

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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November 17, 2023



Andover's Veterans Monument Park hosted guest speaker Bradley Kelle for the town's Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11. Kelle served in the U.S Marine Corps from 2005-2011 as a crew chief for the unit responsible for transporting the president. See story on page 12.

RHAM Welcomes Veterans

By Michael Sinkewicz

On July 4, 1969, at roughly 6:30 a.m., Army combat medic Terry Lukow was shot in Vietnam.

He was airlifted to safety and spent nearly a year recovering in a handful of hospitals around the world. Three years after leaving the service, Lukow met the helicopter pilot who rescued him; the man was his next-door neighbor.

"We are as close as two brothers," Lukow said. "He's a special guy."

He told his story to his grandson's class at RHAM Middle School. Last week, on Nov. 9, the district hosted its annual Veterans Day celebration, welcoming over 50 heroes to speak to students and share their military experience.

For over 20 years, the school has paused its normal routines to allow veterans to showcase their medals, highlight their journeys — both foreign and domestic — and swap tales with each other over a cup of coffee.

"It's one of my favorite days," said Karl Jancis, the teacher who has spearheaded the event since its inception. "The veterans love it, the kids love. It's a good day."

Lukow's career in Vietnam was short, just 92 days. He was transported to a hospital in Da Nang, then Cam Ranh Bay and then Tokyo, Japan. A young lady working with the Red Cross asked him, "Have you talked to your parents?" Lukow recalled, "I'd never thought about that."

He placed a call to his parents, who answered the phone at 3 a.m., and informed them months after the fact, that he had been shot.

As a combat medic, Lukow was frequently implanted into dangerous situations. Fear, he told the class, was constant.

"And fear, believe it or not, kept you alive because you were sharp," he said.

The environment in Vietnam was equally challenging, with razor sharp plants such as el-

ephant grass making paths nearly impenetrable. "I still have scars," Lukow said.

Back stateside, the conditions were also unpleasant. Unlike previous generations of service members, Vietnam-era soldiers were not warmly received once they returned home.

"Veterans in the '60s that came back from Vietnam were not at all treated well," he said. "I didn't have it happen to me, but I had friends that came back in their uniforms — because that's all you had — and they were spit on."

As he reflected on his journey, Lukow expressed that he still talks — and now emails — the pilot who evacuated him. He believes the existence of their friendship is remarkable.

"It was destiny," he told the *Rivereast*.

Veterans were shuttled from room to room, each offering something distinct. John Gasper, an Andover resident who taught sixth grade for nearly 40 years, shared his story as a drafted Infantry soldier in Vietnam.

"Every veteran has their own experience, all different," he told one classroom.

As a 19-year-old, Gasper would walk 10 klicks — 6.2 miles — everyday.

"That backpack was so darn heavy," he recalled.

A group of Hebron Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members were gathered in the lounge, swapping stories. They shared their insights with the *Rivereast*, emphasizing the need to educate young students.

"With these kids, their exposure is what they see on the screen, and that's not always accurate. They get a chance to hear how it really is," said Ron Parkyn, who served in the Marine Corps from 1965-69. "It's giving something back."

See *RHAM Welcomes Veterans*, page 13

A Project Far More Than Competition

By London Brazal

Senior capstone projects are a graduation requirement at East Hampton High School ranging from creating clubs to mechanic fixups. For senior Liam Owen, his project has grown into a multifaceted endeavor going beyond the lines of a game of whiffle ball.

Liam's project began when a group of his friends created a league for fantasy baseball and came together to play whiffle ball. At first, it seemed like a "one-time thing" but soon caught on to become weekly games. "Originally, the league wasn't going to be my project but I had put so much work into it over the summer that I decided to go for it," Liam said. "I'm very glad I did because it's definitely become one of the things I've made that I am the most proud of."

Every week, a group of seniors and some juniors meet at Liam's house to play whiffle ball. At first, there were only two teams but then the league gained interest and expanded to four teams. The kids in the league have created uniforms with logos, names, and numbers on them.

"Before, it was more just the 10 of us calling it the Whiffle Ball League," Liam explained. "But after I had decided to make it my capstone, it grew and grounded itself as a full league."

While his project grew, Liam repainted a scoreboard, ordered wristbands and stickers for all the members, and created a new logo, website, YouTube account, and Instagram account. Furthermore, he collected donations for the EHHS TEC Club. "I am very happy that it has

become such a big thing because it gives everyone something to bond over," added Liam.

Throughout the fall season, Liam has raised roughly \$220. The TEC club is all about technology and engineering. Another senior, Aiden Palen, said the TEC Club typically builds robots and right now they are working on a submarine made out of PVC pipes. Later in the school year, they will be competing against different schools with their designs. Last week, the TEC Club hosted STEM challenges that included building spaghetti towers, catapults out of popsicle sticks, and an egg drop.

With a fellow senior, Aiden is creating a Sports Club that will partner with the Whiffle See *More Than Competition*, page 3

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**Children's Holiday Craft Fair**

RHAM Girl Scouts are excited to announce that the annual Children's Holiday Craft Fair is quickly approaching. Troops are busy putting the finishing touches on their unique, handmade items that will be available for purchase at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Holiday Craft Fair scheduled for Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School Community Room.

the youngest shoppers with gift selections and financial transactions. Children should bring a list of who to buy for, a coin bag, and a budget. Family members can watch from afar or relax in the cafeteria while young shoppers pick out the perfect gifts.

Open to the public, the fair is the ideal holiday shopping destination for ages 2 to 102. All items are priced at \$10 or under, and each purchase comes with free gift wrapping.

In the cafeteria will be a bake sale with a large selection of baked items for you to enjoy before and/or after shopping. Free coffee and water will also be available. This year, the Girl Scouts will also be collecting food donations for the Hebron and Marlborough Food Pantries to help our fellow neighbors. Requests include soup, pasta, canned fruit, peanut butter, and tuna.

The Children's Holiday Craft Fair is Connecticut's only event where young children can shop for gifts, on their own, for their favorite people and pets. Girl Scout elves will be ready to assist

All craft fair proceeds go directly to the local troops for activities and community service projects. Support your local Girl Scout troops.



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Tuesday 6:30 - 4:00

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*Happy Thanksgiving!*

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### AHM Youth & Family Services Announcements

AHM's Annual Holiday Auction is open. Get your bids in before 9 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27. All of the net proceeds from the auction will support AHM's programs and services. Check back frequently while more items get added in! For more information about this fundraiser, visit [ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/holiday-auction/](http://ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/holiday-auction/).

AHM will also hosts Film SCREENAGERS Growing Up In the Digital Age: Educators and parents with their children in grades 6-12 are invited to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Using poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories,

along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. Residents of Connecticut are welcome to come to AHM Youth & Family Services (25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron) for a free viewing on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Pizza snack will be provided by Wicked Slice (Hebron) and movie-style popcorn by AHM. Please RSVP to [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org) with number of adults and youth attending. Learn more at [www.screenagersmovie.com](http://www.screenagersmovie.com).

### Annual RHAM Alumni Soccer Game

The 5th Annual Jim Fromme Memorial RHAM Alumni Soccer Game will be played on Saturday, Nov, 25 at 11:00 a.m. at the Oakwood Sports Center, Glastonbury. Please arrive by 10:45 a.m. Pizza and drinks afterward. RSVP to [pamfromme1@gmail.com](mailto:pamfromme1@gmail.com) for a head count, but last minute players are welcome. Please

share this information with friends who may be interested in playing.

The game is open to all past male and female RHAM soccer players (including this year's graduating seniors). If you can't play, come and cheer the players on.

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



EHHS Senior, Liam Owen, has created a Whiffle Ball League for his capstone project. The Western Wave Runners are tied for first in the league and are looking to win the World Series this Sunday. Pictured from the left are Finn Piper, Tyler Khongkham, Liam Owen, Jacob Karrenberg, Ben Donahue, and Shane Proxee.

★ *More Than Competition cont. from page 1*

Ball League to help make students active while having less stress about the competition. Although the Whiffle Ball League has become competitive, many of the students a part of it enjoy the friendly nature. "It's pretty fun, it's something I get to look forward to each week which is nice. It's competitive but it's relaxing and a good time," said Aiden.

Liam explained how many of the students are good friends in and out of school. "There was a bit of a connection already," said Liam. "But even outside of that, every single player in the league is very respectful and kind and knows that everyone wants to have a good time."

Liam's mom, Jamie, could not be happier to see a group of students come together to support the project while having fun. "To see Liam's organization, construction of backstops/scoreboard/benches, coordination of games/stats/standings, and communication via his website and Instagram, it hit me as a mom that he's go-

ing to be just fine."

Though the Owens' yard has become filled with mud pits and holes, Jamie knows she will miss the games. "As for the yard, it will grow back," said Jamie. "The memories, camaraderie, and giving them a safe place to be together is what's important! Hopefully, this will be that thing they will come home from college break to do and have a pickup game."

As of now, Liam is unsure where his project will take him. He knows that he will continue to update the website and stay active on the league's social media pages. He also plans to make a highlight reel with the games' livestreams. "I know everyone will like to see their highlights or even funny moments that were caught on camera," said Liam.

This Sunday, Liam will host the autumn Whiffle Ball World Series. To see Liam's project, visit [eh.wiffleball](https://www.instagram.com/eh.wiffleball) on Instagram or [sites.google.com/view/ehwiffle](https://www.google.com/view/ehwiffle).



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RE11-17-23

RE11-17-23

## From the (Sports) Editor's Desk Observations & Ruminations

By Josh Howard

With the political season in the rear-view mirror and the holiday season on the horizon, now is the perfect time to focus on what is really important in life – Sports!

The four local high schools have been well-represented during fall's state tournaments, with several teams advancing beyond the first round. Here is some of the athletic action (as of publication) that you may have missed. Visit [ciacsports.com](http://ciacsports.com) for a complete list of tournament results and schedules.

\*\*\*

**Bacon Academy...**girls soccer advanced to their first state championship game after defeating Woodland 1-0 in the Class M semifinals on Tuesday night. With five minutes left in regulation, Mia Hageman scored what turned out to be the game-winning goal with an assist from Alyssa Blanchette. The Bobcats will play Suffield for the title this weekend.

Riley Anderson won the 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle at the Class LL swimming Championships at Wesleyan University on Tuesday. Anderson, a sophomore, posted a time of 22.81 in the 50-Free and then posted a 50.50 in the 100-Free to win both events handily.

**RHAM High School...**girls volleyball is seeking a third straight state championship after defeating Northwestern in the state semifinals on Tuesday. The Raptors entered the state tournament as the No. 6 seed before sweeping (No. 27) Sheehan, (No. 11) Nonnewaug in the first two rounds and eliminating (No. 3) Suffield in a five-set marathon in the quarterfinals, rallying to win the final three sets after dropping the first two. Following the semifinals win over (No. 2) Northwestern, RHAM will now face top-seed Joel Barlow in the Class M championship game this Saturday, Nov. 18 at East Haven High School, starting at noon.

Boys soccer took down the defending state champions from Ellington in the first round of

the state tournament, winning 1-0 in overtime on a goal from senior standout Troy Miller. The Raptors then eliminated Wolcott (3-0) in round two and Tolland (2-1) in the quarterfinals.

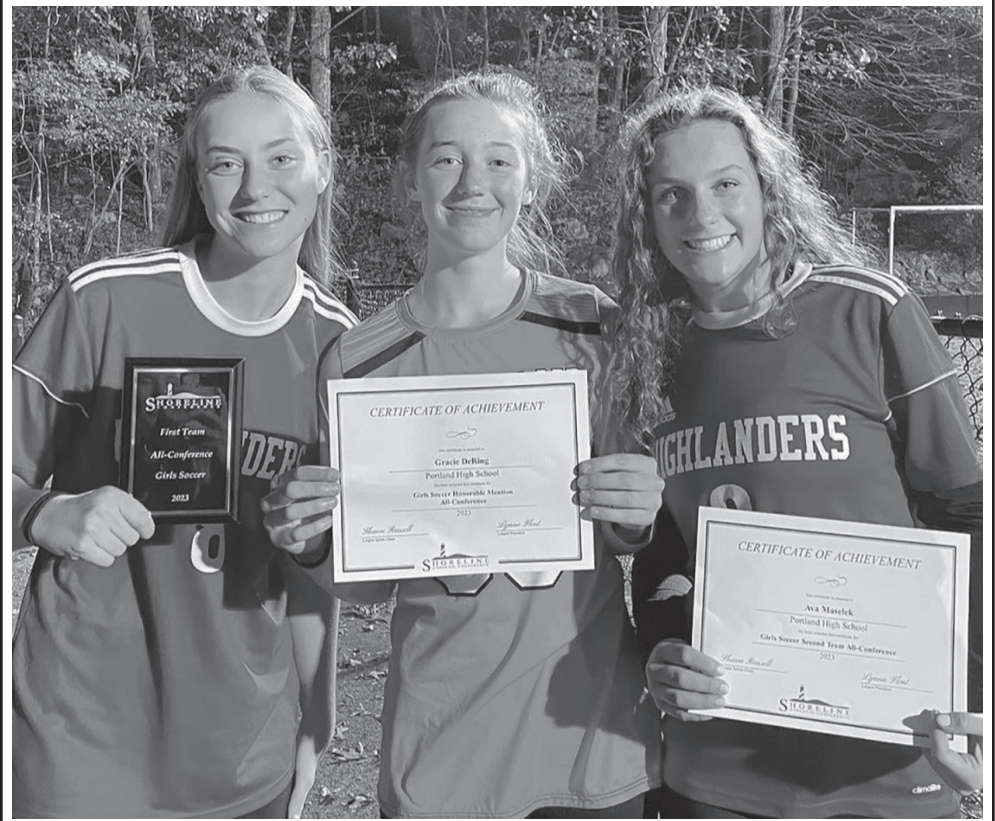
Girls soccer also made waves in the tourney, ousting Sheehan 4-1 in the first round and then winning a memorable double overtime game in Watertown when Amy Forrest scored in the second extra session when she rebounded a shot attempt by Brenna D'Amico. Forrest scored twice in the thriller, while Ava Machowski and Liani Fox each netted shots. The Raptors season ended in the quarterfinal where they were eliminated by Woodland in the quarterfinals.

**East Hampton High School...**after winning a second straight Shoreline Conference (SLC) title, Bellringers volleyball continued to impress with a pair of state tournament wins. East Hampton entered the Class M tourney as the No. 5 seed, earning a first round bye, before eliminating No. 12 Woodland in three sets in round two and taking down No. 4 Seymour on the road in a five-set classic in the quarterfinals. The season came to end in the semifinals where they fell to top-seed Joel Barlow, ending an incredible run over the last two years for the six departing seniors (Amber Murphy, Chelsea Woods, Delaney Russell, Mackenzie Player, Madison Reola, and Emily Tinson) who exit after helping bring home the pair of conference titles and the program's first state title last fall.

Boys soccer also made a tourney push, which included an 11-0 win over International in the opening round and a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory over Granby in round two when Parker Gustine scored the game-winner on a cross from Ethan Marshall. The team fell in the quarterfinals, losing to top-seed Old Saybrook.

**Portland High School...**boys soccer blanked East Granby (3-0) in the opening round of the Class S tournament behind goals

**Editor's Desk continued on page 25**



**Happy Highlanders...**Portland High School girls soccer made the state tournament and had three players selected All-Shoreline Conference (SLC). From left: Senior Lilly Carroll was selected to the All-SLC first team, sophomore Gracie DeRing was selected All-SLC honorable mention, and senior Ava Maselek was selected to the All-SLC second team.

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### 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.

