



Merry Christmas

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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 48

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

December 22, 2023

Santa and his Classic Chevy "Sleigh"

By London Brazal

Instead of a sleigh and nine reindeer, a local Santa travels around with his classic cars to spread festive joy.

Tom Flemke Sr. has put the famous red fur-trimmed suit and matching hat on for the last 50 years, starting when his kids were young. When asked why he decided to dress up as Santa, he simply patted his stomach, saying how he had the original look, so why not.

When Flemke first set out to be Santa, he used to drive around on his motorcycle. "That was cool," said Flemke. "I think I looked better on that but I had to sell those since my balance isn't what it used to be."

This season, Flemke can be seen in a red and white 1954 Chevrolet Bel Air. The car is an original model and Flemke bought it refurbished from San Diego. With a few upgrades, he now enjoys some heat in his car as opposed to the Model A people might be more familiar with. Unfortunately, the black Model A Cabriolet is not in service right now. People may recall the all-steel car with a red-nosed reindeer attached to the front. As the Model A is in the shop, the car will be repainted red and have a foldable roof installed to help shield some of December's cold.

As the weather has been warmer than in other years, Flemke can comfortably use the Chevy but when it does snow, he will go out in his pickup truck. "It's a tiring season but I still do it," added Flemke.

Throughout the festive season, Flemke drives around to all sorts of events but typically frequents malls in Connecticut, Rhode Island and



For more than 50 years, Belltown's own Santa travels far in his classic car to spread holiday cheer. Stylin' Saint Nick is pictured making a pit stop at Lost Spring Farm in East Hampton.

Massachusetts. Occasionally, he is asked to stop by parties. One time, a few engineers from Pratt and Whitney saw Flemke and politely begged him to stop by a gathering they were having. A bit later, he said yes and learned that the request was simply for a little girl to see Santa.

Sometimes, Flemke's late wife Judy would

dress up as Mrs. Claus and the two would go out together. Now, Flemke's granddaughter Maddy Lanzi will occasionally fill the role. "She's doing great things," said Flemke. After graduating from Connecticut River Academy in 2019, Lanzi joined the Navy. "She loves what she does."

Flemke also would dress up as Santa and go

to Paul's & Sandy's Too. On Christmas morning, Flemke's son-in-law will shave Flemke's beard. The goatee will stay year-round but the cycle of growing the beard out begins again in March. However, every three to four years, Flemke would grow out his normal hair to donate to wigs for cancer patients in honor of his late sister Sandra Peszynski, who battled cancer.

Almost every day in December, Flemke goes out in his red classic car dressed up. The other day, he was driving on Interstate 91 near Ellington and people were slowing down to drive next to him and take photos. "I do it for the kids but the adults also go crazy over it," said Flemke. Many times, it is adults who interact with Flemke and compliment his cars.

A popular road to see Santa's classic car is while driving on Route 2 when he goes to Hartford. "I'll drive around Hartford and get stopped by lots of people," added Flemke. He has also made television appearances when people send in photos to the local news stations. In Glastonbury, a woman was getting interviewed and she stopped to say, "Look, it's Santa!" The cameraman panned to Flemke to get some extra footage. He also was on TV in Old Saybrook and had a funny bit with people who wore fake Santa beards.

While driving around, Flemke will also be pulled over by police but not for anything "naughty". One year, a Hartford cop bragged to his coworkers that he saw Santa driving on Rt. 2 in a cool car. Later that day, two other Hartford cops saw Santa and got Flemke to stop to take a picture with them.

Each year, Flemke creates more special memories and has several interesting stories. At 75 years old, he is unsure how much longer he will dress up. But for now, he is excited to get the Model A out of the shop and by next Christmas, it should be ready.

Christmas Advice from Mrs. Claus

By Michael Sinkewicz

With Christmas right around the corner, who better to spread holiday cheer than Andover's own "Mrs. Merry Claus."

"Christmas is my jam," expressed 40-year resident Dianne Grenier, who has worked in the professional Santa business since 2006.

Last year, Grenier was inducted into the New England Santa Society [NESS] hall of fame, and was also featured in the Max documentary *Santa Camp*. It's safe to say she's an expert in her field and a trusted source for last minute Christmas advice and inspiration.

Not Your Typical Mall Santa and Mrs. Claus

Every year, local Santas flock to Sturbridge, Mass., to learn how to perfect their craft. These "Santa Schools" serve as an educational experience for both newbies and veterans to soak up helpful details that will translate to a smooth holiday season back home.

Grenier has taught a course on Mrs. Claus, and you may have seen her on top of a Zamboni during a Hartford Wolf Pack game, or at several public appearances at the Dzen Tree Farm in

South Windsor alongside live reindeer.

Most locals will catch her at the Andover Library, where she does meet and greet events. As expected, Mrs. Claus's calendar gets quite crowded this time of year, starting the weekend before Thanksgiving.

"I'm keeping plenty busy," she said.

Grenier, who retired from a long career at Pratt & Whitney, brings a miniature notebook during her solo outings away from Santa, and jots down the gift requests of eager children. Often, she explained, they're a lot less intimidated when talking to her compared to Saint Nicholas himself, which has created countless memorable moments.

One evening while Grenier was holding court for around 20 kids, with the "paparazzi" pool of parents hovering close by, one six-year-old girl thrust her way through the crowd armed with an envelope addressed to Mrs. Claus.

"She was on a mission," Grenier recalled, and the child bestowed her letter and explained the urgency behind her disruption: "I know you do

all the shopping," the girl told her. "Santa is just a delivery boy."

"It was terribly amusing," Grenier joked.

While professional Santas can earn a healthy paycheck from their holiday services and Christmas Eve house calls, Grenier uses her income as a local fundraiser; all of her checks are made out to the Andover Library. For her, the gig was never about making money, but rather the personal gratification.

"It's just too much fun," she said. "As long as I'm healthy, I plan to continue."

Tips From Mrs. Claus

This year, communities warmly welcomed both Santa and Mrs. Claus home.

"There is extreme Christmas spirit," Grenier said. "Kids are just lighting right up."

But holiday cheer shouldn't only be limited to the youngest residents, according to Grenier. Often, she'll see grandparents or college kids who just returned home for winter break sneaking a quick picture.

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 Saturday, Dec. 23rd 6:30-4:00
 Sunday, Dec. 24th 6:30-3:00

Happy Holidays!

CLOSED:
 Christmas Day
 Tuesday, Dec. 26th
 Wednesday, Dec. 27th

RE12-22-23

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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: Manchester: Thursday, Dec.

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.

Scholarship Opportunity Announced

The East Hartford Garden Club has announced the availability of one \$1,000 scholarship to any full- or part-time student who is a resident of Andover, Bolton, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storrs or Windsor Locks. The student must plan on majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany and other allied subjects. Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the guidance department of the attending school. All completed applications must be received by April 1, 2024, to be considered.

28.

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.

Commission, Committee Members Needed

Any Andover elector interested in serving on one of the following committees or commissions should send a letter of interest via email to townclerk@andoverct.org: Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Economic Development Commission, Ethics Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission alternate, Ordinance Review Committee.

Andover Veterans Ceremony

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz will host an appreciation ceremony honoring the Korean War-era and Vietnam War-era veterans in the Andover community. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for January. All veterans who served during the Korean War-era from June 27, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955, or Vietnam War-era from Feb. 28, 1961-July 1, 1975, provide your name, rank, branch of service, and years of service to the Andover Veterans representatives via email, at veterans@andoverct.org, or calling Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481.

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 Stammers:** Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Sunday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m.

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.

Resident Presents Research

Andover resident Kane Waggoner was among 15 Eastern Connecticut State University students who drove to Mahwah, N.J., in October to present research on topics ranging from history to coding at the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges Northeastern Conference. Waggoner, a junior communication and theatre major, presented his work titled, "The Role of Censorship in Information-Flow Theory and its Applicability in the Digital Age." In this, he argued that by understanding the way censorship impedes communication, especially online, people might be able to communicate in a more effective manner.

"I think that the amount of interdisciplinary work which other people researched led to a much more diverse field of individuals who were able to offer different insights as to how they viewed my research," said Waggoner.

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★ *Christmas Advice cont. from page 1*

"There's something about it," she explained. "They glow from within and it brings them back to their childhood. That's a great feeling." And that sentiment leads to Grenier's first tip: don't hesitate to embrace Christmas. "We should celebrate it." Whether families have an annual tradition of attending midnight mass or embarking on a journey to acquire the perfect Christmas tree from a specific spot, those moments should be held onto tightly. Grenier encourages everyone to grab some string lights and garland, turn up the holiday playlist, and enjoy the festivities. "It *should* look different than January," she explained. "December is Christmastime." Every year, arguments take place regarding when it's appropriate (and normal) to start celebrating Christmas. Some claim that any sign of Santa before Dec. 1 is egregious; others will start binging holiday films before the Thanksgiving Turkey has even been cleared from the table. Grenier asserted that Halloween has now effectively become the beginning of the Christmas season, and it'll only get earlier and earlier moving forward.



Dianne Grenier

"It won't be long until it's going to be around Columbus Day." While that inevitable timeline may be worrisome to some, the main takeaway is that Christmas is being wholeheartedly embraced — no matter the when each individual officially kicks off the festivities. But what is the secret to a successful Christmas? "Read more." The classic poem, *The Night Before Christmas*, is a good start, and Grenier offers each child who visits her at during her events a free book to take home. Along with that piece of advice is her suggestion to get rid of the "I-items:" iPhones, iPads and iWatches. "Turning off the electronics is a good way to bond," Grenier said. "Do things as a family — that's what it's all about." Her next tip is crucial to an enjoyable Christmas: eating, eating... and eating. Whether you're wolfing down cookies or guzzling hot chocolate, Christmas is a time for tasty treats. It's especially fitting to bring out timeliness family recipes. "Traditions are really important," Grenier said, adding that some meals are passed along generations and can remind you of a great grandparent. "That's special." In her home, she's responsible for the children's hors d'oeuvres, such as miniature hotdogs and crescent rolls. At this point, most holiday shopping is (hopefully) done. But, in case anyone is looking for a last minute concept, Grenier again suggested group-based ideas. "Aren't holidays about family?" She's fielded many, many requests for drones, Nintendo Switches and Barbie Dream Houses — all of which sound fun — but Grenier proposed the classic board game "Sorry!" "You want things where you have to interact with each other," she said. "People are losing the ability to socialize." Many communities offer tree lighting ceremonies or cookie swaps this time of year, Grenier continued. And while delivering Christmas cards through the mail has become increasingly expensive, there's still a desire to at least hand deliver a few messages. "Do something," she asserted, adding that each town event or holiday gift basket requires "a lot of effort." Growing up in a blue-collar family, Grenier's parents would make Christmas as meaningful as possible. One final piece of advice for children to keep in mind, she said, is to keep mom and dad in mind too.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Well here's some nice news to share: Earlier this month, National Health Care Associates – a network of 34 affiliated skilled nursing, rehabilitation and assisted living centers throughout the northeast – was recently certified as a Great Place to Work by the Great Place to Work Institute and its senior care partner, Activated Insights.

One of National Health Care Associates' centers is Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation Center.

The certification process involved surveying 100% of employees from across National's 34 locations and evaluating more than 60 elements of team members' experience on the job. These included employee pride in the organization's community impact, belief that their work makes a difference, and feeling their work has special meaning. Rankings are based on employees' experiences, no matter

who they are or what they do.

"National has a culture all its own, and we're proud that we are recognized for being a great place to work," Marvin Ostreicher, president and CEO of National, explained in a press release. "Our rich history of compassionate care, hard work, and economic vitality helps make us who we are."

The survey revealed that 84% of the respondents felt their work has a special meaning, and that it's not "just a job." Additionally, 83% felt that they make a difference in the work they do every day.

Santosh Chitalia, chief human resource officer at National, said, "I am grateful to the staff that took the time to share their feedback and validate that National is a great place to work. We are fortunate to have such wonderful staff and it is because of their hard work and efforts

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Proud All-American...RHAM High School would like to congratulate student-athlete, Troy Miller, on being named as a 2023 All-American in the sport of boys soccer by the United Soccer Coaches Association. Troy is 1 of 80 recipients nationally to earn this recognition and 1 of 5 from Connecticut. The senior forward scored a total of 22 goals this season and added 6 assists. 9 of the 22 goals were game winners for the Raptors. Miller's on-field play was intricate in leading RHAM on a CIAC Class M Tournament semifinal run. Miller has also been honored this fall as an All-New England Recipient, CCC All-Conference Recipient, and a CCC All-Academic Award Recipient. Miller is pictured with RHAM coaches Tim Berry (left) and Ray Bell while representing the program as the annual Senior Bowl at Dillon Stadium in Hartford.

Bulletin Board

I put the following "poem" together a number of years ago (I won't get specific about how many years as it's just too depressing) when my kids still used the school bus and believed in flying reindeer. The sentiment may seem trite in these hate-filled times of ours when it's so easy to feel cursed and so hard to feel blessed, but I thought it might be worth a moment or two of reflection. Anyway, here it is (with apologies to poet laureates everywhere):

T'was the week before Christmas
And all through the mall
The only sizes left
Were obese extra tall.

There's Old St. Nick
With two kids at his knee
One has the flu
And one has to pee.

Have they been good?
Santa asks with a grin
Oh yes, they both swear,
Both lying like sin.

What one doesn't think of
The other pulls from his hat
Be it shaving the hamster
Or shampooing the cat

And what do they want
From Blitzen and Comet?
A juggling seal
And some fake rubber vomit

A smartphone, a puppy
That game they call Twister
And on your flight out
Take my bossy old sister

That seems like a lot
For my sleigh, Santa chimes
That's OK, they reply,
Just use Amazon Prime

Then off they go
Dragged away by their mother
Convinced that this Christmas
Will be like no other

And out in the lot
Where you parked oh so far
Someone left you a gift:
It's a dent in your car.

Out into the traffic
The horns and the swears
Merry Christmas you jerk
Hope you fall down the stairs.

Then you pull in your driveway
And look at the back seat
And there are your kids
They're both fast asleep

Like angels they look
And you can't help but feel
That maybe the holidays
Aren't such a bad deal.

It may not be about
All the things that you bought
But about all the gifts
That you've already got



Jim Hallas

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

Deadline Still Tuesday

The *Rivereast* will be closed next Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas Day, as well as the following Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. However, the deadline for both weeks' issues will remain the same.

All copy for the Dec. 29 *Rivereast* **must** be submitted no later than noon Tuesday, Dec. 26, and all copy for the Jan. 5 edition **must** be submitted no later than noon Tuesday, Jan. 2. No exceptions will be made.

Happy holidays from all of us at the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

Thanks for the Books!

To the Editor:
A big "Thank You" to all the big-hearted folks who donated books to fill the elves' free little library for Mrs. Merry Claus' visits this Santa Season.

