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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Three-peat!... The RHAM High School girls volleyball team won a third straight CIAC state title, defeating Joel Barlow in the championship match on Nov. 18. The win was the program's 10th state championship overall. See story on page 27.

Senior Center Vote Is Next Week

By Michael Sinkewicz

Less than a month after Election Day, Colchester voters will head to the polls once again next week.

With the town's senior center building facing a significant budget shortfall, a crucial town-wide referendum will determine whether additional funding will be injected into the project.

Voting will take place next Tuesday, Nov. 28, at Town Hall; polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In February, the Senior Center Building Committee requested an additional \$1.5 million for constructing the new facility, taking the total budget from \$9.5 million up to \$11 million.

To fulfill the building committee's request, or just a portion of the request, residents will be presented with two unique questions, requiring two separate answers.

This week, officials stressed the importance of the additional funding, stating that if the referendum fails, there isn't a "Plan B."

The Referendum Questions

Question 1: "Shall the town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the Board of Select-

men to expend an additional sum not to exceed \$32,691 of American Rescue Plan Act funds and \$575,000 of funds from a donation received from the estate of Stephen J. Bendas (increasing the appropriation by \$607,691 to an aggregate \$1,076,691) for costs related to the design, construction and furnishing of a new senior center?"

Voting "yes" on this question would allow officials to utilize funding that is already in the town's possession: a donation left to the town, as well as an ARPA grant that is specifically allotted to senior centers.

Combined, those two amounts would earmark \$607,691 of additional funds into the senior center project.

In order to reach the total appropriation request of \$1.5 million made by the building committee, the town would need to obtain an additional \$892,309 on top of the \$607,691, which is covered by part two on the ballot.

Question 2: "Shall the town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend an additional sum not to exceed \$892,309 (increasing the appropriation to an aggregate \$11,000,000) for costs related to the design, construction and furnishing of a new senior center and authorize an additional issuance of bonds and notes in the amount of \$892,309 (increasing the borrowing authorization to an aggregate \$10,392,309) to finance the portion of the appropriation not defrayed from grants and other funds?"

This question is asking for additional funding from Colchester taxpayers.

If both questions were approved — the \$607,691 acquired from "question one" and

See Senior Center Vote, page 20

Bobcats Soccer Captures Historic Title

By Josh Howard

In what turned out to be a championship match for the ages, Bacon Academy girls soccer outlasted previously undefeated Suffield 2-1 on penalty kicks (11-10) to win a state championship on Nov. 18 at Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford.

Once the dust had settled on the epic match, the Bobcats had earned the program's first state title, leaving the Capital City as the Class M state champions.

Junior goalie Liz Glover earned the Most Valuable Player award after scoring on a pair of penalty kicks, including the championship-clincher, and stopping four of Suffield's penalty kicks.

Glover said that it was a surreal feeling once she netted the final kick to cement the title.

"I was so happy that I even made it in, and turning around to see my entire team rush the field and hearing all of our fans cheering was just incredible," stated Glover, who saved 10 shots in regulation. "This being the first year Bacon Academy girls soccer has ever made an appearance at the state finals was already such a huge accomplishment for us and our program, but winning was something else entirely."

Midway through the first half, sophomore Alyssa Blanchette provided Bacon Academy a 1-0 lead after getting an assist from junior Katherine Novak.

Suffield's Hazel Qua knotted the match late in regulation to send it into extras.

After 100 minutes of game play — including a pair of 10-minute overtime periods — the sun had set on the stadium and the game remained tied before going into PKs.

That's when Glover went to work and delivered her MVP moment.

"Being named the MVP of the match was something I truly never thought was possible about nine months ago," stated Glover, who suffered an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) tear earlier this year.

She called the grueling recovery "one of the hardest things I've had to do, but being here now, it is definitely all worth it. I could not be prouder of the team, the coaches, and everyone who put in so much work to get us here."

Head coach Matt Rafala said that Glover put in "extraordinary" hard work while rehabbing, saying she had a "calming effect" on the team when she returned from injury this season.

Similar to Glover's recovery, the Bobcats' journey to the state title match was also a roller coaster.

Following an 11-4-1 regular season, the team was ousted in the first round of the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) tourney.

But once the state tourney began, Bacon began to sizzle, starting with a pair of convincing home wins over Oxford (5-1) in the first round and Windham (3-0) in round two.

The Bobcats, who entered the state tourney as the No 11 seed, then went on the road for the

quarterfinals round and upset No. 3 Granby Memorial 3-2, winning on penalty kicks (4-2) to advance to the semifinals.

It was the team's second straight trip to the semifinals, losing to Mercy High School at Willow Brook Park in New Britain a year ago.

This fall, they made the most of their return trip to the turf at Willow Brook, defeating No. 2 seed and unbeaten Woodland 1-0 on Nov. 14.

With 5:02 left in regulation, sophomore Mia Hageman scored a goal that proved to be the difference when she sent home a shot after receiving a perfect lead pass from Blanchette.

"I was running as hard as I could because I wanted to get a goal, and I saw open space," recalled Hageman.

Glover and the Bobcats defense, led by senior captains Emily Ferrigno and Cara Shea, blanked the Hawks from Beacon Falls, who had scored eight goals over their first three tourney games.

"We all have such good defensive chemistry; we all talk a lot," Glover said of the defensive unit. "It makes it easy when I have these girls in front of me."

Rafala believed the experience the team gained in the semifinals a year ago paid dividends.

"Most of the players that played in that game last year, played in that game tonight," Rafala said after the team advanced to their first state title match. "They've played in big moments be-

See Bobcats Soccer, page 11

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RE10-7-22

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### Andover Library Basketpalooza

The Friends of Andover Library group is again hosting the Basketpalooza fundraiser this year – and donations are appreciated.

Residents are asked to make and donate themed baskets. 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, and more.

If you'd like to contribute a finished basket (theme of your choice), call 860-742-7428 or visit the library at 355 Route 6 and indicate your interest as soon as possible.

### Christmas Bake Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold its annual Christmas Fair and Bake Sale Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be handcrafted items, as well as Grandma's Attic, a basket raffle and bake sale.

Call the church office at 860-742-7696 for more information.

### Cheney Tech Honor Roll

The following Andover students made the honor roll at Howell Cheney Technical High School in Manchester for the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year:

**High Honors:** Carah Michelle Hunter, Grade 12.

**Honors:** Madison Nicole Bassett, Grade 10; Andrew J. Maillet, Grade 11; Xavier Luciano Franklin, Grade 12.



# PHOTOS with SANTA

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**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. 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.” Collection bins have been placed at Andover Elementary School, Town Hall, and at Andover Public Library. For more information, call Mrs. Claus at 860-742-3033 or email Mrs\_Merry\_Claus@comcast.net.

**Congregational Church News**

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The service also streams live on the church’s Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org. **Children’s Church:** Sunday school is provided. **Food Pantry:** Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring

your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m. **AA Meetings:** Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m. **Sonshine Stampers:** Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. **Tree-Lighting:** Sunday, Dec. 10. **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service:** Sunday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m.

**Senior Citizen News & Notes**

The following items have been updated for Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled. If you want to attend any events, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Also call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs, including rides to medical appointments. For all Young at Heart events including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for all trip information. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, andoverct.org. **Shopping Dates:** Willimantic: Tuesdays, Dec. 5 and 19. Manchester: Tuesday, Dec. 12, and Thursday, Dec. 28. **Senior Luncheons** will be held at the Town Hall community room at noon Thursday, Nov. 30. There will be a Christmas lunch with entertainment by Carolyn Brodginginski on Friday, Dec.

15. Reservations required for all lunches; no walk-ins accepted. **Upcoming Trips:** Christmas Party, 12/1; Branford Christmas Show, 12/8; Evergreen Walk, 12/7; Festival of Lights, 12/14; Nautilus Museum, time for shopping and the Shack for lunch, 12/22. Contact Carol Lee to sign up and Palazzi for a ride. **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.

**Volunteers Sought for Fields Committee**

The town recently received a \$500,000 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant to cover most of the costs of improving the athletic fields on Long Hill – and town selectmen are now looking for people to help oversee the project. These improvements, which are designed to benefit residents of all ages, include the addition of a playground, water and electrical connections to the softball field, three new pickleball courts, and lighting for the soccer field and pickleball courts.

The Board of Selectmen is setting up a committee to help oversee this project. The board is looking for a diverse set of volunteers including parents with young children, those interested in athletics including soccer and softball, as well as adults interested in pickleball to be on the committee. Anyone with a construction or engineering background is also welcome to apply. If interested, submit a letter with a short description to the Andover Town Clerk at townclerk@andoverct.org, or mail or drop it off to the town hall at 17 School Rd., Attention: Town Clerk.

**Community Festival of Trees**

The Town of Andover, in collaboration with Fitch Family Farm, will hold a Community Festival of Trees Sunday, Dec. 10, and families, sports groups, committees, and businesses all are welcome to decorate a tree. Call/text Carol Lee at Town Hall to reserve your tree, at 860-989-6988. Public viewing and a community auction is set for Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9-10, at Fitch Family Farm, 11 Bunker Hill Rd. All trees must be decorated by 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, with auction bids closing at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Enjoy holiday music and refreshments by

the fire, sponsored by the Andover Recreation Commission. There will be a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. Vote for your favorite community auction tree, and bid on one to take home; all winners will announced during the festival Sunday, Dec. 10, from 4-7 p.m. A portion of auction proceeds will benefit various Andover charities.

**Annual Toy Drive**

The Andover town employees are collecting new unwrapped toys and gift cards to distribute to Andover families for Christmas throughout the holiday season. All are asked to bring donations to the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd. For more information, or if you are or know of a family in need of assistance, call Roberta at 860-742-7305 ext 4215 or Carol at 860-742-0188 ext 2.

**Christmas Tree Lighting**

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, invites everyone to help light its Christmas Tree Sunday, Dec. 3, at 5 p.m. There will be a carol sing followed by hot chocolate, cookies and fire pits to roast s’mores.

**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.

**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.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 26 North Main Street.  
APPLICATION #Z-07-23 – Zoning Commission (Applicant) amendment to article Seven A.F.1.C Required yards – front yard setback.  
Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.  
Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 11/24, 12/1

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RE11-24-23

## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

First off: a tip of the hat and much thanks to Josh Howard and Mike Sinkewicz for filling in for me while I was on vacation last week. I took a brief European vacation with family – first Ireland, then England, then back to Ireland. It was just a wonderful time.

There were frankly too many highlights to mention, but one particular standout was seeing *Les Misérables* in London's West End. As a musical theater buff, I was of course familiar with *Les Miz*, and saw the terrific 2012 movie adaptation starring Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway, but I'd never seen the play live. So to be able to remedy that in the city in which *Les Miz* made its world debut back in 1985 – well, that was pretty freaking special.

\*\*\*

Longtime *Rivereast* readers will recall that at one point we shared Salem news. We stopped about 14 or 15 years ago, due to space constraints, but I was sent a Salem-centric press release this week that's too cool to keep to myself.

Salem resident David Bingham, a state and national advocate for pro-environment policies for decades, was recently honored by the CT League of Conservation Voters with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bingham, a retired physician, joined the National League of Conservation Voters during the first Earth Week, back in 1970. He was a founding board member of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTCLV) in 2000, and currently serves as co-chair of the League. He also currently chairs CTCLV's Political Action Committee, participating in hundreds of endorsement interviews with po-

litical candidates for the Connecticut General Assembly over the years, and supporting their candidacies for elected office.

A founding member of the Salem Land Trust, Bingham is also a member of the Eight-mile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee. He was an elected member of the Salem Planning and Zoning Commission for 36 years.

As a lifelong activist on state policy issues and electoral politics, Bingham has advocated and testified on behalf of the Sierra Club, NARAL Pro-Choice America, Planned Parenthood, Population Connection, Rivers Alliance, CT Land Conservation Council and Audubon CT.

During CTCLV's Environmental Achievement Awards ceremony in October, CTCLV Executive Director Lori Brown referred to Bingham as a champion for the environment and an inspiration for all who work to protect our water, air, and open spaces for the safety and enjoyment of future generations.

"David has significantly shaped the mission and goals of CTCLV's work in his role as Board Chair and as an active advocate at the Capitol," Brown said in a CTCLV press release. "He is our go-to person for electoral work that helps build the next generation of climate champions, and his knowledge and passion for policy is immediately evident to anyone he talks to. Anyone who has seen his beautiful property in Salem and met his wonderful wife Annie knows that David practices what he preaches when it comes to environmental stewardship."

Editor's Desk continued on page 5

## Bulletin Board

My pal Suds McSpatz polished off the last of his greasy corned beef hash (which he considers "brain food"), settled back in the diner booth seat and looked at me contemplatively. "You know," he remarked, "I've been thinking about the mechanics of women."

"Gee," I replied. "I'm flabbergasted. Stunned. Astonished. Here I thought you spent most of your time contemplating the arcane mysteries of the universe and it turns out you're thinking about women. At your age, no less. Shocking."

"Let me ask you something, Sherlock," he said, unperturbed by my keen wit. "Not for nuttin', but what could be more mysterious than a woman?"

He had me there.

"Actually," he continued, "I'm talking about gender thermostats." He eyed a fragment of bacon on my plate. "You going to eat that?"

"Gender thermostats?" I said, popping the bacon in my mouth.

"Surely, even a painfully slow learner such as yourself has been married long enough to recognize that men and women have different thermostats."

"Are you talking about sex? Because if you are, I'm going to have to go home. I promised my wife I wouldn't listen to your views on sex any more. She says you're a miso- a miso- ... She says you're misinformed."

"About sex?"

"About everything."

"Well, not this time, Bacon Boy. I'm talking here about one of those mysterious laws of nature that decrees that no matter what the temperature may be, women tend to be cold when men are hot and they're hot when men are cold."

"Are you sure this isn't about sex?"

"Look, how many times have you been practically cooked alive in your car because your wife says she's cold and insists on keeping the heat going full blast?"

"Actually, it happened just the other day," I admitted. "It was a nice comfortable afternoon and she had the heat so high I was afraid the seat covers were going to melt."

Then she sulked and put on a sweater when I cracked the window open. I felt like a stoker in a steel mill. I'm surprised I didn't spontaneously burst into flames. Even so, I think some of the hair on my arms got parboiled."

"What little there is."

"Which only aggravates the magnitude of the injury."

"And how many sub-zero winter nights have you spent huddled in bed under the blankets with a hooded sweatshirt on because she insists on keeping a window open?"

"She says her feet are hot and she sticks them out from under the covers."

"Taking advantage of the jet stream while your furnace runs nonstop," he said, nodding sagely.

"My God! I thought it was just her!"

"Nope. They're all in it together. I remember my first wife. The house could be burning down around her and she'd be cranking up the thermostat."

