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# News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 45

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December 1, 2023



**The Festival of Lights...** All are invited to join Rabbi Yosef Wolvovskiy and his family in a festive Chanukah celebration on the Colchester Town Green on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. Read more about the celebration on page 13.

## Senior Center Funding Approved

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester voters overwhelmingly passed two referendum questions on Tuesday, injecting an additional \$1.5 million into the town's senior center project.

A significant construction budget shortfall had threatened the completion of the new facility and officials were fearful that the project would stall without supplementary funding.

Residents approved two separate questions, with each one allocating a different pool of money: Question 1 passed by a wide 1,575-381 tally; Question 2 passed with 1,477-475 tally, according to the town clerk's office. Accordingly, the total project budget has now been increased from \$9.5 million up to \$11 million.

"The people in Colchester have said they want to move this town forward," said Tony Tarnowski, chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee.

Tarnowski had warned that there was not a sufficient "Plan B" to advance the project if the referendum had failed. In that case, "tough decisions" would've been made, including cuts to certain items in the building, including kitchen equipment.

"There is a sense of relief," he said Wednesday morning. "It's going to make [the committee's] path forward a lot easier."

Between the two approved referendum questions, the building committee now has access to \$32,691 of American Rescue Plan Act funds, a \$575,000 donation from the estate of Stephen J. Bendas, and \$892,309 from the issuance of bonds and notes.

The town was previously awarded a \$2.5 million state grant that brings down the total bonding amount for the project from \$11 million to \$8.5 million, with \$7.89 million ultimately coming from taxpayers.

With the funding secured, Tarnowski estimated that construction would be complete next year between July and August.

The referendum was the culmination of a challenging year for the building committee.

In 2021, Colchester residents voted to spend \$9.5 million for the building of a new senior center. But in November of 2022, Tarnowski alerted officials that there was a shortfall in the construction budget of the project. That December, an injunction was sought by then-selectman Jason LaChapelle and Republican Town Committee chairman Taras Rudko, which landed the town in court. Had the injunction been granted, it would have halted the project's progress indefinitely.

However, New London Superior Court Judge Karen Goodrow denied the injunction request, allowing the town to enter into a construction contract with BRD Builders LLC, the apparent low bidder for the project. At the time, Goodrow stated that budget estimates landed the total project cost somewhere between \$10.2 and \$10.8 million and that an additional referendum would be required to expend those estimated amounts.

In February, the building committee requested an additional \$1.5 million to complete the project as originally designed.

Ground was broken at the 14,500-square-foot site in April during a ceremony that featured numerous dignitaries, including Congressman Joe Courtney and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz.

However, a referendum was pushed off several months, causing anxiety with some local officials that the project would be hindered, and ultimately fail to receive "a certificate of oc-

See Senior Center Funding, page 28

## Harry Potter Parody Comes to RHAM

By Michael Sinkewicz

The RHAM High School drama club this weekend will present *Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* — a parody play of the classic *Harry Potter* book series.

The play — which ran off-Broadway in 2015 — heads to the RHAM High School auditorium for three performances. Showtimes are tonight, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door or online at <https://www.schoolpay.com/parent/mip/MeLH>. Cost is \$10 for general admission, and \$8 for students, seniors 65+, and children ages 10 and below.

As rehearsals reached a climax this week, the cast and crew sat down with the *Rivereast* to discuss the sorcery happening backstage.

### Behind the Scenes

The show is inspired by the popular novels penned by J.K. Rowling, but told from the fresh perspective of the "Puffs" — who may or may not be based around the Hogwarts house, Hufflepuff — as they embark on seven infamous years at a beloved wizardry school, facing numerous hurdles.

"A lot of people love *Harry Potter*, and grew up on *Harry Potter*, read the books, and watched the movies," said RHAM's drama director Emma Filosa. "There's never a part that's not funny. Every scene has some piece of comedy in it. I really wanted something funny, something that audiences were going to connect to and laugh at."

As rehearsals began in October, the cast was a bit too tense, Filosa recalled. Students were

genuinely trying to act, which the director advised against.

"I told them, 'You don't have to do that with this show; you have to let go and be silly.'"

The cast still had a couple dress rehearsals to get through, and the set had a few final touches yet to be completed, along with some additional final week stress. Filosa revealed that this production has more props than anything she's ever produced, and a ton of sound cues. But there's also a component she's not losing any sleep over.

"The one thing I'm not worried about is any of the actors," Filosa asserted. "They've been doing so phenomenal. They're so good with their comedic timing. They make me laugh."

During rehearsal, Filosa positioned herself in front of the stage, offering occasional direc-

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RE11-24-23

## HAVE A *Healthy Holiday*

Large gatherings, crowded travel, and more time indoors can mean more viruses spreading around the holidays!

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- Get vaccinated
- If you are feeling sick:
  - Get tested
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  - Stay home
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands

For More Information:



Free COVID Tests:



Please contact  
info@chathamhealth.org  
with any questions!



RE12-1-23

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RE12-1-23

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

### 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.

### 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 Candlelight 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.

**Christmas Luncheon:** Christmas lunch with entertainment by Carolyn Brodinski on Friday, Dec. 15, at noon, at the Town Hall community

room. Reservations required; no walk-ins accepted.

**Upcoming Trips:** 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 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 com-

mittee 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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. 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@com-cast.net.

### 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.

### 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.

### Clothing Drive

The Andover Fire House, located at 11 School Rd., will hold a clothing drive Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

All are asked to bring bagged clothing, shoes, boots, gloves, hats and jackets to be distributed to needy Andover families.

### 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.

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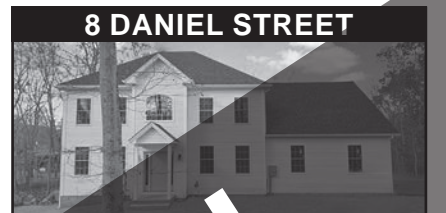
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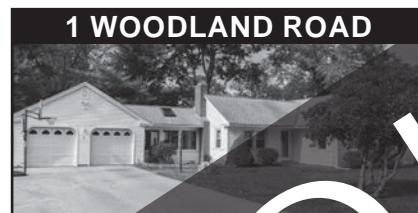
120 LAKE DRIVE

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8 DANIEL STREET

EAST HAMPTON \$470,000



1 WOODLAND ROAD

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SAINT DONAT ROAD

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20 DEER MEADOW

EAST HAMPTON \$525,900



127 FLOOD ROAD

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5 HALE ROAD

EAST HAMPTON \$450,000



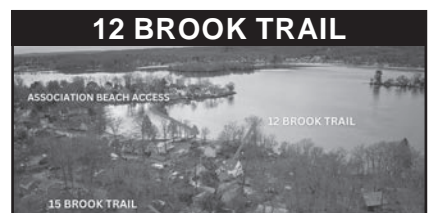
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WILLIAM RAVEIS

**From the Editor's Desk**

**Observations & Ruminations**

By Mike Thompson

A few weeks back, you may recall, I wrote of a drive-thru holiday lights show coming up in East Hartford. If you don't want to venture out that way, though, I'm happy to report there's now one decidedly closer to home – as the Hebron Lions' annual Lights in Motion event has returned.

This is the third year for this holiday light show. Lights in Motion is over one mile of holiday lights computer-controlled and synced to holiday music. Guests drive through the transformed Hebron Lions fairgrounds decorated with over one million lights that are programmed to dance to various holiday songs.

This year, the Lions have added more than 150 new displays and have increased the distance of the course. The Lions' reindeer and snowflake tunnels have grown, their tree forest has become denser, and their 33-foot 3D snowman, George, continues to make new friends. These are just a few of the new additions for this year. Don't forget to wave to Santa as you leave the fairgrounds!

Net proceeds from Lights in Motion will all be donated to children's charities that focus on quality/enjoyment of life, the Lions said. One of those children's charities include Wishes on Wheels, an organization that not only raises

money for the Make a Wish Connecticut, but does it while producing a truck convoy event for kids. Other children's charities that receive donations from the Hebron Lions Lights in Motion are Camp Rising Sun, the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and more.

Lights in Motion started last weekend, and will be open various nights through Dec. 31. Tickets are on sale at [www.lionslightsinmotion.org](http://www.lionslightsinmotion.org).

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Missing those outdoor farmers markets? They'll return next year when the weather warms, but in the meantime, here's something that can help keep your fridge and cupboard stocked with fresh fruits and veggies.

Healthy PlanEat is a local online farmers market, where people can shop directly from local sustainable farms and food artisans. There is a new pick-up location in the area, at HydroCat Microgreens, 47 Tartia Rd., East Hampton.

A variety of area-made specialties are available, including several cheeses from Cato Corner Farm in Colchester, kombucha and coffee beans from Mystic, a variety of greens from  
**Editor's Desk continued on page 5**



**'Tis the Season... Andover's annual Christmas tree-lighting by the Beautification Committee took place Sunday, Nov. 27, at the Old Town Hall/Historical Museum. The Foint/Merkel family and Mrs. Merry Claus stopped by just in time to help with the festivities. The tree located on Route 6 is viewed by over 18,000 cars a day. Mrs. Merry Claus said, "You can never have too many Christmas trees lit up for the season."**

**Bulletin Board**

Do you ever wonder what people could possibly be thinking? I do. Pretty much all the time. But last week there was an article in our daily newspaper that shocked even jaded old me. It concerned a visiting nurse named Joyce Grayson who was assigned to go see a convicted sex offender in a halfway house in Willimantic to give him his medication.

Alone. That's right, they sent her to go see this guy—his name is Michael Reese—by herself. A guy who in June 2007 was sentenced to 25 years in prison for first degree assault and first degree sexual assault for viciously beating his victim in an attack so heinous that it constituted "an indifference to human life," according to the arrest affidavit. He served 14 years, was let out, violated his probation, was sent back and was released early again. Most recently, he was living in a transitional house where he seems to have continued to ignore the terms of his probation with no serious ramifications. I could go on and on, but you get the picture. The guy was all trouble from beginning to end.

Reese's transitional facility—called January House—is billed as "a residential treatment program providing individualized treatment services for adult males with problem sexual behaviors that are preparing to leave the criminal justice system." No red flags there, right? January House operators failed to answer the newspaper reporter's question as to what sort of supervision is provided for these individuals—but it doesn't seem to have been particularly attentive. An attorney now involved in the case said there appears to have been no round-the-clock supervision, just stop-by visits from social workers and the like.

Enter Joyce Grayson, a visiting nurse with a company called Elara, which offers in-home care services, according to the news article. So she shows up one morning to give the patient his medication and she never leaves. When she fails to show up for her other appointments, police find her dead body in the basement of the January House. Reese has not been charged as of yet with her murder, but no one's pretending he's not the number one candidate.

Now comes the part that transforms avoidable tragedy into outright farce. In an apparent effort at damage control, a spokesperson for Elara called Grayson's death "a wake-up call."

Yeah. It's wake-up call all right. If you've been in a coma. You need a wake-up call to foresee there might be a problem with sending a lone woman nurse to visit a convicted violent sex offender in a location that doesn't seem to have adequate supervision?

But not to worry. Thanks to the late Mrs. Grayson's fortuitous if involuntary "wake-up call," advocates and the powers-that-be are now industriously on the job, suggesting all kinds of creative solutions, such as escorts for in-home visits, emergency call buttons, self-defense training and better communication about patients' behavioral health and criminal histories.

I'm no social work genius, but it seems to me that if you're sending a visiting nurse into a situation that may require self-defense training, you might want to think twice. As for better communication about a patient's behavioral health and criminal history—you're just now realizing that maybe this is a good idea? Seriously, to call such people imbeciles is to give imbeciles a bad name.

Meanwhile, Elara has reportedly started a seven-hour personal safety training course to highlight "protocols and steps they can take to avoid unsafe situations if possible and exit them if necessary," says their spokesman. They are also exploring the possibility of wearable personal alarms and equipping personnel with pepper spray and mini laser sabers.

Okay, I made up the part about the laser sabers. Lest the public fail to understand the incredible complexity of the situation, the spokesperson goes on to say, "Aside from these immediate steps, we are also reviewing the protocols and processes that bring clients into our care and will be working with the broader community of caregivers and support systems surrounding clients who have complicated and interdependent behavior health needs."

He follows this gem by extending responsibility to the world at large, piously observing, "Many of these changes will likely extend beyond our reach and it will take partnership with government, service organizations and the communities in which we operate to be successful. While we plan on taking a leadership role in influencing and affecting positive change, what happened to one of our team members was a wake-up call to all home health providers and those who care for clients in their homes."

This guy sounds like a first-year college psyche major who didn't do his assigned reading and is now desperately trying to pad a test essay to reach the required word count.

Let me make it simple for you. As I see it, a woman is unnecessarily dead because supposedly responsible people didn't display an ounce of common sense. And I hope Mrs. Grayson's family sues their ass. Let them all wake up to that.

**Jim Hallas**

**Rivereast Hours of Operation**

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

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**East Hampton Lions**

To the Editor: The seniors at Chatham and Bellwood would like to thank you for the turkeys that they donated to us. We had a great time. We all made a dish from our favorite food for Thanksgiving past. It was so much fun.

Thank you again so much for bringing so much joy to all of us.  
**Shelley Grendzinski, Tenant Commissioner  
East Hampton Senior Housing**

Farland, Megan Migliaro, Susan Pedrick, Genessis Sancelmente, Fran Terase, Ann Terezakis and Aileen Vrooman.

We appreciate their dedication, professionalism, and commitment in contributing to the success of our elections. Once again, we say thank you.

**Respectfully,  
Ann Kilby  
Marlborough Registrar of Voters**

**Thank You, Election Workers**

To the Editor: As we move into the holiday season, the Marlborough registrars of voters would like to acknowledge our election workers who worked long and hard to make our election, primary and referendum a success. Thank you to our Poll Workers: Moderator – Russell Salvador; Election Workers: Natalie Assunto, Lois Benoit, Deborah Bourbeau, Alex Buchan, Cheryl Brodell, Carolyn Brodgerski, Riva Clark, Alejandro Danburg, Dorothy Denniss, Jeffrey Gorman, Evelyn Gutierrez, Bohdan Kilis, Marilyn Kilis, Kathleen Kniep, Virginia Kousen, Sandra Mc-

**Please Leash Your Dog**

To the Editor: Have you been to Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road in Portland? It's a great place, high on a hill that overlooks the valley. It's big enough to have a baseball game, or a soccer match. There's a track for walking and running as well. It's also home to the Community Garden and the Covid Remembrance Garden.

It's also a wonderful place to walk your dog. Most walkers are very considerate, walking their dogs on a leash, however there are two ladies that consistently walk their dogs off leash. Not only is this against the law but there is a clearly visible sign that states all dogs must be Leashed.

**RIVEREAST**

**News Bulletin**

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**Letter Writers:** Letters must be 300 words or less, and must be submitted by Tuesdays at noon. Email is preferred; send to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](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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As these women strut around the track, their dogs are freely running at least 30 feet ahead of them. There is no way they could safely get their dog should another dog approach. They blissfully walk along most of the time with their eyes on their phones with a total disregard for anyone or any other dog. It's rude and inconsiderate. I've tried to talk to them but my words fall on deaf ears. Apparently they feel rules don't apply to them. Legally they are responsible for the actions of their pets. It would be a tragedy if either their dog or another was injured due to their negligence.

I am asking you now publicly. Leash your dog. It is the right thing to do. Let everyone who comes to the park enjoy their visit as much as you do.

**Marilyn McGrath – Portland**

**Thanks for Continued Support**

To the Editor:  
I would like to thank everyone who supported and voted for me in this past election. I am looking forward to working for the residents of Portland for another two years.

**Shaun P. Manning – Portland**

**Four-Letter Word**

To the Editor:  
Every time I hear President Biden using the acronym "MAGA," it seems as though he is equating it to certain four-letter words. Consider me confused, but why should "Make America Great Again" be considered a negative thing?

