the town has "historically missed out on acquiring space for the possible use of recreational activities," agreeing with a similar sentiment expressed by Town Council Chair Mark Philhower in a town council meeting. To further emphasize her point, Tammaro-Dzagan said how the town is now seeing this issue by multiple groups trying to find space to use. "We're seeing the result of those mistakes that have been made."

The request was made initially because of the damaged courts at Sears Park. There are only two available, both with cracks and weeds growing. The average age of the Parks and Rec Tennis Club is in the 70s which puts many of their members at risk. In December 2021, the then-director of Parks and Recreation, Jeremy Hall, added the reconstruction of Sears Park tennis courts and a new pickleball court to their capital project list. Acting Director of Recreation Shawn Mullen said

the courts at the park are all being re-done in the spring.

Back in 2021, Hall was worried about the closure of Sports on 66 and how it would affect residents. When the facilities were open, they hosted basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, football and soccer. The Friends of the Middle Haddam School suggested that the Town of East Hampton should purchase the Middle Haddam School as a senior/recreation center with office space. According to the Friends' Facebook, the rehabilitation costs would stay under \$1 million.

As of press time, the disposal of the building would be decided by a two-thirds majority of the Middle Haddam Association at its October meeting. There was a request for proposals through Preservation Connection to produce credible options for the building's re-use that the membership and Board of Directors can consider. However, the discussion and possible action on the request for the Town of East Hampton to purchase the Middle Haddam School was put on hold until November when the new Town Council is elected.

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.

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.

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

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 lead the group, which meets at 9:55. New students welcome. Contact neel-

richard16@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. Call Bobette Reed Kahn at 860-250-0790 for more information.

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 donnadubehryb@gmail.com.

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.

East Hampton Democrats

FOR PEOPLE.
FOR PROGRESS.

FOR TOWN COUNCIL



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Senior Commended in National Merit Scholarship Program

By London Brazal

Aidan Maiorino, a senior at East Hampton High School, has been named a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) was presented by EHHS Principal Eric Verner to Maiorino. The corporation describes students commended as “scholastically talented seniors.”

Across the country, approximately 34,000 Commended Students are recognized for their outstanding academic potential. While they will not be advancing to the 2024 National Merit Scholarship competition, these Commended Students distinguished themselves as part of the initial group of 50,000 students who had the highest Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test Selection Index scores in October 2022.

Math teacher Jarad Demick has taught Maiorino in multiple classes. Demick said Maiorino has a knack for absorbing complex mathematics and recalling them with “astounding accuracy.” He also said Maiorino hates wast-

ing time and so tries to find out the optimal way to figure something out.

“As a teacher, this means I’ll sometimes need to reign him in and get him to show just a bit more work,” explained Demick. “Even though it might frustrate him, that’s just because he really understands what’s going on, and it’s a delight to be able to work with and teach Aidan.”

Ultimately, Maiorino was excited to receive the award.

“It was an unexpected but pleasant surprise and I am very grateful to the school for helping me receive it,” said Maiorino. “I enjoy STEM in general more than history and English, but if I had to pick one I would probably pick math.”

Throughout his high school career, Maiorino has been awarded various academic achievements. Last school year, he was granted Outstanding Junior in Math and has accomplished High Honors each year. He was also accepted into the National Honor Society. Earlier this year, Maiorino received the University of Rochester Xerox Innovation and Information Award. The college’s award honors “exceptional high school students who have demonstrated out-

standing achievement in the pursuit of innovative approaches and an appreciation for the possibilities of technology.”

At school, Maiorino ran for indoor and outdoor track and field. He is most looking forward to his last season of track and field while finishing his senior year. Maiorino serves as the Co-President of the DECA Club where he helped apply for a grant for the club to attend the DECA conference. He also is an advisor for the East Hampton Public Library Teen Advisory Board to help brainstorm events to increase teen participation.

Outside of school, Maiorino participates extensively in Boy Scouts. Throughout his scout career, Maiorino served as the Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Recently, he was awarded the Eagle Scout Award, the highest award available to youth members of the Boy Scouts of America. For his Eagle Scout project, he created a Story Walk at Seamster Park. Maiorino fundraised about \$6,000 for the purchase of 20 signs and other materials. After fil-

ing paperwork and coordinating with the Parks and Recreation Department, Maiorino led two workdays to install the signs.

In 2021, Maiorino attended the National Youth Leadership Training and National Yawgoog Leadership Experience. The Yawgoog experience is designed to help Scouts further develop their leadership skills and provide a stronger sense of confidence. The following year, Maiorino received the Order of the Arrow for Scouts of America which recognizes Scouts who “best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.” Maiorino also participates in annual cleanups to help remove litter and advocate for a cleaner environment.

After graduation, Maiorino plans to go to Europe for a few weeks during the summer. As of now, he said his top choice for post-graduation is attending Olin College of Engineering in Massachusetts. He and his family will be further recognized at the Nov. 13 Board of Education meeting.

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.

All-Ages Program: Monday Movie Madness: Frankenweenie: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m. Bring blankets; some chairs will be available. Popcorn will be served.

Children’s Programs: Bubbles & Beats! Mondays, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years (drop-ins and siblings welcome.); **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.

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.

DIY Days: Puff Paint: Saturday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for grades K-8. Activities available while supplies last. No registration required.

Teen Programs: 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.

Bored? Games! Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1-3 p.m., for grades 6-12. Spend your day off from school in the library community room, playing a variety of board games. There will be snacks and prizes.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Saturday, Nov. 11, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. All skill levels welcome.

Adult Programs: Cookbook Club – Chicken: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share.

Quilt, Craft, Create, Oh My!: Thursdays, noon-3 p.m. Drop into the Library Community Room with your current craft project and spend time with other community members. Optionally, bring your own brown-bag lunch. The library will have some craft supplies on hand.

Autumn Leaves Fair

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Had-dam 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.

Clean Energy Fair to Return

East Hampton will hold its Clean Energy Fair Saturday, Nov. 4, from 1-4 p.m., at East Hampton High School, located at 15 Maple St.

People will be able to learn more about energy audits, insulation, heat pumps, solar power, smart thermostats, insulating windows, and more. People can also talk with local businesses and organizations that offer these products and services.

No registration required; all area residents are welcome. This event is sponsored by the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force. For more information, email ehctf@gmail.com.

Epoch Arts’ Haunted House

Epoch Arts’ Haunted House will continue tonight and tomorrow, Oct. 27 and 28, from 7-10 p.m. each night, at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

This year’s Haunted House is themed: The Underground. There will also be a Zombie Playground this year.

Admission is \$15. Make reservations and purchase time slots at www.epocharts.org/events/haunted.

Police News

10/3: Jason Canterbury, 40, of 5 Bellevue St., was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

10/20: Anthony J. Robinson, 27, of 6 Edgerton St., was arrested and charged with two separate counts of violation of probation, police said.

From Oct. 9-22, officers responded to 38 medical calls, 14 motor vehicle crashes and 16 alarms, and made 28 traffic stops, police said.



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Test Results Continue to Improve Post-Pandemic

By London Brazal

Standardized test scores show signs of improvement, yet continue to lag behind pre-pandemic benchmarks, according to test results presented to the Board of Education this week.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mary Clark and East Hampton High School Principal Eric Verner presented the 2022-23 student performance results to the school board at its meeting Monday.

In terms of statewide trends, performances lag pre-pandemic levels in all subjects and for every student group. Although the 2021-22 outcomes demonstrated more academic progress across various grades and subjects, the rate of growth slowed during the 2022-2023 academic year.

For English Language Arts (ELA), grades 3-8 the percentage of students meeting (level 3) or exceeding (level 4) standards was higher than the state average. In comparison to the pre-pandemic statistics in the 2018-19 school year, 66% of students were performing at a 3 or above. This past year, only 60% of students were at the same level. While looking at 24 other districts in a reference group, East Hampton falls in the upper half in place 15 in front of Wethersfield

and behind Colchester.

To help improve scores, the district has piloted a new K-4 literacy program and expanded tutoring for students in Middle School. For grades K-8, the district hosts monthly data team meetings to help analyze more trends.

In mathematics, grades 3-5 and 7 had higher performances than the state average. However, grades 6 and 8 fell below and equal. Last school year, the overall average of level 3 and above was 7% less than pre-pandemic levels at 50%. While comparing the data to the reference group, East Hampton ranks 11th with similar scores to Brandford and Clinton.

Board member Ken Barber noted how in terms of size and money, East Hampton closely relates to East Granby. However, in terms of testing, East Granby scored better. Though the answer is not clear, Clark said she is looking into towns that have similar resources and seeing how they use specialists and continues to analyze their programs. In mathematics, Colchester ranked third, and Clark mentioned how they focus on math. Specialists for the district network with others from the region to survey their data and programs.

Last school year, the district implemented Bridges in Mathematics for K-5. And for this school year, they implemented new programs in grades 4-7. In addition, more tutoring has been made available to middle school students and freshmen. In the improvement plan, the district is working with more math specialists and using interim assessments to pinpoint student growth.

One of the classes that needs help is the current freshman class which is the eighth graders mentioned in the test scores. Board member Salvatore Nucifora inquired how to support that freshman class and accommodate for any shortfalls. Clark mentioned how they can keep the class sizes relatively small. They will be using the Preliminary SAT scores to help identify key indicators and see where tutors are necessary.

For the science standards, the state switched to a different exam, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), in the 2018-19 school year. As the pre-pandemic comparison year, it is the one subject where the data has trended positively. In the inaugural year, 56% of students were performing at a level 3 or 4. This past year, that number increased to 61% of students. In the district reference group, East Hampton falls at number 14, in front of Waterford and behind Old Saybrook.

Clark said in some other districts, specialists

are exclusively coaches who work with teachers in the classroom to analyze data and personalize the needs of students. The separate role of an interventionist provide instruction. As of now, the specialists in the district do both. Ultimately, the administrative staff will continue to look at other districts and see what resources will best benefit students.

At the high school, the Advanced Placement (AP) testing scores have increased and are similar to the 2019 pre-pandemic numbers. Verner mentioned that the 2020 scores are considered an outlier, as the exams were online and shorter in length. In the last five years, 2021 has the highest number of total AP students and last year was the second highest.

In 2019, roughly 79% of AP students had a passing score of 3 or higher and this year about 77% of students did as well. Many universities require a 3 or higher on the exam to receive college credit. The administration is satisfied with the increase in tests given and their goal is to continue to increase the amount of students participating in the classes.

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.

Snowflake Bazaar Nov. 4

Westchester Congregational Church will hold its Snowflake Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground in East Hampton.

The bazaar will offer the famous Cookies by the Pound, as well as crafters and raffles. All proceeds benefit the church.

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.

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.

Fly Fishing with Rowan Lytle: Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Call the library for more 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.

Write Here – Writers' Group: Monday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Come down to the library and write! Contact the library to pre-register and for more information.

Concert with Carolyn Brodgerski: Saturday, Nov. 18, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Contact the library to purchase.

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

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 ehnfundraisers@gmail.com.



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Gazebo Garden Completed with Months of Execution

By London Brazal

Months of planning and execution have led to the transformation of the garden surrounding the Village Center Gazebo by the Belltown Garden Club.

One of the project coordinators, Susan Hewes, described the gardening project as a long project completed in three phases. “The inspiration behind the project came last year from a dear friend we miss very much,” said Hewes. The former garden was described as “mature” and “untended” by various club members.

After a couple of meetings, the club decided to start from scratch since the plants were too damaged to fix. The first phase began in early April of this year. The town’s Department of Public Works took the old shrubbery out and hauled everything away. “It was kind of them to help out before their busy season,” mentioned Hewes.

The second phase included the club preparing the gardening beds. Paul’s and Sandy’s Too donated the mulch and composted topsoil. With additional help from Public Works, they transported the resources to the gazebo and assisted in spreading out the materials. In between layers, the Garden Club placed cardboard to pre-

vent weeds. And, for most of the summer, the project stayed in phase two while planning what plants would be put in. “We were fortunate for people to not really notice though one person did question what was going on,” said Hewes.

With many rainstorms during the summer, the weather played an important role. Another project coordinator, Lynne Finnegan-Bailey said that the weather may not have been liked by everyone, but worked in the club’s favor. “All the rain helped saturate the soil and made it better for planting,” noted Finnegan-Bailey.

The third phase began with help from Nancy Ballek Mackinnon from Balleks Garden Center in East Haddam to plan what would be in the garden. The plants were purchased with funds obtained through the club’s previous fundraising efforts.

President of the Belltown Garden Club, JoAnn Hewitt, said the goal of the garden was to minimize effort after planting. They decided on dwarf-size plants native to the area. Many of the plants are adaptive to the weather and do not need constant watering. “We wanted to create a space for birds, bees, and butterflies,” said Hewitt. The different plants thrive in different

seasons and serve multiple purposes. “Some keep their leaves year-round, there are early spring blooming ones and winter berries.”

Finnegan-Bailey described the gazebo as the “heart of the town” as it serves many people including picnics for students at Center School, the announcing booth for the Old Home Day Parade, the Goff House Gazebo Concert Series, and a place for people to hang out.

With multiple fundraising efforts, the Garden Club knew it was the perfect time to work on a larger project. And, to help promote a clean environment, a trash can was put next to the gazebo for people to utilize. Ultimately, the Garden Club is happy with the finished project and hopes residents can admire the beauty while taking care of the area as well.

Since the project was their largest to date with identifying the problems and organizing collaborative efforts, the club is looking forward to taking a break. Throughout town, the club tends about six to seven ongoing gardens including one at the Comstock Covered Bridge.

The Belltown Garden Club is always looking for new members. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 in the Library Meeting Room. “We will have notices in the paper and every month about one new person will come to check it out,” said Hewitt. She further explained that people do not have to be gardeners to join the club. “It’s a great way to

make new friends.”

Most of the time, the club will present general tips for tending a garden or appropriately caring for intrusive animals. In their recent meeting earlier this week, guest speaker Maureen Heidtmann, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, came in to present “Bats: Winged Wonders.”

Though the club is not planning on starting any large projects, they plan on continuing a plant sale where gardeners come in to sell their products.

The Belltown Garden Club was formed in 1950. At that time, the club’s approach prioritized members’ acquisition of floral design skills which would be evaluated in floral show competitions. Today, the club’s mission is to “horticulturally beautify our community” while promoting a love of gardening through education.

Turkey Shoots

The Belltown Sportsman’s Club will hold Turkey Shoots Sundays, Nov. 5 and 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., on the club grounds off of Tartia Road, which is off of Route 16. (Follow the signs.)

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Gauge is 20 and 12. The club will supply the shells. Cost is \$4 a shot.

Refreshments will be available. For more information, call Kurley at 860-638-7221.

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.

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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 Vasquezna (860-308-6621, mjvasquezna@gmail.com) or Tom Seidl (860-543-4782, seidlt@sbcglobal.net).

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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.

Turkey Plunge Nov. 4

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the 14th annual East Hampton Turkey Plunge will be held at Sears Park. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. followed by plunging at 10 a.m.

The Turkey Plunge is a tradition in East Hampton and this year more than 100 plungers of all ages will take a “dip” into the chilly November waters of Lake Pocotopaug – all in support of the East Hampton Food Bank. As always, costumes are encouraged. Bring your family and friends to cheer on your favorite plunger or team.

Liberty Bank will match 25% of all donations/pledges collected on the day of the plunge as part of the annual Liberty Bank Turkey Drive, a community partner in helping the local food bank stock their shelves for Thanksgiving.

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.

Veterans Day Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 8 will host a Veterans Day breakfast Sunday, Nov. 12, from 8-10 a.m., at VFW Post 5095, located at 20 N. Maple St.
Veterans eat for free; suggested donation for non-veterans is \$10, to help the scouts continue this yearly tradition.

Air Line Trail Cleanup Day is Tomorrow

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.

‘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.
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 ehcctf@gmail.com.

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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/easthampton-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.; **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.

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.

Flu Clinic with COVID-19 Shot: Monday, Oct. 30, 9-11 a.m. Bring your insurance card.

Halloween Bingo with Spooky Prizes! Tuesday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m. Costumes optional for this festive holiday version of the weekly bingo game.

Children's Halloween Costume Parade at East Hampton Public Library: Tuesday, Oct. 31, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Open Enrollment Medicare: Monday, Nov. 6. Be sure your health insurance coverage is up to date. Call the senior center for an appointment.

Trips: Aldi Shopping Trip: Wednesday, Nov. 1, 10:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Go grocery shopping in Middletown and pay a visit to Mozzicato Italian Bakery, followed by lunch on your own at location to be determined. Donation for bus transportation is \$3.



On Oct. 19, Cobalt Lodge residents Robert Lawrence and Elizabeth Unikewicz were married, in the courtyard of the nursing home.

Nursing Home Residents Find Love

On Oct. 19, two residents of Cobalt Lodge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center were married in the nursing home's courtyard.

Robert Lawrence, a resident of Cobalt Lodge for seven years, met Elizabeth Unikewicz when she was admitted two years ago. The two grew a friendship by visiting each other in their rooms, sharing their life stories and playing cards. Soon after that they started to fall in love and Lawrence proposed.

Cobalt Lodge rallied behind the residents to make sure this day was beautiful for them. Flowers, food, decorations and the wedding ensemble were all donated from the Cobalt Lodge community. A part of this beautiful day was the couples wedding party, which consisted of occupational therapist, Olivia Stangle, as the matron of honor, whom the bride has worked with since day one of her admission.

Stangle said, "The motivation of their impending nuptials was quite evident in our therapy sessions in the weeks preceding the big day."

The groom had then asked one of the owners of the facility, Marc Zgorski, to stand by his side as best man on his big day.

The day was filled with dancing, laughter, love and delicious food. The bride and groom had written their own beautiful words to each other that they shared with us all at their ceremony. The Cobalt community wishes these two a happy and healthy lives together.

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Resident Graduates... Nisha Sidana of East Hampton graduated in May from Sacred Heart University. Sidana graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. Sidana also made the university's spring 2023 Dean's List.

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Town Dems, Republicans Hold Meet-and-Greets

By John Leavenworth

In the past few weeks, Portland Republican and Democratic candidates have held meet-and-greet events as a chance to talk with residents leading up to the election in November.

Democrats led the way with the gatherings with their “Portland DTC Restaurant Food Tour,” an excursion they advertised on Facebook.

The junket included stops at Eggs Up Restaurant on Oct. 10, Campagna Restaurant on Oct. 13 and Farrell’s Restaurant on Oct. 19.

Future dates for the DTC tour include a breakfast event tomorrow, Oct. 28, at Mellili Cafe and Grill from 8:30 to 10am; a dinner at Portland Ale House on Nov. 2, from 4 to 6pm; and breakfast at Sarah’s on Main on Nov. 6 from 8:30-10 a.m.