### Ready to Serve

To the Editor:

Thank you to the voters of Portland for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Education. I am looking forward to the work ahead as the district will need to make some difficult decisions regarding the future of its school facilities. I will do my best to consider the impact these decisions will have on the students, staff, and the community at large throughout this process. I will remain actively engaged with my fellow board members and work collaboratively in all decision-making business. Thank you for your trust and support.

Sincerely,

Kim Nagy-Maruschock – Portland

### Four-Day School Week?

Dear Editor:

I am a student at Bacon Academy High School in Colchester, CT. I am writing to you to address why Connecticut schools should switch to a four-day school week.

Long weekend! As back-to-school started up all over the country, there has been a vast amount of districts all over the country that have resorted to the new idea of a four-day school week. They are doing this by removing school on Monday and adding an additional 30-45 minutes onto each remaining school day. Evidence shows that having a four-day school week is very beneficial for students, teachers, and administration.

Having a four-day school week has proven to enhance students' focus and overall productivity. With longer school days, there is more time for in-depth learning and engaging in classroom activities. This ultimately leads to improved academic performance and a deeper understanding of the subjects taught. A shorter school week can provide much-needed rest for both students and teachers. It gives students more time to pursue extracurricular activities and have more time for their home lives. It promotes a more balanced lifestyle to prepare students for the

## Bulletin Board

We're all familiar with the term "road rage," that condition that transforms normally docile citizens into teeth-clenching, lane-changing, horn-honking, single finger-waving maniacs behind the wheel of a car.

Less familiar, perhaps, is something called "desk rage," which apparently afflicts those of us whose frustrations expand in direct proportion to our chair-bound posteriors.

Desk rage, I am informed, can take a variety of forms: spats between co-workers, thrown pens, stress-induced attacks on trash baskets or keyboards, assaults with a deadly weapon (such as your office chair) on uncooperative lunch area vending machines, and cases of attempted arson involving jammed office copiers.

Despite the best efforts of human resource executives (a fancy name for someone whose job is to wring the most productivity out of employees while persuading them that they're actually enjoying themselves), desk rage apparently remains a challenge in the workplace. One HR exec confesses that trying to deal with her huge caseload of desk rage incidents has driven her to distraction. "Once in a while, out of sheer frustration, I'd just go into the ladies room and close the cubicle and cry," she said. (I believe this is what is known in mental health circles as "throne despair.")

I don't mean to be patronizing, but if the aforementioned HR exec wants to learn about frustration, she should spend a weekend with me. (I should probably rephrase that, but you know what I mean.) Here is just a sampling of routine frustrations from my own immediate past:

**Lawnmower Rage:** This is the frustration that occurs when the grass is eight inches tall and the lawnmower absolutely refuses to start. After spending 10 minutes yanking on the starter cord with no result, the only thing anywhere near kicking in is your own massive heart attack. Feigning resignation, you turn away from the worthless hunk of metal, then, when it lets its guard down, you wheel and deliver a stinging kick to the engine block. The mower still won't start, but now your foot hurts so much, you've practically forgotten about that terrible pain in your chest.

**Pistachio Rage:** Occurs when you buy a bag of pistachios (which ain't cheap, by the way) and 85 percent of them are closed up tighter than a bullfrog's butt. After tearing a thumbnail, nearly chipping a tooth and monkeying around with a pair of pliers because somebody (you know who) hid the nutcracker (probably in the same place as your favorite supposedly worn-out old blue jeans), you finally pitch the damn nuts out in the yard for the squirrels in hopes that maybe the freaking rodents will choke to death—or at least be momentarily diverted from their latest favorite activity (gnawing on your deck).

**Checkout Line Rage:** Dashing into the store for a quick item, you invariably choose the checkout line operated by a cashier trainee who appears to be the product of an unholy union between imbecile cousins. In the trainee's defense, he/she is attempting to deal with a lady with a pocketbook the size of an aircraft carrier who insists she "just knows she has the exact change here somewhere," followed by some guy who picked out an unpriced piece of lumber which might be eight feet long or possibly six feet and could be mahogany or maybe pine, and is either \$5.75 or \$47.50, but there's no way of knowing until the store forestry expert gets back from lunch, which he is apparently enjoying in Singapore.

**Phone Solicitor Rage:** You answer the phone because your mother's number shows up on caller ID and it turns out to be some guy from some Third World Country who insists you need a new credit card and absolutely refuses to believe you when you say: 1) you're not allowed to handle your own money and 2) it's because you're dead. You can only hope that he at least suffered some hearing loss when you threw the telephone against the wall.

Yours in mutual rage,

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).

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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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real world. For teachers, this extra day off could be utilized for professional development, collaborative planning, and grading. This would lead to higher quality of education. Many costly sources like transportation, food supplies, and school supplies would be cut down since the schools would be able to cut almost a fifth of their weekly school expenses. Allowing more funding for other necessities within the school.

As a senior at Bacon Academy, I have experienced times where I felt as if I had no home life since I was overloaded with schoolwork and sports. With the implication of a four-day school week, there are many benefits not only financially but mentally, socially, and academically. With an extra day off, I believe it would improve the overall mood towards going to school since no one would be overwhelmed with the overall pressure of school. Ultimately improving success in all aspects of the students' and teachers' lives.

Sincerely,  
Avatar Disher – Colchester

**Teaching and Horses**

GPS has made finding one's way in unfamiliar areas very simple. You are told what to do and when to do it. Reading a map made of paper, learning how to orient oneself and follow a course when the map is folded took practice. The lessons learned from the paper age of navigation has helped me even when the road ahead is straight, it's daylight and the turn off is distant but well marked.

Having been a loser in Tuesday's election allowed me to reorient myself, make some adjustments, replot my course and get on with life outside of the political fray. And then I found out about a youth group associated with horses and the need for adults to help with the programs, teaching and guiding kids on how to work around them; teaching kids horsemanship and utilizing the knowledge I have acquired after over 30 years riding and training horses.

Just when I really thought the future was uncertain, clarity appeared. When I thought myself as a bit lost with extra time on my hands, they were filled.

To those who checked off my name on Tuesday thank you for your support. And more thanks goes to those who voted for someone else. To you I am most grateful. For you allowed me to accept the change ahead and make a decision I never thought possible.

Teaching and horses. The art of riding and being in a partnership with a horse. Sharing the lessons I've learned with others. A real dream come true.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

**Many Thanks**

To My Colchester Neighbors:  
Last Tuesday, voters spoke with one resounding message. It's time for your elected officials to return to work for all of Colchester. To everyone who gave me their vote of confidence, I thank you.

I'll stay determined to do what I ran on – getting our board to work together to balance affordability with common sense fiscal responsibility that reflects actively listening to the wants of the town we're here to represent and collaborating with the other boards to serve the community.

With that, I can't stress enough that we need the greater community to keep participating and informing us. The level of community engagement this year was truly inspiring, and I hope it continues. This is your board. You have the final say at our referendums, so we need to hear from you to get our budgets right the first time.

Lastly, I know not everyone voted for me last week. Regardless, I hope to earn your confidence and trust over time and look forward to serving all of Colchester.

Sincerely,  
Scott Chapman  
Member Elect – Colchester Board of Finance

**Debt and Budgets**

To the Editor:  
National Debt Compared to Household Budget

US Tax revenue.....	\$2,170,000,000,000
Federal budget.....	\$3,820,000,000,000
New annual debt.....	\$1,650,000,000,000
National debt.....	\$14,271,000,000,000
Recent budget cuts.....	\$38,500,000,000

If we remove 8 zeros and pretend it's a household budget, this is what it would look like:  
Annual family income.....\$21,700  
Money the family spent.....\$38,200  
New debt on the credit card.....\$16,200  
Credit card outstanding balance.....\$142,710  
Budget cuts this year.....\$38.50

If we owe \$142,710 and keep adding to that number each and every year with an annual income of \$21,000 what do you think the end result is going to be?

Frank Blume – Colchester

**Disastrous Party**

To the Editor:  
It's no secret that the Republican party is a mess. This is clear in the important issues of our time but also obvious in the small details.

Let's start small. The Republicans hung a banner near Andover's recent election. Alongside traditional Republican logos and slogans, it quoted Thomas Jefferson: "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have." Sure, a traditional small-government slogan, aligned perhaps with what the party stood for... once upon a time.

Except, Thomas Jefferson never said that. It's very easy to check these things. I pasted the first ten words of the quote into popular search engines; the first hits — including ones from the definitive Jefferson source, <https://www.monticello.org/> — make it clear that Jefferson never wrote this. It's a small thing, to be sure. But this is a reusable banner presumably meant to hang at many events. You'd think they'd take care before falsely attributing their propaganda to one of our country's Founders.

If Republican problem were limited to such minor peccadilloes, it would be fine. But it's not. The House Republicans recently voted to send \$14 billion in aid to Israel. To offset the cost, they want to cut \$14 billion in IRS funding.

We don't need analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian situation to see how ridiculous this is.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's data says that this would *increase* the deficit by about \$14 billion, because without enforcement, tax cheats simply get away with it. Think of the moral implications: The Republican party says, "Yes, we'll help out one of our closest allies, but only if you let us make a political point that will worsen our debt and help rich tax cheats."

What a disaster!

Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet – Andover

*Note: Sauyet is a member of the Andover DTC and a member-elect of the RHAM BOE, but is writing as an individual.*

**The New BOS**

To the Editor:  
"We'll be fighting in the streets  
With our children at our feet  
And the morals that they worshipped will be gone

And the men who spurred us on  
Sit in judgement of all wrong  
They decide and the shotgun sings the song  
I'll tip my hat to the new Constitution  
Take a bow for the new revolution  
Smile and grin at the change all around  
Pick up my guitar and play  
Just like yesterday  
Then I'll get on my knees and pray  
We don't get fooled again..." – The Who

By this time, Hebron should have a newly configured Board of Selectmen. But will the new BOS be the same as the old BOS? Time will tell. Until then it's facts and figures printed in the paper and watching with curiosity whether the BOS will communicate or not.

It's been a 27 month town-wide effort, with an estimated 300 letters to the editor, dozens of speakers at committee and town meetings, facts from experts of all kinds, presented to boards and committees, and still no water or historic preservation conversations from Hebron's Board of Selectmen. We've listened to three UConn professors, one Yale professor, four present DEEP employees and one semi-retired DEEP employee and more. It's cost us little or nothing – a couple trips to Staples and our time.

How much time will it take, the new BOS, to address residential watershed concerns with comprehensive information? Why's it so diffi-

cult to openly talk to residents about potential water pollution? If people like their neighborhoods, why label them threatening or "anti-Hebron?" Throughout this whole ordeal the three most popular questions residents ask me are, "why the silence?"; "should we move?" and "who stands to gain financially from developing The Raymond Brook Watershed?" You decide. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston, CT

**Thank You Hebron**

Dear Hebron Citizens:  
Thank you to all of the voters who supported my candidacy for the Hebron Board of Finance. I am truly humbled by the support, and I am honored and privileged for this opportunity to serve you and all of Hebron in this very important role.

Thank you also to Keith Petit and the Hebron Republican Town Committee for your support, and for running an extremely organized campaign. Our success in this election cycle would not have been possible without you.

Finally, thank you to all of the candidates from both parties for your dedication to the town, your willingness to serve, and for the countless hours you spend working to keep Hebron the best town in Connecticut. Your passion for Hebron is remarkable and I am honored to be a part of it.

Thank you again,  
Jim DeDonato  
Hebron Board of Finance

**The Future is Bright**

To the Editor:  
Election Day has come and gone but the euphoria in town has yet to die down. By an overwhelming majority, Colchester voters chose change. Earning 65% of the votes cast, Bernie Denner, along with the Democratic team, secured a solid victory on Tuesday. Congratulations to them all. They can be proud of having run an honest campaign rooted in truth and the desire to do what is right for our town.

Thank you to the voters of Colchester, no matter how you voted, for making it to the polls. A turnout of 48% of voters shows that our

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

citizens are interested in being part of the process. Please stay involved by attending meetings, staying informed, continuing to exercise your civic duty in the voting booth, and even serving on a volunteer board or commission. Your participation is critical to our collective success as a municipality.

As DTC Chair, I cannot thank the people who contributed to this campaign in any way enough. Your passion, dedication, support, and teamwork made this happen. Every letter, public comment, yard sign, effort to mobilize voters, and donation mattered in this campaign. So much hard work went into this and it was the involvement of wonderful volunteers and concerned citizens who brought the dream to fruition.

The future for Colchester is bright. There is a lot of hard work ahead and our elected officials look forward to working together with everyone

in town, regardless of party affiliation, to move our wonderful community forward.

**With gratitude,**  
**Monica Swyden, Chair**  
**Colchester Democratic Town Committee**

### Ready to Get to Work

Dear Colchester Residents,

On Election Day, a coalition of Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated voters came together to deliver change with the hope of restoring civility and stability in Colchester. As First Selectman-Elect, I am enormously honored by the trust you have placed in me. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to lead our community through this moment.

Some of the issues we face, particularly when it comes to the ongoing delays with the town's financial audit and related problems, may take time to sort out. I promise to be transparent with you as we work through this process. As I learn more about where things really stand, I will share this information with you.

I believe the incoming Board of Selectmen will work together for our community. I trust both the Democrats who I was elected alongside, Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner, and our Republican counterparts, Art Shilosky and Cliff O'Donal, will join me in fostering a more collaborative Board of Selectmen.

I want to thank the many volunteers who were part of this campaign and the incredible team of candidates I ran with. Your tireless efforts, your time, your knowledge, and your love for our community made this outcome possible. I also want to thank my parents, my in-laws, and my husband Jack for unwavering support in this journey.

Finally, I understand that there are residents in this community who did not vote for me or members of my team. I want you to know that I will still be here for you as first selectman. My office will always be open to you. I am here to work for you, and I hope that in time I will earn your trust.

I am ready to get to work.

**Sincerely,**  
**Bernie Dennler**  
**Town of Colchester, First Selectman-Elect**

### Thank You

To the Editor:

The Hebron Sportsman's Club would like to thank all those who purchased products at our 2023 garlic sale. 2024's crop is planted and will be waiting for you next September.

In addition we plan to sell our garlic at the Hebron Farmer's Market next September and October.

**Len Giddix - Amston**

### The Rule of Law

To the Editor:

Sydney Powell, Kenneth Chesebro and Jenna Ellis pleaded guilty. John Eastman got an immunity deal. These former Trump lawyers/advisors will be testifying against Trump. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. All these people and networks that have lied to you dear neighbor, will be held accountable.

**Annie Steinbrecher - Marlborough**

### Thank You for the Support

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the voters of Hebron for electing me to continue in my position on the Board of Assessment Appeals, and with the highest number of votes for any candidate this year! Your confidence is much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Erin Bussiere, the chairman of the Hebron Democratic Town Committee, for her hard work and great enthusiasm in helping all our candidates in this very exciting election. It wasn't possible to get all of my fellow HDTC candidates over the line this time, but the very tight races show that we already have many of you at our back.

**Sincerely,**  
**David Rose, Member**  
**Hebron Board of Assessment Appeals**

## ◆ Happenings ◆

**AGRISCIENCE OPEN HOUSE**  
Glastonbury Regional Agriscience Open House for current 8th graders on Sat, 11/18 from 9am-12pm and Wed, 11/29 from 6pm-8pm at Glastonbury High School in the AgriScience Dept. Program information visit [tinyurl.com/GHS-Agsci](http://tinyurl.com/GHS-Agsci)

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**Looking Forward**

To the Editor:  
I didn't realize how stressful the process of running for office could be until the results were shortly after 8pm on November 7. The relief was palpable. Throughout the day, greeting voters arriving at the High School, it was hard to read how the day would unfold, but the result left no mistaking – East Hampton wants to move forward in a new direction. I'm grateful for that, and I look forward to being a part of the solution.

