

# News Bulletin

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

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**The Year of Barbie...** “You can do anything” is the message from Astronaut Barbie, conceived and created by 10-year-old Ellowyn Loudonbach and her Grandma Jo Souza, both of Hebron. Barbie is sharing the message to encourage girls and women to follow their passions and strive to accomplish their goals. This Barbie is one of many scarecrows to be on display on Main Street in Hebron for the month of October. Viewers can vote for their favorite at the Harvest Moon Festival, sponsored by the Town Center Project, on Oct. 21.

## Candidates Clash At Colchester Forum

By Michael Sinkewicz

The candidates for Colchester first selectman publicly sparred this week, offering distinct visions for the town’s future and challenging each other’s qualifications for control of the corner office at Town Hall.

The “meet the candidates” event, hosted by the Colchester Business Association at the St. Joseph’s Polish Club on Tuesday night, represented the first opportunity for the incumbent first selectman, Republican Andreas Bisbikos, and his Democratic challenger, Bernie Dennler, to field questions and make their pitch to voters with Election Day one month away.

While the candidates began the forum with a cordial handshake, the tone of the night was largely combative, with Bisbikos seizing the chance to hammer both Dennler and the Democratic slate. Earlier in the night, both party tickets were briefly introduced, with each candidate for the upcoming municipal election handed roughly one minute to spotlight their own resumes.

Dennler, who currently works as the office manager for the Lebanon first selectman and who previously served as vice chair of both the Colchester Board of Finance and the Economic Development Commission, used the forum to paint the current climate at Town Hall as dysfunctional. Along with considerable employee turnover in the past two years, Dennler asserted that officials have struggled to work in a bipartisan manner.

“Right now, when you look at our board meetings, that’s not happening,” he said of bipartisanship. “We have police getting involved at the meetings; we have news reports every other week it seems about some sort of chaos or dysfunction that is taking place either at our public meetings or at Colchester Town Hall. And it is creating an

image of our community that I believe is really not representative of the town that I grew up in, the town that I love, and the town where you do business.”

Bisbikos casted himself as the only candidate with first selectman experience and a credible list of accomplishments. He labeled Dennler as a “socialist” who would raise taxes, and described him as a Democratic “puppet.”

“Mr. Dennler works in Lebanon four days a week doing secretarial work,” he said. “He is not qualified to lead the town.”

Both candidates answered five questions in addition to their opening and closing statements, spanning roughly 30 minutes. The audience, which consisted mostly of local business representatives, remained mainly muted, with only one noticeable reaction – mainly groans – during Bisbikos’ closing argument, where he attacked Democrats for allegedly both participating in and covering up corruption, including the town clerk who he accused of misappropriating funds.

The incumbent’s final words of the forum were addressed directly to his opponent: “Good luck, Bernie; hopefully you’ll have a backbone.”

### A Contentious Forum

After the forum, Republican Town Committee Chairman Taras Rudko, who is also running for a Board of Selectmen seat, told the *Rivereast* that “both candidates missed knowing their audience.”

“That might have been a little bit of a challenge this evening in regard to the messaging and the way it was conveyed based on the audience,” he said. “I personally would’ve done it much differently.”

Monica Swyden, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, said she felt Dennler had an

See *Colchester Forum*, page 33

## Marlborough Candidates Removed from Ballot

By Michael Sinkewicz

Marlborough’s Independent Party Slate Committee has been removed from the upcoming November election ballot, a crushing blow for the political group looking to permanently establish itself in the community.

On Sept. 14, an elections officer with the office of the secretary of the state alerted the slate committee that it had missed a Sept. 6 deadline for submitting a required piece of election documentation, resulting in the proposed independent municipal candidates being disapproved.

Now, the election bids of 17 candidates — although some were placeholders — have officially been ended; “row C” will not be on the Nov. 7 ballot.

The missing document — “a statement of endorsement” — is a form that the petitioning minor party files with the state.

“There are deadlines and they’re posted on our website,” Tara Chozet, director of communications for the office of the secretary of the state, told the *Rivereast*.

Chozet stated that minor party recognition is on an office-by-office basis, and if a candidate receives at least 1% of the vote in the election for an office, party-status is established for that office for the next election.

The committee had received the requisite petition signatures required to form a “row C” on the ballot. The Marlborough town clerk’s office validated the petition, followed by the secretary of state.

Previously, slate committee members expressed that several candidates were expected to not only reach the Election Day benchmark, but win their seats outright.

In a statement posted online, the slate committee asserted that the process required by the state “has many opportunities for improvement.”

“We were not aware of the requirement for one final document required by the secretary of the state and a deadline for that document was missed,” the group wrote. “Therefore, all our hard work will not take us onto the November ballot.”

The future of the slate committee remains uncertain; the group’s statement hinted that a shift in leadership may take place before 2025.

“If anyone from our community would like to continue the Independent Party of Marlborough, please reach out to one of the Founding Members. We would be happy to transition even-”

See *Marlborough Candidates*, page 33

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### Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

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

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

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

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

Purchases will benefit the food pantry.

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## UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE

An updated COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized.

New vaccine authorizations include:  
Pfizer for those 6 months and older  
Moderna for those 6 months and older

### What is different about the updated COVID-19 vaccine?

The 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines more closely target the Omicron variant currently in circulation and could restore protection against severe COVID-19 that may have decreased over time.

For more information about vaccine recommendations and clinic locations, please visit the CDC and Chatham Health websites:

Please contact [info@chathamhealth.org](mailto:info@chathamhealth.org) with any questions

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### 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](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://www.andoverctchurch.org).

**Children's Church:** Sunday school is provided.

### Revolutionary War Headstones

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

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

ed.

**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 Stamps:** Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

### Library Friends Book & Bake Sale

The Andover Friends of the Library group announces its annual Book & Bake Sale.

New this year is a "Preview Sale" on Friday, Oct. 13, from 6-8 p.m. On Friday night, admission to preview is free for Library Friends and \$5 for others. The regular sale, free to all, is Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Both Friday evening and Saturday sales will be conducted at the First Congregational Church of Andover, 359 Route 6, across the street from the library.

Book donations are encouraged and being accepted now. They may be dropped off at the library only during open hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Gently-used print and audiobooks for all ages, fiction or nonfiction; DVDs and CDs in good, playable condition are also welcome. Please, no VHS tapes, textbooks, encyclopedias, and noth-

ing moldy or smelly. Do not leave items in the library book drop or outside the building at any time. The last day to make donations is Thursday, Oct. 12.

Volunteers are needed – to donate baked goods, set up tables or work sale on Friday, Oct. 13, and sell books/baked goods, straighten/consolidate books, and break down tables on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the end of the sale. If interested in volunteering, email the Library Friends at [andoverfol@gmail.com](mailto:andoverfol@gmail.com), call the library at 860-742-7428 or let library staff know when you visit.

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

### 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](http://andoverct.org).

**Senior Luncheon:** 10/20, at the Town Hall at noon, with lunch from Chili's and speaker Mark Hand, a broker who will explain the various changes in senior benefits for 2024. Reservations required for all lunches – no walk-ins accepted.

**Shopping:** Tuesdays. Manchester – Oct. 17 and 31. Willimantic – Oct. 10 and 24.

**Trips:** Belltown Orchards, Oct. 12; Christmas Party, Dec. 1, at Villa Louisa's, Christmas Show, Friday, Dec. 8. Contact Carol Lee for information.

**Flu Clinic:** Held at the town hall community room on Thursday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; no reservations necessary. COVID boosters and pneumonia shots available if needed. Bring your

insurance cards, Medicare or Medicaid cards. Questions, please call Palazzi.

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

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

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

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

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

**Belltown Orchards:** Senior Transportation will take seniors to Belltown Orchards on Wednesday, Oct. 11, leaving town hall at 10:30 a.m. Call for information or a ride.

### Tag Sale to Benefit Senior Lunch Program

The Andover Seniors are looking for donations of items to sell at their tag sale that will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, in the Andover Elementary School gym.

Bring any items that you would like to donate to the Town Office building from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3. All proceeds benefit the Senior Lunch Program.

### Vendors Wanted

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

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

### CPR and First Aid Class

All are invited to learn CPR and first aid Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Andover Volunteer Fire Department.

Cost is \$20 for CPR or CPR and First Aid. Classes include use of training materials, CPR for adult, child and infant; AED training; choking; first aid; and a two-year certification from the American Heart Association.

Registration is required; to do so, call Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074.

RE10-6-23

**From the Editor's Desk**

**Observations & Ruminations**

By Mike Thompson

I know the temperatures have been in the 70s and low 80s this week, but don't let that fool you: Election Day is still a month away.

Yes, folks, we're entering the home stretch. And, as such, there are some important deadlines coming up that all of you need to know about.

Next week's *Rivereast* – the Oct. 13 issue – will be the last one in which I'll run photos of candidates out and about, doing, for lack of a better word, "candidate things." Photos of candidates meeting voters, eating doughnuts at the local fair (Politicians! They're just like us!), standing in front of campaign headquarters, etc.

Don't get me wrong: those types of photos would still be welcome but they should really be in the form of a paid political ad. Want to place an ad? Call us 860-633-4691 and ask for either Jason (if you're in Colchester, Marlborough, Hebron, East Hampton or Portland) or Lisa (if you're in Andover).

Why am I imposing this deadline? Well, I do it every year, just to eliminate any hint that the *Rivereast* supports any particular candidates over anyone else. I don't think anybody would really take it that way but, I figure, why take a chance?

The interest of being fair also governs my next deadline: The Oct. 27 issue will be the last one in which letter-writers can attack other candidates, or raise any new issues. The mud-slinging this year has been worse than usual, but hopefully folks can get it all out of their systems the next few weeks.

The following week's issue, Nov. 3, will contain positive letters only. No letters attacking any of the candidates. Why? Because that will be the last *Rivereast* before Election Day, and people simply won't have time to respond before Election Day.

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

Every year I impose similar deadlines and restrictions, and every year people abide by them. I expect this year to be no different. So, to that end, thanks in advance for your cooperation.

\*\*\*

As some of you may have heard about by now, the Chatham Health District (which encompasses Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland) was notified last week by the state Department of Public Health that mosquitoes trapped in the Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area of Colchester tested positive for the virus that causes Eastern Equine Encephalitis, more commonly known as EEE.

While it's a rare disease – and no human cases have been reported this year – EEE can be serious and often fatal. Just four years ago, in 2019, two residents of the Chatham Health District were sickened by EEE – one of whom died. EEE is transmitted to animals and humans through mosquito bites.

It may be October, but it's still mosquito season – and will be until we experience a hard frost. So, the Chatham Health District is passing along steps folks can take to reduce the risk of acquiring EEE and other mosquito-borne diseases, like West Nile Virus. These include:

- Applying insect repellent when outdoors. When used as directed, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, Chatham health said in a press release. Use an EPA-registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), Parmenthane-diol (PMD), 2-undecanone.
- Avoiding outdoor activities during peak mosquito biting times. The hours from dusk to dawn are when many mosquitoes are active. Chatham Health advised people to consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas with high levels of mosquito activity.
- Covering up. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Draining standing water around your home. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Draining or discarding items that hold water, unclogging rain gutters and drains, emptying unused flowerpots and wading pools, and changing the water in birdbaths frequently is recommended.
- Installing or repairing screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

There you have it. I'm never a fan of seeing warm weather come to an end, but I'm even less of a fan of mosquito-borne illnesses. So while I'm not exactly welcoming that first hard frost of the season, I guess that dark cloud will bring with it a silver lining.

\*\*\*

See you next week.



**The Clark Cabin...** The Hartford County 4-H Camp Board of Trustees hosted the Edgar Clark family to dedicate a cabin at the Marlborough in honor of the family on Saturday, Sept. 23. Edgar Clark, his wife Pat, and daughters Linda, Donna, Sandra, Debra and Riva were the camp's first caretaker family from 1966-1981. Originally from Wethersfield, the Clarks moved to live at The Hartford County 4-H Camp in Marlborough. Clark was a key leader of the effort to build the camp 1966 in the position of construction foreman. Based on countless hours of work all supervised by Clark, the basic form of Hartford County 4-H Camp came into existence in less than four months, all from scratch – dining hall cabins, bathrooms, a kitchen, staff house, man-made pond, dock, water system, and electrical system. From left are Brianna Gallitto, Amber Molina, Joe Tedeschi, Linda Tedeschi, Donna Flieger and Riva Clark.

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**Thank You, Denise**

To the Editor:

Thank you, Denise, for speaking truth to power. It takes a strong woman to stand up to a "strongman."

Respectfully,  
Stan Soby – Colchester

is committed to providing the Colchester taxpayer with professional and courteous service. I will be voting for Jeff Duigou on Nov. 7, and encourage Colchester taxpayers to vote for him as well.

Respectfully,  
Rich Tanner – Colchester

**Supports Duigou**

To the Editor:

As a Colchester businessman, veteran and long-time resident, I am supporting Jeff Duigou, the Republican-endorsed candidate running for tax collector for the Town of Colchester. I have gotten to know Jeff over the past several years. His 30+ years of business experience and enforcement of regulations of several Connecticut state agencies is quite impressive. This experience includes providing support to municipal agencies and NGOs in support of tax subsidies for residents in need of affordable housing for low- and fixed-income seniors and veterans.

Jeff attended the same high school as me and graduated with national honors. He attended UConn to earn a bachelor's degree and completed additional graduate courses while working full time. Jeff is a hard worker and dedicated family man. He

**Absentee Ballots**

To the Editor:

Absentee ballots or are they fraudulent votes? Depending on what you believe in, the absentee ballot vote is either legitimate or not.

Absentee ballots have always existed but became popular during the 2020 presidential election when the COVID-19 pandemic forced people to shelter in their homes.

The ever popular absentee ballot promotes inclusivity within polling districts, allowing older, disabled, sick, or previously marginalized groups the ease of voting in advance. The absentee ballot allows for greater participation in both local and national elections. That's a good thing.

But some citizens have wondered: Do absentee ballots promote voting fraud? For example, look at what happened in Bridgeport. City Councilor and Democratic Committee City Vice Chair Wanda Geter is accused of bribery, filling out voters' bal-

**Bulletin Board**

I happened to see presentations by President Biden and former president Trump this past week. Both would-be "leaders" of the free world appeared on stages literally covered with oversized American flags. Flags above, flags behind, flags to the sides, flags all around.

I have an American flag at home. It is neatly folded in a specially made triangular box that hangs on the wall in the cluttered room I like to refer to (somewhat generously) as my "library." It is the flag that covered my father's casket on the day of his funeral some years ago. On that raw March morning, it was ceremoniously folded by two uniformed sailors and presented to my mother by a petty officer with brief, but solemn remarks that began, "On behalf of a grateful nation..."

My father, a scrappy kid from a poor Rhode Island family, served with the U.S. Navy Seabees in the Pacific during World War II.

Similar flags were presented over the years with equal solemnity to the families of my uncles—my father's brothers—upon their passing. My Uncle Terry was a Pearl Harbor survivor. My Uncle Bohdan served on Peleliu and Iwo Jima.

All three brothers served with honor. All three put their country first when that country was in peril. All three were fortunate enough to survive, but survival was not guaranteed, and many, many others who also put country before self did not survive.

And now?

Now, we face another, different peril in the form of two men—a president and a former president—each vying for what is arguably the most powerful position on the planet. Two charlatans masquerading as patriots on stages so festooned with American flags that the place looks like some kind of carnival and probably has about as much meaning to the two of them. One descending into senility and the other into madness. One who prattles on about the importance of democracy while subverting the democratic process and its responsibilities and another so ethically corrupt that he attempted to overturn an election and once suggested suspending the Constitution of the United States.

And they have the audacity to piously wrap themselves in our flag?

How does this happen? How do such creatures rise to power? Are we that naïve, that inattentive, that lazy—that stupid?

My father and his brothers were not perfect. Neither am I. And, I suspect, neither are you. But surely we should demand better than this.

Jim Hallas

**Rivereast Hours of Operation**

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

**RIVEREAST**

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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](mailto: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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lots, picking up voters' ballots (not in her immediate family), trying to give ballots to voters with the wrong address and then filling them out herself, and trying to trick voters into voting for the wrong person. All of these accusations were reported to the SEEC (State Elections Enforcement Commission). Geter has a pending criminal case.

Both the federal government and Connecticut have put into place many rules and regulations to stop absentee ballot fraud from happening, but it's not enough.

These rules and systems don't stop a person before committing voter fraud, only after it gets reported.

More protections need to be put in place. Ballots should be picked up in person instead of being mailed to the household. Voting lists need to be better scrutinized.

Absentee ballots are made to help citizens get their vote out. If they are being deceived and taken advantage of, their voices are not being heard. Voters have the right for their elections to be legitimate and democratic but with the current state of absentee voting neither can be guaranteed.

**Xavier Gudelski - Colchester**

**RIP Trump Organization**

To the Editor:

A New York State judge canceled all of the business certificates for the Trump crime organization and its 500+ subsidiary companies and partnerships. His properties will be liquidated, and the company dissolved. It is likely that most of the properties owe more than they are worth, resulting in bankruptcy. Trump and others over-evaluated the properties to get loans and insurance and under-evaluated the properties for taxes. Trump said his Trump Tower apartment was 30,000 sq. ft. vs. the actual 10,000 sq. ft. (Business Insider, dcreport.org)

Annie Steinbrecher - Marlborough

**Flippant Reports**

To the Editor:

When I write about things I witness, I write about facts, not perspectives. Anytime there happens to be a recording of an event, I watch that recording, and I verify that neither my memory nor my perspective is skewed. My recollection of events, including the actions of Democratic Town Committee members, elected officials, and nomi-

nees at the Sept. 6th Board of Selectmen meeting are exactly what the recordings convey. Nor do I view historical or political events with a skewed perspective as one has erroneously opined, so I'm clearly not the one who needs a big dose of reality.

Another perspective I don't share: "Mike [Sinkewicz] does a very thorough job with his stories, and is very fair." Considering my very contrary opinion, which is by no means singular, I understand the first selectman's disinclination to participate in a debate for which Mr. Sinkewicz was the selected moderator. His report on the inappropriate actions and relationship that Stephen Coyle conducted and maintained as chair of the Water and Sewer Commission with a Colchester town employee who was terminated, and his attempt and that of his wife as a BOS member to reverse that termination, was completely trivializing. The unsuccessful attempt of the Democratic nominee for first selectmen, Democratic Town Committee chair, and current and former elected officials, to have a selectman arrested, investigated, and charged with "obstruction of justice" by filing complaints with the Colchester Police, the State Police, and even the Attorney General was reported on equally flippantly. Lodging a complaint with law enforcement based on zero factual evidence equates to a false report of a crime, which in Connecticut is a Class A misdemeanor resulting in jailtime. Apparently that malfeasance doesn't deserve more inquiry by this publication.

**The truth and nothing but, DeAva Lambert - Colchester**

**Support for Brian Thibeault**

To the Editor:

Brian Thibeault is the perfect candidate for the Board of Finance. We have known him for the last nine years as a wonderful neighbor, family man, and coach invested in Hebron's education and the town's growth and development. His financial background, with over 20 years in the insurance industry working as an actuary, makes Brian a pivotal asset to our Board of Finance. He is adept at understanding and clearly explaining technical concepts to any audience.

His analytical skills, attention to detail, and genuine care and concern for others should solidify Hebron's confidence in Brian's placement on the Board of Finance.

Sara Coffey - Amston

**What, No Quotes?**

To the Editor:

Just when I thought Annie didn't have an original thought in her head...I was right!

**Caryn F. Shaefer - Portland**

**Vote Row A**

Hebron Voters:

Our town of Hebron deserves the very best and our Hebron Democratic candidates are exactly that. They are a group of talented individuals that are dedicated to doing the very best for our town. Each and every candidate is running because they truly care. They aren't in it for themselves, they're in it for the people that live in this town.

They'll identify issues and see where improvements can be made and work with others towards resolution. They'll be involved and they'll be informed. They'll answer your questions honestly.

On Nov. 7, please vote Row A for our Hebron Democrats. You won't be disappointed.

**Kim Goldberg - Hebron**

**Vote for Democrats**

To the Editor:

Having watched and attended many board and commission meetings over the past several years or so, one thing has become apparent - the boards in Hebron are struggling to effectively collaborate. For political insiders and people who pay attention to what goes on in town, it seems like there is always finger-pointing. But we as town citizens depend on these elected officials to make smart, well-informed decisions based on both public input and the budgetary constraints placed on a small town.

What we need is a group who has pledged to work together, respect one another and the citizens of this town and be transparent along the way. In order for this to happen, Hebron needs to elect the slate of candidates who are only interested in getting the job done. No pet projects, no special interests, political agendas or egos, just hard-working Americans like you and me. The Hebron Democrats are those people. On Nov. 7, if everyone who cares about civility, respect and getting the job done right votes for Democrats in Hebron, our town will be the best it can be! Vote only Row A on Nov. 7! If you can't get to the polls, contact the town clerk for your absentee ballot application!

**Erin Bussiere, Chair Hebron Democrats**

**Impressive Candidates**

To the Editor:

After attending the Hebron Democratic Town Committee fundraiser last Wednesday night, I wanted to share some thoughts with my town that I think you all should know. First, I'm a political outsider and would typically never attend an event like this but if this is what political events are like, count me in! The energy was amazing, full of positivity and excitement for the future. I expected them to be bashing the other side but that never happened! Instead, they all spoke of how much they all enjoy working together, how much they respect one another and how they look forward to representing the good people of Hebron. Everyone was so welcoming.

The candidates are all so impressive between their volunteer roles in the community and their work and life experience that they bring to the table, I feel like Hebron would be in such capable, caring hands. Please vote for the Hebron Democrats on Row A of the ballot on Nov. 7. These candidates are also well worth the absentee ballot application process so please reach out to the town clerk if you'll need one.

**Kindly, Lisa Salerno - Amston**

**Vote Democrat for BoS**

To the Editor:

Dave Koji is looking to join the Board of Selectmen. He is a former Colchester business owner, with 15 years of project management experience and more than six years as a college professor. Dave holds three master's degrees (MBA, communications and psychology), bringing a new perspective of multiple viewpoints to the Board. He currently serves as chair of Colchester's ARPA committee and is on the Youth Service Marketing and Media Committee.

Two members of the Democratic team bring experience and leadership to stand up for everyone in Colchester. Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner have not only provided stability in turmoil, but have maintained professional dignity in the face of an antagonistic first selectman. Rosemary is a Board of Selectmen incumbent who has served Colchester for many years, including on the Colchester Board of Education. Her experience as former president of the Connecticut Education Association, chair of the Elderly Tax Relief and Senior

*See Story, page 6*

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

Center Subcommittee, and liaison to the Senior Center Building Committee greatly enhance the value she already brings to the Selectman position. Denise Turner is a lifelong Colchester resident and longtime community volunteer. She served three terms on the Board of Assessment Appeals where she also served as chair before joining the Board of Selectmen in 2019. As a selectman, Denise has been a strong leader, helping to bring

people together in difficult, contentious times. Her level-headedness and willingness to hear out those she disagrees with has made her an effective and critical addition to the board. Denise's compassion and historical knowledge of our community are much-needed in our town government. Electing these three fine candidates will go a long way toward bringing Colchester together after two years of demagoguery and drama in Colchester Town Hall.

**John Barnowski - Colchester**





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**Relief**

To the Editor:  
Relief was what I felt when I heard that Marcus Wilkinson was running for alternate on the Marlborough Board of Finance, much like I felt when he was chosen to be on the committee to select our new town manager. I felt relief because we need as many people like Marcus in our government as possible.

Yes, Marcus brings years of experience in law and conflict resolution and practical business experience. But far more than that for me is his character. Marcus brings reason, sensibility, practicality and civility. He is committed not only to the betterment of the town but to the betterment of the town processes – through inclusion, collaboration, transparency and communication.

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

**Catherine Schuster - Marlborough**

**Stronger Together**

To the Editor:  
I am sending a big thank you to friends, neighbors, family, and colleagues who helped the Colchester Pavement Pounders achieve over 160% of the team goal. Thirty-seven communities across Connecticut joined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Night the Light Event and Colchester was No. 8 out of 37. In three weeks of fundraising, we did a fantastic job! Amazing things happen when we work together towards a common goal.

With gratitude,  
**Shawn Pelletier - Colchester**

**A Candidate for Our Children**

To the Editor:  
I have the pleasure of knowing Karem Wanat for almost five years. She is a devoted mom, wife, small business owner and advocate. I have seen her dedication to our Town and the passion for the betterment of our community.

For over 10 years Karen helped the elementary PTO organize and run the annual Holiday Shop, Basket Raffle, Purse Bingo, Pasta Dinner, fundraising and more. The 2022 Center School production of *The Little Mermaid* was beautifully directed by Karen. She was instrumental in rallying the community for the 2023-24 Budget Vote. She met with the Town Manager and School Superintendent and relayed the information to the community.

As a small business owner, Karen acknowledges the importance of giving back. Whether it is supporting new business, giving back by supporting Pantherfest and other local community events, organizing the Pride Walk. She is always willing to volunteer and you can count on her when you need her.

I am grateful and proud to have Karen as a friend and am proudly supporting her as she runs for Town Council this November. She is a candidate you can rely on.

Sincerely,  
**Jessica Moquin - East Hampton**

**Preserving Smith's Legacy**

To the Editor:  
Dear Paul Smith:  
Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the community. You guided our schools through unprecedented challenges and have been an open and respectful advocate for the town's young people. Enjoy your retirement!

Dear East Hampton:  
If we value public education and the community-wide benefits that an excellent education system provides, November's election cycle has just become more important than ever. With Mr. Smith's retirement comes the pending search for a new superintendent of schools. When we go to the polls on Nov. 7, one of the choices we are making is about who we want to be leading that search. The Republican candidates for Town Council have already had their say on education: cut cut cut. Candidates Cunningham and McClennan were vocally opposed to adequate education funding and were malicious in their actions toward those who disagreed. Goff and Walck, both seeking re-election on the council, also voted against the funding that would allow our schools to retain existing teachers.

Four Board of Education seats are up for election, and I look forward to voting for the Democratic candidates: Ken Barber, Edie DeSimone, Matt Engelhardt, and Paul Wisniewski. Edie is a career educator with a deep understanding of what

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school administration is about. Matt is a research and communications professional with extensive experience with all levels of education. Paul is a union member and a dedicated advocate for young people. Ken, a current member of the BOE, is a well-respected and established presence on the board, with the ability and institutional knowledge to bring our newest members up to speed for the search and interview process.