In regards to the GOP’s overall message for election season, First Selectman Ryan Curley said he will stay true to the campaign slogan he ran with in 2021; “It’s about Portland, not politics.”

“I feel that we lived up to that standard,” he said. “I’ve always felt that I’ve put the town of Portland first.”

Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library group has a large collection of knitting and quilting books including some *Rowan Knitting Magazines*. There are also fiction, romance and children’s used books in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children’s books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. There are large print mystery and general fiction books that have been removed from the Library collection for 50 cents.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call 860-342-6760.

Food Bank Donation Info: The senior center asks that residents not leave Food Bank donations at the senior center unless the Food Bank is open. The Food Bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Also, the senior center does not need any donations directed toward the senior center. People are asked to only leave donations for the Food Bank, and only during food bank hours.

Next Week’s Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SynoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients – donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); watercolor class,

With regard to town projects, a hot button issue with residents, Curley said he’s had “a great deal of success.”

Pointing to construction efforts at the newly erected mixed-use Brainerd Place development, Curley said the \$1 million project “is moving forward rapidly.”

He said that when he and other town officials ran into delays with the construction – including issues officiating a tax agreement between the town and the developers, Bright Ravens and DiMarco Group – “we carried on.”

The first selectman also spoke to the value Australian-based maritime engineering company Birdon Group – who purchased a string of marinas on the Connecticut River - has had on the town.

He said the company, since purchasing the waterfront properties, has brought 100 new jobs to the town.

“Every time I talk to them, it’s more jobs,” he said.

On the Republican side, the GOP started with a meet-and-greet at Primavera Pizzeria last Tuesday, Oct 17.

FPL also has “I Love CT Libraries” reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library’s Museum Pass Program, children and adult programs, and the library’s DVD collection.

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

9:30 a.m.-noon – to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Set-back, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SynoCize 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.

Special Events: Car Show: Sunday, Oct. 29 (rain date Nov. 5), 1-3 p.m. Muscle cars and hot rods will be featured. For more information, call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

Chatham Health Flu Clinic: Tuesday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sign up with Alexis by calling 860-342-6761.

Medicare Insurance Seminar: Thursday, Nov. 2, 11:45 a.m., with Mark Lee. Register with Sarah or Alexis by calling 860-342-6761.

The *Rivereast* got a chance to sit in on the second gathering, a dinner journey to Terrazza Restaurant this past Tuesday night.

Present at the meeting were Curley, selectmen Michael Pelton, Michael Hernandez, Shaun Manning and Bob Hetrick, Board of Education member Tim Lavoy, and Board of Education candidates Karen Renner and Angela Rusakowicz-Hammond.

Also at the supper was Portland resident Ryan Crafa, who came out to show his support for Ryan Curley, who sat next to Crafa at the large square dining room table.

Crafa talked about how impressed he was with the progress at Brainerd Place, and praised the first selectman’s leadership in doing so.

Crafa, 41, is one of the owners of Integrated Building Solutions LLC., a general and mechan-

ical systems contractor out of Rocky Hill.

Curley, who is running unopposed, said only one GOP candidate – Carly LeCara for the BOE – dropped out since Republican and Democrat slates were first set this past summer.

In a past interview with the *Rivereast*, DTC chair Jim Tripp explained that the Democrats were not running anyone against Curley for the simple reason that during an interview process, the DTC did not find a worthy candidate for the position.

“The DTC Nominating Committee interviewed many interested individuals for our ticket. There was no one selected to run for first selectman or town clerk at this time,” he said.

Curley said he was “very proud of the fact that every [Republican] candidate is running for reelection.”

Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold a Bingo Night Thursday, Nov. 9, at Concentric Brewery, located at 91 Main St. Games start at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$20 for four cards to be used for all 10 games with prizes for the winner of each game. A portion of the proceeds to benefit Portland Food Bank.

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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Trinity Church Anniversary Celebration

Trinity Church in Portland is hosting its 235th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, Oct. 29, from 4-9 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include a social hour with a cash bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment by Two Beers and Accola, a full sit-down dinner (prime rib, salmon, chicken or vegetarian lasagna, dessert, coffee), silent

auction and more.

To attend, go to www.trinitychurchportland-ct.org, click 'Anniversary Celebration' on the top line, download and fill out the form, and return it with a check made out to Trinity Church by Oct. 25. Email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com for more information.

Portland Veterans Day Activities

Portland has three upcoming events to honor military veterans.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the annual Veterans Day Breakfast will be hosted by American Legion Ormont Post 69 from 0700-1000 (unless the food runs out sooner.) The all-you-can-eat menu includes egg omelettes (ham, cheese or plain), bacon, sausage, creamed chipped beef, toast, grits, coffee, tea and orange juice, for a suggested donation of \$8 per adult. Takeout is available.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., there will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the Portland Veterans Memorial Park, located behind Town Hall, 33 East Main St.

Youth Soccer Recap

The Portland Youth Soccer teams were in action last week. Here are some highlights:

U9 Boys Red Raptors: The travel soccer team played in South Windsor's annual Fall Classic tournament on Sunday, finishing with a 0-3-1 record while battling teams from Thomaston, Somers, Colchester and Glastonbury. In their first game, the Red Raptors registered a tie. Jackson Coiteux led off the scoring with an assist from Clayton Trojanowski. Coiteux then returned the favor assisting both Trojanowski and Christian Rosario to round out the scoring. Portland then came out on the short end of their second match, with Coiteux scoring Portland's lone goal with an assist from Declan Stachelek. After a shutout loss in game three, the Red Raptors closed the day out with a tight match in which Coiteux scored on an assist from Cooper Strong. Max Finkelstein, Evan Kowalchik, Rosario, Coiteux and Trojanowki each contributed strong goaltending effort to the team for this four-game tournament.

U10 Girls Red Pandas: A busy week included the South Windsor Fall Classic Tournament on Saturday and a league game on Sunday. The team's tournament record was 1-2-1, playing teams from West Hartford, Nantucket and Thomaston. Goals were by Zaniah Wedderburn, Ellie Heller, Gabriella Lardizzone and Paige Campbell. Caroline Martinez, Olivia LeCara, Charlotte Fagan and Callie Lawrence produced several offensive and defensive gems, while Charlotte Cyr's field

work and Emma Hodge's play were consistent bright spots. Sportsmanship Medals, awarded by each opposing team, were earned by Campbell, Hodge, Wedderburn and Lardizzone. Facing an unbeaten Granby team on Sunday, the Red Pandas scored their lone goal in the final minute of a lopsided loss. Lardizzone played goalkeeper and midfield; she notched numerous saves and scored the goal. Lawrence's sideline runs and field-vision, Heller's productive work rate, and Martinez's fearlessness were all noteworthy. While facing Granby's steady attack, Fagan produced her best defensive game of the season.

Portland Earthquake U11: Participated in the South Windsor tournament on Sunday, where they registered a 1-2-1 record. They started off strong with a 3-3 tie to RHAM, with James Kowalchik netting his first brace for the season and Marshall Clarke adding a goal of his own. After recording a shutout loss to Avon in game two, the team battled South Windsor in a tough game three loss. Andrew Quesnel and Beckett Warner both found the back of the net to power the offense. The Earthquake's final game of the day was a rematch of their earlier season opponent Tolland, and goalkeeper Brady Furtak posted his first shutout of the season. Goals by Tucker Parmelee and Max Campbell led to a 2-0 win.

All of PSC's participating teams joined efforts to raise over \$250 to contribute to the club's 2023 breast cancer awareness fundraiser campaign, by offering themed bracelets for donations.

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★ Affordable Housing cont. from page 1

towns, she said, is low.

"The housing market will never build affordable housing," she said, emphasizing that there's an abundance of luxury apartments and single-family options.

Along with potential zoning limitations, Atwood stated that small towns, such as Hebron, face additional barriers, and enjoy living in the "glory days."

"We have the wonderful myth of nostalgia," she said. "That reminiscence is wonderful, but it can also hold us back from tremendous growth."

Atwood continued by explaining that many residents fear the future, and perhaps don't fully grasp how affordable housing can be executed.

"There are ways to do this very beautifully with a lot of charm and with a lot of character that we all want for our town, but which allow our growth," she said.

Sabilia, who is also the former Democratic mayor of New London, explained that communities can struggle to gain inertia with projects. There's a sense of "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) and in some cases, racism that holds back efforts.

towards new infrastructure that will potentially benefit both the forthcoming affordable housing project along, and potentially lead to a new community water supply.

Charmelus expressed that part of the process is for municipalities and residents to continue brainstorming and to come up with what will work best for their own situation.

"If you're not talking and you're not discussing what you're envisioning for your community, and you're not collaborating with others who share those visions and are looking forward to doing that work, then that reality will not come into place," she said.

Following the conclusion of the forum, Amy D'Amaddio, president of CoDE, called the event a success, expressing that it helped build momentum moving forward.

"The idea of these forums is to build community and people can come together and feed off each other," she said.

The organization's vice president, Donna Jolly, said the forum helped explain what resources are available and why the subject matters. Her takeaway was that action won't happen by itself: "we need to make it happen."

McGee told the *Rivereast* that he believes the forum represented a positive step. For residents to come out on a weekday and pack the room, it indicates that people are seeking change.

"The continued conversation on the development, the idea of it, it's really important, and to me that's progress," he said. "And recognizing that we can't solve it in one night, but as long as we're persistent and committed, maybe we'll see the light at the end of the tunnel."

He credited the audience members for having the "willingness to say 'I don't quite understand but I know we got to make some change.'"

"And by virtue of having these community courageous conversations, it says a lot," McGee expressed. "It's encouraging."

Across the state, there's an appetite for these types of conversations, he said. Still the "NIMBY-ism" is factor and some towns are hesitant to enact change.

"I don't want to come off as naive," he said. "There's communities saying we want our community the way it is, the people that are here, the families that have been here and that's it. That's real."

McGee added that the overall "there's a long sausage-making process" and "we're going to have some losses."

One way to explore options is for communities to leverage partnerships, Sabilia said. For example, a retired financial worker on the Board of Finance could reach out to their old institution and capitalize on a connection, perhaps sparking an exciting conversation or opportunity.

At the state level, McGee stated that the Build for CT initiative, administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) on behalf of the department of housing, is allocating millions of dollars for local assistance. Before the current administration leaves office, he believes over 6,000 units can be constructed through its efforts.

"A community simply has to choose what they want to do and we can help you make that a reality," he said, adding that there's many buckets of funding available.

Over the summer, Hebron was awarded \$2.1 million through the third round of the state's "Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant" program, administered through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

The funding was allotted towards Commons Community Development Corporation, which was created to address affordable housing in Hebron. The money will likely be appropriated

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★ Campaign Signs Swiped cont. from page 1

board who's seeking a Board of Selectmen seat this election, described the incident as a probable "teenage prank."

He stated that signs supporting RTC candidates had not arrived by the day of the theft due to a shipping delay; Democratic signs were the only option to target.

Petit said Democrats were "playing the victim" and that they now felt the need to smear

Republicans, which he found "offensive."

"It's disheartening that Democrats used this as a media play," he said during a phone call this week.

He added that a public statement was unnecessary because it was common knowledge that Republicans stood against the actions perpetrated earlier this month. The RTC, he said, was the party of "the rule of law."

Petit seemingly disagreed that the town was searching for a professional thief. In his mind, whoever stole the signs from the yards, including his own — his wife is an active Democrat — would've been more careful with discarding them, instead of leaving them intact to be found.

With less than two weeks until the election, candidates are making their final pitches to voters. When both party slates were announced in the summer, the committee chairs predicted and endorsed clean campaigns. While sign-stealing is largely out of their control, does it signify that the political tone has escalated?

Bussiere said she feels the election season has been going smoothly, and that her candidates have been pointing out fair differences with their Republican counterparts.

"I think it's been civil," she said. "I don't have any ill-will towards Republicans."

Petit expressed that some *Rivereast* letters to the editor from Democrats have had a "derogatory" tone, and that DTC candidates find it "easy to throw stones."

From the onset of the campaign, the goal was to "act as adults," he asserted.


"It's unfortunate that on several occasions [Democrats] have decided not to take that course of action," he said.

Bussiere acknowledged that speaking publicly about sign-stealing could be perceived as a "media stunt." And if Republicans chose to throw out that label, she said that's fair.

"I think that's what they should say," she expressed, adding that if the roles were reversed, she would likely be making the same argument.

But she noted that regardless of party affiliations and candidate differences, "campaign season should be respectful."

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 Portland

RE-19-20

Just a reminder that the annual


Food Bag Food Drive

is almost here!

We will be delivering the bags on

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RE-10-6-23

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RE-11-6-20



Greenland Glacier... The Brody family from East Hampton recently took a cruise to Greenland and Iceland. Pictured is Jason in front of a glacier while cruising Prins Christian Sound in Greenland.



Traveling to Transylvania... Portland resident Dana Boucin and her family traveled to Transylvania, Romania, to visit the children's grandparents. Pictured are Gabriel, Eliza, Nadia Diaz Bucin, Erick Diaz and Dana Bucin.

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.



European Honeymoon... For their honeymoon, Yvonne and Burton Jones of Andover traveled around Europe. They took their picture with the *Rivereast* on the highest mountain in Germany, the Zugspitze at 9,718 feet.



Happy Honeymooners... Gary Sanborn and June Valli from East Hampton brought the *Rivereast* along on their recent belated honeymoon (eight years delayed) in Bermuda.

? Where in the World? ?

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Soccer Siblings Star at RHAM

By Josh Howard

RHAM High School has a set of siblings playing major roles for the school's soccer programs this fall as Ava and TJ Machowski, a sister-brother duo from Marlborough, have the entire field covered.

Ava is the leading scorer for the girls teams that recently won eight straight games and TJ is the starting goalie for the a boys team that has held nine opponents scoreless this fall.

As of Wednesday, the two teams have a combined record of 19-5-5 with each team in line to host at least one game in the upcoming Class M tournaments, which begin in November.

"It's nice that we both have something to feel happy about with our teams and something that we can be proud of," said Ava, who is a year older than TJ.

Ava is in her final season at RHAM, starring as a senior striker that has racked up a team-high 22 goals and dished out a handful of assists.

Matt Cameron, the head coach of the girls soccer team at RHAM, stated that Ava's work on and off the field is "exemplary," and said she "puts the team before herself and gives everything she has each day."

"Ava is arguably the most coachable player, capable leader I've ever worked with," added Cameron. "She sets the bar in terms of standards and pushes her teammates to be their best."

Behind Ava's production, which includes a four-goal performance against Platt, the Raptors used an eight-game winning streak that spanned Sept. 23 through Oct. 13, to solidify a spot in the state tournament.

"I think we've all clicked really nicely; we're all very close," Ava said of the team featuring eight seniors. "We keep it serious on the field and keep any drama off the field."

TJ, a junior, took over as the starting goalie for a Raptors team that has been consistent through-

out the season and finished undefeated (5-0-1) in the CCC - East Region.

RHAM boys soccer assistant coach Tim Berry, who works with the keepers, said TJ brings an "infectious energy" and "positivity" to the team.

"He's extremely coachable and immediately applies feedback," added Barry. "He's a physical presence in net and reads his position well."

TJ credits the chemistry with his defensive mates in front of him for the success this fall.

"The defensive backline is really good and we work together," the first-year starting goalie said. "We play from our defense to offense and it just kind of flows – that's how we've been winning these games."

When they are not helping their respective high school teams in the fall, the siblings are playing club soccer in the offseason with Ava playing for Oakwood Soccer Club and TJ playing for Connecticut Football Club (CFC).

Their love of soccer stems from their father Todd Machowski, who played collegiate soccer at Keene State and is a graduate of RHAM High School — as if their mom, Corinne Machowski.

With the encouragement of their parents, the two started playing at an early age with Ava having a knack for making plays in the field and TJ finding his calling as a protector of the net.

Their position choices are ideal for practicing together as Ava said "it's beneficial" having a brother she can practice taking shots against at home.

TJ added that the two aren't necessarily competitive with one another, yet they "push each other" to be better.

"If I take a bad shot he's not afraid to tell me or if he misses a save I won't go easy on him," Ava said with a smile, "We know we can make each other better."

When the two are not playing in opposing venues, they attend each other's games and noted



Ava and TJ Machowski have helped lead both of RHAM High School's soccer teams into the state tournament this fall. On the left, TJ and Ava are pictured at RHAM High School earlier this month and, on the right, Ava (four years old) and TJ (three years old) are pictured while playing soccer for the town of Marlborough in 2010.



that their time away from the fields are still filled with soccer, whether it's talking about it at home or traveling for club soccer.

"It's always a game or something," added Ava.

With her final season at RHAM winding down, Ava noted that she is feeling a "little nostalgic," yet is ready to see how the final month plays out.

"It's coming to close a lot faster than I thought it would, but I'm excited to see far we can get in tournament," she added.

Ava and her team play their regular season home finale this Saturday, Oct. 28 when they

welcome South Windsor to RHAM for a match at 9 a.m.

TJ and the boys wrapped up their regular season home schedule with a 2-0 win over Middletown on Tuesday. For the ninth time this fall, TJ kept the net clean.

Now that it's tourney time, the Machowski siblings have a chance to further leave their collective mark on the local soccer fields.

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.marlbrougharts.org, call the Arts Center at 860-647-6363 or email marlbroughartscenter@gmail.com.

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REG-29-23

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.

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.

Community Sing

Carolyn Brodgerski of Seat of Our Pants invites the community to attend a free sing-along upstairs in the Thienes Lounge at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m.

Words and cords are provided for over 100 songs, and everyone who loves to sing, including musicians, are welcome to this monthly gathering. Enter through the yellow front doors of the church.

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Documentary to Make Debut Sunday

Marlborough native Brendan Hall will debut his documentary about the country’s national parks in the meetinghouse of the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 5:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Hall said he wished to debut his documentary in his hometown. Music from Seat of Our Pants is scheduled, along with a meet-and-greet and light refreshments after the showing.

Tickets are \$12 and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis at tinyurl.com/5n78k2p.

In 2022, Hall was globally announced as a crew member of the dearMoon lunar mission and was selected from over one million artists and creatives around the world. He will join eight other crew members on the first-ever civilian flight around the moon with SpaceX.

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, 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.

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 through Dec. 16, 7-8 p.m., at MES. There is a \$10 drop-in fee each week.

Grants Available for Nonprofits

The Marlborough Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation is excited to announce the opening of the Marlborough Community Fund’s second grant cycle. The Marlborough Community Fund, which provides financial support for nonprofit organization projects benefiting the residents of Marlborough, was established by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in 2019 and is administered by a volunteer committee of Marlborough residents.

The first grant cycle approved grants totaling more than \$30,000 in amounts ranging from \$750 to \$10,000 to six nonprofits serving Marlborough residents. They included the Preservation Society, the Richmond Library, Florence Lord Senior Housing, the Food Bank, AHM, and the 4H Club.