"Make America Great Again" was former President Trump's campaign slogan and it was his message of hope for returning our country to the pinnacle of excellence both domestically and in the eyes of the world. It was a lofty goal, but during the Trump administration we made great strides towards accomplishing that goal through energy independence, greater stability in hot spots around the globe, low inflation, low gas and heating oil prices, a much more secure southern border and the lowest mortgage rates we had seen in many decades.

That all changed after the 2020 elections. President Biden tries to distract attention from his failings by casting dispersions on the accomplishments of the previous administration. There are certainly many very stark contrasts between the Trump years and what we have experienced over the course of the last three years.

So, when you hear the term MAGA being used in a disparaging manner, think about those Trump years for a minute and think about what we are capable of becoming once again. It's not too late to turn things around, but the current president is digging us into a deeper and deeper hole. We will need a big change in November 2024. We need to put someone in charge who has a big enough shovel to dig us out.

Let's Make America Great Again! We have the potential. We just need a leader who actually believes in America and who believes in us.

**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough**

**A Beautiful Welcome**

To the Editor:  
There seems to be an awakening to Portland's rich history as evidenced by the beautiful piece of local brownstone welcoming tourists and residents as they exit the bridge from Middletown. The massive expansion of the old Elmcrest facility should achieve a good balance between new and old.

We hope the end result will be more complementary to the onsite historic buildings that overlook Middletown.

**Ronald McCutcheon – Middle Haddam**

**Thanks from the Legion**

To the Editor:  
Let it be known, The Hebron American Legion, Post 95, gives thanks to all of the donors, sponsors, players and all participants who made the post's annual Golf Scholarship Tournament a success. Special thanks and recognition for our Double Platinum donors:

Charlie Luchini, a longtime donor and our brother-in-arms as an American Legion Post 95 active member; in addition, Adele Martin, also a longtime donor, auxiliary member and spouse to Jerry Martin, in memory of Jerry, a longtime brother-in-arms, whom is greatly missed.

Again a heartfelt thank you to all the participants, from the commander, senior vice commander, executive committee, and the entire Hebron-area American Legion.

**Respectfully submitted,  
R.A. Mangillo, Adjutant  
American Legion Post 95**

**Food Bank Feeling Thankful**

To the Editor:  
During this time of Thanksgiving, the Marlborough Food Bank would like to express our appreciation for the many organizations and individuals who help us fulfill our mission to support our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. We are a client-choice food pantry, one of the few in our area. We are open every Tuesday to anyone who qualifies. We provide fresh produce and breads, frozen meats, and nonperishable staples to ease the burden of the weekly grocery bill. 75+ households shop with us each week, which equals 315 individuals each month.

Thank you to our loyal and generous civic organizations and local businesses that go above and beyond each year to show their support and compassion for those in need. Thank you, St. John Fisher, Marlborough Congregational and St. Peter's Episcopal churches and their members. Thank you to the Archdiocese of Hartford. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus 15734, The Hometown Foundation, and the East Hampton Rotary Club. Thank you to the local Girl and Boy Scout troops and the MES PTO and RHAM MS and HS. Your combined efforts of numerous food drives, community garden, Harvest Sunday, Drive-Thru Cafés, Coat Drives, designated fund drives and Thanksgiving donations ensure that our doors will stay open year

after year. To the Shops at Marlborough Barn, Liberty Bank and its Foundation and Big Y Supermarkets – thank you for your unwavering support of food donations and monetary support. We are endlessly grateful.

We especially appreciate the continued support of our individual donors and dedicated volunteers. We feel much gratitude for this faithful base of donors and volunteers whose support we could not do without. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

**Sincerely,  
Dawn Tavolieri and David Pratt  
Marlborough Food Bank Directors**

**Scouting for Food Thanks**

To the Editor:  
Scout troops 72, 13, 109 and Cub Scout packs 13 and 109 would like to thank all of Colchester's friends and neighbors for their participation in the "Scouting For Food" collections on Nov. 18. The total collected of food and other needed items collected, this years total was over 6,000 lbs. This shows that Colchester's residents know how to take care of our own.

The Colchester Social Services Department and the volunteers also deserve congratulations. Once the collected items started arriving at the Town Hall the hard-working crew of volunteers hit the piles of donations with a plan and made short work of the mountain of food and goods received. They were on top of every vehicle that arrived and started sorting the donations as quickly as possible.

"Scouting For Food" is one of the largest public service projects done by Colchester's scouts. Thank you all for helping us help others.

The troops and packs are always accepting new members. If your son or daughter (Cub Scout age) or son and daughter (Scout age) might be interested in scouting, please contact me at letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information. Also note that each scout group has a Facebook page for your review in regards to recent programs, meeting times and membership information.

**Alphonse Letendre  
Scouting Unit Commissioner**

**Thanks for Your Support**

To the Editor:  
During my recent campaign for reelection to Portland's Board of Selectmen I was often asked why I was running for office. My immediate response was that Portland is my home town and I feel that serving on the Board of Selectmen is a way of giving back for all that the town has given to me and my family over generations. The time that my wife and I just spent with our family over Thanksgiving only served to reinforce for me how special Portland is to all of us.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who put their trust in me and allowed me to continue as a member of the Board of Selectmen. I will do my very best once again to represent the best interests of every Portland resident.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

**John Dillon – Portland  
Member of Board of Selectmen**

**Autumn Leaves – Auburn Bats**

To the Editor:  
Imagine raking a pile of autumn leaves when, suddenly, a leaf opens its eyes and spreads its wings!

Eastern red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*) roost in tree foliage, looking like dead leaves or pinecones. They are perfectly camouflaged as they hang wrapped up in their furry tails, suspended by one foot, twisting slightly in the breeze, or when hibernating in piles of autumn leaves. These bats are found wherever there are trees east of the Rocky Mountains, from Canada to central Florida.

Red bats are solitary, only gathering together to mate and to migrate. Females roost singly when rearing young. Most bats give birth to a single pup annually, but eastern red bats often give birth to twins and can have litters of up to five young. Mothers leave their young alone at night when they go out to feed, but they will move them to new locations if necessary. Pups begin flying at three to four weeks and are weaned a few weeks later.

*See Letters, page 6*

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

Long River Farm in Old Lyme, and much, much more. Maybe it's because I'm especially hungry while writing this column, but it all sounds delicious. To place a pre-order, visit [bit.ly/healthyeasthampton](http://bit.ly/healthyeasthampton).

The pre-order window for each week is Sundays at 5 a.m. through Thursdays at 9 p.m. Pickup will be on Saturdays each week, through the winter. The next pickup is Dec. 9.

\*\*\*  
Lastly, here are some fun puns to wrap the week:

- Why shouldn't you trust stairs? They're always up to something.
- I had a taser once. It was stunning.
- Know any good rope jokes? I'm a frayed knot.
- What did one plant say to the other?

- "Girl, you really got me growing."
- What's the problem with scientists? Periodically they're wrong.
- I tried to take a photo of a wheat field. It turned out grainy.
- I'm afraid of speed bumps, but I'm slowly getting over it.
- Why should you wear glasses when doing math? They improve division.
- I'm happy Ford didn't invent the airplane. It wouldn't have been Wright.
- Who invented King Arthur's round table? Sir Cumference.
- What's the best way to make a hot dog stand? Take away its chair.
- \*\*\*  
See you next week.

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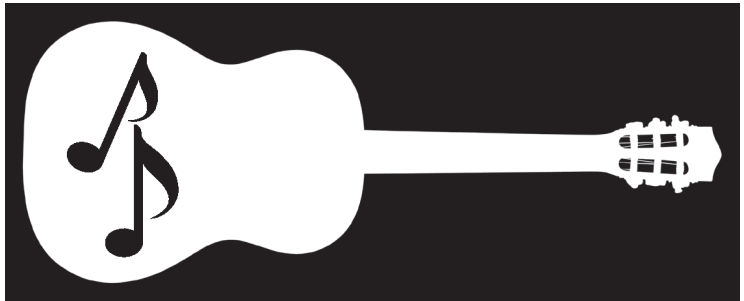
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★ Letters cont. from page 5

In summertime, eastern red bats are among the earliest evening fliers, typically feeding around forest edges, in clearings, or around streetlights where they consume predominantly moths. In the fall, many travel to warmer states. In the late 1800s, there were reports of large migratory bat flocks passing over in the daytime. However, due to a steady decrease in Eastern red bat numbers, no such sightings occur today. But not all Eastern red bats migrate. Those that overwinter in cold climates often choose leaf piles in which to take their long winter's nap. Their long, silky fur provides protection from severe cold, and they use their heavily furred tail membrane like an auburn blanket, wrapping themselves up almost completely. So don't be surprised if, someday, you see an autumn leaf open its eyes and spread its wings.

Thank you,  
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

### The Constitution

To the Editor:  
"...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?"

John Consiglio from Colchester, could you define the following: "deference to U.S. Constitutional law and true American values and ideals for the benefit of our country and (we the) people?"

Would that deference to Constitutional law be several Supreme Court nominees speaking about precedent and then overturning Roe v. Wade? Would that deference include multiple Constitutional amendments to give the right to vote to Blacks and women because they were considered to be less than and not equal to? and treaties (consistently ignored/broken by us) with Native Americans (official American documents often using terms like "savage" and "uncivilized" to describe them).

What do you consider "true American values and ideals?" At the time of the writing of the Constitution the values and ideals didn't seem to be wide in scope and of benefit to "We the People," they seemed to benefit a few at the expense of others.

Other than the above, the other question I have for you is, how do you define We the People? The founders/framers are flawed men, wrote two wonderful documents, I think people tend to forget The Declaration of Independence and what it meant and said at its writing.

...in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Manning – Andover

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## ◆ Happenings ◆

**SHABBAT CANDLES TIME!** It is a special tradition for Jewish women and girls to light Shabbat candles on Friday afternoon. You have the power to brighten our world! This week (December 1), please light your candles before 4:04pm. (Shabbat concludes on Saturday at 5:06pm). Want your own Shabbat Candle Kit? Call 860-777-5374 or email: [Yehudis@ChabadER.com](mailto:Yehudis@ChabadER.com). Shabbat Shalom! In loving memory of the Rabbi's mother, Mrs. Raizel Wolvovsky.

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## Hamas' Hostages

To the Editor:

In exceptional foreign policy, President Biden and his administration got more hostages released including 4-year-old Abigail Mor Edan. "For weeks, I've been advocating for a pause in the fighting for two purposes: To increase the assistance getting into the Gaza civilians who need help, and to facilitate release of hostages. We know that innocent children in Gaza are suffering greatly as well. We continue to press that additional Americans be released. And we will not stop working until every hostage is returned." – President Joe Biden.

"Biden & his team worked 24/7 with partners in the region to make sure this release was possible & to set a framework through which we can see more hostages released. This is a president who is right now showing the American people what real leadership looks like." – Sen. Chris Murphy.

"I spoke with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry to thank Egypt for its partnership in reaching a hostage deal. We discussed minimizing harm to civilians, increasing aid into Gaza, and steps toward achieving a viable, prosperous Palestinian state." – Secretary Anthony Blinken.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

## Gratitude for Generosity

To the Editor:

The Colchester Garden Club would like to thank everyone who shopped with us at the Colchester Senior Center's Holiday Fair on Nov. 18. It was a great way to kick off this year's holiday season.

Through your generous support and purchases we will be able to continue the work we do throughout the year including providing: gardening related education, community programs with our partners (for example, the free Colchester Seed Library and upcoming Winter Sowing Workshop), and beautification through the town planters and maintenance of community gardens (such as the Pollinator Garden and Children's Garden at Ruby Cohen Woodlands).

We also wanted to thank the staff of the Colchester Senior Center and all of the members of the Colchester Garden Club who made this event possible.

The Colchester Garden Club is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with members from over a dozen Connecticut towns. For more information about the club, our programs, and the gardens we maintain, please contact colchesterclub@yahoo.com or Colchester Garden Club, P.O. Box 371, Colchester, CT 06415.

Joan Aubin (co-president) and I wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

Mary Spalter, Co-President  
Colchester Garden Club

## Desegregating Connecticut

To the Editor:

The organization Desegregate CT has recently been leading walk-and-talks in many towns across the state to advocate for "transformational changes" to zoning and land use laws. The group was the brainchild of Sara Bronin, wife of the former mayor of Hartford and Democratic darling, Luke Bronin, and falls under the banner of the Regional Planning Association... which is an organization actually incorporated in New York state.

The goals of Desegregate CT are the standard leftist boilerplate of "equity, sustainability, inclusivity, and diversity" in the name of promoting a less segregated society by uplifting certain chosen groups. During the walk-and-talk that I attended the representatives of Desegregate CT advocated for urban infill development – building upward instead of outward – claimed CT is more a more affordable place to live than Texas or Florida, and called for an increase in government-subsidized "affordable housing." When I asked how an increase in state-subsidized housing would reflect on a town's property values or overall appeal I was ignored and told that wasn't something we would be delving into.

When you go to the RPA/Desegregate CT website you can look at their publicly available list of donors and see that the majority of those groups are commercial real estate investment firms, Fortune 500 companies, commercial banks, and Big Tech groups. This further demonstrates that the people behind these ideas aren't local advocates for change but corporations bent on using astroturfed social justice organizations to accomplish their financial goals of owning more and more of the states housing share while individuals get less and less. In the future maybe you can rent a house from these corporations but they certainly don't want you

to be independent or your town to retain its bucolic character. To learn more go here:

<https://rpa.org/work/campaigns/desegregate-ct>

<https://rpa.org/about/financials>

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

## My New Bird Feeder

To the Editor:

I bought a bird feeder, hung it on my back porch and filled it with birdseed. Within a week we had hundreds of birds taking advantage of the free food. The birds started building nests above the patio and next to the barbecue. Before long the patio was covered in bird droppings. Then some of the birds turned mean. They would dive bomb me and try to peck me even though I am giving them all this free food. They sit on the feeder and squawk and scream all hours of the day and night demanding that I keep refilling it, so I took down the bird feeder and in no time the birds were gone. I took down their nests and cleaned up their mess. It was back to nice and clean again!

Now let's see...our government gives out free food, free housing, free medical care and free education and allows anyone born here to be an automatic citizen. Then the illegals came by the tens of thousands. Our taxes went up to pay for their free services, free apartments and free housing. You have to wait 6 hours to be seen by an emergency room doctor and your child's second grade class is behind other schools because over half the class doesn't speak English. Cereals now come in a bilingual box. You have to press "1" to hear your bank talk to you in English. People are waving foreign flags and are demanding more rights and more free liberties.

Maybe it's time for the government to take down the bird feeder.

Frank Blume – Colchester

## MAGA Anger Issues

To the Editor:

Several frequent MAGA writers have serious anger issues. Michael Chotkowski went off on Scott Sauyet when Scott correctly called out Andover Republicans for using an anti-big government quote on a banner and falsely attributing it to Thomas Jefferson. Chotkowski tried to defend the attribution to Jefferson, implying that since today's 'big government' is descended from Jefferson, it's appropriate. Taking Chotkowski's illogic to its conclusion, the Republican Party can make up anything and say it was pronounced by a founding father. Lies are good! He also criticized Sauyet for using the word 'peccadilloes' – implying that someone who uses such big words shouldn't sit on a Board of Education. Is there any difference between 'Chotkowskiing' and 'gaslighting'?

Then there was Sam Prentice and Ed Koslowski blowing off pent-up steam by attacking my letter on the Israeli-Palestinian problem. I shared that from 2008 until 2022 data shows Israelis killed 20 times more Palestinians than Palestinians Israelis. Neither could find any numbers to dispute that data, as responsible letter writers would do. Prentice simply dismissed it as 'fraudulent.' He thinks he's Samantha Stevens of Bewitched who with little lip wiggles can instantaneously adjust anything disagreeable. But he crossed a line when he said I was fine with Hamas murdering 1300 Israelis. Somehow I set him off when I wrote "Hamas was horribly barbaric" and that by seeing the same data I quoted, "no wonder the fanatics among them (Muslims) were inspired to attack". Thus, using 'Prentice reasoning', he is fine with any number of dead Palestinian women and children. Fine with over 100 United Nations relief workers and 51 journalists killed by U.S. provided bombs.

