



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Super Students... On Feb. 7, Marlborough Elementary School sixth-graders Nicolas Peach and Sebastian Sobieralski were honored for their outstanding achievements in the arts at the 24th annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

Police Called to Colchester Meeting

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester Police were called to the Republican Town Committee meeting last week, as tempers flared at Town Hall.

Audio of the Feb. 7 RTC meeting was released publicly on social media by Jason LaChapelle, the committee's former vice chairman. The nearly three-hour meeting reveals heated discussions about the town's recent senior center project litigation, past RTC meeting controversies and the upcoming November election.

Around an hour into the meeting, a disagreement erupted between members regarding whether RTC membership nominations could be made from the floor.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos attempted to make a nomination, but was stopped by RTC Chairman Taras Rudko, who stated that Bisbikos was not following the organization's by-laws and procedure.

"Mr. Bisbikos, you're not recognized, please sit down," Rudko said.

Bisbikos replied that he didn't care, and that he had a right to speak. During the exchange, Rudko said that he called "point of order" three times, and that he would call the police to "remove you for breach of peace."

In response, Bisbikos shouted, "I am the chief of police in this town."

Later, Rudko can be heard speaking on the phone saying that there was a "disturbance at the Town Hall." Following this remark, and some laughter from members, Bisbikos is heard saying, "lock me up."

This week, Colchester Resident State Trooper Sgt. Zachary Cash confirmed to the *Rivereast* that police were dispatched to the meeting.

"There was no violation of any state statute observed from any of the attendees," he stated. "Colchester Police remained on scene for the

duration of the meeting."

He added that the call was "classified as a 'non-reportable,' so there is no report for this incident."

Rudko told the *Rivereast* that he personally called the police because a sergeant-at-arms was not at the meeting and he had to maintain order.

"There needs to be a message sent," he said, calling his action a "form of accountability."

He stated that the meeting had an agenda and that certain members were determined not to follow proper protocol.

"Maybe those individuals should reconsider why they're there," he said.

Bisbikos recalled the incident differently, and said he felt his own actions were appropriate.

"This was the first time in the history of our town committee that nominations from the floor were being denied," he said. "I passionately challenged the chairman on the ability to nominate from the floor, but he called the police to silence me and others."

He added that "the soul of the party is at stake" and that he "believes in democracy to run our meetings."

Bisbikos stated Rudko's actions represented an individual who was "more interested in steamrolling his personal agenda."

"Using the Colchester Police Department in this fashion, to facilitate his own personal goals, is abhorrent," he said. "There was no emergency and pulling officers from their duties to protect and serve our community was a desperate attempt to silence the democratic process."

Last week's meeting was not the first public disagreement between Bisbikos and RTC leadership.

See *Police Called to Meeting*, page 22

Hebron PZC Denies Scenic Road Request

By Michael Sinkewicz

Following months of speculation, Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission this week rejected a request to officially designate Kinney Road as a "scenic road."

A motion to approve the designation failed by a 3-2 vote, with the commission's recently appointed members Jason Boice and Devon Garner joining Chairman Natalie Wood in opposition. Frank Zitkus and David Sousa voted in favor of the designation.

The commission initially fielded the request in September and held a public hearing in November where members of the community largely expressed support for the application. Then in January, the commission pushed back a final decision until Tuesday night in order to receive further insight from the town attorney

before deliberating.

In a brief explanation following the vote, Wood stated that the request was not perfectly aligned with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

"The petition did not meet the spirit of 'scenic road,'" she said.

Garner added that while the road is "beautiful," the designation would inhibit the ability of the Public Works Department to maintain the road.

Under the Hebron Code of Ordinances, the scenic road designation is intended to "preserve the existing physical, environmental and cultural features or attributes of the road and right-of-way that characterize the scenic nature and warrant designation."

During the public hearing, Kinney Road residents, who also signed a petition to deem their road scenic, argued that their street met the necessary criteria.

Prior to the commission's November meeting, Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux wrote a memo stating that upon his review, "the request and supporting materials finds that all requirements have been satisfied."

Historically, the town has considered only one similar request, which was in 2001. The commission approved a scenic road designation for Burrows Hill Road.

One of the questions posed to Town Attorney Kenneth Slater leading up to the meeting asked if the scenic road ordinance would affect the

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CIT2-16-23

*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

By Mike Thompson

It was quite the Super Bowl on Sunday – one of the best I've seen.

True, the contest had a rather anticlimactic ending – a penalty called against the Eagles allowed the Chiefs to essentially run out the clock until they scored a field goal in the final seconds – but until that point, it was a gem. Two evenly-matched teams went back-and-forth all night, with both quarterbacks having brought their A game.

And the halftime show was quite enjoyable as well – even if Rihanna was pretty clearly lip-synching through most of her performance. Her songs are still great, whether live or via recording.

Also, I have to admit, in this age of super-fragmented viewing audiences, it's nice to see the Super Bowl still draws an extremely robust crowd. In fact, Sunday's match-up was the third-most-watched Super Bowl of all time, drawing 113 million viewers.

The halftime show actually drew even more viewers, at 119 million – and in fact the most-watched halftime show of all time. Quite a testament to Rihanna's star power, especially considering the 34-year-old hasn't put out an album in six years.

Impressive game, impressive halftime show, impressive ratings.....just a great night all around.

* * *

Speaking of sports, it was announced this week Major League Baseball is making permanent the extra-inning rule that's been part of the game since the pandemic-shortened 2020 season. From now on, all extra innings will start with a runner on second base.

I've put up with a lot of tweaks to the game in recent years, but this one is just the worst. It removes so much intrigue from the game. I get it shortens the games, gets players off the

field quicker, preserves bullpen arms.....but it just doesn't feel like baseball.

And the thing is, MLB knows it's not real baseball. Postseason games are going to be played traditionally, without that rule. I guess MLB doesn't want to cheapen postseason games, and rightly so. So why cheapen regular-season ones?

If this rule absolutely has to be put in place, MLB should at least wait until, say, the 12th or 13th inning to start it. Give us at least a couple of innings of real baseball before resorting to silly gimmicks.

* * *

I know it's been a pretty mild winter so far, but spring is still more than a month away. But next week in Hartford, it will feel like spring has already sprung, when the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show makes its triumphant return.

The four-day show will run Thursday, Feb. 23, through Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd. in Hartford. Hours are: Thursday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Discounted admission tickets are on sale now – at \$17 for adults and seniors – at www.CTFlowerShow.com. Tickets at the door will be \$20 for adults and seniors. Children age 5-12 will be \$5, and admission will be free for children under 5.

The flower exhibition show will cover almost 150,000 square feet, and will offer a wide variety of ideas for house, apartment, and condominium dwellers. "Gateway to Spring" is the theme of this year's show, which, according to a press release, will fea-

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Happy Valentine's Day!... Chatham Children's Connection recently held a valentine's event for local children to create special valentines for the residents at Portland Care and Rehab. Over 65 valentines were created so that each resident would have one. Nicki Crawford, a member of the board of directors for Chatham Children's Connection, is shown distributing the cards to Beverly Archer of Portland Care and Rehab. Chatham Children's Connection is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Portland whose mission is to create no-cost positive events and activities for all youth in Portland. The all-volunteer board creates several events a year and is funded by donations from local individuals and businesses. For more information on upcoming (and past) events, visit Chatham Children's Connection on Facebook.

Bulletin Board

I stumbled into the bathroom the other morning to make myself presentable (or as presentable as I can manage these days) when I noticed there were no less than seven toothbrushes in the holder or lying around the sink. There were five identical with a blue stripe and two identical with a green stripe. Now I appreciate a choice, but seven nearly identical toothbrushes of indeterminable origin? That's like playing an oral version of Russian roulette.

With no recourse to a DNA test, I selected the toothbrush that was most likely to be mine and took care of my teeth, being careful to thoroughly rinse afterwards, just in case. Heading downstairs, I found my wife humming a happy tune as she changed the normal location of various cereals and condiments so I could entertain myself during the next week or two with a series of frustrating scavenger hunts.

"Do we have some house guests I don't know about?" I asked.

She paused. "House guests? We don't have any house guests."

"Then where did all those toothbrushes upstairs come from?" I asked.

"What toothbrushes?"

"There are seven toothbrushes up in the bathroom and they all look the same."

"Well, one is yours and two are mine."

I considered asking why she needed two toothbrushes and decided I didn't really need to know. "That's three. Why are there seven?"

"I don't know. Maybe the kids left a couple the last time they were here."

"What kids?"

"The kids you're always cussing for not being available when you have to cut the grass or shovel snow off the step."

"Oh. Those kids. The ones I spent the best years of my life watching run the wrong way around the bases during T-ball games."

"That would be them. And it only seemed like years."

"If they left them here, why don't you just throw them out?"

She gave me one of those 'When did tossing out old toothbrushes become part of my job description' looks.

I hastily added, "I mean, I'd be glad to throw them out myself but I can't tell one from the other."

"They had the green ones," she said.

"See," I said. "You know these things. It's uncanny."

"Don't pander," she replied. "I hate it when you think you're being cunning."

I made a mental note for future reference as she proceeded to hide the peanut butter jar on the shelf where the coffee used to go. I'm a lot more cunning than she gives me credit for.

"Okay. You have two toothbrushes. I have one toothbrush. The kids left two." I managed to do the math without resorting to the calculator on my phone. "That still leaves two extra toothbrushes."

"You have entirely too much time on your hands," she observed.

"I just hate mysteries," I replied loftily. "We need to get to the bottom of this or I won't be able to sleep at night."

"Oh," she said. "Now I remember. One belongs to my boyfriend and I use the other one to clean the toilet."

I could hear her laughing as I ran upstairs to find the mouthwash. I mean, you just never know.

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

The offices of the *Riverast News Bulletin* and *Glastonbury Citizen*, located at 87 Nutmeg Lane, Glastonbury, are open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and can be reached at 860-633-4691. The *Riverast* can be reached any time via email at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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Inflation

To the Editor:

Republicans' new plan is to eliminate the IRS and replace it with a 30% national sales tax on everything we buy from a home to a car to eggs. That's right; they want to raise taxes on working-class families. Taxing every item from groceries, gasoline, clothing, supplies, medicine and even big-ticket items like rent, cars. That's how they are starting this new term. Cutting taxes on billionaires, raising taxes on working class families and making inflation worse, right after they complained about the cost of goods. This would balloon the deficit. This will not pass the Senate, but this is their plan. See the GOP's Fair Tax Act of 2023. (Politics Girl)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Set Adrift

To the Editor:

For 40 years, Hebron's Old Colchester Road Public Works site has been seaworthy and now requires normal, practical upgrading. For decades, Hebron's leadership has made tactful environmental decisions that protect farmland, water and ecosystems. Will development on the Raymond Brook Watershed, with its notoriously high water table, sink Hebron's integrity?

In 2004, a town meeting was held regarding the land in Hebron center. It was evident someone, somewhere, somehow felt strongly, that this property was suitable for development and as residents defended the water, health and future of the watershed, tempers flew.

Over the years folks have tried cashing in on

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Letter Writers: Due to space constraints, letter writers must limit their letters to **300 words or less. Letters must be submitted by Tuesday at noon.** No exceptions will be made. Email is preferred. Word or text documents are best. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published nor will anonymous letters or letters submitted by someone other than the person who wrote it. We cannot guarantee all letters will be published.

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Correction

In the story last week on the East Hampton teacher who took the photo used on the Arrigoni Bridge stamp, the teacher's name was misspelled. It is actually Joe Gowac. Also, he teaches at Memorial School, not Center School, as was incorrectly reported. The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

this land. But the land refuses to yield to human demands and remains a poor choice for anything but what it does best, providing clean water, space to grow food and shelter for wildlife.

A public relations firm cannot solve the Board of Selectmen's problems. Neither can negative rhetoric, as we have often heard, used against the opposition. Problems facing the BOS include: the watershed is a high-risk location for development, industrial truck traffic using the IGA intersection could be problematic, back-up drinking water for surrounding neighborhoods.

Hebron's new Public Works might've been completed by now, had it been started on May 10, 2016 when Michael O'Leary presented the Public Building Committee with a letter stating, "As you know we now have preliminary plans for the construction of a new PW and Transfer Station. This is at the existing PW site..."

What caused Hebron's fleet to veer off-course? Did the change in location have anything to do with "Record Subdivision Map Village Green Subdivision Phase I Prepared For O'Connell Development Group Hebron, Conn, dated May 5, 2016"? (Google, Special Town Meeting, March 7, 2019, scroll down for Legal Notice, hebronct.com). #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Salt Problems Exist

To the Editor:

Recently there was an article in the *Journal Inquirer* where the town of Tolland was establishing a task force to review salt pollution that has been creating local well and property problems. The town manager stated that they were using best practices established by the DEEP for salt road applications and have been using them for several years. Other towns listed by DEEP where similar sodium chloride problems have occurred near town garage facilities include Groton, Hartland, Marlborough, Norwich, Canterbury, Thomaston, Thompson, and Woodstock. This list of towns and their problems was provided to the Public Building Committee during their September meeting.

Salt distribution and the problems that it creates is a serious issue, but our town officials who want to establish a new public works facility (PWF) on the Raymond Brook property is showing poor judgement. They have stated that they are and will be using best practices for salt application, but the fact of the matter stands that by placing the salt shed and its distribution on a pristine water aquifer like Raymond Brook is not following DEEP guidelines.

If other towns are having problems with their salt distribution, what guarantee does Hebron have that they will not have similar problems? Using this property will be an accident waiting to happen. Why take that risk and the additional expenses that will follow? Does Hebron need the proposed PWF requiring the additional acreage? Will referendum after referendum be issued until this passes? I certainly hope not. There needs to be a better solution. Clean water is going to become a scarce commodity that we need to protect now.

**Respectfully Submitted,
John Lockward – Amston**

Nutty!

To the Editor:

Firstly, I'd like to say thank you to all who include me in their letters, it's incredibly flattering and I love seeing my name dropped into multiple submissions...fantastic!

Secondly, I'd like to let everyone know that you do indeed live in a democracy (not a constitutional republic – those MAGA nuts!) where your elected officials actually represent you and do what's best for your family and are not actually legislating in a way that benefits their corporate donors, politically connected nonprofits, or entrenched special interests hell bent on collapsing America in hopes of bringing in a more fascistic system of global governance.

As crazy as it may seem, some people actually think the American public and our constitutional rights are being steamrolled in favor of collectivism and blind obedience to non-logical authoritarian dictates. For all these people that think that, I have one sentence for you..."Wear a mask and get vaccinated or suffer the conse-

quences, you selfish pricks!"

Switching gears, we have multiple UAP events going on all over the US and Canada without rhyme or reason...is the alien invasion imminent or are government spooks just inflating balloons to blow up and create an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty? As if it couldn't get any worse, how about those three train derailments in Texas, South Carolina or Ohio. The Ohio derailment resulting in the spilling of tons of toxic vinyl chlorine that was "blown up and burned off" by local police after a forced evacuation. Those nutters who think America is under assault would speculate this could be some sort of attack on our infrastructure/supply chain. Don't mention the 120+ food processing plants burning down across America or the culling of 45 million laying hens by the government. Didn't that egg factory in Bozrah just go up in flames? Weird.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Get Involved!

To the Editor:

The Republican Town Committee of East Hampton is looking for new members. We are a group of Republican citizens who promote the welfare and growth of the Republican Party. We also assist in the recruitment and promotion of Republican candidates. Our meeting this month is on Feb. 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeside Bar and Grill. If you are interested please stop by on the 23rd or send an email with any questions to ehctgop@gmail.com.

Chrissie Aloia – East Hampton

Community Matters

To the Editor:

As I've begun my campaign for first selectman, I have come to recognize more than ever the importance of Colchester's community organizations. Colchester is fortunate to have active community organizations and strong partnerships between the governmental side of town and these community groups.

Unfortunately, some of these community-town partnerships appear threatened. Take, for example, the Colchester Community Theater which is celebrating their 25th anniversary with performances of *Young Frankenstein* this weekend. CCT was recently informed that after 25 years, the Town may no longer sponsor them. This could spell the end of great community work they do, such as providing thousands of Colchester kids with summer theater workshops.

This has me thinking about how much value Colchester gets from the community organizations we have partnerships or relationships with, such as C3 (the Colchester Children's Collaborative), Colchester Garden Club, the Colchester Land Trust, and more. The town has different relationships with each of these groups, but the common thread is that these organizations give more to the community than we put into any of them as a government – in fact, many require zero financial investment at all.

It's important for the first selectman to recognize the tremendous value of strong community organizations in Colchester. When we as a "town" can partner with citizen groups and make resources available in ways that benefit the entire Colchester community, we should do so. Sometimes there will be logistical challenges with these partnerships. That is what the Colchester Community Theater and possibly other groups are facing now.

As first selectman, I will fight to preserve these relationships and work through the logistical hurdles when they arise. It's good for the community and cost-effective for taxpayers. I hope the current administration will do the same.

**Bernie Dennler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman**

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Hebron's Jim Crow Preservation

To the Editor:

Most historic towns have house-markers commemorating historically important sites. Hebron has snow-people and lounge chairs.

Hebron's Under-Represented Minorities grant has been stalled for almost three years by Hebron's government. Hebron's Plan of Conservation and Development cites only white historic sites as historically significant. It erroneously lists the Peters House as being on the Freedom Trail. Yet, there are many legitimate African American sites that should be.

Hebron has 13 Historic Properties. Four have associations with African Americans which go unrecognized. Hebron has no monuments to African American veterans who served their country, but could not vote. Sadly, a concern for preserving African American stonewalls at 17 Kinney Rd. is conspicuously missing from BOS minutes.

Hebron's "Historic Charm" excludes African-Americans. This governmental bias has resulted in the destruction of the misidentified Cesar Peters' abduction site and also Henry Peter's house and lane. The African American graveyard is still a dumpsite despite state funds to clean it up. Originally, town officials planned to destroy Cesar Peters' home site and now blame inflationary increases on having to preserve Hebron's African American heritage.

Why is the town waging a vendetta on the legacy of Cesar Peters and others whose labor made Hebron in 1800 the most prosperous town in Tolland County? Does this racial bias truly represent the people of Hebron or just its government?

Why does the town not already have a mandatory implicit bias program in place for all of its employees and volunteers?

Black History Month recognizes that America's traditional white history is interwoven with threads of many different colors, of which Hebron has many. Adolf Hitler looked to America's Jim Crow policies as a model for "ethnic cleansing" of European history

Unfortunately, Hebron preservation policies firmly codify Jim Crow bias enabling the "ethnic cleansing" of Hebron's minorities from its past.

John Baron – Hebron

More DPW Thoughts

To the Editor:

I read and re-read the consistent three or four letters a week, authored by the same three or four people, regarding the proposed DPW facility at 17 Kinney Rd. The more I read the more confused I become. Are we preserving 12,000-year-old glacial deposits? Or are we saying that the Native Americans that were the true stewards of the land should be honored? While Caesar Peters is certainly important part of Hebron's history, who was here first? The land was eventually the Horton Farm; should the Hortons' farming be properly honored?? I am not advocating for any of the above; I think it needs to be asked.

Mr. Collins suggests that rebuilding the existing Public Works facility might make the most sense. I believe that repairing the outdated small facility would require complete demolition of the existing site. While that is being done, where would we operate the critical services from? Should we just not worry about tree trimming, road repairs, transfer station or employees? Or maybe the town should subcontract all the services to outside vendors? Should we lay off all our public works personnel for two years or so? Maybe keep them employed to retain them when the new facility is completed?

Reading the continuous stream of letters of opposition, it seems that the more things we throw at this project the better. Is it really about the water, the history, a scenic road, or something more?

Maybe as Mr. Collins suggests we should put this to a vote for all the town residents to weigh in on. The continued regurgitation of the same things does beg the question: "What do the rest of the property-owning taxpayers think?"

**Sincerely
Todd Habicht – Hebron**

Town Planning Debacle

To the Editor:

Can we now expect to see letters to the editor from Hebron town officials ghost-written or edited by Hebron's new and very expensive public-relations firm? Is this where our tax dollars should be going?

Concerning Public Works, Selectman Larson writes, "...the mixed-use development on this

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Editor's Desk continued from page 4

ture expansive live gardens, a nonstop schedule of seminars and demonstrations, the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's annual Standard Flower Show, and hundreds of vendors displaying and selling all types of items.

"Whether you are a gardening beginner or an expert, or just enjoy seeing and smelling beautiful flowers and plants, this event is a great way to gear up for Spring by discovering new ways to enjoy your home, garden, and other growing spaces," says Kristie Gon-

salves, president of North East Expos, Inc., producer of the 41st annual show and a past president of the National Association of Consumer Show Producers. "Gardening has been proven to reduce stress, elevate moods, help with socialization and self-esteem, and provide exercise, so this colorful event is exactly what we need right now."

I couldn't agree more.

See you next week.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*
 site... would have a greater impact than the currently proposed Public Works facility....” Yes, it is true that the Village Green District (i.e., mixed-use development on the Horton property), which Hebron taxpayers have sunk millions into, has been a complete failure. The town paid for the “Road to Nowhere” with all its accompanying infrastructure. It gave \$1M in tax

abatements (as a selectman, I voted against it) to a project financed by 60 high-net-worth individuals that was subsequently sold to a billion-dollar San Francisco hedge fund. Other private investors, however, did not invest in the VGD. It never made any business sense. After 20 years, the land was put up for sale and the town bought it for a song.
 Selectman Larson’s argument seems to be that

building a Public Works/municipal complex in the Town Center is less stupid than mixed-use development and that somehow makes it a good idea. It doesn’t. Both are bad ideas. Both would make Hebron a small city and ruin Hebron as a rural town. Both would cause environmental contamination, traffic congestion, higher taxes, destruction of historical/cultural sites and more. Both plans benefit only a few and leave Hebron

taxpayers paying for infrastructure costs for years to come.
 The citizens of Hebron now own the Horton property. Instead of reaching for the bottom, let’s do something smart and good that benefits all Hebron citizens now and for future generations.
 It is time to vote. Send Public Works to referendum.

John Collins – Amston

ENTERTAINMENT

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We the People of Hebron
 To the Editor:
 “We the people...” These are the first three words in the preamble of the Constitution of the United States. Written in 1787, our Founding Fathers rightfully placed the power of the government with the people. At the core of this revolutionary concept is the fact that “we the people” have inherent rights and the government should act on our behalf. One important purpose of the Constitution was to create checks and balances to limit government, restrain ambition of the powerful and promote “the general welfare.” The result was the creation of the presidency, congress and the courts. In Hebron our checks and balances are established through independently elected Boards and Commissions.
 On Tuesday, Feb. 14, Hebron’s Planning and Zoning Commission was scheduled to vote on the request for Scenic Road designation for Kinney Road. As stated on Nov. 15, 2022, by Hebron’s town planner, Matthew Bordeaux, “My review of the request and supporting materials finds that all requirements have been satisfied.” This request was brought to the Planning and Zoning Commission directly from “We the people” of Hebron. All requirements have been satisfied and the request fulfills all aspects of Chapter 313 of the Hebron Code of Ordinances.
 Unfortunately, Hebron’s Board of Selectmen has taken the unprecedented and questionable approach to publicly state their opposition to the choice of the people. Now it is up to the Planning and Zoning Commission themselves. Will they succumb to the pressure of the Board of Selectmen to have all “our ships in the same direction” or will they live up to their responsibilities to represent the people who elected them? I hope by the time this letter is published “We the people” can celebrate the designation of Hebron’s second Scenic Road.
 Sincerely,
 Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

More Candid Moments
 To the Editor:
 We always look forward to the arrival of each week’s paper. However, I have often wished that the front-page image would capture more candid moments of local life, rather than relying on posed portraits. Faces smiling to camera, while heartwarming, can feel rather rote. So, you can imagine my glee at seeing Ernie the cat make such a splash on the front of last week’s issue! While humans are more easily photographed when they’re posing than when otherwise occupied, cats are quite the opposite.
 My excitement only built when I learned that Ernie was about to become our first “Marlborough Native Headed for Space,” according to the headline above the fold. How often do you get to wish a cat well before blast-off? Sadly, when I opened things up and read further, I discovered these to be two separate news stories. Best wishes to local filmmaker Brendan Hall on his upcoming spaceflight, and to Ernie in all his dutiful days on terra firma.
 Hunter Styles – East Hampton

Corrupt Assessment
 To the Editor:
 Despite our formal request, the Andover selectmen are not willing to address our complaint, filed in October 2022, addressing the corrupt property assessment we experienced through the 2021 town property reevaluation. Our total valuation went up 82% from the previous year, with the land going up 71%, the house 89%, and having made zero changes to the property after the town assessor went through our newly built house in 2019.
 After evaluating the overall results, it was easy to see that the Andover Lake property owners had significant increases in property value to move the tax burden towards those living around the lake. It was also evident that the town assessor applied favoritism to elected officials. For example, the chair of the Board of Assessment Appeals who lives on the lake saw an increase of only 18%, and their property card did not match the actual upgrades of their home.

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After going through the official appeals process, which did not address the significant gaps in the assessment process, and after writing a formal complaint with multiple documented unfair practices, the town selectmen have chosen not to respond. We are appalled that the selectmen have failed to respond to unethical behaviors by town employees per their elected job requirements. The lead selectman acknowledged to me on the phone call on Nov. 23 that he knew that there were issues with the evaluation process, and with the behaviors of the town assessor, but that he needed to have the town attorney review our complaint before he could officially respond.

There has been no response to date, despite multiple attempts on our part to contact him. Apparently, our only recourse is to contact the CT State Attorney office to address these issues.

Dan and Joan Roy – Andover

Old Friends

To the Editor:

I recently heard the song “Old Friends” by Paul Simon and it hit me hard. The last time I heard it, I was a lot younger and the song didn’t have the same meaning as it does now. As I am about to cross the threshold of my seventh decade in life. In particular, the last two lines walloped me across my grey-haired head. They are: “Memory brushes the same years Silently sharing the same fear.”

Now the word “friend” has been cheapened, especially by Facebook. People brag about the “friends” they have in their cyber world. “Oh, I have thousands of ‘friends.’” No you don’t. Those individuals are not real friends. Your real friends are few in life. They are precious and dear. You become a part of them and they a part of you.

You have as many fingers on a hand as real friends. Cherish them. And listen to Paul Simon’s “Old Friends.” Then thank your true friends for being just that – a real friend.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

SOTU Response Letter

To the Editor:

President Joe Biden on Tuesday Feb. 7, while addressing at the State of the Union, mentioned that lowering the cost of prescription drugs and expanding Medicaid coverage was on his agenda. Passing on The Inflation Reduction Act is a landmark United States federal law which aims to curb inflation by reducing the deficit, lowering prescription drug prices, and investing into domestic energy production while promoting clean energy. This act will change the lives of many Americans, not only will it bring down the cost of healthcare, but it also makes sure that big pharma does not over exceed its limits on pricing prescriptions.