As a relatively new, relatively unknown member of the East Hampton community I am somewhat surprised to have made the cut, and overwhelmingly humbled by the honor. When I woke up on November 8, it was not as a Democrat or Green – it was as a member of a group of people who will have to work together to meet some of the biggest challenges facing the community. We're up to the task. Now is the time to set aside the labels we take on during the campaign process – Democrat, Republican, Green, whatever – and seek the common ground that forms the foundation of the community.

Thank you to those of you who have shown your support publicly or privately, and to those of you who took a chance on a first-time candidate. The work begins now, and I won't let you down.

**Jordan Werme**  
East Hampton Town Council

**Choose Wisely**

To the Editor:  
Election day has come and gone. Was your vote one for education or indoctrination? Was your vote a vote to give or a vote to take away? Was your vote for We The People (warts and all, dare I say that we could converse with each other and even disagree peacefully) or was it for the me I've been told I need to be afraid/angry of something so I need to tell you you're afraid/angry of the same thing or else the world is going to end.

Was your vote for a representative of the people, someone that can think for themselves and has their own opinions on things or was your vote for a ruler, someone that believes they are "better" than you, someone that believes you can't think for yourself, someone more interested in social media engagement than actually representing the people that voted for them?

There's a saying, "Don't trust a politician that tells you how to pray and don't trust a pastor that tells you how to vote." Too many of these "evangelical christians" are more concerned with only praying to (instead of praying for) someone in authority, especially to someone that they have nothing in common with and really wouldn't do anything for them no matter how much is stated otherwise.

For those that have not seen it or need a refresher, the cup out of all the ones there that Indiana Jones picked out in The Last Crusade was the plain, unadorned cup, not the shiny one. The plain, unadorned cup being the representative, not the shiny cup that you want to be your ruler. Choose wisely.

Respectfully Submitted  
**Eric Manning – Andover**

**Time to End T.D.R.**

To the Editor:  
Week after week after week, we keep getting letter after letter from a Marlborough writer suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDR). But you would think that after three years of the Biden administration, those with TDR would have been cured by now.

We have had three years of the Biden administration's failed foreign and domestic policies, which have brought us the Russian invasion of Ukraine, HAMAS murdering Israeli women, children and babies, a botched withdrawal from Afghanistan, millions of illegals pouring across our southern border, skyrocketing inflation, high interest rates, high gas and heating oil prices, renewed dependence upon foreign energy...

and the list goes on.

And all this has happened since President Biden moved into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Would Putin have invaded Ukraine under Trump's watch? Would HAMAS (a proxy of Iran) have attacked Israel? Would China be eyeing Taiwan with such renewed interest? I doubt that would be the case with Trump in place.

With Trump in office, would we have continued on the road to energy independence and enjoyed low interest rates, low inflation and a much more secure southern border? I think we would have enjoyed a continuation of those trends.

So was voting Trump out of office over mean tweets worth it? Are all the deaths resulting from Biden's failed foreign policies worth it? Is the sex trafficking and deaths of illegals worth it? Is it worth driving us to the brink of WWII?

In the words of President Biden... "C'mon

man!" And in the words of former President Obama, "Elections have consequences." Are the consequences of a Biden administration worth it? I think the answer to that question is obvious.

**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough**

**Rotary Club**

To the Editor:

The seniors from Bellwood and Chatham would like to thank you for the wonderful leftovers that you sent over to us last Wednesday night.

We all appreciate it very much. Thank you again.

**Shelley Grendzinski**  
Tenant commissioner of  
East Hampton Senior Housing

**Code of Ethics**

To the Editor:

"I will respect the opinions of others."  
"I will acknowledge that the Board represents the entire school community."

Two lines from the Portland Board of Education Code of Ethics that speak most to me as a member of the voting community, a parent of two current and one future student of our schools, and as a friend to many of our school staff.

I'd like to thank our BOE for all of their hard work month after month both during the public meetings and at their respective committee meetings. I commend those that take those two lines to heart at every meeting as well as with each interaction with members of our community. As someone with a vested interest in our schools I take notice of what our BOE mem-

See Letters, page 23



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**Thanksgiving for WHAT?**



In the light of what is, what is not, what is going to be, how then shall we proceed? At the very least in the light of life's realities, **be thankful! God is good** no matter what **because He is God**, and **God's saving grace** is sufficient for you.

**Thanksgiving Involves The Right Attitude**

A right attitude toward God is needed, not an attitude of indifference and rejection as in Romans 1:21 – "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were [they] THANKFUL; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." "This know also, that in the last days **perilous** [difficult] times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... disobedient to parents, UNTHANKFUL, unholy" (2 Timothy 3:1-2). "O GIVE THANKS unto the LORD; for He is good: because His mercy endureth for ever. Let them now that fear the LORD say, that His mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 118:1,4). "And His mercy is on **them that fear Him** from generation to generation" (Luke 1:50).

**Thanksgiving Involves The Right Action**

The right action is necessary. "O give **thanks** unto the LORD, for **He is good**: for His mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 107:1). Thank God for His mercy, for it is with a thankful heart that you can receive the priceless gift of God's Son. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "But as many as RECEIVED Him, to them gave He the **power** [right] to become the sons (children) of God, even to them that BELIEVE on His Name" (John 1:12). "But these are written, that ye might **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

**Thanksgiving Involves The Right Approach**

A genuine heart attitude of **thanksGIVING** ought to result in a life of **thanksLIVING**: "SERVE the LORD with gladness: come before HIS presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD He is God: It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates WITH THANKSGIVING, and into His courts with praise: BE THANKFUL unto Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations" (Psalm 100:2-5).

**Are you able to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His saving presence in your life? Why not receive Him now as your personal Saviour because He "bore our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24).**

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# Colchester Welcomes New Donut Cafe

By Michael Sinkewicz

Every day just past 2 a.m., Moe Mosed arrives at his restaurant and begins mixing ingredients and preparing for the morning rush of customers.

“What are you going to do? You got to hustle. You got to stay on top of it. Nothing comes easy.”

On Nov. 2, Mosed opened the Colchester Donut & Cafe, located at 216 Lebanon Avenue. His shop is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., but so far, most of his product disappears long before closing time.

“By 12:00, we have nothing left,” he exclaimed.

Sitting at an open table this week, a rarity for the cafe, Mosed finally had a moment to breathe and reflect on the first weeks of his new business. He understandably paused the interview on occasion to serve customers as they trickled in — he’s the primary chef, as well.

The main attraction is donuts, which Mosed graciously let this reporter test — and they’re delicious. His signature order: a honeydew or glazed donut.

“I’m a baker,” he expressed. “I do donuts, that’s why they’re the best.”

His talents are generational; his father owns Luke’s Donut Shop in Avon, and the Mosed’s experience there will hopefully pay off in Colchester as well.

“Basically, I got it through my dad,” he explained. “He had an old recipe that was kept in the family.”

Beyond the sweet treats, the cafe features Mediterranean food, and a variety of breakfast and lunch options, all made to order. In the future, Mosed hopes to test out additional items and expand the menu.

Locally, he believes his establishment fills a need felt in the community. There are a few national chains where residents can buy donuts, Mosed said, but not the kind he makes.

“I think people would like local, fresh donuts made every day,” he expressed. “That’s why I named it *Colchester* Donut, to be related to the town. There [were] no donuts and I’m a donut man.”

Previously, the structure was the Hideaway Cafe, a local bar. Mosed wanted to move to the suburbs and in 2020, he discovered the spot, which he said was in rough shape. He moved to town, and began restoring the restaurant, crafting it to his own vision, which he described as “cozy.”

The feedback from those who have seen both versions of the building has been positive.

“They were amazed with how it looks now,” Mosed said, emphasizing that he essentially had to gut the place and start from scratch. “It was a lot of work.”

On opening day, Mosed offered free donuts, which of course was a hit. He couldn’t talk to anyone as he attempted to keep up with demand. Because everything is made fresh, there’s no shortcuts; each customer gets his best effort. But accordingly, the line spanned out the door and wait times increased.

“And I don’t like that, but you had no choice,” Mosed said, signaling that perhaps some patrons were frustrated at first. “But at the end of the day, the food is good.”

He added, “If you love to cook, trust me, you’ll bring good food.”

Mosed explained that when you’re launching a new restaurant, it’s a surreal feeling. And then when people actually show up, it’s beyond gratifying.

“I was stunned,” he said. “I thank the community for their support.”

In towns like Colchester, he contended, there’s a desire to hoist up small businesses. Many residents prefer those types of dining options, he said.

“I’ve heard quite a few people say they’re coming to support local business,” he said. “I really appreciate that, and I feel that way too.”

It’s a family business too. Mosed has five children and two of his sons were behind the counter on this particular afternoon. On opening day, despite the restaurant being geared towards an early morning crowd, Mosed delayed the ribbon cutting until 11 a.m. to allow his dad to be there. “I made sure he was here.”



Moe Mosed, owner of Colchester Donut & Cafe, at the cafe’s location at 216 Lebanon Avenue. Mosed opened his doors earlier this month.

Now after the initial burst of action, Mosed is settling into the grind of a seven day work week.

“You’re not opening it for two weeks, you’re opening it for life,” he explained. “I understand like any other business, there’s going to be ups and downs.”

He’ll continue showing up before the sun rises

and locking up late in the evening. The lifestyle isn’t for everyone, he asserted. But to do it right, you have to be committed.

“Who wants to come in at 2:30 in the morning and stay until 8:00 every day? Unless you have passion for what you do, you’ll probably drop out in a month.”

## 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.



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## 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.

## Swearing In Ceremony

The public is invited to the ceremony to swear in the Colchester municipal officials elected to office recently. Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and State Senator Norm Needleman will be in attendance as well as other elected state and local officials.

The ceremony will take place on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. in the Bacon Academy Auditorium. Light refreshments will follow. While an RSVP isn’t required, it is helpful for planning purposes. Please let Monica Swyden know that you plan to attend at (860) 465-7909 or [monicacswyden@gmail.com](mailto:monicacswyden@gmail.com). This is a community event and all Colchester residents are welcome to attend.



# Colchester Honors Veterans

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester marked Veterans Day last Saturday, Nov. 11, honoring the military members who served the nation.

The ceremony was hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6990, assisted by the American Legion Post 54, at the Veteran's Green.

Veterans Day originated from the Nov. 11, 1918 armistice — “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” — that halted combat during WWI, months before an official treaty was enacted.

David Johnson, the commander of VFW post and the officer of the day, said his message to the community was to “recognize veterans.”

“We all appreciate being recognized for having served,” Johnson, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam, told the *Rivereast*.

When veterans initially returned from Vietnam, they were met with hostility, Johnson said, especially compared to veterans of earlier wars, including WWII.

“When I came back from Vietnam, we were shunned,” he said. “And we were told don't advertise the fact that you're a soldier; people spit on you.”

For many years, Johnson didn't publicize his veteran status. But over time, the country's perception seemed to evolve.

“A number of years ago, I started wearing a baseball cap that says ‘Army’ on it and I was so

thrilled that people would come up to me wherever I was and thank me for my service,” he said. “It's a complete turnaround. It's appreciated.”

The respect comes from all ages, kids to adults, and practically wherever he travels; Johnson said he's acknowledged in the grocery store and in the airport.

Chris Rivers, a member of the Colchester school board, graduated from West Point and was deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and later to Afghanistan.

“There is something special about the military that is hard to find outside of it,” he said. “You have a bunch of people that volunteered to serve the country and come from all walks of life, all corners of the country, and we get together and we make teams that work.”

Rivers reflected on the “camaraderie” he experienced in the military and the bonds that he formed.

“Americans from literally from every background can get together and do something together,” he said.

The invocation and benediction were given by Rabbi Ken Alter, and Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos addressed the residents gathered by the podium.

“Veterans Day provides us an opportunity to honor all the men and women who served throughout our country's great history,” he said. “Let us reflect both on their great achievements

and their sacrifices they made to preserve freedom's eternal flame.”

Bisbikos added, “As we enjoy today's comforts, let us forever keep our nation's veterans in our hearts and in our prayers.”

Johnson stated that it was important for residents and political leaders to all come together. With many U.S. service members still active around the world, and with numerous conflicts currently taking place, the impact of war is discernible.

“We all recognize the fact that there's some terrible things going on in the other side of the world,” Johnson said. “We as a country have gotten drawn into a lot of them. Hopefully, that will never happen again.”

Rivers expressed that many residents, including himself, are understandably focused on their lives in Colchester, but the amount of

fighting taking places around the world seems to growing — “there never seems to be less.”

“That stuff is real,” he said. “You look at what's going on in Israel and the Gaza Strip, you look at Ukraine, you look at the different conflicts that are still happening on the continent of Africa, the global war on terror is still going on.”

Rivers added, “It's easy to forget about it now-adays and I don't blame anyone for forgetting but as someone who's served in two different wars now, when you watch the news, it makes it real. Those are real people whether they're Americans or not that are living lives that they wish they could switch places with us right now. I think it just helps put everything in perspective.”

The firing of volley, followed by the bugle call “Taps” concluded the ceremony.

## 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 for a full list of activities, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center).

**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.

**Monday, Nov. 20:** Exercise with Anne, 9 a.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 21:** Making Memories, 9 a.m.  
**Wednesday, November 22:** Walking Group at the Airline Trail in Amston, 9 a.m.

**Thursday, November 23:** \*CSC Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

**Friday, November 24:** \*CSC Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

## 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/CTWCCC](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.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.

## Colchester Federated Church News

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

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. For those wishing to worship from home, the service is broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday. Worship videos are at [www.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. 9, 4-8 p.m., for children ages 4 and up. This will be an evening of crafts, games, dinner, and a movie while parents finish up their holiday shopping or enjoy an evening out. Price per family: \$40/one child, \$60/two children, \$75/three children. All proceeds go to support children and youth programming at CFC. Visit the church's website for more information and to register.

## 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 [westcongregation@gmail.com](mailto:westcongregation@gmail.com) or call 860-267-6711.

## 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.



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# Colchester Man Arrested for Racial Slurs, Threats to Police

By Michael Sinkewicz

A Colchester man was arrested last week after allegedly shouting racial slurs and threatening a woman with an axe, according to Connecticut State Police.

Joseph Surwill, 57, was taken into custody on Nov. 6 and was allegedly uncooperative during processing, verbally threatening to kill state troopers and bomb Troop K upon his release, police stated.

Surwill was charged with intimidation based on bigotry or bias, breach of peace, threatening, interfering or resisting with an officer, and failure to comply with fingerprinting requirements. The Connecticut State Police Hate Crimes Unit was alerted as well.

Following an arraignment at Norwich Superior Court on Nov. 7, Surwill's next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 3; a plea has not been entered, according to court records.

Officers were dispatched on Monday, Nov. 6, at 2:48 p.m. to Harrington Court in Colchester following a receipt of a disturbance in the area.

A woman told police that Surwill was allegedly holding an ice pick and had left the scene in a red vehicle before officers arrived. The

complainant was walking from her residency to a local business when she encountered Surwill, an individual she was familiar with, according to police.

As the woman approached the parking lot of the business, which is adjacent to Surwill's property, he allegedly exited his home and picked up an ice pick.

The woman alleged that Surwill held the axe horizontally with both hands and pressed the handle against her body, pushing her backwards. She told officers that as this took place, Surwill was yelling for her to get off his property, hurling profanity and a racial slur. The woman told police that she did not cross into Surwill's property.

While the woman indicated that she was not injured during the altercation, Surwill's alleged actions caused her to fear for her safety.

During their investigation, officers obtained the axe located at the scene and spoke to a witness who corroborated the woman's story. Later that day, police located Surwill at a local business in Colchester, where he was taken into custody.

## 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.

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).

**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

## 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 distributed fliers to homes in town. 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. Donations can be placed in cardboard boxes or paper shopping bags.