Electing these outstanding people to the Board will ensure the best opportunity to make a reasoned and sensible choice to carry on Mr. Smith's legacy of excellence in East Hampton's schools.

**Jordan Werme – East Hampton  
Candidate for Town Council  
jordanforeasthampton@gmail.com**

**Up for the Challenge**

Dear East Hampton Residents:

I was honored to be asked to accept an open position on the GOP slate for East Hampton Town Council this November.

I've been a lifelong resident of East Hampton, my family having lived here since the 1920s. I retired from UPS, having 37 years' experience on the business and transportation side and held many leadership roles. I bring solid critical thinking, problem solving and common-sense planning for the future of our town.

For the past 12 years, I've sat on the board as secretary of a social club in Newington. My interests are forestry, gardening and the preservation of East Hampton.

As a Town Council member, it would be my obligation to make sure East Hampton is affordable for all its residents and to bring a level of civility to our Town Council through my collaboration and negotiation skills.

There's much to be done in our town and with your vote, I'm hoping to accomplish this.

Thank you!

**Rosemarie Hecht – East Hampton**

**Migliaccio for Finance**

Colchester Voters:

I am writing to urge you to come out and vote on Nov. 7 and to reelect Andrea Migliaccio to the Board of Finance.

As a member of the Board of Finance for the past two years, I have had the opportunity to work with Andrea and observe her hard work and unique ability to see potential problems and resolve them. She has a deep understanding of town finances and budgeting. She willingly puts in the time as a volunteer to make Colchester a better place for all of us and in my opinion, has earned our votes.

We, the residents of Colchester need Andrea's continued service to the town. Please come out and vote on Nov. 7. Please support Andrea as well as our First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos and his team of Republicans.

Thank you,  
**Art Shilosky – Colchester**

*Note: Shilosky is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance and a candidate for the Colchester Board of Selectmen.*

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**Hebron BOE**

To the Editor:

I can't wait to vote for the Democratic trio running for Hebron Board of Education: Elizabeth Alexander, Brittany Loudenback, and Eleisha LeMay. These three women were instrumental in supporting education and getting the town budget finally passed this spring.

Their commitment and passion is exactly what we need for the Board of Education. While in recent years Republican candidates have run and then lost interest once elected, the Democratic candidates are committed to the work and time required to serve. While Republican candidates have openly supported those who want American exceptionalism and anti-CRT curriculum (Republican code for they don't want kids learning Black history) taught in our public schools, the Democratic candidates believe in schools that make all our students and families feel welcome, valued, and celebrated.

Alexander, Loudenback, and LeMay support educators, support rich programming and services for students, and support creating a safe inclusive environment in our schools. Vote for them for BOE and vote all of Row A!

**Meg Clifton – Amston**

**Charter Revision**

Dear Colchester Residents:

During a second term, I will begin the process of charter revision to protect our form of government from backroom deals and corruption.

The first initiative will be to establish term limits for all elected and appointed officials including that of the first selectman. Polls show that nearly 80% of Americans support term limits. Term limits reduce corruption and open our local government to new people with fresh ideas to solve our town's challenges. Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle has been in power for over 12 years and has turned a blind eye to abuses of power. We need to be able to refresh leadership from the career politicians with ulterior motives.

The second initiative will be to make the town clerk and tax collector positions appointed, not elected. Elected officials can only be removed by a judge which explains the sense of entitlement that can lead to serious abuse. Gayle Furman, our current town clerk, is under investigation by the Attorney General, for the alleged misappropriation of funds and the alleged misuse of the town's tax id. In the 90s, Wanda Stula, a tax collector for the town of Colchester, was asked to be removed by the Board of Selectmen for illegally waiving back taxes. A few years ago, Tricia Coblenz, another tax collector, entered a separation agreement with the town – which allegedly was over her attendance.

The separation cost the town nearly \$30K.

My final initiative will be to re-establish the Board of Finance's power, which was accidentally removed through the last charter revision (we are currently under a memorandum of understanding that keeps the board's prior responsibilities intact). Losing the checks and balances of the Board of Finance would have a devastating effect on accountability and fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,  
**Andreas Bisbikos  
Colchester First Selectman**

**Strengthening Portland's Schools**

To the Editor:

My name is Angela Hammond, and I am running for the Board of Education to serve our tight-knit community that shaped who I am.

As a proud graduate of Portland High School, class of 1982, I walked the same school halls as my children and soon my grandchild. This town means everything to me. I want to ensure all Portland students get the nurturing education that set me up for success.

As a mother, grandmother and active community member, I care deeply about our children getting the best education. That goes beyond just test scores and academics. It's about shaping empathetic, creative, resilient and well-rounded individuals who will one day lead this community. If elected, I will put parents and students first, listen to you, ask questions, and research all solutions.

Previously, I implemented statewide programs and data systems at the CT Office of Early Childhood. Before that, I successfully managed technology projects and organizational change at Aetna for 30 years. Even with limited resources, I can drive progress through smart decisions and bringing people together.

I know our district faces challenges like aging infrastructure, tight budgets and evolving standards. But Portland has a tradition of coming together, being resourceful and embracing innovation. I will leverage my experience and unrelenting

passion to continue that spirit.

Our schools must reflect Portland's core values of friendship, honesty and community from the youngest grades through graduation. I'll work to keep extracurriculars, arts and sports accessible and well-funded. These experiences nurture creativity, passions and relationships beyond the classroom.

With your partnership, we can overcome obstacles and keep Portland schools strong. I humbly ask for your vote to safeguard our children's future. The enriching education and experiences I gained allowed me to thrive in my career. Let's work together for the brightest future.

Sincerely,  
**Angela (Rusakowicz) Hammond – Portland**

**Save Hebron....From What?**

To the Editor:

In response to the letter to the editor from John Collins on Sept. 29 – I have to wonder if Mr. Collins actually lives in Amston as his signature indicates. I do and I can say without reservation that his characterization of Hebron today is incorrect. To quote him: "...Hebron can barely keep its local coffee shop afloat." What Hebron is he referring to here? The Hebron, CT I know has more than one thriving coffee shop – local and franchise. Mr. Collins needs to cruise down Main Street in Hebron to see what is happening just at The Flour Girl. The café is so busy that a new building is going up as we speak!

Hebron is capable of so much more – small, carefully curated shoppes and businesses would thrive here – without changing our character as a rural community. We don't have to strip Horton Boulevard bare to provide our town with more local businesses to support and benefit from.

And Mr. Collins, this really isn't about politics. It is about a community that is showing, daily, what it wants and what it needs.

Kris Payant – Amston  
*See Letters, page 7*



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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

### It's What's Best

To the Editor:

If you are appalled by elected Republicans saying things such as "When is Straight Month?" and "those people" when referring to people who use cannabis for a variety of reasons, including our veterans, or people who cannot afford half million-dollar homes, then it is important you get to know your Hebron Democratic candidates who are looking to earn your vote.

The Hebron Dems are not politicians. They are your neighbors, your friends, local volunteers, successful business people, parents. They want to make sure all of the voices of Hebron are heard. These candidates want to listen to the public and invest in ways to keep Hebron safe, quiet and affordable. They aren't going to call people, who provide public comment, names. They won't take offense to people who present ideas different than their own or who disagree with them. They won't allow some people to talk as long as they want while cutting others off at the three-minute mark. They want to work hard, show up and give Hebron 110%.

Vote only Row A on Nov. 7! It's what's best for Hebron's future.

**Amy D'Amaddio – Hebron**

### Vice President Harris

To the Editor:

A recent quote from Bill O'Reilly: "Fresh off her tremendous success discovering the 'root causes' and solutions to the border crisis, President Biden has appointed Vice President Kamala Harris to run the new White House office on gun violence prevention. ... Criminals use firearms to control narcotics traffic and create general mayhem. Mentally disturbed people can easily buy guns in many places because each state has different firearm procedures. ... More than 90 percent of mass shootings in America are generated by street criminals, most often drug gangs. But the Biden administration (and this means you, Kamala) refuses to define "gun violence" in that context. That's because the shooters are often African-American inner-city miscreants. Of course, the victims of gunfire are disproportionately Black as well.

"The media also generally ignores urban gun criminals for the same reason: skin color. In [cities] like New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and St. Louis, criminals apprehended with illegal firearms are often not punished. No bail. No jail. Plea bargain down to a misdemeanor. As the former attorney general of California, Kamala Harris has to know this. ... There is no simple solution to lunatics killing innocent people. It will always happen. School security can mitigate that a bit, but

... if the Biden administration really cared about "gun violence," it would propose harsh mandatory prison sentences for anyone who possesses a firearm in the commission of a crime. Five years first offense, ten years second. That's in addition to punishment for the criminal act. And, if you sell an illegal gun, ten-year minimum prison sentence in a federal penitentiary. Keeping dangerous criminals in prison will protect innocent citizens. So let's get on board with that, Kamala!"

**Frank Blume – Colchester**

### Helped Pass Budget

To the Editor:

If it bothers you that an elected Republican in Hebron made a spectacle of children wanting to speak during public comment at a board meeting where the education budget was being discussed, to the point where a police officer was called to the meeting, then you should know this! Some of the people who were at that meeting, who are equally disappointed, are running for seats on Nov. 7!

These people not only supported the children and families in attendance, they also helped push the budget vote to the finish line by rallying support in town to get out the vote. These people are your 2023 Hebron Democratic slate of candidates and lucky for all of you, their names are conveniently located on Row A of your ballot! It's time to show them your appreciation for their hard work on getting the budget to pass so our children, teachers and administrators could start the year off with a budget in place.

Vote for the Hebron Democrats on Nov. 7. And remember, vote only Row A!

**Mary Rose  
Retired Teacher  
Hebron**

### Ready to Serve

To the Editor:

For the past several weeks I have been out and about in Portland with my fellow candidates, knocking on doors, and speaking with residents as I seek support of my candidacy for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I appreciate the positive response we have received.

My background information has already appeared in a flyer insert in the *Rivereast*, letters to the editor, and is available on the Portland Democratic Town Committee website at [www.portlandctdtc.com](http://www.portlandctdtc.com). I would also like to provide Portland voters with information about issues that are important to me as a candidate. First and foremost, the addition of women to the Board of Selectmen makes a move towards representation that better reflects the town's population. I believe in fiscal responsibility, continued economic development, retaining an excellent public school system with

a focus on the current school facilities concerns, ongoing infrastructure improvements, expansion of clean energy options, and maintaining the great quality of life we have come to know in Portland.

I am ready to serve the Portland community as a member of the Board of Selectmen. I believe my background and prior experience as a nine-year member of the Portland Board of Education make me uniquely qualified and demonstrates my commitment to public service. I plan to meet and speak with many more residents in the coming weeks leading up to election day on 11/7. Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,**

**Andrea Alfano – Portland  
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

### Asking for Your Vote

To the Editor:

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the RHAM Board of Education for the past 13 months. I believe my background in public and government affairs for a Fortune 100 corporation has helped me to work collaboratively with a politically diverse group with varying viewpoints in what was inarguably a challenging year.

It is made worthwhile when I could hear from students and their advisor/teachers during Board meetings. Regularly, student groups reported out on their area of interest. We heard from the Math League, Spanish trip, the Community Emergency Response Team, and even the therapy dogs. I am energized by the hard work, dedication and creativity of our teachers that inspires the excitement I see in the students.

During my time on the board, I am proud to have helped the school district garner a donation of surplus furniture, which resulted in a cost avoidance of approximately \$40K to the school district. This donation improved several areas the students frequent in both the middle and high school. As we all know, education budgets are tight, and every penny counts. I am committed to continuing this type of financial stewardship while advocating for the best interest of all students in the RHAM school district.

My husband and I have been Hebron residents for more than 23 years. We have raised daughters: one graduated from RHAM and was well prepared for college; one is currently a sophomore. We continue to be committed to this community, active in church, volunteering at the schools and participating in town activities. I hope I have earned the trust and confidence of the educators, parents, and students, and I am asking for the community's vote in the upcoming election.

**Heather Summerer – Hebron**

### Support Rosemary Coyle

To the Editor:

As an incumbent [senior] elected official on the Board of Selectman, Rosemary will bring much-needed years of historical knowledge and experience with her when she is re-elected.

Rosemary listens to the people and will accept phone calls from any resident or elected official to discuss their concerns and try to solve their problems. Rosemary does her research and evaluates the information before making a decision. She always strives for bipartisan decisions. Being a teacher for 37 years, Rosemary is a strong proponent of public education. Rosemary has worked tirelessly over the years to build a new Senior Center which has finally become a reality.

Most importantly Rosemary holds the belief that Colchester needs to move forward in a fiscally responsible manner, advocate for its citizens, and bring civility back to our town.

Please vote for Rosemary Coyle for the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

**Yvette Paradise-Dee – Colchester**

### Why I Wish to Continue

To the Editor:

I am Gayle Furman and have been Colchester's town clerk for the past nine years and wish to continue serving you.

I have lived in Colchester for 35 years. I have been married to my husband Tom for 33 years and raised two wonderful daughters in this town. I grew up in Canterbury, Conn., but now consider Colchester as my hometown.

My past service has been chair of the Education Committee and Deacon for the Colchester Federated Church. I was a Girl Scout leader for nine years for two different troops. I was a paraprofessional in our Colchester schools for eleven years working with individual children and in the Literacy Lab. In my tenure as a paraprofessional, I was the vice president for our local union.

I am currently the vice president of the New London County Town Clerk's Association for a second term and was their treasurer for three terms. I am on the executive board of the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association and am the chair for the town clerk of the Year Committee. I also served on their Education Committee for two terms.

In my earlier career I worked with Credit Unions and banks installing and supporting their individual software.

When the former Town Clerk Nancy Bray approached me to apply to fill her vacancy, I was cautious but thrilled. I discussed the position at length with Nancy and my family and decided it would be

a good fit for me with my skills. I am very happy that I did.

My love for Colchester and my vast experience is what makes me want to continue serving the residents of Colchester. Please come out and vote for me and the democratic team on Nov. 7.

**Gayle Furman, CCTC, CMC  
Colchester Town Clerk**

### DeDonato for Board of Finance

To the Editor:

Jim Dedonato believes that we can't continue to increase taxes in order to cover town finances. He and the entire Republican slate love Hebron. He wants the town to be fiscally responsible while supporting our town needs and the needs of citizens. It is very important to him that there is transparency in the budget process so everyone knows that tax revenues are being spent responsibly. Jim is prepared to be collaborative with the BOF while creatively finding solutions to support education, growing enrollment, and combat inflation and rising labor costs.

I have known Jim and his family for many years and I am impressed with the morals he and his wife have raised their children by, his ability to amicably find solutions, his work ethic, and solution mindedness.

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I ask you to join me in supporting Jim DeDonato for the Hebron Board of Finance.

**Kim Hills – Hebron**

### Vote Kim Hills for BOE

Hebron Residents:

Please join us in supporting Kim Hills who is running for the Hebron Board of Education. We have been fortunate to know Kim and her family for many years and genuinely couldn't think of anyone more suitable to run for this position. She is what the town needs and children deserve. Being a lifelong resident who is deeply rooted in the community she seeks to sustain the excellent reputation of our schools.

As a teacher herself, Kim is committed to ensuring all students receive the best education the district can provide. As a current educator, she knows how to work with fellow members, administrators, and parents to ensure the forward progress of our students while keeping their health and well-being at the forefront. She knows our school system well and wants the best for all our children. With three children currently in the Hebron public schools, she is knowledgeable about the rigorous and expansive curriculum, and she will work hard to maintain the excellent standards for which our school district is known.

On a personal level we know Kim to be a thoughtful, insightful, dedicated mother and have no doubt she will work tirelessly for our students and the school district, as well. She is a hard-working person always striving to do better for herself, her family, and the community at large. She has a quiet presence about her but has proved that she is unwilling to conform to anything she doesn't truly believe is best for her family. She stands her ground which we all know can at times require strength and integrity, important traits for anyone on the Board.

Please join us in voting for Kim; let's keep our schools and students successful.

**Sincerely,**

**Kevin and Lindsay Gasper – Hebron**

### Thank You, Mr. Smith

To the Editor:

This week we learned of East Hampton's Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith retirement at the end of the school year. I would like to thank Mr. Smith for his years of service to the schools of East Hampton. Mr. Smith has led our schools very capably all these years, running the schools extremely efficiently, turning in well above average reading test scores with just slightly above state average per pupil spending. Certainly more work is needed to raise our average math scores, but the changes made the last couple of years look promising in that department. I'm especially impressed with how he and the schools handled the first months of the covid shutdown. While other districts took a week or more to prepare for distance learning, East Hampton made the transition missing just one school day. All that being said, there are issues I disagreed with Mr. Smith on, but nobody is ever going to agree with others 100% of the time.

All this is to say that the next board of education will be selecting the next superintendent to lead our schools for hopefully the next 10+ years. If I am elected to the board I promise to do my homework in evaluating the candidates. I promise to listen to the input of teachers and their union. Above all I vow to choose who will be best for the students of East Hampton. A superintendent who puts the students first, not just test scores and grades, but the mental health of students, and the empathy to give all students the chance they deserve to be the best they can be, in school, and in whatever career they choose for their future, whether it requires a college education, a trade, or whatever the student may choose. Vote Nov. 7 for the future of our town and children. Vote Row A for forward progress.

**Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton  
Democratic Candidate for Board of Education**

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**I Humbly Apologize**

To the Editor:  
I apologize for my colleague's letter last week. The DTC chair chose to tear others down to promote her agenda. This is not how we should act in Hebron. Do I support Republican values like personal freedom, small government, business opportunity, quality education, equal treatment for all, rule of law, and fiscal responsibility? You better believe that I do. Did I vacate my elected position when I was promoted to CFO of Teachers' Retirement? Yes, because it's a conflict of interest. Did I begin to volunteer again when I changed careers and there was no longer a conflict? Yes, because I love my community and I am devoted to giving back.

And that's what I want to talk about, love. Like many families in town, mine is divided. I'm Republican and my wife is Democrat. People ask me how that works. It works for us just like it works for you. I love my wife. We compromise and make the best decisions for our family. In every position I've held, including as a BOE member now, I make decisions based on love. I make choices based on the best course of action for our children, all of them. The ones who play baseball, the soccer players, those who read for fun, the math-letes, the singers, and the musicians.

Elections shouldn't be about hate. This is Hebron. I love it, and all who feel the same. On Nov. 7, vote for people who love this town, vote Republican, and vote for me. I promise to never let affiliation determine my feelings. If you want the best for Hebron, then we're on the same side. If you love this community with all your heart, then work with me to keep it beautiful, affordable, and accepting for our children and all future generations.

**Keith Petit – Amston**

**RTC Chair, Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

*Note: Petit is a member of the Board of Education but said he is speaking as an individual.*

**Climate-Change Fools**

To the Editor:  
The advent of carbon-based fuels in the late 19th Century ushered in an era of unprecedented prosperity and increased life spans for humanity. Scott Sauyet claims he cares about his new grandson and wants to bequeath a garden to him yet strives to eliminate the CO2 enabling that garden to grow! He also unwittingly promotes a return to a subsistence lifestyle akin to that of the 18th Century. But ironically, this luminary says it's me who's the dangerous one!

Sauyet and progressives like him (Stevens and Smith) aren't likely to have sound or effectively functioning minds. Their rants against Republicans are absurdly bizarre with none of them containing the slightest semblance of reality. They should all keep their arms spread far apart when in public so the white-suited men have difficulty throwing their butterfly nets over them.

These mental wizards want to eliminate our use of carbon-based fuels and are too dim-witted to realize how ubiquitous their presence is in just about everything we use on a daily basis. They want us to depend on solar energy at the same time their "scientific" experts are looking to find ways of blocking incoming solar radiation. They virtue-signal their compassion and concern for our children while their Club of Rome wants to eliminate six billion of the world's population.

I love my own two young grandsons and am so grateful my daughter sends them to an excellent private Catholic school where they can evade the contamination and indoctrination of fear-mongering climate-change fools like Sauyet et al. All of these self-assumed morally superior dunces are menaces to civil society and scourges upon humanity. If they ever get their way, we'll all perish and disappear from here, but the planet will do just fine despite our absence.

**Sam Prentice – Andover**

**Supporting Engelhardt**

To the Editor:  
It is my honor to write this letter of support for Matt Engelhardt, in his campaign for East Hampton Board of Education. Matt is a proud and dedicated member of the East Hampton community. I've had the joy of watching him serve as both a recreational soccer coach and basketball coach for his two daughters, and I've witnessed the passion that he brings to his volunteer work in our schools.

It is Matt's experience working across all levels of education, pre-K through post-secondary, and his steadfast commitment to the students and teachers of East Hampton that make him the perfect candidate for East Hampton Board of Education. Matt understands the critical role that education plays in preparing students to be well-rounded, caring, and confident leaders in our community. He is also acutely aware of the supports that teachers require, in order to successfully meet the needs of each of their students. A long-standing education advocate, Matt will be able to hit the ground running, making an immediate and positive impact upon our schools and classrooms. Matt is also the consummate listener, with an innate ability to take everyone's perspectives into account. In a polarized political environment, he will be a breath of fresh air on the East Hampton Board of Education.

Vote for Matt Engelhardt and the Democratic town slate this November, and our students, teachers, families and community will be in great hands.

**Ryan Colwell – East Hampton**

**Endorses Wanat**

To the Editor:  
It is a pleasure to write this letter endorsing Karen Wanat, in her campaign for East Hampton Town Council. Karen was born and raised in East Hampton, and has established deep roots in our community. Her commitment to the Town of East Hampton is second-to-none. I've been able to witness firsthand Karen's work as PTO president, co-president and secretary over the years, and her staunch advocacy for the students and teachers of East Hampton Public Schools. Karen also serves as the Chatham District Girl Scouts Service Unit Leader, and co-leader of the largest Girl Scout troop in East Hampton. Most recently, I had the honor of supporting Karen in her role as drama director at Center School.

If given the opportunity to serve, Karen will bring a mix of insight, compassion, and tenacity to the important issues facing our town. She will be a voice for positive progress, for our schools, our local businesses, and our community as a whole. I'm proud to support Karen, and her colleagues on the Democratic ticket this November.

**Shelby Colwell – East Hampton**

**Leadership is Not Bullying**

To the Editor:  
For the first time in 49 years of living in Colchester, I am compelled to write a letter to the *Rivereast* editor. Recently, my concern about the upcoming Colchester election left me wide awake in the wee hours of the night, and for this reason, I'm adding my two cents to the growing pool of opinions.

Those of us who have witnessed the unrestrained vitriol from our first selectman should be as appalled by it as I am. The Colchester community deserves better than the bullying and character assassinations directed at the elected officials and professional staff that serve our community. This is not leadership.

Leaders don't take credit for the work done by others. Most of the projects currently touted by our current first selectman were initiated by department heads during the Bylone administration in 2021, recommended by the ARPA Committee, and over time approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen.

Those projects were not initiated by our current

first selectman.  
Sheryl Sandberg, former CEO of Facebook, stated, "Leadership is not bullying, and leadership is not aggression. Leadership is the expectation that you can use your voice for good, that you can make the world a better place."

Fellow citizens, on Nov. 7, please send a resounding message that we want leadership that will make Colchester a town to be proud of again. Let's have a leader that will respect differing opinions, move forward with bi-partisan cooperation, and make Colchester a better place for all. Let Colchester make the news for the progress we are making, not the bitter conflict that defines our current leadership.

This is not the time to be complacent. Get out and vote on Nov. 7.

**Sincerely,  
Gigi Liverant – Colchester**

**Supports Alfano**

To the Editor:  
I am writing in support of Andrea Alfano for the Board of Selectmen in Portland. Andrea is a neighbor in our HOA community with whom I recently worked on a committee looking into allowing rooftop solar panels. This was a divisive issue in our neighborhood, similar to many that face town leaders. Andrea handled the controversy with courtesy and calm. She is a great listener, taking all points of view into account and doing her own due diligence in researching issues before formulating an opinion.

Her prior eight years of service on Portland's Board of Education, as well as her many years working for the State of Connecticut, position her well to understand issues the town will face in the coming years. As a longtime Portland resident, she cares deeply about the town and its residents, and wants to work to keep us moving forward.

Please join me in voting for this outstanding candidate for the Portland BOS.

**Susan Sokoloski, M.D. – Portland**

**A Salute to Paul Smith**

To the Editor:  
East Hampton Superintendent Paul Smith is bringing his impactful and distinguished career to a close at the end of the school year. While his tenure as the head of Belltown schools was sometimes rocky, he always led with dignity, professionalism, and expertise.

Smith's retirement is well-deserved. To dedicate 40 years to the education of children, well-being of teachers, and successfully advising the Board of Education is cause for celebration. We salute you, Paul, and your service to East Hampton.

Statistically, small town superintendents don't stick around for the eight years that Smith will have served. Superintendents have an exhausting and often thankless job. Good leaders in small towns are often snatched up by larger districts. Most superintendents spend five years or less in the position, and to have a quality schools chief stick it out for the better part of a decade is rare.

The next Board of Education has a major endeavor ahead of it. Beyond the usual budget responsibilities, the board needs to conduct a thorough search for its next superintendent, the most critical hire they can possibly make.

The state of Connecticut does not make it easy. There are 169 towns in the state, and most of them have their own superintendent. Competition for good leaders is intense, and for a small district like East Hampton, the stakes are high.

The search should engage as much of the community as possible. I hope to be a part of that effort with my fellow Democratic candidates, whether I am elected to school board or not.

Paul, you have our gratitude for setting a high standard. Let's do right by you and find a successor who embodies our values and spirit.

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

**Thank You Marlborough**

To the Editor:  
I want to thank everyone for affording me the opportunity to serve you over the course of the last 25 years as a member of the Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals and most recently, the last 12 years as a member of the Board of Finance.

It has been a privilege and an honor to be elected to these Boards and to serve our Town. A lot was accomplished during those years and a lot of challenges lie ahead.

Therefore, I would encourage you to join me in studying the list of candidates who will be seeking your votes on Nov. 7. I would encourage you to cast your vote based on the qualifications of the individual candidates and not based on party affiliation. There will be a lot of tough decisions going forward and we need to make thoughtful decisions as to which candidates will best serve our interests and our community.