Many Americans, including myself, depend on Medicaid; I am so grateful to be able to have free health care. But shouldn’t this basic need be accessible to everyone? For the past decades, health care has been a huge problem in the U.S.A., with millions of people suffering from illnesses, infections, or mental health problems just because they do not have enough money to cover the prices of health insurance. That’s why I believe that if we as a nation contribute to this act, and get the attention of what really matters, I believe by expanding coverage on Medicaid, we will be closer to the possibility so that one day everyone in this country has access to the resources they need.

Mariana Zulvaran – East Hampton

Note: Zulvaran is a student at Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I.

Coaches vs. Cancer Thank You....

To the Editor:

A recent Coaches vs. Cancer fundraising event sponsored by the Portland Travel Basketball Club (PTBC) was a tremendous success. Everyone who contributed deserves a heartfelt thank you! A special note of gratitude goes out to Portland’s Travel teams and their supporters for their overwhelming generosity. In ad-

dition, all of the families and officials associated with our weekend opponents who donated to the cause, as well as each and every unaffiliated person, group, or entity who took the time and effort to personally or digitally share their generosity are equally commended. The Connecticut Basketball Conference’s annual, league-wide Coaches Vs. Cancer fundraiser is designed to raise cancer awareness.

This season, the PTBC elected to divert 100% of its collected donations to a Portland family whose teenage son, a PTBC alum, was recently diagnosed with a form of leukemia. The amount raised exceeded expectations by a mile, and the club’s community hopes the donation will provide some relief and assistance as the family manages a lengthy, challenging path forward. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a successful fundraising campaign; the community’s generosity is humbling.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Portland Travel Basketball Club Board**

Hopefully Not the Last Show

To the Editor:

Twenty-five years ago, the Colchester Community Theatre was founded. We have produced 25 full-length musicals and 24 Children’s Summer Theater Workshops. Many shows have been performed to sold out crowds. We have created floats for 24 Memorial Day parades, collected food and winter coats for our Colchester residents, made wishes come true for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, created greeting cards for residents of nursing homes, made placemats for our community lunches. We provided scholarships for workshop participants when needed. We have performed at the Colchester Senior Center, Colchester 57 Fest and Tag Sale on the Green. We created blessing bags for the Saint Vincent de Paul Homeless Shelter in Middletown. We are proud members of the greater Colchester community!!

And – we have created MAGIC!! Mary Poppins and the Wicked Witch flew, Bert danced

upside down, Cinderella’s pumpkin turned into a carriage before our eyes, the Beast changed into the prince, and we sank the Titanic. We made you forget real life for a few hours. Together, we laughed at Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* and cried during *Titanic*.

I am reminiscing because it has come to my attention that the Colchester Community Theatre may no longer be sponsored by the Town of Colchester under the Colchester Parks and Recs Department. While we have been sponsored for these past 25 years, we have been financially self-sufficient for every show we have produced. Without this sponsorship, The Colchester Community Theatre may not be able to continue. While we are trying to work out a solution, I think the residents of Colchester – our supporters and cheerleaders – need to know this information. We may need your help in resolving this issue.

I sincerely hope this is not our final production,

**Wallis Johnson
Co-founder of the
Colchester Community Theatre**

Waking Up White

To the Editor:

I was delighted to learn that the author of *Waking Up White*, Debby Irving, will be presenting a program on March 11 at the library in Hebron. CoDE, (Coalition on Diversity & Equity) is sponsoring the program. Registration is required, along with a \$10 fee. For more information, please go to the CoDE webpage, code-diversity.org.

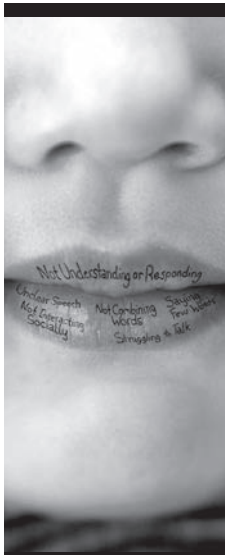
I will be going to the program. I read Ms. Irving’s book, and it is challenging, and uncomfortable in many ways. In it, she shares her personal journey in recognizing the level of privilege she, as a middle-class white woman, enjoys in America. At first glance, it may seem divisive to be offering such a program. Who wants to be uncomfortable? Not me! And yet...

None of us can see ourselves, no matter how

See Letters, page 35

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD
DEALING WITH DRY MOUTH AT NIGHT
Dry mouth may seem like an easy problem to solve – just have a glass of water! However, it is not that simple, especially while you are sleeping. Since dry mouth can be a symptom of other conditions such as diabetes or Parkinson’s disease, it is best to ensure you are doing everything you can to treat the underlying cause first. If the problem persists, try cutting out spicy and acidic foods as they can exacerbate the issue. Keep your caffeine intake to the morning hours and avoid alcohol close to bedtime. Adding a cool mist humidifier to your nightstand is a good idea as well, as is using a mouthwash developed for dry mouth relief after brushing your teeth at night.
Our purpose in presenting this column is to exhibit the virtues of professional care in achieving and maintaining a healthy, vibrant smile. Through a combination of sound ideas, proven techniques and innovative technology, plus communication and compassionate concern, we attempt to move our patients toward an optimum state of oral health. When was your last dental checkup? Now is a good time to schedule an appointment for comprehensive dental care, including help with dry mouth, cleanings, restorations, cosmetic work, or gum disease treatment.
P.S. Dry mouth may not be a sign of another disease, but the result of a bad habit. Smoking is a huge contributor to the problem and quitting may resolve the issue completely.
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Town Mourns Former Fire Chief

By Michael Sinkewicz

Lifelong Andover resident Curtis Dowling passed away last month at the age of 69 following a brief illness, a substantial loss for the community.

A RHAM graduate, Class of 1971, Dowling was a staple amongst the community for decades, serving in the Andover Volunteer Fire Department for 53 years.

He first joined the department at the age of 16, working his way up to fire chief — a title he held for 22 years from 1982-2004.

His town service didn't stop with the fire department. He also served on the Board of Fire Commissioners, as well as several town committees including the CIP Committee and the Board of Finance.

In Tolland, he was a member of the County Fire Chiefs Association and Board of Directors. His passion for fire service extended to work as a salesman for E-One Fire Apparatus and Firematic Supply, where he sold fire trucks for over 25 years to Connecticut departments.

In a separate professional career, Dowling worked by CL&P/Eversource, retiring after 43 years as chief linesman and as a union representative.

Services were held earlier this month at the Andover Congregational Church, followed by

a celebration at the Andover Fire Department.

Members of the community all agree that Dowling leaves behind a legacy of dedication and service to Andover.

"He spent an enormous amount of time working for the benefit of Andover," Town Administrator Eric Anderson told the *Rivereast*. "This was somebody who joined the fire department when they were 16 and served the town until his death. It's hard to find somebody more dedicated."

Amongst his town accomplishments, Anderson said that Dowling was the driving force with building and completing the new town firehouse in 1990.

"He helped get it over the finish line," Anderson said.

Anderson recalled an amusing story where he'd be on Andover Lake and could hear Dowling yelling at cars to slow down through a bullhorn.

Overall, he expressed that the level of town dedicated demonstrated by Dowling was "unique."

"To have someone serve that long is exceptional."

Steve Willard serves as an Andover firefighter and knew Dowling for since he was a kid. In fifth grade, Dowling was Willard's basketball

coach, and has served almost as a "mentor" for over 40 years.

"He loved the town and he was dedicated to doing what he felt was right for the town," Willard told the *Rivereast*.

He also highlighted Dowling's integral role in building the current town fire house, and said he was a role model for many people. His years of service and loyalty were admired.

"I looked at that as something to strive for," he said. "He was full of life. Some of the biggest laughs I've had were with him. He loved making sure people had a good time."

Last week, Willard delivered the eulogy.

He shared a story where they both decided to run for Board of Selectmen in 2015, although they didn't win.

During that time, he said, their friendship grew and Dowling, by continuing to serve the town afterwards, demonstrated the "epitome of public service."

Willard shared family stories that further highlighted Dowling's passion and he took great pride his sons' accomplishments.

He lived on Andover Lake with his wife Marge. Willard expressed that "the fridge in the garage was always fully stocked and you were always welcomed to stop by and share a beer."

Willard confirmed the anecdote shared by Andersen, which involved Dowling "monitoring" the speed of cars passing by and how he would remind those travelers of the proper speed limit.

"Someone bought him a megaphone and, well, we will just leave it at that," Willard said.

Like a lot of New England men, Dowling also loved taking care of his yard, according to Willard.

"He made sure his lawn was green; there wasn't a blade of grass out of place, and crabgrass didn't stand a chance," Willard said. "I am pretty sure the leaves were afraid to fall on his lawn when autumn would come."

Regarding Dowling's work in the fire depart-



Curtis Dowling

ment, Willard expressed that the trucks were always washed and waxed, and the bays were clean and painted.

"Curt was proud of AFD and he instilled that pride in the other members of the fire department," he said.

Marc Brinker, chairman of the Board of Finance, told the *Rivereast* that Dowling was a "very warm, friendly person and I really appreciated the depth of his knowledge about the town of Andover."

"He was thoughtful and reasonable, but it was his knowledge and experience which provided a broad perspective and valuable insight when it came time to reviewing the options and making decisions on the Board of Finance," he said. "Of course, this was especially true when discussing the role and needs of the town's emergency services."

Brinker added that Dowling "will be missed."

Library Friends Collecting for Auction

The Andover Friends of the Library Auction Committee is in the process of collecting donations for the 21st annual Goods and Services Auction that will be held Friday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

Popular items include: gift certificates, handmade items like jewelry, scarves, quilts, afghans, sports items, paintings and music/video games. The Friends group is also looking for new items to create themed gift baskets, such as: Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation,

baby shower and bridal shower or if you would like to donate a gift basket.

This auction is the Friend's big fundraiser of the year; proceeds help support library programs.

Donations may be dropped off in the town clerk's office at the Town Office Building, or mailed to A.F.O.L - c/o Carol Lee, 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232. People may also call Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 to arrange for pick-up.

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. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, andoverct.org.

Tuesday Shopping: Willimantic, Feb. 28; Manchester, Feb. 21. Masks available on all vehicles.

Senior Luncheons: Fridays, March 3 and 17, and Thursday, March 30. Reservations required the previous Wednesday. On March 30, RHAM Boosters will provide entertainment.

Upcoming Trips: Aquaturf on March 14; Westbrook for lobster on March 20; and Windham Theater on April 28. For information, call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext 2.

Learn to Braid: This two-day class is being offered by the Hebron Historical Society and will be held Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25 and 26, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Students will make

a round, wool chair pad. Call Sue at 860-368-7463 for more information.

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry — all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums or board meetings, and all medical appointments, are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.

New Seniors Welcome: New seniors are welcome to all events. 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.

Senior Trip to the Movies

The Andover Seniors will go to the Mansfield Movieplex to see *80 for Brady* on Wednesday, Feb. 22, for the 4:30 p.m. matinee.

Any Andover senior interested in going should call Carol Lee at 860-989-6988 to reserve a spot.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will host a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, Feb. 17, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

Snow date is Feb. 24, same time.

Senior Trip to Aqua Turf

Andover senior citizens will go to the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on Tuesday, March 14, for a corned beef luncheon, featuring entertainment by the McLean Avenue Band and Irish step dancers.

Cost is \$22 for Andover seniors and space is limited. Any senior interested in attending should call Carol Lee 860-742-0188 ext. 4218 to reserve a space/confirm availability.

Board of Fire Commissioners Vacancy

Any Andover elector interested in serving on the Fire Commission for a term ending Nov. 20 should send a letter of interest to: Town of Andover, c/o Fire Commission, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232, or email townclerk@andoverct.org.

Preschool Openings

The Andover Elementary School (AES) Early Learning Center is accepting applications for preschool students for the 2023-24 school year. The preschool program is full-day, and before- and after-school care is available.

Children who will be age 3 on or before Dec. 31, 2023, are eligible to attend. Parents/guardians should call AES Principal Taylor Parker at 860-742-7339 for more information or to obtain a registration packet. Packets are also at www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Learn CPR

All are invited to learn CPR Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9-11 a.m., at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, 11 School Rd. Classes include use of training materials, CPR/AED/Choking for adults/child/infant, and two-year certification from the American Heart Association.

Cost is \$20 and registration is required; to do so, call Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074.

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, will celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome, and while registration is not necessary it is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

During this event, Ellen Repay of the Andover Friends of the Library will present a story about winter and/or snow, followed by a craft. All attendees will have their names put into a drawing to win a bookbag filled with goodies. No purchase is necessary.

Officially, the 12th annual Take Your Child to the Library Day was Feb. 4, but the day is celebrated throughout the month at libraries across the state.

Senior Trip

Any Andover senior interested in going to Water's Edge in Westbrook on Monday, March 20, for a lobster dinner followed by "Trivia Night" should call Carol Lee at 860-989-6988 to reserve a spot.

Space is limited. Transportation will be provided from the Town Office Building; arrive by 3:50 p.m. to board the bus.

Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2023-24 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is full-day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2023, are asked to contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet or access it at www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten, not attend school until the following year, or who will be home-schooling are asked to inform the school of this decision.

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Andover Basketballer Eclipses Milestone

By Josh Howard

Andover resident Sequoia Turcotte Briggs, a junior at Classical Magnet High School, joined an elite group on the hardwood by scoring her 1,000th career point on Feb. 8.

Turcotte Briggs surpassed the four-digit mark by draining a three-point shot at the top of the arc with seven seconds left in the second quarter. She finished the game with 20 points and 11 assists as the Classical defeated Prince Tech 60-43, earning their 12th win of the season.

"It was really cool, but it was a little embarrassing because once it happened we stopped the game instantly to do all the celebration stuff," recalled Turcotte Briggs. "We had our whole fan section there because it was our Senior Night, so everyone was super pumped."

Turcotte Briggs, who first started playing basketball at the age of four, has made an impact on the high school courts from day one.

She earned all-conference recognition as both a freshman and sophomore, and is well on her way to earning that honor again this year. She has also been a team captain since her first high school season, showcasing an early ability to both play and lead.

Classical head coach Catherine Bernoski said that Turcotte Briggs is the total package on both ends of the court and is much more than a scorer, saying she has "anchored the team" thanks to her supreme court vision after moving from shooting guard to point guard this winter.

"Sequoia's energy dictates everyone else's on our team," added Bernoski. "Having a high basketball IQ, Sequoia is able to garner many steals by anticipating her opponents' moves and potential passes."

Heading into the record-breaking game, Turcotte Briggs needed nine points and said she was pretty relaxed until the game first tipped.

"It was a little nerve-wracking because everyone was filming my every move, but once I hit [the shot] it was kind of relieving," stated Turcotte Briggs, who added that members of

the boy's team offered advice prior to the game. "[They] were joking that I better not get it a cheesy layup and they were trying to get me to shoot a half-court shot or something, so to get it on a three-pointer was pretty cool."

Hitting the record-breaking triple on the team's home court during Senior Night gave the entire evening more meaning.

Turcotte Briggs' co-captain, Jasmine Charlery was one of three seniors honored on the night.

"I am glad that she was able to reach the 1,000 point mark at home in front of family and friends who came out to support her," said Bernoski. "Many of her points that night were beautiful drives to the basket in traffic with strong finishes, which all the fans loved to see."

Earlier this year, Turcotte Briggs also scored a career-high in points in one game, netting 36 in a home victory over Enfield's Comp Sci on Jan. 17.

With each passing year her role as both a player and a leader has expanded, which she has embraced.

"I have always had that leadership role, but this year I've been able to have a lot more fun because all my teammates are older too," added Turcotte Briggs. "We've all grown together and we all know how each other play."

Along with the individual accolades, it has also been a successful year for the team, who won 14 of 20 games in the regular season and now prepping for postseason play. The Gladiators are currently the third-ranked team in the Capitol Region Athletic League (CRAL) conference and seventh-rank team in Class M.

Turcotte Briggs believes the team's bond has gone a long way to their overall success.

"We have a great way of just sticking together," Turcotte Briggs stated. "The best thing for us is we've growing together since we are such a young team and now that we are older we are continuing to develop and have a super close knit bond, which is awesome."



Andover's Sequoia Turcotte Briggs, a basketball star at Classical Magnet School in Hartford, scored her 1,000th career point earlier this month. Turcotte Briggs is pictured with her mother, Heather Turcotte, and father, Brian Briggs.

We have time for our loved ones. Not the flu.

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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.; next date is March 1. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Feb. 22.

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

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

Dean's List

Andover residents Kevin McCarthy and Edward Chiffer made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

McCarthy is working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematical sciences, and Chiffer is working toward a BSBA in sport management.

Open Call to Apply for Grant Funds

Andover's Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee has released its open call for 2023 project proposals. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to support one or more proposals.

All projects eligible for Community Fund support must benefit the residents of Andover. For further details on project guidelines and how to apply, please visit hfpg.org/Andovercf.

Project applications or grant proposals will be accepted until March 15.

Dean's List

Andover resident Margaret Tighe made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.



Dean's List

Andover resident Sylvia Rojek made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

Rojek is majoring in business management and is the daughter of Jolanta and Lech Rojek.

175th Committee Selling Items

All are invited to purchase T-shirts, cookbooks, ornaments or calendars from the town's 175th Committee. All money raised will support the events planned for May and June.

Contact Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122 for more information. Items may also be purchased at Town Hall.

Dean's List

Andover residents Rachel Arseneault, Emily Metcalf and Mia Rhodes made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

AVFD Anniversary Banquet

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate its 85th anniversary with a banquet at A Villa Louisa in Bolton on Saturday, April 1, from 6-10 p.m. There will be hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, a DJ and a cash bar. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be obtained by calling Chief Ron Mike at 860-335-0264, Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074, or by stopping at the firehouse on Wednesdays after 630 p.m.

Tickets must be purchased no later than March 22.

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Highlanders Basketball in Rebuilding Season

By Josh Howard

Portland High School girls' basketball first-year head coach Kelly Coleman is back to her old stomping ground.

Coleman, a 2011 graduate of PHS, is the program's all-time leading scorer and was an all-state player on the Highlanders first and only state championship team.

After finishing her high school career with 1,639 points, Coleman went on to star on the courts at the University of New England in Maine and has now returned for her second chapter in Portland.

"This has been my dream," Coleman said of her returning to PHS. "Back then it was 'some day' and now that day is finally here."

Coleman had a familiar face joining her on the sideline in her mother, Diane Coleman, who is in her third stint as an assistant with the program.

The mother-daughter team took over a program shortly before the season tipped, inheriting a team that lost eight seniors to graduation a season ago.

After starting this season with 13 consecutive losses, the Highlanders have rebounded with a couple of impressive wins late in the season.

"There were some big shoes to fill after losing so many seniors, but the kids have stepped up and everyone is working together and making everyone better," said Coleman. "We've had some tough losses, but no one has ever given up and that is one thing that I really admire about all of these girls, they have never hung their heads and they are always looking towards the next game."

Coleman has leaned on the team's three seniors – Isabelle McClelland, Rowan Bell, and Natalie Przestrzelski – to bridge the gap between the players and the new coaching staff.

"My mom and I are new faces and we're just trying to build the trust with the kids and get them behind what our vision of the program will be," Coleman stated.

McClelland said the optimistic outlook of the coaching staff has helped create a positive "chemistry" in and out of competition.

"It's been fun. We know that everyone is happy on the court," added McClelland. "We lost a

lot of really good players last year, but it's been fun building up the team."

Rowan agreed that seeing the development of the younger players has been rewarding.

"It feels really good to see the girls grow and have more confidence on the court," added Rowan. "As a freshman I was definitely scared because it was my first year playing basketball, so we've made it welcoming and I think that they've enjoyed it."

One of the highlights of the year was a 56-36 victory over Old Lyme on Jan. 30. The Highlanders had lost to the Wildcats by three points at PHS in the second game of the season, but rebounded to post their best scoring output of the season in the rematch at Old Lyme.

"Going into the season we knew we might not have the best record, but we made it a goal to get better each game and have those building blocks for each game," stated Coleman. "Old Lyme was a good example of how we did that. We are getting better and the kids have never given up."

Sophomore guard Morganne Pineda led the way in the win over Old Lyme, scoring a career-high 31 points.

Coleman said that Pineda and junior Jamie Lasky have given the team a great inside-out combination with Pineda providing a threat on the perimeter and Lasky doing damage down low.

"Morganne is doing a great job at reading the court. She has always been a scorer and now she is doing a good job at getting the kids involved," stated Coleman. "Jamie has been a consistent player all season. She is a natural in the post and she is a hustler."

The team earned their second win of the season on a memorable Senior Night, defeating Hale Ray 36-26 on Feb. 7.

Pineda netted 16 points and Lasky added a dozen, yet it was the hoopla surrounding the game that made it extra special for the entire program.

The coaching staff reimplemented a tradition of the past in "Girls Night Out", which invites all the local youth basketball programs — from grade school through middle school — to the team's Senior Night for a celebration and to rec-



Portland High School basketball seniors (from left) Rowan Bell, Isabelle McClelland, and Natalie Przestrzelski have helped lead the Highlanders through a rebuilding season.

ognize the trio of seniors.

It was a perfect send off for the seniors and a chance for the next generation of Highlanders to experience what it's like at the high school level.

"It was so cool, there were so many people around," said McClelland, "Those are all the girls that will be playing here in a few years, so it was awesome to see them come out and have the whole town supporting us."

Rowan added that the Senior Night triumph was a reflection on the season and how the team had improved from the first day until now.

"We are a mentally strong team now and we weren't as much in the beginning," added Rowan. "We're always supporting each other and I don't think many other teams have the connection that we do."

For the Colemans, combining on the courts

again is an opportunity they have waited over a decade for.

The last time they were together on the local courts in 2011, the season ended with a state championship. Now, they hope to build the program back into championship-contenders.

"Kelly and I make a great team, we play off each other's strengths," stated Diane Coleman. "Kelly has a phenomenal way of connecting with people. Her personality, knowledge of the game and strong desire to succeed is second to none."

Kelly Coleman added, "From the beginning of the season until now we are a completely different team. The wins will come, but as long as we can keep improving on the little things, then I think they will come sooner than later."

The team closes the regular season tonight (Friday, Feb. 17) at Hale Ray. Tip-off is 6 p.m.

Preschool Screening

Connecticut public schools are responsible for identifying children who are eligible to receive special education services. Valley View School will conduct a preschool screening Friday, Feb. 24, 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, children will meet with members of Valley View'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, the parent/caregiver will receive a letter stating your child's results. In order for your child to attend Valley Views 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 School at 860-342-3131.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., invites the community to celebrate each week.

Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is in session and held during the service. Children ages 4-12 are welcome to attend Church School.

All who are vaccinated may remove their masks. All who are not fully vaccinated are asked to wear their masks.

"Ashes to Go" is back. On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, will offer ashes from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. All are welcome. Simply drive up the driveway in front of the church and remain in your car. The Rev. Darryl Burke and an assistant will distribute the ashes and a blessing and then you will be on your way. COVID-19 precautions will be taken.

The church is open for prayer and meditation

on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., and there will also be a gathering in the church office at the same time, for Anglican Prayer beading. No prior beading experience is required. All are welcome.

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

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

East Catholic Honor Roll

Portland residents Ryan Farley and Delaney Poach earned Honors with Distinction on the East Catholic High School honor roll for the second marking period of the 2022-23 school year.

They are members of the Class of 2026.

Brownstone Quorum Annual Meeting

The Brownstone Quorum annual meeting will be held Monday, April 24, at 7 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room at Portland Library, 20 Free-stone Ave.

The meeting to elect officers and present awards will be followed by a presentation by David DeLucia, past president of the Ct. Cactus and Succulents society, on cacti and succulents in Connecticut.

The public is invited, and light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Soccer Club Spring Registration

PSC Spring Travel and Rec Division Registration is now open. Visit clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub for the registration site, or contact PSC President Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com.

Travel Details: Players with birth years from 2008-14. Registration deadline is Sunday, March 5. Cost is \$170. Practices are twice per week, with up to two weekend games against other towns. The season starts in early April and ends mid-June.

Rec Details: Players with birth years 2014-

19. Registration deadline is Sunday, April 16. Birth year determines division. Cost: pre-K is \$60, Dribblers and Kickers is \$75. Pre-K and Dribblers play on Saturday mornings only. Kickers play Saturday morning games and practice Wednesday evenings. All Rec activities are held at the Portland Rec Complex on Gospel Lane. The Rec season runs from April 22-June 10.

Note: late registrations are not guaranteed participation.

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



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Food Bank, Foodshare Truck

Portland Food Bank is located in the lower level of the Portland Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. The food bank is open Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon, except for holidays. The food bank will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, for Presidents Day.

To access the food bank's services, people are required to register with the food bank (copy of an ID and recent piece of mail or utility bill) and be a Portland resident. Donations are only taken during food bank hours. Call 860-342-6795 for

more information or for volunteer and donation opportunities.

The Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center every other Monday from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays. People using the Foodshare are required to form a line and everyone will have an opportunity to "shop" at the truck once it is set up. People do not have to be a Portland resident to attend the Foodshare, and they're asked to please bring bags.

Historical Society Annual Meeting

The Portland Historical Society will hold its annual meeting for election of officers and executive board members Saturday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m., in the Portland Public Library's Mary Flood Room.

After a brief update on society activities around town as well as at the museum on Main Street, restoration architect Alain Munkittrick will present a program related to his newly-released book *Historic Homes of the Connecticut River Valley* (published recently by Arcadia for its "Images of America" series). Munkittrick is an architect, architectural historian and advocate for historic preservation. In this book, he

curates historic photographs from the archives of local historical societies, museums, libraries, and private collections throughout the valley.

Also at the meeting, Munkittrick will update the society on the three historic houses being preserved at Brainerd Place.

Autographed copies of his book will be available for sale with a percentage going to support the mission of the Portland Historical Society. Several local residents and groups will be recognized for their role in helping to preserve Portland's history in 2022.

All are invited to attend this annual business meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

Brownstone Quorum Receives Support Grant

The Brownstone Quorum was recently awarded a \$5,400 Connecticut Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant from CT Humanities (CTH).

Connecticut Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants assist organizations as they recover from the pandemic and maintain and grow their ability to serve their community and the public.

This grant will allow the Brownstone Quorum to install interpretive signage to describe the significance and the history of the Portland Brownstone Quarries and the surrounding riverfront area to the thousands of visitors to the Brownstone Exploration Park and to the visitors to the Portland Riverfront Park.

The signage will supplement the commemo-

orative flagpole and bronze plaque designating the site as a National Historic Landmark. This will provide visitors with both a visual and a narrative on the Brownstone Quarries to explain their significance. Other signage will explain the history of Riverfront Park. The geography and history of the landform will also be displayed.