The Hartford Foundation established the Marlborough Community Fund, as well as similar funds in other towns in the Hartford Foundations’ service area, to support residents in taking ownership around the needs of their towns, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement and anchor the Hartford Foundation in local communities.

In this second grant cycle, the Marlborough Community Fund will award up to \$8,000 per organization in grant funds to support projects that will enrich and enhance especially the lives of the residents of Marlborough. Interested organizations should visit www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf for more information about the Fund, and to learn more about the eligibility requirements to apply for a grant and how to submit a proposal. Applications must be submitted no later than Nov. 30. Although an organization does not need to be based in Marlborough to apply, the project for which the application is being made must benefit Marlborough residents.

The Marlborough Community Fund welcomes contributions from organizations and individuals; find out more at www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf. All donations are welcome.

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.

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. 29: The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver with guest preacher, church member and Quinebaug College English professor Beth Alves. Her sermon title is “For Want of a Nail.” The service will feature the annual Sunday School Halloween costume parade and a Living Tree leaf presentation. Plates of a dozen homemade cookies will be sold in the lounge after the service.

Annual Fall Tag Sale: Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The Great Hall will feature clothing, antiques and collectibles, tools, furniture, seasonal items, housewares, linens, toys and games, electronics, and more.

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 donations. On Oct. 29, the Drive-Thru Café will provide a takeaway hot meal at the church to Marlborough Food Bank families. Also on Oct. 29, the youth groups will prepare and serve a meal to residents at Florence Lord Housing.

AA: Meets downstairs in the Great Hall with three scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at noon and another at 7:30 p.m., and Thursdays at noon.

ACA: Meets in the Youth Room Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Dec. 23. For more information, contact the church office. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call Seaver’s direct line at 860-295-0432 or email pastorval@marlconchurch.org.



PUBLIC FORUM

Marlborough Planning Commission & Marlborough Sustainable CT Team Invite Residents to Participate in a Community Forum and Discussion on:


- What Are Marlborough’s Strengths
- What Are Possible Impacts of Population Trends
- What is the Status of Chronic Disease & Residents’ Health
- What is the Cost of Housing & Affordable Housing Needs

When & Where

Wednesday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m.
in the cafeteria of the Marlborough Elementary School

RE10-27-23


VOTE



TUESDAY November 7th

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Sample Ballot Informational Purposes Only			Marlborough, Connecticut		Municipal Election November 7, 2023										
OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
PARTY	SELECTMEN Vote for up to three			TOWN CLERK Vote for one	TOWN TREASURER Vote for one	TAX COLLECTOR Vote for one		BOARD OF FINANCE Vote for up to three		BOARD OF FINANCE ALTERNATE Vote for one	BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for up to two			BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS Vote for up to three	
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A JOHN RIZZO	<input type="radio"/> 2A DAVID	<input type="radio"/> 3A DAVID	<input type="radio"/> 4A LAUREN A. GRIFFIN	<input type="radio"/> 5A MICHAEL J. O'NEAL	<input type="radio"/> 6A BARBARA LAZZARI	<input type="radio"/> 7A JACK FERRIS	<input type="radio"/> 8A WILLIAM D. LAMON	<input type="radio"/> 9A KARL FREDERICK JAMES	<input type="radio"/> 10A MARCO MONTANO	<input type="radio"/> 11A JOHN WILSON	<input type="radio"/> 12A JOHN WILSON	<input type="radio"/> 13A CHRISTOPHER WHEBRY	<input type="radio"/> 14A JOHN H. SANCHEZ	<input type="radio"/> 15A JOHN H. SANCHEZ
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B JOSEPH J. ASKLAR	<input type="radio"/> 2B LOUISE L. CONCODELLO	<input type="radio"/> 3B MIKE NASTRI	<input type="radio"/> 4B LAUREN A. GRIFFIN	<input type="radio"/> 5B MICHAEL J. O'NEAL	<input type="radio"/> 6B BARBARA LAZZARI	<input type="radio"/> 7B CHRISTOPHER WHEBRY	<input type="radio"/> 8B WILLIAM D. LAMON	<input type="radio"/> 9B KARL FREDERICK JAMES	<input type="radio"/> 10B SALVATORE V. SENA JR.	<input type="radio"/> 11B AMY KUHRT	<input type="radio"/> 12B KIMBI BABELLA	<input type="radio"/> 13B ZINA D. PLANETA	<input type="radio"/> 14B JOHN H. SANCHEZ	<input type="radio"/> 15B JOHN H. SANCHEZ
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C												
				OFFICE	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				PARTY	PLANNING COMMISSION Vote for up to two	PLANNING COMMISSION ALTERNATE Vote for one	PLANNING COMMISSION ALTERNATE Vote for one	ZONING COMMISSION Vote for up to two	ZONING COMMISSION ALTERNATE Vote for one	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Vote for one	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Vote for up to two	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATE Vote for one	REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for up to two		
DEMOCRATIC PARTY				<input type="radio"/> 16A JOHN O'CONNELL	<input type="radio"/> 17A DAVID	<input type="radio"/> 18A DAVID	<input type="radio"/> 19A WILLIAM D. LAMON	<input type="radio"/> 20A CHARLES BAKER	<input type="radio"/> 21A NICK HALL	<input type="radio"/> 22A ERICA GONZALES	<input type="radio"/> 23A JENNIFER M. BULL	<input type="radio"/> 24A JOHN WILSON	<input type="radio"/> 25A JOHN WILSON	<input type="radio"/> 26A JOHN WILSON	
REPUBLICAN PARTY				<input type="radio"/> 16B BRIET HALLERON	<input type="radio"/> 17B MARK A. STANIEWICZ	<input type="radio"/> 18B BRIET HALLERON	<input type="radio"/> 19B WILLIAM D. LAMON	<input type="radio"/> 20B CHARLES BAKER	<input type="radio"/> 21B JOHN A. MURRAY	<input type="radio"/> 22B LEA GONZALES	<input type="radio"/> 23B LEA GONZALES	<input type="radio"/> 24B ZINA D. PLANETA	<input type="radio"/> 25B AMY ROMANOWSKA	<input type="radio"/> 26B AMY ROMANOWSKA	

Be sure to complete your vote on the reverse side of the ballot.



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RE10-27-23

Obituaries

Portland

Robert J. Cote

Robert J. Cote, 33, of Portland, a Berlin native, died unexpectedly Tuesday, Oct. 17.

The son of Christopher M. and Patricia K. Cote of Berlin, he was a 2008 graduate of Berlin High School and a former member of the United States Marine Corps. He enjoyed gardening, construction projects, community theater, video games and drawing.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brothers and sister-in-law, Justin and Kate Ponte-Cote of Berlin; A.J. Cote of Queens, N.Y.; his partner Rebecka Cauble of Portland; her parents, Robin and Ann Cauble; her daughter Violet Munson; and several uncles; aunts; and numerous cousins.

Friends and family called at The Berlin Memorial Funeral Home, 96 Main St., Kensington, on Saturday, Oct. 21. A funeral service was held at the funeral home, and burial followed in Wilcox Cemetery, East Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert's memory to Post 69-Berlin, CT American Legion, 154 Porter's Pass, Berlin, CT 06037.

For online condolences, visit: www.berlinmemorialfuneralhome.com.



Marlborough

Richard Michael Visco

Richard Michael Visco, 54, of Marlborough, passed away suddenly Sunday, Oct. 22, at Hartford Hospital. Born Feb. 3, 1969, in Derry, Northern Ireland, he was a son of Catherine (McGettigan) Visco and Joseph Charles Visco.

Richard was a graduate of Ledyard High School and went on to UConn to earn his bachelor's in finance and later achieved his MBA from Western New England College. In 1997 he married his wife Nancy Farr; the couple settled in Marlborough where they raised their two children. He enjoyed watching his favorite teams (Eagles, Celtics and UConn basketball). However, his greatest joy in life came from being a family man and spending time with them, or kayaking trips with friends. His hobby of homebrewing led him to fulfilling his lifelong dream of opening and running his own business. He spent the last 10 years of his career working in the brewing industry.

He is survived by his parents; his wife Nancy Visco; children Shannon Visco and Hudson Visco; brother Kevin Visco and wife Janet; brother in law Jim Farr and wife Jessica; and numerous other extended family and friends both here and in Ireland. His last gift was being a tissue donor, showing his true character as a person.

A memorial service will be held , Friday, Nov. 3, at 11 a.m., at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be sent to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, 7 Hebron Rd., Marlborough 06447 or to his children's education fund which will be created at a later date.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Richard, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



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★ Letters cont. from page 9

Vote for Change

To the Editor:

When you run for public office, you take an oath to follow the law and in Colchester specifically the charter and our policies. You are elected by the people and your job is to serve the people, putting Colchester and its citizens first. I have always taken this responsibility very seriously.

I have worked for years in a bipartisan relationship with so many great selectmen/selectwomen, Democratic and Republican. Our political parties did not come into our deliberations, and we could respectfully disagree on an issue. When those situations arose, we always worked together to find a compromising solution that was in the best interest of our town. We certainly were never attacked personally for having a different point of view as we are now at meetings.

It used to be the norm that different boards (BOS, BOF, and BOE) worked together coordinating ideas and resources to save taxpayer dollars over the long term. I find it so disheartening that the relationship between boards and the loss of fiscal savings have all been eliminated under the current administration. The FS used the BOE budget as a target to take away scrutiny of his town budget that lacked transparency and detail.

For the past two years we entered into a period of “I, Andreas Bisbikos” vs “we the citizens of Colchester.” The only agenda that was acceptable was his, no matter what the impact on our town. The selectwomen worked together to try to overcome this one-person agenda with the goal of always moving Colchester forward.

On Nov. 7, it's time to bring back bipartisanship, civility, and professionalism to our town. As citizens you can do this by electing a new team led by Bernie Dennler. As part of that team, I'd appreciate your vote.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

‘Let Freedom Ring’

To the Editor:

I've been pondering the slogan of the East Hampton Democrats since their signs went up and repeated in an ad. Hmmm, “Progress and People” sounds great: vague but modern, and promising political direction.

Current political thinking defines progressivism as seeking more government oversight. Also, that progressives believe every problem, whether personal or public, can and must be addressed by increasing the government's responsibility for our betterment. No thinking that we are best served by our personal initiative, ambition, and ability to innovate. America's core qualities and foundation for our exceptionalism are democracy and free-market capitalism. What progressive governments produce are workers' paradises such as People's Republic of China, Venezuela and Cuba with populations lining up to get into America for a family-centered democracy and free-market economy, which offer opportunity for personal responsibility to prosper. Government has its place in safety and security, but not to dictate and monitor how people must conduct themselves.

Don't be lured by vague slogans such as “for progress and for people” which signal that progressives elected to office will put your money where their mouth is. The watchword is “let freedom ring.”

George Coshow – Middle Haddam

Reelect Augie Arndt

To the Editor:

When I look for someone to serve on the Board of Education, I want someone who wants to deliver the best education that he can for our kids. Someone with integrity who knows how to analyze a budget to make sure that the focus remains on giving our kids a good education, while being fiscally responsible. Augie Arndt understands that how the money is spent is the key to providing a quality education. He is a successful businessman who brings sound logic and a common-sense approach to problem solving. He is a great father who gives back to the community through volunteering with various baseball and football associations. He is a defender of parental rights and will work diligently to protect our kids.

Please vote to reelect Augie Arndt, a man of principle, dedication and calm demeanor who gets results.

Linda Ursin – East Hampton

Manning for BOS

To the Editor:

When I was sworn in as a member of the Board of Selectmen in November 2021, my primary goal as an elected official was to support Portland's infrastructure and public safety needs. Working alongside my fellow board members, we wisely utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to fund a number of critical projects. Some of these projects included the replacement of water mains along Russell Avenue, the upgrade of the Coe Avenue sewer pump, and the installation of a fire detection and alarm system for the Public Works garage. In addition, we were also able to replace a 25-year-old fire engine that was at the end of its life cycle. My fellow selectmen and I all worked together to make each one of these projects happen and I am proud of the work that we have accomplished.

But there is still more to be done and I ask for your support to continue the progress that we have made. Your support is vital as we continue to prioritize capital improvements, achieve our goal of water independence, and ensure the successful completion of Brainerd Place, just to name a few.

On Nov. 7, I ask for your vote and your support for the dedicated team on Row B. We won't let you down.

Sincerely,

Shaun P. Manning – Portland
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Choosing Coppolino

To the Editor:

Sera Coppolino is an excellent candidate for the Hebron Board of Education. I met Sera when my family moved to Hebron and our kids became friend in Gil-ead Hill School. Since then, I have come to know her as someone who is dedicated to improving education and positively impacting our town. Sera has been an educator for nearly 20 years, with the past 10 years teaching science at RHAM High School. She is currently a member of the Hebron Board of Education, and she also coaches youth soccer. 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.

Given her many connections, Sera is open to hearing from everyone in our community. I encourage all Hebron voters to learn more about Sera and vote for Sera Coppolino for Hebron Board of Education Nov. 7.

Thank You,

Lauren Schleicher – Hebron

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

Character Matters

To the Editor:

Over the last few weeks, I have watched some of the conversations play out in our town Facebook groups, over the upcoming election. Candidates creating arguments on topics, seemingly to prove a point. Attacks at people's ideals, morals and character. The disrespect I have seen is disappointing, coming from people who want to represent our town and its residents. Attacking each other on social media is not the way to solve problems, or prove a point. We should be having open discussions and respecting people's opinions. Just because you don't agree with someone doesn't mean you can't learn from their opinions and experiences. We all bring different qualities to the table as candidates.

I have ideas and opinions on a lot of issues facing our town, but I will not pretend to be an expert in every area, that is why the Democratic Party has a diverse group of candidates: those with both experience serving on town boards and committees, as well as those with experience in both the public and private sectors. We need to work together for the best interest of the town and its residents, and stop tearing each other down. The respect you show for others validates your character, and indicates how you will work with others once you are elected. I am proud to be running with a slate of candidates who I respect, and who listen to, and learn from each other.

Pay attention to character and know who you are voting for before you get to the polls. Look at how the candidates treat each other, and consider how they will treat you and your opinions. Service is the price I pay for the space I occupy, and I personally, am committed to doing what is best for the residents of our town.

Karen Wanat – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council
KarenWanat@gmail.com

Vote Republican

To the Editor:

This week's vote to cover the over \$300,000 deficit by the Republican-controlled Board of Finance and Town Council exposed the lies concerning the budget earlier this year. Republicans wanting teacher cuts and education gutted were politically motivated lies.

Teachers were used as pawns to make Republicans look bad.

The truth is that only the Board of Education has the power to make any cuts regarding teachers or staff. The board of education's budget is dynamic not static, as proven this past year. The multiple state grants that come into our budget never materialize until later in the fiscal year which is why there were two different tax bills submitted to the public.

The cuts made by the Board of Finance and Town Council in May resulted in belt-tightening forced upon the education budget and in the end it worked out. Not a single teacher or administrative position was cut this year. The Republicans held firm.

It is unfortunate that the Democrat playbook of fear-mongering and name-calling works. Every Republican knows that teachers are doing their jobs. The question really is are they doing it as effectively as possible with the budgets provided. Trying to squeeze as much out of the education budget is difficult for the Board of Education when the only response provided is larger class sizes. Is consolidation possible? That really is a legitimate concern because the Board of Education does not get enough into the weeds concerning all the people, their positions, and their detailed use of their budgets.

Maintaining Republican control of our town in all areas is the only way to finally get the answers we need because there is a mini administrative deep state within the town.

Don't believe the lies. Believe the actions instead.

Sal Nucifora – East Hampton

Supports LeMay

To the Editor:

We'd like to share our support for Eleisha LeMay who is running for the Hebron Board of Education.

Having known the LeMay family, and Eleisha personally, for the better part of a decade, we can say that her character and experience qualify her as an excellent addition to the board.

Eleisha's experience as an educator and administrator — along with her role as a mom of two — gives her a valuable perspective that will serve the Board, and our town, well. Her practical knowledge of students' post-pandemic social, emotional, and academic needs will inure to the benefit of our students. Eleisha will advocate for kids of all abilities and is committed to programming that will meet the needs of all learners.

The job of a board member is to represent the best interests of the community while wisely balancing what are often competing priorities. Eleisha has shared with us her vision of improved transparency and communication between the boards and to the wider community. We have no doubt that Elisha LeMay will bring much wisdom and discernment to the Hebron Board of Education.

She has our votes and we encourage you to join us in supporting Eleisha LeMay.

Sincerely,

Ken and Christine Manthorne – Hebron

Vote for Our Children

To the Editor:

Hebron is fortunate to have the steady hand of Chairwoman Heather Petit on the Board of Education. Chairwoman Petit cares deeply about our children's education, advocating for continued education funding, student safety, and enriching curriculum.

I believe that great schools are the cornerstone of our town. Beyond raising property values, our schools develop children to become thoughtful leaders ready to enter a global society. However, there are candidates currently running for the board that, in 2020, were ready to protest kindergartners on their first day at school simply for wearing masks, and I question whether these same candidates would also interfere with curriculum and ban books – the antithesis of Hebron values.

If this concerns you, I am delighted to share three outstanding women who stand for our values and will ensure Chairwoman Petit's continued excellent leadership: Eleisha LeMay, Elizabeth Alexander, and Brittany Loudenback for the Hebron Board of Education.

I first met Eleisha, Elizabeth and Brittany after the May 25th Board of Finance meeting. The three were committed to passing the town budget and organized

town residents to get the job done. I was impressed by their determination and deep commitment to Hebron's children. Additionally, the three women bring years of experience in school administration (Eleisha), technology/IT (Elizabeth), and nonprofit management in higher education (Brittany). This diverse experience would be a significant asset for the board.

Please join me in voting for these three extraordinary women on Nov. 7. Boards of education are our last line of defense against extremist candidates who would seek to push their own agenda on our children. Hebron has an opportunity to say “no.” Please vote for Eleisha LeMay, Elizabeth Alexander, and Brittany Loudenback.

Sincerely,

Tiffany V. Thiele – Hebron

Note: Thiele is a member of the Board of Selectmen but said she is writing this letter as an individual.

Your Vote Matters!

To the Residents of Portland:

I encourage everyone to cast their vote this Nov. 7. Voting is the bedrock for a strong community. Voting is the opportunity for each of us to endorse the outstanding public service of those both familiar and newly engaged who give so much of their energy, time, knowledge, and experience toward realizing the quality of life we all enjoy as residents of Portland.

I would welcome your support for my own candidacy and for that of Rose Aletta for Zoning Board of Appeals. Rose and I hope to continue working alongside all the members of the board and with dedicated town officials toward insuring the best possible development of the town's land.