But in the meantime, thank you again for your past support and trust. Perhaps, someday, I may seek the opportunity to serve further, but for now I will sit back and cast my vote along with you on Election Day.

**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough  
See Letters, page 29**

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# Municipal Board Positions Open This Election

By London Brazal

Election Day is a month away, with multiple seats up for election on the Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Board of Finance race sees four people running for three open four-year terms. The lone Republican candidate is Jim Radavich, and he said he's running to gain insight into how tax money is allocated. He also said he wants to look at future possibilities of combining, changing, or eliminating expenditures to keep taxes as low as possible.

A self-identified fiscal and social conservative, Radavich said he recommends funding only what is needed so the town can operate with basic services and encourages the privatization of services where possible. Radavich served on the Board of Education and has experience in union contract negotiations, which he said provides him with valuable insights into salary, benefit negotiations, health care cost management, and cost-reduction strategies.

The Democratic candidates for the Board of Finance include Kurt Comisky, Anthony Spagnoletti and incumbent Ted Turner. They said their goal is to be proactive when planning for annual budgets rather than being reactive – anticipating immediate and future expenses to make sure that the taxpayers don't have to worry about large increases in their tax bills.

\*\*\*

The Board of Education has four seats available with four-year terms. The Democratic candidates include incumbent Ken Barber, along with Edie DeSimone, Matt Engelhardt, and Paul Wisniewski. The Republican candidate is incumbent Augie Arndt.

Barber has served on the school board for more than 10 years. His wife and two daughters all went through the town's public school system. "I am very proud of this school system and what we have been able to accomplish," he said.

Barber said he believes a constant concern is keeping the balance between being able to afford a decent school system in a small town.

For the future, he wants to look at methods to improve academic rigor and ensure every child can succeed after graduation.

DeSimone has been in education for 22 years, spending almost 50 to 60 hours a week at schools. She has spent 11 years as a coordinator of special education in New Britain, which she said has given her different points of reference and understanding of the complex educational process. As a member, DeSimone would focus on maximizing all students' abilities and achievements. While looking at scores, DeSimone made a point of celebrating the good, but also taking time to look at where students are lagging – particularly math and English-language arts.

Looking at the bigger picture, DeSimone said she wants to find new ways to partner with the community to help increase opportunities. "A successful school system attracts families to come live in East Hampton."

Engelhardt said he has been interested in running for the Board of Education for a while. While attending meetings and establishing positive relationships with current members, Engelhardt said he felt now was the right time to run. A former newspaper reporter, Engelhardt said he'd bring a perspective in learning how to build sources and relationships, when to be tough, when to have a sense of humor, and how to relate with the community. He's also worked as an educational communications specialist with institutions such as Goodwin University and is now UConn's Research Communications Administrator.

"I believe I offer the progressive mindset and cooperative personality to serve East Hampton well," Engelhardt said.

Engelhardt added that, as a board member, he would focus on retention and preparing a responsible budget that preserves programming and teachers. He also said he wants to make sure students are ready for their endeavors after graduation.

Wisniewski's reason for running for the

Board of Education was simple: his kids. He said he believes all students should get a quality education efficiently, while maintaining reasonable classroom sizes and health services – including mental health – for students. In the future, he wants families to want to move to town for its education, affordability, and overall value.

With experience in construction and HVAC, Wisniewski brings a unique point of view. Following the discovery that COVID-19 spreads more easily without proper ventilation, the state legislature formed an HVAC subcommittee for the schools.

"I'd be very curious to see what the results would be in town, particularly in Center School and the middle school," commented Wisniewski.

Arndt said he has enjoyed serving on the board, saying the work can be hard, but rewarding. He has focused on achieving common goals and supporting the district.

"I don't tow the party line," said Arndt. "I don't believe the Board of Education should be politicized, and right now we do not operate as a board with a political agenda."

In the future, Arndt said he would continue his focus on creating smart and innovative solutions to create more non-traditional post-graduation options. On the budget side, Arndt said he would like to work with the Town Council and finance board to make the entire process "less volatile." He said it's easier said than done, but knows more can be done for the community if they put political parties aside and focus on the common goals.

\*\*\*

The Zoning Board of Appeals has one seat open for a term starting in 2023 and one open for a term starting in 2024, terms are five years

long.

For this November, the candidates are Republican Maria Peplau and incumbent chair Democrat Brian Spack. Candidates for the 2024 term are Republican Michael Olzacki and Democrat Evan Giza.

Olzacki was chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission for two years and said he wanted to get back involved as he did not see any new petitioners. Someone suggested he run again and, with a positive experience on the Planning and Zoning Commission, he figured it was a good time to try again. In the future, Olzacki said he wants to see thoughtful zoning for the town as well as the taxpayer.

Giza said he was inspired to run to get involved with the community he grew up in. He said he has experience as a Boy Scout of Troop 57 and has worked with the Connecticut State Legislature, closely working with the environment committee. In that role, he assisted with some significant pieces of land-preservation legislation. As a younger candidate, Giza said he provides a youthful perspective and is eager to have the chance to bring his state legislative experience to the town.

In office, Giza said he would advocate heavily for clean zoning policies that are environmentally friendly to preserve the town's natural resources. He said he also sees a need to continue the work on the redevelopment of districts in town.

"I would hope to see this done in a way that doesn't come at the cost of preserving our town's natural resources," Giza said. "The deforestation of many of the wooded areas in the past months has caused countless animal habitats to be terminally disrupted."

## Judge Announced for Art Show

The East Hampton Art Association has selected Lesley Braren of East Hampton as the judge for its 43rd annual Fine Art Show. The show will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, on the grounds of the Congregational Church at 59 Main St. This is an art show only; no crafts will be accepted.

Braren is a plein air painter whose work ranges from realism to the abstract.

There will be approximately 20 artists com-

peting for monetary prizes and ribbons at the show. There will be two purchase awards. One purchase award for \$300 - \$500 will be presented by the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission. This piece will be presented to a town facility. Another purchase award of \$100 will be funded by Serra & Associates.

Artists interested in showing their work may contact Elizabeth Sennett @ 860 267 9061 for information.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

**Wii Bowling:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Oct. 18.

**Cornhole:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Oct. 11.

**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.

**Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW):** First and third Monday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources.

**Mindful Meditation with Victoria:** Monday, Oct. 23, 1-2 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude in a group setting.

**Interact Club:** Friday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-noon. Members of the East Hampton High School Interact Club will visit, play games and assist with a craft.

**Design & Create with Cindy:** Friday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-noon. Create your own wall hanging with textiles and natural materials. The program is free.

### Drug and Substance Abuse and Addiction

**Discussion:** Thursday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m. Lauren Incognito, East Hampton Social Services director, will discuss how this issue may impact you.

**Bike Rides for Seniors:** Friday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. Airline Cycles will lead a bike ride for seniors at the Airline Trail State Park. Meet at the Smith Street trail head and bring your bike, helmet and water.

**October Movie – Beetlejuice:** Friday, Oct. 13, 1 p.m. This 1988 dark comedy stars Michael Keaton, Geena Davis, Alec Baldwin and Winona Ryder. The movie is free; refreshments will be served.

**Lunch and Learn with River Valley Transportation:** Monday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn about the changes in the River Valley Transit System and how you can access their services. Lunch provided.

**Blood Pressure Clinic:** Monday, Oct. 16, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the senior center. This clinic is drop-in.

**ConnectiCare Informational Talk:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Learn about products and services offered by ConnectiCare.

**Family Tree:** Friday, Oct. 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m. East Hampton resident Ken Doney will discuss how to learn more about your family tree and document it. You are welcome and encouraged to bring your own electronic devices to start your journey. Register at the Senior Center

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

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

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

## KoC Spaghetti Supper

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

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

and a punch drink. Canned soda and bottled water will be available for \$1. Proceeds will support local charitable programs. Raffle prizes will be offered as well.

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

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

## Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com) for directions. 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.

## Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame will induct the following at its annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday, Oct. 27, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron:

**Kelsey Booth:** Booth graduated as East Hampton High School's fifth all-time scorer, leading with 1,249 points. She was a two-time All-State selection, and received numerous all-conference awards. Kelsey went on to play basketball at both Siena College and the College of Charleston 2008 Girls Cross Country team. Booth finished in first place in Class SS, placing five runners in top 16. The team was coached by Bill Wilkie and had as runners in the Championship scoring Cora Gingras, Nicole Chambers, Elizabeth Plummer, Andrea Galanto, Dana Boscarino, Allison Coll, Meg Nicolledda. Other team members included Jackie Williams, Alyssa DeJesus, Olivia Picking, Megan Serra, Christiana O'Brien, Kailey Adamet, Emily Gagliano, Sarah Pethybridge, Courtney Muscat, Natalie Ihnat, Sarah Ihnat, Rosalie Lyons, Olivia

Halvorson.

**Charles "Sonny" O'Neil:** O'Neil will be inducted posthumously. He graduated in 1947 and his athletic accomplishments were legendary and still spoken about to this day. He was also elected as his class president in all four of his high school years.

**Michael Mercaldi:** Mercaldi has been involved with athletics in East Hampton for 23 years. He has been middle school athletic director since 2000, along with a myriad of other coaching duties, including high school baseball coach from 2000-2006 – where he compiled 85 wins (third all time). He is recognized for a strong passion for youth sports and a commitment to promoting physical activity, teamwork, and character development among East Hampton school system students.

Tickets and information for the event are available by contacting Mike Vasquez (860-308-6621, [mjvasquez@gmail.com](mailto:mjvasquez@gmail.com)) or Tom Seidl (860-543-4782, [seidl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seidl@sbcglobal.net)).

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# Schools Superintendent Announces Retirement

By London Brazal

After 40 years in education, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith is ready to call it a day.

Smith, who has helmed Belltown public schools for the past eight years, recently announced his retirement, effective at the end of the current school year next June.

During Smith's career, he has been a featured presenter at the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Annual Conference and the Showcase of Model Programs. Some of his accomplishments include the NEASC 2020 Service Award and the NEASC Jacob Ludes III Leadership Award.

Smith graduated magna cum laude from Boston University College of Fine Arts and earned a master's degree in Music Education from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. Over his 15-year career as an instrumental music teacher in Massachusetts and Connecticut, he conducted various bands and served as an adjudicator and guest conductor. His groups toured Europe three times, performing in venues across Austria, France, Switzerland, Italy and England.

As superintendent, Smith frequently led high school accreditation visits in New England and held positions on the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents Board of Directors and as Chair of the Middlesex/Shoreline Superintendents' Association. Smith's accolades include the Governor's Award for volunteering with the Connecticut American Red Cross, the CT Middlesex United Way Leadership Award, and the Danielson Lions Club Youth Service Award.

## Benny Fund 5K Returns Oct. 7

All runners, walkers, kids and volunteers of all ages are welcome to the 10th annual Benny Fund 5K run, 5K walk and kids' fun run, taking place at Sears Park, 68 N. Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 7, starting at 9 a.m.

Registration is from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Sears Park. Participants can also preregister at [www.bennyfund.org](http://www.bennyfund.org). Shuttles will leave for the start line at 8:30 a.m. The race will finish at Sears Park. The kids' run will start after the 5K ends, at approximately 10:15 a.m.

## 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.

'Come to the Table' Ice Cream Social: Saturday, Sept. 30, from 4-6 p.m. Bring your own food, gather for some social time and ice cream dessert will be provided.

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

Smith is currently a guest clinician for the Connecticut Arts Administrators Association, the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, and Boston University. He's also engaged in international education exchanges in China, presenting on education trends in Beijing, Jilin, and Tibet. He particularly cherishes leading students and parents on tours of China, having introduced over 250 people to the country during five different tours.

As a pastime, Smith said he finds joy in running, completing more than 50 half marathons and 10 full marathons. Notably, he joined the Dana Farber Boston Marathon Challenge Team for the Boston Marathon in both 2016 and 2018, contributing to cancer research by personally raising over \$35,000 in funds.

By the time he started in East Hampton in January 2016, Smith had already served as assistant principal of Killingly High School, principal of Bolton High School, and superintendent of schools in Bolton and Griswold.

"As the superintendent of schools, I have had the good fortune to lead schools filled with people who not only teach students but mentor and cherish children. I appreciated the trust of parents and learned quickly what a remarkable school district I had the opportunity to lead," wrote Smith in a letter to the community.

In his time in East Hampton, Smith said he's been grateful to serve what he described as an impressive learning community. "I consider myself fortunate to be part of a school district comprised of Board of Education members, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, and community members who work diligently

The event is to help raise money for mental health and suicide prevention education in schools and to, organizers said, "end the silence and stigma that has so long accompanied mental health disorders." The run/walk is directed by First Mile Fitness and is officially timed.

The Benny Fund is an East Hampton-based nonprofit dedicated to improving mental health and preventing suicide through advocacy and education.

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. Rehearsals will resume in the fall.

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

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 at [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

to provide the best for the students."

Smith said he is proud to have seen the exceptional dedication of East Hampton Public Schools in delivering academic assistance while prioritizing the mental well-being of both students and adults. Furthermore, he said he has full faith that the school system's "East Hampton 2030 and the Profile of the Graduate" vision – which was acknowledged as an exemplary model by NEASC – will continue to provide valuable guidance in the years ahead.

With that, Smith said he is confident that the town and school district will continue to work cooperatively to maintain a standard of high-quality education with dedicated and highly skilled teachers.

"This community has dedicated themselves to the important cause of public education – and I have been honored to be at the helm of that effort," said Smith. "Throughout my 40 years in this noble profession, my personal philosophy has guided me to work to achieve a culture of compassion as the cornerstone of an ambitious vision of excellence for all children."

Having reached 40 years in education as a teacher, administrator, and superintendent, Smith is committed to service work in retirement and looks forward to the next chapter of his life. In retirement, Smith looks to spend more time in Boston where his wife, Jacqueline Smith, is a specialist in music education



Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith has announced he will retire at the end of the current school year.

for students with special needs and a lecturer at Boston University College of Fine Arts. He said he's also looking forward to having more time with his two children, Paul and Hannah, and his "spunky" 4-year-old granddaughter Teagan.

## Scholarship Applications Accepted

Applications for the annual East Hampton Ambulance Scholarship are currently being accepted – and are due Saturday.

This scholarship was started nine years ago in memory of Jim Morris who was involved in the ambulance association for many years, was an educator and a firm believer in volunteerism.

The scholarship is available to East Hampton and Haddam Neck undergraduate residents who have completed one year of studies

in an allied health program or to a member of the East Hampton Ambulance who is furthering their education.

Applications are available at [ehems.org](http://ehems.org) under the "contact us" section. Applications are due by Sept. 30 and can be mailed to Liz Whitty, Scholarship Chairperson, East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424, or emailed to [lwhitty@ehems.org](mailto:lwhitty@ehems.org).

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- 4. HAVE YOUR BRAKES INSPECTED**  
It's important that your brake system is prepared to take on winter weather – this includes brake pads, rotors & brake lines which are all very important for safety
- 5. CHECK ALL YOUR LIGHTS**  
It gets darker much earlier, so headlights, high and low beams, tail lights and turn signals are especially important – we can also inspect headlights for cloudy lenses

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# Small Team at EMP Apparel Continues to Expand

By London Brazal

A business starting in a basement has grown to a full-time production of screenprinting and embroidery for multiple organizations to enjoy.

Jacob Spurlock created EMP Apparel in 2015 which was originally internet-based. As a former restaurant manager, the idea came from employees needing custom-made uniforms. Spurlock described it as “a middle-of-the-night idea.” He knew that managers were looking for branded apparel at a fair price. The name “EMP” stems from the word “employee” and serves as a catchy, short name.

In the first few years of business, it grew substantially, and unlike some businesses, the company began to thrive during COVID-19. With only one other full-timer, Spurlock outgrew the original space and looked for a new one. Earlier this year, EMP Apparel moved into B7 on 201 West High St. When the business continued to grow, they built into the adjacent unit in April.

“My basement was about the size of the front reception area. It was 500 square feet originally, and now we operate in 2,500 square feet,” said Spurlock. He merged with WVA Original Graphics out of Moodus and the owner, Brian Whitehill, started a part-time advisory role.

EMP Apparel’s clientele is mainly small businesses, events, and organizations. The front is designed similarly to a doctor’s office with a reception desk and a few chairs rather than a shop with blank clothes. This way, they can focus on project-based contract work. One of the biggest clients they have is Middlesex Hospital. EMP Apparel prints and embroiders the gift shop clothing that most of its employees purchase.

As a smaller business, Spurlock offers fundraising opportunities for organizations. In the past, he worked with Colchester Elementary and their PTO raised \$1,700. Spurlock explained how a previous company only generated \$100 but it was not about how much they sold, it was the fundraising prices. “We fully advertise it so people see where the money is going,”

Spurlock noted.

Though there are only a handful of employees, each one brings a different background to the team. A new hire has a background in sales and marketing to help the business grow. Joanna Kress is a production manager with EMP Apparel and has experience in background and art. She enjoys the hands-on projects and is happy with how her business degree and love for art came together. At the shop, she learned screenprinting, a fascinating process in which ink is forced through a mesh screen onto a surface.

“It’s always striking and it’s fun!” Kress added. Ryan Kalentkowski is described by his co-workers as the “Screenprinting Master.” Kalentkowski went to art school and was exposed to the different forms of art. After a few years of knowing about screenprinting, he took the opportunity to learn more about it. Though the process can be tedious, Kalentkowski said, “It doesn’t get boring; we do a lot of really cool stuff.”

Spurlock emphasized the importance of his coworkers coming from different backgrounds. “Everyone has crafty skills but has something else to offer. They are also interested and motivated to work,” Spurlock said. As a team, they make sure to value time with their family. Many decisions are collaborative and made as a group.

EMP Apparel has an internet ordering component but organizers are welcome to come into the shop. In the production area, there are three embroidery machines that can work on different projects. There are also two heat press stations and two screenprinting areas. With the second unit, passersby can look in to see the screenprinting stations. The stations are not automated; Kalentkowski said this allows him and the other workers the chance to have a lot of fun with layering and designs.

With the internet being the main competition with EMP’s brick-and-mortar shop, they like the fact people can choose in-person pick-up. As described by Kress, one of the best feelings



**Vibrant colors and personalized logos come to life at EMP Apparel with a hard-working team of individuals. Owner Jacob Spurlock (center) is with co-workers Ryan Kalentkowski and Joanna Kress to provide organizations and small businesses branded items, an easy and efficient advertisement.**

is seeing a customer’s face light up when they open up a box. More recently, the business has spread with orders as far as from Massachusetts and is spreading west towards Norwich. “People are willing to drive if they are satisfied, and our goal is to keep the customers happy and work with them to do that,” Spurlock noted.

Production times can range between seven to 10 days depending on the quantity and if the

organization chooses delivery. If the product is already in stock at EMP, reorders can take up to five days. Products include almost everything, from sweatshirts and t-shirts to tote bags and lawn signs. As the business is still growing, Spurlock hopes to hire a few more people so every station has someone running it.

For inquiries, email [contact@empapparel.com](mailto:contact@empapparel.com) or visit [empapparel.com](http://empapparel.com).

## Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://middlehaddamlibrary.com) or call 860-267-9093. The library’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.

Yoga: With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Mondays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. No Saturday classes until summer. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

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.

CommuniTea: Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors and other library patrons. Have a cup

of tea (coffee drinkers welcome).

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

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

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

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

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

## 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](http://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](http://cc-eh.org) or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

## ‘Fall Into Christmas’ Fair

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

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

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

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

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St, has announced the following. Registration required unless noted; to register, or for full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit us at [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](http://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. **Holiday Closing:** The library

**All-Ages Program: Cardboard Arcade Open Play:** Saturday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The community is invited to drop in and give these creative games a try.

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

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

**DIY Days: Grades K-8 – Homemade Stamps:** Saturday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together. These activities are available while supplies last. No registration required.

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

**Teen Programs: Reading Merit Badge:** Tuesday, Oct. 10, 5:30 p.m. Local scouts are welcome to come to the library and work on the requirements for the Reading Merit Badge. Bring your blue card. Workbooks and snacks will be provided.

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

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

**Adult Programs: LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Tuesday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m. This is an hour of gentle yoga for adults. All levels welcome.

**Music in the Library: Book Club:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m. Valerie Perrin’s *Fresh Water for Flowers* will be discussed. Books are available at the circulation desk.

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

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

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# Successful Start for Community Cares Program

By London Brazal

The new program Community Cares has generated significant interest within the community due to its impactful initiatives and inclusive approach to addressing older adults' needs.

The program, partnered with UR Community Cares out of Manchester, supports residents aged 70 or over and other adults who have temporary or permanent disabilities. The East Hampton Senior Center, Rotary Club, and Commission on Aging have been collaborating to determine a plan to improve the lives of these residents. The three groups have made donations to UR Community Cares to enroll residents in need of help.

At the two informational sessions held on September 13, there was a total of 58 attendees including members from town hall, the East Hampton Housing Authority (EHHA), and residents of the community. During the meetings, various organizational leaders explained that the activities called "deeds" are single task-based services that recipients can request as often as needed. Further information included how to request a deed, how to sign up to volunteer, and the flexibility of schedules.

In a survey conducted by the Commission of Aging in 2021, coming out of the Covid pandemic, companionship is one of the most important factors in many of these people's lives. In town, there are roughly 700 elderly residents who experience loneliness. Volunteers aged 15 and up can donate their time based on their availability and give back to the community. Volunteers between the ages of 15 and 17 must

pair up with an adult.

"Many people ask for rides to medical appointments or to church, help with shopping, seasonal tasks such as yard work or snow shoveling, or just changing a light bulb. East Hampton Community Cares will help our older or disabled residents continue to live safely at home," said Eric Rosenberg, the chair of the Commission of Aging. Rosenberg noted that town programs are limited, and UR Community Cares will help fill the gap in services.

At the end of the meetings, attendees filled out presentation evaluations. Many participants were happy with the thorough and informational-filled session. With that, many people said they did not know the substantial needs of the older adults. Rosenberg is excited to see the high level of interest and desire to volunteer.

Resident Ria Irons is a nurse, Rotarian, and new Senior Center part-time assistant. She got involved with the program for several different reasons. As a local elder care advisor, her responsibilities include identifying, vetting, and connecting the community with resources that enable seniors to age gracefully at home. "This organization, which epitomizes the very essence of 'love thy neighbor,' directly addresses the

needs of our aging community members," said Irons. She emphasized the importance of strong leadership and commended her for her dedication to the aging adults. "Additionally, my decision to become involved in this organization was influenced by my regular interactions with Michelle Puzzo, the organization's founder, on social media and in person."

In terms of the program, Irons is genuinely excited about the program's growth, having witnessed firsthand the positive impact of community support for elderly residents in their home country, Barbados. There, neighbors would come together to make meals, help with chores, and provide companionship to the elderly, bringing immense joy to seniors, reducing stress for their families, and benefiting the entire community.

Moving forward, the organizational leaders are working to fundraise more money. Although the service is free to each volunteer and the recipient of services, East Hampton Com-

munity Cares must raise \$100 on behalf of each individual to pay a one-time charge for a background check. That includes a criminal record and sex offender check, driver safety record if appropriate, insurance, and computer system costs. As of now, they have raised \$5,200 and are looking to set a significant goal for more people to get involved.

In addition, Rosenberg and the other members are going to work with the EHHA Director to help residents with the technical side of requesting deeds. To sign up for the program, visit URcommunitycares.org or call 860-430-4557.

Irons recommends volunteering for anyone to give back to their community and foster a unique intergenerational connection.

"There's something truly powerful about serving others - it's like a warm, comforting bowl of chicken soup for the soul," Irons said. "Volunteering not only gives you that heart-warming feeling but also provides a meaningful way to help your community."

## 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.

**Boys and Girls Travel Basketball Tryouts:** Oct. 16 and 18 at East Hampton Middle School. Times: 6:30-7:30 p.m. for grades 5 and 6, and 7:30-8:30 p.m. for grades 7-8.

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

**Zumba Class:** Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Center School. Drop-in fee is \$10,

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

**Pumpkin Painting:** Monday, Oct. 16, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Memorial School, for students in grades K-3. Fee: \$25.

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

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

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

## Free Paper Shredding

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

This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit [www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste](http://www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste) for more information.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St.

To make an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank you, all who donate will receive a \$15 Amazon.com gift card by email. Details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Together](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Together).



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**Lindeman's Wines**  
\$11<sup>99</sup> (1.5 L)

**Jacob's Creek Wines**  
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**Frontera Wines**  
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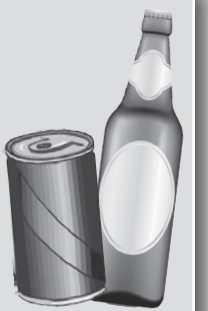
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RE10-6-23

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Logan, Kyle and Laraye Loomis of the Clark Hill area recently received the Lake Smart Award from Marty Podskoch, a member of the East Hampton Conservation-Lake Commission. Photo by Cheryl Lobo.

### The Lake-Smart Loomises

Logan, Kyle and Laraye Loomis of the Clark Hill area recently received the East Hampton Conservation-Lake Commission.

Even though the Loomises don't live on the lake, they live in the watershed, so the water that leaves their property eventually flows into Lake Pocotopaug. They have done many projects with their yard such as not using fertilizers, using a mulcher blade on their lawn mower, using plantings, rocks and mulch that prevent erosion to prevent contaminants from flowing into the nearby Christopher Brook that can then enter

the lake itself.

So far, Lake Pocotopaug has been algae free with no lake closure days, thanks to efforts from many groups and homeowners. Any homeowner residing in the Lake Pocotopaug watershed (not necessarily on the lake itself) is welcome to call for a Lake Smart assessment. Committee members can offer advice and recommendations to be lake-friendly. If interested, please contact Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 to schedule an appointment.

### 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](http://www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org) for information.

### 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.

### Haddam Neck Congregational Worship

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

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

Visit [www.haddamneckcongrwationalchurch.org](http://www.haddamneckcongrwationalchurch.org) for more information.

### Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

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

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

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

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

### Boat Ramp Closure

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department will conduct its annual pump/flow testing of all the department's apparatus on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at Sears Park, weather permitting.

