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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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March 17, 2023



A Pint for St. Paddy's.... Butterball's Greenleaf Cafe, located at 47 Main Street in Hebron, will have live music and serve its savory corned beef and cabbage for their annual St. Patrick's Day Party tonight. The local establishment has been pouring brews and serving up their signature wings for over 25 years, and every weekend is a party, featuring live music without a cover. Contact 860-228-8148 for more details.

Stark School Cuts Possible in Colchester

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester town officials bristled last week at a spending hike of close to 10 percent in the Board of Education's proposed budget – prompting Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III to put forth possible reductions that included eliminating all-day kindergarten and cutting band at the intermediate and middle schools.

Those possible reductions in turn led Sullivan to be sharply rebuked by the Colchester Board of Finance chair.

The Board of Education's proposed budget proposal for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$46.15 million — a \$4.13 million, or 9.83%, increase from the current year.

The school board's spending proposal was presented at a Board of Finance public hearing last week. The meeting was centered around the impact of the substantial increase in the budget, and what reductions to that proposal would mean for the school district. A budget workshop reviewing the education spending plan was scheduled for this week, but was ultimately postponed due to inclement weather until next Tuesday, March 21.

Sullivan stressed that Colchester is bound by contractual salary increases and rising costs due to inflation. He emphasized that in order to maintain the status quo of the district's current services, the proposal would've required somewhere around a 14% increase, which was unworkable.

The adopted Board of Education budget proposal is actually higher than Sullivan's original pitch, which called for an 8.99% increase in spending. At the school board's Feb. 23 workshop, numerous positions that were removed from the proposal were reinstated: a business teacher, Spanish teacher at Bacon Academy,

physical education teacher at William J. Johnston Middle School, three library paraprofessionals and two custodians.

The revised budget is over \$350,000 more than the initial proposal.

At the beginning of last week's presentation, school board chairman Alex Oliphant expressed that his board did its "due diligence" with the proposal.

"It was a tough, tough decision, but in the end, we made that decision based on the needs of our schools," he said. "I'm not saying that we did not take into account the impact it was going to have on you as taxpayers, but we also had to take into account the impact it would have upon our students and our teachers."

The meeting spanned over three hours, and featured input from numerous citizens, educators and town officials, who often spoke in their individual capacity.

Among the speakers was selectman Jason LaChapelle, who was sharply critical of the school board's spending proposal – and particularly its impact on taxes. He argued that what's best for kids is to not have parents financially struggle.

"To straddle parents who are already struggling in this economy with a \$600 [tax] increase is absolutely ludicrous," LaChapelle told the school board members in attendance, adding that "you guys choose to create a fiscal cliff. ... That's not on us."

Later in the hearing, LaChapelle asked which education official wanted to inform his children of the burdens the budget would have on their activities.

"It is not my place to tell any family how to spend their money and what to prioritize and

See School Cuts Possible, page 35

Colchester 1st Selectman Sued by Ex-Employee

By Michael Sinkewicz

A former town employee is suing both Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos and the Town of Colchester, according to documents filed at New London Superior Court last week.

Marli Rudko, the former executive assistant to the first selectman, accuses Bisbikos and the town of serious acts of misconduct, including wrongful termination. She is seeking damages, back pay and injunction relief, according to the complaint. The lawsuit indicates Rudko is seeking in excess of \$15,000, but an exact amount is not specified.

Reached by phone on Tuesday, Rudko declined to answer any questions and instead referred the *Rivereast* to the lawsuit itself.

The litigation comes after Rudko filed an intent to sue letter with the town last May for wrong-

ful termination. She was terminated April 27, 2022, for a variety of "concerning issues" with her performance, including destroying documents, according to the termination letter.

Rudko has consistently denied all the accusations described in the letter.

According to the filing, court documents were delivered to Town Hall on February 23. The return date is set for March 21.

The complaints outlines eight counts — all of which list Bisbikos as a defendant while some include the town.

Count one accuses both defendants of wrongful termination on the account of race. The complaint states that Bisbikos, "in order to provide the appearance that neither he nor the town was racist, hired an African American employee to work under the supervision of the plaintiff, and

with the plot and intention of actually replacing the plaintiff."

After hiring the new employee, Bisbikos told Rudko that "the bonus is she's Black," according to the complaint.

In order to "fabricate" a reason to terminate Rudko, the complaint continues, the defendants accused her of "professional incompetence," including "stealing or secreting official government records and documents."

The complaint states that the defendants purposely increased Rudko's workload to generate poor work performance. When she attempted to alert the human resource manager with her concerns, the defendants expedited their plot to oust Rudko, according to the complaint.

By hiring an African American, Bisbikos was

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

This weekend is one of my favorite times of year to be in Hebron. It's the return of the annual Hebron Maple Festival.

While it's true I'd never been to the event until I began having to cover it for the newspaper, once I got a taste of it, I found it impossible to stay away. And even though I haven't been the official Hebron reporter for the *Rivereast* in quite some time, I still return nearly every year, to sample those sweet sights, smells and in particular tastes of the two-day event.

Have you never been? Well, you're in for a treat – no pun intended. There will be so many things to do. I don't have space to list all of the attractions here, but here are some highlights. (You'll also find notices about Maple Fest events sprinkled throughout the Hebron and RHAM pages this week.)

One of my favorite things to do every year is to stop by the Wenzel Sugarhouse on East Street. Not only do I enjoy seeing the maple syrup-making process on full display, and chatting with Ron, but I loooove, on my way out, stopping by the Gilead Congregational Church table set up in the Sugarhouse's driveway and buying a piece of the Women's Fellowship's delicious Maple Cake. Baked with

real maple syrup, it's just fantastic. It's served warm, and truly melts in your mouth.

The cake will also be available during the church's Craft Fair, taking place Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the church, 672 Gilead St. Some of the crafts that will be available for sale include handmade soaps, jewelry, local photography, hand-carved wooden pens, kiln-fused glass art, and more handmade products.

The maple cake will be one of just many ways to satisfy your sweet tooth this weekend. But if you're looking for something with a little more substance – and perhaps a little more dentist-approved – the Hebron Lions are offering a pancake breakfast Sunday, March 19, from 8-11:30 a.m., at the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85.

The breakfast will of course feature pancakes – topped with real maple syrup, from the Wenzel Sugarhouse – but it will also include fresh scrambled eggs, sausage and hash browns, as well as orange juice and coffee. Kids can also have their picture taken with the Hebron Lion, or the Easter Bunny himself!

Tickets are \$8 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and children 12 and under. Proceeds will ben-

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



Arrow of Light... East Hampton's Cub Scout Pack 57 is proud to announce three scouts earned Cub Scouts highest rank, the Arrow of Light and advanced to Scouts BSA at the 2023 Blue and Gold Banquet. Pictured with Den Leader Chris Meacham (rear) are scouts Cameron Meacham, Tyler Roman and Pranud Anthony.

Bulletin Board

The recent high profile Alex Murdaugh murder trial in South Carolina reminded me of the multiple times I've been called for jury duty here in Connecticut.

According to the explanatory brochure accompanying this periodic call to duty, prospective jurors are to regard their selection as "an obligation and an honor."

Apparently, the former takes precedence over the latter as the brochure advises further that if you fail to appear you could be imprisoned. As for honors, there is no mention whatsoever as to where you can pick up a medal or participation trophy or similar token in recognition of your service. Not even a simple "hang 'em high" lapel pin for crying out loud.

The advisory brochure explains that prospective jurors are selected from driver's license records, voter registration rolls and unemployment compensation records. Since at one point I received, according to my best recollection, four summonses to duty (federal and state) in the course of about six years, it appears that 99 percent of the people I see driving around the state have no driver's license, unemployment is at an all-time low, and I appear to be one of perhaps three dozen people actually registered to vote who is not a convicted felon.

Prospective jurors are advised that our employer is required to pay our wages for the first five days if we are chosen to serve. After that, the State of Connecticut will pay us the munificent sum of 50 dollars a day. Considering such generosity, I am frankly astonished that people are not clamoring to serve. Curiously, it is my experience that the exact opposite is the case. The last time I had to show up at the court house, my 200 or so prospective fellow jurors were feverishly swapping schemes in a desperate effort to get out of jury duty with excuses ranging from psychosis to chronic flatulence.

Part of the problem may be the speed at which jurors are picked for civil trials in this state. I don't know if this is still the case, but the last time I checked, Connecticut finished dead last in the nation, taking four times longer than the state with the next worst record (California)—as long as 16 hours—to select a jury.

According to a pre-pandemic study by the National Center for State Courts, South Carolina is the quickest at choosing jurors for civil cases, completing the task in an average of half an hour. This may be because the only question South Carolina jurors are asked is if they have any qualms about serving on a firing squad, whereas here in Connecticut, lawyers want a comprehensive list of everyone who ever hurt our feelings. Speaking strictly for myself, I can attest that this takes time.

According to my informational brochure, jury duty (perhaps because it's a privilege) has more restrictions than entry into Paradise. You are instructed to "use discretion in selecting your attire" to maintain the dignity of the court (i.e. no muscle shirt/thong combinations, no matter how stunning).

No "disruptive or potentially dangerous items" may be brought into the courthouse. This includes everything from portable radios and boa constrictors to personal sidearms and odiferous week-old tuna sandwiches. If you are concerned about self-protection, you are encouraged to rely on the security provided by the court marshals, most of whom appear to have been classmates of Calvin Coolidge, but are apparently much fleet of foot than appearances would indicate.

Jurors are also admonished to pay attention to testimony (no napping, no matter how interminably the judge drones on). No note taking (in the event you were hoping to finish off your grocery list). You cannot "discuss, describe or communicate any information about the case or related to the case with anyone."

In the event you are an imbecile, the brochure then helpfully defines what is meant by "anyone," which includes, well, everyone—followed by a very helpful explanation of what is meant by "communicate," which apparently covers everything from speaking to texting to smoke signals and winking obscene observations in Morse Code at the court reporter.

Jurors are further warned not to "attempt to do your own research on the law or the case." The reason, we are told, is that the information may be misleading or inaccurate and lead us to a mistaken opinion. The court apparently prefers that if we are going to be misled, it should be done by lawyers who are making \$400 an hour, while we are only making 50 bucks a day. So leave 'em to it. After all, law school is expensive.

If I sound cynical, it is only because I am tired of being selected again and again for the obligation and honor of jury duty (though, for some reason, I have yet to actually get put on a case). I also realize that those who do the selecting at the courthouse have probably heard every conceivable excuse under the sun as to why any given person should be excused from the jury pool. So I was greatly excited when I saw that you can't be forced to comply if you are dead. And, as it turns out, you don't even have to actually die. All you have to do is write "Deceased" on the summons and mail it back.

It's the very same technique I use with persistent bill collectors. Who knew?

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

Duck Days

To the Editor:

Recently I saw one of those prescription drug advertisements in which people move in slow motion. In all such ads there is a list of possible side effects, many of them dire. In this particular ad, a child is slowly tossing bread to ducks on a pond. I don't recall what drug the ad was hawking or the list of side effects, but there is a serious side effect for ducks that are fed bread: angel wing syndrome.

Angel wing in waterfowl is caused by an unhealthy diet of rich protein and carbohydrates. It causes rapid growth of a young bird, resulting in wing development that outgrows bone support. Even just a few days of eating bread, popcorn and similar foods, can cause irreparable damage. An adult bird with angel wing deformity cannot be treated, and it will remain deformed and unable to fly because the wings twist unnaturally outwards.

The natural waterfowl diet consists of grasses, small insects and worms. Bread, popcorn and other such foods should not be fed to waterfowl.

Soon springtime will arrive, and some people will purchase ducklings as holiday "gifts" for their children. The little fuzzy creatures grow rapidly and need a lot of care, so many are dis-

carded by being dumped on a pond. Unfortunately, that's a death sentence. Domestic ducks cannot fly and they don't know how to fend for themselves. A duck released on a pond in warm weather will certainly die from starvation or exposure by the time winter sets in.

Sometimes the delicate little birds don't make it to adulthood due to improper handling and care.

Ducks need the company of at least one other duck, and a duck can live from eight to twelve years. Unless you are committed to long-term care, please don't purchase ducklings as gifts.

Thank you,

Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

Songbirds Need Our Help

To the Editor:

Did you know that songbirds rely on insects, and in particular, caterpillars for food to raise their young? For example, it typically takes over 6,000 caterpillar/larvae to fledge a nest of chickadees! Think of all the caterpillars that are needed to support a healthy population of goldfinches, nuthatches, cardinals, etc. Many of us have noticed a decline in the songbird population. We can help them just by making our backyard one that attracts and nourishes our feathered friends through all seasons. As it

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Letter Writers: Letters must be submitted by Tuesdays noon. Email is preferred; send to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Letters must be 300 words or less. All letters must be signed, and include the writer's town of residence and daytime contact phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity. Writers are reminded to be civil; no form of harassment or personal attack (such as bullying or name-calling) will be tolerated. There is no guarantee that all letters will be published.

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turns out, what our native birds need is what all butterflies, moths and bees need- native trees, shrubs and flowers. Research from the National Academy of Sciences states that only yards with more than 70% of native plant biomass can sustain chickadee populations. Our songbirds and pollinators have evolved with our native biome.

Many of us feed birds through the winter, but we must help them throughout the year. Native trees and plants can provide the seeds and berries they need; dense shrubs can provide cover; trees, flowers and herbs which are host plants for caterpillars can provide the insect larvae young birds need to survive. It's easier than you may think to make your yard the perfect home for year-round and migrating birds. Your local Hebron Pollinator Pathway can provide you with great tips, planting ideas and ways to attract more birds and pollinators.

Come visit the Hebron Pollinator Pathway exhibit at Nature and Adventure Day 2023 during Hebron's Maple Fest this weekend. Hosted by AHM Youth and Family Services and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Nature and Adventure Day will be held Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron.

Candace O'Shea
Hebron Pollinator Pathway

Black Yankees & Green Irish

St. Patrick's Day, when everyone wears green, falls right after Black History Month. The two seem totally unrelated, but history proves this to be an erroneous assumption. Hebron's past encapsulates both the African American and Irish-American experience. Both groups faced seemingly insurmountable prejudice, but one group would flourish while the other would flounder.

Until the 1850's Hebron was a town of white and Black Yankees. However, by 1850 at least 14 Irish immigrants appeared on Hebron's census. Only one of these immigrants, John Hovey/Howey owned property. Hebron's earliest immigrant's house is #22 on Kinney Rd., ironically located next to what was Hebron's first settler's site before the sidewalk installation.

Ireland experienced a devastating famine in the 1840s, but Irish immigrants were not welcomed in New England and were perceived as a threat to Yankee culture. During the Civil War, Irish/African-American riots broke out. Hebron sent both African Americans and Irish residents to fight, but in segregated units.

By 1870, Hebron had 87 Irish residents (18 families and many railroad laborers), living with 18 other "foreigners" in a predominantly Yankee town. By the 1880s, the Irish railroad workers had moved on, but Irish women were employed in Hebron's mills where African-

Americans were not welcomed.

The arrival of Irish immigrants was a death knell to African-American farm laborers who migrated out of Hebron. Irish women replaced African-American domestic help. Some Yankees married Irish immigrants, but generally Hebron's Irish population moved on, out of town to be absorbed into America's middle class largely due to their appearance. Hebron's African Americans were not so lucky. Reconstruction and the GI Bill excluded them. Thus, it's no surprise that Hebron's suburban development included many of Irish descent, but few people of color – a conundrum at the heart of the Hebron experience today.

John Baron – Hebron

Pay Electric Bill or Eat?

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago I posted a letter to *Rivereast* regarding electric rates, copied both Norm Needleman and Irene Haines. Surprise ... no response from either one! I'd send a copy to Mr. Blumenthal, but unless there is a camera present, I'm sure there would be silence.

In 2021, an estimated 354,166 of 3,506,226 people lived in poverty in Connecticut. United Way studies in April 2022 show that 29% all children in the state lived in families defined as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE households earn more than the federal poverty level, but less than what it costs to live. 41% of Connecticut families below the ALICE threshold reported in the fall of 2021 that their children "sometimes or often" didn't have enough to eat. A 2020 pre-pandemic United Way study found Connecticut has 38% of its residents living paycheck to paycheck. Here in East Hampton, the Commission on Aging found 22% of seniors earned from \$20,000 to \$40,000, 7% of our seniors ran out of money every month, and 19% think they cannot afford to stay in East Hampton during retirement.

Eversource profits hit a record \$1.4 billion last year across its Connecticut Light & Power territory. CL&P operations contributed \$533 million to Eversource's profits, up \$131 million from 2021. Meanwhile, Eversource doubled the pay for its CEO Joe Nolan last year, to nearly \$13 million.

There are no words to describe this obscene behavior by Eversource. Raising rates 37% while people in Connecticut live paycheck to paycheck? Forcing people to choose between eating and paying the electric bill? Obviously, Eversource has no shame.

PURA and our legislators, stop looking the other way while our residents suffer. Rein in Eversource's greed and help our citizens.

Regards,
Bob Yenker – East Hampton

Public Works Option

To the Editor:

As a resident of the town of Hebron since 1969 and family owning property in Hebron since 1937, I have seen a great deal of change. I was attending Hebron Elementary School when it only had eight rooms. We moved out of town a year before the Johnson General Store burnt down. My father was on the board for the old Amston Lake Fire District. I have been reading with interest the discussions over the location of a new Public Works facility. I personally have not made up my mind where I stand. I believe all people involved in the discussion are people of integrity and have the best interest of the town and their neighborhoods in mind.

The town manager has stated that a number of locations have been looked at and rejected for various reasons. I would like to see a list of those locations and the reasons they were rejected. The February Board of Selectmen meeting minutes list five location options. Is that the only five locations or are there more? When the location for the Company 2 firehouse was identified there were a number of objections for the location. None of them turned out to be valid.

My suggestion is to build the new Public Works facility next to the Company 2 Firehouse. It is located on a state road. There are no houses close by. There is enough land for development. The chance for ground water contamination is minimal. It seems to me that all of the objections that I have heard for all of the other sites are answered by placing the facility next to Company 2.

Louis Palshaw – Hebron

Excellent Job!

To the Editor:

Over 100 people attended Waking up White presented by author Debby Irving at Douglas Library this past Saturday. An impressive turnout and an exceptional experience! The presentation was incredibly eye-opening and thought-provoking and has helped to better understand the ways in which systemic racism and white privilege operate in our society. To better understand the impact of race in our lives, and in the lives of people of color. I learned things about our country's history and the evolution of white privilege and racism that are not taught in history or civics class.

I want to express my gratitude to Hebron Co-

alition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) for offering this type of program to the community and for its efforts to promote diversity and equity and to create opportunities for individuals to learn and grow. The conversations sparked by Ms. Irving's presentations were incredibly valuable and will help foster a greater sense of understanding and empathy within our community. Most importantly, this information is a catalyst for change.

It is crucial for town government and organization leaders to engage in diversity and equity programs such as this one. Attending can provide leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote a more inclusive and equitable community. By learning about the experiences and perspectives of underrepresented groups, and by creating policies and programs that are responsive to the needs of all members of the community, leaders can help to create a more just and equitable society for all.

Thank you very much to CoDE, Douglas Library, Gilead Congregational Church, and the Hebron Greater Together Community Fund of Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Excellent job!

Sincerely,
Andrea Lattanzi – Amston

What Will be, Will Be

To the Editor:

As Doris Day softly came through the radio, I began thinking, not of the future, but of the past. Recently, documents and a pair of paintings, once belonging to Gov. John Peters, Hebron, surfaced. This interesting collection of artifacts have found a new home at The Connecticut Historical Society. Included amongst his papers was a well calculated hand drawn map. This map happens to fit perfectly over a series of stonewalls and laneways still standing in the Raymond Brook Watershed.

In Peters' account book were found lists of daily payments to formally enslaved people, such as Caesar Peters and his sons. These historic artifacts are important. But what's equally important, is how these stonewalls and laneways actually respect soil types. If you know this property you know how wet it is and that makes farming and raising livestock difficult.

While our instincts tell us what Governor Peter's was thinking, with these stonewalls, the

See Letters, page 6

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

SENSITIVE TEETH

Sweet treats and frozen desserts can be a delicious indulgence for many people, but for millions of others, the mere thought of biting into something cold or sugary can cause them to cringe. Even hot foods and beverages can cause major tooth pain in some people. This is due to tooth enamel that has been worn down or cracked, and there are some remedies to try to resolve the problem. First, make a dentist appointment to ensure the problem is not more serious. In addition, avoid or limit all acidic and sugary foods and beverages since they can aggravate the issue. Changing toothpaste to one designed for sensitive teeth is another option, as is using a soft-bristled toothbrush.

Keeping up with regular dental checkups will give your dentist the opportunity to keep an eye on your health and any possible areas of developing dental problems. And if you conscientiously follow your dentist's recommendations for at-home care, you will be more likely to have fewer potential problems. When was your last dental visit? Now would be a good time to schedule your next exam. If you don't have a family dentist, we are accepting new patients. We can make financial arrangements for extensive treatment plans.

P.S. You may think that the harder you scrub your teeth the cleaner and healthier they will be, but aggressive brushing can wear away tooth enamel, leading to sensitivity and even cavities.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

leading stonewall expert in New England took the situation to the next level. Professor Robert Thorson, residing at UConn, superimposed an aerial photo of 17 Kinney Rd. onto a composite map of LiDAR imagery, digital elevation model and a USGS Quaternary geology map and modern technology then proved sound common sense. The walls begin and end where the best growing soils begin and end. The laneways served as areas for moving livestock and wagons back and forth through the property, without damaging crops. Visit Save Hebron Center, Facebook, for details and images.

Every generation, including Native Americans, have respected the complex nature of this property including Hebron's Open Space. Grateful for fertile land, I imagine everyone felt blessed, not cursed, by the property's high water table, which is perfect for growing corn and trees of all kinds. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Middle Haddam Library

To the Editor:

Regarding the proposed library expansion plans to meet ADA requirements at the Middle Haddam Library, I would favor the proposal submitted by Crosskey, the state preservation architects, with a slight modification by a library patron.

The last window abutting the children's wing will be replaced with a door which will provide access to the oldest historic portion of the library for ADA users. This plan offers numerous benefits: 1. This ramp is the shortest most direct

and safest route to the library with minimal incline and the least impact on the historic integrity of this library.

2. Its location leaves the side lawn fully available for seasonal activities, with no impact on any deeded easements.

3. Handicapped entrance allows patrons full access to the library without disturbing any functions in the conference room.

4. This ADA entrance will be a much safer entrance for all patrons of the library. Avoiding the hazards of speeding cars and turning right onto Knowles Road. The library's location bordering on a major highway is a disaster waiting to happen.

Ronald McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

Send Message to Belltown BOF

To the Editor:

The members of the East Hampton Board of Education deserve credit for working across party lines to add some modest funding to the proposed 2023-24 budget. While not unanimous, the board increased the spending plan by a little south of \$50,000.

The added funding does little more than funding a bicycle club and restoring the equivalent of a part-time position that was on the block, as well as providing some extra for classroom supplies. Still, it demonstrates that most of the members are putting students first, refreshing from a board that has often seemed divided along ideological lines.

However, uniting a student-centric board is a

small challenge compared to what comes next. Now, it's time to make an aggressive, firm pitch to the Board of Finance and Town Council.

It's not an argument that can be made in a Facebook echo chamber on one of the "Let's Talk" pages, either. The message needs to be brought directly to the board and council members – at their meetings, where they can't merely stop scrolling or dismiss it as nonsense.

It starts on Monday, March 20, when the Board of Finance holds a public hearing about education funding at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.

A 6% budget increase in a year of high inflation, skyrocketing transportation and heating costs, and spending tied largely to contractual obligations is hardly unreasonable. It's been stated previously, but it's worth repeating: there are no new positions in this budget, and this plan is merely to continue operating the schools at their current level.

Any cuts are going to mean diminishing the quality of the schools that drew so many of our families to East Hampton. Please join me and tell the Board of Finance that we will not accept that.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

All the World's a Stage

To the Editor:

And all the men and women merely players... The American public is now seeing the previously withheld surveillance videos of the Jan. 6 insurrection. The MSM had led us to believe that thousands had torn the Capitol apart, causing massive damage and killing several po-

lice officers while nearly toppling our democracy in the process. Unfortunately the newly released surveillance videos show Capitol Police often opening doors and escorting protesters into the building before allowing them to go on a self-guided tour...or simply stepping aside and neglecting their responsibilities in the face of an overwhelming, mostly non-violent crowd.

The face of the insurrection, the so called "Q-Anon Shaman," is shown flanked by a half-dozen armed Capitol police, being led around the building with officers even checking doors for him and eventually delivering him to the Senate chambers for his iconic bull-horning and lesser-known prayer in honor of the Capitol police.

The video footage doesn't jibe with what the media had told us previously about J6. It almost seems as if this was allowed to happen to foil the calls for investigation of election irregularities. Anyone with a functioning brain and an ounce of honesty can see that this story isn't adding up. The establishment Uni-Party immediately went into damage control mode, with both Schumer and McConnell castigating Carlson for bringing this footage to light. Schumer called for his outright censorship and his immediate removal from TV...how American of him!

The powers that be – on both sides of the aisle – depend on keeping you ignorant of the truth in order to maintain their control. The majority of the MSM works with the government in a hand-and-glove type of relationship ... re-enforcing their agendas while promoting their corporate sponsors during the commercial breaks. Not real journalists; just actors playing out their parts.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Sincere Thanks

To the Editor:

To all of those involved in the East Hampton Ambulance Corps who took the time to write your heartfelt letters to the paper, I sincerely thank you. You all transformed the function of being an emergency responder to a real human experience. The dedication, difficulties and despair as well as triumphs were laid open. You all added a dimension to a task which is taken somewhat for granted yet is totally necessary. The countless lives you have touched are forever grateful for your sacrifice and volunteerism.