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.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Shelter Collection Drive

Join us on Saturday, Dec. 9 for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Shelter Collection Drive, hosted by Presents for Paws, to collect items for CT animal shelters this holiday season. See us at two locations: John Gagnon's Pet Resort - 227 Upton Road, Colchester (10am-2pm), and Shagbark Lumber - 21 Mt. Parnassus Rd, East Haddam (10am-2pm).

We are accepting the following donations based on shelter needs/requests: Cat litter (high priority!); Dog food (Purina preferred, wet/dry - unopened, please no Ol' Roy or Beneful); Cat/kitten food (wet/dry, any brand - unopened); Cat/dog treats (no rawhide); New/gently used dog toys (especially kongs & chew toys; Cleaning supplies (clorox wipes/spray, trash bags, paper towels). If you cannot swing by, you can

purchase items online from our wishlist and it will be delivered to our door: <https://linktr.ee/presentsforpaws501c>. Monetary donations are also appreciated - they are tax deductible and 100% of your donations go to help shelter animals. Let's put our paws together and help out our furry friends this howl-iday season!

Presents for Paws is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in East Haddam that collects and distributes supplies to area shelters, rescues, and municipal pounds. For more information on the shelter drive, to make a monetary donation, or to become a volunteer, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/presentsforpaws501c> or [www.presentsforpaws.org](http://www.presentsforpaws.org)

## 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.

## A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Guardian Angels Parish/St. Andrew Church is presenting a "Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent/Christmas" on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave, Colchester.

The program will be the telling of the Christmas Story. It will include Scripture Readings, songs performed by the Principal Choir, The Young Peoples Choir, along with soloists. The Bell Choir will also join us and perhaps some special guest performers.

All are welcome to attend. A free will offering will be gratefully accepted to support the Colchester Food & Fuel Bank. For more information contact Terry Phillips at 860-608-0130.

## 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 all 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.

## '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.

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**Aloha from Oahu!...** The McMillian and Wagner crews, from East Hampton, recently spent 10 days in Honolulu, Hawaii. Pictured here after hiking up Diamond Head State Monument are: André, Evan, Madison, Josh, Andrew, Dominique, Annmarie, Jamie, Caleb, Gabriel, Justin, and Alexandré.

## 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).



**A Wedding in Sweden!...** Vera Krona (an East Hampton High School 2011-12 exchange student) and Conor Phillips (EHHS class of 2012) were married in Malmö, Sweden, on Aug. 16. In attendance were several friends and family members from East Hampton. Pictured (approximately) from left to right are: Jayson Baker, Amber (Sekoll) Augustein, Allie (Haydu) Messerschmitt, Brian Messerschmitt, Rachel Weir, Abbey Tuttle, Delores Morgano, Brendan Schuler, Peter Villa, Mark Morgano, Vera Krona, Ian Schrager, Conor Phillips, Brian Foberg, Karrie Phillips, Judy Foberg, Jason Foberg, Bernie Phillips, Noel (Gibeau) Foberg, Cole Phillips, Rob Foberg, Roy & Sharon (East Hampton adjacent), Kate Balletto, David Foberg, Robin Balletto, Alex Balletto, Nick Claps, and Dave Biletto.



**Father of Our Country...** Eunice Rhodes of Amston recently brought her *Rivereast* to Waterford, Pa., in early September. She's shown with a statue of George Washington in British uniform. On Dec. 11, 1753, George Washington visited the French fort to demand their withdrawal. The town's school is named after the fort – Fort LeBoeuf.



**Guten Tag!...** Tom and Laurie Seidl from East Hampton and Nick and Michaela Costanzo from East Hampton were part of a recent nine-person family trip to Germany. They're shown here with the *Rivereast* in front of the Sollbach town sign. The town is where Tom's grandparents and Michaela's great-grandparents grew up.

# Where in the World?

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# Andover Veteran Reflects

By Michael Sinkewicz

Bradley Kelle served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2005-2011 as a crew chief for the unit responsible for transporting the president.

Dating back to the Eisenhower administration, the commander in chief has frequently traveled by helicopter under the call sign "Marine One," alongside additional aircraft that accompany the president on each journey.

Each helicopter has three crew members — the crew chief, along with two pilots. In the military, the crew chief is also the chief mechanic, who performs inspections and verifies that the aircraft is safe to fly.

Kelle, an Andover resident, was the guest speaker for the town's Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday morning. Standing by the Veteran's Monument Park on the corner of Routes 6 and 316, flanked by rows of American flags, he reflected on the significance of the federal holiday.

"Veteran's Day was a celebration of peace honoring the people who had served," he told the *Rivereast*.

World War I — known at the time as "The Great War" — became the "War to End All Wars" following an armistice that went into effect on Nov. 11, 1918, months before the Treaty of Versailles officially ended the conflict.

"We celebrate at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to commemorate the armistice of the western front, but there were other armistices that happened leading up to that," Kelle expressed.

His message was simple: "it's never just a veteran."

"A veteran has a family, they have friends, they have people they leave at home and they have people they come home to and they're forever changed," Kelle explained, referencing the training, the lifestyle and the environment veterans experienced. "It really changes you. You come back and life is so different, and it's hard to acclimate."

It's important to acknowledge the individuals beyond the service members whose lives were

also impacted, Kelle asserted.

"You constantly have people around you that are supporting you and so as a veteran, you really want to see that thanks get extended to all of that community," he said. "It's not just about thanking veterans."

Kelle's career in the military produced numerous memorable moments. When the president travels, his helicopters — and Marines — are always nearby, whether it's transporting him to the airport or arriving preemptively before Air Force One lands. The job mostly takes place in the Washington D.C. area, but of course there are also trips around the country and abroad.

Kelle served during both the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations, and he made a few observations about America's 43rd and 44th presidents.

"I had learned that President Bush is very regimented as a person," Kelle said. "He was up early, he did his workout. His whole administration was a well-oiled as far as keeping to their timeline."

If Bush was giving a speech and there was a rope line of people waiting to shake his hand afterwards, the president would stop, but as soon as his handlers informed him that he needed to leave to stay on time — he was gone.

"President Obama was the complete opposite," Kelle expressed. "If there was a rope line of people, President Obama was shaking every single person's hand and his schedule be damned."

Sometimes, the former president's tendencies caused a bit of drama up in the sky.

Kelle was present for the first pickup of Obama on the South Lawn at the White House. With each helicopter, the crew needs to weigh everything on board, and calculating how many people the aircraft is carrying along with the distance it's going determines how much fuel can be loaded, and the amount of fuel determines how long the helicopter can ultimately fly.

The president was delayed, and the Marines

were waiting. And waiting.

But the president follows his own schedule, and the crews in the air — the follow helicopters — were communicating via cellphone with the crew on the ground, seeking updates; the Secret Service confirmed that the president would, eventually, depart.

Kelle's aircraft was out of fuel, though, and they had to make a quick stop.

"We're really stressed out because if he walks out now," Kelle recalled, "at this point, if you leave, we can't follow you."

When a crew chief is leaving the unit, the administration will notify the president, who typically takes a moment to thank the Marine. Kelle said he met with Obama before his own departure.

During the final weeks of the Bush presidency, Kelle was down at the commander in chief's Texas ranch, helping construct a bike trail in his yard. The president, he said, was also pitching in with the project.

"He was cutting down trees — still the president of the United States — cutting down trees," he said. "We're all just wearing t-shirts and jeans."

Veteran's Monument Park in Andover — stationed next to a major highway — has become

one of the highlights of the community.

"It's really amazing," Kelle said. "I'm really impressed."

Former resident Gerry Wright, a Vietnam War veteran, was instrumental in making the area a proud destination. In 2021, he led the effort to establish an Agent Orange Memorial, and helped sell bricks inscribed with local veterans' names for a new walkway. He was also the leading advocate in getting a portion of Rt. 316 from the intersection of Rt. 6 to Monument Ln., near the park, designated "Agent Orange Memorial Highway."

Then in 2022, the park was included on the Tour of Honor, where veterans ride motorcycles across the country to visit memorials and monuments.

Earlier this year, the town installed a bench overlooking the park with a plaque dedicated to Wright's legacy. It reads in part, "For his advocacy of veteran's rights and his contribution to Veterans Monument Park."

Saturday's event included Kelle's son placing a wreath on the momentum, and a group of fifth graders read poems they had written. Sebastian Nesci, Andover's resident state trooper, sang the national anthem.

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

Senior Luncheons will be held at the Town

Hall community room at noon 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.

## Congregational Church News

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

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

**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.

**Bingo and Baskets** November 17. 5:30 p.m. dinner / 6:30 p.m. game. \$12.00 per person

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

## 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@com-cast.net](mailto:Merry_Claus@com-cast.net).

## Museum Opening

The Andover Historical Society will open its Museum of Andover History, Saturday, Nov. 18, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. New items are continuously being added to the display, so if you haven't visited in a while, stop in and see what is new.

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

## 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.

## Annual Toy Drive

The Andover Town Employees will be collecting new unwrapped toys and gift cards to distribute to Andover families for Christmas throughout the holiday season. Please bring your donations to the Town Office Building -17 School Road. If you have any questions or are a family in need or know of a family who needs assistance, please call Roberta 860-742-7305 ext 4215 or Carol 860-742-0188 ext 2.

## Food Pantry Preps for Thanksgiving

Andover Food Pantry, located in the Andover Congregational Church, will be preparing and handing out Thanksgiving baskets with all the trimmings to 100 families this year. The food pantry is open to the public Monday evenings from 5-7 PM and Wednesday mornings from 9-10 AM. The pantry is led by volunteer Director by Joan Soucy, pictured on the right, and manned entirely by volunteers. On the left is Joann Osmond, from St Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, giving them a donation check from the church, to assist with this cause.

## Andover Library Basketpalooza 2023

The *Library Friends* are again hosting the Basketpalooza fundraiser this year and your help would be greatly appreciated. The library is calling on the community to make and donate themed baskets (last year there was over 25 baskets and nearly \$1,000 raised). Examples might include: pet supplies, kitchen items, movie lovers, sweet treats/chocolate, gardening, sewing, pampering, wine/beer/spirits, car care/

tools/gadgets, coffee/tea, games/puzzles, bird watching, camping/fishing, homemade crafts/foods, children's toys, etc.). If you'd like to contribute a finished basket (theme of your choice), please reply to this email, call the library at 860-742-7428 or visit us at 355 Route 6 and let us know as soon as possible. Library hours are M-Th 10 am - 7 pm, Sat 10 am - 2 pm.



Andover Food Pantry, located in the Andover Congregational Church, will be preparing and handing out Thanksgiving baskets with all the trimmings to 100 families this year. The food pantry is open to the public Monday evenings from 5-7 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from 9-10 a.m. The pantry is led by volunteer Director by Joan Soucy, pictured on the right, and manned entirely by volunteers. On the left is Joann Osmond, from St Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, giving them a donation check from the church, to assist with the cause.

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**Dean's List**

Andover residents Christina Pelletier and Rebecca Risley made the summer 2023 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

**Dean's List**

Bradley Plausse of Andover made the spring 2023 Dean's List at was named to Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.

Plausse is a Writing for Film & Television major.

**Andover Veterans Ceremony**

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz of the State of Connecticut will host an appreciation ceremony honoring the Korean War-era and Vietnam War-era veterans in the Andover community. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for January 2024.

All veterans who served during the Korean War-era from June 27, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955, or Vietnam War-era from Feb. 28, 1961-July 1, 1975, provide your name, rank, branch of service, and years of service to the Andover Veterans representatives via email, at veterans@andoverct.org, or calling Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481.

**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.

**Bingo and Basket Night**

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6 in Andover, CT will be holding a Bingo & Baskets night on Friday, Nov. 17, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Game starts at 6:30 p.m. \$12.00 admission includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 with questions.

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**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-

**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. Space is limited; to reserve a spot, call 860-742-7696 or email andoverctchurch@gmail.com for an application.

**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.

**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.

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

**Christmas Bake Sale**

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6 in Andover will be holding their Annual Christmas Fair and Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will have hand crafted items, as well as Grandma's Attic, a basket raffle and bake sale. Please call the church at 860-742-7696 with any questions. If you have any questions please contact me at 860-716-4186 or leave a message at the church, 860-742-7696.

**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.

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

**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.

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 for an application or pick one up at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

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.

**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.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org.

**New Art Exhibit at Town Hall**

East Hampton Art Association is sponsoring a new exhibit of original oil paintings by artist Tom Swimm whose studio is in East Hampton. The paintings include images of ships in Mystic Seaport, as well as landscapes of local New England scenery. The exhibit will continue through the end of November. To see more work by the artist, visit his website at: www.tomswimmfineart.com

East Hampton news continues on page 14

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★ RHAM Welcomes Veterans cont. from page 1

Just like Parkyn, John Hooker, who joined the CT Army National Guard in 1969, has a grandson attending RHAM. For Hooker, there is a history of military service in his family, and his father served in the Army under General George Patton during WWII, marching across Europe.

Hooker's father was responsible for pulling damaged tanks from the battlefield and repairing them; he went all the way to Berlin.

"I was proud of my father and proud of what he instilled in me as far as loyalty to the United States," Hooker said. "And in some cases, you have to fight for that; it's not something that's handed to you on a platter."

Hooker said the U.S is "the place to live, place to grow up, and the place to raise kids."

"It might not have been the case had it not been for the services of the military."

Joining them at the table was Mike Kovacs, who was a sergeant in the Air Force from 1962-1966. He experienced the Cuban Missile Crisis, and recalled how planes were scattered across the country; everyone was on alert, fearful of war.

"People don't realize how close we came," he said. "That was a scary time because we didn't know what was going to happen."

Perhaps the most popular event of the day was the dog show hosted at the gymnasium, which was put on by U.S Army National Guard members. The production features Dino, a Belgian Malinois, who is definitely not a typical dog; he's able to sniff out explosives and is a valuable asset for the military. During the performance, Dino sniffed out an item hidden in the gym by a student in the audience, a tactic known as "detection."

Colin Ingraham, from Stamford, is the service member who handles Dino. The pair returned in September from a nine month overseas tour in Iraq and Syria.

"It's insane the bond you create," he said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world. It was the best nine months I've had in my life."

While he didn't expect to become a dog handler, it's a rewarding path.

"Once you start doing it, it's a passion." Students will be sending thank you cards to each veteran who stopped by the school.

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# BOE Agenda Packed Following Election

By London Brazal

Following last week's election, the Board of Education had a busy meeting with discussions of budget items on their radar.

At the beginning of the meeting, Nancy Kohler was elected as the Board's chairperson. The vice chairperson is now Augie Arndt and the secretary is newcomer Edie DeSimone.

To follow, five seniors were recognized for their "exceptional leadership and academic endeavors." Aidan Maiorino was a recipient of a commendation from the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. On the 2023-2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, Maiorino placed in the top 50,000 out of more than one million students. Some of his other accomplishments include receiving the rank of Eagle Scout and being a member of the National Honor Society (NHS).

Gabriel McMillian and Katherine Searles were awarded the New England School Development Council's Award of Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning. The award is given to seniors who "are a positive role model to the student body, have challenged themselves academically, and exemplify admirable character and accomplishment." McMillian is a student-athlete on the cross country, basketball, and track team. He also volunteers frequently with his Church as a mentor. Searles is a member of the concert and jazz band and serves as the trombone section leader. She is also a member of NHS, the Tri-M music honor society, and the girls basketball team.

Leah Kohler and Delaney Russell were awarded the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Student Leadership Award. Kohler is a member of the track and basketball team, interact club and the concert band. She also serves as the senior editor for the yearbook. Outside of school, Kohler volunteers

at a pediatric physical therapy practice that specializes in working with students with disabilities. Russell is the captain of the volleyball team, President of the senior class, and President of the Spanish Club. She also is a member of NHS, the basketball and track team, and serves as the Board of Education student liaison.