Additionally, please join me in voting for the entire slate of outstanding Democratic candidates for Board of Selectmen (Andrea Alfano, Jillian Crawford, John Dillon and Jim Tripp), for Board of Education (Kim Maruschock, Sarah Spear, Meg Scata, and Laurel Steinhauer), for Zoning Board of Appeals (Rose Alleta and Cynthia Roman), and Board of Assessment Appeals (Ken Kearns and Christopher Darby).

Let's have a strong turnout at the polls! I hope to see you there.

Cynthia Roman – Portland

A Board of Your Peers

To the Editor:

The Board of Assessment Appeals is a lesser-known town board. It is used when you must appeal the valuation of your properties. This includes your home's assessment (value) or your vehicle value and you disagree with what the town says its value is. It is composed of three elected persons and should be your peers.

I have lived in Andover since 1985, and raised two children in our community. I currently work in IT at a Health Care Company, and have worked in IT for over 40 years. I have a bachelor's in computer science which was received from CCSU.

I have prior experience with the BAA, having served for three years. I have had BAA training and have had experience with other town assessors via the BAA training. I have taken a real estate course. I have been before the BAA for my own appeals and have been successful in reductions.

I feel it is important to have fair and equitable assessments and appraisals for all town property owners. As a board member I will listen to all concerns brought to the BAA.

I will bring my BAA training, business, life experiences and common sense to the BAA. I believe community service is both a duty and a responsibility to be undertaken with a serious commitment to work for the betterment of our community.

I have volunteered for many organizations in our community.

When you need to make an appeal to the BAA you want level headed and knowledgeable individuals that do not have a conflict of interest to listen to your concerns. Please vote for the two incumbents (Linda Armstrong and Al Roy) and myself for the BAA. A board of your peers.

Emily Timreck – Andover

Reelect Allyson

To the Editor:

Over the past four years, I've had the privilege of serving on the Hebron Board of Education alongside some truly exceptional individuals. Together, we've dedicated our time to ensuring that our educators and administrators have the essential resources needed to nurture the success of our youngest citizens across all aspects of life. In this dynamic team, one individual stands out—Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl.

Allyson's four-year tenure on the board has been marked by her commitment and contributions. She's been a driving force on various committees, including the Safety and Security Committee, the Policy Committee, and the Communications Committee. Furthermore, Allyson has played a vital role as a liaison for the Wellness Committee. These committees convene separately from our regular board meetings, and attendance is paramount to thoroughly review the important matters on the docket. Allyson has exemplified an impeccable record of attendance not only at these committee meetings but also at our board sessions and the weekly budget meetings, which are particularly critical during the winter months.

Beyond her dedication to these meetings, Allyson is a staunch advocate for our town's families. She champions their concerns and brings them to our discussions. Her commitment to being a voice for those who might not feel comfortable or able to attend meetings in person is truly admirable.

As Nov. 7 approaches, I endorse Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl for her outstanding service and dedication. I trust that she will continue to be a driving force for positive change in our community. I urge you to join me in supporting Allyson by casting your vote in her favor on Election Day. Together, we can ensure that the future of our education system and our community remains in capable hands.

Sincerely,

Joe Margaitis – Hebron

Note: Margaitis is a member of the Hebron Board of Education, running for reelection, but said he is speaking as an individual.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 29*

Her Social Security Biased?

To the Editor:
The average person works for 45 years (20 to 65). Social Security computes their benefits based on an individual's best 35-year work history.
The average female has 2.3 children, and she is under societal, familial, and personal pressure/desires to raise children. As she does this; childcare duties risk impacting her 35-year work history by adding multiple zero(s) into her Social Security work benefit average. Hence, her retirement amount could be reduced for doing what all parties want her to do.
Since our population is 51% female, how can we remediate this disparity for our population's majority? Original Social Security has a provision (\$255) to pay for funerals and funerals are paid using life insurance. Since females live longer, her life insurance premiums are cheaper. Further, cash value life insurance is convertible to an annuity which could supplement her Social Security benefit shortfall.
Life insurance funding already exists because Social Security taxes are a percentage of wages. When the minimum wage increased, the tax revenue increased even though the rate remained constant. Like college savings plans, life insurance can contain the stock market investments. Additionally, fifty-nine percent (59%) of Americans want this investment to happen because they realize the stock market is the world's largest wealth generator. It is noteworthy our enemies (Russians, Chinese, etc.) invest for their retirement, but Social Security cannot.
Published analysis beyond this article's scope reveals: A national debt solution, starting retirement at birth, reducing Medicare and Medicaid entitlement costs, increased medical research funding, increased investment participation for all Americans, increased Social Security retirement payments, provide economic stimulus to the States/municipalities during pandemic(s), increased financial services diversity and compliance, and solve the Black Lives Matter situation. Tacit Congressional approval exists.

Ted Earl – East Hampton

DeDonato for Hebron BOF

Dear Hebron Citizens:
With Election Day less than two weeks away, I wanted to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to please make your voice heard and vote on Nov. 7. When you do, please consider choosing me to serve you on the Hebron Board of Finance.
In a time where everything costs just a little bit more, we need to be ever vigilant with how Hebron uses our hard-earned tax dollars. We need to look closely at expenditures to ensure they are fiscally responsible and in line with community needs and expectations. We are entitled to know how our tax dollars are being used, and I will ensure that there is full transparency throughout the budgeting process.
Our schools will also always have my unwavering support. My wife has been a public school educator for over 25 years, and our two children have been well-served by the Hebron and RHAM schools. We must continue to ensure that our schools are financially supported, but we must do so prudently and look for creative solutions to address the fiscal challenges facing our schools.
Hebron's continued financial stability and success requires cooperation and compromise. I have spent my entire legal career solving problems; working collaboratively with individuals and businesses to reach win-win solutions to complicated issues. I will listen to all viewpoints so that we can implement thoughtful and creative strategies to reach outcomes that will benefit everyone.
We are a town that is diverse in our backgrounds and ideas, but we are united by our love for everything Hebron has to offer. I am ready to listen to your views and concerns. I am ready to work for you and for Hebron.
**Thank you for your support,
Jim DeDonato – Hebron**

Supports Steinhauser

To the Editor:
We are writing to express our wholehearted support for the reelection of Laurel Steinhauser to the Portland Board of Education. We have known Laurel for many years, and have watched her grow in her leadership roles on both the Board of Education and the Portland Library Board of Directors. In all that she does, Laurel consistently demonstrates her unwavering commitment to the children and families of Portland.
Laurel brings strong and steady leadership as chair of the Board of Education. She has proven herself to be a dedicated advocate for our students, teachers, and parents. Most of all, we value her integrity, her honesty, and her empathy. Portland is lucky to have volunteers who are willing to give so much time and energy in service to our community. Nov. 7 is Election Day and we will be proud to support Laurel Steinhauser for the Board of Education. We hope you will join us!
**Sincerely,
Nancy and Bruce Livensparger – Portland**

Fighting for a Thriving Colchester

To the People of Colchester:
As a working parent with young children and a tax-paying homeowner in Colchester, it's not easy juggling life, work, and engaging in community activities. I have the utmost respect for those volunteering their extra time to help our town run.
That's why I'm excited to vote Row A on Nov. 7 and you should, too. Row A is made up of your fellow neighbors who are willing to fight for our beautiful town. They're willing to put in the hours outside of their home lives to keep our community thriving and with canceled board meetings throughout the month of October, it's apparent that willingness to work is currently lacking.
The Democratic slate is led by Bernie Dennler – the bipartisan, professional, and level-headed leader that our town needs. In addition to Bernie's leadership, the BOS, BOE and BOF candidates are a perfect mix of fresh faces and experienced officials.
Colchester needs this group to bring our town back from the brink of extinction and into 2024 (and beyond) with innovation, new ideas, and hard work.
Please join me in voting Row A on Nov. 7!
**Sincerely,
Kyle Calash – Colchester**

Defend Ethos

To the Editor:
"I love the fact that I live in a country which is more democratic than others. But I will say that democracy, in America, is an aspiration, it's somewhere we gotta get. I mean, when only half the population is voting, when there is unlimited money in politics, we're not there yet. ... The founding fathers thought this thing's gonna last a decade or a few decades, we'll be lucky if it's a few generations. Democracy means ruled by the people and if the people aren't asserting themselves, then democracy will go away. And whether it's to some drastic form like fascism or whether its to some form where, yeah, we keep voting but fewer of us are allowed to vote every year and there's some kind of emergency statute or that the money basically just makes the voting a joke, which unfortunately is where we are tending to be anyway. Whether its one or the other there is so much to lose." -- Timothy Snyder, history professor, Yale.
One cannot help but notice we're losing civility in local politics and while we can vote out elected officials, unseemly appointed officials are another issue. Recently, it appears as though, a handbook was written specifically about destroying small town moral codes and charm. What drives this movement? Who fuels the fear? What do they gain? Bogus emails, police at meetings, cruisers on history discussions, openly insulting the public, ignoring residents and referendum results, disturbing similarities are growing town by town.
However, we've also read inspiring letters, in the Rivereast, pushing back and it's an all-ages, all-genders, show. One can only hope slam dancing returns and we "break on through" to a more ethical future. Clean water champions this charge because, ultimately, without water we have nothing. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Arndt for Education

To the Editor:
We are thrilled to express our enthusiastic endorsement of Augie Arndt for reelection to the East Hampton Board of Education. Augie's remarkable ability to transcend political boundaries with his commitment to transparency and community engagement is truly commendable. He ensures that parents, like us, have a voice in shaping school policies. His role as a fellow parent with children in our local schools has given him a deep understanding of the unique challenges and aspirations of our students, making his passion for education both evident and inspiring.
What sets Augie apart is his steadfast dedication to the well-being of both students and teachers. He consistently advocates for policies that benefit all and maintains a high standard of conduct within our school community, fostering an atmosphere of respect and unity.
We should choose candidates who genuinely care about our community's well-being. Augie Arndt is that candidate. This Election Day be sure to get out there and re-elect Arndt.
Donata and Benjamin Barber – East Hampton

Today's Democratic Party

To the Editor:
Today's East Hampton Democratic Party is, as Barbara Moore says, very "diverse" in their ideas.
That sounds all good and well, but what does that mean in reality? Are our local Democratic candidates following in the footsteps of their Washington progressive counterparts?
Can we count on local Dems to seriously look at controlling town spending in any meaningful way? Our current national deficit is at an all-time high. Spending continuing at this pace will bankrupt our country. Are our East Hampton Dems really any different? It doesn't appear so with the 'sky is the limit' attitude they demonstrate.
Excessive government spending has led to inflation and helped push the current 30-year mortgage rate to almost 8% and has helped dampen the home buying market. New home construction nationally is being stifled, and our town will potentially lose tax revenue if this situation continues to exist.
While new, exciting and diverse ideas are grand, what is it that this 'new progress' really means for East Hampton or is it "Progressive"?
You be the judge and vote Row B for Republicans who know, it's your money on Nov. 7.
Mark Cunningham – East Hampton

Passing the Torch

To the Editor:
Louise Concodello is well-known to our Marlborough community after having served on the Board of Education for over a quarter century as well as serving on various other appointed boards and commissions. Louise welcomed me, over 10 years ago, when I was interested in volunteering in town.
In recent years it has become more and more apparent that Louise remains cordial if everything goes her way or the way it has always been done. This is the opposite of a "team player" and she has pushed personal agendas to the detriment of the public, including her involvement in flawed changes to our town charter, which led to First Selectman Greg Lowrey being cast out of office mid-term in a disruptive year-long political power play. Many ask how this could happen? If we keep electing town members that are not the best fit for the position, I'm fearful that we will continue to see more of these poorly thought-out decisions.
In 2022 the community spoke when they failed to elect Louise to the Board of Selectman and more recently voters spoke again when Louise was voted off the Republican ticket as candidate for Board of Education at the September 12th Republican Primary.
Elections shouldn't be a popularity contest; our town needs strong leadership and needs past board members to appreciate and respect newer members wanting to be involved. It's time to pass the torch.
My hope is that we see more teamwork between political parties in town and hope to see more of the passing of the torch to the newer community members willing to step up to volunteer in our lovely community.
Sue Stolfi – Marlborough
***Note:** Stolfi is a member of the Marlborough Board of Education and RHAM Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Support Team Curley

To the Editor:
Although I may be unopposed on the ballot this year, Nov. 7, is a critical election here in Portland. And while there are great candidates on both sides of the ballot, what sets my team apart is an established track record of accomplishments over just two years.
In this short period, we have achieved significant milestones in a number of areas. The largest economic development project in our town's history is now moving forward rapidly at Brainerd Place. We've also identified a new water source, moving us closer towards water independence. And as promised, the track at Portland High School is nearing completion, serving our students and athletes.
Our senior center has been renovated, new sidewalks have been added, and both a new fire engine for Company 2 and a new bus for our senior center have been purchased and are on the way. Technology improvements are ongoing at Town Hall, making doing business even easier, and a number of vital infrastructure projects have been funded and are moving ahead.
While I am proud of all that we have accomplished, I cannot take credit for this alone. I have been fortunate to have a wonderful team beside me at every step of the way. This extends to the Board of Selectmen as the entire leadership team on Row B.
If you are satisfied with the direction that our town is headed, I urge you to vote Row B on Nov. 7. Let's keep moving Portland forward together.
**Sincerely yours,
Ryan J. Curley – Portland**

***Note:** Curley is Portland first selectman but said he is speaking as an individual.*

Remember Cunningham

To the Editor:
It's easy just to see votes with a 'yes' or 'no' end result but there can be an alternative to those 'no' votes that people fail to see. Sometimes those 'no' votes can result in having a positive outcome that serves as a more viable solution. Deb Cunningham has served on the Board of Finance and has experienced that first-hand, working to find another approach to the issues. With her business background, she knows how and where to look for those solutions to make the best decisions for our town. A longtime resident, she has also served on the Board of Assessment and Appeals and the East Hampton Ambulance Association.
Please remember her when you vote for East Hampton Town Council on Nov. 7.
Diane Koch – East Hampton

Vital Leadership

To the Editor:
I am writing to express my support for the reelection of First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos. I believe that his leadership has been vital in securing a brighter future for our community.
When First Selectman Bisbikos assumed office, it became apparent that the remediation work for Norton Park required far more resources than previously anticipated. This daunting challenge was the result of negligence from a prior administration. Under Mr. Bisbikos' leadership, addressing the issues at Norton Park was made a top priority.
Nearly a year ago, he took a proactive approach by convening a meeting with key stakeholders. This assembly included critical figures like State Representative Mark DeCaprio, Town Planner Demian Sorrentino, and other dedicated individuals.
The success of this endeavor would not have been possible without the hard work, advocacy and collaboration of the stakeholders, including members of the Norton Park Committee. Their efforts, both in public and behind closed doors, have been instrumental in achieving this milestone.
Thanks to the tireless dedication of First Selectman Bisbikos and his team, Colchester has taken a significant step forward. We can be confident in his commitment to our community's well-being and his ability to tackle complex challenges.
**Sincerely,
Andrea DePaola – Colchester**

Great BOE Candidates

To the Editor:
In the 23 years we've lived in Hebron, Allegra and I have had the opportunity to get involved with the town on many levels. Between sports, scouts, church and other volunteering opportunities, we've engaged with the town and have met many wonderful people along the way. One area where I haven't served is with the Board of Ed. From observation, serving on a BOE requires an incredible commitment and an ability to collaborate. Given those requirements, I am proud to endorse several outstanding candidates for Hebron & RHAM BOE.
Alley Nadeau-Schmeizl, Joe Margaitis and Sera Copolino are all veterans of the Hebron BOE, with Kim Hills as a great prospective member. Mike Beaulieu is running for RHAM BOE and is incredibly committed to the position. All of these individuals have students in the Hebron or RHAM school systems. Sera and Kim are both educators at RHAM. What a treat to have BOE members who have children in the school system and are teachers at RHAM! Our town and region will benefit greatly from a BOE member who can relate to policies which affect the teachers and the parents. Alley Nadeau-Schmeizl and Joe Margaitis were both on the Hebron BOE during the darkest points of COVID. Both of them worked with other BOE members to lead the charge to get our children back in the classroom as soon as possible. While our national and state officials were waffling over in-person education, and large cities across the nation were fighting against in-person learning, Alley and Joe were part of our local BOE that got our kids back in the classroom, where we all know learning improved.
My three girls attended Hebron schools and my youngest is at RHAM High School now. I'm thankful to have such committed people advocating for parents and students.
**State Rep. Steve Weir
R-55th District**
***Note:** The 55th Assembly District includes Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron and Marlborough.*

Negativity Not Required

To the Editor:
As many of you are aware, this is the last week the Rivereast will permit negative letters before the Nov. 7 election. For me, that deadline served as a stark reminder, and made me ask the question "Why should I start being negative now?" The answer was simple: Don't.
Instead, I want to tell you about 13 people who I have had the pleasure of working with since we all accepted the Democratic Party nominations in late July.
Throughout my initial foray into local politics I have had many questions. Fortunately I could not have landed on a more supportive team. My neighbor and Board of Education candidate Chris Rivers has been a tremendous mentor from the very moment I expressed interest in running. Board of Finance candidate Scott Chapman wisely told me, "You have two ears. When speaking to people in public, listen twice as much as you speak." Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner and Bernie Dennler, our Board of Selectman and first selectman candidates, have been able to answer all of my questions concerning procedure and town legislative history. I have knocked on countless doors with Michele Wyatt, Gayle Furman and Michelle Millington. They've collectively managed to make the miles seem enjoyable, and their commitment to Colchester is immeasurable. I'd be remiss if I did not mention my new friends and teammates Krista Kardys, Karen Belding, Stephanie Tracey-Calash, Dave Koji, and Andrew Cournoyer.
Campaigns take an astonishing amount of work and dedication. If the work our 14 candidates have done since July is any indicator of what we can do for Colchester, our town will be in good hands should Row A get your support November 7th. Our close-knit team is ready, willing and able to serve.
**Thank you,
Sean Gillespie – Colchester
Candidate for Treasurer**

Affordability

To the Editor:
As chairman of the Board of Finance, my primary goal has been and will continue to be ensuring the long-term affordability of Colchester. To achieve this, I'll implement a diverse approach during my next term.
First, working with our first selectman and finance director, I will continue to scrutinize spending to identify cost-saving opportunities without compromising essential services and work closely with department heads to prioritize their efficiencies, talent retention, and department-level goals, which are achieved by the support of your tax dollars.
Second, I will explore revenue diversification and continue employing innovative funding sources to reduce the tax burden on taxpayers, as I did with special education costs this year. Promoting responsible accounting to meet the diverse needs in our community is a skill I bring to the table as a senior financial advisor vice president in a commercial bank and seven-year incumbent.
Third, transparency is key; I will collaborate with Andreas to launch the software we secured, adding significant value to regular meetings where residents can voice their concerns and ideas with transparent, easy-to-understand financial reporting about our fiscal health.
Fourth, I will continue to advocate for responsible borrowing and debt management, ensuring we don't overextend our resources.
I aim to maintain Colchester's affordability while delivering on the needs & and aspirations of our community.
Of course, I cannot do all this alone. I am proud to stand with Andreas Bisbikos, Art Shilosky, Cliff O'Donal, and Mike Dubriel as electors representing our policy-making and financial oversight boards that move Colchester forward.
Please support our Republican team on Nov. 7.
Andrea Migliaccio – Colchester

Running for BAA

Dear Friends, Family, and Neighbors:
The Portland Democratic Town Committee has selected me to run for a seat on the Board of Assessment Appeals and I am honored to accept. After nearly 20 years as a resident and tax payer, I am excited for the opportunity to give back to our town and our community by volunteering for this important role if the voters select me to do so in the upcoming election. I believe my eight years serving as an elected member of the Portland Board of Education, and my volunteer service as a member of the Zion Lutheran Church Council, have provided me with the fiscal understanding and collaborative ability to work with diverse viewpoints from across all perspectives to do what is right for our community.
In addition, I am grateful for the current members of the board for their dedicated years of service. Thank you also to everyone who has attended our talking tour of town, especially those whom I met with last week at Concentric Brewing. I truly value the ideas and suggestions people from all perspectives have offered on how to manage our town resources to best serve the needs of all citizens and taxpayers. Please remember to vote on Nov. 7.
**Regards,
Christopher Darby – Portland**

Stage One: Denial

To the Editor:
"I look forward to Mayor Guiliani spearheading the legal effort to defend our right to free and fair elections! Rudy Guiliani, Joseph diGenova, Victoria Toensing, Sidney Powell, and Jenna Ellis, a truly great team, added to our wonder lawyers and representatives!" – Donald J. Trump, Nov. 14, 2020.
"Despite the Fake News reports to the contrary, and without even reaching out to ask the Trump Campaign, Ms. Powell, was not my attorney, and never was. In fact, she would have been conflicted. Ms. Powell did a valiant job of representing a very unfairly treated and governmentally abused General Mike Flynn, but to no avail. His prosecution, despite the facts, was ruthless. He was an innocent man, much like many other innocent people who are being persecuted by this now Fascist government of ours, and I was honored to give him a Full Pardon!" Donald J. Trump, October 2023.
Perfect, now Trump can't claim attorney-client privilege with Syndey Powell, who pled guilty to election interference.
Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

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

Choosing Crawford

To the Editor:

I would like to encourage all registered voters in Portland to vote for Ms. Jillian Crawford for Broad of Selectmen. I had the pleasure of meeting her and volunteering with her at the Exchange Club food booth a few weeks ago. She is bright energetic and young. I believe she will bring fresh ideas and renewed energy to the board. It is encouraging and imperative to get more young people involved in serving our local community.