"Or in the summer they'll say it's stifling and turn up the air conditioner high enough to chill beef. It's like trying to watch television in the city morgue."

"Yup. It's madness. And then they have the audacity to blame us! Like there's something inherently wrong with our internal thermostats."

"The nerve. Those intemperate scoundrels. Or scoundrettes. Or whatever. And yet, what can we do?"

"Dress in layers."

"That's it? Dress in layers? What, so you can bundle up or strip down depending on whether she's intent on freezing you to death or broiling you to a crisp? Seriously?"

"Yup, that's all I've got."

"Geez, I'm starting to feel like the gatekeeper at the Alamo."

"Don't be ridiculous. Compared to us, those guys actually had a chance."

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).



**The Church by the Pond...** A portion of the teen youth group at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron recently worshiped at The Church by the Pond, a housing insecure congregation. The congregants meet every Saturday at the pond in Bushnell Park in Hartford. This "outdoor worship" service is part of Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral, also in Hartford. The teens collected toothbrushes and toothpaste and gifted them for all who attended the service and also brought and served a hot meal to all attendees. The group is led by St. Peter's parishioners Allison Forrest and Erica and Jeff Baez. Pictured from left are advisor Allison Forrest, participating teens Liam Roy, Amy Forrest, Owen Roy, Anna and Ben Engler, and rector of St Peter's, the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

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### Thank You Portland

To the Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who voted Tuesday, Nov. 7th! It was awesome to see so many residents turn out to vote! I would like to thank all the candidates who ran from both parties. Candidates volunteer their time and energy to help make our town better for everyone. I appreciate your vote to elect me to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a second term and look forward to serving on this board as well as supporting all our elected officials for the residents of Portland.

William Donahue

Portland Board of Assessment Appeals

### Giving Thanks in Hebron

To the Editor:

I would like to extend a heartfelt word of thanksgiving to the citizens, public servants and workers in the town of Hebron. I am grateful to live in a town with so many passionate people dedicated to creating a bright and sustainable future for all. In celebration of Thanksgiving I would like to share the concept of The Seventh Generation principle of the Haudenosaunee

Confederacy. This Indigenous philosophy simply states that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. This idea was so important that it was included in The Great Law of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which united the Five Nations, later Six Nations, of the Great Lakes region. Tradition holds that The Great Law was created by The Great Peacemaker and Aionwatha between 1142 and 1500 AD.

According to G. Peter Jemison, Faithkeeper, Cattaraugus Reservation, Seneca Nation, "We really do see ourselves as part of a community, the immediate community, the Native American community, but part of your nation and the Confederacy. And if you have been given responsibilities within that structure, you must really attend to those responsibilities. You start to think in terms of the people who come after me... Everything we have now is the result of our ancestors who handed forth to us our language, the preservation of the land, our way of life and the songs and dances. So now we will maintain those and carry those on for future generations."

In Hebron, we are fortunate to have had our ancestors hand forth to us a beautiful environ-

## RIVEREAST

### News Bulletin

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Kevin and Pat Rarey, Publishers

Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor

Mike Thompson, Editor

Staff Reporters:

London Brazal—East Hampton, Portland

Michael Sinkewicz—Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough & Andover

Advertising Representatives:

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

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

Art Department

Jeanne Giovann, Julie Kristoff

and Julie Misuraca

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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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ment and diverse history. A variety of bountiful watersheds, historic landscapes and active agricultural areas crisscross the area. It is our turn to give thanks and make our decisions with the Seventh Generation in mind. #Save17.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

**Rest in Peace**

To the Editor:  
First Lady Rosalynn Carter (1927-2023)  
“Guided by her abiding faith and her commitment to service, Mrs. Carter used her platform in profoundly meaningful ways. Her groundbreaking work to combat the stigma faced by those struggling with their mental health brought light to so many suffering in silence. She advocated for better care for the elderly. She advanced women’s rights. And she remained a champion for those causes — and many others like building affordable housing for those in need and caring for our nation’s caregivers — in the more than four decades that followed.” -Michelle Obama.

Rest in peace, Rosalynn.  
Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

**Blood Drive Thanks**

To the Editor:  
The American Legion Post 54 of Colchester thanks everyone who came to the St. Joseph’s Polish Club on Oct. 31 to give blood. The Red Cross said that their daily goal for this event was slightly exceeded. CT Legion Post 54 will endeavor to sponsor another drive in the future. In the intervening time please note that the Polish Club will host another blood drive in December. Please continue in your support for the Red Cross by donating blood as you are able.

Al Letendre – Colchester  
Post 54 Vice Commander

**Food Drive Thanks**

To the Editor:  
Thank you, Portland, for making this year’s Food Drive another big success!! Every year I am amazed on how our town comes through to make sure that the food bank’s shelves are filled and again this year they are overflowing! We can’t do it without all the volunteers, so thank you all, especially Cub Scout Pack 2.

Also, to Ruth Maio and all your amazing volunteers, thank you for keeping the food bank going for our neighbors.  
Happy holidays, everyone.  
Kelly Mainetti and Shaun Manning – Portland

**Moral Reprobates**

To the Editor:  
Terrorists from Gaza launched a brutal surprise attack and murdered over 1300 Israelis while kidnapping 200 as hostages. These ghouls paraglided into a music festival and massacred almost 300 unsuspecting people in the most barbaric fashions. They brutally murdered entire Israeli families as they were eating breakfast. Edmund Smith is fine with this and thinks Hamas was justified! He quoted some fraudulent statistics to support his bizarre inanity. Leftists like him are moral reprobates.

He idiotically disparaged religion as being dangerous while completely ignoring that his fellow-traveling leftists have murdered more than 100 million people in just the last century. That far surpasses those killed from religious abuses throughout history.

Clueless progressives on college campuses across America idiotically accuse Israel of genocide and occupation while simultaneously calling for the genocide of Jews! Palestinians have controlled Gaza since 2005 but have done nothing but build tunnels and weapons. They own miles of gorgeous oceanfront but refuse to exploit the massive opportunities it presents.

They depend on Israel to provide their electricity, water, and food and then play victim when the people they slaughtered stop doing so. Israel shut down Palestinian suicide bombings by building border fences along Gaza and

the West Bank. No Israelis have ever strapped bombs to themselves and murdered Palestinians!

A ceasefire was in place until Hamas violated it. They’ve continued to launch thousands of missiles into Israel without any calls for them to stop. Progressives align with Hamas because both of them place little value upon human life.

Sam Prentice – Andover

**Vote Yes on Both**

To the Editor:  
Vote ‘yes’ to both questions on the senior center referendum on Nov. 28. The first question is on accepting the use of the Benders gift (\$575,000) and the monies from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (\$32,691). The second question is for the Board of Selectmen to expend the bonds and notes not to exceed \$892,309 (increasing the borrowing authorization to an aggregate \$10,392,303). Both questions must be a ‘yes’ vote.

The new senior center will not only benefit present Colchester seniors (age 55+) but in the future citizens that turn 55 and all citizens who use the multipurpose room.

I moved here three years ago, choosing Colchester due to its proximity to many major Connecticut cities and the Long Island Sound, a great school system (I taught for 33+ years so education is extremely important to me), a quaint town with a New England flare, good restaurants, volunteer opportunities and a busy senior center with many varied activities. The senior center is extremely busy (come visit to see for yourself!) but the condition of the building is rather sad. The building does not make the senior center but it does help attract new people who are thinking of moving to Colchester and businesses who rely on a strong clientele.

Seniors have been extremely supportive of the education and school budgets, school building projects, and the budget needed to run the town each year. Young couples if they maintain their home in Colchester will someday reach 55 when they can join the senior center and hopefully our youth will choose to stay, also joining the senior center.

This project has been discussed and worked on by conscientious citizens for a couple decades. It’s time to complete the project! To do this, vote ‘yes’ to both questions on the referendum.

Nancy Nelson – Colchester  
Note: Nelson serves on the CORE Commission but said she is writing as an individual.

**Voting Yes**

To the Editor:  
I will vote ‘yes’ to both questions for the new senior center on Tuesday.

Question 1 allows the town to use ARPA and Bendas estate money towards the construction. Yes!

The second question raises the amount allowable to bond. This one is tricky to understand and has been misconstrued. State law requires that the total costs of a project that are coming from outside funding sources be approved for bonding at referendum even if all of that money will not be borrowed. A dollar amount of \$9.5 million was previously approved at referendum. Due to delays in the project, building costs rose. However, Colchester received a \$2.5 million grant from the state in the meantime. Therefore, only \$7.9 will be bonded – well under the originally approved amount. The \$11M figure is the entire cost of the project, and must be approved to move forward. Yes again.

Our seniors have waited too long. Their building is far beyond its prime and capacity. It faces structural issues. Without ample parking or space, programming and services, and result-

ing overall use, are limited as a result. The new senior center will address these issues and allow for expanded programming, especially in the area of health and physical activity. As a bonus, there’ll be public community meeting space for up to 300 people.

Even though I do not know if I’ll be in Colchester long enough to ever use the senior center, I support it. It is the right thing to do for people who supported both of my children’s education and who are the backbone of this town.

The polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28. All voting is at Town Hall. Please join me in voting ‘yes’ to both questions.

Sincerely,  
Monica Swyden – Colchester  
Note: Swyden is chair of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee, but is speaking as an individual.

**Vote Yes to Both**

To the Editor:  
On Tuesday, Nov. 28, the citizens of Colchester will be going to the polls to vote to authorize an additional \$1.5 million to allow the Senior Center Building Committee the funds needed to complete the project as designed and approved at a November 2021 referendum. The reason the additional funds are needed is from the time of referendum approval, while the project conceptual design drawings were moving through the development phase and out to bid, a period of approximately 11 months, the construction industry saw unprecedented escalation costs of materials ranging from 18 to 22 percent. This was due to the country and economy recovering from the pandemic.

To fully fund the project, there will be two questions on the ballot. The first authorizes the use of the Bendas donation and ARPA funds. The second question would authorize the Town to purchase bonds. It is important that residents vote ‘yes’ to both questions. Without approval of both questions, the project will not be able to be completed.

It is important to remember that the town has received a \$2.5 million DECD grant which will

be used for construction costs. The town did not receive this grant until after the first referendum approval. Before receiving the grant, the town would have had to bond the full \$9.5 million costs. Even when you factor in the additional \$1.5 million, because of the grant, the town would only have to bond slightly less than \$8 million total. We will be spending more money but bonding less.

Please vote ‘yes’ to both questions on Tuesday, Nov. 28. Voting will take place at the Town Hall between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

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

**Don’t Be Fooled**

Dear Colchester Residents:  
In the May 5 edition of the *Rivereast*, I warned the then-cost overrun to complete the new senior center would not end at \$1.5 million, due to the negligence by the Senior Center Building Committee in researching the selected property to build upon and the myriad of problems that have been encountered to stabilize the site. Here we are six months later, and a referendum has been set for Tuesday November 28th seeking to add \$2 million beyond the already exhausted \$9.5 million budget.

On Sunday, Nov. 19, I toured the building site as part of a special SCBC public meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Right away I noticed that although the SCBC has spent significant funds to remedy the water drainage disaster I wrote about in May, that problem still hasn’t been fully remediated. I also noticed several large cracks throughout the concrete slabs over the entire building footprint, which were poured just two weeks prior. These major cracks appearing in new concrete are due to inadequate soil compaction of the fill placed throughout the site, creating elevation and stability differences, causing the concrete to crack upon settling. While members of the SCBC insisted repairs of those numerous cracks will be at the cost of

See Story, page 6

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

Bingham was also presented with a proclamation from the CT General Assembly by state Sen. Martha Marx (D-20) of New London, who commended Bingham for his stewardship of the environment through the legislative process.

\*\*\*

Lastly, here’s some fun Glastonbury news: Keri and Sarah Team at William Raveis are hosting the Trees of Giving 2023 at Glen Lochen, located 39 New London Tpke. in Glastonbury.

This event will be held Friday, Dec. 1, from 5-8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and is open to the public with no entry fee.

Experience the magic of the holiday season

and admire the twinkling lights and beautiful displays donated and sponsored by local families and businesses.

Enter for an opportunity to win a displayed gift tree with raffle tickets sold for \$1 each. Winning names will be drawn Saturday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. sharp. You do not need to be present to win.

Special Saturday visit from the one and only – Santa! And new this year, take a trip to Santa’s Secret Workshop where kids can shop for gifts for their loved ones.

All funds raised will be donated to Glastonbury Gives, where 100% goes to local families in need.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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\* Letters cont. from page 5

the builder, I suspect that repair will not involve replacing the cracked slabs, which means ultimately the instability beneath them will not be addressed.

Additionally, we learned that although several design aspects were scaled back through value engineering due to budget constraints, many of those aspects have been added back into the construction plan, since the SCBC is banking on both questions in Tuesday's referendum passing. Thus, what I said in May will remain true after the referendum: don't be fooled thinking it'll end there.

With concern,  
DeAva Lambert - Colchester

### Thank You

To the Editor:

A huge shout-out and thanks to the citizens of East Hampton. On Saturday, Nov. 4, over 100 brave souls took a plunge in the icy waters of Lake Pocotopaug at the annual turkey plunge. This year's plunge raised \$44,000 for the East Hampton Food Bank. A thanks to the East Hampton Rotary Club and East Hampton High School's Interact Club for sponsoring this event. Also on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11 and 12, the East Hampton Fire Department, the East Hampton Police Department and the East Hampton Ambulance Association (CERT), sponsored Stuff-a-Cruiser/Truck at the local Stop & Shop collecting hundreds of pounds of food and \$2,000 cash donations. On Saturday, Nov. 18, the Scrivano family will again have their Christmas lighting display nightly from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 5 Tiffany Court. Donation of non-perishable food (please make sure it is not past "the best used by date" is asked. Last year, over 1,800 pounds of non-perishable items were donated, as well as over \$5,000 in cash donations.

Debbie Markham, Volunteer  
East Hampton Food Bank

### Gratitude

To the Editor:

I am humbled at the outpouring of support that the community showed during the election season. It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve on the Hebron Board of Education. I know it will be an educational experience and I look forward to collaborating with other members of the board and school administrators to be a voice for Hebron residents. I am grateful for the mentorship of the Hebron Republican Town Committee members who guided me and shared their knowledge. Thank you to everyone who put signs out, spread the word, and came out to vote. Now the work starts and I welcome the challenge that lies ahead.

With gratitude,  
Kim Hills  
Hebron Board of Education

### Ghost Run Thanks

To the Editor:

The 20th Annual Ghost Run was a huge hit, thanks to the collaboration of multiple towns! We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals who made the event possible this year:

Firstly, we would like to thank the event coordinators who worked tirelessly to ensure that everything ran smoothly, including the Parks and Recreation Departments from Colchester, Hebron, and East Hampton. Their hard work and dedication paid off as the event was a resounding success. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who selflessly gave their time and energy to help with various tasks such as set up, registration, food, and clean-up.