This was a very popular and successful event. It was loved by both parents and children alike. This will be continued again next year Thanks to the generosity of so many.

I will see that all who donated are on Santa's Good List.
Merry Christmas to all!

Mrs. Merry Claus
a.k.a. Dianne Grenier
Andover

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen
87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033
Telephone (860) 633-4691 • Fax: (860) 657-3258
Email: bulletin@glcitizen.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 373 • Glastonbury, CT 06033

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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. 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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Connections

To the Editor:
I love reading about “connections,” connections of the kind Mike Thompson wrote last week of his connection with New York Giant Tommy DeVito’s agent Sean Stellato. Mike writing that Sean was native to Salem, Mass. had me connecting with the area, having grown up in Peabody next door.

This led to me thinking of the occasional visits we still make to Salem for the signature chop suey sandwiches at Salem Willows harbor-front park.

On these visits someone invariably points to the SALME vanity plate on our car, informing that we misspelled Salem. In the ensuing pleasant conversations we explain it’s my Helsinki-born wife’s name Salme, pronounced SAL-mee. Ah connections...

Peter Kushkowski
“Almost Heaven”
Portland

Raffle Thank You

To the Editor:
We at the Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus want to send a special thank you to all the extremely generous people and businesses that helped make this year’s annual raffle fundraiser a great success. A special thank you to: Father John and all the St. Mary’s parishioners, Adams Hometown Market, Portland Discount Liquors, So. G Coffee Roasters Coffee Shop, The Hebron Fair, The Portland Fair, the entire Portland community, the entire Hebron community, and all of the Council 7 Brother Knights that donated their personal time to this effort. One hundred percent of the funds raised are given back to our community through the charitable work, services, and assistance that our council provides.

Thank you,
Ken Woodward, Sales Chair
Freestone Council 7
Portland

Give Biden 4 More Years

To the Editor:
We should give President Biden four more years to complete the work he has started since he took office three years ago.

Under Joe’s leadership, heating oil prices have plummeted to \$3.30 per gallon, so they are now merely two times what they were in December of 2020.

Mortgage rates have also taken a nose dive from nearly 8% to a very affordable rate of 7.5%. They might even end up closer to 6% in 2024. This is slightly above the 2.5% rates that we saw a couple of years ago, but at least we are heading in the right direction.

Joe says that our southern border is closed. Let’s not nitpick about a few million people who have entered our country illegally. I am sure the number of terrorists, gang members and drug dealers make up only a small percentage.

Thanks to President Biden, we will soon be driving EVs and powering our homes with electricity generated by wind and solar farms. I am sure that with the Biden family’s wonderful relationship with China, they will give us a huge break on the cost of EV batteries.

Joe and our Democratic mayors will take further steps towards solving the homeless crisis by housing more illegals in hotels, while providing more tents to house our veterans and homeless Americans on the streets of our cities.

Lastly, let’s cut Joe, Hunter and the other Biden family members a little slack. After all, they are all laser-focused on what is best for the average American without a thought of anything that could be even remotely construed as self-interest.

So yes, let’s give President Biden four more years. It boggles the mind to imagine what he can accomplish with a second term.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Season of Thanks

To the Editor:
A genuine thank you once again to the Portland Golf West who held their annual golf tournament to benefit the Portland Food Bank.

On behalf of the Portland Food Bank and the many people who benefit from it, we would like to personally thank them for their tireless efforts to help those in need again this year. This business have been an ardent supporter for many years. We consider them as part of the Portland Food Bank family. We are very appreciative of their unending support.

It takes a lot of work and many hands to make the food bank successful and this golf tournament certainly helped more than we can express.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Ruth Maio, Director
Portland Food Bank

Name One Thing

To the Editor:
“One thing. I want my Republican colleagues to give me...one thing....one...that I can go campaign on and say we did. One!” – Representative Chip Roy (R-TX).

Meanwhile, Democrats passed the CHIPS and Science Act, passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Act, passed the PACT act for veterans, reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, passed the Respect for Marriage Act, passed the American Rescue Plan, passed the largest climate investment in history, lowered prescription drug costs, locked in lower health care costs, made the ultra-rich pay their fair share of taxes, lowered energy costs, created American manufacturing jobs, passed the first major gun safety legislation in decades and decreased the deficit.

But please, go on about Hunter Biden’s laptop and a sham impeachment inquiry.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Hebron Teal Green

To the Editor:
I was pleased Hebron’s Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux and the Economic Development Committee engaged with the new Board of Selectmen to underscore resident’s priorities and a positive direction for the town. The market study by FHI Studios reports what people already know, “Hebron is a welcoming, friendly community in a scenic, rural setting offering abundant potential for businesses and residents.” In efforts to create a visual connection to this message the market study suggests identifying colors of dark teal green and yellow, “The

dark teal is a modern variation on the shades of green that are often used to evoke nature, rural landscapes, and outdoor recreation - all concepts that are part of Hebron’s brand promise... The golden yellow is a vibrant hue that perfectly compliments the teal while evoking additional elements of Hebron’s brand promise - friendliness, welcoming atmosphere, and optimism.”

Hopefully the new BOS will join the EDC and embrace these “brand promises.” Expanding the Raymond Brook Preserve north into 17 Kinney Road will reinforce the “scenic, rural setting” to the very edge of the town center. This is the brand that makes Hebron special. There are over 50 acres of commercial land “offering abundant potential for businesses” currently for sale along Rte. 66 and John E. Horton Boulevard. The preservation of 17 Kinney Road, also known as the Horton Property, offers unique historical and environmental assets that will enhance any nearby business and provide an exciting base for Eco-Tourism. It will also protect three of Hebron’s most valuable finite resources; our clean drinking water, our prime agricultural soils, and our history. Hebron’s new dark teal

green can be more than a brand promise, it can describe “nature, rural landscapes, and outdoor recreation” that are a healthy sustainable reality. Please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Irreplaceable

To the Editor:
“And so this is Christmas. And what have we done? Another year over. And a new one just begun.” – John Lennon

What we’ve done is continued to put a great deal of energy into defending 17 Kinney Road, in the center of Hebron. Why? Because 17 Kinney is an important piece of property. It is the last fully intact proprietor’s lot in Hebron. It was a gift from the Native Americans to the settlers in 1675. Its history is well-noted in Governor John S. Peters’ documents. The land remains undisturbed by modern development and therefore so are the stonewall laneways, trees and im-

See Letters, page 6

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

that National was able to earn this achievement. It is our hope that those in the communities we serve who are seeking a place of employment that they, too, can feel proud of, will join our team.”

“We applaud National for seeking certification and publicly sharing its employees’ feedback,” said Dr. Jacquelyn Kung of Activated Insights. “These ratings measure its capacity to earn its own employees’ trust and create a great workplace for high performance.”

Congratulations, National Health Care Associates – and by extension, Marlborough Health & Rehab!

It may seem hard to believe, but here we are nearing the end of another year. Christmas Day is this coming Monday, with New Year’s Day the following Monday. As such, the *Rivereast offices will be closed those two days – but our deadlines for those weeks will remain the same.*

*All copy for next week’s Rivereast – the Dec. 29 edition – **must be submitted no later than noon Tuesday, Dec. 26. Likewise, all copy for the Jan. 5 edition must be in no later than Tuesday, Jan. 2.***

No exceptions will be made.

Speaking of Christmas, here are some fun little groaners, courtesy of the folks at the Today show:

What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs? Candy canes.

How did Scrooge win the soccer game? The Ghost of Christmas passed.

What do you call a snowman party? A Snow Ball.

What song does Beyoncé like to perform during the holidays? “All the Jingle Ladies.”

What’s Santa’s favorite candy? Jolly Ranchers.

Did you hear about the ski trip? It started off fine, but went downhill fast.

What did one Christmas tree say to the other? You need to lighten up.

What did one snowman say to the other? “You smell carrots, too?”

Where do gingerbread men sleep? On cookie sheets.

Why don’t Christmas trees knit? They keep dropping their needles.

What does Santa use to clean his sleigh? Comet.

Why does Santa use GPS? He doesn’t want to be a lost Claus.

What should you expect at the end of Christmas Day? The letter Y.

And finally:
How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

Merry Christmas from all of us at the Rivereast News Bulletin.

Warm wishes to you and your family during this holiday season.

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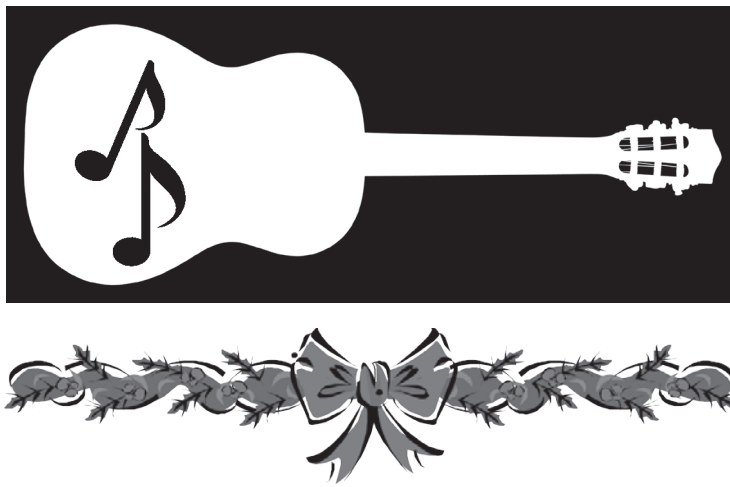
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★ Letters cont. from page 5

portant prime agricultural soils. The property serves as a wildlife corridor connecting open land in the center of town with lower Millstream Road and the Raymond Brook Marsh. And this land sits on top of fractured bedrock aquifers that supply drinking water to dozens of homes on Kinney, lower 207 and Millstream Roads. In a town center that is low on an adequate supply of drinking water, this alone makes the property worthy of respect and preservation.

We can replace old buildings, repave parking lots, put up bridges and pour tons upon tons of concrete wherever people want it. But we cannot recreate nature. We cannot recreate water and we cannot rebuild our past. Development on 17 Kinney, with roads and rooftops, storm drains and regular salting, impervious surfaces and daily traffic, will continuously add more stressors to ground and stormwater runoff. Development here will also threaten wetlands and the GA water found in these important aquifers.

As we move into 2024 we take with us the same issues and concerns. 2023 was a wet year and a great year for demonstrating, firsthand, just how important preserving 17 Kinney Rd. really is. Happy Holidays and #save17.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

East Hampton Food Bank

To the Editor:

The seniors from East Hampton would like to thank you all so very much for all that you do for all the seniors in our town.

With Foodshare and the gift cards. It makes it a little easier for us all year long. Again, we would like to thank you all and have a great holiday.

Shelley Grendzinski, Tenant Commissioner
East Hampton Senior Housing

End This Now!

To the Editor:

Apparently it is dangerous today to criticize Israel's deliberate destruction of Gaza and killing of nearly 20,000 Palestinians, in response to the Hamas attack that killed 1,200 Israelis. Those daring to do so have been accused of anti-Semitism or even lost their jobs. If I worked in a heavily Jewish district, I might avoid calling Israel a "fascist" and "terrorist" nation. I might avoid accusing them of using genocidal means to accomplish their goals of freeing up even more lands in Gaza and the West Bank for additional illegal ultra-Orthodox settlements. I might even say that they are employing some of the same repugnant "Nazi" means that were used against innocent European Jews. But I'll leave that criticism to the world's most famous Jew, Albert Einstein, who turned down the Israeli Presidency that was offered him and who in 1948 signed a letter to the *New York Times* accusing conservative Israeli elements of all the previous quotes I just mentioned. If other of the world's greatest Jews besides Einstein, such as Carl Sagan or Spinoza, were alive today, they too would be critical of Israel's conservative government.

What further proof do President Biden and America need to convince us we must end the flow of weapons, bombs and financial support to Israel? That this financial support ought to be redirected to Palestine to rebuild and reject the Hamas elements in their midst? As Israeli soldiers proudly film themselves burning up food supplies sent to starving Palestinians and desecrating Islamic structures; as their snipers shoot Christian mothers and daughters inside Gazan Catholic churches just in case they might be Muslims; and even shoot their own kidnapped Israeli citizens who tried surrendering with a white flag, I stand with the moderate and secular Palestinians and Israelis who say "End this now!"

Edmund Smith – Andover

Let Me Get This Straight

To the Editor:

I appreciate the Toilet Paper Mafia reproducing my work in its letters. But only Edmund Smith gave me proper credit. Joe Stevens did not. Only Joe Biden and the President of Harvard get to lift other's work and make it their own, Joe.

Let me get this straight. Racist, misogynist, warped, homophobic, callous, science-deniers, deplorable, inept, fascist, xenophobic, perverse, bitter-clinger, criminal, redneck, white supremacist, and extremist (to name a few). These are the words excreted from the liberal churn to describe conservatives. So, at what point do conservatives have the right to be offended? Liberals whine about compassion, Democracy, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Yet they dole out none of it when it comes to anyone who hasn't bent the knee to their liberal religion. And Ed-

Towns Recover from Substantial Storm

By Michael Sinkewicz

Riverast communities embarked on a multi-day recovery effort after a major storm brought down dozens of trees and knocked out power across much of Connecticut earlier this week.

The storm peaked early on Monday morning, and by press time Wednesday, power was expected to be restored to 99% of customers later that day.

Colchester schools were closed Monday, along with RHAM, impacting students in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

Leaders in all four towns said no serious injuries or accidents resulted from the storm.

According to Colchester Fire Chief Steven Hoffmann, wind gusts peaked around 55-60 mph, combined with heavy rainfall both during this weather event and the prior weekend, which led to greater impacts.

"The already saturated ground contributed to trees coming down," Hoffmann said.

He stated that the town peaked with around 1,700 customers without power and there were 20 service calls relating to either downed trees blocking roads or wires.

Colchester First Selectman Bernie Dennler III confirmed that there were roughly 20 trouble spots in town, and that Eversource crews couldn't begin addressing the issues until winds had calmed down.

On Tuesday, Dennler criticized the response time by the power company, calling its reaction a "scramble."

"Eversource was underprepared for this storm," he said during a phone call. "I am frustrated."

Dennler stated that certain information provided to Eversource through the town and residents didn't accurately enter its system, which may have contributed to restoration delays. Even so, he said the company didn't have an adequate number of crews on standby.

Steve Sullivan, Eversource president of Connecticut Electric Operations, said during a press conference on Tuesday that crews were working around the clock to restore power. Every town had a liaison with the company to coordinate with each community. Crews, he said, work form the "largest outage down to the smallest."

Dennler expressed gratitude towards the Public Works crews, fire and EMS crews and police officers for assisting residents throughout the storm.

"They did everything they could."

The first selectman's frustration wasn't unique amongst local leaders. Andover Town Admin-

istrator Eric Anderson was also "unhappy with the response" and that a major town-identified concern was not addressed by Eversource in a "timely fashion."