## Administration Highlights Budget Requests

At the High School, Principal Eric Verner noted the requests are for the technology education program to help provide more diverse courses in the vast field. "[It's] to continue our work as we look for not just college readiness, but career readiness," said Verner. One program in the works is a partnership with Electric Boat where students can train with the company and pursue a career right after graduation. Funding would help expand the available courses and the necessary equipment.

Another highlighted request was the funding for a full-time tutor for all students that would start the creation of an academic tutoring center. Test scores have yet to reach pre-covid levels. This tutor would focus on skills for the PSAT, SAT, Advanced Placement courses, and the Next Generation Science Standards.

To diversify programming at the Middle School, Principal Christina Amaral wants to add a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher to the specials rotation. "We aim to broaden students' experiences by incorporating engaging, developmentally appropriate hands-on learning," said Amaral. "It would delve into mathematical concepts and real-life applications." Similar to the High School, Amaral is also looking to support the continuation and advancement of the technology education class. Additional funds would help repair current equipment and tools while boosting the current curriculum.

Another highlighted request was the addition



At Monday's BOE meeting, five students were recognized for their leadership and academic skills. From left to right are Gabriel McMillian, Aidan Maiorino, Katherine Searles, Leah Kohler, and Delaney Russell. Photo by Irene Kuck.

of a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Tier 3 Paraprofessional. This would support the positive behavioral program and the individual would oversee student check-ins, breaks, and rewards. Behavior plans would get ahead of the curve and support all students who need it.

Principal Chris Sullivan at Center School hopes to expand the STEM lab in their core library media program. Sullivan mentioned how many students are passing the current coding lessons. Another request is for a part-time psychologist who is currently grant-funded to help additional students.

At Memorial School, Principal Joey Bauer called attention to the Cheetah Council sti-

pend. It's a new club to give third graders a voice through leadership roles, planning projects, and speaking in front of the school.

Bauer is also looking for additional aids in Kindergarten classrooms since one instructional aid only gets about three hours of support per week in each classroom. "A high level of differentiation is required," said Bauer. "With 20 students between the age of four and six, it limits the individualized attention our teachers are able to provide." Additional aids would reduce the number of students who require intervention later on.

Further discussion of the budget items will continue at future Board of Education meetings. The next one is Nov. 27.

## 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.

## Santa Is Coming To Town

Santa is coming to the Haddam Neck Community Tree Lighting on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., with a rain date of Dec. 3. This fun family event will be held in the church field at 17 Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton and will include a decorated Tractor Parade, Jingle Bell Hayride, huge Christmas Tree Lighting, a visit with Santa, Puppet Show, Christmas Carols, children's Craft Table, S'Mores at the fire

pits, Hot Dogs and Chili, Hot Cocoa and Hot Cider. All are invited to come and share in the joy of the Christmas Season.

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food or personal hygiene items for the East Hampton Food Bank. This is a wonderful family event to usher in the Christmas Season and help other families in need.

## MistleTunes to Perform

The MistleTunes will perform Christmas favorites at Paul's and Sandy's Too this holiday season. Listen to the sounds of The MistleTunes as you pick out the perfect Christmas Tree and shop for holiday decorations at Paul's and Sandy's Too in East Hampton.

The MistleTunes, comprised of Kathleen Genovese and Christine Walsh, perform a wide range of holiday favorites, including Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Santa Baby, Let it

Snow, Winter Wonderland, Mele Kalikimaka, Cool Yule, Little Jack Frost, and more.

The vocal duo will be performing at Paul's and Sandy's Too on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 24 and 25, as well as Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2, 3, 9, and 10. All performances will be from 11:00am to 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Weather Permitting). For more information, call Paul's and Sandy's Too at 860-267-0143.



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### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**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.

**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.

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

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

**Trips: Lunch for Seniors at Windham Technical High School:** Thursday, Nov. 30. Have

### 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 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.

### Wreath Making Evening

The Belltown Garden Club will meet at the Congregational Church on Monday, Nov. 27 at 5:30 p.m. for their annual wreath and garland making event. Members are reminded to bring an assortment of greens and evergreens, gloves and wire cutters. The wreaths and garland being assembled will be displayed at the Comstock Bridge, East Hampton Library and the town gazebo. Additionally the club will make live green table centerpieces that will be sold at the public library as a fundraiser during the holiday season. This event is open to the public, and all are welcome. If interested contact : Lynne Finnegan-Bailey at 860-267-2575. The Belltown Garden Club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT and national garden clubs.

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.

### Local Wangunk Art Show

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."

Registration is also recommended via the library's website, under "Events."

### 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 onsite. 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).

### Bottle Drive

Scout BSA Troop 57 will hold its bottle drive this Saturday, Nov 18, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the American Distilling parking lot at 31 East High St. (Rt 66). If there are any questions please contact Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962. Future bottle drive dates can be found at <https://tmweb.troopmaster.com/login/picksite> (choose CT and unit 57).



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
<b>\$1-249</b>	<b>SUPPORTER</b>	Recognition in the local paper



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# Town Council Reconvenes with New Members

By London Brazal

The newly elected Town Council faced a full agenda following their induction last week. On Nov. 8, all of the newly elected officials took the Oath of Office. At that meeting, the Town Council elected Dean Markham as Chairperson and Karen Wanat as Vice Chairperson. While accepting the role, Markham alluded to the Democrat campaign by asking all members to remain civil in future meetings. "Comments, as counselors, must be germane to the issue at hand," said Markham. "Simple rules of stability will get us a long way in this process and help us do what we need to do."

At Tuesday's meeting, the Council went right into business with the approval of accepting the DECD Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development Grant. The Town's Brownfield Redevelopment Agency applied for the grant, in the amount of 200,000, to remediate 13 Summit Street and 1 Watrous Street, as well as the vacant parcels at 13 Watrous Street and 3 Walnut Avenue. The funding helps the agency cover environmental evaluations for future determination of demolition or other uses.

As for new business, the Council amended the updates to the job description for the Public Utilities Administrator (PUA) to clarify the position and qualifications as the current PUA will be retiring at the end of the year. The town's search for water continues and the PUA will

continue to oversee the wastewater treatment plant, the related collection system, and the Town's water systems. A subcommittee was appointed by the preceding Council to identify a new water source and to expand the water systems. Town Manager David Cox suggested that a new committee should be larger and consist of council members and the public.

Markham believed that it is an important bipartisan issue and suggested a bipartisan committee. Republican Brandon Goff and Democrat Jack Solomon were the council members motioned to be on the subcommittee. The goal is to have the new committee meet by the end of the year.

The preceding Council discussed the possible acquisition of 11 Skinner Street as a potential firehouse. The private party who owns the property has indicated a willingness to assist the town by building it out for a fire station. Cox noted that the Fire Department agrees that it is an ideal location and a good size for the features they want to be included. Ultimately, acquiring this property would be cheaper than the town purchasing a different piece of land and constructing from scratch. In a 7-0 approval, Cox will continue to pursue the location. In the next week or so, he will provide a letter of intent to the owner that outlines a basic agreement. In the future, if the Council continues to pursue

the purchase, more members will get involved with the process such as the Planning and Zoning Committee.

During its organizational meeting on Nov. 8, the Council discussed a potential amendment to its bylaws to make an official statement regarding accepting public comments in ways other than an appearance at a Council meeting. These methods included a handwritten format and pre-recorded video. Last week, concerns came up in regard to privacy and cyber-security. Ultimately, a decision was not made at the time. Cox and his fellow staff have discovered third-party software that could facilitate video comments and effectively address raised cyber-security concerns. While only one third-party provider has been tested, Cox said it appeared to be straightforward and user-friendly.

The staff proposed that video or audio com-

ments would be played at the subsequent Council meeting and summarized in the official minutes in a manner consistent with in-person comments. One concern multiple council members had was making sure the recorded comments were appropriate. To clarify, the content of a comment was not the issue as speakers would retain their First Amendment right but more of a physicality issue such as a person wearing appropriate clothing. After more deliberation, the Council decided to test the software until May 31 to make sure that the method works and has been beneficial.

During the campaign season leading up to last week's election, many candidates floated the idea of having tri-board meetings. The Council has decided to host the first one on Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. with the members of the Board of Finance and Board of Education.

## 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 [richard16@gmail.com](mailto:richard16@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).

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St, has announced the following. Registration required unless noted; to register, or for full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit us at [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://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. The Library will be **closing early at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22 and closed for the holiday on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.**

**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: Grades K-8 - Marbled Greeting Cards:** Saturday, Dec. 2, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Children are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together. These activities are available while supplies last. No registration required. **Cozy Yoga: Grades 1-5:** Monday, Dec. 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Put on some comfy clothes and join Amie Meacham, a Yoga200 Certified instructor, for an hour of yoga exercises and games.

**Nintendo Switch Game Play - Grades 1-5:**

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-3 p.m. Play *Just Dance 2023*.

**Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6:00 p.m. Have a say in programming, collection development, and more. The TAB group meets monthly and always welcomes new members.

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

**Adult Program: An Open House to Congratulate Christine Cachuella:** Monday, Nov. 27, 4:30-5:30 p.m. East Hampton Public Library cordially invites the community to welcome and congratulate Christine Cachuella on her recent promotion to Library Director.

**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.

**Cookbook Club - Cookie Exchange:** Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. This month bring two dozen cookies to exchange with others. The library will provide plates and utensils, all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share.

**Lessons in Culinary - A Teen Cooking Class: Grades 6-12:** Tuesday, Dec. 5, 5:00 p.m. Dip Date: Make a variety of dips from savory to sweet.

## 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.

**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).

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**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. - (Closed Thanksgiving and the day after.)  
**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.

**Yoga:** With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at [ten-summitst@gmail.com](mailto:ten-summitst@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.  
**Concert with Carolyn Brodgerski:** Saturday, November 18 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Please contact the library to purchase.  
**Holiday Mocktail Party:** Friday December 15, 4-6 p.m. Holiday celebrations can be merry and light with these alcohol-free Mocktails.

**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.

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## Church of the Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit [holyfamilyhebron.org](http://holyfamilyhebron.org) for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

**Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter:** The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. 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:** Bleach; Lysol disinfectant spray, Size

XL disposable latex-free gloves; Windex; toilet bowl cleaner, 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:** Paper towels, TP and 55-gallon trash bags (all great needs); 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. 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.



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### Parks and Recreation News

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

**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.

**Holiday Paint Night:** Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 4 -5 p.m. Burnt Hill Parks and Recreation Office. Artists 8+ / \$25. Join Miss Amy from Studio 13 for some creative time, as she takes you step by step in painting this holiday gnome. All materials and instruction are included.

### 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 Tues-

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

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

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

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RE1-27-23

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### 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).

**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.

**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.

**Teens! Looking for Volunteer Hours?** If so,

help set up the book sale Friday, Nov. 17, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and then take down on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 3-4pm. The library will also need volunteers to help with kid crafts on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 3-5 p.m., during the Hebron Holiday Fest. Email [teens@douglaslibrary.org](mailto:teens@douglaslibrary.org) if interested.

**Chess Night:** Pickup games are held every Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

**Knitwits:** The knitting circle meets Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Crochet and needle pointers are welcome as well as all skill levels. No registration required; bring your project or questions.

**Children's Storytime:** Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. No registration is required. All classes are Family Classes for children age birth to 5. This program is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Book Sale is Saturday

The Friends of Douglas Library of Hebron will hold its next Book Sale Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the library's Community Room.

A variety of books, CDs and DVDs will be available. The Friends said they also anticipate offering a large selection of holiday and gift items for purchase. The Friends will offer its \$5 per bag sale for an extra hour, from 1-3 p.m.

Douglas Library is located at 22 Main St.

### 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.

### 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.

### Flute & Guitar Duo to Perform at Church

Sanctuary Performing Arts will present the flute and guitar duo Duo Alterity on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m., at St. Peter's Church, 30 Church St.

Duo Alterity features Allison Hughes on flute and Joseph Van Doran on guitar. The Connecticut-based duo has performed at numerous venues, including Carnegie Hall.

### 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.

### 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.

### Transfer Station Winter Hours

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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- Stuffed Pork Chop**  
Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce
- Stuffed Sole**  
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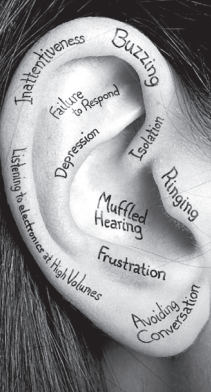
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## Ladder safety should not be learned on the fly.

Climbing on a ladder might be the most dangerous thing you do all year. Foot and ankle fractures can result from unsafe ladder use. Make sure you have the balance and strength to use a ladder. Take the time to secure it properly. Don't stand above the marked level and always wear lace-up shoes or boots.

Check our website for more ladder safety tips.

**VISIT [ORTHOINFO.ORG/LADDERSAFETY](https://www.orthoinfo.org/laddersafety)**



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**Lions Welcome New Members...** At their Oct. 24 meeting, the Marlborough Lions officially inducted two new members. The Lions District Governor, Peter Nevers, was on hand to conduct the ceremony. The Lions welcomed new members Jennifer Greloch and Marlborough's new Town Manager, David Porter. The Marlborough Lions provide many local services including vision screening of elementary school students, collection of used eyeglasses and they also support local services like the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks. Anyone interested in joining the Marlborough Lions should call Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116. New members are always welcome. Pictured, from left: Marlborough Lions President Megan Lloyd, Jennifer Greloch, Lions District Governor Peter Nevers, David Porter and Lions Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom.

**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.

**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).

**Holiday Art and Gift Sale**

A Holiday Art and Gift Sale will take place at the Marlborough Arts Center through 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.

**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 [stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnfisher30@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.stjfcchurch.org](http://www.stjfcchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

**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.

**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.

**Thanksgiving Sunday:** Celebrated Sunday, Nov. 19 with both the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir participating in the service. A Children's Message will be given by Reverend Valerie Seaver. The Meditation/Sermon, "In Everything Give Thanks," will be given by the three church seminarians, Gwen Lawson, Nicole Struth and Steve Pozzato followed by the introduction and dedication of the Member in Discernment Team

for Steve Pozzato, who is studying for ministry at United Theological Seminary.

**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 worshippers 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).

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Gathering on the Green!** - Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Join us for a festive night celebrating the holiday season. Santa will be coming to town to visit all the good boys and girls of Marlborough. The Gathering will feature a lighted fire truck parade, tree lighting, pictures with Santa, holiday games and activities, refreshments, music and a majestic fireworks display! Rain date is Sunday, Dec. 3.

**Driveway Reflective Number Signs** - The cost of the sign is \$50. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

**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.

**2024 Medicare Annual Enrollment**  
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### 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 22

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.

### 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.

### 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. **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. **Monday, Nov. 20:** Free bread and bakery goods donated by Stop & Shop **Tuesday, Nov. 21:** Free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y **Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24:** Closed in observance of the holiday. **Congregate Meals:** All meals are served with milk, bread and margarine. Suggested donation: \$3 or what you can afford. Menus are subject to change.

### 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 Brodinski, 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 [seatfourpantsmusic.com](http://seatfourpantsmusic.com). There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

### 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](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

### 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.

### 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. 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.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org), and at [www.charlesdenler.com](http://www.charlesdenler.com).

### Town Hall Closings

The Offices of Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center & Public Works will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday. The Transfer Station will be opened Saturday, Nov. 25.

### 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 on banjo, Keegan Day on guitar/vocals, Cathy Day on fiddle, and Tom Bowman on acoustic bass.

### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

from Ty Mazzotta, Gio Discenza, and Kadir Hamidovicin. The Highlanders season came to an end in round two, losing to Holy Cross. After finishing second in both the 200 Freestyle and 500 Freestyle at the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) Championships, junior Beth Nedobity competed in both events at the Class S swimming championship at Southern Connecticut State University. \*\*\* Outside of the area, Xavier High School graduate Will Levis had a National Football League (NFL) debut for the ages, throwing four touchdown passes as the Tennessee Titans beat the Atlanta Falcons 28-23 on Oct. 29. Levis called his first professional start a "dream come true," telling reporters, "Just to touch the field in an NFL game, let alone get a win, is incredible." Levis, a 2018 graduate of Xavier High School, was an all-state quarterback with the Middletown-based Falcons where he broke the school's records for passing yards (2,793) and touchdown passes (27) during the 2017 season. Following his graduation from Xavier, Levis spent three years at Penn State University before transferring to the University of Kentucky where he started 24 games over the two seasons, throwing for 33 touchdowns and running for 11 more. After falling out of the opening round of the 2023 NFL draft, the Titans traded up in round two and selected the first-round prospect with the second selection on day two (33rd overall). In his press conference following the selection, Titans General Manager Ran Carthon stated that Levis was "hardwired" and "tough." "Will is a diligent worker, extremely smart,

extremely bright, [and] puts a lot of the time in to be a good quarterback," added Carthon. A thigh injury during the preseason limited the rookie's availability over his first few months in a Titans uniform, but when starting quarterback Ryan Tannehill was injured during a week six game against the Baltimore Ravens, Levis got his chance behind center following the team's bye week. Levis told reporters that he was "feeling the butterflies" in the days leading up to his first professional start, but he showed no signs of that once that game kicked off. The 6'4" signal caller completed 19 of 29 passes for 238 yards and the four touchdowns, three to DeAndre Hopkins. On his seventh professional pass, Levis hooked up with Hopkins on a 47 yard deep ball and would later find the former All-Pro receiver on scoring strikes from 16 and 61 yards. He also connected with Nick Westbrook-Ikhine on a 33-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. "We knew we'd have some opportunities to go over the top on them, but we didn't want to force it," Levis told reports at his press conference at Nissan Stadium in Nashville "I wanted to make sure I was making the right decision." He became only the third quarterback in NFL history to throw for four touchdowns and no interceptions in a starting debut, joining Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton (1961 with Minnesota) and Heisman Winner Marcus Mariota (2015 with Tennessee). Levis, who was born in Newton, Mass. and grew up in Madison, Conn., was solid in his next two starts and is slated to make this fourth start when the Titans visit Jacksonville to take on the Jaguars this Sunday (Nov. 19) at 1 p.m.

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### Silent Auction at Portland Library

The Knifty Knitters of the Portland Library have donated 24 handcrafted items to be sold through a silent auction to benefit the Friends of the Portland Library. The beautiful handcrafted items will be available through a silent auction courtesy of the Friends of the Portland Library. They have donated a variety of goods: socks, hats, shawls, sweaters and more! View the items in the library display cases

and then ask the staff what the top bid is for the item you are interested in. Each item will have a "buy it now price" where you can pay for the item that moment (cash or check), and you can go home with the item that day. Final bids will be due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. Winners will be notified on Dec. 2. Payment by cash or personal check will be due by 8pm on Monday, December 4th at the latest.

### Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Youth Rec. Cheerleading:** Practices will be held Tuesdays, Dec. 12-March 5, from 6-7 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School. Fee: \$100/resident, \$120/non-resident.

**Rec Basketball K-2 with Skyhawks:** Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 10, at Gildersleeve School. Kindergarten is held from 8-8:50 a.m.; first grade,

9-9:50 a.m.; second grade girls, 10-10:50 a.m.; second grade boys, 11-11:50 a.m. Fee: \$100/resident, \$120/non-resident.

**Youth Basketball Leagues:** There will be one weekday practice and one game per week starting Jan. 6. There will be girls' and boys' leagues for grades 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Fee: \$100.

**Women's Drop-In Basketball:** Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m., through May, at Portland Middle School.

**Men's Drop-In Basketball:** Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., through May, at Portland Middle School.

### Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., invites the community to celebrate with us! We welcome all to join! Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Services are held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is in session and is held during the service. Children, ages 4 to 12, are welcome to attend Church School. We explore Bible adventures and use fun and colorful materials to inspire the children's faith. Our lessons and activities are aimed at encouraging the children to think outside of themselves and about the community at large.

Our Parish Pantry Providers are continuing to stock the shelves of the Portland Food Pantry. We are collecting Thanksgiving items in November!

On Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the church is open for prayer and meditation, and we are gathering in the church office for Anglican Prayer beading at the same time. No prior beading experience is required! It's a great time for relaxed fellowship and socializing.

Check out more information, the church's calendar of events, donate, or listen to past sermons at [www.trinitychurchportlandct.org](http://www.trinitychurchportlandct.org). If you have any other prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at [trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com).

For more information or to make an appointment with the Rev. Darryl Burke, email [trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com) or call 860-342-0458.

### 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.

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

### 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, 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.

### PHS Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair

Portland High School Project Graduation 2024 is hosting a Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the high school, 95 High St. All are invited.

This free event will feature a teacup raffle and over 40 vendors.



Pictured are, back row from left: Makeda Curzan, Annie Rosario, Shae Agogliati, Bianca Vibberts, Tessa Napp, Maya Hale, Lily Alvarado, Fiona Alvarado. Front Row: Emily Bolstridge, Mila Cousineau, Gretta Chenier, Emma Morande, Lily Cavalier. Missing: Ella Libera, Gabby Lardizzone, Olivia Ezzo, Seraphina Kelley.

### Yellowjackets Softball Recap

The 10U Portland Yellowjackets softball team had a successful fall season, finishing with a record of 7-6-2. The girls finished off the season on a high note at the District 9 Trunk or Treat Jamboree. The Yellowjackets went 1-1 on the day, beating North Branford Black by a score of 8-5 and falling short against North Branford White 4-7. In game 1, the Yellowjackets came from behind to record a victory in the last inning. The inning started with a walk by Tessa Napp followed by an RBI single from Emma Morande. Makeda Curzan then singled to tie up the game at 5 and stole her way around the bases to record the go ahead run. The girls then got their offense started again with a walk from Fiona Alvarado, a hit by pitch for Gretta Chenier and an RBI single by Maya Hale to put the Yellowjackets up 7-5.

Shae Agogliati extended the lead to 3 runs after her RBI single which advanced Annie Rosario who was hit by a pitch. Emily Bolstridge and Mila Cousineau also had hits in the game as the Portland 10U softball team racked up 9 total hits. Emma Morande, Tessa Napp, and Bianca Vibberts all did a great job for Portland on the mound throughout the entire tournament while Maya Hale, Lily Cavalier and Shae Agogliati all excelled behind the plate and Lily Alvarado played great defense for the Yellowjackets. Ella Libera, Gabby Lardizzone, Olivia Ezzo and Seraphina Kelley all had great seasons for the Portland 10U girls softball team but were unable to attend the final weekend. The girls look forward to spring softball where they can continue to improve and have fun.

### First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone.

The Portland Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place Sunday, Nov. 19 at 2:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church on Williams St., Portland. John Hall from the Jonah Center for Earth and Art in Middletown will be the guest speaker. A free will offering will be taken and will go to the Jonah Center. Nonperishable food items will also be accepted and brought to the Port-

land Food Bank.

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or [1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com) for more information.

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



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Front Row: Isabella Aquino, Arianna Aquino, Hayden Coe, Audrey Burton, Liliana Agogliati

## Predators Softball Recap

The Portland 12U Predators Softball team ended their very successful fall season with a record of 9-2. The girls beat East Hampton in their final game by a score of 18-6. The Predators recorded 11 hits in the game, including 2 hits each from Erika Tine, Lily Hale, Kaelin Mullen and Gabby Defronzo. Liliana Agogliati, Arianna Aquino, and Isabella Aquino also had hits for Portland. Hayden Coe and Payton Hawlk were both patient at the plate, drawing 3 walks each. Kaelin Mullen started on the mound for Portland, striking out 11 and giving up one earned run. Arianna Aquino came in for the save, pitching two complete innings to finish out the win for Portland. Alanna Burton, Audrey Burton and Rowyn Kootz were not able to attend the final game, but both girls had a successful season for Portland. For many of the girls, this

was their last game with Portland Little League. Since the days of t-ball and coach pitch, 7 of the girls from the class of 2028 have proudly represented the town of Portland on the softball field. In their early years, they endured many losses and saw very few wins. Still, they persevered and worked hard to become the most rivaled team in the district. Along with their coaches, parents and Portland Little League volunteers, this core group had a huge hand in putting Portland softball on the map. Thank you to all of the volunteers over the years that kept the girls playing including Mike Reilly, Jim Agogliati, David Hawlk, Karen Agogliati and Amy Wilson. Pictured are, back row from left: Gabriella Defronzo, Alanna Burton, Rowyn Kootz, Erika Tine, Kaelin Mullen, Lily Hale, Payton Hawlk.

## Knights for Food Bank Coat Drive

Used Winter Adult Coat Drive: Each November into December we collect and bring the used coats you donate to the Food bank for their clients. We will use the large container in the Rosary Room to accept your donations.

New Winter Coats for Kids: Each year we buy new winter coats for Kids as part of a national effort by the Knights of Columbus to make sure no child goes without. We support

the Middletown based distribution on the Friday after Thanksgiving and provide new coats directly to the Portland Food Bank. A special donation box will be in the Rosary Room to accept your monetary donations to support this Coats for Kids effort. Mail donations to Council 7 PO box 7, Portland, CT 06480.

David Shovlin 860-342-0489 is the Chair of the Councils effort for the Portland Food Bank.

## Wreaths Across American

Joshua's Mission has been participating with Wreaths Across America since 2015 and is looking for support again this year. Josh Abbott, a 15 year old sophomore at Portland High School, has taken this mission to heart and it has become a passion for him to make sure our veterans are always remembered. Every year wreaths are laid at veteran's graves throughout the United States on a national wreath laying day which this year is Dec. 16.

Joshua's Mission is looking for sponsors to purchase wreaths to be laid at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown on that

day. Wreaths can be purchased for \$17 each or 2 for \$34 and get 3rd one free. Checks can be made out to Wreaths Across America and mailed to Joshua's Mission 50 Fairview Street Portland, CT 06480 by November 23rd or by visiting his Facebook page "Joshua's Mission" and clicking on the link there to go directly to his Wreaths Across America website page to pay by credit card. All are invited to participate in helping place the wreaths on Saturday December 16th at noon. Thank you for your support of Joshua's Mission. Let us never forget our veterans and all that they gave.

## 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.

Food Share on Monday, Nov. 20 at 1:00 p.m. Special Events: Monday November 20th 10:00 a.m. Art For Relaxation with Jean Rill-Alberto, \$15.00 p/p supplies included. To register call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

**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) - to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light

Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 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.

**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.

**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.

Senior Center Closed Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving Holiday.

## Native American Program at Library

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

"Etuaptmunk: Two-Eyed Seeing in Our Daily Lives" will be held Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 6 p.m. Etuaptmunk is a Mi'kmaw saying that trans-

lates 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, by visiting [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org) or calling 860-342-6770.

## 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.

## Garden Club Holiday Planters Sale

The Portland Garden Club will hold an outdoor sale of handcrafted holiday planters and cemetery boxes decorated with fresh greenery on Saturday, Dec. 2, in the parking lot at 265 Main Street next to the Town Green. Also, for sale will be white birch candle logs decorated with holiday embellishments. The sale will be from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., or whenever all the items are sold out. Prices range from \$15 to \$25 for the planters and cemetery boxes.

The holiday sale is a special fundraiser for the many community activities and educational programs sponsored by the nonprofit club, which has been a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut since 1947.

Admission is free, with all proceeds benefiting the garden club's projects. Rain date for the event is Sunday, Dec. 3 at the same time. For more information, call 959-231-9630.

## Pancake Breakfast

Portland Volunteer Fire Department invites everyone to an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Sunday Nov. 19 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. The meal features sausage, All-You-Can-Eat-Pancakes, Chocolate Chip, Regular, Blueberry with Assorted Beverages. \$8 Adults, \$4 Children. Engine Co#1, 7 Middlesex Ave (right behind the Post Office).

Ceramic Pancake Coffee Cups are for sale with our logo and a cartoon character squirting syrup on a stack of 'cakes, these are for sale for

\$20 and each time you return with the "clean" cup we will subtract one dollar from your breakfast.

As we have in the past, November is Food Bank month, bring in your donations, Dry Goods only and receive half off the price of your breakfast. All Food donations are given to the Portland Food Bank.

Questions, Comments or placed on an email notification list (sign up list at door) or contact Wayne Mergel @860-759-6921.

## Christmas Sweets and Treats Holiday Sale

The First Congregational Church of Portland, U.C.C., invites everyone to their annual cookie sale. This will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church located at 554 Main Street. A variety of Christmas cookies will be packaged by the half dozen. Other sweets including gingerbread men lollipops, Christmas themed pretzels, and assorted candy will also be available. Stock up for your holiday entertaining or enjoy them yourself.

Besides cookies and candy items they will have small, inexpensive gifts and gift baskets for

sale. If you need a grab bag gift for your holiday party or a gift for that special someone in your life, you may find just what you need at this sale. New this year will be their own version of a Festival of Trees. A variety of themed Christmas trees that will decorate the hall include: Wheat Weaving, Angel, Bird, Swedish, USA, Candy Cane, and Santa among others.

So, escape the hustle and bustle of the malls and enjoy a one stop shopping experience. For more information or questions, please call the church at 860 342-3244.

## 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 also large print mystery and general fiction books that have been removed from the library collection for 50 cents.

## Festival of Wreaths

The Portland Historical Society's 12th Annual Festival of Wreaths "Jingle & Mingle" is Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 - 3. In the first eleven years over 400 holiday decorations have been donated and raffled to benefit the Society's mission to collect, preserve and share Portland's history.

Each year individuals, businesses, families and organizations donate holiday wreaths, sprays and tabletop décor for this teacup-style raffle. Tickets are purchased for \$1 each and then placed in the gift bag of the decoration(s) you want to have at your home. On Sunday after 4pm the winners are notified.

It can be made from fresh or artificial greens, grapevine or other special materials and decorated traditionally, for fun or with a theme. If you're short on time, the Society has elves who will decorate a wreath for you for a donation of \$30. Send a quick email to Deb at [Portlandcthistory@gmail.com](mailto:Portlandcthistory@gmail.com) to sign up or "hire" an elf.

The festival is located at the Carriage House

behind 329 Main Street. Doors are open noon to 4 p.m. both days. There will be hot cider and homemade cookies for all. On Sunday afternoon at 3pm Portland High School's A Capella group under the direction of Samuel Tucker will perform. Mark your calendars now to Mingle & Jingle with old and new friends.

## Tree-Lighting and Parade

Portland Youth & Family Services and Parks & Recreation are coordinating the annual Tree Lighting and Parade on Sunday, Dec. 3, beginning at 4 p.m., in front of Brownstone Intermediate School.

Portland High School chorus and band members will perform traditional holiday songs. Santa will be coming to light the tree too.

Parks & Rec. is looking for businesses and organizations to participate in the parade that starts at 5 p.m. Reach out to Courtney Fitzkee at [cftzkee@portlandct.org](mailto:cftzkee@portlandct.org) or 860-342-6758 if interested in participating.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 23*

Northerners who saved America from insurrectionists and the World War II Americans who vanquished fascism to save European democracies. MAGA Republicans seek the destruction of that America. They want to replace it with a fascist, monarchical Trump caliphate. "These are the times that try men's souls" – Thomas Paine

Ed Smith – Andover

## Support the Colchester Senior Center

To the Editor:

Since I moved to Colchester eight years ago I have been an active member of the Colchester Senior Center. I have had the opportunity to enjoy its many benefits. Among them are traveling, tai chi class, exercise class, craft workshops, informational programs and above all establishing many new friendships especially with the staff of "great ladies" who work there. I am also a Volunteer Receptionist, which gives me the opportunity to help people in the community. Our travel experiences have taken us on many day trips as well as extended vacations to the Grand Canyon, Arizona, South Dakota, Canadian Rockies and California all of which have left us with many fond memories.