Time. That nebulous word describing the space between a beginning and an end of a certain activity is precious when dealing with a medical crisis. Our days are filled with activity and too few have the necessary time to devote and dedicate it to becoming involved as a volunteer. Yet you carved out years of your lives to help someone in a bad situation or time. I get it.

Volunteerism is at an all time low. There is no incentive for many to volunteer their time since money/wages and benefits seems to have more value in today's society.

Time. Invisible and divisible. That's the crux of the matter. It is not the dedicated few who have helped so many. It's the ticking of the clock. It's the fact that there is more time than folks to cover the clock.

When the need arises, someone has to be there. You have been. But, there aren't enough of you.

These are the terms with which I am reckoning when making my decision about ambulance service in East Hampton. It is not you. It is all about the clock.

I respect your valor, dedication and intrepidity, which are unmatched. And, thank you for taking the time to write your letters and the service you have given.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Note: Walck is a member of the East Hampton Town Council, but is writing as an individual.

Hebron's Tax Disaster

To the Editor:

I imagine I was part of the vast majority of Hebron residents that were shocked by the announcement last week that we are facing an 11% tax increase. Described by the town manager as "the highest [spike] in 20 years," the timing and details of this increase are hard to comprehend. This excessive increase comes at the same time the Board of Selectmen continue to push their destructive plan for a \$20 million Public Works facility that is not included in the budget. So what happens if their misguided plan comes to fruition and the full expense gets added to this tax disaster?

Over many months I have shared information on the significant history and important watershed environment put at risk by the Public Works plan. I firmly believe that placing a Public Works facility in Hebron Center will negatively affect our town for many years, and even

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generations, to come. But what about the immediate dangers of a double-digit tax increase? As reported, the 11% tax increase would add \$1,162 per year to the taxes on median value property and result in a total of \$9,035 annual tax.

It was also reported last week that the Hebron school board unanimously approved a budget increase of 14.5%. Superintendent Thomas Baird outlined the serious issues facing our schools and the needs of our students. Clearly, they only asked for such a large increase because they feel it is necessary. In response I am only left to ask, where are our town leaders and what are their priorities? Address this crisis in our schools and abandon the push for a “showcase” Public Works facility in Heron Center. It is time to update Public Works at its current location on Old Colchester Road. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Regulations

To the Editor:

Wealthy CEOs of banking and railroad pushed hard for deregulations. Trump gave them what they wanted and now all hell has broken loose with train derailments and collapsing banks. Perhaps next time someone writes in to complain that regulations are bad for American business, they will kindly name the particular regulations and what is so bad about them.

On another note, it’s interesting to learn that many of the Fox News emails provided to Dominion lawyers were heavily redacted by Fox News lawyers. Could these blacked out portions be even more embarrassing for the propaganda network than what did see the light of day? We know the contempt Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham and others had for Trump and his retinue of clown lawyers. Could the hidden paragraphs show equal contempt for their actual viewers who have swallowed their endless lies?

The last several weeks our formerly frequent Trump writers have gone silent. Is it all the Jan. 6th insurrectionists being sent to jail? The multiple Republican Congressional chairmen like Jim Jordan making fools of themselves as they laughably push their so-far baseless inquiries? Or the Fox News credibility implosion?

Edmund Smith – Andover

Glock Handgun Ad

To the Editor:

I have been a loyal reader of the *Rivereast News* for the entire time I’ve lived in Colchester; over 25 years. I am shocked, appalled and saddened to open my newspaper last Friday and see a full-page ad on page 2 for Glock handguns. Yes, I am respectful of citizen’s right to purchase and own firearms, though I do not own any myself. Those who choose to purchase and own handguns surely do not need an advertisement in a local paper to steer them towards a sales event for firearms. Does your newspaper need such revenue? Our country is experiencing an epidemic of gun violence; including school shootings, church shootings and an unprecedented number of suicides using firearms.

A local community newspaper has an obligation to provide unbiased, objective news for its community readers while also contributing to the greater good of our society, both local and regional. I fail to see how this ad contributes to any of these objectives.

Shame on you.

Eileen Kenny – Colchester

Continued DPW Discussion

To the Editor:

I drove down Kinney Road and walked the trails through the Raymond Brook Preserve. I noticed where the entrance to the 17 Kinney Rd. DPW facility will be. Looking at the map of the 80+ acre site and the proximity to the roadways, I do not get the sense that this project would be highly visible or a detraction to our towns rural character. Just a much-needed and welcome addition to our town. Having another way around the center of town is also a plus to most residents during busy times, such as Maple Fest, and the Hebron Harvest Fair.

Our town hall, building department, fire departments, and elementary schools are all very well-maintained, landscaped, grasses mowed, trees trimmed, and so on. I can only hope that the new DPW facility would be no different. Maybe even removing the brush and bramble from the field stone walls during the construction to show more rural character!

How this will hurt our economy has yet to

be established. Connecting the road from Ted’s to Kinney Road is only the beginning for new business to come to Hebron. Currently there are minimal locations along Route 66, from Route 85 to Loveland Road, for retail business.

Finally, should we decide to rebuild the current DPW facility and build a new salt storage facility on Old Colchester Road, are we also going to have to upgrade the existing salt storage shed on Salt Box Road? If that is the case, then we will have two salt storage sheds that require maintenance and do not have access to the sanitary sewer system!

More food for thought!

Sincerely,
Todd Habicht – Hebron

Progressive Liberals

To the Editor:

Progressive liberals have special versions of morality, virtue, and righteousness. So special, in fact, that they can’t help telling you about them. Conversely, progressives also have special versions of hypocrisy, deception, and shamelessness. So special, in fact, that I can’t help telling you about them.

Case in point is the phony, pearl-clutching reaction to the Don Nowsch poem. I seem to remember several years ago during the Trump administration, comedienne Kathy Griffin displaying a fake, bloody, severed head of Donald Trump on Instagram, a plastic and silicone-infused Madonna “dreaming” of blowing up the White House, and Johnny Depp pondering the prospect of an actor killing the president. While all of these things had Trump voters doing their own pearl-clutching, the “progressives” among you furtively expressed glee in the imagery. Little, if any, defense of President Donald Trump was offered by the media. And for those of you who worry about violence resulting from such imagery, maybe we should ask Steve Scalise and Rand Paul what they think. And be careful referencing the Paul Pelosi story. I suspect there’s more to that incident than Paul and Nancy want us to know...

Ultimately, Don Nowsch should have known

better. There are myriad examples of half-baked (and fully-baked) liberal authorship in this paper about which to comment without referencing violent acts against anyone. In fact, I can make the case that reading letters from Edmund, Ed, Scott and Joe is a violent act against my eyeballs. I’m not going to complain about it though. However, I do get headaches...

If nothing else, the Toilet Paper Mafia has proven that there is room for more than one turd in the punch bowl.

Warm wishes,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Public Works Project

To the Editor:

Why build the Public Works building on the John Horton/Kinney Road site? First, all of the preferred infrastructure is available at that site. Sewer, water, 3 phase power, flat buildable land. Also, the site has accessibility from two avenues. Many issues have been raised from a few individuals. These range from the destruction of endangered wildlife to damaging ancient trees to now, possible Indigenous people being there. On that one, I would say that the chances of Indigenous people being here in what is now He-

See Letters, page 33

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

efit the RHAM Sports Boosters. Tickets will be available online at www.hebronctions.org/pancakes-breakfast, and will also be sold at the door.

After you’re all fortified from the breakfast on Sunday, be sure to swing by the center of town. Not only are the bulk of the Maple Fest activities centered there, but the center of town on Sunday will be the site of an annual fun event – the Hebron Maple Festival Tractor Parade.

The parade starts at Ted’s IGA supermarket on Main, and steps off at 1 p.m. The parade goes down Main Street to the church on the corner, turns through the parking lot, then goes back down Main Street. This year, the route will again be going down John Horton Boulevard to the Colebrook assisted living facility for a loop around the building. The total parade route is about 1.5 miles.

But wait – there’s more! The Maple Fest will also see the return of the annual Nature & Adventure Day, hosted each year by AHM Youth & Family Services and St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.

The event – which is actually spread out over both days of the festival – offers animal encounters, live maple syrup demos, storytelling with the Institute of Native American Studies, fun with Animal Tracks & Signs,

the Hebron Pollinators Pathway Exhibit, and more.

This event is located both indoors and outdoors at AHM’s Community Center, located at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron. For more information, and up-to-date details, visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/nature-adventure-day.

AHM will also have an informational booth set up at Douglas Library on Main Street – featuring a “Wheel of Fun” for a chance to win prizes. Also at the library: a book sale, hosted by the Friends of Douglas Library on Saturday, March 18.

The sale will feature a variety of Easter items such as stuffed animals, toys and filled baskets (priced from \$3-\$12). Also available for purchase will be a large number of gift-quality children’s and recent (2022-23) adult books for sale, priced from \$1 to \$4. All proceeds support programs and materials at the library.

Now, as I said, these are but a few of the many activities taking place during Maple Fest weekend. For more information, see the Hebron section of this week’s paper, or visit www.facebook.com/hebronmaplefestivalct.

See you next week – and maybe I’ll see you at the Maple Fest!

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Free Soccer Fridays Coming to Andover

By Michael Sinkewicz

Despite the mix of snow and rain left behind by a nor'easter this week, spring is around the corner, and the prospect of being outdoors is growing. For families searching for a new hobby, a fresh opportunity is coming to Andover and the surrounding communities.

The Vale East Soccer club is expanding in the region and plans on hosting programming in Andover in the months ahead, following a recent merger with Foundation Soccer Club North. While the club's main facility is in Middletown, events will take place at Long Hill Field in Andover.

Kamali Webson, the assistant director of the Vale East Soccer Club, told the *Rivereast* that two specific programs stand out to him as particularly exciting. From April 14-June 9, the club is hosting Free Play Soccer Fridays, which will be open to children between the ages of 8-12. The program will run from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The second program, called Sprouts, is centered around kids age 5-8, and will run Mondays and Wednesdays, April 3-June 5, from 5-6 p.m.

Webson, who joined the club within the last year, expressed that Vale East specializes in the "grassroots" of soccer.

"It's a way for kids to fall in love with the game," he said. "That's a big part of what we do."

The programs welcome players of all skill levels and aims to instill important values such as teamwork and sportsmanship. Many adults may remember growing up with local recreation programs, which often survive on volunteer coaches and parents.

"And that's great," Webson said. "We're not trying to compete with the town program."

What clubs such as Vale East provide, he continued, is an additional layer of support for young athletes.

"We're able to reach them with a little more expertise and experience," he said.

One of the club's services involves working with local coaches within town programs. Known as "Club Alliance," the program allows professionals to assist recreation organizations, including supporting coaches.

The overall objective, Webson said, is to help expand the sport.

"Soccer in America is going to grow from the bottom," he said.

Even if youth players don't ultimately pursue the more advanced levels of the club, Webson hopes those athletes decide to continue playing in some capacity.

"I'm not saying they have to play with us," he said. "We want them to have the opportunity to come play and learn the skills. We want them to stay in the game."

Still, he acknowledged that his club might be the ideal avenue for those looking to give a soccer a test run.

"We separate ourselves with that expertise," he said, adding that the club "bolsters and fortifies" the local programs.

For those that do take advantage of the spring events, they'll be working alongside professionals.

Webson is an assistant coach at UConn and he previously worked as an assistant coach at Northeastern University in 2021. His coaching career also involves a stint at Needham High School with the Boys Varsity team from 2014-2020.

He played college soccer at Roger Williams University and Hawaii Pacific University, where he racked up numerous accolades including being a 3-time first team all-conference player, a 2-time first team all-New England player and a Division III All-American in 2012.

Webson was also a USL Combine Participant & SoccerViza combine participant in 2013. He earned a contract with KF Fjallabyggjar, a club in Iceland. In both 2012 and 2014, he represented the Antigua & Barbuda Men's National Team in World Cup Qualification camps.

He's earned a variety of coaching degrees, including a master's degree in positive coaching and athletic leadership from the University of Missouri in 2019.

"I've been around the game my whole life," Webson said.

As Vale East Soccer Club looks to attract soccer enthusiasts, Webson said he believes the sport is still on the rebound.

According to Statista Research Department, the amount children aged 6-12 who participated in outdoor soccer on a regular basis in the U.S. dropped from 10.4% in 2008 to 7.7% in 2019.

Based on the trend lines Webson has ob-



Vale East Soccer Club assistant director Kamali Webson is shown here working with kids at the club's main facility in Middletown. The youth soccer club is expanding, and will host programming in Andover in coming months.

served, he believes there has been a drop-off in recent years.

"We're continuing to see that as people get older, we're seeing far more people drop out of the sport completely than we used to," he said.

Many athletes, he expressed, would exit the sport once they reached stronger competitive leagues or clubs. He speculated that perhaps the pandemic played a role in suppressing the overall numbers, especially at the grassroots level. Another possibility, he added, was that youth turnout suffered after the U.S. failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

"Obviously with Covid, a lot of activities took hits," he said. "As things opened back up, the numbers weren't where we wanted them to be right away."

During those years, it's unclear how many new families enrolled their kids in camps and other activities, but Webson believes that children's interest in soccer is still alive.

The Friday evening program, which is free, "gives the community that option to get out there," he said.

For those considering joining, he believes Vale East will provide the right experience for each child.

"If you trust us with that, we take that responsibility seriously," he said.

President's Honors List

Andover residents Taylor Fitch and Clarice Jayawickrema made the fall 2022 President's Honors List at the University of Hartford.

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 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.

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 6:30 p.m.

Tickets must be purchased no later than March 22.

Dean's List

Austin Davis of Andover made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

DTC Meet-and-Greet

The Andover Democratic Town Committee encourages all Democrats, Independents, and unaffiliated residents to get involved on town boards and commissions.

There will be a DTC Meet-and-Greet Saturday, March 25, from 2-4 p.m., in the Town Hall community room, for folks to discover how they can get involved in town governance. Refreshments will be served.

All Democrats, unaffiliated and Independents are welcome.

Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Andover Friends of the Library group is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an Andover high school senior. Applications are due May 1, and are available at the guidance office at RHAM High School; at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6; or online at tinyurl.com/2huzen57.

Completed applications must be dropped off at the library or emailed to the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com.

The applicant must be currently enrolled as a senior in any high school, use the scholarship to further their education, and hold a valid Andover Public Library card.

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com.

Veterans Meeting Canceled

The Andover Veterans meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 18, has been canceled due to the participation of many of the members in the Hebron Maple Fest activities. The Maple Fest will be held March 18-19 in Hebron, and will feature participation by American Legion Post 95 and other veterans' organizations.

The next Andover Veterans meeting will be held Saturday, April 15, from 1-3 p.m., at

the Town Hall Community Room, and will feature special guest author MSG (R) Marc Youngquist. Youngquist was a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard 143rd Military Police Company, and has written a book based on the deployment of his unit to Iraq in 2003-04. Copies of his award-winning book will be available following his presentation. For this special event, all interested persons are invited; no military affiliation is required.

Upcoming Library Programs

Andover Public Library has a pair of programs coming up, to which all are invited. The library is located at 355 Route 6. For more information or to RSVP, call 860-742-7428.

Blues 101: Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m., with Ramblin' Dan Stevens. This free program encompasses the history of blues music in America, from its origins in the African American tradition of the Deep South to the present. Stevens will present a multimedia program of classic blues pieces played on vintage instruments and interspersed with historical images,

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.

Shopping Dates: Tuesdays. Manchester: 3/21; Willimantic: 3/28. Masks available on all vehicles.

Senior Luncheon: Thursday, March 30. Reservations required by Wednesday, March 29. RHAM Boosters will provide entertainment.

Upcoming Trip: Westbrook for lobster on March 20. For information, call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext 2.

Young at Heart – Special Date: Wednesday, March 22, 12:30 p.m., in the community room at Town Hall. All are welcome. Call Palazzi for a ride.

video, and educational material. All are welcome; RSVP is not required, but is requested for planning purposes.

Saturday Storytime: Saturday, March 18, 10:30 a.m. Library Friend Ellen Repay will share a story and lead a craft for attendees. The theme in March is "Fairies & Leprechauns." The craft this month will involve painting a fairy house. All are welcome, but space is limited to 12 attendees, so RSVP as soon as possible.

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.

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From the Superintendent's Desk...

Could it be Daylight Saving and the start of spring already? This has been a wonderful and productive year at Andover Elementary School thus far. We first welcomed Taylor Parker as the new school principal and we have been hitting the ground running ever since. Together as a school community we have been working hard to strengthen our curriculum and address all of the individual needs of our students. In the fall, one member of the fifth grade, Scarlet, became a member of the Kid Governor Cabinet and has been hard at work in Hartford beginning an early career in politics. We also were the recipients of an afterschool grant and have brought in some amazing programming to our students. The monthly calendar fills up very quickly and our hallways remain bustling long after the afternoon bell rings. This will run through next school year and we welcome ideas and talents to join us.

In honor of the 175th anniversary of the Town of Andover, we are collaborating with the committee to help bring the celebration to the people. We will be the music behind the event to be held on May 18th at the gazebo. Our children will play and sing and again at the monument on the day of the Memorial Day parade. Mrs. Gourdet is working to help make this happen. We have DARE coming this week for our sixth-graders who will complete the substance abuse course. Our fifth- and sixth-graders are now CPR/First Aid and AED certified. We are so proud of them for learning how to save a life. We had one student, Hilary Boris, represent us at the regional Spelling Bee and she made us very proud.

Lastly, we have just completed our first annual Invention Convention. A dozen judges ranging from BOE members, senior citizens, the town manager, a parent, and educators made the difficult eliminations to find six finalists. We are very proud of the six students that will represent AES at the regional competition. Davis Haggerty, Emily St. Rock, Brayden Warriner, Lily Dwyer-Fowler, Brianna Boland, and Elena Chalfant will move forward. AES has so much talent and we are proud to be sharing these children at a state level. Go Red Hawks!!!

Valerie E. Bruneau
Andover Superintendent of Schools



Happy Birthday to You!!!... Andover Seniors Young at Heart celebrated March birthdays with cake and ice cream at the meeting March 1. Pictured are Ylo Anson, Perry Lindley and Barbara Steele. Photo by Mary Duval.

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

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

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

Tenebrae Service: Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.

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.

New Adventure Backpacks Available at Library

The Andover Friends of the Library recently received a Greater Together Community Fund Grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to assemble "Adventure Backpacks," part of the Andover Public Library Outdoors program.

The backpacks are intended for patrons to spend quality time outdoors, to have fun and to relax. Four backpacks are available for a seven-day loan period. Each contains one pair of adult

and one pair of child binoculars, two magnifying glasses, and seven laminated pamphlets on topics including birds, wildflowers, trees, tracks, insects, wildlife and butterflies.

Located at 355 Route 6, Andover Public Library's hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call 860-742-7428 or email andoverctpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

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

Bradley Plausse of Andover made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.

Plausse is a writing for film and television major.

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.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner today, Friday, March 17, from 5-7 p.m. The meal is takeout or eat-in.

Cost is \$18 and includes dinner, drink and dessert. Call 860-742-7696 with your order.

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.

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 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.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets Night Friday, March 24, 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 with questions.

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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 appli-

cations 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.

College Fair

Xavier and Mercy high schools will hold a special College Fair Wednesday, April 5, from 6-7:30 p.m., at Xavier, located at 181 Randolph Rd.

There will be over 100 college representatives in attendance for the night, and Xavier and Mercy encourage students in grades 9-11 from all over the state to attend.

Be prepared, not scared.

Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

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Local Schools Pen ‘Code of Conduct for Coaches’

By Jack Lakowsky

In December East Hampton High School athletic director and girls basketball coach Shaun Russell was suspended after shoving a player during a game in Deep River.

A recording of the game shows Russell shoving a player across the court to “correct” her positioning.

The *Rivereast* was first to break the story, and soon statewide outlets covered it; Russell was suspended from his directorship after the issue went public.

He was reinstated a few weeks ago.

Following his suspension, parents and players showed up at an East Hampton school board meeting to voice their support for Russell. Russell has had an undeniably illustrious coaching career in East Hampton, being named the Shoreline Conference Coach of the Year in 2021 and in the 2021-’22 season, coaching the team to an undefeated season that ended in a championship title.

Russell has coached the team for 25 seasons and has more than 400 wins as coach. The shoving incident was a sudden and surprising blemish on an otherwise lauded, successful career.

In what is perhaps an effort to prevent similar incidents from occurring, the East Hampton Board of Education’s policy subcommittee has developed a “Code of Conduct for Coaches.”

The new code features a “prohibition of abusive behavior,” and a list of prevented physical contacts.

“Slapping, hitting, pushing, punching, kicking, or any other physical contact meant to discipline, punish, or achieve compliance from an athlete,” starts the list of prevented behaviors. Also unallowed are “lingering” or repeated embraces, or any contact that makes a student athlete uncomfortable; cuddling or any prolonged physical contact; any “hurtful touch” or use of excessive exercise, denial of fluids or making unreasonable requests as forms of discipline.

Some touching is allowed, like spotting an athlete to prevent injury, improving their balance or coordination, or helping release muscle cramp or an otherwise injured player.

The policy also outlines what the school considers abusive behavior by coaches, like verbal abuse (name calling, swearing or otherwise demeaning comments), emotional and psycho-

logical abuse, bullying or hazing.

The policy doesn’t just deal with abusive or inappropriate behaviors, it also explains expectations of good, professional behavior.

“Coaches shall be aware [they have] a tremendous influence on the education and development of student athletes,” and must strive to personify highly ethical leadership and “moral conduct” with everyone – students, administrators and/or the public.

Coaches are also expected to take an “active role” in preventing students from using or abusing substances, “while stressing the importance of a healthy lifestyle,” discouraging the use of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) or inappropriate dietary supplements.

Sportsmanship is to be prioritized, coaches

can’t “place the value of winning above the value of instilling the ideals of good character and will discipline athletes who display unacceptable behavior in accordance with the directives of the athletic director and school principal.”

The policy goes on to say, “coaches shall respect and support contest officials and maintain a professional demeanor during contests” and that a coach publicly criticizing officials or players is unethical and unacceptable.

After Russell shoved the player, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said, “Regardless of the excitement of an athletic contest we expect our coaches to temper their behavior to represent the high ideals of East Hampton Public Schools.”

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

All are invited during Lent while the church focuses on the theme of “Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith.”

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

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

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

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

Adult Workshops at Epoch Arts

Epoch Arts is offering the upcoming adult workshops. All workshops are held at Epoch, 27 Skinner St., and are led by local artists. Registration and workshop information can be found at www.epocharts.org.

Ceramic Lantern Workshop: Monday, March 20, 6-8:30 p.m. In this workshop you will create and glaze a unique hand-built lantern. Your instructor Nikki Giglio will take you through the building process step-by-step. Finished pieces will be available for pick up 2-3 weeks later.

Needle-Felted Field Painting: Saturday, March 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In another workshop with Walsh, you will learn to blend

colors and use the appropriate colors to make your landscape appear to recede in the distance. As an added bonus (and if time allows), you will learn to create a three-dimensional focus flower.

Painting a Coastal Scene in Acrylic: Monday, March 27, and Wednesday, March 29, 6-8 p.m. Join artist Tom Swimm and create a 12”x16” original acrylic painting that will include techniques in capturing color and light in water reflections. There will also be instructions in composition, palette setup, and color mixing. Subject matter will be provided by the artist.

Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship are now available.

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Barber family to an applicant, chosen by a selection committee, who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and who has performed selfless service within their school and the community.

Applicants must be an East Hampton resident graduating with the Class of 2023

(whether from East Hampton High School or another high school), who has been accepted to attend an institute of higher learning after graduation.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office or by written request to kbarber582@gmail.com. Applications must be received no later than April 7.

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.

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.

EHHS Music Cabaret

The East Hampton High School Music Cabaret will take place Wednesday, April 5, from 6-8 p.m., in the EHHS cafeteria, 15 N. Maple St. The night will include a pasta dinner, student musical performances and raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens and \$16 for adults. To purchase, go to www.easthamptonps.org, click on “Optional Online Payments” and then “Pay for HS-Music-Cabaret.” You can check out as a guest, login

to your account, or create an account. Please be sure to clearly specify your name and number of tickets to ensure a smooth check-in at the event. You will receive an email confirmation of your purchase to present at the door.

Limited tickets will also be available for purchase at the door.

All proceeds benefit the EHHS music department.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

Lenten Message Series: Each Sunday in Lent, the message will focus on the seven last words of Christ: “My God, why has Thou forsaken me?”

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 1, 1 p.m. Hundreds of colorful eggs will be hidden outside the church. There will also be refreshments and Easter gift bags.

Puppet Ministry: Each Sunday, the Church’s Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and

some of his friends from Farmer M’s Red Barn to help explain the meaning of the message topic.

Kids Church: Music and hands-on interactive activities are offered for kids in the Fellowship Hall during the worship service. All are welcome.

Bible Study: Adult Bible Study is held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The study is on the Book of Revelation.

Zoom Bible Study: Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. The study looks at various ways to approach Bible reading to enhance the ability to hear what God says.

Office Info: The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. The church website is at www.hncovenantchurch.org.

Senior Center Offering Trip

East Hampton Senior Center is offering a trip to the Harvard Glass Museum and the Mapparium on Tuesday, April 18.

In this trip to Boston, climb inside the Mapparium, a huge globe, showing the world’s boundaries frozen in time circa 1935, at the Mary Baker Eddy Library. Enjoy a three-course family-style Italian lunch at Maggiano’s Little Italy. Next, enjoy a guided tour of the glass flowers exhibit in the Harvard Museum of Natural History. Between 1886 to 1936, Austrian glass makers created glass models of 700 species of flowers and plants. Every bit of the flowers, including roots, stems, leaves and even dirt, are made of glass.

