

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Belltown Basketball Wins State Title

By Josh Howard

The East Hampton High School girls basketball team notched the program's first state championship since 1980, defeating Valley Regional in dramatic fashion, 31-29, at Mohegan Sun Arena on March 18.

Head coach Shaun Russell said he was "grateful" after the victory, adding, "This title is for the town."

Sophomore Liana Salamone shook off a rough day from the field to finish with a game-high 12 points and haul down a team-high 10 rebounds.

Russell said Salamone showed "great composure" by doing all the little things down the stretch despite the shooting struggles.

After Salamone split a pair of free throws in the closing seconds, Valley's Elizabeth Allen nearly tied it at the buzzer but her diving layup attempt rolled off the rim, securing the Bellringers' first state title since Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" topped the Billboard charts.

Coincidentally, it was Queen's "We Are the Champions" that played over the loudspeakers as players and coaches exchanged hugs and tears on the court following the historic victory.

"It feels amazing," said Salamone. "I'm so thankful we pulled through and got this win."

The championship contest was a grind-it-out battle between two Shoreline Conference (SLC) rivals that knew each other's tendencies after having played twice during the regular season - both East Hampton wins.

Junior Jackie Russell produced a pair of clutch plays in the final few minutes of regulation, one on each end of the court.



East Hampton High School girls basketball won the program's first state championship since 1980, defeating Valley Regional to win the Class M title at the Mohegan Sun Arena on March 18. It ended a nearly flawless year for the Bellringers, who won 27 of 28 games this winter. Photo by Trent Donohue.

With 1:59 remaining, she made a miraculous reverse layup, putting the Bellringers up 30-27. Then, after Valley's Regan Grow scored to narrow the margin to one point, Russell drew a charge when Olivia Cunningham drove to the basket for a potential go-ahead layup with 6.7 seconds left on the clock.

"We were only up one, so we knew we couldn't give them a basket," recalled Jackie Russell, who

scored 10 points and was playing with four fouls when she took the crucial charge.

Shaun Russell said Jackie Russell - no relation - developed into a legitimate two-way star this winter, adding, "She has become a kid that plays on both ends of the court at a high level."

The second half featured five lead changes and a pair of ties as the Deep River-based Warriors deployed an effective defense to take the

ball out of the hands of Salamone and Russell, guarding the Bellringers' two top scorers outside the arc.

"Valley makes it really hard," stated Shaun Russell. "They made it congested and took things away that we are good at."

East Hampton shot only 22% from the field and 21% from beyond the arc in the game, but it was second chance points that ultimately made the difference.

Jackie Russell scored following an offensive rebound to give the Bellringers a 25-23 lead early in the fourth, while Salamone and senior captain Jordan Murphy each had two offensive rebounds in the final quarter.

Murphy, who is East Hampton's tallest starter at 5' 9", had the tough task of controlling a Valley team that features four starters that are 5' 10" or taller.

"Coach told us that defense was what was going to win the game and our shots weren't falling, so we knew we had to rebound and play defense well and we did," said Murphy.

The victory was the second state title in the last five months for Murphy, who was named the Most Valuable Player of the Class S volleyball tournament as the East Hampton spikers captured a state championship last November.

Murphy was one of a handful of crossover players that won state championships in both sports, joining Olivia DeMartino, Delaney Russell, Amber Murphy and Stephanie Miller.

"I am so thankful to have the opportunity. This one is awesome and volleyball was amazing."

See Belltown Basketball, page 8

Tempers Flare at Colchester Budget Meeting

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance held a special meeting on Tuesday to discuss the ongoing budget process as tensions continue to escalate between the finance and school boards.

Town Hall was brimming with teachers, parents and local officials who wanted to discuss the Board of Education's proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year of \$46.15 million - a \$4.13 million, or 9.83%, increase from the current year.

The pressing issue for many citizens: the possible budget reductions outlined by Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III that included eliminating all-day kindergarten and cutting band at the middle and intermediate schools.

However, a workshop between the two boards scheduled for Tuesday night was canceled, re-

placed by a special meeting to allow finance board members to debate whether they had received the requisite documentation to begin their dissection of the budget.

The unusual dispute remains largely unsettled, although a joint meeting between the two boards has been penciled in for early April.

Republican finance board chairman Andrea Migliaccio requested that the school board's budget details be entered in the Munis program, the system the town utilizes for budget information. She explained that the town's former chief financial officer, Maggie Cosgrove, used the program for both the municipal and school budgets, up until her retirement last June.

But this year, the school budget information was presented mainly through Excel spread-

sheets - and this was inadequate, Migliaccio said.

Migliaccio emailed school board chairman Alexander Oliphant multiple times requesting additional documentation, and stating the budget workshop would be canceled otherwise. Last week, on Wednesday, March 15, the school board held an emergency meeting to discuss Migliaccio's email request, which had set a deadline for the requested material by the next day, Thursday night, March 16.

Sullivan then emailed the Board of Finance a copy of a 14-page Munis report, an Excel document with budget details, and a definition of every budget code, Oliphant said.

But this apparently didn't satisfy Migliaccio. See Colchester Budget Meeting, page 30

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

An interesting press release floated across my desk over the weekend, one that featured a cause I believe in and also featured a couple of names familiar to *Rivereasters*.

Librarians from across the state testified earlier this month before the Connecticut General Assembly's Government Administration and Elections committee and also the Planning and Development committee in support of more robust contract and licensing terms and conditions for library eBooks.

House Bills 6800 and 6829, which are identical, are entitled "An Act Concerning Electronic Book and Digital Audiobook Licensing." The legislation aims to bring publishers of eBooks and electronic materials to the negotiating table to ensure fair pricing, terms and conditions for libraries.

"Republicans and Democrats in both committees see the wisdom of this legislation," said president of the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) Douglas Lord. "Libraries have been forced to waste millions of taxpayer dollars on bad contracts with no ability to negotiate. This bill can fix that."

According to the CLA, major publishers limit libraries' ability to acquire eBooks by imposing exorbitant pricing and restricting licensing terms. Consumers pay, on average, \$12.77 for eBooks from retailers like Amazon. The average cost for a public library is \$45.75. The cost differential for e-audio books is even greater. Consumers of e-audio pay on average \$27.28. Libraries pay \$69.76. Further, whereas a consumer can retain their copy of such material indefinitely, publishers force a time limit of two years or 26 borrows, whichever comes first, for a library license.

"At the end of license period libraries are forced to re-purchase the materials at the same exorbitant pricing if they wish to retain that

title in their collection" said Kate Byroade, co-chair of the Connecticut Library Association's legislative committee – and also director of Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester. "This makes a building a robust eBook collection outside the reach of many libraries."

The CLA says most Connecticut libraries have little, if any, bargaining power and are rarely able to change the terms of the contracts offered to them by publishers. Yet, libraries need to stock titles in a variety of formats to meet their mission of delivering information to all residents.

"Electronic materials allow patrons with visual impairment, print disability, or even transportation difficulties to be able to enjoy reading from the library," said Olivia Scully, CLA's co-chair of the Legislative Committee and Help Desk Coordinator of Bibliomation. "However, these prices and terms make it impossible for libraries to fully meet the digital content needs of their communities."

Scully added, "Libraries are in the business of celebrating authors and getting their books into the hands of readers. We have been trying to get publishers to come to the table for decades."

Another familiar name in the press release? Ellen Paul, the former director of East Hampton Public Library, who is now executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium. Paul said, "Libraries are not looking to deny publishers the ability to make a profit. We only ask for the opportunity to negotiate a fair price, terms and conditions on behalf of the taxpayers who are asked to foot the bill."

She added, "Libraries across the state spend state, federal and municipal dollars on eBooks. The state absolutely has the purview and an interest in regulating these contracts to en-

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Centenarian Visits the Callander House... Centenarian Ethel Peltz, who turned 101 in January, visited the Portland Historical Society's Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History on March 17 with her son Robert, to pick up a copy of her 100th Birthday Report. In its first printing, the report includes transcripts of two interviews about Peltz's life and growing up in Portland.

Bulletin Board

Son #1 called the other day.
 "Hey," he said.
 "Hey," I said.
 "What's new in the fast lane?" he said.
 "Do you know how to get away from a charging rhinoceros?" I said.
 "What?"
 "Do you know how to get away from a charging rhinoceros?"
 "Is this a joke?"
 "Just answer the question."
 "Ah, jump in your car and drive away?"
 "If you're just on foot, I mean."
 "No car?"
 "No car."
 "Climb a tree?"
 "No."
 "I give up."
 "You run away as fast as you can, but you have to be sure to zigzag."
 "Oh. What's the joke?"
 "It's no joke. There's nothing funny about being assaulted by an angry rhinoceros."
 "Okay. Okay. Don't get all agitated."
 "Do you know why you zigzag?"
 "It makes the rhinoceros dizzy and after a couple of miles he falls down on his side and you can go up and kick him in the head."
 "No. Rhinoceri... rhinoceroses? Whatever. They tend to charge in a straight line and have trouble changing direction because they're like a big old four-legged freight train. So if you zigzag, you have a better chance of getting away."
 "Where did you learn that?"
 "Your mother told me."
 "No way."
 "I think she might have seen it on the Smithsonian channel. Or maybe she's having an affair with a zookeeper. I have no idea."
 "Oh. I thought maybe you were having a 1960s flashback or something."
 "My understanding is that 1960s flashbacks tend to involve magic dragons and stuff like that. I've never heard of one involving a rhinoceros, though I suppose it's possible."
 "I see. How about dementia?"
 I ignored this slur on my eclectic intellect. "You will thank me for this if you're ever attacked by a rampaging rhinoceros."
 "It couldn't be much worse than this conversation," he remarked.
 "It seems to me there should be a moral to this rhinoceros thing," I continued pensively.
 "Like don't look a gift rhinoceros in the mouth?"
 "Funny. No, like the tortoise and hare parable that teaches us that slow and steady wins the race. Except one that relates to escaping a charging rhino."
 "How about slow and steady wins the race, but crooked and fast can save your ass?"
 "I like it!"
 "It's probably not suitable for a children's book."
 "No, but it would make a great slogan for a political campaign."
 "Yeah. Especially these days."
 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. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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Special Thanks

To the Editor:

The seniors from Bellwood and Chatham would like to thank the East Hampton Lions for the wonderful corned beef luncheon that you made for us. It was a great time and wonderful food. And thank you to Fred who drove the senior bus.

We would also like to thank Paul and Sandy's Too for the paper white bulbs that you donated for us to plant. We had a lot of fun doing it. Thank you again so much.

Shelley Grendzinski
 Tenant Commissioner for
 Bellwood and Chatham Acres

Pointing Fingers

To the Editor:

Andreas Bisbikos, the current first selectman of Colchester, is lucky that nothing is his fault. I've heard all the problems he's facing are because of Democrats, the Democratic Town Committee, Republicans, the Republican Town Committee, current town employees, former town employees, current elected officials, former elected officials, citizens, the Board of Education, and the Board of Selectmen.

A wise person once told me that if you look around and everyone you see is the problem, you may be the problem.

John Farrell – Colchester

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Correction

An article about a proposed “Code of Conduct for Coaches” policy in East Hampton, which ran last week on page 10, indicated the policy had been adopted by the Board of Education. That is not true; it is merely a draft policy.

The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

Ambulance Association

To the Editor:

My name is Coby Hinkens and I have volunteered for East Hampton Ambulance Association since 1982. After growing up in Pittsburgh and graduating from college in New York, I moved to East Hampton in 1981. I was employed as an RN at Middlesex Hospital where I worked until my retirement after 45 years. I took the EMT course in 1982 and quickly learned that as a RN, I was in no way prepared to handle all that an EMT is trained to do. The EMT course was extremely comprehensive and challenging.

When I joined our ambulance association, I found an overwhelming sense of commitment and compassion for providing emergency care to our friends and neighbors in East Hampton. We shared a sense of “family” and shared common goals to strive to provide the best physical and emotional care that we could. I remember always praying on the way to a call that I would be able to make a difference in the person’s life on what was often the scariest day of their lives. We also strived to lend emotional support to relatives who were very upset and worried about their loved ones. We had sweatshirts that said “Neighbors helping Neighbors”, our motto and mission. Our service has provided personalized care and compassion. Even just holding a patient’s hand on the way to the hospital, I felt a great satisfaction knowing I was making that difference for our patient.

I feel saddened to think that the town wants to replace us with a commercial service. There’s so much more to a call than just transporting the patient and providing medical care. I hope our town and EHAA can work together to maintain our quality and personalized care we have always provided our patients for many years.

Coby S. Hinkens – East Hampton

Support EHAA

To the Editor:

Five years ago, I joined the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department as a Junior Firefighter. While in the department an Emergency Medical Responder course was offered and took this training opportunity. After passing this class I was immediately wanting more. A good family friend approached me one day offering to take

me on ride-alongs with an agency I wasn’t too familiar with, East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA). This opportunity filled me with excitement; I quickly found myself spending nearly every day at the ambulance station riding along on calls soaking up all the experience and information I could.

At 15, I enrolled in the emergency medical Technician course. I graduated from the EMT course soon after I turned 16 and I was ready to become a full-fledged member of EHAA. At this point I was hooked, signing up for every shift possible and answering every call I could, all while being a full-time student in high school. I’ve made 0 friends while with the EHAA; I’ve gained only family members. These are all people I’d risk my life for, people I eat dinner with, people I go to the movies with.

After high school I was ready to answer my next calling: enlistment into the U.S. Army. As I sit and write this, I’m stationed in Fort Campbell, Ky., with the 101st Airborne. I may be 1,000 miles away, but this doesn’t stop me from answering the call, every single time I take leave days and return home. Times have changed and it’s time to support EHAA throughout these times. Members of the town council even debating on entirely changing services is baffling and incredibly disrespectful after the many years of outstanding service EHAA has dedicated to the town of East Hampton and even surrounding communities.

Timothy Kelly – East Hampton

Too Late

To the Editor:

State Sen. Norm Needleman, chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee, provided a letter on page 3 of the March 10 *Rivereast* that spoke about addressing the high cost of energy in Connecticut. He wrote of Senate Bill 7 which “seeks to directly find cost reductions and savings for the people of Connecticut.” He also stated that he knows “our energy situation needs improvement.” Mr. Needleman goes on to state “If the bill is enacted, it would prevent passing (various) costs to the consumer...” and he is “committed to fighting for this bill for years to come.”

If the bill is enacted? “Years to come? People are choosing between buying food and paying their electric bill, yet our alleged advocate chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee is uttering vague promises that do not stop Eversource stealing our money *now*. Mr. Needleman, your observation “our energy situation needs improvement” is an understatement at best and leans more to a political platitude, meaning no action of substance will be taken by you, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), our state representatives, the Energy and Technology Committee and our represen-

tatives in Washington.

If PURA, our state representatives, the Energy and Technology Committee and our representatives in Washington had done their job to begin with and stopped the egregious money-grab by Eversource, Senate 7 would not be necessary. It seems that enacting a law such as Senate Bill 7 is akin to closing the barn door after the horse got out.

Bob Yenker – East Hampton

Find a Better Path

To the Editor:

There were two very disconcerting articles in the most recent *Rivereast* concerning leadership in Colchester.

Of the first, I fail to understand the wisdom of trying to litigate a legal matter in the newspaper.

Of the second, at a time in education and beyond in which STEM has evolved into STEAM (adding arts), there is a proposal to disadvantage our students by eviscerating the music program in our schools. From my experience, I know the commitment to and practicing of an instrument, diligence in individual instruction, and learning to work together in an ensemble are exactly the skills needed to be successful in any future endeavors.

None of us want to pay any more in taxes that is absolutely necessary and I recognize that taxes are a struggle for many. I would note that, during one previous budget season, I calculated the cost of our three children in our schools, based on the per pupil expenditure at the time. Our taxes did not cover the cost for one, yet alone three. Others were helping us and our children, much as others helped our parents and we now help others. This is one of the ways in which we are truly a community.

Hopefully, our elected leaders will find a better path forward.

Respectfully,
Stan Soby – Colchester

I Look Forward to This

To the Editor:

In the wake of conservative victories on various social fronts (education, family planning, voting rights), I look forward to a future in the red states. What models of fiscal and social responsibility will arise in 10 and 20 years? I am interested to see how they budget for increased education and childhood nutrition costs. Also, what will their juvenile detention programs look like, given that conservatives have such constricted views on equity?

In the likely event that more disadvantaged

people will have more children, due to the lack of enlightened family planning policies, where will the social welfare dollars come from? Perhaps these states are expecting an exodus of the poor, to find better benefits in blue states. How will red states attract businesses to bolster their tax bases? What companies will want to relocate to places with less robust educational systems and repressive social agendas?

I look forward to the answers to these questions because they will no doubt help the rest of us answer similar budgetary questions in our own states and localities. “Doing more with less” is a catchy slogan, but it does not seem to be working. The reality is that with less one can only do less. One can accept less and call it good, but Americans do not seem to favor this idea. Still, in conservative circles, it seems that the rational response to “build it and they will come” is “tear it down and they will leave.” To be clear, “it” in this case is progress. Yes, progress can seem threatening to many, but it is the way forward. Reality dictates that the future is not in the past, no matter how much some of us would like that to be true.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Unacceptable Budget

To the Editor:

Colchester’s proposed 9.83% increased school budget is not acceptable. Our town, like others, needs to eliminate wasteful spending. I can remember when I was in the 7th grade, our teacher told us that they must spend all their allotted budget money because if they didn’t, they wouldn’t get the same amount next year. That was a long time ago. If you think our town’s spenders have changed since then, then think again.

A few years ago I was purchasing something from a Colchester businessman. During our conversation, he told me he had just bid on a large job for our town. Two weeks later I spoke with this businessman again and asked him how he made out with his bid on the town project. He told me he lost the job and that it went to someone in Hartford. The reason he lost it was because his bid was too low. Yes, you read that right, his bid was too low. They awarded it to a competitor with a higher bid, because they had

See Letters, page 6

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

sure that those tax dollars are spent responsibly. eBook publishers and vendors have been allowed to run afoul of procurement law for the last 20 years. With this legislation, we are asking for that to change.”

And it’s a change I very much hope they can obtain. It sounds like a real win for taxpayers, not just locally but across the state.

Just across the river, in nearby Cromwell, there’s an opportunity coming up for area folks to show off their military vehicles.

Organizers of the Cromwell Memorial Day Parade are seeking military vehicles to take part in this year’s parade, which will be Tuesday, May 30, at 6 p.m. It doesn’t matter where you live; you’re welcome to take part. The more, the merrier.

If interested in taking part, or for more information, email parade marshal Al Waters at alwaters6177@aol.com. You’re asked to email Al by May 1.

See you next week.

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★ **Letters cont. from page 5**

to spend all the money in their budget or risk getting a lower amount next year.

If I was the person running this town, I would mandate that each department head reduce spending by 10% without any adverse effects. If you don't do it, I will replace you with someone that can.

We spend lots of money on police and extra police cars just to direct traffic or sit in their cars and watch traffic go by. The majority of these policemen are on either time and a half or double time. Not only that but when they retire, their retirement income is based on their highest-income years.

I once traveled nine or 10 hours out of state. On my way I saw about 17 or 18 policemen on construction sites. All but 2 or 3 were in Connecticut. Connecticut had about 10 times more policemen directing traffic than the others. Our new proposal increases calls for the addition of four more safety officers, a greeter and additional library assistants, as well as others. Why can't we train our current staff to be safety officers? Anyone with military experience would make a good safety officer. Why can't we require construction companies to include traffic personnel? Instead of hiring a greeter, why not just place a welcome sign on the front door?

Why do we have to train so many musicians? Why do we have so many sports like track, swimming and golf? Why do we have free meals? This year we had a very mild winter. Why can't we use that unused money towards next year's budget?

There are many ways to reduce our spending and I'm sure our educators and managers are capable of figuring it out if they wanted to.

Frank Blume – Colchester

Thanks from Youth Basketball

To the Editor:

Now that our season has concluded, the Colchester Youth Basketball Board would like to thank all the many people who helped us have another successful year. First and foremost, our thanks go out to all the kids from Grade 1 through high school who signed up to participate in our clinics and play in our Recreation and Travel programs. Thank you, parents, for trusting us to instruct your children in and (hopefully) help them fall in love with the game of basketball. Thanks to all our volunteers, from our middle school and high school kids that

assisted at the clinics and officiated our Recreation league games to the parents who served as coaches.

Thanks to the schools for letting us use the gyms and the wonderful custodial staff that maintains them. Without the support of the schools there would be no CYB. Finally, thanks to our sponsors (Ace Hardware, Bishop Photo, Colchester Curry House, InCord, Jane Ryan Insurance, Mancuso Carey Law Firm, McDonald's, Mel's Downtown Creamery, Noel's Market and Smarter Appliance) who help defray the cost of registration fees for our families.

Thanks again and we look forward to doing it all over again with you next year.

**Jeff Koonankeil, President
Colchester Youth Basketball
On Behalf of the Board**

Shocked and Saddened

To the Editor:

I was shocked, appalled and saddened by the letter to the editor by the woman in Colchester who was upset by the ad for Glock handguns in the previous week's paper.

Guns don't kill people – people do. I know that is an overused phrase, but by her logic all cars would be outlawed due to the number of people killed by them as well as other items like liquor and trampolines.

Central Firearms in Portland is a local business, and I applaud their placing an ad in the *Rivereast*. The paper is to be commended as well for running the ad. Central Firearms is a local business who paid for a full-page ad, supporting another local business, the paper. Ads like that keep the *Rivereast* free for us to enjoy.

When I see an advertisement for something I'm not interested in, I simply turn the page.

Don Hoerman – Hebron

No Rhyme or Reason

To the Editor:

In May of 2022, the East Hampton Ambulance Board of Directors hired the Bob Holdsworth Group to completely revamp the Ambulance Association's budget, renew our vision for the future, improve our by-laws and restructure our organization.

In November 2022, an EMS Agency Review packet, prepared by the Holdsworth Group, was presented to the East Hampton Town Council. It has been under review for four months. During that time, our consultant, Mr. Bob Holdsworth, has been available to answer questions at the council meetings.

I was very disheartened at a TC meeting two weeks ago when councilwoman Walck asked the question, "So what do you want the \$173,000 for?" This makes me think she didn't read the Agency Review packet!

Chairman Mr. Philhower asked our Chief of Service, Donald Scranton, "Are you now a paid employee?" This should not be a surprise to anyone. It is stated in the packet that our new plan calls for the department to become a paid/volunteer department. Our ultimate goal is that an ambulance will arrive at your door within 7

minutes after calling 911.

Councilman Goff directed a question to Mr. Holdsworth, "Did the Board of Directors hire you to convince us to give them money?" Really!?

I am convinced that these three members of the Town Council have no rhyme or reason to their decisions, no consistency, no research based on factual analysis to make their decisions.

Nancy M. Brown – East Hampton

Wonderful Maple Fest

To the Editor:

Good day all. Another wonderful weekend (a little windy) but still beautiful. Another wonderful family event here in Hebron. I want to thank Dianne Nadeau of the Willimantic Chamber of Commerce, and her staff, who are the people/group who work so hard to organize and make this event happen.