I know not what traumas Chotkowski, Prentice and Koslowski suffered as children or in adult relationships or work experiences. But they make sure honest letter writers must suffer them

Edmund Smith – Andover

## Unafraid

To the Editor:

Last week I received a disturbing communication mailed to my residence with no signature or return address, as well as with a feckless misspelling of my name and atrocious handwriting obviously resulting from a derelict education, in response to my letter to the editor published in the Nov. 3 edition. Whoever sent me this letter is clearly mentally disturbed and acts with a juvenile, petulant, retaliatory and pathetic nature. Perhaps I should submit a complaint to the state police and the Office of the Attorney General and demand that a particular Colchester public official be charged and arrested based entirely

on my suspicion, as executive members of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee have done? But of course, I wouldn't because I'm neither petty nor irrational in my actions like the sender of the letter I received or the members of the DTC.

Nevertheless, the sender should be fully aware that whatever fearful or worried reaction they sought to elicit from me has failed, and I will continue to submit letters to the editor to inform my fellow citizens of the seemingly limitless negligence and chicanery occurring in our town government and committees. Well, at least as much as Mike Thompson's biased editing and irrational fear of empty threats of litigation will allow anyway.

Furthermore, as a Democrat registered to vote in Colchester, I still intend to attend every DTC meeting that my personal schedule allows despite their persistence in regularly changing the meeting venue without any public notice. However, henceforth any letters received at my residence bearing no return address will be summarily disposed of unopened. Thus, if the perpetrator should choose to communicate with me, they must make themselves known, yet I'm wholly confident they genuinely lack the fortitude to do so.

Unafraid and unpersuaded,  
DeAva Lambert – Colchester

## Benefit Dinner Thanks

To the Editor:

On Nov. 5, at St Clements Castle, the Tango2 Research Foundation held its fourth Benefit Dinner and Auction. Tango2 is a rare genetic disease that affects children. The evening portrayed just how far this amazing organization has come in 5 years, explaining to guests a breakthrough that has helped many of the children affected. The night also raised money that will assist the foundation to continue their research grants to scientists who are exploring all the unanswered questions that Tango2 poses. I would personally like to thank the following, generous businesses and people that I approached for their support with the auction, as it wouldn't have been as successful without you!

My sincere thanks go to: Kevin Reich, Alan Hurst, Nancy Ninesling, Teri Prestash, Emily Archambault, East Hampton Administrator's Association, Walt Jedziniak Photography, Arrigoni Winery, Charmard Vineyards, Gouveia Vineyards, Jonathan Edwards Winery, Priam Vineyard, Sharpe Hill Vineyard, Stonington Vineyards, American Distilling, Ballek's Garden Center, Beardsley Zoo, Blackledge

Country Club, Brownstone Adventure Park, Creative Nails, East Hampton Ace Hardware, Hartford Stage, Maritime Aquarium Norwalk, Palace Theater, Portland Golf Course, Pauls and Sandy's, Red Door Boutique, Riverquest, Theaterworks, Wadsworth Antheneum, Stubborn Beauty Brewing, Concentric Brewing, Five Churches Brewing, Elicit Brewing, Fat Orange Cat Brewing, Forest City Brewing, 2 Wrasslin' Cats, Alfnos Restaurant, Amicis, Bar Taco West Hartford, Beamhouse, Briccos, Café Fiore, Campagna, Dog Watch Café, Farrells, J. Gilbert's, Marker 37, Noah's, Otto's Pizza, River Tavern, Portland Ale House, Rosemary and Sage, and The Village Bistro.

Thank you all for donating to this wonderful nonprofit foundation that is truly saving the lives of children around the world!

Joanne Barmasse -- East Hampton  
Volunteer, Tango2 Research Foundation

## Hebron Preservation Observation

To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Mike Thompson's "Observations & Ruminations" editorial column last week and appreciate his recognition of David Bingham of Salem for his work in environmental preservation. Acknowledged as a "lifelong activist" and "champion for the environment," Mr. Bingham recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the CT League of Conservation Voters. A founding member of the Salem Land Trust and active member of other local environmental organizations, Mr. Bingham's award is indeed worthy of celebration. The preservation of the environment, the protection of clean drinking water and the creation of community green spaces are among the most significant efforts of our time.

I am encouraged that preservation received this special mention by the editor of the *Rivereast*. In Hebron, there is an ongoing grassroots effort to preserve the environmentally and historically important property at 17 Kinney Rd., also known as the Horton property. Interestingly, the efforts to preserve these ancient farm fields, wetlands and watershed date back over 200 years, when they were owned by Gov. John S. Peters. As noted in his handwritten autobiography, between 1808 and 1820, Gov. Peters purchased several parcels of land to re-establish "The Barber Lot." This historic act by Gov. Peters was his own effort to preserve the already historic property of David Barber, one of the most important original proprietors of

See Letters, page 8

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The Marlborough Lions were recently recognized for donating \$500 to the American School for the Deaf. From left are Lions Club President Megan Lloyd and Vice President Kevin McNally.

### Lions Donate to School for the Deaf

The American School for the Deaf, which is situated in West Hartford, held a dinner recently in appreciation for support from the Lions Clubs around greater Hartford. The Marlborough Lions Club donated \$500 this year and was among those recognized for donations to the school.

The American School for the Deaf, which was founded in 1817, provides on-campus and off-campus opportunities for students from preschool through high school as well as services for adults.

The Marlborough Lions hold numerous events during the year to raise funds for various organizations, such as Fidelco Guide Dogs, international services addressing those with vi-

sion issues and local services such as the Marlborough Fuel and Food Banks. Recently, the Lions also provided free vision screening for children at Marlborough's Elmer Thienes Mary Hall School to identify early signs of problems with their vision. Several children were identified and their parents were notified that additional evaluation was warranted.

The Marlborough Lions meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome. For additional information on the Marlborough Lions Club, call Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

### 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., today, Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Denler will perform Christmas carols, a few standards, and several original piano solos.

Admission is \$25. All proceeds go directly to the arts center.

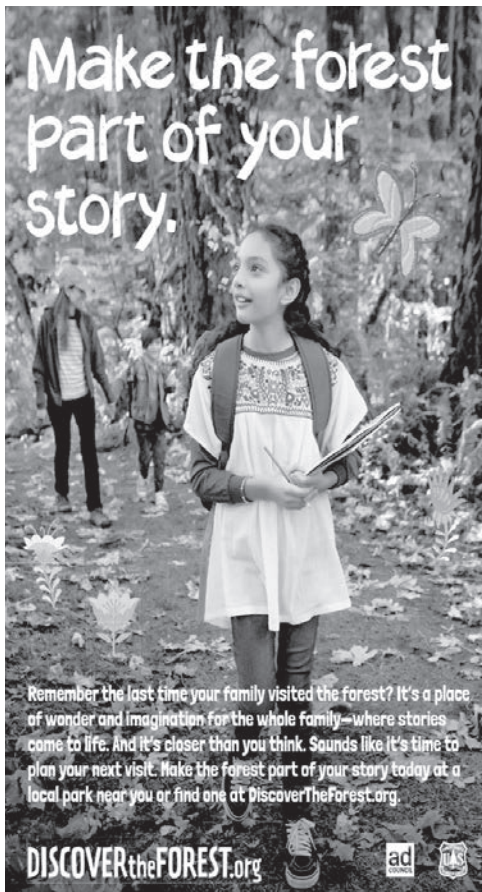
Full details on Denler's career, plus musical clips, can be found at the arts center's website, [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org), and at [www.charlesdenler.com](http://www.charlesdenler.com).

### Honor Society Inductee

Ava Zito, a native of Marlborough, was recently initiated into the University of South Carolina - Columbia Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society.

### Cheney Tech Honor Roll

Marlborough residents Jude Neumuth, Logan Kolakowski and Ryan Felipe Martins all made the honor roll at Howell Cheney Technical High School in Manchester for the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year. Neumuth, a ninth-grader, and 12th-graders Kolakowski and Martins, all made High Honors.



### Children's Holiday Party

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

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

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

### 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 Willhenger 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.

### 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 variety of pieces in various styles: oil, charcoal

and graphite drawings, and mixed media.

These monthly exhibits are sponsored by the Marlborough Arts Center, 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.

### 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.

And for more information on the society, visit [marlbroughhistory.org](http://marlbroughhistory.org), or email [mhs@marlbroughhistory.org](mailto:mhs@marlbroughhistory.org).

### 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, Dec. 3** is a Bluegrass Christmas service featuring the church's bluegrass band. Familiar Christmas hymns, including the anthem "I'm Going Home, It's Christmastime," will be performed by Joyful Blue. The worship service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "On Your Mark, Get Set, Go." Holy Communion will be served. Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free.

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

**Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. The Drive-Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank patrons is held monthly at the church.

**AA:** The church sponsors three scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, and Thursdays at noon in the Youth Room.

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

**Operation Christmas Stocking** for the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center in Middletown, serving youth ages 13 to 17, runs through Dec. 10. Suggestions include gift cards in any amount and may be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447, or brought to church

on a Sunday. Other items include Lego kits, games, puzzles, batteries, shampoo, combs and brushes, journals and scrapbooks, hats and gloves. A complete list is at the church.

**Community Sing:** Carolyn Brodinski of Seat of Our Pants invites the community to a free Christmas sing-a-long Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m., upstairs in the church lounge. Enter through the yellow front doors of the church. The next sing is Jan. 5.

**Tree-Lighting and Carol Sing:** Friday, Dec. 8, starting at 6 p.m. Led by guitarist and songwriter Steve Pozzato, this event will be held on the church lawn by the deck. Hot chocolate will be served. The event is free and all are invited. A box to collect winter clothing for local shelters will be available.

**Nativity Festival:** Will be held in the church meetinghouse Friday, Dec. 8, from 7-9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The public is invited to view the many nativity sets that will be set up throughout the room. There will be music from harpists Carolyn Brodinski, Jason Castonguay, and Bonnie Glow. The event is free, but donations will go to the Connecticut chapter of CFR, a national organization that hosts annual outdoor retreats for breast cancer survivors and those in treatment. The community is invited to drop off their nativity, along with a brief description, at the thrift shop on Friday, Dec. 1, from noon-3 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 11:15 a.m.-noon.

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

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

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

★ Letters cont. from page 7

Hebron in 1704. The preservation begun by Gov. Peters was continued through the 20th century as the land passed into the Horton family. Among those stewards was John E. Horton, who maintained the integrity of the landscape and preserved its unique character.

Hopefully, the continued efforts of concerned residents from across Hebron will complete the preservation efforts begun by Gov. Peters and continued by John E. Horton. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulimieri - Amston

### Muddled Thinking

To the Editor:

Michael Chotkowski's recent letter might have made it all the way to amusing had it not been so muddled. First, thanks for the election congratulations - it's hard to lose when running unopposed, though. That he wouldn't have voted for me does not wound me deeply, I'm afraid. I will still do my best for all the children, including any he might have.

When I point out the Andover Republicans' misattributed quote, his response boils down to, "Well, it sounds like Jefferson." Then he goes on

to lecture us about proper quotation!

He critiques my vocabulary, saying "peccadilloes" is too long a word. I really don't feel it's all that uncommon. But be careful, or I'll start using sesquipedalian ones!

Finally - and I wouldn't have bothered responding except for this inspired piece of nonsense - he uses the editor's placement of Frank Blume's "Debts and Budgets" letter next to my own as somehow proof that I don't care about a number of issues - that I am focused exclusively on one issue. Huh? What? I happen to have 17 years of letters online; a list of the 200 topics discussed is at <http://letters.sauyet.com/#/topics/>.

I am focused on different issues than Mr. Chotkowski. He mentions a few concerns. Inflation: it's now at 3.2%, lower than during the Reagan years and below wage growth. A border-crisis: if we don't want a Japan-style economy, we probably should be increasing immigration. Crime: violent crime rates have been falling for more than 30 years. Drugs: agreed, there's a problem; can we go after the two most deadly ones first? If we can't reduce the harm from tobacco and alcohol, what hope do we have for fentanyl or heroin?

I can't sign off without pointing out that he accuses me of not being conservative. Well, duh!

Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet - Andover



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### Holiday Art and Gift Sale

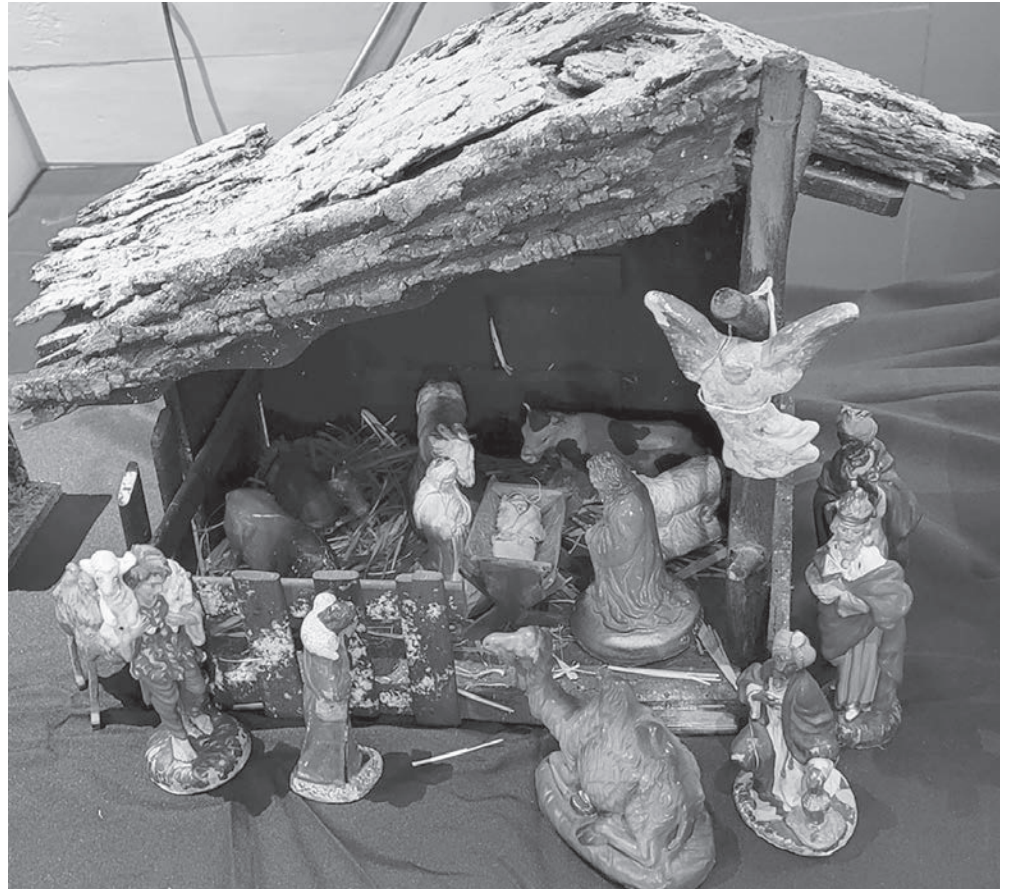
A Holiday Art and Gift Sale will take place at the Marlborough Arts Center through Dec. 9. The gallery will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

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

from \$10 to \$200.

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

For more information, visit the website [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org) or call 860-467-6363.



Marlborough Congregational Church will host a Nativity Festival on Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9.

### Breakfast with Santa

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club will sponsor its annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 2, from 7:30-11 a.m., at the East Hampton High School cafeteria, located on North Maple Street in East Hampton.

As in the past, free breakfast will be served to all that attend and the children will be able to have a picture taken with Santa Claus as a keepsake. There will also be face-painting and other children's activities. Once again this

year, inflatable Christmas decorations will be at the entrance to the breakfast.

All attending are asked to donate non-perishable food items for the East Hampton and Marlborough food banks. Monetary donations to support the food and fuel banks in each town will also be accepted.

For more information, call Kevin at 860-754-8137.