Cost is \$130/person. For more information or to register, call the senior center at 860-267-4426.

Bottle Drive

Troop 57 will hold a bottle drive Saturday, March 18, between 9 a.m. and noon at the American Distilling parking lot at 31 East High St. (Route 66), East Hampton.

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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 calendar. 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.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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.

Family Storytime: Saturday, March 18, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-5. Siblings welcome. There will be music, movement, and reading of books. Stick around afterwards for crafts, sensory play and socializing.

Kids Comic Creators: Investigators: Wednesday, March 22, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5. Play games, craft, and try new comic-making techniques inspired by the *InvestiGators* book series.

DIY Days - Cup and Ball Toy: Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for children and families in grades K-8. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

Meet a Sled Dog Team!: Saturday, March 25, noon. All ages are invited to the field at Center School to meet Liz Chapman and the dogs of Team Danger Zone. Learn about mushing, see a demonstration, and interact with the dogs.

Teen Programs: Nintendo Switch Tournament: Saturday, March 18, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. All skill levels welcome.

Deadline Soon for EHACC Grants

The deadline is fast approaching for East Hampton organizations and individuals to apply for one of two \$500 grants from the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission.

The grants are for programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts.

Deadline to apply is April 1. Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org. Email completed applications to arts@easthamptonct.org or drop them off at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

Quilt Show Coming - Donations Accepted

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.

Haddam Neck Congregational Church Ladies Aid is accepting donations of yarn, fabric and sewing notions for the weekend's Bits and Pieces sale. Email Mapionzio@comcast.net or call 860-993-5311 or 860-301-4994 for information.

Dean's List

Zachary Porter of East Hampton made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

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. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard for information at jneelrichard16@gmail.com.

Donations and Contributions: Place all re-

turnable 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.

Lenten Vitamin Drive: Save your change to donate for vitamins in Haiti - specifically, the children of St. Vincent's School.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0278 or contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at donnaadubehryb@gmail.com.

Middle School to Perform *Guys and Dolls JR*

The East Hampton Middle School Drama Club will perform *Guys and Dolls JR*, presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International, from March 17-19, at the school, located at 19 Childs Rd.

Showtimes are: Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 18, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and will be sold only at the door, via cash or check made out to EHMS.

Guys and Dolls JR features music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, a book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, and is based on a story and char-

acters by Damon Runyon.

The musical comedy follows Salvation Army crusaders and high rollers from the streets of Times Square to Havana and back again. The play features such colorful characters as Nathan Detroit, his fiancée Miss Adelaide, and slick high-roller Sky Masterson.

The Tony-winning *Guys and Dolls* first hit Broadway in 1950 and has seen several revivals since, as well as a 1955 movie adaptation starring Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra.

Kindergarten Registration Underway

Kindergarten registration packets for the 2023-24 school year are now available at the Memorial School foyer and at East Hampton Public Library.

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 Game Night

All adults are invited to Belltown Game Night, a fun evening of board games, Friday, March 31, from 6-9 p.m., at Hope Church, 230 East High St.

Learn to play modern games: Splendor, Ticket to Ride, Just One, and more. No need to bring any games with you; the church will provide the games and teachers. Free snacks and drinks will be provided.

This event is for adults only. Register at cthope.com/events.

President's Honors List

East Hampton residents Noah Gibson and Josh Rudder made the fall 2022 President's Honors List at the University of Hartford.

'Drive & Drop' for Cat Rescue

The East Hampton High School Student Council will hold a "Drive & Drop" donation collection, to benefit the Cat Tales non-profit rescue of Middletown, on Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., in front of East Hampton High School.

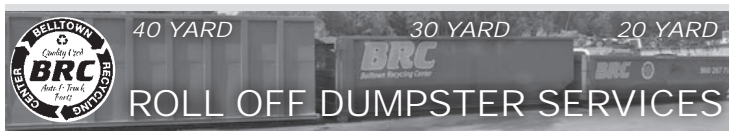
There is no need to get out of your car; just drive up and students will collect your donations. Some items in need are laundry detergent, garbage bags, cat food, cat treats, dish soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer and dryer sheets.

For more information, email rbullett@easthamptonct.org.



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Bellringers Basketball Scorch Blue Devils, Head to Sun

By Josh Howard

East Hampton girls basketball soundly defeated Coghinchaug 44-24 in the Class M semifinals at Morgan High School on Monday, earning a trip to Mohegan Sun Arena for this weekend's state championship game.

It will be the program's first state championship appearance since 1980.

In the semifinals triumph, the Bellringers used an efficient offense and smothering defense to overwhelm the Durham-based Blue Devils from the opening tip.

Sophomore Liana Salamone led the offense with 19 points, while junior Jackie Russell added 12 and sparked the team on the defensive end by taking a pair of charges in the first quarter.

"This time of year, you have to hang your hat on defense," said East Hampton head coach Shaun Russell. "You play in different venues and there are different shooting backgrounds, so you're not always going to shoot well or you may not get good shots because you are playing teams that can guard."

Jackie Russell, who scored all of her points beyond the arc, drained a high-arching three-pointer on the team's first trip down the court.

After Coghinchaug's Katie Farr tied the game at three, Russell canned another triple to give the Bellringers the lead for good. She also prompted a 11-0 scoring run in the second quarter by hitting back-to-back treys from the left and right wings.

The opposing teams entered the semifinal round very familiar with each other because both play in the Shoreline Conference (SLC) and had already played twice this season, once during the regular season and once in the SLC tournament semifinals.

The Bellringers had won the previous two games by an average of 20 points per game, yet East Hampton emphasized the importance of not taking a conference rival lightly.

"We couldn't underestimate them. We knew they could play just as well," said Jackie Russell. "They had seven seniors, so we knew they would give it all they have and we just had to come prepared."

It was also the third time this winter that

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 Thurs-

Republicans Meet Next Week

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee will be held Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m., at The Lakeside Bar and Grill (upstairs meeting area), located at 81 North Main St.

All are invited as the committee starts strategizing for the 2023 municipal election. The committee is searching for candidates to run for all boards, such as the Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education and others.

Easter Egg Hunt

Hope Church is hosting a free community Easter Egg Hunt for all children through grade 5. The event will be held Saturday, April 8, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at 230 East High St.

Hot dogs and other snacks will be provided. Register for this event at cthope.com/easter no later than Saturday, April 1.

the Bellringers were playing at Morgan High School, giving the team added comfortability at the neutral site.

Salamone put the game out of reach in the third, scoring seven points as East Hampton upped the lead to 24 points going into the final quarter.

Sophomore Olivia DeMartino added six points and four steals in the victory.

Shaun Russell said DeMartino's versatility gives the team a lot of flexibility on both ends of the court, adding that DeMartino, junior Delaney Russell, and senior captain Jordan Murphy can all guard multiple positions on the defensive end.

"Defensively with that group it allows us flexibility to do some different things," added the longtime coach. "We can guard just about anybody and make the other team do things they don't want to do."

The team's defensive tenacity was on full display during the second and third quarters, holding Coghinchaug to a mere eight points over the 16-minute stretch.

After East Hampton secured a spot in the state championship game, they watched two other SLC rivals battle in the second half of the semifinals back-to-back to see who their opponent would be.

Valley Regional defeated Cromwell, 56-51, to reach the title game and set up a third meeting with the Bellringers.

East Hampton defeated Valley Regional in both contests this season, winning easily at Deep River in December and then having to rally to earn a victory at EHHS in February.

Outside of the two losses to the Bellringers, the Warriors of Valley Regional won 17 of 18 games in the regular season. They have an experienced roster that features first-team all-conference seniors Abby Bradbury and Lily Grow, who have combined to average nearly 30 points per game this season.

East Hampton's resume is even more impressive. Entering the championship game, the Bellringers have won 26 of 27 games this year, including the postseason.

Shaun Russell expressed that he wanted his

day, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet indoors or via Zoom.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW): Monday, March 20, 10 a.m. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources. The group determines the topics for discussion for the next month.

Art w/Karen: Sunday, March 26, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. The class cost is \$5 for supplies. Pay Williams the day of the event. Pre-registration is necessary.

Writing is Good for your Health: Thursday, March 30, 1 p.m. Local author Dale Ursin will share his writing experiences and have copies of his book, *In the Land of the Walpoles*.

Trips: Saratoga: Aug. 2-3. Visit the Saratoga racetrack and place your bets, then stay at the Queensbury Hotel and enjoy a welcome dinner. Day two includes heading to the top of Prospect Mountain overlooking Lake George and then a two-hour narrated, luncheon, Lake George steamboat cruise with live entertainment. Also, stroll the village. Cost is \$429/person for a double/triple and \$509/person for a single. Deposit of \$150 is due May 2. Call for more information or stop by to pick up a flyer.

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

Antique Appraisal Day

The Chatham Historical Society will host its 27th annual Antique Appraisal Day Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the conference room at Town Hall, located at 1 Community Drive.

There will be four appraisers present with a varied wealth of knowledge. Charge is \$6 per item and no appointment is needed. This is a fundraiser for the continual maintenance of the Society's two museum buildings and 1840 one-room schoolhouse.

Call Maggy Morales at 860-539-0988 for more information, including updates on storm-related cancellations.



East Hampton's Jackie Russell is defended by Coghinchaug's Chloe Shafir as senior captain Jordan Murphy comes over to set a screen during the Bellringers 44-24 state semifinal victory on March 13.

team to soak up the semifinals victory before turning the page to the title tilt, saying, "Enjoyment and desire to play is also what fuels the energy to play and intensity."

"We have to strike that balance of preparing for a familiar opponent and at the same time still improve and find those areas of the game that can help us," he added.

With the semifinals triumph now in the rear

view mirror, there's just one game left for all the marbles.

Jackie Russell said the trip to Mohegan "means everything," adding, "we just have to have a couple of really good days of practice and get ready."

Check ciacsports.com for a complete list of dates and time for this weekend's state basketball championship games.

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.

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.

Writers' Workshop: Wednesday, March 22, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be constructive criticism and writing exercises. Registration requested.

Art Association Meets Next Week

The East Hampton Art Association will hold its monthly program Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m., in the East Hampton Community Center at 105 Main St.

This month, the association welcomes fine artist Tom Swimm, who will give a demonstration in oil painting.

Swimm developed his self-taught painting methods by experimenting with various techniques and by studying the great works of Van Gogh, Hopper, Gauguin, Cezanne and Monet.

Born and raised on the east coast, he had a successful career as an advertising commercial artist in New York, then moved to southern California with his wife and son in 1982. Inspired by the light and landscape of Laguna, he renewed his passion for painting and was accepted for his first exhibition in the Festival of Arts in 1988.

Swimm develops his use of light and color with each work. He says, "Light is the most important aspect of my work, offering the ultimate challenge and reward. To capture its elusive qualities on canvas offers great personal satisfaction, and it's what I thrive on artistically."

To seek inspiration, Swimm travels extensively, working from photos and sketches that he uses for reference. With multiple exhibits and awards to his credit, his work has been included in many private and corporate collections. His methods have been published in art instruction books and he has also illustrated children's books.

In addition to his work in the visual arts,



Tom Swimm will give a demonstration in oil painting at next week's meeting of the East Hampton Art Association.

Swimm is also a published playwright, musician and screenwriter. His stage plays have been produced in Las Vegas, Seattle, Los Angeles and San Diego. He currently resides in East Hampton with his wife Rosemary. For more about Swimm, visit tomswimmfineart.com

All are invited to next week's program. Admission is free for members, with a suggested donation of \$4 for non-members. Programs/demonstrations and meetings are always free for students. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be served.

Senior Van Available

East Hampton Senior Center has an accessible van and a part-time driver whose driving schedule runs Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday's schedule will be flexible, based on the needs that present themselves during the week.

The initial plan is to provide rides on a first-come, first-served basis for local trips to the post office, bank, grocery store, and the Senior Center. This part of the plan is a starting point,

with other group trips to various venues to be determined in the future.

This resource is available to residents who are 60+ years old who reside in East Hampton. The van is accessible, with a lift to accommodate wheelchairs and such. There is no fee for this service; however, donations are accepted. A ride can be scheduled by calling the senior center at 860-267-4426.

Housing Options for Older Adults

The East Hampton Commission on Aging will sponsor a presentation on improving housing options for older adults on Saturday, April 15, from 1-2 p.m., at Town Hall. This free talk by Town Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli will cover ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units), renovating homes for safety, and affording those renovations.

It is targeted to older adults and their families. Information about grants and low-interest loans

for lower-income residents will be available. Register in advance through the senior center, reached at seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov, or 860-267-4426, but walk-ins are welcome.

The Commission on Aging organized this presentation because 40% of the Senior Survey respondents wanted more information on ADUs, and 24% said they needed to make changes to their houses to continue to live in them.

Tame Your Shrubs and Small Trees

The Belltown Garden Club will meet Monday, March 27, at 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

This will be a joint meeting with the Colchester Garden Club, who is hosting horticulturist and landscape designer Nancy Debrule-Clement. She will discuss how to pruneshrubs correctly to control their growth for maximum effect in our gardens. Also included in her discussion is when to prune different types of shrubs.

Note: The Belltown Garden Club members will meet in the Zagray room of Cragin Library at 5 p.m., for a short business meeting prior to the evening's program.

Members of the public and prospective members are always welcome to attend. The Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.

Call JoAnn at 860-267-4129 with any questions prior to the meeting.

Grants Awarded for Capstone Projects

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) recently awarded two \$200 grants to East Hampton High School students to support their capstone project, a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students.

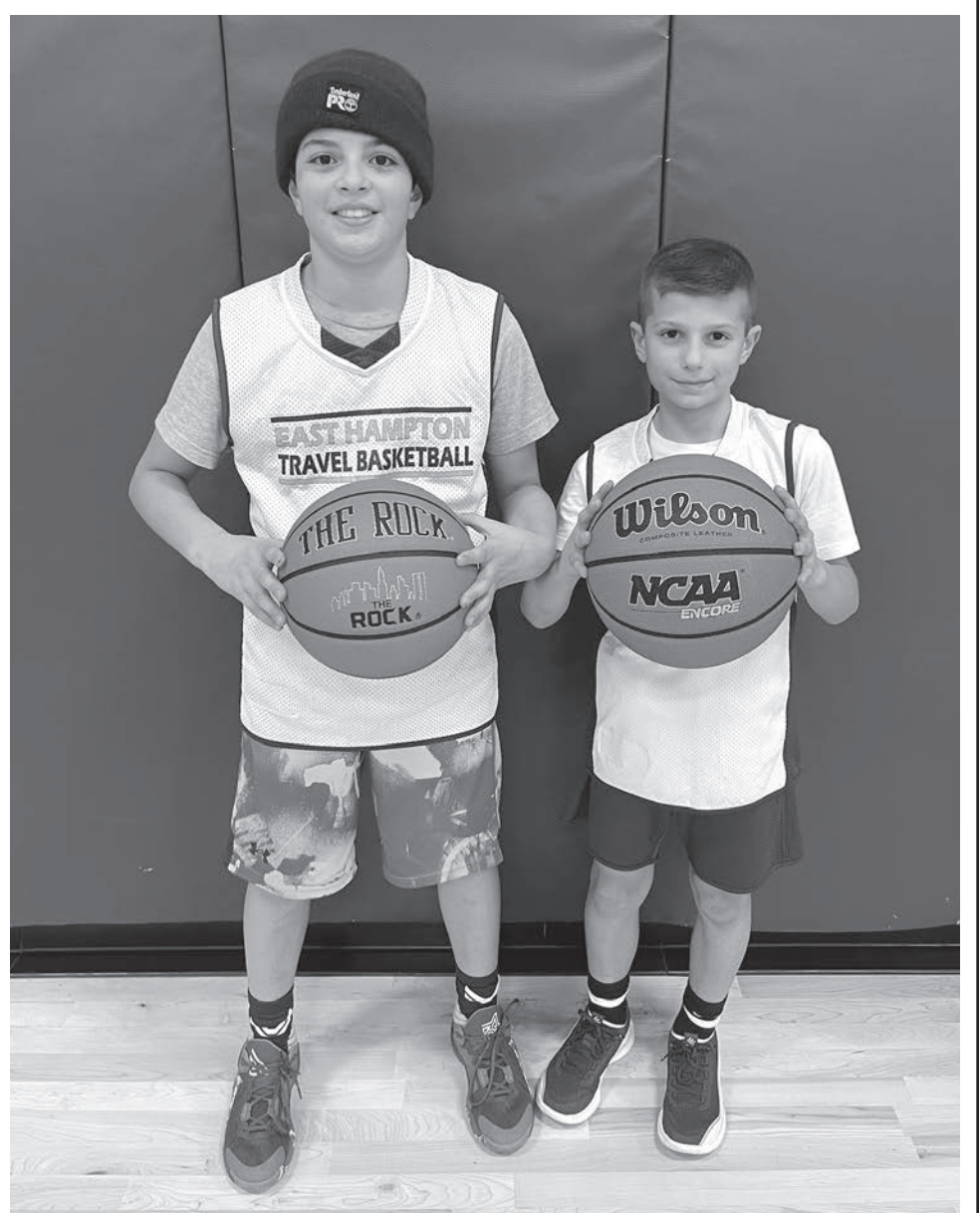
Capstone projects may take a wide variety of forms including a long-term investigative project that culminates in a final product, presentation, or performance.

EHHS senior Jewel Miranda plans to start a nonprofit organization for her capstone project, to help students with anxiety. Miranda will use the grant funds to purchase customized journals, fidget toys and host workshops to provide resources and tools for students with anxiety. She hopes to have the nonprofit up and running by June 2023.

EHHS seniors Eshani Karkun and Kira Roloff, who are working as a team on their capstone project, will host a tennis clinic for ages

6 to 12, to give local children an opportunity to get moving, have fun and learn how to obtain a healthy lifestyle. Karkun and Roloff said more than 20 children have signed up for the clinic, which will be held March 25 and 26 at the EHHS tennis courts. Karkun and Roloff will use the EHACC Capstone Grant funds to purchase tennis equipment to ensure the children are partaking in the activity in the safest way possible and to make the experience as realistic as an actual tennis match could be.

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission will offer the Capstone Grant to East Hampton High School juniors and seniors again in 2024. For information on the EHACC, its initiatives and how to become a commission member, visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org or email arts@easthamptonct.org.



All-Star Selections... East Hampton fifth grade basketball players Noah Salamone and Bryson Rall were selected to the All-Star game played in Woodbridge on Feb. 20. "Bryson and Noah were selected by coach Peter Kellogg, coach Brendan Hines and me for their consistent and continued play at practice and on the court during our games," said head coach Patrick Zabroski. "They have helped lead our team to a very successful season. Noah and Bryson are very deserving of their All-Star selection!"

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:

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.

Dean's List

Evan Selger of East Hampton made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Selger is in the electrical engineering technology program.

Pollinator Pathway Interest Meeting

The Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Department's Community Association is gathering interested residents on Wednesday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m., in the firehouse, to brainstorm ways to promote native species in support of pollinators.

All ages, and all levels of knowledge and interest, are welcome. The firehouse is located at 50 Rock Landing Rd.

For more information, email Mary Ann Buckley at malbuckley@aol.com.

Dean's List

East Hampton resident Alyssa Marchi made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

Marchi is a nursing major, and the daughter of Nancy and Drew Marchi.

Belltown KoC Scholarship and Grant

The Belltown Knights of Columbus Council 6190 is offering 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 stpatrick47@sbcglobal.net – and are due April 14.

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Rotary Scholarships Available

The Rotary Club of East Hampton and Marlborough invites local high school seniors from East Hampton and Marlborough, as well as adult learners from those towns, to apply for one of several scholarships.

All residents are eligible, regardless of what high school they attend – public or private. Applicants can be attending any college, university, trade school, vocational program, or veteran-focused program.

A new scholarship, in memory of Rotary's

beloved Jan Solomon, is available to female candidates, with financial need pursuing a degree in the sciences. This \$1,500 scholarship is sponsored by the Solomon family through the Rotary Club.

Applications can also be obtained through the Rotary Club website at www.easthamptonrotary.org and can be returned electronically to scholarshipapp@yahoo.com.

All applications must be submitted no later than April 3.

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.

High School Honor Roll

East Hampton High School has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

High Honors

Grade 9: Gabrielle Allis, Marian Andoh, Sophia Aresco, Beckett Asklar, Lila Babcock, Francis Barry, Michael Bellemare, Addison Bolton (Wellborn), Richard Carl, Dylan Carlson, Anastacia Cooke, Klara Cygan, Madelyn Daniels, Hannah DePino, Izzy Dickinson, Matthew Drlik, William Faber, Andrew Fenton, Ryder Fijalkowski, Nadia France, Brielle Gay, Hailey Geoffrey, Aiden Gora, Jocelyn Gustavson, Ashley Johnson, Logan Johnston, Dean Jump, Kendall Jump, Ollie Kennedy, Abigail Kiernan, Julianna Korczak, Adriana Kromish, Talor Lambo, Jillian Leonardo, Bethany Limmer, James Limmer, Sophia Long, Jacob Marchinkoski, Eryk Mitkiewicz, Noah Mokrzycki, Aiden Niderno, Leah Norton, Sophia Perron, William Potter, Samantha Pugo, Angel Rodriguez, Jackson Rurka, Declan Russell, Landon Searles, Aubrey Stevens, Sydney Vicino, Caleb Wagner, Evan Wagner, Amelia Wiesner, Madelyn Wilk.

Grade 10: William Anderman, Alyssa Anderson, William Bothamley, Rachel Boudreau, Macie Brazal, Charlotte Cascio, Alicia Colegrove, Matthew Correia, Ashley Cost, Jonathan Crowley, Olivia D'Agostino, Olivia DeMartino, Olivia, Oliver Dickson-Cotto, Jace Donohue, Cassie Dugan, Keira Engel, Addison Fraser, Skyler Frosti, Emma Giovanelli, Kaitlyn Grenier, Madison Hall, Danielle Healy, Alison Hebb, Kaitlyn Ireland, Allison Jacobsen, Emily Jovel, Blake Kapernaros, Emma Kelly, Jacqueline Laboy, Jacob LaPolt, Gavin Ledas, Kristoffer Lintz, Angela Lombardo, Evan LoPresti, Brady Lynch, Marissa Martin, Abbie Miller, Rylee Montalvo, Grace Montovani, Amanda Murphy, William Nafis, Theodore Nanos, Aiden Nolan, Jillian Oakley, James O'Brien, Baylee Olzacki, Jarod Ondas, Avery Parmelee, Addison Partridge, Raleigh Paulauskas, Sydney Pettine, Charlotte Pinaud, Kiersten Rolland, Lydia Roloff, Liana Salamone, Sierra Selger, Zachary Selger, Neha Sidana, Keenan Spooner, Aiden Sullivan, Zachary Tassmer, Austin Taylor, Landon Vaillancourt, Sonja Venetianer, Gabriella Wiesner, Marlene Windbrake, Samantha Yorker.

Grade 11: Enja Barry, Andrea Berg, Austin Bigelow, Emma Braga, Riley Briggs, Erik Brody, Robert Buccheri, Nicole Carl, Brian Collinson, Audrey Cooke, Abigail Daley, Matthew Dickinson, Maya Dobson, Benjamin Donahue, Thomas Fenton, Ethan Fields, Riley Flatley, Cameron Fraser, Teagan Frost, Lucas Gagne, Madison Gay, Adriana Gonzalez, Raleigh Govoni, Ryan Govoni, Lyndsey Gravel, Michaela Healy, Amarylla Ingala, Jason Johnson, David Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Samantha Kearney, Ella Khongkham, Tyler Khongkham, Leah Kohler, Maya Korczak, Brayden Kramer, Nathaniel Laird, Christian Lanou, Sierra LaRose, Hailey Ledas, Noah Leon, Madison Lockhart, Daniel Lopes, McKenzie Magge, Aidan Maiorino, Gabriel McMillian, Tyler Millett, Charlotte Minnick, Anthony Miro, Amber Murphy, Erica O'Connor, Liam Owen, Aiden Palen, Artur Piech, Finn Piper, Shane Proxee, Holly Pugo, Jakub Remiszewski, Madison Reola, Luisa Rojas, Delaney Russell, Jacquelyn Russell, River

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

Schiavoni, Katherine Searles, Aiden Sones, Camryn Sprague, Delaney Sullivan, Cadence Thibodeau, Emily Tinson, Kali Trapp, Louis Uliano, Hailey VanBlaricom, Andrew Wagner, John Wilson, Chelsea Woods, Alexander Zimmerman.

Grade 12: Kaitlyn Anderman, Isabella Bafumi, Reagan Burt, Ephraim Butson, Sophia Cahoon, Tyler Carrington, Abigail Chrin, Kevin Collins, Virginia Decker, Lehan Dharmatilake, Salem Didato, Daniel Drlik, Christylee Dus, Michael Fauvel, Benjamin Fazekas, Jenna Field, Caidyn Galovich, Mia Garuti, Meaghan Hall, Melanie Hurt, Nathaniel Ireland, Danielle Johnson, Georgia Jump, Eshani Karkun, Cody Keilbach, Kaleigh Kiernan, Noelle Lavender, Kayli Levenduski, George Magaldi, Ethan Markward, Kate Marshall, Brianna Miller, Jewel Miranda, Jenna Murphy, Jordan Murphy, Benjamin Nolan, Ryan O'Sullivan, Savannah Partridge, Matthew Penn, Alexis Pettine, Mikaela Rich, Aiden Rine, Aiden Robichaud, Madelyn Rolland, Sophia Shellenberger, Alexander Sones, Robert Stanford, Julia Stone, Taylor Sylvester, Jaelyn Taylor, Shea Thibodeau, Josiah Torres, Alexander Urban, Emily Vick, Adam Wacht.