The Brownstone Quorum was one of 725 organizations in Connecticut receiving a Connecticut Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant. Totaling more than \$8.5 million, these grants are part of a two-year, \$30.7M investment in arts, humanities, and cultural nonprofits by the Connecticut General Assembly and approved by Governor Ned Lamont.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following events. Registration required for all programs unless noted. For more info, to register, and for full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org 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 Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, for Presidents Day.

Tax forms: The library has copies of 1040 and 1040-SR tax forms. Find a federal instruction booklet and a state tax form. You may also request printing of other forms and instructions.

Youth Programs: Winter Reading Challenge: Smitten with Mittens: Runs through Friday, March 3. This year's theme is inspired by Jan Brett's picture book version of the classic folk tale "The Mitten." Visit the library for a mitten to color and hang on the library bulletin board. Each time you check out materials in January and February (up to once per day), the library will add a new winter animal to your mitten. Once you've added all eight animals from the story, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize.

Drop-In Playdates: Thursdays through Feb. 23, at 10:30 a.m. Children ages birth to 5 and their caregivers are invited for an hour of socialization and open play with the story room toys. No registration is required.

Winter Storytimes: The schedule is: Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Feb. 28; Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose, Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. through March 1.

Minecraft Unplugged: Thursday, Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m. Grades 3-5 are invited for some *Minecraft*-themed offline games, crafts, challenges and more. Space is limited.

Readers' Theater: The Mitten: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1-2:30 p.m., for grades K-3. Everyone will be assigned a part and given a script when they arrive. Kids will then play some theater games and be ready to put on a performance for friends and family by 2 p.m. Space is limited.

Wildlife in Winter: Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m. Staff from the White Memorial Conservation Center will discuss a variety of ways that animals survive the winter, from staying active to migrating to hibernating. There will be a story, some props and even some local animal friends. Space is limited.

Adult Programs: Mitten Tree: Bring in mittens and gloves for children or adults to be distributed by the Portland Food Bank.

Book Discussions: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m. *The Stills* by Jess Montgomery will be discussed. **TAB - Talk About Books:** Tuesday, March 7, 1 p.m. *The Women's March* by Chiaverini will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. *The Miniaturist* by Burton will be discussed.

Black History Month Program: Summer of Soul: Thursday, Feb. 23, 1 p.m. This is the award-winning film about the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival.

Seed Library: Will soon be available for garden enthusiasts, whether beginner or seasoned. You will find free seeds available for your garden. Have some leftover seeds? Donations are welcome. For more information, call Jan Nocek at 860-342-6771.



Donated Glasses... Fifteen members of Portland Leo Club recently sorted and counted 267 eyeglasses (prescription, sunglasses, readers) to donate to the Lions Recycling Program. Pictured here is Leo Reese Nicol making the donation to Lion Jim Tripp. Hearing aids are also now being accepted, in buckets located at Town Hall, Owen's Emporium, Portland Library, Sarah's on Main, St. Mary Church and Portland High School. For more information on the Lions Club's hearing aid and eyeglasses recycling programs, call 860-301-7783.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation is offering the following. To register or for full program descriptions, visit portland.recdesk.com. For more information, call 860-342-6757 or email adionne@portlandct.org.

Adult Drop-In Programs: Tai Chi for Long Life: Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., and Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at Buck-Foreman Community Center. Drop-in fee is \$7 per session.

Volleyball: Wednesdays at Gildersleeve School. Non-competitive play is 5-6:30 p.m., and competitive play is 6:30-8 p.m.

Drop-In Basketball: Men play Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., at Portland Middle School, and women play Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m., also at the middle school.

Kids' Blast After School Program: Mondays-Fridays, 3-6 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School, for grades K-6. Cost to attend is \$18 a day. There are currently openings for January, purchase a Kids' Blast membership on the Parks and Rec. website, email adionne@portlandct.org or call 860-342-6757.

Boat America - Online Boating Safety Course: This eight-hour course is taught by

qualified members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and completion will give you the knowledge and a Completion Certificate needed to obtain a boater's license/certification in many states. There will be one course taught in March and one taught in April. March course dates: 3/21 and 3/22, 6:30-9 p.m., and 3/28, 6:30-9:30 p.m. April dates: 4/18 and 4/19, 6:30-9 p.m., and 4/25, 6:30-9:30 p.m. All classes held via Zoom. Cost: \$65 per course

Second Chance Babysitting Course: Thursday and Friday, March 9 and 10, 5-8 p.m., at BFCC. This is a six-hour first aid, CPR and AED course designed for babysitters. Fee: \$75/residents, \$85/non-residents.

Second Chance Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid Course: Saturday, March 25, 12:30-3:30 p.m., at BFCC. This is a course designed for the general public or lay rescuers whose job requires a first aid course completion card (such as restaurant workers, coaches, members of church organizations, or teachers). Fee: \$95/residents, \$105/non-residents.

Little League Registration

Portland Little League Registration for the spring season and winter clinics runs through March 1. There are baseball and softball programs offered for players ages 5 through 14.

Visit www.portlandlittleleague.com to register.

Dean's List

Portland resident Thomas S. Stoto made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Fairfield University in Fairfield.

United Methodist Church News

Portland United Methodist Church, located at 381 Main St., holds in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. All are invited. Masks required for those not fully vaccinated. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold.

A Fourth Sunday weekly Communion service at 1 p.m. replaces the regular 9 a.m. service on those Sundays.

Dean's List

Nathan Disalvo of Portland made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Disalvo is working toward a BSE in mechanical engineering.

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Hearty Highlander Breakfast

The Friends of Portland Music (Portland Secondary Schools Music Boosters) will sponsor the 11th annual Hearty Highlander Breakfast Saturday, March 4, at St. Mary Church Hall, located at 51 Freestone Ave., from 8-10:30 a.m. Snow date is Sunday, March 5.

The menu is: French toast, scrambled eggs,

sausage, home fries, and coffee/tea/milk/juice. Tickets are \$10 per person, and there is a limited number available. To order tickets or ask questions, email Tara Tabellione at pssmusicboosters@gmail.com.

Proceeds from the breakfast will help to provide music enrichment programs for the middle and high school students.

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 zionlutheran-portland.org.

Sunday School meets the first and third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m., following worship. Ages 3 to 16 are welcome.

Adult Bible study takes place on the second

and fourth Sunday of the month, following worship at 10:15 a.m. The focus is on season two of the television series *The Chosen*. Anyone may join at any time. Call the church for details.

The community is welcome to participate in any or all worship services and special events. For more information about any church activities, 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.

YFS News & Notes

Portland Youth & Family Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/youth-services, www.facebook.com/PortlandCTYouth or www.Instagram.com/PortlandCTYouth, or contact Jesse Revicki at jrevicki@portlandct.org or 860-342-6758. To receive email updates about YFS programs and events, sign up at eepurl.com/h5m35f.

Prevention & Wellness Council: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center (BFCC), 265 Main St. Help work as a community on youth substance use prevention, positive mental health, and making Portland a recovery-friendly community. Contact Revicki or just show up if you're interested in joining in.

Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night: Wednesday, March 1, 6-8 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. There will be games and snacks and other ways to have fun and just de-stress for a bit.

Youth & Adult Leadership Training: Tues-

day, March 7, 6-7:30 p.m., at a location to be determined. In this follow-up to the Youth Listening Circles, YFS will invite youth back, as well as anyone else interested in some leadership and development on culture, diversity, equality, and other issues facing the community. RSVPs encouraged; contact Revicki to sign up.

Afterschool Drop-In & Draw: Tuesday, March 14, from 2:30-4:30 p.m., at BFCC. This is a time for students to come after school and do some semi-structured art. Come when you want, and stay as long as you want.

Youth & Parent LGBTQ+ Support-Style Groups: Wednesday, March 15, from 6-8 p.m., at the Portland Library. There are separate groups for LGBTQ+ youth and parents of those youth, co-facilitated by Q+ and local volunteers.

Drop-In & Draw Meet-Up: Friday, March 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the BFCC.

Youth Services Advisory Board: Tuesday, March 21.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 1.

PHS Honor Roll

Principal Kathryn Lawson announces the Portland High School Honor Roll for the second marking term of the 2022-23 school year:

High Honors

Grade 12: Victoria Bailey, Rowan Bell, Beatrice Buzzi, Landry Carroll, Amelia Ciarleglio, Harrison Collins, Kayla Deckelman, Faith Doyle, Lauren Eckert, Ava Evison, Shannon Farley, Ryan Green, Kyle Guibord, Olivia Hungerford, Gregory Ives, Ryan Kerr, Anton Kiwimagi, Camille Kopacz, Lily Larson, Annette LeShane, Ginia Lin, Caymus Lopez, Leah Masal, Heather McDougall, Brandon McPhee, Sean Mearman, Mya Mogulnicki, Katharine Nedobity, Olivia Porter, Natalie Przeszrzeski, Mia Quesnel, Ashton Rambarose, Maureen Reyes, Spencer Rosado, Griffin Shafer, Madison Szymaszek, Emma Warshaw and Joseph Woszczyzna.

Grade 11: Sara Austin, Cooper Beck, Lillian Carroll, Gabriela DeLeon, Camryn DiMauro, Giovanni Discenza, Evan Guilmette, Kadir Hamidovic, Isaac Handel, Lincoln Hanks, Joshua Hanna, Erin Hunter, Abigail Keaveny, Sarah Kresser, Quinn Lapinski, Mason Lavalley, Philip LeShane, Sunny Lin, Rachel Mailhot, Ava Maselek, Abbey Pickel, Selena Shukis, Benjamin Sorrell, Morgan Sundell, Lillian Tabellione, Pierson Webster and Corinne Woszczyzna.

Grade 10: Frederick Bailey, Chloe Brennan, Elizabeth Bustamante, Keeleigh Christensen, Landon Currie, Ava Deckelman, Emily DeRing, Amelia Dietrichsen, Abigail Doncet, Emelia Eckert, Paige Fitzgibbons, Evangeline Graham, Nathan Green, Lillian Kagan, Alina Kroeber, Jack Larson, Abigail Leone, Raymond Lin,

Annabelle Maruschock, Cassidy Maruschock, Owen McGinley, Elizabeth Nedobity, Nicholas Oliva, Claire Palma, Aidan Peterson, Morganne Pineda, Avery Quesnel, Michael Rambarose, Gracie Roberts, Elliott Rowland, Ella Royea, Anna Stone, Madelyn Varano, Caitlin Walsh, Summer Wright and Maryn Yost.

Grade 9: Cayleb Alvarez-James, Joseph Angersola, Cristina Austin, Elizabeth Barr, Breckin Burke, Aiden Burrus, Hailey Bustamante, Maksim Connolly, Cole Coppolino, Brady Daggett, Gracie DeRing, Drey Farmer, Lillian Gaetani, Evelyn Hair, Gerry Hall, Toby Hunter, Logan Kehoe, Rita Lin, Cameron Lopez, Caleb MacKay, Ryan McGrew, Leana Mierzejewski, Cade Modon, Ryan Modon, Patrick O'Rourke, Evan Piacente, Logan Prince, Nathan Quesnel, Emelia Rowland, Kiley Scott, Cate Stone, Allison Tine, Mara Tuttle and Kai Vardon.

Honors

Grade 12: Sophie Binezewski, Skyla Brandenburg, Rachel Brown, Andrew DiMauro, Tyler Ives, Mckenzie LaMalfa, Nathalie Liranzo, Wynitch Michel, Gaspar Miranda-Ajpop, Angelina Steele, Mason Tuttle and Austin Vess.

Grade 11: Matthew Binezewski, Alexander Dawson, Noah Decker, Aaron DeYoung, Rocco DiMauro, Ariana Hettrick-Rivera, Ryan LaPila, Jamison Lasky, Benjamin McGrew, Meghan McPhee, Carson Nicol, Tyler Quinn, Alyssa Rose-Naud, McKayla Wilk and Jackson Williams.

Grade 10: LeeAnn Albert, Gabrielle Arnold, Matteo Brousseau, Laurel Carroll, Nija Chester-Payne, Lukas Day, Zachary Dickson, Kaitlyn Hickey, Kathryn Laverty, James Marquis, Ty Mazzotta, Gianna Phelps, Teagan Strycharz and Parker Thompson.

Grade 9: Evan Brown, Hayden Burke, Aaron Ciarleglio, Dylan Cohen, Jayden Dorsey, Leah Lamson, Jonah Lavalley, Spencer Masterson, Dzejla Medunjanin, Eunice Ngunjiri, Romeo Overton, Joshua Rosado and Ethan Wells.

Dean's List

Nathan Lavoy of Portland made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Maine at Orono.

Lavoy is a member of the UMaine Class of 2024 and is a 2020 graduate of Portland High School. He is a forestry science major with a concentration in parks, recreation and tourism.



Jackson Williams, a junior at Portland High School, received All-Pequot honors for his work on the football fields for the Cromwell/Portland Panthers. Williams was a stud lineman for a Panthers team that won nine of ten regular season games and advanced to the semifinals in the Class SS playoffs.

Class of '73 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1973 will celebrate its 50th reunion Friday, May 12, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Red Fox Restaurant in Middletown.

All 1973 graduates from Portland High School Class of '73 and their spouses, partners or significant others are invited to attend. The cost is \$65 per person, and includes a buffet dinner, music, memories and more. There will be a cash bar.

The reunion planning committee is still searching for contact information for several classmates. If you have not been contacted or know a classmate who has not yet been contacted and is interested in attending, please call or text Don Milardo at 508-259-5526 or Diane (Kollias) Bascom at 860-985-1861 for more information and/or to request an invitation.

Vocal Chords Awarding Scholarships

The executive board of the Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is offering college scholarships.

Scholarships will be awarded to students from Middlesex County pursuing a career in nursing or music who have been accepted at an accredited college or university. The review committee will consider academic records, extracurricular and community service activities, the student's ability to articulate his/her career

goals and the recommendations of references.

The \$1,000 scholarships will be paid directly to the recipients at the Spring Concert at Portland High School, Saturday, April 29, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School. Applications are available at the school guidance office or by calling Dianne at 860-344-0743. Deadline is Friday, March 24.

Visit vocalchords20.org for more information.

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.

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. Facial mask-wearing is optional, but encouraged. The building is accessible. The worship service is livestreamed as well as available for later viewing on the church's YouTube channel; search on YouTube for First Church of Portland CT.

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.

The church emails a weekly newsletter, *The Weekly Word*. To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org. Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

Exchange Club Seeks New Members

The Exchange Club of Portland is looking for new members.

The Exchange holds various events year-round that contribute towards area organizations in supporting the club's effort to helping others in need. The club also annually gives out the John Goodrich Scholarship to an area high school senior, and contributes to other local scholarship programs.

If interested in joining, visit www.portlandexchange.org for more information.

Motorcyclist at Fault in Crash that Killed Colchester Teen

By Shawn R. Dagle

The motorcyclist killed in a double-fatal crash last fall was to blame for the collision, Glastonbury police announced last week.

The crash – which also claimed the life of a 15-year-old Colchester girl – occurred Sept. 25 on Hebron Avenue near the Route 2 East on-ramp.

Following a “thorough investigation,” police determined that 18-year-old Glastonbury High School senior Gordon Southby, the motorcyclist, had “elevated blood alcohol content,” as well as THC in his system, at the time of the crash, and was “traveling at an excessive speed leading up to the collision,” according to a Feb. 8 press release from Glastonbury police Lt. Anthony Pagliughi.

Accident reconstructionists from the Glastonbury Police Department’s Traffic Unit and Connecticut State Police’s Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Squad investigated the crash. “The investigation determined several factors

contributed to the collision, all of which were attributed to Southby’s operation of the motorcycle,” said police.

On Sunday, Sept. 25, Southby’s motorcycle collided with an SUV on Hebron Avenue near the Route 2 on-ramp shortly before 7 p.m.

According to police, there were three occupants of the SUV, one of whom—15-year-old Andra Spencer, a student at Bacon Academy in Colchester—had obvious injuries and was transported to Hartford Hospital, where she was pronounced dead at midnight.

The other two occupants of the SUV, who had less serious injuries, were also transported to the hospital to be checked out.

Southby, who was also injured, was transported to Hartford Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

News of the crash and the death of two students hit the Glastonbury High School and Bacon Academy communities hard.

“It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that one of our students, Gordon ‘Mac’ Southby, passed away yesterday,” Glastonbury High School Principal Nancy Bean shared in a message to parents the day after the crash.

“Mac was very intelligent and charismatic and will be greatly missed,” Bean added. “We have Mac’s family and friends in our thoughts as they process this devastating loss.”

School counselors, psychologists and support staff were available in the days and weeks after the crash to help Glastonbury High School students cope with the loss.

Colchester Public Schools also made counselors available at Bacon Academy and William

J. Johnston Middle School for students who needed support.

The then-Superintendent of Colchester Schools T.Y. McDowell also provided parents with information about helping students process their grief in a home environment.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family as they endure this difficult time,” McDowell wrote parents following the crash. “As a community, we are committed to supporting our students who may be emotionally impacted by this tragic news.”

Shawn R. Dagle is a reporter for the *Riverast’s* sister publication *The Glastonbury Citizen*.

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 meets during the worship service.

Meetings: The church hosts several groups meeting weekly: 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.

Outreach: The church has a white wooden Blessings Box in the lower parking lot with non-perishable food items and other useful items. Anyone in need or who wishes to donate may stop by and take or leave a few items.

For more information, email westconchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

New Story at Colchester StoryWalk

Families can enjoy a new picture book, *Best in Snow* by April Pulley Sayre, at the Colchester StoryWalk. With photo illustrations, the award-winning author sheds light on the wonders of snow.

From the beauty of snow blanketing the forest and falling on animals’ fur and feathers to the fascinating winter water cycle, this nonfiction picture book celebrates snowfall and the science behind it.

The StoryWalk is located at 96 McDonald Rd. Children and their families can follow the trail of weatherproof stations along a short hiking trail. Each station features suggested ques-

tions or simple activities to enrich the story and hike.

Colchester’s StoryWalk® features books with nature, wildlife, and gardening themes that appeal to young children. New books are posted four times a year as weather permits. Copies of each story can be checked out at Cragin Memorial Library.

Colchester’s StoryWalk is a partnership project of the Cragin Memorial Library, C3—the Collaborative for Colchester’s Children, the Colchester Garden Club, the Colchester Land Trust, and the Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester.

Book and Bake Sale Coming

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library has announced the Book and Bake Sale will return to Cragin, located at 8 Linwood Ave.

The sale will begin Friday, March 3, from 4-7 p.m., with a pre-sale admission of \$5. The sale continues with no admission charge on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, March 5, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and March 6-8 during regular library hours. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are the \$5 special days – fill a

box or bag for only \$5.

There will be books, music, movies, puzzles and games. Baked goods will be individually wrapped for safety. All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends. These programs include, but are not limited to, Museum Passes, Adult Programs, Children’s Programs, Summer Reading Programs, and other materials to benefit patrons of The Cragin Memorial Library.

East Catholic Honor Roll

Colchester residents Matthew DiBenedetto, Ryan Curry and August Riccio all earned Honors with Distinction on the East Catholic High School honor roll for the second marking period of the 2022-23 school year.

DiBenedetto is a member of the Class of 2024, and Curry and Riccio are members of the Class of 2026.

Dean’s List

Dylan Graham of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Graham is working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.

Dean’s List

Colchester resident Brandon Kauffman made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Vendors Wanted

The Colchester Dog Park Committee is looking for vendors that sell-dog related items for its ninth annual “Spring Bark for the Park.”

The event will be held on the Town Green on Sunday, May 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and will feature May Baskets, a blessing of the dogs, and other canine entertainment. Vendor slots are available at \$40 per booth. No charge for nonprofit organizations.

Email tagnobark@gmail.com for more information.

Ladies Guild Offering Trip

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild is offering a travel opportunity in May. From May 10-12, people can head to Lancaster, Pa., for a variety of activities.

Travelers will see two shows: *Moses* at the Sight & Sound Theatre, and *Footloose* at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. There will also be a trip to Hershey, Pa., for a guided Hershey Town Tour. The last stop before heading home is a visit to the Wind Creek Bethlehem Casino for lunch on your own.

Cost is \$615/person double and \$745/person single, and includes transportation, two

shows, two nights’ hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners, sightseeing and admissions as per itinerary, and a tour guide and driver gratuity.

Deposits are being accepted. Deposit is \$150 and the check is made to Friendship Tours. Send deposits to Guardian Angels Parish, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415. Trip protection coverage is strongly recommended at the time of deposit.

For more information and reservations, contact Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179 or barbogzzo@gmail.com.

Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host Incoming Kindergarten Story Time sessions in March, April and May, for 4-and 5-year-old Colchester children who will be entering kindergarten during the 2023-24 school year.

During each of the three sessions, children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers, while parents learn about the registration process, the kindergarten curriculum, readiness

expectations, the school day, school policies and transportation. A question-and-answer period will be available at each session.

Sessions will be Tuesdays, March 14, April 4 and May 9, from 11:10-11:40 a.m., in the media center at CES, 315 Halls Hill Rd. Parents and children are invited to attend multiple story times. Topics for parent information change each month. No pre-registration is required.



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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 will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held dur-

ing 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 youth 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.

CCT Presents *Young Frankenstein*

Colchester Community Theatre will present *Young Frankenstein*, through special arrangements with Music Theatre International, on Friday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. Performances will be at the Bacon Academy auditorium, 611 Norwich Ave.

From the creators of the record-breaking Broadway sensation *The Producers*, in this musical comedy Mel Brooks adapts his classic 1974 film *Young Frankenstein* for the stage. The musical, which made its Broadway debut in 2007 and ran for a little over a year, features such numbers as "The Transylvania Mania", "He Vas My Boyfriend" and "Puttin' on the Ritz."

Ticket prices are \$18 for adults and \$14 for seniors (age 65+) and children (age 12 and under). Preferred seating tickets (a maximum of 60 each performance) are available for \$28

each. Preferred seating ticket-holders will be asked to arrive at least a half hour before performance times as entrance to obtain seats will be allowed before the general audience. Seating for the general audience will take place 20-30 minutes before the performance time.

To purchase tickets online (credit card only), go to www.showtix4u.com/events/1750. In-person ticket sales (cash and check only) will be available at Wagging Tails Pet Shop (95C Linwood Ave.) and Cabinet of Curiosities (228 Old Hartford Rd.), during regular business hours. Tickets will be available at the door on performance days, subject to availability. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. All ticket sales are final; no refunds or exchanges.

In case of inclement weather, visit the Colchester Community Theatre Facebook page or www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com for updates.

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trips – and reservations are due in March.

Reservations should be made in person at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave. Trips are available to senior center members and adult guests over the age of 18, and are on a first-come, first-served basis; space is limited. Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.

Spain & Portugal: Costa Del Sol to the Portuguese Riviera: Oct. 14-25. Taste some of the delicacies of this southern Spanish region. Includes 10 breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners. Cost is \$5,029 per person for double, if booked before March 15. You can come into the senior center to register in person or register online at gateway.gocollette.com/link/1102385.

Gorgeous Glass in Boston: Tuesday, April 18. Spend time at the Mapparium at the Mary

Baker Eddy Library. This huge glass globe shows the world's boundaries frozen in time circa 1935. Also have a three-course family style Italian lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy, and then see flowers made of Austrian blown glass during a guided tour of The Glass Flowers exhibit in the Harvard Museum of Natural History. Cost is \$130 per person. Sign up at the senior center by March 17.

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical at the Thomaston Opera House: Sunday, April 30. See a matinee of this musical about the true story of singer-songwriter Carole King's rise to fame. A pre-show lunch will be served at Black Rock Tavern, with a meal choice of chicken marsala, salmon or pork tenderloin. Cost is \$125/person. Sign up at the senior center by March 30.

CCO Starts Rehearsals Next Week

The Colchester Choir and Orchestra will begin rehearsals Thursday, Feb. 23, at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave. The spring concert will be Saturday, May 20, also at Bacon Academy.

All are invited to join the CCO. Seats are open in all sections, both choir and orchestra. The group plays everything from pops to classical. Choir rehearses in the choir room

from 6-7:30 p.m., and orchestra rehearses in the band room 7:30-9 p.m.; orchestra members should come at 7 p.m. to warm up.

To register – half-year registration is available – go to tinyurl.com/4ysam6sw. For more information, visit colchesterchoirorchestra.org; look for Colchester Choir and Orchestra on Facebook; or email colchesterchoirorchestra@gmail.com.

Upcoming Programs at Cragin

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following programs. For more information, call 860-537-5752 or visit www.colchesterct.gov/library.

Celebrating Black Inventors: Take and Make Crafts: Mondays in February, stop by the Children's Department to pick up craft kits that teach kids about Black inventors and their inventions.

Teen Gaming: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 3-4 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try a new game or play with friends on the Nintendo Switch.

Game Night: Thursday, Feb. 23, 6-7:30

p.m. Come by with your family (or a group of friends) to try out board games from the library's collection. Snacks and games provided.

Cragin Craft Swap: Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bring in unwanted craft supplies to the library by Thursday, Feb. 23, and then come for a Craft Swap, to pick up some new-to-you supplies.

Cragin Book Club: Monday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m., at the library. Ask at the Adult Circulation Desk for this month's book. For updates on the program, sign up at tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub.

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.

Weekly Schedule: Bible Study for Men: Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.; Bible Study for women: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Community Bible Study and Prayer: Wednes-

days at 7 p.m.; Fridays: Donuts with Don at 10 a.m. -- this is an open discussion: How does God fit in this thing called life?

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

Lions Offering Scholarships

The Colchester Lions invite all Colchester residents in their senior year of high school to apply for one of several scholarships.

Applications are welcome from all graduating students planning to attend any accredited college, university or trade school. It doesn't matter if students attend public, private, charter or magnet high schools, or if they are home-schooled. Applications are available through the Bacon Academy guidance office or at colchesterlions.org.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Bessette at elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com. Bacon Academy students should submit their application to the Bacon Academy guidance office. All other students should email their application to elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com or mail them to Colchester Lions Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415.

Applications must be received by Friday, March 10.

Parks and Rec News

Colchester Parks and Recreation, located at 127 Norwich Ave. (Town Hall), has announced the following items of interest. For more information or full descriptions, call 860-537-7297 or visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

Strategic Plan Survey: All are invited to take part in the Colchester Strategic Plan survey and be a part of future planning. Link to survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ColchesterCTStrategicPlan.

Card-Making Class: The third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., at Town Hall. Upcoming dates: 3/15, 4/19. Cost: \$15 per class, per person (\$20 for nonresidents). A minimum of two people is needed for this class.