### Parks and Rec Fall Programs

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

**Parents' Night Out:** For grades K-6. Friday, Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m., at the Marlborough Senior Center. Drop off the kids and go have dinner, see a movie, or go shopping. 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.

### Nativity Festival to Return to Church

Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will once again host a Nativity Festival on Friday, Dec. 8, from 7-9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The community is welcome to view a collection of nativities that will be on display in the sanctuary, adorned for Christmas, while live holiday music is performed on variety of instruments, by local musicians.

Community members are welcome to include their nativities as part of this festival. Anyone interested in participating can drop off their nativities at Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located in the church, during regular shopping hours on

Friday, Nov. 1, from noon-3 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and after church Sunday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m. Pick-up is at the conclusion of the event on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m., and after church on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Drop-off and pick-up can also be arranged by appointment by calling 860-614-5312.

There is no charge for the event, but proceeds from a free-will offering will go to the Connecticut chapter of Casting for Recovery ([castingforrecovery.org](http://castingforrecovery.org)), an organization that connects women with breast cancer to each other and nature through the sport of fly fishing.

### 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. **Week-day Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

**Adult Worship Choir:** Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information is on the church website.

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

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

### Gathering on the Green is Saturday!

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, and all are invited.

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

and a fireworks display. The event timeline is: 4:30-5 p.m., holiday music, refreshments, snacks; 5-5:15 p.m., Lighted Fire Truck Parade and Arrival of Santa; 5:15 p.m., Santa Lights Tree; 5:15-6:15 p.m., Pictures with Santa and Christmas carols; 6:15 p.m., Fireworks. Rain date is Sunday, Dec. 3.

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**Holiday Auction & Celebration...** The Colchester Business Association will hold its annual Holiday Auction & Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the St. Joseph's Polish Club on Main Street in Colchester. The event begins at 6 p.m. with networking, food at 6:30 p.m. and a live auction at 7 p.m. Proceeds support the Colchester Food & Fuel Bank, Santa's Anonymous and the CBA Scholarship Fund. Cost is \$25 per person or \$175 for a reserved table of eight. Register online at [www.colchestercba.com](http://www.colchestercba.com).

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, Dec. 4: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fix; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11:15 a.m., TVCCA Potassium Presentation; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, Dec. 5: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Snowflake Craft; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, AARP Holiday Meeting at Papa Z's; 1:30 p.m., bingo.

Wednesday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Airline Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1-3 p.m., Backus Stroke Survivors Program; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, Dec. 7: 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.

Friday, Dec. 8: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit video, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 10:45 a.m., blood pressure clinic; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Presentation; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

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

Colchester Community Theatre will hold auditions for its February production of *Kinky Boots* on Monday, Dec. 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Congregation Ahavath Achim (Colchester Synagogue) Hall, 84 Lebanon Ave.

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.

In *Kinky Boots*, Charlie Price has reluctantly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on

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

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).

### Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

#### ★ *Harry Potter Parody* cont. from page 1

tion to the cast as they ran through their scenes. With each drama club production, her general approach with the students evolves as she takes note of what's resonating or not working with the crew.

"I did a lot of theater growing up and I had so many directors who just yelled at me and it didn't work for me; it just made me feel bad and not want to try as hard," she expressed. "I think it's important for a cast to know that their director believes in them. I can be harsh with my critiques sometimes, but I think I wouldn't be harsh with them if I thought this was a group of kids who just couldn't do it. I always see growth in them."

What is the director's favorite scene? Filosa, and most of the cast, agreed that the big battle towards the end of the play is the best scene.

"I've never been more proud of a blocking moment," she explained. "I wanted it to be chaotic, but I wanted everything to have a purpose still."

Cast members will be streaming in from all different locations and the audience will struggle to keep up with the action. What makes the scene even more special, Filosa added, was that one of the students composed all of the show's music, including the epic finale, on a Garage-Band music app.

"It's amazing," she stated. The student, senior Dannan Page, also stars in the production as one of the lead characters, "Megan Jones."

"I loved composing the music for that scene," Page said. "It's so entertaining; it's funny; you're on the edge of your seat but you're laughing the whole time."

Last week, Filosa missed one rehearsal and Page stepped up to ensure that the cast stayed on schedule. While many talented students will undoubtedly replace the departing seniors next year, this class holds special meaning for the club's director.

"I keep telling them I'm not going to allow them to graduate," Filosa said. "I will miss them so much."

#### The Lead Cast

Similarly to the *Harry Potter* universe, this production features a three-person trio of magical students. However, this version doesn't revolve around "the boy who lived" and all the problems he encounters while at school.

Enter: the "Puffs."  
"Nobody ever tells the story of the background characters," Page expressed, adding that this trio of protagonists will face the same

problems as Harry Potter, just not in the same spotlight.

Last year as a junior, Page starred in RHAM's production of *High School Musical*. This time, she'll play a resentful student whose mom worked for the dark lord. Her character longs to be in the "Snakes" house, not the "Puffs," and her arc involves accepting who she is with the group.

A second member of the acting trio, senior Alexa Odoy, has been best friends with Page since seventh grade. In her first ever lead role, Odoy plays "Wayne Hopkins," a self-identified geek who brags about reading "The Silmarillion" twice and who wants to acquire a lightsaber.

"It's a bunch of wizard shenanigans," Odoy said. "It's a really funny story, so it's really fun to do."

Theatergoers don't need to be avid fans of the book franchise to appreciate the show, Odoy added, although there are a few nuggets that only devoted followers will catch.

"I think anyone can understand it, but if you know Harry Potter, there are a lot of little jokes in there where you'll enjoy it a lot more," she said.

Sophomore Emerson Melquist plays the third main character, "Oliver Rivers" — another "classic nerdy, geeky, awkward guy."

Melquist was also involved in last year's musical production, but this is her first lead role, which was unexpected.

"At first, I auditioned for one of the supporting roles and I was very surprised and excited when the cast list came out that said I had gotten a bigger part," she said.

Melquist agreed with her castmates that the show is "hilarious."

"It's one of the funniest shows that I think I've seen," she said. "It's not childish humor; it's actual comedy. It's funny for all audiences."

This is her first production as a lead, and Melquist said the experience has been worthwhile.

"The environment in drama club is so amazing," she said. "It's a really great atmosphere to be working in. I feel very comfortable."

The positive culture is established by the director, who clearly makes an effort to bond with the students while still being an effective instructor.

"[Filosa] is the perfect mix of determined and go-getter and also funny and relatable — a mix of strictness and fun," Melquist said.

After the final curtain drops on Saturday night, the three main characters will remain friends.

"Now we're all a nice trio in real life too," Odoy said.

Senior Jeremy Kusher, who also starred in *High School Musical* last year, plays two characters who are actually featured in the original Harry Potter franchise: "Cedric" and "Mr. Voldy."

Kusher said the roles are mainly comic relief, even "Mr. Voldy," who is based on one of the most evil characters in popular culture.

"To call him a villain I think is an overstatement," Kusher said. "He's trying his best. He's a really just a goofball. He's not as scary in this [show]."

While the show is a spoof, the characters and plot are handled with affection, Kusher added.

"I hope it's obvious that the people who wrote the show weren't trying to make fun of Harry Potter; they just loved it and wanted to do something special with it," Kusher said.

Kusher is still proud of last year's production and believes this performance will be equally successful. The decision of whether to participate again this semester was simple.

"I really love theater," Kusher said.

Next spring, musicals will return to RHAM and Filosa already has a play selected; the drama club will be putting on a *Percy Jackson Lighting Thief* musical.

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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/ctdotvpinarchive>

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/ctdotvpinarchive>

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.

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**Ahavath Achim News**

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

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

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

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

morning, 10 a.m., in-person and on Zoom – Shabbat service.

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

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

**Parks & Rec News & Notes**

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

**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.

**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 Competi-**

**tion:** 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.

**Holiday Home and Business Decorating Contest:** Starting 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.

**Ukrainian Catholic Church News**

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

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

**Westchester Church News**

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

**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).

**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](http://christianlifechapel.org).

**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.

**Carol-Sing and Nativity:** Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m., on the Town Green. Complimentary cookies and hot chocolate will be provided by Abundant Life, Christian Life Chapel and Fellowship Community Church.

**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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# Bacon Academy Football Shows Fight

By Josh Howard

The final score wasn't what they envisioned, yet the Bacon Academy football program showed a never-give-up attitude in a 27-21 loss to RHAM at Howell Cheney Technical High School on Nov. 21.

Despite his Bobcats falling to their neighboring rivals from Hebron for the 'Battle for the Rail,' Bacon Academy head coach Bill Chaffin liked the progress his program has made since last year's game when his team was soundly defeated (41-12) at RHAM High School.

"I'm proud of the way they fought all year and I'm proud of the way we fought tonight," added Chaffin, who just wrapped up his second season leading the program.

Unlike last year's loss when RHAM scored the first 20 points, Bacon struck first this year when sophomore quarterback Riddick Burroughs capped a nine-play drive by plunging in from one-yard out, putting the Bobcats up 7-0 with 5:12 to play in the opening quarter.

After allowing the Raptors to score 21 straight points, Bacon showed the fight of a team on the rise, scoring on each of their next two offensive possessions when senior Avatar Disher had scoring bursts of 58 and 40 yards. Disher finished with 143 yards on nine carries and the pair of long touchdown runs.

Disher's quick strikes provided the lightning, while fellow senior Brady Gould sounded the thunder.

Gould punished RHAM's defense for 146 rushing yards on 34 carries, including a dozen straight rushing attempts on the team's second possession.

An emotional Gould reflected on the back-and-forth game, saying, "I've been playing with some of these guys since the sixth grade and we wanted to win this game to end the season right, but I couldn't be prouder of this team."

Although the heartbreaking finale didn't end the way they wanted, the Bobcats had some celebratory moments this fall.

In the team's season-opener, the Bobcats blanked Bethel 21-0 behind a potent rushing attack that ran for 249 yards and three scores, two courtesy of Gould.

Bacon also hammered Weaver 49-6 on Sept. 22 before earning a memorable 61-0 home win over Montville on Oct. 21 in what was dubbed "The Mud Bowl" because it was played in a rain-soaked field at Bacon Academy.

The Bobcats ran for six touchdowns in the 61-point win, yet it was the defense that stole the show as sophomore Skip Coogan recovered a state-record six fumbles, one for a touchdown.

With three wins this fall, the team tripled their win total from a season ago when they won one game in their first-year under Chaffin. When Chaffin took over in 2021, he was tasked with rebuilding a program that was coming off a winless season in which the Bobcats were forced to forfeit their final three games because of alleged Title IX violations.

"From day one this is a completely different team," said Chaffin, who credited the departing seniors for creating a winning locker room.

"Their freshman year was the COVID year, their sophomore season got canceled, and their junior year they got a new coach," recalled Chaffin. "I thank them for sticking around after all the stuff they went through. Things were looking dire and down - they could have walked away, but they didn't. All of these seniors stuck it out and everyone on this team should be thankful for that."

Gould, who was one of five senior captains, said he and the departing players are leaving with their heads held high.

"The whole season has been a night and day difference, this game especially," added Gould. "We just came up short tonight, but there's really good things happening for this program. It's only going up from here."

Gould was one of six Bobcats honored all-



Six Bacon Academy football players made all-conference. From left, Julian Rodegher, Lucian Dean, P.J. Walsh, Kevin Claffey, Brady Gould, and Avatar Disher were each selected All-Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC). Claffey was also named the conference's Scholar Athlete and Gould received the conference's Sportsmanship Award.

conference, joining Disher, P.J. Walsh, Kevin Claffey, Julian Rodegher, and Lucian Dean.

Four of the six all-conference selections will be graduating, yet Rodegher and Dean will return as the Bobcats attempt to take the next step under Chaffin.

"I feel like we're headed in the right direction," stated Chaffin. "We've got to continue to get in the weight room in the offseason, but these young guys played hard and I'm proud of them."

## History Museum Open Sunday

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., will be open one more Sunday for the season on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The museum, adjacent to Cragin Memorial Library, is free and features exhibits all high-

lighting 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.

## Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

## 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.

## 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.

## CLT Upcoming Hike

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) will hold a hike at the Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 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. Park and meet at the bottom of Carrier Road, Colchester.

Hikers must register by Friday, Dec. 1. The hike is free for CLT members, and \$5 for non-members. Visit [www.colchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.colchesterlandtrust.org) to register and pay in advance.

For more information, email [founder-sway10@gmail.com](mailto:founder-sway10@gmail.com).

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/ctdotvpinarchive>

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/ctdotvpinarchive>

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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.







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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.

### 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 Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the center, 95 Norwich Ave.

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

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.

### Giant Menorah on the Colchester Green!

The entire community is invited to a festive Chanukah celebration on the Colchester Town Green, corner Main Street and Norwich Avenue. The event, scheduled for the seventh evening of Chanukah, will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

"This year, we are making and extra effort to expand our holiday programs and outreach," said Rabbi Yosef Wolvovsky of the Chabad Jewish Center. "Now more than ever, our world is in need of light and unity."

The community Chanukah celebration is free and open to all. It will feature a fire show, chocolate-coin "gelt" drop from way up in the

sky, warm "latkes" (potato pancakes), and hot cider. A giant Menorah will be lit and free raffles will be drawn.

For more information, call Chabad at 860-659-2422, email [Yehudis@ChabadER.com](mailto:Yehudis@ChabadER.com) or visit [www.ChabadER.com](http://www.ChabadER.com).

In addition to the Colchester community celebration, Chabad is hosting similar events at the Glastonbury Green on Thursday, Dec. 7; at the Tolland Green on Monday, Dec. 11; at Evergreen Walk in South Windsor on Tuesday, Dec. 12; and at Congregation Knesseth Israel in Ellington on Thursday, Dec. 14. Call Chabad at 860-659-2422 for more details.

### 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.



**Fencing Fundraiser...** On Nov. 9, Inishmor Pub in Colchester hosted a fundraiser for the Bacon Academy fencing team. Coach Maxwell Levesque (pictured, left) presented Inishmor owner Alex Levere (right) with an appreciation gift. The plaque reads "With our greatest appreciation, Bacon Academy Fencing Team recognizes Inishmor Pub for their generous contributions and continuous support of our school."

### 50 Years of Bacon Wrestling

2023-24 is Bacon Academy Wrestling's 50th varsity season. All are invited to help celebrate at any or all of the following five events:

Wednesday, Dec. 13: Colchester Youth Wrestling Night. All CYW wrestlers and their parents are free.

Wednesday, Dec. 20: Alumni Night. All Bacon Academy Wrestling alumni are free.

Wednesday, Jan. 10: Bacon Academy Student Night. All Bacon Academy students get in for free.

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Senior Night. Prior to

the meet we will honor the seniors on the team.

Saturday, Feb. 3: The Matt Bishel Bobcat Classic. This is an all-day tournament at which Bacon Academy Wrestling will honor former alumnus Matt Bishel, who passed away in 2011. Wrestling starts at 10 a.m.

At all Wednesday events, wrestling starts at 6 p.m., but all are invited to come early and enjoy some of the pre-meet activities, which will start around 5:15 p.m.

During each event there will be some special activities.



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# East Hampton Nursery School Hosts First-Time Fundraiser

By London Brazal

East Hampton Nursery School recently hosted its first Touch-a-Truck fundraiser – and, to the delight of organizers, the event surpassed their goal, bringing in \$1,500.

On Nov. 12 at East Hampton High School, roughly 50 families came out on the cold day to interact with a different variety of trucks including ones from the East Hampton Ambulance, Police, and Fire Department. Others in attendance included the State Police, Middletown SWAT and Police, Carl Guild and the Pumpkin Town car to total of about 20 vehicles. At the event, there were also two food trucks, The Farm Kitchen and Dude's Donuts, high school volunteers who did face-painting, and an opportunity to take a free picture with Santa.

Though the fundraiser was free to attend, there was a suggested donation to make. All of the proceeds from the fundraiser will go back to the school to help upgrade their equipment and purchase supplies for the curriculum. EHNS is a not-for-profit organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors and is licensed by the State of Connecticut. Funding comes from tuition but they also rely on extra fundraising and sponsorship to support the school.