Michael J. Wrang – Portland

Likes Loudenback

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to endorse Brittany Loudenback for the Hebron Board of Education. As a member of our community and a parent with children in the local school system, Brittany brings a unique and valuable perspective to the board. Her understanding of the challenges that families face, coupled with her dedication to improving our schools, make her an exceptional candidate.

One of the most significant strengths Brittany brings to the table is her firsthand experience as a parent navigating our education system. Having children in the Hebron school system means she intimately understands the needs, concerns, and aspirations of students and their families. She knows what it's like to attend parent-teacher conferences, navigate remote learning, and advocate for the best possible education for her children. This perspective is invaluable in making informed decisions that benefit all students.

Furthermore, Brittany possesses the leadership qualities necessary to effect positive change within our school system. She is a collaborative and thoughtful individual who listens to diverse viewpoints and seeks solutions that benefit all stakeholders. Her ability to work with others and her commitment to transparency will undoubtedly contribute to the overall success of the Hebron Board of Education.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Brittany Loudenback for the Hebron Board of Education. Her status as a parent with children in our school system, her dedication to improving education, and her leadership qualities make her the best choice for this crucial role. I encourage you to support Brittany in her campaign to help shape the future of education in Hebron.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bennett – Hebron

Marlborough, I Am Listening

To the Editor:

As I've been campaigning for a full seat on the Board of Finance, there have been two things I've been grateful for. The first thing I'm grateful for is the outstanding people I've met. I can't express that enough. I am so appreciative of your input and willingness to share with me what your concerns and expectations are for our town's budget and spending. Some of you shared specifics such as naming roads, school projects, or the boat launch, library, or sidewalks. Some of you spoke in terms of the school budget(s) and the town or capital budget(s). Both are valuable and important.

I shared that when it comes to sitting at the BOF table, I have to ask myself, "What is it that's best for the whole community and not just the desire of a few (including myself)?" "Is this for the good of Marlborough's future?" Realistically I will not "hit" every taxpayer and voter in Marlborough so I invite my fellow taxpayers in Marlborough to share your budgetary concerns/ideas at karenpakulis@yahoo.com as your input because I am still listening.

The second thing I'm grateful for during campaigning is the opportunity to learn about the backgrounds and reasons why each of the incredibly qualified candidates I am running with, are also running. It takes a qualified, dedicated, community-minded TEAM to put a diversified, fair and cost-effective budget together and maintain all other financial oversight. I'm excited to be part of such a team who will bring that result to you.

On Nov. 7, vote for Fidler, Guzman, Pakulis-Paul and Wilkinson. We won't disappoint!

Karen Pakulis-Paul – Marlborough
karenpakulis@yahoo.com
***Note:** Pakulis-Paul is an Alternate member of the Board of Finance, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Board of Education Priorities

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Board of Education should be proud of its accomplishments over the past two years. After a rocky start, the members regrouped under new leadership and put politics aside, to the benefit of our students and educators.

As we approach the next board term, there are many challenges facing the town's education system, including obligations to honor contracts, fund special education, and supporting the needs of all types of learners. A back-drop of a town with a history of contentious budgets does not make things easy.

In recognition of those challenges, here are a few of the priorities the Board should establish in the new term:

- Hold a successful search for a new superintendent. We have a desirable district with incredible educators. A home-run hire for superintendent will only propel Bell-town schools to greater success.
- Create a responsible spending plan that supports all the community's needs while communicating fluidly with the Board of Finance and Town Council.
- Continue to assess the safety needs of the school system. That goes beyond the physical security of our buildings to encompass mental health needs.
- Embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion. All students come with unique challenges. The Board helps set the standard for how East Hampton meets their needs, regardless of circumstance.
- Reject censorship and attempts to subvert curriculum. The fiasco over classroom libraries died quickly after the former board chair resigned, but throughout Connecticut, there has been a rise in challenges to literature and learning. They must not gain a foothold in East Hampton.

I hope to be one of the new members and to be part of the board's effort to prioritize the needs of East Hampton schools in the years to come. On Nov. 7, please vote Row A for the Democratic team.

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

Money, Money

To the Editor:

We all understand and agree that money doesn't buy happiness. It certainly helps though by alleviating our stress and allowing us to find the time for the things that do make us happy. Unfortunately, we live in a state that is determined to pile as much on top of us as it can. I know some of these numbers have been written about a few times already but they are certainly worth repeating.

In Connecticut, a family of four requires a yearly household income of \$126,018 just to survive (\$63/hr). In 2021, 39% of CT households lived below the ALICE (Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed) line meaning they lacked a basic survival budget. Since then wages have failed to catch up to prices, leaving even more households below the ALICE line today than there were just two years ago.

It's not just households facing issues, either. For example farming, the heart of Colchester, is estimated to lose 22% in net income in 2023 and an additional 14% in 2024. Only 10% of business executives in Connecticut say they believe the business climate is improving. A whopping 91% of those business owners say their costs are increasing.

When I ran for office two years ago, I promised I would do everything I could to help keep Colchester affordable for you. While my fellow selectmen made sure that promise was impossible to keep, I never gave up on that fight. I don't need a study group to know that taxes, both state and local, are pricing many out of Colchester. Our community is a beautiful place and it deserves to stay truly affordable to all those who choose to call it home.

Regardless of what happens come Nov. 7, I am going to continue that fight. You deserve no less.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester
Libertarian candidate for Board of Selectmen

Positive Changes to Portland BOE

To the Editor:

I am honored to be a Republican nominee for the Board of Education. Over the past few weeks, I've had the privilege of speaking with many wonderful parents in our community. They have shared their hopes and concerns for their children – everything from school safety and curriculum to social development.

When I helped champion the Portland Beautification Committee a few years ago, it was concerns and ideas from community members that planted the seeds to make it happen. If elected, I will bring the same collaborative spirit that made it successful. By bringing people together and channeling our collective energy, we accomplished goals that benefited the whole community – jazzing up Main Street at Christmas, painting bird houses for the elementary school, and creating holiday memories with Santa photos at the Senior Center.

It's this kind of teamwork and community leadership that inspires me. I want to take your concerns, partner with the right people, and drive solutions. My goal is to give our children the best possible environment to learn and grow. I humbly ask for your vote on November 7th so I can be your voice on the Board of Education. Every vote makes a difference as we work to shape the future. Thank you for considering me to represent your family on this important board. Together, we can make positive changes for our schools and community.

Angela Rusakowicz-Hammond – Portland

Riley and Matra for BOS

To the Editor:

If Hebron voters elect both Claudia Riley and John Matra to the Board of Selectmen, control of that board will be vested in a Democratic majority and Dan Larson will be removed from his position as board chair. The immediate result of this change of control will be a chance to permanently set aside the wildly unpopular plans for the Public Works garage promoted by Larson and Town Manager Andy Tierney. While something must be done to ensure town employees work in a safe environment, the irresponsible plan that Larson and Tierney have advocated needs to be filed away in the "This was a bad idea" cabinet at Town Hall. Matra and Riley will join returning board member Tiffany Thiele, and lead the search for a solution which will benefit all of us.

Under our charter, the town manager wields extensive power and can only be removed with the vote of four of the five members of the Board of Selectmen. As a result, it is incumbent on the Board of Selectmen to vigorously supervise the manager and to give him explicit directions as to the direction of the town. I would submit that in recent years there has not been sufficient oversight of the town manager's work. A new Democratic majority will ensure that Mr. Tierney understands that his decisions must be consistent with the desires of the voters of our community.

In most instances in recent decades, Hebron Republicans have controlled the Board of Selectmen. It is time to make a change. Vote Riley and Matra for Board of Selectmen.

Robert Fitzgerald – Hebron

Keep Schools Moving Forward

To the Editor:

The Colchester Board of Education is comprised of seven members who serve a four-year term. Member terms alternate every two-year election cycle. Two years ago, four members were elected and this year three members will be elected. Both Chris Rivers and Michelle Millington are currently serving on the board and running on the democratic ticket.

Both Chris and Michelle have been assets on the Colchester Board of Education and work collaboratively to move our schools forward in a positive direction.

Chris listens to everyone and makes decisions for the right reasons and offers practical solutions. Chris has a long history of serving our country and now our community is fortunate to have him represent our children.

Michelle has two children in our school system, she is an avid volunteer in our community and has over 20 years of experience in social services, helping people from all walks of life. Michelle's first priority is our children.

Please consider voting for both Chris Rivers and Michelle Millington on November 7 to keep our schools moving forward.

Margo Gignac – Colchester
***Note:** Gignac is a Republican member of the Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Voting for O'Donal

To the Editor:

I will be voting for Cliff O'Donal for Colchester's Board of Selectmen. Cliff is an experienced businessman and a longtime resident of Colchester. He is a frequent supporter of Colchester charities. Cliff also understands what it's like to manage employees, and the responsibilities of being both a business owner and a taxpayer. Cliff's experience will be invaluable for Colchester's Board of Selectmen.

Please join me in supporting Cliff O' Donal for Board of Selectmen.

Sincerely,
Brenden Healy – Colchester

Time for New Ideas

To the Editor:

Is Andover in a better place than it was four years ago? Have we done the job you elected us to do? I am hopeful that you as a town will trust us to continue moving Andover forward. Some in town seem resentful that the five of us don't fight it out like they do on the national stage. We understand what's most important is moving the town forward, while still respecting its past.

I am proud to say I asked Paula King to serve on our board. We needed a woman, a parent, a strong organizer to help shape us and bring in a different perspective. I thank her for accepting. Scott Person, a Democrat, a native of Andover, and a great representative of Andover's history, has complemented our board with his commitment to town projects from the ball field improvements to the Veterans Park renewal. Jeff Murray, Republican, engineer, passionate for the biking, running, and active side of our town community, brings his skills to the rail trail, community center, and equipment purchases.

That brings us to myself and my "opponent" for first selectman, Jeff Maguire. Jeff came from the previous board and brought continuity between the old administration and the new. I can't say anything negative, but it's time for new ideas; I have the time and energy to pursue them. I have pushed hard for the Community Center and now am proud to be leading the project. I have pushed for an expanded and better-funded Public Works, and fair pay for our staff in Town Hall. Not traditional Republican ideas, I know, but practical ones. I want to continue bringing Andover forward as its First Selectman and I ask for your vote to do so.

Adrian Mandeville – Andover
Candidate for First Selectman
Current Vice Selectman

Shame on You

To the Editor:

Catherine Magaldi-Lewis thought it was okay to attack Adrian Mandeville for not attending the towns dedication ceremony, while accusing him of not supporting it. Shame on you, Catherine. You're right, Adrian did not attend; he was 1,100 miles away at his disabled brothers home helping with home repairs. You see, every spring Adrian drives to his brothers home in Missouri, and spends two weeks helping with his brother's home upkeep. His brother, a disabled veteran, is now on his third round with cancer.

Though Catherine thinks Adrian is a mean bully he is just the opposite. He donates his selectman's salary to the senior lunch program. He has acted as a booster for the food pantry by donating matching funds for their annual drive. He volunteered his time to produce the original concept drawings for the community center. He is donating his time to the Community Center project as the town's lead representative – a position that would normally cost the town \$100,000 he is doing for free. You know, Catherine – the Community Center that you were attacking and trying to stop because you didn't like where it was going even though 70% of the people responding to the town survey wanted it there.

Catherine, you talk about bullying while you are bullying. Please stop gaslighting Andover for your own personal causes and start putting the town first. I know Adrian is a good person who puts this town first. I'm his wife; I should know. I join him in his love and dedication to this town we call home. We want to see it grow and prosper while still being affordable and keeping its small-town charm.

Vote for Adrian on Nov. 7.

Kristin McGregor – Andover

Fidler for Finance

To the Editor:

My name is Jack Fidler, and I am running for reelection to the Marlborough Board of Finance. As a full member of the BOF in 2023, I was a part of the board that set the town's \$27 million budget. This resulted in a 0.83 mill decrease for taxpayers in town. This took teamwork and collaboration within the board and with the many elected officials and departments in town. My experience the past two years is vital going forward. With tough economic times and decisions approaching Marlborough and other towns in the area, we need members on the Board of Finance that are familiar with the budget process and town's plans. If reelected, I will bring this experience to the board.

There are things that need to be done in town to keep it livable for all residents, from young families to seniors. We have paving and construction projects that are ongoing, a beautiful lake that needs to be supported and taken care of, responsible economic and residential development to increase our tax base without over stretching our town services, and strong schools that foster the next generations. If re-elected I vow to work towards maintaining and growing these essential services to town while keeping taxes low for residents. Every tax dollar needs to count. I hope that I have earned your vote for re-election on election day, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the great people of Marlborough.

I would also like to take this time to endorse the entire Marlborough Democratic slate. Our candidates have a wide variety of ages, professional backgrounds and life experiences. We have a dedicated and hardworking slate that are representative of Marlborough as a whole. We are ready to get to work for you!

Sincerely,
Jack Fidler – Marlborough
***Note:** Fidler is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance but said he is speaking as an individual.*

Vote for Arndt!

To the Editor:

Want a guy to stay on the BOE who proved he is not a coward? Who proved he is courageous and is willing to stand for what is right by our community and our kids? Never vote a "row" again. Vote the person. Vore Arndt for integrity and truth.

Respectfully,
Michael Buck – East Hampton
***Note:** Buck is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education but said he is speaking as an individual.*

In Great Hands with Hills

To the Editor:

With so many issues and obstacles facing our schools, it's vital that our schools have strong and dedicated leadership. I am writing with support of my good friend Kim Hills. If you know Kim, you know how much she loves Hebron. She shows her love to our town by getting involved and being a team player. Kim's unique perspective as a lifelong resident, her 19-year career as an educator, and the ownership of a successful family farm business all contribute to her overwhelming qualifications for the Hebron Board of Education.

Kim's career achievements truly make her the perfect fit for our schools, including a B.S. in physical education, and an M.S in education from Plymouth State University. Kim has written curriculum, mentored new teachers, organized community building events and trains her peers in CPR for professional development. Most importantly, Kim enjoys spending time with her family whether it's running the family farm or coaching their three children in youth sports.

With 3 children in the school district, Kim has been a regular at board and town meetings to lend a voice to issues that could negatively affect the students. Kim was a strong voice to help stop the increase of tuition at the GHS Preschool when our children attended, she attended the recent BOF meetings to voice her concerns with the budget cuts.

Kim believes in fiscal responsibility and transparent communication. Our children will achieve success when families and schools work together as a team; Kim will strive to bring us together to make that success a reality. I am confident that Kim will work collaboratively with all board members to give our students the best learning environment. Hebron schools will be in great hands with Kim Hills.

Thank you,
Dawn Swagger – Amston

Augie Arndt for BOE

To the Editor:

Augie Arndt is a dedicated community volunteer who is committed to making East Hampton a better place. Augie's volunteerism doesn't stop at the Board of Education, where he has served for almost two years. Augie is a loved and respected Little League coach, and also volunteers his time assisting with the town's Setback league at the VFW, an enrichment activity for some of the town's adults.

To understand who Augie is, and why he must serve on the Board of Education, you must understand what he is not. He is not a politician. He does not tow the party line. He is not a "talking head" for the town Republicans. Augie believes in open communication and has the respect of voters from both parties. Augie is a piece of what this town needs to mend the open wounds between the divided boards. I believe in him, and I believe in his vision for the future of East Hampton.

Please don't "vote a row" on Nov. 7. The only candidate on Row B who deserves the community's support is Augie Arndt.

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

Make a Plan!

To the Editor:

Please make a plan to vote in the municipal election Tuesday, Nov. 7. The polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be able to vote. Voting in Colchester will occur in the three districts: District 1 at Town Hall, District 2 at the Abundant Life Church and District 3 at Bacon Academy.

If you will not be able to vote in person on Election Day for one of the six reasons specified in state law, absentee ballots are currently available from the town clerk. Please contact the town clerk's office for more information.

At the polls, people from town, some of whom may be your friends or neighbors, will be working together, across party lines, to ensure a free and fair election.

We hope you will vote on Nov. 7.