I think back to the first Maple festival and the people (sugar houses) who came up with the idea to show off their craft. Some are still doing it! I also think back to those who are no longer with us. What a legacy they have created.

Daniel Larson – Amston

Note: Larson is chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Let Us Be Grateful

To the Editor:

In a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal*, Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, CEO of the state power company Ukrenerg, stated, when being asked about the impact of the damage to the power grid from Russian missile and drone attacks, that "winter is over and we're still here."

Rolling blackouts, limited heat and infrastructure malfunctions plagued the country as a result of the relentless pounding. Yet, this positive statement tells so much about the resiliency and spirit of the country and her people.

We have much for which we can and should be grateful in spite of all the issues swirling about everyday. Yes, winter is behind us and spring is in front of us. Let us be grateful for the small things that really do make a difference in all of our lives. Something as simple as spring and all she has to offer.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Hebron's Syrupy Politics

To the Editor:

As a lifelong Hebron resident, I'm resigned to accepting Maple Fest like the Harvest Fair as suburban events in designer bib overalls. It's Hebron's "Carnaval," out of step with Lent, with more food trucks and kitsch vendors than real farmers. A harbinger of local government's preservation of Hebron's "rural historic character" and "vision for the future."

This year's Maple Fest promoted a sinister scenario, censoring and restricting Hebron resident's participation based on whether they supported Hebron's political party line.

My application promoting a Greater Together Community Grant featuring Hebron Center's history and diverse population was denied due to an "unpublished deadline" and other excuses. This decision was not unexpected. In a 9/15/2022 email, Hebron's town manager threatened, "the way you have conducted yourself in your correspondence is not helping your cause or generating cooperation from myself or the elected officials of Hebron." So much for guaranteed First Amendment rights!

How far will Hebron's government discriminate against citizens who challenge the wisdom of their decisions? Must I live in fear of reprisals because I exercise my fundamental American rights? Have I now become a second-class Hebron citizen? History proves this is how totalitarianism begins.

Having attended Debbie Irving's "Waking Up White" program, I was struck by how Hebron's Maple Fest promotes a white-only agenda. There were two African American vendors and a handful of multiethnic visitors! Why?

Maple Fest is Hebron's ultimate historic conundrum. Hebron's documented maple sugaring dates from WWII shortages. Historically the Yankee sweet-tooth was fueled by Hebron's West Indian trade bringing cheap sugar, molasses, and slaves to Hebron. Thus, southeastern Connecticut had one of the largest African American populations in New England!

Perhaps future Maple Fests should include and celebrate African-American and Hispanic cultures.

Meanwhile, a citizens' ethics committee is certainly warranted.

John Baron – Hebron

Middle Haddam Library

To the Editor:

The Middle Haddam Library Board's plan for a large side porch and long access ramp leading to it has been enthusiastically supported by the directors, who have swiftly and quietly moved the application through the necessary town commissions. However, no public input was ever solicited, nor has any been accepted. Most importantly, no handicapped people were interviewed for their perspectives for an appropriate and efficient entry to the building, which makes absolutely no sense!

There is a poster at the Middle Haddam Post Office, letters to the *Rivereast* and Facebook posts demonstrating public opposition to the board's plan, imploring the board to consider patron's opinions and proposed alternatives. All this has been ignored.

Most agree that handicapped access should be placed closest to the designated handicapped parking space. The board's plan requires users to travel up Knowles Road, take a sharp left across the grass and then proceed up a long ramp to a side porch. If a patron wished to get a book they would need to travel through the community space, potentially interrupting any event being held there.

The bottom line is that those board members involved in this plan are not handicapped and the entry would likely not work for those who are. An alternative plan submitted by Crosskey Architects (a designated historic architectural firm that works for the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Connecticut) would provide much easier access to the building, as would the ideas put forward by several other members of the community.

Middle Haddam Library Board of Directors: Please listen to your patrons and go back to the drawing board. Handicapped access to the Middle Haddam Library can be accomplished in a much better way.

Ronald W. McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

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Creative Liberties

To the Editor:

Jack Lakowsky is once again taking creative liberties with his “news” stories. Several weeks ago, Mr. Lakowsky wrote an article about the East Hampton Board of Education’s adoption of the 2023-24 budget. Somewhere in the middle of the article, he shifted the narrative to proposals made during the adoption of last year’s budget with no clear indication that he was referring to events from the previous year. This sort of poorly written “journalism” does a disservice to members of the community who rely on the *Rivereast* for accurate information.

Last week’s *Rivereast* contained a similar example of Mr. Lakowsky’s creative endeavors. One only needs to read the title of the article “Local Schools Pen Code of Conduct for Coaches” to encounter his first fabrication. After regurgitating information from previous articles and inserting an opinion (not standard practice in reporting the news), he uses the remainder of the article to pull quotes from a DRAFT document that has not yet been discussed by the members of the Board of Education, much less “penned” or adopted. Perhaps if he had bothered to contact anyone from the school district, he might have known this. Over the years, I have lost track of the examples of spelling, grammatical, and most importantly, factual errors in Lakowsky’s articles.

In the March 3rd edition of the *Rivereast*, editor Mike Thompson issued an apology for publishing a controversial letter. In his apology, Mr. Thompson stated that “all letters to the editor will be subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity” and that “letters will be fact-checked, so be prepared to have sources for your information.” I would strongly suggest Mr. Thompson start by editing and fact-checking his own reporters a little more closely. In the meantime, readers of this publication should take all information with a grain of salt.

Nancy Kohler – East Hampton

Note: Kohler is a member of East Hampton Board of Education, writing as an individual.

Missing Facts

To the Editor:

Mr. Lakowsky’s article titled “Local Schools Pen ‘Code of Conduct for Coaches’” published in last week’s *Rivereast* is yet another example of poor journalism. Lakowsky’s words: “The policy outlines...” “The policy doesn’t just deal with...” “The new code...” “The...policy subcommittee has developed a Code of Conduct for Coaches” are all missing a very important noun: DRAFT.

If Mr. Lakowsky cared to follow up on anything, he would have learned that while the Code of Conduct was on the agenda, the subcommittee ran out of time and did not get a chance to discuss the DRAFT Code of Conduct. At this point in time it is not final, and has not been implemented by the Board of Education. It’s a work in progress, and is being taken very seriously, just as every other policy is earnestly vetted. Despite this, the article was written to gaslight the community into thinking the quotes from the draft policy are final. At best, this is incredibly irresponsible journalism.

If the *Rivereast* is going to be fact-checking letters to the editor, maybe they should start by fact-checking their own employees before articles are published as fact.

By the way, here are some important public meetings at Town Hall coming up, if Mr. Lakowsky would like to attend: Board of Finance budget deliberations – March 29, 6:30 p.m., and April 5, 6:30pm.

Parents: Childcare for school-aged children will be provided during these two meetings. Special thanks to the Interact Club for providing this service to the community.

**Christina Tammaro-Dzagan
East Hampton**

Note: Tammaro-Dzagan is chair of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Freedom of Speech

To the Editor:

Your March 17th paper had a letter by Eileen Kenney entitled “Glock Handgun Ad.” A sale advertisement by Central Connecticut Arms. Eileen’s last sentence was “Shame on you.” Well, shame on you Eileen. The United States Constitution’s first amendment is freedom of speech. Be it written or spoken. The owner of CCA has as much right to his two-week, full-page advertisements as you do for your letter.

This is a small, free weekly paper that serves a lot of towns and many diversified people. With all our letters to the editor, town news, obituaries and much more, CCA’s advertisements and all the advertisements in this paper are what *See Letters, page 30*

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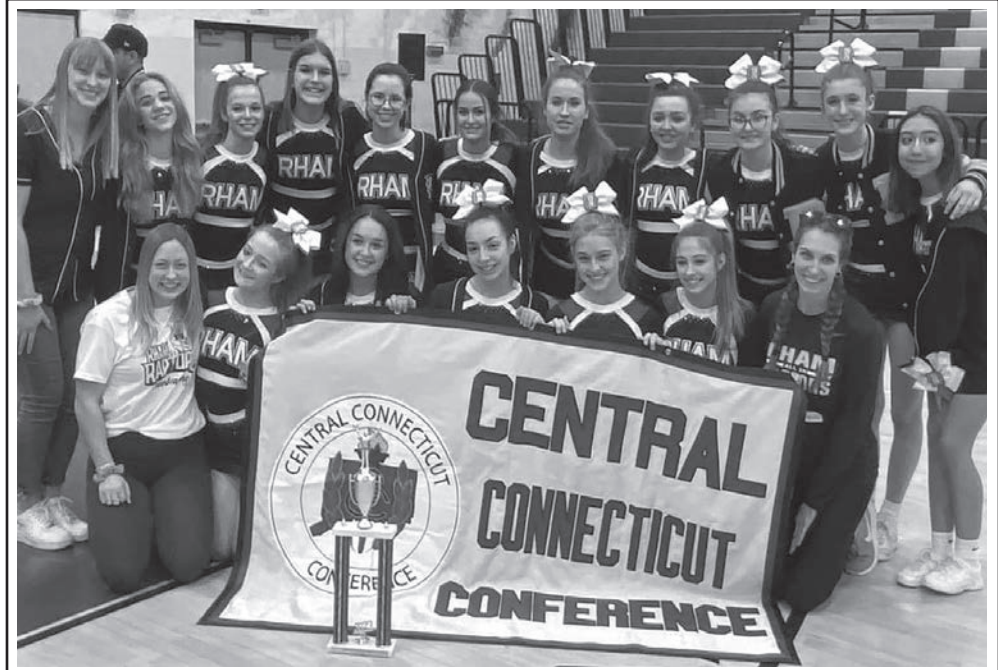
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Champion Cheers... RHAM High School varsity cheerleading celebrated first-place wins in its division at the Central Connecticut Conference, the New England Cheerleaders Association Competition, and a third-place win in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) in the past month. The first time in RHAM cheerleading history, the CIAC placement earned them a spot at the New England Regional Cheerleading Competition. The team consists of 15 students ranging in grades from freshman through senior years.

George Seely Memorial Scholarship

The George Seely Memorial Scholarship is offered by Anchor Lodge No. 112 in East Hampton. Warrant Officer Seely chose a career in the military, serving his country with honor and dedication in the U.S. Army in World War II and was a member of Anchor Lodge. A \$1,000 scholarship is available to graduating students of East Hampton High School or RHAM High School. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who will further their education in technical, military or academic fields of study.

Applicants will be judged on a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their personal thoughts on the subject of patriotism. The essay may be based on history, world affairs or personal experiences. Mail completed application and essay before April 30 to Anchor Lodge, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 112, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Class of 2023 Candle Fundraiser

As a RHAM High School Project Graduation fundraiser, Simply Soy limited-edition "Class of 2023" candles can be ordered online through March 31, via ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation.

Two sizes are available: 25 ounces and 16 ounces.

The candle scent is Day at the Spa, which is lemongrass with a touch of sugarcane. Those purchasing have the choice of two labels: "CONGRATULATIONS! RHAM High School 'Class of 2023'" or "CONGRATULATIONS! 'Class of

Candles will be ready for pick-up mid-May AHM Youth & Family Services or you may opt to ship anywhere in the U.S. for an additional fee.

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

Anchor Lodge Scholarships Available

For the 31st year, Anchor Lodge of East Hampton will offer two \$1,000 scholarships for graduating seniors who are furthering their education in a trade including arts, environmental science, carpentry, culinary, and wildlife management.

Program at Middletown High School or Vinal Technical High School. Applications are available at the schools' guidance office.

The applicant must be a graduating senior from East Hampton High School, RHAM High School, Nathan Hale Ray High School, VoAg

Applications must be submitted before April 30 to Anchor Lodge Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 112, East Hampton, CT 06424. Awards will be presented before graduation at a ceremony at Anchor Lodge.

Alumni Benefit Event for Scholarships, Project Grad

There will be an alumni benefit event for RHAM scholarships and Project Graduation at Blackledge Country Club on Saturday, May 13, at 6 p.m., with music by the band NightShift!

will be a raffle of many great items. A limited number of tickets will be sold, all in advance, and none will be available at the door. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check only.

This event is hosted by RHAM Alumni, with the proceeds to provide scholarships to RHAM seniors and to benefit RHAM Project Graduation.

Checks should be made out to RHAM Alumni. Further information and tickets are available from committee members Bob at 860-558-5823 or 860-228-3388; Lynn at 860-416-1575; or John at 860-295-8484.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Blackledge Country Club will serve flatbreads, pastas and snacks, and a cash bar also will also be available. There

Youth Baseball Spring Registration

RHAM Youth Baseball spring registration is open. Families residing in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough should visit www.rhamyouthbaseball.org to register their children.

Scholarships are available for families that have experienced a financial hardship. Contact league treasurer Eric May ericmay51@gmail.com for more information.

HAMR Softball Trivia Night

HAMR Softball and What Trivia will present Trivia Night Saturday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m., at the Lions Den at the Hebron Fairgrounds.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served, donated by Doro Restaurant Group. There will also be raffle tickets to purchase.

Trivia Night tickets are \$45 for an individual, or \$40 per person if on a team of eight or more. All proceeds benefit HAMR Softball.

To buy tickets, visit www.hamrsoftball.org or email hamrsoftball@gmail.com for more information.

National Take-Back Day

AHM Youth & Family Services' Coalition for a Healthy & Empowered Community (CHEC), in partnership with the Connecticut State Police, is hosting local sites for National Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at RHAM High School (85 Wall St., Hebron) and across from Marlborough Town Hall (26 North Main St., Marlborough).

Medications should be in original container with name crossed off; please, no sharps.

To learn more about CHEC, follow on Facebook or visit ahmyouth.org/programs-services/prevention-programs.

Direct questions or comments to Jenn Boehler at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org or 860-228-9488 ext. 22.

ISO Musicians and Vocalists of All Ages

AHM Youth & Family Services is hosting the fourth annual Tip a Musician Fundraiser on Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at The Flour Girl Cafe/Bakery patio area. AHM is in search of musicians and vocalists of all ages, genres, and experience levels to perform.

Performers donate all tips to RHAM High School's Project Graduation event which is coordinated by AHM.

If interested in performing, complete the application at tinyurl.com/4zn464ma.

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

'Dinner and Laughs' Comedy Fundraiser

The RHAM Boys' Basketball team will host the second annual "Dinner and Laughs" Comedy Night, produced by Franco's Comedy for Your Cause, on Saturday, April 1, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and include dinner and the show. Limited tickets are available. To buy tickets online, go to bit.ly/RHAMComedy

There are still "Slam Dunk" and "Buzzer Beater" sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Allison Heneghan at fjwhen@comcast.net or Donna Fraleigh at fraleighdonna3@gmail.com to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

Hebron Lions Scholarships Available for RHAM Seniors

The Hebron Lions Club is offering three scholarships for 2023 and is looking for RHAM or Hebron resident senior candidates. The Lions are offering two \$4,000 scholarships for those individuals attending a four-year college and one \$2000.00 scholarship to those attending a two-year college or trade/career school program.

established by the Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

Applications are available in the RHAM High School guidance counselors' office, and are also online at www.Hebronclions.org/lions-scholarships. Once completed, forms can be submitted by sending them via email to Lion Brenda Johnson at Brenda.Johnson@HebronHarvestFair.org, or can be mailed to Hebron Lions Club, c/o Brenda Johnson, Chairman, Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee, 347 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

To qualify as a candidate, the applicants must be high school seniors. They must be residents of the Hebron or active members in good standing in the RHAM Leos Club, and must plan to attend a college or technical/career school in the 2023/2024 school year.

Completed forms must be received by May 13 for consideration. For more information, contact Lion Richard Griswold at Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org.

Recipients will be selected based on financial need, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service and other criteria

College Scholarships Available

AHM Youth and Family Services is accepting scholarship applications from Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough students who are planning to attend college in the fall. The scholarships are:

and had planned on pursuing a career in early education. This scholarship was created by the Houston family and friends. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate.

The Erin Garvie Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was created in memory of Erin Garvie, who passed away in 1998 during her senior year at RHAM High School. She was a star soccer player and president of the student council. This scholarship was created by the Garvie family and friends. Over the years, this college scholarship has been awarded to RHAM High School students who participate in high school athletics.

The William Stelzner Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was created in memory of William "Bill" Stelzner, who passed away in 2016. Stelzner was well known for his humanitarian work locally, regionally and nationwide. This scholarship was created by the Stelzner family and friends. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate who plans to attend a two-year college and has volunteered in the community.

The Paige Houston Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was created in memory of Paige Houston, who was entering her senior year as an honors student at RHAM High School in 2013 when she passed away. Houston was active in cheerleading with the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading organization,

Each of the AHM scholarships are needs-based. Application deadline is May 15. Find the online application at ahmyouth.org/college-scholarship-application.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

★ *Belltown Basketball, cont. from page 1*
ing too," said Jordan Murphy. "I love this team. The past four years under Coach Russell have been amazing."

so much."
The cupboard should again be full next season, as Jordan Murphy and Mikeala Rich will be the only two departing seniors.

Including the postseason, East Hampton won 26 of 27 games this season and captured a fourth straight conference title on the road to the state championship.

Salamone, the SLC Player of the Year, will be one of four returning starters, joining DeMartino, Jackie Russell, and Delaney Russell as the team aims for a fifth straight conference title and a return trip to "The Sun."

"It's an indescribable feeling," said Jackie Russell. "It's amazing to bring home [a championship] for my hometown with these girls I love

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Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

Children's Church: Sunday school is provided.
Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes

to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is March 29. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is April 5.

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

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

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

Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, April 9, 6:30 a.m., at Siismets Farm.

Easter Worship Service: Sunday, April 9, 10 a.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, hand-made items like jewelry, scarves, quilts, afghans, sports items, paintings and music/video games. The Friends group is also looking for new items to create themed gift baskets, such as: Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, baby shower and

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

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

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

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following items have been updated for Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled. If you want to attend any events, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, andoverct.org.

Shopping Dates: Tuesdays. Willimantic: 3/28; Manchester: 4/4. Masks available on all vehicles.

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

Rides to Easter Production: On Sunday, April 2, at 7 p.m., the Full Gospel Interdenominational Church at 745 Main St., Manchester, will present an Easter production: *Encountering Jesus At the Table*. Joanne Brooks, one of Andover's newest seniors, will be starring in one of the roles. Bus rides are available by calling Palazzi.

Easter Plant, Bake Sale

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Easter Plant Sale and Bake Sale from Wednesday, April 5 through Saturday April 8, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and on Easter Sunday, April 9, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the firehouse on School Road.

There will be many plants to choose from including lilies, tulips, azaleas, mums, hyacinths, hydrangeas, daffodils, spring baskets, pansies and more, as well as tasty treats.

Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Norton Commission Scholarship Info

Applications are being accepted through May 1 for the annual \$1,000 Chester D. Norton Scholarship.

The eligibility criteria are: 1. A resident of Andover; 2. A graduating high school senior; and 3. Attending a 2- or 4-year accredited college/university or technical school. A digital application is available on the town website at www.andoverconnecticut.org/norton-childrens-fund-commission. It can be submitted electronically or saved as a pdf and emailed to nortonchildrensfundcommission@gmail.com.

Also, the Norton Commission will have its annual "Guess the Norton Number" Chal-

lenge for Andover Elementary School students in April. Students will estimate the number of items in a jar located in the school library. The three closest estimates will each win a gift certificate to the Hoot.

The Norton Children's Fund Commission offers financial assistance to families with children under 18 living in Andover. If your family would benefit from financial support to help pay for school materials, holiday, birthday gifts, clothes etc., for your children, you can complete the digital application on the above-mentioned website, or pick up a mail-in application at Town Hall or the food pantry to receive support.

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From the State Representative's Desk...

March has been a busy month so far, and we're only three weeks in!

Throughout the month, I've spent time in all five towns within the district, visiting businesses, schools, and holding legislative forums. Here are some of the opportunities I've had to interact with constituents this month:

Although Glastonbury is not covered in this publication, I co-hosted a town hall event with state representatives Jill Barry and Jason Doucette to speak with residents who had comments and concerns on important topics such as early voting, Social Security income, and affordable housing.

I visited Andover Elementary School to participate in the Read Across America campaign. I was thoroughly impressed with the fourth-grade class I visited. The kids were engaged, polite, and asked great questions. I contrast that with the fourth-grade version of me way back when -- quite a contrast!

It was also great to participate in a couple of St. Patrick's day events.

This past weekend was the annual Maple Festival in Hebron. While there is the "main event" on Main Street, there are so many additional events that occur around other parts of the town, including craft shows, a farmers market, the Hebron Lions' pancake breakfast (a proverbial favorite) and the Maple Fest tractor parade. This year, I brought our family farm tractor, and joined a group of (unofficially) 116 other tractor drivers! It's apparently the biggest event in New England of its kind. So impressive!

I'll be holding a community conversation with state Rep. Tim Ackert at Alltown Fresh in Bolton this Friday from 8-9 a.m., so please consider joining us.

As a reminder, I am a member of the Housing, Higher Education, and Labor & Public Employees committees. This session in the Labor Committee, we've had three public hearings that lasted 14 hours and two in Housing that have exceeded 15 hours. It was inspiring to hear from so many people who were actively engaged and passionate about these topics.

The concerning thing to me is just how controversial some of these legislative proposals are. Many of the bills that have come before the Housing and Labor committees will create a far more punitive environment, with devastating effects on our economy. Instead of following the lead of other states that have thriving economies, we're considering policies that would continue to keep us at the bottom of the list in economic opportunities for all residents.

In the Labor Committee, we heard testimony on a bill concerning tipped wages (HB-1177) that would offer little improvement for employees, but rather create confusion around tips. This bill has the potential to penalize top-performing servers and bartenders who on average currently earn around \$28 and \$33/hour, respectively.

In Housing, there was HB-6633 "Fair Share," that would further strip municipalities of their authority related to zoning. The untold part of this bill is the incredible cost forced upon our towns by the state. This new law is more punitive than even 8-30-g, which has garnered quite a lot of attention over the past couple of years. Additionally, I worked with my colleagues to discuss the historical harmful effects of rent caps, and we were successful in getting that language removed from still controversial SB-4, which still looks to restrict housing providers. It is a consistent theme, and I do my best to remind my colleagues about the dangers of having the heavy hand of government interfere into private agreements between citizens.

As legislators we need to hear from the people we serve, so I'm always interested in your feedback and input. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at steve.weir@housegop.ct.gov.

State Rep. Steve Weir, R-55th District

Note: The 55th Assembly District serves Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, Glastonbury and Bolton.

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 dis-

trict. 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.

Renewable Scholarships Available

Residents of Andover, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland can apply for American Savings Foundation scholarships. These renewable scholarships can be used at a range of four-year colleges and universities, two-year colleges, and at accredited technical and vocational programs.

The foundation is accepting applications from high school seniors, college students and nontraditional adult students who will be enrolled for the 2023-24 academic year. Students can apply online at www.asfdn.org, and applications are due March 31. The website also has links to other area scholarship programs as well as resources for learning about financial aid.

