

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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November 10, 2023



We Are the Champions... The RHAM U11 competitive boys soccer team, affectionately known as The Chargers, won the South Windsor Fall Classic Tournament on Sunday, Oct. 22. RHAM beat Avon 3-2 in the final game, to win the head-to-head tiebreak. Pictured from left are, back row, coaches Shannon Congdon, Brendan Smith and Steve Barrett; second row, Ryder Strumskas, Alex Congdon, Kaiden DeCaro, Davis Haggerty, Declan Hurley; third row, Jase Kitchin, Aedan Barrett, Colton Reddington, Roman Clavette, Cameron Smith; front row, Brendan Hurley, Jacob Duchon, Henry Clavette, Kade Weeks, Jais Zavaski, Zachary Pacheco.

Dennler Soundly Defeats Bisbikos

By Michael Sinkewicz

Democrat Bernie Dennler III handily defeated incumbent Republican Andreas Bisbikos on Tuesday to become Colchester's first selectman, as Democrats across the ticket swept their local elections and flipped control of municipal government.

Dennler amassed 3,515 votes — the highest tally for a first selectman candidate in the last 20 years — compared to 1,887 votes for Bisbikos.

"I knew there was a really powerful sentiment to deliver some change," said Dennler, who celebrated with the Democratic team at the St. Joseph's Polish Society after the results were announced. "And by change, I mean bringing things back to a place where people are focused on actual Colchester issues and I knew that people were disappointed in some of the chaos and dysfunction and the overall tone."

Dennler added, "I had a really good feeling that people would want to be part of the chance to bring our town together again."

At Fornarelli's restaurant Tuesday night, Bisbikos declined to comment on the election results.

"I think the Rivereast needs to take a hike," he stated.

On Wednesday morning, Bisbikos posted on Facebook that it was an "honor" to represent the community for the past two years.

"My heart and soul [were] poured into the town every day," he wrote. "Many projects and initiatives that came to fruition will have a posi-

tive impact for decades. I'm eternally grateful for all the support I have received from both constituents, town staff, my friends, and of course, my family. I love you all very much."

Bisbikos added, "Best of luck to the new administration carrying Colchester's torch."

According to the town clerk's office, turnout was 5,435 voters, or 48% — a tick up from 47% at the last municipal election in 2021.

The remaining four Board of Selectmen seats were up for grabs, with seven candidates vying for the positions. The three Democrats seeking spots were all the highest vote recipients, but due to minority representation laws, only two were actually elected.

Incumbent Democrats Denise Turner, with 3,131 votes, and Rosemary Coyle, with 3,043 votes, will serve once again. Democratic newcomer Dave Koji, the third highest vote-getter with 2,907 votes, will not be appointed.

Republicans Art Shilosky, with 2,235 votes and Cliff O'Donal with 1,927 votes, will be the two minority selectmen.

Republican Town Committee (RTC) chairman Taras Rudko lost his bid to re-enter municipal governing, with 1,610 votes. And incumbent Jason LaChapelle, the Libertarian candidate, lost his seat after receiving 621 votes.

Entering the night, Republicans held a 4-2 majority on the Board of Finance. Two of their seats were open this election cycle and Democrats captured both, giving them control of the finance board.

Democrats Scott Chapman, with 3,146 votes, and Karen Belding, with 3,126 votes, won. They ousted the board's Republican chairman, Andrea Migliaccio, who received 2,131 votes, and

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Democrats Flip Council in Belltown

By London Brazal

East Hampton Democrats took most open seats this election, flipping the Town Council while the other boards changed to be more balanced.

Per the unofficial count tallied on Tuesday night, Democrats swept the election for everything but the Board of Education.

Democratic Town Committee Chair Barbara Moore is happy to see many new people in town government and is pleased with how well they work together. "It says a lot for our party," commented Moore. "It's a relief and we have such a great group. The town is lucky."

Town Council

Among the first-time elects for the council are Democrats Jordan Werme and Karen Wanat. Werme said he is eager to start working toward what their party has been discussing this election season. He described the results as a "weight off [his] shoulder," as now the work can begin. Wanat is also excited. Once the new council reconvenes, she said she hopes to create solutions for how they can ignite good com-

munication between the council and the public. "We don't want to limit them to those three minutes," said Wanat. While fostering better communication, "We have to meet them where they are."

Democrats Rich Knotek and Jack Solomon are both familiar with town government, having previously served on various boards and commissions. Knotek said he sees the importance of good people in town and wants to make "good things better." He said his goal along with his fellow council members is to provide leadership to the town and "take it easy on each other as we do."

Solomon, meanwhile, said he is dedicated to bringing clean energy to town and furthering the progress of the lake. "We are on a good track," added Solomon, "It requires diligence, delegation, and support."

Democrat and town native Dean Markham will take on the responsibility of chairman. As someone who knows the history of the town and its infrastructure, it was easy for Markham

to accept the position. He said the vice chair will be Wanat, also a town native. "We will have a packed agenda," said Markham. "We need help from the whole town."

The Democrats said they are looking to serve openly and transparently. Markham said any issues on their agenda are not "Republican issues" or "Democrat issues" — they are problems that deal with the whole town.

The makeup of the board was flipped as only two Republicans will have seats on the council. Those two are Brandon Goff, who was reelected, and Republican Town Committee Chair Deb Cunningham.

Cunningham offered thanks to all who voted for her. She said she is looking forward to improving the community and working with her fellow council members in creating a "collaborative environment that creates a better East Hampton for all residents."

Alison Walck, who was seeking reelection, said she believes two years is a short time to

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### New Students at ECSU

The following regional residents are in their first semester at Eastern Connecticut State University this fall. The list includes first-time students as well as transfer students who are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate-level programs.

**Amston:** Kevin Garrity, a sophomore majoring in psychology; Karleigh Steiner, a junior majoring in psychology.

**Andover:** Jessica Day, a first-year student majoring in English and art; Mykenzie Mawdsley, a junior majoring in criminology and sociology; Emily Balula, a junior majoring in social work; Ethan Byers, a sophomore majoring in computer science; Shae Hoisington, a sophomore majoring in art.

**Colchester:** Camille Running, a sophomore majoring in art and business administration;

Kaitlyn Tracey, a first-year student majoring in mathematics and elementary education; Steven Laliberte, a first-year student majoring in mathematics and secondary education certification; Nicholas Cushing, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Jillian Filloramo, a first-year student majoring in accounting; Samantha Gesiak, a first-year student majoring in health sciences; Nathaniel Kowinsky, a junior majoring in business administration; Courtney Losier, a graduate student majoring in educational studies; Vivian Lubinsky, a sophomore majoring in English; Ruth Macijauskas, a graduate student majoring in special education; Meaghan Malone, a first-year student majoring in exploratory - undecided; Nico Matteucci, a sophomore majoring in biology; Gabrielle Papale, a junior majoring in biology;

See New Students, page 3



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CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT

REG-10-23

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# Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of Oct. 30-Nov. 5:

**Calista Nephew – East Hampton/Mercy High School:** Nephew, a resident of East Hampton who is a junior at Mercy High School, helped her team win the program's first cross-country state championship since 1993. Nephew finished 12th overall at the Class M Championships at Wickham Park in Manchester on Oct. 28 – earning her first-team All-State honors – as the Middletown-based Tigers won the events as a team after having all seven runners finish in the top-20, including overall winner Sarah Roberts.

**Katie Laverty – Portland High School (Volleyball):** Laverty was named to the All-Shoreline Conference (SLC) honorable mention team after a productive fall on a historic Highlander squad. Laverty, a junior, was one of three captains – joining senior Elvira Medunjanin and junior Ella Royea – that helped navigate the Highlanders through their initial season at a varsity level.

**Brady Hulland – RHAM High School (Football):** Hulland, a senior quarterback,

tossed three touchdowns as the Raptors defeated Rocky Hill 27-7 on Senior Night at RHAM High School on Nov. 4. All three of Hulland's aerial scores went to Caden Bellmore and running back Joey Fahey put the game on ice with a long touchdown run in the fourth quarter as the Raptors improved to 4-4. The team next travels to Farmington High School for a conference battle with the (2-5) River Hawks tonight (Friday, Nov. 10). Kickoff is 6 p.m.

**Riley Anderson – Bacon Academy (Swimming):** Anderson re-broke the Glastonbury High School pool record in the 50 Freestyle and then set a new pool mark in the 100 Freestyle at the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) East Championships on Nov. 2. Anderson, a sophomore that swims for the Manchester High School co-op, broke the GHS pool record in the 50-Free a year ago and set a new mark of 23.44 while winning the event this year. Her time of 51.37 in the 100-Free was also good enough to win and set a new pool record.

To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week or with sports-related questions, email [joshhowardsports@gmail.com](mailto:joshhowardsports@gmail.com).

## From the State Senator's Desk

The winter is coming quickly with temperatures dipping into the 30s and even 20s already this autumn as the season progresses. Last winter, energy prices were at an uncomfortable high and the winter weather brought several cold snaps to Connecticut, which may have caused stress in a number of households. While this year is not expected to see fuel costs rise as high as last year, I'm writing to let you know about ways you can find relief.

Most prominently, the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is open and providing aid valued in the several hundreds of dollars for qualifying households. The CEAP's benefits range between \$180 to \$530 depending on income level, household size and whether there's a vulnerable member of the household. Those benefits are usually paid directly to a utility company or fuel supplier; households heating with oil or propane can be eligible for additional fuel deliveries.

In addition to that aid, the CEAP can also provide matching payment plans, protection from shut-offs and replacements or repairs for heating equipment. Eligible households must earn at or below 60% of the state's median income, with levels ranging from \$41,553 for single-individual households to \$54,338 for households of two, \$79,910 for households of four and \$105,481 for households of six. Households can also be eligible if someone in them receives SNAP, Temporary Family Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, the State Supplement for the Aged, Blind and Disabled, or Refugee Cash Assistance.

If your household is eligible and you're interested in learning more or applying for aid, you can access the CEAP in any number of ways. To apply online, visit [tinyurl.com/5atc7tdw](http://tinyurl.com/5atc7tdw). You can also access a document that can be emailed or mailed to your local Community Action Agency, which you can also call to apply. That group for our region, depending on your town, is either the Community Renewal Team of Middletown, accessible at 860-347-4465, or the Access Community Action Agency, which can be called at 860-450-7400.

The CEAP is an annual benefit, and while applications opened on Sept. 1, they'll remain open until May 31 of next year. That's good news, as it means there is no limit in the short-term for anyone to apply and receive benefits they can use. I'm hopeful that those in need will be able to receive aid through this important program and look forward to sharing further updates with you this winter.

State Sen. Norm Needleman  
D-33rd District

*Note: The 12-town 33rd District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.*

## Volunteers Sought for AARP Tax Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

### ★ New Students cont. from page 2

in psychology; Delaney Pike, a graduate student majoring in special education; Grace Saldana, a first-year student majoring in nursing; Samantha Urbowicz, a graduate student majoring in elementary education; Leslie Vazquez-Lopez, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Brooke Vivero, a first-year student majoring in English; Ben Williams, a graduate student majoring in secondary education.


**East Hampton:** Nicholas Chunko, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Benjamin Gordon, a first-year student majoring in biology; Matthew Jacobsen, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Julia Stone, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Taylor Sylvester, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Madison Yorker, a sophomore majoring in physical education.

**Haddam Neck:** Tiernan Powers, a sophomore who majors in finance; Ethan Lessard, a first-year student majoring in exploratory – undecided; Emma McCormack, a sophomore majoring in history; Autumn Parker, a graduate student majoring in early childhood education; Ariana St. Onge, a first-year student majoring

in environmental earth science; Olivia Walsh-Scott, a junior majoring in accounting.

**Marlborough:** Elyse Catania, a first-year student majoring in social work; Jonathan Constantine, a graduate student majoring in educational technology; Zachary Davidson, a junior majoring in computer science; Ryan Fries, a sophomore majoring in business administration; Bradley Lim, a first-year student majoring in computer science.

**Portland:** Dario Adanti, a first-year student majoring in exploratory – undecided; Sydney Carlson, a sophomore majoring in psychology; Michael Dillon, a first-year student majoring in biology; Amelia Hair, a first-year student majoring in health sciences; Andrew Johnson, a first-year student majoring in exploratory – undecided; Joseph LaMalfa, a first-year student majoring in exploratory – undecided; Mckenzie LaMalfa, a first-year student majoring in exploratory – undecided; Isabelle McClelland, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Austin Vess, a first-year student majoring in business administration.




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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Election Day 2023 is in the books, and it looks like it was a good day overall for Democrats, not just in Connecticut but across the country.

What does this portend for 2024 – if anything? Only time will tell.

One thing I know for sure is, letters-wise, this is always one of my favorite weeks at the *Rivereast*. For one thing, after the hundreds of letters the past couple of weeks, it's good to return to a lighter load – and for the larger point size to come back.

But also, due to the Tuesday noon deadline for letters to be submitted, no one can comment on the election results, as they obviously aren't known. So, to the extent that writers do talk about the races, it's usually an extension of the positivity – mainly "congratulations on a well-run race" and "thank you for voting." Very pleasant.

The time for analysis, and finger-pointing, and (hopefully not too much) gloating will come in next week's letters. But for now, it's a nice little respite.

\*\*\*

It's clichéd to say at this point, but it seems the Christmas season comes earlier and earlier every year. Heck, satellite radio has already launched its holiday channels. Call me a traditionalist, but I think it all can wait until the day after Thanksgiving – particularly in years like this one, when Turkey Day is relatively early (Nov. 23, for those keeping score).

Nevertheless, I can't expect the world to adapt to my schedule. It's not like I'm the Emperor of the Universe. (My old boss Jim Hallas already has that title.) So I figure I'd pass along some holiday-themed news that, to be honest, sounds pretty fun.

Family Entertainment Live, which bills itself as "one of the world's leading producers of live family entertainment events," has announced the return of Magic of Lights, a drive-through holiday-themed lights display. Magic of Lights will take place at 21 locations across the U.S. and Canada – and Connecticut is one of those locations.

This year marks the debut of MagicVision, a set of free selfie filters and playful social media animations anyone can use to create and share their own unique, animated holiday greetings with friends and family. Go to [www.magicoflights.com/magicvision](http://www.magicoflights.com/magicvision) in advance to download, use and share the filters on social media.

"This year marks our eighth season bringing Magic of Lights to families across the continent. We are an annual family tradition in so many communities, and we are very pleased to add many new locations this year," Family Entertainment Holdings CEO Ken Hudgens said in a press release. "Our innovative creative team has designed a drive-through holiday wonderland light experience that promises to dazzle and delight guests of all ages."

As they drive through the course, guests will

**Editor's Desk continued on page 7**



**Centerpieces for the Gala...** Colchester Garden Club members stood with pride and excitement as they prepared to showcase their talent at Colchester Birthday Gala, a celebration held last month marking the town's existence for 325 years. Pictured with their floral centerpieces are, front row from left, Theresa Fox, Carol Weston, Rita Aunce, Joan Aubin and Lori Faski; back row from left, Eva O'Connell, Lynn Coffey, Marie Kuchy and Diane Gromko. For more information on the Colchester Garden Club or to become a member, please send an email to [colchester-gardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:colchester-gardenclub@yahoo.com).

## Bulletin Board

We in the newspaper business hear a lot about our fascination with so-called negative news stories. "Why can't you print some good news?" is a common complaint from gloom-weary readers. Our typical response is that bad things happen; we don't create them, we just report them.

But perhaps the complainers are right. While negative things do indeed happen—pretty much all the time it would seem, judging by recent events at least—perhaps, with a little creative thinking, it would be possible to put a positive spin on what at first glance seem like less than positive incidents.

Maybe if we jaded, mean-spirited muckrakers would stop reveling in rivers of blood and predictions of impending doom, we could raise the spirits of readers and send them off to confront their daily trials and tribulations (like the growing likelihood that we're on the brink of World War III or the End Times or that America is circling the drain) humming a happy tune.

In that starry-eyed "Hey, that looks like a unicorn!" spirit, here are a few incidents from the past re-reported from a more upbeat perspective:

### Iceberg Survives Collision with Ocean Liner

Oceanographers said today that a large iceberg was barely dented by a collision with the passenger liner *Titanic* earlier this week. "I think we can safely say that the iceberg is intact with the exception of some minor paint scrapes left by the ship," said Dr. Happy Day.

Environmentalists greeted the news with relief, adding that the amount of lead-based paint left on the ice is not expected to have a significant impact on sea otters. On yet another front, the incident is expected to provide a significant boost to the English economy as hundreds of newly orphaned children begin spending their insurance awards.

### Japanese Airmen Visit Pearl Harbor

Several hundred Japanese airmen visited Pearl Harbor earlier today (Dec. 7, 1941), arriving just in time for Sunday services. U.S. military officials said the visit was a complete surprise, adding that they hope to reciprocate with a return visit to Japan one day in the future. The Selective Service will be contacting several million American men on the details of that all-expenses-paid trip shortly.

### Housing Crunch Expected to Ease

The rising murder rate in the United States is having a beneficial effect on the availability of housing in the nation's cities, according to government housing officials. "The housing shortage has not ended," observed one official, "but the number of vacancies is definitely on the rise, particularly after weekends." In related positive economic news, body shop operators are reporting a tremendous surge in cash-only emergency car repairs as the number of hit and run driving incidents continues to skyrocket.

### Residents Grow Prize-Winning Vegetables

Gardeners in the area of Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island plant, site of a nuclear mishap some years ago, credit atomic energy with enabling them to grow prize-winning six-foot carrots and Brussels sprouts the size of basketballs. "If it weren't for the benefits of radioactivity, we'd only have regular-sized vegetables," said local resident and gardener Fred Gammaray. An added benefit, said Gammaray, who has three eyes, is that the vegetables glow in the dark. "Where else can you pick squash at 3 in the morning?" he enthused.

### Inmate Reunited With Mother

Triple murderer Gary L. Cabbit—fondly known to fellow prison inmates as "Cabbit the Rabid Rabbit," was reunited with his mother last night following a separation of more than 18 years, said prison officials. Texas authorities arranged the reunion after Cabbit's appeals ran out earlier this month. "We are family-oriented down here in the great state of Texas," said a law enforcement official, "and we are delighted that we were able to bring Mr. Cabbit and his mother back together after all these years." Cabbit's mother died away six years ago.

Yours for a happier news cycle,

**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. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

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

### Early Deadline for Thanksgiving

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline for the Nov. 24 *Rivereast* has been moved up a day. All copy for that week – letters to the editor, press releases, event listings, etc. – must be submitted no later than noon Monday, Nov. 20.

No exceptions will be made.

### Correction

In last week's "Standout Athletes of the Week," East Hampton High School soccer player Gabby Wiesner was identified as a senior when in fact she is a junior, and Maya Korczak was credited for the corner kicks that set up the goals when it was actually Mia Wiesner (Gabby's sister) that delivered the corner kicks.

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

### Four-Day Work Week

To the Editor:

We work too much. To the point that it makes our actual productivity worse. Which is why a Pennsylvania lawmaker proposed a bill creating a 4 day work week. If passed, businesses of 500 or more workers will have a maximum of 32 hours, while paying them as if they did 40. At first brush, some may believe that this is a silly thought. But around 19% of Americans believe that they have a useless job. Even if only a small portion of that percent truly have a useless job, that's concerning in itself. We give ourselves busy work despite having the resources of all of our needs met. And this busy work does harm our own productivity.

A study in Iceland shows that, when hours were cut, productivity either stayed the same or even rose. This is to not even mention the other benefits of a four-day work week. A four-day work week isn't just an unfeasible pipe dream – it needs to be our future.

**Gabriella Korczak – Colchester**

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Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor

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Staff Reporters:

London Brazal—East Hampton, Portland

Michael Sinkewicz—Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough & Andover

Advertising Representatives:

Jason Baran, ext. 231 • [jason@glcitizen.com](mailto:jason@glcitizen.com)

Lisa Snietka, ext. 232 • [lisa@glcitizen.com](mailto:lisa@glcitizen.com)

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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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**Three Minutes?**

To the Editor:  
Is three minutes enough? Three minutes is just enough to get to class on time without being late. However, what if I need to use the restroom? What if I need to ask the teacher a question before I go?

Schools claim they shortened passing periods so they wouldn't have to extend the school day. But most secondary schools have a three-minute passing period which is barely enough time. At Bacon Academy I have a class where even if I rushed, without running I can't make it to my next class. We also have 30-minute-long lunches that leave me with extra time where it could be allocated to other periods.

School is supposed to be a place to learn, so why make it stressful before even getting to class? Longer passing periods allow students time to gather their materials for their next class, use the restroom, and allow them to move at a more natural pace, allowing them to reduce stress.

Teachers also benefit from longer passing periods to gather materials for the next class, provide extra help to the students who need it, and complete other tasks during passing periods. Without longer periods students would disrupt class going to the restroom or getting materials from a different class. So, if longer passing periods benefit both students and teachers, why don't we get schools to have longer passing periods?

Sincerely,  
**Freddy Zhang – Colchester**

**Veterans Day 2023**

To the Editor:  
Our Colchester community will be celebrating Veterans Day on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. on the Veterans Green. It is the day to remember our military heroes that have served or are currently serving our nation.

American veterans have defended the country in all the wars that our nation has been involved in since the first colonial soldiers took up arms in 1775. They served so that we could keep the things that we love the most God, country, family and our liberty. By remaining true to these principles, we honor their sacrifice.

Observances like this one in Colchester are happening in communities all across Connecticut. If you asked our heroes how they would like to be honored, most would probably say, "take care of my family." That is why Abraham Lincoln, in his second inaugural address, when he pledged that the government would "care for him who shall have borne the battle."

The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have always shown great pride in our nation's veterans and for those America sends into harm's way to continue the fight for freedom, in many corners of the world.