Our facility right now does not afford us the opportunity to conduct many group events. As our senior population continues to expand we are outgrowing the current building. I urge the community to please support the additional appropriation to enhance our community and please vote "yes" to both questions at the upcoming referendum on November 28. The "new" Senior Center will afford many more opportunities to the seniors in town but it must come into fruition and be completed.

Remember – you will all be seniors some day!

Thank You,  
Linda Farrell – Colchester

## Portland Election

To the Editor:

I am honored and gratified to have served as a poll worker on November 7th's municipal election. Due to several extremely close results, a recount was performed on Friday and a second recount was held on Monday, November 13, 2023. Everyone in attendance, be they candidate or worker, had the same goal, to report the accurate results of every ballot cast. As a relatively recent resident of Portland (2 ½ years), but with some experience in other places, I was incredibly impressed by the level of transparency, professionalism, diligence and patience of those in charge. Everyone's voice was heard and all concerns were addressed. The election officials, including Michael Tierney (Town Clerk), Pauline Neumann, Kristy Fuller (Registrar of Voters), Cynthia Hickey and Maureen O'Dougherty (Moderators) did an outstanding job, and the residents of Portland can be assured that all votes that were cast were counted honestly and accurately. They should be proud of these individuals for the work they do to assure the accuracy of the election process, and I am proud to have had an opportunity to be a small part of this complicated and critically important process.

Respectfully,  
Anita Carpena – Portland

## Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

To the Editor:

Wow. Who knew that America was so anti-Semitic. And I thought Donald Trump was the xenophobe, homophobe, racist, white supremacist that was threatening our democracy.

We should all breathe easier now that Edmund Smith has issued his highly anticipated missive regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And, of course, when you are citing CNN and UN data as corroborating evidence that examines the last 15 years of a centuries-long conflict, you are an inch away from winning a Pulitzer. Israel is the lone democracy in the Middle East surrounded by countries like Syria and Iran that would like to "eradicate Israel from the Earth." Gaza is run by a terrorist organization that not only wants every Jew on the plant vaporized, but also doesn't care how many innocent Palestinians get vaporized as collateral damage.

Apparently Edmund's research stopped short of being thorough, as the money hoarded by Hamas has never been incorporated into meaningful social infrastructure and growth for the Palestinian population. Edmund castigates Israel for defending itself while it is surrounded by hatred, threats, and violence. That is a curious stance for a guy who has expressed outrage over

the capital crimes of having anonymous letters placed in his mailbox or having his dog-walking excursions interrupted by another dog. Apparently if anyone knows the real meaning of being a victim, it's Edmund. Imagine if someone landed with a paraglider and forced Edmund to put a little MAGA sweater on his dog. Call the FBI!

The good thing is that Edmund no longer supports \$3B in yearly U.S. aid to Israel for "massacring mostly innocent Palestinians." However, he does support the \$150B in U.S. aid to a useless, never ending war in Ukraine that has "massacred over 100,000 mostly innocent Ukrainians and Russians." And Trump is the problem?

#Kamalaisanidiot

Condolences,  
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

## Thank You Colchester

To the Editor:

Thank you for re-electing me to the Board of Selectmen. It has been my honor to serve the people of Colchester. I believe in public service and giving back to the town in which I live. I believe in working hard to make good decisions for the town based on facts and information. I look forward to bipartisanship and civility at Board of Selectmen meetings where we all can focus on the work ahead. Thank you for your support and for helping Colchester find its way back to who we are as people who love the town we live in and only want to make it a better place for all its citizens.

I want to also take the opportunity to remind you about the Senior Center referendum on November 28. The referendum has two questions. The first question would allow the use of the Bendas Memorial Gift of \$575,000 and the state ARPA money of \$32,691. The second question addresses the shortfall of \$892,309 that arose when the bids were opened in October 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic that caused escalating costs in building supplies and supply issue delays.

Since we have already received a \$2.5 million grant from the state as well, the bonding to finish this project would be \$7,892,309 vs. \$9.5M. According to Barry Bernabe, our financial planner, this would be "without a material impact to debt service or the budget." The state grant is already being sent to us on a monthly basis with each invoice that we submit. On November 28th, let's get this done.

Thank you again Colchester. I'm looking forward to serving and the two years ahead.

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

## Let's Work Together

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the East Hampton community for electing me to serve on the Board of Education for the next four years. It means a lot and I will work hard to make you proud. I would also like to thank the EH RTC for endorsing me. A special shout out needs to go to Christina Tammaro-Dzagan for all of her support, advice, and encouragement throughout this process. I'm not sure I would have been successful if it were not for her enthusiastic approach to my campaign. To my wife Nicole, and our children, thank you for your overwhelming support during all of this. I love you very much!

To the other elected officials, congratulations. Now, let's do what East Hampton needs, for all of us to work together. Let's go!

Augie Arndt – East Hampton

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

## Thanks for Your Support

Dear Portland Neighbors,

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude to the voters of Portland for your support in reelecting us to the Portland Board of Education last week. We are honored and humbled by the trust you have placed in us to continue serving our community and advocating for the best interests of our children.

Portland is fortunate to have excellent schools, and we are committed to maintaining and enhancing their quality. We will continue to support initiatives that promote innovation, inclusivity, and a nurturing learning environment. Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, and we are steadfast in our dedication to making this a reality.

We believe that by working together with par-

ents, teachers, administrators, our fellow board members, and the community at large, our schools will flourish, fostering learning, growth, and success for every Portland student. We invite you to join us in our mission to provide the best possible education for our children. Your input and involvement are invaluable, and we look forward to collaborating with you to shape the future of our schools.

Thank you for your support, and for your trust in our leadership. We are honored to continue serving this wonderful community and excited for what lies ahead for the Portland Schools.

With gratitude,

Kim Nagy-Maruschock, Meg Scata,  
Sarah Spear, and Laurel Steinhauser  
Portland

## Veterans Donations

To the Editor:

The American Legion Post 197, Ladies Auxiliary, in Marlborough, would like to thank the Marlborough Country Bakery for their kindness and generosity. Each year the bakery provides a table for the ladies auxiliary to display poppies on Veterans day. The red poppy reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our Veterans while protecting our freedoms. All donations go to the Veterans and their families.

Lori Schreindorfer – Marlborough  
Secretary, Post 197

## Movie Screening

To the Editor:

Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time—friction she knew all too well. In *Screenagers*, as with her award-winning documentaries on mental health, Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, *Screenagers* reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. AHM Youth & Family Services (25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron) is hosting a free viewing of this award-winning

documentary on Thursday, December 7 beginning at 6:30 PM. This movie was created for parents to watch together with their children in 6-12th grade to start the conversation and to see things through the other parents' eyes. Open to Connecticut residents. Pizza snack will be provided by Wicked Slice (Hebron) and movie-style popcorn by AHM.

Please RSVP to jenniferb@ahmyouth.org with number of adults and youth attending. Learn more at [www.screenagersmovie.com](http://www.screenagersmovie.com).

Jenn Boehler  
AHM Youth & Family Services  
Prevention Coordinator

## Vote Yes for Senior Center

Dear Colchester Residents,

The Senior Center... From the start, I have always said everyone benefits by having the Senior Center be a premier attraction, just like the Town Green, the fields, the businesses in town, the best schools and the list goes on. Property values increase with all of these being the best they can be. Businesses get more traffic when people come to town to visit in any capacity. Our current Senior Center has members from many neighboring towns. They come in for a program and probably enjoy lunch at a Colchester restaurant and fill their gas tanks before they leave. And of course, our Seniors benefit with a modern space to meet the growing needs of our increasing senior population with programming and events.

Our Seniors have supported the schools, the fields, the Youth Center and other initiatives. We have been talking about a new Senior Center for years and years. When the original bonding referendum was brought before the Town, it was widely endorsed. It is time to come out and support the additional funding needed to see this fantastic project to the finish line. I am voting YES to both questions on the ballot. Our Seniors, our community, our future depend on supporting issues like this. My ask? – come out and vote YES to both questions on November 28th. Polls are open at the Town Hall from 6 am to 8pm.

Sincerely,  
Mary Bylone – Colchester

## Senior Center Referendum

To the Editor:

The Colchester Senior Center is a vital asset here in our town. There are over 1700 members and that number is growing. The staff is terrific and the programs are wonderful. Space is limited in the current building (one of many issues) resulting in members being turned away ap-

See Letters, page 31

### ADVERTISERS

*The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverast News Bulletin* will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error; and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

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## Obituaries

## Colchester

## Eleanor Phillips

Eleanor Jean Phillips, 83, of Colchester, passed away on Sunday, November 12, 2023.

Born May 25, 1940, in Boston, MA, she was the daughter of the late James and Jean (Grant) Macintyre. Eleanor was a graduate of Roslindale High School in Massachusetts. She was employed as loan office manager for CorePlus Federal Credit Union, where she had worked for many years.

Eleanor was involved in the local community center, as well as the Thames Valley Council for Community Action. Eleanor lived in various locations on the eastern and western coasts of the U.S. as well as Alaska during her husband James Phillips' naval career, settling in Gales Ferry for 30 years before relocating to Colchester, CT.

She was a very crafty person who developed a passion for photography; Eleanor held the creative ability to recognize and showcase the natural beauty within the world through her photography. Eleanor deeply enjoyed flying and valued her time spent as a charter pilot flying from Groton to Montauk. Being a pilot allowed Eleanor to spend cherished moments with her daughters while in the air embarking on local flights, as well as farther destinations such as Maine and Florida.

Eleanor will be deeply missed by all that knew her, especially by her beloved daughters, Sandra and Deborah Phillips, along with countless other extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, Eleanor was predeceased by her son James Phillips. A memorial service will be held at the Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Road, Colchester, CT 06415 on Saturday November 18, at 10AM. To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Eleanor, please visit [www.auroramcarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramcarthyfuneralhome.com)



## Portland

## James Gustafson

James (Jim) D. Gustafson, a beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Friday, November 10th; he was 68.

The youngest of the four children of the late Karl V. and Marie J. (Hammerseth) Gustafson, Jim was a life-long resident of Portland, a town he truly loved.

A very outgoing Swede, Jim had the ability to make strong friends on the spot, and was well known throughout the community. He was a career U.S. Postal Service employee, having been employed there for many years. Jim was an avid sports fan, and had followed both the Red Sox and Celtics for his entire adult life. He recently discovered the term "Chowdahead" and was very excited to buy and distribute the apparel to other Chowdaheads. Golf was another of his favorite sports, both as a player and as a follower of professional golf. He played in many golf tournaments with his buddies from growing up.

In his younger years, Jim played softball in the Middlesex County Men's League, but he would tell you that some of his happiest sports memories were those of his years as a Little League coach for his son Evan's teams leading them to undefeated seasons and multiple championships, where he lovingly earned the nickname "The Legend" by some of the players. He was also very proud of coaching Lindsey in CYO basketball and making it all the way to the New England Championship. As the parents of the players knew so well, Jim was a great coach, always putting his young players' well-being first, teaching them the game, and coaching them to many wins. His coaching expertise was highly touted in a *Middletown Press* article entitled "Coach Gustafson."

In more recent years, without question, Jim's greatest passion was spending time with his family, in particular his beloved grandchildren, Mason, Mia, and McKenna Downing, and Easton James Gustafson, all of Portland. Jim loved shooting hoops with his oldest grandchild, Mason, and attended Mason's youth basketball games faithfully. He'd been looking forward to watching Mason play on a traveling team this season. He couldn't say no to a bike ride with Mia- or to Mia at all for that matter. He melted with McKenna's tight hugs and acted surprised every time she scared him when she came home from school. The smile on his face was amazing when Easton recently started yelling "Gus!" There's no doubt that "Gus," as the grandkids called Jim, will be watching the games from above and will have the best seat in the house!

Jim's two children, Lindsey Marie Gustafson Downing (Brian) and Evan James Gustafson (Amy), both of Portland, were the greatest joys of his life. He was so proud of them and made no bones about it! In addition to his children, their spouses, and his grandchildren, Jim is survived by his siblings and their spouses: Susan Gustafson Golet (Frank) of Rhode Island, Joan Gustafson Tester (Ted) of Portland, and Bruce Gustafson (Debbie) of Cromwell.

The four "Gustafson kids," as Jim and his siblings were often called, even into adulthood, will continue to be bound together by the love they had for one another, and by their many shared memories. Jim dearly loved his nieces, nephews, and cousins as well. His nephews in particular will never forget the many great conversations "talking sports" with Uncle Jim.

Surviving him are his niece, Kaelene Gustafson of Middletown; his nephews, Rob Stone



of MA, Jared Tester of Portland, and Christian Gustafson of PA; his great-nephew, Anthony Stone of MA; his cousins, Cynthia Bizon of FL, and Lois Vardaro of NY as well as the entire Foley clan. Jim also leaves many close and caring lifelong friends who will miss him greatly.

In honor of Jim's love of sports, we encourage you to represent any of your favorite teams during his services with a shirt or hat. In lieu of flowers, we know Jim would be honored to have donations in his name made to Gianelli's Early Learning Center in Middletown, CT to support a place he truly loved.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, November 21st at the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Rock Landing Cemetery, Haddam Neck. Friends may call at the , Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland on Monday, November 20th from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Colchester

## Jeffrey Clermont

Jeffrey Clermont, 56, of Colchester passed away on November 8, 2023. Born on June 12, 1967, in Willimantic CT; beloved son of Alan and Susan (Martel) Clermont.

Jeffrey was a graduate of the Windham Technical High School Machine Drafting program class of 1985. He was an employee of General Dynamics for 37 years; Jeffrey began his career as a pipe designer, later becoming supervisor of pipe design, and finishing his career as a principal program representative. He had also served as chairman of the board of finance for the town of Hampton, CT for 6 years before relocating to Colchester.

Jeffrey married his partner in crime Joanne in 1990, spending the following 33 years enjoying each other's company and building a life together. Jeffrey's greatest joy in life was spending time with family, treasuring every precious moment spent with his daughters Renee and Haley.

He served on the Chaplin recreation committee and coached his oldest daughter's soccer team when living in Chaplin, CT. In his early years, Jeffrey was an avid bowler playing with many teams at the Lucky Strike bowling lanes in Mansfield, CT. Jeffrey also played softball with the Willimantic softball league for many years, some of the best alongside his father as his mother enthusiastically cheered them on.

Jeff was a very passionate runner; it was a thrill for him to participate in Spartan races, and tuff mudders. When He needed some tranquility, Jeff could be found enjoying fly fishing, kayaking, and hiking in countless state parks and any road less traveled. He loved summer vacations every year with his family at their favorite place; Old Orchard beach in Maine, a family tradition for the past 21 years where innumerable fond memories were made.

Jeff's sarcasm and quick wit brought many laughs and groans to friends and family. He was always the life of the party even at the expense of making fun of himself. Jeff's presence will be sorely missed, yet no one will miss him as much as his best friend in life, his wife Joanne. Jeffrey will be profoundly missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him especially his family; wife, Joanne Clermont; daughters, Renee Clermont, and husband Sebastian Rose of Lewiston Maine, Haley Clermont of Glastonbury, CT; mother, Susan Clermont; sister, Kellie and husband John McLaughlin and her children Nick, Colin, and Ally; sister in law, Karen, and husband Zach, and their children Blake, and Logan; father in law, Robert Schwanda of Willington, CT, along with many special cousins, aunts, un-



cles, dear friends, neighbors, fellow sportsmen, long time schoolmates, and colleagues local, and abroad in the United Kingdom.