Honors

Grade 9: Ava Archer, Addison Beer, Carly Blakey, Vivienne Braun-Fales, Aubrey Butler, Lilah Butson, Alexis Cardenas, Jack Cote, Madeline Griswold, Ethan Hall, Jaxon Hanson, Ava Jedziniak, Sophia Johnson, Moon Knouse, Hannah Malinka-Morgan, Domenic Mangino, Jake Morrone, Machezie Mortimer, Chase Palmer, Jaelynn Ray, Cheyenne Rodriguez, Brooke Ryan, Lucy Shogren, Emma Sweet, Samantha Traino, Victoria Twiss, Griffin Valley, Jacob Woods.

Grade 10: Katherine Banack, Micah Buckley, Colton Chrin, Lauren Correa, Lily Cronin, Austin Cuthbertson, Gabriel Cygan, Gavin Fazekas, Elliot Galovich, Parker Gustine, Zachary Howland, Kathryn Johnson, Colin Kosek, Faith Machnik, Lucia McIntosh, Maren Milewski-Mason, Skylar Parker, Tess Parmelee, Sienna Paul, Arianna Petrone, Julianna Rau, Christopher Ruggiero, Jadin Sawyer, Juliana Sinsigalli, Aidan Trombino.

Grade 11: Bryce Bailey, Jayson Beal, Sophie Billings, Jeremy Bissell, Ethan Blakey, Izabella Buccheri, Logan Burnham, Charles Caron, Daniel DeLauro, Dickerman Sean, Francis Guiliano, Brittney Lin, Maya Marino, Logan Markward, Ethan Marshall, Benjamin Maynard, Felicia McIntosh, Evan Michaud, Sadie Michaud, Valentina Morales, Kaitlyn Morrow, Kylie O'Brien, Baden Plante, Mackenzie Player, Michael Pugliese, Hailey Pyrek, Taylor Ryan, Jaden Sinsigalli, Alyssa Snyder, Sonoma Steiner, Nathan Torres, Makayla Wolf, Alexander Zgorski.

Grade 12: Weston Allis, Madeline Balou, Raymond Beck, Kydance Cardillo, David Castiblanco, Joshua Christian-Kent, Nicholas Chunko, Madeline Crumb, Matthew Gallmon, Savannah Garcia, Alexander Gordon, Charles Griswold, Maddox Howland, Brennan Johnson, Joshua Landon, Bella Lineberry, Sophia Martin, Thomas Morton, Coen Phillips, Lucas Phillips, James Quinn, Kira Roloff, Gavin Santillo, Joshua Sattler, Sophia Theobald, Bradley Tracy, Olivia Trumbull, Oren Wilson, Benjamin Wysor.



When CCC enrollees came to Camp Stuart in East Hampton in July 1935, their meals were prepared in a mess kitchen under two tarp tents. There was a lister bag filled with drinking water hanging on a tripod on the left. The boys washed and rinsed their utensils in the galvanized garbage cans. One was filled with soapy water and the other with hot water for rinsing. A truck is unloading supplies near one of the tents. The CCC did work in the area of present-day Salmon River State Park. Photo by Bill Biegaj.

Civilian Conservation Corps Turns 90

On Saturday, March 11, at 1 p.m., East Hampton Public Library and the Chatham Historical Society will host author and historian Marty Podskoch, who will give a PowerPoint presentation on the "90th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps and its Work in Connecticut."

This is the fourth talk of the Cabin Fever History Series, and will be held in the Community Room of the library, which is located at 105 Main St., in East Hampton. The program is free of charge and open to the public. People wishing to come should register at the library by calling 860-267-6621.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began March 31, 1933, under President Roosevelt's "New Deal" to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Depression. CCC camps were set up in a few Rhode Island towns, state parks and forests. Workers built trails, roads, campsites and dams, stocked fish, built and maintained fire tower observers' cabins and telephone lines, fought fires and planted millions of trees. The CCC disbanded in 1942 due to the need for men in World War II.

In Connecticut there were 21 CCC camps. In the first year, 13 were set up in these Connecticut towns and state parks & forests: West Cornwall, Housatonic Meadows; Niantic, Military Reservation; Hampton, Natchaug; Hadam, Cockaponset; Union, Nipmuck; New Fairfield, Squantz Pond; Cobalt, Meshomasic; Voluntown, Pachaug; Thomaston, Black Rock; East Hartland, Tunxis; West Goshen, Mohawk; Clinton, Cockaponset; and Burrville, Paugnut. The Army Government Dock in New London was the supply depot for all the CT camps.

In the following years these eight camps were added: Winsted, American Legion State Forest; East Hampton, Salmon River; Danbury, Wooster Mountain; Stafford Springs, Shenipsit; Portland, Meshomasic; Windsor/Poquonock, Experiment Station Land; Kent, Macedonia Brook and Madison, Cockaponset.

Podskoch is a retired teacher and the author of 11 books: *Adirondack Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: Their History, Memories and Legacy of the CCC; Fire Towers of the Catskills: Their History and Lore; Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore, the Southern Districts; Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore, the Northern Districts; Adirondack Stories: Historical Sketches; and 101 More Adirondack Stories: Historical Sketches*. He also writes a weekly column called "Adirondack Stories," in five Adirondack newspapers. He has written three travel books: *The Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport & Guide to Exploring the North Country, The Connecticut 169 Club and the Rhode Island 39 Club*.

Podskoch and his wife Lynn raised their three children in an old farmhouse on the West Branch of the Delaware River in Delhi, N.Y., where he taught seventh grade reading. He and his wife now live on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton.

Podskoch is presently gathering information on the CCC camps in Vermont and Massachusetts for future books. He is interested in meeting individuals who may have CCC stories and photos to contribute to his next book. Those with information should contact him at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net.

Senior League Spring Bowling

All seniors (age 55 and up) are invited to participate in Spring League Mixed Bowling at Kickback N' Bowl, 9 Bear Swamp Rd. The 10-week league starts Wednesday, April 5, from 2-4 p.m.

Cost is \$12 per week, plus an extra \$4 per week for shoe rental if needed.

For more information, contact Jack Anderson at 860-882-3752 or jackande52@aol.com.

DTC Scholarship

The East Hampton Democratic Town Committee invites East Hampton High School seniors, who are interested in the field of public service, to apply for the \$500 scholarship in memory of Governor William O'Neill.

Applications can be obtained at the high school guidance office and are due by April 29.

Dean's List

East Hampton resident Austin Ondas made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Ondas is an aeronautical science major and an instrument-rated private pilot minoring in unmanned aircraft systems.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Emily Balda and Jordyn Krupp made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.



Read Across America... East Hampton Chief of Police Dennis Woessner (pictured) and Officer Brandy Lenois read to students at Memorial School on March 2 as part of Read Across America Day. The motivational and awareness day calls all children and youth in every community across the United States to celebrate reading. The country's largest reading event, it was begun in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA).



Lovely Lewisburg... Donna Trahan of Colchester brought the *Rivereast* with her on a trip to Lewisburg, Pa., over Thanksgiving weekend.

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.




Rivereast Goes North of the Border!... The East Hampton High School French Club recently took a trip to Quebec – and they brought along the *Rivereast*!



Happy Birthday, Lily!... Lily Rouse of Manchester was recently surprised with a birthday getaway to Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg, Mass., for her 8th birthday. She brought along her favorite newspaper – the *Rivereast*!



Visiting Old Friends... Joe Piatti of Portland recently spent a week with former Portland resident Norman Deline and wife Linda in Alapaha, Ga.

Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?
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Boards Hold Joint Budget Discussion

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron boards of selectmen and finance held a joint workshop on Tuesday to review the 2023-24 budget proposal, as the town faces a significant tax increase.

During the meeting, the boards listened to presentations from RHAM Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara, as well as Hebron Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird and school board chairman Heather Petit, who provided the local school budget information.

The presentations came after Town Manager Andrew Tierney presented a combined Hebron town and school budget that, altogether, called for an 11% increase in spending.

The total package was for \$41.15 million — \$4.08 million more than the current budget, with all three components increasing.

If approved at referendum, the mill rate would be set at 36.38 for real estate and personal property — an increase of 4.68 mills.

For the median property assessment, the tax bill would be \$9,035 — a \$1,162 increase over the current year.

On Tuesday, officials from both boards, along with members of the community, had an opportunity to digest the budget details and ask questions to the district's leaders.

For RHAM, the overall budget request decreased from the initial proposal outlined by McNamara in January. The total spending plan is for \$31.3 million — a 3.4% increase from the current year. Originally, McNamara called for a \$31.71 million budget, a 4.76% from current year spending.

The savings could be significant. With the operating budget, Hebron would contribute \$15.2 million, or 49% in total. Previously, that number was penciled-in at \$15.41 million.

For the capital budget, Hebron's levy is \$267,357, which is slightly higher than the proposal from January.

With 596 students enrolled at RHAM — the most at the school — Hebron will pay the largest share of the 2023-24 budget, and, most likely, the majority of futures budgets, as well.

Due to expected increases in enrollment over the next 10 years, Hebron's percentage of the budget will most likely increase. Marlborough's enrollment remains steady and Andover's levy decreased.

Finance Board member Janet Fodaski asked McNamara if Hebron's allotment would continue to grow on a yearly basis if the projections remained accurate.

"I think that's a fair assessment," he answered.

Another question came from selectman Tiffany Thiele, who asked if the budget reflected any measurers to follow-up on the two racial-

ly-charged incidents that took place at RHAM High School in a less than three-month span.

McNamara expressed that those incidents would have an impact on conversations regarding systematic decisions in the district. The budget, he said, includes funding for professional development for teachers and staff, which can be utilized to focus on that area of concern, along with grant funding. The district also hosted a community conversation last month, following the second incident.

The revisions made to the RHAM proposal represent around a \$200,000 reduction in Hebron's levy for 2023-24 compared to the initial budget outline in January. During last month's meeting, the RHAM school board unanimously approved the utilization of 2021-22 surplus funds, which allowed the overall ask for the three towns to be trimmed.

Overall, the surplus was added to the Capital Non-Recurring account, covering \$362,218 in items that would've been in the proposal. These items include: HVAC review at \$104,000, wrestling mats for \$12,000, baby grand piano at \$43,000, score boards/shot clocks for \$13,500, feminine hygiene products/dispensers at \$79,493, Touchview monitors at \$68,250, concrete containment for soil/infield mix/gravel \$17,325, locks for doors and fob access at \$17,000 and commercial washers and dryers for \$7,000.

McNamara added that prior to the budget being adopted by the school board, as much \$87,000 more could be reduced as diesel and insurance costs are finalized. The district may also be able to pre-purchase some items through the current budget.

Salaries and benefits makeup 70% of the total budget — over \$22 million. Like many districts, RHAM was bounded by contractual salary increases. McNamara included a few staff additions in his proposal. Most notably, he is calling for a new instructional coach/curriculum coordinator at \$106,864. This teaching position would help district's instructional practices and ensure that the curriculum is aligned with all current state and national standards.

Two positions were eliminated, including a family and consumer science teacher, which was cut due to a lack of applicants. The other position was an instructional technology coach.

The superintendent stated that the new position wouldn't impact the budget's bottom-line, when factoring the position reductions. Still, there are other budget drivers, including increases in the costs of custodial maintenance and supplies, technology software, and an anticipated revenue decrease.

Last month, the Hebron school board unani-

mously approved a proposal for the 2023-24 fiscal year of \$13.98 million — a \$1.77 million or 14.5% increase from current school budget.

When accounting for the total budget increase, the Hebron education board plans represents 44% of the additional expenses for 2023-24.

The town portion covers certain items and expenses in the proposal for the district, including an additional school resource officer for \$80,000, as well as snow removal, ground maintenance and youth and family services.

Baird and Pettit both fielded a variety of questions regarding their budget, predominately focused on the preschool initiatives. A major initiative advanced by the district was to expand its preschool program by \$226,000.

The board requested an additional preschool teacher, a special education teacher, 1.5 paraprofessionals, new furniture, programming materials and professional development for the new staff members. With those services, preschool enrollment is projected to go from 74 to 88 students.

With the additional students, the expansion would also include moving from four classrooms to five. Currently, the program has 23 students on the waitlist.

In order to maintain NAEYC accreditation, the dean of students would shift to an assistant principal.

Overall, an additional 3.5 staff is needed to accommodate the 23 new students and classroom. Baird cautioned the boards that eliminating a position and the classroom would actually add a burden on the budget, due to the loss of tuition money.

A number of positions are returning to the operating budget that were previously funded through grants. Two new classroom teachers — one for each school — are included in the proposal, as well as a .45 reading specialist.

Baird explained that the district was starting in a \$500,000 hole just to maintain the status quo of the current year services because the district was losing around \$300,000 in grants and facing a \$200,000 deficit from special education outplacement costs.

Contractual salary increases represent a

\$457,872, or 3.75%, spike in the budget.

During the presentation, Baird stated that compared to similar sized school districts, Hebron is below average with its net current expenditure per pupil. The district spent less per pupil during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years than the in 2020, he said.

Combined with the increase in spending is a hike in taxes for residents. With enrollment projected to increase, Petit expressed that the trend was a positive sign for the community, and "something to embrace."

Baird added that impact of surging enrollment had to be embraced, stating that "it's not going away."

Board of Selectmen Chairman Daniel Larson said he was unsure whether the voters would accept the increase proposed by the school board. On a personal level, he expressed that the current projected tax rate would be too much for him to afford, as well.

Petit argued that in the past, the school board did not receive proper funding, leaving a gap to make up this year.

"We need to do what's right for our kids," she said, adding later that "inflation is real" and "we need to account for that."

Larson said the numbers were perhaps too difficult for the taxpayer to digest.

"It's just not a pretty picture financially," he said.

Residents who participated during the meeting offered both support and disapproval.

Karen Caputo stated that the local school budget was "fiscally irresponsible."

Leading up to the meeting, the finance board informed the school board that their budget needed to be reduced, Petit said. Several questions were forwarded, as well, which the district will look to address.

"I am very disappointed that the Board of Finance sent us a letter already saying that they don't accept our budget when we haven't even had the opportunity to present on our budget and to explain our budget to them," Petit said during a board meeting last week.

Another board member, Keith Petit, called the notice "a little shocking and a little confrontational."

Clothing Drive at Old Town Hall

The Hebron Historical Society will collect bagged clothing at Old Town Hall, 26 Main St., on Friday, April 14, from 4-6 p.m., and Saturday, April 15, from 9-11 a.m.

There will be a truck present for people to drop contributions. The clothing drive is an important fundraising activity for the historical society.

People from any town are welcome to contribute to the Clothing Drive. Past years have seen participants from Columbia, Chaplin,

Andover, Colchester, Marlborough and other towns. Just come with your bags of clothing.

The Hebron Historical Society welcomes any type of clean textiles. Accepted are outgrown or no-longer-wanted children's, women's and men's clothing, including winter jackets, hats, mittens and boots. Bathroom towels, bedroom sheets, blankets and pillows, household curtains and tablecloths are welcome, as are accessories like purses, wallets and backpacks.

For more information on the Hebron Historical Society, visit hebronthistoricalociety.org.

Gathering of Hebron Poets Planned

Do you enjoy jotting down a few lines of poetry during a happy or stressful moment? If so, you're invited to join a gathering of Hebron poets planned for Saturday, April 1, from 2-4 p.m., in the Reading Room of Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

Please bring a poem or two to read to the group, listen to their poems, and chat about writing poetry.

Free CPR Class

The Hebron Fire Department (44 Main St) is offering a free AHA Heartsaver CPR class Wednesday, April 19, at 6 p.m., for those who live or work in Hebron. Adult, child, and infant CPR and choking emergencies are covered.

Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve a seat. Classes are first-come, first-served.

Hands-Only CPR

The Hebron Fire Department will host a Stop the Bleed/Hands-Only CPR class Tuesday, March 21, at 6 p.m., at Hebron Fire Department Station 1, 44 Main St.

This course is designed to teach community members lifesaving skills needed to save a life of someone suffering from severe bleeding emergencies, as well as "Hands Only CPR." (Hands-Only CPR is not a credentialed AHA Course and participants will not receive a card but will receive lifesaving education.)

Interested persons contact the Hebron Fire Department at contact@hebronfd.com or by calling 860-228-3022 to sign up. Class is limited to 10 participants.

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Lions' Breakfast to Support RHAM Sports Boosters

On Sunday, March 19, from 8-11:30 a.m., all are invited to stop by the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds for a pancake breakfast before heading out to enjoy the Maple Fest activities.

This year, the Hebron Lions Pancake Breakfast will support RHAM Sports Boosters. The Lions will serve up a breakfast for champions, including fresh scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages and hash browns. Also included will be orange juice, coffee, and pure maple syrup donated from Hebron's own Wenzel's Sugarhouse. The RHAM Leos Club will also be present, offering raffle baskets to help raise funds for charities. Families can also have an opportunity to have their photo taken with the Hebron Lion and a Bunny!

Tickets are available online at www.hebronlions.org/pancakes-breakfast, or at the door. Adult breakfast pricing is \$8, and seniors

and children 12 years and younger are \$5.

This year, net proceeds will benefit the local not-for-profit organization RHAM Sports Boosters. RHAM Sports Boosters is a group of sports enthusiasts who provide their time, energy and monetary support to enhance the athletic programs at the RHAM high and middle schools in Hebron. For more information about this organization, visit www.RHAMSportsboosters.com.

In addition to breakfast, the RHAM Leos will perform free child eye screening.

The Hebron Lions offered thanks to sponsors Hillandale Farms for the donation of the fresh eggs and Wenzel's Sugarhouse for the donation of all the maple syrup.

For more information regarding the pancake breakfast, email Dawn Swagger at Dawn.Swagger@hebronharvestfair.org.

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. Registration required for all programs, unless noted. To register, and for more information and full program descriptions, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. The senior center newsletter is online at tinyurl.com/3xfm862d. For more information, contact the senior center or look to the senior newsletter.

Shopping Trips: Schedule is: to Big Y March 24 and Wednesday, April 5; and to Stop & Shop Friday, March 31. Registration for each trip is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.

AARP Driver Course: Tuesday, April 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in person at the senior center. Arrive by 8:50 a.m. and bring something to write with. Fee is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members, and is payable to the instructor the day of the class. Pre-register by noon Monday, April 17. Note: coffee will be available in the morning, but no food is served, so if you may need something to eat, bring it with you.

Lunch and Learn – The Warning Signs of Dementia: Wednesday, April 26, sponsored by the Marlborough Health Center. There will be a deli sandwich lunch (choice of turkey or tuna, chips, cookie, bottled water, and a few other little surprises). Pre-register by Monday, April 24, at noon. Please call 860-228-1700

Bus Transportation to Mobile Food Truck and Food Bank: Every other Tuesday; call the center for dates. Pick-ups start approximately 10:30-10:45 a.m., and the food truck arrives at 11:15 a.m. at the Church of Hope/Red Barn at the corner of routes 85 and 66. Food bank arrival is approximately 11 a.m. Bring your own bags. Must sign up by 10 a.m. the day before.

Senior Transportation: Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Ap-

pointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended – and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

Recurring Daily/Weekly Happenings: Some programs have a fee, some are free, and most require pre-registration. Detailed information is in the monthly newsletter or at the senior center. **Exercise Equipment Room:** Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. **Community Café:** Monday-Thursday, pre-registration required, suggested donation is \$3.

Mondays: Technology Assistance: Dates vary, call for times; Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; massage, second and fourth Mondays of the month, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Movie Monday (once per month; call for date and title).

Tuesdays: Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; mobile food truck and HIHS Food Bank transportation, 11 a.m.; Hand and Foot Canasta (cards), 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Card-Stamping, 1-2:15 p.m.

Wednesdays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Mindful Meditation, first and third Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; RHAM bingo, third Wednesday of the month (through May), 2:30-4 p.m.

Thursdays: Massage, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunshine Singers, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.

Fridays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Fun with Stitches Open Quilting Group, first and third Fridays of the month, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Created to Create Open Arts Group, second and fourth Fridays of the month, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Transfer Station New Hours

With daylight saving time now in effect, the Hebron Transfer Station has moved to its summer hours. The hours are:

Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information, call Public Works at 860-228-2871.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St. Pastor is Gary Boye. Masks are now optional.

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional. People can also watch worship live at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

Lent Wednesday Services: Wednesdays through March 29, at 7 p.m.

Sunday Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 10:15 a.m., following Coffee Hour.

Parks and Recreation News

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

Paint Party: Wednesdays, April 5-26, from 4:30-5:30 p.m., in the community room at Douglas Library, for grades 1-6. Each week, paint a new and creative piece to bring home and display. Fee: \$87.

Easter Eggstravaganza: For ages 10 and under. Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m.-noon, at the pavilion at Burnt Hill Park. There will be pictures with the Easter Bunny, music, a bounce house and arts and crafts. The event is free.

Home Alone Safety for Kids: Monday, May 15, 5-6:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School, for boys and girls ages 8-13 who will be staying home

Caring Shepherds: Holds bi-monthly Open Pantry hours at Christ Lutheran; watch for the next date in April. Caring Shepherds distributes household and hygiene items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles, and prayers. For more information, call Caring Shepherds Ministry at 860-494-0431.

Early Childhood Center: The center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school in a Christian environment. The center is open to all walks of faith. Ande Shutler is director. Call 860-228-5134 for more information.

alone. Each student will receive a workbook that covers house key safety, outdoor and indoor and safety (including kitchen), gun safety, fire safety, gas leaks, first aid kit essentials, and phone and internet safety. Fee: \$45.

Summer Adventure Camp: Runs June 26-Aug. 18. Camp will feature sports, games, nature, arts & crafts, field trips, theme days and more. Hours are 6:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration begins Monday, April 3, at 8 a.m. Must register in advance.

Karate: In the style of Goju ru, made famous by the *Karate Kid* film series. Six-week sessions are held Mondays and Wednesdays at GHS. Cost is \$85 per session. Ages 5-11 are 5-5:50 p.m., and ages 12 and up are 6-7 p.m.

Tractor Parade to Return

The Hebron Maple Festival is the weekend of March 18 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, with events in the Hebron town center, and throughout town.

One of those events will be the Hebron Maple Festival Tractor Parade, which will take place Sunday, March 19 – and folks are sought to participate in the parade.

The parade has grown steadily larger over the last eight years. The first few years there were about had 25-40 tractors, of all makes models and condition. Last year, there was a turnout of 94 tractors, with dozens pulling trailers and floats.

The parade starts at Ted's IGA supermarket on Main, and steps off at 1 p.m. Organizers are always looking for more tractors, and more spectators as well. The parade goes down Main Street to the big white church on the corner, turns through the parking lot, then goes back down Main Street. This year, the route will again be going down John Horton Boulevard to the Colebrook assisted living facility for a loop around the building. The total parade route is about 1.5 miles.

Last year there were tractors from Harwington, East hampton, Haddam, East Hampton, Colchester, and many other surrounding towns. Tractors may start arriving at 11 a.m. for line up at Ted's. There is plenty of parking available

for those hauling tractors on trailers. Any age or condition tractor is allowed, but no lawn tractors please. You are allowed to pull a trailer with family and friends, and also decorate it.

For more information on parking, and to sign up to participate, look for "Hebron Tractor Parade" on Facebook.

Road Detour Route: The day of the parade, a portion of Main Street (Route 66) east and west will be closed from 1 p.m. to about 1:45 p.m. The closure will start at the junction of routes 66 and 85, and continue to Ted's IGA at 127 Main St. A detour for east-west traffic will be set up via Church Street to Kinney Road, to Millstream Road, then back to Main Street. Allow time for the road closure.

Gymnastics School Turning 50

Patti Dunne's School of Gymnastics turns 50 this year – and to celebrate, the gym is creating a digital yearbook filled with memories from Dunne's, spanning each decade that the gym has been open.

Former students are invited to send photo and/or video submissions to: dunnesgymnasticsct@gmail.com. Include the name and year in the subject line. Deadline: April 15.

Fishing Derby April 30

Skungamaug Fish & Game Club will present its annual Fishing Derby Sunday, April 30, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 423 Jones St.

Cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for kids. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. There will also be a raffle and prizes – including a \$100 Cabela's gift card for longest fish.



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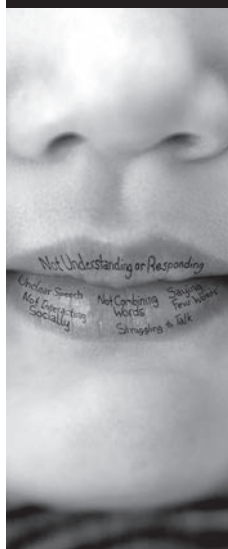
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Shredding Old Tax and Personal Records

Residents and businesses of Colchester and area towns can safely shred their old financial, medical and personal records on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Town Hall parking lot 127 Norwich Ave.

Boy Scout Troop 72 will have the certified shredding company File Shred in place to accept and safely shred your financial records. You can actually watch the items being put into the shredder and destroyed.

Old personal documents, business records, tax information and medical records, etc. will

be accepted. There is no need to take off paper clips or staples. Costs are \$5 for a bag the size of a plastic grocery bag and \$10 for boxes the size of a case of copy paper. A bulk price can be negotiated for larger quantities of records.

Troop 72 will also accept recyclable containers on the records on shredding day, should you wish to donate them.

Choir and Orchestra Seeks Members

The Colchester Choir and Orchestra has begun rehearsals on Thursdays at Bacon Academy – and people can now register for half the year.