Whether a person fought in World War II, Korea, the jungles of Vietnam, the Middle East or elsewhere, the stories of American heroism and sacrifice continue to occur and are no less significant. It is important that all veterans, their families and in fact all Americans pause to reflect on, remember and give thanks to our many heroes. We owe them no less. I hope to see you all on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. on the Veterans Green.

Alphonse J. Letendre – Colchester  
Legion Vice Commander

**Thank You Hebron**

To the Editor:  
We won't know the results of this election before this letter has to be submitted so I can't say who won or lost in the Hebron municipal races. But I can say that I am proud of the Republican slate of candidates. They spent many hours fundraising, writing letters and postcards, canvassing neighborhoods, waving signs, and attending meetings. They conducted themselves in a manner that is representative of Hebron, respectful and with concern for all their neighbors. Regardless of how the numbers came out on Tuesday, I consider this campaign a success.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the citizens of our town.

I would also like to thank the Democratic slate of candidates. Again, whether you won or lost, you gave freely of yourselves for your neighbors. You spent time and effort for the benefit of our town, and I am thankful for your service. This process provides our residents the opportunity to choose the direction they want to go forward. Your volunteerism has made that possible and is essential to our democracy. As in any small town, I know several of you personally and know you all want what you think is best for Hebron. Thank you for running.

And let us not forget the most important part of our election process. Those many volunteers and town officials who do all the legwork. Thank you to our poll workers, registrars, the town clerk's office, the schools, and the many other administrators and town officials who make election day a smooth process. Many of you do your jobs for long hours and with far too little recognition. Thank you. I hope I did well on Tuesday, but I know our town came out on top. Because we all love Hebron.

Keith Petit, Chair  
Hebron Republican Town Committee

**Thanks for Voting**

Dear Portland Neighbors:  
Thank you for getting out to vote, for participating in democracy. Whatever the election results, we have a wonderful town I'm grateful to call home. Serving on our Board of Education has shown me the commitment our educators bring to work everyday and makes me appreciate our public schools.

In gratitude,  
Sarah Spear – Portland

**Good News!**

To the Editor:  
"Aligning climate action and preservation for a sustainable future." -- *Historic New England*, fall 2023.

While HNE still embraces old school ideas of land, farm and historic preservation, they are also upgrading by including QR tours and digital landscape tours and exploring subjects like, "Recovering the History of Black New England". (HistoricNewEngalnd.org) At the same time, Hebron Historical Society is teaming up with Planning and Zoning along with Parks and Recreation to create Hebron's very own QR tours. (PZ meeting 9/27/23)

At the University of Hartford important ideas are flowing. Professor Bin Zhu is testing waters and sharing his passion with students. "I study ecology and management strategies of invasive animals and plants, and I investigate impacts of human activities, such as urbanization and land use, on water quality...specifically water pollution associated with excessive nitrogen and phosphorus, chemical waste and heavy metals." He's created new majors in environmental science and environmental studies. "These two

majors will prepare tomorrow's professionals... to help solve environmental problems." These majors also help students to pursue more advanced degrees. (hartford.edu – fall magazine 2023).

Hikers still enjoy the Raymond Brook Preserve Park in Amston. Surrounding households still enjoy clean water and fall foliage was colorful again this year. Many people are willing to travel great distances for leaf peeping, why not visit Amston?

Finally, the Air Line State Park Trail web page has been up for some time now. See ALSPTregion.org/"Explore the Region" for local towns including Hebron. Hebron's writeup shines a bright light on Hebron and clearly captures the ethos of this town. From wetlands, to marshy areas, clean water, to farmland, local history and handsome old growth trees, Hebron is ahead of the curve environmentally and genuinely has much to offer all outdoor enthusiasts. #save17.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

**Angertainment**

To the Editor:  
Nobody's going to replace you, no one is taking "Christ" out of Christmas, there was never any fentanyl in Halloween candy, the borders were never opened, no one is taking away your gas stoves. Unless you took confidential documents and stored them next to your toilet, the FBI is not coming after you. Unless you didn't pay your taxes, the IRS is not after you either.

The Democrats are not Satan-worshipping pedophiles that drink the blood of children (QAnon). Clinton and Podesta were not running a child sex ring in the basement of the Comet Ping Pong pizzeria in Washington DC (Pizzagate). There are no 30,000 emails. Obama was born in the United States. Trump lost the 2020 election.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

**Hebron Mandate**

To the Editor:  
As we move past the recent election and welcome the new members of Hebron's town government, I would like to remind our elected officials of the recent mandate. This is not related to any specific party or election promise, it is the mandate clearly indicated by the Public Works Survey conducted last August. A vast majority of 69% of the participants stated the need to keep Public Works at Old Colchester Road. I trust the new Board of Selectmen and the Public Works Action Committee will follow the results of this decisive survey as they move forward.

I would like to remind the Board of Selectmen of their Mission Statement, which is published on the top of each Agenda, "Acting as stewards of the Town and agents of the people, will provide services that promote safety, an affordable healthy living environment; and through effective land use and town resources, an economic base that creates jobs and tax assistance to the community while preserving our rural historic character." As Stewards of the Town and Agents

of the people it is the responsibility of the BOS and their appointed committees to reflect the will of Hebron's residents.

The town-owned property at 17 Kinney Rd., a.k.a. the Horton Property, is the epitome of Hebron's "rural historic character." In addition to playing a vital role in the Raymond Brook Watershed, the unique historic features have been recognized by Professor Robert M. Thorson, University of Connecticut, Earth Science Department. Following a recent visit, Prof. Thorson reported, "I have never seen a series of stone wall laneways like this. It took the planning and effort of the community to create them... This is a beautifully preserved community landscape, rather than the hodge podge of walls built by individual farmers." The time has come, #Save17!

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

**Cemetery Flags**

To the Editor:  
This Veterans Day the St. Patrick Church Guild of East Hampton has placed American flags at the gravesites of veterans buried in St. Patrick Cemetery. We honor the memory of our veterans and are grateful for their service to our country.

Thank you to thr volunteers who helped in this project.  
St. Patrick Guild – East Hampton

**Very Important Referendum**

To the Editor:  
On Nov. 14, a Colchester town meeting will be held in order to approve the ballot to referendum moving the building of the new Senior Center forward. I ask the selectmen to approve this very important ballot.

On Nov. 28, the approved ballot to referendum would then be brought to the citizens of Colchester. Voting on this referendum will take place at the Town Hall. I urge all who are eligible to vote on the referendum to vote "Yes."

The new Senior Center will not only serve our many residents 55 years old and above, but also the Community at large as a venue for concerts, conference center, art exhibits, civic presentations, etc.

I am confident the new Senior Center/Community Center will be of great importance and value to the citizens of Colchester! One we will all be proud to call our own!

Sincerely,  
Antoinette Sirois – Colchester

**Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

To the Editor:  
What to make of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Hamas was horribly barbaric, but seeking both sides of the story, I kept reading. When I encountered the CNN graph based on United Nations data, comparing the number of Israelis killed versus the number of Palestinians killed over the last 15 years, I now hold Israel mostly to blame, and no longer support our government.  
See Letters, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

ment providing them with \$3 billion of annual military aid. It's our missiles and bombs currently massacring mostly innocent Palestinians.

Call me anti-Semitic if that is the default setting for Israeli critics, but the graphed data is clear that Israel historically considers the death of a single Jew needing to be repaid with 20 dead Muslims. Imagining Hamas Muslims seeing this same data from 2008 until 2022; no wonder the fanatics among them were inspired to attack Israel in force and kill as many as they could find. With the Israeli body count now at 1,300 and multiplying that by 20, I hypothesize that Israel will not relent until 26,000 Palestinians are dead, mostly innocent children and their mothers. Then Hamas will seek revenge, and Israel will respond by 20, and then Hamas, and so on ad infinitum.

Dogmatic religions disgust me. Yet I have secular Jewish, Muslim and Christian friends who avoid, denigrate or shun the fundamentalists among them. But that is not enough. The day must come where all churches, synagogues and mosques look within themselves, and strive to excise the evils within their Bibles and Qurans. To imply a creator, benevolent God transcribing all their wisdoms into those diseased texts is profound foolishness. It is the literal reading of these 'holy' books that brings so much evil into our world. They will continue spawning murderous fanatics as written and conservatively interpreted.

Edmund Smith – Andover

### Senior Center Referendum

To the Editor:  
The month of November presents a great opportunity for the Town of Colchester to vote at the Town Meeting (November 14th) and to go vote 'yes' at the Senior Center Building Referendum on November 28th.

A number of activities resulted in changes from the first referendum approval on Nov. 16, 2021. The State of Connecticut is providing \$32,691 from the American Rescue Plan Act. Funds from donation received from the Estate of Stephen J. Bendas of \$575,000. As a result, the

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costs to the town for this upcoming referendum is less than the prior Referendum.

Informational flyers have been distributed to the Town Hall, Cragin Library and Senior Center. The flyers provide facts and spells out two questions to be on the voting ballot at Referendum. The two questions require 'yes' votes to complete the new Senior Center building as requested from the first Referendum approval.

Please continue to support the efforts to complete the new Senior Center Building by participating at the Town Meeting and voting Yes on two questions on the Referendum ballot.

**Kevin Hastings – Colchester**

*Note: Hastings is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee but said he is writing as an individual.*

**Early Deadline for Thanksgiving**

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline for the Nov. 24 *Rivereast* has been moved up a day. All copy for that week – letters to the editor, press releases, event listings, etc. – must be submitted no later than noon Monday, Nov. 20.

No exceptions will be made.

**Give Him the Gold**

To the Editor:

When The Donald left office the National Debt had risen \$7.8 trillion in just four years; give the mad orange king what he wants: the Gold Medal. Three million fewer jobs; he gets the Gold Medal for the only modern president to leave a smaller workforce.

Trade deficit up 40.5%; tariffs anyone? Give him the Gold. Unemployment heading to 7%. Illegal immigration increased. Three million more people without health insurance. Highest murder rate since 1997. The economy was in a freefall. Gas was cheap, nobody was driving, 90,000 citizens dying a month from COVID-19, ya know it will be gone by Monday. It will just go away, like the truth.

Presidents have little effect on the economy, economists say, but when the first thing you do is decrease tax receipts by \$2 trillion, give it to rich people who don't need it, spend zero dollars on infrastructure you own it. So when Fox News tells you how bad the economy is just because you spent all your money on Amazon it's Fake News. Feel bad? Blame the Biden Crime Family?

It was The Great Pumpkin...but don't worry, Santa Claus is coming.

**Regrets,**

**Tim Rinell – East Hampton**

\*\*\*

This sounds like it could be interesting. Third Act, a nationwide advocacy community of Americans age 60 and up, will launch its Connecticut chapter next Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m.

The launch event will be a Zoom call featuring renowned environmentalist and Third Act founder Bill McKibben and seven-time Grammy Award-winning musician Paul Winter. Members of the public are invited to take part by registering at [thirdact.org/events/working-group-launch-third-act-connecticut](http://thirdact.org/events/working-group-launch-third-act-connecticut).

Founded in December 2021, Third Act said it brings together older Americans – people in the “third act” of their lives – to use their life experiences, skills and resources to “help build for the world a better, more hopeful legacy.” The community has 67,000 members nationwide.

In a press release, Third Act Connecticut said it will focus on “strategies to help change the current trajectory of climate chaos and protect our democracy.” The group will seek to influence banks and insurance companies that are involved in fossil fuel projects globally, and will also work on strengthening voter registration, voting and public participation in regulatory decisions.

For more information on Third Act Connecticut, look for the group on Facebook.

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

enjoy a variety of holiday displays, including Winter Wonderland, 12 Days of Christmas, Toyland, Festive Elves and Reindeer Road. And this year, the 200-foot-long Enchanting Tunnel of Lights will be complemented by even more sparkling light tunnels.

And since 2023 has been the Year of Barbie, Magic of Lights this year will feature a 32-foot-tall, animated Waving Christmas Barbie. Elsewhere along the route will be the Prehistoric Christmas, featuring life-sized dinosaurs celebrating the season, and a towering display of the legendary Bigfoot Monster Truck.

Okay, now that I've piqued your interest, I guess it's only fair to tell you where in Connecticut it's going to be.

Magic of Lights will be held at Rentschler Field in East Hartford from Nov. 23 through Dec. 31. Hours are: Monday-Thursday, 5-9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 5-10 p.m.

Ticket pricing is per vehicle, and be warned: you're going to pay a little more when it gets closer to Christmas. From Nov. 23 through Dec. 7, tickets are \$25 on weekdays, and \$30 on weekends. From Dec. 8-31, prices are \$30 for weekdays and \$35 for weekends.

Looking for something a little bit closer to home? The Hebron Lions are bringing back their annual hit, the Holiday Lights in Motion, starting the day after Thanksgiving. Look for more information on this festive event in coming weeks.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

★ **Democrats Flip Council cont. from page 1**

make significant progress given the speed at which government runs. However, she added that she wishes the new individuals do their best for the people and make a positive change for the town.

**Board of Education**

The two incumbents seeking reelection to the Board of Education – Republican August Arndt and Democrat Kenneth Barber – were successful in their bids. Joining them will be Democrats Edie DeSimone and Matthew Engelhardt. The new makeup will have a Republican majority of one person (5-4).

Arndt said he is appreciative of all of the support from all parties, and that he is looking forward to working with the new members of all of the boards. “Now it's time to put the faith that the community put in us today to work,” said Arndt.

Engelhardt's mother was a social worker in the school district for 40+ years. He said his inspiration came from her raving about the East Hampton schools. After seeing who came out during this year's elections starting with the budget, he is eager to move forward and make progress for the town.

Barber, who is starting his fourth term, said he is ready to focus on assisting students in all

facets of their education. “Surrounding towns are doing better than us,” commented Barber. In the new term, he will focus on the changing curriculum and funding resources to aid students struggling with mental health.

**Board of Finance**

Democrats swept the Board of Finance, with incumbent Ted Turner and newly elected Kurt Comisky and Anthony Spagnoletti. The board's new makeup, like the Board of Education, will have a Republican majority of one person (4-3). Bridget McLennan, who lost her bid for a seat on the council, will continue to serve on the Board of Finance. “I wish the best and success to those elected to the boards and council,” she said. “I look forward to working with those newly elected.”

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

The current chair, Brian Spack, won his reelection, and Evan Giza will start his term next November. Giza, 20, finds it “unreal” that he was elected, but more for the reason that younger people are getting seats. “We live in a time where someone my age can have a voice like this,” said Giza. Though his term starts next year, he said he is excited to get more involved with the various boards in town.

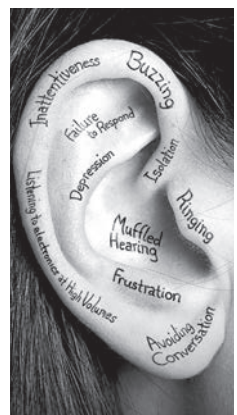
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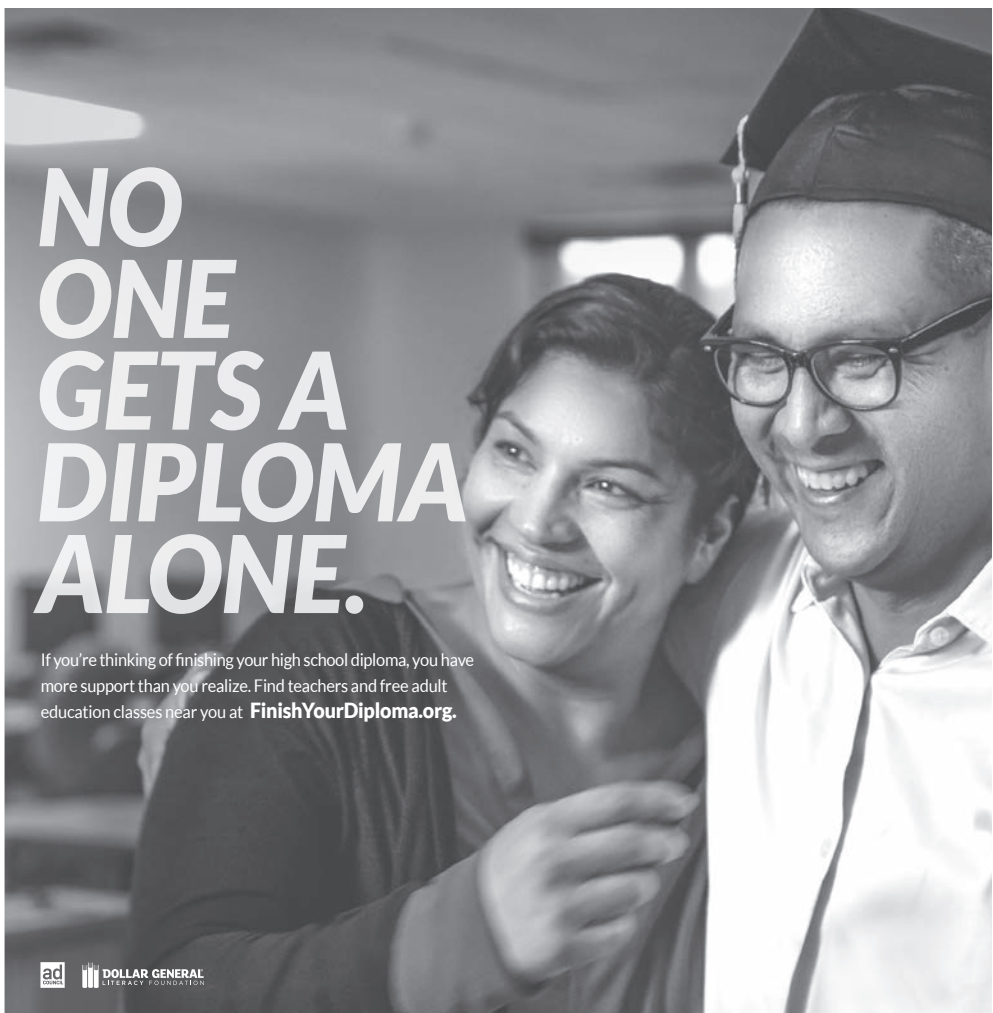
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State Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) welcomed \$500,000 in funding for the Norton Park project. The funding was announced last month by the Connecticut State Bond Commission.

### DeCaprio Applauds State Bonding Approval for Norton Park

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) welcomed \$500,000 in funding for the Norton Park project in Colchester. The funding was recently announced by the Connecticut State Bond Commission.

Norton Park is located off Route 149 in the Westchester section of Colchester. The property, which was once home to the Norton Paper Mill, was purchased initially back in 2015. In 2019, the Norton Park Committee was formed to serve as an advisory committee to assist with the completion of the site. Norton Park sits just off the Connecticut Air Line Trail, which spans from Thompson to East Haddam. The Air Line Trail draws outdoor enthusiasts from across Connecticut.

"This is great news for the Town of Colchester," stated DeCaprio. "The Norton Park Committee has been dedicated to this project and

worked very hard to get this across the finish line. Securing this funding was an important step to transforming this property into a park that all outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy, while keeping the rich history of this area flourishing for years to come. I will assist community leaders, committee members, and the residents of Colchester with my extensive background in environmental protection in any way possible."

When completed, the site will feature a park, picnic area along with other amenities. Additionally, the park will offer convenient access to the Jeremy River.

"I want to thank Gov. Lamont and the State Bond Commission for their decision to invest in the park project," added DeCaprio, whose district includes Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin and Lebanon.

### Jack-O'-Lantern Recycle

The Colchester Agricultural Commission is collecting leftover pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns to benefit the Colchester Livestock Food Bank (CLFB). The collection will take place through November 15 at designated drop off locations.

Accepted donations include whole pumpkins, jack-o'-lanterns, and pumpkins painted with non-toxic paint. Marked pallets will be placed at participating locations and will then be collected by the Colchester Livestock Foodbank and local farmers. Girl Scout Cadette Troop #63223 has created brightly colored signs to mark each pallet collection bin.

Participating locations for drop-off include:

Colchester Elementary School; Jack Jacter Intermediate School; William J. Johnston Middle School; Bacon Academy; Colchester Town Hall; and the Colchester Senior Center. Pumpkins can also be dropped off at Savitsky Farm, 195 Cato Corner Road, as well as Rose'N'Petal Farm, 348 Westchester Road (Route 149). Donations after Nov. 15 can be dropped off at Rose'N'Petal Farm.

More information about the CLFB can be found on the town website under the Agriculture Commission's page. For more information or questions, call Donna Rosenblatt at 860-267-4975.

### Scouting for Food

Colchester Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs are holding their annual food drive for the Colchester Food Bank.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, scouts will distribute fliers to many homes in town as possible. Put your donations for Colchester Food Bank into cardboard boxes or paper shopping bags. On Saturday, Nov. 18, folks should leave their donations at the end of their driveway or by their mailbox by 9 a.m. The scouts will begin bag pickup at that time.

The scouts said they hope residents will be able to contribute at least one nonperishable

food item. All items are appreciated but there is a particular need for jelly, pasta sauce, breakfast items, canned pasta, healthy snacks, and canned vegetables. Other helpful items include macaroni and cheese, beverages, instant potatoes, rice and pasta side dishes. Personal care items and baby wipes and diapers are always needed (laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, & feminine hygiene products).

Please, no glass containers, opened packages, or expired food.

### Exploring Scotland and Ireland

Colchester Senior Center is offering a trip to Scotland and Ireland in September 2024 – and an informational presentation is coming up next month.

The trip will be Sept. 8-20. See Edinburgh on a panoramic coach tour or by foot, cruise famed Loch Ness, visit the Titanic Experience in Belfast, walk the Giant's Causeway and soak up the views of Causeway Coast. Also, visit Ireland's capital city of Dublin and tour historic St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Trip includes transportation to airport, air-

fare, hotels and 18 meals (11 breakfasts and seven dinners). Double occupancy is \$5,829 per person if booked before March 9, 2024.