As a result, the Lake Pocotopaug boat ramp at the park will be closed to the public between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on that day. Residents wishing to launch or retrieve their watercraft are encouraged to do so either before or after Oct. 11.

Apparatus pump/flow testing is one of several mandatory requirements that must be conducted yearly to keep the department's operations compliant with current standards.

### Appetizers With Our Candidates

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

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

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. The church is located at 1 East High St. Pastor is Cathy Rohrs. The church is handicapped-accessible and air-conditioned.

Bible Hour is Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The book of Luke is the topic. The Bible study is informal. No prior knowledge is needed.

### Artists Sought

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission invites local artists to participate in a Plein Air Painting event in the East Hampton Village Center on Oct. 14 starting at 10 a.m. weather permitting.

The event coincides with the East Hampton Art Association Art Show happening at the Congregational Church of East Hampton the same day.

Artists are welcome to set up easels along Main Street in the Village Center and paint whatever scene inspires them. Contact the EHACC at [arts@easthamptonct.org](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org) to register or call 860-993-5311.

### 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 [ehcetf@gmail.com](mailto:ehcetf@gmail.com).

### Air Line Trail Cleanup Day

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

Cleanup days are Saturday mornings in the spring and autumn. Usually the cleanup work is done by a few dozen people with rakes and shovels each provides. Several town organizations make this short period a group effort. Typically, there are many Boy and Girl Scouts earning community service hours. The high school's Interact Club has been involved, as well as less formally organized teams of workers. In the past few years the focus has been on troubled areas in both directions about 15 minutes walking from Cranberry Bog.

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.

Anyone that is a trail-user or is into outdoor recreation is encouraged to call the Recreation Department or sign up online at [www.easthamptonrec.com](http://www.easthamptonrec.com) to participate. 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.

### Fall History Festival

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) will hold its eighth annual "Fall History Festival" Saturday, Oct. 7, from noon-3 p.m., at the CHS Museum complex at 6 Bevin Blvd.

This year the festival will celebrate two anniversaries. The first is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of CHS in 1963. There have been many officers and members in its 60-year history. CHS is asking any past officers, members or their children to come to the festival at 1 p.m. and share their stories. The second anniversary is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC began in 1933 and had camps in state parks and forests. East Hampton had two such camps: one in the Salmon River State Forest and the other in Cobalt on Gadpouch Road.

At the Fall History Festival, the CHS Museum

Complex will be open to the public for free. The three museum buildings have a large display of artifacts illustrating East Hampton's history. There is a large display of bells produced at the Bevin Bell Factory and a huge array of toys made at the Gong Bell Company and the N. N. Hill Brass Co. There is also a display of the witch hazel industry donated by the American Distilling Company. There will also be a new display of CCC history and memorabilia.

Outside under the large Lions Club tent will be a band providing music throughout the afternoon. There will be guided tours of the three-building museum complex and free cider & doughnuts.

All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or [podskoch@comcast.net](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net).

### Seat of Our Pants to Perform

Due to a health problem, the performance of local band Seat of Our Pants at the Bay Point Club on Spellman Point Road in East Hampton had to be rescheduled.

The new date is Saturday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. All are invited.

### Yarners Enter 10th Year

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

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

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

For more information, contact Judy Hoffhine at [jhoffhine@gmail.com](mailto:jhoffhine@gmail.com).

### Residents Graduate

East Hampton residents Yvonne Eisner, Ryan Arndt, Cameron Dus and Sean Svaestad recently graduated from the University of Hartford.

### Dean's List

Maura Ramsay from East Hampton made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.

Ramsay was an education studies: elementary education (BA) major in the class of 2023.

### CDHR Oktoberfest

Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) will hold its 12th annual Oktoberfest Sunday, Oct. 8, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Autumn Ridge, the farm for CDHR, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Admission is free and there is plenty of parking. Come meet the horses of the CDHR. There will be food, vendors, raffles, hayrides, kids' activities, and more. The event is rain or shine.

For more information, visit [www.ctdraftrescue.org](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org) or [www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](http://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue). This event is rain or shine.



Firefighters Stop By... Cub Scout Pack 57 was visited by the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department at the scouts' September pack meeting. The fire department talked about fire safety, what to do in an emergency and showed the various tools and equipment they use to help others. Scouts also had the opportunity to check out the Rescue Truck. The pack presented goodie bags to the firemen as a token of appreciation.

# Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Hitting the Heights...** The Paquette family of Hebron recently visited New York City and brought the Rivereast with them to the new 102nd floor observatory at the Empire State Building! From left are Jesse, Chase, Chandler and Karen.



**Taking a Cruise...** Taylor and Betsy Hardy from Colchester recently had a great time visiting friends in Cypress, Texas, and joining them for a Royal Caribbean cruise to Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico.



**Visiting the Virgin Islands...** Maribeth Doubleday of East Hampton and her daughter Marianne recently visited family in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. They snorkeled and saw lots of tropical fish and a sea turtle. They took the ferry to St. John one day. Marianne is 6 years old and it is her second time visiting the USVI.



**The Views of Venice...** Susan Schneider of East Hampton and her mother Mary Schneider took a trip to Venice, Italy, in July. Mary, age 92, did fantastic crossing all the famous bridges of Venice!

## Where in the World?

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

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# \$9.5 Million Lottery Ticket Sold in Colchester

By Michael Sinkewicz

A happy customer walked away with a \$9.5 million Lotto! ticket from the Gibbs gas station in Colchester, according to the CT Lottery.

There were 8,440 winning tickets sold for the Sept. 29 jackpot drawing, and a winning "Quick Pick" ticket was purchased at the local Gibbs station that featured the lucky six-number combination.

On Monday, the winner — who wished to remain anonymous — cashed their prize, opting for the one-time cash lump sum of \$6,483,618, before taxes. Winners also have the option of choosing a 21-year annuity payout.

The winning numbers: 6 - 7 - 15 - 22 - 28 - 42. What are the odds?

Well the probability of winning a prize in Lotto! is 1 in 39.3, according to CT Lottery. But the chance of winning the jackpot is 1 in approximately 7.1 million.

Gibbs also comes away a winner; for selling the winning ticket, the station receives a \$10,000 retailer commission.

Pete Donahue, the senior director of marketing at CT Lottery, told the *Riverast* that the commission represents a "nice way to reward the retailer," although the result, and its role in

the swap, was truly lucky.

Still, sometimes selling a major winning ticket can cause a boost in sales; Gibbs will receive a poster showcasing that it sold a \$9.5 million winner.

"Some people subscribe to the lucky store method," Donahue said. "But players are superstitious."

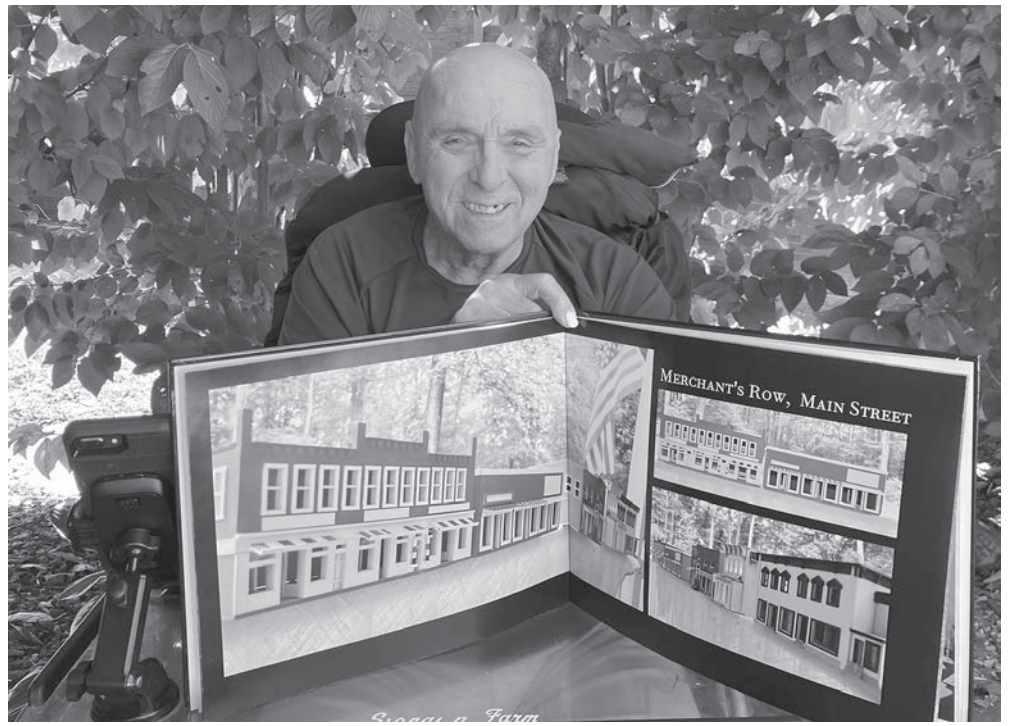
Families and friends often debate what they would do if they won the lottery, along with the evergreen debate of whether to take the lump sum or not.

"It depends on your goals," Donahue explained. "We always tell folks to consult with their tax and legal people to help make wise choices."

CT Lottery also offers its "Wise Winnings" program that helps educate lottery winners with financial advice. In partnership with Credit Unions Building Financial Independence, the groups jointly aim to provide free counseling and tips.

While most buyers are aware of the extraordinary odds of winning a jackpot, someone does have to win.

"Generally, they always remember when and where they were when they won," Donahue expressed.



Harrington Court resident Don Standish began building scale models of historic buildings in Colchester after he retired. His brother put together a book of his models and presented it to Standish as a Christmas gift.

## Resident Builds Models of Historic Buildings

Born in the blizzard of 1948, Don Standish, a resident at Harrington Court, has lived in Colchester for his entire life. He comes from generations of Colchester natives who farmed the land. Most of his family resided on Standish Road, for obvious reasons. His grandfather would give his children land as a gift when they married, to keep his family close by.

Standish grew up on Standish Road and went to school at Central School and Bacon Academy. He graduated in 1966 and worked for Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford and Leo Glemboski's Gas Station in Colchester (where Mark's Auto is located today). He also worked for his grandfather at Linwood Cemetery mowing lawns for \$1 an hour (he thought he was the richest man alive), and worked for his father and partner Galivan and Standish TVs and Appliances (once located at the corner of Mill Street and Norwich Ave), which is where he worked for most of his life, running the branch in Old Saybrook. Standish married in 1969 and has a daughter and a son from that marriage. He has two grandchildren; one is going to be a writer and one is waiting to become a teenager.

When Standish retired, he started a hobby of building scale models of historic buildings in Colchester. He always liked woodworking

and has a love and antiques, so he felt that was the perfect match for him. It took a lot of time and patience, but he thoroughly enjoyed it. He says he even dreamed about building his models when he went to bed. He would spend hours in the basement of his condo, where his workshop was located.

His brother, Mark A. Balaban, made him a book of his models as a Christmas gift and Standish enjoys looking through it and sharing it with his friends at Complete Care at Harrington Court. His brother hired a professional photographer to take photos of the models that were spread out among family and friends. (Standish enjoyed giving his models away to friends and family and sold a few.)

He built several models of Colchester landmarks, such as the original Cragin Memorial Library, the Federated Church, the Hayward Fire House, Merchant's Row, the Old Town Hall, and the Hayward House. His one regret was not making a model of the Gazebo on the Town Green.

Harrington Court will host an event on Monday, Oct. 9, to celebrate the town of Colchester's 325th anniversary. There will be games and activities as well as a presentation by local author Gary Walter at 2 p.m.

## Upcoming Programs at Cragin Library

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following upcoming programs. For more information or full descriptions, call 860-537-5752 or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/library](http://www.colchesterct.gov/library).

**Adult & Teen Take & Makes:** Wednesdays, Oct. 11 and 25.

**Children's Department Take & Make Crafts:** Oct. 7: Ghost; Oct. 10, Fire Truck, Oct. 13, Spooky Tree; Oct. 14, Haunted House; Oct. 16, 3D Ghost; Oct. 21, 3D Pumpkin; Oct. 23: Cauldron; Oct. 28, Origami Bat.

**Teen Open Games & Snacks:** Friday, Oct. 6, 1-2 p.m., for grades 6-12.

**STEAM Kit Take & Make:** Saturday, Oct. 7, for grades K-5. Pick up your kit, watch the video on social media, and experiment.

**Card-Making:** Saturday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m. Stop by the lobby to celebrate World Card-Making Day.

**Medicare Educational Events:** Tuesday, Oct. 10, 3 p.m., and Thursday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m. Learn the ins and outs of Medicare with Mark Macrina, a town resident and local insurance agent. This is strictly an informational seminar; no individual health will be discussed. For accommodations of persons with special needs, call 860-338-1466 TTY 711.

**Affirmation Button-Making:** Tuesday, Oct. 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Stop by the lobby to make positive buttons to reflect on World Mental Health Day.

**Teen Writing Club:** Wednesday, Oct. 11, 3-3:45 p.m., for ages 14-20. Teens will be given prompts or guidance to help accomplish their writing goals.

**Witches in Connecticut:** Thursday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m. Hear the stories of some of the women and men accused, tried, and executed as witches. This program is presented by Christina Rewinski, a museum educator at the Connecticut Historical Society.

**Foodie Fun:** Saturdays, Oct. 14 and 28. Stop in for an at-home kit.

**Early Learning Station: Pumpkin Counting:** Monday, Oct. 16, through Saturday, Oct. 21: Practice counting with these pumpkin puzzles.

**Nerd Camp:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 4:15-4:45 p.m. This is a new program where kids in grades 3-5 can chat about their favorite nerdy topics over snacks. This month's topic: *Pokémon*. Registration required.

**Collaborative Art Show:** Thursday, Oct. 19, 6-7 p.m. Pick up a template from the library to take home. Use any medium and make art, and then bring it back to the library by Monday, Oct. 16. Refreshments will be served at the art show.

**Super Saturday Storytime: Monsters:** Saturday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m. Just drop in.

**Cragin Library Paint Night: Spooky Edition:** Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. You will receive an email when supplies are ready to be picked up from the library. Registration required: [tinyurl.com/3jexkr95](http://tinyurl.com/3jexkr95).

**In Person: Witch's Face-Painting:** Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m., in the children's department.

**Teen Eat If You Dare:** Friday, Oct. 27, 3-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try some of our treats without knowing what they will be. Inform library staff of any food allergies.

**Halloween Storytimes:** Monday, Oct. 30, 11:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. Celebrate Halloween by reading spooky stories and trick-or-treating around the library. Costumes encouraged.

**Cragin Book Club:** Monday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m. *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Garvin will be discussed.



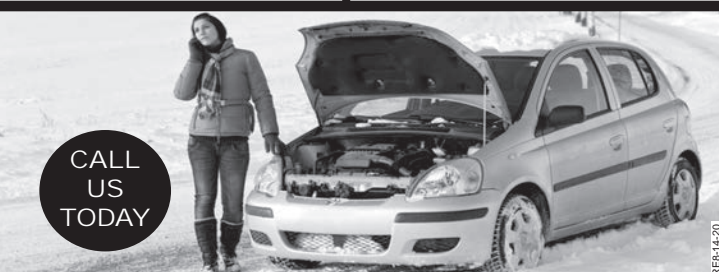
## Resident on Soccer Team

Nico Matteucci of Colchester plays midfield for this fall's men's soccer team at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Matteucci is a sophomore who majors in biology.

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## Mosquitos Test Positive for EEE Virus

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Chatham Health District alerted residents last week that mosquitos located in Colchester tested positive for the virus that causes Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), a serious and often fatal disease.

On Sept. 29, the Connecticut Department of Public Health informed the District that positive tests were recorded at the Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area; no human cases have been recorded this year.

The disease can be spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cases are rare, and typically are seen in eastern or Gulf states. The CDC reported that approximately 30% of people with EEE die; there are no vaccines to combat the disease.

Chatham Health stated that risk levels are currently low, but urged residents to take precautions.

"While we are nearing the end of the mosquito season, reasonable precautions are recommended for individuals who want to reduce the risk

of acquiring EEE and other mosquito-borne diseases, like West Nile Virus, until we experience a hard frost," the district said in a press release.

Here are the steps residents should take: apply insect repellent when outdoors; the district recommended using Environmental Protection Agency-registered insect repellents.

The district also recommended residents avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity, which spans from dusk to dawn.

Cover up — residents can wear long-sleeves, pants and socks if spending time outdoors.

Homeowners should consider draining any standing water, or unclogging gutters and drains; mosquitos are attracted to and lay eggs in standing water.

Lastly, adequate screens on doors and windows can help prevent mosquitos from entering the home.

Russell Melmed, director of health at the Chatham Health District, told the *RiverEast* that residents in the district — which covers East Hampton, East Haddam, Colchester, Hebron,

Marlborough and Portland — who plan on hiking or who live near a swamp area should take personal protective measures. But he emphasized that for the vast majority of individuals, this alert was simply informative.

"People should be aware, but at this point the risk is low," he said.

If a discovery had been made in July, he explained, perhaps the community would be vulnerable to a larger outbreak. Heading into October, with temperatures largely expected to decrease moving forward, mosquitos typically aren't as widespread.

"They're not as active," Melmed said.

In 2019, two residents of the Chatham Health District were sickened by EEE, and one died. A horse was also infected.

But Melmed was optimistic things won't be as grim this time around — mainly because it's so late in the season that the infected mosquitos have been discovered.

"There is not a lot of time for that to happen," Melmed said.

Residents with pets also shouldn't be worried — "I don't believe it's a concern," he added.

Standard procedure, Melmed continued, is to notify the community when a pool of mosquitos generates a positive test. If there is sustained activity, the District would release more specific warnings and make recommendations to local leaders.

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

**Pacific Northwest & California:** April 14-21, 2024. Explore the natural beauty from Seattle to San Francisco. Trip includes transportation to airport, airfare, hotels and 11 meals (six breakfast, one lunch and four dinners). Double occu-

**Monday, Oct. 9:** Senior center closed for Columbus Day holiday.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 10:** 8:30 a.m., COA meeting (at Town Hall); 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Holiday Fair Crafting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 5-9 p.m., FUNdraiser at Mel's Ice Cream; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting (via Zoom).  
**Wednesday, Oct. 11:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming I; 2 p.m., Cardio Drumming II; 2 p.m., Sewing Circle; 2:30 p.m., Senior Center staff meeting  
**Thursday, Oct. 12:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/Ann; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling by appointment only; 12:30 p.m.,

### Medium Coming to Polish Club

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero on Saturday, Oct. 7. Tickets are \$30 per person and on sale at the club.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and people should be seated by 6:45 p.m. so the show can start on time. LoCicero will be at the club from 7-9 p.m.

For more information, please call 860-537-2550.

### Pie, Cookie Dough Fundraiser

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

Order forms are available at the church or you may order online via [tinyurl.com/4vcpf8sj](http://tinyurl.com/4vcpf8sj).

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

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

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

With the 2019 exposures, the district asked towns and schools to change their sports practice times to avoid peak mosquito hours — something that is not currently being recommended this year.

For parents, Melmed would suggest repellent when their kids are playing outside, but practices "should not be moved or canceled." Large gatherings, such as the Celebrate Colchester festival, received the district's go-ahead; the event was later canceled, however, due to weather.

Even if the risk now is low, Melmed warned that future outbreaks are a growing threat.

Winters are becoming warmer, he explained, and wetter, which helps the mosquitos lay eggs.

"Seasons are expected to get worse," he said, adding that diseases, such as EEE, will likely "flourish."

While dealing with serious and fatal diseases is understandably unsettling for many residents, it's important to be prepared.

"Expect to see these type of things happening more often than they did in the past," Melmed said.

With a wet fall, like the beginning of this season, Melmed stated that certain trees especially capture and retain water, which aids the mosquitos. He advised that 2024 may end up being a particularly harsh year.

"All the ingredients are there," he expressed.

### Senior Center Trips

pancy is \$3,529/person if booked before Oct. 14. Registration can be made at the senior center.

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

### Senior Center News & Notes

Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet, Holiday Fair Meeting.

**Friday, Oct. 13:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 10:45 a.m., Blood Pressure Clinic; 11 a.m., yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Series: Lung Health; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Saturday, Oct. 14:** Spain and Portugal trip departs; 9:30-11:30 a.m., Colchester's 325th Birthday Celebration Open House at the Senior Center.

**Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic:** Monday, Oct. 16, 9-11 a.m. Chatham Health District will conduct the clinic. Be sure to bring any Medicare and/or insurance cards. Call the senior center to schedule an appointment.

**"Keys, Bags, Names, Words" Documentary Screening:** Monday, Oct. 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m. This new documentary on dementia is intended to shift the narrative of fear and hopelessness to one of hope and action.

**AARP 'Meet the Candidates' Forum:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1:30 p.m. Learn the platforms and positions of the local politicians running for election this November. AARP will host and moderate this event, which is open to the public; no registration required.

### Community Baby Shower

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) will host a free Community Baby Shower for Colchester residents who are expecting, or have an infant up to three months old, on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

The event will include free gifts, community resources and games. Families should register at [ColchesterC3.org](http://ColchesterC3.org).

### October Project Graduation Fundraiser

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

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

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

### Colchester Federated Church News

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

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. For those wishing to worship from home, the service is broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday. Worship videos are at [www.colchesterfederated-church.org](http://www.colchesterfederated-church.org) under the Worship tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

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

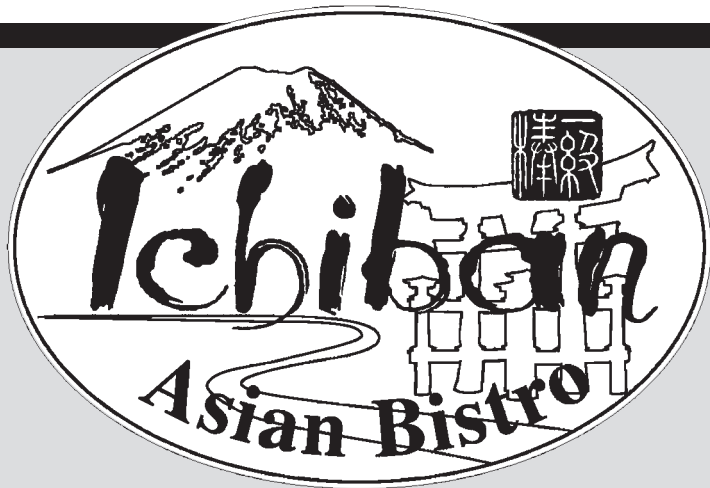
**Twelve-Step Meetings:** AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30

p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

**Boy Scout Troop 72:** Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m. from September through June.

**Upcoming Fundraisers: Church Building Tour:** As a part of Colchester's 325th celebration, there will be tours of the church on Saturday, Oct. 7, at noon and 2 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 8, at 11:30 a.m. Included in the tour will be a discussion of the church's history. Tours will meet at the front of the church. The tours are free, but donations are welcome.

**Candy-Making Class:** Learn how to make Deborah Howard's chocolate-covered cherries. Space is limited to 10 people. Cost is \$25 per person and all ingredients are included. Each attendee will go home with two dozen cherries. For more info or to reserve a spot, call Howard at 860-337-0907.



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### Fire Department Open House

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

There will also be equipment on display, and fire prevention and safety information available. Events will include: vehicle extrication

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

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

### Ukrainian Food Dinner

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

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

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

### Avoid Senior Scamming

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

Chuck Maynard, assistant vice president of Colchester Dime Bank, and Gary Dawson, learning and development manager of Dime Bank in Norwich, will discuss phishing, calls or emails from persons who pretend to know you, changing your passwords, money mule scams, grandparent scams, gift card scams, etc.

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

### Vendors Wanted

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

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

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

### Tour of Burial Ground

The Colchester Historical Society will present a "Tour of the Colchester Burial Ground" located behind Old Bacon Academy on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 2 p.m. The walk will be led by

Gary Walter.

Parking will be available at the Colchester Federated Church parking lot, located at 60 Main St.



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**Westchester Church Celebrates Colchester's 325th**

As part of Colchester's 325th Anniversary celebration, the Westchester Congregational Church will host a tour on Sunday, Oct. 8, from 2-4 p.m., at the church, 98 Cemetery Rd. All are invited. The event will start at 2 p.m. and include a short performance of old-time hymns by the choir, a tour of the meetinghouse and grounds, history of the church and surrounding locations, and famous people who contributed to Colchester's history.

For more information, email westconchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

**Parks & Rec News & Notes**

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following programs and events. Registration required unless noted. For full descriptions and to register, visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. Parks and Rec. can also be reached at 860-537-7297 or at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

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

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

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

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

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

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- ★ A member of the Executive Board of the Mechanical Contractors of Connecticut
- ★ President of the Nutmeg Construction Group, Inc.
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### Art Exhibit at Library

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

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

### St. Mary Bereavement Support Ministry

The Church of St. Mary will hold a Bereavement Support Group every second Monday of the month starting Monday, Oct. 9, at 6:30 p.m., in the Rosary Room of the church, 45 Freestone Ave.

All who are grieving are welcome, whether the loss is recent or in the past. For more information, call or text Susan Bongiorno Frizen at 860-685-1966.

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# Town Awarded \$500,000 STEAP Grant

By John Leavenworth

Last Friday, the state awarded Portland with a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, in light of much-needed infrastructure repairs in town.

Following an approval by Gov. Ned Lamont, the town was one of 60 small municipalities in the state to benefit from the release of \$24.5 million in state grants for infrastructure repairs, according to a press release from Lamont's office.

STEAP is a state program managed by the Office of Policy and Management that delivers grants to small towns for economic development, community conservation, and quality-of-life capital projects," the release said.

The OPM announced the grant was available on July 7, with a deadline to apply for Aug. 18, according to First Selectman Ryan Curley.

Last year, the town was awarded a STEAP

grant for \$400,000, which was for sidewalk repairs on Main Street.

This year, the new grant for \$500,000 will be used to replace water pipes under High Street, a project that will extend from Portland High School to Bartlett Hill Road, Curley said.

The first selectman explained that the initial concerns regarding High St. had to do with the fact that the road was "very bumpy" and needed to be repaved.

Upon further inspection, however, town officials realized the water lines in the ground would also need to be replaced, he said.

"The pipes in the ground are old" and could break, he said. "It makes sense to replace [them]."

He added that the substitution of the water lines on High St. will count as the first phase of

the project, with an ultimate goal of reaching and completing "phase two," which would entail resurfacing the strip.