Scholarships are awarded primarily based on financial need, with consideration given to academic performance, community involvement, and other indications of a strong desire to

achieve goals through education. Current high school seniors must be ranked in the top third of their graduating class or have a 2.5 GPA or higher. Current college students must be maintaining a 2.5 GPA or higher.

For more information and to apply, students and parents can visit www.asfdn.org or call the foundation at 860-827-2556.

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.

Veterans Meeting April 15

The next Andover Veterans meeting will be Saturday, April 15, from 1-3 p.m., at the Town Hall Community Room.

The meeting 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.

Scholarship Available

Andover Elementary School is taking applications for the Andover Education Association and the Andover PTA annual scholarship, which is being offered to any Andover student.

Applications may be obtained from the RHAM High School guidance department or by calling AES at 860-742-7339.

Applications are due May 5.

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.

President's List

Kiyann Pourmaleki of Andover made the fall 2022 President's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

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.

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EHHS Drama Gets Creepy and Kooky

By Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton High School Drama Club will present *The Addams Family* stage musical on March 31, April 1 and 2 – with shows at 7 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and a final 2 p.m. matinee Sunday.

This week the *Rivereast* caught up with the cast. Everyone said pretty much the same thing – you gotta see it!

The musical takes the popular Addams family – that macabre clan now all the more popular with animated movies and the incredibly popular *Wednesday* Netflix series, which follows a teenage Wednesday Addams. In a retroactive way the stage musical tracks with the new show, going further on to a young adult Wednesday, with the rest aged similarly.

It's a relatively new show, first performed in Chicago in 2009, making its Broadway debut in 2010.

In this story, Wednesday Addams falls in love with an intelligent young man from a more conventional family than the Addams, a bunch of down-to-earth Midwesterners. To complicate things Wednesday begs her father, Gomez, to not tell her mother, the darkly elegant Morticia. The plot revolves around the family planning a dinner with seemingly mismatched pair.

Two different worlds are about to collide. Will love triumph, or will everyone go home vaguely depressed? Gomez and Morticia are understandably wary. Wednesday is their baby, even if she is eighteen.

Their doubts bloom into actual terror when they eavesdrop on Wednesday, who, in the midst of her afternoon playdate with Pugsley, refuses to torture her brother and involuntarily bursts into song – extolling all things bright and beautiful as love pulls her in an entirely new, and cheerful, direction.

This will be senior Julia Stone's final show with EHHS drama, as she takes on the role she wanted from the start – Morticia, probably one of the franchise's most recognizable characters, with her back-length jet-black hair and floor-length gowns, portrayed by everyone from Carolyn Jones in the '60s sitcom to Angelica Huston in the '90s movies to Catherine Zeta-Jones in

the current Netflix show.

Last year, Stone played protagonist Sandy in *Grease*. This year she's excited to depart from sweet, wholesome Sandy to the more worldly, more mature, more self-assured Morticia.

"I absolutely love it; it's a great, great role," said Stone, who's eyeing either University of Hartford, Eastern Connecticut State University or Wesleyan for the next stage in her academic career.

She said in costume, she looks nothing like herself, and this helps her really get into the role.

"It's like five pounds of wig," she said, "but it's so worth it. The show is very comical; every other line is a joke."

She said it's family friendly, but the script still has some jokes just for the grown-ups.

For prep, she watched the original 1960s sitcom, and learned how to play the more mature, more sensual character – looking to Jones for inspiration.

Brayden Kramer, a junior playing Gomez, said it's the most prepared he's felt for a show. Last year, he charmed audiences as Danny Zuko in *Grease*.

Riley Briggs, who plays the original-to-the-show character Alice and is sharing the role with another actor, said this'll be one of the best shows the club has done.

"The ensemble this year is especially gonna shine," she said. "The leads are great too but the ensemble is really pulling it together."

Briggs wasn't about to give spoilers – but she gave a little teaser, and said to watch out for her solo towards the end of Act I, "Waiting".

"It's very special, it's unique," she said.

Junior Enja Barry gets to play the eccentric, bald and bug-eyed Uncle Fester. He's excited – a theatre veteran, he likes playing the weirdos. It's also his biggest role yet. Barry's performed in some past school productions, as well as productions outside school.

Barry says he loves taking on the life of another person, real or not, and loves being on stage.

"I like this role a lot," he said.

Tickets are available at the door and online at eventcreate.com/ehhs.



Wash your black clothes and break out your best glower because starting March 31 East Hampton high school performers will put on their iteration of *The Addams Family*, an adaptation of the famous franchise from the late 2000s.

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

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.

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 returnable bottles in the barrels next to the shed. Items for donation to the East Hampton Food Bank are collected in the black containers next to the rear door of the church.

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.

President's List

Colin Keilbach of Middle Haddam made the fall 2022 President's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.



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Proposed Budget Totals \$54.77 Million

By Jack Lakowsky

This week, East Hampton Town Manager Dave Cox presented the town's request for a budget of about \$13.39 million, its chunk of the \$54.77 million the town and the schools are asking local voters to help fund.

The town-side increase is just under 6%, around the same as the school board's requested increases, its request being \$36.40 million, nearly 70% of the total amount East Hampton voters will accept or reject in May.

Between the schools, the town and some debt payments the town's asking about \$3 million more for the upcoming 2023-24 budget year than the current one.

To meet its obligations, Cox wrote, the two need to raise about \$45 million in property tax revenue, with the rest coming from grants and other sources. The town proposes a mill rate of 36.90 mills, up 2.24 mills from the current rate, or a jump of more than 6%. Motor vehicle taxes, expecting the state to cap their mill rate, are set at 32.46 mills. This makes the local value of a single mill about \$1,100.

A mill is equal to \$1 of tax for each \$1,000 of assessment. To calculate the property tax, multiply the assessment of the property by the mill rate and divide by 1,000. This puts the tax on a \$250,000 East Hampton home at \$9,225 annually.

The town's grand list value is growing. Between 2021 and 2022 it grew by almost 2%, following a pattern of steady growth over the past 10 years. The town's Grand List value is at about \$1.3 billion, though this is subject to some changes as it's finalized.

The town's value has grown, but so has the burden on taxpayers. Since 2014 the town's property tax revenue has grown by nearly 10%, while revenue from grants has decreased by about the same amount.

Cox pointed out major changes in the budget, largely staff related.

An item that's likely to draw debate – as it already has – is the town's slating almost \$174,000 in support for the local volunteer East Hampton Ambulance Association, which for two years has been asking for money to help pay for staff. Volunteer numbers just aren't enough to run the operation at its best, the association has said.

The issue has proven contentious. Republicans on the Town Council – including chair Mark Philhower – want the town to switch to a private provider, likely out of Middlesex Hospital. Philhower and other Republicans believe it will save the town money and will be more sustainable.

The problem they face is that they simply don't have the power to just get rid of the EHAA and hire a private firm. Per state law, the local ambulance service must agree to dissolve, and, according to the EHAA, Middlesex will only start with the town for free if the EHAA agrees to donate its supplies and vehicles – worth an estimated \$2 million.

The issue continues to divide the council. In a meeting last week Republicans Brandon Goff, Alison Walck and Philhower, after two years of discussions, said they believe councilor and Democrat Pete Brown, who has supported the EHAA, must recuse himself from talks because his wife sits on the EHAA board.

Brown resisted, saying he does not stand to profit. Republicans pointed to charter language naming a spousal relationship as grounds for recusal, and sent the question to the local ethics commission. Recusal, however, is ultimately up to the individual in question.

Ringling out at about \$164,000 is a request to grow the local police department. This came up last year, and Republicans defeated it. The request is for a new patrol officer and a lieutenant.

Before the presentation, local police chief

Dennis Woessner posted a plea to locals on Facebook, encouraging them to become involved in the budget process. He wrote that the municipal budget rarely draws the same public interest as the school budget, even though it "is equally important."

The Town budget, the chief wrote, "involves the police, fire, EMS, public works, parks and recreation, assessor, building department, collector of revenue, senior center, emergency management, finance, fire marshal, human resources, land use, town clerk, town manager, transfer station and youth and family services. All of these departments provide services to the community."

He added, "Please become involved. All meetings can be accessed by Zoom so you don't need to leave your house."

The new positions would bring the town's number of employees to close to 70.

The Board of Finance will go over both budgets throughout March – check the town's website for the list of dates – and plans to submit the proposal to the council in April. After that it's up to voters and will head to vote in either May or June.

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.

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.

Tween Game Night: Wednesday, April 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 4-8.

Let's Paint! Grades 1-5: Wednesday, April

12, 2-3 p.m., at East Hampton Senior Center

Teen Programs: Teen Dungeons and Dragons: Wednesday, March 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience required. The library will provide basic, fifth edition, level four characters and all the supplies needed to play.

Teen Friday: Friday, March 31, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Kick off your weekend with a variety of games, activities and crafts.

Adult Programs: Seed Start & Swap: Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. There will be seeds to choose from, light instruction and more. There will be dirt involved so dress accordingly. Bring extra seeds if interested in seed-swapping. Space is limited.

Cookbook Club Around the World – Greece: Tuesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. Share your favorite Greek recipes. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 10 copies of the recipe to share.

Belltown Goes to Broadway (on a Budget!): Tuesday, April 11, 6 p.m., via Zoom. Learn about the history and importance of the Broadway Playbill as well as tips on how to see Broadway shows for under \$60.

LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham: Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

Belltown Garden Club to Meet

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 prune shrubs correctly to control their growth for maximum effect in 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.

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?"

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., on Saturday, April 15, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

KoC Friday Fish Dinners

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering its multi-decade tradition of serving a variety of fish dinners on Fridays during Lent.



This year's offerings include breaded cod, clams and shrimp, which will be served with French fries and coleslaw. Coffee, water and soda will be offered. Meals will be served from 4:30-7:15 p.m. in the St. Patrick Parish Center, 47 West High St.

Diane Anelli

Takeout service will also be available. Advance orders must be received by noon on Fridays by calling 860-267-6644. Do not leave orders on the answering machine.

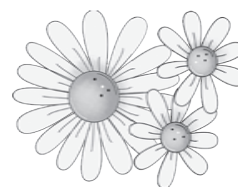
Entertainment will be scheduled weekly; the entertainment tonight, March 24, will be St. Patrick's own cantor, Diane Anelli.

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.





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Students Threatens to Shoot Up Middle School, Teachers

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week East Hampton police arrested a local 13-year-old for threatening to shoot up East Hampton Middle School, alleging the teen also threatened to shoot two teachers.

Police arrested the teen March 16. This week East Hampton Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith told the *Rivereast* the threat was not credible, but is being taken seriously as all threats are. Schools and police are investigating. Because the case involves a juvenile, shareable details are limited.

Smith was mum on what was shared with the community and said the schools won't be having an assembly to discuss the matter.

The threat is another in multiple incidents

at local schools in the last year.

In November, East Hampton police responded to the middle school after receiving reports of a student allegedly pulling a knife on another student. After investigating, police charged the juvenile with second-degree threatening and breach of peace.

In the spring of 2022, an East Hampton High School student reportedly made racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic and violent threats against students and a teacher on Snapchat. Smith told the *Rivereast* that after questioning the student, police determined there was no credible threat.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Weekly Activities: Quilting Group: Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. -- let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon; call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play; **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet indoors or via Zoom.

New Weekly Program - Cross Stitch: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. All are welcome, whether they know how to cross stitch or want to learn. Guided by Shannon Urzua.

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*.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group: Mondays, April 3 and 17, 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.

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group: Monday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. This is a social hour of fun facts, sharing activities, and snacks, just for the guys. Group meets monthly.

Book Club- Tuesday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. This month's book is *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle.

Celebrate Earth Day with a Painting: Wednesday, April 12, 2-4 p.m. East Hampton students in grades 1-5 will join the seniors in making a personalized painting. Karen Williams will provide guidance.

Movie Day: Friday, April 14, 1 p.m. *The Parent Trap* with Lindsay Lohan and Dennis Quaid will be shown. Goodies provided.

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.

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.

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.

Police News

3/5: Christopher Plummer, 41, of 12 Flanders Rd., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while under suspension and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, East Hampton Police said.

3/10: David Scherp, 34, of 200 White Birch Rd., was issued a summons for open burning without a permit, police said.

3/10: Michael Bower, 32, of 230 Old West High St., was issued a summons for failure to display marker plate, operating under suspension and operating an unregistered and unin-

sured motor vehicle, police said.

3/20: Brett Caswell, 39, of Plainville, was taken into custody pursuant to seven outstanding warrants for his arrest for five counts of second-degree failure to appear and two counts of failure to respond to an infraction, and was charged separately for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

Also, from March 6-19, officers responded to 35 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and 10 alarms, and made 45 traffic stops, police said.

Foodshare Returns March 30

The East Hampton Lions would like to remind all residents that the mobile Foodshare food pantry will be at the St. Patrick Church parking lot next Thursday, March 30, from 9-10 a.m. The truck leaves promptly at 10 a.m., so people shouldn't come at the last minute.

The food pantry is open to all, with no proof of residency and no income verification needed.

If the line is long when you arrive, stay in your car until the line goes down some but please get in line by 9:45 a.m., the Lions said. The other option is to come early so when the

truck arrives you'll be one of the first in line; the line normally starts forming by 8:15 a.m., the Lions said. St. Patrick Church puts out chairs for people to sit on while they wait in line.

If East Hampton schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Foodshare visit will be canceled. However, if there is only a two-hour delay, the food pantry will go on unless the Lions feel it is unsafe. If it is canceled, the Lions will list it on the "Let's Talk East Hampton" Facebook page, or you may call 860-977-5760.

Deadline Soon for Arts Commission Grants

There is still time to win \$500 for your arts organization through the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) 2023 Community Grant Program.

EHACC 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. Applications at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org; email completed ones to arts@easthamptonct.org or drop them off at Town Hall, in the town manager's office.

Eligibility: One of two \$500 grants are available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. The EHACC 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; applications can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality of the organization and/or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success. The organization's or project's accessibility and service to the East Hampton community. Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

Evaluation: An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. An update of your progress will be required six months post-award date and a final report will be required one year after the award date.

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.

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.

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.

'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.

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.

Easter Egg Hunt at HNCC

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will host its annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1, at 1 p.m. Hundreds of colorful candy-filled eggs will be hidden outside the church. There will be refreshments and Easter gift bags for the children to take home along with their candy. Rain date is April 2 at 3:30 p.m.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd.

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Pinewood Derby Winners... Three Cub Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 57 recently received trophies from the 2022 District Pinewood Derby, where the top two finishers from each rank could race against scouts from other packs. Pictured are scouts Megyn Perez, who finished second for the Wolf Den, and Matthew Lerose, who won first place for the Lion Den. Missing from the photo is JJ Walitinsky, who won third place for the Bears.



Local Lion Honored... East Hampton Lion Joe Walters recently received the President's Certificate of Appreciation, in recognition of distinguished achievements in fulfilling the mission of Lions Clubs International. The award is signed by International President Brian E. Sheehan. Walters has been a member of the East Hampton Lions for 20 years. Pictured from left are International Director (ID) Jay Moughon of Virginia, Walters, his daughter Christine Costa, 23C District Governor Sue Fisher of Willimantic, and Past International Director Mark S. Lyon of Brookfield.

George Seely Memorial Scholarship

The George Seely Memorial Scholarship is offered by Anchor Lodge No. 112. Warrant Officer Seely chose a career in the military, serving his country with honor and dedication in the U.S. Army in World War II and was a member of Anchor Lodge.

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to graduating students of East Hampton High School or RHAM High School. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who will further their education in technical, military or academic fields of study.

Applicants will be judged on a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their personal thoughts on the subject of patriotism. The essay may be based on history, world affairs or personal experiences. Mail completed application and essay before April 30 to Anchor Lodge, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 112, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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.

Dean's List

Jason Gardiner of East Hampton made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

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.easthampton-rotary.org and can be returned electronically to scholarshipapp@yahoo.com.

All applications must be submitted no later than April 3.

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.

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Selectmen Continue ARPA Funding Discussion

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Board of Selectmen resumed its discussion last week regarding the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, as the town considers how to utilize the remaining grant money.

Currently, the selectmen have allocated \$2.5 million to a variety of projects, leaving just over \$300,000 to distribute to different town entities. As the well dries out, the selectmen are cautious not to commit resources to any specific request before reviewing all of the potential ideas.

During the March 16 meeting, the board reviewed several requests — the sum of which is greater than the remaining funds — but did not approve any appropriation.

Last September, after the selectmen allocated a significant portion of the ARPA money, the board agreed to take a “collective breath” from any further spending, as one selectman said at the time. Then, in January, the selectmen took up the conversation once more, approving several different requests, including \$100,000 for Hebron Historical Society to help assist with cemetery repairs and maintenance.

Previously, the board agreed not to earmark ARPA dollars for small businesses. Some municipalities, such as Colchester, put aside up to \$1 million specifically for local businesses. The selectmen agreed that their own focus should be on different applications throughout the community.

At last week’s meeting, the board reviewed new proposals, as well as some items that they had previously given tentative approval.

Ken Jardin, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, presented three different projects aimed at improving Hebron’s local fields and trails. The commission received funding during the initial “round one” ARPA fund allocation process, but is now looking for additional money to make further advancements.

The first, and largest project, was for the installation of lighting at Veteran’s Park, which would allow RHAM Youth Baseball to extend their field usage. Jardin explained that other groups, such as RHAM softball or adult leagues could also benefit from the new lighting. Parks

& Recreation would ideally be able to host more events, including concerts, as well.

The request would require special permit approval by the Planning & Zoning Commission, which hasn’t been explored as of now, Jardin said. Overall, the cost of the installation, materials and necessary electrical upgrade would be \$210,000 — a sizable chunk of the remaining ARPA funds.

That bottom-line amount was reduced because of a \$40,000 contribution from RHAM Youth Baseball.

In a letter sent to the town in November, the organization’s president, Ryan Price, and treasurer, Eric May, outlined the importance of the ARPA request, while pledging their own donation.

Beyond increased field utilization, the group expressed that the upgrades would allow the town to host more tournaments and regional events, which could generate an economic boost for the community.

Price and May — who are also members of the commission — wrote that the lighting represented an “exceptional opportunity to improve the infrastructure in Hebron and enhance the quality of life in town.”

During the meeting, May echoed that sentiment, telling the board that the project would have a lasting impact.

“I see it having benefits beyond just youth baseball,” he said, adding that it was “an opportunity for a lot more nighttime activities in town.”

The second major project involves field upgrades at both the St. Peter’s field and Burnt Hill Park, including fixes to field conditions, dugouts, fencing and drainage. Between both fields, the estimated cost of the project is around \$94,000.

Finally, a third project for trail development would cost between \$60,000-\$80,000. With the funding, the department could hire an outside contractor to “clear, develop, mark and install signage on walking trails located on Hebron Open Space,” according to the group’s outline. By doing this, residential use of the trails would increase.

Combined, all three projects would cost at least \$364,000.

Board member Peter Kasper offered support for the installation of lighting at the field, and suggested that perhaps the project could even be extended to cover the pickleball courts.

“When I think about ARPA funds and I think about how we can use those funds to benefit our community, the idea of lighting our parks to me just falls right into the zone,” he said.

Without the ARPA funding, or another grant source, the lighting project would be a substantial financial endeavor for the town. As the board debates what projects should take priority over other ideas, more than \$200,000 for one request would account for significant share of the remaining funds.

“The fact that we’re running out of ARPA funds and we haven’t talked about this before, I’m concerned, because this is exactly what we should be talking about within the context of ARPA funds.”

Selectmen Marc Rubera stated that some board-approved projects may require further funding, as well, emphasizing the need for mindful spending moving forward.

Building off Rubera’s remarks, Selectman Tiffany Thiele suggested that the board examine which projects would benefit the most amount of people in Hebron.

“At this point, with what we have left, I think we have to be incredibly strategic and think through what’s the best bang for our buck.”

Chairman Daniel Larson said that the board would hold-off on approving anymore projects until the town’s budget season had concluded. He also followed-up with electrical-based questions, seeking further detail on the lightning project, which Jardin said he would provide to the board at a later date.

“I think everybody seems to think it’s a good project,” Larson said. “We just want to make

sure that we do not over extend before we sign-off on any other projects.”

Those remarks provided the backdrop for the next presenter, which was by Holly Habicht, president of the Town Center Project.

In January, the selectmen reviewed a letter from Habicht, outlining a \$30,000 request from the The Town Center Project for a storage shed from Country Carpenter’s in Hebron.

At the time, the selectmen, in general, were in favor of the proposal, but had questions about the cost of the shed. Larson said a \$12,000 estimate for site work was “awfully pricey.” The town may investigate whether enlisting the Public Works department for site work would reduce the overall ask.

During last week’s meeting, Habicht expressed that it was “essential for the Town Center Project to have a storage facility moving forward for our sustainability.”

She is looking for a structure that’s somewhere between 300-350 square feet. Between materials, labor and site work, the cost would likely be around \$23,000-\$29,000, she said. The ideal location for the new facility would be at the St. Peter’s field, which is in close proximity to the center of town.

The goal, she added, was that the structure would be “esthetically pleasing.”

Thiele asserted that she supports The Town Center Project, but wanted to know — since the town has limited ARPA funds remaining — if there was an alternative vendor that could trim the cost or forgo certain esthetic aspects.

Habicht stated that the center of town contains most of Hebron’s historic value, and that a new facility should match that charm.

“I think the esthetic aspect needs to be heavily weighted, but I am seeking alternatives,” she said.

Habicht expressed a willingness to cut costs, especially with limited funding remaining.

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Schedule: March 24, *I Wanna Dance With Somebody* (PG-13); March 31, *The Whale* (R). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

Chess Night: The first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome.

Medicare Information: Learn the ins and outs of Medicare and the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage

on Tuesday, March 28, at 2 or 6 p.m., with local insurance agent Mark Macrina. This is strictly an informational seminar, and no individual health will be discussed.

Take & Make: Adults and teens can pick up a maple sugar craft kit from the hold shelf across from the adult circulation desk, while supplies last.

Children’s Storytime: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. These are family classes for children birth to 5. There are stories, crafts, songs and interactive play. No registration is required. This program is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Lions Scholarships Available for Residents

The Hebron Lions Club is offering three scholarships for 2023 and is looking for RHAM or Hebron resident senior candidates. The Lions are offering two \$4,000 scholarships for those individuals attending a four-year college and one \$2000.00 scholarship to those attending a two-year college or trade/career school program.

To qualify as a candidate, the applicants must be high school seniors. They must be residents of the Hebron or active members in good standing in the RHAM Leos Club, and must plan to attend a college or technical/career school in the 2023/2024 school year.

Recipients will be selected based on financial need, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service and other criteria

established by the Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

Applications are available in the RHAM High School guidance counselors’ office, and are also online at www.Hebronlions.org/lions-scholarships. Once completed, forms can be submitted by sending them via email to Lion Brenda Johnson at Brenda.Johnson@HebronHarvestFair.org, or can be mailed to Hebron Lions Club, c/o Brenda Johnson, Chairman, Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee, 347 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Completed forms must be received by May 13 for consideration. For more information, contact Lion Richard Griswold at Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org.