The idea for the event came up almost a year ago by the assistant teacher, Melissa Moulthroppe along with help from the school board. Many times, their fundraising efforts are done within the EHNS community. However, this time, the board wanted to make it a community event and they started to plan more thoroughly this September.

Last year, the nursery school struggled with only half of its capacity having 10 students per

class. This ultimately limited the school. Their goal is to have 15-20 students. President Keri Parsons said they would like to expand but not drastically change their numbers. She also noted how the school tends to lose to daycare but it is a credited pre-school with different options.

Two programs are offered to 3-year-olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays, a regular program from 9-11:30 a.m. or an extended program from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Two programs are offered to 4-year-olds. There is a three-day program on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. as well as a five-day program that runs during the same timeframe. With the change in legislation where a student has to be 5 by Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten, Parsons said it was a great opportunity for those students who have a later birthday and how they are role models for the 3-year-olds on the overlapping days. She also explained how the programs allow an early drop-off to help parents or guardians with their schedules.

Parsons is also a teacher at the East Hampton Middle School and attended EHNS when she was young. Now, her three kids have gone through the program. "We are a little family," Parsons said. "The uniqueness of the program is great. There is one-on-one and close instruction to help individual needs."

She noted how the public schools have a good program but the tininess is special to the nursery school. When the students move on to kindergarten, Parsons said that many teachers notice when a student attended EHNS. "Students are well-prepared," commented Parsons. "It speaks to the teachers and the people."

Moulthroppe's son also attended EHNS and



East Hampton Nursery School recently hosted its first Touch-a-Truck fundraiser. With the money raised higher than anticipated, they are in a comfortable position coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

when he was there she tried to volunteer as much as possible. "It was such a fun experience," explained Moulthroppe. "Now, I go in and get to say, 'This is my job.'"

Parsons and Moulthroppe agreed that the school has a feeling of connectedness. The school opened more than 50 years ago and they have seen generations pass through. The head teacher, Wendy Zimmerman, grew up in East Hampton and resides here with her husband and three children, all of whom attended EHNS.

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**Jingle Bell Parade:** Friday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m. All are invited to come for hot chocolate and a holiday craft, and to pick up your official Jingle Bell Parade kit. The parade leaves from the Library at 6 p.m. and heads downtown to light the tree at 6:15 p.m. All ages welcome; no registration required.

**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.

**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.

**Nintendo Switch Game Play:** Saturday, Dec. 9, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. Play *Mario Kart*

Parsons said that many board members continue to help even though their kids are no longer attending the school. "It's hard to walk away."

Moulthroppe and the board want to extend a "huge thank you" to the community members who made the event possible. They also thank everyone who dedicated their time to volunteer. She noted that the turnout was great and the board plans on making it an annual event.

"Everyone who visited had a fun time," said Parsons. "We are excited to continue to grow."

## 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.

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**Ready to Read Book Club:** Wednesday, Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m., for grades K-2. Share your favorite early reader books and play games to improve literacy skills. Registered participants will receive a book to take home. This month's book is Ben Clanton's *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea*.

**Family Storytime:** Saturday, Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-5; siblings welcome. Come for stories, songs, and open-ended play. Participants will also have the chance to work on a craft to bring home. No registration required.

**Teen Programs: 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.

**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.

**Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m., for grades 6-12. Teens are invited to come have a say in programming, collection development, and more. The group meets monthly and new members are welcome.

**Adult Programs: 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.

**LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. Yoga 200-certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

**Belltown Book Brunch:** Friday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m. There will be coffee or tea, a breakfast treat, and bookish banter. Register or drop in

**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.

## Honor Society Inductee

Saint Anselm College student Maura Ramsay of East Hampton, an elementary education major in the class of 2023, was accepted into the Alpha Eta Mu Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education, for the 2022-23 academic year.

Saint Anselm College is in Manchester, N.H.

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# After Debate, Finance Board Vacancy Filled

By London Brazal

Following a mid-term resignation, the Town Council has filled a vacancy on the Board of Finance – though the move was not without controversy.

At a special organizational meeting on Nov. 15, the Board of Finance voted for Bridget McLennan and Alannah Coshow to continue in their respective roles of chair and vice chair. However, also at the meeting Republican Russell Bonaccorso announced he would resign from the board effective Nov. 30 due to his Army Reserve deployment in early 2024. His term ended in November 2025.

A Republican needed to be selected to fill out the rest the term, and Coshow and the Republican Town Committee both recommended Jim

Radavich, who unsuccessfully ran for a seat on the finance board last month.

As per state law and the town charter, the recommendation went to the Town Council – and that's when reservations were raised regarding Radavich.

Town Council member Deb Cunningham, who is also the East Hampton Republican Town Committee chairperson, nominated Radavich for the role; the motion was seconded by fellow Republican councilor Brandon Goff. In the subsequent discussion, though, multiple council members expressed doubts about approving the nomination.

Councilman Jordan Werme, a member of the Green Party who ran with the Democrats in last

month's elections, said he had "personal reservations" about the nomination and chose to abstain from discussion and voting.

Council vice chair Karen Wanat, a Democrat, also chose to abstain from the vote. She referenced the recent election and that Radavich was the only one of four candidates – the other three were Democrats – who did not win a seat.

"Mr. Radavich was not elected," commented Wanat. She admitted the margin of defeat was small – Radavich collected just 38 fewer votes than Democrat Kurt Comisky, who did win election – but said, "I feel appointing the losing candidate to the position essentially says to the residents, 'Your votes don't matter.'"

Councilman Jack Solomon, a Democrat, said he could not support the selection because of what happened on the Board of Education when Radavich was chairman.

Radavich was voted to the Board of Education in November 2019. He became board chair in November 2021 – but resigned from the board altogether the following month. Radavich told the *Rivereast* in January 2022 that he resigned because of "differing opinions and thoughts" but added it was "nothing negative, nothing bad." Radavich's term was supposed to end in 2023.

The resignation followed an occurrence regarding a book's appropriateness. During public comment of a Nov. 22, 2021, Board of Education meeting, a parent said she felt *The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee* by Julie Leung was not appropriate for a fourth-grader. "Young children have no idea of these concepts [racial injustice] and do not possess the ability to understand these topics."

According to a *Rivereast* report from December 17, 2021, "Board members said Radavich es-

chewed proper channels for parents complaining about curriculum or other school materials." By school policy, parent complaints go to teachers first, then principals, then administrators. If no solution is found, then the school board is notified. Taking the issue up at the board level skipped that order.

Councilman Rich Knotek, a Democrat, was in favor of Radavich's nomination, noting that, during the election campaign, candidates ran on the idea of the new Town Council being "a council of reconciliation." He said he thought it was not fair to decide "who can be reconciled." Knotek said he believes Radavich is able to perform his duties on a non-policy-making board.

Goff said he also "has faith" that Radavich will be "great" in the position. "There was nothing that was said [in previous discussions], or anything that he's ever done, that would make him a bad Board of Finance member," said Goff. "He has his own opinions, like everyone sitting at this table does here."

Before the vote, Town Council chair Dean Markham said the town must comply with the charter and statutory requirements for filling vacancies. Since the vacating member was a Republican, the RTC must submit a recommendation.

"I'm not totally enthused with Mr. Radavich because I sometimes see him acting as what I would call a 'Lone Ranger,'" said Markham. However, "I think we owe it to the policy that we've established... that this nomination go forward."

In the final vote, four voted in favor including Goff, Cunningham, Knotek, and Markham. The other three abstained. Only four votes in the affirmative were needed, so the motion was adopted.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

**Wii Bowling:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; **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.

**Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW):** First and third Mondays of each month, at 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet others and share resources. The group determines the topics for discussion for the next month.

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

**Chair Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m., from Dec. 6-Feb. 14. Cost is \$20.

**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.

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

**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.

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# “December in the Village” to Feature Local Artists

By London Brazal

The East Hampton Village Center is celebrating the festive season with “December in the Village,” where residents can come every Saturday to enjoy sales, music, food, holiday-themed activities, and visits from Santa. Each Saturday has plenty to offer for people of all ages.

The event runs from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., though hours for each establishment may vary.

Tomorrow, Dec. 2, local authors are teaming up with merchants from the village center to present an Author Trail where a writer will be matched with a shop along Main Street. Authors will be available from 12 - 3:00 p.m. Jack Matthews, best-selling author of *Arte Perdida*, along with the owners of the various Main Street stores have planned the Author Trail.

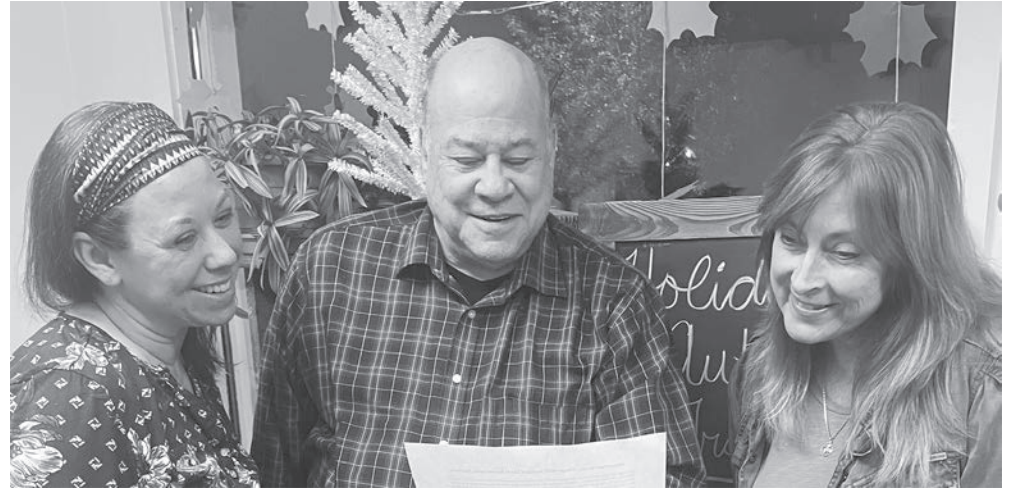
Last year, one of the shop owners, Sheri Spaulding, and Matthews were talking. He mentioned that, throughout the state, there was an “Author Trail,” but was ultimately ended by the COVID-19 pandemic. When visiting Spaulding’s former shop, Matthews suggested having one with the shops downtown. He noted that Spaulding is still active with the downtown merchants and is on the planning committee. “People looking for unique gifts could visit the shops to see what they offered, and also meet the authors and perhaps buy a signed copy of their book,” said Matthews. “It was so successful they invited me to help organize it again this

year.”

Matthews organizes several author events throughout the year and periodically runs a Writer’s Workshop to help new authors write and publish their first book.

Matthews and the other event organizers hope to get lots of people this weekend. “There is a lot to offer with the wide variety of shops selling their unique gifts for the holidays,” added Matthews. Holiday shopping can be completed locally while supporting the small independent shops. Matthews encourages anyone who likes to read to come visit as well as people looking for presents for friends or a family member who likes to read. “Signed books make great gifts for that hard-to-shop-for person. You probably don’t need another flat-screen television, so how about an inscribed and signed book?”

Participating authors include Jack Matthews, Corbin Kime, Stephen Diana, Harriet Grayson, Anna James, Christopher Abbott, Greg Dillon, Luca Dimatteo, Julie Wakely, Linda Zajac, Judy Ricketts-White, Rande Goodwin, CJ Knapp, and several others. Their books represent a variety of genres including international mystery and crime, fantasy and young adults, mystery, contemporary romance, non-fiction political conspiracy, children’s, young adult, supernatural thriller, and psychological thrillers. Several authors will be showcasing their debut novels, some of which took years to write and are on



Marissa Taylor, Jack Matthews and Sheri Spaulding (pictured from left) go over plans for December in the Village to be held in East Hampton Center on Saturday, Dec. 2. best-seller lists.

The participating shops include Le Chic Boutique, The Pinshack, Dexter’s, Old Bank Flowers and Greenery, Belltown Therapeutic, All About Blinds, Wildcraft Herb Shoppe, and The Mane Salon among many others.

The goal of the Author’s Trail is to promote local. In the long term, the organizers want to let the public know about the unique shops in town and the number of talented authors in our area,” said Matthews. He described the event as a “win-win-win.” Shopkeepers have an opportunity to highlight and sell their items while authors can gain more interest in their novels.

“It is a chance to find that special gift to enhance your holiday celebration. And, the community wins as the event helps to sustain local businesses who are the heart of our community,” Matthews said. “The event is a wonderful opportunity to visit downtown East Hampton and discover all that it has to offer.”

Tomorrow’s activities in the village center also include a Kissing Ball Silent Auction to benefit the food bank. Entries for the Gingerbread House Contest are due at the library

during open hours. Participants must fill out an entry form. More information and contest guidelines can be found on the East Hampton Public Library Facebook page. Santa will also stroll through the village from noon-2 p.m. On the following Saturdays, other events include a Senior Day, Festive Dog Parade, ornament-making, a performance by the East Hampton Jazz Band, and a live fashion show.

For more information about “December in the Village,” visit East Hampton Village Center on Facebook.

## 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.

## Used Book Sale

Middle Haddam Public Library, located at 2 Knowles Rd., will hold a Holiday Used Book Sale Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., in the lower level of the library.

There will be DVDs and books for all ages, as well as puzzles, and note cards featuring scenes from Middle Haddam.

Visit [www.middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://www.middlehaddamlibrary.com) for more information.



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### Babysitting Night

The East Hampton High School Class of 2026 is hosting a babysitting night Friday, Dec. 8, from 5-8 p.m., at the East Hampton Middle School cafeteria.

Kids (ages 3 and up) will watch a holiday movie, and snacks will be provided. There will also be crafts and games throughout the night. Cost is \$10/child (flat fee) if you sign up in advance by emailing Beth Vickery at bvickery@easthamptonct.org or Amy Zupan at azupan@easthamptonct.org. Cost is \$15/child at the door.

Email either Vickery or Zupan for more information.



### Community Tree-Lighting

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.

### 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.

### Online Farmers Market

Healthy PlanEat is a local online farmers market where people can shop directly from local sustainable farms and food artisans. There is a new pick-up location at HydroCat Microgreens, 47 Tartia Rd., East Hampton.

To place a pre-order, visit bit.ly/healthyeasthampton. The pre-order window for each week is Sundays at 5 a.m. through Thursdays at 9 p.m. Through the winter, pickups will be Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The next pickup is Dec. 9.

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

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



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### Art Association Meets Next Week

The East Hampton Art Association will next meet Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., at the East Hampton Community Center, 105 Main St.

Guest artist Karen Israel, an award-winning pastel artist, will demonstrate pastels. She is an experienced teacher in pastel techniques. Over the years her work has won numerous awards in national and international exhibits dating back to 2011. In 2019, Israel's work won Best in Show at the Pastel Society of the West Coast's

national exhibit and the Flora Giffuni Memorial Award with the American Artist's Professional League. Her five pastels were honored with their inclusion in an exhibition at Pastels of the World in Bourbonsais, France in May 2022.

The public is welcome at all East Hampton Art Association meetings. There is a suggested donation of \$4 for nonmembers. Students are welcome for free.

### Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://middlehaddamlibrary.com) or call 860-267-9093. The library's P.O. Box number is 123.

**Library Hours:** Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m. -

**Mahjong:** Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Experienced and new players welcome.

**Fiber Arts:** Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome.

**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 \$15 drop-in fee. Register at [ten-summitst@gmail.com](mailto:ten-summitst@gmail.com).

**Annual Holiday Party:** Sunday, Dec. 3, 4:30-

6:30 p.m. All are invited. Bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert or beverage to share if you feel so moved, but it is not required.

**Fly Fishing Program with Rowan Lytle:** Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., in the Reading Room. Learn some facts or share your love of fly fishing.

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

**CommuniTea:** Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors, friends and other library patrons. Have a cup of tea (coffee drinkers welcome).

**Used Book Sale:** Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the lower level of the library. There will be used DVDs and books for children and adults. Refreshments served. Proceeds benefit the library.