Community CPR/AED/First Aid Classes: **Heartsaver CPR AED/First Aid:** This course trains participants to give CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED). Cost: \$90 per person. Next class date: Tuesday, March 21, 6 p.m. **Basic Life Support:** This course trains participants to promptly recognize several life-threatening emergencies, give high-quality chest compressions, deliver appropriate ventilations, and provide early use of an AED. Cost: \$90 per person. Next class date: Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Senior Yoga: Mondays through Feb. 27,

4:45-5:45 p.m., on Facebook Live, for ages 45 and up. Cost: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Gentle Yoga: See the Parks and Rec. website for dates and times. Cost: \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Summer Camp Staff: Adults and teens age 16 and up can fill out an employment application to work at Colchester's Summer Day Camp, which will start June 26. Applications are available online, and are due March 30. This is a paid position, and for employees with children, the child can participate in camp for free.

Summer Camp Teen Leaders: Open to Colchester residents ages 14 and older by the start of camp. This is a volunteer position. Applications are due March 15 and can be found online.

Events: Spring Clean-Up: Saturday, April 22, at 8 a.m., on the Town Green; rain date: April 29. Jobs include spreading mulch, raking, weeding, picking up garbage, and more. Locations include the schools, town buildings and parks. Meet up afterward at Mel's Downtown Ice Cream for a free ice cream as a 'thank you.'

Food Festival on the Town Green: Saturday, May 6; rain date is May 7. There will be vendors, games and food. Watch www.facebook.com/FOODIEAFF for more information.

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Future of Theater Group Uncertain

By Michael Sinkewicz

This weekend, the Colchester Community Theater celebrates its 25th full-length production with a presentation of *Young Frankenstein*, but the organization fears that it may be its last show.

For over 25 years, the CCT had a generous relationship with the town that involved fully sponsoring the organization. CCT President Diane Ozmun told the *Rivereast* last week that the sponsorship effectively made the group part of the town, not an independent program or a non-profit.

While the group is financially self-sustaining, she explained, the sponsorship allowed the CCT to utilize school facilities for shows and rehearsals and conduct a summer workshop each year for kids interested in learning about theatre.

Perhaps most importantly, the sponsorship allowed the CCT to be insured through the town. Last fall, however, the town informed the CCT that the group was no longer covered under the town insurance, a revelation Ozmun described as “devastating.”

“We were told as of right now, you are no longer insured under the town,” she said. “We were starting off behind the eight ball and we really felt like the rug was being pulled out from under us.”

Ozmun said the group purchased its own insurance ahead of this year’s production, which was already facing financial hurdles caused by the pandemic.

The CCT is not funded through the town and does not receive any taxpayer dollars, Ozmun said. Still, the sponsorship allowed the organization to function smoothly. Without town insurance, it’s unlikely that the CCT would remain sustainable.

“The town doesn’t give us financial support in terms of money, but having those other things in place — the insurance, the facilities, it’s all

encompassing in the full-sponsorship that we’ve had for all these years,” she said. “Our future is unknown.”

The group has been in contact with First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos and the Recreation Department to review potential options moving forward. Ozmun’s goal is to try and figure out a way to be entirely covered through the town.

“What can we do to make this be something that can continue to work where we can continue to be fully sponsored by the town?”

The progress with those discussions, she said, is “up in the air.”

This week, Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that the town, along with Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn, have been working with the insurance company.

“We have had multiple meetings with CCT and I’m 100% behind finding a solution to the insurance concern,” he stated. “There will be a conference with the town attorneys for further recommendations soon. In support of CCT, I will also be appearing in *Young Frankenstein* this week.”

Quinn stated that the insurance company reviewed the CCT’s program structure and determined that it “did not fit the requirements to be considered a part of the town.”

The department is looking at other options, including either a municipal or private arts commission and is reviewing how neighboring towns manage their own programs. Quinn didn’t have any further details on what a potential commission would entail or how it would be formed.

She said that insurance representatives have met with the CCT and Colchester Choir and Orchestra, as well as the Board of Selectmen, to explain the requirements of being sponsored through the town.

In a separate statement addressing the issue, forwarded by Quinn, she explained the require-

ments to be insured.

“To be covered by the town’s liability insurance, the event, program, or activity, including its employees, and volunteers, must operate under the direction, control, and management of the town,” she said. “It also has to be under the control and oversight of a town budget or account.”

The are two questions the company considers: “Who is directing, managing and controlling the event, program?” and “Does it fall under a town department’s own budget?”

In her statement, Quinn expressed that the town values the contributions of the CCT and the “countless volunteer hours, professional productions, and the incredible learning opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.”

“When the concern about insurance coverage was raised, we made it a priority to work collaboratively with all of the people involved to research solutions and options to make these organizations even stronger,” she said. “We are wholeheartedly committed to working together to finding these solutions.”

During a phone call this week, Quinn said that sometimes, insurance requirements evolve over time. She stated that during the review in the fall, the town was alerted that CCT was not currently covered by insurance, and had been operating under the belief that it was for a period of time. Once this was discovered, the town responded in order to avoid potential liability exposures.

One solution that may solve the CCT’s dilemma, would be receiving town funding. Bisbikos expressed that although the organization wouldn’t be sponsored, the town could add a municipal budget line to cover the CCT’s insurance expenses.

“If our insurance carrier provides us the green light, then absolutely,” he said.

For Ozmun, the sponsorship concerns “didn’t make sense.” The group didn’t have any serious accidents or injuries that would’ve raised concerns.

“For a town that is so family-oriented and has so much to offer – we’ve probably had thousands of kids over 25 years – to feel like our future is threatened is very upsetting and very disappointing,” she said.

The explanation, according to her, started and ended with the CCT being told they were longer insured. There wasn’t sufficient notice to allow for a solution to be determined before the full-length winter production.

“We were blindsided,” she said. “We were starting this whole production and we don’t want to put ourselves in a position where we don’t have coverage.”

Young Frankenstein will be presented and celebrated as a major milestone for the CCT. Once the production is wrapped, the next steps remain unclear.

“I think the hardest part is to feel like we’ve done this and just really having the rug pulled out from under us unknowingly, unexpectedly and without conversation,” Ozmun said. “We’re sort of backpedaling now to try and come up with a solution to hopefully be able to continue as a very active and very well supported by our audience organization, to be able to continue this magnificent community theatre that we have.”

Regardless of the exact details, Ozmun hopes the Board of Selectmen can help formulate a solution. If the CCT needs to take further action to “solidify” itself in the town records, the group will provide the necessary information and allow the town to oversee the program.

“The citizens of Colchester don’t know this,” she said. “They don’t know that we hang in the balance.”

The CCT will continue working with town officials to ensure that the group remains an invaluable resource that many residents have appreciated for years.

“In my mind, it doesn’t take a lot to create a level of communication,” Ozmun said. “It’s an awful position to be working to try and save something.”

Lions’ Breakfast Buffet

The Colchester Lions Breakfast Buffet will return to the St. Joseph’s Polish Society on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 7:30-11 a.m. This is a full breakfast with eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, home fries and pancakes, with juice, coffee, tea or water.

Pre-sale prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for children age 5-12, and free for kids 4 and under. At the door, prices are \$9 for

adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for children age 5-12, and free for kids 4 and under.

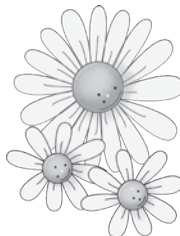
Tickets may be purchased in advance at Dime Bank, 139 S. Main St., or by calling 860-537-1093 and leaving a message for Julie.

Polish Dinner-Dance Feb. 19

The St. Joseph’s Polish Society at 395 South Main St. will host a Polish dinner-polka dance Sunday, Feb. 19. Dinner will be served from 1-2 p.m., and Dennis Polisky and The Maestro’s Men will perform from 2-6 p.m.

The Polish dinner includes pierogies, golumpki, kielbasa, kapusta, rye bread, and butter. Tickets are \$25 per person, and must be purchased in advance.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.



Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

Project Graduation Fundraiser

For the entire month of February, when you purchase a reusable Community Bag at the Big Y located at 7 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, \$1 will be donated to Bacon Academy Project Graduation.

The goal is to sell 200 bags.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project Graduation is to provide drug- and alcohol-free events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy. Direct donations are always welcome.

For more information, visit baconacademy-projectgrad.org or look for “Bacon Academy Project Graduation” on Facebook.

Local Photo Contest

Until March 15, the Edward Jones office of financial advisor Kevin Harris will accept photos from the town. Photos of nature, buildings, the town green, and whatever you think makes Colchester a beautiful town are all welcome.

A winner will be chosen from each age group (18 & under or 19 & over) and the winning photos will be displayed in the two front windows of the office.

All submissions should be sent to both Ashleigh.krom@edwardjones.com and Kevin.harris@edwardjones.com, and include name, phone number and age group. This information will only be used to let you know if your photo has been chosen; no sales calls.

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Flag Ceremony... At their January Pack meeting, Pack 109 scouts learned how to conduct a flag ceremony. Pictured are Bear Den members Delaney Berta with the American flag, Liam Raulerson with the Pack flag, Drew Martin behind the American flag, and Cubmaster Aaron Berta. Pack 109 is open to boys and girls ages 5 to 10 and is sponsored by the Westchester Church. For more information, email westconchurch@gmail.com.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2023-24 school year is now open at the Colchester Public Schools website, www.colchesterct.org.

Children who reside in Colchester and will be age 5 by Jan. 1, 2024, will be eligible to register for the full-day program. New registrations must be completed online.

To register, go to the website, select the "For Families" tab, and on the drop-down menu click on the tab for "Registration and Residency."

Town Seeks to Hire Two Additional Career Firefighters

The Colchester Hayward Fire Department (CHFD) is looking for two additional full-time, paid members.

According to the National Volunteer Fire Council, 65% of firefighters are volunteers. In 2010, CHFS reported having 110 volunteer personnel. However, by 2016, that number had dropped to 75.

The department currently has 25 volunteer firefighters who are able to actively engage in structural firefighting, and 31 EMS personnel who can respond to emergency medical calls on an ambulance. Their attendance to calls for service are dependent on their time availability, which varies from time of day, day of week, holidays, etc. Over the years the decline in volunteers through the lack of availability or time to the organization has continued.

"The volunteer fire service continues to see a decline in those who are willing to dedicate the time needed to maintain training requirements and respond to calls for service. Peoples' time is being swallowed up with life changes such as kids, work and growing costs of living," said Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann.

Meanwhile, as the number of volunteers continues to drop, the number of calls to the fire department continues to rise. In 2022, the fire department responded to 2,448 calls for service, which was a 10.4% increase from the year before. This is mainly driven by the increase in ambulance requests throughout the community.

"We have had days with 17 to 23 calls in one

Complete and submit the pre-enrollment form and then follow the necessary steps outlined on the website and in the email you receive from the central registrar.

A list of required documents can be found on the website.

Also, Kindergarten Family Orientation Night will be held Thursday, May 11, in the Colchester Elementary School cafeteria. Families are invited to meet the teachers and learn more about the school.

day, which really taxes our volunteers," said Hoffmann.

In October 2021, the increased call volume and decline in available volunteer response resulted in an immediate need to cover the weekends with career personnel. This resulted in an overtime budget of around \$205,000 in 2022. With the growing need to expand coverage on the weekends, the fire department attempted to hire per diem staffing to assist with that coverage. The fire department hired 10 per diem firefighter/EMTs, and now currently has one firefighter/EMT and one EMT only.

CHFD said there is a need to expand the career personnel by two. This would provide two firefighters on the weekends to assist with fire and EMS responses, and would assist in augmenting volunteer personnel who are not available or unable to respond to the growing number of emergency response in Colchester.

"The fire department recognizes the importance of our volunteers and this organization cannot succeed without them," Hoffman said. "Hiring two additional firefighters will not replace that, but help in lessening the burden on folks who provide this service in their spare time to their community."

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos is on board the initiative and will include this proposal in his budget presentation to the Board of Finance and the public on March 7. He said he is making this proposal his number one new initiative this budget season.

Dot Mrowka Scholarship Available

Applications for the annual memorial scholarship honoring the late Dorothy Mrowka, a Colchester woman remembered for her devotion and public service to her community, state and country, are currently being accepted.

The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Bacon Academy student who will pursue a career in political science or govern-

ment service. Applications are available in the Bacon counseling office and must be returned there no later than Friday, March 10.

Anyone interested in donating to the scholarship fund in memory of Mrowka may send a check written to Bacon Academy with "Dorothy Mrowka Scholarship" noted directly to the school at 611 Norwich Ave, attention Danielle Bossie.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday, Aggadatah class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom and in person; Wednesday classes, 2:30-4 p.m. – Hebrew Conversation, Jewish Literacy and Jewish Business Ethics on Zoom. Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., hybrid in-person and on Zoom; Shabbat morning ser-

vice, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page. Also on the page: "Ask the Rabbi" and the Positive Affirmation of the Day.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are: Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. For full descriptions, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or visit www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center.

Monday, Feb. 20: Senior center closed for Presidents Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Feb. 22: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1 p.m., Creative Life Review Journaling.

Thursday, Feb. 23: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 9:30 a.m., Strategic Planning; 10 a.m.,

Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Feb. 24: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide by appointment only; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Lunch Bunch; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Block-Printed Apron Craft Session: Tuesday, Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to come and design an apron using various textile stamps and fabric paint. Both floral and geometric stamps will be provided. Cost is \$10 includes an adult-sized canvas apron, use of stamps and paint. Space is limited; registration required.

Colchester Half Marathon Returns Feb. 25

The 31st running of the Colchester Half Marathon – a USATF-certified course (CT12001JHP) and a Hartford Track Club winter series race – will be Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m., at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.

There will be an "early" start at 9:30 a.m. for approximately 25 runners who will need more than three hours to complete the race.

This hilly 13.1-mile course will feature three water and Gatorade stations, professional computerized chip timing, mile signs, volunteers on every turn, and dirt roads, cows, and other rural scenery.

There will be pre- and post-race massages and a post-race carbo re-load party in the Bacon Academy cafeteria with food, non-alcoholic beverages, results, excuses, tales of woe, and camaraderie. Restrooms and showers will also be

available at Bacon.

Not a runner? Guests are welcome, especially if they can volunteer to help. For more information or to volunteer, email Rick Konon at rkon@sbcglobal.net or call him (between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.) at 860-537-4597. Need community service time? Also contact Konon.

Non-refundable entry fee is \$19; the day of the race, it is \$25. Race-day registration ends at 9:45 a.m.

Online registration is available until 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at tinyurl.com/vay2jh2p. People may also register by mail, until Monday, Feb. 20. Contact Konon for more information.

Offer to all runners: If the entry fee is too high, send Konon what you want, or run for free, and donate whatever you can or wish.

Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, starting Feb. 24 and continuing through and including Good Friday, April 7.

Meal choices include traditional fish and chips, baked fish with baked potato, the club's breaded clam strip dinner, as well as chicken nuggets for the kids. All meals include coleslaw, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$16 for adults and \$9 for kids.

Meals will be served from 6-8 p.m. Take-out is available by calling the club at 860-537-2593 after 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Youth Lacrosse Registration

Colchester Youth Lacrosse registration is open for boys and girls in grades K-8. Players from all towns are welcome, and can register at Colchesterlax.org. Registration closes April 11.

Lions Accepting Grant Applications

The Colchester Lions Club is now accepting applications for grant requests from community groups and organizations, in preparation for its annual Community Night of Giving in April.

Organizations should be prepared to demonstrate how the funds would be used to benefit the community. Applications can be found at colchesterlions.org, or may be obtained in writing: Colchester Lions Club, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415.

Completed applications must be submitted by March 15.

ButterBraid and Cake Roll Fundraiser

The St. Andrew Church Ladies Guild of Colchester is sponsoring a ButterBraid and Cake Roll fundraiser through March 21. All proceeds will fund the Guild's annual high school and college scholarships.

People may order online at tinyurl.com/mvty6xe4. Pickup will be Saturday, April 1, from 9-11 a.m., at the St. Andrew Parish Hall. For more information, call Kathleen at 860-917-7616.

Operation FairyTale

Do you have new or gently-worn formal, cocktail or evening gowns taking up space in your closet? If so, you're invited to donate them to Kidsignments' Operation FairyTale and help ladies in New London County just in time for prom season.

Dress donations can be made to Kidsignments' 51 Hayward Ave. location during normal business hours.

There will also be an Operation FairyTale dress event Friday, March 3, from 3-7 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Spring Baseball, Softball Registration

Registration for Colchester spring baseball and softball teams is at www.cbsl.org. Registration closes April 30.

Anyone interested in coaching should sign up for that volunteer role when registering a player. People can also volunteer for any of the different volunteer roles via the "volunteer opportunities" tab on the website as well.

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CYSS News & Notes

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information and full descriptions, call 860-537-7255 or email youthservices@colchesterct.gov. Register for programs online at www.colchesterct.gov/yss.

Guiding Lights: Tuesdays through March 28, at the Youth Center, 40 Norwich Ave. Seventh-graders meet from 2:15-4:30 p.m., and fifth-graders from 3:15-4:30 p.m. This is a free peer mentoring program that connects fifth-grade students with seventh-grade mentors on a one-to-one basis.

Girls Circle: Tuesdays through April 4, 3:15-4:30 p.m., for girls in grades 4-5. In this free program, girls will make new friends while using interactive games and guided activities.

Minds Over Matter: Thursdays through March 30, 2:15-4 p.m., for grades 6-8. This is a free group for middle school students to learn skills to reduce anxiety.

Skate & Play: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., for grades 6-10. Fee: \$40. Roller-skate (or rollerblade) at Ron-A-Roll and then we'll travel

to Nomad's Adventure Quest for laser tag, arcade, bumper cars, teacups, rock wall climbing and mini golf. Must wear socks and must bring bagged lunch (there is no option for buying food). Drop-off and pick-up are at the Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Urban Air: Friday, March 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., for grades 4-10. Fee: \$42. There will be virtual reality, ninja obstacle courses, laser tag, trampoline and more. Pizza and water included. Complete waiver prior to trip. Drop-off and pick-up are at the Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Youth Center Drop-In: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., for grades 6-8. This is a free program offering middle-schoolers a place to go after school. Kids can have a snack, play pool, air hockey, video games, basketball and more. There are also crafts, spaces to relax, and a reading/homework area. You do not need to pre-register to attend; students will receive instructions for online registration at their first visit, and they must be registered online to attend again.

President's List

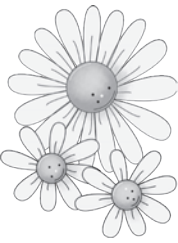
Morgan Darling of Colchester made the fall 2022 President's List at The State University of New York at Potsdam.

Dean's List

Hanna Behlke of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, N.Y.



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St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Thomas J. Sas, John McKaig is deacon emeritus and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone or email at stjohfisher30@yahoo.com.

COVID-19 Protocol: For the fully vaccinated, masks are not required. For the unvaccinated, masks continue to be encouraged. Call the office for more information.

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome.

Weekday Mass: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 4-4:45 p.m.

Confirmation Community: The church's active 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program continues. Registration is required as well.

Adult Worship Choir: Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information can be found 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 continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank continues to supply fresh produce each week and volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on such programs as adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit the church website at www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Dean's List

Marlborough resident Caroline M. Meyer made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Fairfield University in Fairfield.

Arts Center Exhibit at Town Hall

Marlborough Arts Center has a new exhibit at Town Hall. Featured is artwork by artists who are members of the center's board of directors.

There are watercolors by Audrey Carroll, acrylic paintings by Roy Wrenn, wire sculpture by Neal Alderman, mixed media and acrylic paintings by Laurie Gelston Alt, and watercolors by Mary Horrigan.

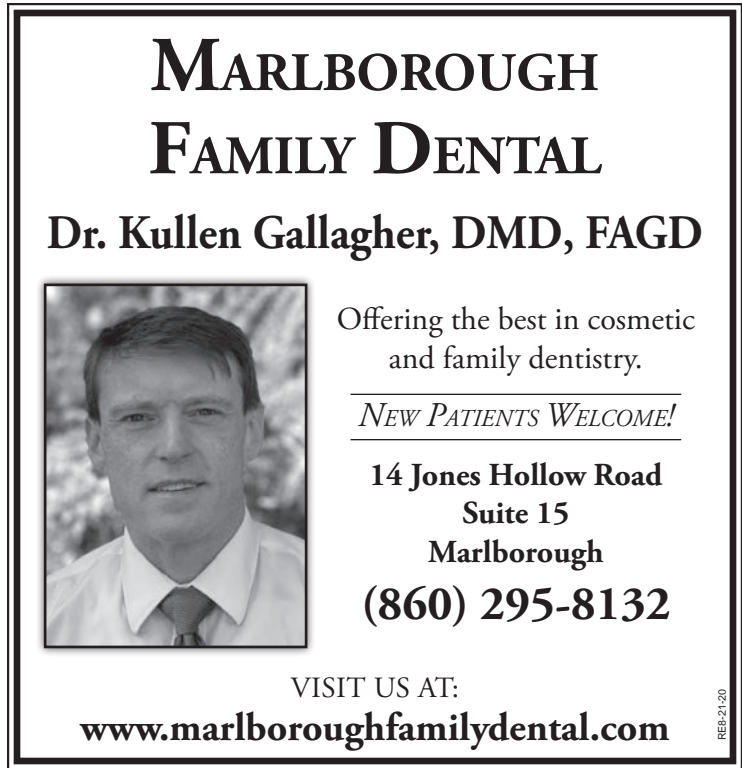
The exhibit is open to the public during business hours at Town Hall: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Fridays from 8 a.m.-noon.



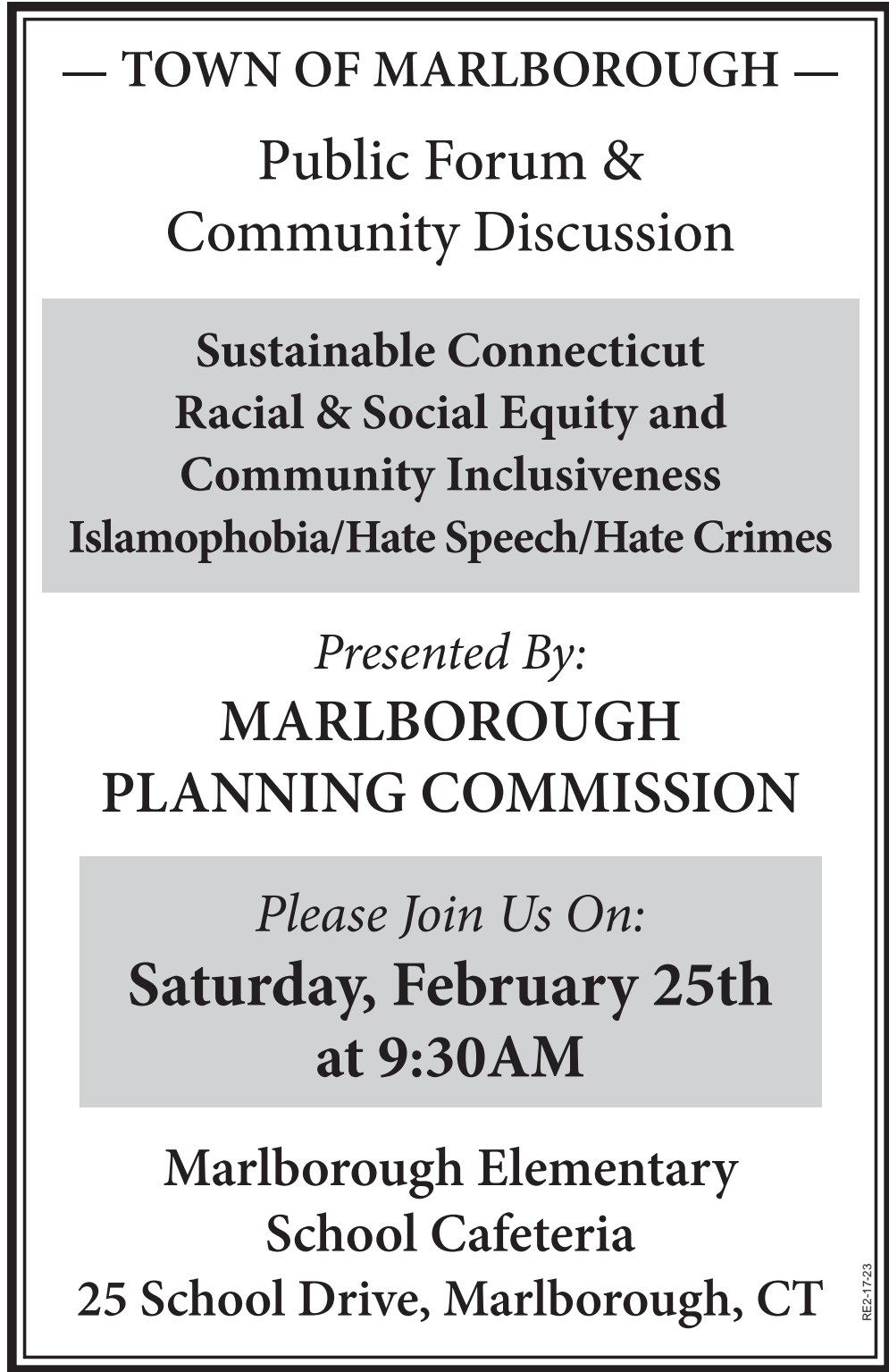
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BOS Bucks Public Vote, Settles Lawsuit

By Jack Lakowsky

Though residents voted ‘no’ to doing so on Feb. 1, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen last week decided to pay almost \$250,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by an employee, a conflict stretching back to the 2010s.

The vote was close, with 52 casting “yes” and 59 saying “no.” At the vote, selectman Greg Lowrey urged voters to approve the appropriation.

The board held a 2-plus hour private meeting Feb. 7 where it voted to settle the suit anyway.

“While the Board of Selectmen acknowledges that the request for a special appropriation failed at the public Town Meeting [the board] has voted to move forward to settle the federal employment litigation matter,” officials posted to Facebook.

The board said it hopes to find alternate ways of paying, including in installments over “multiple fiscal years.”

The decision, the board said, “is not an admission of wrongdoing but is a responsible business decision made in partnership with our insurer to mitigate possible further financial risk to the town.”

The charter “empowers [the BOS] to compromise legal claims.”

The board voted last Friday to spend the \$240,000 over the next two budget years, paying \$110,000 this year and another \$127,500 next year. Interim selectboard chair Deb Bourbeau, and members Joe Asklar and Greg Lowrey approved the plan, while Democrat Betty O’Brien opposed, according to meeting minutes.

The move does potentially shield the town from extra costs related to the suit. In a Feb. 1 Board of Finance meeting, town lawyer Glen Duhl said if the town went to trial and lost, the cost could be unknown, and wouldn’t be covered by insurance.

According to minutes of the same meeting the town does not know how much it has spent on legal fees in the past few years.

One town official who requested anonymity said the town is forced to putting money to legal costs and not town projects like the library renovation, which in a split vote selectpersons let die, and as a result, the town lost a state grant.