Tax Abatement Applications Available

Applications for property tax abatements are available to Hebron residents. There is a town ordinance that defers property taxes when those taxes exceed 8 percent of total household income from any source.

For example, if the total household income from any source totals \$30,000, the property tax liability would be capped at \$2,400. The abatement would be for any property taxes that exceeded \$2,400. The abatements would apply to the upcoming tax year beginning July 1.

Under the ordinance, taxes that are abated would be repaid when a property is sold or transferred through probate. Abated taxes would accrue at an interest rate of 1.5%, significantly less than what is charged for delinquent taxes (18%).

Those interested in the program can request an application by calling the town manager’s office at 860-228-5971. Applications will be mailed upon request. The application deadline is June 1.

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.

Barre Sculpt Class: Wednesdays, March 29-May 3 (no class April 12), 6:15-7:15 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. This low-impact workout combines barre, yoga and strength training. All fitness levels welcome. Cost \$72.

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.

Fling into Spring Basketball Skills Clinic: Tuesday, April 11, 9-11 a.m., at Hebron Elementary School, for grades 3-6. This clinic covers

basic and advanced fundamentals from both the offensive and defensive end of the floor. Fee: \$30.

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 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.

Discovery Zone learning Center



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Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Church of Hope is a biblically-driven Christ-centered church.

Worship is in person and via livestream on the church website. For more information, and the guidelines for in-person worship, visit www.hebronchurchofhope.org.

The church office is closed until further notice. Pastor Jordan Brown can meet by appointment; use the church website to set up a time.

For more information about Hebron Church of Hope, visit the website or look for the church on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Dean’s List

Hebron residents Corey Ennis and Robert McLaughlin made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

Maple Fest Returns to Delight of Thousands

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Maple Festival returned to Hebron last weekend, drawing thousands of patrons seeking seemingly endless maple products.

The weather held up — a little cold but sunny — ensuring that large crowds swarmed the Douglas Library parking lot to grab a bite of their favorite foods or build a unique craft. There were more vendors lined up than last year and a record number of tractors participating in the parade on Sunday — 114 in total.

“It was what we had hoped for,” Town Manager Andrew Tierney said on Tuesday. “We were very satisfied.”

The event, organized by the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce, returned last year after a brief hiatus due to the pandemic.

The aromas of maple products blended together as one walked through the lot, each one tempting customers to splurge on something tasty.

There was maple popcorn, cotton candy, coffee, donuts, milk, ice cream and syrup — to name a few.

For an authentic study of the syrup-making process, residents were free to embark to three different sugar houses, including the Wenzel Sugarhouse, Woodyacres, and Winding Brook.

For those who made the quick drive to one of the houses, their experience was likely enhanced through the wisdom of Hebron’s own experts.

Ron Wenzel, of the Wenzel Sugarhouse, took the time to recap the season with families who stepped by, and explain his process.

“It’s a great season so far,” he said, adding that he’s made 66 gallons of syrup — the most in a “long time.”

After 33 years of producing syrup, Wenzel still loves his job.

“It’s a disease, my friend,” he said. “There’s no cure; don’t even come up with one!”

His season spans from Feb 1- April 1 — a period that goes by fast.

“This is not work,” Wenzel added. “When it becomes work, then I’ll give it up.”

But, does he still enjoy eating syrup? He laughed, before saying, “I use it all the time. Every morning I’ll have it.”

All syrup starts off at a sugar house, but eventually, it ends up in a beautifully packaged container, like the ones on display by Maple Craft Foods. Their top item: bourbon maple syrup.

The group works with Litchfield Distillery to use their barrels and their syrup sits in them for six months to enhance the flavor.

“I cook with the bourbon barrel a lot,” said Carol Engelmann, a senior ambassador for Maple Craft Foods. With the honey bourbon option, air-frying chicken is a delicious idea, she added, as is using it on salmon.

“Youngsters, they just think they can do a shot of bourbon,” she joked. “It’s family friendly. There’s no alcohol in it.”

For many vendors, the Maple Fest represents an important opportunity to launch a successful year of sales.

“It’s most vendors’ first show of the season and it really sets the tone of how our season is going to go because this is a very successful fair,”

said Engelmann, who’s attended seven Maple Festivals.

A torturous moment came when this reporter was welcomed into the Dude’s Donuts food truck. Jim Files — or, as he prefers, “the dude” — was making a variety of treats, including apple cider donuts, raised sugar donuts and the specialized maple frosted bacon donut. A blueberry pancake one with a maple frosting and glaze combination looked especially tempting.

“I’m going to keep working while we’re talking,” Files expressed as he shuffled around the truck, trying to accommodate an exponentially growing line outside.

It was his first time at the Maple Festival, but he was off to a good start.

“It’s going very well,” said Files, whose business is based out of South Windsor. “I can’t complain at all.”

At Canterbury Kettle Corn, owner John Dupont was working hard in his stall, wearing only a T-shirt as he operated the popcorn machines. After stepping inside, it was clear why — it was toasty.

“It gets hot, especially in August,” he joked. The main attraction was maple kettle corn — but overall he makes over 50 flavors.

“We always love the Maple Festival, we always have a good time,” he shouted over the popping.

The key for him is efficiency; each customer is served in 30 seconds or less, which takes constant work to prepare fresh popcorn. Even when he’s in a smooth rhythm, Dupont usually doesn’t sample his own product — which was delicious.

“Only when I’m having a bad day and I have to sample it and make sure it’s not burnt!”

For those with more of a sweet tooth, maybe The Fudge Lady was the first stop of the weekend. From Uxbridge, Mass., this business always enjoys Maple Festival.

“We love coming to Connecticut,” said the owner, Jalene Berlinguet.

All of the fudge is homemade — including the maple and maple bourbon pieces, which feature real Vermont maple syrup and real bullet bourbon. There were also sugar free and vegan fudge options that Berlinguet claims are equally satisfying.

“Since I created my own recipes, I would not sell them if they weren’t good,” she expressed.

Outside the Firehouse, volunteers from Hebron Interfaith Human Services were running a booth to raise funding for the food pantry.

“Sugar on snow” was more or less how it sounds — shaved ice with syrup on top. The secret ingredient, though, was pickles. While some kids ordering opted not to include a pickle on their otherwise sweet bowl, the pickle actually served to balance out the overall flavor of the dish. It was still a sticky mess, in a good way.

The group also had animal waste stations that were a part of the Hebron Greater Together Community Fund, which is from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Across from the library at Old Town Hall, the annual quilt show took place, hosted by the Hebron Historical Society.

“The quilt show is one of the events we do every year, and every year we have a different assortment of quilts,” said Historical Society



Ron Wenzel once again shared his method for making maple syrup during the Hebron Maple Fest last weekend.

President Mary-Ellen Gonci. “We also have a teacup auction going on. We’re just trying to showcase Hebron’s important people and bring out the stories of their work here.”

The vote itself is rather informal — it’s not exactly a competition.

“When you say ‘pick your favorite,’ then they look at them in a different way and it slows them down a little bit,” she said. “Each person puts their own personality into them, so people like to come in and check them out.”

Gonci explained how the quilts have evolved over the years — one is from 1848. While looking at the dresses on display, she pointed out how sewing techniques have changed and the major differences in styles.

“When you look at what we have today and you try to say ‘that’s nice,’ when you put it perspective to what we didn’t have back then, it changes everything.”

Inside the library meeting room, children clocked to different arts and crafts tables. Chappy’s Crafting, based out of Danielson, was enjoying their inaugural Maple Festival.

They featured wood burn signs, made by hand. Other products include magnets, ornaments, plaques and portraits. Mel Chaput, who owns the business along with her husband, was eager to show-off the hard work that goes into each product — including cutting the wood, burning it and painting it, before finishing it with stain and polyurethane.

Back outside, at Lip Positive Threads, Jennifer Csedrik spread an uplifting message. Every product she has, which consists of numerous types of shirts, has a unique explanation.

“Everything in my booth has a word, a message and an inspirational meaning behind it,” she said, pointing to the deferent animal designs and phrases on each item. “I dream it. Then, I write it down and I make it.”

This was her third Maple Festival. All the money she makes goes straight into the budget for designing more shirts, she said.

After departing the buzz of Maple Festival, it’s hard not to be nose blind to the dozens of aromas and with a full stomach.

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.

Holy Week Schedule: Palm Sunday, April 2, 9 a.m. service; Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m. service; Good Friday, April 7, 7 p.m. service; Easter Sunday, April 9.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 8, 8 a.m. Bring your own bags. There will be lots of eggs and surprises.

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

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

Caring Shepherds: The next Open Pantry is Saturday, April 15, from 9-11 a.m. 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. The center is taking applications for summer camp; the early form, to hold a spot, is at www.clecchebron.org.



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.

Mobile Mammography
 Hartford Hospital’s Digital Mobile Mammography coach bus is coming to Russell Mercier Senior Center Tuesday, May 9, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
 All women age 35 years and older are eligible, provided their last mammogram was more than one year ago and was normal/negative. Also eligible are patients who had a diagnostic breast work-up at last mammogram with negative results and who received a recommendation to return in 12 months.
 Pre-registration by April 18 is required, by calling the senior center at 860-228-1700.

SAL Grinders to Go
 The local Sons of the American Legion (SAL) will sell footlong grinders with bag of chips for \$12 each on Saturday, March 25, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Advance orders are recommended. Email park1969@comcast.net or call 860-402-0904 to order your choice of ham, turkey or Italian combo, with optional provolone or American cheese, tomato, lettuce, onions and choice of condiments: mayo, mustard, oil and vinegar.
 Pick up is at the American Legion, 18 Main St., with drive-thru service to your car. Have cash or check made out to SAL Squadron 95. There will be extra grinders available for drive-ups, until sold out.
 SAL members are sons of veterans with the mission to support the American Legion.

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A flying bird mural was one of the offerings of the Hebron Pollinator Pathway at the Maple Fest. Here, Ella Wolf is shown making her mark on the mural. Photo by Michele Sinkez.

Pollinator Pathway Exhibit Draws Kids

AHM again hosted the Hebron Pollinator Pathway (HPP) exhibit during the recent Hebron Maple Fest, and the event took flight, offering kids and families a variety of activities.

Kids took to the flying bird mural to color in their favorite pollinators. Also, with the surround-sound of songbirds, the HPP team presented gardening for bird pollinators as a DIY project for the whole family. Learning how to attract birds with native plant food sources of seeds, berries, insects and especially caterpillars gave folks a new appreciation of how they can help to supply protein and carbohydrates throughout the year and help reduce the decline of local and migrating songbirds right in their own backyard. Learning to identify invasive species and how they can out-compete native species raised some eyebrows as folks realized that some of their home landscape includes

these aggressive plants.

Information included options for how to remove invasive species and what plants can take their place with the same aesthetic appeal. Reducing lawns is a dominant theme in the scientific move toward more naturalistic garden design. People also learned how dangerous chemical additions to lawns and pesticide applications can be to pollinators, wildlife and humans.

HPP is a volunteer group dedicated to enlarging native habitat for pollinators. The next meet-up is Monday, April 3, at 6 p.m., at Douglas Library. Topic: types of plants and flowers that benefit pollinators and why.

For more information, email sinkezmichele@gmail.com or look on Facebook for "Hebron Pollinator Pathway."

St. Peter's News & Notes

Services of Holy Eucharist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., are held each Sunday at 8 a.m. (Rite 1) and 10 a.m. (with music). All are invited to the Church Hall for coffee and conversation after the services. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week Services: Palm Sunday, April 2, 8 and 10 a.m. The 10 a.m. service will begin in the parish hall with a blessing of palms and procession to the church led by a bagpiper.

Monday and Tuesday in Holy Week: The church will be open for private devotions both days until late afternoon.

Wednesday in Holy Week: Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m. This is a traditional service of moving from light to dark and lament. Music will be from Taizé, providing a somber accompaniment to the service.

Maudy Thursday, April 6: 6 p.m. This year will be traditional liturgy following the service in the prayer book. It ends with the stripping of the altar symbolizing Christ's passion and suffering.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., followed by Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Services are also available on YouTube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

Scheduled Events/Meetings: 3/24: Military Whist, 7 p.m.; 3/27: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 3/28: AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; 3/29: Choir Practice,

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.

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 hebronthistoricalsociety.org.

Church of the Holy Family News

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The shelter is preparing for the close of the overnight stay program on April 30 by requesting critically needed camping equipment: 2-, 3-, and 4-person tents; 8'x10' and larger tarps (brown or

green; no bright colors); tent cord or rope; tent stakes; and sturdy adult backpacks (new or used in good condition). Additional critical needs: men's and women's (M,L,XL) sweatpants, sweatshirts, and hoodies; men's (M,L,XL) thermal shirts, T-shirts, and boxer briefs; women's briefs (sizes 6-10); Lysol disinfectant spray; liquid cleaner such as Pine-Sol; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas to assist people living in their cars; and Walmart gift cards. Call to arrange the pickup of gift cards. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors, and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube; go to tinyurl.com/yby64wph to access.

Life Group Hebron: Meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Caseys' home, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship. Next meeting: March 27.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next date is March 26.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship! Usually held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church. However, the April one will be held April 1. All are invited.

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. All are invited to pray for each other,

the community and the country. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

Ballroom Dancing: Offered most Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Learn Waltz and East Coast Swing with instructors Joe Belanger and Denise Jakel. Couples and singles welcome. Cost is \$15/person/class. Call Belanger to register at 860-372-8236.

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

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

Fellowship Luncheon: Directly following the morning service on Palm Sunday, April 2.

Free Easter Egg Hunt: Palm Sunday, April 2, at 1:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Prizes, candy, and refreshments will be available.

Easter Services: All are welcome. Good Friday Program, Come to the Cross, 4/7 at 7 p.m.; Easter, 4/9: Sunrise Service at 6 a.m., regular service, 10 a.m.

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.

Watercolor Painting/Pen and Ink: Fridays, March 31 and April 14, 12:15-2:15 p.m.; cost is \$20. All levels are welcome, from beginner to experienced painters will be able to create a special work of art. To sign up, call the senior center. Supply list available before the class.

Shopping Trips: Schedule is: to Stop & Shop Friday, March 31; Big Y Wednesday, April 5; and Walmart Friday, April 14. 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.

Free 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. Appointments 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.

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, P.O. 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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday, Aggadath class from the Talmud, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m., on Zoom and in person; Wednesday classes, 2:30-4 p.m. – Hebrew Conversation, Jewish Literacy and Jewish Business Ethics on Zoom. Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., hybrid in-person and on Zoom; Shabbat morning service, 10

a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom. There will be a potluck lunch – dairy.

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

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

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trips. 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.

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical at the Thomaston Opera House: Sunday, April 30. See a matinee of this musical about the true story of singer-songwriter Carole King's rise to fame. A pre-show lunch will be served at Black Rock Tavern, with a meal choice of chicken marsala,

salmon or pork tenderloin. Cost is \$125/person. Sign up at the senior center by March 30.

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.

CYSS News & Notes

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

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

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

interactive games and guided activities.

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

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

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Puzzlepalooza: Fridays, March 31 and April 28, 6 p.m., at Town Hall. Register as a team of up to four, or individually (you will be put with others), and the first team to complete a select puzzle wins a prize. Bring your own snacks. Cost is \$25 per team.

Annual Spring Clean-Up: Saturday, April 22 (rain date April 29), at 8 a.m., on the Town Green. Locations include the schools, town buildings and parks. Meet up at noon at Mel's Downtown Ice Cream for a free ice cream as a thank you.

Touch-A-Truck: Saturday, When: Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Town Green. There will be kids' activities, games, and trucks. To participate with your vehicle, call the office.

Food Festival on the Green: Sunday, May 6 (rain date May 7), on the Town Green. Follow the event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FOODIEAFF.

Tennis Lessons: Mondays, May 1-May 22; make-up date: June 5. Ages 5-7 are 3:45-4:30 p.m., and \$65/session; and ages 8-12 are 4:30-5:30 p.m., and \$85/session.

SPT Summer Soccer Camp: For ages 5-15. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the RecPlex. Cost is \$225/player for full-day (9 a.m.-3 p.m.), and \$150/player for half-day (9 a.m.-noon). There will also be a camp Monday-Friday, July 24-28, from 5-8 p.m., at the RecPlex. Cost is \$150/player.

Spring Pickleball: For adults age 16 and older. Tuesdays, May 16-June 13, at Colchester Elementary School. Beginner is from 6-7:30 p.m. and is

\$30/player; Intermediate is from 7:30-9 p.m. and is \$20/player. Limited spaces available.

Community CPR/AED/First Aid Classes: Cost is \$90/person. Class dates: April 18, 6 p.m., Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR; Sept. 19, 6 p.m., Heartsafe CPR & First Aid; Oct. 17, BLS CPR; Nov. 14, 6 p.m., Heartsafe CPR & First Aid.

Gentle Yoga: Online with Facebook Live. For ages 45 and older. The four-week classes are held Mondays from 4:45-5:45 p.m. Choose April 3-24, May 1-June 5 (no class May 15 or 29), June 12-July 17 (no class June 19 or July 3), or July 24-Aug. 14. Cost per four-week session: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Card-Making Class: Thursdays, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20 and Aug. 17, 6-8 p.m., at Town Hall. Cost: \$15 per class, per person (\$20 for nonresidents).

Bus Trips: Registration forms are available online. Bus will leave from Town Hall. For full itineraries, see the website. **Newport Flower Show:** June 25, \$150/person; **Niagara Falls:** June 26-28, \$679/person double occupancy; **Montreal Festivals and Fireworks:** July 2-5, \$1,249/person double occupancy; **Block Island Breeze:** July 18, \$150/person; **Spooky Salem:** Oct. 21, \$114/person.

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

Internships: College students looking for an internship in the recreation field can contact Parks and Rec. to set something up. Internships are available any time of the year. Call the office to discuss options.

Dean's List

Joshua Pan of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. For those wishing to worship from home, the service will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held during worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website for more information and to register youth for Sunday School.

Holy Week Schedule: Palm Sunday: April 2: 9 a.m. worship service with Palm Sunday pro-

cessional. **Mundy Thursday:** April 6, 7 p.m. worship service: The Last Supper. The church's communion class will help lead the service and receive communion for the first time. **Good Friday:** April 7. Stations of the Cross will take place at noon. Walk throughout the sanctuary from station to station and contemplate the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross. **Easter Sunday:** April 9, 6 a.m., Sunrise service at Lake Hayward; 9 a.m., worship service in the sanctuary, with communion.

Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m.

Youth Lacrosse Registration

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

Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream.

Weekly Schedule: Bible Study for Men: Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.; Bible Study for women: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Community Bible Study and Prayer: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Fridays: Donuts with Don at 10 a.m. -- this is an open discussion: How does God fit in this thing called life?

For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org.



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‘Making Yourself Better’ with Karate

By Michael Sinkewicz

Josh Seals is an expert in martial arts, but his personal quest to learn and be even better will never end.

As he embarks on that mission, he wants to help others learn his craft while strengthening their own devotion to karate.

Seals operates Champions Karate in Colchester, located at 199 Old Hartford Rd. Previously, the business was operated at a nearby location, but was expanded to a larger site to accommodate an exponential spike in membership. Seals officially moved into the new address on Feb. 6 and plans on hosting a grand opening in June.

While there are numerous types of martial arts practiced globally, Seals is trained in an offshoot of American Kenpo Karate, which he continues to pass along to new students.

“Our goal is to use martial arts as a vehicle to help people grow and to become better and to make themselves better, and also to protect themselves if the situation calls for it,” he told the *Rivereast* this week.

Becoming “better” is often a misconstrued process, he said, emphasizing that students should focus on taking small steps.

“A lot of people get confused because they think that ‘better’ means that they should be doing 37 pushups with one hand, and that’s not exactly what it is,” Seals explained. “Making yourself better just means that you’re making little improvements every day. If you focus your life on making little improvements, you’re less likely to be someone who’s depressed and gets caught in a dark cloud. And if you’re making yourself better, you can pull everyone up and make them better, too.”

Seals’ business opened in October 2021, and has been serving customers for over two years. Between the Colchester location and a site in Norwich, which Seals runs through the town’s Parks and Recreation department, around 130 people are enrolled.

There are a variety of classes offered, with each one split up by age. The “tiny champions” class is meant for students ages 3-4 and aims to instill the foundations of martial arts while teaching “practical skills,” such as listening and focusing.

The next class, known as “little champions,” is mainly intended for students aged 4-7. The most popular class, according to Seals, is the beginner and youth section, for students between the ages of 7-10, and maybe some 11-year-olds depending on their size.

After those classes, the final section is for teens and adults, which typically incorporates a variety of backgrounds mixing together.

“That class is growing every day,” he said. “It’s an intense curriculum in that I exercise them

pretty good but it’s an environment where adults can feel comfortable to do their work and where teens can feel comfortable to be themselves.”

The goal, for all of the students, but specifically young kids, is to help inspire them moving forward. Seals incorporates influences from motivational speakers, who influence his instructions.

“I help kids learn things about excellence, focus, discipline, respect — things that they can use to help bring themselves up.”

Seals also runs a day program for home-schooled children. There are two separate 45-minute classes twice a week for ages 5-10 and over 12 years old. Those participating in the older kids six-week program are actually full members who will be testing for different belts in the future. For younger students, in general, Seals expressed that there isn’t any pressure — it’s best to tread lightly at first before fully committing to martial arts.

“Karate is something that you really have to commit to,” he said.

Still, all levels of expertise are welcome. Sometimes, Seals will instruct students who are naturally gifted, and many of their movements almost come effortlessly. Others — including himself when he first began his training — work constantly to hone their skills. Witnessing students evolve and develop from a starting point of limited martial arts knowledge is more than satisfying.

“It’s awesome,” he said. “It’s something that I enjoy watching more than anything else — just to see people transform into this thing that they didn’t know they could do.”

Seals has been working with kids since 2000. He was a recreation counselor and then an intervention specialist before becoming a martial arts instructor. His experience includes a five-year stint as the head instructor at Elite Karate in Glastonbury. After having children of his own, some of the martial arts endeavors were temporarily put on hold.

Growing up in Mystic, affordable karate options weren’t abundant, Seals expressed, but “the passion was always there.”

“I always wanted to become a Black Belt,” he said.

Now, having achieved some of the highest ranks in martial arts, Seals still wants to continue learning more about his craft because it’s impossible to master every aspect of karate.

“I’m a first-degree Black Belt who never stops,” he said. “If you’re a real Black Belt, you don’t stop, you just keep going. People like us never reach a pinnacle.”

Humbly, Seals believes he’s an instructor who can have a significant impact on students.

“I definitely consider myself an expert in



After seeing a large spike in membership, martial arts expert Josh Seals recently moved his Champions Karate business to a new, larger location – and plans to hold an official grand opening in June.

teaching; I definitely consider myself an expert in physical training; I definitely consider myself an expert in martial arts; I will never stop training; I will never consider myself better than other people.”

Sometimes, kids view popular karate movies and TV shows, which portray martial arts in particular ways, often highlighting combat scenes. The focus for Seals’ program, he said, is to help students grow, no matter what program they’re involved with. It’s his job to facilitate that process, which hopefully leads to successful students.