The town would need additional grant funds in the future to fully replace the pipes and pave the street, he said.

The engineering firm for the effort, Jacobson and Associates out of Chester, gave an estimate for the total cost of the water pipe replacements of \$1.8 million.

According to Director of Public Works Ryan O'Halpin, the town provided an additional \$100,000 to the grant funds for the job, giving the town a total of \$600,000 to work with.

He said the extra money was "already bud-

geted for water system improvements" as part of the town's water capital fund, and was "easy to allocate" to another project.

The \$100,000 was matched by the state.

Curley said O'Halpin "took the lead" on the work for the project so far and "did a good job."

He said the goal is for construction at the site to begin as early as summer 2024, but the town cannot move forward until the engineers have designed a complete plan for the service.

He said that once the town gets the plans and they are approved, work can begin "while school is out for the summer," as the street leads directly to the high school, middle school and Valley View School.

## Red Raptors Midseason Recap

Portland's U9 Boys Red Raptors are off to a strong start to their travel soccer season. Holding onto a record of 4-1-1, the team has some serious kickers who have tallied quite a few goals to power the offense.

Wilder Yardis, Isaiah Curzan, Jackson Cou-teux, Elliott Parmelee, Christian Rosario, Declan Stachelek, Max Finkelstein and Clayton Trojanowski, who has 2 hat tricks, have all found the back of the net. Miles Burdick, who leads the team with 4 assists, has delivered nu-

merous passes to help pace the attack.

The Red Raptors defense has also done a solid job protecting the goal. Cooper Strong, Christian Rosario, Evan Kowalchik and Nolan Heller have cleared the ball effectively and always hustle to defend the goal. Goalkeepers Declan Stachelek, Max Finkelstein, Christian Rosario, Jackson Cou-teux, and Wilder Yardis regularly anticipate shots and direct the ball back into play quickly.

## 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:** Closed for Indigenous Peoples Day. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients - donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); watercolor class, 9:30 a.m.-noon - to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Set-back, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Tai Chi Quong, 1 p.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room. **Thursday:** Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:**

Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Family History Fun with Ken Doney, 10:30 a.m.

**Trip:** Thursday, Oct. 12, to the King Tut Exhibit, with lunch at Chili's, Bus leaves the senior center at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$30/person. Seating is limited; call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761 to register.

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

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

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

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

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

## First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone. On Sunday, Oct. 8, worship is at 10 a.m. The Rev. Julie Olmsted will lead the worship and her sermon is titled "God's Garden."

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday

and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

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

## Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional. A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheranportland.org.

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

are invited to see what Zion's religious instruction program is all about. There will be games, activities and snacks for the kids, and coffee and conversation for the adults. Call Sylvia LeShane at 860-342-0658 if you plan to attend or have any questions.

All are welcome. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Portland Parks and Recreation offers a variety of programs for adults and children. For a complete list of programs, full course descriptions, or to register, visit portland.recdesk.com or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required.

**Curious About Yoga, But Don't Know Where to Start?:** Wednesdays through Oct. 25, 6-7 p.m., at Riverfront Park. Drop-ins welcome.

**19th Annual Come on Over 5K:** Saturday, Oct. 21, at Riverfront Park. Registration for runners ages 19+ is \$25. Walkers and runners under 18 years old pay \$20. Register by today, Sept. 29, for a free T-shirt.

**Tai Chi:** Wednesdays or Saturdays through

Oct. 21, at Riverfront Park. Times are 9:30-10:15 a.m. on Wednesdays and 10:30-11:15 a.m. on Saturdays.

**Adult & Youth Dance Classes:** A variety of tap, ballet, jazz and cardio classes for ages 6 months to adult. Classes are held at Dance with Miss Alicia studios at 332 Marlborough St.

**Adult & Youth Martial Arts:** Classes for children ages 3 and up are held at The Inner Circle at 332 Marlborough St.

**Youth Gymnastics Classes:** Classes for toddlers and children ages 6 and up are held at The Inner Circle.

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

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Just a reminder that the annual **Food Bag Food Drive** is almost here!

We will be delivering the bags on **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** and picking them up on **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Shaun Manning at **860-398-0936** or Kelly Mainette at **860-685-1985**.

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

★ Letters cont. from page 9

**Standing for Seniors**

To the Editor:

One of my top priorities if elected will be to work with the Senior Center to bridge gaps around transportation for medical appointments and other areas where we are falling short!

The Commission on Aging along with the Senior Center recently just implemented a 'Community Cares' volunteer program that will offer people, not just seniors assistance with chores around homes or apartments, shopping needs and driving them to appointments. This is a great service for our town!

Look, I get it! My husband and I took care of my parents and we were fortunate to have great employers who supported us to make allowances in our work to take them for cancer treatments. We were grateful to have that flexibility but I know many of you do not! That's why when it comes to looking at our aging population we need to look at affordability so they can remain in their homes, energy services, taxes and transportation services that will go beyond the senior center.

I hope I can count on your support on Nov. 7!

Respectfully,  
**Deb Cunningham – East Hampton  
 Candidate for Town Council**

**Proud to Be Running**

To the Editor:

A little about me: I attended MIT studying chemistry and had a National Merit Scholarship. My family had little money, my father was a postman and my mother was a seamstress. I then went to Columbia University and earned a PhD in physical chemistry with a NASA Traineeship and working. I worked for 38 years for Praxair doing research and development and technology planning. My wife, Jan, was a high school chemistry teacher. When I retired, Jan and I bought an island here in East Hampton and downsized from one house to seven houses. We're not very good at numbers.

In East Hampton I have been very involved with community service including Rotary, the Lake Commission, the Clean Energy Task Force, the Library Board and others. Jan and I have three daughters two teachers and a school counselor. When Jan passed we created a scholarship to benefit women who want to pursue a career in Science.

On the Town Council I hope to use my knowledge and analytical skills to help East Hampton go in a direction that will benefit the current and future residents.

I am proud to be running for East Hampton Town Council with fellow Democrats: Richard Knotek, Dean Markham, Karen Wanat and Jordan Werme.

**Jack Solomon – East Hampton  
 Candidate for Town Council**

**Eleisha LeMay for BOE**

To the Editor:

The more time I spend getting to know Eleisha LeMay, who is running for Hebron Board of Education, the more enthusiastic I get about Hebron's future. Eleisha is far from a politician. She's a local mother who works as a school administrator, so she understands both sides. She brings with her a knowledge of best practices with regards to school policy and procedure as well as an awareness of the realities of the post-pandemic classroom. With over 20 years' experience, Eleisha has the experience the Hebron Board of Education needs.

I encourage you to learn more about Eleisha, as well as the rest of the Democratic slate in Hebron. Go to Hebrondems.com to read more about why you should support Democrats this Nov. 7!

**John Matra – Hebron  
 Candidate, Board of Selectmen**

**Time for Change**

To the Editor:

Through Colchester's long budget season this year, public comment sessions at the Board of Finance meetings were sometimes contentious and heated. One frequent commenter, however, stood out as always asking smart, clarifying questions and doing it in a reasonable and respectful manner. That person was Karen Belding.

I support Karen's candidacy for the Colchester Board of Finance. She has the education and work experience to do a great job, with an MBA and a career managing multimillion-dollar projects. She has a long history of volunteerism in town, for St. Andrew's church and many other groups. She's served as the president of the Colchester Baseball and Softball League and gives her time to coaching youth sports.

I was just volunteering alongside Karen this past Friday night for Bacon Academy's Project Graduation. I enjoyed having the chance to talk with her and get to know her better. She will bring a calm and respectful voice to the Board of Finance, as well as a thorough attention to detail and a willingness to listen to all points of view.

The Democrats' other candidate for Board of Finance, Scott Chapman, also brings great experience as a business owner working in financial planning and investment portfolio management, and an active member of Colchester Business Association. Scott's military career in the U.S. Navy

also speaks to his dedication to serving others. His financial know-how will be a benefit to the Board of Finance.

We need this change. I hope you'll join me in voting for Karen Belding and Scott Chapman for Colchester's Board of Finance on Nov. 7. They have the talents and skills to work with the rest of the board to make our Board of Finance meetings more productive, respectful, and responsive to citizens' needs.

Sincerely,  
**Susie Milner – Colchester**

**Coyle Proven Leader**

To the Editor:

The bottom line is that Colchester will be better served with Rosemary Coyle on the Board of Selectmen. She brings historic knowledge, tireless dedication and bipartisan leadership to the new Democratic team. The residents of Colchester know that Rosemary has always listened to them, and taken action to make Colchester a great place to live for young and old.

Rosemary Coyle has earned your vote, no matter your party. She will certainly get my vote on Nov. 7.

Sincerely,  
**Karen Romero – Colchester**

**Riley for Selectmen**

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7, it is important that Hebron look to elect candidates who are familiar with the town, who have made a point to extend relationships beyond political affiliation and who have a proven track record of leadership, volunteerism and success. Claudia Riley encompasses all this and more. Her history of service includes board memberships of the Hebron Center Nursery School, RHAM Youth Football & Lacrosse, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the Hebron PTA, RHAM High School Football & Lacrosse and The Town Center Project, a local non-profit. Claudia is no stranger to rolling up her sleeves and getting to work, and she believes in the importance of listening to our community members. She is committed to improving our town and to being an advocate for all!

Please support Claudia Riley for Hebron Board of Selectmen.

**Eleisha LeMay – Hebron**

**Matra for BOS**

To the Editor:

I support John Matra for Hebron Board of Selectmen. John is full of energy and good ideas! His vision for Hebron combines preserving our historic, rural character with sustainable development that takes Hebron into the future. President of the Amston Lake Association, John has strong ties to the community, where he has gained the love, trust and support of the Amston Lake community and beyond. He is dedicated to our seniors as well, participating in delivering Meals on Wheels. He wants to find ways to make Hebron and Amston more affordable to our friends, neighbors, parents and grandparents who call Hebron home.

Please vote for John Matra for Hebron Board of Selectmen. He's the leader Hebron needs and deserves.

**Cathy McSweeney – Amston**

**Asking for Your Vote**

To the Editor:

I moved to Colchester 22 years ago. We love the feeling of the town and found it the perfect place to call home. The schools were great, and there were many things to get involved in with our family. I worked in Southbury for IBM overseeing their accounts payable receivables and managing their corporate accounts and in 2005 decided to become a full-time stay at home mom. It wasn't a long time before I started finding things to be involved with in town with my son David. I joined the MOMS club where I met many friends and also found a part-time job working for the Colchester Business Association. It was a great mix and allowed me to spend time with my family and become active in the community.

I was the CBA clerk for nine years and really enjoyed my time working for the members on the Board of Directors. In 2009, I joined the Colchester Lions Club and in 2015 was elected as president. It was really during this time that I saw how important it was to be part of the town of Colchester, and it was during this time as a member of the Lions Club I was able to see firsthand the value that volunteering can bring to town.

During the pandemic, when residents were struggling, I worked with Lions from all across Connecticut to bring Farmers to Families food boxes to Colchester and assisted in a one-day food delivery of over 300 boxes of food. I also joined a team of people who sewed surgical gowns made from Tyvek materials, sewed face masks, and worked with other lions who obtained disaster grants to buy disinfected supplies. The Colchester fire department as well as both nursing homes received a supply of donations. I am proud of the work that I do with the Lions Club and very proud to serve the community.

I did all of this while serving the town for the last eight years as the Colchester Tax Collector.

I am the president of the New London Tax Collectors Association and hold the board seat on the Connecticut Tax Collectors Association. I am proud to serve in all of these organizations and assist residents with compassion and understanding.

On Nov. 7 I ask for your vote so I can continue to bring my skills and dedication to Town Hall.

**Michele Wyatt  
 Colchester Tax Collector**

**Supports Smyzel**

To the Editor:

Good day Hebron voters. I would recommend that you consider re-electing to the BOE, Allyson Smyzel. She is a person who brings to the board special and unique skills. In her professional life, she works with children with problems and addictions. As a result, her skills and knowledge are immeasurable. Also, her warm, friendly personality shows in her ability to work for the community and directly, the BOE. I feel that, to not reelect her to the board would be a horrible loss to the town.

Thank you,  
**Daniel Larson – Amston**

*Note: Larson is chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

**Town Needs Change**

Colchester Neighbors:

Autumn is upon us and campaign season is in full swing! Municipal elections are often overlooked and have low voter turnout. Yet, they are the most important as they determine the quality of our life from roads to the education our children receive. It's no secret that Colchester has had its share of negative attention the last two years. Personally, I am excited for the change that this town so desperately needs. That starts with real, effective leadership with Bernie Dennler as first selectman. Bernie has tremendous experience with competent leadership and communication skills. Both in his work life and volunteer time with the town, he has proven to be the true bipartisan leader that Colchester needs.

The rest of the Democratic team including Rosemary, Denise, Dave, Michele, Gayle, Scott, Karen, Stefanie, Michelle, Chris, Sean, Krista, and Andrew will restore civility and competence at Town Hall.

**Jo-Ann Holmes – Colchester**

**Wanat for Town Council**

To the Editor:

I met Karen Wanat in 2017 and served with her on the PTO board for the last several years. I have witnessed Karen put her heart and soul into her many volunteer efforts; she does everything with 110 percent. Examples of Karen's leadership include: PTO fundraisers earning tens of thousands of dollars for the schools each year; Chatham Girl Scout service leader which includes 11 troops and 115 girls; Center School play director, putting on a top quality production while raising funds to build the program for future. If Karen's name is associated with something, you can be sure it will be a success. The care and dedication she puts into her roles is unmatched.

This past spring, Karen found herself as a grassroots advocate for the schools and town at budget time. She met with town officials, asked valuable questions, researched, educated and shared information. I believe that without her efforts, the school budget would not have been restored.

Karen is a valuable member of our community. She is a thoughtful and dedicated individual and has left positive and lasting impacts on East Hampton. This is why the community should trust her to serve as a member of the Town Council.

Sincerely,  
**Julie Foulis – East Hampton**

**Colchester's Bernie Sanders**

Dear Colchester Residents,

The Democratic candidate for first selectman, Bernie Dennler, is a self-proclaimed democratic socialist. His Twitter username reveals his admiration of Bernie Sanders. Recently on social media Bernie attempted to distance himself by claiming he only supports universal healthcare. That's not exactly Grand Canyon distances, but let's consider what that means for us.

Let's propose that a loved one is unresponsive and needs medical help. You will dial 911 and start a chain-reaction that is second to none in the world. Immediately Colchester's first responders are activated; police, fire and EMS – they will speed to your home. They will work to exhaustion for one goal, to keep your loved one alive and get them to a hospital. If necessary, they will arrange helicopter transportation to the best hospitals. Once at the hospital, highly trained doctors and nurses with the best equipment will treat your loved one and with God's grace save their life. From the 911 call to discharge from the hospital, no one cared about your politics, sexual orientation, skin color, or bank account. They spared no expense to save a life. That commitment to preserve human life is not inexpensive. In a non-emergency situation, we have the opportunity to receive elective procedures that people abroad travel to the USA for.

Countries who embrace socialized medicine inevitably ration services to maintain affordability.

Would Bernie Dennler socialize the town ambulance services and ration care? What else is he willing to socialize? That ideology is dangerous for our community.

Like Bernie Sanders, Bernie Dennler a politician that no one seriously considers for leadership. Anytime a society embraces socialism, massive tax hikes follow. Can our families and small businesses afford that?

This November, make a plan and vote! With a socialist on the ballot, your loved ones' lives and financial well-being might depend on it.

Sincerely,  
**Michael B. Begun – Colchester**

**Zitkus & Fodaski**

To the Editor:

Frank Zitkus has devoted years to supporting and furthering the Hebron we see around us every day. Frank's tireless work on the Planning and Zoning has helped preserve Hebron's rural landscape, productive farmland, pristine watercourses and historic features. All this, while being aware of the pressures on the town for appropriate commercial development and housing Without people like Frank, Hebron would be a poorer place in which to live. Janet Fodaski has over 30 years in budget and expense management and will bring those solid skills to help Planning and Zoning choose how we spend our valuable resources.

It is only a few weeks to the election and I ask you to vote for Frank Zitkus and Janet Fodaski for Planning and Zoning, and for Davis Howell as Alternates, on Nov. 7.

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

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

**Later Start Times**

To the Editor:

Schools should implement later start times. In 2023, high school and college students develop sleep disorders due to early school start times and homework loads conflicting with busy schedules. Marcy Sanders, Ph.D., states that a primary factor for college students staying up late is because working in front of a computer screen alerts the body rather than relaxing it. Statistics from *Medical News Today* state that 20% of college students stay up all night at least once a month while 35% stay up until 3 in the morning once a week. According to the CDC, adolescents should be getting eight to ten hours of sleep yet 68.4% state that they sleep less than seven hours per night.

The American Sleep Academy maintains that adolescents and young adults who do not get the recommended amount of sleep are more prone to perform poorly in school, obesity, symptoms of depression, and the use of substances such as tobacco and alcohol, and car accidents. The amount of sleep students get impacts their mental welfare and safety.

More than a fourth of adolescents in Connecticut report poor mental health. Connecticut has the fourth earliest start times in the United States contributing to this statistic. In 2022, the Connecticut average school start time was 7:39 a.m. The current school start times within Connecticut promote poor academic performance and mental welfare among students and compromise the safety of adolescents. Meir Kryger, MD, asserts that adequate amounts of sleep correlate with academic success and productivity. Therefore, schools should start no earlier than 8 a.m.

**Logan Brown – Colchester**

**State the Facts**

To the Editor:

In his recent letter to the *Riverast*, Mr. Engelhardt referenced "wants versus needs" in the most recent East Hampton budget referendum which passed on the second town vote.

A few of his misstatements of fact need to be corrected.

Mr. Engelhardt incorrectly insinuates that the Republican-controlled Board of Finance and Town Council wanted to "cut" funds for teachers. Absolutely untrue.

Both boards clearly stated that no teachers or student programs were to be cut. Neither Town Council nor Board of Finance can direct where reductions are made. That is determined by the school superintendent who within 24 hours had made his pronouncement on the number of teachers and specifically which teachers he had decided would be cut if the budget failed. Again, his decision and not that of BoF or TC.

Even though this proposal passed, 744 voters thought it was still too high while 667 thought it was too low.

Reductions in proposed increases are not a cut, Mr. Engelhardt. It is simply a lesser increase of what someone wanted to receive. This year's reduced request did not result in the elimination of any teachers or programs.

As for the police lieutenant proposed for the support of the Accountability compliance, the ma-

*See Letters page 30*



All of God's Children... October is the month for "Scarecrows on Main Street." This year's entry by St. Peter's Episcopal Church features five scarecrows of diverse ethnic groups and orientation, expressed by different skin tones, representing all of God's children equally. People can visit the scarecrows along both sides of Main Street all month, and then vote for their favorite at the Harvest Moon Festival, sponsored by the Town Center Project, on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St. Pastor is Gary Boyle. Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. People can also watch live online at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live. Sunday Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service. Sunday Adult Bible Study: 10:15 a.m., following Coffee Hour. Fundraiser for "Elaina's Lift": Dec. 2; this will be a craft fair and free quilt show. Interested vendors can request more information at

CLCHebron.Fellowship@gmail.com. Caring Shepherds: Caring Shepherds distributes household and hygiene items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles, and prayers. For more information, call Caring Shepherds Ministry at 860-494-0431. Early Childhood Center: The center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school in a Christian environment. The center is open to all walks of faith. Ande Shutler is director. Call 860-228-5134 for more information. Application forms are at www.clecchebron.org.

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/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut 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: Oct. 8.

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. Upcoming Community Events: The Worship Center will participate in both the Hebron Harvest Moon Festival (Oct. 21, booth in front of Ted's) and Trunk or Treat (Oct. 27 at Burnt Hill Park) with games, giveaways and candy. All are welcome. Donations Sought for HIHS: The Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) food pantry is in critical need, and The Worship Center is helping to collect monetary, food and goods donations. Items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings, or donate directly to HIHS at 26 Pendleton Dr., Hebron; hours are Tuesday/Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m. Contact HIHSCT.org to give online, or email hshfoodpantry@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.

St. Peter's Harvest Festival

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will hold its annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 8, from noon to 4 p.m., at the church, located at 30 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron. The festival will feature pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks, mums, native-grown apples and cider. There will be free hayrides, a bake table featuring candy, preserves, pickles, pies and other seasonal goodies, a Fall- and Halloween-based

tag sale, parishioner-made crafts, and vendors on both days. Lunch will be served both days, featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork sandwiches. As part of the St. Peter's outreach programs, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Hebron Historical Society. For more information, call the church at 860-228-3244 or visit www.StPetersHebron.com.

Public Invited to 'Housing for All' Forum

The public is invited to a forum to explore why and how rural communities can create more housing choices. The Housing for All forum will be held in person on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the Parish Hall of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. In this Community Conversation, a panel of professionals will discuss the housing affordability crisis throughout the state, including in rural communities like Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and Columbia. They will also highlight funding opportunities and exciting efforts to create mixed-income housing. The panelists are: Brandon L. McGee, Jr., 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 for Partnership for Strong Communities; the Rev. Ronald Kolanowski, vice president of Commons Community Development Corporation and rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church; and Beth Sabilia, director of Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity of Eastern Connecticut. The discussion will be moderated by Hebron resident Claudia Tejada Riley, vice president and community liaison officer for Webster Bank. Registration is required. To register, go to: tinyurl.com/housing-for-all or visit the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE)'s website at www.code-diversity.org. Any questions can be sent to code.diversity1@gmail.com.

Church of the Holy Family News

The Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096. Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The shelter is now preparing for the overnight stay program, which starts Nov. 1. Needs are: Men's: athletic crew and winter weight socks; sweat pants and hoodies (M,L,XL,2XL); and boxer briefs (M,L,XL,2XL). Women's: athletic crew and winter weight socks; sports bras (M up to 4XL); T-shirts (M and up); baby powder; tampons, sweat pants and hoodies (M,L,XL,2XL);

and briefs (sizes 8 and up). Cleaning Supplies: Size XL disposable latex-free gloves; Windex; toilet bowl cleaner; and shower cleaner. Gift Cards: \$15 Stop & Shop for gas to assist people living in their cars; and \$15-\$25 Walmart cards to purchase items needed immediately. Please call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards. Miscellaneous: inexpensive ear buds; rain ponchos; hand warmers; office supplies - black Sharpies, masking tape and yellow highlighters; sturdy adult backpacks; washcloths; pillow cases; toothpaste & toothbrushes; first aid supplies; paper towels; toilet paper; and 13- and 55-gallon trash bags. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For more info and full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org. Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Schedule: Oct. 6, Mob Land (R); Oct. 13, Jules (PG-13); Oct. 20, Golda (PG). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided. Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 9, for Columbus Day. Learn the Basics of CT Paid Leave Act: Tuesday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m. This info session will also feature a hands-on application assistance event. Confused About Medicare?: Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 1 p.m., or Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m. Learn the ins-and-outs of Medicare and the differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage with Mark Macrina a local insurance agent. Spooky Halloween Magic - Mind-Reading Show: Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m. Teens and adults are invited to this evening of spine-tingling enchantment. The spirit guide will be Gregg Dwyer. Meet and Greet New Library Director: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 3-5 p.m. All are invited to stop by and meet new director Drusilla Carter. Refreshments will be served in the community room.

Book Discussion: Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., at the American Legion, located next door. Daisy Darker by Alice Feeney will be read and discussed. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk, and also available on Libby. Must be over 21 to attend. Bobcat: Connecticut's Secretive Wild Cat: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. This presentation by Paul Colburn, certified master wildlife conservationist, focuses on the natural history of bobcats in Connecticut, and offers an overview of habitat, behavior and current research efforts. Bobcat artifacts will be shared with the audience. Art for Anxiety: Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m. Amy from Studio 13 will lead guided meditation and breathing exercises, then will take people through a relaxing art process using watercolors and ink. Registration is required as space is limited. Help Plan Haunted Library!: Teens are invited on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. to help plan the Haunted Library. This event is scheduled for Oct. 21, and teens will plan to meet every Wednesday until the day of the event. Snacks will be provided and this will count towards community service hours.

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Free Bird Walk The Hartford Audubon Society is sponsoring a free bird walk at Raymond brook preserve Saturday, Oct 7. Meet up at 7:30 a.m. at the Church Street entrance to the preserve parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Participants will walk the trails, taking about two hours to look for birds. Attendees are then invited to convene at Flour Girl Café after the walk for coffee and conversation. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 8, at the same time. For more information, email gvonp27@gmail.com.

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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](http://stpetershebron.com), search for St. Peter’s Hebron on Facebook, or email [office@stpetershebron.com](mailto:office@stpetershebron.com).

### Generations of Drum Production

Alexa Odoy of the Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps will lead a presentation on the history of fifing and drumming at Old Town Hall, 26 Main St., on Wednesday, Oct. 18. The program, which is offered by the Hebron Historical Society, will begin at 7 p.m.

The colonial music style of fifing and drumming has been kept alive throughout the centuries, in large part due to the efforts of Connecticut musicians. Over the years, fife and drum corps have proven to be not only a military tool, but a source of some of the state’s finest artists.

The most renowned drum makers of the 19th century were the Brown family, hailing from what is now known as Bloomfield. Rudimental drummers across the country are dedicated to the preservation of these historical artifacts.

In Odoy’s presentation, she will discuss the significance of Connecticut’s fife and drum tradition, the history of the Brown family, and her experience restoring a Brown-made snare drum.

All are invited to the program. Donations are appreciated.

### Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. Registration required for all programs, unless noted. To register, and for more information and full program descriptions, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. The senior center newsletter is online at [tinyurl.com/3xfm862d](http://tinyurl.com/3xfm862d). For more information, contact the senior center or look to the senior newsletter.

**Bus Trip to Cracker Barrel:** Tuesday, Oct. 24, leaving at 11 a.m. and returning approximately 2 p.m. Travel to the Cracker Barrel in East Windsor for lunch and browsing in their store. Cost for the bus is \$5, lunch is on your own. Seating is limited.

**Tips for Cooking for 1 or 2:** Tuesday, Oct. 31, 10:30 a.m. Lindsey Kent, registered dietitian at ShopRite, will lead a talk all about cooking for 1 or 2. This event is free.