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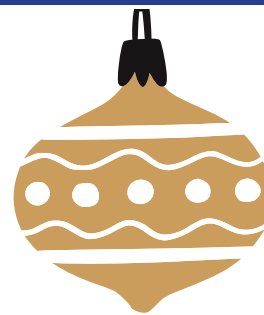
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**Congregational Church News & Notes**

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for services with the Rev. Amie McCarthy every Sunday at 10 a.m. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org. Church school classes meet every Sunday. The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters

and crocheters are welcome. Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. All voices are welcome. For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Capstone Grants Available for EHHS Students**

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting applications from East Hampton High School juniors and seniors for two \$200 grants to support two East Hampton High School Capstone projects. The grants will help support the student's proposed Capstone project, a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. Cap-

stone projects may take a wide variety of forms including a long-term investigative project that culminates in a final product, presentation, or performance. Applicants will be invited to present their Capstone Project idea to commission members. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1. Visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org for an application or pick one up at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

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RE9-22-23

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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.

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RE12-2-22

**MistleTunes to Perform**

The MistleTunes will perform Christmas favorites at Paul's and Sandy's Too on Saturdays and Sundays, 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.

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.

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

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## High School Honor Roll

East Hampton High School has announced its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year:

### High Honors

**Grade 9:** Hailey Adams, Lucy Alford, Rohnan Burke, Charlie Burr, Azalea Cartier, Andrew Christensen, Arielle Clark, Kota Cloutier, Olivia Correia, Madeline D'Elia, Sayla DeStasio, Lilly Engel, Michael Farrell, Owen Fielding, Daniel Fields, William Finn, Oliver Frucce, Bryce Gagne, Pearl Gaston, Isla Gerrie, Kaelyn Gould, Madison Grgas-Tucilo, Savannah Groeper, Aidan Kelley, Benjamin Kohler, Alexander Kowalczyk, Dolan Krasnitski, Mineth Kulatunga, Colin Ladue, Ryan Lopes, Kelsey Lynch, Madison McGlynn, Bryson Milton, Madeleine Mohr, Eva Moren, Paige Ottone, Braelyn Paddock, Lillian Pinkleton, Devin-Patrick Preble, Robert Rodriguez, Aubrey Root, Dempsey Russell, John Salafia, Zephra Sanderson, Kaylan Sullivan, Daniel Sullivan, Teagan Sullivan, Logan Supinski, Jaylynn Turney, Empress Valencia, Taylor VanBlaricom, Aubrey Varni, Mya Viveiros, Samantha Werme, Josie Wilson, Jay Wisniewski, Sebastian Woodson, Ethan Worrall, Caitlynn Zory.

**Grade 10:** Marian Andoh, Ava Archer, Sofia Aresco, Beckett Asklar, Lila Babcock, Lilah Butson, Richard Carl, Dylan Carlson, Anastacia Cooke, Madelyn Daniels, Hannah DePino, Izzy Dickinson, Matthew Drlik, William Faber, Andrew Fenton, Ryder Fijalkowski, Nadia France, Brielle Gay, Hailey Geoffrey, Aiden Gora, Jocelyn Gustavson, Ethan Hall, Jaxon Hanson, Ashley Johnson, Kendall Jump, Dean Jump, Ollie Kennedy, Abigail Kiernan, Moon Knouse, Julianna Korczak, Adriana Kromish, Jillian Leonardo, Mikah Levenduski, Bethany Limmer, James Limmer, Sophia Long, Domenic Mangino, Jacob Marchinkoski, Stephanie Martin, Eryk Mitkiewicz, Noah Mokrzycki, Mackenzie Mortimer, Aiden Niderno, Leah Norton, Chase Palmer, Sophie Perron, William Potter, Samantha Pugo, John Riley, Angel Rodriguez, Cheyenne Rodriguez, Jackson Rurka, Declan Russell, Aubrey Stevens, Samantha Traino, Griffin Valley, Sydney Vicino, Caleb Wagner, Evan Wagner, Amelia Wiesner, Madelyn Wilk.

**Grade 11:** William Anderman, Alyssa Anderson, Katherine Banack, William Bothamley, Rachael Boudreau, Macie Brazal, Micah Buckley, Davyan Burke, Charlotte Cascio, Ruby Grace Casey, Colton Chrin, Alicia Colegrove, Matthew Correia, Ashley Cost, Jonathan Crowley, Olivia D'Agostino, Olivia DeMartino, Oliver Dickson-Cotto, Jace Donohue, Cassie Dugan, Keira Engel, Addison Fraser, Skyler Frosti, Elliott Galovich, Emma Giovanelli, Kaitlyn Grenier, Madison Hall, Danielle Healy, Alison Hebb, Kaitlyn Ireland, Allison Jacobsen, Kathryn Johnson, Sean Jones, Emily Jovel, Blake Kapernaros, Emma Kelly, Colin Kosek, Jacqueline Laboy, Jacob LaPolt, Gavin Ledas, Kristoffer Lynch, Angela Lombardo, Evan LoPresti, Brady Lynch, Abbie Miller, Rylee Montalvo, Amanda Murphy, William Nafis, Theodore Nanos, William Naughton, Aiden Nolan, Jillian Oakley, James O'Brien, Baylee Olzacki, Jarod Ondas, Marley Paris, Avery Parmelee, Addison Partridge, Sienna Paul, Raleigh Paulauskas, Arianna Petrone, Sydney Pettine, Julianna Rau, Lydia Roloff, Christopher Ruggiero, Liana Salamone, Sierra Selger, Zachary Selger, Neha Sidana, Keenan Spooner, Aiden Sullivan, Zachary Tassmer, Austin Taylor, Landon Vaillancourt, Sonja Venetianer, Gabriella Wiesner, Samantha Yorker.

**Grade 12:** David Anderson, Enja Barry, Jayson Beal, Andrea Berg, Austin Bigelow, Riley Briggs, Erik Brody, Izabella Buccheri, Robert Buccheri, Nicole Carl, Brian Collisson, Audrey Cooke, Abigail Daley, Matthew Dickinson, Maya

Dobson, Benjamin Donahue, Ethan Fields, Riley Flatley, Teagan Frost, Lucas Gagne, Madison Gay, Adriana Gonzalez, Ryan Govoni, Raleigh Govoni, Lyndsey Gravel, Michaela Healy, Sam Heilman, Amarylla Ingala, David Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Glenn Judkins, Samantha Kearney, Tyler Khongkham, Ella Khongkham, Leah Kohler, Maya Korczak, Brayden Kramer, Nathaniel Laird, Christian Lanou, Sierra LaRose, Hailey Ledas, Daniel Lopes, McKenzie Magge, Aidan Maiorino, Maya Marino, Logan Markward, Benjamin Maynard, Arianna McCann, Gabriel McMillian, Tyler Millett, Charlotte Minnick, Anthony Miro, Amber Murphy, Kylie O'Brien, Erica O'Connor, Aiden Palen, Holly Pugo, Samantha Rittman, Luisa Rojas, Delaney Russell, Jacquelyn Russell, Katherine Searles, Jaden Sinsigalli, Aiden Sones, Camryn Sprague, Delaney Sullivan, Cadence Thibodeau, Emily Tinson, Kali Trapp, Zachary Trinks, Louis Uliano, Hailey VanBlaricom, Andrew Wagner, John Wilson, Alexander Zimmerman.

### Honors

**Grade 9:** Marlee Alston, Samantha Bagley, Raymond Basley IV, Ray Beuparlant, Hunter Cashin, Leah Ciardullo, London Clark, Macie Coleman, Miles Coleman, Lillian D'Amore, Kayleigh Engle, Grace Flannery, Luke Garcia, Kellen Garvey, Shea Gaughran, Kailyn Granatowski, Justin Hotchkiss, Joseph Jarzabek, April Kleszcz, Julian Kramer, Avery Leitch, Hudson Lombardi, Madison McMillian, Emma Meleo, Colin Neary, Kenji Nichols, Liam O'Connor, Peyton Paiva, Bryn Parmelee, Skye Peck, Vanessa Perdion, Gabriela Proxee, Scott Ribeiro, Danielle Riley, Gianna Rivera, Alexandre Rodrigues, Axl Rostosky, Darren Schwedler, Garrett Sharpe, Adelle Sylvester, Aiden Theriault, Julia Uliszewska, Valeria Volchynska, Jaxon Wilson, Maria Zabroski.

**Grade 10:** Gabriel Allis, Alivia Baier, Ayomide Bamgbose, Francis Barry, Michael Bellemare, Jackson Benson, Carli Blakey, Nicolas Borrelli, Aubrey Butler, Alexis Cardenas, Ava Carpenter, Jack Cote, Klara Cygan, Stephanie Franklin, Javier Garcia-Villa, Gunnar Green, Madeline Griswold, Ava Jedziniak, Sofia Johnson, Logan Johnston, Jake Morrone, Grace Peck, Nevaeh Ranney, Jaelynn Ray, Logan Ruel, Shane Ruggiero, Brooke Ryan, Landon Searles, Lucy Shogren, Katrina Smith, Sophia Snyder, Victoria Twiss, Damon VanBlaricom, Jacob Woods, Marley Zinkerman.

**Grade 11:** Cooper Beck, Matthew Bowser, Hannah Briere, Natalia Calvo, Lauren Correa, Lily Cronin, Adina Cruz, Gabriel Cygan, Gavin Fazekas, Claire Fentress, Brooklynn Ghagan, McKayla Greenwood, Nicholas Guarino, Parker Gustine, Zackary Howland, Faith Machnik, Marissa Martin, Allison McGuigan, Lucia McIntosh, Maximilian Mozerowski, Miguel Ortiz, Tess Parmelee, Ayden Raymond, Kiersten Roland, Goh Salad, Jadin Sawyer, Juliana Sinsigalli, Aidan Trombino, Renata Zubiate-Avila.

**Grade 12:** Bryce Bailey, Sophie Billings, Ethan Blakey, Emma Braga, Teghan Brennan, Logan Burnham, Aubrey Dallaire, Daniel DeLauro, Sean Dickerman, Thomas Fenton, Dale Flemke, Mason Flood, Cameron Fraser, Jason Johnson, Jacob Karrenberg, Erin Kissane, Brittney Lin, Mimi Lira-McGuire, Madison Lockhart, Riley Lombardo, Ethan Marshall, Evan Michaud, Sadie Michaud, Valentina Morales, Julia Morrell, Kaitlyn Morrow, Jayson O'Neill, Artur Piech, Finn Piper, Baden Plante, Mackenzie Player, Shane Proxee, Ophelia Pugliese, Liam Quast, Jakub Remiszewski, Madison Reola, Alex Rivard-Lentz, River Schiavoni, Coleman Sharpe, Alyssa Snyder, Sonoma Steiner, Nathan Torres, Makayla Wolf, Chelsea Woods.

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## One Dies in House Fire

By Michael Sinkewicz

One person was killed and two individuals were hospitalized in a Hebron house fire on Saturday, officials said.

At 12:05 a.m., emergency crews were dispatched to Hope Valley Road for a reported "structure fire," according to the Hebron Fire Department.

The single-family home was fully engulfed in flames, the department stated, triggering a second alarm and bringing additional agencies to combat the fire.

Hebron Assistant Fire Chief Bill Schappert told the *Rivereast* that one resident of the property died at the scene. Two additional residents that evacuated the home were transported to Windham Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

As of press time, the cause of the fire remained under investigation by Hebron fire marshal's office and Connecticut state fire marshal's office.

Emergency crews arrived at the scene at 12:13 a.m., eight minutes after the initial call was dispatched.

Schappert said the home was "100 percent involved," meaning that from side-to-side and top-to-bottom, the structure was entirely covered in fire.

"There was significant fire load," he said, adding that it was "exceptionally difficult" to extinguish.

While the cause of the fire was "inconclusive,"

Schappert said the circumstances that would potentially lead to that type of fire are "multi-layered."

It was unclear how long the fire was burning before the 911 call was placed or if smoke detectors were installed, Schappert added. He reminded residents to check if their smoke detectors are operational in their own homes.

Eleven different agencies responded to the scene, including fire departments from, Andover, Marlborough, Bolton, Colchester, Lebanon, Columbia, Willimantic, and Glastonbury, along with Windham paramedics and the Manchester Ambulance Service.

While Schappert didn't speculate about this specific incident, he expressed that modern homes often include structural materials that lead to intense fires. Compared to structures built decades ago, he said, homes are more "flammable" and both residents and fire departments have less time to react.

In his nearly 20-year career, Schappert said that eastern Connecticut fire departments have consistently done a high-quality job with providing mutual aid. With this incident, there was an "impressive rapid movement" of local crews, and most small communities do not have adequate staffing levels to combat the most serious types of fires.

"We rely on our neighbors," Schappert said.



**Pies for a Cause...** Colebrook Village's 2024 Alzheimer's Walk Team kicked off fundraising with a pie sale on Nov. 16. More than 40 pies were sold, and over \$300 raised. Colebrook also wanted to thank everyone who donated pies for the cause - including Ted's Supermarket, and Colebrook staff and residents. Keep an eye out for Colebrook's Dec. 3 Pictures with Santa event! Pictured are Colebrook sales and marketing director Laura Steele, left, and Memory Care director Kelsie Harrison.

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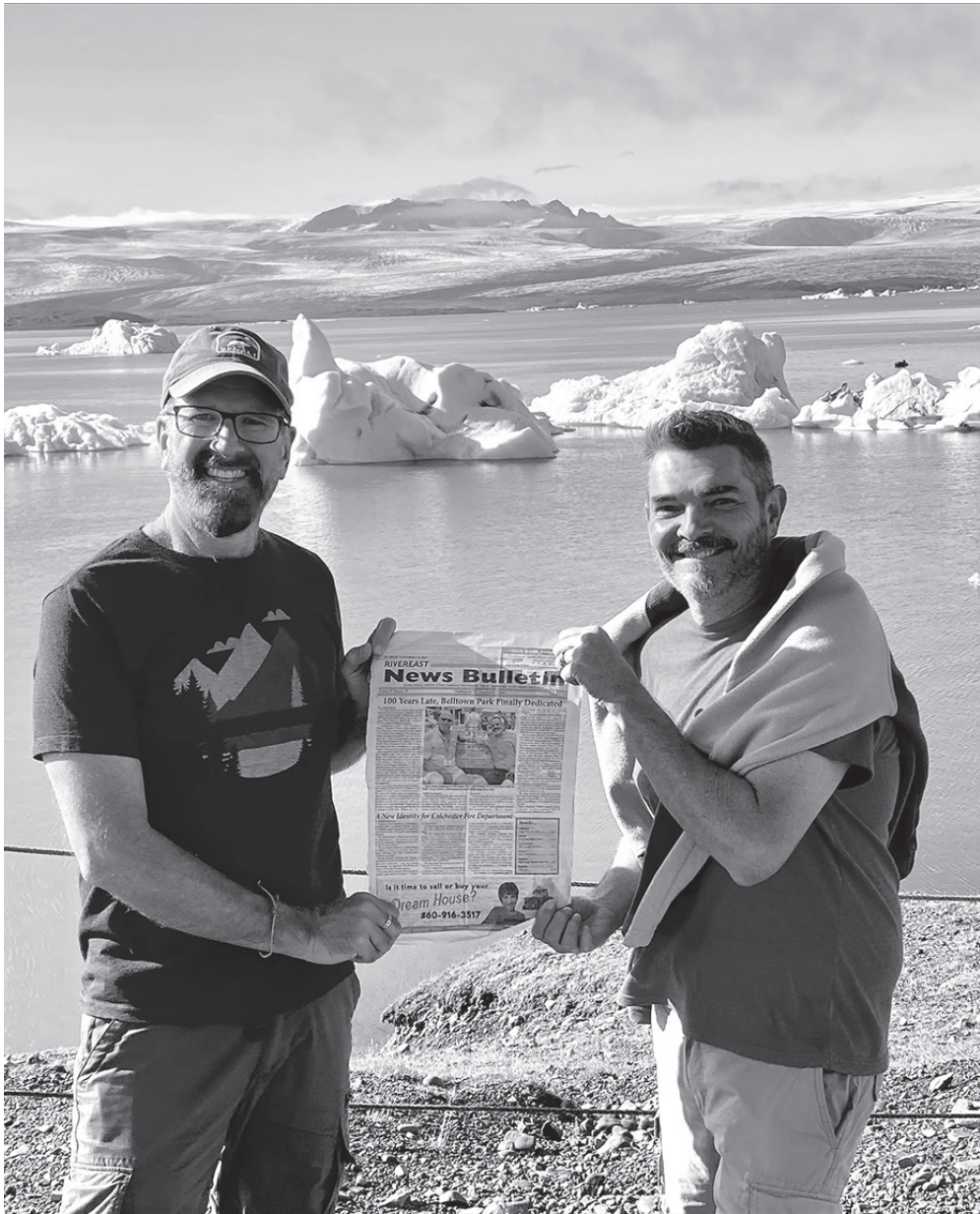
**Goin' to Graceland...** Sarah Strickland and Michael Knickerbocker from Colchester recently went to Graceland. They had a great tour of Nashville, Memphis, and New Orleans.