There will be a trip presentation on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave.

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.

### 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.

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.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.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: Holly Fair:** Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This year will feature a variety of new booths to shop from, including a basket raffle and a coffee café.

**Parents Night Out:** Saturday, Dec. 9th, from 4pm-8pm. It is open to children ages 4 and up. We will be providing the children with a fun and safe evening of crafts, games, dinner, and a movie while parents finish up their holiday shopping or enjoy an evening out. Price per family: \$40/1 Child, \$60/2 Children, \$75/ 3 Children. All proceeds go to support children & youth programming at CFC. Please visit the church's website for more information and to register.



Boy Scout Troop 13 recently held its fall Court of Honor, recognizing scout advancements and accomplishments earned during the summer months.

### Troop 13 Holds Court of Honor

Boy Scout Troop 13 recently held its fall Court of Honor to recognize scout advancements and accomplishments earned during the summer months. The following scouts earned the following merit badges and rank advancement and other accomplishments:

Ben Adams: Rowing, Model Design, Archery, and Fingerprinting merit badges; Cody Blanda: Archery, Environmental Science, Pioneering, Emergency Preparedness merit badges; Jacob Blanda: Rowing, Model Design, Archery, Fingerprinting merit badges and Tenderfoot rank advancement; Miller Brown: Cooking, Communications, Camping, Fingerprinting, Mammal Study merit badges, and completed the Mile swim; Joseph Chechile: Rifle Shooting, Environmental Science, Swimming, Camping, Fingerprinting merit badges; Timothy Crowell: Camping, Communications, Kayaking, ATV Program, Fingerprinting merit badges;

John Dalton: Cooking, Communications, Camping, Citizenship in Society merit badges; Jordan Darvas: Model Design, Small Boat Sailing merit badges; Braeden Fennell: Rifle Shoot-

ing, Model Design, Swimming, Geology merit badges and earned the Scout rank; Jacob Gauthier: Rifle Shooting, Orienteering, Swimming, Geology merit badges; Zack Ginand: Rifle Shooting, Orienteering, Geology, Fingerprinting merit badges and earned Tenderfoot rank advancement; Wyatt Nowakowski: Family Life, Citizenship in Society merit badges and earned Eagle Scout rank with Gold palms; John Paul Peck: Canoeing, Weather, Geology, Fire Safety, Wood Carving merit badges; Nicholas Peck: Archery, Orienteering, Swimming, Pioneering merit badges;

Sebastian Santini: Canoeing, Family Life, Weather, Geology, Fire Safety, Leatherworking merit badges and recipient of the J. Harold Williams Award; Garrett Schuth: Canoeing, Farm Mechanics, Citizenship in Society, Mammal Study merit badges; Brandon Verruso: Archery, Model Design, Small Boat Sailing, Fingerprinting merit badges; Tyler Zajac: Rifle Shooting, Model Design, Pioneering, Geology, Fingerprinting merit badges and earned Scout rank.

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### Youth Wrestling to Start Season

The Colchester Wildcats Youth Wrestling Club is starting up its 2023-24 season, and kids in grades K-8 are invited to join. The season will run Nov. 13-Feb. 29.

The club is open to youth in Colchester as well as surrounding towns. Practices for grades K-2 will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; practices for grades 3-8 will be Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m. Practices will be held in the gymnasium at Jack Jackter Intermediate School located at 215 Halls Hill Rd.

Cost is \$75 for grades K-2 and \$150 for grades 3-8; the cost includes a Colchester

Wrestling T-shirt & USA Wrestling membership card (required for insurance purposes). An introductory program consisting of 10 practice sessions is also offered for \$50 for grades K-2 and \$75 for grades 3-8.

Wrestlers are required to wear wrestling shoes and headgear, which are available for purchase at local sporting goods stores and online.

To register for the season, visit [www.colchesterwildcats.org](http://www.colchesterwildcats.org). Questions may be directed to CYW Director Utey Parekh at [colchesteryouthwrestling@gmail.com](mailto:colchesteryouthwrestling@gmail.com).

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Monday, Nov. 13:** 9 a.m., CoA Meeting at Town Hall, Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Veterans Day presentation, Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

**Tuesday, Nov. 14:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Regional LTC Ombudsman meeting; 11 a.m., Lunch & Learn: Beat the Holiday Blues; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, CHOICES Counseling by appointment; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 6:30 p.m., Town Meeting at Town Hall.

**Wednesday, Nov. 15:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Thanksgiving Day luncheon; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting (via Zoom).

**Thursday, Nov. 16:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., 'Deck the Halls' decorating party; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling by an appointment only; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, Nov. 17:** No programs or lunch due to the Holiday Fair set-up; 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Open Enrollment by appointment only.

**Saturday, Nov. 18:** 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., Holiday Fair & Open House



**Escapes Marks 10 Years...** Escapes Hair Salon & Spa celebrated 10 years in business, with a gala at the Polish Club last Saturday, Oct. 28. Food donations were collected for Colchester Food Bank. Escapes, located at 27 Lebanon Ave., offers full family haircuts, waxing (including full body), facials and more. For appointments, call 860-215-1323. Pictured are Cindy Klaja, Amber Klusek and Sabrina Romaniw.

### CLT Upcoming Hikes

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) has announced a pair of upcoming hikes. Hikes are free for CLT members, and \$5 for non-members. Visit [www.colchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.colchesterlandtrust.org) to register and pay in advance. The CLT is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that works to permanently protect open space in Colchester.

**Owl Prowl:** Sunday, Nov. 26, 3:45-6 p.m., at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve. CLT board member Liza Sivek will lead this quite hike for ages 12 and up. Meet at the BHP parking lot. No dogs allowed. Hike is limited to 15 attendees. For more information, email [LizaSivek@gmail.com](mailto:LizaSivek@gmail.com).

**Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area:** Sunday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. This will be a four-mile hike on a logging road and open paths. Hikers should wear appropriate footwear and be prepared for various trail conditions. Adults, children and leashed dogs are welcome on this easy to moderate hike, which will be held rain, snow or shine. Hikers must register by Friday, Dec. 1. Park and meet at the bottom of Carrier Road, Colchester. For more information, email [foundersway10@gmail.com](mailto:foundersway10@gmail.com).

### CCT to Hold Auditions for Kinky Boots

Colchester Community Theatre has scheduled auditions for its February 2024 production of *Kinky Boots*, through special arrangement with MTI.

*Kinky Boots* is the winner of six Tonys, including Best Musical. The show also won the Grammy for Best Musical Theatre album and London's Olivier Award for Best Musical. *Kinky Boots* features a Tony-winning score by pop icon Cyndi Lauper, and book by four-time Tony winner Harvey Fierstein. Billy Porter won a Best Actor Tony Award for his portrayal of Lola.

In *Kinky Boots*, Charlie Price has reluctantly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to live up to his father's legacy and save his family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. As they work to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair find that they have more in common than they realized.

Auditions will be held Monday, Nov. 27, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Monday, Dec. 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Congregation Ahavath Achim (Colchester Synagogue) Hall, 84 Lebanon Ave. No appointment is required for either date.

Everyone must bring sheet music in the appropriate key and be prepared to sing. Prepare 16 measures of a song that showcases your voice. No prerecorded music or a cappella singing will be permitted. An accompanist will be provided. Everyone will be asked to learn a short choreographed routine, so bring appropriate shoe wear.

CCT said it is seeking a diverse cast for this production. Roles are available for teens (age 16 and up as of Jan. 1, 2024), adults and two boys (age range 7-12).

For more information, contact Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or email [RTR1982@aol.com](mailto:RTR1982@aol.com).

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Boy Scout Troop 13 had a very busy summer! Among the scouts' adventures was a campout at Elmore State Park in Elmore, Vt.

### Troop 13 Summer Adventures

Boy Scout Troop 13 had a busy summer. Here are some highlights:

In June, scouts participated in a five-day camping trip in northern Vermont. Highlights of the trip included a hike up Elmore Mountain to the fire tower and completion of the ArborTrek Tree Top Adventure course. Each patrol cooked dinner over the campfire despite a downpour, and the experiences strengthened scout friendships.

In July, Wyatt Nowakowski completed his Eagle Scout Community Service Project by leading scouts and adults in building and installing a large circular tree bench at the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Community Park in Colchester. Wyatt recently completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review and was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

In July, Aiden Raulukaitis participated in the National Scout Jamboree, which is held every

four years at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reservation in West Virginia. The National Scout Jamboree is a gathering of 30,000 scouts for 10 days of adventure, activities, friendship, and community service.

In August, John Paul Peck completed his Eagle Scout Community Service Project by leading scouts and adults in raising community awareness of the need for basic necessities for the citizens of Haiti. This included collecting, organizing and preparing materials in partnership with the Haitian Health Foundation in Norwich. Items collected were toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, and creamy peanut butter. John Paul has also completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review.

In August, Timothy (TJ) Crowell attended the National Youth Leadership Training Course at J.N. Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford. The course is a week-long camping opportunity where scouts improve their leadership skills, communication skills, team building, and personal growth.

In July, 17 scouts attended summer camp at Camp Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rhode Island. Scouts earned 68 merit badges, while several earned rank advancement. One scout completed the mile swim, and all scouts participated in various camp activities, including Adventure Island, Canoe Races, and the Swim Carnival. While at summer camp, Sebastian Santini was awarded the J. Harold Williams Award. This medal is awarded each week by camp staff to a scout who best exemplifies the qualities of a good scout.

### Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

**Audition Notice: *It's a Wonderful Life* Live Radio Play:** Audition to be part of the Colchester Actors Theatre inaugural production. Producers are seeking actors ages 14-adult for various roles in a 1940s-style radio play of the holiday classic *It's a Wonderful Life*. Auditions will be held Nov. 20 and 21 at 6 p.m. Rehearsals will be Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 4-7. Show date: Dec. 8 at the Colchester Federated Church. Sign-up in advance to reserve your audition spot.

**Gentle Yoga:** Online with Facebook Live. For ages 45 and up. Four-week classes are held on Mondays in re-occurring sessions. Next class is Nov. 27-Dec. 18, from 4:45-5:45 p.m. Cost: \$35/resident, \$40/non-resident.

**Yoga, Mindful Tools and More:** Tuesdays, Nov. 28-Dec. 19, or Wednesdays, Nov. 29-Dec. 20, afterschool at Colchester Elementary. This class will have children making, using and taking home tools to help support yoga and mindful practices. The class is for children enrolled at CES in grades K-2. The instructor will meet students after school and walk them to the location of the class in CES. Parents/guardians will pick up their child at 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$55. There

is a maximum of eight students allowed.

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

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

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

### Senior Center Holiday Fair

The Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., will hold a Holiday Fair & Open House Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the center. All are invited.

There will be holiday crafts, handcrafted items, holiday décor and wreaths, assorted gift baskets, gift certificates, and more.

For more information, call 860-537-3911.

### Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The services are also available on Zoom; visit [westchestercongregation.org](http://westchestercongregation.org) for login information.

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

**Meetings:** Al-Anon, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; AA, Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA Troop 109, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; and Cub Scout Pack 109, one Thursday per month at 6 p.m.

For more information, email [westconchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westconchurch@gmail.com) or call 860-267-6711.



**That's a Wrap!...** The Colchester Giving Garden recently wrapped up the 2023 growing season. Since April, volunteers have grown and donated 2,364 lbs. of fresh produce to help the food insecure in the community. All of the food grown is donated to Colchester Food Bank and two area soup kitchens. This was the garden's 11th year in operation, and volunteers said they plan to be back next spring.

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**Donations Sought for Wreaths Across America**

Locally, volunteers supporting Wreaths Across America at Westchester Cemetery have been working to ensure that the 55 service members buried there will be honored again this year with the placement of live balsam veterans' wreaths as part of National Wreaths Across America Day 2023.

This event will be held at the Westchester Cemetery off Route 16 on Saturday, Dec. 16, starting at noon sharp.

Donations are welcome; each individual \$15 contribution sponsors a fresh balsam wreath that will be placed on the headstone of a veteran at the cemetery. To sponsor a wreath, or for event details, visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org).

merica.org/CTWCCC . Donations can also be mailed to Wreaths, c/o Linda Pasternak, 636 Westchester Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission - Remember, Honor, Teach - is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

**Presentation on Civil War Vets**

Remembering the "Colchester Civil War Vets", a presentation by the Colchester Historical Society will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 1 p.m., at Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

Irene Watson, Norm Dupuis and Gary Walter will showcase the Civil War veterans associated with Colchester. All are welcome.

**New at Lasell**

Colchester residents Kalie Purcell and Reina Spearin are among the more than 370 new students for the Class of 2027 at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

**Ukrainian Catholic Church News**

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

For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

**'Barns of Colchester'**

As part of Colchester's 325th birthday celebration, local fine artist Julianna W. Cameron has created a commemorative calendar entitled "Barns of Colchester." The original artwork is on exhibit at Cragin Memorial Library through Nov. 30.

Cameron is a lifelong resident of Colchester. The calendars are available to purchase at the Colchester Parks and Recreation office in Town Hall, and at Cragin Memorial Library.

**Ahavath Achim News**

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Thanksgiving Dinner Drive... Honor Rotary! A Foundation for Colchester, Inc.** has once again joined forces with Liberty Bank to raise money for those in need to be able to put a full Thanksgiving dinner on their tables. Pictured are Terry Congdon and Deb Martin of Rotary at the Colchester Farmers Market.

**Abundant Life Church News & Notes**

Abundant Life Church, a Christ-follower church that believes salvation through Jesus Christ, is located at 85 Skinner Rd. For more information, call 860-537-3082 or visit [AbundantL.com](http://AbundantL.com).

**Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service

is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

**Power of Prayer:** If in need of prayer, call the church to be placed on the prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.



**Getting Ready for the Fair...** Colchester Garden Club members recently met to make small artificial holiday table arrangements to sell as a community organization at the upcoming Colchester Senior Center Holiday Fair and Open House, taking place Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the center, 95 Norwich Ave. The club will also sell decorated artificial wreaths and other gift items as part of its final fundraiser of the year. Making the small table arrangements were, from left, Elena Coffey, Beverly Taggart, Kristen Warzecha and Joan Aubin. Katherine M. Kosiba (who took the photo) also helped make the arrangements. The Holiday Fair and Open House will have handcrafted items, a holiday café, assorted gift baskets, gift certificates, and more.

**History Museum Open Weekly**

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., until Dec. 3.

The museum, adjacent to Cragin Memorial Library, is free and features exhibits highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. The museum offers guided and self-guided tours.

For more information, contact the historical society at [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org) or 860-537-3240.

**Angels and Snowflakes Fair**

Guardian Angels Parish, St. Andrew Church, will hold the Angels and Snowflakes Christmas Fair Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at St. Andrew Parish Hall, 128 Norwich Ave.

Booths will include a bake shop, a "Baskets and More" raffle, Little Gift Shop with handmade items, a tea cup raffle, a Christmas Tag Sale, local crafters, and more. There will be lunch served in the Angel Dining Room including pierogi, hot dogs, baked potatoes and more.

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RE11-27-20

# 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).



**Seeing Old Faithful...** Sue and Bob Griswold of Portland brought the Rivereast with them on their trip to Yellowstone!



**Silver Anniversary Cruise...** Theresa and Jay Asikainen from Portland recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by taking a 15-day Windstar cruise from Lisbon to Rome. They're shown here in Gibraltar, atop the rock – with the Rivereast, of course! Happy anniversary!



**It's Not Just a Job, It's Always an Adventure...** Michael Chotkowski of Marlborough recently took another business trip to Nigeria - this time he went to Uyo, Nigeria to visit a future customer at the Ibom Icon Hotel and Golf Resort.



**Summering in Paris...** Portland resident Nicole Russo is shown standing in front of the Sacré-Cœur Basilica in the Montmartre neighborhood of Paris, France. Russo recently returned from a two-week solo trip to France where she took baking classes in Paris, explored museums, and discovered the southwestern city of Bordeaux.

## Where in the World?

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

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

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## From the State Senator's Desk

With classes in full swing and students well into this year's studies, I have some great news about our local communities' educational advances that will provide support for students as they pursue high school and beyond. Our children represent the future of our families, communities and state, and I'm very excited to let you know that there are new opportunities available to them.

For high schoolers looking to pursue higher education, there's exciting new news from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. CSCU recently partnered with the Common App college application admission service to help local students have easier access to post-grade school classes. Any Connecticut student in the top 30% of their classes who graduate with good standing are now eligible for automatic admission to any college and university within the CSCU system.

What does that mean? It means hundreds of local students, and thousands around the state, can now apply, and receive acceptance, to Central, Eastern, Southern or Western Connecticut State University or Charter Oak State College automatically. That's going to remove barriers to higher education for a number of people, streamline the college application process, support our local universities and support in-state, local education – which is especially great for students who want to get a degree while staying close to home. Mitchell College, Goodwin University and the universities of Bridgeport, New Haven and St. Joseph are all eligible for this program as well, meaning students will have a number of new opportunities available to them.

Before students are ready for college, they need to have the skills and education to earn a degree. There's more good news from the state's efforts to support and improve local education, providing students with additional educational opportunities and addressing educational disparities statewide. Dozens of schools will receive tens of thousands of dollars to support in-class tutoring.

After the state conducted several studies, it found that in-class, in-person tutoring was the most effective way to improve and benefit student learning, working to counter some educational losses seen in recent years. Now, students in middle and high school locally and statewide will be able to receive additional aid in the classroom through the end of this school year to bolster their educations.

I'm very encouraged to share these valuable updates in state education with our community, as they will benefit countless students across schools and regions now and in the future. Our workforce, economy and municipalities depend on education and skill training; with these latest updates, we will see strong benefits.

State Sen. MD Rahman, D-4th District

Note: The 4th District covers Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester.

## Veterans to Meet

The Andover Veterans meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 18, from 1-3 p.m., in the Town Hall Community Room. All are invited to come share your experiences and the activities you participated in for Veterans Day this year.

The meeting will also feature an updated briefing regarding VA benefits; the briefing was obtained from the Connecticut Veterans Affairs

Department this past summer.

As a reminder, there will be a Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Monument Park at the corner of routes 6 and 316 on Saturday, Nov. 11, starting at 11 a.m.

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

## Wanted: Children's Books for Mrs. Merry Claus

New or slightly used children's books are being collected for giveaway by Andover's own Mrs. Merry Claus, a.k.a. Dianne Grenier – a New England Santa Society Hall of Famer.

Each year Mrs. Claus visits many Christmas-themed events in the area. At each visit, she shares tales of life at the North Pole, hands out candy canes and small gifts, and poses with Santa for photos.

Mrs. Claus does not take payment for her event visits. Instead, she asks event organizers to make a donation to the Andover Friends of the Library.

This year, she would like to offer each child a book to take home from the "Elves Library." The North Pole Elf Librarian, Reed Daly, has been cleaning out the elves' library and is donating them to Mrs. Claus for distribution during her visits.

Collection bins have been placed at Andover Elementary School, Town Hall, and at Andover Public Library.

For more information, call Mrs. Claus at 860-742-3033 or email Mrs\_Merry\_Claus@comcast.net.

## Veterans Day Ceremony

The annual Veterans Day ceremony will be held Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., at Veterans Monument Park, on the corner of routes 6 and 316.

## Commission, Committee Members Needed

Any Andover elector interested in serving on one of the following committees or commissions should send a letter of interest via email to townclerk@andoverct.org:

Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Economic Development Commission, Ethics Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission alternate, Ordinance Review Committee.

## Veterans Day Tea

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

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

## Craft Vendors Sought for Fair

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

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

# Maguire Wins Reelection in Andover

By Michael Sinkewicz

First Selectman Jeff Maguire won another term in office Tuesday, as Democrats took control of the Board of Selectmen.

The race at the top of ticket was convincing, with Maguire, a Democrat, retaining his position with 535 votes; he defeated the Board of Selectmen's vice chair, Republican Adrian Mandeville, who received 392 votes.

Joining Maguire on the five-person Board of Selectmen are Republican incumbents Jeff Murray and Paula King, who received 441 and 452 votes, respectfully. Incumbent Democrat Scott Person was also reelected, with 465 votes, and Democrat Ann Crème, who garnered 422 votes, replaces Mandeville, giving the board a 3-2 Democratic edge.

For Board of Education, incumbent Democrats Caitlin Greenhouse, with 413 votes, and Shannon Loudon won, with 401 votes, won reelection.

Republican Steven Fuss also won reelection, along with newcomer Brianne Lanzieri, with 437 and 371 votes respectfully. The only candidate not to win a seat was Kim Person, who petitioned her way onto the ballot; she received 158 votes.

There were four open seats on the seven-member Board of Finance. The two Republicans on the ballot received the most votes; incumbent William Desrosiers got 569 and Kelly Wood earned 540. Incumbent Democrats Louise Goodwin and Brian Briggs will retain their

seats, with 534 votes and 509 votes respectfully.

For Board of Assessment Appeals, with three spots being sought by four candidates, incumbent Republican Alan Roy retained his position with 485 votes. Democratic incumbent Linda Armstrong also won, with 555 votes. The final seat went to newbie Emily Timreck, who received 514 votes. Mandeville also lost his bid on this board, after receiving 453 votes.

All three candidates seeking positions on the Planning and Zoning Commission were elected; Crème and Person won spots along with the commission's Republican chairman, Jed Larson. Patrick Doherty, a member of the Economic Development Commission, is seeking an alternate seat on the zoning commission, along with Annmarie Daigle; they ran unopposed.

For Zoning Board of Appeals, Republican chairman William Desrosiers, with 488 votes, won reelection. Republican Fred Oliver, with 464 votes, was appointed as well, along with Republican incumbent Kathleen Skorka, who received 454 votes. Democratic incumbent William Munroe, who received 432 votes, was defeated, as was Democrat Jay Kamins, who collected 438 votes.