Respectfully,
Stan Soby – Colchester

Matra/Riley for BOS

To the Editor:

Please join me in supporting John Matra and Claudia Riley for the Board of Selectmen in Hebron. It has been some time since Democrats controlled Hebron's Board of Selectmen. And while there should be respect for those who volunteer, we need to agree that not everyone who runs and is elected is the right fit for the position. Many times we elect people by party or because they are popular in town. Sometimes we elect people without doing any research only to be upset the day after Election Day to find out you are being represented by someone who does not share the values of most people in Hebron. It is equally important to elect people who walk the walk and talk the talk.

Electing Matra and Riley will not leave voters feeling left behind. They have made a commitment to increase communication between town hall and the residents of our beautiful town. They have made a commitment to listen to the people who live here and engage with the community, just as they do now. They have made a commitment to increase transparency and respect in local government. And most of all, they have made a commitment to represent all residents of town, regardless of political affiliation, age, race, gender, religion, etc. They are not in denial about the things that need to change in Hebron, and they will continue to celebrate all the good this town has to offer.

Elect Matra/Riley for Hebron Board of Selectmen.

Catherine McSweeney – Amston
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★ *Letters cont. from page 31*

Vote for American Values

To the Editor:
Hi Colchester, my name is Jeff Duigou. I am running as the Republican-endorsed candidate for tax collector. I have been a resident/taxpayer in Colchester for 37 years. For the past two years I have gotten to know our First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos. Like many that have served Colchester as elected town officials Andreas was a schoolteacher. I learned of his love for American history (as is my interest) and as a Greek immigrant his love for this country and citizenship.

Unfortunately, commitment to American values such as God and country are not taught to the degree they should today in our schools and universities. The degradation of American values is currently being displayed in our streets with anti-Semitism protests, communist activism, and woke ideology. My high school teacher instilled the importance of the value of American citizenship to his students. My teacher was concerned about the apathy of Americans during the late 1970s and its potential destruction of our American values. Well, here we are today.

However, there is hope. Conservative members of our society like Mr. Bisbikos have and will continue to stand up for our American values and traditions, stand up for our children and families, protect our community from high taxes and reckless spending, fight against toxic behaviors and corruption, and invest in and support our local first responders. On Nov. 7, if you love this country and our Colchester community as I do, vote for the continuation of our American values and freedoms. A bright future is ahead of us. Let's begin! On Nov. 7, re-elect Andreas Bisbikos for first selectman.

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

Hebron Dysfunction

To the Editor:
Each week I am surprised by another new revelation showcasing the depth of dysfunction in Hebron's town government. How can a highly qualified candidate for an open position on a volunteer committee be rejected? As cited in last week's letter to the editor, Mr. John Baron's list of academic credentials and professional experience are precisely suited for service on the Historic Properties Commission. At a time when several boards and commissions have vacancies, shouldn't all qualified volunteers be welcomed with open arms?

Interestingly, Hebron's Board of Selectmen did not have a problem appointing two new members to the Planning and Zoning Commission mid-term in January 2023. Even acting outside of normal protocol, the BOS appeared to be in an urgent rush to fill these longstanding vacancies. Perhaps it had something to do with the Scenic Road application that the selectmen and town manager were opposing? Even though the Scenic Road application had met all requirements of the town ordinance, the new members were appointed and voted against the designation. The lawfully fulfilled will of the residents was subverted.

This pattern of dysfunctional behavior by Hebron's town government and the rejection of qualified volunteers should not be tolerated. As stated in the Code of Ethics included in our town charter, Section 1102, Purpose, "Public office is a public trust. The trust of the public is essential for government to function effectively. Policy developed by government officials and employees affects every citizen of the town, and it must be based upon honest and fair deliberations and decisions. This process must be free from threats, favoritism, undue influence and all forms of impropriety so that the confidence of the public is not eroded."

Hebron can do better; it is time for change. Please vote Row A only on Nov. 7.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

Elect Cunningham

To the Editor:
Please elect Deborah Cunningham to Town Council. Deb demonstrated a thorough and detailed understanding of the budget and issues while on the Board of Finance. Deb has a broad vision for the new firehouse, police, EMS, education, senior's issues and the lake that will address the needs while keeping East Hampton affordable.

Ray Zatorski – East Hampton

Who'll Fight for Your Wallet?

Dear Colchester Residents:
Since my election two years ago, the Democratic Town Committee and their surrogates have worked effortlessly to mischaracterize me and undermine all my efforts for the community. Since the beginning, Democratic-elected officials refused to come to meetings in person because they saw me as "illegitimate." Their members bring mob rule mentality to meetings where I had to call the police to settle them. Their conduct on social media has been atrocious, hiding behind fake profiles and anonymous postings – sometimes going as far as to slander my family.

As the "Man in the Arena," I have become accustomed to these attacks and have persevered against all odds. I have successfully brought projects like the playground, pickleball courts, and field irrigation to fruition. The town green and gazebo has been revitalized and 24/7 fire and EMS coverage has been secured. Old Jack's Chevrolet is now a thing of the past. I have brought forth flat budgets while securing new initiatives. I have not taken advantage of the taxpayer. I have fought for them every step of the way and have the political scars to prove it.

Some have described me as a maverick. My commitment is to only to the people. I am the only candidate in the race for first selectman who will not kiss the ring of a political boss or accept outside contributions from interest groups who are trying to purchase an election. I'm not bought or paid for – I'm your champion.

With inflation and the cost of goods skyrocketing, ask yourself this question: Who will fight for your wallet? My opponent is a democratic socialist who will push massive tax increases if elected.

I will always fight for you and your wallet.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester First Selectman

Support Hebron Dems

To the Editor:
Have you met them? They're everywhere! And they aren't going to disappear.

I'm so excited about our Hebron Democratic candidates. They're an impressive group of intelligent, experienced, enthusiastic and dedicated folks. I know Dems are serious about your issues and concerns. Isn't that what we should want from our elected officials.

Our candidates are already involved in our community. If you are undecided about who you're voting for, take a look around. If you truly care about our little town, if you want positive changes, vote only Row A on Nov. 7. If nothing else, please do yourself the favor and check out their bios on hebrondems.com. No more status quo for our town. We deserve better.

Let's go!

Kim Goldberg – Hebron

Looking to Save America

To the Editor:
If anyone needed undeniable proof that voting Republican means voting for the decline and fall of the United States; the majority Republican House of Representatives is amply providing it. Formerly addicted to attacking Democrats, they now fight amongst themselves, clueless how to govern or lead. Republicans get their opinions from partisan Fox News, shunning other credentialed, award-winning networks. The final nail could come Nov. 5, 2024, should voters elect either a Republican president or Republican-majority House or Senate.

In a few weeks, our Nov. 7 local elections will reveal which way the wind blows. As an Independent, I'm looking to save America by voting straight Democrats, because I believe in the greatness of what the best American founders envisioned. Thomas Paine unified 18th century Americans with "We have it in our power to begin the world over again." Abraham Lincoln convinced enough 19th century Americans that "We – even we here, hold the power and bear the responsibility." These progressive leaders saw us through the Revolutionary and Civil wars, our most trying times. But now, in my lifetime, a new Republican Party has emerged from a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde metamorphosis. Seditious Republican ultraconservatives light insurrectionist fires to burn down our foundational edifice, where original Republicans built it, defended science, medicine, the judiciary and mainstream media. They fought Nazism but neo-Nazis now find refuge within the new GOP, mocking FDR and Eisenhower who united us to victory over Hitler.

Original Republicans would have stood with Martin Luther King who broadened our nation's aspirations with "If we are to have peace on Earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation and this means we must develop a world perspective." Vote Democratic! Not insurrectionist.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Don't Bring DC Dysfunction

To the Editor:
We should not bring the dysfunction of Congress to our small towns. Sadly this is what the leadership of Andreas Bisbikos and Taras Rudko is about. Our elected officials live in town, pay taxes and are as impacted as the rest of us when boards make decisions. There are no lobbies or unions controlling the townspeople. Members of boards and committees are not corrupt or engaging in shady activities that clearly benefit no one, not even themselves. Some Republicans feel it's their duty to 'educate' the electorate and bully us into thinking and voting in a manner that is detrimental to the town. As a former Republican, I'm disgusted they feel Trumpism has a place in Colchester.

I urge everyone to look at Bernie Dennler and the Democratic candidates not along party lines, but for who they are as people in our community. Every one of us, regardless of party affiliation, wants to ensure our tax dollars and elected officials are working for us to move our town forward and make it a wonderful place for all residents. More than ever, with the issues we face in the world, we need strong communities and leaders who are willing to do the hard work and put the people of the town first. This is my first rodeo in town politics and Democratic candidates have expressed nothing but compassion, practicality, rationality and civility in their governing and campaigning. They listen to community members and work in the whole town's best interest.

Young government leaders are needed. We need young, energetic, forward-thinking leaders who are not mired in the tribalism and identity politics seen at the national level. I strongly believe voting Row A on Nov. 7 is in the best interest of all residents of Colchester.

Suzanne Salemi – Colchester

Crucial Open-Mindedness

To the Editor:
I am writing in support of the Democratic candidates for Portland's Board of Education: Laurel Steinhauser, Sarah Spear, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and Meg Scata. They all currently serve on the board. Portland school test scores remain above the state average, despite the challenges caused by COVID-19. That's one reason, but there is more to a school system than just test scores.

All students deserve to feel safe at school, including those who are different in some way. Bullying by peers and lack of support from faculty and staff can contribute to a feeling of being unsafe. Although I attended Portland elementary and junior high schools, I went away to high school, in part because of the bullying I endured and the lack of action by teachers. Although I don't have any school-age children, my understanding is that bullying has gotten worse since I was a child. In fact, we are currently staffing more mental health professionals than we ever have in the town's history and still have unmet needs.

Board members can and should help create a safer environment for all children. In that vein, I was pleased to read that Sarah Spear had recently attended a training session on managing difficult conversations. That sort of open-mindedness is crucial to the future of our town. I hope you will join me in voting for these candidates.

Martha Taylor Dumas – Portland
Note: Dumas is a member of the Portland Democratic Town Committee, but said she is writing as an individual.

Voting for Ray

To the Editor:
Alan Roy is running for the Board of Assessment Appeals and will continue to serve with integrity assuring the appeal process will be fair and equitable. He takes this responsibility very seriously and looks to the facts to guide his decisions. Alan knows any errors or mistakes on the field cards describing the property and improvements are a concern. Accurate information is essential to a fair determination of value. Corrections and documented facts presented by the taxpayers at their appeals should be viewed as important to the process.

Alan has studied the required procedures and the instructions of the BAA Handbook provided by the CT Association of Assessing Officers. Fair and equitable taxation begins with fair and equitable assessments. Alan Roy looks for facts and listens to all relevant information before making a decision.

Please vote for Alan Roy for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Pamela Quint – Andover

Supports Tierney

To the Editor:
I am writing to support Michael Tierney for the position of Portland's Town Clerk.

I've known Michael and his family for more than 10 years since my son joined Portland's Boy Scout Troop 2. Over that time, I've seen Michael's commitment to helping the town and its residents with his involvement in various community groups and activities. His more than 30-year involvement in Boy Scouts extends well beyond Portland, and Michael has been a positive role model in state and national activities.

Michael became town clerk almost two years ago, after Ryan Curley vacated the position to become first selectman. I remember Michael's excitement as he took on responsibilities to serve Portland and maintain its records and history. In his brief time as town clerk, Michael acted to significantly improve the efficiency of the office and security of records. He has trained a new assistant town clerk and is completing a program to become a Certified Connecticut Town Clerk.

Michael takes great pleasure in helping the community. He goes above and beyond to get involved in events like Portland's annual Holiday Parade and Tree-Lighting. He is a very active member of St. Mary Church. He was president and held other positions in the CT Cellar Savers Fire History Museum and coordinated that organization's annual holiday model train exhibit for 12 years.

I am confident Michael has and will continue to treat Portland residents with courtesy and respect, serving the town honorably and with the dedication he and his family have for decades.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Huebner—Portland

Baker for RHAM BOE

To the Editor:
Maura Baker is the perfect mix of work experience and community involvement. That's why I'm voting for her for RHAM Board of Education on Nov. 7. Maura has lived in town many years, with one of her children being a RHAM graduate and one being a senior at RHAM this year. You likely know her from her participation in school sports and music, scouts and church activities during her time in Hebron. She was a long-time Girl Scout leader. In addition, she has worked at Travelers Insurance for 28 years, where she is a vice president of actuarial and analytics.

Vote for Maura Baker on Nov. 7, Hebron!

Mary Rose – Hebron
Retired Teacher

Endorsing Hammond & Renner

To the Editor:
My clear choice and support go to Angela Hammond and Karen Renner running for Portland's Board of Education. Both candidates are fair-minded, community driven individuals who want to make a difference in the future of education development in Portland. We need fresh input going forward in these challenging times. Their conservative approach will be objective and open to new ideas. They are good listeners and willing to champion for the residents of Portland regardless of party affiliation.

Please join me in voting for Angela Hammond and Karen Renner on Nov. 7. They are the right choice for Portland.

Peter Castelli – Portland
Note: Castelli is a candidate for the Portland BAA and a member of the Portland Republican Town Committee but is writing as an individual.

Thanks for Your Support!

To the Editor:
I am writing to ask for your support for my re-election to Hebron's Board of Selectmen. My wife and I have enjoyed being part of this community for the past 25 years and are thankful to have raised our five children in Hebron.

I am proud to live in this community. We nurture and strengthen what we all cherish and what has attracted us to live here. We are fiscally strong and provide a wonderful education for our children. We care about our seniors, our business owners and the beauty of our parks and open space. I realize we will have challenges like every community, as we look to support our infrastructure, create more affordable housing and do so with sensitivity to the impact on our individual taxes. A lot to be thinking about, but I am excited about our future!

Please support those that are volunteering to serve on our Boards and Commissions without a personal or political agenda but one focused on Hebron. These are people willing to collaborate and compromise. These are people who will represent and consider our entire community when they cast their votes and will do so with integrity and transparency. I have striven to exhibit these characteristics during my time on the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Board of Finance and currently on the Board of Selectmen. If I have the privilege to continue my service for the Town of Hebron; I will do my best to approach our collective challenges with our community values at the forefront of my focus.

Thank you for your support! Thank you to all of those who are stepping up to volunteer to serve! Thank you for coming out to vote!

Although I currently serve on Hebron's Board of Selectmen; I am writing as an individual.

Peter Kasper – Hebron

Supports Tripp

To Residents of Portland:
I am writing in support of Jim Tripp as a continuing member of Portland's Board of Selectmen. As a member of Portland's Brownstone Quorum volunteer group, the Portland Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee and past member of the Portland Lions Club, the Portland Economic Development Commission, and other Portland organizations, I have been involved with Jim in most of these groups either directly as a leader/member, or indirectly in his role as selectman. Consequently, I've had the opportunity to work with him for many years on a variety of projects and initiatives that have taken our town in a direction of positive change and thoughtful development. He has always displayed the skill, knowledge and temperament necessary to successfully negotiate the challenges involved and complete the task at hand. He has demonstrated that he is perfectly suited to be in public service.

Please join me in voting for Jim Tripp as Selectman on Nov. 7.

Frank Winiski – Portland

Supports Murray and Person

To the Editor:
Our current Board of Selectmen (Jeff Maguire, Adrian Mandeville, Scott Person, Jeff Murray and Paula King) with our town administrator, Eric Anderson, have done an amazing job getting things done for this town. Over the last few years they managed to accomplish the following.

Two bridges replaced funded without any Andover taxpayer money. Miles of Roads repaved and chip sealed. Public Works updated with a supervisor and new equipment. Over a thousand dead trees removed from the roadways. Updates to Veterans Monument Park. Repairs and new roof on the Andover museum. New senior transportation vehicles. Funds for New senior transportation garage. New rail trail parking lot on Center Street and Lake Road. Transfer station upgrades. New welcome to Andover sign, Library gutter and window repairs. New public works roof. New website and alert system. New community center breaking ground!!!

In all the years we have been here, these have been the most productive for our town. You have two votes for selectmen. Please support Scott Person and Jeff Murray. They've been doing a wonderful job without controversy and deserve our support.

Thank you,
Marcie Miner – Andover

Vote on Nov. 7!

Dear Hebron Residents:
I wanted to share one of the Hebron Public School BOE candidates that I will be voting for, Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl. Allyson has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to ensure a safe environment for children and teachers during one of the most challenging times in our history. She listened, she questioned, she read, and read some more, the letters from parents, teachers, professionals, CDC publications, state guidelines, other school pandemic plans, etc. Allyson spent time talking to other constituents, even when she was not "at the office." I watched her, and the rest of the board, make decisions when there was no one way to do things. I watched her listen to other board members, ask questions, speak up and help the board come to a consensus on various topics throughout the years. When the Hebron Public Schools budget was in jeopardy this past spring, Allyson was attending the meetings and spoke up on behalf of our children and schools.

This dedication, hard work, loyalty and commitment are not qualities all people possess. After four years on the Board of Education, I am so glad she is running again and know she will continue to do an outstanding job for our children and our schools. Join me in voting for Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl on Nov. 7!

Kathryn Hnat – Amston

Wonderful Community Resource

To the Editor:
I would like to thank the *Rivereast*, and especially the editor, Mike Thompson. You are a wonderful community resource. I enjoy all the articles on our towns, and appreciate the many letters to the editor you print. You provide a great service to all of us, and have done so for many years.

Simply, thank you.

Best,
Susan S. Bransfield – Portland

Portland Democratic Candidates

To the Editor:
In my continuing education about Portland people, politics, processes and politicians, it was my great pleasure to have recently "manned" the Democratic Party tent at the Portland Fair. In so doing, I was able to spend even more quality time meeting with and learning about our four Board of Selectmen and four Board of Education candidates. I got to know about the lives and aspirations of my fellow Democrats and happily discovered that not all venues in Portland politics are necessarily "manned." (I also learned that political free speech is alive and well in Portland—even if only obscenity-filled and shouted from 50 feet away but, that's for another letter...)

In addition to our all-female Board of Education candidates, I learned more about our male and female Board of Selectmen candidates; Andrea Alfano, Jillian Crawford, John Dillon and Jim Tripp. The political experience and professional acumen of Andrea, John and Jim is truly impressive. Jillian Crawford, the youngest candidate, armed with an undergraduate degree in political science and plans for a career in law, spent many (often rainy) hours "manning" the tent and the days prior to and since the Fair, door-knocking her way across Portland. While just one of her many qualities, her stamina is remarkable.

Jillian's statement about herself not only belies her age but also tells you all you need to know about her values: "I hope to give back to the community that has been so good to me over the years and fight for those who love Portland just as much as me. I will work to ensure that all Portland voices are heard." Jillian's comments capture the themes of selflessness, diversity and inclusion that has, to me, been evidenced in the words and actions of every member of the Democratic slate of candidates.

Vote like it matters on Nov. 7. Vote Democratic.