The rehearsals are for CCO's spring concert on May 20. Seats are open in all sections, both choir and orchestra. CCO plays everything from pops to classical. Choir rehearses in the choir room 6-7:30 p.m., and orchestra rehearses

in the band room from 7:30-9 p.m.; come at 7 p.m. to warm up.

For more information, visit colchester-choirorchestra.org, like the group on Facebook, or email colchesterchoirorchestra@gmail.com for more information.

Half-year registration is now open for the season, at tinyurl.com/4ysam6sw.

Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, 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.

Scripture, Music and Dance

St. Andrew Church is hosting "A Festival of Scripture, Music and Dance for Lent and Easter" to be held Sunday, April 2, at 2 p.m., in the church. The church is located at 128 Norwich Ave.

This event is free and open to all who wish to attend. It will feature St. Andrew Church Choir, Soloists and Lectors from the Parish Community, along with special guest performers from Studio 22 Dance Center of East Lyme. Following the performance, refreshments and fellowship will be held in the Parish Hall.

For more information, call Terry Phillips at 860-608-0130.

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Performers subject to change. PG 13 CONTENT

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AARP Meets April 4

The next meeting of the AARP Colchester Area Chapter 4019 will be held on Tuesday, April 4, at 1:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT in the activity room. Kim Talarczyk and Terry Brown will present about a relatively new charitable organization in town called Colchester Cares. Colchester Cares members vote to donate to various local causes. The public is welcome to attend to learn more and ask questions.

Colchester Eats Out

Bacon Academy Bobcats Football is teaming up with Colchester Pizza for a Colchester Eats Out fundraiser. Colchester Pizza will donate 10% of the profits from the entire day, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., on Thursday, March 23, on all dine-in and takeout orders. Colchester Pizza is located at 59 Lebanon Ave. To place an order, call 860-537-2653.

Vendors Wanted for 'Spring in Bloom'

Colchester Federated Church's annual Spring in Bloom Vendor Fair will be held Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The fair will showcase local crafters, vendors and farmers; the shoppers also enjoy the Upscale Tag Sale, Bake Sale and Raffle. To be a vendor at the fair, email Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

St. Joseph's Day Dinner-Dance

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host a St. Joseph's Day dinner-polka dance Sunday, March 19. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m., and The Eddie Forman Orchestra will play polka music from 2-6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

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Fraternal Benefits Night

All are invited to a free Fraternal Benefit Night, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, on Friday, March 31, at 7 p.m., at St. Andrew Church Hall. Come and learn about the world's largest Catholic family and fraternal organization.

There will also be a presentation on retirement planning including ways to leave money to loved ones or to charitable organizations. Long-term care and retirement savings will also be discussed.

No registration is necessary. Light refreshments will be served.

ButterBraid, Cake Roll Fundraiser Wraps Up

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.

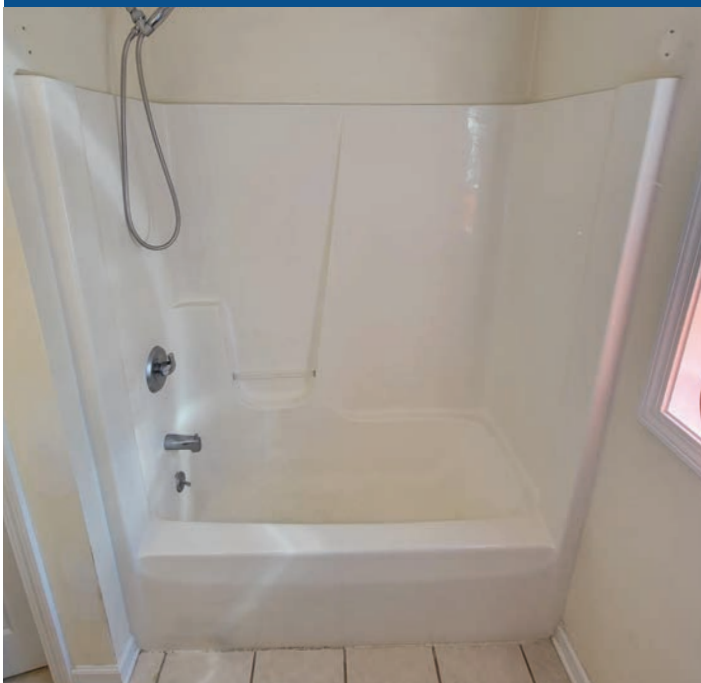
Dean's List

Clare Gillerlane of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Emmanuel College in Boston.

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Upcoming Land Trust Events

The Colchester Land Trust has announced the following upcoming events:

Wetlands Walk at Bulkeley Hill Preserve: Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. Cost is \$5 for non-members. Professional wetland scientist Edward Pawlak will lead an exploration of the preserve's wetlands, including its streams, beaver pond, swamps and vernal pools. These wetlands are home to such amphibian species as spring peepers, wood frogs, green frogs, bull frogs, and gray tree frogs, as well as spotted and red-backed salamanders. From Route 2 in Colchester, take a left on Route 16W towards Middletown. Turn left onto Bulkeley Hill Road. Follow until you see the sign for Bulkeley Hill Preserve on the right. Call Cindy at 860-267-7901 for further information.

Hike and Seek for Families: Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m., at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Colchester Land Trust and C3 will join up to offer this free family hike. Pick up your hike and seek card to see what you can find along the path. The trails have mild inclines and can be rough, so the hike is not stroller friendly. Bring a baby carrier, take a short loop, or hike to the beaver pond. From

Route 2 in Colchester, take a left on Route 16W towards Middletown. Turn left onto Bulkeley Hill Road. Follow until you see the sign for Bulkeley Hill Preserve on the right. Call Cindy at 860-267-7901 for further information.

Presentation on Bluebirds, Backyard Habitats: Wednesday, May 24, 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, Norton Room A. The Colchester Land Trust, Cragin Memorial Library, and Colchester Garden Club have partnered for this presentation. Habitat destruction is the biggest threat to bird species around the world, including here in Connecticut. One of the best things you can do for birds is create a backyard habitat that provides the resources birds need. One species in particular that has benefited from backyard habitats is the Eastern Bluebird, with bluebird boxes providing nesting habitats. Connecticut Audubon Society's RTP Estuary Center's Conservation & Education Coordinator Joe Attwater will teach people how they can attract bluebirds, sparrows, warblers and more, as well as which bird species are likely to visit you in Connecticut this time of year.



Colchester Cares... The Colchester Cares group donated \$1,100 to the Colchester "Freezin' for a Reason" cause in February. "Freezin' for a Reason," now in its 14th year, is an annual event where three to four residents or town officials camp out on the town green for a weekend, to raise money for the Colchester Fuel Bank, supporting those in need of assistance with fuel and related bills each winter. This year – including the Colchester Cares donation – "Freezin' for a Reason" raised \$10,040 for the Fuel Bank.

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, March 20: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Pet Therapy; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, March 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, March 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., Life Review journaling.

Thursday, March 23: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3:30 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling with Ellen; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, March 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., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Inspired by Art: Tuesday, March 28, 10 a.m. In this new monthly program, take an in-depth look at an artist, then make a small art project using one or more of

their works as inspiration. The March workshop is \$10 per person and includes the blank flag, metal yard stake, and all paint and materials to complete the project. Space is limited. Register before March 21.

AARP Smart Driver Tek: Wednesday, March 29, 9:45-11:30 a.m. In this free workshop, drivers will learn how to utilize the latest high-tech safety features in their current or future car. Open to all who are 50 years and older. Space is limited; pre-register for this class by March 22.

AARP Driver Safety: Wednesday, March 29, noon-4 p.m. Learn the rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's driving environment. Also, learn how you can manage and accommodate age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time and may qualify for a discount from your insurance provider. Open to anyone 50 and over. The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Register by March 22.

Annual Soccer Club Meeting

Colchester Soccer Club's annual meeting will be held Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall meeting room 2. All members are welcome to attend.

Nominations for positions on the board of directors will take place.

Bacon Students Selling Saplings

This year, students from Bacon AP Environmental Science Class are partnering with the nonprofit Tree-Plenish to help make their community more sustainable. They plan to sell and plant 212 saplings on Saturday, April 22, to offset their school's energy consumption from the past academic year.

Saplings are \$5 and residents can choose between Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, and Red Maple saplings. All trees are native to the region and not only help sequester carbon but provide needed resources for

pollinators and migrating bird species. Orders for trees must be placed by March 22.

Residents can order a sapling to be planted in their yard or sign up to volunteer to plant saplings on the day of the event. Saplings can be picked up at Bacon Academy on April 22 from 9-11 a.m., for people who prefer to plant themselves.

For more information, or to order saplings, visit tpevents.org/school/3047 or contact Jill Levasseur at jlev412@colchesterct.org.



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Soccer Club Offering Scholarships

Colchester Soccer Club will award up to four scholarships to the graduating class of 2023.

To be eligible for consideration you must be a Colchester resident that participated in the Colchester Soccer Club program, played soccer during one year of high school (either school team, Rec or Premier), to be in good academic standing, and plan on attending a school of higher education in the fall.

Applications are due March 10 and can be picked up in the Bacon Academy guidance office or received electronically by contacting Lauren Faber at lauren.faber@colchestersoccer.org.

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Dean's List

Rachel L. Wells, daughter of Stephen Wells and Ilyse Wells of Colchester, made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

In addition, Wells was inducted into Sigma Beta Delta, the International Honor Society for business, management and administration, and was also awarded a scholarship by the New England Graduate Accounting Studies Conference.

Wells is an accounting major of the Class of 2024.

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We Are the Champions... The Colchester Youth Basketball seventh grade girls basketball team is the 2023 champion of the Connecticut Basketball Conference, seventh grade division. During the weekend of March 5th, Colchester took on No. 1 seed, Branford, in the Championship game and erased a 13-point deficit in the second half in route to a 41-35 comeback win at the Community House in Branford. (Note: Colchester's seventh grade team has three sixth grade girls that play up.) Pictured from left, top row, are assistant coach Cindy Malz, head coach Lauren Beeler, Reagan Beeler, Dalila Malz, Bridget Walsh, Gabbi D'Atri (sixth grade), and assistant coach Brian Walsh; bottom row, Adrina Ruszala, Ava Galante (sixth grade), Lilly Lenda (sixth grade) and Allie Radachy.

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." 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.

From the Superintendent's Desk...

"Where did you go to school?" must be one of the most asked questions in American society. The enthusiasm with which people reply often speaks volumes. Do they say their school's name with pride or a hint of embarrassment? A common follow-up question often centers around participation in music, or sports. Regardless of the response, those questions lead to a rush of memories. Despite graduating over 30 years ago, I can still recall the first time I was issued a varsity uniform, and how proud I was to wear my team jacket. I also remember the words to chorus numbers in two musicals that I was cast in, *Pippin* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. What memories come back to you?

I share this anecdote, because it is important to remember that school is about the kids, and that we are here to educate the whole child. While the core academic program is our primary focus—everything matters. We have incredibly talented students in Colchester. We have musicians, athletes, thespians, and linguists. We have engineers in Robotics and future diplomats in Model UN. All of these experiences help shape our students' future, and are teachable moments. Many of our extracurricular offerings help students develop self-confidence, while experiencing success and failure. Imagine performing a solo at the winter concert in a crowded auditorium? Will you hit the wrong note or forget the lyrics? How about standing on the foul line, shooting a 1:1 in a crowded gym with your team down 1 with no time left on the clock? No matter the outcome, the student will remember these experiences for the rest of his or her life.

While our Bacon Academy basketball teams recently played in the CIAC postseason tournament, and our band students competed in Orlando this week, the elected officials in Colchester in partnership with the Central Office administration, have important decisions to make about our students' future. The Board of Education budget for the next fiscal year will soon be decided. After five years of budget increases only averaging 0.68%, the Board of Education is requesting a historically high increase of 9.83%. Before rejecting this request, please consider the following information:

- This request includes reductions. Maintaining the status quo would have meant a 14% budget increase.
- Special education costs increased this proposed budget by 3.63%. While shocking, special education services are protected by federal law, and cannot be modified by the superintendent or the Board of Education.
- Contractual obligations are responsible for 2.69% of the budget increase.
- Five positions were removed from the budget a few years ago and were temporarily funded via stimulus grants. They are now returning to the budget. These are not new positions.
- The budget includes two new positions that were funded by grants: one kindergarten teacher and one special education supervisor.
- The budget does include the addition of four safety officers (not police) at a total cost of approximately \$150,000.

At the Board of Finance public hearing on Tuesday, March 7, I was asked what it would look like if the district only received a 5% increase. In response, I identified a series of possible reductions that would result in the need for a 6.4% increase. Those reductions included the following:

- Elimination of full-day kindergarten and a return to a half-day program. (morning/afternoon)
- A reduction in preschool offerings at CES.
- Scheduling grades 1-5 at the maximum contractual class size limit. This would mean classes of 23 students in grades 1 and 2 and classes of 26 students in grades 3, 4 and 5.
- Elimination of band at JJIS and WJMS. We would continue to offer general music.
- Elimination of a school counselor at WJMS and a social worker at Bacon Academy.
- Elimination of PE teacher at WJMS.
- Elimination of a Spanish teacher and business education teacher at Bacon Academy.
- Elimination of two custodial positions.
- Reductions in media center paraprofessionals across the district.
- Reductions in software, classroom supplies and technology services across the district.
- Reductions to extracurricular stipends at WJMS.

Please note that these are possible reductions. Final decisions will not be made until a budget has been approved by the voters. At that point in time, district leaders will work with the Board of Education to review the possibilities and assess the impact of each decision.

As we approach the third anniversary of the March 13, 2020, COVID shutdown, it's important to acknowledge the impact of the pandemic on all of us. No person, family, business, or program was spared. The stress is real, and so is inflation. Grocery bills have increased along with our Eversource bills, and numerous other expenses. Unfortunately, the academic and social-emotional impact on students is real, too.

Please keep all of that in mind when considering the board of education budget. After all, don't we want every current Colchester student, and every graduate to proudly announce Bacon Academy when they are asked "what school did you go to?" whether they are asked that question tomorrow or at a dinner party in 20 years?

Daniel Sullivan
Colchester Superintendent of Schools

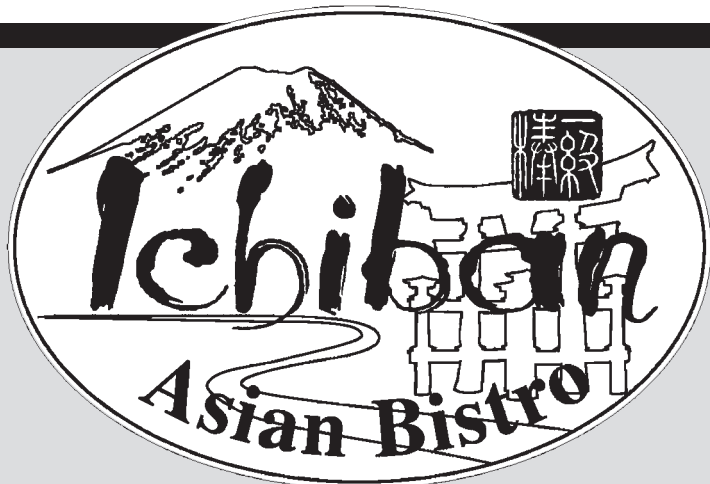
CHFD Maintains Class Designation

The Colchester Hayward Fire Department (CHFD) has been re-evaluated and assigned a Class 4 Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating.

The ISO, an independent, for-profit organization, serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about risk within a community. Through an ISO evaluation, factors that quantify a community's risk and the response to that risk is measure and assigned a Public Protection Classification (PPC) – a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

In order to be able to evaluate and assign a PPC, there is a process through a rating schedule which looks at four primary factors: the fire department, emergency communications, water supply, and community risk reduction.

Insurance companies use PPC information for marketing, underwriting and to help establish premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC grade is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC grade. CHFD'S Class 4 ISO rating is shared with 6,921 other fire service organizations across the country and 80 across Connecticut.



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Town Budget Presented to Public

By Michael Sinkewicz

While the Board of Education's proposed budget drew the most attention (*see the related story on the cover*), the proposed spending plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year was also presented to the public last week.

During the March 7 Board of Finance hearing, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos revealed his spending plan for the first time – a proposal that calls for a minimal decrease from the current budget. The proposal is for \$15.62 million — a \$96 or .0006% reduction.

Initially, during the hearing, Bisbikos proposed a \$67 reduction. However, over the weekend, he informed the Board of Finance that contractual salary adjustments in the planning department and in the senior center department needed to be updated to the proposal.

Also, a membership that the town belongs to was missing from the first selectman's department. Transfers were adjusted, as well as a department line, to "make up the difference."

Bisbikos outlined a variety of new initiatives for the town, without requesting additional funding. Instead, certain areas of the budget were slightly reduced. Bisbikos reviewed several new initiatives during the hearing. Then, at a workshop on Monday, the finance board reviewed some of the items and heard updates from multiple department heads.

Overall, after shuffling funds around, the municipal budget is a slight reduction from current-year spending. Bisbikos said this was made possible because the town was "doing its homework along the way."

Certain items were pre-purchased this year, some items were covered through ARPA funds and some positions, such as the director of operations, weren't filled.

The initiatives include: two new firefighters/EMTs at \$79,032, a senior center part-time medical bus driver at \$19,000, historic document preservation for \$2,000, "transparency software" at around \$10,000, a facilities manager for \$50,000, ground maintenance, irrigation and fence repairs at \$62,000 (an increase of \$31,400), and tree removal at \$135,000.

Bisbikos has pushed for more tree removal funding in the past. He said the issue is "too important to ignore."

Regarding the new software, an initiative that was removed from last year's budget proposal, he asserted that the item was essential for the town moving forward.

"Transparency can't just be a buzzword that people use on their campaign trail, it has to be enacted," he said. "Here I am, again, coming forward with transparency software."

Another initiative, or opportunity for the town, would be using fund balance to cover an energy project lease payment. The town pays \$82,712 each year, and currently has two payments remaining.

At Monday's meeting, Fire Chief Steve Hoffman provided an update on the state of the department and background behind the new initiative included in the budget proposal.

In 2022, there were 2,448 fire and emergency medical services calls — a 10% increase from the prior year.

Hoffman stated that adding two career firefighter/EMTs would allow the department to provide 24/7 coverage on weekdays and weekends. The positions would be staggered, meaning that one person would be hired in July, and the other would be employed starting at the beginning of 2024.

This was implemented to lessen the financial impact on the community, Hoffman said.

In his column in the *Rivereast* earlier this month, Bisbikos said the officers were added to reduce "the overall burden on our valued staff and volunteers" and "to mitigate costs caused by rising overtime and stipend positions."

In 2021, 10 per-diem positions were added to assist with weekend coverage. Currently, there is only one firefighter/EMT and one EMT.

Director of Senior Services Patty Watts explained the need for an additional part-time medical driver. This item was also considered during the last budget cycle but was removed.

From 2019-22, the number of trip requests by members of the senior center, increased by nearly 43%, Watts said. However, because staffing levels remained the same, trip denials have gone up 92% during the same period. In total, there were 336 trip requests denied in 2022.

"The data really tells the story," she said.

A part-time driver would work 20 hours a week, she continued, meaning that initiative would "mitigate our current refusals." She said the additional staff member would be a "reasonable first step" in serving the community.

When asked by a board member what the next steps would be, Watts explained that while the new driver would meet the current senior center needs, she expects that membership will continue to grow, especially once the new facility is built.

The board then reviewed the transparency

software initiative, a feature the town previously owned, but eliminated. Now, the board review ClearGov software, which may meet their needs.

Bisbikos explained that there are different price options, if the board pursues the initiative, and he provided example websites. The software allows town government information, including demographics, budget information and town finances to be displayed online, often through different charts and visual components.

While the board members seemed interested in utilizing the technology, they speculated on whether the software would hold any interest with the general public. Migliaccio expressed that a user-friendly website would likely attract people, and perhaps drive voter turnout in the future.

Bisbikos stated that in general, the community deserves access to information.

"I don't want to be accused of hiding things," he said, referencing allegations of fraud that were brought up during the last budget season.

Board member Art Shilosky, while emphasizing that he preferred paper documents, supported the software.

"Let's give it a chance," he said. "This is about the town, not me."

The board is expected to review more initiatives and receive updates from department heads next week.

Project Grad Golf Tournament

Early bird registration for the Bacon Academy Project Graduation Golf Tournament will end April 15.

The tournament will take place Monday, May 15, at Glastonbury Hills Country Club. The day's activities include cookout lunch, 18 holes of golf with cart, scramble format, contests and prizes, raffles, and dinner at the clubhouse.

The event is open to the public. Registration until April 15 is \$130 per golfer, and all who register by this date will also be entered into an Early Bird Raffle. After April 15, the cost is \$160 per golfer.

Event details, including volunteer opportunities, sponsorship, donations, and participant registration, can be found at www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org. Email ba.projectgrad@gmail.com to request a printed brochure, which

is also on the website; mailed registrations can be sent to: Bacon Academy Project Graduation, PO Box 393, Colchester, CT 06415.

Proceeds from the tournament support Project Graduation, whose mission is to enhance drug- and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe events for seniors. Funded activities include Graduation Rehearsal refreshments; a senior yearbook signing event; commemorative gifts; 250 additional chairs for the graduation ceremony; and a post-graduation party at a surprise location.

All the events Project Graduation conducts are entirely paid for through the fundraising efforts and contributions of Bacon Academy parents, students, businesses and community members.

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trips – and reservations for two of the offerings are due this month.

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.

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 today, March 17.

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical at the

Colchester Sports Licensing

Town Clerk Gayle Furman is notifying residents that sports licenses are available to purchase in the town clerk's office at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

The town clerk's office is offering this service in conjunction with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. DEEP has issued the office a limited number of guides this year. The hunting guides are currently available. The fishing guides will become available in the spring. DEEP asks that people print these guides themselves, if possible, from portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CT-Outdoor-Guides.

The town clerk's office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Thursdays until 7 p.m. For more information about this service, call 860-537-7215.

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.

Locks & Lunch Cruise Along the Hudson: Saturday, June 24, departing at 6:45 a.m. Take a three-hour cruise aboard The Captain J.P. III, the largest cruise vessel in the capital region of upstate New York, to the locks north of Troy and watch as the captain skillfully maneuvers the boat into the locks, where it is then raised approximately 17 feet. There will be a hot and cold buffet and on-board entertainment as you sail. The trip will end with an afternoon visit to Stockbridge, Mass., for shopping. Register by May 24; space is limited.

President's Honors List

The following Colchester residents made the fall 2022 President's Honors List at the University of Hartford:

Samantha Ciaglo, Jade Hostetler, Lizzy Ladegard, Colin Larkin, Mackenzie Root, Kayden Sargent and Lucas Slomski.

Dean's List

Rachel L. Wells, daughter of Stephen Wells and Ilyse Wells of Colchester, made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

In addition, Wells was inducted into Sigma Beta Delta, the International Honor Society for business, management and administration, and was also awarded a scholarship by the New England Graduate Accounting Studies conference.

Wells is an accounting major of the Class of 2024.

Seed Library Opens for Season

The Colchester Garden Club and Cragin Memorial Library has opened the Colchester Seed Library, for the start of its second year.

The seed library offers vegetable, herb, flowers and native seeds free of charge for the public to grow at home, either starting indoors or direct sow when the weather warms. It is located at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., and is available during normal library hours. The Seed Library will continue to be restocked through the growing season with

new seed varieties. There are also educational handouts on seed starting and gardening available in the Seed Library Binder, which can be found with the Seed Library.

If you would like to be notified when the Seed Library is restocked, send an email to colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com asking to be put onto the email listing for these notices, or complete the contact information form at the library.

CES Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host the "Kindergarten Story Time" program for 4 and 5 year-old Colchester children who will be entering kindergarten during the 2023-24 school year.

Three sessions will be held – April 4, April 25, and May 9, from 11:10-11:40 a.m. each day, in the CES media center. During each of the 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 provided.

Parents and children are invited to attend multiple story times. Topics for parent information change each session. No pre-registration is required. CES is located at 315 Halls Hill Rd.

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Local Teen Leading Statewide Cancer Support Effort

By Jack Lakowsky

Marlborough resident and RHAM High School junior Maggie Walker has been nominated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) 2023 Greater CT Student Visionaries of the Year Campaign, one of just 15 teens selected throughout Connecticut.

Over the course of the seven-week campaign Walker has proven herself worthy of the nomination – made by family friend and LLS Person of the Year Rob O'Meara working hard to organize and publicize her fundraiser.

Walker and her family have been personally affected by lymphoma, losing Maggie's grandmother in 2021, after a long battle.

Walker is looking for support to help LLS's missions to "find a cure for blood cancers" and improve quality of life for patients.

Walker's looking to raise \$15,000 for LLS, the nation's largest nonprofit dedicated to eliminating blood cancers. Walker created a team of committed friends and loved ones to help her on this journey, including her mom, Leslie Walker.

"Our candidate team is particularly passionate about research and will be representing this area of LLS during our campaign," wrote Walker in her appeal letter.

Research, Maggie told the *Rivereast* this week, was a great help and comfort to her grandmother as she tried treating the disease, and that's why she chose to focus on this crucial part of finding cures for diseases, whether cancer or the common cold.

"I'm feeling great," said Maggie, saying she's humbled by how "giving people can be," that along with teaching her life skills, the campaign has brightened her worldview a bit, shown her "how giving people can be."

The visionary title isn't just a lottery title handed out for clout – you have to work for it, and work Maggie has.

"It was way more than I imagined," she said, saying she reached out to tons of people, made deadlines and had to find various fundraising methods, all while balancing her honor-student status, athletics and other extracurriculars.

The work is worthwhile. "I would do this again," she said. "It's a great cause and I learned from it."

Proud mom and campaign helper Leslie said their friend Rob O'Meara encouraged Maggie, saying she'd do a great job.