Kerri Barella, a member of the Marlborough school board, said on Facebook the decision was “infuriating, exhausting and disgusting.”

“Talk about transparency, and true representation of their constituents,” she wrote. “Why bother wasting everyone’s time and having a town meeting?”

In a closed-door January meeting the Marlborough Board of Selectmen gave interim town manager Amy Traversa permission to pay \$250,000 to settle a lawsuit a former employee brought against the town.

The settlement was advised by legal counsel.

The employee, former public works employee James Foley, sued the town a few years ago for violating the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), naming the town and Traversa, who was first selectman at the time of Foley’s employment, as defendants.

Starting in 1996 Foley was a town employee as a maintainer and snowplow driver, as well as several other roles.

The lawsuit reads that several times, in 2009, 2017 and 2019, Foley was suspended from work for what the town and Traversa called the result of “failure to timely [sic] request leave from work or provide appropriate notice of a need for leave and unauthorized absence from work...”

Court documents read that in 2017, Foley emailed a request for leave under the FMLA, attached to which was a doctor’s note, asking Foley to be excused from work due to “significant difficulty with tinnitus.”

Traversa emailed Foley back saying his request needed more details, sending Foley a U.S. labor department form for Foley to fill out.

Soon after, court documents show, Foley filled out the form, with further information from his physician saying Foley was “unable to perform” his duties “due to the condition”. The letter asked Foley get a leave of absence and, upon returning, work a lighter schedule to care for his condition. Tinnitus makes it difficult for him to hear and sleep, court documents read. The doctor said Foley needed to avoid long-term noise exposure.

Once again, Traversa resisted.

In a letter to Foley’s doctor Traversa said the responses did not “provide enough specificity to allow [the town] to make determination on how to proceed with Mr. Foley’s request for intermittent medical leave under the FMLA.”

Traversa pressed for more information “regarding the likely frequency and duration of Mr. Foley’s inability to perform [his job]”.

Then, after receiving even more information, the town denied Foley’s request for leave, saying his “current condition does not satisfy the criteria set forth under the FMLA...”. Traversa said Foley was given OSHA-safe ear protection, a claim Foley denied.

In July 2017, Traversa and the town got a letter from Foley’s doctor again requesting Foley be excused due to this tinnitus, and that he needed time off.

Traversa sent the doctor another letter asking for a certification form. Throughout August 2017 Traversa and the doctor communicated, agreeing to Foley’s reduced work capacity. Traversa wrote Foley a letter asking a slew of questions, including the doctor’s basis for the

diagnosis, or if other things could be causing Foley’s issues because, Traversa said, OSHA standards had been met.

The doctor suggested Foley work duties other than the snowplow, the noise of which was the main cause of his discomfort.

The doctor completed the form, saying during a flare-up, Foley would be unable to work.

Traversa replied saying the town still needed more information on what specific duties Foley couldn’t perform because of his condition, that the letter must “specify what functions of the employee’s position the employee is unable to perform so the employer can determine whether the employee is unable to perform one or more essential functions of the employee’s position.”

Traversa also demanded “clarification on whether [the doctor] concluded that Mr. Foley’s stress and sleep deprivation are chronic serious health conditions as defined in federal regulations.” The doctor replied that while Foley’s issues aren’t “serious health conditions”, they do cause significant problems.

Once again, the doctor said the only job Foley can’t perform regularly was snowplowing, though in flare-up he may need to leave work, seek medical attention.

Then, Traversa again denied Foley’s request, saying it did not meet “eligibility requirements for leave under the FMLA. Traversa noted the doctor defining Foley condition as “not serious health conditions under the FMLA.”

Traversa said the doctor was “repeating what Mr. Foley told him,” and not giving a “medical opinion.” She again said the request wasn’t specific enough. She said Foley was expected to report to work unless using his sick time.

Then, in March 2018, Foley requested FMLA leave to care for his mother, who had cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy.

Traversa replied asking for more information, then eventually granted this request under the condition Foley “did not currently require time off to care for his mother.”

Sending another email, Traversa told Foley he needed to provide 30 days’ notice before taking intermittent leave, noting Foley was absent April 12, not providing timely notice. She told Foley to provide all foreseeable medical appointments to his supervisor, and that Foley needed to tell his supervisor why he was leaving, each time.

On May 3, after Foley had a follow-up about his tinnitus, Traversa said he had taken excess time off but would not be penalized because of a supervisor error.

“Ms. Traversa also informed Mr. Foley that he had exhausted all paid leave aside from ten hours of sick time that he would be allotted each month.”

Any unexcused time off would be “subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of [his] employment.”

Court documents read the parties disagreed on the days Foley took off, and on the hours, he used to care for his mother.

In May 2018, Foley took five days of funeral leave after his mother passed. Documents read the parties disagree on whether Foley’s “union contract allowed for three days of funeral leave or five days.”

That summer Foley was prescribed a medication that prevented him from operating town trucks. He requested worker’s compensation. Traversa told Foley his claim “has been, and still remains, denied.”

On Aug. 7, 2018, Foley was absent for treatment. Traversa emailed his union rep saying his remaining sick time did not cover his 8-hour shift, and that she was investigating whether to discipline Foley.

Yet another doctor wrote a note describing Foley’s condition, and again Traversa asked for more details, warning Foley that if he did not fill out the necessary forms and provide the needed information, she “would have no choice but to further delay or deny” the request.

Throughout their correspondences Foley noted long delays in Traversa’s replies, up to a week.

In September that same year Traversa told Foley he was being considered for punishment because of “unexcused absences.” Foley said the town was notified, a claim he and the town disagreed on. Foley submitted more medical information, which the town denied was properly completed.

Just days later Traversa told Foley he was being suspended without pay for four days because of the absences.

On Sept. 11, 2018, Foley filed a complaint with the state Department of Labor. The next day Traversa gave Foley “provisional permission,” saying the town was “exercising its right to obtain a second medical opinion at its own expense.”

In February 2019, after some more back and forth, Traversa told Foley he had exhausted all his FMLA time and more absences would lead to discipline, including firing.

“On March 8, 2019, Ms. Traversa sent Mr. Foley a termination letter which stated that he had” used all his FMLA time and had kept taking time despite not being allowed to, court documents read.

The court noted Foley did have unexcused absences going back to before his FMLA issue, and that the town’s reasoning for firing Foley after he’d been informed that he’d used up his time was “valid” and “nondiscriminatory,” agreeing with the town there’s no way to add FMLA time. The court did say a few of Foley’s FMLA requests were not valid based on his doctor’s own information.

However, the court deferred this issue to a jury.

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New Local Party Seeks Members, Input

By Jack Lakowsky

Describing itself as dedicated to “honest, open, nonpartisan problem-solving” in Marlborough, the nascent Independent Party of Marlborough is taking steps to grow and get members on local boards and commissions.

The party, currently formally known as the Independent Party Slate Committee of Marlborough until it becomes official, will put a focus on “those who wish to selflessly serve our community.”

Many of the new party’s founding members are former members of the Marlborough Republican Town Committee. The former members split with the local Republicans last November, citing an “exhausting” lack of compromise with other leading party members.

To get their priorities together, the Independents have put out a survey asking about town needs, said party slate committee chair Sue Stolfi, a member of the Marlborough Elementary School and RHAM school boards.

“In order to be responsive to the needs of our community it is essential to first know what issues are most important to our neighbors,” the party said in a release.

This link will be active starting today, Feb.

17, and will close Friday, March 10. Results will be available on the Independent Party Slate Committee of Marlborough’s Facebook page, and at marliparty.com.

The party’s Facebook page has posts implying its bipartisanship, describing itself as an “alternative” to left-right polarities.

“The Independent Slate Committee is all about compromising which will allow us to meet in the middle by eliminating the far left and far right political beliefs,” the party stated. “The concept of compromising is key to success when working together on a team, especially since at our core, we share the same values.”

“The Independent Party is open to all electors without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, gender, or religious beliefs,” the party continued. “We welcome the participation by any and all Connecticut residents who desire to join the Independent Party and participate in its goals and objectives.”

The party also committed to transparency. The town government, whether under the leadership of former first selectman Greg Lowrey or current Interim Town Manager Amy Traversa, a Democrat temporarily serving the nonpartisan

role, has been criticized as opaque. In an interview unrelated to this story, Traversa said the new party is made up of staunch conservatives.

Jack Fidler, chair of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee Jack Fidler said the new layout, possibly with three competitive parties, could be “interesting for local elections.”

He said more candidates makes for a more robust democratic process.

Fidler is confident in his slate for the November elections.

“We have lots of strong options,” Fidler said. “That will keep us competitive no matter the landscape of the parties.” Indeed, if the new party draws voters from Republicans, it could potentially benefit local Democrats, who took the Board of Selectmen majority last election. Local Republicans endorsed Ken Hjulstrom, and another local Republican, Louise Concodello, ran as a petition candidate. Neither won. Hjulstrom was among those who split with the RTC.

Fidler also serves on the local finance board

and was speaking as an individual.

Marlborough Republican Town Committee Chair Pat Pabouet, seated after the Independent members split from the local Republicans after a disagreement over the internal election on the Board of Education chair, which once again went to Democrat Wes Skorski.

Pabouet said he was confident in his party’s continued local success.

“This won’t affect things too much,” he said. “Marlborough is still a Republican town.”

He said he “welcomes the challenge,” and that when it comes to local politics, “the more the merrier.”

“Maybe they’ll appeal to some more people and they’ll get involved in town,” he said. “That’s what we need.”

Contact Independent Party Slate Committee Chairman Sue Stolfi at 860-593-4763 to discuss specific openings on the November ballot, and for other information.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday worship services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St., are at 10 a.m. Worship is and is broadcast live every Sunday and recorded for later viewing at mcc.cong-church.org.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

Feb. 19: Worship will be led by Christian Education/Junior Youth Director Gwen Lawson.

Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 22 will be in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. The service will include Holy Communion and the receiving of ashes.

Outreach: The church supports a variety of mission projects. First-quarter mission giving will go to Marlborough Food Bank. The church collects non-perishable food items year-round

for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations.

AA meets downstairs in the Great Hall Wednesdays with two meetings, one at noon and another at 7:30 p.m.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is open for selling and donations Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop also sells items 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 the church office at 860-295-9050 or pastor the Rev. Val Seaver’s direct line at 860-295-0432.

4th Friday @ the Arts Café

The Marlborough Arts Center is hosting the musical group Eclectica for the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café on Friday, Feb. 24, at the arts center, 231 N. Main St.

Eclectica performs original arrangements of music from the Middle Ages to the present day, on an eclectic variety of instruments including recorders, harp, violin, viola da gamba, hammered dulcimer, and others. Each program features historical commentary about the music. The professional wom-

en musicians of Eclectica are Kasha Breau, Carrie Crompton, Monika Kinstler and Deborah Robin. To learn more, visit the Arts Center’s webpage at Marlborougharts.org, or look for Eclectica on Facebook.

Admission is \$10/person at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. BYOWine. There is on-site parking, and the building is handicapped-accessible. Masks are recommended but not required.

Pre-Kindergarten Screening Information

All public school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The Early Childhood team at Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for current resident children interested in the pre-kindergarten screening for the 2023-24 school year.

If you are interested in your child participating in this process, eligible children must be at

least 3 years old by Sept. 1 and parents/guardians must complete and return a questionnaire no later than Thursday, March 23. Note: children identified as kindergarten eligible (those turning 5 by Dec. 31, 2023) are not eligible for the PreK program for the upcoming school year.

Contact Marcy Spellman at 860-295-6236 or mspellman@marlborough.k12.ct.us to receive a screening questionnaire or for more information regarding the program.

Spring Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

Local artist Mary Horrigan will offer adult watercolor classes at the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., Tuesdays and Thursdays starting March 2 and running through April 11. Classes will run from 10 a.m.-noon.

Tuesdays’ lessons are designed for “Basic Beginners,” and will run March 7-April 11. This class will cover the basics: brush-handling, laying a wash, making simple shapes, controlling values, mixing colors. Subject matter will include still life objects and landscape elements.

Thursdays’ lessons are designed for students with some basic experience in watercolor, and will run March 2-April 6. This class assumes

knowledge of the basics, and will concentrate on composition, color theory, working from photos and still life setups.

Material lists will be sent once the class is confirmed with enough students registered.

Cost for the class is \$120. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.marlborougharts.org, and a check mailed to The Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447.

For more information, contact Horrigan at mehorrigan@comcast.net or leave a voicemail message at the Arts Center at 860-467-6353.



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Residents Sought to Serve

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is seeking residents who are interested in serving on the town's various boards and commissions.

While applications are accepted at any time for all boards and commissions, the selectmen are providing notice and encouraging residents to apply to fill current vacancies on the following boards and commissions:

Economic Development Commission (two alternates); Conservation Commission (alternate); Water Pollution Control Authority (two alternates); and Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission (alternate).

Those interested in applying can complete

the application form at marlboroughct.net; the link for the form is at the bottom of the page on the left-hand side.

In accordance with the town charter, and based on the current composition of the various boards and commissions, party affiliation or other qualifications may or may not be considered when appointments are made. People who are unaffiliated and those who belong to minor parties, as well as Democrats and Republicans, to apply.

Residents are welcome to attend any of the public board and commission meetings to learn more.

Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has announced the following programs and events. For more information or to register, call 860-295-6210 or email richmond-programs@gmail.com.

Books for Babies: Town families with children ages birth up to 12 months are invited to stop into the library to pick up a Books for Babies Box and register for your baby's first library card. Advance registration is required and can be done online. At least one parent must have a library card but that can be done at the same time.

Pampered Chef Fundraiser: The virtual fundraiser runs from Friday, Feb. 24, through Wednesday, March 1. For more information, follow the library's Facebook page. A catalog will also be available at the circulation desk for those who do not have Facebook accounts.

Babytime: Fridays at 10 a.m., for ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. This is a baby-centered storytime with songs, rhymes, lap bouncers and a story. Registration is recommended but drop-ins are welcome if space allows.

Digital Microscope Kit: Did you know the library has four digital microscope kits that can be checked out for a three-week loan period? Each kit contains one pluggable USB 2.0 digital

microscope with a versatile observation stand and two sets of 25 prepared microscope slides. These kits have been donated in memory of Audrey Skorski.

Zoom Storytime: Mondays at 10 a.m. through April 3 (no storytime Feb. 20), for children ages 2-5. Register online.

Family Fun Night: Let's Celebrate: It's time to break out the sprinkles, frosting, and candy bits—we're decorating cookies on Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m., for families with children ages 3-15. Let's decorate some cookies! Registration is not required.

Lego Club: Ages 4 and up are invited to come for STEM-based challenges involving Legos. Registration is recommended but not required. Lego Club meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m., with future dates being: Feb. 21, and March 7 and 21.

Kids Crafting Club: Meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m. Future dates: Feb. 28, and March 14 and 28. Registration required.

Tween and Teen Crafters Club: Fridays at 4 p.m. through March 31, for ages 10 and up. Bring a craft project you're working on; there will also be projects available to make. Registration is recommended but not required.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

CPR Certification: Saturday, Feb. 25, 9-11 a.m. What is covered: Adult, child and infant CPR, foreign-body airway obstruction, and automated external defibrillator (AED) usage. Cost is \$87/residents, \$92/non-residents.

Youth Program: Acrylic Landscape Painting: Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., March 8-29, at Marlborough Elementary School, for grades 3-6. Students can bring a photo of a landscape or choose from a collection. All materials are provided. Students are encouraged to bring a snack. Fee is \$90 for residents/\$95 for non-residents.

Adult Programs: Zumba: Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at MES. Fee is \$10 per week to drop in.

Adult Drop-In Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10

p.m., at MES. Fee is \$5 per week to drop in. Session runs through June.

Adult Drop-In Basketball: Sundays, 8-10 a.m., at MES, for ages 18 and up. Fee: \$5 per week. Session runs through March.

Trip: UConn Huskies vs. St. John Red Storm (Men's Basketball): Saturday, Feb. 25, noon. Trip includes charter bus to Madison Square Garden, tickets to the game and free time in New York. Fee is \$109 for baseline seats or \$140 for sideline seats. Bus leaves from Glastonbury Park and Ride.

New York Knicks vs. Boston Celtics: Sunday, March 5, at the TD Garden. Trip includes charter bus, tickets to the game (balcony) and free time in Boston. Registration fee is \$170. Bus leaves from Glastonbury park and ride.

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

Holiday Closing

The offices of Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center and Public Works Department will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.

East Catholic Honor Roll

The following Marlborough students made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the second marking period of the 2022-23 school year:

Honors with Distinction: Emma Kindl, Class of 2023; Christopher Richard, '24; Luke Veltri, '24; Grace Veltri, '25; Kamden Bevans, '26; Lucy DeCorleto, '26.

First Honors: Andrew DeCorleto, '23.

Kindergarten Registration

Marlborough Elementary School will accept registration packets for kindergarten students for the 2023-24 school year on Wednesday, March 15, from 9-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.; and Thursday, March 16, from 9-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. All completed kindergarten packets should be dropped off at the school's main office located at 25 School Drive.

Children are eligible for kindergarten if they will be 5 years old by Jan. 1, 2024. Registration packets have been sent home to prospective kindergarteners. If you have an eligible child and have not received a registration packet, call the school office at 860-295-6220.

If you receive a registration packet and do not plan to enroll your child, you are asked to call the school as soon as possible.



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School Board Adopts Small Budget Increase

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week the Marlborough Board of Education adopted the proposed budget of Marlborough Elementary School Superintendent Holly Hageman, sending the requested \$8.5 million budget further along in the lengthy approval process, which will ultimately end up in voters' hands.

The requested increase is under 1%, at about .7%, up about 65 grand from the current spending plan. The school is seeing a decent uptick in its operating costs – about 5% - but a reduction in capital expenses helped offset the spike. About half that 5% figure is from new staff like armed security.

The board unanimously adopted the budget at its Feb. 9 special meeting with very little deliberation.

In a way this budget was long debated before an official proposal was made, with the community and the town having lengthy discussions about bringing on armed security to MES, known as SRO or school resource officers. The budget also hopes to bring on a facilities, technology, security and transportation director, at a cost of about \$140,000.

Previously Hageman and the board have discussed how MES principal and vice principal Dan White and Kim Kelley became the school's de facto maintenance team, using time they could put into school administration, staff development, or any of the other important jobs a schools leaders must do.

The budget also looks to start a long-term capital plan. Before Hageman took over MES had no long-term plan for its facilities, which many school districts use. The budget hopes to fund an architectural study to get this off the ground, informing a long-term plan.

The budget replaces five problem doors. For two decades, according to local Fire Marshal

Joe Asklar, these doors haven't met fire code.

"This has to be done," Asklar told the board in August. "No exceptions."

The five problem doors are too heavy, Asklar said. The issue doesn't occur a good part of the school year; the doors swell with heat in the warm months and stick but are fine in the winter.

Hageman said the budget commits to class size guidelines, supporting programs that show "demonstrable results," supporting the "branding" of Marlborough Elementary School, considering new programs after studies and resident input, look to other high-performing schools to guide decisions, and aims for fiscal responsibility, collaboration with the finance and select boards, and to seek alternate funds through outside sources.

MES will continue seeking to share services with the town, which the town has met coolly in the past, and with RHAM.

A notable request in Hageman's document is for more staff, namely, two full time positions for operations like security, transportation and facilities and the newly approved armed school resource officer (SRO), which the school board and town agreed to bring on in the wake of the mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

In public meetings, last year dozens of Marlborough residents showed up to make their voices heard on the matter, the vast majority highly supportive of bringing an armed guard to the elementary school. The two new position proposals make up about 2% of the 5% operations cost increase.

Last year the Board of Selectmen agreed to cover just 10% of the cost of the SRO.

"Without these necessary additions, the budget would have been closer to a 3% increase, on

par with recent annual budgets, largely driven by salaries, benefits, and contractual obligations," Hageman wrote, going on to described the armed guard as a "proactive and preventative deterrent to potential acts of criminal behavior and a direct liaison to law enforcement and emergency personnel."

The active-duty constable assigned by the town to MES is meant to be a "role model and resource for students, and an asset for instruction on topics deemed pertinent and appropriate" by MES administrators.

The proposed combining the positions of facilities director and director, which would oversee security and other systems, as well as develop a long-term capital plan, as well as an annual plan.

Getting an SRO was not easy path for MES, with shuffling at the selectboard sending more of the cost burden to the school.

The selectboard in a 3-1 vote earlier this month said the town would pay for 10% of the guard's cost, with the vast majority on the school's tab. In December the selectboard also sought to have more control over the guard selection process.

Discussing the selectboard's influence, school board member Sue Stolfi asked what would happen if the school board voted against the proposed agreement with the town.

Hageman said then the school simply wouldn't get the guard.

"There isn't room for negotiation," said Hageman, explaining that because the town feels "many, many" parents voiced support for adding an armed guard to MES grounds, they'll also support the necessary jump in Marlborough Elementary School's upcoming 2023-24 budget.

Hageman said she'll say clearly the guard is a major driver in any increase. In the end, "the budget still has to pass with voters," said Hageman.

The town's plan – which is technically cost-sharing – is something of an outlier, according

to information Hageman provided.

Reading a survey the state conducted, Hageman learned in a sample of around 60 school districts, a majority of school guards are funded by their towns, with 12 funded totally by the district itself and fewer than five splitting the cost.

Selectman Betty O'Brien, who originally wanted the school to pay the whole bill, said if those 12 are doing it "then it must be working out really well, I assume." O'Brien said she wanted the school to pay because the town has significant incoming costs.

O'Brien said, "I really believe the people will pass your [the school board's] budget." O'Brien also said she would like to send the question to the Board of Finance and "let them move things around" if they wanted, an idea Bourbeau quickly iced.

Selectperson Joe Asklar advocated for a 50/50 split with the school, saying public safety is very much a duty of the town's, and that the cost will come out of taxpayer pockets regardless of where the item's listed; he said the board was "debating a null point."

Other budget priorities include retaining and recruit highly skilled staff and keeping school tech up to date.

Hageman provided a timeline of the budget's development. The board will continue its talks until early- mid February, when it will likely adopt Hageman's budget as its own. Then in March, the school board will send the document to the finance board, which will make its own cuts and/or additions, then in April moving to public discussion before a final vote on May 2.

President's List

Emma Heslin of Marlborough made the fall 2022 President's List at Western Connecticut State University.

Heslin is working toward a BSBA in general business.

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.

Monday, Feb. 20: The center is closed for Presidents Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 21: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Lunch, noon. Menu: meatloaf with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, wholegrain white bread, fresh fruit.

Wednesday, Feb. 22: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: shrimp scampi, seasoned pasta, steamed broccoli, fruited yogurt cup; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23: AARP Tax Aide, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Quilling, 9:30 a.m.-noon (The Paper Art); 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance,

10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: omelet with cheese sauce, Lyonnaise potatoes, California vegetables, wheat dinner roll, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

Transportation: Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and non-medical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required. Masks are also required, as well as appropriate distancing.

Food Bank: Located at 3 Willhenger Drive (860-295-6008), the food bank 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. Transportation for seniors and/or physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center if you need a ride.

Weather-Related Closings/Late Openings: In instances of inclement weather, tune to WFSB-TV 3 or NBC Connecticut for the latest.

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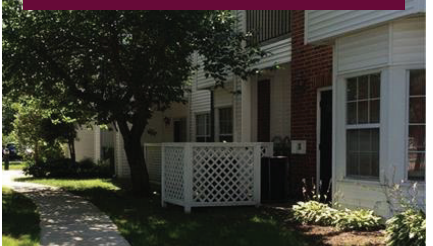
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★ **Police Called to Meeting, cont. from page 1**

In September, the RTC passed a vote of no-confidence in Bisbikos, a serious admonishment from his own party.

After the vote, Rudko released a statement that the party “will no longer support an official that we put into office that does not reflect our values nor represent the Colchester Republican Town Committee.”

The meeting audio revealed several disagreements between members and highlighted the division within the committee.

Bisbikos – who, despite having filed paperwork with the town clerk’s office forming a candidate committee, has avoided saying publicly whether is running for office again – is heard on the audio recording stating “it looks like” he’s seeking a second term.

The first selectman expressed that Republicans can defeat Democrats with a “united front” and that at one point, he and Rudko were a powerful duo.

“Now, we’re letting egos get in the way and for what?” Bisbikos said during the meeting.

“To decimate the town? To allow somebody like Bernie [Denler] or the [Democratic Town Committee] with their woke socialists take over and do what?”

Denler announced last month that he was seeking the Democratic nomination for first selectman.

Rudko, during his phone interview, said that he found Bisbikos’ comments “disingenuous.”

“Nobody can spend a period of time behaving poorly and then turn around and say that individual wants to work together,” he said.

Rudko, who emphasized that he was not speaking for the RTC, stated that Bisbikos has the option to run for reelection.

Following the vote of no confidence, it’s unclear whether Bisbikos would have the RTC’s endorsement for re-election.

Rudko, who previously served on the Board of Selectmen, revealed that he’s also considering running for a board seat again later this year, but has not made a final decision.

“I’m not opposed to running,” he said. “I enjoyed serving the community.”

One of the largest debates during the meet-

ing involved the controversy surrounding last month’s RTC meeting.

Rudko canceled the January meeting of the committee, but a group of RTC members still gathered and generated a statement condemning the legal actions Rudko and LaChapelle took against the town’s senior center project.

Because the meeting was officially canceled, Rudko has claimed that the statement should not be recognized as official RTC communication.

During last week’s meeting, the members debated the legitimacy of January’s meeting. In the audio, Rudko claimed that those who participated “decided to pretty much commit sedition.”

“You can meet with Republicans but you cannot call it an RTC meeting,” he said.

Rudko suggested that two resolutions should be adopted calling for the suspension of RTC members Kassiani Bisbikos, the first selectman’s sister, and John Thomas, the RTC treasurer, for their role in organizing the gathering.

Ultimately, Rudko struck the resolutions and the suspensions, but the organization largely agreed that input from the state GOP was necessary to clarify the situation.

Thomas, while speaking to the membership, said the committee’s discourse was “embarrassing and frustrating.”

“Did we do something that wasn’t right? I don’t know. I don’t believe so,” he said.

Thomas added that he wanted the RTC to unite, and if the group continued this style of politics, Republicans were going to lose in November to Democrats.

“I’m tired of the arguing and bickering,” he said.

During his interview, Rudko addressed the disagreement during the meeting.

“We’re an organization, not a social club,” he said. “We’re governed by bylaws and we’re supposed to follow them and my job is the rein everyone in.”

The RTC appeared to disagree on most issues throughout the night. Rudko provided an update on the senior center litigation, which will likely be ongoing.

Bisbikos appeared to take offense to Rudko’s comments regarding the situation.

“I was involved in it and you sued the town and it cost \$35,000,” Bisbikos said. “So shut your mouth.”

During the exchange, Rudko called for a point of order, citing that Bisbikos did not have the floor to speak. Bisbikos at one point commented, “Don’t be a dictator.”