We extend our gratitude to the following individuals and organizations who made this year's event a reality: Hebron Fire Department; Hebron Police Department; Hebron CERT; Chris O'Neil and the HAM Radio Operators; East Hampton Lions Club; East Hampton Fire; East Hampton PD; Tavern on 66; M&J Bus; Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company; Colchester Police; Colchester Grounds and Maintenance.

## ◆ 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)

For more information on advertising your "Happenings" please call 860-633-4691.

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

nance Dept.; Photographers Stan Malcolm and Frank Zitkus.

Finally, we want to thank the runners and walkers who showed up in large numbers and participated in the event. Your enthusiasm and energy were contagious and made the event even more enjoyable for everyone involved.

In conclusion, the 20th Annual Ghost Run was a resounding success, and we are grateful to everyone who played a part in making it happen. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's event!

**Tiffany Quinn,**

**Colchester Parks and Recreation Director**

**Shawn Mullen,**

**East Hampton Parks and Recreation Director**

**Craig Bryant,**

**Hebron Parks and Recreation Director**

## Looking for Interviews

To the Editor:

As we all know, East Hampton has had quite the political turmoil in the last calendar year, with the town seemingly sorely divided. I am a current high school senior in the process of writing a journalistic piece on such recent political events. To accomplish this, I'm hoping to have several interviews with citizens of East Hampton. Specifically, I need interviews with parents of students in town and East Hampton residents who don't have kids in the school system. I'm also looking to represent political views of all kinds, from Democratic to Republican and everything in between.

If interested in this interview, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at enjabarry@gmail.com with your availability.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

**Enja Barry – East Hampton**

## Clothes Wanted

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Lions are asking everyone to clean out their closets in search of the their slightly used clean winter clothes that they have either outgrown or don't wear anymore for their 2nd annual winter clothes drive. It's a good opportunity to donate these items to our neighbors that need them.

New or gently used clean winter clothes may be dropped off at Paul & Sandys, Ace Hardware or St. Patrick's Church between now and Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Our "free store" will be open Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 5-8 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 30, from noon-2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.; and Friday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

For questions, please call me at 860-977-5760 or Lion Joe at 860-930-5388.

**Mary Krogh**  
**East Hampton Lions**

## Thank You, Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:

I would like to thank the Colchester residents for reelecting me to serve another term as your tax collector. The support the team received was overwhelming. Thank you for all your words of encouragement, your letters and especially for opening up your doors to talk with us about the issues in our community.

It has been my honor to serve you over the past 8 years and it is my privilege to continue to serve Colchester for another term.

**Sincerely,**  
**Michele Wyatt CCMC**  
**Colchester Tax Collector**

## Give Thanks

To the Editor:

Recently I heard Thanksgiving described as the perfect holiday. There are no repetitive jingles or movies. It's only as expensive as your taste in food. It's all about food and sharing one meal and that one meal lasts only a few hours. It's also a good day to rest or get outside.

This year I give thanks to the women who make, and have made, our lives possible. From our immediate families, and day to day chores, to the career minded doing double, or triple, time as professionals, partners and moms. I give

thanks to the women who bravely boarded the Mayflower headed to a new and strange land carrying with them their hopes and dreams. In a tiny boat packed to the gills with ale, crying babies, snoring men and illnesses, they traveled to the ever-damp shores of Massachusetts.

If you've ever slept on a boat or camped on the beach you know, sea air and sea fog are loaded with salt. Salt that clings to your clothes, skin and hair. Each salt molecule appears to carry its very own water molecule, leaving one feeling damp and clammy. Access to fresh water is imperative for drinking and for rinsing off the salt.

I give thanks to the women and men that make Hebron a green place to live. To the Board of Selectmen who hear us but we're still not sure they're actually listening. The BOS has inadvertently united watershed residents in a common cause thus forging new friendships. And to Bill Warzecha for courageously stepping out into the spotlight validating our concerns.

As you look around your Thanksgiving table this year, thank the women in your life and know that everyone at your table, including yourself, depends on access to clean drinking water. #save17

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

## Meet the Residents' Needs

To the Editor:

One of the things I like about Colchester is that we try to meet the needs of the residents. We build schools so children can learn and we provide them with desks and chairs to do that. We ask our police force to patrol our streets and provide them with cars to ensure it will be done. We have a fire department that responds to all sorts of emergencies and to help them do that, we give them radios to communicate with each other.

Now we are building a new senior center to provide a place for physical, emotional, and mental health opportunities for seniors. To achieve that we need to see that the center is a fully functioning facility with the necessary furniture and equipment. At the Nov. 28, referendum please vote 'yes' on questions one and two so that we can have a place that benefits the whole community.

**Geraldine Transue – Colchester**

*Note: Transue is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee but said she is speaking as an individual.*

## Let's Move Forward

To the Editor:

Simply put, the previous vote for the Colchester Senior Center was approved for a bonding amount of \$9.5M. Now we are only asking for a bonding amount of <\$7.9M. Yes, less! It seems crazy that we are even here again. And crazier asking for less! Please vote 'yes' on both questions, because both are needed to proceed. We do not need another frivolous lawsuit to prevent this building from being built again. Let's move forward please.

**Sincerely,**

**Noreen Bibee – Colchester**

## Come Out and Vote

Dear Colchester Residents:

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, voters will go to the polls to vote on the remaining money needed to complete the new senior center. Everyone votes at Town Hall and the polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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. This shortfall arose when the bids were opened in October 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic that saw 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. the original \$9.5M bonding approval passed by Colchester citizens in November 2021. 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 Nov. 28, please come out and vote at the Senior Center Referendum.

**Sincerely,**

**Rosemary Coyle – Colchester**

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

## Congratulations!!

To the Editor:

Congratulations to all of the newly elected officials in Colchester, especially Bernie Denner! It's been a pleasure to see some amazing people step up to help guide our town into the right direction. Watching how hard everyone worked to get us to this point has been amazing to witness. I wish you all the best as you officially take office this week. And I can genuinely say I look forward to working together in meetings to get things done for our town.

Again, congratulations to all!

**Beth Tiezzi**  
**Colchester parent**

## Senior Fundraiser Thanks

To the Editor:

Many thanks go out to the people who helped with our latest senior fundraiser on Nov. 4. My co-chairman, Carol Lee, did a fantastic job organizing the tag sale and rounding up workers. Special thanks go to Kim Hawes, Carol Kuckucka, Andi Lee and Emily Timreck who pitched in to set tables up and help sell. Our vendors were amazing and so understanding with the difficulty we had with last minute notice of the parking lot being chip sealed. Although parking was inconvenient for our residents they rallied and came in to support the seniors. To all the people who donated thank you very much and those helpers on Friday night, Jeff Ballard, Adrian Mandeville, Jeff Murray, Mike Palazzi. We were able to raise almost \$1,000 for the senior luncheon program.

Our next annual fundraiser will be held at the AES gym on Sunday, Feb. 4, and we need bakers and vendors. Our bake tables always sell out and people enjoy home-baked goodies of all types. We welcome our committees and commissions in town if they want a free table to advertise and are looking for new members or as volunteers letting the public know what the committee or commission does for the town. Please contact me with any questions or to sign up. Thank you to everyone.

**Sincerely,**

**Cathy Palazzi**  
**Andover Senior Coordinator**

## A Plea to Parents

To the Editor:

Next Tuesday, Nov. 28, Colchester has the opportunity to vote to complete the building of our new senior center. This new facility is already under construction and we need to allocate the funds to complete the project. This involves voting 'yes' on both of the ballot questions.

Parents of children in the Colchester schools, I'm especially asking you to come out and support the vote. Back in 2013, a town building committee proposed a project that would combine a new senior center with a much needed update to William J. Johnston Middle School. The voters rejected that proposal at referendum, so the projects were split apart. We asked our seniors to support the WJJMS project and promised to focus on the senior center once WJJMS was complete.

Ten years later, WJJMS is a modern facility and we are close to finishing the new senior center. Next Tuesday, both questions need to pass in order to complete the building project. If both questions pass, the town will need to bond for less money in order to complete the project, due to state money that we acquired after the last senior center referendum in November 2021. If the questions fail, it will cause more expense and we will end up paying more

in the long run.

Our seniors have come out for decades to support the schools, including the WJJMS building project. The current senior center is falling down while our senior population is growing. Please come out and support the senior center by voting 'yes' to both questions on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

**Susie Milner – Colchester**

## Make Your Voice Heard

To the Editor:

Colchester residents, please vote 'yes' on both referendum questions regarding the Senior Center project on Nov. 28. We owe it to our seniors to see this project through. The seniors have been there supporting the school projects and other projects in town. Now it's time to finish the Senior Center project. By voting 'no' on either of the two questions, the building will be unfinished and unable to be occupied. This will only cost the town and the taxpayers more money down the road.

Voting 'yes' on the two referendum questions will not impact our taxes and will see the project to completion. Voting 'yes' on both questions shows we are all in this together and want to provide facilities and services for all members of our community. Vote 'yes' to both referendum questions on Nov. 28 – it's important to make your voice heard.

**Suzanne Salemi – Colchester**

## Voting Yes on Both

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, Colchester will hold a special referendum to approve (or disapprove) two questions necessary to finalize the building of a first-class senior center for the growing senior population of our town. Our senior population has waited a long time for such a facility, a facility that will meet the needs of the community for years to come. The approval of these two questions will not increase the bonding costs of our town.

I hope that you will join me in voting 'yes' for both questions.

On a separate note, I want to thank the members of the entire Building Committee for their hard work. Their dedication to our town is appreciated.

**John F. Malsbenden – Colchester**

## Celebrate Senior Center

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the Colchester Senior Center and its invaluable role in enhancing the lives of our older community members. It's a vibrant hub that significantly contributes to the physical, emotional, and social well-being of our seniors. Our senior center offers tailored services and activities, catering to the unique needs and interests of older adults. From physical fitness programs to informative health screenings and engaging educational workshops, the center empowers seniors to actively manage their well-being.

What sets our Colchester Senior Center apart is its exceptional ability to foster a sense of community, effectively combating the loneliness that many seniors may face. Beyond mere socializing, the center becomes a lifeline, providing a space for genuine connections and interactions.

Our senior center activities extend beyond entertainment and are designed to stimulate cognitive function and creativity. Varied classes, educational programs, health and wellness screenings offer opportunities for our seniors to engage their minds and share their wealth of knowledge with one another. Moreover, our senior center serves as a local information hub, connecting older adults with essential resources and services and stands as a vital source of guidance. During the COVID-19 crisis, our senior center rose to the occasion, acting as the focal point for information distribution, assistance coordination, and ensuring the well-being of our seniors during those challenging times.

As our beloved town ages, investing in and supporting the Colchester Senior Center is

*See Letters, page 27*

**JOIN US FOR THE PACK'S ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR TOSS GAME!**

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### Donations Sought for Wreaths Across America

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

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

starting at noon sharp.

Donations are welcome; each individual \$17 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.

### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

### CLT Upcoming Hikes

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

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

more information, email [LizaSivek@gmail.com](mailto:LizaSivek@gmail.com).

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

### 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.

### Shelter Collection Drive

Presents for Paws will host its 16th annual Shelter Collection Drive Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at John Gagnon's Pet Resort, 227 Upton Rd., to collect items for Connecticut animal shelters.

Presents for Paws will accept 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 and chew toys); and cleaning supplies (such as Clorox wipes/spray, trash bags, and paper towels).

If you cannot attend, you are welcome to purchase items for Presents for Paws from its online wish list at [linktr.ee/presentsforpaws501c](http://linktr.ee/presentsforpaws501c).

Monetary donations are also appreciated; they are tax-deductible and 100% of donations go to help shelter animals.

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 drive, to make a monetary donation or to become a volunteer, visit [www.presentsforpaws.org](http://www.presentsforpaws.org).

### 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.

**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.

### '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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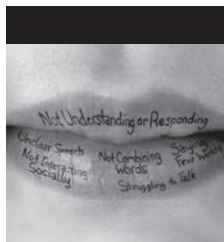
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RE11-25-22

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*Members of the public are invited to*

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**State Project No. 0171-0472 Horizontal Curve Warning Signs on Local Roads**

**District 1**

December 5, 2023, 6 p.m.

Register: <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTProject0171-0472>

YouTube Livestream: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on curves located on locally-owned and maintained roads. Enhanced horizontal curve delineation may be beneficial when: the curve radius is sharp; there is limited sight distance to and around the curve; or there are unexpected geometric features within the curve, such as an intersection or change in the curve radius. Improved horizontal curve delineation is recognized nationally as a low-cost proven safety countermeasure.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction is anticipated to begin Summer 2024. The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$575,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 100% Federal funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTProject0171-0472>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by December 19, 2023 to: [DOTProject0171-0472@ct.gov](mailto:DOTProject0171-0472@ct.gov) and 860-594-2020 or Balazs Szoke, (860-594-2745; [TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov](mailto:TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov)).

ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 828 9233 5215. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Balazs Szoke ([TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov](mailto:TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov); 860-594-2745).

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

RE11-24-23



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RE11-17-23

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RE11-24-23



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**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).

**Monday, Nov. 27:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fix; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign, Deliver the Wadsworth Tree; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28:** 6 a.m.-8 p.m., referendum vote – rides to the polls available from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Holiday Ornament

Workshop; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know; 1:30 p.m., bingo.

**Wednesday, Nov. 29:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Airline Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., trip departs for *Dream-girls* at the Goodspeed.

**Thursday, Nov. 20:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/Ann; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling by an appointment only; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting (via Zoom).

**Friday, Dec. 1:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Open Enrollment by appointment only; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit video; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga.

**CES Adjusts to New Kindergarten Law**

Under a new state law, starting with the 2024-25 school year children will need to be five by Sept. 1 in order to attend kindergarten. However, Colchester Elementary School is presenting an opportunity to parents.

If your child does not meet the new entry cutoff date, they may still be admitted into kindergarten upon: a written request from the parent or guardian that is sent to either the CES principal or assistant principal; and an assessment completed by the school that determines admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate. CES will assess children on all domains of development and plan to have the assessment include a standardized portion, observation of the child in their current preschool/daycare setting, and input from the child's current teacher(s).

If your child receives special education services and does not meet the new entry cutoff date, your child's planning and placement team (PPT) will review/revise your child's individualized education program (IEP) to meet your child's needs during the additional year of preschool. You can also request in writing that your child be assessed to determine if he/she is developmentally ready for kindergarten.

If your child was born between Sept. 2 and Jan. 1, here are some things you can explore now that the entry date has changed:

If your child attends preschool, communicate with the program about your family's situation and how they will continue to support your child's development.