Republican Joan Ross ran unopposed for an alternate seat.

The three candidates on the ballot for the Fire Commission — Democrat Kim Hawes, incumbent Democrat Mark Williams and Republican chairman Wallace Barton Jr. — were all elected.

## Congregational Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

**Shopping:** Manchester – Tuesday, Nov. 14.

**Senior Luncheons** will be held at the Town

Hall community room at noon Friday, Nov. 17, and Thursday, Nov. 30. Reservations required for all lunches; no walk-ins accepted.

**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.

## Townsend Cemetery Fall Clean-Up

The Townsend Cemetery Committee is preparing for the annual Fall Clean-Up on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the cemetery on Townsend Road.

The committee requests that all personal items and decorations be removed from the gravesites before Nov. 17. Any items found that are not allowed or prohibit maintenance activities will be removed.

## Community Fund Issues Call to Apply for Funds

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

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

## Busy Saturday at Library

The November edition of Saturday Storytime at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, will take place Saturday, Nov. 18, at 10:30 a.m. Library Friend Ellen Repay will share a story with a theme appropriate for November, as well as a craft.

Following Repay's presentation, kids can "Read with Sheena" as Sheena the Therapy Dog returns with owner Jenifer Nadeau, to listen to kids read to her for an hour. If you would like to sign for a 15-minute reading session, call the library as soon as possible, at 860-742-7428. Sheena will be at the library beginning at 11:30 a.m.



**Senator Makes Donation...** State Sen. MD Rahman (D-4), whose district includes Andover, recently donated \$1,000 to the Andover Food Pantry. The funding came from Rahman's senatorial salary. Rahman presented the check to the food pantry's director, Joan Soucy, along with local Democrats Shannon Loudon, Anne Crème and Catherine Magaldi-Lewis. The visit was a part of a series of donations made by Rahman, who also made contributions to AHM Youth and Family Services, as well as locations in Glastonbury and Manchester. "They're doing amazing work and they need financial support," Rahman told the *Rivereast* regarding his Andover donation. He added that their efforts were "inspiring."

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# Memorial School Holds First Farm Day

By London Brazal

Memorial School recently held its first-ever Farm Day, an educational experience that introduced young students to the advantages of choosing local and learning where the food is sourced from.

In East Hampton, the district has a strong farm-to-school program, featuring a school garden and a school greenhouse. Furthermore, they maintain good relationships with local farms as 90% of their produce this fall originates from farms within a 20-mile radius of the district.

Jennifer Bove is the district's director of food and nutrition services. She wanted the younger students to understand where their food comes from, what goes into farming, and how important farmers are to society. The idea stemmed from a school assembly with a few farmers who talked about what they do for a living. Then, it grew into an entire day devoted to learning about farming.

According to Bove, the East Hampton school system is the only one in the state that serves local beef. The district mainly works with four local farms including an apple farm in Glastonbury, a squash farm in Lebanon, and a beef farm in Lyme. "Produce from local farmers is fresher, tastier, more nutritious, and supportive of local farmers," said Bove.

The district is able to have a strong farm-to-school program because of grants and extra revenue from when meals were free during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the lack of extra income, they are struggling to find funding to maintain the program.

Stacey Gibson, a preschool teacher at Memorial School and the Garden Curriculum Coordinator, and Bove planned the event. "It would not have been possible without the generosity of the East Hampton Rotary Club who donated \$1,000 so we could offer participating farmers a

stipend for their time away from the farm."

The East Hampton Gardening Club also donated money for planting supplies and helped plan the planting activity. At Farm Day, there were farm animals, farmers talking about growing produce, a beekeeper, farm machinery, classroom activities, and a planting activity.

Farmers who came to participate at the event include Jess Stone and Victoria Fielding from Cold Spring Farm, Melissa Greenbacker from Greenbacker Farm, Buddy McLean from McLean Hill Farm, Gregory Knight from Urban Fresh Garden, and Tim Dutcher from the Hunnee Bee Project.

Another feature of the day was having taste tests. At Urban Fresh Garden, Knight employs local kids and teaches them how to farm. As a native of Jamaica, Knight supplied callaloo, a staple at home, and collard greens.

Animal appearances included Greenbacker's cow, Fettuccine, piglets from Cold Spring Farm, Janet Royce with bunnies, and Jen Rolfe with chickens. Taste tests were led by Abby Dubois from Put Local on Your Tray from the UConn Extensions, and Talia Clarke from the CT Farm to School Collaborative.

Ultimately, the day was a large success and Bove plans to make it an annual event. "The kids loved the day. They were so engaged and interested in all the stations," said Bove. "Of course, the farm animals were their favorite." Like the students, teachers also thought it was an amazing day.

The planning for the event was mainly done by Gibson and Bove. The biggest challenge for them was to make sure that every station had plenty of volunteers and that students were rotating to their stations. "Fortunately, Joey Bauer and Andrea Montovani, the principal and assistant principal, were very involved in making sure everything ran smoothly," said Bove.

Farm Day had numerous volunteers with



The third-grade Gardeners and Ambassadors helped give tours of the Memorial School Garden on its first Farm Day. Throughout the school year, they stay after school to help maintain the garden.

roughly 25 parents to help. With their help, the third grade Gardeners and Ambassadors helped give tours to guests such as state representatives Steve Weir (R-55) and Irene Haines (R-34). The Memorial School garden and the greenhouse at Center School were funded with the CT Grown for CT Kids grant. According to the grant, kids who garden in school are more likely to eat more fruits and vegetables outside of school. And, the produce from the garden is used in the

cafeteria for taste tests.

The primary goal was to establish a connection between the students and the food they consume while teaching them the significance of farmers. Bove said that their goal was achieved. "We felt like not only were the kids having a ton of fun, but they were really learning and understanding what goes into growing the food we eat!"

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**Children's Programs: Bubbles & Beats!** Mondays, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years (drop-ins and siblings welcome.); **Toddler Time:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years; **Stories & Songs:** Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; **Baby Rhyme Time:** Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

**DIY Days: Puff Paint:** Saturday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for grades K-8. Activities available

while supplies last. No registration required.

**Nintendo Switch Game Play - Grades 1-5:** Saturday, Nov. 18, 2-3 p.m. Play *Just Dance 2023*.

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

**Teen Movie Matinee:** Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m., in the Community Room. See *The Giver* (rated PG-13).

**Adult Programs: Belltown Book Brunch:** Friday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m. Drop in for coffee or tea, a breakfast treat, and bookish banter.

**LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Saturday, Nov. 18, 10:15 a.m., for adults, in the Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. Lynda Rutledge's *West With Giraffes* will be discussed. Books are available at the circulation desk.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

**Puppet Ministry:** Each Sunday, the Church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and some of his friends from Farmer M's Red Barn to help explain the meaning of the message

topic.

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

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

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

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

## Capstone Grants Available for EHHS Students

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting applications from East Hampton High School juniors and seniors for two \$200 grants to support two East Hampton High School Capstone projects.

The grants will help support the student's proposed Capstone project, a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. Cap-

stone projects may take a wide variety of forms including a long-term investigative project that culminates in a final product, presentation, or performance.

Applicants will be invited to present their Capstone Project idea to commission members. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1. Visit [www.artsforeasthamptonct.org](http://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org) for an application or pick one up at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

## Middle Haddam Library Concert

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

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by emailing [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com) or calling the library at 860-267-9093. All profits from the concert will benefit the library.

Brodgerski will perform on the Celtic harp and mountain dulcimer, which have Celtic and Scots-Irish roots. This interactive program includes a brief history of each instrument as well as performances of traditional and original music on each. Questions are encouraged throughout. Following the musical performance, participants will be given the opportunity to play a mountain dulcimer.



Carolyn Brodgerski

Brodgerski is a certified therapeutic musician, teaches dulcimer, and is also a member of the band Seat of Our Pants.

## Wreaths Across America Ceremony to Return

The East Hampton VFW Post 5095 and Auxiliary have announced that this year's Wreath Across America ceremony will take place at noon Saturday, Dec. 16, at the post, 20 North Maple St.

The ceremony will be followed by the laying of the wreaths at the Book of Names Memorial, located across the street from the post on the high school grounds. The ceremony is open to the public.

Nine wreaths will be laid at the memorial to honor the eight armed services divisions: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Merchant Marines, Coast Guard and the MIA/POW. A wreath will also be laid in memory and honor of late Gov. William A. O'Neill, a U.S. Air Force veteran who, during the Korean Conflict as a gunner, flew 12 combat missions on B-29 aircraft.

In addition to local honorees, the East Hampton VFW Auxiliary will also remember eight forgotten soldiers who a couple of years ago were laid to rest at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. This year, these soldiers will once again receive individual wreaths in honor of their service.

Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit orga-

nization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992.

The VFW Auxiliary is asking the public to sponsor additional wreaths to be placed at flags and various soldiers' gravesites in all 12 cemeteries in town. Sponsors are asked to donate \$17 per wreath to help provide as many wreaths as possible.

One can sponsor a wreath by sending a sponsorship form to the VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT 06424, c/o Linda Wallace, WAA East Hampton Leader. Checks should be made out to "VFW Post 5095 Auxiliary" with "WAA Fund" on the memo line. Forms can be found at the Post, the Public Library, and the Town Hall. In lieu of a form, send name, address, phone, e-mail, and the number of sponsored wreaths at \$17 each with a check to the above Post address.

Donations are also being accepted for the Veterans WAA Fund to help defray the costs of the auxiliary's monthly bingo at the Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital sponsored by the Post 5095 Auxiliary and for educational materials.



Paws for a Cause... Ardo, East Hampton's police K-9, will soon retire after seven years of service to the community. A new police K-9 will be purchased and is scheduled for training with their handler in February 2024. East Hampton Rotary has started fundraising for the new K-9 and equipment needed, and a goal of \$20,000 has been set. "Please consider donating to this worthy cause," said Kevin Reed, chair of the Police K-9 Committee

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**Undefeated Season...** The East Hampton Middle School girls' varsity soccer team went undefeated this season with a record of 11-0-1. The lady Panthers' offense scored a total of 51 goals this year while the defense/goalie dominated and only allowed in six goals from the opposing teams. Pictured from left are, front row, sixth-graders Harper Woodson, Natalie Dean, Maddie Herman, Josslyn Marrero, Ava Kosek, Kayleigh Doll, Abbie Coyne, Mia DonAroma, Sofia Hailey and Jenna Sandquist; second row, seventh-graders Hadley Galovich, Quinn Rurka, Rory McMahon, Alyssa Arnold, Hayden Groeper, Kayleigh Philbrick, Lily Laplant, Emma Kissane, Sofia Rodrigues; third row (standing), Head Coach Bryan Field, eighth-graders Taylor Schoonerman, Peyton Moulthrope, Cailan Hall, Cassie Owocki, Julianna Ware, Ava Plozay, Addy Perkins, Julianna DonAroma, Abby Hambridge and Alexis Bailey, and Assistant Coach Kurt Bailey.



**Historic House Tour...** About 100 people visited six homes on the Chatham Historical Society's Historic House Tour on Saturday, Sept. 30. There were 26 volunteer docents who gave the history and walking tour of the homes. Historical Society member Kellen Garvey (left) is shown describing the beehive oven in the 1808 Ira Lee House in Middle Haddam to three visitors. *Photo by Podskoch.*

### Breakfast with Santa

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club will sponsor its annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 2, from 7:30-11 a.m., at the East Hampton High School cafeteria, located on North Maple Street in East Hampton. As in the past, free breakfast will be served to all that attend and the children will be able to have a picture taken with Santa Claus as a keepsake. There will also be face-painting and other children's activities. Once again this

year, inflatable Christmas decorations will be at the entrance to the breakfast. All attending are asked to donate non-perishable food items for the East Hampton and Marlborough food banks. Monetary donations to support the food and fuel banks in each town will also be accepted. For more information, call Kevin at 860-754-8137.

### Parks and Rec Upcoming Events

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following upcoming events. For more information or to register, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonct.myrec.com. **Zumba Class:** Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Center School. Drop-in fee is \$10, or buy a 10-class card for \$50. **Trip: New York on Your Own:** Dec. 2, 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Depart via coach bus from Town Hall. Cost: \$75.

### Holiday Boutique Sale

The East Hampton Senior Center will hold its annual Holiday Boutique Sale during the Village Center's December Business Saturday event on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the senior center, 105 Main St. The sale features quilted seasonal runners and small quilts, aprons, ornaments, potholders, knitted hats, scarves and mittens, woodcrafts and other items handcrafted by the center's seniors. Jewelry and yarn also included. The center's boutique is always open Monday through Friday during regular senior center hours.

### CDHR Holiday Open House

All are invited to the for the annual Holiday Open House at the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR), on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd., East Hampton. All are invited to come meet the horses of CDHR, shop the vendor booths, pick up one of the handmade wreaths for sale made by the CDHR volunteers, check out the raffle baskets, and even take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There will be two food trucks on-

site. Admission is free. Holiday gift items for the CDHR horses can be purchased at [www.ctdraftrescue.org/wish-list](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/wish-list). CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. For more information, volunteer opportunities, or to donate, visit [www.ctdraftrescue.org](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org) or [www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](http://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue).



**The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame recently inducted three individuals and one team.** Pictured at the Oct. 27 induction ceremony are, from left, Hall of Famers Michael Mercaldi, Bill Wilkie, Kelsey Booth and, from the EHHS 2008 girls cross country team, Nicole Chambers, Elizabeth Plummer and Dana Boscarino.

### Hall of Fame Inducts Three and a Team

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame inducted three individuals and a team into the Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 27, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. The three individuals inducted were: Kelsey Booth, who scored 1,249 points and is the career leader in blocked shots, later played at Division 1 Sienna College and College of Charleston; Michael Mercaldi, a coach at the East Hampton high and middle schools since 2000 and athletic director at the middle school since 2001; and Charles "Sonny" O'Neil, a 1947 graduate who

was a 12-letter athlete in soccer, basketball and baseball. The team inducted was the East Hampton High School 2008 state champion girls cross country team, led by Coach Bill Wilkie, with players Cora Gengress, Nicole Chambers, Elizabeth Plummer, Andrea Galanto, Dana Boscarino, Allison Coll and Meg Nicoletta. The Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for 2024. If interested in nominating an athlete, coach, team or contributor, email Tom Seidl at [seidlt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seidlt@sbcglobal.net).

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# Annual Turkey Plunge Fundraises Over \$40K

By London Brazal

Over 100 plungers went into the cold waters of Lake Pocotopaug for the 14th annual East Hampton Turkey Plunge.

With water temperatures near 45° and air temperatures in the low 50s, on Nov. 4, plungers enjoyed another year of “freezin’ for a reason.” A variety of plungers wore costumes including some turkeys and Mrs. Claus while others jumped into the water in bathing suits. With Liberty Bank’s 25% match, approximately \$44,000 was raised, breaking last year’s record for money raised by more than \$1,000.

Since 2010, the inaugural year, the town has fundraised over \$180,000 for the East Hampton Food and Fuel Bank. With this year’s funds, the total has now passed \$200,000. The Food Bank fundraiser was created by two residents: Tom Crean and Maryann Aitken, along with their families, with the dual aim of creating a positive impact on the community while having fun.

The planning process for the Turkey Plunge involves numerous moving parts, which were streamlined by dividing the tasks. The Turkey Plunge Committee was made up of about 15 students from East Hampton High School, with help from teacher Kristen Keska and East Hampton Rotary members. Each member of the committee was given distinct responsibilities ranging from managing social media pages to reaching out to local businesses for sponsorships.

Since the start of this school year, the committee has met on most Fridays. While establishing roles early on, each committee member had to have two to three other people sign up each week while raising money. EHHS senior Jack Wilson, who was in charge of trophies, said he found sign-ups to be the most challenging part, since many people signed up a week before the event.

“I think the Turkey Plunge is a great way to fundraise,” said Wilson. His favorite part was trying to have the high school teachers create a team. “If there are more teachers doing the plunge, then more kids will want to watch

them.”

For his plunge, Wilson stayed in for about five to 10 minutes and raised \$650. Another committee member and fellow senior, Charlotte Minnick also raised the same amount and the two were tied for first at the student level.

Minnick was given the task of setting a table up at Stop and Shop. With one available slot after asking permission, she scrambled to find volunteers on short notice. “I sat in front of Stop and Shop for four hours and ended up raising close to \$400 in that time alone,” she said. “This was definitely one of the most stressful times during planning, but also one of the most rewarding.”

This year’s committee was mainly run by seniors and though they were busy with college applications, they managed to find time to help contribute. “The Turkey Plunge is something I prioritize,” added Minnick. She also explained how being on the committee has been a great way to push students and experience new things. “While it hasn’t been a struggle for me, I know others in the planning process who have had worries about talking to business, and getting out of their comfort zones.”

Minnick’s first plunge was back in middle school and when the opportunity presented itself, she was excited to help run the event. On Saturday, she ran into the water with members of the French Club, along with a camera to get some footage of going underwater.

To Minnick, the Turkey Plunge is one of the best parts of the year. She said she loves being involved with an event that helps people in her own community in a “real and effective way.” With that, she likes how the plunge promotes a healthy and fun competition for a great cause.

Erik Brody, also a senior, was mainly in charge of gathering sponsors and donations while recruiting members of the Interact Club to fundraise and participate. He believes that the plunge is an extremely important community event.

“Food and fuel insecurity are real issues in town,” he said. “With the winter season com-



The Riverast was a sponsor of this year’s Turkey Plunge. Publishers Kevin and Pat Rarey are shown here, with the paper. They are flanked by daughter and son-in-law Amanda (left) and Josh Howard – who both took the plunge in the chilly Lake Pocotopaug waters.

ing and prices continuing to rise, people suffering from these issues need help now more than ever.”

Brody said he was happy with this year’s turnout and it reminded him of the “supportive, tight-knit community that East Hampton has.” By fundraising for the Turkey Plunge, residents help provide for the needs of their fellow com-

munity members. “It makes the holiday season better not just for us, but for the people around us as well.”

To watch this year’s plunge, search “East Hampton CT Turkey Plunge 2023: Freezin’ for a Reason!” by Carl Guild & Associates on YouTube.

## 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.

**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.

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

**CommuniTea:** Saturday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with

neighbors, friends and other library patrons. Have a cup of tea; coffee-drinkers welcome.

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

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

**Banish the Blank Page:** Monday, Nov. 27, 7-8:30 p.m. In this writers’ workshop/meet-up group), there will be writing exercises, constructive criticism, and an opportunity to seek the opinions of other writers. All genres welcome. Contact the library to pre-register and for more information.

## Local Wangunk Art Show to Open

The art show “Kyle O’Neil: A Retrospective Journey,” featuring the works of two East Hampton residents, runs at Russell Library in Middletown through the end of the month.

Wangunk Elder Gary O’Neil (Red Oak) and his daughter Kyle O’Neil (Bright Star), both of East Hampton, are displaying Indigenous Wangunk art at the library.

There will be an opportunity to learn more

about the Wangunks with Gary O’Neil at the library on Monday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m. O’Neil will speak about the history of his people, who lived in Middletown and surrounding areas until the early 1800s. He is a direct descendant of the Jonathan Palmer line of the Wangunks. Registration is also recommended via the library’s website, under “Events.”

## 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.

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

and cans are collected in cans by the shed.

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

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** Sign up in the Parish Hall to make a donation or call Mary Boretz at 860-267-0365. Food is needed for four families this year.

For more information or if in need of assistance, contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472 or [donnadubehryb@gmail.com](mailto:donnadubehryb@gmail.com).

## Performance of ‘Messiah’

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will host a performance of Handel’s *Messiah* by the New England Chamber Choir on Sunday, Nov. 26, at 4 p.m.

The free performance will be held in the church sanctuary, located at 408 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Neck. Visit [www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org) for directions or call 860-993-5311 for information.

**Dick’s Barber Shop**  
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 860-267-9189 or 860-754-4709

## Veterans Day Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 8 will host a Veterans Day breakfast Sunday, Nov. 12, from 8-10 a.m., at VFW Post 5095, located at 20 N. Maple St.

Veterans eat for free; suggested donation for non-veterans is \$10, to help the scouts continue this yearly tradition.

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# Conference Repeat for Bellringers Volleyball

By Josh Howard

For the second straight season, the girls volleyball team at East Hampton High School are the Shoreline Conference (SLC) champions.

The Bellringers brought another conference championship banner back to Belltown after defeating Valley Regional in four sets (25-21, 22-25, 26-24, 25-23) at Haddam-Killingworth High School on Nov. 3.

East Hampton head coach Molly Grabowski noted that it took everything her team had to beat a Warriors team from Deep River that featured “great coaches and some key players who can hit the ball.”

“We knew that we needed to play our best to win,” Grabowski added. “They tested us, but I was really impressed at our composure and poise throughout the match. There were some big moments that required players to step up and they did.”

Mackenzie Player registered a career-high 24 kills and added four blocks to lead a potent Bellringers’ frontline that hammered down 57 total kills.

Player, a senior, credited Grabowski for creating a winning environment that has allowed the team to thrive “through this journey.”

“We’ve all worked so hard throughout this past season to be where we are today,” added Player. “Being able to push ourselves the past two years to win the Shoreline Championship has been a big accomplishment for the whole team.”

Senior captain Chelsea Woods initiated the offensive change with 46 assists (career high) and had a team-high two aces. Amber Murphy, also a senior captain, added 11 kills and blocked four shots.

“Throughout the year, we became stronger and more diverse with our offense, which helped us greatly in this game,” noted Grabowski.

It was a group effort defensively with a handful of players leading the way. Delaney Russell posted a team-high 29 digs, while Player (25), Woods (24), Olivia DeMartino (22), and Stephanie Martin (14) also posted double-digit digs.