Cynthia L. Tyler – Portland

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

Important Offices

To the Editor:

There are several good candidates for our local boards: Republican and Democrat. However, there are reasons for voting the Democratic ticket, the most convincing being that they are not Republicans and thus not tainted by the current manifestation of that party. It is unfortunate that this is a concern at the local level, but it is, because the Republican Town Committee has brought national tactics to the local level as can be seen by the past two years of local governance under Republican leadership. For this reason, I ask you to vote for Gayle Furman, Michele Wyatt, and Sean Gillespie.

For town clerk, Gayle brings 35 years of community service, including nine years as town clerk. She is a certified municipal clerk, both state and nationally, and a board member of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association. Michele Wyatt should be tax collector again. She is president of the New London Tax Collectors Association and on the board of the Tax Collectors Association of CT. Michele has served as our tax collector for the past eight years. She is active in the Colchester Lions Club and other volunteer organizations. Sean Gillespie will make an excellent treasurer, with 20+ years' experience in IT security, project management and systems administration, including specializing in financial reporting systems.

Collectively, these folks bring a wealth of experience to the offices they desire to fill. They will enhance and improve several functions of our town government, helping to keep the wheels on the bus in a cooperative, non-partisan environment.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Baker for RHAM Board

To the Editor:

My name is Maura Curran Baker, and I am very excited to be running for the RHAM Board of Education! I have lived in Hebron since 2002. My husband and I have two children that attended the Hebron and RHAM schools, one in college and one at RHAM High School. I am running for the Board of Education because of my passion for education and community service.

I have worked as an actuary for 28 years. I believe that the many skills I have acquired in my business career will be an asset to the Board of Education. My actuarial training and practice have given me strong analytical, financial and critical thinking skills, which will be very helpful during budget season. My experience in insurance company management has taught me the importance of active listening, collaboration and strong communication, which are all skills that will transfer to the work of a Board of Education. I am currently the Actuarial Community Learning Lead for my employer because continuous learning is so important in all endeavors. I have also learned the importance and skill of balancing competing priorities during my twenty years as a working mother.

I am excited for the opportunity to bring my skill-set and independent viewpoint to the RHAM Board of Education and for the opportunity to work on behalf of RHAM's students, teachers and staff, as well as the taxpayers, to further our excellent school system.

I ask for your vote on Nov. 7, and please also vote for the other fantastic Democratic candidates on Row A!

Maura Curran Baker – Hebron

Supports Turner for BOF

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in full support of Ted Turner for re-election to the East Hampton Board of Finance. Over his lifetime, Ted has served our community and country in many capacities. I had the pleasure to serve on the Board of Finance and Economic Development Commission with Ted. My experience with Ted is that he is an excellent listener, does his homework, supports all residents and is committed to the community. His life experiences and commitment to do whatever the job entails make him an outstanding candidate. Residents like Ted that serve our community are few and far between.

Please vote for Ted Turner for the East Hampton Board of Finance come November.

Timothy S. Csere – East Hampton

LeMay for School Board

To the Editor:

As you head to the polls on Nov. 7, please consider voting for Eleisha LeMay for a seat on the Board of Education. Eleisha is an experienced school administrator with an advanced degree in Educational Leadership, completing a sixth-year master's in education. While clearly an expert in her field, she more importantly brings passion, energy, and deep commitment to her students. It is an understatement to say that the last few years have been challenging for educators, and while the road ahead could seem impossible at times, Eleisha always spoke of what could be, and how to ensure the needs of students were put first.

A strong Board of Education is critical to the future of our children in Hebron, and I can think of no better representative than Eleisha. She has the technical qualifications given her education and experience, is balanced about the realities and needs of our families and community, and truly believes in and will work toward a continued positive future for Hebron's students. Please consider a vote for Eleisha LeMay on Nov. 7.

Anne Thibeault – Hebron

Why I Am Running!

To the Editor:

As Election Day nears I ask that each of you take the time to vote at the high school, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., on Nov. 7. It is important for you to let your voice be heard.

I decided to run for Town Council for a few reasons. The important one is to bring leadership, consensus building and improve our communication with our residents on matters that impact their day to day lives here in our community.

I will not approve any expenditure unless proper data, research, return on investment and more importantly our tax revenue stream can afford it! We cannot spend freely and continue to put this burden on our taxpayers.

My opposition are suggesting many great ideas for new services in our town which is fine, but with every new service or idea comes a hefty price tag! Inflation is hitting all of us and will only get worse with the uncertainty in the world economy especially our oil.

I will work to protect your money, your family and our community!

Thank you for your vote on Nov. 7!

Deb Cunningham – East Hampton
Republican Candidate for Town Council

Vote for Bernie Dennler

To the Editor:

Please join me and my family by voting for Bernie Dennler for first selectman. Bernie's professional municipal experience and local volunteer experience prove that he will bring positive change to Colchester.

"Bernie taught [Kevin Cwikla] how to be first selectman of [Lebanon]." Mr. Cwikla knows that Bernie will move Colchester in the right direction, which is forward. Bernie is respectful of all voices, listening to everyone; yet willing to determine the needs of Colchester and collaborate with both teams to accomplish joint goals. Only a man with a respectable backbone will stand up to a bully and not throw daggers. Bernie does not run with sciss-sors. Please vote for Bernie Dennler for first selectman.

Sincerely,
Noreen Bibee – Colchester

Democrats Have Heart

To the Editor:

I was reminded this weekend during the Harvest Moon Festival that local politics comes from the heart. One of the guests to our family game area was an older gentleman, blue-collar worker who has lived in town for nearly 40 years. He was so grateful that, despite watching us struggle to get three tents up in the scolding wind and pouring rain, we were still there, trying to make a difference. He noted that he has seen us around town and identifies us as a group people can turn to when they need help. Now more than ever we need people who do not take things personally, who do not try to disguise their poor behavior for passion, and who have shown they can work well with others. We need to elect those who have paid attention to what has been going on in town.

As he noted, "Hebron is a wonderful town to live in, but just like anywhere else, there is need for improvement." He thanked us for taking the time to talk to him and for listening to what he had to say. That is who the Hebron Democratic Town Committee is, and their candidates follow suit. Whether we are fishing our stolen signs out of a water source, engaging with our senior citizens at Colebrook Village or at the Commission on Aging meetings, or listening to people who live on Kinney Road and who are concerned about their wells, the Hebron Democrats are here to help.

We are here to listen. If your values align more with Democrats this election cycle, please vote only Row A on Nov. 7. Democrats have heart. Values matter.

Erin Bussiere, Chair
Hebron Democrats

Restore Respect

To the Editor:

We all know that politics can be rough and tumble. In the clash of ideas, sometimes things can be said that are untrue, hurtful and calculated to do damage to the opposing side. But in a small community like Colchester, where traditionally neighbors sit next to neighbors on boards and commissions, and regardless of party, work side by side to do what is in the best interests of the town - it is shameful, toxic and despicable when we see the Republican candidates using and endorsing below the belt flyers and invective, beyond the bounds of all standards of decency.

During this campaign, through their campaign literature and public appearances, led by the first selectman candidate, the Republicans have reached bottom. Is this a manifestation of their Trumpian allegiance to a man who sets their example for vitriol, lies and threats to anyone that wants to hold them accountable? It is no wonder that so many people of quality do not want to enter the arena of public service when they may be subject to lies and smears and receive threats to themselves and their families. Is this American democracy?

If you care about this and want to change things and return a semblance of respect, vote out the Republicans whose administration has featured chaos, discord, and division and bring back civility, integrity and professionalism to Town Hall. On Nov. 7 – on Row A – please vote for Bernie Dennler and his Democratic team.

Sheila Horvitz – Colchester

Andover Board of Finance

To the Editor:

I have had the privilege to serve on the Board of Finance for the past year after filling a vacancy created by someone resigning. In that time, I have come to know the other members of the board to be hard working individuals giving their time to serve the community. The members of this board are a bipartisan group that have always left politics out of every meeting and worked harmoniously together, always putting the town's best interest first.

I am asking the people of Andover for the opportunity to continue serving them and to support me on Nov. 7.

Respectfully,
William Desrosiers – Andover

Wants Vs. Needs

To the Editor:

This week's Board of Education meeting in East Hampton brought up a couple issues that encapsulates the wants versus needs discussion quite well. First they discussed test scores in the district, and while East Hampton is above state average across the board, we are very average among towns of similar ilk, including consistently lagging behind our neighbor Colchester. Some of the discussion focused on these towns having more specialists in the fields our students struggle in. The most frugal of members agreed with the need for specialists in subjects like math, but want to do so at the expense of our high schools already limited options of AP courses and other options for high performing students. Taking from a need to satisfy another need is not equitable, and does a disservice to our students and our towns future.

The other issue brought up concerning seniors needing a place to play tennis, brings up the problem of the lack of recreation space in this town, despite given ample opportunities to rectify this, the town has consistently sited cost to take inaction. We are seeing the fruits of this policy today when people complain on Facebook about kids riding their bikes dangerously in traffic.

Wants versus needs is a tricky issue for sure, but Republicans' 'just say no' policy is not the answer. For thoughtful leaders to tackle some of the tough issues in town, with an open and transparent mind, vote row A on Nov. 7th.

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton
Candidate for Board of Education

Rosemary Gets It Done

To the Editor:

I have known Rosemary Coyle for more than 30 years. Back in 2010 we were on an Ad Hoc committee titled Colchester Senior Center Study Group. Our purpose was to discuss the needs for and the development of a Senior Center. We visited six sites, three were stand alone buildings and three were Senior/Community Centers. Now, here we are 13 years later and finally a Senior Center is under construction. Rosemary never gave up. Her heart and soul are dedicated to achieving a new Senior Center and she is still such a strong advocate.

Rosemary was an elementary school teacher in Montville and served on the Board of Education here in Colchester. She is deeply concerned not only for the seniors but also for the children. She is a hard worker and comes to her meetings well prepared and organized. When any new issue comes up she does her homework. She does extensive research to get the true facts. She is ready to participate in the discussion with accurate facts and numbers. She will share thoughts and opinions amicably with Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliateds. That's the way to reach proper solutions.

I've often heard that if you need to get something done, ask a busy person. Rosemary certainly fits the bill. She is involved in many community events and she gets it all done. That's exactly what's needed now in Colchester

Please vote for Rosemary Coyle for the Board of Selectmen on Nov. 7. Rosemary and Bernie Dennler and his Democratic team will bring the needed changes. Vote Row A.

Thank you for your support.

Goldie Liverant – Colchester

Ready to Move Forward!

To the Editor:

Colchester, if this election has left a strong impression on me, it's that this community is tired of not being heard.

As I continue to speak to voters, they consistently tell me they are embarrassed by our first selectman's antics. The meltdowns in town meetings, the dramatic ripping up of the agenda, attacking citizens and their families, mocking people, constant sarcasm and self-righteousness are too much.

Let's focus on getting us back to where we should be – moving forward! No more book-banning, no more toxic environment in the Town Hall where a record number of people have left (over 30!) and no more self-promotion speeches filled with "I, I, I, me, me, me."

No more meetings where members of elected boards announce that their minds are made up before information has been presented. No more underfunded budgets that result in constant money transfers and bare-bones functioning. Enough is enough.

We want better; we need better. We deserve better. Join me in voting for Bernie Dennler and the rest of our team.

Let's move this town forward with the people who can get it done!

Michelle Millington – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Education

Responsible, Accountable Leadership

To the Editor:

In this final run-up to municipal elections, Marlborough Democrats hope you will take time to scrutinize the skills, commitments, and experiences of our endorsed candidates. The Democratic slate offers each board and commission candidates with personal and professional strengths specifically suited to knowledgeable, carefully considered performance. These are teams, committed to working with colleagues on and among boards for the continued growth and development of Marlborough.

Due to a new charter Marlborough had a special election which brought Betty O'Brien and Deb Bourbeau, the endorsed Democratic slate, to the Board of Selectmen. They promised, and delivered, balance, communication, collaboration, and transparency to a board that until then had been mired in rude, partisan politics. No more undermining of fellow officials, no more attacks on social media, concerning selectmen. Marlborough has strong, functioning leadership and amazing forward movement; we have an excellent town manager. We are getting good things done for our great community.

Keep the teams who support our town and support each other. Vote the endorsed Democratic slate and build on the responsible, accountable stewardship it offers.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

The Ever-Thinning Line

To the Editor:

One of my greatest dreams in life is a world where we can all share our opinions without people getting mad over the smallest difference from their own. Unless, of course, if what someone says is hurtful. But what quantifies as hurtful can sometimes be an opinion in itself.

An increasingly difficult issue in the world is the presentation of certain subjective ideas as fact. I've said in the past to people I know that many once-proven and factual statements, previously not up for discussion, are now seen as mere opinions, some of which also seen as hurtful. The same is true the other way around; many ideas, once seen as opinions, are now seen as facts; sometimes if you do not wholeheartedly agree with them, you're instantly labeled as a horrible person. This way of thinking should not be confused with being properly and helpfully progressive, like accepting one's individuality. Though the former is bad, and the latter good, both have found their way into places like schools across the world. Because of this, parents and other caregivers are rightfully becoming increasingly concerned with how the former is affecting their children; however some often continue to confuse these two ways of thinking.

The fine line between what's perceived as fact or opinion has been thinning and blurring more and more for a long time, and the consequences of this ongoing change have been affecting too many aspects of our lives. We shouldn't necessarily be seeking agreement between all our beliefs, but instead going back to basics, figuring out what we can be 100% objectively sure on, leaving the rest to be talked about peacefully for the rest of time, and most importantly, never jumping to conclusions.

That should not be too much to ask, but with how imperfect humans are, it unfortunately absolutely is.

Seth Renner, 18
Portland

Costly Lawsuits for Taxpayers

To the Editor:

Our current first aelectman likes to tout himself as the candidate concerned about your tax dollars. Well, currently our tax dollars are being used to fight lawsuits brought on by the toxic work environment in town hall.

One of the lawsuits was filed 2/9/2023 by the former assistant to First Selectman Bisbikos for wrongful termination. This case has been ongoing with at least three dates set for Mr. Bisbikos to give a deposition. With some legal gymnastics, it has been delayed until after the election.

The second lawsuit was also filed by the former assistant to First Selectman Bisbikos – this one against her replacement. This lawsuit was filed 11/15/2022 requesting damages related to an order of protection filed by the new assistant against the former one. This case was also set for deposition multiple times and again legal gymnastics has delayed any resolution until after the election. In the 2021-22 budget and 2022-23 budget First Selectman Bisbikos overspent his budget line item for legal expenses! This is taxpayer money being wasted without any transparency regarding reason for delay in resolution. Both of these lawsuits are a direct result of the toxic environment fostered by the First Selectman.

It's time to end the toxicity in town hall, the frivolous lawsuits and the contentious board meetings.

Join me in voting Row A on Nov. 7: Bernie Dennler for First Selectman; Denise Turner, Rosemary Coyle and Dave Koji for Board of Selectmen; Karen Belding and Scott Chapman for Board of Finance; Michelle Millington , Chris Rivers and Stefanie Tracey-Calash for Board of Education; Michele Wyatt for Tax Collector; Gayle Furman for Town Clerk; Sean Gillespie for Treasurer; myself, Krista Kardys, and Andrew Cournoyer for Board of Assessment Appeals.

The current lawsuits can be reviewed at <https://www.jud.ct.gov/jud2.htm>

Krista Kardys – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals

Wisniewski and Engelhardt for BOE

To the Editor:

This election season we are presented with an opportunity to elect some new faces to public office in East Hampton. There are some excellent candidates on the ballot this year, running on the Democratic ticket.

In particular, Paul Wisniewski and Matt Engelhardt are both outstanding candidates for Board of Education; we in East Hampton would be very fortunate to have them serve as members.

Paul and Matt are each intelligent, hard-working parents with children in our public school system. They are both actively involved in our community; for as long as I've known each of them, they have been working to make East Hampton a better place for all members of our community. They are truly dedicated to serving our community – they are genuinely interested in listening and learning; they put in the effort, do the necessary research, and show up and do the work.

The Board of Education, including the members elected on Nov. 7, will be responsible for selecting our next Superintendent of Schools. This is an extremely important task, and it is one I would absolutely entrust to Paul and Matt.

Elections have consequences, especially at the local level. Our Board of Education should be comprised of intelligent, hard working individuals who are dedicated to education and devoted to their community. With Matt and Paul, we have two such candidates. I hope that the citizens of East Hampton are smart enough to recognize the potential in these candidates and elect Paul Wisniewski and Matt Engelhardt to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Audrey Stein – East Hampton

Dennler for First Selectman

To the Editor:

I'm voting for Bernie Dennler and the rest of the Democratic team because they're the best equipped to repair the damage Bisbikos has done to Colchester. Bibikos' nonstop antics and immature games have been embarrassing for Colchester and have cost us taxpayers real money in lawsuits, project delays, good employees leaving, and more.

Let's bring Colchester together on Nov. 7!

John Farrell – Colchester

Good Reason for Honor

To the Editor:

On Oct. 30, Susan Bransfield will be honored for her commitment to helping others, and with good reason. Even though Susan retired as our first selectwoman two years ago, Portland has continued to benefit from her and her administration's success and careful planning. Before Susan left office she completed many projects and ensured Portland's continued success by securing grant money for future projects.

The current construction you see happening around town is the product of Susan's thoughtful, considerate future planning for the town she loves and dedicated so many years of hard work to.

The sidewalk projects you see being completed around town right now are from a grant she secured for us in 2021.

The senior center kitchen renovation project that was just completed, with the ribbon-cutting planned for this week, was made possible by the grant she submitted before retiring in 2021.

The riverfront brownfields remediation is a result of her commitment to clean up the riverfront through the Brownfields grant she received in 2020.

The new fire pumper truck, the new roof on Company 2 Fire Department, our newly renovated salt shed, all the new windows at the Buck Foreman Center, and the Brainerd Place Development are all results of Susan and her administration's hard work and dedication to her community.

Portland is lucky to have had Susan Bransfield as our leader for so many years. A woman who is still contributing to our town's progress years after stepping down as our leader.

Susan will be receiving the Governor William A. O'Neill Public Service Award on Monday, Oct. 30, at the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce member breakfast in Rocky Hill.

April Graves – Portland
See Letters, page 34

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum
 ★ *Letters cont. from page 33*

Alarm Bells Are Going Off
 To the Editor:
 Last week I attended the AARP “Meet the Candidates” forum. While there I had a discussion with a current member of the Board of Education. They explained something to me that was so far beyond my expectation it was eye-opening. My expectation for our school board is they oversee the operation of the school system, including the finances.