**Mason Jar & Rock Painting:** Wednesday, Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m. All supplies included; cost is \$5 per person. If you’d like to stay for lunch that day (\$3 suggested donation), sign up by Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 9:30 a.m.

**Flu/COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic:** Wednesday, Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., sponsored by Chatham Health. Ages 18 and above are also welcome. It is expected the new COVID-19 vaccine will be available. Pre-registration not required.

**RHAM Bingo:** Held the third Wednesday of each month beginning Oct. 18, from 2:30-4 p.m. The games will be run by the RHAM National Honor Society students. The games are free and prizes are awarded. To sign up, call the center.

**Chatham Health Monthly Presentation:** Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2 p.m., dealing with lung health. There will be raffle prize giveaways for the participants.

**Watercolor or Acrylic Art Class:** Fridays, Oct. 20 and 27, 12:15-2:15 p.m. Cost of class is \$25.00. Pre-registration by Oct. 17 is required.

**Lunch & Learn:** Wednesday, Oct. 25, noon, at the senior center, sponsored by Marlborough Health and Rehab. Heather Hitchcock, CDP Bristol Health community educator, will present more information on dementia. Bagged lunch will be either turkey or tuna sandwich, chips, a big cookie, and water. Deadline to register is Monday, Oct. 23, by 10 a.m.

**Weekly Shopping Trips:** Fridays at noon. Upcoming schedule: Walmart, Fridays, Oct. 6 and 27; Stop and Shop, Oct. 13; Big Y, Oct. 20. Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.

**Massage Therapy:** By appointment Mondays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Massage therapist Beverly Williams will perform 25-minute (for \$25) or 50-minute (for \$50) chair or table massages or hot stone massages. Call the senior center to

### Residents Graduate

Hebron residents Alena Redzic, Ian Small and Jillian Wilson recently graduated from the University of Hartford.

### Cookie-Decorating Class

All are invited to a cookie-decorating class hosted by Sweet Meg’s Creations on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Hebron Church of Hope.

Get into the Halloween spirit as we show you how to create spooky and cute cookie designs. This in-person event is for all ages and skill levels. Refreshments provided.

Admission is \$55, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting The Town Center Project. Reserve your spot at [tinyurl.com/5n6nkd7](http://tinyurl.com/5n6nkd7). For more information, call 860-208-8466.

### Absentee Ballots for Election

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 municipal election are now available at the town clerk’s office located at 15 Gilead St.

To request an absentee ballot, complete and submit an application, online, by mail or in person, to the Town Clerk, Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. There is a ballot drop box located at the front door of the Town Office Building that can be used for

depositing applications and ballots at any time.

Town office hours are: Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, call 860-228-5971 ext. 125.

In-person voting for the Nov. 7 election will be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

### Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the church bulletin at [gileadchurchucc.updates.church](http://gileadchurchucc.updates.church), email [gcc@gileadchurch.net](mailto:gcc@gileadchurch.net), or call 860-228-3077.

**Worship:** Worship is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. Services are also available on YouTube at [www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC](http://www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC) and on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Faith, Film and Food:** Friday, Oct. 6. Bring a dish to share. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., followed

by desert and a movie.

**Card-Making with Gayle:** All are welcome to register for the next event, which will be Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m.

**Walk to End Alzheimer’s:** Saturday, Oct. 28. All are invited to join the GCC Team or donate at [act.alz.org](http://act.alz.org) (just follow the links for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s and search for Gilead Congregational Church). To further support this cause, there will be a chili bake-off on Oct. 15, following worship, and a bake sale on Oct. 22, also following worship.

### Parks and Recreation News

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering many summer programs. For full program descriptions and to register, visit [hebronct.recdesk.com](http://hebronct.recdesk.com) or call 860-530-1281.

**Ghost Run Half Marathon:** The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester, and East Hampton are collaborating along with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host the 20th annual Ghost Run on the 13.1-mile certified half marathon Air Line Trail course. Registration fee is \$45 per individual runner, and \$100 per relay team. Runners registered by Oct. 8 will receive a T-Shirt. Registration deadline is Nov. 1. Pre-registration is required; there will be no registration on race day. Race day is Saturday Nov. 4 starting at 9 a.m. Register at [runsignup.com/Race/Events/CT/Hebron/AirLineTrailGhostRun](http://runsignup.com/Race/Events/CT/Hebron/AirLineTrailGhostRun)

**Youth Basketball:** Registration runs through Oct. 22 for the Recreational and Travel basketball programs, open to grades K-12. Visit the Parks and Rec. website for more information.

**Trunk or Treat:** Friday, Oct. 27, 5-7 p.m., at the Burnt Hill Pavilion. There will be trunk-or-treating, pumpkin-decorating, bounce houses, wagon rides and music. Decorated vehicles are needed; if anyone is interested in decorating their vehicle, contact Parks and Rec. to sign up.

**Halloween Paint Party:** Tuesday, Oct. 24, 4

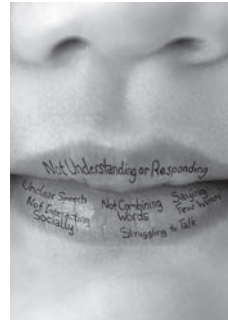
p.m., at the Parks and Recreation office, 148 East St. Ages 8 and up are invited to join in step-by-step painting a spooky Halloween kitty. All materials and instruction are included. Cost: \$25.

**30+ Basketball:** Drop-in games for all skill levels ages 30 and over. Tuesdays through Nov. 21, from 7-9 p.m., at the RHAM High School main gym. Cost is \$3 (cash only) each visit.

**Home Alone Safety for Kids:** Monday, Oct. 30, 5-6:30 p.m., for boys and girls ages 8-13 who are preparing to start staying home alone. This interactive course will cover safety concerns parents have when their children are by themselves. Cost is \$45.

**Restorative Yoga and Sound Bath:** Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., at the Douglas Library community room. Enjoy 60 minutes of restorative yoga, focused on extended holds, deep breathing, and calming the body with the soothing sounds of gongs and Tibetan bowls. Suitable for all bodies and skill levels. Led by Amie Meacham (YTT-200 Certified Yoga Instructor) and Amy Ordonez, Artist/Sound Healer. Fee: \$25.

**After School Holiday Crafting:** Mondays, Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 11, for grades 3-6, at the Hebron Elementary School library. In this program, students will listen to holiday music and participate in a new craft each session. Cost is \$100.



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#### IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

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### Farmers Market Returns

The Hebron Farmers and Artisans Market returns Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Hebron Elementary School on Church Street.

This will be the last market of the 2023 season and will feature some great vendors such as Friendly Spirit farm, In All Dairness farm, Black Cat White Dog farm, LaStella Italian Market, Cottage Gardens Bakery, Hebron Sportsman’s Club, Ladybugz Bakery, and live music from the Bruce Phelps jazz duo.

### Discovery Zone learning Center



45 Pendleton Dr. Hebron 860-228-3952	152 Hebron Rd. Marlborough 860-295-8003	2 Orlando Dr. Columbia 860-228-8885
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### Calling All Artists and Fine Crafters

The Marlborough Arts Center is accepting submissions for its Holiday Art and Gift Sale, which will take place Fridays through Sundays from Nov. 10 to Dec. 9.

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

Paintings and craft items can be dropped off at the Arts Center Saturday, Oct. 28, or Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1-4 p.m.

For more information and to download drop-off forms, visit [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org), call the Arts Center at 860-647-6363 or email [marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com).

### Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. Transportation is Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; call 36 hours in advance of your appointment to guarantee a ride.

Also, the Food Bank is located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008) and is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need of food.

- Monday, Oct. 9:** Closed for Columbus Day.
- Tuesday, Oct. 10:** Meals on Wheels, noon.
- Wednesday, Oct. 11:** Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon.; Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: kielbasa, mustard, caramelized onions, paprika-seasoned diced potatoes, Prince Edward vegetables, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit, cookie; setback,

1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Dancers, 5-7 p.m.  
**Thursday, Oct. 12:** Transportation, 8 a.m.; Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; PD Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 13:** Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Home-Baked Cookie Day! Menu: quiche, Lyonnaise potatoes, vegetable medley, garlic knot, cookie; Cards, 1-4 p.m.

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

**Lifelong Learning:** Offered in collaboration with UConn Extension. Registration forms are available at Marlborough Senior Center.

**Flu Shot Clinic:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-noon.

### Community Sing Tonight

Carolyn Brodinski of Seat of Our Pants invites the community to attend a free sing-a-long upstairs in the lounge at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., tonight, Friday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m.

Words and cords are provided for over 100 songs and all singers and musicians are welcome to this monthly sing-a-long. Feel free to bring a healthy snack. Enter through the yellow front doors of the church.

Additional Community Sings will be held Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

### Truck or Treat at MCNS

Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School will hold Truck or Treat Saturday, Oct. 21, from 2-5 p.m., at the school, 35 S. Main St.

There will be trucks, kids' activities, trick or treat, food trucks, raffles, face-painting, dance lessons by Alyson's School of Dance, a costume contest, and more.

Cost is \$5/person or \$20/family.

### Residents Graduate

Marlborough residents Kyle Dickinson, Garrett Kleinhen and Nathan Green recently graduated from the University of Hartford.

### Masquerade 5K Road Race

The Marlborough Lions will hold their annual Masquerade 5K Road Race Sunday, Oct. 29, starting promptly at 10:30 a.m.

This certified 5K will feature runners in costume and will follow the same course around Lake Terramuggus as the Lions' Memorial Day weekend race. The race will utilize electronic timing with computerized race results.

Entry fee is \$30 per runner. Shirts will be provided to those who pre-register by Oct. 15, with additional shirts being available on race day subject to availability. There is also a \$60 package price for families (immediate family members only) participating in the race.

Same-day registrations are accepted. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course which circles Lake Terramuggus.

The Lions Club supports programs which address various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addition to supporting local organizations such as the Marlborough food and fuel banks.

To register or for more information, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or email [meadams9182@hotmail.com](mailto:meadams9182@hotmail.com). Registration forms are also available online at [ItsYourRace.com](http://ItsYourRace.com).

### Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed live every Sunday at [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://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](mailto:office@marlconchurch.org) for more information.

**Oct. 8:** The service will be led by singer and songwriter Steve Pozzato. Pozzato serves the church as its Christian Education chair and is studying for ministry.

**Faith Formation (Bible Study)** is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. upstairs in the lounge. All are welcome.

**Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshipers to bring their donations.

**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.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop:** The shop is open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Dec. 23. For more information, contact the church office. The shop sells year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://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 Pastor Val Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432 or email [pastorval@marlconchurch.org](mailto:pastorval@marlconchurch.org).

### Tag Sale Saturday

The Marlborough Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tag sale maps are available online at [marlboroughct.recdesk.com](http://marlboroughct.recdesk.com), as well as at Town Hall, Richmond Library or the Recreation Department. For more information, call 860-295-6203.

### Openings on Commissions

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is looking for people to join one of the following commissions:

Economic and Community Development alternate, Water Pollution Control Authority regular seat plus two alternates. The application form can be accessed at [www.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.net); the link is at the bottom of the page on the left-hand side.

For more information about any of these commissions, email [CEO@marlborough.ct.net](mailto:CEO@marlborough.ct.net).

### Resident on Soccer Team

Bradley Lim of Marlborough plays midfield this fall for the men's soccer team at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Lim is a first-year student who majors in computer science.

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REG-3-23

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REG-15-23

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### Historical Society Upcoming Events

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

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

the Marlborough Preservation Society will be appreciated.

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

### Parks and Rec Fall Programs

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

**Mad Science – Crazy Chemworks:** Thursdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 12-Nov. 30 (no class Nov. 16 or 23), at Marlborough Elementary School. For grades 1-6. Learn about the tools scientists use in their laboratories, as well as atoms, molecules and reactions, acids and bases, fluorescence and phosphorescence. Fee: \$115/resident, \$120/non-residents.

**Safe Sitter:** Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. This class is designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Fee: \$110/resident, \$115/non-resident.

**Safe at Home:** Tuesday, Oct. 17, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-6. Participants will learn skills designed to prepare them to be safe when home alone. Fee: \$48/resident, \$53/non-resident.

**Artventures – Where the Wild Things Art!:** Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 17-Nov. 28 (no class Nov. 7), at MES, for grades K-4. Kids will explore many whimsical and original art forms and techniques, discovering clay and collage, painting and drawing, mask-making and decorating, and more. Fee: \$115/resident, \$120/non-resident.

**Acrylic Landscape Painting:** Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., from Oct. 18-Nov. 8, at MES, for grades 3-6. Students will be guided through the techniques of landscape painting. All materials are provided. Fee: \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident.

**Parents Night Out:** For grades K-6. Fridays, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m., at the

Marlborough Senior Center. Drop off the kids and enjoy an evening out at a movie, dinner or shopping for a few hours. Kids will have the option of participating in arts and crafts activities, games, sports or watching a movie. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Registration fee is \$20 per child resident, \$25 per child non-resident.

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** For ages 5 and up. Days and times are flexible. Fee for four lessons: \$200/residents, \$205/non-residents.

**Adult Programs: Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners:** Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Oct. 2-23, at Marlborough Senior Center. These are beginner-level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Fee: \$115/resident, \$120/non-resident.

**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, starting Oct. 5. Fee: \$5 per week.

**Zumba – Fall Session:** Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$60/residents, \$65/non-residents. There is a \$10 drop-in fee. Start date to be determined.

**Trips: Salem, Mass. (On Your Own):** Saturday, Oct. 14. Trip includes charter bus, free time in Salem and snacks/games with prizes on the bus. Registration fee is \$80. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 7:15 a.m., and returns 7:30 p.m.

**N.Y. Giants vs. N.Y. Jets:** Sunday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m., at Met Life Stadium. Trip includes charter bus, upper-level end zone ticket to the game, cookout before the game, food after the game, cornhole tournament, pickem pool, music, games and prizes on the bus. Fee is \$335.00. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride at 6:30 a.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m.

**Driveway Reflective Number Signs:** Cost of the sign is \$50. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.



**Harvest Sunday...** The Congregational Church of Marlborough held its 15th annual Harvest Sunday on Sept. 24. Members bought produce from their gardens and it was blessed by Pastor Val Seaver and then brought over to the Food Bank where it was organized with the help of the Sunday School children.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 29*

majority of Republicans voted on TC in favor of the hiring.

Hopefully both sides will make a concerted effort to work more closely for the betterment of the entire East Hampton community. However, better communication has to be based on the correct statement of fact, so let's hope we see improvement from Mr. Engelhardt and the Democrats.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Mark Cunningham – East Hampton**

### Renovate Athletic Complex

To the Editor:

Bacon Academy's football game moved to Griswold's brand new turf field! The Bobcats' home game count dwindles down to three. With the constant rain that the Colchester area has been getting, concerns over the high school's athletic complex skyrocket. I am a student athlete here at Bacon Academy who uses each and every field throughout the course of the school year and this year especially, the conditions are horrendous.

Other athletes claim that the fields now pose a safety hazard for rolled ankles, non-contact injuries, and major pig piles during live play; some even testify to bacterial infections caused by the constant waterlogged fields. If sports weren't already dangerous enough, now Bacon Academy athletes have to worry about where to take each step to stay off the ground and stay in the game. Other athletes complain that without a proper field that is capable of draining water and staying dry, practice is often canceled, leading to a disadvantage when it comes to competing against other teams.

The solution to this problem is much bigger than just a new turf field, the entire complex needs to be renovated. With new facilities the community could then turn to the school to host events and other youth sports. For example, Colchester hosts a big soccer tournament towards the end of the soccer season which would become much easier to manage if high school fields could be utilized. But instead, all Bacon facilities are off limits due to concerns over "preserving" the fields for the next high school sporting event. It's time we raise awareness for our athletes at Bacon Academy and push hard for an athletic facility renovation.

**Kevin Claffey – Colchester**

### Davis Howell for P&Z

To the Editor:

Having served for 16 years on Planning & Zoning, I care a lot about who serves on that board.

Davis Howell, a long time Hebron resident, is running to be a P&Z Alternate. Davis is smart, a hard worker and a quick study, who will be an effective advocate on the board that determines the actual look and feel of Hebron moving into the future.

Davis will bring his old-school work ethic and his can do attitude to the task. Please join me in voting for Davis Howell on Nov. 7!

**Judith Podell – Hebron**

### Back to the Future

To the Editor:

George Orwell once wrote, "The war is not meant to be won it is meant to be continuous. A higher archaic society is only possible on the basis of poverty and ignorance. This new version is the past and no different past could ever have existed... The war is waged by the ruling groups against its own subjects and its object is, not the victory over Eurasia or East Asia but, to keep the very structure of society intact."

But what happens if this type of society is turned upside down? What happens when the subjects are not impoverished or ignorant, in fact, quite the opposite? What happens when the ruling classes don't have particularly broad scientific minds and seemingly reject drinking water concerns, comprehensive urban planning, public opinion and historic preservation?

Special meeting, Aug. 29, 2023. Hebron's Public Building Committee met with Town Manager, Andrew Tierney, to discuss the future of the Public Works project. PBC members "noted that at some point revised cost estimates should be generated for both the existing site and Horton Blvd. This will provide the taxpayers what the added cost premium that there will be to build on Old Colchester Road."

This statement brings us back to 2015, while raising questions about our future. "Horton Blvd"? Is that John Horton Boulevard? Or is Horton Boulevard referring to the town's 88 acres on the watershed, a.k.a. 17 Kinney Rd? If so, will well water remediation and historic preservation costs be included in "Horton Boulevard's" development costs?

If "Horton Boulevard" does equate to 17 Kinney, are Hebron officials now denying recent referendum and survey results, professors, historians and environmental reports, just as they denied scenic road designation? Does denial "keep the very structure of society intact" or generate greater animosity? #save17

**Jean Tulumieri – Amston**

### Choosing Cunningham

To the Editor:

I support Deb Cunningham for East Hampton Town Council. She is a dedicated, hard working individual who continuously strives for excellence. Her solution to provide better services isn't simply to spend more money. She understands that good government requires accountability to the taxpayer to know how their tax dollars are being spent. As a member of the Board of Finance, she was persistent throughout the budget process to ensure town leaders spent our hard earned money in our best interest.

We need Deb Cunningham on the Town Council to continue to ensure our tax dollars are spent effectively.

**Russell Bonaccorso – East Hampton**

### Colchester's Selectwomen

To the Editor:

For the past two years I've had the privilege and been so fortunate to work with two incredible Selectwomen, Debbie Bates (R) and Denise Turner (D). We have worked in a bipartisan manner to serve Colchester and protect our town.

We've all lived here a long time and are invested in this community and its people. Debbie and Denise love our town and only want what's best for it. They also have demonstrated over and over again that the decisions about our town and for our citizens should be made based on the facts, the current and future fiscal impact, and what will help Colchester, analyzing the pros and cons and listening to all sides.

The three of us come from different points of view. Debbie has a more moderate approach, Denise, who was born here, has deep roots that impact her perspective, and I'm more moderate, fact and information based. The three of us listen to each other's ideas and come to conclusions that we believe are in the best interest of our town.

Through these two years of chaotic meetings with political theater/drama, we have supported each other through these most awful, uncivil situations. We have all been attacked personally and as BOS members at meetings, during citizens comments, in the *Rivercast* and on Facebook with misinformation and false statements. But we've learned we can always count on each other for support and the truth.

I want to publicly thank them for their service, for their friendship, for their support and for just being the fantastic women they are. I feel so lucky to have both of them in my life.

Sincerely,

**Rosemary Coyle – Colchester**

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

### Bringing Colchester Together

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my deep commitment to bringing Colchester together as a candidate for the Board of Selectmen. Our community has always been defined by its strong sense of unity, and I believe that we can continue to build on this foundation to create an even brighter future for all residents.

In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that we work together to address the issues facing our town. As a member of the Board of Selectmen, I will prioritize open and inclusive communication with our residents. I will seek out your input, listen to your concerns, and work to ensure that your voices are heard and your needs are met.

I am dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging for everyone in our town, regardless of their background or circumstances. We must strive for equity and fairness in all our decisions, ensuring that every resident has access to the opportunities and resources they need to thrive.

Let us remember that our town's strength lies in its diversity, and by coming together, we can overcome any challenge. I am excited to embark on this journey with you, and I humbly ask for your support on Nov. 7. Together, we can make our town an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

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

### Running for ZBA

Dear Marlborough Residents,

My name is Anthony Bratz and I am writing to formally announce my candidacy for the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate seat. It is with great enthusiasm and a deep commitment to our community that I seek this position.

Having lived in this town for over a year now, I have witnessed the growth and development that has taken place in this short time. I have also observed the challenges that arise when it comes to zoning issues and the impact they have on our neighborhoods and residents. With my background in mechanical engineering and passion for community engagement, I believe I can make a valuable contribution to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

If elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals, I will bring a fresh perspective and a dedication to pre-

serving the character and integrity of our town. I will work diligently to review and evaluate zoning appeals, considering the needs and concerns of all parties involved. I will strive to strike a balance between promoting responsible growth and protecting the interests of our residents.

Furthermore, I am a firm believer in community engagement and transparency. I will actively seek input from residents and encourage public participation in the decision-making process. By fostering an open dialogue, we can ensure that zoning decisions reflect the collective vision and values of our community.

In conclusion, I humbly ask for the support of the community in my bid for the Zoning Board of Appeals alternate seat. With my knowledge, experience, and dedication, I am confident that I can make a positive impact and contribute to the continued growth and development of our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Anthony M Bratz – Marlborough  
Candidate for Zoning Board of Appeals**

### Dedicated Public Servant

To the Editor:

I have known Rosemary Coyle for many years, first while serving with her on Connecticut Education Association committees and later, in Colchester, on boards and commissions. I have seen the dedication with which Rosemary has worked to address the needs of citizens. When Rosemary undertakes a job she never backs down from achieving the goal. Years ago, long before she was a senior citizen, she saw the need for a new senior center and worked to bring it to a referendum. For her, it was not a political promise but rather a recognition of the need for such a facility for the entire town. Even when the first referendum failed, Rosemary understood the need was still there. For years she pledged her continued support and finally the second referendum passed.

This is only one example of how Rosemary Coyle has made Colchester a better community. I am thankful she serves on the Board of Selectmen and has chosen to run for reelection. Please vote for Rosemary Coyle. Her record shows she is a dedicated and knowledgeable public servant.

**Geraldine Transue – Colchester**

*Note: Transue is a member of the Colchester Senior Center Building Committee, but said she is writing as an individual.*

### Hills for BOE

To the Editor:

I enthusiastically write this letter of support for Kim Hills, a Hebron native, who is stepping up to offer her expertise to serve our town. Kim grew up in Hebron and attended RHAM High School. She and her husband have chosen to work and raise a family here, with significant involvement in the family dairy farm. Kim's family is quite involved and committed to Hebron. My family and I have interacted with Kim and her family on both personal and professional levels. What we've grown to expect is thoughtful, fair and honest dealings. You've likely driven by their farm as you drive along Route 85, just south of the Gilead Hill school. Kim is also an educator at RHAM.

By voting for Kim Hills for Board of Education this November, one can be confident that Kim possesses the ability to make Board of Education decisions with her background of a parent, an educator and a Hebron native. This well-rounded and balanced approach will be a tremendous asset to the residents of Hebron. We will be fortunate to have Kim serving on our Board of Education after Nov. 7.

**State Rep. Steve Weir  
R-55th District**

*Note: The 55th Assembly District includes Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, Bolton and Glastonbury.*

### Supporting Business

Dear Colchester Residents,

This week, the Colchester Business Association hosted their annual Meet the Candidates forum where candidates could discuss the climate for businesses in Colchester. As a candidate for first selectman, I have also been visiting directly with Colchester business owners.

I hear frequently from business owners who are frustrated with the dysfunction at Town Hall. Over 30 employees have left the town side of Colchester's government under the current administration. This has led to the loss of institutional knowledge in the Planning Department, Public Works, and other departments they rely on.

Like many other residents, they are concerned and embarrassed by the negative publicity Colchester has faced recently. Headlines about the removal of library books, fiscal mismanagement, and police being called to town meetings have been read statewide. This is not the picture of Colchester we want out in the world. Business owners and staff conduct themselves professionally - our elected leaders should do the same.

As first selectman, I will use my professional municipal experience to rebuild our Town Hall team. I will prioritize seeking grant opportunities to help improve streetscapes, walkability, and parking in commercial areas to make it easier for customers to support businesses. Where grants are

not available, I will support town funding to make these investments. I will fight against privatizing the public water/sewer infrastructure our small businesses rely upon and support investments to improve it.

I will prioritize marketing a positive image of our community, so potential consumers and prospective businesses recognize Colchester as a destination to spend money or do business. I plan to establish a formal Business of the Month process so we can highlight news, honor anniversaries, and celebrate the unique opportunities Colchester's business community offers throughout the year.

Sincerely,  
**Bernie Dennler – Colchester  
Candidate for First Selectman**

### Conservative Balance

To the Editor:

I'm a fiscal and social conservative who believes in small and less obtrusive government. I believe in only funding what is absolutely necessary to run our town government and Board of Education effectively.

I'm against unfunded mandates directed at education or the town, but I understand that East Hampton will not get state funding if we don't follow these mandates from our state legislature.

I feel all town decisions should be made at the local level as much as possible. Locally, we cannot curb what is happening nationally with inflation, but the right town candidate can keep our own spending in check.

When I hear the term "spending cut," this means to me a reduction in the amount of money requested in the budget for next year. Budgets always go up, never down.

My family and I have lived a prosperous 27 years in town. I'd like to retire and live permanently in East Hampton. A conservative balance of spending only on what is needed to run an effective government versus unneeded spending is my goal. Please consider voting for me in November.

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

### A Voice for All

To the Editor:

I am asking the residents of Andover to give their vote to Anne Cremé for the Board of Selectman. Anne will be a voice for all Andover residents. Anne will bring a needed balance to BOS. Every board should have someone willing to offer their unique perspective. A healthy exchange of ideas produces the best policies for everyone in the community.

Anne and her husband Gerry have lived in Andover with their daughter for eighteen years. A retired schoolteacher, Anne taught grades nine through twelve for thirty-one years.

For the last four years, Anne has been the Vice Chair of our Planning & Zoning Commission. She hopes to continue with Planning & Zoning which will allow her to bring her continued P&Z experience to the BOS.