A report was made at 7:08 a.m. on Monday morning regarding a burning wire off Hebron Rd. (Rte 316). A tree had hit the wire, and town crews were unable to remedy it without Eversource involvement. The breaker was switched off at 4:00 p.m. later that day, and the local fire department was guarding that location until that moment.

"That's ridiculous," Anderson said.

Overall, his town experienced "significant flooding" and Bunker Hill Rd. was temporarily closed due to unsafe travel conditions. Andover peaked with around 15% of customers without power, and around 8 roads were at one point blocked by trees.

In Hebron, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said around 600 customers had been without power. A multi-day restoration timeline was expected, he said.

"It's going to take long," he said on Tuesday, adding that with a statewide storm, Eversource is stretched thin. "It shouldn't have been a surprise."

Paul Bancroft, Hebron's emergency management director, stated that there were 10 emergency calls in town, along with one or two calls regarding flooding.

"It was a pretty severe storm," he said.

Marlborough may have experienced the most substantial outages, peaking with 70% of customers without power. During the Board of Selectmen meeting Tuesday night, Town Manager David Porter indicated that the impacts from the storm "could've been far worse" if not for the "valiant efforts" of the fire and public works crews.

He was riding with the public works supervisor for over an hour on Monday, who directed members of his crew to take the excavator or backhoe and assist residents.

Many issues pertained to drainage issues and some community members expressed that water was backing up in their yard or flowing into their driveway.

"We know that there are a lot of culverts that are undersized relative to the increasing rainfall we seem to be getting," Porter said following the meeting. "And we get a lot of calls about that."

A potential Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) grant, which the town may submit in February, could address drainage on North Main Street. There are also



Storms wreaked havoc across Connecticut earlier this week. Powerlines and trees came down, including this massive tree in Andover off of Hebron Rd. (Rte 316).

concerns on Ofshay Dr., which wouldn't be eligible for the state funding.

Porter said that addressing that street's draining problems "is in the plan" moving forward.

"That is one of our higher priority ones because you try and address the worst issues soonest."

Porter expressed that "Marlborough has a terrific Eversource representative."

"He has been very responsive and he was an enormous help yesterday," he said.

One transformer in town blew out, and the system is designed to automatically compensate for that loss, Porter explained. However, that further overloaded the system and a second transformer blew out, which led to the substantial 70% outage.

That specific issue, though, was resolved in just over two hours.

"Eversource really did right by the town of Marlborough yesterday."

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the Riverast Standouts for the week of Dec. 11 - 17:

Troy Miller - RHAM High School (Basketball): Following an all-state soccer season in the fall, Miller has continued to shine on the courts this winter. Miller, a senior, scored 28 points in the team's season-opener, a 57-55 win over Coventry on Dec. 14, and then scored 20 points — including 13 in the second quarter — as the Raptors improved to 2-0 with a 65-48 win over Bristol Central on Dec. 16.

Lyndsey Gravel - East Hampton High School (Indoor Track): Gravel, a senior, won the shot put with a toss of 28'11 at the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Developmental Meet on Dec. 13. Gravel edged senior teammate Alyssa Snyder, who threw a personal-best 26'11 to finish second overall. Brian Collisson (pole vault) and Evan LoPresti (1600 meters) also took home first-place finishes for the Bellringers during the event held at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven.

Dante Colella - Bacon Academy (Wrestling): Colella took first place in his weight

bracket at the Plainville Invitational Tournament on Dec. 16 at Plainville High School. Colella, a senior, pinned Maloney's Caleb Sweeney in the 175 lbs. championship match to deliver the Bobcats an individual win at the multi-school tournament that featured 17 different wrestling programs.

Sam LaMalfa - Portland High School (Indoor Track): LaMalfa took home a pair of first place finishes at the Shoreline Conference Developmental Meet on Dec. 13. LaMalfa, a junior, won the 55 meter dash, running a 6.6 for an individual win and then teamed with Noah Decker, Kylon Martinez, and Erik Medvecky to win the 4x200 relay with a time of 1:39.1. Senior Lillian Tabellione also took home an individual victory for the Highlanders, running a 5:28.4 in the 1600 meters at the event held at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven.

To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week or with sports-related comments, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.

Tri-County American Legion Baseball

Registration is open for those interested in participating in tryouts for one of the Tri-County American Legion baseball program's 2024 summer teams. Deadline to register is Dec. 31.

Serious players who will be between the ages of 13-19 in 2024 — and who have a parent residing in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon and Marlborough — are eligible. Depending on interest, Tri-County is again preparing to enter teams at all four levels of American Legion baseball — 19U, 17U,

15U and 13U.

Tryouts will begin on weekends in January at some nearby indoor facilities. The tryout dates are available on the Tri-County Legion website but age-group schedules will be finalized and shared with registrants after the deadline.

Interested players should register at www.tcleion.com or contact GM Len Lampugnale at Lampugnale@comcast.net or at 860-295-0437 for more information.

Watershed Partnership Holds Meeting

Board members of the Salmon River Watershed Partnership (SRWP) recently hosted a meeting with town leaders from the 10 municipalities included in the watershed.

The meeting, which was held at Sadler's Ordinary in Marlborough, was an opportunity for everyone to discuss the challenges and successes of working to protect the Salmon River, as well as to learn about the newly completed five-year visioning plan for the future of SRWP.

The Salmon River Watershed includes land from the towns of Hebron, Colchester, Marlborough, East Hampton, East Haddam, Had-dam, Columbia, Bolton, Glastonbury and Lebanon. The SWRP said the watershed is one of the healthiest watersheds in the State of Connecticut, and noted that, according to The Nature Conservancy's freshwater restoration specialist Emily Hadzopoulos, it is also favorably poised for resiliency in the face of climate change.

The health and resiliency of a watershed is not accidental, the SWRP said; it requires good

management policies along with communication and cooperation between the local municipalities and other agencies such as the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Eric Thomas, an environmental analyst with DEEP's Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse/Water Planning and Management Division, maintains that this local collaboration among communities in the Salmon River Watershed also translates into a stronger working relationship with DEEP.

Working with a part-time coordinator, board members and volunteers conduct stream monitoring, lead school and community education programs, contribute natural resource information for municipal grants and provide input on town and state plans, such as municipal plans of conservation and development, state forest management plans and statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

For more information about SRWP, please visit www.SalmonRiverCT.org.

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mund is offended? And I don't know what Joe is. Hopefully no one is stomping around the house in a bathrobe ranting at the grandfather clock.

And I would be remiss if I didn't pay homage to the recent quintessential example of liberal "compassion, Democracy, and DEI" in the news. "Renowned" Boston Mayor, Michelle Wu, held an "Electeds of Color" holiday party last week. Sorry...whites need not apply. While this doesn't rise to the level of drinking fountains in the 1950's, the sentiment lingers. What better way to celebrate a year-end holiday than to exclude an entire race of people because they don't meet specific genetic criteria? And this from an Asian woman whose own race has been victimized by racially inequitable admission practices by the Ivy League. Can I get a "Hell Yeah!" for breaking down racial barriers? Forget about all the name calling. If you think there is anything right with this story, you're just an idiot.

What's next, Edmund? No Samoyeds or Great Pyrenes at the dog park on Tuesdays? #phoniesandfakes

Merry Christmas!

Ed Kozlowski - Colchester

East Hampton Past

To the Editor:

This past Sunday and Monday, the torrential rain and wind storm battering Connecticut, causing flooding, downed trees and washed out roads reminded me of another storm 50 years ago in mid-December 1973. That storm, had the temperature been a few degrees higher, would have had an outcome very similar to what we experienced this week, a lot of rain and high winds. But that few degrees colder, in the low 30s, caused the worst ice storm in memory, or since. Its unusual weather pattern where stratified temperatures formed snow, then warmer thus melting the snow, then freezing it again nearer the ground, causing a thick icy coating on tree limbs, utility lines, car windshields and road and walkway surfaces. In many cases the

weight of ice several inches thick caused major power outages lasting over a week. Utility crews were brought in from throughout the Atlantic Coast region. Because of the outages, there were no restaurants open to feed the line crews. The one exception was O'Neill's Tavern, (now the Town Tavern), owned and operated by State Representative William O'Neill, who would become Governor nine years later. Because O'Neill had stocked food for upcoming Holiday Parties, he offered to keep the linemen fed with warm meals as they restored his electricity as well as that at the gas station next door. I'm sure some folks complained about the preferential treatment, but certainly not the linemen who were working 18 to 20 hour shifts in freezing weather to restore heat and power to our homes, schools, churches and businesses. Today, I thank those such as utility employees who brave storms to keep our families and citizens warm and safe. To all of them and all of you, I wish you a wonderful Holiday season, filled with peace and goodwill.

Dean Markham - East Hampton

Coincidence?

To the Editor:

He will be a dictator only for a day, every day is a new day. He will drill, drill, drill even as the Unite States exports more oil than ever, China says thanks. He will end all wars, Putin's ship has come in.

He will protect you from all the evil vermin diluting our bloodline and stealing our heritage. He will go back in time and right historical wrongs. He will restore our glory...all this and more just give him your soul like you have lent it to your cell phone. In Trump's second coming he has promised to right all wrongs against his devine self. He will vindicate you and lift you up to a Utopian New World Order. Just like the Second Advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Coincidence?

Merry Christmas and to all a good night.

Regards,

Tim Rinell - East Hampton

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

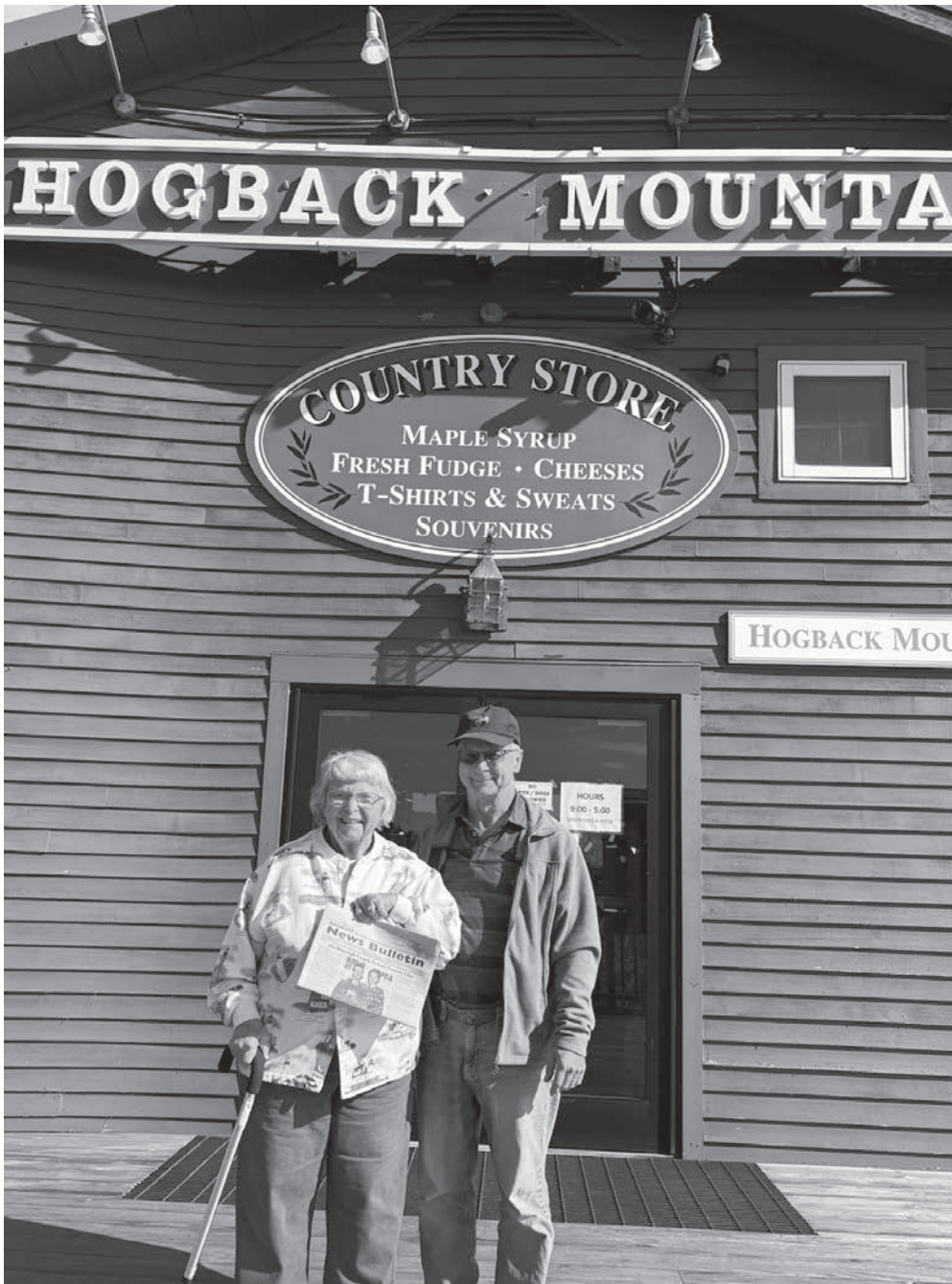
Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to bulletin@glcitizen.com.



Aruba, Jamaica, Oooh I Wanna Take Ya... Jack and Susan Lanzi and Mary Ann and Dennis Wall, all from East Hampton, recently enjoyed a beautiful week in Aruba!



Inspiration Point... Sam and Adam Ockman of Hebron visited Inspiration Point on their trip to Yellowstone National Park in August.



Following the Foliage... Pat Able and her son, John, of Marlborough, recently visited Hogback Mountain Scenic Overlook in Marlborough, Vt., east of Wilmington, Vt., to see the fall foliage. They could see three states!



Loving the Lighthouse... Artist Tom Swimm and his wife Rosemary, both of East Hampton, recently spent a week on Cape Cod. They're shown here at Nauset Lighthouse in Eastham, Mass. Tom is looking forward to creating some new oil paintings inspired by the trip.

Where in the World?

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Business of the Month... The East Hampton Economic Development Commission recently presented Serra & Associates LLC with the December Belltown Spotlight on Business of the Month. Serra & Associates has been in the certified public accounting business for 23 years and at its current location of 11 West High St. since 2009. The business has also been a strong supporter of community activities. Pictured from left are Town Manager David Cox, Ray Serra, Heidi Serra and EDC members David May, Sean Flynn and Ted Turner.

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.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

Children's Ministry: For children in grades K-5, held in Fellowship Hall during 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.

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, visit 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 tensummitst@gmail.com.

One-on-One Technology Tutoring Sessions with the East Hampton High School Interact Club: Tuesdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27, 3-6 p.m. Sign up for your individual session in advance by calling the library. Bring your cell phone or tablet to the session.

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. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas Day.