This person told me that the Board of Education doesn't play an active role in developing the school budget and managing the school's finances. That the Board's Budget Finance Committee doesn't do anything, they let the superintendent handle the finances. I was in shock; the BOE doesn't believe the school's finances are their responsibility. Alarm bells are going off this election.
 If you're interested in voting for a candidate for BOE who actually believes a part of his job responsibility as a BOE member is to manage the school's finances, please consider voting for Republican John Consiglio.
 This year the BOF chairwoman, Andrea Migliaccio, didn't allow the BOE to push a rubber-stamped budget through to referendum. We should be very concerned that a future BOF would push a budget to the citizens blindly. As a taxpayer, my greatest concern is green-lighting budgets without scrutiny from your elected representatives.

If you want to vote for candidates who believe in the BOF mission statement, “Balancing the needs of Colchester with its ability to pay,” please consider voting for Republicans Andrea Migliaccio and myself, Micahel Dubreuil. We promise to put in the work to ensure the budgets are reasonable, to listen to the citizens, and keep Colchester affordable for all.

Sincerely,
 Michael Dubreuil – Colchester
 Republican Candidate, Board of Finance

TOWN OF ANDOVER

LEGAL NOTICE

WARNING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Electors of the Town of Andover, Connecticut are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling place in said town on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 for the purpose of casting their votes for:

First Selectman
Board of Selectmen
Town Clerk
Board of Finance
Board of Education
Board of Assessment Appeals
Planning & Zoning Commission
Planning & Zoning Commission alternate
Zoning Board of Appeals
Zoning Board of Appeals alternate
Board of Fire Commissioners
Region 8 Board of Education

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is as follows;

Voting District	Location of Polling Place
1	Community Room Town Office Building 17 School Road Andover, CT 06232

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.
Election Day Registration will be available in the Registrar of Voters Office – 17 School Road.
Voting Tabulators will be used. The polls will open at 6 a.m. and remain open until 8 p.m.
Dated at Andover, CT this 20th day of October, 2023
Carol H. Lee
Town Clerk

1TB 10/27

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7:00pm 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. **Approved with the following conditions:**

- Any proposed lighting shall utilize full cut-off light fixtures.
- A six-foot tall row of coniferous trees shall be planted along the north and northeast sides of the garage.
- The proposed garage shall be constructed with a matte finish and as depicted in the renderings provided.
- Silt fence shall be installed prior to construction.
- The approval does not permit the proposed carport.

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. **Approved.**

Petition 2023-06 - Petition of John Tarquinio to amend an approved Site Plan at 33 East Street, Residence-1 District. Approved with the following conditions:

- Any proposed lighting shall utilize full cut-off fixtures.
- Evergreen trees shall be planted on the north side of the garage subject to Town staff review.

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. **Approved with an effective date of January 1, 2024.**

Sign Application – Application of Matt Haskell for Artfx, Agent, for permit to erect new freestanding ground sign for Savy Brothers LLC at 612 Church St, Amston Village District. **Approved with the following conditions:**

- Ground lighting shall not glare off the site.
- Landscaping shall consist of native plant variety.
- Sign finish shall be a low luster finish.
- Location of the proposed sign shall be reviewed by Town staff.
- The existing sign shall be removed.

The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting can be seen using the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#!/s/564014756faa6d4785674fdd96fbd630d7901f03ef567a6bd9a1671dc456ab65>
 Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on October 27, 2023.

1TB 10/27

Matra for Hebron BOS
 To the Editor:
 Hebron is a great community. But we are facing challenges. I believe we need transparency in town government promoting respect and inclusivity for all residents. We need economic development to grow the tax base that is sustainable and honors our commitment to the environment. We need to ensure we are making fiscally responsible investments in our schools, ensuring our children have the critical thinking skills needed in an ever-changing world. We need to make Hebron affordable for our workforce and seniors. I don't know where my Republican counterparts stand on the real issues facing Hebron. The only messaging I have seen from them during this campaign has been that the status quo is just fine.
 I promise you this, I will work hard for all of Hebron and will listen – not only to Democrats, but all residents, and approach every decision in an open, responsible, and reasonable way. I have always believed that If you do not like something, don't complain – work to fix or change it. That is why I am running for the Hebron Board of Selectmen. I ask for your vote on Nov. 7.
 John Matra – Hebron
 Candidate for Board of Selectmen

INVITATION TO BID

LANDSCAPING SERVICES

HEBRON, CONNECTICUT October 27, 2023

Bid # 2023-03

Regional School District 8 (“Reg. 8”) Board of Education is seeking competitive bids for landscaping services related to the **grounds at RHAM High/Middle School 85 Wall Street** in Hebron, CT. The Scope of Work for the services being sought, which includes both labor and equipment, is fully described in the Instructions to Bidders and other Bidding Documents. This Invitation to Bid, the Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents are available for viewing and downloading on Reg. 8's website at the following web address: https://www.rhamschools.org/departments/business_office/r_f_p_bids

There will be no pre-bid meeting.
Sealed Bids for “**Landscaping Services for RHAM High/Middle School**” 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 **3:00 pm on November 28, 2023**. All bids will be publicly opened and will be read aloud. Bid Results will also be posted on the District website for review within 24 hours of bid opening. Emailed or faxed Bids will not be accepted. To obtain or review Bids refer to the Bidding Instructions.

Reg. 8 reserves the right to amend or withdraw this Request for Proposals (RFP) for any reason (including, but not limited to, the lack of funding for the Services), to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in any bid submission, to award or not award a contract in connection with this RFP, and to award a contract to the bidder as deemed by Reg. 8 to be in the best interest of Reg. 8 and the District. No bidder may withdraw its Bid within sixty (60) days of the date of the opening of the Bids.

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 **2:30 pm on November 06, 2023** and responses will be posted via addendum available on the District's web site no later than **2:30 pm on November 13, 2023**.

Eva Gallupe
Business Manager
Regional School District 8
85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248
(860) 228-2115
eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org

1TB 10/27

INVITATION TO BID

SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

HEBRON, CONNECTICUT October 27, 2023

Bid # 2023-2

Regional School District 8 (“Reg. 8”) is seeking competitive bids for snow removal services for the **grounds at RHAM High/Middle School, located at 85 Wall Street** in Hebron, CT and related areas, as set forth herein, for the period from November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029. The Scope of Work for the snow removal services being sought, which includes labor, materials, and equipment, is fully described in the Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents. This Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents are available for viewing and downloading on Reg. 8's website at the following web address: https://www.rhamschools.org/departments/business_office/r_f_p_bids

There will be no pre-bid meeting. If you would like to walk the campus, please reach out to Michael Schlehofer, Director of Facilities at: michael.schlehofer@rhamschools.org

For security purposes, an appointment is required and all visits must be completed before 2:30 PM on November 6, 2023.

Sealed Bids for “**Snow Removal Services for RHAM High/Middle School**” 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 28, 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 the bid opening. Emailed or faxed Bids will not be accepted. To obtain or review Bids refer to the Instructions to Bidders.

Reg. 8 reserves the right to amend or withdraw this Request for Proposals (RFP) for any reason (including, but not limited to, the lack of funding for the Services), to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in any bid submission, to award or not award a contract in connection with this RFP, and to award a contract to the bidder as deemed by Reg. 8 to be in the best interest of Reg. 8 and the District. No bidder may withdraw its Bid within sixty (60) days of the date of the opening of the Bids.

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 **2:30 pm on November 06, 2023** and responses will be posted via addendum available on the District's web site no later than **2:30 pm on November 13, 2023**.

Eva Gallupe
Business Manager
Regional School District 8
85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248
(860) 228-2115
eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org

1TB 10/27

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of East Hampton that the sewer use payment is due and payable on October 1, 2023. East Hampton Sewer Use bills may be paid in two equal installments; October 1 and April 1. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the October 1, 2023 installment without a penalty is November 1, 2023. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2024. The October bill is a three-part form which includes the April installment.** Payments received November 2, 2023 and later, including payments postmarked November 2, 2023 and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month, or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before November 1, 2023 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.

Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at www.easthamptonct.gov **Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.**

Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Scott Clayton
Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 9/22, 10/6, 10/27

TOWN OF PORTLAND

LEGAL NOTICE

MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The electors and qualified voters of the Town of Portland are hereby warned and notified that a Municipal Election will be held at the polling place in said town on Tuesday November 7, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm to elect the following: First Selectman (1), Board of Selectmen (6), Town Clerk (1), Board of Education - Full Term (3), Board of Education - To Fill a Vacancy (1), Board of Assessment Appeals (3), Zoning Board of Appeals - 5 Year Term Begins 2023 (1), & Zoning Board of Appeals - 5 Year Term Begins 2024 (1)

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is: **Portland Middle School, 93 High Street Portland, Connecticut.** The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening. Election Day Registration (EDR) will occur at the same location. Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls. Paper ballots and tabulators will be used.

ATTEST:
Michael V. Tierney
Portland Town Clerk
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 24th day of October, 2023

1TB 10/27

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2023

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM NOVEMBER 28, 2023

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, will be held at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, in the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, on November 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., for the following purpose:

- To consider and discuss a resolution,
 - to appropriate an additional \$32,691 of American Rescue Plan Act funds and \$575,000 of funds from a donation received from the Estate of Stephen J. Bendas (thereby increasing the appropriation by \$607,691 to an aggregate \$10,107,691) for additional costs related to the Senior Center Building Project, including the design and construction of a new Senior Center on Lebanon Avenue between Louis Lane and Mill Street, substantially as described in the Conceptual Design prepared by Silver Petrucelli Architects and presented January 21, 2021. The building committee established for the project shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project and to reduce or modify the project, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so modified or reduced. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, testing and permitting costs, equipment, furnishings and fixtures, materials, land and easement acquisition, site improvements, utilities, engineering fees, project management costs and fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.
 - to authorize the issue of bonds and notes and temporary notes of the Town in an additional amount not to exceed 892,309 (for an aggregate borrowing authorization of \$10,392,309); to provide that the amount of bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project; and to authorize a majority of the Selectmen and the Treasurer of the Town to determine, the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, form and other particulars of the bonds or notes.
- Pursuant to the Town Charter and to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, to adjourn said town meeting at its conclusion and to submit the aforesaid resolutions to a vote upon voting machines on November 28, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Electors and persons qualified to vote in town meetings who are not electors will vote at the following polling place: Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue in Colchester, Connecticut. The aforesaid resolution will be placed on the voting machines under the following heading:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND AN ADDITIONAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$32,691 OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND \$575,000 OF FUNDS FROM A DONATION RECEIVED FROM THE ESTATE OF STEPHEN J. BENDAS (INCREASING THE APPROPRIATION BY \$607,691 TO AN AGGREGATE \$10,107,691) FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING OF A NEW SENIOR CENTER?”

“SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND AN ADDITIONAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$892,309 (INCREASING THE APPROPRIATION TO AN AGGREGATE \$11,000,000) FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING OF A NEW SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$892,309 (INCREASING THE BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO AN AGGREGATE 10,392,309) TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAIDED FROM GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDS?”

Voters approving said resolutions will vote “Yes” and those opposing said resolutions will vote “No.” Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

Dated at Colchester, Connecticut, this 23rd day of October, 2023.

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman
Rosemary Boyle, Selectman
Deborah Bates, Selectman

Jason LaChapelle, Selectman

Denise Turner, Selectman

Gayle Furman, Town Clerk

1TB 10/27

NEWS BULLETIN • October 27, 2023

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

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, CT

WARNING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The electors of the Town of East Hampton are hereby warned to meet at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple Street, East Hampton on November 7, 2023 to cast ballots for the following offices:

Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2023, and Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2024.

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls. Election Day registration will take place at the polls.

Optical scan voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be open at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and close at eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.)

Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut, this 24th day of October 2023.

Kelly Bilodeau, CMC, CCTC East Hampton Town Clerk

1TB 10/27

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 10/27

LEGALS

NOTICE OF ACTION
TOWN OF ANDOVER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

ACTION NOTICE – The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) took the following action at their regular meeting of October 18, 2023:
DENIED – Application of Vincent Grimaldi, Property located at 357 Lake Road. The ZBA denied a request for relief from Section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations. More particularly, the applicant was seeking a reduction in the sideyard setback from 25' to 18' to allow for the construction of an accessory structure.
Direct any questions to the Zoning Agent at zoning@andoverct.org or, via telephone at 860-742-7305.

1TB 10/27

Legal Notice
Andover Inland Wetlands and
Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on October 18, 2023:
• Application **#IWWC 23-18**: Chris Morrell, **31 Lakeside Drive**- Replacement of a septic leaching system and connection to existing septic tank. Septic system is within the 200-foot Upland Review Area of Andover Lake.
The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.

1TB 10/27

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
November 7, 2023

The Electors and qualified voters of the Town of Marlborough are hereby warned, to meet at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School, Community Room, School Drive, Marlborough, Connecticut, on November 7, 2023 from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., for the following purpose, to wit:

TO CAST THEIR VOTES FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

SELECTMEN
TOWN CLERK
TOWN TREASURER
TAX COLLECTOR
BOARD OF FINANCE
BOARD OF FINANCE ALT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS
PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION ALT
ZONING COMMISSION
ZONING COMMISSION ALT
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALT
REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Absentee Ballots will be made available in the Town Clerk's Office in accordance with the law.
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is as follows:
Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School, Community Room, 25 School Drive, Marlborough Connecticut, which is also the central location for counting absentee ballots.
Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be open at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.). Electors shall cast their votes at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School, Community Room, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, Connecticut, which is also the central location for counting absentee ballots.
DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 17TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.
Lauren A. Griffin
Town Clerk
Town of Marlborough

1TB 10/27

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
MUNICIPAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The electors of the Town of Colchester are hereby warned to meet on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm for the purpose of casting their vote in the MUNICIPAL ELECTION.
A complete list of nominees and sample ballot can be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours. Optical voting machines will be used.
Voting will take place at the following locations:
District #1: Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT
District #2: Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God, 85 Skinner Rd, Colchester, CT
District #3: Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT
Absentee Ballots will be counted at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT
Election Day Registration will take place at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT.
Dated this 23rd day of October 2023.
Gayle Furman
Town Clerk

1TB 10/27

MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of Marlborough that a sewer usage charge is due in one installment on October 1, 2023. The last day to pay without interest is November 1, 2023. Interest for a late payment is 1.5% per month reverting to the due date. Minimum interest is \$2.00. The usage charge set for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is \$587.00 per EDU. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest. Contact the tax office immediately if you do not receive a bill. Please make checks payable to MWPCA (Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority). Payments may be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT. 06447. There is a lock box to the left of the Town Hall door for check payments only, or at the Tax Office in the Town Hall, 26 No. Main Street, Marlborough, CT. The Tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Barbara C. Murray, WPCA Collector

3TB 9/29, 10/6, 10/27

TOWN OF HEBRON
SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE

Sewer Use Bills are due and payable October 1, 2023. The billing rate is \$592 which may be paid in two equal installments, the first installment being due October 1, 2023 and the second installment being due April 1, 2024.
First Installment payments must be postmarked or received no later than November 1, 2023 to be considered on time with no additional charges. Second Installments must be postmarked or received no later than May 1, 2024. Payments that are unpaid as of November 2, 2023 and May 2, 2024, will be charged interest of 1.5% per month retroactive to the installment due date per State Statute 12-146.
To make payments by check, please make check payable to: Town of Hebron. Payments may be mailed to: Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. If desired, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a receipt. There is a drop-off box attached to the Town Office Building located next to the entrance on the lower level, south side. In addition there is a box inside the building located in the hallway between the Tax and Assessor's Office. Payments left in the box after the close of business will be retrieved the following morning.
The Collector's office is located in the lower level of the Town Hall at 15 Gilead Street. Hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 8:00am to 1:00pm. Please note Monday – Thursday the office is closed for lunch from 12:30pm – 1:15pm.
Respectfully,
Adrian MacLean
Revenue Collector

3TB 9/29, 10/6, 10/27

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The Electors of the Town of Hebron, CT are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, for the following purposes:
To cast their votes for the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning & Zoning Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission Alternates, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates and Regional Board of Education.
Absentee ballots will be counted in accordance with §9-147a of the General Statutes.
Notice is hereby given that the location of polling places is as follows:

Voting District	Location of Polling Place
1	Hebron Elementary School
	92 Church St, Hebron CT

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 27th day of October 2023.
Francesca Villani
Hebron Town Clerk

1TB 10/27

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.



CASH PAID for any Toyota
Other makes, running or not, crashed ok. Will take other makes and models.
Free pickup. Call any time:
\$ 203-600-4431 \$

CT1-12-23

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

APARTMENT FOR RENT: Available in East Hartford near Glastonbury line. 1 & 2 bedrooms heat and hot water included. Starting at \$1,550. 860-881-7479.


293 OAKWOOD DRIVE GLASTONBURY: warehouse space 2,550 expandable to 3,400 sqft available. Space includes 14.5' garage door and ceilings. Private bathroom included. Limited Parking. Contact George for more information, 860-633-3353.

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 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.

TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT: for rent in Hebron, 2nd floor. Recently remodeled. \$1450 per month plus security. 860-604-6665.



REAL ESTATE

Your local friend in Real Estate

Always find a reason to laugh.
It may not add years to your life, but
it will surely add life to your years!



ANGELA ARESCO
Better Service | Better Marketing | Better Results
Better Real Estate

860.883.9005
angelaaresco@sbcglobal.net
www.angelaaresco.com




RE10-27-23

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverest News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

WATERFRONT





Marlborough \$1,300,000

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RE12-16-22

TAG SALES

GARAGE TAG SALE: Sat-Sun, Oct 28-29, 10am-1pm. 349 Cavan Lane, Glastonbury. Dining and living room furniture, glassware, rugs, house décor, tools, exercise equipment, NAS-CAR, and much more.

MOVING TAG SALE: Sat, Oct 28th, 8a-2p. Vintage glassware, lamps, furniture, mattresses, clothes, piano, and more! 36 Shagbark Road, Glastonbury.

MOVING TAG SALE: Saturday, October 28th, 8AM-4PM, 52 Wood Pond Road, Glastonbury. Household, kitchen & lawn items, platters and mugs, books/music/ DVDs/LPs, decorative items, and more!

YARD SALE: Antiques, furniture, art work, frames, china, books, cast iron tub, antique type writer. Years of accumulation. Sat, Oct 28th, 9-3. 1066 Washington St ext., Middletown.

TAG SALE: Sat, Oct 28th, 383 Founders Rd, Glastonbury. 8am-12pm. Yamaha keyboard, silver-plated items, tools, storage containers-large to small, metal shelving (6x4x1), household items, king bed frame (easy to assemble), floor fans, floor lamp, CDs/ DVDs, and more. Items priced from \$1 to \$300. Rain or shine.

TOOL SALE: Oct 28th, 8:30-2pm. 48 McKenzie Street, Middletown. Belt, orbit and fishing sanders, skill saw, framing nail gun, joiner, ladders, work lights, drywall tools, all-in-one printer, cd player, receivers.

FOR SALE

CYCLONERAKE 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.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: \$260 per CORD. Call 860-608-1919.



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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.

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