Anne is genuine, respectful, and reasonable. We feel very fortunate that she is willing to put herself forward to run for a seat on the Board of Selectmen. Please give Anne Cremé your support and your vote on November 7th for the BOS and P&Z.

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

### Show Up

To the Editor:

A key responsibility of our Colchester first selectman is to represent our community at state and regional government meetings.

That is why I was troubled to learn that the current first selectman has never attended an in-person or virtual monthly meeting of the South-eastern CT Council of Governments.

Not one meeting. Not ever.

The COG represents all 22 towns in our region and every meeting's minutes identifies the chief elected officer or designee in attendance. Since day one of being on the job, he hasn't shown up.

The COG provides strategic services to each town including opportunities for cost-savings, grants, and shared service programs. It also supports transportation planning and a roadmap for our region's environmental, housing, and economic development needs.

But how do we take advantage of these services if the First Selectman never attends a meeting to learn about them?

Large employers like the Coast Guard, SubBase, Tribal Nations attend. Our federal and state delegations along with state agencies, transportation, health care, and social service organizations attend monthly. These are key partners for our town to work with in order to grow jobs and attract businesses.

I expect our first selectman to show up. Not just for selfies on social media, but to govern and bring our town together.

It's time for a change by electing Bernie Dennler on Nov. 7. He will show up, he will bring stability back to our town, and he will make a difference for all of us.

Sincerely,  
**Sarah Croucher – Colchester**

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### Excellent Fire Commissioners

To the Editor:

I met Kim Hawes when our children attended Andover Elementary together. It was a while before I realized that this quiet woman was a backbone of our community. Kim helps out wherever she can. If your child played basketball, you know Kim. If you've interacted with the Community Emergency Response Team, you know Kim. If you've gotten involved with the Commission on Aging, you know Kim. If you've needed a Justice of the Peace, you may have met Kim. And of course, if you've had dealings with the fire department, you know Kim.

As an EMT with the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, Kim has observed the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. She would like to ensure our firefighters and EMTs have the resources and training necessary to continue to protect and serve our community.

I met Mark Williams years ago, when he helped me out of a jam, and then another, and another. I know him for a compassionate man, and an extremely competent one. I have two fantastic memories of Mark. One has him standing by himself, hat off, over the grave of a recently-buried animal. He stood quietly, praying for the pet of a family he didn't even know.

The other memory involved a local woman having a breakdown and causing a ruckus bad enough to require police involvement. As a friend of the family, I was trying to help, but we weren't able to get through. Mark was there as part of the emergency response team. He was the one able to respectfully calm her down and get her to agree to the necessary ambulance ride.

Kim's commitment. Mark's compassion. The competence of both of them. These qualities will make them excellent fire commissioners. Please vote for Kim Hawes and Mark Williams for Andover's Fire Commission.

Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet – Andover

### Persuasive Letters

To the Editor:

Last week Marlborough's Annie Steinbrecher and Andover's Eric Manning wrote powerfully persuasive letters. Absent any name-calling, they simply quoted multiple Republicans letting their own words reveal a party riven with hypocrisy. Hebron's Joe Stevens additionally reminded us of a time when traditional Republicans aspired to intelligence and stood for important progressive values. Then there was Andover's Scott Sauyet, articulately rebutting Sam Prentice, whose delirious CO2 addiction begs for a Prentice family intervention.

Lastly, Marlborough's Michael Chotkowski, accusing Annie Steinbrecher and I of being "broken records." I'll take the hit, but Annie is one of the most original and fresh writers. Chotkowski never can quote her or any other writer to let us know what in particular he finds offensive. Name-calling is his default setting. Substantial parts of his letters are like the captain's log of a puppy's worldview while leashed and exploring a new path. Constantly distracted, pulling in random directions, startled by some movement in a bush. Not much different from my puppy's last walk. Hickory nut falls to the ground. Strange smell in Japanese stilt grass. Car approaching. Dog barking in the distance. Strange smell in dead leaves. Decaying stumps are very interesting. Squirrel! Dog barking in another direction. Bumblebee in flower. Bird dropping on rock. Telephone pole relief. Dead worm on path.

But at least my puppy remembers the history of his previous walks, revisiting the most rewarding spots. Not so Chotkowski with his supposedly superior brain who claims the Democrats of today represent the former Civil War Southern Democrats who birthed the KKK. I doubt Chotkowski ever read a book on Lincoln to realize Trumpublicans like himself are the ones that abandoned the party. The penny and \$5 bill in his pocket are the closest he'll ever get to Lincoln, the original Republican.

Edmund Smith – Andover

### Toxic Attacks

To the Editor:

It is time to address the toxic attacks employed by our first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, and our Board of Finance chair, Andrea Migliaccio. During BOE discussions, the BOF chair called the Superintendent of Schools a liar. She refused to listen to the citizens' comments and repeatedly lectured them. When the first referendum for the vote of the BOE budget failed and a new increased BOE budget was proposed, the BOF Chair threatened to immediately lower the BOE budget without a citizens' advisory question if the second referendum failed. This is unacceptable.

The first selectman has lectured and made toxic comments to citizens and elected officials throughout his term in office. There are too many to address separately but here are just a few examples.

At a Sept. 6 meeting after a motion was passed by the majority of the BOS to delay an illegal investigation, the first selectman essentially stated, "I don't care about the motion the three women made. I am going to do what I want." The "three women" were BOS members. He proceeded to tear up the agenda and ranted like a child. The first selectman

shut down the Zoom link after the president of the Town Clerks Association proved his information was incorrect. The meeting was never finished, citizens were not allowed to comment, and no minutes were posted.

At the following BOS meeting, the first selectman was asked if they were going to address the Clear Gov program and the first selectman stated he would not because he knew the three women on the BOS would vote against it. He stated he would wait until he wins the next election and then it would pass.

This behavior by both elected officials is totally unacceptable and they need to be voted out of office.

Amy Domeika – Colchester

### The King Wears No Clothes

To the Editor:

Mike Thompson, I applaud you for trying to put in place a true debate at the Bacon Academy, but just like the fairy tale Andreas Bisbikos walks unencumbered with a few select patrons of his court not wanting to say anything that will disturb his majesty. Although he and his campaign team may feel like a (true) debate is not needed because they feel the upcoming "campaign forums," which were held and hosted by Colchester Business Association, AARP and North Woods, were more than enough, how about considering the rest of the kingdom as to what they feel is necessary? It seems to me that the king is afraid of a little joust.

Ralph Bianco – Colchester

### Consiglio for BOE

Dear Colchester Residents:

There are two Democratic candidates running for reelection on the Board of Education. These two individuals served on the BOE's budget finance committee and crafted an over \$4 million dollar increase to the BOE adopted budget that was strongly contested and received bipartisan rejection at the Board of Finance. It received that rejection in part because they could never explain the purpose or provide objective metrics for such a massive spending increase.

Increases in spending can happen over time, but not being able to explain it? That's unacceptable and an injustice to everyone who pays taxes. We should demand BOE members who are up front critical thinkers, reasonable with our money, and capable of explaining the budget they develop.

Please consider voting for Republican candidate John Consiglio for the Board of Education. John has an extensive history in enterprise project management. He's a person who has experience in preparing and explaining strategic plans and budgetary needs and understands both the necessity for and obligation to fiscal responsibility. I personally want to see him on the BOE's budget finance committee!

John is a longtime resident of Colchester, having raised two children in our community while coaching and mentoring many others over the years, and solidly recognizes that our children are our greatest legacy. He is a fresh face, committed to being objective and making data driven decisions, and will ensure that parental rights in the schooling and health of our kids are always respected and preserved. He's up for the challenge of ensuring all of Colchester's children receive a solid education and needed extracurricular activities; while at the same time keeping our community affordable for all. Please help Colchester in placing John Consiglio on the BOE.

Sincerely,  
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester  
Candidate, Board of Finance

### BOE Finance Reform

To the Editor:

Portland Republicans have on the ballot two excellent candidates for the Board of Education. Karen Renner and Angela Hammond are both highly qualified candidates who care deeply about Portland and our students. They have both raised families in Portland, with their children in the Portland schools. They recognize the importance of providing a high-quality, public education program with safe, and updated facilities and are committed to doing so at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

As you consider who serves on the Portland BOE, consider that unlike normal practice in school districts throughout the state, Portland BOE has no finance committee. We have what's called a "committee of the whole". Functionally, this means that the board has no substantive input on a new fiscal year budget until after it's been completed. The board then receives a significantly abridged copy.

There are public workshops to review the proposed budget, but this is inadequate. The board is at a woeful disadvantage going into these discussions. The correct practice, by fully functioning boards, is to have a finance committee meeting with the Superintendent on budget development from the outset. It's only in this normalized arrangement that a BOE can have substantive influence on spending priorities and levels.

Despite many attempts over several years to establish a finance committee, we've been defeated by Democrats. In this election we have an opportunity to put Portland schools on the proper course.

This course will place the Board of Education in the room while critical decisions are made on both the long- and short-term costs of operating our school system. This is what taxpayers expect.

Please join me and others by voting for Angela and Karen who will provide a functioning majority to normalize the Portland BOE budgeting process.

Tim Lavoy – Portland  
*Note: Lavoy is a member of the Portland Board of Education, but said he is writing as a private individual.*

### Listening to You

To the Editor:

If you ask me what the best part of an election is, for me, it's getting out and speaking to citizens.

To all I have spoken to, thank you for your time. Thank you for sharing your ideas, hopes, and visions for our community, and thank you for sharing your love for our town. The positivity and excitement make my heart happy as I go from neighborhood to neighborhood, getting to know so many of you!

If I've missed or not been to your neighborhood yet, please know I'm working on it! If you would like to share your ideas or ask questions, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. Also, feel free to stop me around town or email me at colchesterdems@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

I'm so proud to serve you on the Colchester Board of Education and excited about our future together as a community that cares about our schools. We have some outstanding and dedicated people working with our kids. Let's continue to support them and give our kids all the best.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Millington – Colchester  
Candidate, Board of Education

### Arndt Has My Vote!

To the Editor:

As a father with young children soon to enter East Hampton's school system, I support Augie Arndt's reelection to the Board of Education.

Augie has proven himself as a dedicated advocate for both students and parents. He actively champions the importance of parents' voices being heard in shaping our education system. Augie's unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and community involvement has significantly contributed to the positive changes we've seen in our district.

His experience, deep understanding of our schools, and passion for our children's education make him the ideal candidate for re-election. I am confident that Augie Arndt will continue to be a strong and effective leader for East Hampton's educational future.

Let's stand together and support Augie Arndt's reelection, ensuring that our children's education remains in qualified hands.

Appreciatively,  
Ben Barber – East Hampton

### Don't Be Fooled

To the Editor:

Throw a parade or maintain a building?

Bisbikos keeps writing about all his "accomplishments" and "historic investments." Don't be fooled. Bibikos takes money away from critical town needs to fund his lavish campaign projects.

Bisbikos spends just enough to get a flashy byline and a photo shoot while neglecting something else. The neglect is noticeable, too. The town can't even weed school grounds or keep the splash pad open.

Town roofs are collapsing, critical infrastructure needs repairs, and he's talking about expensive new projects in his campaign mailers. Who's going to pay for that, and what else is going to suffer from neglect?

John Farrell – Colchester

### Supports Jordan Werme

To the Editor:

I am writing to support the election of Jordan Werme to the East Hampton Town Council. I have known Jordan and his family for close to six years, as our children have gone to school together and grown together. In this time, Jordan has always proven to be genuine in his interactions, a direct communicator and open to hearing what others have to say. Jordan isn't interested in being the only voice or the loudest voice; he is simply interested in ensuring that everyone in the community has a chance to let their voice be heard.

I have personally worked with his family over the years, to create and participate in events that improve our community, including a Main Street cleanup that his children helped to organize. I am grateful for his continuous efforts to make our town a better place and also grateful for his service to our country, as part of the military.

Our town is full of amazing people, small businesses and opportunities for growth. I know that my family, and all the people of East Hampton, will benefit by having Jordan Werme on the East Hampton Town Council.

Signed,  
Amie Meacham  
Kindness with Kids  
East Hampton

### A Big Thank You

To the Editor:

On behalf of the East Hampton Senior Center participants, a Big Thank You goes out to the Democratic Town Committee for sponsoring the luncheon at the Senior Center on Sept. 29. Although the weather was rainy and cold, the environment was warm and inviting at the center. The senior citizens were very pleased with the lunch and the presentations. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Jo Ann Ewing, Coordinator  
East Hampton Senior Services

### Bacon Academy Art Budget

To the Editor:

I am writing to you to express my feelings on Bacon Academy's art budget and to get others to agree on the topic of the town improving the budget. I myself am a student at Bacon and I believe that raising this art budget will impact the school and students in a positive way. One reason that it would be very beneficial is that increasing the art budget would improve the student's creativity. Increasing our art budget will also take the stress off the teachers. I had the opportunity to talk to our art teachers and they expressed to me how expensive a lot of the art equipment is. They told me that some materials they must pay for – for example, sketch books for the sketchbook class. They also told me how expensive it is to purchase colored pencils each pack can cost upwards of \$40. Also to learn that they have to cover 11 classes with the budget they are given it's simply just not enough. It's not enough for us students to embrace and enjoy what we are doing because we don't have enough money in the budget. I also talked to a student who's currently enrolled in an art class. He told me that some of the paint he used was dried out and almost unusable.

These problems can't be fixed without a higher budget. I'm writing to inform all the residents of Colchester about this problem. It must be fixed.

Sincerely,  
Dylan Ward – Colchester

### BOE Democrats

To the Editor:

Happy October, Hebron! It's time to start thinking about the municipal elections in the fall. As you may know, there are many people running for the Board of Education. I'm so pleased that Eleisha LeMay, Brittany Loudonback, and Elizabeth Alexander are on the Democratic slate of candidates. These women were instrumental in ensuring that the school budget passed this year.

Of the Republicans running, one of them has used aliases on social media to push an unmasking agenda during the height of the pandemic while sitting on the board. Another was publicly attempting to organize an anti-mask protest "at Gilead Hill School on meet-and-greet day". For those who haven't been involved, meet and greet day involves the kindergarteners coming to school for the first time. I don't have to spell out how unconscionable and frightening a protest would have been and thank goodness it was thwarted by the administration.

One Republican member who is presently on the board has previously vacated his seat, only to be re-appointed to it and is preparing to vacate it again this year by running for the Board of Selectmen. Two other elected Republican members of the BOE also vacated their seats in the last year.

As a member of the board, I can tell you that this is not due to friction. In fact, we have a cohesive group, and our meetings are seldom, if ever, contentious.

My concern is that you vote for people who take their pledge seriously and are doing this for the right reasons. Vote for board members who will stick with their commitment and who don't run due to personal agendas and science denial. Vote for people who don't back extremists. Those people are out there – they're the Democrats and they're on row A.

Nicole Matthews – Amston

*Note: Matthews is a member of the Hebron Board of Education, but said she is writing as a citizen.*

### Fresh Start

To the Editor:

After losing decisively in the budget referendum, Selectman/candidate Kasper has proposed for a new Public Works Committee to create "... accountability, communication, transparency," which, ironically, are in short supply in Hebron government largely because of Mr. Kasper and his ally, Mr. Larson. Two years ago, when the insiders were in firm control, selectman Kasper opposed such a committee (the infamous "f\*\*\* neighbors" meeting that he apparently found nothing wrong with). He supported the DPW-Horton project. He opposed bringing it to referendum. He was silent when citizens were bullied for opposing his DPW project. And he advocated for expensive pet projects despite acknowledging that the majority didn't want them.

The town government lost the trust of Hebron's residents long ago. Because of government inaction, there is much to do: preserve the Horton property, fix the DPW, and promote our rural

See Letters page 32

**Obituaries**

*Portland*

**Joseph Lastrina**



On Sunday, Sept. 24, Joseph James Lastrina Sr., son of the late Angelo and Helen (Capsalis) Lastrina and husband of Maureen (Manchester) Lastrina, passed away peacefully after a long illness with family at his side.

Joe was "dad" to seven children and "Popie" and "Pops" to 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren who he adored and loved unconditionally. Joe grew up with a passion for baseball and tennis and won championship games as a young athlete. As a young man he worked alongside his dad in the family flower business, Lastrina's Flowers. Joe began a family of six at a young age and found it necessary to pursue higher education classes at Hillyar College in Hartford before he became a manager at Wonder Bread and worked in Canada as a lineman. Growing up in a family-owned business he always had the entrepreneurial gene which eventually led him to owning his own business, Jet Home Improvement in Portland. Before he was ready to retire, he joined his cousin and best friend, Vinny Nanfito and worked at V. Nanfito, Inc. as a top salesman.

He loved listening to Frank Sinatra and coincidentally became a diehard New York Yankees fan. He would often watch his rival team, the Boston Red Sox, so he could talk smack with his grandchildren who love the game as much as he did. He was an avid gardener and shared the fruits of his gardens with everyone he knew and gave the knowledge and gift of gardening to his children. He will be smiling to know his fig trees will continue to grow and be taken care of by his grandchildren. His heart will always have a place at the beach. His love of family vacations on the Connecticut shoreline and Cape Cod were the best times especially with a big bowl of steamers and all the lobsters he could eat. Sunday picnics in East Hampton were always a family favorite and will always be cherished memories.

Joe was born in Portland, and is survived by his wife Maureen of 49 years and their daughter, Nicole Lastrina of Plantsville, his daughters, Lin Oakliff of Portland, Annette Lastrina-Aitken of Westbrook, Lori (Robert) Branciforte of Portland, and his sons, Joseph J. Lastrina Jr. of Portland, and Angelo (Eileen) Lastrina of Portland; his grandchildren, who he loved dearly, Joseph J. Lastrina III, Justin (Anna) Oakliff, Kristina Oakliff, Angelo (Arielle) Lastrina, Melanie (Eric) Hayes, Joseph Aitken, Kyle Aitken, Mariah Lastrina, Isabelle Lastrina, Robert (Jessica) Branciforte, Jonathan (Nicole) Branciforte, Anthony Branciforte; and eight great-grandchildren, Camryn, Emma, Scarlett, Angelo, Michael, Madeline, Brooklyn and Elliana Rose.

He is also survived by his sister, Sandi (Robert) Mintzer of Kansas and several nieces and nephews.

Joe was also predeceased by his loving son, Michael Anthony Lastrina, and beloved grandson, Brendon Paul Lastrina, both who meant the world to him; his sister, Ann "Lou" Young and her husband Richard "Pete" Young of Texas; and his son-in-law, Richard "Scott" Oakliff.

Our deepest appreciation to the staff and physical therapy group who cared for our dad

and husband at the Summit in Plantsville.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Oct. 5, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. A memorial service took place that evening. Burial will be private in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the GBS-CIDP Foundation, Gbs-cidp.org

*Marlborough*

**Phyllis Frances Lord**

Phyllis Frances (Majeski) Lord, 85, widow of the late Kenneth N. Lord, passed away Thursday, Sept. 28, at Hartford Hospital. Born Aug. 2, 1938, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Philip and Edna (Fiss) Majeski.

Phyllis is survived by her three sons, William Lord and his wife Dianne of Marlborough, Stephen Lord and his wife Janice of Texas, Douglas Lord and his wife Sandy of Marlborough; her daughter, Cynthia Baker and her husband Scott of Maryland; a brother, Bruce Majeski; a sister, Cheryl Majeski; 15 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her sister Eleanor Rini.

Phyllis was a past president and life member of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary. She had fond memories of working as "the school nurse" at Elmer Thienes Elementary School during the 1970s. Phyllis enjoyed reading and cheering on the UConn women's basketball team. She spent a large part of her later life helping to raise many of her grandchildren as a "stay-at-home" grandmother.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family. She will be laid to rest in the family plot in Marlboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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

*East Hampton*

**James L. Swindal**

James L. Swindal, 86, of East Hampton, husband of Jill McKane Swindal, died Sunday, Oct. 1, at The Heart in Glastonbury. He was the son of the late Col. James B. Swindal USAF and Emily Glover Swindal.

He grew up in Alabama and Virginia and was a graduate of Falls Church (Virginia) High School. He attended the University of Alabama, MIT and graduated from George Washington University. He was employed by United Technologies Research Center as a Senior Research Scientist, retiring after 35 years. He was granted numerous patents in the area of jet engine fuel control. He served on the East Hampton Republican Town Committee for many years, was a past commander of Middletown Power Squadron and an East Hampton Little League Coach. His church home was Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church.

He is survived by his sons, J. Christian Swindal of Ridgefield, Jonathan L. Swindal (Mae) of Cape Canaveral, Fla., and his grandson, Mason L. Swindal of Irvine, Calif. Services will be private at the convenience of the family. "Sheltered safe in the arms of God."

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

**Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum**

★ **Letters, cont. from page 31**

economy. However, without a clear change of government, I doubt that Hebron citizens will approve anything including fixing the DPW.

The previously impotent Democrats have changed and deserve a chance. They will listen. They have an impressive new chair, Erin Bussierre, who has recruited experienced and talented candidates to serve Hebron. I trust Ms. Bussierre to do the right thing, which is no small thing. Candidates John Matra and Claudia Riley will bring needed courage to the BOS. I hope they speak for the ignored citizens, many old and less affluent, who have previously been held in contempt (the "600 people who always vote no," said one town official derisively).

We need people in government who will do what's best for all of us. He is a nice man, but Selectman Kasper has proven that he is not that person.

To save Hebron, vote Row A for a fresh start.

**John Collins – Amston**

**Wakey Wakey**

To the Editor:

In recent letters, I've railed against Dem politicians and RINO politicians at the federal, state and local levels. They are the UniParty, Deep State, Swamp, Cabal. They don't support 'We the People' though they may deceive you into believing otherwise. They have been successful at doing so for decades through mainstream and social media, the education system, Hollywood, government, medicine, big pharma, and other avenues but their reign is coming to an end. Their end not yours.

The end will seem abrupt to most who remain trapped in the matrix; the fake reality that Truman and his family and friends were living in the movie *The Truman Show*. When the end nears, many will wonder... what is happening, how can this be, why didn't I know sooner, why didn't someone tell me, has my life been real or an illusion. Disbelief will rule the day followed by rejection of reality, anger, confusion and ultimately acceptance... by most but not all.

There is a war that has been ongoing for decades between the forces of good and evil. For the last approximate decade, the war has escalated in the shadows and behind the curtain, but the precipice nears. If none of this resonates with you, you are one of the characters in *The Truman Show*. You are deeply entrenched in the matrix; going along in life, absorbed in daily routines and not detecting that a war is raging. A war like no other war. A spiritual war between good and evil. A game-changer.

It's wake-up time for the sleepers. Be like Truman and question everything. Be discerning; connect the dots. Avoid the proverbial 'gut punch' that is coming for many and align with those on team good.

**Paul Bureau – Colchester**

*Note: Bureau is vice chair of the Colchester Republican Town Committee but is speaking as a citizen.*

**Seeking Transparency, Professionalism**

To the Editor:

If you're like me, you're a bit tired of the chaos in Colchester these days instead of productive leadership. Watching our budget cycle and senior center bonding conversations play out this year is exhausting, worrisome, and confusing. As a taxpayer and parent, I found myself concerned enough to wonder what I could do to make a change and that's why I'm running for the Board of Finance in Colchester.

Two of my goals are to bring transparency and clarity around the role of the Board of Finance and the information that group uses to make decisions and then also work to get back to a more professional and civil tone in all interactions.

I want to help make the Board of Finance process and decision making more clear-cut and easily understood. That means making sure that both the process and all the data used can be explained in straight forward ways that help people understand and give input.

Finding the right solutions to keep Colchester a thriving community and at the same time finan-

cially solvent while keeping taxes at a reasonable level is not a simple matter. However, I believe passionately that town government means working together, no matter a person's affiliation, to find compromises that benefit our community as a whole.

With my experience running large project teams at work and my work as President of the executive board for Colchester Baseball and Softball League here in town, I know I can work well both alongside and on behalf of people with varying wants, needs, and personalities.

Please consider voting for me and the rest of the Democratic slate on Nov. 7 so we can all help bring Colchester together and move it forward.

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

**DeCesare & Smith for ZBA**

To the Editor:

I support Amy DeCesare and Bryan Smith, the Democrats running for Zoning Board of Appeals in Hebron. I'm sure many of you know Amy and her family. They are quite active in town. She is an attorney with experience studying Zoning Board cases. This makes her an obvious choice. Bryan is also well known in town as his family has been involved in Scouts, RHAM Music Boosters and various other activities.

Bryan currently sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate and would like to utilize his knowledge and experience on the board to help the town by serving in a regular seat. He is dedicated to this board. Vote for Amy and Bryan for Zoning Board of Appeals in Hebron on Nov. 7!

**Janet Fodaski – Hebron**

**Four More Years**

To the Editor:

For the last four years it has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Andover. I have enjoyed serving beside my board members, working cohesively, and respectfully. If someone is not knowledgeable on a topic, another fills in. All board members have a high level of commitment, engagement, and desire to help the community, creating a solid team effort.

During our term we have executed many great achievements and worked together to help better the community, including the following: repairs to bridges and roads, upgrades to the transfer station and the town hall, implementing a website, additions to our public works department, improvements to senior transportation, putting forth a fiscally responsible budget, and breaking ground on our long-awaited new community center.

I am asking for your vote to help me continue to work on improving town communications, community events and support residents where needed. After living in Andover for 11 years and volunteering my time in various groups I understand what is needed to continue making Andover great. I fell in love with Andover due to its small-town charm and close-nit community. It has been a joy getting to know the residents in town and I would like to further commit my time to the community in my role as a Board of Selectmen member.

At this time the current board is running for re-election. I would like to also endorse Jeff Maguire, Adrian Mandeville, Jeff Murray and Scott Person. As we move forward as a united board we will continue to work on the endeavors we have started and look for more ways to improve our community.

**Sincerely,**  
**Paula King**  
**Andover Board of Selectmen**  
**- Incumbent Candidate**

**They Don't Learn**

To the Editor:

You think they would learn. But they don't. The Toilet Paper Mafia consistently exposes itself as a collection of intellectual dilettantes. They are experts in all things critical: Politics, public health, law, science, etc. Just ask them. And just like our current government, they engage in neo-Fascist tactics where any deviation or disagreement with their opinions is met with retreated monikers like racist, Nazi, bigot, homophobe, science-denier, anti-vaxxer... followed by the grand prize, imprisonment. That's very contradictory behavior for the party of slavery and the KKK. Maybe tearing down a few more statues or inciting a few more riots will assuage their discontent. If ignorance is bliss, then liberals are very blissful.