“In the end, I’m ultimately responsible for making sure these people learn X, Y and Z,” he said.

For those mainly interested in becoming Daniel LaRusso in *The Karate Kid*, that moment may arrive... eventually.

“You see karate, you see the fighting, and if you believe in the training and if you work, that will come and you’ll learn how to properly use it,” he said. However, it’s important for students to realize that combat also involves risk, and if you’re not properly prepared, a severe injury is likely the eventual consequence. It’s also critical

for students to be in the appropriate headspace to approach any potential combat situation correctly.

The fighting displayed in shows and movies is mostly choreographed, he said.

“Real people who become Black Belts rarely fight because they know what the end result is, and that’s chaos,” Seals said. “You don’t want to inflict that chaos on someone unless it’s life or death.”

Between the previous site and the last two months while at the current location, Seals has navigated several challenges, but is optimistic for the future. Like all small businesses, Seals adjusted to the pandemic, which he described as a major impediment on the martial arts industry.

“In the beginning, we all had masks,” he said. “Fortunately, I was just starting, so my classes weren’t that big. Contact was limited — it’s hard to do karate without contact.”

At the Norwich site, Seals receives assistance from parents but in Colchester, most of the help comes from his wife, who is a valuable asset to the business. Other obstacles have emerged, including supply problems, which will hopefully be resolved before the grand opening. Seals purchased mats from a Maryland company in December with the promise of a one-month delivery — they still haven’t arrived.

Besides the mats, Seals is looking to upgrade his space with additional mirrors and murals on the wall.



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Spring Baseball, Softball Registration

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

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

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.



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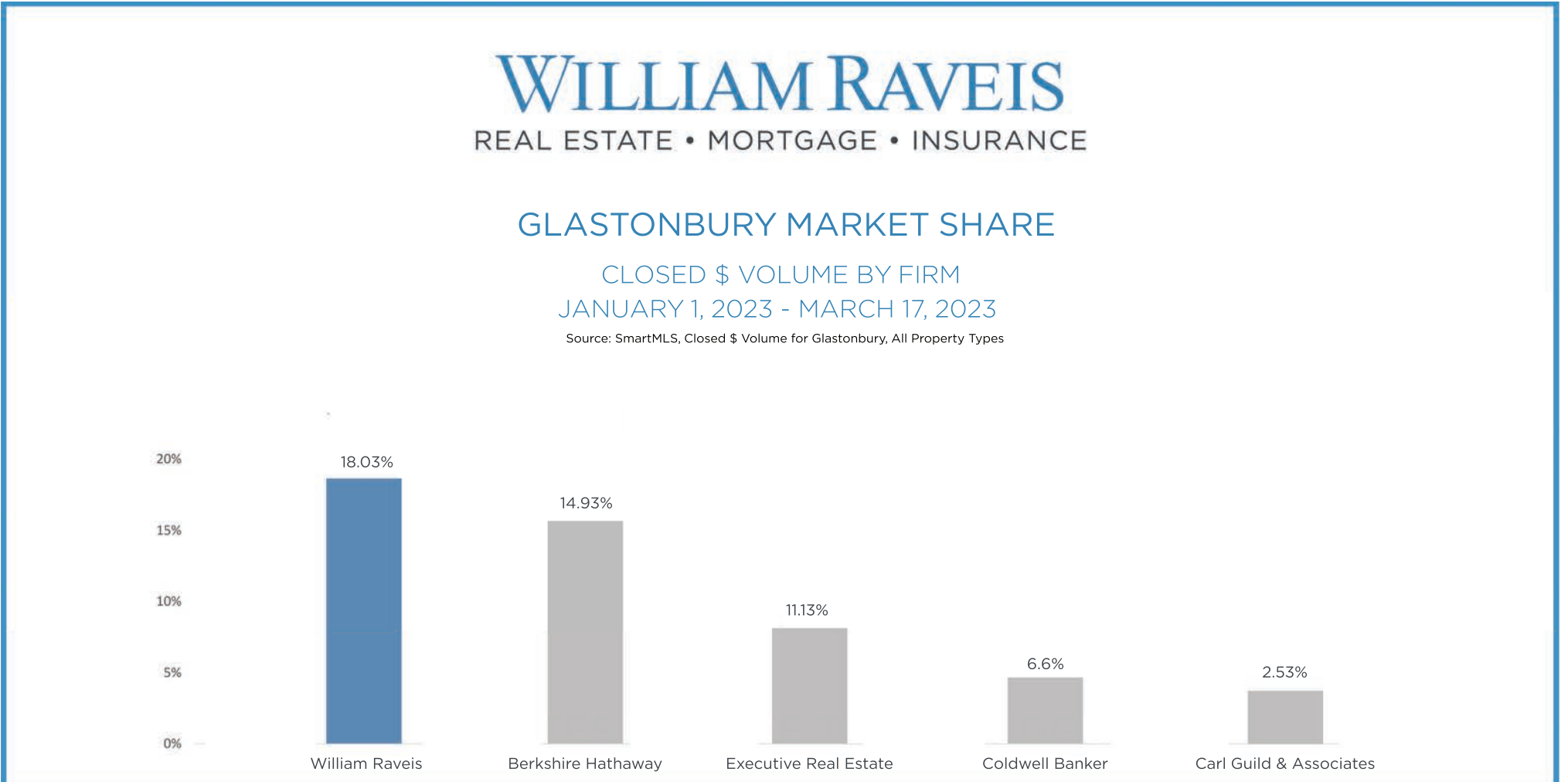
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Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

Missing Students for Class of '73 Reunion

The Bacon Academy Class of 1973 will be holding their class reunion on June 17 in Colchester – and there are still several classmates the committee needs help locating.

The classmates are: Charles Arnold, Dina Bienvenue, Geraldine Ford, Robert Giguere, Diana Hula, Donald Hutchins, Charles Lankford, Lenny Martin, Phylis Medbery, Debra Skut, Donald Smith and Wayne Zielinski.

If you have any information regarding these people or you are on the list, please provide an email address and/or home address if possible to baconacademy73@gmail.com

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Leos Fundraiser

The Colchester Leos will be holding a fundraiser at Sweet Aroma Coffeehouse & Bakery at 139 S Main St., on Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m.-noon.

Ten percent of the sales will be given to help support the Colchester Leos Club in their mission to support community causes.

For more information, email colchesterleos@gmail.com.

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.

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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.

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 kin-

dergarten 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.

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.

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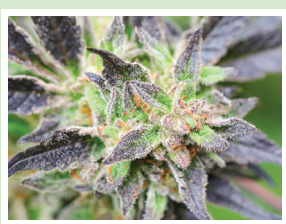
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Upcoming Programs at Cragin Library

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following. For more information, visit www.colchesterct.gov/library. The library can be reached at 860-537-5752.

3D Paper Flowers: Saturday, March 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stop into the lobby for a quick craft.

Take & Make Sheep Cheerio Craft: Monday, March 27. Create a sheep craft with Cheerios. Pick up in the children's department.

Paint Night on Zoom: Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m., for teens and adults. You will receive an email when supplies are ready to be picked up from the library. Registration is required, at tinyurl.com/r8xvtd8.

Eat if You Dare: Thursday, March 30, 3-3:45 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try mysterious snacks that may taste really good or really bad. Let library staff know if you have any food allergies.

Movie Night: Thursday, March 30, 5:45 p.m. *The Parent Trap* (1998) will be shown. Rated PG, the movie runs two hours and eight minutes. Snacks will be provided.

Drop-In Storytime: Saturday, April 1, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to a special all ages storytime about superheroes.

Spring Storytime Sessions: Begin April 3. Sign up by calling the children's department at 860-537-7201.

Medicare Educational Event: Tuesday, April 4, 2 p.m. With Mark Macrina a town resident and local insurance agent. This is strictly an informational seminar, and no individual health will be discussed. For accommodations of persons with special needs, call 860-338-1466 TTY 711.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, April 4, 3 p.m., for grades 6-12. Talk about making the library the best teen space possible.

A Court of Fantasy Readers: Thursday, April 6, 5:30 p.m. *Book of Night* by Holly Black will be discussed. Copies are available at the adult circulation desk.

Safe Haven Act Presentation: Thursday, April 6, 5:30 p.m. Learn about the Safe Haven Act, with author and Safe Haven committee member Doug Hood, along with retired state representative, Pam Sawyer, who drafted and worked on the very first version of Connecticut's Safe Haven Act.

In-Person STEAM Craft: Monday, April 10, 1 p.m., in the Children's Department.

Take & Make Submarine Landscape Craft: Tuesday, April 11. Pick up a kit in the children's department to make an underwater scene for National Submarine Day.

Teen Gaming: Tuesday, April 11, 3-4 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try a new game or play with

friends on the library's Nintendo Switch.

Seed Bomb Take & Make: Wednesday, April 12. Stop by to pick up an all-ages craft while supplies last.

Teen and Adult Suncatchers: Thursday, April 13, 6 p.m. Drop in for a spring craft.

Free Play: Friday, April 14, 10 a.m.-noon. Best for ages 2-5. Enjoy playing with toys at the library.

Take & Make Foodie Fun: Saturday, April 15, for children and teens. Create a fun animal out of this foodie fruit craft.

STEAM Saturday Pick-Up: Saturday, April 15, for grades 3-5. Pick up your kits for this month's STEAM activity. Registration required.

Take & Make 3D Flower Craft: Monday, April 17. Stop into the children's department for a flower craft.

Pressed Flower Lantern Take & Make: Wednesday, April 19, for adults and teens. Stop by to pick up a craft kit while supplies last.

In-Person Flower Paint Craft: Wednesday, April 19, 6 p.m. All are welcome to come to the children's department to paint flowers in a watering can.

Teen Writing Club: Thursday, April 20, 3-4 p.m., for ages 14-18. The library will give prompts or guidance to help teens accomplish their writing goals.

Rainbow Popsicle Craft: Saturday, April 22, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stop into the lobby for a quick craft.

Cragin Book Club: Monday, April 24, 6 p.m. *The Last Checkmate* by Gabriella Saab will be discussed. Stop by the adult circulation desk for a copy. Club is open to new members.

Mushroom Identification for Beginners: Thursday, April 27, 5:30 p.m. Karen Monger of the 3 Foragers will discuss which mushrooms are safe to eat and which ones you should avoid. Co-sponsored by the Open Space Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library.

Dried Flower Bookmarks: Saturday, April 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stop into the lobby for a quick craft.

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.

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.

Scripture, Music and Dance

All are invited to attend "A Festival of Scripture, Music and Dance for Lent and Easter" Sunday, April 2, at 2 p.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave.

This event is free and will feature the St. Andrew Church Choir, soloists and lectors from the parish community, and special guest performers from Studio 22 Dance Center of East Lyme.

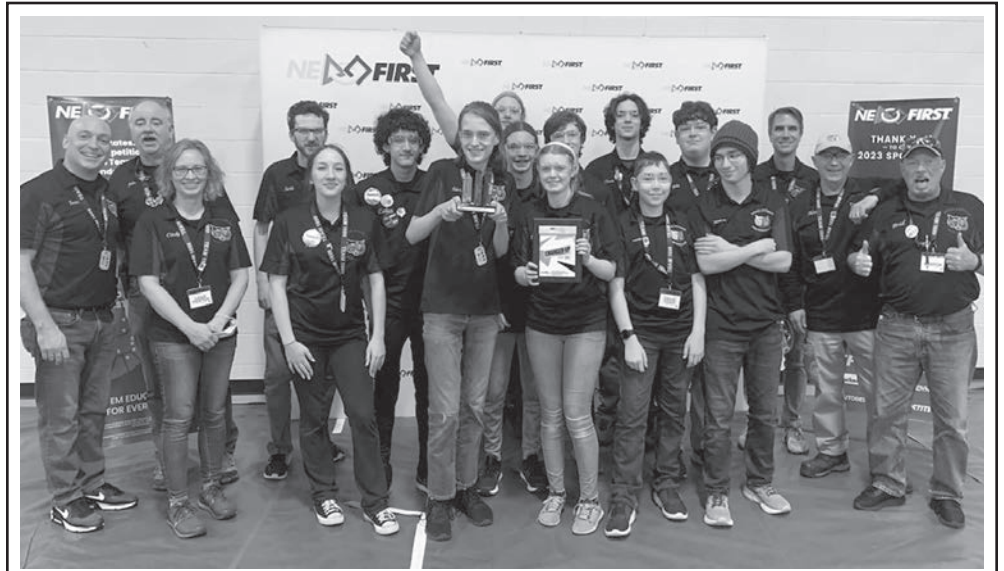
Following the performance, refreshments and fellowship will be held in the Parish Hall. For more information, call Terry Phillips at 860-608-0130.

Project Graduation Trivia Night Fundraiser

Project Graduation will hold a Trivia Night fundraiser Friday, April 28, at St. Joseph's Polish Club. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per person, with tables seating up to 10. Registration is available online at baconacademyprojectgrad.org. Visit the Facebook page (Bacon Academy Project Graduation) for more information.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project Graduation is to provide drug- and alcohol-free graduation events for Bacon seniors.



Bringing Home the Bronze... The Bacon Academy FIRST Robotics Team 1699 came in third place over the weekend at the Western New England District Competition. The team made it to the semi-finals, and also brought home an award for how well their robot worked in autonomous mode. Pictured from left, back row, are Jason Belding, John Spaulding, Seth Crampton, Callum Quadro, Noah Auden, Nate Schulze, Chase Vendrillo, John Dalton and Tom Praisner; front row, Cindy Praisner, Julia Cavaliere, Alex Maulding, Charlie Rose, Brooke Rodgers, Landon Vigil, Gabe Kruse, Alan Mocksfield and Brad Graham. Not shown: Abby Belding, Kevin Reas, Eli Banks, Logan Lammey, Sam Ringuette and Sophie Melmed.

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 27: 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 28: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Inspired by Art Stories; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting (via Zoom).

Wednesday, March 29: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 9:45-11:30 a.m., AARP SDTek Class; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; noon-4 p.m., AARP Driver Safety Course.

Thursday, March 30: 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 31: 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; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch to Sadler's Ordinary; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Boost Your Budget: Benefits Check-Up Event: Thursday, April 13, appointments available from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., for ages 60 and up. See if you qualify for benefits programs that can help you pay for food, medicine, housing, and more. This event is free and confidential and will give you a personalized list of benefits to explore. Space is limited; call the senior center to schedule an appointment.

Medicare Bootcamp: Thursday, April 13, 5 p.m. Are you new to Medicare or nearing the age to apply? You're invited to come learn the A, B, C and Ds of Medicare. A counselor from Senior Resources will share important information and answer questions. This is a free program, but registration is required by calling the senior center.

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Town Lists Job Posting for Manager

By Jack Lakowsky

Because its meetings are not held in public it's hard to gauge the progress of the town manager search committee, but it appears they're making some.

This week the town posted to its website, which is still under construction, a call for an "enthusiastic, proactive, community-oriented leader to serve as [Marlborough's] first town manager."

Per the 2021 charter change, the town is transitioning from a selectboard-first selectman government to a selectboard-town manager style. The town manager is the government's chief administrator, an unelected, nonpolitical position that serves at the selectboard's discretion.

Right now, Board of Selectmen chair Amy Traversa is serving as acting interim town manager. She has temporarily stepped away from the selectboard while in this role, and will resume her chairmanship when the new town manager is hired.

"The successful candidate will have strong interpersonal, written, and verbal skills which are essential for success in this position and a commitment to providing excellent leadership," the town wrote.

The town says it prefers candidates with a degree in government and/or business administration, but will consider anyone with "an

equivalent combination of relevant experience, academic achievement and training to achieve a successful performance of the job."

The town is offering a salary between \$130,000 and \$145,000 annually, depending on the applicant's experience and qualifications. Traversa has previously told the *RiverEast* Marlborough's small size might work against it in this matter, with either ambitious managers looking to get qualified to lead a bigger town or, at the other end, managers at the ends of their careers, looking to ease into retirement with a less demanding job.

Visit the town's website, marlboroughct.net, for more info.

In a meeting Tuesday night Traversa told the board the town should make sure when the new manager is hired, they can start seamlessly. To that end, the town apparently has to improve its recordkeeping.

"Everything we hand to the new town manager needs to make sense," said acting board chair Deb Bourbeau.

What started this discussion was the local fire department asking Traversa for \$50,000 for a down payment on a new fire engine, priced at a total of \$800,000, a request coming on the heels of starting payments for a \$600,000 emergency truck.

To the board, Traversa said the town needs a

formal process for major purchase requests. She also said there's no documentation about previous major vehicle purchases, so how the town goes about this isn't clear.

"There has to be documentation," she said. "There's no file on the rescue vehicle. Before issuing a check there needs to be something in hand we can take a look at."

"There's no funding other than \$67,000 in reserves...[and] no records of past purchases," said Traversa.

Bourbeau said the board should have specifics it can review and discuss in public. She said for example, the board doesn't know what company the department will buy from.

Marlborough Fire Chief Kevin Asklar said for years the town has used a third-party cooperative purchasing firm, one the town must renew its contract with. Traversa and the board were in the dark on this company and what it does, and asked the chief for more details, as well as a letter of intent. Asklar agreed, and also pointed out he sent a document almost 80 pages long to Traversa.

"This is just to make sure things line up so

they properly fit into a plan," said Traversa, saying the town should also know where the new vehicle purchases fit into a five-year plan.

Asklar also pressed the need to move quickly. In the past few years prices for new large vehicles have exploded, and if the town waits it could end up paying tens of thousands more. The \$50,000 would secure the town's spot in the manufacturing line and the \$800,000 price tag, which is only predicted to jump, and jump high.

Website Update

Traversa provided a brief update on the town website's renovation. The website's been undergoing a facelift for months and in this transitory phase is clunky, awkward, rife with dead links and unnecessary clicking around.

Hopefully this will come to an end soon. When exactly the new site will launch isn't totally clear; Traversa said perhaps some time in the spring. Staff will train on the new website April 7 and then start a kind of beta testing, flushing out any glitches. After that, the town will add more content, and will upgrade its cybersecurity.

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.

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.

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 27: Free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Sofrito boneless pork chop, Spanish roasted potatoes, broccoli Normandy, cornbread, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10

a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, March 29: 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: roasted turkey with gravy, cranberry sauce, cornbread stuffing, asparagus, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, March 30: Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, March 31: 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: shrimp with lo mein noodles, steamed cauliflower, dinner roll, Mandarin orange cups; 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.

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.

The band bills itself as an alternative folk/rock band. 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.

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.

Kids Crafting Club: Meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m. Next meets March 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.

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.

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, 26 N. Main St.

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.



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Man Charged with Threatening Library

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week state police took into custody on an out-of-state warrant Marlborough's Mark Henry Frakl, alleging the 49-year-old man sent more than a dozen threatening emails to the public library of Hendersonville, Tenn.

Authorities have not determined if Frakl has any connection to Tennessee at all.

Frakl's alleged threats, which included bomb and death threats, were sent March 14. He was arrested March 16. He is being held as a fugitive pending extradition to Tennessee, Connecticut state police said.

Police found at least 14 threatening emails sent from an account used by Frakl.

On March 16 the Hendersonville Police Department contacted Connecticut State Police Troop K in Colchester, Connecticut, requesting assistance in locating the subject of active extraditable arrest warrants held by their department.

Troopers responded to 109 Dickinson Rd. in Marlborough, where they made contact with the subject of the active arrest warrants, positively identified as Frakl, Frakl was taken into State Police custody and transported to Troop K where he was processed and charged as a fugitive from justice. Other charges were not immediately clear.

Police held Frakl on a \$500,000 bond and brought him to the Hartford Correctional Center, where he was placed in the custody of state corrections officials. His arraignment was set for March 17 in Manchester court.

Frakl's alleged threat capped off a tough past few weeks for the Hendersonville Public Library.

At the end of February, the library received moderate national exposure when actor and religious activist Kirk Cameron paid a visit to tout his new children's book, *As You Grow*.

Cameron alleged library staff mistreated

both him and his own crew. As a result, the Town of Hendersonville fired the library director, reported the *Hendersonville Standard*.

After his appearance at the library, Cameron wrote on Facebook, "Despite the rain and the unkind pushback (from one disgruntled librarian), an OVERFLOW crowd of families, mayors, county commissioners, and celebs welcomed and joined us at the library in Hendersonville, TN. for singing the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, praying and teaching faith in God and moral values to our kids."

The town posted a few exchanges between the library director, the town and Cameron's team. Largely, the director was concerned with the library's policy saying it would not host events advocating for political ideologies or events specifically promoting private businesses and their interests.

As for Frakl, according to the state judicial website, he is due back in court in mid-April.



Mark Frakl

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. 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.

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.

Afterschool 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.

Lego Spring Into Stem: Tuesdays, March 28-May 16, 3:15-4:45 p.m., for grades K-4. Build chirping birds, design blossoming flowers, and take a ride on a paddle boat. 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.

Kids/Family Sewing - PJ Shorts: Saturday, May 6, 10-11:30 a.m., at Marlborough Senior

Center, for ages 8 and up. Kids will create their own PJ shorts. Students will learn the basics of machine operation while learning how to insert elastic, linings, creating hems and more. Each participant will take home their projects. All supplies are included. Fee: \$48/resident, \$53/non-resident.

Tennis Lessons: Tuesdays, May 9-30, at Blish Park. Ages 5-7 are 3:45-4:30 p.m., and are \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident; ages 8-12 are 4:30-5:30 p.m. and are \$85/resident, \$90/non-resident.

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.

Trips: 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.

Blue Angels Air Show Bus Trip: Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Barnes Air Force Base. Trip includes: charter bus, food and drink provided during the air show by Myfunbus.com, and games and prizes on the bus. Fee is \$80/adults, \$70/children age 4-12 and seniors ages 62 and up. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 7:30 a.m., and returns at 6 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.

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.

Residents Sought to Serve

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

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

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

Those interested in applying can complete the

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

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

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

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Eyeglass, Hearing Aide Donations... On March 12, Marlborough Lions Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom and Club President Megan Lloyd brought six boxes of eyeglasses and hearing aids to the Glastonbury Hilton Garden Inn, where Lions from all over the Greater Hartford area delivered the donated items. The Marlborough Lions collected over 750 pairs of eyeglasses along with several hearing aids. Overall, thousands of pairs of eyeglasses were collected over the course of the last year. The eyeglasses will be inspected, sorted and shipped to other countries for use by impoverished people around the world. The Marlborough Lions collect eyeglasses and hearing aids all year long. Drop boxes are located at Town Hall, Liberty Bank, the Marlborough Senior Center and at the office of Dr. Steven Rafalowsky on Saner Road. Eyeglass cases are also appreciated. For more information on the Lions, call Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

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 Lions.

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.

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 stjohfisher30@yahoo.com.

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.

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.

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).

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 website.

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank; you may

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Vocal Chords Awarding Scholarships

The executive board of the Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is offering college scholarships – and the deadline for applications is today.

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.

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.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule: Palm Sunday Service, Sunday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.; Healing Service, Monday, April 3, 6 p.m.; Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service, Thursday, April 6, 6 p.m.; Good Friday Service, Friday, April 7, 7 p.m.; **Easter Sunday Service, Sunday April 9,**

9:30 a.m.