If your child is not attending an early care and

education program, consider how a preschool experience might support them for the year(s) prior to kindergarten entry. You can find information about child care by talking with other families, visiting [colchesterct.org](http://colchesterct.org), searching online, or using the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool.

Seek out possible support for child care expenses, such as Care 4 Kids, state-funded preschool opportunities, including the CES preschool program. To find out about possible low-cost programs and Care4Kids financial assistance, use the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool or call 800-505-1000.

**CCT to Hold Auditions for *Kinky Boots***

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

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

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

common than they realized.

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

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

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

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



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REB-12-20

**5K Resolution Run**

The Colchester Youth First Coalition and Colchester Youth and Social Services will hold the 19th annual New Year's Day 5K Resolution Run at Town Hall at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 1. Registration and bib pick up begins at 8:30AM.

Pre-registration is \$30 and Same Day Registration is \$40. The first 200 people registered will receive a race performance tee. Register at [tinyurl.com/59cy4cks](http://tinyurl.com/59cy4cks).

Proceeds benefit youth scholarships and youth center upgrades. For more information, contact Charity Benedict at Colchester Youth & Social Services at 860-537-7255 or [cbenedict@colchesterct.gov](mailto:cbenedict@colchesterct.gov).

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REB-11-25-22

**A Festival of Lessons and Carols**

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

The program will be the telling of the Christmas Story. It will include scripture readings, and songs performed by the Principal Choir, The Young Peoples Choir, along with soloists. The Bell Choir will also participate, as well as perhaps some special guest performers.

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

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**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

State Project No. 0172-0508 Horizontal Curve Warning Signs on Local Roads

District 2

December 7, 2023, 6pm

Register: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT0172-0508>

YouTube Livestream: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on curves located on locally-owned and maintained roads. Enhanced horizontal curve delineation may be beneficial when: the curve radius is sharp; there is limited sight distance to and around the curve; or there are unexpected geometric features within the curve, such as an intersection or change in the curve radius. Improved horizontal curve delineation is recognized nationally as a low-cost proven safety countermeasure.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction is anticipated to begin Summer 2024. The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$365,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 100% Federal Funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT0172-0508>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by December 21, 2023 to: [DOTProject0172-0508@ct.gov](mailto:DOTProject0172-0508@ct.gov) and 860-594-2020 or Balazs Szoke, (860-594-2745; [TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov](mailto:TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov)).

**ACCESSIBILITY**

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 873 7031 4619. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Balazs Szoke ([TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov](mailto:TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov); 860-594-2745).

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

RE11-24-23

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**Turkey Dinner Thanks... Honor Rotary!** A Foundation for Colchester Inc, thanks the following for their support in our annual turkey dinner drive: Liberty Bank, Colchester Cares, Colchester Mills Fabrics, Stop & Shop, Westchester Market, Noel's, and all in the community who donated to the cause. One hundred fifty families received turkeys and fixings for their Thanksgiving tables. Shown with Deb Martin of Honor Rotary! are, in left picture, Bob Crowell of Noel's and, in right picture, Chris Papotto of Westchester Market.

**Christian Life Chapel News**

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org.

The chapel is collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) this year. For more

information about this ministry visit [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations).

**Bible Study for Men:** Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.

**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

**Community Bible Study and Prayer:** Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Donuts with Don:** Fridays at 10 a.m. This is an open discussion on how God fits into your life.

**Parks & Rec News & Notes**

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

**Giving Tuesday: Camp Scholarship Donations:** Your donation, in any amount, will help send a child to camp this summer. For more information, or to set up a recurring donation, contact the office at 860-537-7297.

**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.

**Holiday Homecoming:** Saturday, Dec. 2, 4:30-8 p.m., on the Town Green. Santa will arrive on the decorated firetruck at 4:30 p.m. for a visit. There will be hot cocoa, cider, cookies and carols by the bonfire, mail your letters to Santa, and a Toy Drive. Attend the Colchester Choir and Orchestra performance at the Colchester Federated Church at 6:30 p.m. (The concert is free, though donations are appreciated.)

**Gingerbread House Decorating Com-**

**petition:** 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.

**It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play:** Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Colchester Actor's Theatre: A Parks and Recreation Community Program presents this American holiday classic as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life on a fateful Christmas Eve. Tickets are available at [Colchester-Actors-Theatre.ticketleap.com](http://Colchester-Actors-Theatre.ticketleap.com).

**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 or Instagram pages. Vote for your favorite home and business decorations on Facebook from Dec. 5-31.

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RE11-24-23

# 'Really the Honor of a Lifetime'

By Michael Sinkewicz

Bernie Dennler III was sworn in this week as Colchester's new first selectman, along with the slate of municipal candidates who were elected just over two weeks ago.

During the ceremony held on Sunday evening at the Bacon Academy auditorium, Dennler, a Democrat, was officially administered the oath of office by Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz. With his right hand raised, Dennler swore that he would faithfully discharge the duties of the office to the best of his ability.

"This is really the honor of a lifetime to be entrusted with this job by the people of my community," Dennler told the audience.

On Nov. 7, with 65% of the vote, Dennler defeated incumbent Republican Andreas Bisbikos by a 3,515-1,887 tally — the highest vote total for a first selectman candidate in the last 20 years. His success trickled down the ticket, with Democrats sweeping the local races and flipping control of municipal government.

## The Ceremony

As a Bacon Academy graduate, Dennler expressed during his speech that hosting the ceremony at his alma mater was important. He thanked the community for its support and stated that his administration's focus would be on "solving problems, building consensus and

letting go of some of the partisan divide that I think has paralyzed this town in recent years."

"The election results I think speak to the existence of a bipartisan coalition of voters who came together to deliver change with the hope of brining civility and stability to Colchester's town government," Dennler said. "I think that we have an amazing team that is going to be able to deliver what the voters of Colchester asked for earlier this month."

In her remarks, Bysiewicz acknowledged the commitment that local officials, and their families, agree to when serving their communities. Colchester, she said, is "blessed" to have Dennler as its leader.

"He is a very hard worker; he is someone who is a really good communicator; he is a person of integrity," Bysiewicz said. "He has a very precious and important ability to be able to bring people together and that is something that this town, our state and our country needs."

Bysiewicz told the *Rivereast* that from the dawn of Dennler's campaign at Priam Vineyards in March, the community was ready to embrace his vision for Colchester.

"I did some door-knocking with him, as well, and when we were going through neighborhoods, we were talking to people — Republican,

unaffiliated, Democratic — and people would say, 'It's time for a change,'" she said. "So I had a good feeling from the door-knocking, and every time I did an event with him, there seemed to be a lot of energy and enthusiasm."

The decisive election results, Bysiewicz added, indicate that "Bernie is the right person."

"Voters recognized that he has the skillset from what he had done for the town of Lebanon but also as someone who had grown up here and who had already served," she said. "I think people felt comfortable with his experience, his vision, his ability to bring people together because I think that when you see him in action, you realize he's just a very good communicator and somebody who collaborates well, and I think it's going to serve him well in this job."

Previously, Dennler worked as the office manager to the Lebanon first selectman and formerly served as vice chair of both the Colchester Board of Finance and the Economic Development Commission.

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) was also present at the ceremony. He represents Colchester in the General Assembly, and simultaneously serves on the Lebanon Board of Selectmen, where he's interacted with Dennler for several years. DeCaprio described Dennler as "positive, professional and kind," expressing that they've formed a friendship.

"I know I speak for all the members of the Board of Selectmen in Lebanon," DeCaprio remarked. "We're going to miss him in our town, but we're glad he's coming here and we're glad he's going to be helping the citizens in Colchester."

Julianne Shilosky, Colchester's Republican registrar, administered the oaths for the Republican officials; there were three individuals: Glenn Shilosky for the Board of Assessment Appeals, along with Clifton O'Donal and Art Shilosky for the Board of Selectmen.

## Time to Govern

Monica Swyden, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC), told the *Rivereast* that bringing the community together will be an ongoing process. While Democrats took control of the boards of selectmen and finance, and won all the open seats on the school board, she asserted that officials must speak for the whole town.

"We're going to have to do a lot of trust building and Bernie is going to have to prove himself," she said. "I think that it's really clear that the community wants to be untied. It's going to take some time."

Democratic newcomer Scott Chapman, who was the lead vote-getter on the Board of Finance, stated that the board's primary objective should be "consensus building." During the latest budget season, Chapman said that officials failed to absorb community feedback.

"I think that's what actually happened this last cycle, is that our citizens in our town did not feel like they were being listened to and therefore, they came out for change," he said. "So this time around, we have to listen to our citizens."

His message to residents concerned with potential tax increases moving forward: "We're going to listen to them as well. They have to be brought into the conversation."

"You have to be able to balance affordability with common sense spending," Chapman said. "There has to be a way to actually go and thread that needle."

## 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.

## Toys for Tots Fundraiser

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. is hosting its third annual Army vs Navy football game Toys for Tots fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Watch the football game in the hall on the big-screen TV. Doors open at 2 p.m. and kick-off is at 3 p.m. There will be a buffet and raffle prizes. Bring a new unwrapped toy or a \$15 donation per person to attend this event.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

Democrats Denise Turner and Rosemary Coyle both retained their seats on the Board of Selectmen.

"I'm excited to focus on what we have to get done and just move Colchester forward," Coyle said.

Turner stated that there will be a clear shift in tone, especially for the selectmen.

"I'm actually looking forward to meetings as opposed to cringing every time," she said, adding that the outcome of the campaign was historic. "It was the most unprecedented election I've seen in Colchester, and I've been here a long time."

On Monday morning, Dennler officially moved into the corner office at Town Hall. Following the ceremony on Sunday, he said that during the two-week transition period following the election, he met with department heads and staff members to gauge the status of municipal business.

"My goal is not to come in on day one and start blowing things up and tearing up departments," Dennler said. "It's been my priority to figure out where we can continue to move things forward without starting 100 percent over. There are a lot of good things in progress and my goal is to continue to shepherd those things forward while also bringing forward some new priorities."

The first selectman's campaign slogan was "Let's Bring Colchester Together" — a promise that Dennler will look to accomplish over time. He expressed that residents are tired of "drama" in their town.

"There is a broad consensus in the community to move away from the kind of drama that we've seen over the past couple years," he said. "That's why so many people came out to vote in this election and that's what they voted for. Some of it lingers, and there will be growing pains in this administration."

Dennler added, "There are things that we have to untangle and some of that may not always be pretty."

One of those potential concerns: the 2023-24 municipal budget.

"In talking with department heads, what I found is a lot of concern from them about being able to deliver the services that were presented to the public and the budget that was approved," Dennler said.

Dennler said that he plans on bringing any department head, who might be in a position of going over budget this year, in front of the finance board to discuss why they find themselves in that position and what can be done to mitigate the situation.

If only a couple of departments are projected to overspend, then the funds can likely be covered by transfers throughout the overall budget. However, it's currently unclear how extensive the overages — if any — will be.

"If it turns out it is a more systemic issue, and the overall budget is in a position where it could be on track to go over at the end of the fiscal year, then we need to take some more drastic measures to ensure that we are not in a place where we are either blindsided or unable to deliver the services that we need," Dennler stated.

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

At its November 16, 2023 Special Meeting, the Hebron Conservation Commission took the following actions:  
**Petition 23-03, Lot 46-8A (between #s 193 and 201) North Street, Hebron, c/o Mark Peterson, Gardner and Peterson Associates, LLC.** Construction of a single-family residential dwelling with driveway improvements along an existing roadway within the upland review area and a minor wetland disturbance near WF-1 through WF-5 — **Approved, with the following conditions:**

1. Disturbed area near driveway in or near wetland boundary be seeded with an appropriate seed mix designed for low maintenance cover from reputable source;
2. No fertilizer application in wetland or upland review areas along the driveway;
3. Recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission that a conservation easement and placarding be placed along the edge of clearing or 50ft from the wetland boundary, whichever is closer to the wetland boundary, along the access way on either side of the driveway and north of the driveway within upland review area around wetland flags E10, 13, 15 to the northern property line;
4. Report to wetland agent once investigation of culvert is complete;
5. Attempt to minimize salt use on driveway and consider using sand mix;
6. Town wetland agent to inspect erosion controls at the start of work.

The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:  
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/c2611eb60fe4cf-d8a2eff2c45725fa09be1a82a4981f4ced52297a4340361ba>  
Legal Notice will be published in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* on November 24, 2023.

1TB 11/24



Members of the Bacon Academy girls soccer team pose after winning the program's first state championship, defeating top-seed Suffield in the Class M state championship game in Hartford.

★ *Bobcats Soccer cont. from page 1*

fore and they've been on a mission this year." But it wasn't 'mission accomplished' until after the Bobcats beat Suffield, who had won their previous 20 games this fall, in the state championship match.

Now, the 2023 Bobcats will officially go down

in history.

"Being a part of this team will always hold a special place in my heart," stated Glover. "The girls are like my second family, and this was a year I will never ever forget."



The champion soccer team rode through town in style Sunday night.

## State Champs Escorted Home

By Michael Sinkewicz

Immediately after the Bacon Academy girls soccer team secured the Class M state title on Saturday night, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan placed a phone call back home to kick-off the celebration.

The call was placed to Colchester Fire Chief Steven Hoffmann, who agreed to arrange an official escort for the victors as they triumphantly rolled into town.

"I didn't hesitate," Hoffmann expressed.

The chief orchestrated a convoy of fire apparatus and police vehicles to greet the girls as they pulled off Exit 17 on Route 2 on their return voyage home from Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford.

The Bobcats had just defeated the top-ranked

Wildcats of Suffield High School in a dramatic penalty kick shootout, securing the school's first state championship.

With lights flashing and sirens engaged through the heart of the community, the bus carrying the winners was sandwiched between a string of police cars paving the way, with fire trucks shadowing them.

"It supports town pride and morale," Hoffmann said. "It makes it a little bit more meaningful for the girls."

After escorting the team back to Bacon Academy, the girls posed with the trophy on top of, and inside, one of the fire trucks.

"They were extremely excited," the chief recalled.



**Seeing Samoa...** The Hanks family of Portland visited Samoa this summer! From left are Ellen, Daniel, Lincoln and Pamela.

## 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).




**Fun on the Ferry...** Jane Muskatallo and Jeanne Bishop, both of Portland, are shown here on the ferry to Peaks Island in Maine.



**Rivereast Goes to Rome...** Dan DiStefano of East Hampton and his wife Sharon recently spent two weeks backpacking around Italy from Venice, Cinque Terre, Naples, Pompeii, Amalfi, and Rome. Dan is shown here at the Roman Colosseum, in a photo taken by his wife Sharon.



**Catching Some Rays...** The Jackson family of Marlborough is shown enjoying vacation on Hatteras Island in North Carolina!