All-Ages Programs: Holiday Movie Night: Home Alone: Wednesday, Dec. 27, 6 p.m. Bring blankets; some chairs will be available. Refreshments provided. Drop-ins welcome!

New Year's at Noon: Friday, Dec. 29, 10:30 a.m. Magician Ed Popielarczyk returns with another interactive performance. Stick around after the show for the big balloon drop at noon. Drop-ins welcome.

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.

Bluey Playdate: Thursday, Dec. 28, 2 p.m.,

for ages 2-5. Come play like Bluey and Bingo with games like Keepy Uppy, Magic Xylophone, Grannies, and more. No registration required.

Family Storytime: Saturday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m. Ages 3-5 are invited - along with their siblings - to 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 Program: Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons Learn to Play: Wednesday, Dec. 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Kids in grades 5-7 are invited to come learn how to make their own D&D character, how to use imagination and a character sheet for combat and storytelling, and find out what all those "D&D dice" are really used for. No previous playing experience required; all supplies included.

Teen Movie Matinee: Age 13+: Friday, Dec. 29, 2 p.m., in the library community room. *Spaceballs* will be shown. Popcorn will be served.

Adult Program: Cookbook Club - Asian Cuisine: Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m. Try new recipes and chat about culinary adventures. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers.

Donations: Food items for East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church. Clean returnable bottles and cans are collected in cans by the shed.

Sunday School: Sunday School classes are in

session. The Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard and Emily Vick lead the group, which meets at 9:55. New students welcome. Contact neelrichard16@gmail.com for information/dates, as classes are sometimes rescheduled.

Christmas Eve Service: Dec. 24. The service will begin with carols at 3:30 p.m., followed by a service of the Holy Eucharist at 4 p.m.

For more information or if in need of assistance, contact Donna Hyrb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehyrb@gmail.com.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Holiday Closings: The senior center will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas, and Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.

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.

Chair Yoga with Kitch: Wednesdays at 1 p.m. through Feb. 14 (started Dec. 20). Cost: \$20.

Chatham Health Chat: Tuesday, Dec. 26, 10:30-11 a.m. Come for a discussion on brain health.

Pizza and a Movie: Friday, Dec. 29, 11 a.m., featuring *A Walk in the Woods* with Robert Redford.

Trip: Shopping Trip: Wednesday, Jan. 10, 11 a.m., to the Willimantic Walmart. Cost is a \$4 for transportation.

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

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Initial Progress Made for Superintendent Search

By London Brazal

The superintendent search progressed during the most recent Board of Education [BOE] meeting with the selection of Connecticut Association of Boards of Education as an executive search consultant.

The search for a new superintendent began after the current superintendent, Paul Smith, announced his retirement for the end of the 2023-2024 school year on Oct. 1. Prior to the municipal election in November, the previous board decided to table the search until the newly elected members were sworn in and reconvened. At the first meeting with the current board on Nov. 13, the BOE appointed itself as the search committee for the next superintendent of schools. During that time, discussion for who might join the search committee or what the exact process of hiring looks like would be determined once a search consultant was decided.

At a special meeting on Dec. 4, the Board of Education interviewed executive search companies and Smith was also in attendance. Since it has been eight years since the last superintendent search, Smith recommended that all three consultant committees be reinterviewed and they were given about 20-30 minutes to do so. The three companies presented different prices and services they offer. The three were Mary Broderick with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, [CABE]; Mark Winzler with the New England School Development Council, (NESDEC) and David Erwin with Cooperative Educational Services, (CES).

Got Yarn??

The East Hampton Yarners are seeking contributions of yarn for their charitable projects. If you have yarn you'd like to share, contact Judy Hoffhine at jhoffhine@gmail.com.

The Yarners have provided projects for people from East Hampton to Middletown to Honduras.

Haddam Neck Congregational Info

Sunday worship services for Haddam Neck Congregational Church and Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam are held at 10:30 a.m. each week in Haddam Neck, at 408 Quarry Hill Rd.

Christmas Eve: Christmas Eve services will be held at Haddam Neck Congregational Church on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., featuring traditional Christmas Bible readings and hymns.

All are welcome. Visit www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org for more information.

During the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Dec. 11, the board went into an executive session to discuss the potential action of selecting a consultant. When the meeting reconvened, Engelhardt motioned to select CABE as the executive search consultant. The motion was accepted and passed unanimously.

Board of Education Chairwoman Nancy Kohler described a general timeline of the hiring process. The board plans to develop a candidate profile throughout January. At that time, the consulting firm and the board will work together and use a series of surveys and focus groups to establish a candidate profile. From February into early March, they will begin to vet and interview candidates. The hope is to have a finalist by early spring. The new hire would be expected to start July 1 next year.

"At this time, it is not our intent to hire someone on an interim basis. It is our hope to have the position filled according to the timeline," said Kohler.

During the "Meet the Candidates" event in October, Engelhardt said he wanted the search to be "thorough and honest." He believed that the future superintendent should have similar priorities with the board including the safety of students both physically and mentally. Engelhardt noted that he hopes the future candidate is someone who can connect with the community to help the success of students. "A good balance begins with a superintendent that can make that connection and be there as someone who the community trusts," said Engelhardt.

Epoch Arts Winter Classes

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of winter classes for area youth. Classes include ceramics, improv, art and more. Teens can also join Epoch's original theater production that stages in May.

All classes are held at 27 Skinner St. Register online at www.epocharts.org or call 860-365-0337.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Sunday services for the Fourth Week of Advent will take place at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 10 a.m. Bible study precedes the services at 9 a.m., in the Church Hall. Church pastor is Jamie Stall-Ryan.

The church's Christmas Celebration will take place Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Last Day to Change Party Affiliation

The last day to change party affiliation to be eligible to vote in the April 2, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary is Jan. 2. This deadline does not apply to electors currently registered as Unaffiliated.

To check your registration, visit portal.dir.ct.gov/sots/lookup.aspx.

Furthermore, he wants the next superintendent to evaluate what makes the school district special and invest in the students.

In the last 10 years, the East Hampton School District has had three superintendents. Smith started in January 2016, preceded by Superintendent Diane Dugas who only served in the position for two years. Before Dugas, the last superintendent was in the role for five years. During the superintendent search in 2015, current board member Ken Barber was the chairman of the BOE. "For the first time in eight years, we're faced with a challenging decision," said Barber on election night. Speaking about the search, Barber said they will have to be extremely thorough in their search. "We can't afford a mistake."

In Smith's retirement announcement, he said he was proud to witness the "extraordinary efforts" the schools have provided in academic support and the wellness of children and staff. "I am also confident that the teamwork that re-

sulted in our vision, East Hampton 2030 and the East Hampton Profile of the Graduate, recognized as an exemplar by the New England Association of Schools, will serve as guideposts well into the future."

Throughout his tenure, Smith was focused on creating a culture of compassion to provide educational excellence for all students. He believes the town and school district will continue to work cooperatively to maintain a high quality of education, retain and recruit talented teachers and produce the next generation of students. "This community has dedicated themselves to the important cause of public education – and I have been honored to be at the helm of that effort."

Further discussion about the search for a new superintendent will continue as the BOE works with the selected consultant. The next scheduled BOE meeting is on Jan. 8.



Rotary Club member Kevin Reich, with the help of many local businesses, recently replaced the Lake Pocotopaug sign – a staple of the Lake since the 1950s. Pictured with the new sign are Ray Ziturski, Tom Donnelly, Kristen Haddad, Town Manager David Cox, and Kevin Reich.

Rotary Club Replaces Lake Sign

The Lake Pocotopaug sign is back! The original sign was put up in the 1950s by Ed and Jim Barton. The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club has maintained the sign for many years. Members would sand and paint it. Then in 2012, the late Red McKinney, a Rotarian, saw that the original sign needed to be replaced. He and fellow members of the club replaced the sign with a new one with the help of several craftsmen in town.

This past summer, with the sign again needing repair, Rotarian Kevin Reich took on the task with the help of many local businesses. Ray Ziturski oversaw the staff of Nesci Enterprises, who purchased the aluminum and fabricated the new sign. American Powder Coating baked on the blue background paint. Ray Nichols Jr. of Liberty Landscaping painted the bow and arrow sign post. Kristen Haddad, artist and owner of Killustrateit, painted the sign to match the original one.

The East Hampton town crew, under the direction of Matt Walsh, Public Works director, and Kyle Riley, foreman, cleaned up the area around the sign, removed brush from the waterfront, installed a split rail fence and assisted in installing the new sign. Paul's and Sandy's Too decorated the fence with fresh garland and red bows for the holidays.

This project was undertaken by the East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club and is a gift to the town of East Hampton for the holidays.

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First Annual Cancer Benefit Hosted

By London Brazal

Two brothers set up a cancer benefit to raise money for a local family in need. Back in October, Ryan and Jason Prince hosted a dart tournament at Kickback n' Bowl.

A few years ago, the Princes tried to host a similar fundraiser but it ultimately did not work out because there was a lot more to be done. After going back to the drawing board, they were able to put together a tournament. This time it was a success considering it was the first time they planned something like it. Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it was the perfect time to host the benefit.

At first, they did not have a family in mind to donate the proceeds to. The brothers knew they wanted to give back to people who were affected by cancer but also did not want to make people uncomfortable by asking. Ultimately, they chose someone by word of mouth. Ryan Prince said people were suggesting families from Coventry and other towns, but he wanted to keep the fundraiser local. "We wanted to keep it in town," said Prince.

After more deliberation and talk, the brothers found someone from East Hampton: Tammie Rigoletti, who happened to be someone they went to school with. Prince described her reaction as "excited" and "really appreciative." He said that Rigoletti is someone who always helps others and it felt great to help her instead.

Rather than donating to a major organization, the brothers wanted the money to go directly to a real person so they knew it was in the right hands. "We wanted to make sure it gets to an actual family," added Prince. They believe in the bigger fundraising efforts and respect what they do, but this way, they knew they were mak-

ing a positive impact locally.

Being their first benefit, they had 28 people participate in the tournament itself. "We kind of slacked on it," explained Prince. One of the challenges they faced was for businesses to trust it was a legitimate fundraiser. Next year, they hope to start planning much earlier to avoid any problems. "There were not quite a lot of people but we want to make it a larger event and get more interest for next year." However, even with 28 participants, the Princes raised over \$1,000.

For the tournament, there was a \$20 buy-in and 50% of the proceeds would go to the family while the other half would go to the winners of the competition. The winners of the darts tournament were Keith Wilson and Ryan Prince, both of whom donated their winnings back to the cause.

Another feature of the event was the raffles and donations by local businesses and families. Individuals who donated include Cathy Thompson, Rob Prince, Sarah Prince, Ryan Prince, Jason Prince, Betty Moore, and Rich Leavitt. The Prince Brothers would like to thank the businesses who donated: Meineke, Dunkin' and International Package Store all in Colchester, and Ace Hardware in Portland and East Hampton. They would also like to extend a thank you to Jim Spadorcia, the owner of the bowling alley who donated a portion of the bar sales to the cause as well.

Next year, the brothers' goals are to have more people involved and have more raffles for people to bid on. They also plan to have a new family to donate the proceeds to. The Princes are excited to make the cancer benefit an annual event.



Jason (L) and Ryan (R) Prince set up a fundraiser to benefit a local family affected by cancer, the two are with cancer survivor Tammie Rigoletti.



EDC Spotlights New Business... The East Hampton Economic Development Commission recently presented The Pinshack with the December Belltown New Business Spotlight. The Pinshack opened in October 2022 at 12 Summit St. It is a family-friendly retro arcade open from Thursday through Sunday and costs \$15 for unlimited gameplay. Pictured from left are Town Manager David Cox, Pinshack owner Bryan Joy, and EDC members David May, Sean Flynn and Ted Turner.

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New BOF Takes First Action

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance (BOF) last week appointed a new chair and vice chairman, establishing new leadership as the upcoming town and school budget seasons approach.

Two Democrats snatched both open seats at the municipal election in November, swinging the board's majority away from Republicans, including the departure of the former chairman Andrea Migliaccio, who was not reelected.

During its Dec. 13 meeting, the BOF appointed newcomer Scott A. Chapman as the new chairman and incumbent Democrat Mike Egan as the vice chair; both motions passed by a 5-0 tally, with both Chapman and Egan abstaining in their own nominations.

Supplemental Appropriation

The BOF unanimously approved a \$242,359 appropriation from the unassigned fund balance account for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for the fire department.

Previously this month, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) made a recommendation for the BOF to approve the funding. The SCBA proposal now heads back to the BOS for final purchase authorization.

The full price of the SCBA is \$466,351, with \$74,000 already earmarked from the town's capital improvement plan — money that's already budgeted — along with a \$150,000 donation coming from the estate of Stephen J. Bendas that was left to the volunteer fire department, which is separate from the town-funded department.

With those two amounts covering nearly half of the total cost, the town sought an additional appropriation (\$242,359) to address the remaining balance.

The appropriation request does not trigger a threshold that would require taxpayer approval.

According to the town charter, the BOF has the power to approve any supplemental appropriation that is less than two percent of the town budget. Anything above that amount would require the BOS to call a Town Meeting for approval. An appropriation request exceeding three percent of the budget requires a special referendum for final authorization.

Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann expressed during both the BOF and BOS meetings this month that the current SCBA equipment no longer meets National Fire Protection Association standards.

Part of the urgency of the request relates to potential price increases. After Dec. 31, the chief warned that the overall cost would likely increase by at least three percent, which equates to around \$15,000-\$20,000, according to town documents.

In addition, Hoffmann stated that the department is experiencing frequent failures with the current apparatus, and there are ongoing safety concerns. Air bottles, for example, are leaking.

Budget and Audit Concerns

First Selectman Bernie Dennler III alerted the BOF that some town departments may exceed their current 2023-24 fiscal year budgets.

"That's alarming to me," he told the board.

Dennler asked the BOF to assist him in addressing that concern, requesting that beginning in January, the board starts bringing department heads to its meetings to flesh out the specific spending overages.

The fiscal year hasn't yet hit the halfway mark, and Dennler indicated that it's hard to determine how expansive the deficit would potentially be; it's possible, for example, that surpluses in other departments would cancel out any overages.

"If it turns out it is a more systemic issue, and

the overall budget is in a position where it could be on track to go over at the end of the fiscal year, then we need to take some more drastic measures to ensure that we are not in a place where we are either blindsided or unable to deliver the services that we need," Dennler told the *Rivereast* back in November.

One potential tactic to combat overages would be a budget freeze, a move Dennler didn't rule out.

Looking ahead to the 2024-25 fiscal year, Dennler informed the BOF that the Public Works salary line would increase by roughly \$130,000 in the upcoming spending plan.

The increase is due to a recently approved collective bargaining agreement between the town and Municipal Employees Union "Independent" MEUI Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC representing Transfer Station, Grounds, Highway, Fleet and Facility Maintenance, and Water Department Employees.