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 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: Nutmeg Voting: Runs at the library April 1-30. This is the only book award in the state where kids pick the winner. Nominees have been divided into four categories: Elementary (Grades 2-3), Intermediate (Grades 4-6), Middle School (Grades 7-8), and High School (Grades 9-12). Visit the library website for a complete list of nominees. Winners will be announced on May 15 and next year's nominees will be announced on May 1.

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.

Talent Show: For kids in grades K-12. Auditions will be held Monday, April 10, from 5-7:30 p.m. or by appointment. Acts should be three minutes or less. The show will be open to the public and held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13.

Toddler and Preschool Drive-In: Tuesday, April 11, 10:15 a.m., for ages 2.5-5 and their caregivers. Each child will be given a cardboard box to decorate and turn into their "car." They'll then watch a 30-minute cartoon from their cars.

British Invasion: Wednesday, April 12, 1 p.m., for grades K-5. Explore everything British, from TV shows and music to snacks, books, phrases and more.

Family Craft Night: Im"peck"able Bird-

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.

From the First Selectman's Desk...

Dear Portland Residents:

I am writing to you today with an update on the track replacement at Portland High School. An engineering firm recently completed a full geotechnical evaluation of the track. The evaluation included an analysis of core samples to determine the extent of work necessary. We then used those specifications from the engineering firm to request bids from companies that replace tracks. Unfortunately, due to the condition of the track's subbase, the bid we received requires an additional \$700,000 of town funds to complete.

Last week, the Board of Selectmen voted to send a proposed funding solution to a public hearing and special town meeting. The funding includes allocating town general fund revenues as well as a transfer from the town's fund balance to cover the added expense. Per the Portland town charter, a public hearing and vote at a special town meeting are necessary to complete the transfer. The legal notice of public hearing, legal notice of special town meeting, and special town meeting resolution can be found online at www.portlandct.org/town-meetings.

Should the vote pass at the special town meeting, the contractor has set a date of July 1, 2023 for the start of construction with a completion date in fall of this year.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 28 at 6:00 pm followed by the special town meeting at 6:30 pm. Both meetings will be held in the Brownstone Intermediate School auditorium at 314 Main St.

Portland electors and property owners are encouraged to vote. Any questions may be directed to me at rcurley@portlandct.org.

Sincerely,
Ryan J. Curley
Portland First Selectman

Note: The meeting location has changed from the Buck-Foreman room at 265 Main St. Portland in order to accommodate a larger turnout.

Tag Sale Donations Sought

The Portland Historical Society's Town-Wide Tag Sale Day is coming May 11 (see separate notice in this paper), and the society is as usual hosting a sale of its own during the event.

The historical society's tag sale that directly benefits the society will happen on the grounds of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. Volunteers will receive items in good condition at the Ruth Callander House garage, 492 Main St., from 9-11 a.m. Saturdays, April 22 and 29. No textbooks, electronics (including computers or printers), clothing

or footwear or unwieldy items (dirty, broken, rusty) are accepted. Vintage and antique items are always welcome.

Also, on Saturday, May 13, the society will have a Bake Sale of homemade goodies at the Callander House. Members and friends of the society will be baking before Saturday and packing their specialties for this sell-out sale.

For more information about donating items, call 860-982-1486 or email PortlandCHistory@gmail.com.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional.

A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheranportland.org.

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 in-

clude: 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.

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 11:10 a.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, in the Mary Lou Rice room. Please do not arrive before 11 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.

Foodshare: Monday, March 27, 1 p.m.

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.

Jack Irwin's Excellent Vacation Presentation: Friday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. 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.

Dean's List

Cailen Fienemann, a sophomore communications and English major from Portland, made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y.

Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, March 28, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St.

Donors of all blood types, especially type O donors and platelet donors, are encouraged to make an appointment by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

All who donate will receive a \$10 Visa prepaid card by email, and will be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$3,000 Visa prepaid card. There will be five winners. Details are at rcblood.org/help.

Faculty Honors

Kaitlyn Tran of Portland earned fall 2022 Faculty Honors at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

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Highlanders Halted by Windsor Locks in Semis

By Josh Howard

The boys basketball team at Portland High School gave No. 1 seed Windsor Locks all they could handle before the Highlanders ran out of gas in the Division V state semifinals, falling 67-56 at East Hartford High School on March 15.

Windsor Locks' one-two punch of senior Ma-like Alassani and sophomore Sincere Monroe provided a nearly unstoppable inside-outside threat that accounted for 42 points as the top-seeded Raiders advanced to the state championship game.

Alassani, a powerful and explosive forward, scored 24 points. Monroe, a lightning-quick and fearless guard, added 18.

All-conference point guard Harrison Collins led the Highlanders attack with 20 points, but ultimately breakdowns on both ends of the court doomed the local team.

"Hats off to Windsor Locks, they're a great program and well-coached, but I still think we are the better team," Portland head coach David Bradbury said. "But we didn't play like it tonight. We missed shots, missed free throws, and allowed them to play to their strengths and they capitalized."

Portland, the No. 4-seeded team in the tourney, traded buckets with the 17-win Raiders for the first three quarters, trailing by only one point heading into the final frame.

Senior Joe Rusczyk powered the Highlanders early on, scoring eight points in the opening quarter as Portland held a 16-14 advantage after eight minutes of back-and-forth action.

The first half featured five lead changes and each time Windsor Locks looked like they would pull away, Portland responded by hitting a big shot.

Collins scored 11 points in the second quarter, highlighted by a pull-up three-pointer from straight away in the closing moments of the first half to narrow the margin to 32-31 at the break.

The teams continued to exchange shots in the third quarter as Monroe heated up from the field, scoring 11 points in the frame.

Trailing 41-36 with 2:12 left in the third, Portland's Ben Fecteau netted five straight points on a putback followed by a three-pointer, tying the game at 41.

Four straight points from Monroe were countered by a long triple by Rusczyk to again make it a one-point margin headed into the fourth quarter.

Bradbury commended his team's resiliency, adding, "I couldn't be more proud of the boys, they gave everything they had."

Whether it was fatigue or merely a lack of execution, the fourth quarter belonged to Windsor Locks, who held a 22-12 advantage over the final eight minutes.

The Raiders used an 8-2 scoring surge to start the fourth quarter to create separation and then solidified the win from the foul line in the final four minutes, hitting seven of eight foul shots before Alassani put the exclamation point on the victory with a dunk in the closing seconds.

"My guys just willed it," Windsor Locks head coach Dan Copes said. "But so much credit to Portland; they would not go away. They hit some huge shots."

The loss ended a historic season for Portland, which won 15 regular-season games and advanced to the Shoreline Conference (SLC) championship game for the first time in program history.

"We took a step forward as a program," Bradbury said. "It's not where we wanted to get to and we didn't reach our goal, but it's a special time for Portland basketball."

Immediately following the final buzzer, Bradbury shared an embrace with an emotional Collins on the court.

Collins was a multiple first-team all-conference selection under Bradbury, averaging 21 points per game and also leading the team in assists and steals this season.

"I told him I love him and that he played his heart out," Bradbury said of the exchange, "This is not the end for him. The lessons he learned here will go on to help him."

Collins is one of six seniors whose final game was the tournament defeat. Rusczyk, Fecteau,



Portland High School senior captain Harrison Collins dives to the hoops while being defended by Windsor Locks Evan Courtney. The Highlanders lost to the Raiders in the state semifinals.

Ryan Kerr, Austin Vess, William Favale will also be graduating this spring.

Prior to Bradbury's arrival, the Highlanders were coming off a five-win season in 2020. Three seasons later, the seniors are leaving the program following 20 total wins (including postseason) this winter.

"All of our success moving forward will be built off the backs of these guys. I couldn't be more proud of the work ethic they displayed on a day to day basis," stated Bradbury. "They truly are the

foundation of what we are building at Portland."

Windsor Locks would go on to win the Division V state championship, defeating Shepaug 69-58 at Mohegan Sun Arena on March 18. Monroe scored a game-high 22 points as the Raiders secured the program's second state title, and its first since 2001.

It was the second straight season that the Highlanders would be eliminated by the eventual state champion, also losing to the 2021-22 champions from Windham in the quarterfinals a season ago.

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 af-

ter 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.

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.

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.

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 dona-

tions 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 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 friendsofportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

Dean's List

Sadie Schmitz of Portland made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. Schmitz is a member of the Class of 2026.

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.

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Town Needs More Money for Track Rebuild

By Jack Lakowsky

Portland's run of good luck hit a hurdle last week. Among the many grants and chunks of state funding the town and the schools have received over the past year, perhaps most exciting was more than \$500,000 to replace the long-defunct high school track.

The track can't host anything right now. Portland runners are bussed to another field, at not an insignificant cost to the town.

Frustratingly, though, it turns out the grant isn't enough. Rising costs mean First Selectman Ryan Curley, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton and the town must find more money – and quite a bit, about \$700,000. Curley said it's a bit embarrassing, but the town has to again go to the state with its hands out.

The town couldn't get an estimate from track-building firms for under \$1 million.

"That's not the news we wanted to hear," Curley told the Portland Board of Selectmen in a meeting last week. "Costs just keep going up."

Worsening the issue is the track itself. The underlayer of asphalt is far thicker than first thought – an unusually thick four or five inches rather than the standard two or three.

To give a picture of what a journey fixing the track has been Curley reviewed a little local history, saying the track was first built in 2002, and

hasn't had major work since.

Fast forward to 2020, when the school district got a quote of about \$501,000 for a full track replacement. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) was put in charge of administrating the grant, and Curley said there was time when the town heard nothing from the agency.

Then, last year, responding to a price increase, the town went through the process of allocating another \$250,000 of town money, hoping this would cinch it.

Nope.

Late last year the town started talks with an engineering consultant. The company put the price at about \$850,000 – or \$100,000 more than the town had ready.

Then, after another round of analyses, the town's consultant actually determined a cost of \$1.2 million, due to the sublayer's unforeseen thickness.

"Regardless, we went out to bid" to find more demolition prices, Curley said, hoping the \$1.2 million estimate was high outlier – once again, nope. Even after trimming down the scope of the work a little, the cost is still over a million.

Curley said he reluctantly reached out to the town's state delegation, who politely told him

more money wasn't impossible, but also isn't likely.

For now, the town is on its own to find the \$700,000. There is some good news, Curley said. The town will get good product for the money, saying the firm he talked to said they could get started this summer on a new, longer lasting kind of a track, with a life of 50 years, not 20. In a talk before last week's selectboard meeting Curley said he should be in his 80s by time talks of the track come back around.

The town also has two grants it can use, one of about \$184,000, the other about \$234,000. Curley spoke with state auditors who said the town can use the money for the track.

Then, Curley's proposing another \$282,000 draw from the town's reserves to cover the remaining balance.

"If we use those streams, we do have the 700,000 needed to fully replace the track," he said. "It's a large undertaking that we know will go up in price."

To move the effort ahead Curley and the board set a date for a town meeting and public hearing where voters will decide if this is a good use of the town's, and so, their, money.

Curley – who ran for election saying he would

get the track done and is already up for reelection in November – said he feels it's a worthwhile investment.

"Having an unusable track isn't good for students or residents," he said. "We're spending more money bussing kids elsewhere instead of using our own track."

He said there'd be little to no impact on taxpayers, making for a viable way path forward.

The town could gamble and take a shot at re-bidding next year – but this is likely to be pricier.

Selectman Mike Pelton said he's a "big fan" of getting the track done, that it will be used by so many people, whether athletes or casual perambulators.

School facilities director Bob Shea, formerly the town's facility chief, said the school could recycle some of the old track's material, saving a little money.

On whether the schools can put some money forward, superintendent Britton wasn't clear, saying the district could use any savings at the end of the year, but that this money's usually reserved for other building needs.

Voters can make their voices heard at the public hearing set for Tuesday, March 28, at 6 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School.

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 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.

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.

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.

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/portland-soccerclub 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.

Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli

The Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli will return this year on Saturday, April 29, from 3-7 p.m., at Valli Construction, 22 Sand Hill Rd. Rain date is May 6. The show is in memory of local veteran Kenny Fletcher, who passed away from cancer on April 19, 2011.

Show car entry fee is \$10 at the gate. Admission for spectators is free, although donations are appreciated. There will be trophies for first, second and third place, and dash plaques will be given to the first 200 cars. There will be music and food, water and soda will be available for

purchase. No dogs allowed.

Proceeds from the car show go to the Portland Food Bank, Portland Zion Lutheran Church, Middlesex Hospital Hospice, PHS Class of 2023 Project Graduation, Middlesex Cancer Center, and Portland VFW Post 6121.

For more information, call Michael Bellobuono at 860-707-4231, or Michael Brown at 860-982-3227. The event also has a Facebook page; look for "Kenny Fletcher Memorial Cruise Night."

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 Wednesday, March 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.

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 portlandclionsscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandLionsClub@portlandclionsscholarship@gmail.com).

All applications must be received by April 15.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

keep it coming free every week.

The owner of Central Connecticut Arms is a veteran, and a law-abiding citizen, as most people are. As owner of a store, like many merchants, he relies on newspaper sale advertisements to bring in customers. This is his livelihood. He also has to make sure that the person he is selling to has all the right licenses, and paperwork.

Like most people, I am concerned about the number of illegal guns in this country, but people that carry illegal guns do not purchase them at a place like Central Connecticut Arms nor do they read the *Rivereast News Bulletin* looking for guns for sales.

Sincerely,
Rita C. Gibbons – East Hampton

A Town Hall That Works

Dear Colchester Residents:

Colchester needs a Town Hall that works together. That means having a first selectman that treats employees with respect and works collaboratively with town staff. Sadly, recent board meetings have not shown this kind of teamwork.

Department heads have described being blindsided by unrealistic cuts the first selectman made to their budgets. They learned of them only when the First Selectman presented to the Board of Finance. Many of these cuts are just not possible, with impacts to legal require-

ments for offices like the Town Clerk or service contracts for buildings like Cragin Library.

Now the Board of Finance is talking to department heads about issues that should have been worked out with the first selectman. It shouldn't be up to the BOF to fix an incomplete budget proposal. Meanwhile, staff are still reporting issues with incomplete or outdated information in the town's financial software.

To be a strong leader for the town, the first selectman needs to work with the staff he oversees to understand the impact of decisions before he presents them. This doesn't mean meeting every request a department makes, but the impact of cuts should at least be discussed with department heads before they get presented. If I am elected as our next first selectman, I will work collaboratively with staff to make sure that I deliver reliable, honest proposals during budget season.

Bernie Dennler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman

Tractor Parade

To the Editor:

Standing in the historic center of Hebron, watching the tractor parade, I sensed a theme to Maple Fest. Did you? I did. I also felt the pride of every tractor driver, male or female, and of our older residents, as they whist fully watched the tractors and wagons full of generations of farmers and families pass by. Kettle corn, hay bales,

maple syrup and tractors of all genres. The theme of Maple Fest is agriculture and community. What do trees, corn, hay, families and cows have in common, besides the need for sunlight? They need room to move and grow and they need clean water.

So.....why is Town Hall pushing to pave over our farmland, history and trees while risking residents' water in the process? Forget about history for a moment; although historically, land mammals, like humans and cows, cannot survive on a diet of salted water, and historically, Hebron has been a farming community, history is political. It would be interesting to learn how much water average maple syrup trees drink in one growing season and if they, too, are sensitive to tainted water. Or why corn grows so well in the fields chosen for pavement and development and salt, in the Raymond Brook Watershed. What is it farmers know about this watershed that keeps them loyal to it generation after generation?

If we adore and honor our agricultural heritage, as I think I saw at Maple Fest, why are people not defending the farmland needed to keep food on the table? After all, famous dairy cows eat the corn grown on Kinney Road and hearty beef cattle consume the hay. Get it? Cheeseburgers and maple flavored milkshakes all courtesy of farmers, hard work, clean water and land. No farms. No food. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

DTC Meet-&-Greet

To the Editor:

Many developments are taking place in our town and it's very important to have diverse voices helping to shape Andover's future! Positions are opening on town boards and committees giving us an exciting opportunity to transform the governance of our town.

The Andover Democratic Town Committee encourages all Democrats, Independents, and unaffiliated residents to get involved! Are you a young family with children and want the town to better support education and enrichment initiatives for our youth? Do you have concerns about how money is allocated and spent in our town? Are you interested in development in town and whether current and future environmental challenges are being met?

We need people with original ideas on how to make Andover a more vibrant and inclusive community. We need you! Now is the time to get involved! Andover needs people who will lead by example and who will foster open constructive communication.

That said, please join us on Saturday, March 25, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Town Hall community room for an Andover Democratic Town Committee Meet-and-Greet to discover how you can get involved in town governance. Refreshments will be served. All Democrats, Unaffiliated, and independents are welcome.

Andover Democratic Town Committee
Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Chair

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story

★ *Colchester Budget Meeting, cont. from page 30*

cio, who on March 16 sent a notification to the boards of finance and education that the workshop was canceled for March 21.

What took place instead on Tuesday was a nearly three-hour special meeting, that was at times contentious, as citizens voiced their frustrations with the cancellation of the actual budget discussion and their desire to keep vital school programs.

Migliaccio, during the board's discussion, said the Excel document contained "substantially less information" than previous budget presentations, and that it would be impossible to examine this year's proposal at the current moment.

Mike Egan, a Democrat on the finance board, noted that other towns don't use the Munis platform, and are presenting their budgets in a similar format at the Colchester school board. He argued those towns are still able to determine the appropriate level of cuts after reviewing Excel spreadsheets.

Migliaccio pushed back though, stating that those municipalities may have longstanding practices with how they handle their own budgets.

"I need to see it in the way that I'm used to," she said. "I don't see what the issue is."

She added that because the school board was requesting an increase of \$4 million, detailed documents were necessary to "justify" that ask.

Egan, referencing the deadline set by Migliaccio to the Board of Education, expressed that giving the school board two business days to meet her demand was not a "reasonable" request, emphasizing that the board would have to condense six months of work and planning in a short period of time.

Still, Migliaccio said she's hopeful the district can recreate a Munis report and provide that information.

"I'm not interested in battling with the Board of Education," she said.

Because the workshop was canceled, school board members in attendance were unable to participate in the finance board's conversation.

Art Shilosky, a Republican on the finance board, also criticized a lack of documentation provided by the school board. He said that in previous years, the school board had leftover funds from their budget. He speculated that if money wasn't being spent, a significant increase might not be necessary.

"Why are we asking for \$4 million?" Shilosky asked.

He continued by stating that unused funds aren't a problem, but it would be beneficial for the finance board to see the relevant documentation when considering the potential 2023-24 increase.

"Why are they afraid to give us the information?"

Egan added that cost savings by the school board should be "applauded."

John Thomas, another member of the Republican majority on the finance board, said he was "appalled" at the school board's budget ask.

"The townspeople can't afford this," he said.

"Am I against kids? Absolutely not."

Republican Tim Vaillancourt stated that the consistent school budget increases were "unsustainable."

"There's no chance that I'm ever going to vote for a \$4 million increase," he said.

Migliaccio reminded the board that specific comments regarding the budget itself should be held until a later meeting. This discussion, she said, was only addressing the budget process moving forward.

Migliaccio's reminder didn't stop dozens of citizens from speaking out during the meeting, including some young children who attend the local schools.

In a recent editorial in the *Rivereast*, Sullivan detailed specific reductions that would take place if he reduced his proposed budget 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 Jacker Intermediate School and William J. Johnston Middle School would be eliminated, but general music would continue to be offered.

Students at this week's meeting spoke to the benefits of the district's band programs and urged the board not cut them from the proposal. The finance board does not determine which items are removed from the school budget, but can reduce the bottom-line total. Ultimately, the school board makes decisions regarding their funding once the budget is approved.

Other citizens, including Jeremy Mckenzie, spoke passionately about supporting the school budget proposal as-is. Many speakers throughout the night generated applause after their three-minute segments.

Jason LaChapelle, a member of the Board of Selectmen, expressed that the debate surrounding the budget was actually a positive sign for the community.

"We should be fighting about it," he said. "It's a lot of money."

Attacks Via Email

While some communication between the boards of education and finance took place within public view, other emails – obtained by the *Rivereast* – reveal the timeline of events that led to this week's heated special meeting.

On March 15, Migliaccio sent an email to the education board requesting the Munis documents. She was also critical of the proposal itself, stating that in "no budgetary year have we ever threatened teachers or programming like you have this year."

"Your inflammatory narrative and scare tactics is a low for our community," she wrote.

Migliaccio also requested that the school board "substantiate" the Special Education increase of \$1.2 million.

"The Board of Education's failure to provide

financial over-site [sp], despite my numbers [sp] warnings since June 2022, is a clear act of willful blindness," she said. "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."

She requested full budget detail by end of day Thursday or "risk postponing the next workshop," which is what ultimately transpired.

Following their emergency meeting on Thursday, the school board sent an official letter to Migliaccio stating that they were in "full compliance" the Town Charter and Connecticut General Statutes.

In defending their decision with using Excel, the board stated that some members, as well as community members, find it difficult to understand the numbers as presented through Munis.

The board also justified the \$4 million increase.

"The fiscal reality facing the school district this year is something that should concern our entire community," the board wrote in the letter. "Decisions made over the past 10 years have combined to make this the perfect storm necessitating a record budget increase."

Sam Norman, the president of the Colchester Federation of Teachers, wrote a letter to the *Rivereast*, stating in an email that he was "deeply saddened" by the comments made by Migliaccio.

"What Ms. Migliaccio calls 'inflammatory narrative and scare tactics' ... was actually a completely transparent and detailed answer, given in direct response to a question: 'What cuts do you foresee if the budget increase was only 5%?'"

He stated that inflation has outpaced school budget increases in recent years and that the district is facing a fiscal cliff due to grant funded positions returning to the budget.

"Most troubling is Ms. Migliaccio's (barely) veiled threat to make line-item budget cuts, which is against state law," he added.

During a phone call on Monday, Norman added he was concerned with the "tone" of the dialog centered around the budget.

Migliaccio, he said, "has completely tried to undermine the workings of the Board of Education," he said.

He stated that previous superintendents have highlighted programs that may be cut if the budget was reduced, calling Sullivan's outline "transparent."

Other requests made by Migliaccio were not required, he said. Specifically, there was certain special education info that, Norman said, she is "not obligated" to receive.

The costs of those programs are often out of the school's board's hands, he added. Certain increases are mandated and cannot be adjusted.

Overall, he called Migliaccio's comments "disparaging to the hard work the Board of Education put into the budget."

While it's a significant increase, Norton said

he "fully supports" the proposal. During the pandemic, students fell behind with learning, and cutting the budget will not help catch them up, Norton said.

"The kids were so unsocialized," he said, adding that some young students had never experienced in-person learning. "It was a tough time."

Cutting programs, he added, would be "going backwards."

On March 16, Migliaccio wrote an email to the Board of Education stating that the budget workshop with the school board was canceled. She explained that reports showing what the district had expended over the past two years were still missing. While she understood that Munis reports "aren't easy to read," there is a "fundamental need for the data to a finance board; therefore, it is unwavering considering we levy tax."