# Where in the World?

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

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# EHHS Drama Presents a Hallmark Holiday Mashup

By London Brazal

In the spirit of the holiday festivities, the East Hampton High School Drama Club will present *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*.

According to the play's description, the show is a "wildly entertaining parody of holiday rom-coms" filled with cliches. In the 90-minute comedy, audiences will be introduced to disguised royalty, evil businessmen, a charming inn and much more. This December, follow along with six Christmas movies all in one play.

Elise Shatto, a math teacher, and the drama club's behind-the-scenes coordinator, was happy to see a huge interest in the show. "There was such a big turnout at auditions," said Shatto. "We added a few roles to help accommodate that." In the turnout was a large number of freshmen and to help provide more opportunities, some of the roles were double-casted.

Shatto likes how the show has put her into the Christmas mood early but in a good way. "This time last year, I was not listening to 'Last Christmas' in November."

Shatto described the show as "funny" and "full of satire." She recommends people who love the Hallmark Channel to watch. "There are several tropes like the big CEO who doesn't like Christmas," Shatto added. "It's good for the Hallmark fans, especially those who love the Netflix and Hulu specials too."

Auditions were held in early October and the cast had two rehearsals a week leading up to their "tech week," when they run the entire show in full costume. Shatto and Director Rachel Mansfield were not worried about the schedule

since many of the students have experience with previous school shows and local theater organizations. Shatto described the main characters as "reliable" and "hard-working," which also eased any worries. She also said how the different characters have strong personalities and a lot of the students are having fun with the roles they were given.

Sophomore Will Faber is playing Sven, the Prince of Broxtenburg, an arrogant and unkind character. He finds himself stuck at the Evergreen Inn because there were no first-class tickets home to his small country. His love interest is Rita St. John, a sassy celebrity who thinks she is an A-lister played by junior Addison Partridge. The two both enjoy working together. "We have a blast," said Faber. "I love it; Will is hilarious," said Partridge.

Last year, Partridge played Katrina Van Tassel in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Partridge described that character as soft-spoken and her current character is much different. "Rita can be really sassy and almost narcissistic," said Partridge. "It's a little challenging to act that way since I'm not used to that."

Faber said the play is hilarious in a witty way but the audience has to follow the story carefully to understand the different plot lines. He noted it's a family show and said it will "bring enjoyment all around." Partridge described the show as "cheesy" and "comedic." She also added how it has made her more excited for the holidays and she likes dressing up with the Christmas spirit.

Senior Teagan Frost plays one of the narrators and likes how they break the fourth wall for a



East Hampton High School Drama Club is putting on *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* written by Don Zolidis. Will Faber and Addison Partridge play Sven, Prince of Broxtenburg, and Rita, a self-absorbed celebrity. They are one of six classic Hallmark-stereotype couples.

good amount of the show while talking to the audience. "I like that it's chaotic in a fun way," said Frost. "It's funny and Christmas-themed." For the two-act show, the narrators help move the show along and Frost said they add to the comedy while staying lighthearted. Another senior, Aiden Sones is playing Paul Brazzwell, a romance novelist who is looking for inspiration. "Being a senior, I am very grateful for this experience," Sones explained. "The play is comedic

and a different style that I enjoyed a lot and I think the audience will as well."

Since the play is set mainly in the lobby of an inn, there is a small number of backstage crew members. To add to the comedy, the crew will be dressed in reindeer costumes to help pull off a scene.

There will be two 7 p.m. shows on Dec. 1 and two 2 p.m. shows on Dec. 2 and 3. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door only.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

**Operation Christmas Child:** The church thanks to all who participated in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child.

**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 the worship service. The theme is "Friends with God." A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

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

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

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

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

**Nintendo Switch Game Play:** Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Play with friends and discover new games. All skill levels welcome.

**Adult Programs: An Open House to Congratulate Christine Cachuela:** Monday, Nov. 27, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet Christine Cachuela upon her recent promotion to library director.

**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.

**Music in the Library: Entwined Early Music:** Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m. On historic instruments, this trio will perform holiday pieces from the 13th-18th centuries. Light refreshments to follow. The program is sponsored by Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

## 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 closed today, Friday, Nov. 24, as part of the Thanksgiving holiday.

**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 a.m.-4 p.m. Available while supplies last. No registration required

**Cozy Yoga: Grades 1-5:** Monday, Dec. 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join Amie Meacham for an hour of yoga exercises and games.

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

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

**Holiday Mocktail Party:** Friday, Dec. 15, 4-6 p.m. Learn to make alcohol-free mocktails.

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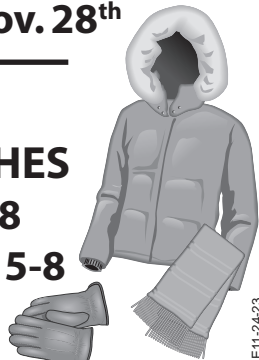
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# Hidden Injustice: An Original Play

By London Brazal

Epoch Arts will present *Hidden Injustice*, an original mini-production written by the student performers, on Dec. 8 and 9.

In September, co-directors Elizabeth Namen and Rachel Martin presented a theme to the students, and with creative freedom, they wrote a one-act production. In just nine to 10 weeks, the students in grades seven-12 have an original piece ready for an audience.

The goal of the Speak Out Production is to create a unique acting experience that allows the youth's voices to be heard. With that, Epoch wants to educate teenagers and show them how to respond to difficult issues in the world. The organization said it believes it sparks internal and social change within the community.

This year's theme is centered on the inequities of imprisonment systems in other countries. The premise of the story is that a group of American teenagers wake up to find themselves in prison. They have no knowledge of who they are or what they have done. Through interactions, the teenagers slowly discover their stories and the injustice that put them behind bars. Throughout the play, the audience may question if the teens will cave under pressure or remain strong in the face of oppression. The play is based on real stories and inspired by men and women who have been wrongfully locked up.

When the students started the play, they broke up into three groups and were given a character. From there, they developed more characters and began creating storylines.

Evangeline Hale, a junior at Nathan Hale-Ray High School, embodies a girl in India classified as a "Dalit," or "untouchable." Under the caste hierarchy, Dalits are typically born into the lower class and face many limitations. Through

research, Hale found that Dalis cannot wear shoes, must do chores, and are only allowed to eat specific foods. In her role, Hale discovers she was put in jail for wearing a pair of sandals.

Through the production, Hale described the experience as eye-opening. "I didn't know too much about what is happening in other countries," said Hale. "It helped me understand the freedoms that we have in America." One of her favorite parts was researching the history and focusing on the specific perspective.

Martin described the show as "hopeful" and "powerful." Their goal is to be the voice for people who aren't able to express themselves. She also noted how it highlights the strengths and compassion of these imprisoned people. And, it shows the power the characters have even though they are going through challenging times. When building the script, the students took a progressive approach to fully understand their characters and what they endured.

Namen expressed how their mission is to empower the youth and provide different perspectives on life. In other countries, people are fighting battles that the students don't have to. "We want them to become appreciative of what they have," said Namen. "There are some eye-opening moments for everyone."

Most of the inspiration comes from current events but there are also some historical ties to the Berlin Wall. "It's one thing to read about this stuff," added Namen. "But, bringing it to life, it creates a whole different type of learning."

The seven-person cast chose to have the show be on a greyscale with pops of color. It has been a challenge to create the look but the company has been making it work. The characters include four girls, a journalist, an activist, and a guard deemed as the authoritative presence.



Set in a grey-scale world, American teenagers wake up to find themselves in prison learning who they are. The original play is about one hour long and will have two performances. Pictured are Alicia Colegrove (left) and Kyra Walter (right).

Mary Rainville is an Epoch Arts Alumni who balances teaching with school and work. In the production, she plays multiple characters that do not make sense for the students to play including a grandmother and an outside force when comparing freedoms in America. In addition, she also helps with tech and moving sets around. Rainville enjoys working with the students to aid and support their creations.

Namen recommends anyone in middle school or older to come see the show. There are a few brief moments of violence and the content may be emotionally heavy to some people.

The show will run on Dec. 8 and 9 and show-time is at 7 p.m. both nights. Tickets for the performances are \$12. To see Epoch's full calendar of upcoming events, visit epocharts.org.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Holiday Closing:** The center will be closed Friday, Nov. 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.; **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.

**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.

**The Impact of the Holidays:** Tuesday, Nov.

28, from 11 a.m.-noon. Lauren Incognito from East Hampton Social Services will lead the discussion.

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

**Design and Create a Beaded Wind Chime:** Thursday, Nov. 30, 1 p.m.

**AARP Safe Driver Course:** Monday, Dec. 4, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members. Arrive at 11:15 a.m.

**Senior Center Birthday Party:** Monday, Dec. 4, 2 p.m., celebrating September, October, November and December birthdays. Enjoy cake and beverages and some birthday fun.

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

**East Hampton Senior Center Holiday Party:** Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2-5 p.m., at the senior center. There will be food, music and prizes. Register in advance at the senior center.

**Mesh Holiday Wreath Class:** Friday, Dec. 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 for supplies.

**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:** Wednesday, Dec. 6. Have lunch prepared by the school's culinary students. Cost is \$17 or \$13 if you drive yourself. Seating begins at 10:45 a.m. Register and pay in advance at 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.

## 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.

## 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 as-

signment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. Capstone 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.artsof-easthamptonct.org](http://www.artsof-easthamptonct.org) for an application or pick one up at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

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### Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](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 [neel-richard16@gmail.com](mailto:neel-richard16@gmail.com) for information/dates.

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

### 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).

### 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 do-

nate \$17 per wreath to help provide as many wreaths as possible.

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



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# Children's Librarian Promoted to Library Director

By London Brazal

After serving in the role in an interim capacity, Christine Cachuela has now been named the director of East Hampton Public Library.

Cachuela first joined the library in 2019, as children's librarian.

Cachuela had initially worked as a certified veterinary technician for 15 years. With demanding hours, including holidays and overnights, Cachuela looked for a change. As an avid reader and library attendee, she went back to school to get her Master of Library and Information Science at Clarion University in Pennsylvania. While attending school online, Cachuela worked at libraries in Hebron, Waterford, and Windsor. Ultimately, Cachuela wanted something very different from her last position while staying in a service profession.

Her favorite book that she has read the most is *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. "I'm not typically a science-fiction fan," said Cachuela, "but I first read the book in middle school and it's become my favorite."

Cachuela grew up in Colchester and was familiar with East Hampton's community. In 2019, when she came on as the children's librarian, she was excited to start something new and focus on outreach. In her former position, Cachuela centered on pre-kindergarten visits and

making a presence at community events such as Trunk or Treat and the Jingle Ball Parade. At the Center School, Cachuela even revived the rock-climbing club.

One of her favorite programs during her time as the Children's Librarian was the Baby Book Bag. In partnership with a local pediatrician, they filled a tote bag with information and resources for parents with newborns. While some of the information was educational, other pamphlets listed entertainment and social programs at the library.

While transitioning into the director position, Cachuela said she would like to continue building on outreach and make the library a "place that everyone can see themselves in." Cachuela described the next few months for the library as an "exciting time" as they are creating a strategic plan for the next few years. The library plans to send a survey to the community and ask what they want to see change or stay the same at the library. In general, the community can provide feedback and share their opinions. More recently, Cachuela had a conversation about older services such as a program to learn a new language. It ultimately ended because of

the lack of use. With the survey, Cachuela is excited to gauge what the community wants and what is worth putting resources into.

Another goal for Cachuela is to highlight various programs that may be unknown to many community members. Over the summer, they created a "Library of Things." Instead of checking out books or videos, people can borrow camping equipment, podcast equipment, paddle boards, and more just with their library card. The collection of nontraditional items is great for objects people need once or "try before you buy." Another program Cachuela wanted to highlight was the museum passes donated by the Friends of the Library. At discounted rates or for free admission, families can borrow tickets for museums throughout the state. Passes may be reserved one day in advance and can be borrowed for three days.

A big challenge for Cachuela as the director continues to be outreach and getting information out to the public. The website, easthamptonpubliclibrary.org, has the most up-to-date information, and programs are listed weekly in the *Rivereast*. An additional challenge Cachuela faces is filling the now-vacant children's librarian position.



Christine Cachuela

"The staff and I want to serve the town," said Cachuela, adding that, collectively, their goal is to help the public with "lifelong learning." Cachuela is grateful for the other staff at the library who dedicate their time to the community. "They care so much about the community," said Cachuela. "I am happy to support their vision as well."

Cachuela would like to thank her fellow staff members and the Library Advisory Board who have been very supportive in her transition. Cachuela is looking forward to what is next to come and welcomes everyone to check out what the library has to offer.

On Monday, Nov. 27, community members are invited to the library between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., to congratulate Cachuela on her promotion. Refreshments will be served.

## 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.

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And the Winner Is... East Hampton Lions Club Scholarship Chairman Tom Denman and Lions District 23C Governor Teri Schlosser hold the winning ticket to this year's raffle. East Hampton resident Adam Smith was the big winner. The East Hampton Lions thank all who bought tickets.

Police News

11/1: Robert Kalache, 65, of 200 West High St., was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting), East Hampton Police said.

11/9: Michael Blancato, 41, of 64 West High St., was arrested and charged with violation of probation and possession of a controlled substance, police said.

From Nov. 6-12, officers responded to 13 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made 25 traffic stops, police said.

Holiday Boutique Sale

The East Hampton Senior Center will hold its annual Holiday Boutique Sale during the Village Center's December Business Saturday - 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.

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### Christmas Fair

There will be a Christmas Fair Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam.

There will be baked goods, peanuts, Rada cutlery, a silent auction, and Christmas tag sale items.

Lunch items for sale include sandwiches, desserts, coffee, tea and punch.

### 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

### MistleTunes to Perform

The MistleTunes will perform Christmas favorites at Paul's and Sandy's Too this holiday season. 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 perform 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 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m., weather permitting.

For more information, call Paul's and Sandy's Too at 860-267-0143.

### Wreath Making Evening

The Belltown Garden Club will meet at the Congregational Church on Monday, Nov. 27 at 5:30 p.m. for the club's 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.

### 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.

### Parks and Rec Upcoming Events

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

**Zumba Class:** Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Center School. Drop-in fee is \$10, or buy a 10-class card for \$50.

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

### 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 family event will be held in the church field at 17 Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton.

The event will include a decorated tractor parade, Jingle Bell Hayride, 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 - and are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food or personal hygiene items for the East Hampton Food Bank.

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# Volunteer Success in Time for the Holidays

By London Brazal

The recently launched community care program has been gaining usage, as more individuals join to help out fellow community members. The East Hampton Community Cares program started in September and now has 19 volunteers and nine residents who are receiving services.