Rudko defended his litigation to the membership, saying on the audio recording that he felt the need to “hold the town accountable” because the project would be going over budget.

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Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standout Athletes of the Week for the week of Feb 6 – 12:

Meghan McPhee and Lily Tabellione – Portland High School (Track & Field): McPhee and Tabellione won individual state titles at the Class S state championships that took place at the Floyd Athletic Center on Feb. 9. McPhee won the 600 meters, running a personal-best 1:42.41 to edge runner-up Kiyah Williams (1:43.41) of Bloomfield. Tabellione won the 1,000 meters, crossing the finish line with a personal-best time of 3:05.97 and easily defeating runner-up Catherine Minegan (3:09.59) of Old Saybrook. Next up for the pair is the State Open in New Haven on Saturday, Feb. 18, starting at noon.

Nina Holm – RHAM High School (Ice Hockey): Holm scored the game-winning goal as the Nighthawks – a co-op team featuring players from RHAM, Avon, Southington, Wethersfield, Newington, Lewis Mills and Coventry – dealt Darien their first loss of the season. Holm, a senior, intercepted a pass and fired a shot into the back of the net with less than a minute to play in regulation as the local ice hockey club won 7-6 and shocked a Blue Wave team in Darien that entered the

contest with a record of 16-0-2.

Brian Collisson – East Hampton High School (Track & Field): Collisson cleared a personal-best height of 11'06" in the pole vault to finish as the runner-up at the Class S state championships in New Haven on Feb. 9. Collisson's efforts were good enough to tie the best jump at the event, finishing behind only Kian Sirowich of Woodland, who by a tie-breaker. The junior will now compete at the State Open at the Floyd Little Athletic Center on Saturday, Feb. 18, starting at noon.

Dante Colella – Bacon Academy High School (Wrestling): Colella finished in third place at the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championships in Killingly on Feb 11. Colella, a junior who wrestles at 170 lbs., defeated Sebastian Rodriguez (9-6) in the quarterfinals round and then easily won the rematch with Rodriguez (6-0) in the third-place match. Carson Brown (160 lbs.) placed fourth and Gabe Mahon (145 lbs.) placed fifth to also earn podium spots for the Bobcats at the conference tournament.

To nominate someone as an Athlete of the Week or with sports-related questions, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.

Mercy Honor Roll

President Alissa DeJonge has announced the following area students made the Mercy High School honor roll for the second quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

Amston: High Honors: Mattingly Veilleux, Grade 12.

Andover: Highest Honors: Caitlyn Russo, Grade 10.

Colchester: Highest Honors: Tallulah Malz, Grade 11; Reese Henderson and Ileana Koonankeil, Grade 9.

High Honors: Aubrey Nosal, Grade 9.

Honors: Sarah Lynch, Grade 12; Brianna Hurlock, Grade 10.

East Hampton: Highest Honors: Sianna Faan and Clara Romero, Grade 10.

High Honors: Harper Carlson, Grade 12; Jerica Leary and Sage Svalestad, Grade 10; Calista Nephew and Lauren Riegler, Grade 9.

Honors: Olivia Arcari, Courtney Klewicki, Gretchen Lee and Payton Polsonetti, Grade 10;

Marley Zinkerman, Grade 9.

Hebron: Honors: Mackenzie Kelley, Grade 12; Margaret McCormack, Grade 11.

Marlborough: High Honors: Samantha Magro, Grade 12; Inara Kermalli, Grade 9.

Honors: Skylar Swanson, Grade 10.

Middle Haddam: High Honors: Abigail Hintz and Eva Hintz, Grade 9.

Portland: Highest Honors: Milana Koji, Sarah McNickle, Michaela Miano, Raya Morin and Julia Nadolski, Grade 12; Tiana Harley, Grade 11; Emily Bernard and Kayla Johnson, Grade 10.

High Honors: Lauren Kohs, Gianna Low and Leah VanDeventer, Grade 12; Clare Bankoski and Emily Murphy, Grade 11; Logan Binnington, Catalina Koji, Isabella Levesque and Ava Roy, Grade 10.

Honors: Lillian Clark and Melina Ford, Grade 12; Megan Kasperowski, Grade 10.

Willson (business administration); Aidan Zimmitti (business administration); Olivia Zumpano (communication).

East Hampton: Grace Adams (elementary education and liberal studies); Enrique Diaz (art); Isabella Diaz (health sciences); Zachary Fauvel (criminology); Bailey Lombardi (psychology); Carolyn McDonald (business administration); Shawn McGuigan (new media studies); Jennifer Tripp (political science); Nalae Valley (communication).

Haddam Neck: Grace Michalowski (music).

Hebron: Lindsay Anderson (exploratory social sciences); Kelly Ayen (social work); Anna Beard (political science); Maggie Chanski (early childhood education and sociology); Emily Cook (psychology); Jordyn Holbrook (health sciences); Elliott Kalisher (new media studies); James Lukow (business administration); Megan Raimondo (new media studies); Jaclyn Santella (English); Emily Selbie (communication); Audrey Steiner (psychology); Ingrid Taute (finance); Hannah Tingley (psychology); Jeremy Velez (communication); Caili Wilkinson (criminology).

Marlborough: Margaret Bielaczyc (English); Matthew Bielaczyc (business information systems); Cristina Catarino (early childhood education and psychology); Daniel Cormier (accounting and Spanish); Gracey DuBois (business administration); Olivia Seethaler (early childhood education and sociology); Cameron Soulagnet (environmental Earth science).

Portland: Julia Berthiaume (health sciences); Kaitlin Capello (sport and leisure management); Bryan Dinnis (finance); Nicholas Kelly (criminology); Lindsey King (business administration); Kayla LaMalfa (health sciences); Madeline Myers (business administration); Adam Rossignol (business administration); Jake Thompson (business administration).

Renewable Scholarships Available

Residents of Andover, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland can apply for American Savings Foundation scholarships. These renewable scholarships can be used at a range of four-year colleges and universities, two-year colleges, and at accredited technical and vocational programs.

The foundation is accepting applications from high school seniors, college students and nontraditional adult students who will be enrolled for the 2023-24 academic year. Students can apply online at www.asfdn.org, and applications are due March 31. The website also has links to other area scholarship programs as well

as resources for learning about financial aid.

Scholarships are awarded primarily based on financial need, with consideration given to academic performance, community involvement, and other indications of a strong desire to achieve goals through education. Current high school seniors must be ranked in the top third of their graduating class or have a 2.5 GPA or higher. Current college students must be maintaining a 2.5 GPA or higher.

For more information and to apply, students and parents can visit www.asfdn.org or call the foundation at 860-827-2556.

Scholarships Available for Area Students

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the

RHAM district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all resident seniors can apply.

Deadline for applications is April 1. Visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship for an application, ask your school's guidance counselor for one.

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Donations Sought for Book Sale

The Friends of Douglas Library group is accepting donations of used books, CDs and DVDs in good condition for its upcoming Saturday, March 4, book sale. In addition to many books, the sale will feature an expansive special table of seasonal books and items.

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

Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase new material for the library, museum passes, equipment, as well as to pay for children's and adult programs. Tax-deductible donations can be dropped off anytime in the donation box to the right of the main parking lot entrance. For assistance with large donations, call the Friends in advance, at 860-228-9312.

Douglas Library is located at 22 Main St. on the Hebron Green. The March 4 book sale will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the library's Community Room. From 1-3 p.m., the Friends will offer a \$5 per bag sale.

Residents Sought to Serve

The Hebron Board of Selectmen is seeking residents to serve on various town agencies.

There are currently vacancies for regular members on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Parks and Recreation Commission, Commission on Aging, Public Building Committee, Library Board of Trustees, Hebron Green Committee, Water Pollution Control Authority and the Commemoration Commission.

There are vacancies for alternate members on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Commission on Aging, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Public Building Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Properties Commission.

Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the board or commission in which they may

have an interest and discuss with the chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved.

There is also a vacancy for a Hebron resident to serve on the Catchment Area Council 15 for Amplify – North Central Regional Mental Health Board.

A vacancy exists for a Hebron representative on the Central Regional Tourism District Board of Directors. The mission of the district is to promote leisure, business, group and corporate travel to the region.

All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest may be sent to the Town Manager's Office, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead St., Hebron CT 06248. For more information, call 860-228-5971.

Orthopedic Practices Join Up

Middlesex Orthopedic Surgeons and Orthopedic Associates of Middletown have joined forces to form Middlesex Orthopedics & Spine Associates (MOSA), the largest orthopedic practice in Middlesex County.

This new alliance features locations in Hebron, at 117 Main St., and in Marlborough, at 14 Jones Hollow Rd., Unit 5. The practice will feature access to advanced imaging, physical therapy and more.

"Our two practices have a history of collaboration and have come together to offer elite care and a superior experience to more patients in our community," said Dr. Terry Reardon, an orthopedic surgeon with MOSA. "The collective expertise of our fellowship-trained orthopedic and spine specialists makes our combined practice not just bigger but also better as we collaborate to provide the best orthopedic and spine care in the region."

Dr. David Hergan, also an orthopedic surgeon with MOSA, agreed.

"Over the years both practices have been selective in their recruitment with the goal of hiring only the best fellowship-trained specialists from the best institutions around the country," Hergan said. "We are proud that we have brought the Middlesex community highly specialized orthopedic and spine care. Our team uses the latest minimally invasive techniques and cutting-edge technologies to ensure the best result and fastest recovery possible without traveling far from home."

MOSA fellowship-trained orthopedic and spine specialists provide:

- Care for the full spectrum of musculoskeletal conditions and injuries including complex

fractures, sports injuries and degenerative joint disease;

- Minimally invasive orthopedic and spine surgery;

- On-site physical therapy with advanced equipment including a therapeutic pool, Pilates, traction, and experienced physical therapists with a wide range of specialties;

- In-office X-ray, MRI, and nerve conduction testing, facilitating prompt, complete evaluation of all orthopedic conditions;

- Walk-in urgent care available in Middletown;

- Evaluation of Worker's Compensation and personal injury cases MOSA is a member of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce and sponsor of the Nutmeg State Games. Hergan is head orthopedic team physician for Wesleyan Athletics.

"I am pleased to officially recognize Middlesex Orthopedic & Spine Associates," said Johanna Bond, president, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. "It's wonderful news to have two of our county's leading orthopedic specialty practices combine expertise and resources to better serve our community, and I wish MOSA much success."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, patients and referring providers can visit middlesexortho.com or call 860-685-8940 or 860-347-7636.

Dean's List

Timothy Wilson, daughter of Tim and Barbara Wilson of Hebron, made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Providence College in Providence, R.I.

Wilson is a sophomore at the school.

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Old Home Days Planners Make Historical Discovery

By Jack Lakowsky

Last year, planners of East Hampton's Old Home Day celebration want to share some info on local history at the weekend-long fair. During research, Old Home Day organizers, including John Tuttle and Melissa Engel, found something interesting.

One-hundred years ago, East Hampton's Bevin family – whose bell factories helped put the town on the map – donates some land to the town, space now used for the carnival part of Old Home Days every year and for other community events, near Center School.

Turns out, according to one of the last sentences of the 1923 deed, the illustrious family wanted the park named Bevin Park, which simply never got off the ground. The town did some work fixing up the park, but the effort fell by the wayside.

"I've been here since 1988," Tuttle recently told the *Riverast*. "I've been on town council and other boards, and I never heard that land referred to as Bevin Park."

Changing the name was not a nonstarter for the Bevins, and said they'd donate the land regardless, but Tuttle and other residents feel it's just the right thing to do.

The Bevin's had other ambitious plans for the space, including use for sports like croquet,

tennis, basketball and playground equipment, wanting it used exclusively recreationally. These may not be in the cards, but a renaming, Tuttle said, is a practical goal.

"We wanted to do right by the Bevins," said Tuttle.

Tuttle and other organizers are looking to raise money to rename and get a sign for the park.

At last year's festival, eventgoers felt the same obligation to honor one of East Hampton's most prominent families, who still have a local presence and make their signature bells.

"That's why I love this town," said Tuttle.

Almost instantly, organizers raised a little more than \$2,000, and hope to reach their \$10,000 goal before this year's carnival.

"We hope the generous people of the town will do right by the family," said Tuttle.

Tuttle has spoken to the Bevin family, and they're excited about this effort to honor their ancestors' legacy.

"We hope to invite the family to the unveiling at Old Home Days," he said, "that's the goal."

Tuttle said honoring the family isn't just for making bells. He said once, the Bevin factory burned in a massive fire.

"It would've been easy for them to leave,"

said Tuttle. "But they stayed here, kept business and jobs here. It's a brand that's synonymous with this community. I'd say we owe them this."

Getting the sign is still in early stages. Tuttle said the committee has worked up a rough design. It definitely won't be wood, he said, but something more attractive and durable like granite, and, possibly, shaped like a bell. Tuttle hopes to engrave the possibly-new-landmark with a brief history of why it was built, when the park was donated.

When he was on the council, Tuttle helped the town put up the blue directional signs now familiar to locals, like the one's directing drivers to Cranberry Bog and the Air Line Trail. He said for some reason, a Bevin Park sign never came about.

The town may not have been fully aware of Chauncey Bevin's request, but the park's usage – for recreation and community celebrations – lines up with the benefactor's hopes.

"We're so lucky to have this open space in the heart of our downtown," Tuttle said.

To donate, visit the Bevin Park Sign fundraiser on Facebook or make checks out to Town of East Hampton with "Bevin Park" noted. For

more info email tuttlekahn@gmail.com.

The concept of Old Home Day in East Hampton dates back to the Village Improvement Society, begun in 1912 when local church societies organized to work together for the betterment of the community.

Harlan G. Hills was named chairman at the first official meeting of the East Hampton Village Improvement Society on March 8, 1912, where they described their objectives as "the promotion and support of all forms of village improvement, and other public and charitable enterprises."

The event's popularity waned in the mid-20th century, revived in the early 80s thanks to a visit by then-governor Bill O'Neill, an East Hampton native. He attended the parade most of his life, even has his health declined, and would drive an antique vehicle.

For many, many years, Robert "Red" McKinney, a prominent local volunteer and politician who passed unexpectedly in late 2019, was the event's MC. Since his passing, organizers have great efforts to honor McKinney, whom many credit with helping re-popularize the fair.

Sponsors Sought for Concert Series

Sponsors are sought for the 2023 Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series. Donation levels include: Maestro sponsor, \$250; Soprano sponsor, \$150; Alto sponsor, \$75; Tenor sponsor, \$50; Bass sponsor, \$25; or any amount you wish to contribute.

Donations help pay for the musical entertainment and publicity for the concerts, which will be held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. this summer, at

the Center School Gazebo in the Village Center.

Tax-deductible checks – Tax ID number is 06-1494507 – should be made payable to The Joseph N. Goff House, Inc. and mailed to: The Joseph N. Goff House, Inc. P.O. Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Call 860-918-4400 or 860-993-5311 for more information, or visit goffhousehct.blogspot.com.

Schools Offer Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public School System is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents interested in preschool programs for the 2023-24 school year. There will be two preschool programs offered: the Integrated Preschool half-day program and full-day Smart Start program.

Memorial Elementary School's preschool Integrated Program will be held three times a week for 3-year-old students and four times a week for 4-year-old students. Due to limited spaces, selection for peer models will be determined through a lottery process. If selected, peer models demonstrating age-appropriate skills will be assigned by age to either a three day or four day a week schedule (2.5 hours per day). Children must be toilet-trained and turn 3 prior to Sept. 1 to be eligible.

Memorial's Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.), following the East Hampton Public School cal-

endar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have other factors for consideration. Other applicants, regardless of economic or risk factors will then be selected.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School or the East Hampton Public Library. Packets are available at both locations. The completed Parent Interview Form, Immunization Form and a Proof of Residency must be returned to Jodi Blyler at Memorial School office no later than March 17.

Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted, no later than March 24, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after March 17 will not be accepted.

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](https://www.facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary)

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

Children's Programs: Storytimes: Toddler Time: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. for children ages 18 months to 3 years, Stories & Songs: Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. for ages 3-5 years, Mindful Movements: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Held in the library community room. For ages 18 months and up; siblings welcome, Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. For children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. Held in the library community room.

Nintendo Switch Tournament: Saturday, Feb. 18, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. All skill levels are welcome. Registration required.

Kids Comic Creators: I Survived...: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5. Make comics and play games inspired by the *I Survived* books by Lauren Tarshis.

Baby Rhyme Time Special – Baby Massage: Thursday, Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m., for ages birth through 18 months. Learn about the importance of attachment while also learning baby massage techniques through a special presentation by Diane Dusza from the Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut. No registration required.

DIY Days – Squishy Stress Balls: Saturday, March 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for children and families in grades K-8. No registration required; just

drop in. Available while supplies last.

Teen Programs: Pre-Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m., for grades 6-8. Share your ideas and be a part of the team. Drop in or register online.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m., for grades 9-12. New members are always welcome. Drop in or register online.

Nintendo Switch Tournament – Grades 6-12: Saturday, Feb. 25, 2-3:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome. *Mario Party: Superstars* will be played.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons: Wednesday, March 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience is required. The library will provide basic fifth edition, level four characters and all the supplies needed to play.

Adult Programs: Book Club – *Ellie and the Harp Maker*: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. The club meets the third Tuesday of every month; all are invited. This month's book is *Ellie and the Harp Maker* by Hazel Prior.

Library with Amie Meacham: Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m. Meacham is a Yoga 200 certified instructor. All levels welcome; bring a mat if you have one. Space is limited.

Belltown Garden Club Presents: Healthy Soil for Healthy Growing: Monday, Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m. Belltown Garden Club welcomes Nancy and Erin Livensparger from Fire Ring Farm in Portland to give an interactive presentation on how to maintain healthy soil for your gardens. This presentation and workshop on composting, organic fertilizers, and no-till soil will educate gardeners about the methods of bio-dynamic and sustainable gardening.

Historical Society Fundraising Drive

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) recently acquired a new heating and cooling system – and is now seeking donations to help pay for it.

CHS members voted for a new heating and cooling system because the old one was not functioning properly. The society said the new system was essential to keep a steady temperature and humidity level to help preserve the historic artifacts in both of its buildings.

The cost of the new system was \$10,000. CHS is asking the public if they could donate money towards this cause. The society is a 501(c)3 organization, so donations are tax-deductible.

To contribute to this new system, send donations to Chatham Historical Society (Heating & Cooling Drive), c/o Don Burr, Treasurer 29 Bay Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

EHACC Grants Available

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts.

Deadline to apply is April 1; email applications to arts@easthamptonct.org or drop them off at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

Eligibility: One of two \$500 grants are available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. The commission reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and

organizational quality of the organization and/or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success. The organization's or project's accessibility and service to the East Hampton community. Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

Evaluation: An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. An update of your progress will be required six months post-award date and a final report will be required one year post award date.

Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Lindsay Orbann and Alexia Leon made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Orbann is working toward a BSBA in accounting, and Leon is working toward a BSBA in sport management.

President's List

Kathryn Arndt of East Hampton made the fall 2022 President's List at Western Connecticut State University.

Arndt is working toward a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.

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Man Sentenced to 25 Years in Child Sex Assault Case

By Jack Lakowsky

After a long legal process delayed by the pandemic, a 69-year-old Southington man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for sexually assaulting an East Hampton minor and possessing child pornography.

According to East Hampton Chief of Police Dennis Woessner, David Boulanger was convicted of first-degree sexual assault, risk of injury, illegal sexual contact and possession of child pornography in the second degree.

Woessner said the investigation was lengthy, and primarily conducted by local officers Sgt. Hardie Burgin and officer David Gionfriddo back in 2019. Both officers testified in New Britain court, and “their actions led to the successful conviction of David Boulanger.”

Boulanger will be incarcerated 7 years of the 25, then placed on 25 years of probation. A violation of probation carries another 18-year sentence. He was sentenced Feb. 7. He originally pleaded no contest to the charges.

Boulanger knew the victim, according to court records. He was also a foster parent, though not of the victim. The state pulled his foster license, according a 2019 *Middletown Press* report. He provided foster services at his home, according to the *Bristol Press*.

The victim likely prevented Boulanger from abusing more children – according to the affidavit, he had saved hundreds of websites and photos of child pornography. The affidavit reveals a scene of depravity in Boulanger’s Southington home, where he lived with his wife, who has told police the victim was lying for attention.

Boulanger had photos and videos depicting “toddlers and tweens” in soft and hardcore pornography. The affidavit also mentions scene of bestial pornography.

In the late 2010s Boulanger raped the girl in a trailer at Nelson’s Campground in East



After a four-year process 69-year-old David Boulanger was found guilty of child sexual assault and possessing child pornography. Boulanger sexually assaulted a minor at an East Hampton campground.

Hampton, according to police, fondling the girl and forcing her to fondle him. After reporting the rape to her parent, who then contacted authorities, the child went to the hospital for examination.

There, examiners found clear evidence of assault on the girl’s body, including fluids that were used in the forensic investigation.

Denim, Diamonds and Drafts

“Denim, Diamonds and Drafts,” an evening of dancing, dinner and drinks to support the CT Draft Horse Rescue, will take place Friday, March 31, from 6:30-10:30 p.m., at Saint Clements Castle, 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland.

There will be music, food, dancing, raffles, live auctions, and silent auctions. Tickets are limited and are \$80 per person. Tickets are available at tinyurl.com/3vrbypuv, and must be

purchased by March 17 – that is, if they don’t sell out first. The event is snow or shine. Contact the organizer to request a refund.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization located in East Hampton that is dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter. For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.com or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or email ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

Youth Poverty and Ceramics Workshop

Students in grades six and up are invited to a free workshop Saturday, Feb. 18, from 5-8 p.m., at Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St., to hear real stories about teens living in poverty.

Teens will take part in discussions, eat dinner and then create their own ceramic bowl based on the Empty Bowls model – emptybowls.com.

Students can then take what they learned from the workshop and present a creative work of art at Epoch’s Arts Response on Saturday, March 11. At the Arts Response, youth will respond artistically to the crisis of poverty. Students can share their art, dance, poetry, music or any art form.

The ceramic bowls will be part of the Arts Response Gallery and students can bring them home after the March 11 event.

For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

COA Workshop

The East Hampton Commission on Aging will hold a strategic workshop next week, to plan for future commission activities.

The workshop will be held in the Community Room at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., on Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This workshop is open to the public for observation.

King’s Bread Sale

The Missions’ Committee of the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, at 52 Middle Haddam Rd., will sell King’s Bread Sunday, Feb. 19, from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

The circular loaf is 1.5 lbs for \$7, decorated in traditional Mardi Gras style including a hidden charm for special blessings.

A percentage of the profits are donated to East Hampton Food Bank.

Call Kathy at 860-510-8102 to reserve.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, will hold its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m., in the church’s Parish Hall.

There will be pancakes, bacon and sausage, for a donation of \$5 per family. All are welcome.

The next day, Wednesday, Feb. 22, from noon-12:45 p.m., the Rev. Diana Rogers will distribute ashes in the church parking lot. Plan to stay in your car to receive ashes and a prayer. Also, on the 22nd, at 1 p.m., there will be a traditional Ash Wednesday liturgy in the church.



Local singer-songwriter Bill Naughton Jr. will perform at the Feb. 24 Knights of Columbus fish dinner.

KoC Friday Fish Dinners

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering its multi-decade tradition of serving a variety of fish dinners on Fridays during Lent. The first dinner will be Feb. 24.

This year’s offerings include breaded cod, clams and shrimp, which will be served with French fries and coleslaw. Coffee, water and soda will be offered. Meals will be served from 4:30-7:15 p.m. in the St. Patrick Parish Center, 47 West High St.

Takeout service will also be available. Advance orders must be received by noon on Fridays by calling 860-267-6644. Do not leave orders on the answering machine.

Entertainment will be scheduled weekly. On Friday, Feb. 24, entertainment will be provided by local singer-songwriter Bill Naughton Jr., who will perform a few original songs as well as standards and classics from the 1960s and ‘70s.

Dean’s List

Sydney Blyler of East Hampton made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at the University of New England in Maine.

Dean’s List

Rachel Gerzabek of East Hampton made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa.

Gerzabek is a double major in psychology and criminal justice.

Resident Graduates

Tyler Jonathan Blake of East Hampton recently graduated from the University of Maryland.

Blake earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer networks and cybersecurity.

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. The church is located at 1 East High St. Bible study is Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Lounge.

During Lent, the church will offer Soup and Substance, open to the public, on Thursdays starting at 6 p.m. Attendees will watch a 45- to 50-minute episode each week of the series *The Chosen* as they eat, break bread, and share food. All are welcome. The gatherings begin Feb. 23 and last until April 6.

Lenten services will be shared with Faith

Lutheran Church in Middletown. The schedule is:

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 at Bethlehem, at 5:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Maundy Thursday, April 6 at Faith Lutheran at 7:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Good Friday, April 7, at Bethlehem, at 5:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Holy Saturday, April 8, at Faith Lutheran, at 7:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Easter Sunday, April 9, at Bethlehem at 10:45 a.m. in person and via Zoom.

See each church's website for Zoom links.

Parks and Rec News and Notes

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

Bowl: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m., for grades 2-6, at the Kickback n' Bowl bowling alley. Cost: \$25.

Center School Bingo: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Center School, and for Center School students only. Cost: \$20.

Riverside Reptiles: Monday, Feb. 27, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Memorial School, for grades K-3 (Memorial School students). Cost: \$25.

Bicycle Stunt Show: Tuesday, March 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for grades K-5 (Memorial and

Center students).

Volleyball Clinics: March 23, 30, April 6 and April 20, at East Hampton High School, for grades 5-8. Girls' clinics are from 5:30-6:45 p.m., and boys' clinics are from 7-8:15 p.m. Cost: \$125.

Spring Candy Hunt: April 1, 10 a.m., at Center School. Cost: \$5. Pre-registration required.

April Vacation Adventures: April 10-14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Sears Park pavilion. Cost: \$210.

Junior Bellringers' Run for Fun Challenge: Tuesdays, April 25-May 16, 6-6:45 p.m., at the East Hampton High School track. Fee: \$60.

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.

Lunches: Served at the center Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. Call the center 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, though a \$3 donation is requested.

Weekly Activities: Quilting Group: Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. -- let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjongg:** 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.

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 indoors or via Zoom.

Beyonder: Brazil/Black History in Bahia: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 3-4 p.m., via Zoom. See some famous Salvador sights. A small Brazilian treat will be provided.

Tai Chi & Qigong - Moving for Better Balance: Thursdays, Feb. 23-April 27, 10:30-11 a.m. Cost is \$50 for the 10 weeks. Register with a check, made payable to the Town of East Hampton, or with cash to the senior center. Once payment is received, instructor Tom Cushing will send you the link to the class. This class is also available via Zoom at the Senior Center, also. Call for more details.