## 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).



**Cruisin' with the Rivereast...** Brud Miner of East Hampton recently went to the Adirondack National Car Show in Lake George, N.Y. – and of course brought along his *Rivereast*!



**Chilling with the Rivereast...** Colchester residents Jason Griffing and Lee Griffing recently visited Iceland, and brought their copy of the Rivereast News Bulletin to the Jökulsárlón Glacier and Iceberg Lagoon. The trip included a drive around the entire country on the ring road, seeing lots of amazing waterfalls and landscapes.



**Anniversary in the City of Love...** Dana and Gretchen Finnegan of Hebron recently celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary at the most romantic city on earth – Paris.

# Where in the World?

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

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

**To enter, email your photo and address to: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)**

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**Saint Clements Castle & Marina recently partnered with Make-A-Wish to help send four-year-old Leila Lo Giudice of Middletown to Walt Disney World. Pictured with Leila are, from left, St. Clements staff Ehrin Cadigan, Mary Brasile, Pam Marshall, Shelby Eriksson, Peter Callan (president) and Jonathan Ramsay**

**Saint Clements Castle Helps Grant a Wish**

Four-year-old Leila Lo Giudice of Middletown, who has cystic fibrosis, very much wanted to go Walt Disney World – so Saint Clements Castle & Marina partnered with Make-A-Wish to make her dream come true! To celebrate her wish, on Friday November 10, 2023, the staff at Saint Clements Castle &

Marina and Leila's family came together to celebrate. Leila loves castles and this was the perfect celebration while she waits for her wish. She was in awe and was all smiles as the staff gave her a full tour of every corner of the castle.

**St. Mary Church News**

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

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

website for more information.  
**Weekday Mass:** Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.  
**Confession:** Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m., or call Antonelle for an appointment.  
**Other Programs:** For information on faith formation programs, baptisms, blessings of marriages, Knights of Columbus, the St. Mary Ladies Guild and more, call the church office.

**DECA Attends Ultimate PowerTrip**

Members of Portland High School DECA joined 2,000 other DECA students at the Ultimate PowerTrip, held Nov. 17-19 at Austin Marriott in Austin, Texas.

The Ultimate PowerTrip was an opportunity for Portland DECA to collaborate with peers, participate in workshops, challenge themselves in a competition scenario, and sightsee Austin. The weekend included tours of the University of Texas, a fact-filled Austin Duck Boat tour, and a walking tour of the South Congress shopping district. The students experienced Tex-Mex and local barbecue to round out the Texas experience. The conference concluded with line dancing lessons from the Aggie Wranglers from Texas A&M and music by The Nightowls, a local 10-piece live band.

so much," said Luke Stennett, a Portland DECA member who attended the event.

This event followed the annual Fall Leadership Conference, which was held in October. The students are preparing for the State Competition coming in March. They will compete in their chosen business areas, vying for a chance to attend the International Career Development Conference held in Anaheim, Calif. Previous trips for Portland DECA include Washington D.C., Boston, Atlanta, and Orlando, Fla.

Portland DECA is advised by Anna Terry, the Portland High School business teacher.

DECA is a career and technical student organization for those with career interests in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. For more information, visit [www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org).

**Silent Auction at Portland Library**

The Knifty Knitters of the Portland Library have donated 24 handcrafted items – socks, hats, shawls, sweaters and more – to be sold through a silent auction to benefit the Friends of the Portland Library.

View the items in the library display cases and then ask the staff what the top bid is for the item you are interested in. Each item will

have a "buy it now price" where you can pay for the item that moment (cash or check), and you can go home with the item that day.

Final bids will be due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. Winners will be notified on Dec. 2. Payment by cash or personal check will be due by 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, at the latest.

**From the First Selectman's Desk**

December is one of my favorite times of the year here in Portland, with so many wonderful events planned around the holidays. The annual Holiday Parade & Tree-Lighting will take place this Sunday, Dec. 3, at 5 p.m., in front of the Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS), 314 Main St. In addition, Portland Fire Company 1 will be hosting a pancake breakfast on the morning of Dec. 3 as well. Rumor has it that Santa will be at both events. I hope to see you there!

Below is a brief update on some of the items that we have been working on here at Town Hall.  
**High School Track** – I am thrilled to announce that the Portland High School track is officially completed and open again to the public. An official ribbon-cutting is planned to be held this spring. Please make sure to adhere to the following rules in order to keep the track in good condition. There are no strollers, bikes, roller blades, cleats of any type other than approved team gear, skateboards, beverage or glass, or animals (pets) allowed.

**School Facility Survey** – The town has partnered with Great Blue Research to collect public input on addressing our aging school facilities. Each registered voter will receive a postcard in the mail containing a link to an online survey, which seeks feedback on three proposed options. Each option would necessitate a bonding referendum that could directly impact the town's mill rate. It is vital that as many residents take the time to fill out the survey as possible so that we can gain an understanding of the most preferred option. Paper copies of the survey will be available at the Portland Library and Town Hall for those unable to complete it online.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments: by email at [rcurley@portlandct.org](mailto:rcurley@portlandct.org) or by phone at 860-342-6715. Office hours can be made by appointment or stopping by Town Hall.

Wishing you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season,

**Ryan Curley  
Portland First Selectman**

**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, 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 played in a gymnasium with dedicated goals and a heavier ball. Indoor Soccer is 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).

**All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast**

Portland Volunteer Fire Department will hold its All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Sunday, Dec. 3, from 7-11 a.m., at Engine Company No. 1, 7 Middlesex Ave., right behind the Post Office.

The breakfast will feature sausage, all-you-can-eat-pancakes (chocolate chip, regular or blueberry), and assorted beverages. Cost is \$8 for adult and, \$4 for children. There will also be ceramic pancake coffee cups for sale with the fire department logo and a cartoon character squirting syrup on a stack of 'cakes. These are for sale for \$20 and each time you return to a pancake breakfast with the "clean" cup, the fire department will subtract one dollar from your

breakfast. December's breakfast is in support of toys for Portland families; bring in your unwrapped toys and receive half off the price of your breakfast. All toy donations will be given to families of Portland who are in need.

Santa should be arriving around 9 a.m. and staying until 11 a.m. A separate line will be established for those who wish to meet Santa. The tables are reserved for the public who wish to eat. There will be no photographer available for those wishing to have pictures you will have to use your own cell phone of camera.

For more information or to be placed on an email notification list, call Wayne Mergel at 860-759-6921. There will also be a sign-up list at the door.

**St. Mary Bereavement Support Ministry**

The Church of St. Mary invites all to its newly formed Bereavement Support Group, which meets the second Monday of every month. The next meeting is Monday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the Rosary Room of St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave.

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

**Used Winter Adult Coat Drive**

Each 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.

**Raptors Wrap Season**

Portland's U9 Boys Red Raptors travel soccer team finished their season with a tough 2-1 loss to Bristol.

Despite being shorthanded most of the game, Portland was only down 2-0 going into the second half. Evan Kowalchik found the back of the net with an amazing goal with 10 minutes left to play, but Bristol's solid defense prevented any comeback hopes. Coaches Anton Trojanowski, Evan Yardis and Mike Kowalchik praised the team for playing one of their best overall games of the season. In their first year together, the Red Raptors finished with a winning record.



Melilli's Café in Portland hosted and sponsored a Saturday night Veteran's Dinner. This was their 10<sup>th</sup> year hosting the dinner. A thank you to Seby Milardo and family.

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# Elected Officials Start New Term

By London Brazal

Following the November municipal election, the Board of Selectmen and other elected officials were sworn in last week.

Of the six selectmen, five were reelected and the other, while technically new, has been on the board in previous years. On Nov. 21, the Board of Selectmen met to review policy and make any outstanding decisions. In a unanimous decision, the BOS nominated and accepted Michael Hernandez as the deputy first selectman. The selectmen also selected board liaisons to the other committees and boards.

Over the next term, the selectmen have many projects that will be on their agenda. One of those items includes the future of Portland school facilities. The outstanding question is if they decide to repair or close a specific building. Reelected Michael Pelton said the school task force has an “incredibly important role” to play in the future of the town for the next 20-plus years.

In terms of his reelection, Pelton said it's an honor to serve. “I feel privileged to be able to make Portland a better town in any way I can,”

said Pelton. “I truly appreciate the bipartisan support I've gotten from Portland.”

Another inquiry is the continued effort to develop wells that will provide Portland with an independent public water source. In the next few months, the board will also be working with the developers of Brainerd Place to rework the tax agreement.

Selectman John Dillon said that the Portland school facilities issue was one of the highest priority items before the previous board. “I plan to continue working with the board to achieve a positive end result that serves our children well, is fiscally responsible, and above all is acceptable to a majority of Portland residents.”

As a sixth-generation resident, Dillon said he hopes to make Portland a town that families will call home for years. He sees this being accomplished by providing exceptional services, a reasonable tax structure, sustainable infrastructure, and a positive business environment. With the historic brownstone quarries and riverfront, he believes that there should be an emphasis on

developing a unified vision for how the town promotes its history. “That history is a significant attribute of our town,” added Dillon.

On a similar note, newly elected James “Jim” Tripp said he wants to maintain a high quality of life for residents of all ages. He wants to work toward a sustainable investment in the infrastructure and maintain a reasonable tax rate. Furthermore, Tripp said he wants to ensure an outstanding education for all students and welcome and nourish economic development.

At the meeting last Tuesday, the BOS discussed the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for water and sewer infrastructure and road improvement restoration. Specifically, regarding the waterline replacement on Russell Avenue and the Coe Avenue Pump Station. First Selectman Ryan Curley explained how the bids were higher than the original \$1.1 million budgeted almost two years ago.

After the engineering design work and bids came back, more funding was required. Director of Public Works Ryan O'Halpin stated that there were five bids for the Russell Avenue project and three bids for the other. The bid chosen had the Russell Avenue project come to

roughly \$755,000 and the Coe Avenue project at \$630,000. Together, they were about \$1.4 million with no contingency. O'Halpin hopes the projects are under what is allocated to get more road work done in town.

The request proposed to the board was to accept an additional use of \$250,000 in ARPA funds to go toward the projects which roughly totaled \$1.32 million of ARPA funds. The board unanimously approved the motion. According to O'Halpin, the sewer work can start in January after the holidays. It is estimated to be a 3- to 4-month-long project and materials can be ordered in early December. The Russell Avenue project can start after April 15. The road will be ripped up completely to fix the waterlines then paved. On Main Street, the trenches will also have to be repaired according to DOT's regulations.

The Water and Sewer Commission has talked about the issues multiple times because of breaks in the proposed areas. “This is an area where the infrastructure is much needed,” said Tripp. “So, I'm glad to see this project is going to be moving forward soon. It will be good to help the residents down there.”

## Middle School Honor Roll

Portland Middle School has announced the honor roll for the first marking period of the 2023-24 school year.

### High Honors

**Grade 8:** Jacob Anderson, Ian Binnington, Lucas Bolstridge, Marcus Clements, Natalie Farmer, Thomas Gaetani, Fiona Graham, Shane Guilmette, Lily Hale, Jack Hallinean, Ellen Hanks, Jonah Hess, Parker Johnson, Rowyn Kootz, Bianca Labbadia, Terrance Lin, Alyson Low, Miles Matterfis, Peyton Mazzullo, Ryan Nadolski, Aurelia Napp, Lilah Nolan, Nolan O'Connor, Brooks Oliva, Lily Otero, Zoey Pires, Elizabeth Porter, Leonxia Rivera, Luke Thompson, Erika Tine, Lena Trojanowski, Danica Vess, Anna Vicino.

**Grade 7:** Liliana Agogliati, Emma Agosta, Simone Anderson, Samantha Bransfield Yucha, Laila Dietrichsen, Charlee Graham, Elena Guilmette, Aeryn Hall, Payton Hawlk, Jackson Hendrickson, Declan Kelley, Hailee Khim, Addison Maloney, Lauren May, Mahreen Nahar,

Keira O'Brien, Owen Pandolfo, Neena Pereira, Teagan Piascik, Kaelyn Trella, Liam Witsch, Rani Zheng.

### Honors

**Grade 8:** Alex Brown, Caylee Carter, Calvin Celinski, Cody Christensen, William Coleman, Leah Cruz, Gabriella DeFronzo, Elijah Eckert, Colin Fitzgibbons, John Fotopoulos, Chad Gatto, Nicholas Grosso, Blake Harlow, Isabella Hayden, Lydia Heath, Megan King, Andrew Kuskey, Brianna Liranzo, Nolan Lorenti, Matthew Maldonado, Colin Martin, Ema Medunjanin, Giancarlo Mendez, Brady Mierzejewski, Kaelin Mullen, Reese Nicol, Mya Peterson, Joseph Phelps, Josie Rau, William Rau, Jason Revicki, Levi Srb, Cameron Szymaszek, Ella Woodward, Bryan Wooten.

**Grade 7:** Abdulrahman Abdulqader, Lily Arnold, Sebastian Barone, Rowan Clarke, Nicolette D'Amora, Logan Desmarais, Sophia Eckert, Michael Germaine, Ally Harlow, William Hunter, Cameron Kopytko, Charlize Landry, Braeden Lawrence, Luke Lawrence, Sandylee Liranzo, Krystof Lukas, Simon MacKay, Natalie Martin, Empress Murphy-Samuels, Mikaela Nemeth, Brennan O'Connor, Ryan Quinn, Zoe Robinson, Olivia Roy, Adele Salafia, Michael Sanborn, Grace Sardinskas, Adeline Tobias, Ray Vardon, Zoey Vess, Jackson Vodola, Ian Xiao, Kylie Yuille.

Principal Kathryn Lawson announces the Portland High School Honor Roll for the first marking term of the 2023-24 school year:

### High Honors

**Grade 9:** Madison Anzellotti, Giselle Castellano, Penelope Christensen, Nathaniel Dietrichsen, Connor Doyle, Anthony Ezzo, Abigail France, Ava France, Isabel Grzegorek, Jameir Henry, Avery Johnson, Drew Kelly, Ellery Keopen, Lucas Kirsche, Vivien Letitia, Connor Libby, Sierra Markham, Aiden Maselek, Evan May, Blake Pandolfo, Evan Piascik, Piper Rettich, Zephyrus Stone, Bryce Walsh and Remy Wilson.

**Grade 10:** Joseph Angersola, Cristina Austin, Elizabeth Barr, Evan Brown, Breckin Burke, Hayden Burke, Aiden Burrus, Hailey Bustamante, Aaron Ciarleglio, Dylan Cohen, Maksim Connolly, Brady Daggett, Gracie DeRing, Drey Farmer, Lillian Gaetani, Evelyn Hair, Gerry Hall, Elizabeth Hanna, Toby Hunter, Leah Lamson, Rita Lin, Cameron Lopez, Ryan McGrew, Leana Mierzejewski, Ryan Modon, Eunice Ngunjiri, Evan Piacente, Logan Prince, Brody Quinn, Skyla Rascati, Emelia Rowland, Kiley Scott, Cate Stone, Allison Tine, Mara Tuttle and Kai Vardon.