Dr. Eric Rosenberg, chair of the Commission on Aging, recently praised the program for its outstanding initial success. The initiative pairs aging or disabled individuals with volunteers offering free assistance, ranging from transportation to yard work.

"I'm delighted to see that we're picking up steam in sign-ups," Rosenberg said. "It's particularly heartwarming to hear the delight in people's voices at getting these services done and how appreciative they are."

According to a survey conducted by the commission in 2021, approximately one-third of older adults in East Hampton require assistance in maintaining their homes, handling yard work, and securing transportation for medical appointments. Those unmet needs make it harder for people to live independently in their homes, Rosenberg said. "I think we need both more recipients and more volunteers."

## Christmas Bazaar

The St. Patrick Guild will host its annual Christmas Bazaar for one day only on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the St. Patrick Church Parish Center.

Shop for various Christmas items, take a chance at the basket raffles, browse the display of jewelry, or treat yourself at the bake sale.

## Performance of 'Messiah'

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

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

With the program, resident Frank McGovern was finally able to get the plants he had been given as housewarming gifts into the ground. McGovern, 60, said the program has been "a blessing" for him. Earlier this year, he had settled into his new apartment in East Hampton, but there was a problem. Friends had gifted him six plants as a housewarming present for his new front yard but a stroke left him unable to kneel and plant them.

Upon learning about East Hampton Community Cares, he became a participant in the program and was quickly contacted by a volunteer. "We made a date and he came and he was the nicest guy," said McGovern. "It all went smoothly, everything was just perfect. It was like he was my friend who I hadn't seen in a while. That's how comfortable it was."

McGovern added that the program was helpful on many levels. He learned that he could get projects accomplished while making his new home "look fantastic."

Volunteers enroll with the statewide organization UR Community Cares and use a portal that allows volunteers to identify individuals in need within the community. They can then sign up for tasks, referred to as "deeds." Rosenberg said the more recipients they have, the greater

the selection for volunteers who are looking for a task that is convenient for their schedule. "And of course, the more volunteers, the greater the capacity to help residents."

Mary Ann Dostaler, a volunteer, said that one of the best parts of the program is the flexibility. "The website makes it incredibly easy to see who has posted a new deed they need help with. You can just sign up for what you can do and it's very gratifying."

Brent Salinsky, who had experienced a stroke, faced significant challenges in bending to care for the ornamental grass in his yard. The tall grass requires trimming before winter to ensure it regrows in the spring. "This is the first year I've been unable to do it," said Salinsky, who is 76. He described the program as a "wonderful program for elderly people. They do everything: housekeeping, yard work. It's been great!"

Chuck Hoffhine, a volunteer, signed up this fall to help Beth Angel, who is disabled because of severe arthritis in her knees. "It's a great, great program," said Hoffhine. "It brings those in need together with those that provide. We have

neighbors we don't know who need help. And I think there are probably a lot of people willing to do this, once they get wind of it."

One day, he came to Angel's house to blow off leaves and hickory nuts from her driveway. Hoffhine stayed to fix up her mailbox and cut broken branches down from trees. "I can't say enough positive things," said Angel. Angel said the program has changed her life because she was always nervous about whether she'd be able to get a ride to her doctors' appointments. "I really don't worry about that now," she said.

Hoffhine said it's been great to get to know Angel. "It was an easy job to do and she was very grateful for it. She was great to work with, good to get to know."

Rosenberg said, East Hampton Community Cares "is immensely grateful to our generous donors."

To request services or volunteer, visit [urcommunitycares.org](http://urcommunitycares.org) for more information and to sign up. Or, call the East Hampton Senior Center at 860-267-4426 and leave a message for Beth Angel.

## Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for services with the Rev. Amie McCarthy every Sunday at 10 a.m. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org).

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters and crocheters are welcome.

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

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



SCAN ME

### East Hampton Community Cares

To join as a volunteer or to receive free services (if disabled or 70 or older), please use this link

[www.URCommunityCares.org](http://www.URCommunityCares.org)

or your QR Code reader to link directly to the site.

If you don't have computer access, and would like more information, call

**860-430-4557**

RE11-24-23

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## Special Events!

The **MistleTones** will be singing holiday favorites in the Garden Center November 24th & 25th, December 2nd and 3rd, and 9th & 10th. **Santa** will be visiting December 9th & 10th. Special events run from 11 am to 3 pm.

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**Boy Scout Troop 39 held its fall Court of Honor on Nov. 14. Scouts were recognized for achievements in rank advancement and merit badge completion, and several awards were presented.**

### Troop 39 Holds Court of Honor

Boy Scout Troop 39 of Marlborough held its fall Court of Honor on Nov. 14 to recognize scouts' achievements in rank advancement and merit badge completion. Several scouts also earned special awards. The following scouts were recognized:

Kaden Besade: Animation, Chemistry, Electronics, Engineering, Photography, Public Speaking, Swimming, and Signs, Signals & Codes merit badges; Caleb Billeil: Art, Canoeing, Chess, Fishing, and Pottery merit badges; Ian Fagan: Canoeing, Communication, Forestry, Kayaking, Leatherwork, and Soil & Water Conservation merit badges, Messengers of Peace award; Jack Hutton: Electronics merit badge; Ben Kreamer: Game Design, Fingerprinting, First Aid, and Pioneering merit badges; Vinnie Mastronunzio: Emergency Preparedness, Kayaking, Leatherwork, and Photography merit badges; Spencer Neale: Automotive Main-

tenance, Engineering, Environmental Science, and Family Life merit badges; Travis Pape: Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science, Leatherwork, Metalwork, Radio, Small Boat Sailing, and Swimming merit badges;

Will Pape: Archery, Engineering, Environmental Science, Fingerprinting, Metalwork, Rifle Shooting, Space Exploration, and Small Boat Sailing merit badges; Holden Riley: Citizenship in the Community, Cooking, Engineering, Moviemaking, and Signs, Signals & Codes merit badges, National Outdoor Achievement Award (Camping) with gold device in recognition of 50 nights of camping; Hudson Visco: Environmental Science merit badge; Patrick Wolfgang: Animation, Environmental Science, Exploration, Fingerprinting, Game Design, Photography, and Rifle Shooting merit badges, First Class Rank Advancement.

### Last Call for Wreath Orders!

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

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

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

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

### Holiday 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).

### 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.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org) or call 860-647-6363.

### Art Exhibit Continues at Town Hall

A variety of new pieces of art by award-winning local artist J. Bogon Romanowski will continue to be exhibited in the Town Hall, 26 North Main St., until Dec. 29. The Town Hall is open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday.

All are free to visit and view Romanowski's wide variety of imaginative pieces of art in various styles: oil, charcoal and graphite drawings, and mixed media. Her work has appeared in various juried shows, most recently in the 2023 Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts "CAFA + EMERGENCE" virtual themed show, hosted at [www.ctacademy.org/cafa-plus/emergence](http://www.ctacademy.org/cafa-plus/emergence). Her mixed media painting titled, "Dream or Dare,"

was selected to appear through Dec. 9 on the CAFA website. Additionally, her oil painting, "With Eyes Wide Shut," won Best of Show in the 2022 Marlborough Arts Center Exhibit. She also was awarded First Prize at the East of the River Exhibition in 2021 for her "Rooted Men2" graphite drawing.

These monthly exhibits are sponsored by the Marlborough Arts Center, of which Romanowski is an artist member. Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts and fine crafts. For information about events, classes, membership and other artistic possibilities, visit [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org) or call 860-467-6353.

### Parks and Rec Fall Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [marlbroughct.recdesks.com](http://marlbroughct.recdesks.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. Friday, 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.

**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.

**Driveway Reflective Number Signs:** Cost of the sign is \$50. Vertical sign is double sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

### 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.marlbroughchurch.org](http://mcc.marlbroughchurch.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@marlbroughchurch.org](mailto:office@marlbroughchurch.org) for more information.

**Sunday, Nov. 26:** Worship will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "See No Stranger," based on Psalm 95:1-7 and Matthew 25:31-45.

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


**Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshipers to bring their donations. The monthly Drive Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank clients will be Sunday, Nov. 26, from 1-1:30 p.m. Operation Christmas Stocking is now collecting various items for the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center in Middletown that serves youth ages 13 to 17. Suggested gifts are listed in Christmas stockings at the church and will be collected until Dec. 10.

**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. The annual Holiday Open House will be Nov. 24 and 25 during regular shop hours with light refreshments and a gift drawing. 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@marlbroughchurch.org](mailto:pastorval@marlbroughchurch.org).



## Better Dental HEALTH

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

### ORAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

Oral health has often been linked to overall health. Recent studies have focused on the connection between individuals suffering from depression, anxiety, and stress and their loss of motivation to maintain good oral health habits, resulting in significant oral health concerns. The stress of mental health conditions creates cortisol, a hormone in the body that weakens the immune system, leading to gingivitis and periodontitis. Medications for mental health issues can also cause dry mouth, which can reduce the body's defense mechanisms and make an individual susceptible to cavities and gingival inflammation. Because the oral cavity is the body's most accessible environment for bacteria, dental professionals have long been aware of how mental health can affect oral health.

Everyone can benefit from preventive dental care. Experience proves it is to your advantage to take time for your oral health no matter how busy your personal or professional schedule. A few minutes spent each day on your teeth can not only help preserve good dental health, but it can also help safeguard your overall health. Nothing is more economical than regular dental checkups, so please let us help you take care of your oral health. Call us for an appointment for comfortable, convenient dental care.

*P.S.* The most common cause of gingivitis is poor oral hygiene that allows plaque to form on teeth, causing inflammation of the surrounding gum tissues.

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REF-2020

### 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.

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# Marlborough Preparing for its Hallmark Moment

By Michael Sinkewicz

Santa Claus is coming to town! On Saturday, Dec. 2, the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the town's annual "Gathering on the Green" to help launch the holiday season.

The event, held at the town green, promises to be a delight for those of all ages.

"It's our Hallmark moment," said Mark Merritt, a longtime member of the fire department.

The evening will feature a lighted fire truck parade, a tree lighting, an appearance from Santa and many, many refreshments and games to liven the mood.

There will be somewhere between 12 and 15 firetrucks rolling through the parade route, Merritt said, with numerous towns represented; along with Marlborough - East Hampton, Colchester, Lebanon, Glastonbury, Haddam Neck and East Haddam are all expected to showcase their own fire apparatus.

Fire Marshal and Board of Selectmen member Joe Asklar invited the whole community — Marlborough resident or not — to attend the festivities.

"We're really looking forward to this," he said. "It's absolutely magnificent."

Asklar provided the itinerary and timeline for next Saturday's event, which kicks off at 4:30 p.m., as Marlborough's Fife and Drum Corps welcomes guests as they arrive. Then at 5 p.m., the parade rolls through the center of town, with each truck fittingly adorned with lights.

Santa won't be hard to spot — he'll be aboard

the vintage Mack fire truck. Later, he'll disembark and take pictures with eagerly awaiting children. "Santa will be available," Asklar confirmed.

For the tree-lighting ceremony, the guest of honor this year will be the family of Kevin Schattle, a beloved Marlborough resident who passed away earlier this year.

Throughout the night, the RHAM High School chorus will furnish the atmosphere with Christmas carols and finally at 6 p.m., the grand finale arrives — an extravagant fireworks display.

This year, the pyrotechnics will be provided by Legion Fireworks, out of upstate New York; the local fire departments will be on standby to ensure that proper safety precautions are observed.

Asklar explained that roughly a decade ago, the town would organize a simple tree lighting event.

"It was nice," he recalled. But some of the fire department members theorized that perhaps the celebration could be even more.

"I think we could do a better job," Asklar explained.

So they brought — invited — Santa down from the North Pole, which helped improve the night.

Then the members sat around again, and again determined that more could be done.

"Let's make this an occasion to remember," Asklar expressed.

Now for the last eight years, the event has proven to be truly memorable for those who

stop by Main Street.

A few years back, Asklar recalled, a snowstorm coated the town green, creating a magical winter wonderland — almost 1,000 people showed up that year.

No tax dollars are funneled into the night; Asklar said donations are greatly appreciated.

"It's a special way for a small community to come together," he said.

Asklar recalled some folks attending the event from an out of state city, and they admired the "Christmas spirit" on display. He expressed that other areas don't necessarily have the "camaraderie" experienced in towns such as Marlborough.

Parking is available nearby the town green, including at the St. John Fisher Church. The rain date for the event is Dec. 3.

## Preservation Society Calendars Available to Order

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

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

notable people from town.

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

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

## 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).

## 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 Kuhr at 860-754-8137.

## 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.

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

change.

**Monday, Nov. 27:** 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: beef meatballs, garlic smashed potatoes, vegetable blend, 100% whole wheat bread/fresh fruit; bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Cards, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28:** Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

**Wednesday, Nov. 29:** Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: grande cheese ravioli with marinara sauce, Parmesan cheese, Italian-blend vegetables, breadstick, fresh fruit; cards, 1-4 p.m.

**Thursday, Nov. 30:** Meals-on-Wheels, noon. **Friday, Dec. 1:** No CRT meal service today.

## 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.stjfisher.org](http://www.stjfisher.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

## Discovery Zone learning Center



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### Town Office Closing

The offices of Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center & Public Works will be closed today, Friday, Nov. 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The transfer station will be open Saturday, Nov. 25.

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### 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.

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

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

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

### 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.

### Christmas Sweets and Treats Holiday Sale

The First Congregational Church of Portland, U.C.C., invites everyone to its annual cookie sale Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the fellowship hall of the church, located at 554 Main St.

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.

Besides cookies and candy items, there will be small gifts and gift baskets for sale. New this year will be the church's 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.

For more information, call the church at 860-342-3244.

### Vocal Chords Holiday Concert

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

The 90-voice chorus and 10-piece orchestra will perform Irish and French carols, classical, swing, gospel, ballads, and traditional holiday pieces.

Proceeds from the concert help fund scholarships presented in the spring to graduating Middlesex community high school seniors pursuing a career in music or nursing.

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

### 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.

### Service of Lessons and Carols

The adult and youth choirs of St. Mary Church will once again host a Service of Lessons and Carols to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The service will be held Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m., at Saint Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave. All are invited to attend this service, which will feature scripture readings, prayer and traditional carols from around the world, as well as modern liturgical songs of the season. There will also be familiar carols for everyone to join in singing.

Donations of the following items will be ac-

cepted to benefit Portland Food Bank: personal items (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes); paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper, tissues); and food items, especially bagged snacks, apple juice, condiments, canned meats, tuna, and stews).

A monetary free-will offering will be accepted, to help support the work of the Saint Mary music ministry in revitalizing choral offerings and liturgy. The choirs provide music for weekly and funeral Masses, and at special celebrations throughout the year.

### 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.

"Etuaptomk: Two-Eyed Seeing in Our Daily Lives" will be held Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 6 p.m. Etuaptomk 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.