Public Works Director Joseph Leone told the BOS that Colchester was paying its workers less than several neighboring communities. He said that this adjustment would represent the first step in securing a consistent workforce.

Dennler updated the BOF in regard to a "serious situation" pertaining to the town's audit reports. Last month, he met with the state Office of Policy and Management (OPM) about the

status of the town's long overdue financial audit for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

While the 21-22 audit process will soon be completed, the 2022-2023 audit submission is due by the end of this month on Dec. 31. Accordingly, the town will need an extension to complete that report.

In a Facebook post last month, Dennler further outlined the seriousness of the audit timeline. He stated that OPM made it clear that the town cannot delay its 2022-23 audit for another year.

"Failure to produce a timely submission for another year would constitute a 'second trigger' that could put Colchester on a path toward state oversight," Dennler wrote, adding that OPM expressed that their meeting with the town should be treated as a "red flag."

Dennler emphasized that teamwork between his office, the finance department and the boards of selectmen and finance will be important moving forward. Not only will the 2022-23 audit submission timeline be extended, but the 2023-24 audit will need to be worked on and completed by the end of 2024.

In his post, Dennler said the town needs to remove itself from "a permanent cycle of delays."

"Returning to compliance and ensuring financial stability is my top priority and responsibility," he wrote.

Historical Society 2024 Calendars

The Colchester Historical Society's 2024 calendars are now available.

The limited-edition pictorial calendar highlights notable individuals who left a legacy in Colchester. The people include a military hero, a foreign-born patriot, a photographer, a farmer, a groundbreaking woman, a professional umpire, two store owners, an industrialist, a lawyer and two doctors. All are connected to Colchester and contributed to the development of the town.

Calendars are \$12 each and will be available at the Colchester History Museum on Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., from Dec. 17 to Jan. 21. For \$20, folks can purchase the calendar and a copy of *Historical Landmarks: A Historical Tour of Colchester*. This book features 50 historic sites throughout Colchester, many within walking distance from the center of town. Also available are the books *Images of America: Colchester* and *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*.

Calendars can also be found at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques at 168 South Main St.; hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Calendars and any of the books can also be mailed for an additional shipping fee. Contact the Colchester Historical Society at: mail@colchesterhistory.org, or call 860 537-4230 to make a purchase. Calendars and books can also be purchased at www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1.



This picture of Frances Perkins, who served as the U.S. secretary of labor from 1933 to 1945, is among the images featured in the Colchester Historical Society's new 2024 calendar. Perkins was the first woman to serve in any U.S. presidential cabinet. Born in Massachusetts in 1880, she briefly taught at Bacon Academy in the 1900s.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. For those wishing to worship from home, the service is broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org 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.

Advent & Christmas Schedule: Dec. 24: Advent week 4: Love & Christmas Eve, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. services – Family Service with Christmas Pageant at 9 a.m., and Lessons & Carols at 9 p.m.; Dec. 31: Christmas Carol Sing at 9 a.m. worship service, Wear your favorite Christmas sweater.






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Scouts in Operation Christmas Child... Scouts BSA Troop 109 participated again this year in Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox outreach of Samaritan's Purse. Pictured from left are Rocco Cusano, William Van Zilen, Marc Nettleton, Cody Friberg, and Dominic Cusano who filled 38 boxes which were sent to the neediest children around the world to make their Christmas brighter. Troop 109 is sponsored by the Westchester Congregational Church. For more information, email westcongchurch@gmail.com.

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Colchester Celebrates Chanukah

By Michael Sinkewicz

Residents flocked to the Colchester Town Green last week to celebrate Chanukah, lighting a giant menorah and embracing the eight-day festival of lights.

For nearly 20 years, Rabbi Yosef Wolvovsky of the Chabad Jewish Center in Glastonbury, has hosted an annual celebration at the corner of Main Street and Norwich Avenue, illuminating a menorah that can be seen by anyone traveling through the center of town.

On Dec. 13, the seventh night of Chanukah, community members were invited to light seven candles, along with the shamash, or the servant candle.

"This menorah represents the entire community," Wolvovsky told the crowd of roughly 50 people. "It represents the flame, the fire, the neshama (soul) that we all have."

As temperatures dropped throughout the evening, warm "latkes" (potato pancakes) and hot cider helped warm up the atmosphere and residents huddled to watch a fire show performance.

Later in the night, Wolvovsky mounted a cherry picker and catapulted chocolate-coin "gelt" down to the children below, who excitedly scattered to retrieve the treats; he only released the coins after the kids correctly answered Chanukah trivia questions.

Brad Turker, who Wolvovsky described as an "annual stalwart" of the Colchester lighting, was one of the individuals asked to light the menorah; he was tasked with the sixth candle.

"That was an honor," he said afterwards.

Each year, Turker, a current Hebron resident who raised his kids in Colchester, makes an effort to attend the Town Green celebration.

"This year, it's important and I wanted to make sure I was here," he said. "It's the biggest crowd in all the years I've been coming."

Wolvovsky offered similar Chanukah events in neighboring communities, including Glastonbury, Tolland, South Windsor and Ellington. He expressed that turnout everywhere

has far exceeded previous festivals.

"In every town we've been, we've seen people that have not been coming out in the past," Wolvovsky told the *Rivereast*. "I think people really do feel that it's a time for good people to stand together and it's a time for Jewish people specifically to be proud and to find ways to express that both individually and communally."

The shadow of conflict has casted itself on many Chanukah celebrations around the world this month, and Wolvovsky said many people are searching for an "uplifting and positive experience."

"I think there's a lot going on as far as people wanting to express their identity as Jews, and their solidarity with other Jewish people," he said. "In addition to that, over time, there's more and more momentum with this specific event."

Rabbi Ken Alter, who's been the spiritual leader of the Congregation Ahavath Achim in Colchester since 1995, agreed that more people wanted to participate this year, citing a desire "to have a community together."

"I think now more than ever it's really needed," he said, adding that "we need better ways to bring light into the world that's filled with a lot of darkness."

Alter expressed, "We want to make sure we can recognize that we can see the light in other people and everyone has a divine spark in them."

Chanukah celebrates the victory of Jewish fighters over Seleucidian Greeks over 2,000 years ago. Upon entering the Holy Temple, there was only enough oil to burn for one day, but it miraculously lasted eight days.

Music and free raffles generated community energy throughout the evening, but it was difficult to match the passion of Wolvovsky, who consistently engaged with the crowd and commented the play-by-play action of the festivities. For example, as participants reached up to light the menorah, he'd advise them to use the wind to their advantage and promoted a friendly competition regarding who'd torch their can-



A dazzling fire performance was just one of the many exciting aspects of Colchester's annual Chanukah celebration on Dec. 13

dle the quickest.

Wolvovsky ignited a call and response chant of "Happy Chanukah," and challenged the combined pool of residents to generate more noise than him — which they objectively failed to do.

He's brought this tradition to Colchester, a town with a "storied Jewish tradition," for roughly 18 years. Each time, Wolvovsky puts in maximum effort and attempts to expand the ceremony.

"We wanted to do something special for the town," he explained.

When asked where he draws his inspiration and energy from, Wolvovsky first pointed to Menachem Mendel Schneerson, known as the

Rebbe, a prominent Jewish leader who passed away in 1994. His teachings helped shape Wolvovsky's own instruction and community outreach.

"Our connection to God shouldn't be incidental to our life. It should be our core identity and that brings passion, that brings enthusiasm," he said. "Everything we do, we try to do with a sense of joy and purpose. That's the way I try to live my life."

But especially during Chanukah, Wolvovsky believes his enthusiasm is boosted.

"The flames are meant to inspire passion and joy," he expressed. "That's what it is — it's warmth, it's energy."

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 events:

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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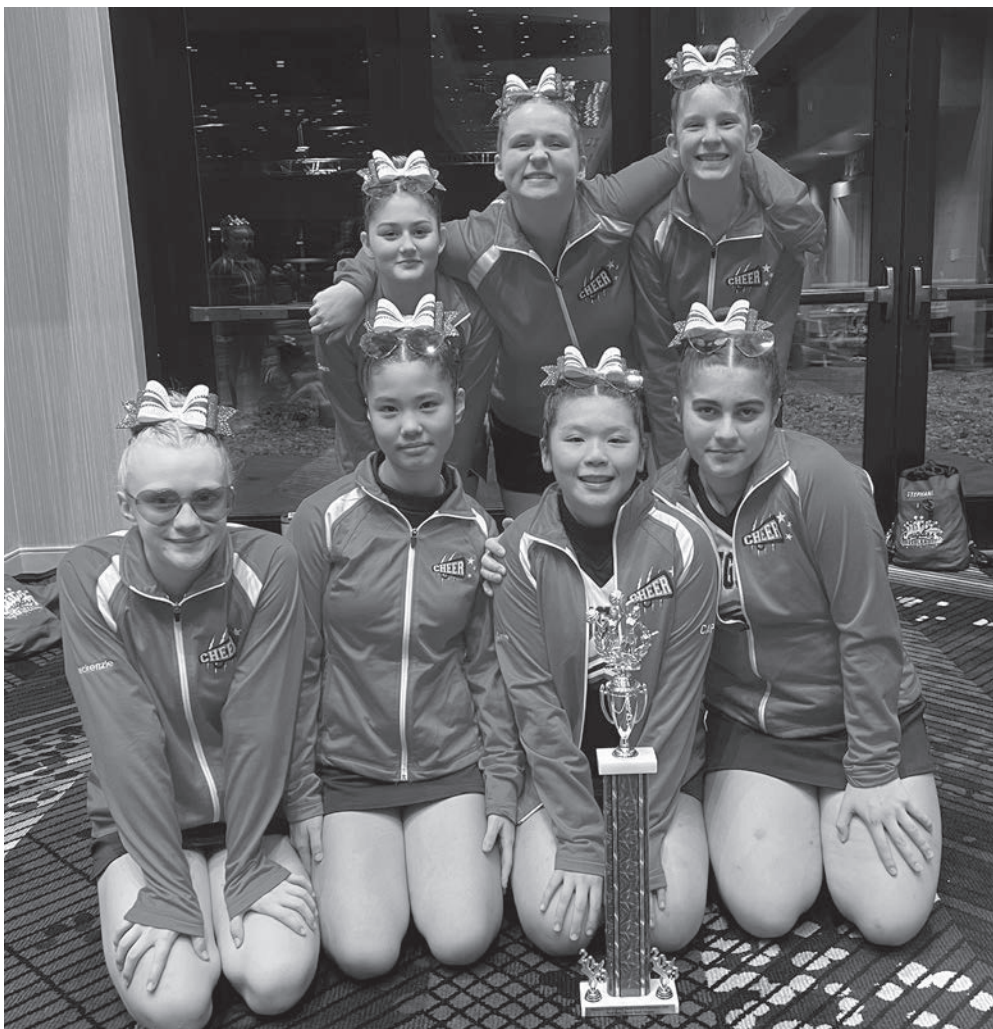
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Colchester Cheerleaders moving on will be Mackenzie Shonk, Connie Lin, Stephanie Shi, Megan Buscetto, Sam Frank, Colleen Talbot, Jeneva Santiago Cougar Season Comes to an End

As the 2023 Colchester Cougars season comes to an end, we say goodbye to our 8th graders who are graduating from our program and will be moving on to high school next year. It has been an honor to watch them on the field and on the mat. You have all made the coaches, parents, and fans proud. Our senior football team had an undefeated regular season, and our senior cheerleaders took 3rd place at com-

petition. We can't wait to see what your future holds. Football players moving on will be Xaden Medina, Noah Garvie, Max Sands, Mason Howard, Malik Jacques-Morales, Lucas "Pete" Jodion, Jordan Darvis, Cody O'Bryon, Charlie Gorman, Brendan Katrup, Adam Bigelow, Dominic Helm, Jameson Grant, James Wissler, Gavin King, Eric Daley, Colton Laflash.

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 for login information.

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

Christmas Eve: On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the 10 a.m. service, the choir will present its Christmas cantata, "Silent Was the Night." Also

on Christmas Eve there will be an evening service at 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information, email westconchurch@gmail.com or visit westchesterconchurch.org.

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 or call 860-267-6711.

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.

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.

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, or for a full list of activities, visit www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center.

Monday, Dec. 25: Senior center closed for Christmas Day.

Tuesday, Dec. 26: 9 a.m., Making Memories; no Tai Chi today; 10 a.m., Stitch & Fix with Maria; noon, Subway lunch; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting (via Zoom).

Wednesday, Dec. 27: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Airline Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2 p.m., Sewing Circle.

Thursday, Dec. 28: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Ann; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; no yoga today; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Dec. 29: No Sit & Be Fit Video, Choral Group or Yoga today; 10 a.m., New Year's Brunch & Bash; noon, Senior Center closing early.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Holiday Home and Business Decorating Contest: Print your free map and view all of the decorated sites; maps are available online or on the Parks and Rec. Facebook or Instagram pages. Vote for your favorite home and business decorations on Facebook by Dec. 31.

Colchester Youth Theatre: Winter Show: Thursdays, Jan. 11-March 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m., for grades 6-9. Cost: \$145. Colchester Youth Theatre is a new community program through Parks and Rec. You'll be cast in several roles, dive into production, and bring a play to life in a public performance on March 7.

Teen Self-Defense and Krav Maga Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 8-March 11, 5:45-6:30 p.m., at 360 Defense, 52 Mill St. Ages 12-15 will learn Krav Maga, a self-defense system taught worldwide. Cost: \$128.

Martial Arts Basics for Kids: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 29, 4:15-5 p.m., at 360 Defense. Kids age 6-11 will work on respect and focus through physically engaging activities. Fee: \$128.

Adult Actor's Lab: Mondays, Jan. 8-March 11, 7-8 p.m., for ages 18 and up. This scene study program will help you perfect your craft both onstage and on camera, surrounded by other actors. You'll receive expert guidance from a seasoned actor

and director. Fee: \$75/Colchester residents, \$80/non-residents.

Family Cross-Country Skiing: Jan. 8-March 7 (as weather permits), at Elizabeth and Ruby Cohen Park. Schedule is: Fridays/Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon, and Sundays, 1-2 p.m. This will be non-competitive cross-country skiing. Skis, boots and poles will not be provided; you must use your own. This activity is weather-dependent; you will receive updates upon registration. There is no fee for the program.

Align and Shine Yoga: Wednesdays, Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in a holistic approach that combines traditional yoga postures, breathwork, and mindfulness techniques. Fee: \$80/Colchester residents, \$85/non-residents

Gentle Yoga: Four-week classes on Mondays, Jan. 8-Feb. 5 and Feb. 12-March 11, from 4:45-5:45 p.m., via Facebook Live. (Exact dates on the Parks and Rec. website.) For ages 45 and up. Explore yoga postures, breathing techniques and meditation. Fee: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Intermediate Yoga: Tuesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 13, 6-7 p.m., at Jack Jacter Intermediate School. This class is designed for beginners as well as experienced. Fee: \$70.