Art w/Karen: Sunday, Feb. 26, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Cost is \$5, paid to Williams the day of the event.

AARP Safe Driving Course: Monday, Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the senior center.

Dean's List

East Hampton resident Katie Zimmer made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Fairfield University in Fairfield.



American iconographer Grace Zazzaro will offer a demonstration in egg tempera and gilding gold leaf at the Feb. 22 meeting of the East Hampton Art Association.

Art Association Meets Feb. 22

The East Hampton Art Association (EHAA) will hold its monthly program Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m., in the East Hampton Community Center at 105 Main St.

This meeting will feature an artist demonstration in egg tempera and gilding gold leaf by American iconographer Grace Zazzaro.

Zazzaro is a fine artist, specializing in painting traditional, classical, and contemporary portable icons. She is an expert in the egg tempera paint medium, gilding gold leaf, and iconography design. She gained her knowledge from more than 20 years in apprenticeships, tutelage, travel, and concentrated study under the renowned master egg tempera artists and iconographers of Russia, Italy, and Greece.

Zazzaro is an established, professional Amer-

ican iconographer cultivated through a direct lineage of iconographers. She is also a professional speaker who teaches on many topics, including icons, theology, history, and the materials used in the making of the icon.

Other upcoming meetings of the art association include: March 22, with fine artist Tom Swimm demonstrating in oil painting; and April 26, with fine artist Elizabeth Sennett also giving a demonstration in oil painting.

All are welcome at EHAA programs. The programs are free to members, with a suggested donation of \$4 for non-members. Programs/demonstrations and meetings are always free for students.

People may become a member of EHAA for \$15/year per individual or \$20/year per family.

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 has a new P.O. box number: 123.

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

Yoga: Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m., with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com.

Spinning Fibers: Thursdays at 10 a.m. Bring your own wheel and fiber. All are welcome.

CommuniTea: Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.-noon. Visit with neighbors and patrons, take out a book and have a cup of tea. Coffee drinkers welcome.

Historic Houses Talk: Wednesday, March 15, hosted by author Alain Munkittrick, who wrote the book *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley*.

Writers' Workshop: Wednesday, March 22, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be constructive criticism and writing exercises. Registration requested.

Featured Artist: From Feb. 23-March 8, see Secondnature objects gathered and constructed by the maker, Ann C. Burke. Burke will present Art with the Artist Wednesday, March 8, 7 p.m.

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EHACC Meets Monthly

The mission of the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) is to foster, promote, encourage and celebrate the arts and culture in the town – and all are invited to join. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph N. Goff House Museum, 2 Barton Hill Rd.

The commission currently features a mix of artists, a retired school teacher, a graphic designer and a local business owner. If you're interested in joining the commission, stop by

the town manager's office at Town Hall to submit an application.

EHACC initiatives include community grant and Capstone Grant programs, a student art award program, a garden tour and plein air painting event and an annual art purchase initiative where locally made art is exhibited in a town-owned spaces.

Visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org for more information.

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 will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers.

Sunday School: New students are always welcome. Call the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richards at 203-671-3455 for details or contact her at

jneelrichard16@gmail.com.

Donations and Contributions: Place all returnable bottles in the barrels next to the shed. Items for donation to the East Hampton Food Bank are collected in the black containers next to the rear door of the church.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0287 or Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472.

Volunteer Drivers Sought

Volunteer drivers are needed for the CRT Meals-on-Wheels program at the East Hampton Senior Center. Folks can commit to one hour a week or a month, or be a regular or substitute driver.

Driver opportunities available Monday-Friday. Call the senior center for more details at 860-267-4426 or email seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov.

Dean's List

The following East Hampton residents made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Vermont:

Malachi Lytle, who is majoring in wildlife and fisheries biology; Molly Conklin, who is majoring in professional nursing; Tyler D'Anna, who is majoring in business administration; and Adelaide Conaway, who is majoring in global studies.

Middle School Honor Roll

Honor Roll students for the second quarter of the 2022-23 school year at East Hampton Middle School are:

High Honors

Grade Eight: Hailey Adams, Ray Beauparlant, Rohnan Burke, Charlotte Burr, Hunter Cashin, Alexis Castellani, Andrew Christensen, Arielle Clark, London Clark, Kota Cloutier, Macie Coleman, Olivia Correia, Lillian D'Amore, Madeline D'Elia, Lilly Engel, Michael Farrell, Owen Flannery, Daniel Fields, William Finn, Grace Flannery, Bryce Gagne, Luke Garcia, Kellen Garvey, Pearl Gaston, Shea Gaughran, Isla Gerrie, Kaelyn Gould, Kailyn Granatowski, William Haslam, Justin Hotchkiss, Nora HYTE, Joseph Jarzabek, Benjamin Kohler, Julian Kramer, Dolan Krasnitski, Mineth Kulatunga, Ryan Lopes, Jesse Lycke, Kelsey Lynch; Madison McGlynn, Helena McMillan, Madison McMillian, Emma McCarthy, Madeleine Mohr, Eva Moren, Kenji Nichols, Liam O'Connor, Cormac Ordonez, Paige Ottone, Braelyn Paddock, Peyton Paiva, Bryn Parmelee, Lillian Pinkleton, Devin-Patrick Preble, Gabriela Proxee, Aubrey Root, Dempsey Russell, John Salafia, Zephra Sanderson, Daniel Sullivan, Kaylan Sullivan, Teagan Sullivan, Logan Supinski, Adelle Sylvester, Nathan Tiano, Empress Valencia, Taylor VanBlaricom, Aubrey Varni, Mya Viveiros, Andrea Wanat, Samantha Werme, Josie Wilson, Helena Wisniewski, Sebastian Woodson, Ethan Worrall, Maria Zabroski, Caitlynn Zory.

Grade Seven: Alexis Bailey, Maddison Barnum, Julia Barry, Thomas Bertelsen, Jr., Kylie Bigelow, Anna Bothamley, Mathias Bueno Olascuaga, Noah Cahoon, Savannah Carington, Amelia Chrin, Julia Clark, Samantha Coleman, Brandon Coppolelli, Kailyn Crowley, Olivia Currier, Anja Czaja, Charlotte Daniels, Elijah Dickson-Cotto, Giuliana DonAroma, Taylor Dudek, Dakota Duplin, Cole Eighthy, Lauren English, Hadley Fazekas, Gabriel Finn, Adriana Garcia, Brett Gustavson, Brianna Gustavson, Cailan Hall, Abigail Hambidge, Sean Hargreaves, Aden Hilton, Holden Hines, Jason Hurt, Kaitlynn Johnston, Addison Jump, Shonali Karkun, Aiden Kelly, Addison Kentzler, Eliana Kiernan, Gavin King, Eli Kloepfer, Gavin Kloepfer, Grace Krug; Emily Le Moine, Caden Lee, Kenzie Lee, Ella Lessard, Alyssa Levensduski, Owen LoPresti, Alexander Maalouf, Trent Mackie, Brenna Mai, Jasmine Martin, Addison Marzi, Preston McGrath, Elizabeth McNaughton, Hudson Milardo, Noah Miro, Jack Morrell, Peyton Moulthroppe, Leah Murphy, Nethum Nakandala, Mackenzie Napiello, Kaeden Owen, Addison Perkins, Bryce Pierson, Sadie Pinaud, Ava Ploszay, Travis Raines, Mason Rall, Kayla Rau, Emily Rawlinson, Ryan Reola, Elise Roy, Cayden Schoonerman, Jakob Stevens, Katelyn Stiles, Mackenzie Strickland, Brooklyn Thorpe, Logan Thorpe, Avery Trombino, Annabel Tucker, Samuel Vitiello,

Juliana Ware, Peyton Wentworth, Elizabeth White, Zoey Wilks, Gabriella Zisk.

Grade 6: Patrick Adams, Aehan Amith, Alyssa Arnold, Emily Baer, Samuel Bafumi, Landon Baillargeon, Matthew Balamucki, Alana Banks, Addyson Bear, Brooke Bellemare, Arianna Blancato, Ryder Bonin, Chloe Brown, Jack Busher, Avery Cashin, Gabriel Cavanaugh, Garrett Chretien, Georgia Clark, Gabriella Cooke, Kailynn Cruz, Wren Cuthbertson, Samuel D'Amore, Gianna Doll, Olivia Doolittle, Emma Egan, Alexandria Ellison, Corbin Engle, Ryan Flannery, Brayden Flynn, Skylar Ford, Nora Foster, Peyton Frucce, Bennett Galovich, Hadley Galovich, Giana Garuti, Brody Ghagan, Hayden Groeper, Connor Guarino, Avery Guild, Derek Guiliano, Vitaliy Herasym, Kylie Hull, Gianna Jarzabek, Alayna Jensen, Max Jensen, AmyAnne Jewart, Aloma Johnson, Cara Johnson, Alexander Jovel, Emma Kissane, Elsie Kovitch, Angelina LaFleur, Gianna LaFleur, Lily LaPlant, Tamzin Lemire, Landen Lord, Paulina Lukaszczyk; Shannon Mahoney, Lila Malinka-Morgan, Nathan McCormick, Aurora McMahan, Thomas McMahan, Molly McWade, Makayla Mikulski, Riley Millett, Mia Milton, Reagan Moquin, Samuel Morales Rivera, Joaquin Moren, Ethan Mortimer, Jackson Moulthroppe, Ama Nakandala, Garrett Neary, Miya Nichols, Patrick Nunes, Hayden O'Ryan, Charlotte Palma, Dash Palmer, Jonathan Pearl, John Perez, Daniel Peterson, Kayleigh Philbrick, Lachlan Plante, Aoife Pont, Emma Riddell, Tristan Robinson, Sofia Rodrigues, Quinn Rurka, Kendall Sawyers, Alexander Scanlon, Maximus Schunk, Logan Seaman, Lili Shoefelt, Ashton Shumbo-Jenks, Jasmyn Skinner, Summer Smith, Emma Snyder, Ciarán Stanton, Mason Stino, William Supinski, Adam Tiano, Mason Tierney, Brennan Van Cott, JohnPaul Vlaka, Mckayla Wanat, Reid Wilk, Donzel Williams, Gianna Zadroga.

Honors

Grade 8: Marlee Alston, Lee Barron, Abbie Dipace, Ryan DiPalma, Kayleigh Engle, Mason Gagnon, Madison Grgas-Tucilo, Savannah Groeper, Maja Kieda, Brian Kostoss, Hudson Lombardi, Bryce Lumbra, Brett Paresi, Skye Peck, Hunter Pelletier-Gates, Danielle Riley, Robert Rodriguez, Axl Rostosky, Darren Schwedler, Robert Tinney, Jaxon Wilson.

Grade 7: Aubrey Butler, Scarlett Cassell, Noah Cyr, Luke Davidson, Owen Flannery, Thomas Haslam, Jaxon Kentzler, Brendan Kissane, Vincenzo Niosi, Alivia Peterson, Fayette Pugo, Raelyn Saucier, Hunter Steiner, Riley-Jewel Wong, Worthington Zinkerman.

Grade 6: Alex Beaulieu, Samantha Braga, Luke Burr, Joshua Clark, Maddox Hansen, Meadow Hart, Aiden Hatcher, Tristan Hickey, Charlotte Hills, Cameron Jeffers, Joseph Landon, Mark Marozzi, Grady Ottone, Nathan Philbrick.

Nursery School Seeking Help

Due to COVID setbacks and increasing operating costs, East Hampton Nursery School may be forced to close, officials with the school said. Officials are seeking donations to help keep the school running.

Since EHNS is nonprofit, all funds raised go right back to the school and all donations are tax-exempt (06-0844605).

A GoFundMe has been started for any donations; it is located at gofund.me/8f40a587. People can also donate via Venmo @easthampton-nurseryschool, and can send checks, made out to East Hampton Nursery School, to: P.O. Box 135, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Quilt Show Coming

The Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

The show will feature dozens of vintage and new handmade quilts, a Bits and Pieces sale of fabric, yarn and notions, and the return of the Tea Room with homemade soups, breads and pies.

Email Mapionzio@comcast.net or call 860-993-5311 for information, to exhibit your quilts, or to donate fabric and yarn.

Knights of Columbus State Raffle

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering Connecticut State Council raffle tickets.

There are 10 prizes to be awarded. First prize is \$5,000; second is \$3,500; third is \$2,000; fourth is \$1,500; fifth is \$1,000; sixth is \$600; seventh is \$500; eighth is \$400; ninth is \$300 and tenth is \$200.

The drawing will be held Friday, May 5, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford. Ticketholders need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased through any of the Knights of Columbus members or by calling Bob DeMarchi at 860-267-5978.

Preschool Expo

The East Hampton Early Childhood Council will sponsor a Preschool Expo at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m.-noon. The expo is an opportunity for families to obtain information and learn about public and private resources available to preschoolers in the local community.

Also, a Book Exchange will be available to children who wish to bring a new or gently-used book to swap.

Registration is not required and admission is free. For more information, contact Lauren Kasperowski at lkasperowski@easthamptonct.org.

Republican Meet Next Week

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee will be held Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m., at The Lakeside Bar and Grill, 81 North Main St. Note the change of date; this is a change to the normal third Tuesday.

All are invited as the RTC starts strategizing for the 2023 municipal election. The public is welcome to attend.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor (300 words or less) should be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Please include your full name and town of residence. A phone number must be provided (not for publication).

EHMS Baseball, Softball Registration

East Hampton Middle School students who are interested in trying out for either the baseball or softball teams can register online through FamilyID.com. Athletes must have a physical conducted within the last 13 months before trying out.

Deadline for online registrations is Monday, March 13.

For more information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

Kindergarten Registration to Start

Kindergarten registration packets for the 2023-24 school year will be available at the Memorial School foyer and at East Hampton Public Library starting Wednesday, March 1.

To secure a screening appointment for your child, return all completed registration paperwork to the Memorial School office or drop box in the foyer by Friday, March 31.

Kindergarten screenings will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on May 11, 12 and 15.

Belltown KoC Scholarship and Grant

The Belltown Knights of Columbus Council 6190 announces the availability of two \$1,000 scholarships to students continuing their education at an accredited college/university. Applicants must be members of St. Patrick Church, East Hampton.

The council will also award two \$500 Helping Hands grants to members of St. Patrick Church attending Mercy, Xavier or East Catholic High School.

Applications are available at guidance offices and the parish center office – email spatrick47@sbcglobal.net – and are due April 14.

Helping Hands Reopens March 4

Helping Hands, a ministry of Cornerstone Church, will reopen Saturday, March 4. The church will start accepting donations again Thursday, March 2.

For more information, email Judy Holmquist at judyhlm49@yahoo.com.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds live in-person services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Enter via the front door and ushers will assist you. The church is located at 1 East High St.

There is also a livestream link at the church's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Morgan Garcia, Helaina Maynard and Kaden Powers made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

Dean's List

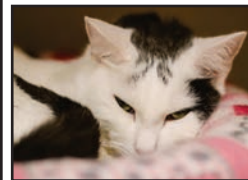
East Hampton resident Carys Dinunzio made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

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RivereastNewsBulletin



"Pet of the Week"

Eve, 2, is a timid girl who is having a difficult time adjusting to the chaotic pace of the adoption center. She enjoys being petted in her cage but has been reluctant to venture onto the floor for some exploring time. Eve would do best in a quiet home with a patient owner who will allow her time to become comfortable with her new surroundings.



Brixie is a 7 month old French Bulldog/Chihuahua mix and currently weighs 10 lbs. She is super energetic and flits around like a little sprite. She is learning to walk nicely on a leash and goes for at least a 1 mile walk every day, in addition to running and playing in our fenced play yard. Brixie shows friendly interest in other dogs and may consider a doggy sibling in her forever home.

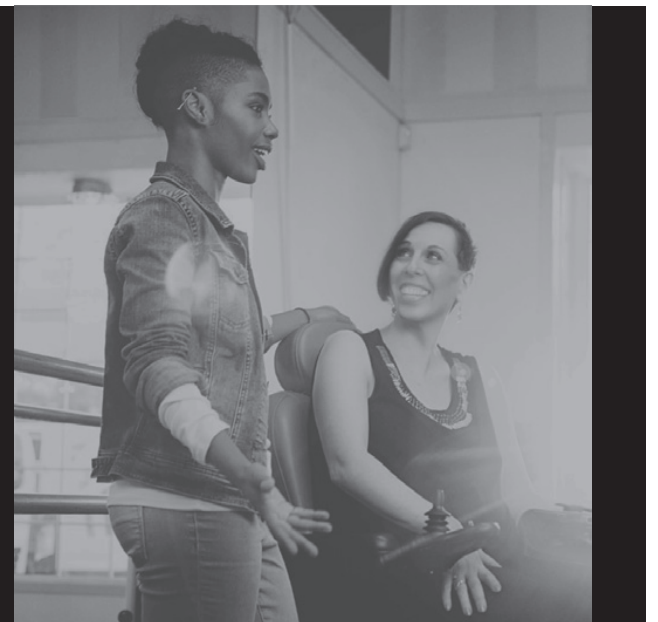
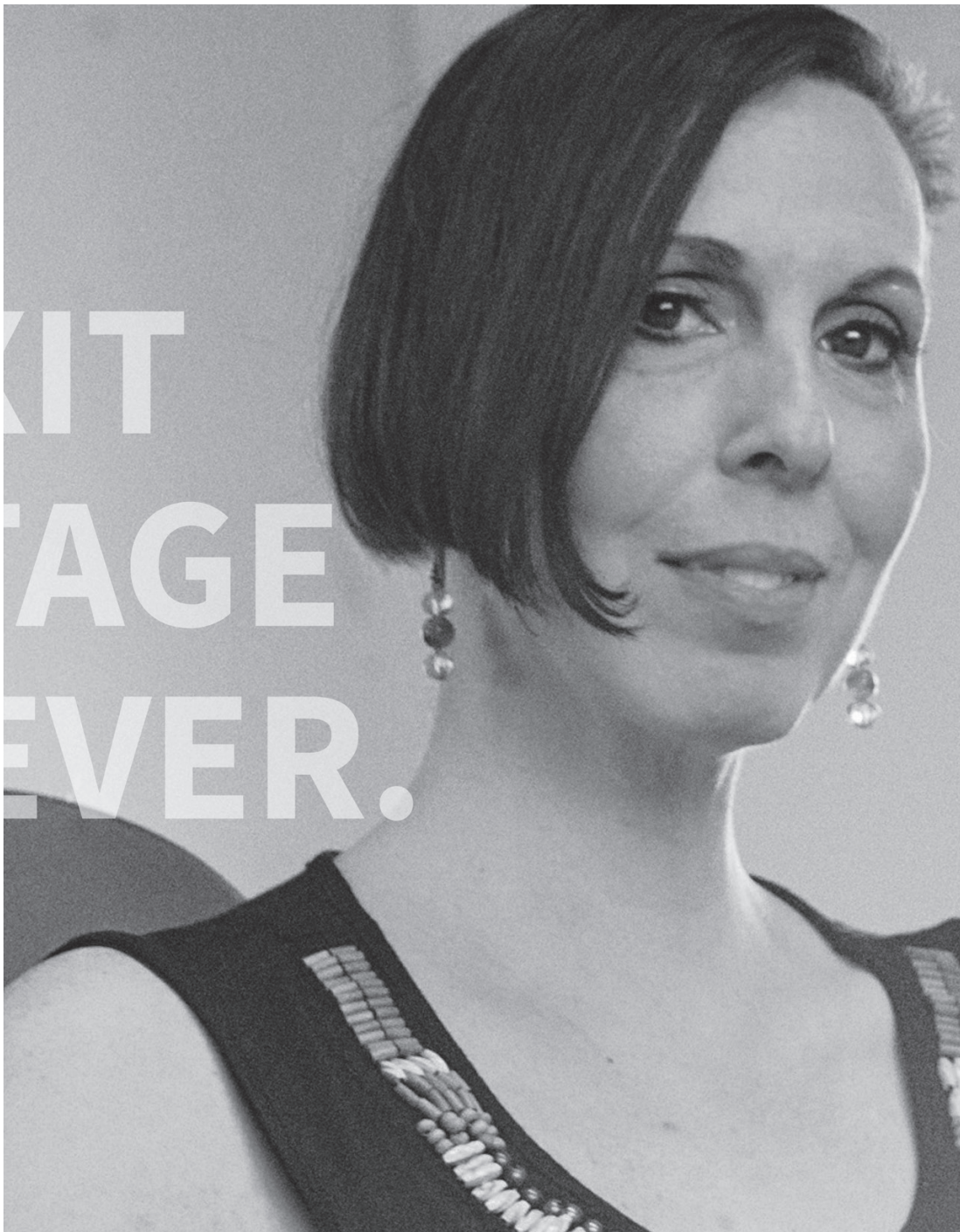


For more information on adopting CATS or DOGS, call 860-569-0722
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - For information call: 860-569-0722

Protectors of Animals, Inc. A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization, rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs. Check us out on our website - www.poinc.org
144 Main St., Unit 0, E. Hartford, CT 06118



Pinewood Derby... Cub Scout Pack 57 held its annual Pinewood Derby race Saturday, Jan. 21. Pictured are the award winners that were in attendance. The top two racers for each age group advance to the District Pinewood Derby, which will be held this spring. The pack said it is especially thankful for its sponsor, Classic Auto, and the parent and Scout volunteers that made this event a success. Pack 57 welcomes boys and girls in grades K-5. For more information, contact Cubmaster Sara Perez at pack57easthampton@gmail.com.



Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's undying passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at WeAreStrongerThanMS.org.

Together We Are Stronger.



National Multiple Sclerosis Society

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.



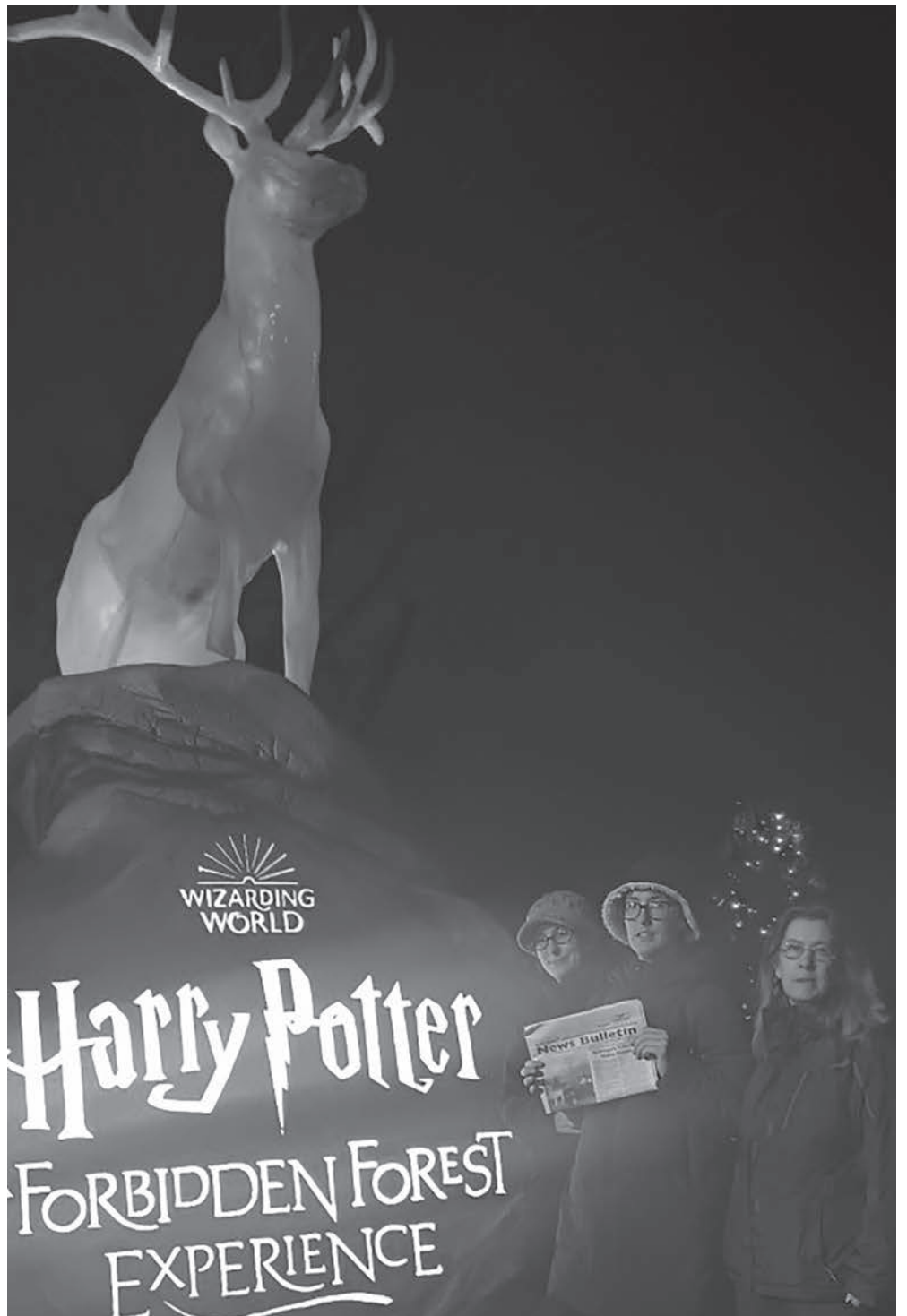
New Year's Trip... The Glastonbury Citizen and the Rivereast News Bulletin both travelled to Turks and Caicos for the New Year holiday with the Wilcox, Yanagi and Baxter families. The Citizen and Rivereast took an unexpected dip in the ocean on a snorkeling adventure with the family! Pictured from left are Owen Baxter, Lillian Baxter, Elizabeth Wilcox Baxter, Blake Yanagi, Dave Wilcox, Jack Yanagi, Melissa Wilcox Yanagi, Max Yanagi, Tad Yanagi, Breckin Wilcox, Kylene Wilcox, Kevin Wilcox, Ozroe Wilcox and Margaret Wilcox.



Florida Fun... Melanie VanOstrand of Hebron is shown here reading the Rivereast during a recent visit with family at Long Boat Key, Fla.



Bulletin in Barbados... Peter and Lorena Walsh of Middle Haddam recently took a vacation in Barbados, and are shown here – with the Rivereast, of course – at Hunte's Gardens.



The Forbidden Forest... The Gondek family of Portland recently visited the Harry Potter Forbidden Forest Experience in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. Pictured are Kristin, Aimee and Julie Gondek. Not pictured is Matt Gondek.

Where in the World?

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

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

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

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Obituaries

East Hampton

Madeline Clark

Madeline (Beyer) Clark, 97, of Middletown, formerly of North Fort Meyers, Fla., and East Hampton, passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 12, at Water's Edge in Middletown. Born Jan. 18, 1926, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Madeline (Neigel) Beyer.