Why does Joe Stevens defend Joe Biden? Even a dimwitted individual would stop poking their Trump voodoo doll and look objectively at the Biden crime family. You have to admit that there are considerable questions that need to be answered. Under normal circumstances, the DOJ and FBI would not be ignoring bank records, shell companies, S corporations, off-shore accounts, and laptops. But these are not normal times. The DOJ, FBI, and Soros-backed DAs are too busy coluding to nail Trump with endless, pointless, and bogus indictments and lawsuits. The Democrats have a good thing going in Washington and they want to keep it that way, even with a propped-up, medicated, dehydrated husk of a faux-president.

**See Letters page 34**

**Obituary Policy**

Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.

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**★ Colchester Forum cont. from page 1**  
 “amazing” performance.  
 “I think he clearly demonstrated the difference in leadership styles, how he can bring competent leadership back into Town Hall and I think his opponent clearly demonstrated his leadership style, which is to attack aggressively and put politics before what needs to happen in Town Hall,” she said.

In making his case, Bisbikos featured his “people before government” campaign message, boasting that he successfully checked off nearly all of his first-term objectives, but that he had a responsibility to finish what he started.

“I’m the only candidate in this race for first selectman with a proven set of accomplishments, a dedicated vision of our community and a backbone to hold all officials accountable regardless of political affiliation or personal relationship,” he said.

Bisbikos pointed to his public safety record, which included securing additional funding to allow the Fire Department to reach 24/7 coverage.

When asked about supporting local businesses, Bisbikos pointed to the selectmen’s approval of \$1 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding earmarked and distributed to Colchester businesses.

“We need to continue to keep our taxes low; we need to continue to keep this community affordable for our small businesses,” he said. “Electing a socialist is not going to get us there; you will be guaranteed high taxes and runaway spending.”

In downplaying the use of ARPA funds, Dennler expressed that hiring grant writers would allow the town to obtain additional funding.

“ARPA was great, but ARPA was easy,” he said. “The federal government handed out checks to municipalities like Colchester all around the country. All we had to do was figure out how to spend it. Money is not going to rain down again, we have to go out and find it.”

When asked about his comments referring to Dennler as a socialist, Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that “Bernie Dennler is a socialist — he’s publicly stated that on multiple occasions.”

“He’s backtracking on that,” he added.

On Wednesday morning, he clarified his position, stating that “to be clear, I’m not accusing Bernie of being a socialist, I’m just responding to his statement that he is one.”

He provided a screenshot of an old tweet — which Dennler said was in reference to universal healthcare — that Bisbikos said indicated Dennler’s allegiance to democratic socialism.

Dennler told the *Rivereast* that he doesn’t consider himself a socialist. The topic, he added, isn’t germane to the election.

“It’s got nothing to do with the work we have to do in the town of Colchester,” he said. “So when he’s talking about socialism, he’s not talking about the real issues that are at play in our community.”

When discussing their visions for the town during the forum, Dennler called for more accessibility in the town center including parking improvements, emphasizing that events on the town green, for example, should benefit businesses rather than burden them. He urged leaders to think long-term.

“We keep thinking in these two-year bites and there’s no plan there,” he said.

In response, Bisbikos again touted his experience, saying that he heard Dennler use many adjectives, but “didn’t hear any accomplishments to deliver on those promises.”

His own goals include expanding the police department’s premises — “It’s time we back the blue as a community.”

Bisbikos also proposed revising the town charter, specifically to enact term limits for elected officials, which he said would end the “back-room deals and the political corruption that’s been stemming in this town.”

Bisbikos said only he would take on that challenge, “not the puppet candidate we have here in front of us.”

**Offense vs. Defense**

Generally, Dennler stayed away from directly attacking Bisbikos, while the incumbent was quick to pounce on their perceived differences.

Bisbikos claimed that Democrats were against so-called “transparency software,” and that he was the only candidate that could build unanimous consensus between boards, which contributes to budgets passing more efficiently.

He pointed to his collaboration with Mike Egan, a Democrat on the finance board, and Tim Vaillancourt, a Republican.

“I can get Mike Egan to the table — can get you get Tim Vaillancourt to the table?” he rhetorically asked Dennler. “I don’t believe so. And that’s an ability that I have.”

The comment led to one of Dennler’s most pointed rebuttals of the night, when he accused the first selectman’s budget process of being

“anything but transparent.”

Last year, documentation was withheld from voters, he said, and this year, the legal notice for the budget referendum included incorrect figures — “The numbers literally did not add up.”

“Restoring stability to the function of the finance office is probably the number one priority that I have when I get into Town Hall,” he asserted.

Bisbikos defended his use of federal funding, stating that even if the money was provided to the town, he oversaw the projects.

“You can see throughout the town that things are getting done,” he said, adding that “They might say it was all ARPA, but you need to start somewhere and execute that vision and complete the projects.”

This eclipses the work Dennler does in Lebanon, he claimed.

Dennler, again, defended his resume.

“I do a little bit more than secretarial work, actually,” he said. “When there is an emergency, one of my duties for that town is to serve as the central point of contact coordinating operations between Eversource, Public Works and the fire department. My job is to make sure the roads are safe and roads are cleared and power gets turned back on.”

The closing remarks offered one last chance for the candidates to make their case.

Bisbikos used the time to go on the offensive.

“Ever since I got elected, there has been a small group of local activists known as the Democratic Town Committee that have been coming after me since day one,” he said.

He said Democratic selectmen Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner — who are both seeking reelection — refuse to show up to board meetings, instead opting to attend virtually via Zoom.

“What we get are mushroom heads at meetings texting each other information,” he said. “That is disrespectful to the people of this community.”

Bisbikos, with a raised voice, stated that Dennler would not speak out against inappropriate actions by his own party.

“The bottom line is, he will turn a blind eye to bad behavior and allow the seeds of corruption to fester in our community,” he said.

Dennler, following the incumbent’s speech, concluded that they have “different leadership styles.”

He described Bisbikos’ governance as “bombastic” and “theatrical.”

After the forum, Dennler stated that between the candidates, “there was a very clear contrast and we’ll see what the voters think.”

He added that he expected the attacks by Bisbikos.

“That’s his style,” he said. “It reminds me of the behavior of a certain politician on the national level.”

He also pointed to the format of the forum.

“I would’ve loved to do a proper debate, and this was not a proper debate,” Dennler said. “This was question-and-answer, so I tried to focus on the questions being asked.”

“That’s up to him if he’ll agree to the debate now,” Dennler added, referring to the *Rivereast*’s offer to host a debate between Dennler and Bisbikos. While Dennler was up for the debate, Bisbikos declined the invitation.

Swyden, regarding the tone of the forum, stated that Dennler handled the attacks appropriately.

“I think what you saw tonight is that Bernie is not going to be shaken by cruel behavior; that he can handle anything,” she said.

Bisbikos disagreed that he attacked Dennler, instead saying that “it’s about calling out the truth.”

“My opponent has no experience; he has no achievements; he has no vision to lead the community,” he said following the forum. “Bernie Dennler likes to turn a blind eye to toxic behavior and corrupt behavior — those are not leadership qualities. You may not like my approach, but I have a strong moral compass when it comes to what’s right and what’s wrong.”

Rudko, while stating that the accusations against Town Clerk Gayle Furman are worth investigating, cautioned leaders against focusing too much on the issue.

“There’s a right way of doing things and there’s a wrong way of doing things. I don’t agree with the way it was treated,” he said, referencing a recent heated Board of Selectmen meeting at which, despite the board voting 3-2 to table the matter, Bisbikos went ahead and presented his

investigation into Furman.

“I agree with the potential issue, that we should be talking about it, but it doesn’t need to be a public spectacle.”

Rudko said that perhaps the focus should be shifted to other concerns — and didn’t agree with Bisbikos focusing on the allegations in his final remarks.

“I think there could’ve been a better closing argument,” Rudko said.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

**★ Marlborough Candidates cont. from page 1**

everything to a willing community member(s),” read the statement

Some of the candidates removed from the ballot, including Ken Hjulstrom — a founding member of the Independent Slate Committee who currently sits on the Board of Finance as a Republican — are essentially left with no options to remain in office.

Hjulstrom was seeking reelection to the finance board as an independent; he will lose his seat. Alternative election avenues, such as petitioning onto the ballot, are no longer available. On Sept. 12, that strategy proved to be successful for two Board of Education candidates, Kerri Barella and Amy Kuhrt, who successfully won a Republican primary election, defeating the endorsed Republican Town Committee candidates and earning spots on the November ballot.

Hjulstrom told the *Rivereast* that the only remaining course of action would be to seek injunctive relief, but after receiving two separate legal opinions on the matter, that option is unlikely to change the outcome and will not be pursued.

“There’s nothing we can do,” he said.

The letter from the secretary of the state’s officer was received by Hjulstrom, who described the message as a “shock.”

“My heart sank,” he recalled.

The former chairman of the Marlborough RTC acknowledged that the slate committee did miss the deadline; they “weren’t aware” of the “a statement of endorsement” document requirements.

“We got tripped up,” he expressed. “It’s an extremely complicated process.”

He added, “This does trip up a lot of people.”

In his opinion, the electoral system pressed upon minor parties “completely unique” compared to the two major parties. The requirements and accompanying list of steps to appropriately prepare for an election — and the likelihood of a blunder — are more complex for groups trying to establish themselves.

“It does seem that the process is stacked against people trying to run against the two parties,” Hjulstrom said, calling the structure “rigged.”

He affirmed the sentiment of the founders’ statement, that the slate committee’s future is largely “undetermined at the moment.”

Sue Stolfi, another founding committee member, attempted to petition herself onto the Republican ballot, but was defeated during the primary election. She was listed as a “row C” candidate, but no longer has a path to an open seat. Committee leadership also expressed missed opportunities regarding other candidates like Kevin Asklar, a Republican incumbent who was running for reelection on the Zoning Commission as an independent com-

mittee member; his reelection was viewed as nearly certain.

“We put so much work into this and to get tripped up over this, it is very frustrating,” he said.

Personally, he continued, “I was looking forward to the opportunity to run.”

In a letter to the editor this week, Hjulstrom stated that he “may seek the opportunity to serve further, but for now I will sit back and cast my vote along with you on Election Day.”

In a previous interview, Hjulstrom and Stolfi explained the background and motivation of the new committee, emphasizing that all poetical affiliations were welcomed to join.

“We’ll work for the people of the town,” said Hjulstrom. “We’re tired of the politics. We want to see candidates focus on issues, not political bickering.”

Stolfi added, “I’m a diehard Republican. This is about local elections. We want hard working people who are committed to the community without the drama.”

But the core makeup of the slate committee features many former Republicans who notably left their party after the 2022 election.

“This was the result of years of frustration over a lack of internal cooperation and support within the Marlborough Republican Town Committee (MRTC),” the slate committee founders wrote in their statement. “Many of us felt that we could no longer be part of an organization that failed to support fellow members and endorsed candidates. The internal power plays and divisiveness within the MRTC was disheartening and not in the best interest of the voters of Marlborough.”

While the end result was not what the founders of the slate committee envisioned, Hjulstrom said that the experience was worthwhile.

“We learned a lot from this process,” he said.

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★ Letters, cont. from page 32

And even in the face of a crumbling society with crime, inflation, illegal immigration, and war, Joe Stevens fears a country under Trump. What's next? Coke in the White House? Dog bites?

And congratulations to Scott Sauyet on his new grandparenthood. Rattles, pacifiers, diapers, first grade, drag shows...

There is no more garden, Scott. It's already a wasteland.

Don't jump!

Ed Kozlowski - Colchester

Support Hebron BOF Democrats

To the Editor:

As a former candidate for Board of Finance, I'm writing to show support for Adam Ockman and Brian Thibeault, Hebron's democratic candidates for Board of Finance. Having spent some time getting to know them both, what Hebron needs to know is that they are both embedded in the community and are proud to call Hebron home.

Please join me in voting for Brian and Adam on Nov. 7!

Amy Dunnells - Hebron

Change in Hebron

To the Editor,

As we move towards Election Day in Hebron, the long overdue upgrade of the Public Works facility continues to occupy many peoples' minds. However, I believe it is more than the project that has people concerned. The residents of Hebron have consistently voiced their desire to protect and promote our historic rural character, environment and education.

Colin McNamara - Marlborough

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.

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 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

- 1. Petition 2023-07 - Petition of Paul Fichera requesting Special Permit approval for an accessory structure (garage) that exceeds 900 square feet on a lot under 5 acres in size, pursuant to Section 2.E.8 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, premise located at 103 Burrows Hill Road, Residence-1 District.
2. 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.
3. Petition 2023-05 - Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to Amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations to delete existing 6.D Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments; Proposed Section 6.C.5 Cannabis Establishments to address prohibition; and Identify "Cannabis Establishments" in the use table for each Zoning District as prohibited.
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 26th day of September, 2023.
Natalie Wood, Chair

Planning and Zoning Commission
Sep 27, 2023, 7:00-10:00 PM (America/New\_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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Legal Notice will be published in the Riverast News Bulletin on September 29, 2023 and October 6, 2023.

2TB 9/29, 10/6

personal level while disagreeing and not liking them as politicians. Those are not, nor have they ever been, mutually exclusive positions.

Jason LaChapelle - Colchester
Libertarian Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Best Intentions

To the Editor:

Talking to people about our country/government I often hear them say, "I don't understand why this is happening!" or "I can't believe they are doing this!" The issues are as varied as deficit spending, proxy wars, the neglect of our citizens (East Palestine or Maui), health mandates, education, or immigration. But no matter the issue, the mystery remains of why all these things seem to be happening, compounding, and repeating continuously.

Some people want to believe that it's all just the ham-fisted actions of government... "Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity." Unfortunately that perspective also doesn't leave you in a good spot...it's either "my government's negligent" or "my government's stupid"...either perspective doesn't fill you with a lot of faith, hope, and optimism.

But when you step back and look at the complexity of the issues, how these decisions are being made by a very few number of people who are all interconnected, it begins to make more sense when you consider that it's neither negligence or stupidity; it's intentional.

You don't spend trillions and call it "inflation reduction," you don't abandon the third-largest cache of military hardware on Earth in an effort to "strengthen the military," you don't encourage millions of illegals to rush the border because you want a strong national identity, you don't give hundreds of billions to a country - supporting an unwinnable proxy war - while Americans struggle because you care about "saving democracy."

It's bringing to fruition the collapse of the single country that could stop the plan for global governance. It's the whittling away of the Constitution to bring in a "Green New Deal," limiting your rights and potential. It's happening, it's global, and voting isn't going to stop it when both sides are controlled by the same money-men.

Colin McNamara - Marlborough

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

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 (1 1/2% 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. Kate Morrissey, Tax Collector Town of Andover 17 School Road Andover, CT 06232

3TB 9/22, 10/6, 10/27

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. The 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

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals took the following action at a meeting held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:

Petition 2023-5: Request of John Paardenkooper, Jr. & Gabriella R. Paardenkooper, Owners, for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 14' x 24' accessory structure (shed) to be located 15' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 35', on premise located at 409 Jones Street, Residence 2 District.

Approved Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 4th day of October 2023.

Martin Halloran, Chairperson Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at https://hebronct.com/agendas/

1TB 10/6

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on October 18, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT, concerning the following matter:

Notice of Zoning Violation and Order to Cease and Desist dated September 28, 2023 and issued to Niantic Bay Group, LLC of 1967 N. Rose Hue Path, Hernando, FL 34442 for failure to provide required affordable housing within the Jordan Lane Affordable Housing Development (P&ZC Application 2021-015) that was permitted pursuant to Section 8-30g of the CT General Statutes a/k/a the Affordable Housing Appeals Act. Niantic Bay Group, LLC has been Ordered to attend this public hearing to be heard; to demonstrate that the violations have been corrected, and to show cause as to why said Notice and Order should not remain in effect. Property Locations: 34 Jordan Lane (ID#03-00/001-514); 24 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-517); 22 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-518); 20 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-519); 16 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-520); 12 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-521); and 10 Jordan Lane (ID#3-00/001-522). Zoning District: Suburban Use (SU).

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of the Notice of Violation and Order to Cease and Desist is available in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Planning & Zoning Commission Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 10/6, 10/13

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on October 10, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following: ZBA-23-007: Tommaso Prozano, 12 Terp Road, Reduce westside setback from 25' to 16.75' for Garage, Map 06/ Block 14/ Lot 5/6.

2TB 9/29, 10/6

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING Thursday, October 12, 2023 6:30pm at Town Hall LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following: Application 576A for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 2 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam - correction to a typographical error on the original application indicating the correct dimensions for the covered porch are 11.6' x 16.0' - for applicant Middle Haddam Library. Application 587 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 49 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam - installation of a 24' above ground pool with deck - for applicant William Hanna. Application 589 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 6 Blacksmith Hill Road, Middle Haddam - replacement of 12 double hung windows - for applicant Anne & David Lorange. The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 10/6

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

RICHMOND MEMORIAL LIBRARY SEWER CONNECTION TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Marlborough invites sealed bids from qualified contractors. Sealed Bids will be received by the Town of Marlborough by hard copy in the Office of the Town Clerk located at 26 North Main Street until 11:00 AM local time on Thursday, October 19, 2023. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. The Project consists of installation of sewer lateral, grinder pump chamber, electrical connection, and abandonment of the septic tank and pump chamber. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum.

Bidding Documents are available for free download from the Town webpage Marlboroughct.net. Prospective Bidders may examine and obtain the Bidding Documents in the Office of the Town Clerk during Town Hall hours of operation.

A pre-bid conference will be held Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM at eh Richmond Memorial Library 15 School Drive. The building and site will be available for inspection after the meeting. Pre-bid conference attendance is encouraged but is not mandatory.

The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Surety Company shall be licensed in the State of Connecticut and listed on IRS Department Circular 570. A Payment Bond and Payment of Prevailing Wage Rates will not be required unless Contract amount is equal to or greater than \$100,000.

Bid Bond is not required. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed. All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver the Contract for Construction of a Small Project and furnish a valid Certificate of Insurance with full policies, a Performance Bond, and Payment Bond if applicable, to the Town prior to the start of any work. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.

This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town. The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.

This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer. The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

The Town of Marlborough is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

By: David R. Porter, Town Manager Date: September 23, 2023

2TB 9/29, 10/6

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
IWWA ACTIONS**

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 27, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:  
 Application IW-23-018: Jeffrey Schleidt, Mott Hill Rd., Timber harvest within Upland Review Area. Map 24/ Block 44/ Lot 14D - Approved  
 Application IW-23-020: Linda DiCaprio, 83A North Main St., Grade and landscape slope within Upland Review Area. Map 04A/ Block 45/ Lot 13B- Agent Approval with Conditions  
 Application IW-23-021: Peter Guastamachio, 5 Clearwater Condo, 20' x 11'.6" deck expansion in Upland Review Area. Map 10A/ Block 80/ Lot 5/3- Agent Approval with Conditions  
 Chairman Joshua Wilson

1TB 10/6

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TOWN OF ANDOVER  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
7:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023**

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. on the application of Vincent Grimaldi, at which a request for a variance for the property at 357 Lake Road, Andover will be heard. The public hearing will be held in person in the Community Room of the Town Hall, 17 School Road, Andover. The applicant is seeking relief from Section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to allow for the reduction in the sideyard setback requirements from 25' to 18' so as to allow for the construction of a 21' x 21' shed. Comments/questions will be taken during the hearing. Written comments submitted to the Building and Land Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the hearing will be entered into the public record of the hearing. Additional details can be found at the Building and Land Use Office, 17 School Road, Andover, or by contacting the Office at 860.742.7305 ext. 4220.

2TB 10/6, 10/13

**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.

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# REAL ESTATE

**RENTALS**

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**COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS:** is looking for a part time liquor store clerk. Stop in person to apply at store. 99 Linwood Ave, Colchester.

**COOK WANTED:** Stop in to the Greenleaf Cafe in Hebron or call 860-228-8148.

**S A T U R D A Y WAITRESS NEEDED:** experience a must for a fun, friendly breakfast restaurant. Apply at Eggs Up Restaurant on Rt 66, Portland.

**CAREGIVER NEEDED**  
 Non-medical, mostly companionship, meals & light housekeeping. Colchester. Part-time days. Great small caring agency. Must have caregiving experience, paid or non-paid & pass background check. Looking for long term employee. Mon-Sat hours. Older adults encouraged to apply. Immediate work. **Call 860-967-0831**

REF-19-20

**SEEKING DENTAL HYGIENIST:** 1 day/week. Your choice of day - M, Tu, or Th 8-5. Dental office in Marlborough. 860-295-8132.

**Mechanical CAD Drafter:**  
 Seeking Mechanical Drafter skilled in AUTO CAD, Microstation or similar to generate CAD fabrication and detail drawings based on contract plans. Experience with Microsoft Excel, Word, and Outlook. Extracting data from Contract Plans and creating detailed drawings. 3D experience, piping and hanger experience a plus. Microstation proficiency preferred. While proficiency in Microstation is preferred, we also accept candidates with expertise in AutoCAD. The ideal candidate should have a minimum of five years of drafting experience, demonstrating the ability to produce high-quality 2D drawings suitable for fabrication and construction. Salary is negotiable based upon experience. Benefits include: Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, 401K, Vacation, Life and Disability Insurance.  
 Please send resume to: P.O. Box 186, Colchester, CT 06415 or email to [beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com](mailto:beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com)

RE10-6-23

**HELP WANTED**  
 Help needed in our Printing Department.  
 Hours available Mon. - Fri.  
 Email Jim for more information [jim@rarereminder.com](mailto:jim@rarereminder.com)  
 No phone calls please. Must be 18 years old

CIT9-28-23

**FT/PT CLEANER:** helper wanted. Early until 2pm. Please stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery.

**LABORER WANTED:** Hebron, minor landscaping, other outside assistance, transport provided as necessary. \$15-\$20/hr, paid daily. Good for high school students. 860-377-0188. Text best.

**SEEKING ENERGETIC PERSON:** to help mother and daughter, living in Hebron, on weekends from 9:30-1:30, doing outdoor fun activities. \$17/hr. Call 860-228-0809.

**Head of Technical Library Services / Librarian II**  
 Town of Portland, Connecticut (EOE)  
 Deadline: October 20, 2023  
 Wage Range: \$30.36 to \$35.13  
 Send application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071  
 or email: [mceppaglia@portlandct.org](mailto:mceppaglia@portlandct.org)  
 40 hours per week; regular night + Saturday rotation; fringe benefit package; union position. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing & background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.  
 Professional person for public library responsible for maintaining database records, processing materials, producing statistics reports, attending meetings, cooperating with all library departments & regional consortium, providing reference service to the public, data entry, & overseeing department workflow. Works under general supervision of Library Director or other professional library staff. Requirements: Master's in Library Science + 2 years' experience in library services, experience in technical services preferred. Familiarity with cataloging practices and standards, thorough knowledge of MARC records, library-related databases. Ability to provide reference & circulation services required. Must have excellent written & spoken communication skills. Familiarity with Sierra system preferred.

1TB 10/6

**TOWN OF HEBRON FINANCE DIRECTOR**  
 The Town of Hebron is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Finance Director. This position plans, organizes and supervises the accounting, payroll and purchasing operations of the town; prepares supporting data for the annual operating and capital improvement budget recommendations; and performs Treasurer duties as specified by statute and the Town Charter. This position oversees the Assessment and Revenue Departments. The position is responsible for coordinating the annual audit with the external auditors. Requires skilled use of Microsoft Office 365 and municipal financial software, the currently installed system is Tyler School ERP Pro. The position reports to the Town Manager.  
 The successful candidate should have a bachelor's degree and at least five years of experience and be familiar with the principles and practices of municipal accounting. Starting salary range \$122,000 to \$135,000 depending on experience and certifications.  
 Resumes should be sent to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. Applications will be considered as they are received; position remains open until filled. More details and a job description are available at [www.hebronct.com](http://www.hebronct.com). The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

1TB 10/6

**East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers**  
 Applicants must have a bachelor's degree OR must be over 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and documented experience working with school-age children.  
 The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. Per diem rate is \$120.00 per day.  
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# TAG SALES

**BARN & TOOL ESTATE SALE:** October 13th & 14th from 9am-3pm, 19 Lake Road, Portland.

**ESTATE SALE:** 74 Pine Ridge Drive, Andover. Saturday, October 14th.

**GARAGE SALE:** Sat/Sun, 10/7 & 10/8, 8:30-2:30, RAIN OR SHINE. Baby/kids gear, toys/games, books, furniture, décor, holiday, vintage train accessories. 56 Saner Road, Marlborough.

**ESTATE SALE:** Fri & Sat Oct 6th & 7th 9-3pm. 435 Ridge Road, Wethersfield. Complete contents priced to sell!

**FIRST CHURCH SUPER GIANT TAG SALE:** 10/20, 12-6pm, 10/21, 9-3pm. Clothes, books, craft supplies, jewelry, collectibles, furniture, kids, holiday décor, household, Cider Donuts by Dude's! Much, much more! 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury.

**MULTI FAMILY TAG SALE:** Sat Oct 7th 9-2, 25 Bobwhite Hill, Wethersfield. Bicycles, puzzles, games, books, baby and household items, Clothing much more. Rain or Shine.

**TAG SALE IN BARN:** 671 Norwich Ave, Colchester. Saturday only. Oct 7th, 8a-1p. Power-tools, furniture, home décor, kitchen items, clothes for everyone. Vera Bradley purses, electronics. Something for everyone.


**MULTI-FAMILY GIANT TAG SALE:** Sunday, Oct 8th, 7-4p. 85 Hog Hill Road, East Hampton. House Flippers dream sale! Tons of building materials, windows, patio doors, interior trim, door hardware, light fixtures, vanities, tools, etc. Home furniture, mirrors, home and holiday decor, ski boots, snowboard, adult and kids clothing, designer handbags, antique dishes. Come and see. **EVERYTHING NEEDS TO GO!**

**MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE:** Sat, Oct 7th. Rain date Oct 8th, 9a-3p, 88 Elizabeth Drive, Hebron. Household items, toys/games, bar stools, treadmill, violin, clothing, decorations of all kinds. No early birds please.



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