"It's a really nice thing watching her grow up, seeing the new skills she's developing, she'll come home and talk about 'emailing Andover.'"

LLS funds blood cancer research across the world and helps develop and accelerate new discoveries, treatments and cures for blood and skin cancers, serving cancer patients for more than 70 years. LLS is the world's largest nonprofit supporter of blood cancer research, and has been key in advancing 75% of available blood cancer treatment options in the last five years.

Along with leukemia and lymphoma, LLS researches Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.

"My campaign will provide support to the critical work of LLS in hopes that one day no one will have to grow up without the ones they love. I know that with your help, I can reach my goal and make a direct impact in the fight against blood cancers," Maggie wrote.

Make a tax-deductible donation by March 24. Visit events.lls.org/ctwhv/mwalker or write a check to 303 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447, and print "Maggie Walker" in the



A RHAM junior is taking on a hard job so many strive to do – fighting cancer.

memo.

Your company may match charitable gifts at lls.org/matchinggifts.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) is one of the most common cancers in the U.S., according to the American Cancer Society, accounting for about 4% of all cancers. More than 80,000

people are expected to get it this year, both adults and children; the disease affects anyone at any age. About 20,000 deaths are predicted.

Some good news: lymphoma rates have declined about 1% since 2015, and in the last decade, the death rate has gone down 2% annually.

4th Friday at the Arts Café

The Kenn Morr Band will be playing at Marlborough Arts Center's 4th Friday at the Arts Café on Friday, March 24.

Although centered in Colebrook, and well-known in the region, they are also known internationally with record sales and airplay in the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

The band bills itself as an alternative folk/rock band. The group's latest album is *Open Field*, and a clip can be heard on the arts center's website at www.marlborougharts.org. Morr is lead singer and on various guitars; there

is also Tom Hagymasi on strings, Pat Ryan on bass, and Tido Holtkamp on percussion.

Admission at the door is \$10/person. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the concert at 7:30 p.m. BYOWine. Masks are suggested but not required.

The Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit center for the arts located at 231 North Main St., in an historic building that is handicapped-accessible. There is on-site parking. For more information, visit www.marlborougharts.org or call 860-295-9389 and a member of the Board of Directors will return your call.

Realtor Partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Local Marlborough real estate agent Ellen DeSorbo has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut. She will donate a portion of her commission for every home bought or sold using her services as an agent to support the organization's efforts to help the youth of Connecticut.



DeSorbo, a former Big Sister, said she is excited to give back to the community through her work.

"I've seen firsthand the incredible impact that Big Brothers Big Sisters has on the lives of young people," she said. "I'm honored to be able to support their mission by donating a portion of my commission to this great organization."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut is a nonprofit organization that matches adult volunteers with children facing adversity.

"Ellen's generosity is truly remarkable," says Carl Guild, Broker of Carl Guild & Associates, the real estate brokerage where she works. "We are thrilled to see our agents take an active interest in causes they believe in, and support them wholeheartedly."

For more information on DeSorbo's partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut or to schedule a consultation, contact her at 860-841-2133 or ellen.desorbo@gmail.com.

Closed for Staff Training

The offices of Town Hall, Senior Center and Public Works will be closed for staff training from 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday, March 21.

President's Honors List

Marlborough residents Nathan Green and Garrett Kleinhenn made the fall 2022 President's Honors List at the University of Hartford.

Dean's List

Lauren Fenton of Marlborough made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Emmanuel College in Boston.

Marlborough Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Marlborough Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, March 26, at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club on Planeta Road in Marlborough, which is located off of West Road just east of Exit 12 from Route 2.

The Lions will be open for dine-in or take-out orders from 7:45-11:45 a.m. The Lions will serve various varieties of pancakes along with sausage, ham, fruit coffee and juice.

The Lions Club supports programs that address various issues, including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness as well as supporting many local charities such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and vision screening for children in grades pre-K

to 6 at Marlborough Elementary School.

Tickets will be sold in advance and will also be available at the door. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and \$7 for children 12 and under.

The success of this event is also dependent upon local businesses, which support the Lions in the form of \$25 sponsorships. Lions Club members will contact local businesses in advance of the breakfast and any business interested in providing a sponsorship is encouraged to contact the Lions.

For more information, to provide a sponsorship or to purchase tickets, call Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lions secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

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In Marlborough, ‘Greatest Generation’ Lives On

By Jack Lakowsky

There are precious few left in the world who lived through, as adults, the pivotal, epochal time of World War II, an event that shaped the world, that saw the horrors of fascism and hatred and war first-hand.

Dolores York, (nee Rivera-Cardoza), moved to the U.S. from Cabo Roja, a small coastal town in Puerto Rico, in 1941 – just before the outbreak of the war.

Then, she could not return home until 1946 – during her stay in the states, both her father and her brother died.

York, who lives in Marlborough Care & Rehab, was born March 12, 1923. This week marked her 100th birthday. She was 18 when she came to the U.S.

She lives at Marlborough Care & Rehab; family, staff and friends celebrated the milestone.

During her 50 years of work, York became an accomplished executive secretary and translator at the American Can Company. She translated between the company’s international divisions and partners and its office in Greenwich, where York worked from 1970 until her retirement in 1995, her son, Jorge Simón, a retired superior court judge, told the *Rivereast*.

Before that, she worked for Nestle after graduating secretary school in New York. She started her job in Connecticut after Nestle moved its headquarters to Switzerland.

York married in 1950 and raised two sons, Jorge and his brother, Michael, after divorcing, she then married the late Richard York in 1970. All the while she helped support her mother and sister on the island.

While she worked in New York, her home was in Bridgeport. She rode the train into and out of the city, about a four-hour round trip, an example of something so familiar to kids of migrants, watching their parents work incredibly hard to provide them with opportunities so many now take for granted.

She instilled in them not just a love, but a reverence of education, the same tool she employed to find her success in what was essentially a foreign land (the U.S. annexed the island in 1898, and it became a province in 1917, just 5 years before Dolores was born).

The centenarian moved around a few times, living in Fairfield, Pennsylvania and Florida, returning to Connecticut when her husband passed in the late 2000s. She also lived in Glastonbury, where Jorge and his family have been since the 80s.

She went to Marlborough in 2019, just before the pandemic – an incredibly hard time for the Simons and the Yorks, as it was for every family with a loved one in an assisted living home.

“The nursing home was in the hard spot of having to close,” said Jorge. He credited the home, saying they were transparent and com-



A resident of Marlborough Care & Rehab has turned 100 – and what a journey she’s had, and continues to take. Dolores York is shown here with her two sons, Michael (left) and Jorge (right).

Student Art Show Underway

Marlborough Arts Center will host the annual Student Art Show for students from Marlborough, Hebron and Andover on Saturdays and Sundays through March 19, from 1-4 p.m. each day, at the arts center, 231 N. Main St. Admission is free.

The show is coordinated by Sue Hollister and Lin Gotta, collaborating closely with the following art teachers from area schools: Denise Ketterer of Marlborough Elementary, Roseanne Modzelewski of Hebron Elemen-

tary, Susan Giammarco of Gilead Hill, Jessica Waine of Andover Elementary, Micaela Gracie of RHAM Middle School, and Nicole Van Sicklin, Beverly Fisher, Shelly Osowiecki and Carrie Dinunzio of RHAM High School.

Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts, and fine crafts. Parking is free and the building is handicapped-accessible. For more information, visit www.marlbrougharts.org.

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, March 20: Free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: boneless chicken breast, pesto pasta, Italian vegetables, garlic knot, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Listen & Learn, noon – “No Bones About It, Nutrition Matters” with CRT registered dietitian Lori Lennen; setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, March 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: potstickers with duck sauce, vegetable fried rice, Oriental vegetable blend, dinner roll, fresh fruit; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, March 23: Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson’s Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, March 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: ricotta stuffed shells, marinara sauce, California-blend vegetables, dinner roll, fresh fruit, oatmeal cookie; 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.

municative throughout the height of the pandemic.

“It was so important we had that support,” he said.

Because Dolores’s hearing has faded, phone calls and Zoom calls were difficult.

“She weathered it well,” Jorge said of his mom’s handling of the pandemic, which was a tremendous strain on the mental health of older adults. Dolores proved her mettle once again when she took a case of Covid on the chin, with a little help from some vaccines and a lifelong belief in healthy living. Jorge said his mom certainly enjoyed the occasional scotch, she moderated her drinking and ate well and was conscientious about her doctor’s visits.

Aging does take its toll even on the most

resilient – Jorge said his mom’s only gripe is the loss of her eyesight, ending her longtime, much-beloved hobby of reading.

One hundred years of experiences, and one of Dolores’ favorite trips was one enjoyed by both the centenarian and the infantine: Christmas in New York.

“The best memories are when she worked in New York,” Jorge said. “I was 14 or 13, and my brother was five or six. He and I would take the train in around Christmastime and meet her after work; we would go to Radio City Music Hall and watch the Rockettes, walk around Rockefeller and Fifth Avenue, have dinner in the city. Meeting her after work and walking around the pageantry of the city, they’re the best memories.”



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Lions Club Raffling Kayak

Once again, the Marlborough Lions Club will raffle off a 10-foot Ascend kayak with paddle and a one-year rental of a kayak rack at Marlborough's Blish Park. Note that use of the rack at Blish Park is limited to Marlborough residents, but the raffle for the kayak is open to everyone.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each. Tickets will be sold at various locations through May 28 or can be purchased from Marlborough Lions Club members. Proceeds will support the Li-

ons.

The raffle drawing will take place at Blish Park Sunday, May 28, following the annual 5K 'Round the Lake Road Race. You do not need to be present to win.

For more information regarding this opportunity and to purchase raffle tickets, call Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lions Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054 or Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

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.

Lenten Soup Suppers: In the Thienes Lounge at 6 p.m. Wednesdays through March 29, with activities for children after the meal.

Bible Study (Faith Enrichment): Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Thienes Lounge.

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 lo-

cated in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. The Drive Thru Café provides a take-away hot meal at the church to Marlborough Food Bank clients on the last Sunday of every month (except July and August).

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 Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432.

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.

Babytime: Fridays at 10 a.m., for ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. This is a baby-centered storytime with songs, rhymes, lap bounces 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, for children ages 2-5. Register online.

Lego Club: Tuesday, March 21, 4 p.m. Ages 4 and up are invited to come for STEM-based challenges involving Legos. Registration is recommended but not required. The club meets every other Tuesday.

Kids Crafting Club: Meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m. Future dates: 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 program 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.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 1, at Blish Park. The Easter Bunny will be present. Ages 2 and under hunt at 11 a.m., ages 3-5 at 11:30 a.m., ages 6-8 at 11:15 a.m., and ages 7-10 at 11:45 a.m.

Youth Programs: Tiny Twirlers Dance Class: For ages 2-3 with caregiver. Choose Tuesdays, 9-9:30 a.m., from March 21-May 30 (no class April 11); Thursdays, 5:15-5:45 p.m., from March 23-June 1 (no class April 13); or Saturdays, 9-9:30 a.m., from March 25-June 10 (no class April 8 and May 27). All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$130.

Sparkling Spinners: For ages 3-5. Tuesdays, 4:15-4:45 p.m., from March 21-May 30 (no class April 11), at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$130.

Funky Tumblers: For ages 4-7. Saturdays, 11:15 a.m.-noon, from March 25-June 10 (no class April 8 and May 27), at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$180.

Dance Dynamics Little Darlings: For ages 3-5. Tuesdays, March 21-May 30, at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Pick one, two or three half-hour classes from the Little Darling classes. Classes are: 9:30-10 a.m., Sparkling Spinners; 10-10:30 a.m., Jazzy Gems; 10:30-11 a.m., Dazzling Dancers. Fee is \$130 for one class, \$190 for two classes and \$260 for all three.

After School Co-Ed Dodgeball League: For grades 5 & 6. Mondays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., from March 20-May 1, at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee: \$30 for residents.

After School Co-Ed Handball League: For grades 5 & 6. Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30 p.m., from March 29-May 10, at MES. Fee: \$30 for residents.

Little Yogi and Me: For ages 3-6. Mondays, 5:15-6 p.m., from March 20-April 17. Fee: \$65/

resident, \$70/non-resident.

Lego Spring Into STEM: For grades K-4. Tuesdays, 3:15-4:45 p.m., from March 21-May 16. Fee: \$155/resident, \$160/non-resident.

Soccer Shots: Saturdays, April 22-June 17, at the West Road Memorial upper field. Mini, for age 2, is 3-3:45 p.m., and Classic, for ages 3-5, is 3:45-4:30 p.m. Fee for Mini is \$102/resident, \$107/non-resident, and fee for Classic is \$108/resident, \$113/non-resident.

Skyhawks – Soccer, Baseball and Basketball: Thursdays, April 20-May 18, at MES. Mini-Hawk (ages 5-7) meets from 4-5 p.m., and Multi-Sport (ages 8-12) meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Fee: \$89/residents, \$94/non-residents.

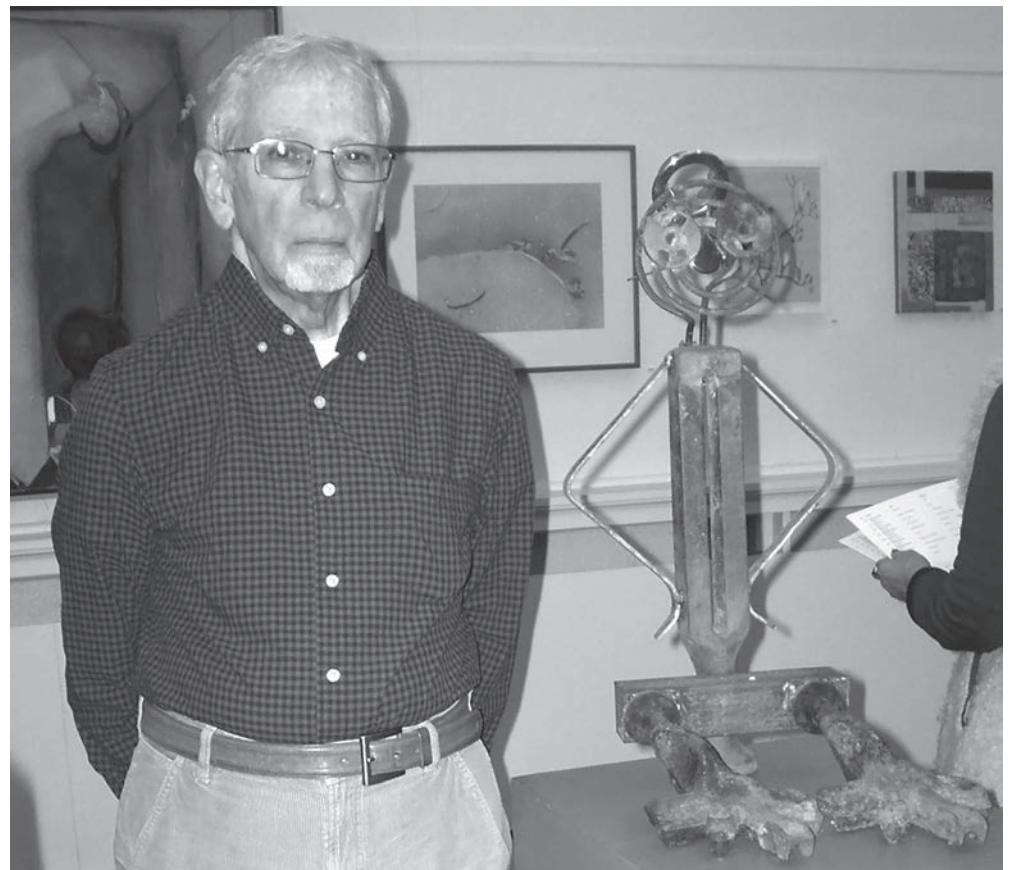
Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up. Lessons are private, an hour in length, and days and times are flexible. The instructor will contact you upon registration to set up lesson day and time. Fee is four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Zumba: Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., March 11-April 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the conference room at Fire Station No. 2 and virtually. Fee: \$50/residents, \$55/non-residents, or a \$12 per week drop-in fee.

Adult Tap: Tuesdays, March 21-May 30 (no class April 11), at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Choose 11-11:45 a.m. or 8-8:45 p.m. This is a mixed-level class. Fee: \$180.

Boston Red Sox Patriots Day Bus Trip: Monday, April 17, see the Los Angeles Angels play the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park at 11 a.m. Trip includes: charter bus, ticket to the game (right field roof top), breakfast before bus departs, games and prizes on the bus. Registration fee is \$160. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 7:30 a.m., and returns at 5 p.m.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs Available: Cost of the sign is \$35. 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.



Sculptor Neal Alderman will currently show his work as part of an exhibit at Town Hall.

Artwork on Display

Neal Alderman, a sculptor, is currently showing his work as part of an exhibit at the Marlborough Town Hall.

Alderman creates art from found objects. Some of these are representative of specific forms and some are most abstract. He has recently been working with wire "sculptings," some of which are on display at the Town Hall.

He studied at The Steelyard in Providence and with Timothy Kussow of Manchester Community College. Alexander Calder is one of his influences.

He has exhibited his work at Windham Re-

gion Art Council, Hebron Creates, The Emporium in Mystic, Hygenic Art in New London, Marlborough Art Center, and Marlborough Town Hall. He has also exhibited at Maple & Main Gallery in Chester, Six Summit Gallery in Ivoryton and the Slater Museum in Norwich. He has been awarded several first prizes and honorable mentions.

Alderman retired from UConn.

The Town Hall exhibit features art done by members of the Marlborough Arts Center's Board of Directors. The paintings and sculpture will be on display through June.

Call for Artists and Artisans

Marlborough Arts Center will open its annual Members' Art Show, scheduled to open on Sunday, April 23.

All media will be accepted, including paintings, photography, sculpture, pottery, woodwork and jewelry. Artist members are invited to bring up to three pieces of artwork to the Arts Center, 231 North Main St., on Sunday, April 16, between 1 and 4 p.m., or on Monday, April 17, between 5 and 7 p.m. The entry fee is \$20 for two pieces, and an additional \$5 for a third. Membership dues must be up to date.

Alicia Meluzzo, an artist from Old Saybrook, will judge the show for awards. Meluzzo gradu-

ated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine art/ Painting from Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. In 2006 she opened her own gallery where she sells her wares and teaches people of all ages. Presently, her studio/gallery is in Old Saybrook and she showing in several Connecticut galleries.

The Members' Art Show will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m., from April 28-May 28.

More information, including a prospectus and exhibition forms for the artists, will soon be available at www.marlborougharts.org.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Alvin LeBlanc; John McKaig is deacon emeritus. 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 stjohnfisher30@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, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.

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

Lenten Confession: Mondays, 6-7 p.m.

Family Faith Formation: This is an active family faith formation program for the church's kindergarten through middle school population. For more information, call the church office.

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 web-

site.

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.stjfcchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Artwork on Display

Roy Wrenn is one of the artists on the Board of Directors for the Marlborough Arts Center who is currently exhibiting his paintings in the Marlborough Town Hall.

A resident of Glastonbury, Wrenn says his paintings, done in oil or acrylics, reflect his love of the sea. He is a member of the Glastonbury Art Guild, the Clinton Art Society, the Marlborough Arts Center, and the New Haven Paint and Clay Club.

Six of his acrylic paintings are part of the Marlborough Town Hall exhibit and can be seen through June.

Dean's List

Adam Whitmore of Marlborough made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Ashlyn Mrachek and Rachel Gaudette made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

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Collins Magnificent as Highlanders Soar to Semis

By Josh Howard

Portland High School basketball maestro Harrison Collins put on a show during the team's final home game, slicing and dicing his way through defenders as the Highlanders defeated Wheeler 60-42 in the quarterfinals of the Division V state tournament on March 10.

Collins scored a game-high 22 points and dished out eight assists as the No. 4 seed Highlanders eliminated the No. 5 seed Lions to advance to the state semifinals.

"We were really amped up," said Collins, who is one of six seniors. "We just had to stay together; we knew it was going to be a rowdy environment."

Although the Highlanders had the advantage of playing at home, the gym at PHS was packed with Wheeler fans that made the long trip from North Stonington to see a potential upset.

But it didn't take long for the visitors to find out that an upset was not in the making.

Behind Collins and a terrific supporting cast, the Highlanders controlled the tempo and never trailed in the game.

Head coach David Bradbury said it's the best his team executed on the court this season.

"It's great when you're playing really well at the right time," added Bradbury. "I talk to the boys about reaching that peak at the right time and we've hit our stride at the right time."

Junior Joe Rusczyk scored the game's first points when he banked in a shot off glass and – after Wheelers' Deondre Bransford tied it with a layup – Collins scored five straight points to provide Portland the lead for good.

Similar to Portland's style, Wheeler plays at a high-tempo, but they couldn't match the Highlanders' athleticism. They also had no answer for Collins, switching from a man defense to a zone defense in the second quarter in an attempt to get the ball out of Collins' hands.

The result was a shooting exhibition from senior Ryan Kerr, who canned a pair of three-pointers on passes from Collins. Kerr scored eight of his 15 points in the second quarter.

"We knew they wanted to play man, but we know we have the size and skill to beat guys in man-to-man," added Bradbury, who credited Wheeler head coach Stephen Bailey for mixing

in multiple defenses. "He made good adjustments, but our guys just really executed."

It was more of the same in the second half as Collins drained a straight away three-pointer in the first minute of the third quarter, promoting a 14-3 scoring run.

Rusczyk scored five straight points during the third quarter surge, converting a three-point play and then stealing a pass in the open court before making a layup.

By the four-minute mark of the third quarter, the Highlanders had turned a 10-point halftime lead into an insurmountable 21-point advantage.

Second-chance points also helped the Highlanders.

Senior captain Ben Fecteau gobbled up a dozen rebounds, many on the offensive end. Fecteau put the finishing touches on the game when he drove baseline and converted a traditional three-point play by powering his way through a pair of defenders for a bucket and hitting the ensuing free throw midway through the final frame.

Rusczyk finished with nine points, Fecteau scored seven, and senior Austin Vess added six points – all in the second half.

Bradbury was impressed with his team's ability to take Wheeler's best punch and stay composed, something he said the team struggled with a season ago.

"We did a good job defensively with our switches and with our help defense," added Bradbury. "In the first quarter [Wheeler] hit some tough shots and I thought we didn't get out in transition as much as we wanted to. There were a lot of 50/50 balls that we may not have gotten in the first half, but we did a great job at tightening that up in the second half."

Collins agreed that it was the team's relentless defense that put the game to rest.

"Everyone was playing their role well and we worked on helping," stated Collins. "Everyone played great team defense. That is what won it for us."

Collins added that the team leaned on the experience from a season ago when they won a pair of state tournament games before being eliminated in the quarterfinals round at Wind-



Portland High School senior Harrison Collins brings the ball up court as the Highlanders student section behind him cheers on the team on March 10 at PHS. Collins scored 22 points as Portland defeated Wheeler to advance to the state semifinals.

ham.

The goal this season was to assure home playoff games and, after finishing the regular season with 15 wins this winter, the Highlanders earned a first round bye in the state tourney before ousting Wolcott 67-46 at PHS in the sec-

ond round behind 27 points from Rusczyk.

The home win over Wheeler put the finishing touches on a historic home schedule in which the Highlanders won 13 of 14 games at PHS this winter.

Scholarship Offered by Garden Clubs

Applications are now available for a \$500 scholarship offered by the garden clubs of Portland.

The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Portland and has been accepted at an accredited college or post-secondary school, and plans to pursue a major in one of the following fields: agronomy, botany, city planning, conservation, environmental studies, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology, or an allied subject. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

Book Sale, Read & Recycle

The Friends of the Portland Library is selling art books – including books on master artists, Impressionism, both French and American, and art collections in museums around the world – as well as puzzles, games, DVDs, and of course fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, all at the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

The sale takes place during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc and puzzles and games are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

Also, the Friends of the Portland Library's Read and Recycle program will accept donations on Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m.-noon in the Mary Flood Room of the library. The Friends welcome donations of gently used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No

The scholarship is funded from the proceeds of community activities of The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River Valley Garden Club. The review committee will consider the applicant's academic record, ability to articulate career goals, and their recommendations. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Application and letters of recommendation must be received by The Garden Clubs of Portland, Connecticut in care of the applicant's Guidance or Counseling Department or emailed to sueanderson06480@aol.com or portlandrivervalleygc@gmail.com before April 20.

textbooks, business books, computer books, self-help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition; the Friends cannot accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition.

Donations must be dropped off at the library's side door, and volunteers will be available to receive the donations. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgement forms will be available. Donated items are sold at various Friends' book sales held throughout the year, and all proceeds are used to support programs of the Portland Library.

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

Soccer Club Spring Registration

Portland Soccer Club spring Rec division registration is open for players with birth years 2014-2019. Registration deadline is Sunday, April 16.

Visit clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub for the registration site, or contact PSC President Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com. Birth year determines division.

Costs: Pre-K is \$60, Dribblers and Kick-

ers is \$75. Pre-K and Dribblers play 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.

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BOS Budget Request Comes in Under 4%

By Jack Lakowsky

This week the Portland Board of Selectmen and First Selectman Ryan Curley put out to the community a request for a 2023-24 town budget of about \$38.3 million, a bump of about \$1.3 million over the current plan, a 3.49% increase.

Split between the general government and the schools, the increases are about \$465,000 and \$828,000, respectively, bringing their respective totals to \$14.8 million and \$23.6 million.

Subtracting direct revenue estimates, the town's request comes to about \$12.4 million, and the schools' expected income of \$4.6 million to about \$19 million.

The town is proposing to raise the mill rate from 32.44 mills to 33.40, about a 3% increase, bringing the value of one residential mill to about \$840,730, and a motor vehicle mill rate of about \$110,000.