**Grade 11:** Aidan Anthony, Frederick Bailey, Matteo Brousseau, Elizabeth Bustamante, Nija Chester-Payne, Keeleigh Christensen, Landon Currie, Emily DeRing, Amelia Dietrichsen, Abigail Doncet, Emelia Eckert, Paige Fitzgibbons, Evangeline Graham, Nathan Green, Alina Kroeber, Jack Larson, Kathryn Laverty, Abigail Leone, Raymond Lin, Alyssa Madden, Annabelle Maruschock, Cassidy Maruschock, Patrick May, Owen McGinley, Sam Mucinskas, Christopher Myers, Elizabeth Nedobity, Nicholas Oliva,

## PHS Honor Roll

Claire Palma, Aidan Peterson, Gianna Phelps, Morganne Pineda, Michael Rambarose, Gracie Roberts, Elliott Rowland, Ella Royea, Anna Stone, Teagan Strycharz, Madelyn Varano, Caitlin Walsh, Summer Wright and Maryn Yost.

**Grade 12:** Sara Austin, Cooper Beck, Matthew Binezewski, Lillian Carroll, William Curtin, Noah Decker, Gabriela DeLeon, Aaron DeYoung, Camryn DiMauro, Rocco DiMauro, Evan Guilmette, Kadir Hamidovic, Isaac Handel, Lincoln Hanks, Joshua Hanna, Ariana Hettrick-Rivera, Erin Hunter, Abigail Keaveny, Sarah Kresser, Quinn Lapinski, Jamison Lasky, Mason Lavalley, Philip LeShane, Sunny Lin, Anna Lira, Rachel Mailhot, Ava Meselek, Erik Medvecky, Abbey Pickel, Selena Shukis, Morgan Sundell, Lillian Tabellione, Pierson Webster, McKayla Wilk, Jackson Williams and Corinne Woszczynna.

### Honors

**Grade 9:** Nicole Adams, Benjamin Alvarado, Cody Binezewski, Austin Brennan, Costandinos Caratasios, Kelsey Desmarais, Sara DeYoung, George Germaine, Juliette Hair, Lila Hair, Julia Hall, Paige Jensen, Nicholas Johnson, Cameron Kirkland, Sienna Looker, Lanayah Mandeville, Blake Marquis and Audrey Morico.

**Grade 10:** Hasan Abdulqader, Cole Coppolino, Adam Dean, Jayden Dorsey, Jacob Gaudino, Cayle James, Logan Kehoe, Ella Klotz, Jonah Lavalley, Caleb MacKay, Dzejla Medunjanin, Cade Moden, Patrick O'Rourke, Romero Overton and Lucius Rivera.

**Grade 11:** LeeAnn Albert, Gabrielle Arnold, Laurel Carroll, Ava Deckelman, Zachary Dickson, Thomas Hetrick, Kaitlyn Hickey, Lillian Kagan, Samuel LaMalfa, James Marquis, Ty Mazzotta, Ava Randazzo and Bryan Velasquez-Diaz.

**Grade 12:** Stepheno Arroyo, Jayda Cohen, Giovanni Discenza, William Jahnke, Ryan LaPila, Benjamin McGrew, Elvira Medunjanin, Carson Nicol, Cooper Rettich, Dorothy Riley, Benjamin Sorrell, Luke Stennett, Amelia Torres, Dakota Wolak and Tyler Wydo.

## 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.




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## 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 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.

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- \* Knives

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Obituaries

Colchester

Jack Hewes

Jack Hewes of Colchester passed away Friday, Nov. 17, at Chestelm Nursing and Rehab Center in Moodus, where he had recently been residing. He was 86 years old. Jack was born in Bangor, Maine, on Nov. 12, 1937, the son of the late Lewis and Lucile (Dolley) Hewes.



After high school, Jack attended the Coast Guard Academy in New London. He graduated with the class of 1960. He then served proudly in the U.S. Coast Guard until 1962. Jack married his beloved wife Lucille Hollister and the couple settled in Colchester where they made their home. When his sons were growing up, Jack served as a scoutmaster for their troop.

Jack retired several years ago after a long and successful career as an engineer for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford. He then went on to work at Foxwoods Casino for over 15 years. He will be remembered fondly as a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, especially his loving wife, Lucille; children and their spouses, Scott (Denise) Stedman, Bruce (Diane) Hewes, Lewis Hewes, Joshua Hewes; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a daughter, Deborah Freeland.

Calling hours will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, from 1-3 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A graveside funeral service will be held Monday, Dec. 4, at 11 a.m., at the Linwood Cemetery, Linwood Avenue (off Route 16), Colchester, with full military honors.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Jack, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

Marlborough

Forrest Kocher

Forrest Kocher of Marlborough passed away Saturday, Nov. 18. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; her children, Dominic, Ashley, Lori; five grandchildren; his parents, Janice and Walter Kocher; siblings, Mark, Bridget and Shayne.



Forrest was born in Renton, Wash., on April 22, 1967, and served as a lieutenant commander of the Navy during Desert Storm.

Forrest was a devoted and faithful Catholic who always put others first. He was selfless, kind, and had an endless amount of love to give. Forrest served the Catholic Church as a Knights of Columbus member and lived his life dedicated to doing God's work.

Funeral services were held Friday, Nov. 24, at St. Isidore and Maria Parish in St. Paul Church on 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery. There were no calling hours.

For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

Portland

Noel Perez

Noel Perez, 81, of Portland, beloved husband of Rose Marie (Nettis) Perez, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Noel was born March 11, 1942, to Juan and Francisca (Rivera) Perez, in Ponce, Puerto Rico.



After graduation from Ponce High School, Noel moved to Middletown in 1962 with hopes of becoming a police officer. Noel was called to service during the Vietnam War and served with the United States Army in Germany as part of a helicopter repair unit. Once his time was served, Noel continued his service with the Army National Guard. Noel joined the City of Middletown Police Department and worked as a police officer, later becoming a detective and served for over 26 years. In his earlier years, Noel volunteered for the Big Brothers organization of Middletown.

Noel's hobbies included woodworking, photography, and working on his cars. Noel was passionate about his police work. However, his greatest joy was his family. Noel was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Noel is survived by his wife, Rose Marie; and three daughters, Debra and her husband Alan Uhlman of Middlefield, Frances and her husband Bill Cardona of Portland, Rose Marie and her husband Todd Austin of Portland; brothers, Juan Perez of Florida, Juan Orlando Perez of Puerto Rico, Jorge Perez of Puerto Rico, Carlos Perez of Middletown; sisters, Frances Perez of Middletown, Leddy's Candelaria of Florida; seven grandchildren, Alexandra Bond, Zachary Uhlman, Joseph and Jessica Cardona, Amanda, Sara and Cristina Austin; three great-grandchildren, Cameron Uhlman, Logan and Cooper Bond; as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Orlando Perez of Puerto Rico.

The funeral liturgy was held Thursday, Nov. 30, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 10 Elm St., Middletown. Burial with military honors followed at the State Veterans Cemetery. Calling hours were Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

Those who wish may send donations to Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com).

East Hampton

William Markham IV

William Markham IV of East Hampton passed away Monday, Nov. 13, in Middletown, at the age of 63. His passions were hunting, fishing, and watching NASCAR. He was a very good tracker, and loved going fishing with his friends and family.

William is survived by his wife Susan of East Hampton; his sons, William Markham V of Vernon, Josh Markham of East Hampton, Michael Jackson of East Hampton and partner Kevin; his mother, Connie Markham of Colchester and husband Martin; his sisters, Debra Westcott of East Hampton and husband Dave, Robin Markham of East Hampton; grandsons, Logan and Daniel Markham from Vernon. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

There will be no services, but there may be a celebration of life held at a later date.

Colchester

Elizabeth Rodrigue-Desnoyers

Elizabeth (Majcher) Rodrigue-Desnoyers, 65, of Colchester, passed into the loving arms of our Lord Monday, Nov. 27, at home surrounded by family, on the same date her father passed in 2009. Born in Norwich June 12, 1958, she was the daughter of the late Chester P. and Frances D. (Marcinkiewicz) Majcher.



Elizabeth graduated from Norwich Free Academy in 1976. She went on to pursue an Associate of Science degree in surgical technology from Manchester Community College, graduating in 1979, after she started working at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London in 1977 in the operating room. Thereafter, she obtained her Associate of Science in Nursing from Mohagan Community College in 1982, while also getting married to Leo T. Rodrigue Jr. on Oct. 17, 1980. Lastly, she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Central Connecticut State University in 2005.

Elizabeth continued to work as a nurse at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital while having her three children, Leo T. Rodrigue III, Michael M. Rodrigue (spouse Ida), and Victoria A. Rodrigue. Elizabeth was predeceased by her first husband Leo on Aug. 17, 1993. Elizabeth eventually met her second husband, Lawrence J. Desnoyers Jr., whom she married Nov. 20, 1999. Through her second marriage, Elizabeth is also survived by her three stepchildren, Jeffrey M. Desnoyers (spouse Ed), Jennifer L. Sklodosky (spouse Chad), Ashley E. Desnoyers; and two grandchildren, Roselyn and Trenton Sklodosky. She is also survived by her brother, Richard J. Majcher (spouse Barbara); her sister, Jeanne Lathrop; several nephews; and a niece.

She was predeceased by a sister, Catherine E. Majcher; and a brother-in-law, Raymond Lathrop.

"Betty" always believed in giving back to the community. While her children were in grammar school she volunteered in their classroom and taught religious instruction. She also was the PTO treasurer for five years while her children attended Colchester Intermediate School. In later years, she was the treasurer for eight years of her local AORN chapter. Her greatest volunteer work was attending a missionary trip to Haiti, where she helped perform surgeries. Elizabeth touched every life that was fortunate enough to cross her path and will live on in the hearts of many.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, followed by a funeral Mass at 12:30 p.m. Burial will take place in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Elizabeth asked that memorial donations be made to any local ASPCA chapter.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Elizabeth, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

East Hampton

Dolores B. Konior

Dolores Beverly Konior, a loving and cherished woman, passed away Monday, Sept. 25,



in Plant City, Fla., at the age of 69, after a three-year battle with cancer. Born May 2, 1954, in Rutland, Vt., she was known for her kindness, thoughtfulness, and boundless love for her family. She was affectionately known as Dee.

Dee was the daughter of the late Garth O. Parker Sr. and the late Emogene Mattison, and was also the beloved stepdaughter of Eleanor A. Parker. She was the devoted partner of Stephen Dudley for 34 years. She leaves behind her two sons, Walter Scott Konior and his wife Jennifer, and Steven Paul Konior; and her three grandchildren, Hannah, Gabriel and Aspen. She was a beloved mother figure of Stephen Dudley's children - James Dudley, and Krista Escobar and her husband Matt, and their six children. She also leaves behind her brother, Garth O. Parker Jr. and his wife Ruth, and her sisters, Jo Ann Bruce and Grace Parker.

As a teenager, she relocated to Connecticut from Vermont with her family, graduating from East Hampton High School, class of 1972. In her professional life, she had a talent for organization and management, working as a retail manager at numerous stores including Kabachnick clothing store, Lerner Women, and Ames Department Stores, where she worked as a jewelry buyer.

Thirty-five years ago, she moved to Plant City, Fla., becoming an inventory control specialist for Roberds, Inc., and a logistics specialist for Rooms to Go Furniture. In 2010, she decided to change careers entirely, go back to school, and become a pharmacy technician at Welldyne Pharmaceuticals, where she worked with dedication until the week she passed.

Her kindness and thoughtfulness were the hallmarks of her character, making her a beacon of love and warmth in the lives of those she touched. Dee was a woman who lived her life fully, with an open heart and a generous spirit. She leaves behind a legacy of love and a family who will continue to honor her memory by living out the values she held dear.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 16, at Christ Episcopal Church at 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, CT 06456. The service will begin at 11 a.m., with a reception at the parish hall immediately following.

New Obituary Policy

Starting with the Jan. 5, 2024, edition, there will be a \$100 fee for all obituaries. Until then, the fee for obituaries will continue to be \$75.

Obituaries can be submitted by email to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

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

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 Jan-nat 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

2TB 11/24, 12/1

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

2TB 11/24, 12/1

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

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on December 11, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following: ZBA-23-009: Dmytro Goul, 7 Cone Road, Increase height size from 30' to 34' 3" for single family home. Map 06/ Block 37/ Lot 6/3

2TB 12/1, 12/8

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION**

Notice is hereby given that on November 21, 2023, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:  
W2023-3088 - 1 Scott Hill Rd; Jennifer Reid - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 02-02-012-001; Proposed 14' x 20' shed with a gravel pad, 16' x 16' shed, 8' x 8' chicken coop, and timber clearing within 75' Upland Review Area - AP-PROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS  
Dated November 21, 2023  
Conservation Commission  
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 12/1

**LEGAL NOTICE  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:  
1. **Petition 2023-09** – Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations Sections 3.C and 3.F to permit Family and Group Child Care Homes as accessory to residential uses in accordance with Connecticut Public Act 23-142.  
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 28th day of November, 2023.  
Natalie Wood, Chair  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Dec 12, 2023, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New\_York)  
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
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United States: +1 (224) 501-3412  
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<https://meet.goto.com/install>  
Legal Notice will be published in the RiverEast News Bulletin on December 1, 2023 and December 8, 2023.

2TB 12/1, 12/8

**EMPLOYMENT**

**LABORER WITH EXPERIENCE:** in commercial construction for a general contractor in the Hartford area. Full-time position. Email resume or qualifications to Labor2023@yahoo.com.

**PART-TIME MAINTENANCE WORKER:** to fix odds and ends as needed at our three residential group homes. Ellen Young 860-559-4693.



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CIT11-12-23

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**Public Works Maintainer II (Full-time)**

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Maintainer II for the Public Works Department. This is a full-time, bargaining unit position with benefits that include health, dental, vision, 401, life insurance and PTO. \$22.79 per hour; 40 hours per week, plus OT as necessary. Snow plowing experience and CDL with class B (air brake endorsement) required. Applicant should be dependable, have a clean driving record and be in good physical condition. Interested candidates should submit an 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, by December 11, 2023, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/M-F/AA

1TB 12/1

**Land Use Administrative Assistant**

Town of Portland, CT (EOE)  
Salary Range: \$54,670-\$67,236  
Deadline: 12/11/2023  
Submit application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071  
Email: [mceppaglia@portlandct.org](mailto:mceppaglia@portlandct.org)  
Starting salary \$54,670; Non-Exempt, 35 hours weekly; MEUI Clerical union position, full benefits package. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Qualifications: high school diploma or GED equivalent including or supplemented by courses in business practices and word processing, plus two (2) years of progressively responsible clerical experience including public contact, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

1TB 12/1

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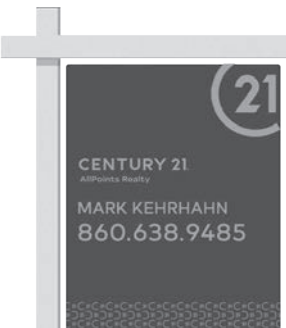


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REB-13-21

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Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email [cbaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:cbaker@colebrookvillage.com)

CIT11-23-23

**Town Clerk**

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the full-time position of Town Clerk. This is a supervisory position which is responsible for the administration and management process specific to land records, elections, vital statistics, licensing, and various other municipal records in compliance with state statutes, federal regulations, charter, and local ordinances. Five (5) years employment in public records management or office experience, working with complex record systems and two (2) years of experience in a supervisory role or as an assistant to a Town Clerk or equivalent. Certification as a Municipal Clerk or an associate degree in business or public administration or closely related field may be substituted for two (2) years of general experience. Salary range: \$68,768 - \$80,903 (depending on qualifications and experience). Benefit package offered. Interested candidates may submit cover letter, resume and 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, by December 15, 2023. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/M-F/AA.

1TB 12/1

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RE12-1-23

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RE10-27-23



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**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

2TB 11/24, 12/1



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