After splitting the first two sets, East Hampton’s biggest test came in set three when they faced a significant deficit with Valley serving for game point. Woods took over and led a rally, serving out the crucial set.

Grabowski praised the efforts of Woods, Murphy, Russell, DeMartino, and Martin, along with senior Madison Reola and sophomore Lila Babcock.

But it was Player who Grabowski called the “go to” hitter for the title match.

“She is probably one of the hardest hitting outsiders I’ve seen and she played aggressively and smart,” Grabowski said of the prolific Player.

After winning their final 17 matches of the regular season to finish with a record of 19-1, East Hampton entered the conference tourney as the No. 1 seed and earned a first round bye before knocking off Hale Ray in the semifinals to reach the conference title match.

In the three-set win (25-16, 25-15, 25-21) over Hale Ray on Nov. 1, the Bellringers dominated from start to finish at EHHS.

Murphy had seven kills and three blocks, while Woods had 25 assists and three aces. As she did in the conference finals, Russell again led the team with 21 digs.

Following the tourney, Woods was named a SLC Player of the Year and was one of four Bellringers to be selected All-Conference. Woods and Murphy made the first-team, Player was selected to the second-team, and DeMartino was named to the honorable mention team.

Prior to winning conference last fall, the Bellringers had gone three seasons without a con-



Members of the East Hampton volleyball team celebrate after the Bellringers won the Shoreline Conference for the second straight season on Nov. 3.

ference title – previously winning the SLC in 2018.

Yet over the last two years the Bellringers have been the model of consistency during their consecutive conference triumphs.

Entering the 2023 Class M state tournament, East Hampton has won 43 of their last 45 matches, dating back to the beginning of 2022

season. Along with the pair of conference titles, the two-year run also includes a state championship a year ago when the team captured the program’s first ever state title, defeating Hale Ray in the Class S state championship.

Grabowski said of her current squad, “This is a resilient, gritty group of players who play hard for every point.”

## Police News

10/30: Mayanura Facius, 46, of 200 W. High St., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, East Hampton Police said.

10/31: Daniel Defreese, 35, of Woonsocket, R.I., was arrested and charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear, police said.

11/6: Adam Doran, 26, of 45 Forest St., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct,

third-degree assault, interfering with an emergency call, risk of injury to a minor, failing to stop when signaled or disobeying the direction of an officer, and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

From Oct. 30-Nov. 5, officers responded to 11 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and six alarms, and made 11 traffic stops, police said.

## 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.

**Holiday Closings:** The center will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for Thanksgiving.

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

**Weekly Activities:** **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Cross-Stitch & Embroidery with Shannon:** Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. -- Bring projects to share and work on together; **Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m. -- next session begins Nov. 20; **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.; **Cornhole:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.

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

**Book Club:** Tuesday, Nov. 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m. *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles will be discussed.

**Family Tree with Kenneth Doney:** Fridays, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, 10:30 a.m. Learn more about your family tree and how to document it. Bring your own iPhone, laptop or iPad.

**Design and Create: Floral Arranging:** Friday, Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m.

**Art with Karen: Creating an Acrylic Painting:** Sunday, Nov. 19, from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$5.

**Blood Pressure Screening:** Monday, Nov. 20, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the senior center. No appointment needed.

**Aging Gracefully at Home: What You Need to Know!:** Tuesday, Nov. 21, 10-11 a.m. The senior center will discuss the five crucial support categories: physical, emotional, financial, myth-busters and planning ahead.

**Open Enrollment Medicare:** Monday, Nov.

27. Make sure your health insurance coverage is up to date. Call the senior center for an appointment.

**Chatham Health Chat: Emergency Preparedness:** Tuesday, Nov. 28, 10:30 a.m.

**Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m., from Nov. 29-Feb. 14. Cost: \$20.

**Save the Date for the East Hampton Holiday Craft Sale:** Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring handmade items by senior center members.

**Trips: Lunch for Seniors at Windham Technical High School:** Thursday, Nov. 30. Have lunch prepared by the school’s culinary students. Choice of shepherd’s pie, chicken Marsala or chicken Caesar salad, with cranberry apple tart or pumpkin cheesecake for dessert. Cost is \$13; drive yourself, as the senior center bus is now full. Seating begins at 10:45 a.m. Register and pay in advance at the senior center.

**Holiday Shopping Trip – The Pink Sleigh and Westbrook Outlets:** Monday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Start your holiday shopping with a trip to this Christmas shop and the outlet stores, followed by lunch on your own at Lenny & Joe’s Seafood Restaurant. Donation for bus transportation is \$3.

**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.



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# Large Subdivisions Questioned by PZC

By London Brazal

Two proposed housing subdivisions continued to face questions from members of the Planning and Zoning Commission earlier this month, with adjacent property owners also having concerns. For both projects, there were multiple concerns stemming from the current owner's privacy and the traffic subdivisions will bring to their neighborhoods.

### 37 South Main Street

One proposal brought to the Planning and Zoning Commission is to subdivide a 20-acre lot on South Main Street into 22 lots with a total of 33 units. After 16 years of proposals, with the first in 2007, the PZC and the project's engineer have finally come to a conclusion.

At the Nov. 1 PZC meeting, the commission motioned to approve the application with specified changes. Five of the lots are requested to include duplex lots for affordable housing. Other lots may also be used for that purpose per zoning regulations, pending review by the town planner. Since Jeremy DeCarli's departure in September, the interim planner is currently John Guskowski.

In the final site plan, new changes will have to include updates to the topographic maps that include a four-foot-wide pedestrian path. The walking trail is going to be a stone dust path made for recreational purposes. According to PZC vice chair Ray Zatorski, recreation is a requirement for the town's subdivision regulations.

Before construction begins, town staff will have to be notified and public improvements

must be fully installed and inspected. Another specified change is to provide for a location of a community postal delivery box as well as a sufficient pull-off area for safe access. With concerns from the fire marshal about the road standards, the road name will also be reviewed.

However, neighboring residents were still worried about future residents entering their property. The commission suggests that there should be set perimeters such as shrubbery to deter residents from entering abutters' property.

With the specified modifications, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the motion to approve the application. Guskowski said the developer is most likely to finish the proper paperwork – easements, bonds, and the affordability plan -- in the winter. Though a timeline is uncertain as of now, construction could start in the spring.

### Flanders Road

In August, engineer Rob Baltramaitis discussed plans for a 15-lot subdivision on a 53-acre parcel off Flanders Road. In the original development plans, 12 lots would be accessed by a private road off Flanders Road and three lots by Pecaussett Trail. But, after comments received by the commission and Town Council, the developer would have to consider it a town road. In the recent meeting, Baltramaitis talked about the blueprints for a cul-de-sac road named Quinn's Way.

In the proposal, there are no sidewalks because of roadside swales. The sunken and marshy areas are necessary to help drainage.

However, Baltramaitis discussed providing a walking path that connected to the Air Line Trail. A path would still have to be fully determined and require work with town staff for further details.

During the public hearing, concerns differed from neighboring property owners. One concern for the subdivision is the proposed sightlines. The town's street standards require 240 feet and will be achieved at about 365 feet. Other residents were concerned with the soil testing that had been conducted for septic systems with Chatham Health. According to Baltramaitis, he is waiting for further approval and they remain in ongoing communication.

Current residents are looking for some buffer between properties to maintain their privacy. As of now, a natural vegetation buffer is not pro-

posed because it would be counterproductive. Replacing the natural vegetation with plants like evergreens would be up to the property owners to consider.

One dispute is with the proposed width of the road. In discussion, commission member James Sennett expressed concern with road widths under 24 feet for reasons such as access for emergency vehicles. In a report from DeCarli regarding swales and road width, town staff recommend a 24-foot-wide road. Baltramaitis said that after surveying adjacent property owners, many preferred a 22-foot-wide road without sidewalks to "preserve the rural character of the area."

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to continue the public hearing at the next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.

## 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.

Church school classes meet every Sunday. The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters

and crocheters are welcome. Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. All voices are welcome.

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

## First Responders to Support Food Bank

East Hampton's emergency services personnel will hold their annual "Stuff-a-Truck/Stuff-a-Cruiser" collection drive, to support East Hampton Food Bank, this weekend, Nov. 11 and 12, at Stop & Shop, 11 East High St.

This yearly event helps the food bank restock its shelves for the upcoming holiday season and prepare for the arrival of the cold winter months.

Police Department will partner with members of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to collect donations of food items, toiletries, and other necessities that the Food Bank utilizes to support community residents in need. On Sunday, members of the East Hampton Ambulance Association and CERT team will stuff an ambulance with the same and similar items, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Artist to Give Free Demo... East Hampton artist Tom Swimm will give a live oil painting demonstration at his exhibit at Artopia 2023 at Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St. Swimm will show his work along with many other artists that will be featured at the event, which will take place this Saturday, Nov. 11, starting at 1 p.m. In addition to the art exhibit, there will be music, food vendors and craft artisans. The event is free to the public. For more information, visit epocharts.org.

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### Middle Haddam Public Library Concert

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

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by emailing [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com) or calling the library at 860-267-9093.

### Turkey Shoot Nov. 19

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

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

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

### Artopia Arts Festival

Epoch Arts will hold its community arts festival Artopia Saturday, Nov. 11, from 1-4 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

This is a free event for the entire family and includes a community art show, live music, art demonstrations, kids' crafts, adult hands-on art, vendors, food and more.

Any artist who is interested in submitting their art in the art show is welcome and can register their art online, at [www.epocharts.org/artopia](http://www.epocharts.org/artopia).

### EHNS Touch-a-Truck

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact EHNS at [ehnfundraisers@gmail.com](mailto:ehnfundraisers@gmail.com).


### Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., has updated its Sunday schedule. Bible Study will be 9-9:45 a.m., and services begin at 10 a.m. Church pastor is Jamie Stall-Ryan.

### Middle Haddam Library Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Middle Haddam Public Library will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m., at the Middle Haddam Public Library located at 2 Knowles Rd.


All are invited to bring their questions and comments, find out how the library's year has been, and learn what is on the horizon.



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All proceeds collected go towards funding the East Hampton Police Department K-9 program

<b>\$3,000+</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>	Sponsor plaque, "Meet and Greet" with K-9 and handler, recognition in the local paper and on the Old Home Days banner, dinner for two at a Rotary meeting for recognition
<b>\$2,000+</b>	<b>PLATINUM</b>	Sponsor plaque, "Meet and Greet" with K-9 and handler, recognition in the local paper and on the Old Home Days banner
<b>\$1,000+</b>	<b>GOLD</b>	Certificate of support, "Meet and Greet" with K-9 and handler, recognition in the local paper and on the Old Home Days banner
<b>\$500+</b>	<b>SILVER</b>	Certificate of support, "Meet and Greet" with K-9 and handler, recognition in the local paper
<b>\$250+</b>	<b>BRONZE</b>	Certificate of support, recognition in the local paper
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**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.

**Kids Sewing 101: Stretch & Sew:** Thursdays, Dec. 7-21, 4:30-6 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Students must bring their own machine and scissors. Fabric and notions materials will be provided. Registration fee is \$85 resident/\$90 non-resident.

**Parents' Night Out:** For grades K-6. Fridays, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m., at the Marlborough Senior Center. Drop off the kids and enjoy an evening out at a movie, dinner or shopping for a few hours. Kids will have the option of participating in arts and crafts activities, games, sports or watching a movie. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Registration fee is \$20 per child resident, \$25 per child non-resident.

**Netto Indoor Soccer:** Games will begin the week of Jan. 8, and will be played after school on Mondays and Wednesdays at MES. Games will conclude at 4:30 p.m. Fee is \$75 and participants will receive a T-shirt.

**Sixth Grade Dance:** Friday, Nov. 17, 6:30-8 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee: \$10.

**Adult Programs: Pickleball:** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park tennis courts. There is no fee.

**Adult Volleyball:** Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$5 per week.

**Zumba - Fall Session:** Thursdays through Nov. 16, 7-8 p.m., at MES. There is a \$10 drop-in fee each week.


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**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, Nov. 13:** 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: 100% juice fruit punch, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, 100% whole wheat bread, tapioca pudding with topping; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Cards, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 14:** Meals-on-Wheels, noon.  
**Wednesday, Nov. 15:** 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, asparagus, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; cards, 1-4 p.m.

**Thursday, Nov. 16:** Meals-on-Wheels, noon;

PD Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.; Commission on Aging, 4 p.m.

**Friday, Nov. 17:** Not Just Quilting, 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: beef stroganoff with rice, vegetable medley, wholegrain white bread, fresh fruit; cards, 1-3 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.

**Last Call for Wreath Orders!**

It's not too late to get a fresh wreath delivered to your house or donate one to a family that utilizes Marlborough Food Bank.

Boy Scout Troop 39 in Marlborough will soon take delivery on hundreds of balsam wreaths, handmade in Maine. The scouts will festively decorate the wreaths with pinecones, berries and a red velvet bow, and be out fulfilling orders Thanksgiving week through Nov. 30.

This is the only troop-wide fundraiser conducted, with profits earned used toward the troop's campouts, equipment needs, service projects and activities for the year.

Two sizes are available: 22-inch wreaths for \$25, and 28" wreaths for \$30. Call 860-295-3060, or go to [www.troop39wreaths.com](http://www.troop39wreaths.com) to order online; credit cards accepted. Troop 39 will accept orders while supplies last.

**Holiday Art and Gift Sale**

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

The sale will feature handcrafted items including stained glass decorations, small sculptures, wooden bowls, handmade soaps, and hand-woven articles as well as over 100 original framed paintings and photos. All are priced from \$10 to \$200.

The Arts Center will accept cash, check, or credit card payments. It is located at 231 N. Main St. and is accessible from routes 2 or 66, and has handicapped-access and on-site parking.

For more information, visit the website [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org) or call 860-647-6363.

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 Tuesday 6:30 - 4:00  
 Wednesday 6:30 - 4:00  
**CLOSED Thanksgiving Day & Friday**  
 Saturday 7:00 - 3:30  
 Sunday 7:00 - 1:00

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**Planning Commission and Sustainable CT Team**

**PUBLIC FORUM & DISCUSSION**  
 Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
 Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria

- Marlborough Strengths
- Impacts of Population Trends
- Status of Chronic Disease & Residents' Health
- Cost of Housing & Affordable Housing Needs

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## Holiday Closing

The offices of Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center and Public Works will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day.

## American Legion Thanksgiving Dinner

American Legion 197 will hold its Seniors/Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, Nov. 19, from 1-3 p.m., at Marlborough American Legion Post 197, located on Route 66 in Marlborough (128 East Hampton Road). All East Hampton and Marlborough seniors and veterans are welcome.

RSVP required by Thursday, Nov. 16, by calling 860-295-7810.

## Holiday Open House

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will hold its annual Holiday Open House Thanksgiving weekend - Friday, Nov. 24, from noon-3 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 25, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served, along with a free drawing. Everything Christmas and winter will fill tables and shelves. Items include jewelry, handbags, small furniture, children's books and toys, baking, decorating, and more. Second Blessings gift certificates will also be available.

The shop will be open through Dec. 16, and will reopen Feb. 3, 2024. The shop accepts donations during shopping hours. Second Blessings also sells through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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## Gathering on the Green to Return!

The annual Gathering on the Green will take place Saturday, Dec. 2, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This will be a festive night celebrating the holiday season.

The gathering will feature a lighted fire truck parade, tree lighting, pictures with Santa, holiday games and activities, refreshments, music and a fireworks display.

Rain date is Sunday, Dec. 3.


## Haddam Neck Congregational News

In November, Haddam Neck Congregational Church will take part in Sunday services at 10 a.m. each week at its sister church, the 2nd Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam.

There will be no worship services at Haddam Neck Congregational during this time. Services will return to Haddam Neck in December.

For more information, visit [www.haddam-neckcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.haddam-neckcongregationalchurch.org).

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## Children's Holiday Party

American Legion Post 197 in Marlborough will host its annual Children's Holiday Party and lunch with Santa Sunday, Dec. 3, from noon-2 p.m., at the post, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Children up to 10 years of age are invited to come for cookie decorating, crafts, pizza, snacks and a gift from Santa.

If interested in attending, call the post at 860-295-7810 with the age and number of children, no later than Nov. 30. All attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Marlborough Food Bank.

## Preservation Society Calendars Available to Order

The Marlborough Preservation Society's 2024 calendars are now available for pre-order.

This year's theme is "Marlborough's Notables," and will feature people who have a connection to Marlborough and who have made an impact to the state, country or world - past and present. This is a full-color, 11x17 calendar with history and accomplishments of 12 notable people from town.

The cost is \$22 per calendar. All proceeds go to storing the historic Town Green mural.

For more information, visit [www.marlbroughhistory.org/store](http://www.marlbroughhistory.org/store). For mail orders, the society's mailing address is: Marlborough Preservation Society, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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# Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Launches New Program with Recent Renovations

By London Brazal

The Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center launched its new Memory Care Program and recent renovations at a recent Open House.

On Oct. 26, health care workers, friends, and family gathered at the center to learn more about the new program while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and live music performed by a harpist. Administrator Michael Rayel and state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) spoke at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held during the open house.

Rayel explained the celebration was for the renovations that “look fantastic” and the start of a new program that “adds tremendous value to the community.” Rayel highlighted the various staff that worked hard to get everything running including Director of Nursing Josefa Lanzuela, Director of Admissions Ashley Bafumi, and Memory Care Director Tara Tryseck.

“These people helped us accomplish all of our goals: excellence of service, compassion, and serve our community,” Rayel said. With the new program, Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation is able to expand services to a wider net of patients, he noted.

Weir said he was happy to speak about the center’s commitment to the community, and the hard work its staff members perform. Town Manager David Porter also spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and emphasized how amazing it is to have “a facility like this to serve the community,” and see the dedicated group of staff who are investing time in a difficult field.

The new renovations allowed for the Memory Care Unit part of the center to have more security. Residents are welcome to explore freely, but there is a new “wander guard” to help ensure patients’ safety, in case they accidentally go beyond the secured area. Ultimately, though, the area is designed for the residents to be as autonomous as possible. With new wallpaper and large windows, the natural light brightens the rooms.

Memory Care Director Tara Tyrseck started at National Healthcare in 2007 and is a licensed practical nurse. In her role, she helps run the programs and activity room.

The new program began transitioning on Oct. 27 and finished on Nov. 1. The Memory Care Program has different goals for each patient to individualize care with the help of family and staff. Tyrseck noted, “It’s great for the community and I am happy to be a part of it.”

With outside consulting from the Atwood Dementia Group, the program has access to more resources including presentations on the latest research. The organization has been consulting with Marlborough Health for almost a year. They help with policies and procedures, training, programs, and strategies for hiring. “It takes a special kind of person to work on the dementia care unit,” said founder Pamela Atwood.

The patio in the center of the building will be used for all four seasons to help the residents. “That snap of cold is such an important sensory memory,” continued Atwood.



The Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center celebrated the launch of its Memory Care Program and recent renovations. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was presented by Administrator Michael Rayel and State Representative Steve Weir.

With training, the groups will be exceeding the state mandates. Each staff member has to go through 10 hours of training annually, but on top of that they will also be doing 26 hours for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This week, Tyrseck started up a Caregiver Support Group.

Pamela Atwood got involved with memory care when her grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. For over 30 years, she worked with older adults and started her own company to consult organizations, and provide caregiver coaching and counseling. Her company is based in Hebron but covers the state and runs the Memory Cafe in Hebron as well.

The recreational room also serves as an assisted dining room with adaptable furniture to meet the residents’ needs. Activities run daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Programs range from morning stretching and listening to music to coloring and crafting. There also are multiple activities that serve cognitive function. Attwood described the activities as stage and age-appropriate – that they are familiar but not too “babyish.” Some examples include word association, “I Spy” games, and tower building, all of which are sensory-friendly. Another feature the center has is memory boxes filled with pictures and stickers of favorite hobbies, activities, and more.

## St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Alvin LeBlanc, Bill Gilles is deacon John McKaig is deacon emeritus. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohfisher30@yahoo.com.

**Weekend Masses:** 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Weekday Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Mondays at 9 a.m.

**Weekly Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m., or by appointment

**Family Faith Formation:** Led by Cindy Bryan, this is an active family faith formation program for the church’s kindergarten through elementary school population. Deacon Bill Gilles leads the middle school program. For more information, call the church office.

**Confirmation Community:** Led by Helena Thomas, this is a 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program. For more information, call the church office.

**Adult Worship Choir:** Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More

information is on the church website.

**Community Outreach and Service:** Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. You may also bring non-perishable food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden has wrapped for the year and provided over 365 pounds of fresh produce to the Marlborough Food Bank. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

**Other Programs and Offerings:** For more information on other programs, seasonal offerings, adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit [www.stjfisher.org](http://www.stjfisher.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

## From the Town Manager’s Desk

One of my goals is to communicate regularly about the policies, initiatives, and projects my team and I are working on. It is important that the processes through which we create and implement policies are inclusive and consultative. To that end, I am pleased to share with you that Marlborough contracted with FlashVote to administer a series of community surveys.

The surveys will be short, in most cases fewer than ten questions. When a survey is released, a representative sample of respondents will receive a link in an email or text message. Respondents will have 48 hours to respond before the survey closes. Aggregate results will be released to the public shortly after the survey closes.

We have not yet determined the topics these surveys will address. Our intent is to gather valuable information from a representative sample of community stakeholders to inform the design of initiatives. We want to include that feedback as we design policies that meet the needs of the Marlborough community we all care so much about.

If you would like to participate in these surveys, we need you to register at [www.flashvote.com/marlboroughct](http://www.flashvote.com/marlboroughct). Please encourage your friends and neighbors to sign up, too!