In Connecticut a mill is equal to \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessment. To calculate multiple the assessment of the property by the local mill rate and divide by 1,000. For example, a Portland home priced at \$250,000 would be taxed \$8,110.

Due to legislation passed last year, motor vehicle mill rates in Connecticut are capped at 32.46.

Curley listed numerous accomplishments of the past fiscal year. The town got a \$725,000 grant from the state for renovations and equipment replacements at the senior center. Another \$400,000 grant went to replacing sidewalks along Main Street starting at Arvid Road.

Another big one, the town was awarded a \$444,000 Shelter Diversion Grant from the state Department of Housing to continue and expand the state's homeless shelter diversion program for smaller cities.

The town also got more than a half million dollars to replace the track at Portland High School, a project that has taken years due to the prohibitive cost. The project is now out to bid, and will shave a few bucks off the district's major redevelopment plan, currently being developed, a multiyear effort estimated to chime in at more than \$30 million.

The Governor's Board Counsel awarded Portland a \$300,000 grant for a new park and

trail project off Airline Avenue and, with a quarter million dollar grant from the state public health department began funding the major work of finding a town-owned water source, the town's pan to defray rising water costs.

Commercial successes include the ongoing remediation of a brownfield on Brownstone Avenue, a project that began before the pandemic.

There's been a good degree of visible development at Brainerd Place in recent months. Demolition of old Elmcrest buildings continues and newer buildings have gone up on the property.

As goals for the coming fiscal year, Curley said the town wants to complete sidewalk replacements, road construction, finish the remediation of the Brownstone brownfields and get the spot producing taxes again, implement in-earnest the 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development, continue work at Middlesex Avenue Park, make the town greener and reduce energy costs, promote town departments like police, public works, the library and youth services.

Switching to renewables could hopefully reduce the town's energy cost. Natural gas is estimated to cost schools alone 220 grand in the coming fiscal year, up almost 14%.

The town's asking voters to approve three new positions. One is a full-time grounds employee, bumping the tax assessor's clerk to full-time, up from half-time, giving the department

more time to help residents.

Perhaps the most notable request is for a 13th Portland police officer, eyed to start in January 2024. Adding this officer would bring the police departments budget to about \$1.7 million, up more than 7%.

The town's dipping its toes in its capital improvement plan, set to cost about \$52 million between 2023 and 2028. It hopes to spend about \$1 million this coming fiscal year, then for 2024-'25 the cost goes to \$12 million.

Curley told the *Rivereast* he understands this is quite a jump, a nasty medicine to swallow. But there are a few spoonfuls of sugar to ease it down. He also said what the town needs and what it can afford "don't always align," so priorities have to be made.

First, the town still has some ARPA money it can put towards the hefty price, he said, and because the big bite is a little ways off there will likely be grants available.

"The needs are real," he said, "capital improvements are a big deal. At some point we'll be asking the taxpayers for bond [funding]; we know we have to fix the buildings we have."

Curley said the multimillion future requests are expected costs, some of which may not get funded, other more important projects favored instead.

"The town has to get creative in funding these," he said.

Volunteers Sought for Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Portland Historical Society's Town-Wide Tag Sale Day is coming May 13 – and volunteers are sought for the two months leading up to the event, to help the society get ready for the event.

There will be two days of collecting donations at the Callander House on Saturdays, April 22 and 29, from 9-11 a.m. People are needed to help carry donations from vehicles to the tents for storage. Help will also be needed to sort and price donations on those days and additional days the week before the Tag Sale Day.

Volunteers are also needed to contact Tag Sale Map sponsors throughout town, from now through April 15. Help will be needed

after 4 p.m. Thursday, May 11, to deliver the tag sale poles to locations having sales. Volunteers will be needed to help pick up these same signs after 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13.

Volunteers for the actual tag sale day are still needed and anyone interested in baking, working at the historical society's bake sale or at the museum's tag sale at 492 Main St. can call Susan at 860-982-1486.

There will be a meeting for Town-Wide Tag Sale volunteers at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, 492 Main Street. If you would like to volunteer but can't make the meeting, email portlandcthistory@gmail.com to indicate that you can help.

Vocal Chords Awarding Scholarships

The executive board of the Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is offering college scholarships – and the deadline is fast approaching.

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.

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.

On Sundays during Lent, an episode of *The Chosen* will be shown in the lounge at 10:30 a.m., following worship.

On Wednesdays during Lent, all are invited for a repeat showing of *The Chosen* episode at 6 p.m., followed by Compline, Night Prayer at approximately 7 p.m. Compline will also be livestreamed on Facebook.

Throughout Lent, Zion will collect items for Portland Food Bank. The requested items include: March 19, toothpaste, toothbrushes,

mouthwash, dental floss; March 26, deodorant, feminine products; and April 2, shaving cream, hand lotion, and body lotion.

Also, individuals who wish to purchase memorial lilies are encouraged to call the church or check zionlutheranportland.org for an 'In Memoriam' form. Forms should be submitted by April 2. Lilies are \$10 each and may be picked up from the church after Easter services on April 9.

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Free Grab-and-Go Meals: The senior center is offering Waverly Senior Center members, who reside in Portland only, one free Grab-and-Go meal. You must be able to pick up the meal yourself, at 11:45 a.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, in the Mary Lou Rice room. Please do not arrive before 11:30 a.m., as there are programs in that room. Note: You are not eligible if you are already receiving Meals-on-Wheels. You must register one week in advance for a Grab-and-Go meal. For information, or to sign up, call at 860-342-6761.

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Syncocize II Dance Fitness, 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, call 860-342-0809; Watercolor Lessons, 9:30 a.m.-noon – to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m. Wednesday: AARP Tax Preparation, appointments from 9

a.m.-1 p.m. (last appointment at noon, to register call Lynn or Alexis at 860-342-6760); Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room; Tai Chi Qigong, 1 p.m.; Thursday: Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. Friday: Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Tech class by Camille and Marley from Portland High School, 10:30 a.m.

Special Event: Friday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. Dr. Richard Benefield will present "The Smithsonian" and 100 treasures from the world's great museums and libraries, at 10:30 a.m. Fee is \$3. To register, call Lynn or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

Blood Pressure Clinic: 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (unless the first Monday is a holiday; then the clinic is the following week).


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

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

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

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

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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Succession of Bloom in the Garden

The Portland River-Valley Garden Club and The Portland Garden Club will welcome Nancy Ballek Mackinnon of Ballek's Garden Center on Wednesday, March 29, at 7 p.m., at the St. Mary Church Hall at 51 Freestone Ave.

Ballek will discuss how to plan and plant for 10 months of succession of bloom in the garden which will support native wildlife. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend.

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Opportunities for Public Service

The Portland Democratic Town Committee (DTC) is informing Portland residents interested in becoming involved in their community that there are various opportunities to serve on a board, commission, or committee. This includes both elected and appointed positions.

Any registered voter in Portland may be considered. More information is available at www.portlandct.org under 'boards and commissions.'

Individuals interested in serving on a board, commission or committee should send an email to nominations.portlandct@gmail.com.

The DTC holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information about the DTC, send an email to portlandctdct@gmail.com and follow on Facebook @Portland Democratic Town Committee.

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.

Youth Services Advisory Board: Tuesday, March 21, 4:30-6 p.m., at BFCC. This is a town-appointed advisory board that is open to the public.

Prevention & Wellness Council: Wednesday, March 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at BFCC. All are invited to come help work as a community on youth substance use prevention and positive mental health. If interested in joining, contact Revicki or just show up.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m., at the Route 17 Portland Rec Complex. Contact

Parks and Rec. for more information.

Community Leadership Series: Tuesdays, April 4, 11 and 25, 6-7:30 p.m. This virtual program is designed to help the participants develop strong, effective leadership skills in order to make positive changes in their schools and communities. The program will consist of self-reflection and team building activities, as well as a focus on engaging in meaningful dialogue and action. Contact Revicki to register.

Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night: Wednesday, April 5, 6-8 p.m., in the Wagner Room of Portland Library. There will be games, art supplies and other activities, along with snacks.

After School Drop-In & Draw: Tuesday, April 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Little Hikers: Friday, April 14, 10:30 a.m.

Youth & Parent LGBTQ+ Support-Style Groups: Wednesday, April 19, from 6-8 p.m.

Drop-In & Draw Arts & Crafts: Friday, April 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Nursery care and church school take place every Sunday during the worship. 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 will hold a Soup and Bread Supper and Program on Wednesdays, March 22 and 29. The supper begins at 6 p.m. and the program is from 6:30-7:30 pm. The program will be led by Olmsted and is based on the hymn "When I

Survey the Wondrous Cross." All are welcome to attend.

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. Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

Register Now for Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Portland Historical Society's 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will be Saturday, May 13, rain or shine – and online registration and payment for tag sales is now open. Visit the society's website at www.portlandhistsoc.org and click on the link (the big yellow banner) to register — just follow the instructions online.

Registration sheets will be included in the society's March newsletter and will also be available in the barrel on the front steps of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main St., later this month. Completed paper registration sheets along with payment should be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 98, Portland CT 06480.

The donation to the society for a spot on the Tag Sale Map is \$20 until March 31; the registration fee during April will be \$25. Registration for sales will close April 30. Portland resi-

dents who sign up will be assigned a spot on the society's official Tag Sale Map issued for that day listing the sale locations and types of items featured at each one.

Local businesses and organizations can support the society by purchasing an advertising spot on the tag sale map. Past advertisers will receive an email with information about this year's map in the next two weeks. New businesses can email the society for information at portlandcthistory@gmail.com. Tag Sale ad spots are approximately the size of a business card and cost \$25. Map sponsorships can also be purchased online.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main fundraiser for the Society. Proceeds help to maintain the museum and to further the mission to collect, preserve and share Portland's history.

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.

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 lower level of the senior center was recently dedicated to Ruth and Nunzi Maio for their years of service as Food Bank coordina-

tors.

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.

The next Foodshare visit will be Monday, March 27, at 1 p.m.



The Fab Four... Upon this, the 33rd Anniversary of the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords, here are the group's original members! From left are Barbara Stone, Louise Russo, Joyce Ghent (founder) and Gina Fredericks. For more information on the 90-member community singing group, visit vocalchords20.org

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.

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. Children who live or attend school in Portland may participate. Bussing is provided from Valley View and Gildersleeve schools.

Tai Chi for Long Life: Through April 29. 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.

Boat America – Online Boating Safety Course: April 18 and 19, 6:30-9 p.m., and April 25, 6:30-9:30 p.m. 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. All classes held via Zoom. Cost: \$65.

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.

Skyhawks Multi-Sport Program: Saturdays, April 15-May 13, at Riverfront Park, for ages 2-5. Times vary by age. This soccer, baseball and basketball class uses age-appropriate games and activities to explore balance, hand/eye coordination, fitness, sport skills and child development. Cost: \$75 for residents, \$85 for non-residents.

Ladies Beginner Golf Lessons: Mondays, April 24-May 22, 6-7 p.m., at the Portland West golf course. Taught by PGA Golf Professional Gerry D'Amora, this course will be on the basics of golf. Cost is \$140 for residents, \$150 for non-residents.

Junior Golf Workshops: Tuesdays, May 9-30, for grades K-8, at Portland West. Times vary by grade level. This workshop is designed to acquaint participants with the game of golf. Cost is \$95 for residents, \$105 for non-residents.

ADVERTISERS

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

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Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School has announced kindergarten registration for the 2023-24 school year.

Parents/guardians whose children will be five years of age on or before Jan. 1, 2024, should contact Valley View School at pgrass@portlandct.us to indicate you will register your child for kindergarten. Provide your child's full name, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.

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Meriden Teen Charged with Firing Gun

By Jack Lakowsky

Portland Police arrested a 17-year-old male juvenile on March 10 for allegedly shooting a gun into a Portland apartment home in January.

No injuries were reported in the Jan. 20 incident, in which several shots were fired into a second-floor apartment on Maple Avenue, police said.

The juvenile lives in Meriden, police said, and was taken into custody with the assistance of Meriden and New Britain police. On that same date, police added, Meriden police executed a search warrant on the teen's home

and found a 0.45-caliber handgun.

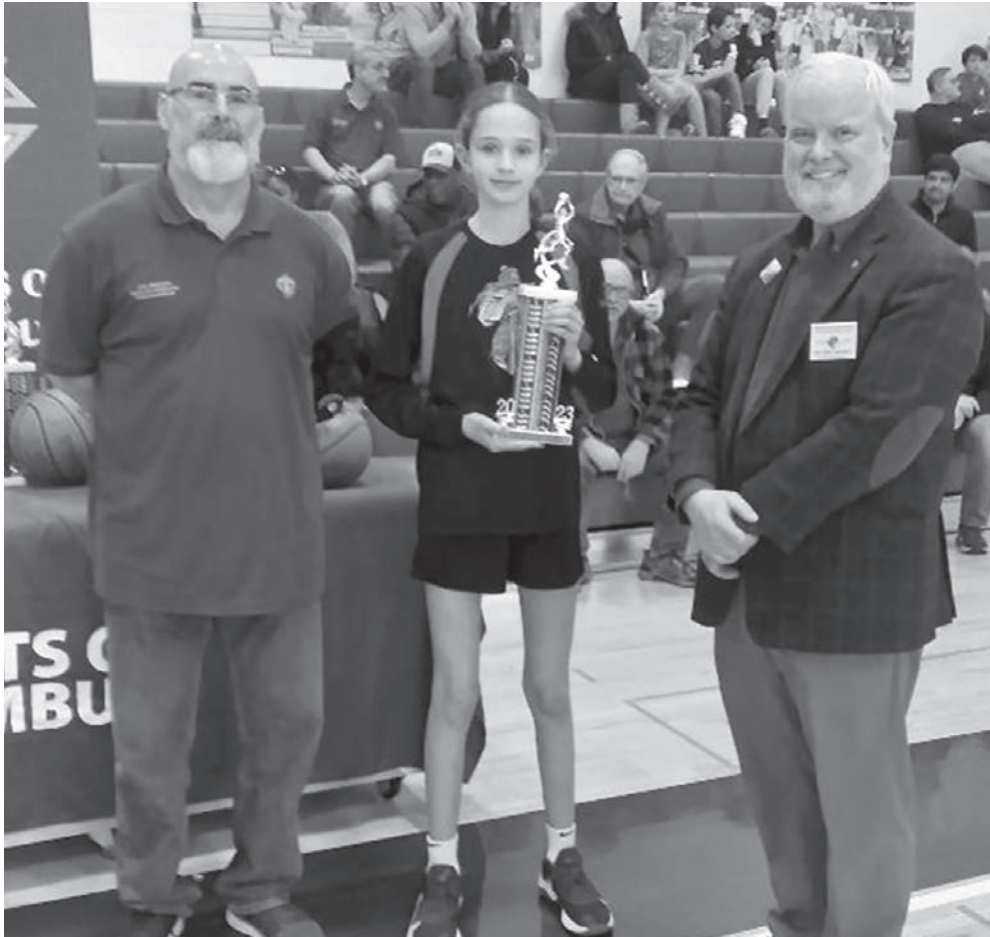
The teen was brought to Hartford juvenile detention and held pending review of his case in Middletown court on March 13.

The juvenile was charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree assault with a firearm, conspiracy to commit unlawful discharge of a gun, breach of peace and reckless endangerment, police said.

Few other details were available. The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to call the Portland Police Department at 860-342-6780.



BIS is LIT (By Green Energy)...The Town of Portland has been working for some time on having solar panels installed at the Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS). First Selectman Ryan Curley reported on Facebook this week that these panels have now been energized. The Power Purchase Agreement in place will allow the town to begin saving on its energy bill, he said." Thank you to former first selectwoman, Susan Bransfield, for getting this project started and also to Portland's Clean Energy Task Force," Curley wrote on Facebook.



Free-Throw Champ... Several Portland youths advanced to the Knights of Columbus State free-throw competition held at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol on Feb. 18. Pictured is Aeryn Hall, 11, who won for her age group as she made 22 of 25 free-throw attempts. Other Portland youths competing there were girls: Taylor Sobieski, 10; Lily Arnold, 12; and boys: Mason Downing, 9; John Bankoski, 10; Caiden Bouchard, 11; and Danthel Goldburn, 12.

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. **Good Friday Closing:** The library will be closed Friday, April 7; it will be open Saturday, April 8.

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: Drop-In Playdates: Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., through May 25. Ages birth through 5 and their caregivers are invited to come for an hour of socialization and open play with the library's story room toys. No registration required.

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

Renaissance Days: Thursday, March 23, at 3:30 p.m., for grades K-2. Get ready to go on a noble quest to gather ancient coins, fashion a dragon for a jousting tournament, prepare a Renaissance Days snack, and more. Space is limited.

Teen Event: LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups: The library, in conjunction with Portland Youth and Family Services, QPlus and Health Care Advocates International (HCAI) will be hosting social and support groups for LGBTQ+ youth beginning in March. Teens are invited to social meetups at the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Support groups will meet on the third Wednesday of

the month, with a parent and caregiver support group running concurrently in another room at the library. For more information, contact Jenn Renk at 860-342-6770.

Adult Programs: Seed Library: Now available for garden enthusiasts, whether beginner or seasoned. You will find free seeds available for your garden. Sign them out to help the library know what is "hot" and to keep up the inventory. For more information, call Jan Nocek at 860-342-6771. Have some leftover seeds? Donations are welcome.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, March 21, 1 p.m. *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* by Kate Racculia will be discussed.

Book Discussions: Mystery Lovers Book Club - March: Tuesday, March 21, 1 p.m. *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* by Kate Racculia will be discussed. **TAB:** Tuesday, April 4, 1 p.m. *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. *Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club - April:** Tuesday, April 18, 1 p.m. *Under the Harrow* by Flynn Berry will be discussed.

Historical Buttons: The Connecticut Connection: Tuesday, April 18, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. Lynn Keller will discuss The Waterbury Button Company, which has produced many historical buttons. The company started in 1812, manufacturing brass as well as pewter buttons and became the nation's first caster of brass. In 1849, The Waterbury Button Company was formed solely for the manufacturing of buttons and uniform accessories.

Medicare 101: Thursday, April 20, 6 p.m. Learn the A, B, C and D of healthcare for ages 65 and up. Registration is requested.

Social Security Strategies: Wednesday, May 3, 6 p.m. Registration requested.

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.

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.

Portland Fair Volunteer Open House

Portland Agricultural Fair will hold a Volunteer Open House Wednesday, March 29, from 5-7 p.m., at fair partner Concentric Brewery, 91 Main St.

The fair is looking for volunteers; no skills or previous experience required. It only takes one hour of your time up to be commissioner of a department

Details on all volunteer opportunities – such as oxen/horse pull worker, fair book coordinator, advertising coordinator and gate supervisor – will be offered, in addition to snacks and discounted drinks.

For more information on the fair, visit www.portlandfair.com.

Exchange Offering Scholarship

Again, this year the Portland Exchange Club will be offering the \$1,000 John W. Goodrich Scholarship to any Portland resident senior going on to a higher education institution after graduation.

The club is looking for the student to provide the committee with a short essay describing its community service and its impact on how the community benefited. Other secondary factors considered are good academic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities.

Applications are available at the Portland High School Counseling Center and online at www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship. Deadline for applications is April 15.

Lions Club Offers Scholarship

The Portland Lions Club is accepting scholarship applications for Portland resident students enrolling in a post-high school certificate or degree program that serves the public in some manner.

Applications will be accepted from students of all academic levels as well as learning challenges. Portland students can obtain an application form from their guidance office or emailing the PortlandLions Club at portlandclionsclubscholarship@gmail.com.

All applications must be received by April 15.

President's Honors List

Portland residents Desmond Cleary and Theresa Rodriguez made the fall 2022 President's Honors List at the University of Hartford.

Project Graduation Clothing Drive

Have some clothes you no longer need? Donate them to Portland High School Project Graduation's Used Clothing Drive. Collection dates are March 21 and 22. Drop off your bags under the tent in the bus loop at Portland High School.

The following items will be accepted: clothing for men, women and children, shoes (please bag shoes separately), clothing accessories, belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves, and soft household items like towels, blankets, pillows, quilts, comforters, and curtains.

All proceeds raised go toward providing PHS seniors with a safe, drug- and alcohol-free celebration on graduation night.

For more information, email trosado@yahoo.com.

Conversation on Voting Rights

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Portland Democratic Town Committee is hosting a Conversation on Voting Rights with Connecticut Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas on Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

This event is free and open to the public. Attendees should plan to arrive early as there is limited seating available. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

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 Freestone 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.

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.

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

★ Letters cont. from page 7

bron is most likely a safe bet. I would assume that, at some time, they were at land owned by everyone here in town, the state and the country. If that is used as a reason to not build, we might as well shut down all building projects in the United States.

We contacted the State and DEEP stated no endangered species would be affected. Also, no ancient trees would be touched. We then get to the garage and salt issue. I have not seen one documented case of salt pollution from a town garage or from the new style salt containment system. Even their own expert (retired) was not familiar with what we are planning on building. The towns design professionals, engineers and architects in the fields necessary for this project have addressed every concern raised. Also, the town has been given the “green light” from DEEP and SHIPPO to proceed with the design process of this project.

I truly feel that their fears have no substantiation. The “sky is not falling” and this project should have the support of the people of Hebron.

Daniel Larson – Amston

Note: Larson is chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Clarion Calls Work Both Ways

To the Editor:

Remember, everyone hears their own clarion call.

Hollywood elites, Democratic politicians, etc., advocated the death of Trump. Isn't that the same as what Don Newsch advocated?

You two and your beloved Democratic Party think there should never be a point of view that disagrees with yours.

Troubling, the Democratic Party-forced COVID narrative of never having originated from the Wuhan Lab. Never admit to a mistake or lying to the public? Hunter Biden laptop, Big Tech collusion; it's proven, but never admit to it. Never had an effect on election outcome, right? Never accept responsibility for some-

thing that went wrong. Take credit only for what goes right. Why? Train derailment, SVB, border, drugs, “transitory” inflation, to name a few; whose fault? who else, Trump.

Squawk like parrots, heads in the sand like ostriches. Same talking points as the media you cherish. Jan. 6th, attacking America, protect democracy, neo-Nazi, anti-science, military dominance, racist. The depths of lies of your media are all right, Fox News is wrong, right? According to whom, you, your media, Democratic Party, Chuck, Nancy, “exponentially better” president? You wouldn't know democracy or a neo-Nazi if either bumped into you on the street.

True Democrats: never admit your media could be wrong or disseminating disinformation? You're duped, brainwashed, or is that impossible to think? Jan. 6, no more of an insurrection than the “peaceful law-abiding majority” who brought you “riots” of Portland, Minneapolis or DC, more damage and deaths. A USAF Veteran was the only person to die, not six Capitol Police officers. Fox/Tucker show part of the story you purposefully weren't meant to see and it's all lies?

Never saw such a hypocritical, pathetic, petty bunch of people – full of spite and conjecture and of themselves.

Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough

Change for Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:

Last weekend, over 100 concerned citizens came together to call for change in Colchester as we kicked off my campaign for first selectman. It was amazing to see so many people from across the political spectrum united behind the message of bringing Colchester together.

During my speech, I discussed the division facing Colchester that has manifested in an unstable Town government that is constantly getting in its own way – wasting time and money. We need new leadership to turn the page and start a new chapter.

As first selectman, I will chair the Board of Selectmen with dignity and respect for members and the public. I will use my own professional municipal experience to bring stability

back to Town Hall. Together, we will also work to strengthen and promote the town's relationships with community organizations and small businesses.

Maintaining a vision for the future of Colchester was a major theme as well. I discussed opportunities to preserve and promote Colchester's small-town New England charm, including our small businesses, farms, and outdoor recreation. I also discussed a strategy to address the future of the Youth Center and our poorly maintained recreation fields.

Let's end the chaos and disruption so we can get back to working on issues that matter in Colchester. We cannot let political sideshows overshadow the great things about our community. Now is a moment to put aside our partisan differences and stand together for our town.

I want to hear from you! Reach out at BernieForColchester.com!

Sincerely,

Bernie Dennler – Colchester Candidate for First Selectman

Selective Outrage?

To the Editor:

In the name of transparency from the beginning, I voted for Trump in 2016 and 2020. That being said, I felt the letter written by Mr. Newsch fantasizing about assassinating Biden was way below the line of decency. I thought that the U.S. Secret Service should have paid him a visit and taken appropriate action.

However, I recall a play performed in Central Park, NYC, portraying Trump as Julius Caesar being assassinated on the Ides of March, a so-called comedian displaying a figure of the severed head of Trump on the internet, and a Democratic operative/ journalist calling for Justice Clarence Thomas' wife to feed him excessive fried food to hasten his demise. The response from our friends on the left? Sounds of silence, if not cheers of approval. I guess some forms of creative artistry are just fine.

Please spare me the pathetic, self-serving hypocrisy from the virtue-signaling crowd.