Barre-Pilates Fusion: Mondays, Jan. 8-March 18 (no class 1/15 or 2/19), 5:45-6:30 p.m., online via Zoom. This class combines barre and strength exercises with floor work based on Pilates principles. Fee: \$72.

Pilates: Tuesdays, Jan. 9-March 26, 6-6:45 p.m., via Zoom. Exercises focus on the core muscles which include the abs, back, glutes and shoulders. Fee: \$96.

Cardio Strength: Wednesdays, Jan. 10-March 27, 8:30-9:15 a.m., via Zoom. In addition to using weights to help build strength, this class incorporates some light cardio to help improve cardiovascular health. Fee: \$96.

Core Strength: Thursdays, Jan. 11-March 28, 6-6:45 p.m., via Zoom. Fee: \$96.

Zumba: Mondays, Jan. 8-Feb. 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fee: \$80.

Men's Open Gym Basketball: From beginner to advanced, pickup basketball is open to everyone. Tuesdays through March 26 (no basketball Dec. 26 or Feb. 20), at William J. Johnston Middle School. Must be 18 or older to play. Fee: \$75/session per resident, \$80/session per non-resident.

Volunteers Sought: Parks and Rec. is always looking for volunteers to help with events and programs. Call the office if interested.

Internships: Are you a college student looking for an internship in the recreation field? Call the office to discuss your options.

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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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Dean's List

Rachon Crump, a senior criminal justice major from Colchester, made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C.



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Church of the Holy Family News

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Needs are: **Men's & Women's:** solid color T-shirts (long- and short-sleeved, sizes L to 3XL), heavy winter coats (clean and in good condition with zippers that work); insulated winter gloves; sweatpants; hoodies, thermal underwear; athletic crew and winter weight socks; men's box-

er briefs (M,L,XL); and women's briefs (sizes 6-12). **Cleaning Supplies:** Bleach; Lysol disinfectant spray; size XL disposable latex-free gloves; Windex; toilet bowl cleaner; and shower cleaner. **Gift Cards:** \$15 Stop & Shop cards for gas to assist people living in their cars; and \$25 Walmart cards to purchase items needed immediately. Please call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards. **Miscellaneous:** Noise reduction silicone ear plugs (great need; no foam, please); 55 gallon trash bags; paper towels; TP; handwarmers; Mucinex tablets; and cough drops. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Parks and Recreation News

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering many summer programs. For full program descriptions and to register, visit hebronct.reccdesk.com or call 860-530-1281.

Electricity and Magnetmania Workshop: Mondays, Jan. 29-March 11, 3:15-4:30 p.m., at the Hebron Elementary School library. Learn all about electronics, magnetism and more in this hands-on workshop. Take home your very own circuit kit. Cost is \$126.

Gentle Yoga: This class is open to all ages and yoga levels. Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. Session I: 1/8, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/26; Session II: 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29. Cost is \$72 per session.

Lions' Lights in Motion

The Hebron Lions' Lights in Motion event runs through the end of the month.

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 on Route 85, decorated with over one million lights that are programmed to dance to various holiday songs.

Tickets are \$34/car if purchased in advance, and \$40/car at the gate. Net proceeds will be donated to various children's charities.

Lights in Motion runs various nights through Dec. 31. For a schedule and advance tickets, visit www.lionslightsinmotion.org.

Healing Mass Scheduled

Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., will hold its next Healing Mass Sunday, Jan. 21, at 2 p.m. All are invited.

The monthly service is intended to bring comfort to people struggling – be it physically, emotionally or spiritually.

For more information, call the church at 860-228-0096.

Scouts Collecting Used Shoes

Hebron's Cub Scout Pack 28 is collecting used shoes as a pack fundraiser. The scouts are accepting any moderately worn shoes (except ice skates!) and they will be reused or repurposed through a nonprofit agency.

Collection boxes are at The Flour Girl Café (on the porch), Hebron Ace Hardware (outside), Hebron Fire Department (inside), Boutique 56 (inside, in Colchester) and inside both Gilead Hill and Hebron Elementary schools. Shoes will be collected through Dec. 31.

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Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For more info and full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org.

Holiday Closings: The library will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26, for the Christmas holiday. It will reopen Wednesday, Dec. 27, at noon. The library will also be closed Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.

Chess Night: Pickup games are held every

Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

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

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

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

Scheduled Events/Meetings: 12/23: Yoga, 9:30 a.m.; 12/23: Final Pie Pick-Up with Amy Destine, noon-1 p.m.; 12/26: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 12/27: Yoga, 9:15 a.m., Choir Practice, 7 p.m.

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

Christmas Eve Services: Sunday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m. and 9 p.m.; the evening service will not be livestreamed.

Prayer Shawl Group: Meets on the first and third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the

Parish House. All are welcome to join regardless of knitting/crocheting experience.

Faith, Film and Potluck: Friday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m. The remaining dates are Feb. 2, March 1, April 5 and May 3.

Military Whist: Saturday, Jan. 13, 5:30 p.m. The night will begin with a potluck, followed by the card game. See Judy Brandi or Berry Honore with any questions.

Pastor Brian Hardee's Installation: Sunday, Jan. 21, 3 p.m., in the sanctuary, followed by light refreshments. All are welcome.

Youth Group Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 21, 6 p.m.

Card-Making with Gayle: Sunday, Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15, with proceeds going toward the Connecticut Food Bank. Contact Gayle Sylvester if you are interested, at gayle.sylvester@comcast.net.



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RE12-22-23



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The Nativity Pageant... The children and youth of St Peter's Episcopal Church acted out The Christmas Story during normal Sunday worship service on Sunday, Dec. 17, the third Sunday of Advent. They portrayed the story with six scenes, accompanied by support of the parishioners joining them in singing Christmas Carol hymns for each scene. The kids were complete with costumes for the angels, shepherds, magi, sheep, the king, Mary, Joseph and even a live baby Jesus actor. In the roles of costume supervisor, sets, selection of characters and stage director was Allison Forrest, a parishioner who works closely with the youth in the church.



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From the Town Manager's Desk

Dear Hebron Residents:

As we reflect upon this past year, and enter the holiday season, please be thankful for all the opportunities we enjoy and remember the many that may be less fortunate. If you are able to support our local businesses in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

- The local elections have recently taken place and I welcome all the newly elected officials to their positions. As we collaborate to move Hebron forward, my office is always available to answer any questions or assist in any way.

- The Hebron Lions Club is holding its 2023 Holiday Light Show. This is a mile-long drive-through event that runs until Dec. 31st. One hundred percent of the proceeds are donated to children's charities.

- The SnoFolk have reappeared along the downtown corridor thanks to The Town Center Project. The residents look forward to the new year of events that this organization will offer.

- The 2024 Hebron Maple Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17. This event has been reorganized and The Town Center Project has graciously agreed to work with the local businesses, local sugar houses and town officials to present an enjoyable affair.

Our community is a very special mixture of residents and professional businesses. I encourage everyone to take a drive along Main Street to enjoy the lovely holiday decorations and colorful lights. We offer a small-town feel with country charm.

Happy Holidays!

Andrew J. Tierney, Hebron Town Manager

The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors, and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/theworshipcenter9733.

Life Groups: Meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Caseys' home in Hebron, and the second Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30pm at the Swensons' home in Columbia, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: Dec. 31.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship!: Typically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church.

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a

link and meeting ID.
One-to-One Confidential Christian Care: Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office.

Donations Sought for HIHS: The Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) food pantry is in critical need, and The Worship Center is helping to collect donations of money, food, toiletries, Christmas items and paper goods. Items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings, or donate directly to HIHS at 26 Pendleton Dr., Hebron; hours are Tuesday/Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m. Contact HIHST.org to give online, or email hsfoodpantry@gmail.com for more information.

Bucket of Blessings: The church's outreach team has been collecting snack-type food and monetary donations as a love offering for local first responders. To get involved, email jessicalbain@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve: Sunday, Dec. 24: Regular service at 10 a.m., and special service at 10 p.m.

4th Wednesday Prayer: Wednesday, Dec. 27, 10-11 a.m., at the church. All are invited to bring their prayer requests before the Lord.



Josh Weers recently completed his Eagle Scout Service Project at Camp Hi-Hoti in Hebron. The project consisted of research for and construction of historical signs placed along hiking trails at the camp.

Scout Completes Service Project

Hebron Troop 28 Eagle Scout candidate Josh Weers recently completed his Eagle Scout Service Project at Camp Hi-Hoti in Hebron. The project consisted of research for and construction of historical signs placed along hiking trails at the camp. The signs highlight natural resources at the camp including Club House Pond and metamorphic rock formations, wildlife such as migrating water fowl and the resident beavers, foundations of the historic Bliss Mills

and the origins of Camp Hi-Hoti. The camp was purchased by the Hartford Neighborhood Center in 1944 and has served as an enrichment center for Hartford youth ages 6-11, originally as an overnight camp and more recently as a day camp. Josh is a senior at RHAM High School and has been a member of Troop 28 since 2017. Josh is the son of Alyssa and Tim Weers of Hebron and he plans to attend college and study nursing in the fall of 2024.

Preschool Screenings

The Hebron Board of Education will hold screenings at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St., on Wednesdays, March 6 and May 15, for children that reside in Hebron and are 3 and 4 years old by the time of the screening.

Screens in areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development will be provided. Parents will also receive information to assist in fostering their child's growth.

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

Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m., with Education Hour at 9 a.m., including Bible classes for all ages.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Pastor Jordan Brown is available by appointment. For information about church beliefs, care, small groups, Kids Ministry, and Youth Group, visit www.hebron-coh.com, or follow the church on social media.



The Gift of Giving... The Gilead Congregational Church Board of Missions adopted two families from Windham Area Interfaith Ministries (WAIM) for the holidays. The Board of Missions members did the shopping; Laurie Larson (left) and Alice Marien (right) loaded the car for delivery to WAIM.

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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To give our patients the best dental care possible, we are committed to continual learning and education. Because we want our patients to feel confident knowing that we are a team of skilled clinicians, we stay informed about the latest research, new techniques and equipment, and the latest products that a dental office can offer its patients to provide state-of-the-art dental care. We invite you to take advantage of our commitment to the highest quality dental care.

P.S. In addition to dentistry, nanotechnology is currently being used in the fields of medicine, food security, energy, electronics, cosmetics, and textiles.

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The American Legion Post 197 held a Christmas Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 17. Over 60 people attended. Santa was there, and we were entertained by our own special carolers. Thank you to everyone who planned, coordinated, and executed this amazing day. Happy Holidays to all!

Preservation Society Calendars Available

The Marlborough Preservation Society's 2024 calendars are now available. 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.

to storing the historic Town Green mural. For more information, visit 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, or email mhs@marlbroughhistory.org.

The cost is \$22 per calendar. All proceeds go

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.

Food Bank: Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008), it 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.

Friday, Dec. 22: Not Just Quilters, 9:30 a.m.-noon; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: crab cake w/ tartar sauce, tater tots, ketchup, California-blend vegetables, wheat bread, fresh fruit; Setback, 2:30-4 p.m.

Holiday Closings

Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center and Public Works Garage will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 1. The Transfer Station will be open Saturday, Dec. 23, and Saturday, Dec. 30.

New Year's Eve Open House

There will be a New Year's Eve open house at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Sunday, Dec. 31, from 6-9 p.m. Bring a snack to share, your own drink, and enjoy the company of others who also want to celebrate, but not at midnight. There is on-site parking and the building is fully accessible. The open house is free. For more information, call 860-467-6353.

Changing Your Party Affiliation

If you are currently enrolled in a party and want to change affiliation for Connecticut's April 2 Presidential Preference Primary on your voter registration, the last day to transfer is Jan. 2.

Christmas Eve Services at Congregational Church

Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., has scheduled a pair of services for Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. All are welcome. Christmas Eve morning worship is at 10 a.m. The service will be led by Christian Education/Junior Youth Director Gwen Lawson. The Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 9 p.m. will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. The church will feature the outside Christmas tree cheerfully lit to welcome parishioners, the inside

tree glowing in white lights, the Chancel Choir performing with candles, the many poinsettias, and candelabras by the communion table. Holy Communion will be served. At Marlborough Congregational Church, Holy Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children, with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free. For more information, contact the church office at 860-295-9050 or office@marlconchurch.org or call Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432.

Parks and Rec Fall Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit marlbroughct.recdesk.com and click on "programs," stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203. **Youth Program: Netto Indoor Soccer:** Games will begin the week of Jan. 8, and will be played after school on Mondays and Wednesdays at Marlborough Elementary School. Games will conclude at 4:30 p.m. Fee is \$75 and

participants will receive a T-shirt. **Adult Programs: Adult Volleyball:** Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$5 per week. **Adult Drop-In Basketball:** Sundays, 8-10 a.m., through March 31, at MES. Fee is \$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.

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.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Dec. 24, Christmas Vigil at 4 p.m., Evening Mass at 8:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, Christmas Mass at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. You may also bring non-perishable food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. 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, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. All children in the community are invited to attend Sunday School. Contact Gwen Lawson at the church office at office@marlconchurch.org for more information.

Christmas Eve: Morning worship service will be at 10 a.m. and will be led by Christian Education/Junior Youth Director, Gwen Lawson. A Candlelight service, led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver, with the Chancel Choir and Holy Communion, will be at 9 p.m.

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.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop features name-brand handbags and jewelry, linens, vintage and collectibles, toys and games, and items for giftware, baking, cooking and entertaining. Second Blessings is open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Dec. 23. For more information, contact the church office. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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

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.

Merry Christmas and Happy & Healthy New Year to all my wonderful customers, family & friends!

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State Solar Incentive Granted

By London Brazal

Following the Thanksgiving holiday, the town received news that they successfully secured a state solar incentive for a solar array to be installed at the closed and capped landfill at 39 Sand Hill Road. The new development will be a commercial-scale solar photovoltaic array built by GreenSkies Clean Energy of North Haven. Solar arrays are among the limited projects possible for construction on closed landfills.

In general, the town has been looking for ways to reduce costs. Last year in September, the project to build a solar array was presented by Dr. Rob Klee and Allen Sabins. Klee served as the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Sabins is the Managing Partner of CSW Energy.

The two project managers indicated that the landfill could apply to two incentive programs: the Shared Clean Energy Facilities program or the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solu-

tions incentive program (NRES). After deliberation of the two programs, people generally favored the NRES program because it allows the town to designate its electric bill as a beneficiary. Simply, this helps offset the cost of electricity.

According to DEEP, the renewable energy program is a successor of two former incentives. The objective of the NRES incentive is to "foster the sustained, orderly development of the state's Class I renewable energy industry and to encourage the participation by customers in underserved and environmental justice communities, among others."