### 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.

**Holiday Closing:** The senior center will be closed today, Friday, Nov. 24, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**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); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m.; Dulcimer Class, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SynoCize 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 Dulos of "All Ears" in Portland. No registration is necessary.

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

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

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

### Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold a Bingo Night on Thursday, Dec. 7 at Concentric Brewery located at 91 Main Street. Card sales start at 6 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$20 for four cards to be used for all 10 games, with prizes for the winner of each game. Proceeds from the night will go to the Portland Fuel Bank and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

### Winter Indoor Soccer Registration

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) is holding registration for its winter indoor session. Register at [clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub). Deadline is Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, and the season will run Jan. 13 to March 2.

Limited space is available. Players will be grouped based on age and registration totals. Start times are subject to change depending on total registrations. The tentative schedule is:

Divisions U5-U8 (birth years 2016-19): Saturday Futsal at noon/1 p.m. One hour each week at Gildersleeve gym. Cost is \$40.

Divisions U9-U15 (birth years 2009-15): Saturday Futsal at either 2 p.m., 3 p.m. or 4 p.m.,

at Gildersleeve gym, and/or indoor soccer Sundays at 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. at Oakwood in Glastonbury. Fee \$60. Some weeks it will be one of the two days; other weeks it will be both days.

Futsal is fully recognized and sanctioned by U.S. Youth Soccer, and promoted by CJSA, PSC's parent organization. Futsal is played in a gymnasium with dedicated goals and a heavier ball.

Indoor Soccer Sundays: At Oakwood indoor soccer field #3 in Glastonbury. The Oakwood field is larger than a basketball court: carpeted floor with hockey walls. A normal soccer ball is used.

Volunteer coaches are provided through PSC.

For more information, contact club president Chad Wilson at [nosliw.dahc@gmail.com](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com).

### Used Winter Adult Coat Drive

Each November into December the Portland Knights of Columbus collects used coats for the food bank, to provide their clients. Donations can be placed in the large container in the Rosary Room at St. Mary Church.

### 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.

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



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REMEMBER: If it's from Gotta's, it's Gotta be good!

## Obituaries

## Rocky Hill

## Janet Foley

Janet Mary Agnus Koller Foley, born April 9, 1954, passed Wednesday, Nov. 15. She was married to William John Foley III and had one rather quirky bundle of fur Penny wiggles, five incredible children held by fantastic partners Kate and Sam, Meg, Colleen and Sean, Bill and Molly, Tim, and six beautiful and even more incredible grandchildren Emily, Max, Sammy, Brooks, Asher and Jesse – no one likes a one-upper but these kids manage to do it.

These are the usual details but Janet was nothing of usual. In fact she was the opposite, on purpose.

She was the world's most hidden gem. She had a special whimsical eye and humor that was unmatched. Her creativity and optimism were remarkable. If you wanted a dress, she would tell you she could make it better. And she did. Halloween was her favorite. We would design and create every costume, prom dress, pillow and curtain. If you decorated a room, she would do it better. So much so that when we rented Airbnbs the first thing she would do is rearrange all the furniture. She was a master of resources and had an amazing eye for design. If something was broken in our house, that does not mean you throw it away, it just meant you were not creative enough to fix it or make it useful in some way.

She liked to spice things up, make change, and keep it playful. She hustled; she got it done. Through all the hardships and tough moments, she always stayed positive. She even claimed it was her blood type: B Positive. Our family has been through things I would not wish on anyone but if it had to happen, I wish for you that you have a Janet. She made life an adventure for us and it got us through so much in life. She worked tirelessly, she would give endlessly and possessed endless potential, ingenuity and genuine fascination for the people she touched and always had dog treats in her pockets for the impromptu stray. She made you feel unjudged and truly interesting, she was fascinated with people and what makes them tick. So much of what us kids are today is from her and because of her and we are truly and forever grateful.

She had a quick wit and fire which made her sparky and stubborn but curved with her big heart and whimsical creativity made for a magical concoction of fun-loving humor, quirky solutions and damn the man boldness. If your shoes smell – obvious choice – put them in the freezer. If your tooth is chipped, I think super glue would work. If you need fresh breath, just keep peppermint leaves in your purse. If you're lost just follow the car in front of you – he probably knows where he's going. Her little Zen wisdom zingers will stay with us always.

Memo passed on 11/15. 15 is a special number. In numerology it would signify leadership, action and sign of success. It's no wonder we all chose it for sports. Kate gets the OG cred, then the rest of us jumped on the wagon in some way

whether through sports jerseys, addresses, pins, or even signs from the universe. Now Janet can claim it as her number from the other side.

Thank you Memo for being. We love you always.

A celebration of life is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. A location will follow.

## East Hampton

## Doris May Lawson

Doris May (Brewer) Lawson, 97, of East Hampton, died Thursday, Nov. 16, at Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation. She was born March 2, 1926, to Annie C. (West) and Anton K. Brewer.

Doris was predeceased by the love of her life, her husband of 62 years, Kenneth E. Lawson. Her greatest joy was time spent with her family; her grandchildren were her pride and joy.

Doris spent the entirety of her life in East Hampton and graduated from East Hampton High School in 1944. She studied to be a cadet nurse at St. Francis Hospital during WWII. Doris worked at both St. Francis and Middlesex hospitals, before spending 13 years as a school nurse for the East Hampton School District. She was a charter member of the St. Patrick's Guild and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

When able, she loved spending time getting her hands dirty in her gardens. An avid UConn women's basketball fan and lifelong Boston Red Sox fan, she could always be found watching a game in her recliner, with her cat Tigger watching over her.

Doris is survived by her sons, Kenneth E. Lawson Jr. of East Hampton and Brent A. Lawson and his wife Barbara of Troy, Maine; her twin sister, Dorothy (Brewer) Lawson of Florida; her grandchildren, Tanya Seay and her husband Hank, Gwen Lawson, Jared Lawson and his partner Susie Gabelle, and Stephanie Lawson; her great-grandchildren, Boomer Seay, Aaron Seay, Colt Seay, Jake Seay, and her bonus great-grandchildren, Hannah and Toby Simpson; as well as her great-great-grandchild, Harper Seay. She is also survived by her nieces, Sandra, Marilyn, Tina, Cindy, and Pam; her nephews, Bruce, Roger and Chris; as well as several great and great-great nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Middlesex Hospice for all their support over the last 20 months.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday Nov. 27, from 5-7 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for dona-

tions in her memory to Middlesex Hospice, c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

## Nancy Ann Dennehy

Nancy Ann Dennehy, 73, of Colchester, passed away on the early morning of Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born June 24, 1950, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, she was a daughter of the late Robert and Viola (Valli) Rutty.

Nancy married her husband, Robert Dennehy in 1970; the couple settled down in Colchester where they raised their sons. She obtained her nursing degree from St. Francis School of Nursing in Hartford in 1971. She then went on to work as a nurse at the same hospital she was born at, Middlesex Hospital, for over 43 years until her retirement in 2016. During her nursing career she furthered her education ultimately obtaining her master's degree in health care management.

In her spare time, she loved to curl up with a good book and was a fan of musicals. Nancy was also an avid fan of the girls UConn basketball team and rarely missed a home game.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Dennehy; her sons, Scott and his wife Tina Dennehy, and Ryan Dennehy; grandchildren, Kaitlyn, JJ and Brayden Dennehy; sisters, Joane Colburn and Louise and husband David Joyce; brother-in-law, Brian and wife Jann Dennehy; nieces Amber, Shannon, Katie and Kristen; cats, Gizmo and Tinkerbell; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her brother-in-law, Bob Colburn.

Calling hours will be held today, Friday, Nov. 24, from 5-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral liturgy will be held the following day on Saturday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillette's Lane in Colchester. A Celebration of Nancy will occur at 1 p.m. at St Mary Ukrainian Church Hall, 180 Linwood Ave., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memori-

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al donations be made to the Glioblastoma Foundation, P.O. Box 62066, Durham, NC 27715.

## Colchester

## Marie Fanelli

Marie Fanelli, 62, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Friday, Nov. 10. Marie is predeceased by her father, Dominick Fanelli Sr.; sister, Donna Fanelli Lewis; and brother, Dominick Fanelli.

Marie is survived by her mother, Loretta Doyer of Moodus; sister, Lillian and brother-in-law Danel Resto of Portland; sister, Rose Hodgdon and fiancé George of Cromwell. Marie is also survived by a nephew, Jacob Distefano of Portland; six nieces, Antolina Distefano of Portland, Kelsey Hodgdon of Manchester, Kayla Hodgdon of Colchester, Krystal and Julia Resto of Portland and Angelina Morrisette of Hebron. Marie also leaves behind seven great nephews and one great niece. Marie also leaves behind her staff from Scinto House and Depree House.

Marie enjoyed interacting with staff, watching movies, listening to music, playing with her toys and looking in her mirror. Marie loved going for rides with her roommates and staff. She especially loved the visits home to see her family. Marie had a good sense of humor; she would love to play with her nieces and nephews...as long as they didn't take her toys. Marie had a jokester personality that was hard not to love, where she would laugh at people that would trip and fall, or when her nieces and nephews got in trouble. Marie was just an all-around loving soul.

Marie's family would like to send our deepest appreciation to the staff that loved and cared for her. I know in Marie's heart she appreciated everything you have done and all the people around her to make her life happy. Your dedication, devotion and love was appreciated by her family and especially by Marie. She loved you all, and those of you she didn't, you knew it!!!

Calling hours will be Thursday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford.

## Portland

## Dale Benoit Sr.

Dale Benoit Sr., 86, of Portland, formerly of Northampton, Mass., passed away Monday, Nov. 6, surrounded by his family. Dale was born March 3, 1937, to the late Leo and Jeanne Benoit.

Dale served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Germany, before moving to Portland. His first marriage produced two sons, Dale Jr and David. Dale retired from the town of Portland, where he worked in the maintenance department. Dale was a Life Member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, where he proudly served 58 years, and rose to the rank of Fire Police Captain, and was also president of the Middlesex Fire Police Association. He considered his many friends in the department to be his second family.

Dale is survived by his third wife, Cynthia of Portland, and his children Dale Jr and his wife Terri, David, stepson Keith and his wife Seng, all of Portland, and stepdaughter, Kelly of Florida. Dale is also survived by his first wife and mother of his two sons, Mary Lou (Bagadinski) Pini, and his second wife Donna Nobile, both of Portland. Dale also leaves behind his grandchildren Kate and her husband Don of Glastonbury, and Nick, Kyle, Josh, and Shelby, all of Portland. Dale was predeceased by his brother Edward, and his sister Theresa.

Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 29, with full military honors in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 5-7 p.m.

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

not just an investment in the well-being of our seniors but also a commitment to building a compassionate and inclusive community. In conclusion, let's celebrate and appreciate the indispensable role that our senior center plays in the lives of our older community members.

Sincerely,  
**Madelyn Starkey – Colchester**

*Note: Starkey is an alternate member of the Colchester Senior Center Building Committee but said she is writing as an individual.*

### Disappointed Again

To the Editor:

Congratulations Scott Sauyet, member-elect of RHAM BOE. Wouldn't have got my vote. Disappointed he will be responsible for the future of children's education. No surprise a member of the DTC.

His "misinformation" of the Republican party is representative Democratic party actions. Thomas Jefferson never did say, "A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have". Peeling back the onion one more layer from his definitive Jefferson source, <https://tjrs.monticello.org/letter/1526> regarding this particular quote, where it states "For more information, click here" it does go on to say "this quotation has been associated with the ideological descendants of Jefferson's Democratic-Republican party for a very long time, and this is likely why it ultimately came to be attributed to him". No one falsely attributed any propaganda, Scott. Political parties that live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

My undergraduate and graduate professors lectured properly citing references in research paper bibliographies. Professor would say you only cited opinion, not facts. You now will help govern the school district, serve as a leader and champion for community public education. Really? Using big words like "peccadilloes" also describe you and don't qualify you as champion for public education.

"Debt and Budgets" letter from Frank Blume right before your letter proves that you have no real conservative concerns over the country's debt. You continue ignoring the other issues, truly existential threats to our country like inflation, border crisis, crime, drugs far more than climate change. You speak of the IRS not being able to go after "tax cheats," like Biden Inc?

Scott, be careful writing your letters. Between you, Annie and Ed, your Republican and Trump Derangement Syndromes must be treated, maybe vaccines for these ailments?

Happy Thanksgiving and God bless all!

**Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough**

### The Honorable, or Dishonorable

To the Editor:

The *Rivereast* posted a cover story on 11/9 describing the Colchester election results. In that story, they quoted CT Attorney General William Tong as he commented on the outcome. What I found extremely despicable, disturbing, and prejudicial, were these remarks: "For the Board of Education people, it's about kids, not having book-banners and MAGA forces infecting what should be every day decisions for the benefit of the community and families." When first reading this, although angry and dissenting, I was going to let it go, but it kept eating at me like a cancer, like the cancer that has been slowing eating at and skillfully destroying our country's values and infrastructure. I thought to myself – wow, the bias and social attack goes beyond inference, and good Americans should be outraged and alarmed at the agenda and narrative coming out of Hartford.

This slick political response and pivot is nothing short of appalling and divisive. It spouts misinformation (as books were not being banned, only requested to be appropriately relocated); it infers damning generalizations, gross mischaracterization and wrongful representation (about people who love, support, and want the absolute best for their country and country folk – kids and adults); and more than hints of identity politics and agenda activism.

So, to these scales of in-justice, I say this: For the Justice System people, it's about integrity, lawfulness and righteousness, not having radicalized, prejudicial, elitist forces infecting what should be deference to U.S. Constitutional law and true American values and ideals for the benefit of our country and (we the) people of the United States.

Respectfully,

**John Consiglio – Colchester**

### Time to Finish This

Dear Colchester Residents:

It is an honor to serve as the new first selectman of Colchester. I was so encouraged to see the record turnout in this year's election – regardless of who you voted for, Colchester citizens showed they are engaged and excited about the future of our town.

That work does not stop on Election Day. In fact, now the real work begins. Your participation is needed to make sure Colchester's government keeps working for you. On Tuesday, there is a critical vote that will affect the future of our community – the Senior Center referendum.

This referendum was scheduled prior to my taking office, and frankly I think the legalese in the two questions makes them confusing. The second referendum question references bonding up to \$10.39 million. It is important for residents to know this before they vote – the town has no plans to borrow \$10.39 million.

When I served on Board of Finance, we devised a plan for this project that involved spending and bonding up to \$9.5 million. Thanks to the receipt of a \$2.5 million state grant and generous funds from the Bendas estate, the town is on track to borrow less than the originally approved \$9.5 million.