Peter W. Allatin – East Hampton

LEGALS

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 March 28 at 9 a.m.
Lauren Incognito, LMSW
Director of Social Services
Town of East Hampton 1TB 3/17

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 HYBRID and IN-PERSON HEARING ANDOVER, HEBRON, MARLBOROUGH MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 – 6:30 PM

Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xpv-bhba-qgo>
Or dial: (US) +1 901-881-2218 PIN: 104 093 793#
More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/xpv-bhba-qgo?pin=7393216452486>
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BOTH VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON (RHAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM) ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023, AT 6:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:
1. “TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023-2024.”
2. “TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2023-2024.”
DATED AT HEBRON, CONNECTICUT, March 14, 2023
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
Michael Morris
MICHAEL MORRIS, CHAIRPERSON
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION 3TB 3/17, 3/24, 3/31

LEGAL NOTICE of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:30 PM Portland, CT 06480

The electors and those persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of Portland, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that pursuant to Chapter V Section 503(b) of the Town Charter, a Special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT to consider and vote upon whether the Town shall approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$700,000.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of \$417,793 and an increase in estimated revenues to line item #01-000-000-00212 Municipal Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$183,954 and an increase in estimated revenues to line item #01-000-000-00213 Municipal Transition Grant in the amount of \$233,839; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of \$282,207 from the General Fund fund balance; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves total supplemental appropriations in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of \$700,000 be transferred to Fund 24-School Construction Fund to first be used on the track improvement project, with any remaining unexpended funds to be used on any needed school construction project. A copy of the complete resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org.
Dated this 15th day of March 2023
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman 1TB 3/17

LEGALS

Legal Notice

Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission APPROVED the following application on March 13, 2023:
• Application #IWWC 23-02: Andrea Gaines, 115 Lakeside Drive- Removal and reconstruction of an 80-ft long x 3-ft high masonry wall, and a 52-ft long x 4-ft high masonry wall within the 200-foot Upland Review Area of Andover Lake.
The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org. 1TB 3/17

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, March 23, 2023 6:30 pm at TOWN HALL LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 577 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 1 Knowles Road --- to install a white wood picket fence (5 ft aT peak) inside the property at the back of house --- for applicants Ritchie and Kim Goldstein.
Application 578 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 91 Middle Haddam Road --- to install a 6 ft cedar wood perimeter privacy-style fence --- for applicant Judith A. Keefe.
The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.
Dated: March 14, 2023
Regina Starolis, Clerk, MHHDC 1TB 3/17

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF SELECTMEN Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM Town of Portland, CT 06480

Pursuant to Chapter XII Section 1203.4 of the Town Charter, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on **Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut, regarding the proposed supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of \$700,000 be transferred to Fund 24-School Construction Fund to first be used on the track improvement project. At the hearing, all interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received. Public Access also through the Zoom link A – www.portlandct.org
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of \$417,793 and an increase in estimated revenues to line item #01-000-000-00212 Municipal Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$183,954 and an increase in estimated revenues to line item #01-000-000-00213 Municipal Transition Grant in the amount of \$233,839; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of \$282,207 from the General Fund fund balance; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves total supplemental appropriations in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of \$700,000 be transferred to Fund 24-School Construction Fund to first be used on the track improvement project, with any remaining unexpended funds to be used on any needed school construction project.
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 15th day of March 2023.
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman 1TB 3/17

BLISH MEMORIAL PARK TENNIS COURT & BASKETBALL RESURFACING TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for the **Blish Memorial Park Tennis Court & Basketball Resurfacing** will be received by the **Town of Marlborough** by hard copy at the Issuing Office until **10:00 AM** local time on **Monday, April 10, 2023**. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. **The Project primarily consists of resurfacing 2 tennis court 60 x 120 feet with acrylic color coating surface and combination striping for tennis and pickle ball and resurfacing basketball court.** Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum as indicated in the Bid Form. Bidding Documents are available for free download from the Town Website Marlboroughct.net.
Issuing Office is: **Town Clerk's Office, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut (860-295-6200)**. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents from the Town Web Site or at the Issuing Office during Town Hall hours of operation.
A pre-bid conference will be held at **3:00 PM** local time on **Tuesday, March 28, 2023** at **Blish Park Tennis Courts 32 Park Road**. Pre-bid conference attendance is encouraged but is not mandatory. The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Surety Company shall be licensed in the State of Connecticut and listed on IRS Department Circular 570. A Payment Bond and Payment of Prevailing Wage Rates will not be required unless Contract amount is equal to or greater than \$100,000. Bid Bond is not required. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty [30] days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.
The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.
All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.
If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver the Contract and furnish a valid Certificate of Insurance with full policies, and Performance Bond to the Town prior to the start of any work. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid. This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town.
The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.
This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.
The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.
Owner: Town of Marlborough, Connecticut
Amy J. Traversa, Acting Town Manager 2TB 3/10, 3/17

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT PAVING PROJECT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for the Paving Project will be received by the **Town of Marlborough** by hard copy at the Issuing Office until **10:00 AM** local time on **Monday, April 10, 2023**. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. **The Project consists of full depth reclamation, grading, and paving of Wilhenger Drive and the driveway at 3 Wilhenger Drive** Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.
The road is approximately 45,000 sqft it's a 1200+/- linear foot cul de sac with a width of 28 feet and approximately 2,700 feet of curb. The driveway at 3 Wilhenger is approximately 2,100 sqft and shall have a width of 14 feet and include 80 feet of curb. All curbing shall be Cape Cod Curbing.
A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28th at 2:00 p.m. at the cul de sac on Wilhenger Drive. Bidding Documents are available in the **Town Clerk's Office, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut (860-295-6200)**. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on line at Marlboroughct.net, CT Source, or at the Issuing Office during Town Hall hours of operation.
The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Surety Company shall be licensed in the State of Connecticut and listed on IRS Department Circular 570. A Payment Bond and Payment of Prevailing Wage Rates will not be required unless Contract amount is equal to or greater than \$100,000. Bid Bond is not required. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty [30] days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.
The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.
All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.
If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver the Contract and furnish a valid Certificate of Insurance with full policies, a Performance Bond, and Payment Bond if applicable, to the Town prior to the start of any work.
It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.
This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town and the Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.
This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.
The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.
Owner: Town of Marlborough, Connecticut
By: Amy J. Traversa, Acting Town Manager
Date: March 9, 2023 2TB 3/17, 3/24

HE HAS TWO JOBS BUT ONLY GETS PAID FOR ONE.
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Obituaries

East Hampton

David Philip Famiglietti

David Philip Famiglietti, 44, of East Hampton, formerly of Windsor Locks, entered into eternal rest following a brief and courageous battle with appendiceal cancer on Saturday, March 11, at Hartford Hospital. He was born in Hartford July 29, 1978, the son of Philip C. Famiglietti and Susan J. (McDowell) Famiglietti.



David grew up in Windsor Locks and attended The Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor. While attending Loomis Chaffee, he was awarded the prestigious Congress/Bundestag Scholarship and spent his junior year in West Germany living with a German family. He attended Colby College in Waterville, Maine, and returned to West Germany in his junior year attending the University of Tubingen as a Tufts University student for the year.

After graduation from Colby College, David went to East Germany as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching English in a German school. The German school requested him to remain for a second year, and was able to secure funding. He took advantage of the opportunity to visit many parts of Europe and was known for taking spontaneous trips throughout his life. He even vacationed in Cuba.

Most important to David was spending time with family; he adored his nieces and nephew, and will be remembered for the numerous outings with them to Chick-fil-a and Starbucks.

In addition to his parents, David leaves behind his sister, Kristine LaVoie and her husband Keith of Norton, Mass., and his beloved nieces and nephew, Olivia, Kaylee, and Colin; his maternal aunts, Judith Chapman and Patricia Murphy, both of Windsor Locks; his paternal aunts, Joan Bologna and her husband John of Enfield, Linda Disney and her husband Richard of Bellport, N.Y., Donna Behrman of Moorpark, Calif.; his paternal uncle, Charles Famiglietti and his wife Kelly of Longmeadow, Mass.; as well as many beloved cousins and dear friends.

David's family will receive relatives and friends from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at the Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring Street, Windsor Locks. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 42 Spring St., Windsor Locks. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery.

Donations in David's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 6704 Hagerstown, MD 21741.

For online condolences, please visit www.windsorlockfuneralhome.com.

Haddam Neck

Dr. Joseph R. Zaiantz

It is with great sadness that the family of Dr. Joseph Richard Zaiantz announces his passing on Saturday, March 11, at age 84. Joe (Doc) was predeceased by his parents, Harry Zaiantz and Edith (Perlin) Zaiantz.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Fredda (Pollans) Zaiantz; by his three great sons, Jack (Stephanie), Luke (Alice) and Nate (Sara); and his six wonderful grandchildren, Eva, Lila, Sadie, Mollie, Samuel and Benjamin. He also leaves his sister, Helen Liveten; his brothers-in-law, Ken (Maria) Pollans, and Larry (Barbara Baum) Pollans; and many dear friends.

Joe graduated from Cheshire Academy, Duke University, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry. He leaves an admirable legacy of participation in his community in many areas. He was in the Army for three years, including one as captain in the Dental Corps in Vietnam.

After he and Fredda married, they settled in Haddam, where Joe established his dental practice. He became a volunteer fireman in the Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Department and served over 40 years as firefighter, training officer, secretary, captain, chief, certified EMT and president of the board of directors of the Haddam Fire Department. He was active in Haddam Public Health as treasurer, then as president for three terms. In 1994 he established the Haddam Shad Museum to commemorate and celebrate the history of shad fishing on the Connecticut River. He recently donated the museum to the Haddam Historical Society to ensure its continuation. He also drove for Meals-on-Wheels delivery for over 12 years.

Joe also actively supported his faith community at Congregation Adath Israel in Middletown. He served on the board of directors, on various committees, and as vice-president of the synagogue.

Even with all those activities, he still enjoyed participating in family affairs and pursuing many interesting hobbies. Joe was an amazing man who will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and associates.

The funeral will be on Sunday, March 19, at 1 p.m., at Congregation Adath Israel in Middletown, 8 Broad St., with burial following in Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck, where full military honors will be accorded.

Funeral arrangements are in the care of the Doolittle Funeral Home. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.



Marlborough

Penny M. DeGray

Penny M. DeGray, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully at home with her beloved family by her side Thursday, March 9. She was 76 years old. Penny was born in Hartford on Nov. 28, 1946, a daughter of the late Warren and Mary Frances (Penny) McGuinness.



Penny married Terry DeGray on May 29, 1982. The couple made their home in Marlborough where their blended families grew up together. Penny worked as a medical receptionist, retiring several years ago. She annually volunteered with the registrar of voters for elections, working the polls and greeting friends old and new, and proudly served on the Marlborough Board of Education.

Penny also helped coach youth recreation softball with Terry when her girls were young. Gaming, crossword puzzles and cheering on the Lady Huskies were some of her favorite pastimes, but spending time at the shore, reading while Terry fished, and watching the waves roll in was her all-time favorite thing to do. Most importantly, she loved spending time with her precious grandchildren and watching them grow.

She had a quick wit and a kind heart and she will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her husband of 41 years, Terry; her children and their spouses, Peter (Kimberly) Bates Jr. of East Lyme, David (Sandy) Bates of Marlborough, Elizabeth Fisher of Phoenix, Ariz., Tammy (Tom) Gillett of Avon; stepchildren, Michelle (Daniel) Slivinsky of Plainville and Mark DeGray (Kelly) of Windsor; a daughter-in-law, Lisa DeGray of Coventry; a sister, Judith (Tom) Murning of Wethersfield; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by three siblings, Alan McGuinness, Warren McGuinness and Cynthia Budaj.

A celebration of Penny's life and visitation with her family will be held Saturday, March 18, from 3-5 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the charity of your choice in her memory.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Penny, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Robert Wayne Whitehill

Robert (Bob) Wayne Whitehill, 90, of Marlborough, a beloved husband and father, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Feb. 28, surrounded by family. Robert was born in Norwich to Loretta and Newton Whitehill.



He is survived by his children, David Whitehill, Brian Whitehill and life partner Ann Poissant, Cynthia Spearin and husband Peter, William Whitehill and wife Rosa, and Susan Mead and husband Dexter; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; his nieces, nephews, family relatives and dear friends.

He was predeceased by the love of his life, his wife of nearly 70 years, Doris, who passed 29 days before him; also, his brother John (Jack) Whitehill; sister, Jean Romesberg; and grandson, Andrew Whitehill.

Robert was a 1950 graduate of Norwich Free Academy. He was a Korean War veteran, having served in the Navy aboard the submarine USS Cobbler. He worked with distinction as an engineer at United Technologies, where he was recognized by NASA for his creative development of a technical innovation, Advance Technology of Fuel Cell Design, and for his contribution to the success of the first manned orbital flight of the Space Shuttle. Bob was a man of many talents who, in partnership with his dear wife Doris, dedicated his life to his family with unwavering devotion.

A graveside service and celebration of life for both Robert and Doris will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 8, at Marlboro Cemetery.

In remembrance of Robert, memorial contributions can be made to Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Colchester

William Boy

William "Billy" Boy, 67, of Colchester, died suddenly Thursday, March 2, at Hartford Hospital, due to complications from previously undiagnosed lung and heart disease. He was surrounded by his wife of 25 years, Carol, and other loved ones.

William was born Sept. 4, 1955, at Hartford Hospital in Hartford. The son of the late Rudolph and Helena Boy, he is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Carol Boy; her children, Heather Stoddard (Will) and Austin Lesse (Courtney); grandchildren, Ethan and Olivia Watson; his sister-in-law, Angela Kelsey; and many special cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

William was a graduate of East Catholic High School, Manchester Community College, and Capital Regional College. He was a psychiatric registered nurse at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown for 20 years. Prior to that he worked as a printer at Allied Printing Company for several years.

William was a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed all types of adventures, from the sky (skydiving) to the sea (scuba diving), and everywhere in between (camel-riding in Egypt).

William is continuing to help others through organ donation to patients and researchers. He will be providing the gift of sight, the gift of improved limb prosthetics, and research toward

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RES-17-23

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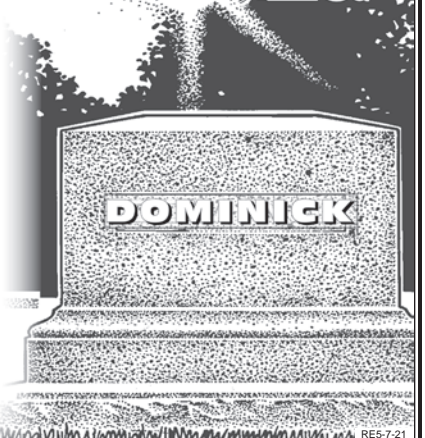
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★ **School Cuts Possible, cont. from page 1**

what things they will or won't be able to do because of increased taxes," Sullivan replied.

Also at the hearing, Erin Kaiser, a special services speech pathologist at Colchester Elementary School, spoke in favor of the budget proposal, asserting that "our collective children's future is worth it."

"We need to make significant changes in this town and that begins with supporting our school system and this budget increase," she said.

Reducing the plan, she continued, would further decimate the school system.

"The last thing our children need, especially in this post-pandemic world, is a subpar educational experience with even further academic and emotional regressions," she said.

Another district employee, Ashley Zaugg, a counselor at Bacon Academy, asked what a 5% and 2% budget increase would look like across the district. Sullivan said he could show what a 6.4% increase would mean for the four schools.

In a letter to the *Rivereast*, Sullivan outlined what reductions would be associated if the budget was reduced to a 6.4% increase.

To start, full-day kindergarten would be eliminated, replaced with a half-day program. Preschool offerings at Colchester Elementary School would be reduced and class sizes at grades 1-5 would be at their maximum limit.

The teachers and staff positions that were added back into the budget would be eliminated once again.

Arts programs would also be impacted: band at Jack Jackter Intermediate School and William J. Johnston Middle School would be eliminated, but general music would continue to be offered.

The district would also experience cuts in software, classroom supplies and technology services. Extra-curricular stipends at WJMS would be trimmed, as well.

The budget includes the addition of four safety officers at a total cost of approximately \$150,000. Currently, the district employs a single school resource officer who splits time at each school. In addition, WJMS currently needs a greeter, as well, which is also in the proposal.

At the hearing, a community member asked if music programming could be spared instead of hiring a new greeter. Sullivan stated that ultimately, the school board would make that decision. Still, he conveyed that updated the district's security was essential.

"There's an element of that, that if we're being honest, is also a liability for the town," he said. "We have an outside expert, who's comparing us to other school districts in Connecticut and around the country and telling us what we should have for school security. And if we ignore that recommendation, and God forbid something happens, what is the liability for the town of Colchester?"

Sullivan explained, in his letter, that special education costs have increased by 3.6%. He stated that these services cannot be modified in any way. There are also contractual obligations that drive a 2.69% budget increase. Five positions that were previously funded through grants are now returning to the operational budget, including a preschool teacher and a special education teacher.

At a prior workshop, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Charles Hewes confirmed that grant funding was used to offset potential budget increases in the past.

"We knew we had to deal with the implications at some point," he said. "That's what we call the funding cliff."

The budget also increased, Sullivan said, because of the expansion of unfunded government mandates. He also explained that from 2013-23, the average education budget proposal typically called for a 2% increase, with the town ultimately adopting an even lower amount, averaging around 1.15%.

On Wednesday morning, Migliaccio wrote an email to Sullivan, requesting that the school budget be entered in the Munis platform that the town uses for budget purposes. She also criticized the budget itself.

"Your inflammatory narrative and scare tactics are a low for our community," she wrote.

"Our towns and schools financial condition is stable and consistent, thanks to the impeccable work of our 17-year former CFO who retired last year," she wrote. "In no budgetary year have we ever threatened teachers or programming like you have this year. Even when our state threatened substantial cuts, our [Board of Education] didn't pass the financial woe on to the classroom."

She stated that in 2017, the state reduced "our income after the budget by \$1.2 million, and still programming, teachers and tax payers were not directly impacted. Your inflammatory narrative and scare tactics is a low for our community."

"Furthermore, you must also substantiate the Special Education increase of \$1.2M. The [Board of Education's] failure to provide financial oversight, despite my numbers warnings since June 2022, is a clear act of willful blindness," she continued. "I reached out to the auditors, attorneys, and other politicians to find that under no circumstances would our town be in a position to absorb this increase without reimbursement despite your claims that our town must bear the full cost. I will await your substantiation."

In conclusion, Migliaccio wrote that "once

the [Board of Finance] has proper data we will ensure the funding is appropriate for the schools, which was the work [Board of Education] was supposed to accomplish but failed. With the [Board of Finance] bottom line authority the superintendent and [Board of Education] can and will ultimately spend as they chose. If they chose to impact our classrooms it's a choice and a bad one at that."

She stated that full budget details were needed by Thursday night – after press time – or the next budget workshop would potentially be canceled.

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

★ **First Selectman, cont. from page 1**

attempting to "mitigate the perception of racism" and enhance his political ambitions for reelection, the count reads.

In a separate count, Bisbikos is accused of violating Rudko's First Amendment rights. A citizen, Deanna Bouchard, was raising concerns with the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund allocation process, and Rudko provided information on the subject. According to the complaint, Bisbikos demanded "full reports" whenever Rudko interacted with this citizen.

A consequence of her association with this citizen and for providing and sharing information, Rudko was accused of "undermining the administration" and was terminated, the complaint states.

Rudko was escorted out of Town Hall by police. The defendants then conspired to file false criminal charges against her, claiming that she had stolen town property, according to the complaint. The employee who replaced Rudko then filed what the lawsuit calls a "frivolous" protective order against Rudko and Bouchard, who were following up on a Freedom of Information request at Town Hall.

Two additional counts accuse Bisbikos of libel and slander, including statements made during a public meeting. Another count claims Bisbikos committed an intrusion of privacy, and used proxies to provide "unreasonable publicity" into Rudko's personal life, according to the complaint. He also subjected her name and honor in a "false light before the public," the lawsuit claims.

The complaint continues with counts of "negligent infliction of emotion distress" and "intentional infliction of emotional distress."

Bisbikos Response

Bisbikos provided a written statement to the *Rivereast* in response to the allegations.

He stated that "town attorneys would say that we should not comment at all on pending legal matters."

"However, this lawsuit is so appalling and offensive that I must reply," he continued. "For starters, the appropriate action with an allegation such as this is to file a complaint with CHRO [CT Commission on Human Rights] followed by a hearing before the Connecticut Labor Board. I believe the fact that CHRO felt these allegations had no merit shows the complainant is grasping at straws."

Bisbikos stated that Rudko "claims she had 'reasonable expectancy for long-term employment with the town.'" But, he added, "that allegation is false" as the executive assistant to the first selectman is an "at-will" employee.

"Not only is there zero expectancy for long-term employment, but you do not need a reason for termination," Bisbikos said.

He cited past examples, including from former first selectman Mary Bylone, Bisbikos' immediate predecessor. In 2019, the *Rivereast* reported on Bylone sending termination notices to her executive assistant Tricia Dean and department clerk Sylvia Miller. The notices were sent three days into her term.

Bisbikos, in his statement, expressed that the prior executive assistant resigned before he took office. He said that the employee was hired for a union position with the Public Works Department afterwards. Another employee from the Bylone administration, according to Bisbikos, was transferred out of the first selectman's office to the Planning and Zoning Department. The employee was still within a 90-day probationary period, meaning that he could have sent a termination notice without a reason, which he chose not to do.

After taking office, Bisbikos said he brought in his own team, including Rudko – who, as he noted, is the wife of Colchester Republican Town Committee chairman Taras Rudko.

"The town of Colchester did not advertise this position [of executive assistant to the first

selectman], did not accept job applications, and there was no interview process," Bisbikos said. "Marli was not hired based on her skill, experience, employment history or ability. She was handed the job, by myself, as my confidential 'at-will' employee."

Bisbikos continued by stated that it was "amusing" that Rudko "wants to be given a job, not based on her ability, but rather based on who she knows."

"Then she wants to parlay that into a long-term continuous career? The defendant understood this was a short-term position with zero job security because we discussed it before she agreed to join my team."

Bisbikos again emphasized that Rudko was an "at-will" town employee.

"Once you recognize that the complainant was an 'at-will' employee, you realize, regardless of the allegations, this suit has no merit," he said. "When I took office, the town of Colchester had roughly 120 full- and part-time employees of which I believe all were Caucasian. Since then, I hired one African American, one Hispanic, and I retained both of Mary Bylone's confidential employees in new union positions with long-term employment."

Bisbikos concluded his statement by expressing that his goal "has been to find and retain the best staff possible."

"If that also allows us to have more a diversified work force, even better."

Bisbikos did not comment on the potential legal expenses associated with the litigation or any potential budget impact. He did not confirm when he received the legal paperwork.

Background

In Rudko's termination letter, Bisbikos wrote that "there have been a number of concerning issues with your performance, including, but not limited to concerns regarding your interactions with staff and the public, inconsistent attendance, a failure to keep my office adequately informed regarding functions of this office and a refusal to perform functions of the position to which you were assigned."

Bisbikos also accused Rudko of mishandling documents.

"You were observed destroying documents in your office without authorization," he wrote. Rudko has denied that this happened.

Bisbikos has previously stated that there is evidence of Rudko destroying documents, including a direct witness, but he has not made that information public.

He previously told the *Rivereast* why the initial call to police was made that day of Rudko's termination.

"There was a disturbance regarding the shredding of documents and the slamming of desks. She was walked out of the building on her own free will and the police were there for everyone's safety," Bisbikos said.

On police body camera footage from that day, Bisbikos is heard stating that Rudko was "undermining the administration."

During a previous interview, he stated that "her course of actions over an extended period unfortunately demonstrated a lack of professionalism and trust in serving the citizens of Colchester."

He added that a town employee saw Rudko take home a flash drive. The police were sent to her house to "retrieve town property."

Rudko, when discussing the body cam footage with the *Rivereast* last year, said that the allegation that she was destroying documents "doesn't make sense" because she did not have a shredder in her office. She also pointed out that documents in the office are scanned, emphasizing that shredding documents would not be advantageous.

Her takeaway from the footage was that Bisbikos was a "pathological liar," Rudko told the *Rivereast* last year.

Obituaries cont.

finding a cure for lung and heart disease.

A celebration of William's life will be held through a small private gathering.

Those wishing to make a contribution in William's memory may send donations to the American Heart Association (www.heart.org) or the American Lung Association (www.lung.org).

East Hampton**Joyce B. Newbauer**

Joyce B. Newbauer, 87, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Joseph Newbauer, passed away Monday, March 13, at Marlborough Medical Center. Born March 5, 1936, in Bridgeport, she was the daughter of the late Stephen and Jennie (Mikita) Bodner. She had lived in Fairfield before moving to East Hampton in 2013.

Joyce was a member of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, the Polish Club in Middletown, the YMCA in Middletown and St. Patrick Church's Ladies Guild.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Jill Hernandez and husband Mario of Portland; her son, Jeffrey Newbauer and his companion Charlotte of Alaska; a sister, Nancy Morrin and husband Michael of Glastonbury; a sister-in-law, Anita Newbauer of Stratford; and her grandchildren Emilie and Matthew, who were the light of her life.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Friday March 17, from 4-6 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, March 18, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society at www.donate.cancer.org or to St. John Paul II School in Middletown.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

**Colchester****Robert Hutchins**

Robert Hutchins, or Robbie as he was called, was born Dec. 19, 1978, to Debra and Mitchell Hutchins of Colchester. Robbie was cut from a different cloth, he was unique, loved everyone and was loved by everyone.

Robbie is survived by his brother BlackWolf, sister-in-law Tamara Hutchins, two nieces, Arianna-Kree and Aaliyah, all of Shelton; his best friend and adopted sister, Carolyn Cocola of West Virginia; an adopted brother, Manny James Haynes and family from Maine, Allen Caron and family of Massachusetts as well as his best friends Shawn Brimmer and Anna Andersen, whom were like family; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins throughout Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, North Carolina and New York as well as numerous adopted nieces and nephews!

Robbie was a gentle soul and had a kind heart and will be missed by all. Long were the nights that Robbie would go and sing for many at the local establishments; to say that Robbie was a local celebrity and legend is an understatement!

On Saturday, March 4, Robbie, surrounded by friends and family, passed away after a long fight with heart problems. He is no longer suffering and no longer in pain. Paradise awaits, Robbie; soon you will wake up and see Mom, myself and all your loved ones!

Care of private arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Rev 21:4 – "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."



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