Town Manager David Porter

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# Marlborough Democrats Celebrate Victories

By Michael Sinkewicz

Marlborough Democrats celebrated wins across the ticket on Tuesday, with 17 of the party's 19 endorsed candidates winning seats.

"We're very pleased," said Dianne Dunn, the former Democratic Town Committee chairman, who served as this year's campaign manager. "I think this was an outpouring of Democrats we haven't seen in this town."

Turnout, while down compared to the 2021 municipal election, was good, according to Ann Kilby, Democratic registrar of voters. Overall, 1,758 voters went to the polls, a drop from 1,950 in 2021, which Kilby credited to the town charter revisions on the ballot that cycle.

"It was busy all day," she said. "People were talking that there were no parking spots."

Perhaps the most watched race was the for control of Board of Selectmen. Entering Election Day, Democrats held a 3-2 majority; they maintained that alignment this week.

Democrat John Rizza, a 25-year resident of Marlborough and a political newcomer, won a

seat with 943 votes — securing the majority. Republican incumbent Joe Asklar retained his seat with 930 votes, and Republican Louise Concodello, who has served on several committees, including 28 years on the local school board, won a seat with 919 votes. Mike Natri, an unaffiliated candidate endorsed by the GOP, lost his bid with 880 votes; however, he will remain the chairman of the Board of Finance.

While closely contested, Dunn stated that the rate remained "positive."

With three open seats on the Board of Finance, Democrats appeared to sweep. Incumbent Jack Fidler, received 919 votes, Karen Pakulis Paul, who currently serves as an alternate member, received 934, and Will Guzman, gained 907. Republican Christopher Wherry, a 10-year resident of Marlborough and a business owner, narrowly lost, receiving 896 votes. An automatic recount was triggered, which will take place on Tuesday at Town Hall.

For the alternate seat on the board, Repub-

lican Salvatore Sena retained his position, defeating Democrat Marcus Wilkinson, a business lawyer.

All three of the local Board of Education candidates will be seated; Democrats Jean Wilson, who previously served on the RHAM school board and Republican Incumbent Kerri Barella along with Amy Kuhrt all won.

Three positions were unopposed or cross endorsed, including incumbent Town Clerk Lauren A. Griffin, Barbara Lazzari for Tax Collector, and Michael J. O'Neil for town treasurer.

For Board of Assessment Appeals, Democratic John Grasso picked up the seat, along with Korean Ryan, an unaffiliated candidate endorsed by Democrats, and Republican Zina Planeta; three seats were available.

Planning Commission chairman, Republican Mark A. Stankiewicz and Democrat Joan O'Connell won their bids; incumbent Brett G. Hallden was defeated.

Diane Dunn ran for an alternate seat unopposed.

For the Zoning Commission, two Democrats running unopposed won; Bill Lardi, who previously served on the Water Pollution Authority and Zoning Board of Appeals, along with Charles Denler, who comes from a family of builders. Republicans John A. Murray won reelection as an alternate member, with 833 votes, beating Democratic Nick Hale, who received 819; that race will also be recounted.

Republican Lea Georgiades, a lifelong Marlborough resident, and Democrat Erica Gorman both won seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Democrat Anthony Bratz, a mechanical engineering supervisor and an alternate member on the Marlborough Water Pollution Control

Authority, also joins the board, as an alternate.

On Election Day, candidates expressed enthusiasm for the high turnout.

Concodello, who was ultimately successful in her election bid, stood by the Republican tent outside Marlborough Elementary School.

A veteran of many elections, Concodello said the overall tone of this particular race felt different.

The feeling, she explained was "a little bit more like we're getting along [with the Democrats]."

"It's just friendlier campaigning," she asserted.

Dunn said that the parties were seemingly getting along better this election cycle.

"I think there's been a lot of awareness of our town needing to come together and not deal those divisive politics," she said. "There's camaraderie that we haven't had in years."

Rizza, who concluded his first political campaign, said a major priority was to keep discussions civil this year.

"My whole point was just to let people know about me and the slate," he said on Tuesday afternoon. "I think that carries a lot of weight."

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) made stops on Election Day in Hebron and Marlborough to support the Democratic tickets.

"Each one of [the candidates] has a passion for their respective communities. And that's a really tough job they're taking on at the local level."

Osten stressed the importance of a high turnout for municipal elections.

"Local elections decide your property taxes; that's the most important tax for people," she said.

## 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 invited to attend Sunday School. Contact Gwen Lawson at the church office at [office@marlconchurch.org](mailto:office@marlconchurch.org) for more information.

**Sunday, Nov. 12:** Veterans Sunday will be celebrated. All who have served in the United States armed forces are honored. Cards of thanks, made by the Sunday school children and other items, will be given to all veterans in attendance. The service will be led by Senior Youth/Adult Missions Director Scott Reid.

**Bring A Friend Family Event:** The Christian Education team is sponsoring an afternoon of harvest crafts for children Saturday, Nov. 18, from 2-4 p.m., downstairs in the Great Hall. Children in the church Sunday school are welcome to bring a friend.

**Faith Formation (Bible Study)** is led by the Rev. Valerie 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.

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

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



Multiple Emmy winner Charles David Denler will play a benefit concert at Marlborough Arts Center on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

## Benefit Concert at Arts Center

Marlborough resident, and four-time Emmy winner Charles David Denler will play a benefit piano concert for the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$25. Tickets will be available every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in November, from 1-4 p.m., at the arts center's Holiday Art Show and Sale. All proceeds from the concert go directly to the arts center.

Denler grew up in Marlborough, where he first began composing music for film and television. Over the years he's won four Emmy awards for his work — most recently in 2022. Denler moved west for a time, to be closer to Los Ange-

les, but moved back to Marlborough two years ago.

He said he around 50 films to score over the next few years, and will also release a new solo piano album within the next few months. Denler added he will be "hopefully writing a few more symphonies inspired by this wonderful place we call home, in New England."

At the Dec. 1 concert, Denler will perform Christmas carols, a few standards, and several original piano solos.

Full details on Denler's career, plus musical clips, can be found at the Arts Center's website, [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org), and at [www.charles-denler.com](http://www.charles-denler.com).



The Marlborough Lions held their annual Masquerade 5K Sunday, Oct. 29. The first place male and female winners were Philip Michener of Colchester and Connie McKinnon of East Haddam.

## Lions Hold Masquerade 5K

The Marlborough Lions held their annual Masquerade 5K Sunday, Oct. 29, with a group of dedicated runners braving the inclement weather.

This event's First Place male and female runners were Philip Michener of Colchester and Connie McKinnon from East Haddam. Michener completed the course in 23 minutes and 10 seconds, while McKinnon completed her run in 24 minutes and 29 seconds. There was also an award for the Best Overall Costume, which was won by Michael Popham from Bedford, N.H.

Following the race, the Lions presented medallions for the first place runners as well as the winner for best costume. Complete race results

can be found on the timekeeper's website at [www.ItsYourRace.com](http://www.ItsYourRace.com).

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. Over the years the Lions have also performed vision screening services for students at the elementary school and at various child care facilities in the area.

Those interested in joining the Marlborough Lions Club can contact club president Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Megan at [meadams9182@hotmail.com](mailto:meadams9182@hotmail.com). New members are always welcome.



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The Hosmer Mountain Boys will play at the Marlborough Arts Center Friday, Nov. 17.

**A Night of Bluegrass**

The Marlborough Arts Center will present an evening of bluegrass with The Hosmer Mountain Boys Friday, Nov. 17, at 231 North Main St. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m., for this month's 4th Friday @ the Arts Café. Admission is \$10 at the door. The band includes Simon Brogie, banjo player, who was born near the bottom of the Hosmer Mountain in Willimantic. He's been play-

ing bluegrass since he was a child but has only recently been "making the bluegrass scene." His friend Keegan Day is on guitar/vocals, on fiddle is Cathy Day, and on acoustic bass is Tom Bowman. The Marlborough Arts Center is centrally located, has on-site parking, and is fully accessible.

**Grants Available for Nonprofits**

The Marlborough Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation is holding its second grant cycle – and nonprofits are welcome to apply. In this second grant cycle, the Marlborough Community Fund will award up to \$8,000 per organization in grant funds to support projects that will enrich and enhance especially the lives of the residents of Marlborough. Interested organizations should visit [www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf](http://www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf) for more information and eligibility requirements. Applications must be submitted no later than Nov. 30. Although an organization does not need to be based in Marlborough to apply, the project for which the application is being made must benefit Marlborough residents. For more information, visit [www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf](http://www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf).



Local band Seat of Our Pants will perform at Marlborough Congregational Church on Saturday, Nov. 18.

**Local Band to Perform**

Marlborough- and Hebron-based band "Seat of Our Pants" will perform Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m., in the meeting house at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St. The band features Marlborough residents Carolyn Brodgerski, Jeff Gorman, and Mark Hall, and Hebron resident Michael Frantzen.

Their instrumentation for the evening will include an array of instruments including fiddle, bass, acoustic guitar, percussion, ukulele, and Celtic harp. Additional information about the band is available at [seatofourpantsmusic.com](http://seatofourpantsmusic.com). There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door.



The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 2, at East Hampton High School. Pictured with Santa at last year's breakfast are Hunter Turner and Greyson Wolf of Marlborough.

**Breakfast with Santa**

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club will sponsor its annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 2, from 7:30-11 a.m., at the East Hampton High School cafeteria, located on North Maple Street in East Hampton. As in the past, free breakfast will be served to all that attend and the children will be able to have a picture taken with Santa Claus as a keepsake. There will also be face-painting and other children's activities. Once again this year,

inflatable Christmas decorations will be at the entrance to the breakfast. All attending are asked to donate non-perishable food items for the East Hampton and Marlborough food banks. Monetary donations to support the food and fuel banks in each town will also be accepted. For more information, call Kevin at 860-754-8137.



Marlborough Lions Club members Rob Gnocci and John Glynn (with Lion Ken Hjulstrom, not pictured) recently performing vision screenings at Marlborough Elementary School.

**Lions Provide Vision Screening at MES**

The Marlborough Lions Club recently provided free vision screenings for local children at Marlborough Elementary School; over 300 children were screened. The screening is non-invasive and does not require any eye drops. The procedure uses a photographic process from a distance of three feet to detect any anomalies. The screening is performed to detect early indications of far- and near-sightedness, astigmatism, anisometropia, strabismus, ambliopia and anisocoria. If an issue is detected, the school nurse is informed so that the parents can be advised to seek further evaluation.

The Marlborough Lions obtained a vision screening camera and printer at a cost of approximately \$8,000 and have frequently coordinated vision screening with other area communities. Supporting various Lions events help the Marlborough Lions to support Lions charities as well as local services like the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks. For further information regarding vision screening, call Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

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### Vocal Chords Holiday Concert

The concert "Harmonizing Holidays" will be presented by the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St.

The 90-voice chorus and 10-piece orchestra will perform a variety of holiday favorites. Members hail from 30 towns in Connecticut.

Music director is Samuel Tucker and accompanist is Alan Dougherty. The program will include Irish and French carols, classical, swing, gospel, ballads, and, of course, traditional holiday pieces.

Proceeds from the concert are returned to the community in the form of scholarships presented to graduating Middlesex Community high school seniors in the spring pursuing a career in music or nursing. Thus far, MHVC has awarded \$80,500.

Tickets are \$25. Call 860-347-2787 or 860-342-3120 for tickets or visit [www.vocalchords20.org](http://www.vocalchords20.org). Be sure to 'like' the Vocal Chords on Facebook.

### Native American Programs at Library

November is Native American Heritage Month, and Portland Library has two special programs coming up via Zoom, to celebrate. The programs can be attended from your own home or from one of the library's computers.

**Quinnnetukut: Our Homeland, Our History:** Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6 p.m. In this presentation, led by Schaghticoke Tribal Nation education director Darlene Kascak, participants will get a more complete and accurate view of the history of Connecticut that takes the perspectives of Native people into account.

**ly Lives:** Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6 p.m. Etuaptmunk is a Mi'kmaw saying that translates to "two-eyed seeing." This concept refers to learning how to see the strengths of Indigenous knowledge from one eye and the strengths of Western knowledge from the other. Kascak and IAIS educator and ecologist Susan Scherf will discuss how people can include this "two-eyed seeing" concept in their daily lives.

Registration is requested for either or both programs, by visiting [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org) or calling 860-342-6770.

**Etuaptmunk: Two-Eyed Seeing in Our Dai-**

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Next Week's Programs: Monday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SynoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients - donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); watercolor class, 9:30 a.m.-noon - to register, email [bivenne@yahoo.com](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 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, 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Trips:** Thursday, Nov. 16, to Griswold Inn,

with shopping afterward in downtown Essex, Bus leaves the senior center at 11:30 a.m. sharp. Register with Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

**Scammer Alert:** Wednesday, Nov. 15, 11:45 a.m., with Jen Phillips, financial advisor from Edward Jones. 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.

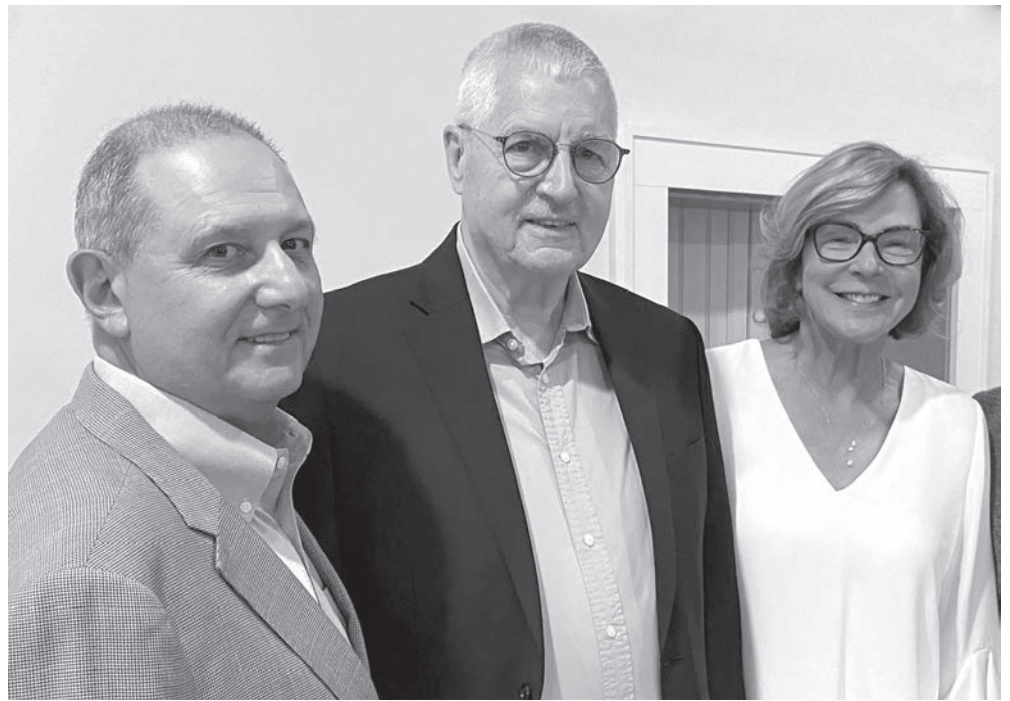
**Cans-4-A-Cause:** Drop off washed cans and bottles in a bin in the rear parking lot of the center. For details or to volunteer, email Jeff Myjak at [myjakjeff@gmail.com](mailto:myjakjeff@gmail.com).

**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.

### Turkey Shoots

Portland Fish and Game Club will hold Turkey Shoots Sundays, Nov. 11 and 18, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., across from the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A. There is a Super bird every week.

The cost is \$3 for one shot or two for \$5. Food and drink will be available. Families are welcome.



**Resident Scores Chairmanship...** Resident David Audette (center) was recently appointed chair of the eastern Connecticut chapter of SCORE, a nationwide volunteer association of retired executives and business owners. SCORE volunteers provide free, confidential advice to entrepreneurs and conduct dozens of online workshops on business planning, finance, marketing, IT, and other disciplines. Audette was president of a software development company serving special education administrators and project manager for Hartford HealthCare's Behavioral Health Network as it implemented an electronic records system. Previously, he was a teacher and senior administrator in the Middletown school system. He's pictured here with past chairpersons Frank LaMonaca (left) and Margo Weitekamp (right).

### Thanksgiving Meals for Those in Need

The Chatham Children's Connection, a Portland-based nonprofit, is again offering Thanksgiving meals for those in the community who may need a little extra financial help.

Two different options will be offered this year: a Thanksgiving basket filled with a turkey and all the fixings, or a pre-cooked meal for smaller families (will feed two to three people) consisting of a pre-cooked turkey/chicken as well as ready-to-heat side items, rolls and dessert.

Email April Graves at [Agaves@ChathamCC.org](mailto:Agaves@ChathamCC.org) by Nov. 15 to reserve a basket or pre-made meal (please note which option you would prefer). All meals will be ready for pickup prior to Thanksgiving. Details will be provided via email.

Please advise if transportation is an issue. Delivery options within Portland will be available.

Supplies are limited, so email Graves as soon as possible.

### St. Mary Church News

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

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

for more information.

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

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

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

### Bereavement Support Ministry


The Church of St. Mary invites all to attend its newly formed Bereavement Support Group, held the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 13, at 6:30 p.m., in the Rosary Room of St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave.

For more information, call or text Susan Bongiorno Frizen at 860-685-1966.



**Empowering People...** Portland Board of Education member Sarah Spear was with Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas last week at the Connecticut State Independent Living Centers' annual meeting. The organization works with Centers for Independent Living, which empower people with disabilities to take control of their lives and guide their destinies. This includes people with all types of disabilities in all age groups, from children to seniors.

The safety of our patients and staff members is extremely important for us. All recommended COVID-19 safety measures are in place.



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# Voting Results Trigger Multiple Automatic Recounts

By London Brazal

Much of the Portland Election Day results reflect no major changes with many seats filled by incumbent members. However, a few close margins call for automatic recounts.

According to state law, a recount occurs when the margin is less than half a percentage point of the total votes cast. A slot on the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and the Board of Assessment Appeals are to be recounted. As of print, the estimated day for the recount was today to coincide with the five-day-after-election rule.

The unofficial reported results state that 41% of voters came to cast their ballot on Tuesday which was roughly 10% less than in 2021. Officials both new and returning will be sworn in on Nov. 21, according to First Selectman Ryan

Curley.

On the Board of Selectman, the sixth slot is unofficially filled by incumbent Republican Robert Hetrick with 1,291 votes. Democrat Andrea Alfano's vote count is within the 20-vote margin at 1,277. If there is no change after the recount, then the board will look almost identical to how it did for the 2021 election. Republicans Michael Pelton, Michael "Julio" Hernandez, and Shaun P. Manning as well as Democrat John Dillon won reelection. Democrat James Tripp will take Democrat Ralph Zampano's seat, who was not seeking reelection.

For the Board of Education, incumbent Democrats Laurel Steinhauer and Meg Scata will serve another term. The third slot held by incumbent Democrat Sarah Spear with 1,378

votes will be recounted along with Republicans Angela Hammond, 1,373 votes, and Karen Renner, 1,348 votes.

Spear said she is optimistic that a recount will confirm her lead. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving," Spear commented. "This election season impressed upon me the responsibility of representing all families in our district. I take this seriously."

With Democrat Kim Nagy-Maruschock filling a vacancy, the Board of Education will retain a democrat majority if the recount does not overturn the third seat. Democratic Town Committee Vice Chair April Graves said the party is looking forward to seeing the results of multiple recounts.

"We are very happy to have held onto the majority on the Board of Education," commented Graves. "We would first like to thank all of the candidates who volunteered to support their community, just volunteering is a win for everyone."

Republicans William Donahue and Peter Castelli will hold on to their seats on the Board of Assessment Appeals. Democrats Kenneth Kearns and Christopher Darby, the former with 1,252 votes and the latter with 1,246, will also face a recount.

As for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Republican Kurt Peterson will take the seat open this year, and Republican incumbent Robert Casati will continue another five-year term starting next November.

First Selectman Ryan Curley and Town Clerk Michael Tierney ran unopposed and will continue serving in their current roles. Curley described the feeling of running solo as "flattering" and a "pleasant surprise." Tierney was pleased with the vote count as a sign of confidence from the public. He is eager to continue making changes in the office while upgrading the technology to make services easier. With a project management background, Tierney is also looking forward to the early voting changes coming next year.

While continuing as first selectmen, Curley said he is happy to have familiarity with all of the other officials who are staying in their current roles. Big projects on his radar include amending a tax agreement for Brainerd Place, looking for a new water source once the current contract expires, and deciding if the schools that need work be fixed or built new.

Based on his 2021 election campaign, Curley wants to continue expanding economic development in town and make technology improvements, ultimately making business at the town level easier. "We've made good progress," said Curley. "Now, it's seeing it through and doing more good for the town."

While speaking on the election itself, Curley is happy to see that the candidates are well-qualified for their roles. "Seeing a close race reflects that there are qualified and good people running for office," he said.

## 2023 Leaf Pickup

The Department of Public Works will conduct its annual leaf pickup beginning Monday, Nov. 27. Leaves must be placed in paper bags at the curb so as not to cause a sight-line issue. Leaves must be out no later than Sunday, Nov. 26. Plastic bags will not be picked up.

Residents who do not place their leaves at the curb can bring them to the transfer station (permit required). Leaves not in paper

bags must be emptied by the resident in an area at the transfer station designated by the attendant.

Public Works requests that homeowners refrain from blowing or raking leaves into the roadway, as blocking the storm drain inlets may cause flooding and create safety hazards.

For more information, call Public Works at 860-342-6733.

## Portland Veterans Day Activities

Portland has two events coming up tomorrow, Saturday, Nov. 11, to celebrate Veterans Day.