Madeline had worked as the director of mental health services for the Herrick Memorial Hospital in Tecumseh, Mich., until 1996. She was a member of St. Patrick Church and served as the parish secretary in the '60s and '70s.

She is survived by her three sons, William H. Clark of Michigan, Thomas C. Clark (Sondra) of East Hampton, James M. Clark of Middletown; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, Charles Beyer; sisters, Rosalie Alden, Constance McDougall; and her granddaughter, Toni Carter.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, followed by burial in St. Patrick Cemetery. The family will receive guests at the church from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Richard P. Armando

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of our dear beloved husband and father, Richard P. Armando. On Wednesday, Jan. 18, Rich reached the last step on his stairway to Heaven.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Pamela Armando; daughters, Wendy Griffen and Carlene Armando; son, David Armando; and granddaughter, Jennifer Griffen.

Richard was predeceased by his parents, Peter A. and Elizabeth M. (Cereghini) Armando; and brother, Allan E. Armando.

Richard worked with his father and brother in the family business, P.A. Armando & Sons Drilling & Blasting of Glastonbury.

At Rich's request, there will be no service, and burial will be private at the convenience of the family.



Colchester

Gary Arthur Bowling

Gary Arthur Bowling, 61, of Providence, R.I., passed away Tuesday, Dec. 6, after a brief illness. He was born Dec. 28, 1960, in Hartford, son of the late Frank Bowling and Jane Stewart Bowling.

Gary was raised in East Hartford and Colchester. He graduated from Bacon Academy and the University of Connecticut in Storrs, then went on to travel the world. After graduating from UConn, Gary served at Casa Materna, an orphanage in Naples Italy. He later worked as a devoted tour guide for Collette Tours, where he became a central point in the community and made many lifelong friends.

Gary leaves behind his mother, Jane Bowling Duval; his brother, Michael; sister-in-law, Barbara; and his beloved nieces Katelyn and Elizabeth; his aunts, Kay Bowling, Joyce Vallez and uncle James Stewart; plus many dear cousins and their children. He also is leaving behind a loving circle of friends.

Gary was predeceased by his father, Frank Bowling; his sister, Cheryl Bowling; his stepfather, Norman Duval; and stepbrother, Richard Duval.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, at 11 a.m., at the Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., Colchester.



Portland

Patricia Shortell

Patricia Shortell, 85, of East Northport, N.Y., passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 11. Pat was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Thomas. She is survived by her three children, Thomas, Michael and Robert; daughters-in-law, Dina and Christine and ex-daughter-in-law, Melissa. Pat was also a grandmother of seven, Thomas, Timothy, Kevin, Christopher, Andrew, Jordan and Drew.

Pat was always and avid reader who loved books, her dream job was working in the library of Old Field Middle School in Harborfields, N.Y., for over 20 years. She loved working with the children at the school and valued the opportunity to be home when her children got off the school bus. Pat was also an enthusiastic "sports mom" whether it be soccer, basketball or base-



ball. One of Pat & Tom's favorite hobbies was going to the casino to test their luck at the slot machines, often coming home with more than they arrived with; however, there were instances when all Pat would say was that "they had fun."

Pat was a loyal and devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother. Her devotion to her family and friends will be remembered by all who had the good fortune of knowing her. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m. at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Family and friends may call at the funeral home Saturday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be in the family plot in Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

East Hampton

Robert W. Bradway

Robert W. "Captain Brad" Bradway, 79, of Middletown and East Hampton, husband of Judith (Doughty) Bradway, passed peacefully Monday, Feb. 6, at his home, "The White House," surrounded by his adoring family. You might know him by his many "aliases" – Bob, Bobby, Brad, Captain, Pop, Dad, Grandpa – but whatever the name, he was your friend and welcomed you into his family.



He was born in Stafford Springs, son of the late William H. and Ruth (Bren) Bradway. Bob was the owner of Light Rigging Company, Middletown, which he founded with a pickup truck and self-built trailer in 1979 with the late Ramona Bradway and built from scratch into the premier rigging company in Connecticut with the help of his son Mark, longest-tenured crew leader nephew Martin Kujawski, office manager Gerry Mechachonis, and a cast of hundreds over the decades.

He will always be remembered as the fun-loving, generous, flirty, successful, sentimental, karaoke-singing, bourbon-loving, sailor, bossman whose huge presence always filled the room. The amount of people he helped start in business – or in life – fills volumes.

In addition to his wife and her children Erin and Ben Gannon, he is survived by his sons, Robert Bradway and his wife Kelly, Mark Bradway and his girlfriend Shannon Wilson; grandchildren, Riley, Masey and Jacob; sister, Carole Burt; several nieces and nephews; and an extended "family" of hundreds.

He was predeceased by his brothers Edward and Jerrold Bradway; and sisters Elaine Golub and Nancy Kibbe.

The family wishes to express a special thanks to Brad's caregiver Tammy for her superb, compassionate care.

Friends are encouraged to visit with his family today, Friday, Feb. 17, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, from 4-7 p.m. Burial will be at the convenience of his family.

Honor Brad's legacy by following the example he set for us – help someone get their start in the world, mentor young people to excellence, make someone feel special, introduce someone to Karaoke. Don't just think about it – do it.

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

Marlborough

Doris Ann Whitehill

Doris Ann (Baker) Whitehill, 89, of Marlborough, a beloved wife and mother, passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 30, surrounded by her five children. Doris was born in Norwich, to Dorothy and William Baker.



She is survived by her loving husband of nearly 70 years, Robert (Bob); children, David Whitehill, Brian Whitehill and partner Ann Poissant, Cynthia Spearin and husband Peter, William Whitehill and wife Rosa, and Susan Mead and husband Dexter; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, family relatives and dear friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, William Baker, and grandson, Andrew Whitehill.

Doris was a graduate of Norwich Free Academy, Norwich, and the Katharine Gibbs School in Providence, R.I.

Doris always felt her biggest accomplishment in life was being a good mom.

Graveside service and celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In remembrance of Doris, charitable donations can be made to Richmond Memorial Library of Marlborough, Marlborough Ambulance Service and St Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron.

Colchester

Jody Patrick Fellows

Jody Patrick Fellows, "Joe," 52, of Griswold, passed away Saturday, Feb. 4. Born May 18, 1970, in Norwich, he was a son of the late Burton and Dorothy (Timmons) Fellows. Joe grew up in Colchester and attended Bacon Academy.



Since 2008, Joe had worked for the State of Connecticut in the Department of Transportation. Friends and family alike will always remember him as an incredibly hard worker; his hands were hardly idle between working for the D.O.T and on his small farm. When he wasn't working, Joe loved to be outdoors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and would take frequent fishing trips to upstate NY. His greatest joy, however, came from his family. He was a devoted and loving father, and in the last two years proudly earned the new title of "grandfather."

He is survived by his children, Mckenzie and Jeremy Fellows, and their mother, Margaret Fellows; siblings, Michael Fellows and wife Shirley, Gary Fellows and wife Jeannie, Diane Miller, Donna and husband Doug Baumgarner, Scott Fellows, and Jay Fellows and wife Ann; grandson, Jayce Fellows; and numerous other extended family and friends.

Calling hours were held Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial took place in the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillette Lane in Colchester.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother, Burton "Butch" Fellows Jr., and sister, Leann Fontaine.

To share a memory or express online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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PRE-17-23

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The *Riverast News Bulletin* charges \$75 to place an obituary. Obituaries may be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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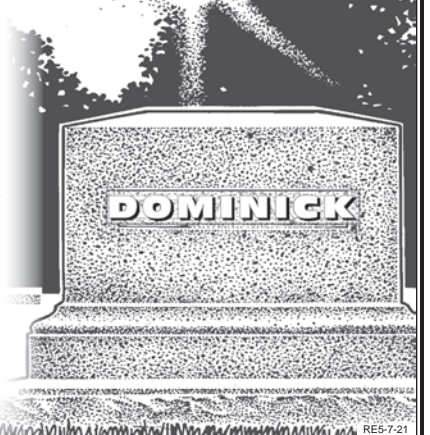
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RE-5-7-21

Obituaries

Hebron

Barry Cowles

Barry Cowles, 80, of Hebron, passed away at his home Saturday, Feb. 11, after a brief illness. He was born in Manchester to the late Truman and Mildred (Beebe) Cowles.

Barry attended Manchester High School and moved to Hebron in 1974, where he resided until his passing. He was an international sales manager for INEOS Films, Inc., retiring after a successful career in the plastics industry. He was a proud veteran of the Vietnam War, having served in the Army as a Huey crew chief. Barry loved spending time with his family and friends, volunteering in the restoration department of the New England Air Museum, riding his Harley-Davidson, and cheering on the Green Bay Packers each football season.

Barry is survived by his wife, Francine (Kulpa) Cowles of Hebron; his children, Bryan Cowles of Wellington and Teresa (Cowles) Melnik of Berwick, Maine, as well as his granddaughter, Abigail Melnik, and his grand-dog, Finn. Barry is also survived by his sister, Gail (Cowles) LaCoss of Texas; his nephews, Scott LaCoss of Texas, Craig LaCoss of Texas; and his niece, Shari Widdel of Iowa. He will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.

Calling hours will be Tuesday Feb. 28, from 4-7 p.m., at Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Per Barry's wishes, no burial service will be held. His remains will be spread by his family at one of his favorite places.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Barry's name can be made to The New England Air Museum at www.neam.org.

To leave an online condolence, or visit Barry's tribute, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com.



Colchester

Robert Wayne Cormier

Robert "Bob" Wayne Cormier, 80, passed into paradise Saturday, Feb. 11. He was born May 27, 1942, in Hartford, a son of the late Gilbert and Lillian (Robinson) Cormier.

Bob had a long and successful career as a professional truck driver, retiring several years ago. Bob moved to Colchester in the early 1980s, where he became a longtime member of the Good Times Motor Club with his 1934 Ford. Bob loved going to car shows and cruising in his souped-up Ford. He was a former member of the Marlborough Moose Club and could also be found hunting or fishing in his spare time. He was a beloved father, partner and friend.

He will be sorely missed by his three daughters, Gail Parmelee of Middletown, Tammie Hickey and Michelle Cormier, both of Florida; as well as his partner, Barbara Thomson; seven grandchildren and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two siblings, Cora Young and William Cormier.

A visitation for Bob will be held today, Friday, Feb. 17, at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, from 3-6 p.m., with a service at the funeral home beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bob would request that Cruise Night attire be worn in place of anything "stuffy."

Bob's family also requests that no flowers be sent; instead, memorial donations may be to Protector of Animals in East Hartford (www.poainc.org).



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

★ Letters cont. from page 7

hard we try. We need a mirror for that. And we cannot see ourselves as others see us, unless we are willing to learn about their point of view. I want to go to the Debby Irving program because I believe it will help me gain insight into what America looks like to people of color. I don't believe we can have unity and reconciliation without mutual understanding, and that means really listening to the "other," even if, and perhaps especially if, it makes us uncomfortable. We cannot understand, much less heal, anything based mainly on our assumptions about it. And in the wake of the George Floyd murder and subsequent events, it is clear that our nation has deep need of healing.

Please join me on the journey, and we'll see what we might learn together.

Kathy Salk – Hebron

Heartfelt Thanks

To the Editor:

Our family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Portland Travel Basketball Club for donating all the funds collected at the Coaches vs. Cancer Fundraiser to our son, who was recently diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Our son was proud to play basketball for the Portland Travel Basketball Club for three years, only cut short a year due to the pandemic in 2020. Having the support of the club is a true testament to the feeling of family among its players and their parents.

We would also like to thank the many friends and neighbors in our community and beyond for donating to this cause. Hearing your child has cancer is every parent's worst nightmare and certainly nothing we were prepared for. Our son faces a two-year treatment plan that will no doubt cause extensive medical bills and we are grateful for the generosity of everyone who donated. We appreciate all the support we have received more than words can express. The kindness of so many has been a true light during this dark time and it is something we will never forget!

Thank you!

**Sincerely,
The Jahnke Family
Portland**

Successful Fundraiser

To the Editor:

The senior fundraiser was a great success and I would like to thank the many people who helped put on this fun event. All monies raised will be used to feed our seniors bi-monthly luncheons.

There are no words to thank my co-chairman, Carol Lee, who worked hours creating lovely baskets for people to bid on and contacting people to donate. Her table is always a huge success. Carol worked arranging the gym and cleaning up when it was over. She spends hours of her free time helping the seniors. Her advice and help have no end. Thank you, Carol.

Thank you to our staff for the day and those who made our fundraiser possible: Jeff Ballard, Sup. Valerie Bruneau, Susan Camoroda, Elena and Alex Chalfant, Georgette Conrad, Ann and Gerry Crème, Roberta Dougherty, Rachael, Audrey, Ella and Isabelle Elam, Suzanne Heise, Tanya Hughes, Robin Kenefick, Lisa Kurtz, Alicia and Andi Lee, Jean Mamonas, Celine Maurais, Charlotte and Steve Nelson, Ellie Skoog, Nicholas and Benjamin Slater, Marie Smith. Thank you to all those people who made baked goods for us and the many who donated. To our Board of Selectmen, First Selectman Jeff Maguire, Paula King, Jeff Murray and Scott Person thank you for coming and talking to our residents about our town. To my husband, Michael a special thank you for helping me as always.

**Sincerely,
Cathy Palazzi
Andover Senior Coordinator**

Town Center Living, Not Suburban

To the Editor:

I write in response to Ms. Basto's elegant and accurate summary of the consequences of suburban development in Portland. May I add to her view the fact that the town has not taken action in any way regarding the Connecticut River Council of Government's (RiverCOG) Final Report on the needs of CT RT-66. The report addresses redirection of traffic currently choking Portland's Main Street.

The RiverCOG study includes a potential bypass along the old Airline Railroad bed leading up to the Arrigoni Bridge. If implemented Portland would immediately regain its town center with sections of Main and Marlborough streets

becoming town roads.

The road change would trigger downtown living, to the benefit of the Brainerd Place development and other residential properties. Main Street parking would resemble Middletown's and pedestrian access and safety would result.

The change in traffic would create incentive for Town Center housing and fulfill the "Number One" goal of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). It would also allow for the expansion of existing businesses and attract new ones. All property values would be enhanced.

Suburban housing development adds nothing but increased service demand on the town and ultimately higher taxes.

The Board of Selectmen and the Economic Development Commission need to focus on Route 66 report recommendations.

Elwin Guild – Portland

Thanks from Basketball Team

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Portland High School girls' basketball team we would like to say "thank you" to all the fans that came out to support our team and our "Girls Night Out/Senior Night" event on Feb. 7. A special thanks to all the park and rec and travel teams along with the Portland Middle School girls' basketball team, for their continued support all season, along with five very special third- and fourth-graders who volunteered to come out during halftime of our game to put on a great show for our fans.

A special shout-out also to our PHS alumni that also came back to show their support. To our administrators, the Sideliners and PHS Cheerleaders – and Melili's and Yard Goats for their very generous donations – we thank you for your support as well. The gym was packed and the energy that filled the gym was amazing and helped to fuel the team to a 10-point win over conference rival Hale Ray.

Looking forward to the next girls' night out event during our 2023–2024 basketball season... Go Highlanders!

**Kelly Coleman
Diane Coleman
PHS Girls' Basketball Coaches**

Veterans' Buffet Thank You All

To the Editor:

A reach-out to all of whom participated and enjoyed a plethora of sumptuous, delectable cuisine, created by Hebron-area veterans and families. All you can eat! It is a hope that each and every attendee enjoyed the array of foods.

The attendance was greatly appreciated, as the \$15 donation assists several area venues of the Hebron area, i.e., the local Food Bank, scholarships, etc. Thank you again for your patronage and support. P.S. Donations are accepted all year!

Now, it is realized that this "Letter to the Editor" is "before-the-fact" – that the annual Veterans' Buffet takes place Sunday, Feb. 19, at the American Legion Hall, 18 Main St., Hebron, with a modest donation of \$15; tickets are available at the door.

This "letter" should be a vehicle for attending the Veterans' Buffet Sunday, Feb. 19, from 1-3 p.m.

We will see you all – at the Veterans' Buffet.

Regards in advance. Hope all are well and within a safe place!

**Submitted,
R. A. Mangillo, Adjutant
Hebron American Legion Post 95**

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover St

★ Hebron PZC, cont. from page 1

commission's authority to permit future activity proposed on or along Kinney Road.

Slater stated that the designation would play no "role regarding the rights to develop and use properties abutting the road and has no impact whatsoever on the Commission's authority, or obligations, to approve development plans on abutting property under zoning or subdivision regulations."

However, he added, the designation would place limitations on the town, including "its authority to modify existing curves, width and side slopes" on the road.

After Bordeaux shared the attorney's responses, Zitkus stated that the designation would not impact the role of the commission moving forward and that, overall, the criteria of the ordinance had been satisfied.

Zitkus added that, in his opinion, the significance of the ordinance would have "little to no impact to maintenance on the road."

"I think we just need to get down to business and decide," he said, adding that Kinney Road residents "did a really nice job" with their application.

Sousa agreed, expressing that the petition "meets the minimum requirements and has the characteristics that deem it to be scenic."

"Residents have proven that this road is worthy of protection," he said.

Both Garner and Boice had no further questions or information to provide during the commission's discussion. Wood pushed back on the general obligation to deem a road scenic, expressing that it was a "rather subjective" decision.

Two other questions forward to the town attorney for consideration pertained to whether the commission's two new members — who were sworn-in last month — could participate in the scenic road discussion and vote.

"They can and should vote if they watch the video or listen to the audio of the hearing and get copies of any documents submitted regarding the request," Slater said. Garner and Boice both indicated during the meeting that they had reviewed all of the relevant material and were prepared to vote on the topic.

Slater also confirmed that the scenic road vote should follow the same protocol as any normal commission decision, and that a majority vote from a quorum would be necessary to approve any motion.

The debate surrounding the scenic road designation is inescapably connected to the town's plan for future development. Specifically, a site on Kinney Road is being considered for a new Public Works facility, further complicating the

commission's decision.

During the January meeting, Bordeaux recommended tabling a final decision on the designation until the commission received further insight from the attorney.

"In light of a significant debate about the future location of a municipal Public Works facility, the timing of the request has raised numerous questions about the Scenic Road Ordinance and the Commission's role and authority," he stated.

At that meeting, both Sousa and Zitkus said they did not understand the necessity for delaying the commission's decision.

Sousa said he was "surprised" by Bordeaux's suggestion, and that the ordinance appeared fairly straightforward; he did not see a reason to reach out to the town attorney.

Of the three active commission members at that meeting, only Wood expressed a desire for legal clarity.

"I do want to know the scope of what we can do," she said, adding that deliberating at the February meeting sounded "reasonable."

Last year, when the request was initially made, some town officials wrote letters to commission in opposition to the scenic road designation.

In October, Town Manager Andrew Tierney told the commission that the town "plans on maintaining the rural character of the roadway, but at the same time this designation could hamper any future development and maintenance of the road."

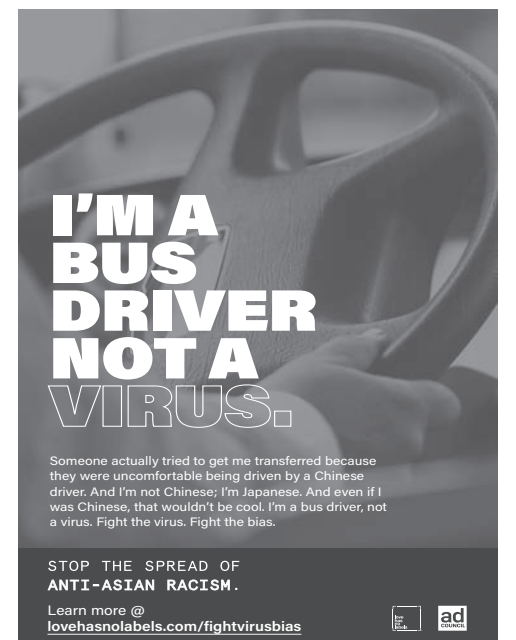
"I would like to direct your attention to the timing of this request, there is a grassroots campaign against development of property on this street, and I strongly believe that this request is due to that," he stated.

In a similar letter, Public Works Director Kevin Kelly stated that the designation could impact the town's ability to maintain the road, "adding a hurdle in the efficient operation of Public Works."

"It is my opinion that the scenic road label is not being used as intended, but as a vehicle for restricting growth in the Town and could present a hurdle to development on adjacent properties," he wrote. "Currently, I do not believe that using the designation for this road is in the best interest of the Town."

Kelly also argued that according to Connecticut General Statutes, Kinney Road fails to meet some of the necessary scenic road criteria.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The town of East Hampton Social Services Department will conduct a foreclosure auction of contents from one of its storage units located at 80 Industrial Park Access Road, Middlefield, CT on Tuesday February 28 at 9 a.m.
Lauren Incognito, LMSW
Director of Social Services
1TB 2/17

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on March 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
A. PZC-23-001: Two Brothers Café LLC, 20 East High, for a special permit per Sec. 5.2.C.2- Restaurant. Map 05A/Block 62/ Lot 5A
Ray Zatorski, Chairman
Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450.
2TB 2/17, 2/24

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular Town Council Meeting in the East Hampton Town Hall Council Chambers, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Town Council will review an amendment to Chapter 278 – Taxation of the Code of the Town of East Hampton regarding providing additional tax relief programs.
A copy of the draft ordinance will be available in the Town Clerk's Office.
EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Mark Philhower, Chairman
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
Pete Brown
Brandon Goff
Eric Peterson
Kevin Reich
Alison Walck
1TB 2/17

TOWN OF PORTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REVISED LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following:
Application #22-02: 43 Goodrich Lane. Request to appeal a Zoning Permit denied by the Zoning Enforcement Officer to construct a single family dwelling. Application and property of John and Sally Anderson. Assessor's Map 76, Lot 15-1. Zone R-25.
Application #22-03: 117 High Street. Request to appeal a Zoning Cease and Desist Order by the Zoning Enforcement Officer that roosters are not allowed on property per zoning regulation 9.7.1. Application and property of David Rutter. Assessor's Map 39, Lot 70. Zone R-15
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of these applications are available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department.
Dated at Portland, CT this 7th day of February 2023.
Joan Giesemann, Chair
2TB 2/10, 2/17

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, March 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following:
Application #22-22: 34 Gospel Lane. Proposed Special Permit modification to increase gym business floor size to 4,044 sq. ft. in existing building. Application and property of MJS Realty Ventures LLC. Map 31, Lot 26. Zone IP.
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review in the Portland Land Use Department.
Dated at Portland, CT this 14th day of February 2023
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission
2TB 2/17, 2/24

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

At the regular meeting of the Colchester Conservation Commission held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, the following action was taken:
W2023-3075- 200 Lebanon Avenue, Alane Wilansky- Applicant, Town of Colchester- Owner, Assessor's Map 22-00 Lot 039-000, filling of 1,699 SF of wetlands at ARK Distillery LLC.
-Approved with Conditions.
Respectfully Submitted,
Falk von Plachecki, Chairman
1TB 2/17

**COLCHESTER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on February 21, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room to hear and consider the following petition:
1. Application No. ZBA 2023-001 ARK Station LLC – 200 Lebanon Ave – Application for variance from Section 10.5.1.D to reduce width of proposed one-way driveway from 15' to 12'.
At this hearing interested persons may appear or be heard and written communications will be received. The application is on file for public review on the Planning & Zoning Commission Webpage and in the Planning & Zoning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT.
Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Robinson, Chairman
2TB 2/10, 2/17

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING/
PUBLIC HEARING
CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT**

Towns of Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland
The Chatham Health District Board of Health will hold a Special Meeting/Public Hearing on February 28, 2023 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting ID: 831 7084 8488. The purpose of this Special Meeting is for the consideration of adopting the Proposed Chatham Health District 2023-2024 Budget and Proposed Chatham Health District Fee Schedule.
At this hearing, interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received.
The Proposed Chatham Health District 2023-2024 Budget and Proposed Chatham Health District Fee Schedule are available for public review at <http://www.chathamhealth.org> and in any of the District Offices.
Russell Melmed
Director of Health
1TB 2/17

EMPLOYMENT

LANDSCAPE ACCOUNT MANAGER E.A. Quinn Landscape Contracting Inc (E.A. Quinn) is looking for an experienced Landscape Account Manager to join our Landscape Maintenance department. The successful candidate will direct production, quality control, and services for assigned accounts. We are looking for a result oriented, passionate people person, that is customer focused and extremely detail oriented and organized. The position will continue to expand upon the customer base and corresponding revenue, while ensuring the highest level of customer satisfaction, retention and profitability. E.A. Quinn Landscape Contracting, Inc. is "An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer". Compensation will be commensurate based upon prior experience and current skill level. The Company offers various benefits, inclusive of Medical & Dental Insurance and a 401K Plan. Send a resume and cover letter to info@eaquinn.com or mail to E.A. Quinn Landscape Contracting Inc. 240 Commerce St. Glastonbury, CT 06033

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Parks Division – Seasonal Park Maintainer I
Parks & Recreation Department**

The Town of Hebron Parks & Recreation Department is seeking a full time seasonal Maintainer I for the Parks Division. This is a 36 week position at 40 hours per week. The selected individual will perform a wide variety of semi-skilled and unskilled labor tasks for all properties under Parks and Recreation management. Specific duties will include mowing, field preparation, landscape, operation of equipment, painting, carpentry, and other related duties as assigned by the Parks & Recreation Director or designee. Qualifications include, but are not limited to, related experience and a general knowledge of tools, equipment, and work methods and practices used in the general maintenance and improvement of public parks and recreation fields, facilities and buildings. Applicants must be responsible and reliable; and must be able to pass criminal records background check and a pre-employment drug test. The selected individual must possess a valid Connecticut Driver License. Please send a letter of interest, resume and application to the Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248, by Friday March 10, 2023. For more information and an application please visit www.hebronct.com or call 860-530-1281. The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.
1TB 2/17

**Library Director
Town of Portland, CT (EOE)**

Deadline: 3/10/2023 or until filled
Salary Range: \$75,000 to \$102,500
Submit application with cover letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation:
First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071
Email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org
Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Library Science from an ALA accredited institution is required, with a minimum of five years of progressively responsible professional library experience, including at least two years in a supervisory position, or an equivalent combination of work experience and training. Salary negotiable DOQ; 40 hours weekly; fringe benefit package, non-union, exempt position. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing and background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Projected start date: May 1, 2023
Application and job description available at: <https://www.portlandct.org/employment-opportunities>. For further community information, along with accompanying links, please visit: <https://www.portlandlibraryct.org/library-director-job-info>
1TB 2/17

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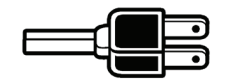
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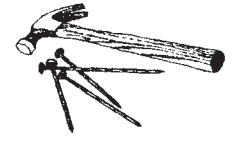
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