"There are many threats to cut services on social media, in meetings and in email correspondence," she continued. "The perils come from the Superintendent whom you supervise."

She advised the school board to issue a statement saying it will not cut music, sports or teachers, regardless of what the budget is.

"Minimum budget standards should afford our district to protect status quo ... [so] no programming should be in danger this year. Local cuts could be expected when the state cuts our funding, this is not the case this year."

Regarding the actual budgetary requests, Migliaccio said that the finance board will address the needs of the district, but that the Munis line-by-line report was still necessary to make those decisions.

"So this really is not a big ask; it's protocol," she wrote, adding that the town attorney and auditor agreed that the workshop should have been canceled given the current circumstances. "They agree that it's ill advised to move a budget to a referendum that is not presented and reviewed in the spirit our town has conducted business for 17 years."

The next day, Oliphant responded, stating that, "My fellow Board of Education members and I are disappointed that you are taking this action considering that we have complied with all of the requirements in the Colchester Town Charter and those required by Connecticut General Statutes."

He also stated that the finance board would have to take action regarding the proposed budget within 10 days of the public hearing, which took place on March 7.

Then, on Monday, the school board released an additional letter addressed to the entire community, explaining the board's budget process and goal of transparency. The board stated it was "dismayed that the messaging from the Board of Finance has mistaken our intentions."

"We are optimistic that the [finance board] will come to appreciate the spirit with which our budget presentation has been made," the letter continued. The board members stated they "look forward to working with the" finance board.

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

House of Cards

To the Editor:

The global banking system is a multi-generational, fiat-enabled ponzi scheme that's only able to perpetuate its power and control because of its unfettered ability to print "money" out of thin air. They finance both sides of war, launder trillions in illicit drug monies, and have the ability to destroy any politician that dares to stand in their way...so most never do.

The recent collapse of SVB and bailing out of Credit Suisse should be activating your spidey senses...that big financial trouble looms on the horizon. People have no idea the amount of debt, unfunded liabilities, and financial obligations that exist globally that there is absolutely no viable solution for or hope of ever paying back. Normalcy bias, the belief that everything will just continue as usual because that's what it's always done, is what's going to make this so painful for the majority of the population. As the global banking system crashes in a planned implosion in hopes of bringing about a new monetary order built on CBDC's, carbon allowances and "social credit." The WEF is promoting a "Great Reset" and warning of a "cyber pandemic" that could wipe out society as we know it...crashing the banks would be very helpful in accomplishing those goals.

Meanwhile, Biden said, "Americans can rest assured that our banking system is safe. Your deposits are safe. ... Let me also assure you we will not stop at this. We will do whatever is needed on top of all this." While Yellen told senators that large banking institutions would be bailed out by the government while smaller banks would be allowed to die. When the politicians, media, and financial institutions are all telling you – in unison – not to worry, that's your cue to pay attention and prepare...it could be your final warning.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Censorship in the Budget

To the Editor:

Colchester's first selectman is using the annual budget to retaliate against the library for not removing the RuPaul book.

Remember last year when First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos went into the children's section of the library on a Friday afternoon looking for dirt? He thought he found it in the *Who is RuPaul?* book. He went so far over that weekend to blow up a picture of page 88, which shows RuPaul in a MAC cosmetic advertisement spelling the word, Viva. The move backfired and Bisbikos was educated about library processes.

Bisbikos is using the budget to lash out. In a move that echoes broader GOP actions (think Florida), Andreas Bisbikos has cut the library's book budget for the upcoming fiscal year by \$3,000. There has been no insight into why this cut was made, but you can easily surmise that it is in retaliation.

Censorship is a line item in our budget this year as the first selectman continues to target the library. Please show your support for the library by calling Town Hall 860-537-7200 or write your board members (bofchair@colchesterct.gov) and ask for justification of this cut.

Regards,
Amy Domeika – Colchester

Library Making Comeback

To the Editor:

Portland Library offers outdoor and online services and curbside pickup of materials as well as home delivery. The library is now approaching the level of activity experienced in 2019. I am happy to report meeting room use and program attendance continues to increase and will note Portland was above average in the state in 2022 for usage metrics for many services, number of visits and turnover of materials, children's borrowing and program attendance. Thanks to our loyal families: we continue to see amazing increases in children's borrowing, and robust numbers of family and youth attendance at programs. A variety of adult programs is also offered including book discussions and afternoon movies that have made a comeback!

When the library opened in 2021, following a timely interior improvement project, visitors at first were not yet ready to come back. Since then, visitors have come in and enjoy the updated decorating and more comfortable furnishings, additions of height-adjustable tables, ergonomic lounge seating for adults, chairs with writing tablets, and charging stations. The project was funded in large part by the Endowment Fund that is supported through invested donations; a State Library Construction Grant provided the remaining needed funds. Town Public Works staff help to guide the project and contributed among other things, a coat of fresh

paint to the public areas! Children's furnishings were also updated with support from donated funds, including generous memorial contributions in memory of Mrs. Philomena McKinstry.

The library could not enjoy such success without the continuing support of the Friends of the Library whose membership and Executive Board volunteer fundraising provide for funding for many services including programs for all ages. Thanks to all the staff who weathered pandemic challenges and that continue to work on improving services. The Town of Portland and the Library Board of Directors continue to provide strong support. Please visit the library, a place where all are welcome.

Janet Nocek, Director
Portland Library

Recent Pro-Trump Letters

To the Editor:

True Believer Trumpists spout absurdities: J-6th was but a peaceful romp; there were no casualties!

The Proud Boys and their followers were simply visiting.

They meant no harm to anyone, they only came to sing the praises of their idol the would-be tyrant Trump.

The True Believer Trumpists would play us for a chump!

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Senior Center Construction Starts

To the Editor:

As many of our citizens have seen over the past weeks, construction has begun on the new Colchester Senior Center. Our contractor, BRD Builders, has cut trees, removed stumps and is starting excavation work on the site. Soon, additional activities will begin. This is truly an exciting time for this project.

Installation of a temporary fence has been completed. The main purpose of this fence is to provide a layer of safety for the general public from going onto the property and for the contractor to maintain control of the site. The Senior Center Building Committee asks all residents to respect this barrier and ask that you please do not go onto the site. By nature, construction sites are dangerous areas, even when there is no ongoing activity. You are welcome to observe the work from the safety of the sidewalk on Lebanon Avenue and if you have questions regarding the activities, please forward an email to the Building Committee at: seniorcenterbuildingcommittee@colchesterct.gov

This site is monitored almost daily and someone will answer any questions you may have regarding the construction. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for April 21st at 10:30 a.m. As we get closer to that date, more information will be provided for the public to attend.

As currently scheduled, the preliminary site work, concrete foundations and under slab work should be completed by July and you will start to see the building rise from the ground.

If you have any questions, you can send an email to the email address previously noted.

Anthony J. Tarnowski, LEED A.P.
Chairman, Colchester Senior Center
Building Committee

Maple-Flavored Drama

To the Editor:

I was happy to see so many smiling faces at the Hebron Maple Festival. Unfortunately, the maple-flavored drama that played out days before the event was quite troubling. On March 7th, I contacted the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce, the festival management, and asked if I could rent a space to provide documented historical information on Hebron Center and the proposed site for a new Public Works facility. We had a pleasant conversation, with an understanding that I would keep my presentation to history and if asked about the facility I would suggest a later conversation or additional sources. This was found to be acceptable and a booth was available.

I sent payment and all seemed well until March 14, when I received an email from the Chamber representative that after review by an "event committee" my application was denied. The explanation given was, "I have been made aware that you have been historically very political and very negative about the town. You write articles for the *Rivereast* every week." I wondered how writing to the "*Rivereast*" was an offense, and perhaps even more, if the Democratic Town Committee and the Republican Town Committee were "historically very political," since both organizations have booths.

However, nothing prepared me for the email

I received from the Chamber representative on March 16. Also sent to the Board of Selectmen, the missive contained an attack against my honesty, integrity and intentions. As disconcerting as it was, the Chamber and "event committee," which turns out included "several department heads and the Town Manager," did me a favor. I was granted space on private property, which allowed me to speak openly about the history, the environmental risks and significant impact on our taxes. Thank you all and visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

He's at it Again

To the Editor:

The clarion clamorer is at it again. Ed Smith never ceases to amaze *Rivereast* readers.

You seem to think that Trump was the only president to have rich friends. Not sure about Soros, Oprah, Bezos all being friends of Trump? Bank failures and train derailments were Trumps fault because Pete Buttigieg, KJP, MS-NBC and CNN told you so? You certainly don't know any of it first-hand. Already proven train deregulations had nothing to do with the derailment, nice try. Nice that "exceptional" Joe went to visit Ohio because he cares to unite everyone, even if they voted for?

Why are people you mention like Pelosi, Barack and your favorite Joe based on their government salaries so rich? How is it Joe owns multiple million dollar estates? It's just so hard to believe (fake news) that Hunter, "the Big Guy" and other Biden family members received money via an intermediary that's linked to the Chinese. It's only Trump and those darn Republicans who could be so corrupt, right Ed?

How many documents have the Democratic Party released that were heavily redacted? What's your point? A true Democrat never takes responsibility for any of their actions.

Speaking of Jan. 6th insurrectionists being sent to jail. You mean that courteous prayer making QAnon Shaman Jacob Chansley? Sent to jail based only on footage the committee wanted to show, not what they didn't want his lawyer to see? Fox News shows a man being escorted thru the capitol by armed security which he says a prayer for and they couldn't take him down? Yeah, he's a rioter alright.

Don't think Fox News is imploding as much as you'd like or think them to be. Ratings show it's the most popular news network. Wonder why?

Ostrich, keep that clarion clamoring!
Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough

Trump at Last Embraces QAnon

To the Editor:

Trump has embraced white supremacists, neo-Nazis, anti-Semites, the Proud Boys, male chauvinists, and a host of other causes against immigrants. It sounds like the 1920s in America.

Like a cornered rat, he seeks to avoid the U.S. legal system which is closing in on this would-be dictator. He is now even more openly trying to incite violence by his ill-informed followers. QAnon is the final straw!

Meanwhile, the Party of Trump for the most part stays silent.

Elections count at all levels: city, state and national. Informed electors are essential to our democracy. Please remember that no man is above the law, and that our Democracy is at stake.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Don't Parse Advertisements

To the Editor:

Recent editions of the *Bulletin* featured advertisements for Central Connecticut Arms, a gun retailer doing business in Portland. The ad was specific for a Glock handgun sale. A letter writer expressed concern over such an add being published by the *Bulletin*. Although respectful of the 2nd Amendment, the writer's thesis that such an ad does not meet the standards of "contributing to the greater good of our society" is a stretch. Why eliminate just gun ads? Should we also remove liquor ads?

Sobering U.S. stats: 32 alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths/day, >11K/year. 42% of victims <25 years old. ~88K/year alcohol-related deaths (accidents/disease). ~6% of the adult population has an alcohol problem. ~80% of college students drink alcohol. ~70% of high school students have consumed alcohol by age 18. Alcohol is also the most abused drug used by high school students.

In order to purchase a gun of any kind, you require a legal, up-to-date license obtained only

through registration, fingerprinting, and FBI background check. When you purchase a fifth of bourbon, all you need is proof you're 21. The liquor store doesn't require your DMV records, nor a signed affidavit from a doctor stating you're not an alcoholic.

So, while we should all share a common goal of "contributing to the greater good of our society," let's not go down the morality rabbit hole. If we are going to try and expunge all of our social vices, how about ads for restaurants? Obesity is a huge problem, specifically in the U.S., that causes all kinds of health related yearly deaths and drains the health care system.

Of course, nothing is perfect and there are exceptions to every rule. But parsing advertisements on very shaky logic is not the way to go. Where does it end?

Warm wishes,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Our Citizens Deserve Accurate Reporting

To the Editor:

As chair of the East Hampton Board of Education's Policy and Curriculum Committee, I was stunned by last week's article "Local Schools Pen Code of Conduct for Coaches" by Jack Lakowsky. The author based much of his article on an untrue premise and carelessly "reported" easily verifiable non-factual details. The inaccuracies contained in the article misled and misinformed the citizens of East Hampton on an important and sensitive issue. The subject – a Code of Conduct for Coaches – has not even been discussed at the committee level, let alone "penned," developed, deliberated or adopted by the East Hampton Board of Education. Policy, bylaw, regulation and guideline development follows a very specific process from the introduction of a draft at the committee level to discussion and vote for adoption by the entire Board of Education in a public meeting. Any reporter assigned to the "education beat" should be expected to know and respect this process.

Resulting from a lack of attention to a basic tenet of journalism – verify, verify, verify – this article is just the latest example of lazy and irresponsible reporting. Our citizens deserve better.

Nancy Oakley
East Hampton
Board of Education Vice Chair
Policy and Curriculum Committee Chair

EHAA

To the Editor:

As a town citizen and member of the East Hampton Ambulance Association BOD, I write to share my concerns about recent events surrounding the association's request for subsidized funding. While the Town Council members are elected officials representing the best interest of East Hampton, I am concerned there are challenges amongst them. I urge you to vote in the upcoming elections and attend public Town Council meetings to be an informed resident. There are decisions being made without public consideration seemingly and more in line with personal interests of the council itself. You can have a voice at these meetings!!

The EHAA asked for subsidized funding from the town to assist with development of a paid model of staff and volunteers to respond to 911 medical calls. The town has had the distinct benefit of having a private association fund these services for the last 70 years. This has been a huge financial benefit for the town. The EHAA experienced a decrease in membership in recent years. It can sustain with paid staff and volunteers to provide the same engagement. The Town Council is interested in an organization to come into the town to provide the service in place of EHAA. They believe this will cost the town nothing, assuming mistakenly they will take over EHAA assets to do so. The EHAA is a private organization held to our own bylaws as has been the case for 70 years.

Come to the Town Council public meetings and listen to the content for yourself. It is in your best interest. Thank you to the EHAA members and families who have supported this program for 70 years. We are better because of you as a town.

Thank you,
Heidi Joseph, DNP, MSN, RN
Vice President, Board of Directors
East Hampton Ambulance Association

Turning a Blind Eye

To the Editor:

Many have expressed concerns on social media regarding the new Colchester Senior Center site on Lebanon Avenue since all of the trees and foliage were recently cleared, leaving wetlands

See Letters, page 33

Obituaries

Colchester

Phyllis H. Hutchins

Phyllis H. Hutchins, fondly known as "Barney," passed away Tuesday, March 14, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. She was 88 years old.

Phyllis was born in Carthage, N.Y., on May 26, 1934, a daughter of the late Luther and Clara (Charron) Shaw. She grew up and attended school at St. Augustinian Academy in Carthage and then earned her nursing degree from the Good Samaritan School of Nursing. After graduation, Phyllis worked at both the Carthage and Good Samaritan hospitals before moving to Connecticut where she worked for a time at the Newtoning VA Hospital and later for the Colchester Nursing and Rehab Center. Phyllis truly loved caring for others as a nurse. Her career was a labor of love and she pursued it for more than 30 years.

Phyllis married Richard Hutchins on Jan. 30, 1954, when the couple began a lifetime of love and adventure. They moved their family to Amston in 1966 and then on to Colchester in 1970, where they settled in to raise their seven children. They returned to Carthage for a time after retiring. They shared 61 years together before Richard predeceased her on March 17, 2015.

A woman of faith, Phyllis was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester. She was an avid fan of the Yankees baseball and the UConn basketball teams. In her free time, she loved playing cards with her family, where she usually held the winning hand. Phyllis loved to bowl and played with several leagues over the years. She also loved to travel, do word puzzles, sit quietly with a good book, or plant flowers in her own front yard. Most importantly, she loved to spend time with her seven children, 15 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. The legacy she leaves, which gave her the greatest pride and joy.

Her loss will be felt by all who knew her but she will be remembered always with love by her children and their spouses, Donald (Janice) Hutchins of Colchester, David (Andie) Hutchins of Lebanon, Ronald (Dee-Anne Saitta) Hutchins of Colchester, Laurie (Mark) Winter of S. Chesterfield, Va., Elaine (Gary) Tredor of Colchester, Sally (Jean) Fauteux of Lebanon; 15 grandchildren, Dawn, Matthew, Ken, Kevin, Sean, Melissa, April, Emily, Rachael, Jennifer, Michael, Karen, Chelsea, Crystal and Chantal; 23 great-grandchildren; her goddaughter and niece, Karen Gulick; and a host of extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a daughter, Linda Dickey, and three siblings, Burton Shaw, Clinton Shaw and Doris Hall.

Calling hours were held at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Friday, March 17. The funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to Disabled American Veterans, www.dav.org, or Boys Town, www.support.boystown.org, or American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Phyllis, please visit www.auroramc-carthyfuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

Thomas A. Turck Sr.

On Tuesday, March 14, Thomas A. Turck Sr., loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully at the age of 85.

Tom was born Dec. 20, 1937, in Deer Park, Ohio, to the late George and Marietta Turck. He went to the University of Cincinnati and worked as a packaging engineer for 23 years at Procter and Gamble. Tom also worked for Meridian Diagnostics before retiring. On Feb. 17, 1962, he married Judy Turck (née Lankford). They raised two children, Thomas Turck Jr., and Alison Sroka (née Turck).

Tom loved nature was an avid conservationist. He was a proud member of several conservation groups in Cincinnati, including Green Acres and the Sir Isaac Walton League. He also started his own conservation group called Lakes and Ponds. When Tom moved to Connecticut, he was an active member of conservation groups through Lake Pocotopaug. Tom also enjoyed volunteering in civic organizations including the Montgomery Kiwanis and the Loveland Players.

Tom was an active member of the Ohio National Guard. He also enjoyed spending time in his workshop, building birdhouses, feeders, and trinkets for his grandchildren.

Besides his wife Judy, Tom is survived by his children, Tom Jr. and Alison; daughter-in-law, Jennifer Magrone of Malden, Mass.; son-in-law, Xenos Sroka of Portland; two sisters, Gloria D'Andrea and Mary Albrecht, both of Ohio; four grandchildren, Hannah Sroka, Haley Sroka, Matilda Turck, and Liam Turck. Tom was predeceased by two sisters, Joan Flour and Donna Grimes, and two brothers, George Turck Jr. and John Turck. Tom also had numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were privately held. There will be a memorial luncheon held Saturday, April 1, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Village of South Farms, 645 Saybrook Rd., Middletown.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to their conservation charity of choice.

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



Jack (Amanda), Laura (Jake), Richard (Anna) and Ryan (Topher). Her eight great-grandchildren were the light of her life, especially these last few years; Ana, Delilah, Juliet, Madeline, Trent, Kyleigh, Cameron and Brennie.

She was predeceased by her beloved son, Earl J. Haagensen.

A sincere thank you to the staff at Apple Rehab Colchester for the heartfelt care you have given her during these past years.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, April 3, from 4-6 p.m. Private burial will be held Tuesday, April 4, at Green Cemetery in Glastonbury.

Donations in her memory can be made to smiletrain.org or to the charity of your choice.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Lillian Shlien Mally

Lillian (Reznik) Shlien Mally, 92, of Portland, passed away Saturday, March 18, at her home. Born in Bronx, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Max and Pauline (Griener) Reznik.

Lillian lived in Portland for over 70 years, where she was active in the community and made many friends. She was a member of Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue and was employed at Middlesex Mutual Insurance for over ten years. Lillian enjoyed traveling, including a trip to Europe in her 80s. She was known for her humor and her baked spiced apples. Lillian enjoyed always looking her best, was a lover of animals and loved to help people in need.

Lillian is survived by two sons, Mark Shlien of Bonita Springs, Fla., and Paul Shlien of Hartford; a daughter, Edna Shlien of South Windsor; sister-in-law, Ruth Reznik of Los Angeles, Calif.; six nieces and nephews and a great nephew.

Along with her parents, Lillian was predeceased by two husbands, Harold Shlien and Seymour Mally, and two brothers, Joseph Reznik and Alex Reznik.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, March 22, in Adath Israel Cemetery, 714 Pine St., Middletown. Please omit flowers.

Donations in Lillian's memory may be made to Cat Tales, Inc., P.O. Box 901, Middletown, CT 06457 or American Cancer Society, 111 Founders Plaza, 2nd Floor, East Hartford, CT 06108. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.



Hebron

Milton Gerald Cyr

Milton Gerald Cyr, 89, of Hebron, formerly of Madawaska, Maine, passed away peacefully on the morning of Sunday, March 12, at his home, surrounded by his family. Born Feb. 10, 1934, in Millinocket, Maine, he was a son of the late Vital and Minnie Cyr.

In 1954, Milton served our nation by enlisting in the United States Army. After honorably serving, he married his wife, the late Odette Bouchard, in 1958; they shared 48 years of marriage together, until she predeceased him in 2007. During their marriage, the couple settled down in Madawaska, Maine, where they raised their family. Milton was the proud owner and operator of Milton's Barber Shop where he worked until his retirement in 2006. During his years in Maine, he was an active member in the Optimist Club, also served on the task force board in Madawaska for the Town, and became active in the American Legion and VFW. He was a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

In 2015, he moved to Hebron to be closer to his children and grandchildren. After moving to Hebron, he remained active with the American Legion and VFW and was a communicant of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron.

He is survived by his sons, Mark Cyr of Berlin, Wayne (Jean) Cyr of Ashford and Dale (Penny) Cyr of Hebron; sister, Carlene (Joseph) Dumond of Newington; sister-in-law Carlene Cyr of Old Orchard Beach, Maine; former daughter-in-law Maryanne Cyr of Berlin; grandchildren, Joshua (Joelle) Cyr, Justin (Hannah) Cyr, JaNae (Jeremy) Kent, Jessica Cyr, Christine Cyr, David Cyr, Paige Cyr, Morgan Cyr and Taylor Cyr; great-granddaughters AvaJean Kent and Nora Cyr; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, he is predeceased by his brother Paul Cyr and sister Theresa Larson.

The family would like to give thanks to Grace Crowley for being a loving companion to Milton for the last three years.

Calling hours were held Thursday, March 23, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415. A memorial Mass will be held today, Friday, March 24, at 10 a.m. directly at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St, Amston. Burial will take place at a date to be determined in the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Caribou, Maine.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Milton, please visit www.auroramc-carthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Josephine C. Haagensen

Josephine C. Haagensen, 90, of Colchester, formerly of Hebron/Glastonbury, widow of Erling J. "Earl" Haagensen, passed away peacefully Monday, March 20, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. Born March 19, 1933, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late John and Mary (Camilleri) Colcolla.

Josephine worked as a real estate agent for the Beazley Agency in Colchester. She also enjoyed gardening and was a former member of the Country Gardeners of Glastonbury and a member of the Colchester Senior Center. She fiercely loved her friends and family.