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

Then, at 6 p.m. on Nov. 11, the annual Veterans Day Dinner will be held at the Portland High School cafeteria. Sponsored by the Portland Veterans Affairs Committee and the

American Legion Ormont Post 69, this dinner is made possible by the very donation from Sebby Milardo and his family and employees at Melilli Caffe and Grill. There are 250 free tickets available for local veterans and their significant other/guest.

A maximum of two tickets per veteran can be picked up at the Portland Town Clerk's Office, 33 East Main St., or at Quonset Surplus, 11 Pickering St.

## Portland Library News & Notes

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

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closings:** For Thanksgiving, the library is closing at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, and will remain closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24. It will reopen Saturday, Nov. 25.

**LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups:** Teens are invited to social meetups at the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Support groups will meet on the third Wednesday of the month, with a parent and caregiver support group running concurrently in another room at the library. For more information, contact Jenn Renk at 860-342-6770.

**Family Craft Night: Fall Paper Strip Décor:** Monday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Registration is required and space is limited.

**Children's Programs: Late Fall/Early Winter Storytimes: Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 14-Dec. 19; **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., Nov. 15-Dec. 20.

**Drop-In Lego Building:** Monday, Nov. 20, noon-2 p.m., for kids of all ages. No registration required. The library will supply the Legos.

**Animal Detectives:** Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2 p.m., for ages 4-10. Learn how to read clues animals

leave behind – and recreate an animal track to bring home. Space is limited.

**Crafty Thursdays:** Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., Nov. 30-Dec. 14. Kids in grades K-5 are invited to join us for some no-rules creative crafting in the Wagner Room. Supplies provided. This is a drop-in program; no registration required.

**Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy:** Saturday, Dec. 2, noon. Following the success of the Portland Solidarity Committee's book discussion of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* earlier this fall, the library will host a discussion specifically for readers age 8-18. Thanks to support from CT Humanities, a limited number of print copies of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy* are available for readers to keep; print and audio copies are also available to check out at the library and through Hoopla. Moderator Rich Hollant will return to host this discussion. Registration is requested, but not required.

**Adult Programs: Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m. *Two Nights in Lisbon* by Chris Pavone will be discussed.

**Art Exhibit:** "Lessons Learned In-Person: An Exhibition of Artistic Growth in Watercolor," a selection of works by local artists, curated by Bivonne Staiger, runs through Nov. 30.

**Knifty Knitters:** Saturdays 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Knitters (and Crocheters) of Portland are open to all adults, regardless of experience level. Beginning fiber artists are welcome. Later this November the library's display cases will feature a selection of works that the members of this group have donated to the Friends of the Portland Library to auction off; check in with staff to see how to bid.

## Library Friends Book Sale

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

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

## Carpino, Needleman Co-Host Blood Drive

The Red Cross has recently reported a national shortage of its blood supply. State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) sponsored a blood drive at the Waverly Senior Center on Thursday, Oct. 5, to help raise awareness – and donations – locally.

Each donation goes toward treatment and transfusions for hospital patients in need of blood, plasma, and platelets.

"I am so proud of our community's participation and the fact that we were able to help the Red Cross make a positive impact on so many patients in need," Carpino said. "This blood stands at the ready for our friends and neighbors should they have a need. I hope this drive may inspire others to donate during future opportunities."

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

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

Visit [www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org](http://www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) for more information or email questions to [friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com).

Carpino also participated as a donor and was presented with a pin to commemorate her five-gallon milestone.

"At a time when the Red Cross is experiencing an emergency and seeking donations from the public, I'm so glad we were able to hold this event and get people out to help the cause," said Needleman. "Giving blood is quick and easy, and every donation can save up to three lives. Anyone who is able can and should seek out blood drives near them; it's a worthwhile cause."

According to the Red Cross, blood donations help accident victims, burn survivors, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, as well as those who are undergoing cancer treatments. To find additional donor opportunities, visit [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org).



**The Clean-Up Crew...** Monday was a beautiful day for the Portland Democrats' annual Come On Over sign clean-up. Democratic Town Committee members and volunteers removed a year's worth of overgrown brush to make sure the Come On Over sign is visible to welcome all who cross the bridge. Pictured from left are Jim Tripp, John Dillon, Laurel Steinhauer, Jillian Crawford and Ken Kearns.



**Students from Brownstone Intermediate School celebrated national Walk/Bike to School Day on Oct. 4. Despite a foggy start to the day, the kids had fun!**

## BIS Students Keep On Walking!

Students from Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS) joined communities from around the country to celebrate national Walk/Bike to School Day on Oct. 4. This is the fifth consecutive time that BIS has participated.

This event occurs in both the fall and spring and is designed to demonstrate how adding "active transportation" (walking or biking) to your daily activities can help jump-start your brain and body in the morning. Walk to School events are also meant to reinforce the idea that pedes-

trian safety should be a top priority when planning, designing, and repairing sidewalks, crosswalks, and streets around town.

The Complete Streets Group (CSG) of Portland, with support from the BIS PTO, Principal Michael Searson and Portland's police department, helped to coordinate and lead the student walkers. CSG said it would also like to give a big shout-out to Heather Hallinean for her effort in spearheading the event for the BIS community.



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# Selectmen Delay Decision on Firearm Policy

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Board of Selectmen (BOS) delayed approval of recently proposed Park and Open Space polices, including a new provision that would potentially restrict the carrying of firearms at certain locations.

During their meeting on Nov. 2, the selectmen agreed to table the discussion in order to gather additional information to help formulate the drafted polices.

The Hebron Parks and Recreation Commission previously made numerous recommendations for the selectmen to approve, including updates to park polices and establishing new open space polices. Included in the list of items that would be prohibited at local parks, recreations facilities and open space owned by the town, were firearms.

"No person shall use, carry or possess firearms of any kind," a draft of the new proposal read in part.

However, the selectmen pushed back on the wording of this policy during its Oct. 5 meeting, and sent the proposal back to the commission to re-work the language. Then at the selectmen's meeting last week, it reviewed a revised version of the policy that was approved by the commission.

The updated version of the policy stated

that firearms, along with crossbows and air or gas-powered guns are prohibited, "except any person with a valid handgun permit shall be allowed to carry as allowed by their permit in accordance with all applicable state statutes and general town ordinances regulating handguns."

Essentially, if approved, the policy would allow legal gun owners to be able to continue carrying their firearms at parks and open spaces. Town Manager Andrew Tierney emphasized during the meeting that currently, the town doesn't have any park policy regulating firearms, meaning that residents are allowed to carry; nothing presently enacted through municipal policy prevents citizens from doing so.

"The carrying of firearms in parks is allowed if you have a legally possessed pistol permit," he explained.

As of Oct. 1, Connecticut broadly prohibits individuals from openly carrying both handguns and long guns in public, but concealed carry is legal through an obtained permit.

The selectmen debated whether banning firearms from park and open space locations would be enforceable. Republican BOS chairman Daniel Larson stated that the number of gun owners in the community is likely higher than residents can comprehend.

"I don't think people realize quite how likely it is that people that are maybe standing next to them may actually have a concealed carry permit," he said, before asking the board that when forming these types of policies, do they need to "come up with some sort of teeth to back them up?"

Democratic selectman Marc Rubera, who's a sergeant in the local police department, offered his analysis based on decades of law enforcement experience. He offered support for a gun ban, while cautioning its potential usefulness.

"I understand why people want a ban," he said. "I'm not opposed to a ban; it makes a statement against gun violence. It makes you feel safe. But it's largely symbolic because there's no sign, there's no ban, there's no ordinance that's going to keep somebody who has malicious intentions from bringing a gun anywhere."

Rubera said that while law-abiding citizens would likely adhere to a firearm ban, there is currently no state statute allowing a police officer to intervene and stop a resident from carrying a weapon at a park.

"You could not arrest them for that," he said. Unlike other locations — like school grounds — which are protected under statute, the town would likely be unable to enforce a park or open space ban, he asserted.

"It's not going to accomplish what you think it's going to accomplish," Rubera said.

While the selectmen previously debated the necessity of weapons on trails, including for self-defense purposes, Democratic selectman Tiffany Thiele argued that a provision banning guns at locations while there's recreation activity taking place, such as a sporting event, could be a fair compromise.

Moving forward, the selectmen are expected to review how neighboring communities address the issue with their own recreation facilities.

In Marlborough, for example, a clear policy is posted on the town website regarding carrying weapons in parks: "use of firearms, bows, arrows, or any dangerous weapons is prohibited." With other municipalities, such as East Hampton, there doesn't appear to be a specific policy regarding firearm usage in parks — although

there is a provision for disorderly conduct, which prohibits residents from any "activity creating hazards to human safety or property."

Hebron's Parks and Recreation Director Craig Bryant told the *Rivereast* that the "policies haven't been updated in a long time." For the over a year and half, he has worked with the Parks and Recreation Commission to examine the existing policies and make necessary amendments, and combine the park policies with open space.

The review process involved researching what communities across the state have implemented and while some don't have a policy, many have banned fire arms in their own parks, he said. After consulting with lawyers, the commission approved policies that "made the most sense."

Even though the commission addressed several different policy areas, impacting fire arms can attract extra attention, Bryant said.

"Obviously we knew that could cause a stir," he said. "We weren't trying to do anything political."

Bryant added that the commission "just wanted to update the policies in the best way possible."

"The last thing we wanted to do was create controversy," he said.

At the selectmen meeting, Tierney stated that the town office received emails and calls regarding the firearm policy. Bryant also fielded inquiries, and he understands why residents would want to carry weapons at certain locations, including wooded trails.

"I think the pushback was that people want to feel protected," he said.

Still, the director emphasized that he was "not trying to promote people bringing fire arms to open space."

Bryant explained that the commission could've left the topic out of his policy proposals, but that would've been an "injustice." It was the right decision to properly analysis the topic and come up with the appropriate provision, he said.

The director expressed that the selectmen pausing to conduct further research was the "correct call," and that the board wasn't rushing into a decision.

## St. Peter's Community Dinner

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will hold its next monthly community dinner Saturday, Nov. 11, starting at 3:30 p.m.

The menu will include roast pork tenderloin, gravy, applesauce, roasted potatoes, butternut squash, roll, and your choice of dessert. Cost is \$15.

This is a take-out-only dinner with no pre-orders or reservations; the meal is first-come, first-served. Servers will come to your car,

take your order and dessert choice, and return to your car to place them in the back seat or trunk. There is no need for you to get out of your car. The church is located at 30 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron.

As part of the St. Peter's outreach programs, a portion of the proceeds of each meal sold this month will go to the Andover Food Bank. For more details, call the church at 860-228-3244 or visit [www.StPetersHebron.com](http://www.StPetersHebron.com).

## Hey, Take a Hike!

All are invited to participate in a guided hike with Hebron's Trail Rangers on Friday, Nov. 17, as part of National "Take-a-Hike!" Day.

Discover Hebron's Bernstein Open Space Preserve on the edge of Judd Brook and bordering the Salmon River State Forest and Air Line State Park Trail. Hebron Trail Ranger co-leaders will meet you at 10 a.m. at the main large parking lot at Grayville Falls Park. (Parking lot is at the intersection of Grayville and Reidy Hill roads).

Depending on the gathered hikers' preference, they will either walk along Grayville Road or cut through Grayville Falls Park, in order to join the Air Line Trail. Heading west on the trail, hikers will observe and identify preserved open space. Before reaching Judd Brook, they will take a right-of-way path into the Bernstein Preserve and see the foundations built along Judd Brook that were part of a railroad spur instrumental in filling beneath the viaducts of the old Air Line Railroad. If time allows, hikers will explore some of the adjacent Salmon River State Forest.

The hike is easy except that the path from Grayville Falls Park to the Air Line Trail (if we choose this) is rugged and steep in some areas. As always, tick protection is recommended as



A guided hike with Hebron's Trail Rangers on Friday, Nov. 17, will feature Judd Brook.

are clean soles of shoes/boots when entering any open space preserve. Allow two hours for the hike. Steady rain postpones the event until Sunday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m.

## 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).

## Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

**Craft Fair and Free Quilt Show:** Saturday, Dec. 2; this is a fundraiser for "Elaina's Lift." In-

terested vendors can request more information at [CLCHebron.Fellowship@gmail.com](mailto: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 860-228-1152.

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

## Turkey Shoots Through Nov. 19

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

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**Veterans Benefit**

Colebrook Village is hosting a Veterans Benefit presentation Thursday, Nov. 16, at 11 a.m., hosted by Don Davis from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) presentation.

This presentation is open to the public and includes information VA eligibility, free hearing aids (up to \$7,000), free glasses, and the possibility of monthly VA income.

Colebrook Village is located at 55 John E. Horton Blvd.

**Transfer Station Hours Change**

The Town of Hebron Transfer Station and Recycling Center, located at 550 Old Colchester Rd., has changed to its winter hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Also, the transfer station will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, due to Thanksgiving.

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**Donations Sought for Book Sale**

The Friends of Douglas Library of Hebron group is accepting donations of used books in good condition for its Nov. 18 book sale.

Fiction, science fiction, mysteries, romances, non-fiction, and children's books are requested, and CDs and DVDs are also welcome. Do not donate VHS tapes, encyclopedias, magazines, or *Reader's Digest* condensed books. All donated items should be in good condition; not mildewed, moldy, dirty or torn.

The next Book Sale will be on Saturday, Nov.

18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the library's Community Room. The Friends will offer its \$5 per bag sale for an extra hour, running from 1-3 p.m. The Friends said they also anticipate offering a large selection of holiday and gift items for purchase.

Donations can be dropped off anytime in the white donation bin to the right of the main parking lot entrance. For assistance with large donations, call the Friends ahead of time, at 860-228-9312 ext. 312.

**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 [holymfamilyhebron.org](http://holymfamilyhebron.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 overnight stay program commenced Oct. 31. Needs are: **Men's & Women's:** Insulated winter gloves; hats; sweatpants; hoodies, thermal underwear; athletic crew and winter weight socks; men's boxer briefs (M,L,XL); women's briefs (sizes 6-10); and sports bras (medium up to 4XL).

**Cleaning Supplies:** Size XL disposable latex-free gloves; Windex; toilet bowl cleaner; Lysol or Clorox wipes, and shower cleaner. **Gift Cards:** \$15 Stop & Shop cards for gas to assist people living in their cars; and \$25 Walmart cards to purchase items needed immediately. Call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards. **Miscellaneous:** 8'x10' tarps for people still camping; shampoo; men's and women's stick deodorant; inexpensive ear buds; rain ponchos; hand warmers; first aid supplies; paper towels; TP (great need); 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.

**Parks and Recreation News**

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

**Restorative Yoga and Sound Bath:** Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., at the Douglas Library community room. Enjoy 60 minutes of restorative yoga, with the sounds of gongs and Tibetan bowls. Suitable for all bodies and skill levels. Fee: \$25.

**WINS For Life Basketball Clinics:** Friday, Nov. 17. Grades 3-5 meet 5:30-6:45 p.m., and the cost is \$30. Grades 6-8 meet 7-8:30 p.m., and the cost is \$35. The clinics cover some basic and advanced fundamentals, including ball-handling, passing, shooting, cutting, one on one moves, and creating scoring opportunities.

**After School Holiday Crafting:** Mondays,

Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 11, for grades 3-6, at the Hebron Elementary School library. There will be a new craft each session. Cost is \$100.

**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.

**Youth Basketball:** Registration is open for the recreational basketball program for grades 9-12. Registration deadline is Dec. 3. Please visit our website to find out more information.

**Babysitters Training:** Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. Cost: \$100. This course for ages 11-17 teaches age-appropriate skills necessary to care for children of all ages. The course focuses on safety with emphasis on prevention. Basic first aid, including adult and child CPR, will also be taught.

**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](http://www.douglaslibrary.org).

**Friday Films:** Nov. 10, *Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part 1* (PG-13). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

**Holiday Closings:** For Thanksgiving, the library will close Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m., and remain closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 30. The library will be open Saturday, Nov. 25, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Medicare Info Session:** Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m., or Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m. Learn the ins-and-outs of Medicare with Mark Macrina, a local insurance agent.

**Book Discussion:** Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m., at the American Legion, located next door. Read and discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. 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.

**Book Sale:** Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This is the last book sale of the year. The \$5 bag sale begins at 1 p.m., with no limit on how many bags can be purchased.

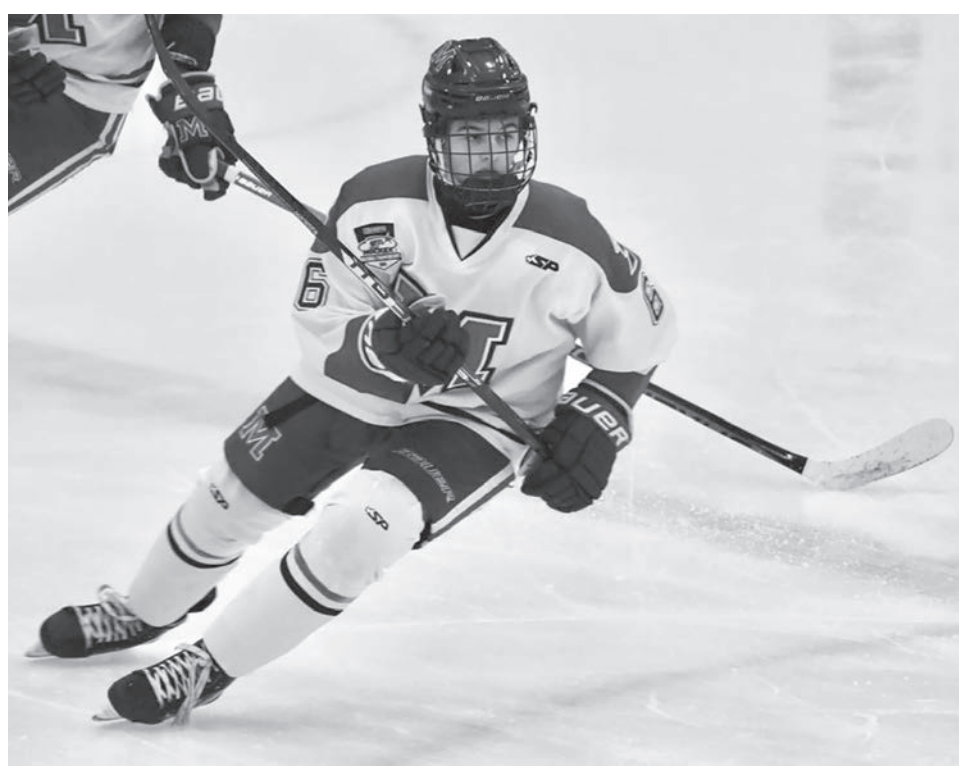
**Make a Book Bag:** Wednesday, Nov. 29, 5 p.m. Turn a hardcover book into a purse in the free class. Registration is required as space is limited.

**Preschool Screenings**

The Hebron Board of Education, through the Hebron Early Childhood Center Program at Gilead Hill School, will hold a few screenings for children that reside in Hebron and are 3 and 4 years old by the time of the screening.

The screenings will be held at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St. Screenings will take place Wednesdays, Nov. 29, March 6 and May 15. Screens in areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development will be provided. Parents will also receive information to assist in fostering their child's growth.

Call the office of the director of educational services at Hebron Public Schools at 860-228-2577 to register your child to participate in the screening, as reservations are required.



**Nico Bromley Local Hockey Player to Attend Mount Saint Charles Academy**

Nico Bromley of Hebron has returned to Mount Saint Charles Academy in Woonsocket, R.I., for the 2023-24 hockey season.

Bromley attended Mount Saint Charles Academy last year and had a successful season, making it to the USA Hockey National Championships hosted in Wayne, N.J. Bromley will return to Mount Saint Charles Academy for a second season on the 16U elite national bound tournament team.

Mount Saint Charles Academy has a strong history of hockey dominance. Its boys' high school hockey team won 26 consecutive state titles from 1978 to 2003. Over the years, a total of 20 alumni have been drafted by the NHL.

In 2021, Mount Saint Charles Hockey Academy was one of only two schools in the entire nation to have all four elite national bound tournament teams (18U, 16U, 15O and 14U) qualify for their respective USA Hockey National Tournaments. That same year, the 18U elite national bound tournament team won the USA Hockey national championship.

Bromley has been described by national scouts as a highly regarded "two-way" forward.

"Bromley's hardworking style of play is evident in his commitment to every shift. He consistently gives maximum effort, competing for loose pucks and battles along the boards," said *The Scouting News*. "Bromley's attention to detail allows him to excel in both ends of the ice, contributing to his team's offensive production while maintaining defensive responsibility. Bromley's ability to get pucks to the net showcases his offensive mindset and willingness to create scoring opportunities. Whether it be through accurate shots or smart passes, he understands the importance of generating offense by directing pucks towards the net. Bromley's ability to create scoring chances makes him a player of value for next level teams."

Bromley also had success off the ice last year by achieving high honors in the classroom with an overall GPA of 3.9.

**Church of Hope News & Notes**

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Church of Hope is a biblically-driven Christ-centered church.

Worship is in person and via livestream on the church website. For more information, and the guidelines for in-person worship, visit [www.hebronchurchofhope.org](http://www.hebronchurchofhope.org).

The church office is closed until further notice. Pastor Jordan Brown can meet by appointment; use the church website to set up a time.

For more information about Hebron Church of Hope, visit the website or look for the church on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

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### Resident Presents Work

Clark University student Kevin Braunwart of Hebron recently presented studies he and his classmates performed this past summer. Braunwart is a member of the Class of 2025.

Over the summer, Braunwart and three other computer science students dove into data analytics. They used the programming language Python to scrape player and game statistics from the NBA and WNBA websites, hoping to find correlations.

Their research highlighted a disparity be-

tween the NBA and WNBA. Players in the WNBA are on the court longer before they are substituted in comparison to their male counterparts. The students said this is because the WNBA has 10-minute quarters compared to the NBA's 12 minutes.