In a presentation given by Klee and Sabins at the Jan. 18 Board of Selectmen meeting, the two went over the landfill request for proposal. Of the five companies who placed bids on the project, the shortlist included Ameresco and GreenSkies, with the recommendation being GreenSkies. The concern with Ameresco is that the designs would lead to a redesign in the fu-

ture and the size exceeded the local grid capacity. GreenSkies was described as having the most efficient design with the fewest concerns. The design was within the local grid capacity and avoided slopes, making it a buildable design.

"GreenSkies opted for a much tighter and smaller footprint of a project," said Sabins. "They did very well taking into consideration the channel as well as any applicable slope areas."

On Feb. 1, the Board of Selectman hosted a public hearing regarding the solar project. The consensus of the residents present was that they were "in favor." One resident said that she could not think of anything more exciting than something that would provide electricity and reduce rates for the town. Andy Bauer, Chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force, recognized both Susan Bransfield and Ryan Curley for their participation in the solar discussions. "There has been much due diligence," said Bauer.

In a question regarding the life of the project, it was said that the contract is good for 20 years and when it is decommissioned, there will be no cost to the town.

By choosing the NRES incentive program, the town can save money on its electric bill. GreenSkies is set to oversee the development, installation, and maintenance of the solar project. The energy generated from the array will be

supplied to the grid, and in return, Eversource will apply credits to the electricity bills of various Portland facilities. These include Fire Station #2, the Portland Library, the Senior Center, the Police Station, Town Hall, town street lights, and wells.

At a Clean Energy Task Force meeting in July, it was reported that the project did not get the initial award but was not rejected either and put on a waitlist. This September, Sabins and Klee indicated that GreenSkies successfully submitted the bid package for the project to the Eversource Renewable Energy Solutions Incentive program. Following Thanksgiving, the incentive was granted to the town.

The project's average annual benefit to the town is expected to be around \$100,500. In the life of the 20-year contract, the benefit is expected to be more than \$2,000,000. GreenSkies will begin the array's engineering phase soon and estimates construction to begin in the latter half of 2024.

"Commercial Solar Works and Klee Sustainability were instrumental in guiding the Town through the various procedural hoops" read the press release from First Selectman Ryan Curley.

Curley continued, "I would like to thank Andy Bauer and Portland's Clean Energy Task Force for all of their help in getting Portland to this stage."

Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library Holiday Book Store is open in the Second Hand Prose Book sale area at the library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours.

The sale features a variety of used books including children's books and holiday books. Books are a bargain at 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. There is also an assortment of puzzles and games, all individually

priced.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, including the library's DVD collection, Museum Pass Program and various children's, family and adult programs held throughout the year.

Visit www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org for more information or email friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

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. 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.

Preschool Screening

Connecticut public schools are responsible for identifying children who are eligible to receive special education services. Valley View School in Portland will conduct a preschool screening Friday, Jan. 5, for children ages 3-4. The screening is designed to answer any questions or concerns about a child's development as well as identifying children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening, each child will meet with members from Portland's preschool team and participate in a variety of activities. These activities assess different developmental areas

including cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills and social interaction. During this time, the parent/caregiver will meet with another member of the team to discuss the child's adaptive and personal social skills.

Following the screening, parents/caregivers will receive a letter stating the child's results. In order for a child to attend Valley View's preschool program, they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View at 860-342-3131.

Exchange Club Holding Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold a Bingo Night Thursday, Jan. 11, at Concentric Brewery, located at 91 Main St.

Card sales start at 6 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 for four cards to be used for all 10 games, with prizes for the winner of each game. Proceeds from the night will go to the Portland Fuel Bank.

Last month, the Exchange Club donated \$300 to the Portland Fuel Bank and \$500 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

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.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Rec Basketball K-2 with Skyhawks: Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 10, at Gildersleeve School. Kindergarten is held from 8-8:50 a.m.; first grade, 9-9:50 a.m.; second grade girls, 10-10:50 a.m.; second grade boys, 11-11:50 a.m. Fee: \$100/resident, \$120/non-resident.

Drop-In Basketball: Mondays (for women) and Tuesdays (for men), 7:30-9 p.m., through May, at Portland Middle School.

Party Affiliation Changes

If you are currently enrolled in a political party and wish to change your affiliation to be able to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary on April 2, you must change no later than Jan. 2.

You can change your affiliation online at voterregistration.ct.gov or by completing a form in the Portland town clerk's office.

First Congregational Church News

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

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

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Zion Lutheran Church News

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

Zion will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child and the New Year at several worship services. All are welcome to join us.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, we will

worship together at 9 a.m. and again at 5 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, we will participate in a service of "Lessons and Carols" at 9 a.m.

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

Winter Indoor Soccer Registration

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) is holding registration for its winter indoor session. Register at 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.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closings:** The library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 23, through Monday, Dec. 25, for the Christmas holiday, with normal hours resuming Tuesday, Dec. 26. The library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 30, through Monday, Jan. 1, for the New Year, with normal hours resuming Tuesday, Jan. 2.

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

Children's Programs: Meet and Greet with the Snow Sisters: Thursday, Dec. 28, at 11 a.m. Calling all fans of Elsa and Anna! The Snow Sisters will visit the library for a morning of songs, games, crafts and photo opportunities. Space is limited.

Winter Storytimes: Registration is open now. **Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., starting Jan. 9. **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednes-

days, 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., starting Jan. 1.

Adult Programs: Steve Wells Art Exhibit: Wells is a lifelong resident of Portland and has been drawing and "Painting the Town" for many years. The exhibit runs through Dec. 29.

Movie: Wednesday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.: *Barbie* (It's Pink Day at the library!).

Resume Workshop: Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. Learn how to update your resume. Four lucky individuals, picked from attendees, will get to meet separately with Jeff Thierfeld for one-on-one resume critiques after the initial workshop.

Get the Buzz on the Bees: Thursday, Jan. 18, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. Mark Gostkiewicz from Tri Gable Lea Farm in Colchester will present info on starting a hive for the spring, the types of hives, bee suppliers, and more.

Writers' Café: Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. At this drop-in café, the library will provide warm beverages; you bring whatever you need to write to help the library "sprint" to the finish line in its community writing challenge. The first hour will be quiet writing time (6-7 p.m.), and then folks can use the final 30 minutes (7-7:30 p.m.) to chat about their project!

January Book Clubs: 1st Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m. *Lunatics* by Dave Barry will be discussed. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1 p.m. *The Last Story of Mina Lee* by Nancy Jooyoun Kim will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1 p.m. *Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem will be discussed.

Pop Up Shop Saturday

The Callander Cupboard at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History located at 492 Main Street will be open tomorrow, Saturday, Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check out the Callander Cupboard products online at www.Portlandhistsoc.org and even place your order there. Society elves will have your last minute shopping ready for you to pick up.

The Portland Historical Society has prints of the Arrigoni Bridge photo that was used by

the USPS to represent that iconic landmark in their Bridges series released in August. The Callander Cupboard also has the pewter ornaments originally sold by Boy Scout Troop 2 depicting many of the town's landmarks. If you need a last minute gift for someone who loves the town of Portland, there are cutting boards with the town's logo, books with a local touch for adults and children and even a linen tea towel or notepad with sketches of local scenes.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Closed for the Christmas holiday. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients - donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room. **Thursday:**

Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Drivers Sought for Meals-on-Wheels: Meals would be delivered to the homebound Monday-Thursday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Alexis at 860-342-6761.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., holds Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday, and services are held at 9:30 a.m. All are invited. Children, ages 4 to 12, are welcome to attend Church School.

Christmas Celebrations: All are invited to join in the church's celebrations this Christmas season. On Sunday, Dec. 24, the church will celebrate Advent 4 at 9:30 a.m., and its Christmas Eve service and pageant will be at 5 p.m. On Christmas Day, there will be a lay-led informal prayer service at 10 a.m. Christmas services will also be offered at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Middletown at 9:30 a.m. and at St. Luke in South Glastonbury at 9 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 31, all are invited to celebrate lessons and carols with the First Congregational Church of Portland at 10 a.m. The church's celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany will be Sunday, Jan. 7, at

9:30 a.m., at Trinity Church, as a lay-led morning prayer.

The church also asks that people, when making their Christmas and year-end gifts and donations, to remember the church.

On Fridays from 2-4 p.m., the church is open for prayer and meditation, and there is a gathering in the church office for Anglican prayer beading at the same time. No prior beading experience is required.

For more information, the church's calendar of events, to donate, or to listen to past sermons at www.trinitychurchportlandct.org. If you have prayer requests, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

To make an appointment with the Rev. Darryl Burke, email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com or call 860-342-0458.

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- Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.
- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

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 Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community. Visit lovehasnolabels.com/fightforfreedom

ad COUNCIL

Obituaries

Middletown

Jonathan W. Clark

Jonathan Whitmore Clark was born to Paul Clark and Mary Whitmore Clark of Middletown, CT.

He is predeceased by his parents, his sister Melissa, and brother Christopher. He is survived by his brother Jeremy Clark and his wife Kimberly of FL. Jonathan was married to the love of his life

(49 years) Deborah A. Wichrowski. They had two sons Perry P. Clark and his wife Carolyn of Norfolk, VA., Brandon J. Clark and his wife Melissa of Higganum, CT. He also leaves behind his cousin Beryl Whitmore Thorpe and her husband Henry of Middle Haddam, CT as well as several nieces and nephews.

He worked for many years as a Foreman in HVAC for Atlantic Ventilating and Advanced Sheetmetal Associates. Jon considered many of his colleagues not only friends but family.

He studied for and obtained his Captains license while building his 35' Terry Jason lobster boat which he loved. The Deborah Ann. Fishing, boating and being on the water was on the top of Jon's list for a "good day" any chance he got.

Jon was a long time member of the Radical Valve Timers Club of Middletown, CT. He was a car guy through and through. He built many engines/cars from the ground up and enjoyed the thrill of going fast. One of his dearest friends Lou Presta of Presta and Presta Automotive was his almost daily stop to hang out with the fellas for good times, laughs and a cold beer.

As a husband and father his family always came first. Everyone that was loved by Jon always felt safe and protected. Jon in essence was like a grizzly bear, gruff on the outside but really a teddy bear on the inside.

Louie and Zoey (Morkies) and Kitty will miss "daddy" picking them up when he came home everyday to cuddle them.

There will be a celebration of life ceremony in the Spring of 2024. More details will follow as arrangements are finalized.

The Lastrina Family Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown, is in charge of arrangements.



Colchester

Tina Marie Good

Tina Marie Good, 63 of Colchester passed away on Dec. 16, at her home with her beloved family by her side. Born Nov. 2, 1960, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late John and Marietta (Devine) Good.

Tina was an accomplished local artist, a passion that burned brightly for over 40 years. She began by experimenting with various tools her roommates used back in their 20s. Without formal education, she started with ink and created giant canvases, worked with clay and other genres. She dabbled in art classes at the community college. Before long all of her professors urged her to do more. Metal sculpting was a real strength - but she lacked equipment and knew it couldn't promise her the kind of career she wanted. Tina always made art a part of her life. When she bought her first house, opportunities for making art surrounded her. She built stone walls and patios out of things that she would find and incorporate into her art.

Moving to Lake Hayward about seven years ago really brought Tina's love for art to the forefront. It also brought friendships that felt like a whole new family. She used to always say her life really began when she first became a part of the lake community.

Back in June of 2021 Tina was diagnosed with incurable lung cancer and was given three to 12 months to live. Throughout chemo and radiation, she enjoyed hiking with her dogs and being out in nature. She also celebrated that she got the chance to meet Warren Blessing, a master carver who lives in the lake community. Through his artistic influence and friendship, she grew as well and started doing relief carvings. Her works are growing in popularity especially in the many area lake communities, from Bashan Lake to the Moodus Reservoir, Lake Pocotopaug and others. Through his friendship and coaching her through carving, Tina learned his style and started doing carvings of lakes, dragon flies, humming birds and more.

Tina will always be remembered for her huge smile, her effervescent personality and enthusiasm which she maintained throughout her illness and of course her beautiful art creations she shared with the world. Many of Tina's works are available at Gifts on the Green.

She is survived by her wife Karin Grann of East Haddam; brother, Ed Good and wife Donna Good of East Hartford; her dog Hannah, and cat Oliver; and numerous other extended family and friends. Care of private funeral arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-



McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in memory of Tina to the East Haddam Land Trust - EHLLT P.O. Box 122 East Haddam, CT 06423 or visit www.ehlt.org. To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Tina, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Portland

Marjorie H. Schufer

Marjorie "Mert" (Hanna) Schufer, 88, formerly of Portland, beloved wife of 65 years to the late John H. Schufer, passed away Sunday Dec. 10, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Middletown, daughter of the late William Hanna Jr. and Marjorie (Hallberg) Hanna.

Prior to her retirement, she worked as an office manager and bookkeeper for the family business, John & Bob's Service Station. She was a member of the 2nd Congregational Church of Middle Haddam. Mert enjoyed the beach, their home in Florida, hosting Christmas parties, and was well known and loved for her awesome wedding cakes.

Mert is survived by her brothers, Robert Hanna, William Hanna and his wife Kim; sisters, Irene Nichols, Carol Baretta; as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Donald Hanna and niece, Jodi Baretta Bjorklund.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 16, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial was held at the Union Hill Cemetery, Middle Haddam. Visitation was held prior to the service.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Kathryn L. Austin

Kathryn L. Austin, 70, of Meriden, passed away peacefully after a long illness Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Curtis Home in Meriden.

Kathryn was born Feb. 2, 1953, in Southington, to the late Vernon and Hazel (Gregg) Austin. She proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and worked as a registered nurse for many years. Kathy lived her life with a strong faith and cherished her beloved cats.

Kathy is survived by her siblings: Russel Austin and his wife Margaret of East Hampton, Roberta Lasek and her husband Steven of Meriden and Karen Austin, both of Meriden, and Laura Murray and her husband Tim of Arizona. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by one brother, Steven Austin.

Kathy's family would like to thank the entire staff at the Curtis Home in Meriden, especially Lauren, Anne and Peggy, for their kindness, compassion and the wonderful care they provided.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Kathy's mem-



ory may be made to the Disabled American Veterans (www.ihelpveterans.org) or by doing something special for a veteran.

A graveside service for close family and friends with military honors will be held in the springtime at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

Plantsville Funeral Home has been entrusted with handling the arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.plantsvillefuneralhome.com.

Hebron

John "Jack" McLaughlin

After a valiant battle with Alzheimer's Disease, John (Jack) McLaughlin, 79, loving husband of Patricia (Patty) McLaughlin, went to meet the Lord on Dec. 15, 2023. He was born on June 6, 1944, in Hartford, CT and moved to Manchester, CT where he spent most of his life. He and Patty then retired to Sarasota, FL where they were surrounded by many wonderful friends.