She is survived by her daughters, Eileen Higgins (John) of East Hampton, Susan Haagensen (David Morgan) of East Hampton, Claudia Soprano (John) of Cromwell and daughter-in-law Missy Haagensen of South Windham; her six grandchildren, Jondahl (Jeff), Nathan (Lyndita),



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East Hampton

Bernard I. Welch

Bernard "Bernie" I. Welch, 85, of East Hampton, loving husband of 62 years of Janet (Jarvis) Welch, passed away Sunday, March 12. Born in Bath, N.H. on Sept. 10, 1937, a son of the late Freeman C. and Effie E. (Green) Welch, he had been a resident and supporter of East Hartford for many years, most recently living in East Hampton.

Bernie was a veteran of the U.S. Army and the proud owner of Bernie's Roofing and the Welch Roofing Companies of East Hartford. He loved the Boston Red Sox, playing cribbage and duckpin bowling. He was a lifelong member of Loyal Order of Moose and the Elks. He camped for many years at Indianfield Campground in Salem, where they made many friends. Bernie loved working with his son Scott and was cherished by their many customers. He was always ready to help who ever needed him and his family meant everything.

In addition to his parents, 11 brothers, three sisters, and his beloved daughter, Jeanette (Welch) Murphy of East Hampton, predeceased Bernie.

Along with his wife Janet, Bernie is survived by his daughter, Brenda Evans, her husband David and grandson Seth of Independence, Kan.; his son, Scott Welch, his wife Rhonda, grandchildren Jake and Cameron Welch of Glastonbury and Alexandra Welch of Newport, R.I. Also his "daughter," Denise Hornbecker, her husband Robert of Gainesville, Ga., and their sons; as well as two sisters, Shirley Fadden and Ruth Bomeig of New Hampshire. Bernie will also be remembered by many special in-laws, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Bernie's incredible life was held Monday, March 20, at D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford. Burial with military honors followed at Veterans Memorial Field-Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home chapel on Monday morning, before the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in Bernie's name may be made to Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, 45 Clara Drive, Mystic, CT 06355.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoech.com.



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Obituaries cont.

Colchester

John Federkiewicz

John Stanley Federkiewicz, of Colchester, passed away suddenly at his home Wednesday, March 15. He was 80 years old. John was born in Hartford on April 26, 1942, the son of the late Stanley and Mary (Jednowicz) Federkiewicz.



John graduated from Conard High School in West Hartford and soon after he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. John served on the U.S.S. Mathews for a four-year tour of duty during the Vietnam War. Immediately upon his discharge from the Navy, he married his beloved wife of 56 years, Patricia (O'Donnell) Federkiewicz on March 30, 1966. The couple settled in Colchester where they made their home and raised their son, Jeff. John retired in 2002 after a long and successful career as a maintenance mechanic for United Tool and Die in West Hartford.

John was a talented hobbyist woodworker, making ornate birdhouses and many other treasures. John enjoyed gardening and loved to take care of his yard. John will be remembered as a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

He will be remembered always with love by his wife, Pat; his son, Jeff and his wife Tammie of Salem; a grandson, Kyle of East Haddam; a sister, Carol Boucher and her husband, Frank of Virginia; and several extended family members and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Wednesday, March 22, with full military honors. Burial will be private in the Westchester Center Cemetery.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of John, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Shaun Parmelee Sr.

Shaun Michael Parmelee Sr., 51, died unexpectedly Saturday, March 11, after suffering a stroke. He was born July 28, 1971, in Hartford. He grew up in Middletown, with a love of building and constructing – whether it was with Lego bricks or pieces of wood – that made his career as an electrician inevitable.



He was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 35 and was employed by McPhee Electric for 28 years where he was a mentor to many and a friend to all. Shaun always made a lasting impression with his dry wit, easy laugh, and mischievous smile.

He was an accomplished athlete and an avid sports fan. He excelled at varsity soccer during his years at Xavier High School, Middletown. From an early age he loved dirt bikes. Whether that was fixing or riding them, which ultimately led to his love for motocross. He raced competitively for years, regularly placing in the top three in his age group at events throughout New England. As an avid sports fan, motocross, the NFL and soccer were at the top of his list.

Shaun was many things: funny, generous, thoughtful and kind, but above all, he was a devoted family man. Shaun married the love of his life Heather Mabey-Parmelee on March 23, 1991, and together they raised their three sons. Shaun leaves behind his wife Heather Mabey-Parmelee, who was his high school sweetheart, and despite the odds succeeded in love and life. They would've celebrated 32 years of marriage this month and 37 years together.

Shaun's greatest accomplishments were his children, Shaun Jr. and Christina, Tyler and Megan, Ryan, and Dexter; his two granddaughters, Madelyn and Peyton, along with his excitement for his newest addition, a granddaughter from Tyler and Meg, whose projected due date is on Shaun's birthday. He is also survived by his parents, Craig and Sheila, and his brothers and their spouses, Craig and Jen and Jim and Holly. Shaun also had a very special relationship with Heather's family and was a son, brother, uncle, and godparent.

He is predeceased by his mother-in-law, Dawn Mabey, and his father-in-law, Frank Mabey.

Shaun was always there to lend a hand to a friend or family member in need and he will be

greatly missed. Visitation services will be held today, Friday, March 24, from 3-6 p.m., at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester. A funeral for close family and friends will be held Saturday, March 25.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to his wife, Heather Parmelee, to help with unexpected expenses; donations can be made by visiting gofund.me/191c5f0e.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Shaun, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Steven L. Pratt

Steven L. Pratt, 73, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home Thursday, March 16. Born in Middletown Dec. 29, 1949, he was the first-born son of the late Lawrence E. and Hilda Ann (Dempster) Pratt.



Steven was a proud U.S. Army veteran. He served both in Germany and Vietnam. After leaving the military, Steven earned a degree in civil engineering from the Hartford Community College. He worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for many years before becoming a dealer at Foxwoods Casino, retiring after 15 years. He was a life member of the VFW Post 594 Norwich and was a 30-year member of the Moose Lodge 950 in Bozrah. He was an avid golfer and sports fan, particularly the Dallas Cowboys.

Steven was known for his ever-present smile and very much enjoyed the many friendships he made over the years, most recently in Dublin Village in Colchester. Most importantly, he loved his family, and was especially proud of his niece and nephews.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his brother, Ronald, and his two sons, Ian and Jesse, and his sister and brother-in-law, Janice and Roy, and their son, Derek, and daughter, Shanna.

A celebration of Steven's life will be held Monday, March 27, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a burial with full military honors at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown at 1 p.m.; all are welcome to attend.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, www.dav.org.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Steven, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Kenny Stacey Smith

Mrs. Kenny Stacey Smith, 77, beloved widow of Douglas Byron Smith Jr., died after a long illness on Monday, March 6, at Orchard Grove nursing home in Uncasville. She was the daughter of Eugene Edgar Stacey and Marion Anderson Stacey, both deceased, and was born in Lincoln, Neb. She had two siblings – a sister, Emily Ruth, born in 1949 and a brother, George Kelly, born in 1959.



The family moved several times during her childhood, living in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, and Kenny graduated from Norwin High School in Irwin, Pa., in 1963. She worked as a secretary after receiving a business certificate from Power College in Pittsburgh, Pa.

After moving with her family to McMurray, Pa., Kenny met and married her first husband, David Alden Aldrich, in 1965, and they had two children – Kelly Lynn, born in 1966 and Alden Eugene, born in 1970. After David's tour of duty in Vietnam in the U.S. Army, the family lived in the Pittsburgh area for 10, years where Kenny was a homemaker who enjoyed raising her children, spending time with extended family, and volunteering in the community and local schools. In 1976, they moved to Brownsville, Vt., where Kenny lived for over 20 years. She worked as a switchboard operator and later as an office manager at Johnson & Dix Fuel Oil Company until her retirement in 1997.

Having divorced in 1986, Kenny met and married her second husband, Douglas Byron Smith Jr., at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Windsor, Vt., in 1993. They lived in Vermont until 1998 when they moved to Florida, living first in Cedar Key and then in Homosassa, where they were active members of Saint Anne's

Episcopal Church in Crystal River.

Kenny and Doug spent their retirement years traveling the East Coast and visiting friends and family in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Alabama, South Carolina, Hawaii, Washington D.C., and throughout New England, often with their children and/or grandchildren in tow. They took a cruise along the coast of Alaska and spent many vacations at their time share in Aruba. Another favorite destination was Naushon Island, part of the Elizabeth Islands near Cape Cod, Mass., where they spent several weeks each summer boating, swimming, hiking, and watching their grandchildren learn to walk, swim, and ride horses. Kenny also had the opportunity to tour the Holy Lands on a meaningful and educational week-long trip with her daughter and granddaughter.

After the death of her beloved husband Doug in 2011, Kenny moved to Rocky Hill to be closer to her children and grandchildren, later living in assisted living residences in Glastonbury, Hartford, Hebron and Uncasville.

Kenny was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and cousin. She was faithful Christian who loved her church and her God, and she participated in committee work, Bible study, women's groups, and religious retreats. She was both a Girl Scout leader and a Cub Scout den mother, and she volunteered answering calls for the WISE domestic abuse hotline.

Kenny enjoyed bird-watching, gardening, baking, cooking, reading, and cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers as a devoted fan. She loved her pets, especially her standard poodle, Copé, and her Persian cat, Frankie Blu. She will be remembered for her funny stories, quick wit, sharp tongue, and generous spirit.

Kenny is survived by her sister, Emily Copas of Laurelville, Ohio; her brother, George Stacey of North Andover, Mass.; two children, Kelly Ouellette (James) of Colchester and Alden Aldrich (Kristina) of Enfield, N.H.; three stepdaughters, Ellen Bradford (James) of Lewes, Del., Elizabeth Jewell of Enfield, N.H., and Emilee VanReeth of Windsor, Vt.; six grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Care of private funeral arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to the National Audubon Society (New York, N.Y.), the American Alzheimer's Association (Chicago, Ill.), or the WISE Crisis Prevention & Advocacy Program (Lebanon, N.H.).

LEGALS

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE

The East Hampton Police have recovered the following items as lost property. If you are the owner of the following property, please contact the East Hampton PD at (860)267-9922 during business hours.
1. Leather Jacket
2. Keys on lanyard
3. Rings
4. Black bicycle
2TB 3/24, 3/31

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

At its meeting of March 15, 2023, the Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:
David B. Damato – 115 Mill Hill Rd – Site Plan PZC 2023-004
The Commission **APPROVED** the application to construct a 600 sq ft accessory structure.
All modifications/condition are on file in the Planning Department.
A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk's office.
Planning and Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair
1TB 3/24

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

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

* Letters cont. from page 31

areas and a vernal pool unprotected. I'm not aware of any permits obtained for conducting regulated activities in wetlands and watercourses or aquifer protection areas as respectively required by the Conservation and Planning & Zoning commissions. However, the absence of any erosion control measurements that would be required under such permits leads me to believe there are none.

Shocked residents have also expressed concerns over the apparent hypocrisy of the Conservation Commission, describing being bullied over insignificant activities, many of which aren't even legally regulated by the commission. For example, one resident expressed that she was threatened with legal action for relocating two blueberry bushes mistakenly planted within a wetland. Another relayed an elderly resident was bullied over cutting back overgrown shrubs extending from a conservation easement. The commission also required an Amston Road property owner to spend thousands to obtain a wetlands survey and planting plan because he cut back Phragmites australis, an invasive species occurring in and near wetland areas that outcompetes native species, forming dense monotypic colonies – a nonregulated activity the Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Control Program actually recommends that property owners perform. A resident opined that the Conservation Commission routinely treats small wetlands areas on private property like they're the Holy Grail but then turns a blind eye when the town despoils substantial wetlands areas.

Colchester's boards and commissions cannot continue to render decisions that are contrary to existing laws and regulations and inequitable to private properties versus municipal activities. Additionally, immediate enforcement action should be taken for the violations that have occurred at the new Senior Center site.

With Concern,
DeAva Lambert – Colchester

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND

On 11/23/23 the Zoning Enforcement Officer of the Town of Portland Issued a Certificate of Zoning Compliance for **6 FT Fence** located at **57 Payne Blvd** to applicant **Michael C. Barnett**. An aggrieved person may appeal the Certification to the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with the provisions of Sections 8-7 of the Ct. General Statutes, as amended. 1TB 3/24

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 Marlboroughnet.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

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.



Enjoying Iceland... Christine Darczyn-Nielsen of Amston is shown here at the Seljalandsfoss waterfall, located in the South Region in Iceland. The waterfall drops 60 meters and is part of the Seljalands River that has its origin in the volcano glacier Eyjafjallajökull.



Rivereast Hears Wedding Bells!... Pictured are Karl Skwiot Jr. and Sarah (Johnson) Skwiot on their wedding day! The two were married March 1 in Fairbanks, Alaska. They bought their first home here in East Hampton in December. The day was filled with love and beauty, and a bit of snowmobiling!! Thanks for bringing the *Rivereast* along on your big day – and congratulations!



Visiting the Rainforest... Steve Friedberg of Colchester, son Josian and grandson Eden are shown here visiting the El Yunque rainforest in Puerto Rico!



On Top of Mt. Bachelor... From the top of Mt. Bachelor in Oregon, here are members of the Juenger-Bordick family of Amston enjoying their *Rivereast*!

Where in the World?

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

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

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

\$25 GIFT CARD

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Fine Italian & American Cuisine
151 Marlborough Street (Rt 66), Portland

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its Special Meeting on March 16, 2023 took the following action:
PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED; APPLICATION CONTINUED: APPLICATION #Z-01-23- C&B Marlborough Associates LLC (Applicant/Property owner) 41-45 Hebron Rd. 1 MW solar installation. Public Hearing set for April 6, 2023.
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED; APPLICATION APPROVED: APPLICATION #Z-02-23-Hazel Licratz/Farm at Carter Hill (Applicant/Property owner) 86 E. Hampton Rd. Special Permit Public Events. KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following:
Application #22-24: 60 West Cotton Hill Road. Proposed 3 lot subdivision. Application and property of Bill and Jennifer Mizener. Map 100, Lot 12, Zone R-25.
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT this 20th day of March 2023
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON- WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in East Hampton that the **second installment** of the sewer use payment is due and payable on April 1, 2023. The last day on which to pay without penalty is May 1, 2023. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2023. The October bill was a three-part form which includes the April installment.**
Payments received May 2, 2023 and later, including payments postmarked May 2, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before May 1, 2023 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.
As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.
Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online at www.mytaxbill.net/easthampton **Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.**
Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.
Respectively Submitted,
Scott Clayton
Public Utilities Administrator

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on April 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
PZC-23-002: Michael Bakaj, 37 South Main Street, Zone Change from HOD to R-2, Map 20/ Block 51/ Lot 27
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman
Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450

LEGAL NOTICE

Residents in the sewer district in the Town of Marlborough are notified that Benefit Assessment bills are due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA), April 1, 2023. The last day to pay without interest is May 1, 2023. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% per month reverting to the due date of April 1 or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5.00. Checks must be made out to MWPCA, sewer bills cannot be paid on-line. Payments may be paid at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street or mailed to MWPCA Collector, P.O. Box 29, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a Drop Box, checks only and NO cash, to the left of the Town Hall door. Normal office hours for the Tax Office are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm, Tuesdays 8:30am-7pm and Fridays 8:30am – noon.
Respectfully submitted,
Barbara C Murray

TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on April 5, 2023, beginning at 7:00 P.M. in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following petition(s):
1. PZC 2023-001 of HWY 95, LLC (Applicant) and Tri Town Plaza, LLC (Owner) - Special Permit Application for proposed Adult-Use Cannabis Retail in existing multi-tenant retail plaza at 493 Westchester Road (Assessor's ID 03-17/013-000). Zoning District: Westchester Village (WV)
2. PZC 2023-002 of the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission (Applicant) - Proposed Amendments to Sections 3.2, 3.4, 4.2, 5.3.1, 5.7.2, 15.3, and 20.4 of the Land Development (Zoning) Regulations.
3. PZC 2023-003 of ARK Distillery, LLC (Applicant) and ARK Station, LLC (Owner) - Special Permit Application for proposed distillery at 200 Lebanon Avenue (Assessor's ID 22-00/039-000). Zoning District: Town Center (TC).
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).
Planning and Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair


REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

EAST HAMPTON 1 BEDROOM WATERFRONT APARTMENT with heat, hot water included, laundry and boating. Security deposit, no pets. \$925. 860-617-5369.

FOR RENT: AMSTON LAKE SEASONAL COTTAGE: Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms, air/heat, screened porch, washer/dryer, lake view. Avail weekly \$950 plus security and cleaning or monthly rates calculated based on length of stay. Available as of April 16th. 113 Deepwood Drive Lebanon. Contact Rita 860-207-7680

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF. Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, sterling coins, kitchenware, cookware, automotive, books, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy 860-874-8396.

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EMPLOYMENT

NEW SALON IN GLASTONBURY CHAIR RENTAL AVAILABLE. Beautiful space and wonderful location on Main Street. Call/text Dominique 860-759-3784.

COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS: is looking for part time liquor store clerk. Stop in person to apply at store, 99 Linwood Avenue, Colchester, CT.

MANUFACTURING COMPANY looking for someone to join our team and learn how to run small machines and other manufacturing duties. Looking to train the right candidate. We work 10-hour days M-Th. Pay is \$17/hour with potential raise after 90-day probation. Mohawk manufacturing 860-632-2345 (Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm)

SEEKING CAREER-MOTIVATED professional to join our kitchen team at Glastonbury Hills Country Club. Must have culinary experience/sanitation and food safety skills. Must have own transportation. Call Tim at 860-633-5253.

PAINTER AND HELPER WANTED: Must have transportation to Glastonbury. Commercial work. Year round. Full Time. Call 860-659-2023 M thru F after 1pm.

HELP WANTED: CASO'S HVAC, LLC, East Hampton, CT is now hiring Commercial & Residential HVAC Mechanics/Technicians. B2 or S2 License Required. Must have at least 5 years experience. We offer competitive hourly wages. Please email resume to casohvac@comcast.net or call 860-267-5851.

PART-TIME COOK: 3-4 days/wk, includes every other weekend. Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509

FULL TIME OFFICE HELP Small local company offering a full time clerical position. Candidate must be able to multi-task and be well organized. One of the primary duties includes assisting in the development of project sales quotations. Other duties may include phone answering, filing, order entry & expediting. Training provided. \$20-\$25 an hour DOE / Plus benefits! Apply in person at: Yost Associates 224 Eastern Blvd., Glastonbury M-F 8:00-5:00 Positively no phone calls

COOK WANTED: at busy Bar/Grill in Hebron CT. Stop in to Butterballs Greenleaf Cafe on Rt.66

Full Time Maintenance Mechanic/Counter Assistance Help Wanted For Rental Business

Job will include maintenance on multiple types of equipment, including small lawn and garden equipment, chippers, skidsteers, sharpening hedge trimmers and other tools, & helping assist with phones and customers at the counter. Applicant must have own tools, be able to operate multiple types of equipment, have a valid driver's license, and work well with customers, and other employees. Will train as needed on different types of equipment, but a general mechanical knowledge is a must! Pay rate based on experience.

Call 860-537-4256 and speak with Tony or Jason

WANTED: AUTO TECH

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394 North Main Street
Marlborough, CT 06447
860-295-9517

APPLY WITHIN

FREELANCE REPORTERS

We are looking for skilled freelance writers to report on local government, meetings and community events in the towns we serve - Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

Must be able to report news clearly and meet important weekly deadlines.

Please send cover letter, resume and any writing clips or samples to:
greg@rarereminder.com

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Apply online at www.foxhopyard.com
or in person at 1 Hopyard Road, East Haddam, CT

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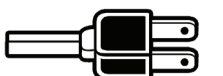
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FOR SALE: RIDGID PIPE THREADING STAND, USED . COMPLETE SET OF RIDGID , R12 pipe threading dies -1/2"-2" used plus ratchet handle .pipe stand(to support long pipes) used. ridgid , hand reamer, used. ridgid pipe cutter #2A, used. Power drive threader, toledo brand #68, used. Reed, pipe threading die set for sch. 80 plastic pipe ,1/2"-2" used with ratchet handle. Extra dies, 3/8",1/4",1". Extra ratchet handle Ridgid, with 1/2" die, used. Ridgid offset e.m.t. bender, used, mod. 1810 -1/2". Call george 860-742-1499 to get pics and prices .

FOR SALE: Older King Size maple headboard great shape \$50. 4 Gun Oak Locking wall mount gun rack w/ drawer \$100. 6ft. chain link panels, various lengths. For pricing call 860-295-9974

END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT. Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. The Glastonbury Citizen 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

FOR SALE: JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 2014. White, 81,000 miles, Loaded, leather, nag, hitch, like new, clear title, recent tires/brakes, dealer serviced / inspected 3/6/23. \$17,500 Call 860-712-6257

FOR SALE: 2003 TRIUMPH SPEED MASTER MOTORCYCLE. \$2200/ BO In excellent condition. Call 860-435-0964.

FOR SALE: WOOD SOLD IN HALF OR FULL CORD. Split and seasoned. \$270/ cord. \$135/ half. 503-367-7513 Haddam Neck. Ask about steel racks also for sale.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: \$240/full cord \$140/half cord Call Troy 860 338 6283

FOR SALE: 2021 Forest River Cherokee Camper \$30,000. Model 264DBH. Like new. Excellent condition, low miles. 33 Ft long with bumpout. Large bedroom, fireplace, double bunks, full bath, full kitchen, A/C, outside kitchen, awning. Call or text Jim 860-803-0291.

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE: \$200/cord. Local delivery around Columbia. Call 860-335-8148 or 860-428-4398

FOR SALE : ENTERTAINMENT CENTER- 3 pieces with glass doors \$325. MAYTAG dryer \$50. NEW grey bathroom vanity, 4 drawers and cabinets, 2 sinks and a granite countertop \$800 (paid \$1700) Call #860-490-0652

FOR SALE: 2017 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 HD Z-71 All Star Addition. Super clean, never plowed. New tires and front brakes. Roll & Lock Bed Cover 71,500 miles. \$38,500 Call 860-685-1487

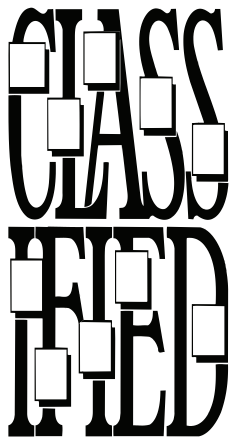
TAG SALES

FLEA MARKET: WINDHAM AREA INTERFAITH MINISTRY will hold **SPRING FLEA MARKET** March 25th 8am-12pm. 866 Main Street. Lamps, wicker chairs, costume jewelry, collectibles, curio cabinets.



TAG SALE IN HOME IN HEBRON. MONDAY THRU SUNDAY March 27th - April 2nd. 7AM-7PM. CALL 860-993-3637. Everything Winter must go. Womens' absolutley fashionable clothing, Fur-lined Jackets, Coats, Sweaters, Hats, Scarfs. I'm sure there is something waiting for you.

ESTATE SALE: 79 Old Farms Roads, South Glastonbury, APRIL 1st & 2nd. 9am - 6 pm. Upholstery. Many imports. Lighting and Art. Cash and Carry. 860-922-0371



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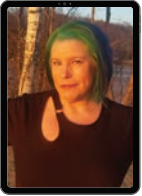
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