The group, supported by computer science Professor Li Han, also analyzed five years of wins at home courts. It's already surmised that teams have an advantage on their home court – and now the students have the data to prove it.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

#### ★ *Dennler Defeats Bisbikos cont. from page 1*

denied a bid by political newcomer Michael Dubreuil, who garnered 2,014 votes.

On the Board of Education, there were three seats available – and Democrats won all of them.

Incumbent Democrats Michelle Millington, with 3,281 votes, and Chris Rivers, with 3,456 votes, maintained their seats. Newcomer Stefanie Tracey-Calash, with 3,279 votes, will join them. Republican John Consiglio, with 2,366 votes, will not be appointed. Still, Republicans hold a 4-3 majority on the school board.

Across the slate, Democrats saw overwhelming victories. Incumbent town clerk, Democrat Gayle Furman — who became a political target following Republican allegations of wrongdoing, which she denies — easily won reelection with 3,359 votes; she defeated Republican Shannon Nazario, who received 1,973 votes.

Democrat Sean Gillespie is the new town treasurer, ousting Republican incumbent John Ringo. Gillespie received 3,028 votes, to Ringo's 2,292.

For tax collector, incumbent Democrat Michele Wyatt won once more, with 3,396 votes; she held off a challenge by Republican Jeffery Duigou, who got 1,949 votes.

And for the Board of Assessment Appeals, all three candidates running will be seated; Democratic incumbent Andrew Cournoyer received 3,103 votes, alongside Democrat Krista Kardys, with 3,373 votes. Republican Glenn Shilosky received 2,295 votes.

#### Democratic Reaction

Monica Swyden, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC), told the *Rivereast* that she didn't expect her party to win by such extreme margins.

"We knew people wanted change and that people were concerned about what was happening in town, but we also know that we're a purple town and that turnout always matters here," she said at the Polish Club. "Bernie was an amazing candidate and this team worked really hard."

With 65% of the vote, Dennler — who currently works as the office manager to the Lebanon first selectman and who previously served as vice chair of both the Colchester Board of Finance and the Economic Development Commission — will oversee a town facing numerous challenges, including the completion of a new senior center. He said he believes the right group has been elected to take on those initiatives in a bipartisan manner.

"Everybody on this team is committed to building consensus and trying to build bridges across the aisle," he said. "There are people in the community that have some different beliefs than us and it's our job as leaders to try to include those people in our discussions and the outcomes."

Regarding his opponent, Dennler stated that Bisbikos likely had a path towards successful reelection if he had pursued a different campaign strategy.

"The town had millions of dollars in federal funds to spend under this administration on a massive backlog of projects," Dennler said. "Politically, he could've kept his head down, done the work and administered the spending of those funds. And honestly, I probably wouldn't be standing here right now because I probably wouldn't have run."

He added, "I think that the lack of focus on the sound administration of the government and instead this sensational, bombastic style that he brought to meetings — that ultimately caused the headlines that so many voters talked to me about."

On Election Day, several Democratic leaders stopped by Town Hall to offer their support for Dennler and the blue ticket. State Attorney General William Tong told the *Rivereast* that it was "really important for Bernie to win here in Colchester."

"I think people really want thoughtful, good, smart people who care about the towns that they grew up in — and that's Bernie," he said. "Being

a local elected official in a town like Colchester is not glamorous duty. They're doing it because they love this town, they're from this town, this is their home. For Board of Education people, it's about kids, not having book banners and MAGA forces infecting what should be every day decisions for the benefit of the community and families."

The attorney general added: "What I'm seeing is that people are tired of the drama. They don't want drama here. You can leave the drama in Washington, D.C; they don't want drama in Colchester."

State Treasurer Erick Russell said that Dennler brings a "new energy" to the community.

"These local elections are really important," he said. "It's sometimes harder to get folks out but it's also the elections that have the biggest impact on people on a day-to-day basis."

Democrat Chris Rivers, who received the most votes out the school board candidates, said the results were indicative of what occurred over the last two years.

"I think what we proved over the last couple years is that local politics and partisanship doesn't play at all and you really just need to listen to people and find common sense solutions that work and that's what people respect," he said.

Coyle, who has served on the Board of Selectmen since 2007, said she was not surprised by the Democrats' victories. Residents, she said, "were tired of the chaos; they were tired of the attacks; they were tired of the town not functioning."

"I'm looking forward to working in a normal relationship with a Board of Selectmen in a bipartisan manner," she said.

Democrat Mike Egan — who was not up for reelection this year — is the likely choice to take over as chairman of the finance board. But those conversations, he added, would take place internally.

Egan offered his thoughts on the political changeover: "People took a lot of grief from this [Bisbikos] administration unwarranted. Let's get back to basics — working with our neighbors for the betterment of the town."

#### Republican Reaction

In the 2021 municipal election, Bisbikos received 2,783 votes — or 52% of the vote. This year, he garnered almost 900 fewer votes.

Rudko stated that party leaders aren't "magicians," and that it's difficult for the slate to be successful if the top of the ticket is perceived as unpopular.

"Unfortunately, that reflected poorly and trickled down the ticket," he said during a phone call Wednesday morning.

Rudko said he believes some of the behavior displayed by Bisbikos at town meetings perhaps contributed to the election results as well.

"That was not an aspect that people enjoyed seeing, including myself," he said. "I can't undo public perception."

Rudko added that the GOP underticket "had a lot of talent and could've done a lot for the town."

Now, he continued, it's up to residents to hold the next administration accountable, including keeping a watchful eye on spending.

Democratic wins, he expressed, "doesn't mean there's free rein to the pocketbook."

Sitting in a lawn chair in front of Town Hall on Election Day, Shilosky — the former two-term first selectman and finance board member, said that "if I could predict what makes an election win, I could be a millionaire overnight."

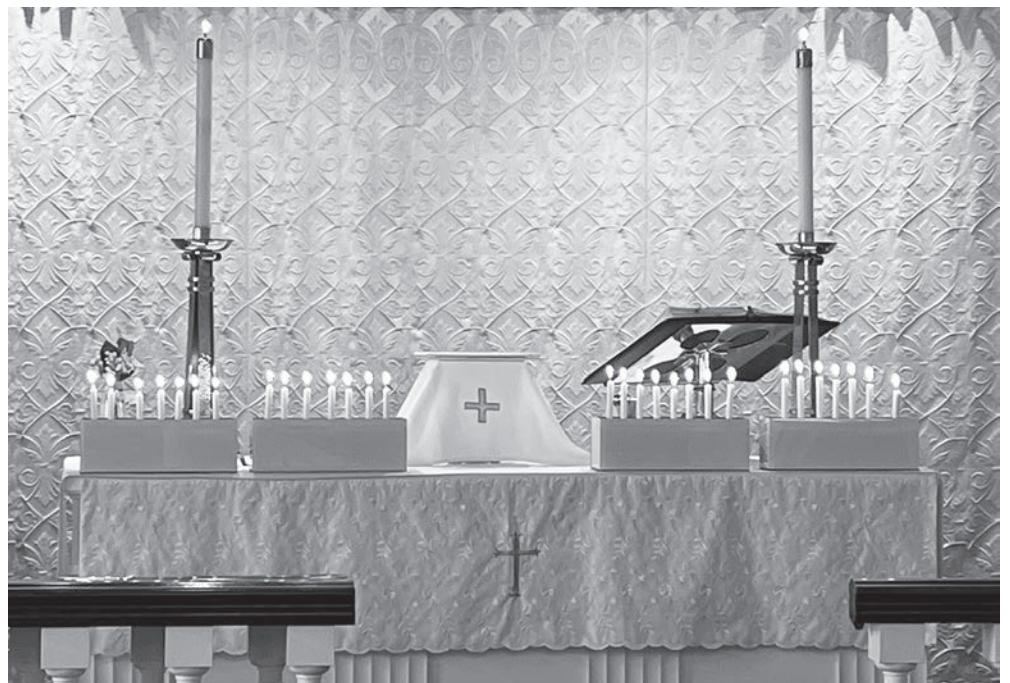
At the Polish Club on Tuesday night following the election results, Shilosky said his goal and responsibility is doing the "best thing for the town."

Politics, he said, should be removed from the decision-making process.

"That's me, that's Cliff. I believe that's Rosemary and I know that's Denise," Shilosky said. "I think we can get a lot accomplished this year, without the fanfare."



Walk to End Alzheimer's... On Saturday, Oct. 28, the Gilead Congregational Church team participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. The team raised more than \$12,000! It came in second for raising funds, out of 240 teams. Pictured from left are Katie Goff, Riley Goff (Grand Champion), Deb Meinke (Grand Champion), Laurie Larsen (Team Captain), and Tonya Maurer (Elite Grand Champion).



Feel the Light!... The Rev. Ron Kolanowski, rector of St Peter's Episcopal Church, celebrated the Feast of All Saints on Sunday, Nov. 5, during the church worship service. Parishioners and visitors were invited to light a candle to honor the saints in their lives who are no longer walking in fellowship with us in this world. The tradition allowed participants to remember those loved and lost, who remain in the Communion of Saints.

### Pet Food Drive

The Shake a Leg! pet care business is hosting a pet food drive through Dec. 1, to benefit the Hebron Dog Pound, the Hebron Interfaith Human Services food pantry and the Marlborough food pantry.

Shake a Leg! is collecting canned dog and cat food, dry food and cookies/treats, clean

blankets/dog beds, and cat litter. All donations are appreciated.

Pick-up in Hebron, Amston or Marlborough can be arranged, or items can be dropped off in Amston. Contact Suzanne Savage via phone/text for details, at 860-368-9125.

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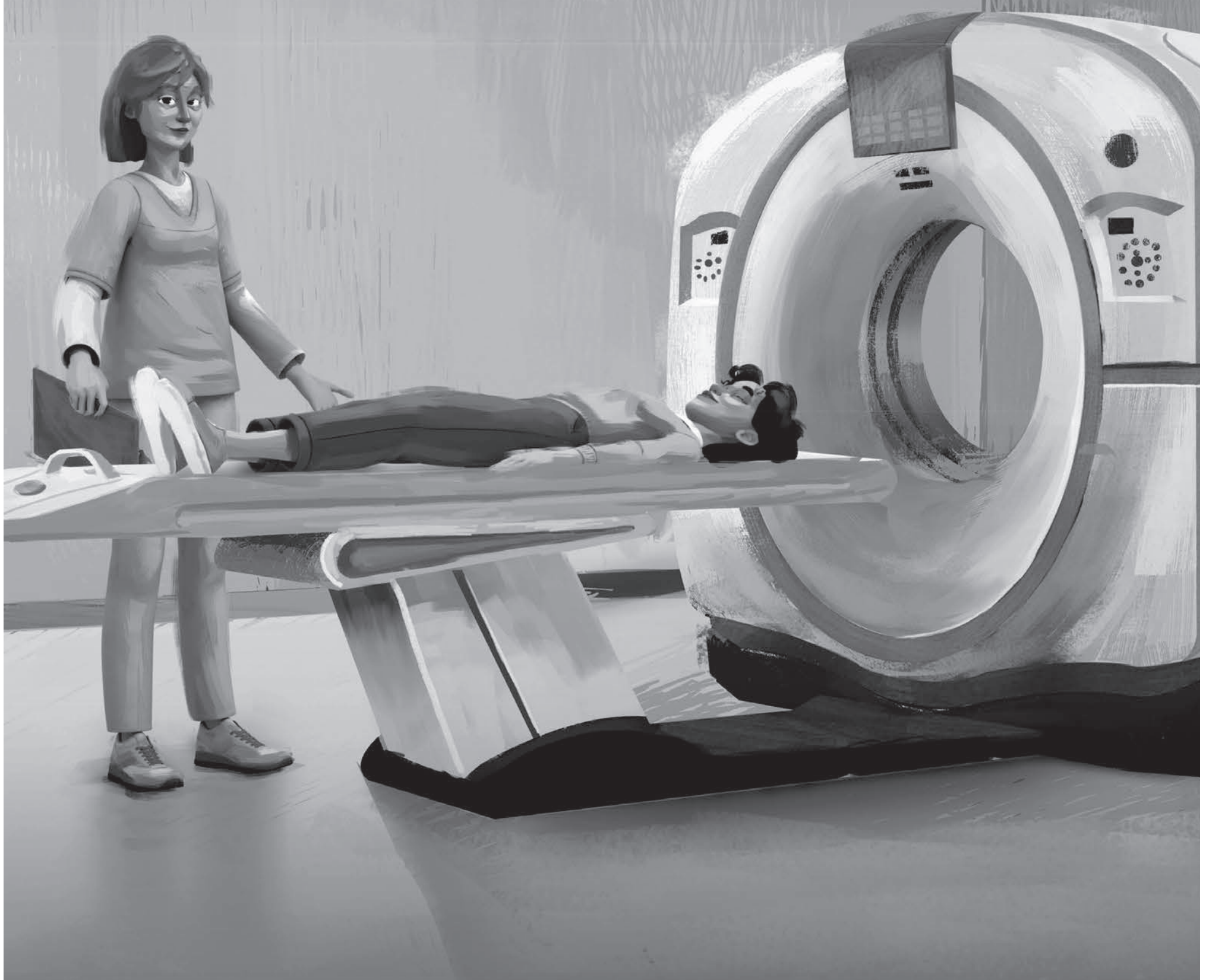
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Obituaries

Marlborough

James Kelly

James Kelly, 85, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on Wednesday, Nov. 1, after a brief illness. He was born in Carmel, N.Y., on May 19, 1938, to James L. Kelly and Helen B. (Foshay) Kelly. He graduated from Ellenville High School in 1956, and enrolled in New York University in 1961, where he obtained a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering.



James was employed at Pratt & Whitney before serving in the U.S. Air Force, where he graduated officer training. He served proudly in Operation Hard Surface and the Cuban Conflict before an honorable discharge in 1967 as a first lieutenant.

James met and married the love of his life, Ruth (Merrithew) Kelly, in 1966, and together they moved to Marlborough in 1968. He is survived, in addition to his wife of 56 years, by his three sons Thomas Kelly and his wife Judy of Marlborough, Robert Kelly and his wife Kimberly of Chelsea, Ala., and Eric Kelly and his wife Emily of Marlborough. James is also survived by the lights of his life, his grandchildren, Brendan, Sean, Brayden and Colleen, as well as his sister, Ruthanne Kelly.

He was a devoted grandpa and their biggest supporter. James was his happiest when he saw his grandchildren. His grandchildren could do no wrong, and were elite hockey players if you heard him tell it. His favorite Christmas gift every year was a sweatshirt bearing their names on it. He was extremely proud of all their accomplishments.

James in life could not turn down a challenge. He was an Eagle scout, a skier, pilot, master scuba diver, ham radio operator, EMT, firefighter, and world traveler. The family joked that he was into everything and has done everything. James will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

The family would like to thank Dynamic Touch Home Care, and their aides, Rochelle, Charmaine, Brandon, Amanda, Natasha, and all the other aides that took wonderful care of him. The family would also like to sincerely thank the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department for their care and support, especially Mark, Bob, and Ashley. To Sheryle Sprissler, his loving niece, we extend our love and gratitude for everything you have done.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will take place at the convenience of the family. Friends may call today, Friday, Nov. 10, from 4-6 p.m., at the

funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in James' memory to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Dept., 7 Hebron Rd, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Hebron

David Kenneth Porter

David Kenneth Porter, a lifelong resident of Hebron, died peacefully at home Sunday, Oct. 29. He was 105 years old, born in a home on Church Street in Hebron on Sept. 28, 1918. David was the son of the late Clarence and Alma (Levere) Porter. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Aceynath Jones Porter, in 2016. They were happily married for 71 years.

David was a graduate of Windham High School in Willimantic. As a member of the greatest generation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1940 and served in World War II. Those years included basic training in Newport, R.I., and assignments to several ships and aircraft carriers throughout the war, primarily the U.S.S. Saratoga. David was in several battles and actions in the South Pacific plus the landing and occupation of Japan. While on military leave in November 1944, David and Aceynath were married at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. After being honorably discharged in 1946 and upon returning to Connecticut, he built the house where they raised their two daughters, Claudia and Denise.

As a licensed electrician, David worked many construction jobs in Connecticut and the northeast. He seemed to know every back road in the state and where they would lead. David was a life member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Local 35. He also was a member of the American Legion Post 95 in Hebron, the VFW Post 1724 in Willimantic, and the Army and Navy Club in Manchester.

Throughout his life, David proudly marched in many of Hebron's Memorial Day parades. He was known to share detailed histories and stories about Hebron. He watched the construction of the Route 66 roadway, including the original 'Frog Rock' (currently known as Eagle Rock), and witnessed firsthand the devastation of Hebron Center caused by the 1938 hurricane. He enjoyed playing golf, fishing, hunting, boating, card games, and bee-keeping. Many memories were made on family vacations to the Connecticut shore, going to the autumn country fairs, and traveling in the U.S. with Aceynath during their retirement years.

David leaves his loving daughters and son-in-law, Denise and Edward Jankovic, and Claudia Haeckel; also, four cherished grandsons: David and Jenni Haeckel, Stephen and Kelly Haeckel, Michael and Jillian Jankovic, and Matthew Jankovic. He looked forward to seeing and hearing about his five treasured great-grandchildren Kaden, Jaxen, and Landon Haeckel, and Ava

and Joseph Jankovic. He also leaves many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife Aceynath, David was predeceased by his four siblings and their spouses, Howard, Leonard, G. Earl Porter, and Clare Cloud; and three nephews James and Daniel Porter, and Kyle Buttice.

David loved his family, his town and his country, and will be dearly missed by all who loved him.

There were no calling hours. His funeral service was held Monday, Nov. 6, at noon, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Willimantic. Burial followed at St. Peter's Cemetery in Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in David's name to: Hebron Fire Department, 44 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248; or Army and Navy Club, 1090 Main St., Manchester, CT 06040.

For an online memorial guestbook, please visit [www.potterfuneralhome.com](http://www.potterfuneralhome.com).

Marlborough

Shaun Brian McGarty

Shaun Brian McGarty, 46, of Marlborough, passed away Thursday, Nov. 2, at Hartford Hospital. Born Jan. 14, 1977, in Hartford, he was the son of David and Pamela (Fyfe) McGarty. He was a 1996 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron and had worked as CDL driver until his illness.



Amongst many talents, Shaun was a skilled artist whose mediums included sketches, paints, and music. His creativity was known amongst his peers in the music community. Shaun also loved playing "ancient style" rudimental drums. Starting at the age of 13, he played with the Marlborough Jr Ancient Fife & Drum Corps, the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps and was a charter member of the Colchester Continental Fife & Drum Corps. He developed many lifelong friendships in this community over the years and performed all around the country and abroad.

Shaun will be remembered for having a hearty laugh and huge heart. Besides his parents, he is survived by his two sons, Ashton McGarty and Liam McGarty.

A celebration of life is being planned and a date/location will be announced shortly.

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

Colchester

Robert Scott Evans

Robert Scott Evans, 68, of Lake Placid, Fla., formerly of Colchester, passed away at home Friday, Sept. 29. He was fondly known as Bob or Scott. He was born July 18, 1955, the son of the late Robert and Geraldine (Ivers) Evans.



Robert graduated from San Diego State College, receiving his Journeyman's license for steam fitting. He moved to Connecticut in 1983 when he was married to his former wife, Susan J. Evans of 28 years. He worked at Electric Boat, General Dynamics for 13 years as a pipe-fitter. Robert later became a skilled builder of custom motorcycles. His choppers were highly sought after and he loved riding his Harley Davidson.

In his free time, Robert loved the outdoors, being near the water, boating, surfing, and watching the sunsets. Some of his fondest memories were made with his "brothers" whom he rode with through the years. Most importantly he will be remembered for his devotion to family and friends. He was known to say, "Music is candy to one's ears."

Bob leaves behind his former wife, Susan Evans of Colchester; his daughters and their spouses, Mary (Curt) Loken of Minnesota, Shannon Skubel of Bozrah, Sarah (Ray) Reed of Plainfield; sisters, Candas Evans, Dianne Gober; grandchildren, Jillian Craveiro, Lilly and Adam Skubel; many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Roberta Evans, and a brother, Matt Dixon.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Robert's memory may be made to the American Heart Association, [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

Calling hours will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m.-noon, followed by a celebration of life at the Tavern on the Hill in Moodus.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Robert, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

East Hampton

Gertrude Bixby Strickland

Gertrude Bixby Strickland passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Sunday, Oct. 29, at the age of 103. Born June 28, 1920, in New Haven, to Frederick Eugene Bixby and Florence (Lockwood) Bixby, at the age of 2 she moved with her family to Bridgeport.



She attended Bridgeport grammar school to grade 6, Lincoln junior high school to grade 8. She graduated from Warren Harding High School and then Wards Business School with honors. She married Robert Clark Strickland Sr. and had five children.

After the children were grown, she worked for Pratt & Whitney as a date Entry clerk, taking dictation from plane engine testing pits. She later worked for New York and New Haven Railroad until they went bankrupt. She then worked for Penn Central in the New Haven office, clearing old accounts as lead clerk (super-

See Obituaries, page 35

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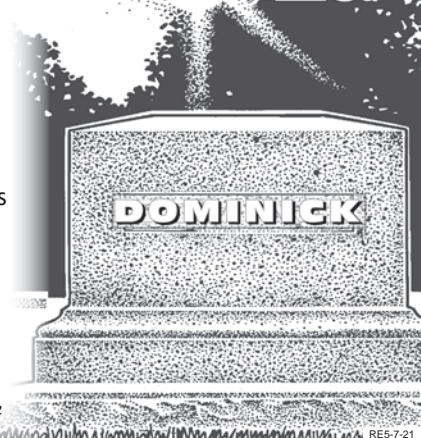
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