Construction is already underway. The foundation is in place. Steel has started going up. A funding shortfall now would almost certainly lead to costly delays. The fact is: the town never had a Plan B if this funding was not approved. As a candidate, I was critical of that approach – but we are where we are.

To move forward as a town, I believe it is critical and fiscally responsible to vote 'yes' on both questions next week. It's time to finish this.

Sincerely,  
**Bernie Dennler – Colchester**

*Note: Dennler is Colchester first selectman, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

### Finish What We Started

Colchester Neighbors:

On Nov. 28, we need your voice and vote at the senior center referendum to approve the final funding required to complete this long overdue project.

There are two questions to vote on. The first question is to approve spending \$32,691 of state ARPA funds and a \$575,000 donation from the Bendas Estate already designated for the senior center. It's essential to note that these funds alone are insufficient to complete the project.

The second question is approving to bond up to \$11 million – please note that due to grants and other funds already received - the town will only bond \$7.9 million. This amount is a decrease from the town's original authorization to bond \$9.5 million, translating to no additional unanticipated, unforeseen burden to the taxpayers.

The reality is this – the current senior center lacks space, adequate facilities, and ease of access for necessary programs and services for our seniors. The new center will offer the required accessibility and space for senior programs, along with expanded services and activities, giving our senior population more daily in-person access and use.

The new center will offer multi-purpose rooms for health services, library space, fitness space, and other vital activities our seniors need. Lastly, above and beyond our seniors, the town will benefit from a community use and event space that can serve up to 300 people connecting to a covered outdoor gathering space.

Our seniors are a vibrant and vital part of our community. We owe it to give them a place to enjoy their golden years with comfort, safety, and dignity. They've taken care of our town and schools in many cases for decades. It's time for Colchester to do the right thing, pay it back, and move us forward together.

Respectfully,

**Scott Chapman – Colchester**

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

<p><b>TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing</b></p>
<p>The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on December 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:                  PZC-23-014: Flanders Road Estates LLC, Flanders Road, Fifteen (15) Lot subdivision, (Home Acres Estates), Map 26/Block 87/ Lot 6                  PZC-23-015: Text Amendment regarding Accessory Uses to Agriculture per Sec. 8.4.C                  Kevin Kuhr, Chairman                  Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.</p>
<p>2TB 11/24, 12/1</p>

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

# Three-Peat for Raptors Volleyball

By **Josh Howard**

For the third straight season, girls volleyball at RHAM High School has been crowned state champions.

The Raptors defeated Joel Barlow in four sets (25-22, 16-25, 25-22, 25-18) in the Class M title match on Nov. 18 at East Haven High School, capturing the program's 10th state championship – with five of those titles coming in the last seven seasons.

In the latest title triumph, Lani Fecho led the way with 27 kills and a dozen digs. Fecho, who was named the Class M tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP), is one of a half dozen seniors that will be graduating having never lost a state tournament match.

When the current seniors entered the high school as freshman in 2020, volleyball was restricted because of the COVID-19 pandemic and there was no postseason or state tournament play. The Raptors still finished undefeated (13-0) in the regular season during the shortened season.

"Winning this year is the best possible way we could have ended our high school careers. None of the seniors are playing in college, so for us to end this way was incredible," stated Fecho. "To say that we won a state title every year we could is amazing."

RHAM's journey to their latest state title was a little more unique than the previous two seasons because the team had to battle their way through a loaded state tournament bracket, featuring an undefeated team and three teams with only one loss.

In 2021 the Raptors were the No. 1 seed in the state tourney, breezing through the bracket before beating Simsbury in three sets in the Class L championship match. A year ago, they didn't lose a single set in the 2022 Class M tourney, which culminated with a sweep of Woodland in the title match.

After graduating a pair of all-conference players from the 2022 team, RHAM dropped three regular season matches and entered the 2023 state tourney in an unfamiliar territory as a No. 6 seed.

### Children's Holiday Craft Fair

RHAM Girl Scouts will hold their 29th annual Children's Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Marlborough Elementary School community room. The fair is open to the public.

All items are priced at \$10 or under, and each purchase comes with free gift-wrapping.

Girl Scout elves will be ready to assist 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

### Annual RHAM Alumni Soccer Game

The fifth annual Jim Fromme Memorial RHAM Alumni Soccer Game will be played Saturday, Nov. 25, at 11 a.m., at the Oakwood Sports Center in Glastonbury. Arrive by 10:45 a.m. Pizza and drinks will be served afterward.

The game is open to all past male and female RHAM soccer players (including this year's graduating seniors).

RSVP to [pamfromme1@gmail.com](mailto:pamfromme1@gmail.com) for a head count, but last-minute players are welcome.

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

### Tree of Giving Returns to Glastonbury

Keri and Sarah Team at William Raveis are hosting the Trees of Giving 2023 at Glen Lochen, located 39 New London Turnpike in Glastonbury.

This event will be held Friday, Dec. 1, from 5-8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and is open to the public with no entry fee.

Experience the magic of the holiday season and admire the twinkling lights and beautiful displays donated and sponsored by local families and businesses.

Enter for an opportunity to win a displayed

### Ghost Run Results

The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton held the 20th annual Ghost Run Saturday, Nov. 4, on the 13.1-mile certified half marathon Air Line Trail course. Here are the results:

1st Place Men overall: Matthew Simonelli; 1st Place Women overall: Janel DeCurtis; 1st Place, Men 60+: Andre Bennatan; 1st Place Women 60+: Debbie Perry; 1st Place, Men 50-59: Jon Chesto; 1st Place Women 50-59: Donna Bellmore; 1st Place, Men 40-49: Richard Fielding;

One of the Raptors regular season losses was to Joel Barlow, who finished 18-1 and earned the No. 1 seed.

In order to hang banner No. 10, RHAM needed to beat the top three ranked teams in Class M.

"Last year we lost a bunch of strong seniors, and the underclassmen really had to step up this year," stated Fecho. "We were super close as a team, and I think it really paid off in the end."

Once the tourney started, RHAM had to grind out wins over No. 3 Suffield in the quarterfinals, No. 2 Northwestern in the semifinals, before eventually avenging the regular season loss to Joel Barlow in the title tilt.

In the quarterfinals victory over Suffield, the Raptors dropped the first two sets before rallying to win the last three (14-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-13, 17-15).

Fecho had career-highs in kills (35) and digs (39) in the marathon match, while freshman Rian Calhoun served up a career-high 36 assists.

In the semifinals win over Northwestern, junior setter Nina Jobses shined, dishing up a career-high 48 assists as the Raptors dominated the final two sets (25-11, 25-12) after splitting the first two frames.

Jobses continued to spread the wealth in the title match, tallying 46 assists against Joel Barlow. Helping Fecho near the net in the championship match were sophomores Meredith Weir and Cecelia Zito. Weir registered 21 kills and Zito had a game-high eight blocks to lead a defensive charge that also got a team-high 22 digs from junior Neve Tyler.

Along with a third straight team title, the Raptors also had six players selected All-Central Connecticut Conference (CCC). Of the all-conference players, only Fecho and Marina McLaughlin will be graduating.

Jobses, Weir, Tyler, and Caitlin Rydel will all return following all-conference seasons as the team eyes a fourth straight title, which would duplicate the program's run from 2007-10, when RHAM won four consecutive state championships.

the cafeteria while young shoppers pick out the perfect gifts.

In the cafeteria will be a bake sale. Free coffee and water will also be available.

This year, the Girl Scouts will also collect food donations for the Hebron and Marlborough food pantries. Requests include soup, pasta, canned fruit, peanut butter, and tuna.

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

### Winter Fun

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold Winter Fun with Your Little One Mondays, Dec. 4-18, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., in the Family Resource Center at Gilead Hill School in Hebron.

The program is for children birth-5 and their caregivers. Make some holiday creationsto share with friends and family. There will be discussion on stress reduction for parents and creating meaningful family rituals and memories.

Register at [ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home](http://ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home). For more information, contact Becky Murray at [beckym@ahmyouth.org](mailto:beckym@ahmyouth.org), Ashlee Parks at [ashleep@ahmyouth.org](mailto:ashleep@ahmyouth.org), or the Family Resource Center at 860-228-0871.

gift tree with raffle tickets sold for \$1 each. Winning names will be drawn Saturday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. sharp. You do not need to be present to win.

Special Saturday visit from the one and only – Santa! And new this year, take a trip to Santa's Secret Workshop where kids can shop for gifts for their loved ones.

All funds raised will be donated to Glastonbury Gives, where 100% goes to local families in need.

1st Place Women 40-49: Larissa Giordano;  
 1st Place, Men 30-39: Taelor Bohnsack; 1st Place Women 30-39: Shannon Quinn; 1st Place, Men 19-29: Mike Salnikov; 1st Place Women 19-29: Madison Cann; 1st Place, Men 18 and under: Daniel Zhou; 1st Place Women 18 and under: Danielle Lynch; 1st Place Relay Team: HKAC.  
 To see all of the race results, go to [tinyurl.com/mu8pnxby](http://tinyurl.com/mu8pnxby).

# CLEANING SERVICES

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## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON IWWA ACTIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on November 15, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:  
Application IW-23-024: Salt Pond Apartments LLC & Edgewater Hill Association, Inc., Edgewater Circle, Re-subdivision approval for the creation of 2 lots. Map 10A/Block 85/Lot 5C – Approved  
Chairman Joshua Wilson

# FOR SALE

**BEAUTIFUL WOOD SLEIGH BED:** Queen size frame for sale. Text or call for pictures. \$125. 860-918-5397.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE:** cut, split, delivered locally \$270/CORD. Can custom cut to size. Multiple cord discount. Call/text 860-202-8950.

**FIREWOOD SEASONED/SPLIT:** hard wood. Full cord \$270. Half cord \$165. Delivery included to local area. Quick delivery. Call 860-633-5766.

**TAG SALES**  
**ESTATE SALE:** Sunday, Nov 26th, 8am-2pm. 17 Stony Brook Hale Farms, Glastonbury. Antiques - sideboard, desk, mid-century dresser, mirror, chairs. Glassware, books, framed art pieces (oils, John Lennon portrait, many more). Rugs, ski apparel. Many household items.

**END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT:** Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

**PLAN AHEAD FIREWOOD FOR SALE:** Call Reggie 860-657-8052 or Ray 860-952-4741. \$270 a cord, \$170 for half. Make your reservation, to be delivered now or later.

# EMPLOYMENT

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Call Maryla Underwood at 860-801-1114 or email [munderwood@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:munderwood@colebrookvillage.com)

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**Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)**  
We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Shifts: 7a-3p. 3p-11p. 11p-7a. Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Meals...  
Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email [cbaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:cbaker@colebrookvillage.com)

**Public Utilities Administrator Colchester – East Hampton Joint Facilities**  
The Colchester-East Hampton Joint Facilities and the Town of East Hampton are seeking a candidate to fill the position of Public Utilities Administrator. This position is responsible for all administrative sewer and water activities, including the general management of a regional wastewater treatment plant and collection system and municipal water system. Demonstrated abilities and knowledge of utility charges, beneficial assessments, long-range planning, and management analysis is required.  
The ideal candidate will have considerable experience in Public Utilities, including water and wastewater or graduation from a four-year college or university with a degree in an appropriate and related field with responsible management experience in public utility (water and sewer) activities including supervisory experience and planning. Appropriate technical or engineering experience required. State of Connecticut Department of Health class I Water Distribution License and State of Connecticut Department of Health Class II Water Treatment Plant license required within one year of employment. State of Connecticut DEEP Wastewater Treatment Class IV Operator license and New England NEWEA Class IV Collection System Operator license, or equivalent experience and the ability to obtain these licenses is also desirable. Experience in the management and development of public water systems is preferred.  
\$115,000-\$125,000 per annum commensurate with experience and education and benefit package to include 401, vacation, health, and life insurance programs.  
Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to [lseymour@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:lseymour@easthamptonct.gov), by December 15, 2023, or until filled. Employment application, and job description may be found at [easthamptonct.gov](http://easthamptonct.gov). M-F/EOE/AA.

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# LEGALS

## TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on December 6, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):  
**PZC2023-013** of Galaxy Development, LLC (Applicant) and Kettle Club, LLC (Owner) – Special Permit and Site Plan Review for proposed multi-tenant building for commercial development including food service with a pick-up window on 0.79± acres located at 131 Linwood Avenue (Assessor's ID 11-00-027-000) Zoning District: Town Center (TC)  
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this application is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday).  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair



## Public Notice Town of East Hampton, Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency Wetlands Agent Approval

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area.  
Number: IW-23-023  
Applicant: Judith Bradway  
Location: 18 Laurel Trail  
Activity: Landscaping in Upland Review Area. Map 10A/ Block 79A/ Lot 1  
Jeffrey M. Foran Duly Authorized Agent  
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

## TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.  
Application #23-04: 1600 Portland Cobalt Road. Request for Special Permit for a 4-bay vehicle installer and repairer with a retail space. Application of F+F Specialty Vehicles and property of TCBS Properties. Map 16, Lot 31-1. Zone B-2.  
Application #23-05: Proposed amendment to the town of Portland Zoning Regulations: New article section 8.7 EV Charging Stations. Application of Town of Portland.  
Dated at Portland, CT this 14th day of November 2023  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

## TOWN OF PORTLAND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Inland Wetlands Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting on December 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT to consider the following:  
IWC Application #23-01: Portland Cobalt Road. Request for proposed work in the regulated area for the construction of a retail fueling station and convenience store. Application of Janant LLC and property of MJC Realty Venture LLC. Assessor's Map 31, Lot 23-2. Zone B-2.  
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of these applications are available for review at the Town of Portland Town Hall.  
Dated in Portland, CT, this 20th day of November 2023  
Martha Dumas, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands Commission

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WANTED TO BUY**  
**ALWAYS BUYING OLD TOOLS:** old, used, antique hand tools. MACHINIST, wood-working, engraving, and workbench hand tools and tool chests. Hunting equipment and firearms, also of interest. Fair and honest offers made. Call with confidence, Cory 860-322-4367.

**WANTED TO BUY:** loose and bulk change, and old sterling silverware for cash. Also purchasing silver coins and any item made of sterling silver. Will make house calls. Call/text Dom 860-836-5013, email [dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net).

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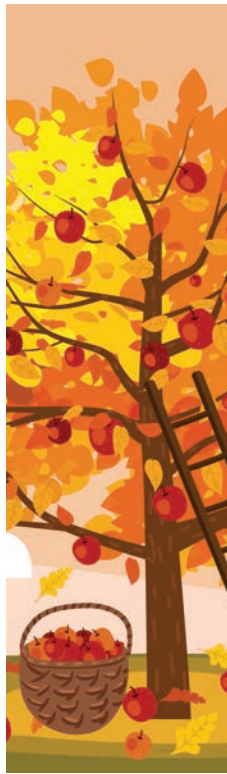
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