Jeffrey is predeceased by his father, Alan Clermont, as well as his mother-in-law Francoise. The family would also like to recognize Joachim Baehring, M.D neuro- oncologist and Mathew Dodd P.A from the brain tumor program at Yale New Haven Smilow cancer hospital, as well as Jennifer Moliterno Gunel M.D neurosurgeon. The family would also like to thank Waters Edge center for health and rehabilitation in Middletown, CT, 2nd floor nursing staff, C.N.A's, and behind the scenes individuals for the compassion, care, and kindness they showed Jeffrey and his family during his last months of life. They treated him like family and the Clermont family will be forever grateful.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Jeffrey can be made to the Brain tumor Fund, or to the Lovemark Fund at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Please make checks payable to Yale New Haven Hospital and mail to YNH development; P.O Box 1849, New Haven, CT. 06508. Include Jeffrey Clermont and fund designation on the memo line. Secure online gifts can be made at [www.givetoynh.org](http://www.givetoynh.org). Please include fund designation and Jeffrey's name. To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Jeffrey, please visit [www.auroramcarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramcarthyfuneralhome.com)

## East Hampton

## Eleanor Louise Jones



Eleanor Louise Jones went to be with the Lord on November 11, 2023. She was born on September 28, 1926, in Ellsworth, the daughter of Harry S. Jones, Jr. and Beatrice E. Jones.

Eleanor graduated from Bangor Maine School of Commerce, now Husson University, in 1946 for teaching. She taught Business in Houlton Maine from 1946-1949; in 1949-1950 she went to the University of Maine to receive her bachelor's degree in business. She taught Business from 1951-1956 at Brunswick High School then from 1956-1990 (34) years at East Hampton High School in East Hampton, CT. She retired in June of 1990 and moved back to the family homestead where she was a caregiver and still a teacher in life to many of us.

Eleanor loved to make quilts, when babies were born, she would make one. She enjoyed baking and she was famous for her fudge. She volunteered countless hours at Friends in Action, Lioness Club for 32 years, overseeing Seaport and Courtland Living Center with their bingo and ice cream socials, Meals for ME 25 years, Board Member of MDI Housing Authority, recipient of Paul Harris Award 2003, Ellsworth Chamber Citizen of the Year in 2014 and member of the First Congregational Church in Ellsworth.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Nieces; Emilie Jones, Jennifer Jones; nephews; Chris Jones and wife Patricia, Jonathan Mahon and wife Michelle; great nieces and nephews, Carrie Jones and partner Ryan, Brandon (BJ) Jones and wife Jessica, Trent Mahon and fiancé Mikayla Tripp, Steven Mahon and wife Katie, Christine Mahon, Ashton, Freeman, Casey Smart; great-great nieces and nephews, Katie Mahon Daniel, Mason and Ashton Freeman, Ryder Jones, and Quentin Mahon; great-great-nephew, Thatcher Daniel; cousins, Joan Broussard and husband Chief, and Elizabeth Meeks. She was predeceased by her parents, Harry S. Jones, Jr. and wife Beatrice; brother, Harry S. Jones III and wife Elaine M. Jones; sister, Harriet Mahon and husband George; nephew George David Mahon and wife Kathleen; niece, Mary Mahon and great-great niece, Haleigh Mahon-Smart.

There are so many stories we have within each of us of her selfless giving and guidance throughout the years. She was known as Auntie E, to E by some, she has left an indelible mark on us that can never be erased.

Family and friends will gather for visitation at Jordan-Fernald, 113 Franklin St. Ellsworth, November 25, 2023 from 3:00-5:00. A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational

## East Hampton

## David Sorvillo

David J. Sorvillo, 76, of East Hampton, CT, passed away peacefully on November 6th., 2023, at Middlesex Hospital surrounded by his loving family. David was born August 31st, 1947, in Torrington, CT. David is predeceased by his Father Joseph Sorvillo, his mother Margaret Casal and his loving stepmother Mildred Sorvillo. He was also predeceased by this brother-in-law Scott Lufbery.

David served in the U.S. Army stationed in Berlin Germany. He transferred to USAR Control GP in St. Louis Missouri. After serving his country David worked at Marino's Honda in Middletown, Hartford Harley and United Refrigeration.

David is survived by and will be missed by his wife Joann Williams, his two children David Sorvillo, Jr. and his daughter Marie Sorvillo. Four grandchildren Sierra, Taylor, Samantha and Trey and one great grandson. He also leaves his brother Joseph Sorvillo and his wife Midge, Gary Sorvillo and his wife Lorraine. His sister whom he adored Missy Lufbery. He also leaves several nieces and nephews. David enjoyed riding his Harley, gardening and collecting nautical treasures.

He will be missed by all his friends and family. There are no calling hours at this time.

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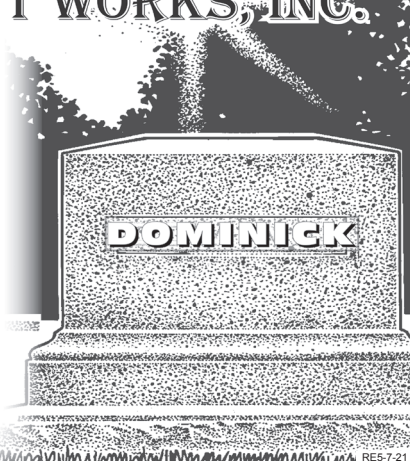
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Obituaries

Church, 2 Church St., Ellsworth, November 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm with a reception to follow.

Donations in Eleanor's memory may be made to Friends in Action, 115 State Street, Ellsworth. 04605.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.jordanfernald.com](http://www.jordanfernald.com)

Portland

Patricia B. Riccardo

Patricia B. Riccardo, 84, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, wife of the late, Arthur R. Hetrick, Sr. and Robert Riccardo, died Friday, November 10th, 2023, at Aaron Manor, Chester, with family at her side.



Pat was born on February 14, 1939, in Middletown, Connecticut, daughter of the late, Vincent and Stella (Wendrychowicz) Beauchemin. Besides her husbands, Pat was predeceased by a brother John Beauchemin of Colorado.

Prior to her retirement she was employed as a scheduling coordinator for Middlesex Hospital Visiting Nurses.

Pat is survived by, a son, Arthur R. Hetrick, Jr. and his wife Mary Ellen of Portland, three daughters, Suzanne Madore and her husband, Gilbert of Higganum, Maureen Fazzino and her husband, Carmelo of East Haddam, Karen Miano and her husband, Michael of Portland. A sister, Carol Gilbert and her husband, George of Portland, and many nieces and nephews. Twelve grandchildren and seven great grandchildren – Eileen (Jason) Umba-Neuwinger and their children Siena and Landon; Frank (Andrea) Fazzino, David Fazzino, Matthew (Ashley) Hetrick and their children Levi and Ethan; Tyler (Michelle) Hetrick and their children Jameson and Kinsley; Emily (Michael) Ossa and their son Owen, Hannah, Molly (fiancé Anthony) Megan, and Morgan Madore; and Vincent and Michaela Miano.

Pat was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Mary's Church in Portland most of her life. She enjoyed traveling with her high school girlfriends, gardening, and was an avid UCONN women's basketball fan. But she loved spending time with her family most of all.

A Funeral Liturgy will be held, Monday, November 20th at 11 a.m. at Saint Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave. Portland. Friends may call prior to the service at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver Street, Middletown from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Pat's family would like to thank the staff at Aaron Manor and Middlesex Health Hospice for the care and compassion she received during her last few months. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Pat's name to Middlesex Health Hospice or Alzheimer's Association. To share memories or express condolences online please visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com)

Colchester

Rosanne Tancredi

Rosanne Monica Tancredi, 78 of Colchester, passed away on Thursday, November 9, 2023. Born September 10, 1945 in Hartford, CT; she was a daughter of the late Frank and Rose (Santangelo) Lucca.



On November 11, 1967, she married her husband, the late Martin Tancredi; they shared over thirty years of marriage together. After Martin's passing in 1998, Rosanne returned to school and graduated from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven where she obtained her Bachelor's in Business Administration. She went on to work at United Health Care until her retirement in 2016.

Rosanne was a woman of considerable faith and she and her husband were communicants of St. Andrew Catholic Church for many years. Rosanne was a talented baker who came from a long line of passionate food makers. She carried on family traditions by passing down recipes to her children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Like many Italian grandmothers, she showed her love through cooking nourishing meals and hosting countless gatherings. For Rosanne, food was love and her company a comfort to all who came into her circle.

Her greatest joy in life came from her family, especially her grandchildren; she effortlessly embraced the role of being a grandmother – and her family was better for it. She loved old movies, dancing, driving around Lake Hayward on Sunday afternoons with her daughter, and the simplicity of summer days spent at the beach. She encouraged everyone around her to explore the things they loved and follow that dream to its end.

She is survived by her children, Monica and husband Gary Alford, Martin and wife Laura Tancredi; her brother Frank Lucca and sister Serena and husband Ron Guerrette; grandchildren Izabella, Gabriella, Micaela, Vanessa and Giovanni Tancredi and Alyssa and Emma Alford; goddaughter and niece Jessica Vanderberg and dear friends Peter and Denise Salmoiraghi; in addition to her parents and husband, she is predeceased by her son Michael Tancredi.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, November 17, 2023 from 5 to 7 PM at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester, CT 06415. A memorial mass will take place the following day directly at the St. Andrew Church 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT at 10 AM, burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillettes Lane in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made to the American Heart Association [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692. To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Rosanne, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com)

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

★ Letters cont. from page 29

proximately once a week.

The town will go to referendum for another \$1.5 million for a total of \$11 million to complete the Senior Center building project. The good news is – although there has been increases in costs, there are additional monies available to offset much of that cost. The additional monies include: a state grant is \$2.5 million, a generous donation to the Colchester Senior Center from the Bendas estate of \$575,000 and an ARPA grant of \$32,691. A total savings to the town of \$3,107,691, leaves the amount the town

would have to bond at \$7,892,309.

Because the town budgets for consistent bond payments we should not expect an increase in our taxes. There are two questions on the ballot. Unless both pass, the project will not be funded to completion. I urge you to vote yes and yes on November 28th.

Thank you,  
Terry Brown – Colchester

Note: Brown is a member of the Colchester Commission on Aging but is speaking as a private citizen.

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The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to solicit input on the following proposed amendments to the Andover Zoning Regulations:  
Section 4.11 Accessory Apartments – Use of Right/Site Plan  
Section 4.21 Lighting  
Section 5 Licensed Day Care - Andover Rural Design District  
Section 7 Licensed Day Care - Andover Lake District  
Section 15 Signs (Public Interest)  
Section 23 Lighting (Height & Intensity)  
Section 24 Definitions  
Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comment, either verbal or written, regarding the proposed changes. Public access will be arranged for individuals without access to a computer. Please contact the Building and Land-Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the commencement of the hearing.  
W. Jed Larson  
Planning & Zoning Commission Chair

2TB 11/10, 11/17

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**GLOBAL 17 LLC**  
**244 Middletown Ave.**  
**East Hampton, CT**  
**860.267.6639**

Will sell or otherwise dispose of such personal property on Saturday November 25, 2023 at 8:00 AM  
Property previously owned by:  
A Paradis K Hartley D Benedetto

2TB 11/10, 11/17

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**NOTICE OF ACTION**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on November 13, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive to consider the following:  
**ZBA-23-007: Tommaso Prozano**, 12 Terp Road, Reduce westside setback from 25' to 16.75' for Garage, Map 06/ Block 14/ Lot 5/6 - Denied  
**ZBA-23-008: Flanders Road Estates LLC**, Flanders Road, Increase height size from 30' to 32' 7.5" for single family home. Map 26/ Block 87/ Lot 6 - Approved

1TB 11/17

REAL ESTATE

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**293 OAKWOOD DRIVE GLASTONBURY:**  
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RE11-17-23

**"PET OF THE WEEK"**

Meet Marlow! This happy girl is a pint-sized pit mix about 2-3 years old. Marlow is sweet as can be and if that precious face doesn't win you over in two seconds, her wiggle-butt sure will. She loves to play and the toy that's in her mouth is always second favorite to the one that's in your hand. She's gotten along well with other dogs and seems to LOVE car rides. Marlow would love to curl up on the couch of her very own home, joyfully squeaking the squeakiest ball you can find.

Sandy, 6 months, should be named Tigger because he is bouncy, pouncy, fun fun fun fun fun! He has come a long way in the past few months. He was part of a litter from a feral cat in our neighborhood. He had never had human contact but now he follows us around the house and comes to bed with us. He gets along with our other cats. He is still a little nervous if you make a sudden movement towards him and he might not do well with small children. He loves to play and will be a great addition to your family.

**FOR MORE INFO ON ADOPTING CATS OR DOGS, CALL 860-569-0722**  
**VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED – CALL: 860-569-0722**

**Protectors of Animals, Inc.** 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118  
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization, rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs. **WWW.POAINC.ORG**

RE11-17-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CIT-11-23

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**9 Gina Lane, Marlborough \$450,000**  
Priced to sell! This 4 bedroom 3 bath home offers hardwood floors, a lovely corner lot, privacy yet still in a nice neighborhood and tons of space. The first floor offers an eat-in kitchen, formal living and dining rooms, a family room and a first floor office. The second floor offers 4 bedrooms, and two full baths. Finished lower level with half bath and wet bar walks out to the great yard. Roof and Siding are both newer however updating is needed in the interior!

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 177 Reidy Hill Road, Hebron • \$575,000



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Come see this traditional Cape Cod home nestled on 2.29 acres of mature landscaping and beautiful perennial gardens. This rare home offers four bedrooms with 2½ baths. A country kitchen with stainless steel appliances, gas stove, family room with gas fireplace, newer Buderus furnace, new septic system, generator hookup, plus an oversized 2 car garage with lots of storage space also adds to this unique home. A huge rec room with sitting area and ½ bath is located over the garage along with a screened-in porch, lower-level finished room with built-ins adds nicely to the square footage of this home. Attached as an added bonus is an adorable in-law apartment containing a living room, kitchen and bedroom with ensuite bathroom. Annmarie Meres will be hosting this Open House.

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RE11-17-23

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CIT10-26-23

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RE8-13-21

## Town of Hebron Douglas Library of Hebron Children's Librarian

The Town of Hebron and the Douglas Library Board of Trustees are seeking an enthusiastic, energetic, community-oriented, individual to serve as the Children's Librarian. Qualifications include: Master of Library Science (MLS) and three years of library experience in children's services. Starting salary range is \$55,000 to \$60,000 DOE plus generous benefit package. Please visit [www.hebronct.com](http://www.hebronct.com) for more details. Candidates should send a cover letter, resume and Hebron application to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by Friday, December 15, 2023. The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

1TB 11/17

## REFEREES; GYM ATTENDANT-WINTER BASKETBALL SEASON

Parks & Recreation Dept  
 Town of Portland, CT (EOE)  
 Deadline: 12/1/2023  
 Gym Attendant Hourly Wage Range: \$15.00 - \$17.46  
 Referee Hourly Wage Range: \$15.00 - \$23.36  
 Submit Seasonal Recreation Employment Application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071  
 Referees & Scorekeepers for Winter Basketball Program (January to March) to work evenings & weekends; flexible hours. Reports to Director of Parks & Recreation; responsible for officiating & score keeping at games; uphold a positive environment while maintaining control of game. Subject to background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.  
 Qualifications: Familiarity with basketball, enthusiasm for sports & working with youth. Prior experience, First Aid & CPR certificate preferred. Junior staff must be age 15 upon employment; Adult staff must possess high school diploma or GED equivalent.

1TB 11/17

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RE13-13-20

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# TREE & LANDSCAPING



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