He and Patty, the love of his life, were blessed with three children who will remember him as a kind, witty, and loving father: Carolyn (Cary) Trantalis and her husband William of Columbia CT, John McLaughlin and his fiancée Rene of San Diego CA, and Robert McLaughlin and his wife Julie of Hebron CT. In addition, he is survived by six adoring grandchildren Nikolos Trantalis and his wife Carrina, Christian Trantalis and his wife Nicole, Christina McLaughlin, Jack McLaughlin, Ryan McLaughlin, Jake McLaughlin, and three great-grandchildren Emma, Grace, and Olivia. He is also survived by his brother Charles (Chuck) McLaughlin of San Diego. He was pre-deceased by his parents John and Dorothy McLaughlin and a sister Kathleen.

Jack was a 1962 graduate of Manchester High School and remained a part of the Class of 62' Reunion Committee. He went on to graduate from The Hartford Institute of Accounting and had a long and successful career as a sales executive for Roadway Express and Old Dominion transportation companies.

He and Patty were high school sweethearts and married for more than 60 years. They were devoted soulmates through the good times and bad. They lived, laughed, and loved like no other. They had many wonderful nautical adventures on their sailboat navigating the seas of the New England coast.

Jack was an avid outdoorsman and a life-time member of The Andover Sportsman Club. His love of the outdoors brought out the best in him. He treasured his time playing golf with good buddies. He maintained many robust relationships with friends from kindergarten, high school, and his years in Florida. Jack was generous, had a great sense of humor, and a strong Irish wit about him. His family and friends will continue to honor his legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

His family would like to give a special thanks to the skilled and dedicated staff at Colebrook Village of Hebron where he and his wife resided. The excellent and devoted care he received was beyond measure.

Jack will be honored with a celebration of life on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 12:00 p.m. at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 W. Center St. in Manchester, CT. Calling hours will be held an hour prior from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.



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.

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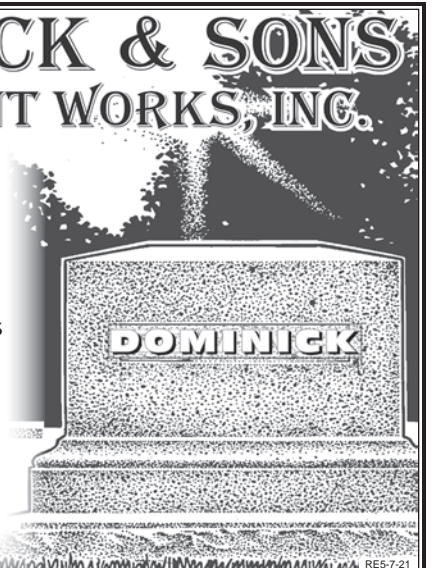
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RES-7-21

LEGALS

Portland Republican Caucus

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the town of Portland on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:30 PM at 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, to endorse candidates for the Portland Republican Town Committee. All enrolled members of the Republican Party of Portland are welcome to attend the caucus.
 Timothy Lavoy
 Chair, Portland RTC

1TB 12/22

Marlborough Republican Town Committee Caucus

Notice is hereby given that the Marlborough Republican Town Committee will hold a Caucus on Wednesday January, 10th 2024 at 7:00 PM at Fire House #2, 200 West Rd. Marlborough Connecticut. The purpose of the Caucus is to elect members of the Marlborough Republican Town Committee and to transact such business as may properly come before the Caucus.
 All enrolled members of the Republican Party of Marlborough are welcomed to attend the Caucus. For further information contact Marlborough RTC Chairperson Patrick Pabouet at 860 209 1776 or Marlborough RTC Secretary Barbara Murray at 860 543 2050

1TB 12/22

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes and the second installment of Real Estate taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 are due and payable on January 1, 2024. The second installment bill for Real Estate taxes was mailed in October 2023. No additional bills for the second installment for Real Estate taxes will be mailed. Taxes not paid in full on or before February 1, 2024 become delinquent and are subject to interest at the rate of 1 1/2% per month or 18% annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 145 and 146. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before February 1, 2024 will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30p.m. on February 1, 2024, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late.**
 Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. If you did not receive a bill and think you should please contact the office immediately. Conn Gen Stat. 12-130
 Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector and mailed to: Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Pay on-line by visiting our website www.colchesterct.gov: FEES APPLY. Hours of collection are Monday – Wednesday and Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm; Thursday 8:30am- 7pm. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office. (860) 537-7210.
 Respectfully Submitted,
 Michele Wyatt, C.C.M.C.
 Tax Collector
 Town of Colchester

3TB 12/22, 1/12, 1/26

INVITATION TO BID RHAM HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS HEBRON, CONNECTICUT DECEMBER 22, 2023 BID #2023-4

Regional School District 8 ("Reg. 8") Board of Education is seeking competitive bids for construction services related to the **Improvements to the 316 North Field and the Competition Field, located at RHAM High School/Middle School Campus** in Hebron, CT. The scope of work for this project generally includes surveying, general earthwork, erosion control, site preparation, drainage improvements, and establishment of lawn, as more fully described herein and in the plans and specifications. This Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents (as defined in the Instructions to Bidders) are available for viewing and downloading on Reg. 8's website https://reg8.ss19.sharpschool.com/departments/business_officer/f_p_bids and the Rivereast Newspaper. The plans and specifications for "RHAM HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS," will be available to bidders through Advanced Reprographics from <https://advancedrepro.net> on December 22, 2023.
 Sealed Bids for "RHAM HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS" may be mailed or delivered in person to Eva Gallupe, Business Manager, in the Central Office for Reg. 8 at 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 until **2:30 pm on February 14, 2024**. All bids will be publicly opened and will be read aloud. Bid Results will also be posted on the online plan service website for review within 24 hours of the due date. Emailed or faxed Bids will not be accepted. To obtain or review Bids refer to the bidding instructions.
Reg. 8 reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, in whole or in part. Any or all Bids may be rejected if there is any reason to believe that collusion exists among the bidders. Individual Bids may be rejected for irregularities of any kind, including without limitations, alteration of form, additions not called for, conditional Bids, incomplete Bids, and unexplained erasures. Reg. 8 retains the right to waive any formality or procedural irregularities in the Bids received. Nothing should be constructed to limit in any way the right of Reg. 8 to reject any and all Bids, should Reg. 8 deem it to be in its best interest. No bidder may withdraw his Bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.
 Any questions regarding the proposed work should be addressed, in writing, by e-mail to Michael Schlehofer, Director of Facilities at michael.schlehofer@rhamsschools.org. Questions will not be considered past 2:00 pm on **January 17, 2024**, and responses will be posted via addendum no later than 2:00 pm on **January 24, 2024**. There will be a pre-bid meeting at 10:00 am on **January 10, 2024**, at RHAM High School 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 Asst. Principals' conference room.

Eva Gallupe
 Business Manager
 Regional School District 8
 85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248
 (860) 228-2115
eva.gallupe@rhamsschools.org

1TB 12/22

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, January 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
 Application #23-06: 6 Strickland Street. Proposed 4 lot subdivision. Application and property of Strickland Street LLC. Map 49, Lot 25. Zone R-25.
 Dated at Portland, CT this 20th day of December 2023
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 12/22, 12/29

TOWN OF PORTLAND

Legal notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Portland that the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes on the October 1, 2022 Grand List and the Supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2024.
 Taxes not paid in full on or before Monday, February 1, 2024 become delinquent and are subject to interest at the rate of one and one half (1 1/2) per cent per month from due date (3%, if paid in February). Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.
 Quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable January 17, 2024. Payment not made in full on or before February 17, 2024 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from due date.
 Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax. Please contact the Collector of Revenue if you do not have a bill. Tax information is available on the Town of Portland website www.portlandct.org.
 Online tax payments are accepted by visiting our website www.portlandct.org and are subject to convenience fees. Payments are accepted at the Collector of Revenue's office, 33 East Main Street, Portland, CT or by mail: Town of Portland Collector of Revenue, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071. We do have a drop box for after hour payments by the back door. Office hours are as follows:
 Monday, December 25, 2023: CLOSED
 Monday, January 1, 2024: CLOSED New Year's Eve
 Monday, January 15, 2024 CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC
 Town of Portland
 Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/22, 1/12, 1/26

DETENTION BASIN TREE CLEARING TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for the Detention Tree Basin Clearing will be received by the Town of Marlborough at the Town Clerk's Office until 10:00 AM local time on Thursday, January 10, 2024. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. The Project consists of clearing all trees from 4 Detention Basins.
 Bids shall be in a lump sum.
 Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on-line at marlboroughct.net or CT DAS CT Source website and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Building Land Use/Building Department by calling 860 295 6202 or e-mail Building@marlboroughct.net.
 To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from either UPS or FEDEX to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after the receipt of the non-refundable fee.
 The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.
A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at the Department of Public Works, 66 South Main Street, Marlborough, CT. Attendance at the prebid meeting is highly encouraged but is not mandatory. The successful Bidder will be required to provide Performance in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price.
 The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.
 Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for all contractors and subcontractors to provide affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity employment as noted in the Governor's Executive Orders 3 and 17.
 The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.
 The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.
 All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.
 If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance with full policies, a performance bond, and to the Town prior to the start of any work.
 It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid. This Invitation to Bid is not binding in the Town.
 The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.
 This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.
 The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
 The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.
 By: David R. Porter, Town Manager
 Date: December 12, 2023

2TB 12/15, 12/22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

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

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



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CT11-1223

EMPLOYMENT

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST POSITION: available in a podiatrist office in Marlborough. Responsibilities include - Greet patients, complete check-in/check-out tasks including insurance verification, pre-authorization, answer phones, schedule appointments and surgeries, insurance follow-ups. Qualifications - Knowledge of healthcare products, excellent communication, administrative and computer skills, excellent telephone etiquette, reliable, dependable, organized, high standard for customer service, ICS software a plus. Email or fax resume to Britt.cc27@gmail.com or 860-295-9184.

SEEKING A WELL-ORGANIZED PERSON: to manage the church office at Gilead Congregational Church on a part-time basis (15-20 hours). Duties include but not limited to: creating a weekly online newsletter and weekly worship bulletins, managing the church calendar, ordering supplies, managing purchase orders, communicating church events internally and with the broader community, compile the annual church report, among other seasonal tasks. Weekly office hour schedule negotiable. Send resume, cover letter and references to the church pastor at 860-707-4340 or PastorBrian@GileadChurch.net.

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.



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REB-13-21

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

CT11-23-23

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

CT11-23-23

FREELANCE REPORTERS

We are looking for skilled freelance writers to report on local government, meetings and community events in the towns we serve - Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.
 Must be able to report news clearly and meet important weekly deadlines.
 Please send cover letter, resume and any writing clips or samples to:
greg@rarereminder.com

CT12-7-23

HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER PART-TIME ACCOUNTING CLERK

Provides clerical and analytical support to the Finance Director, including payroll and benefits administration. Creates and enters complex financial information into the Town's financial and payroll programs. The position requires a high degree of independent judgment, initiative, accuracy, and confidentiality.
 A qualified and interested applicant may be offered the opportunity to combine this part-time position with the part-time Tax Clerk position.
 QUALIFICATIONS: The skills and knowledge required would generally be acquired with graduation from high school and three or more years of office bookkeeping and/or payroll and benefits administration experience, or an Associate's degree in Business Administration, Accounting, or Human Resources with two years of bookkeeping or payroll experience, or any equivalent combination of education and experience.
 STARTING WAGE: \$22.40 - \$24.00/hour depending on experience and qualifications
 Please submit a letter of interest and completed application to the:
 Town Clerk
townclerk@marlboroughct.net
 26 North Main Street
 P.O. Box 29
 Marlborough, CT 06447
 Open until filled. First review of applications on January 8, 2024.

4TB 12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5

HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER PART-TIME TAX CLERK

Provides accounting, clerical, and administrative assistance to the Tax Collector in the billing, collecting, and crediting of taxes and related billings or charges. A qualified and interested applicant may be offered the opportunity to combine this part-time position with the part-time Accounting Clerk position.
 QUALIFICATIONS: The skills and knowledge required would generally be acquired with graduation from high school and three or more years of office accounting or bookkeeping experience, or an Associate's degree in Business Administration or Accounting with two years of accounting or bookkeeping experience, or any equivalent combination of education and experience.
 STARTING WAGE: \$22.40 - \$24.00/hour depending on experience and qualifications
 Please submit a letter of interest and completed application to the:
 Town Clerk
townclerk@marlboroughct.net
 26 North Main Street
 P.O. Box 29
 Marlborough, CT 06447
 Open until filled. First review of applications on January 8, 2024.

4TB 12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5

Drivers Wanted

Attention To Detail is looking for drivers to pick up and deliver cars to and from car dealers.
 Part time position.
 If you are interested in this position please come to our facility in Middletown, CT to fill out application.
Attention To Detail
195 Dekoven Drive
Middletown CT 06457

CT11-23-20

LEGALS

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Colchester on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at Colchester Town Hall, Room 1 (127 Norwich Ave. Colchester) at 7:30PM to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee.

1TB 12/22

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ATTENTION ALL TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of East Hampton that the taxes for the second installment of real estate, personal property, and supplemental motor vehicles levied on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 are due and payable on January 1, 2024. The last day on which to pay without penalty is February 1, 2024. Real estate and personal property taxes are based on a mill rate of 36.06 mills which equates to \$36.06 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed value. Supplemental motor vehicle tax is based on the state capped mill rate of 32.46 mills.

Taxpayers will receive an additional bill for the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes with the permanent mill rate of 36.06 mills. All bill types were mailed on December 1, 2023. It is likely the permanent mill rate will differ from the temporary mill rate resulting in the second installment being different than the first.

Late payments will be subject to interest penalty at the rate of 1 1/2% per month or a fraction thereof, 18 % per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 145 and 146. Payments legibly postmarked by the USPS on or before February 1, 2024 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Tax Office. Payments received February 2, 2024 or later, and payments received without postmark are considered past due. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes and interest charges should the tax become delinquent.

Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting www.easthamptonct.gov Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Respectfully,
Kristy L. Merrifield, CCMC
Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/22, 1/5, 1/26

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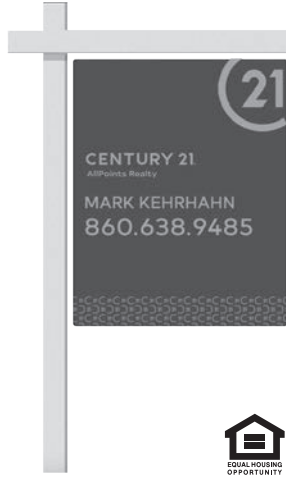
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CIT12-21-23

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RE10-13-23

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RE3-26-21

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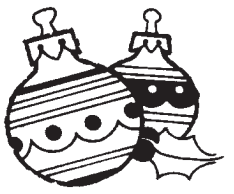
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