



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Happy Birthday Maddie!... On Feb. 22, Colchester resident Madeline Grant celebrated her 102nd birthday! Madeline, who likes to be called "Maddie," lives at Complete Care at Harrington Court where she has many friends among the other residents and staff. She is known for her stories of traveling all over the world and for her great big hugs. When asked what her secret was for reaching such an impressive age, Maddie said: "Eating good and walking three miles to and from school every day." When asked what her best advice would be for how to enjoy life, Maddie replied: "I could never say I hate one of God's people. I love everyone. 'Hate' is an awful word and I don't use it."

Colchester BOE Adopts 10% Budget Increase

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education last week unanimously adopted a budget for the 2023-24 school year that calls for a 9.8% increase over current year spending.

The adopted budget is actually higher than the one Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III presented to the board earlier this month - as the school board decided to add several cut positions back into the spending plan.

Overall, the proposed budget totals \$46.15 million - a \$4.13 million increase over the current year.

Earlier this month, Sullivan pitched a \$45.8 million proposal - a \$3.77 million or 8.99% spike - to the school board. The revised budget is over \$350,000 more than that initial outline.

On March 7, the budget will be presented to the Board of Finance, which will then take full custody of the proposal.

Like many districts across the state, Colchester was bound by contractual salary increases and rising costs due to inflation. During his presentation, Sullivan emphasized that in order to maintain the status quo of the district's current services, the proposal would've required somewhere around a 14% increase, which was unworkable.

At the board's Feb. 23 workshop, numerous positions that were removed from the proposal were reinstated: a business teacher, Spanish teacher at Bacon Academy, physical education teacher at William J. Johnston Middle School, three library paraprofessionals and two custodians.

School board vice chair Mary Tomasi said students across the district faced unprecedented challenges and learning setbacks from the pandemic, and eliminating staff wouldn't address those concerns.

"We have to be responsible to our kids and responsible and honest to our citizens and town," she said, adding that "these teachers are seriously needed in the classroom."

During the workshop, the school board discussed the overall impact of adding the positions back into the proposal. One member,

Donna Antonacci, asked if there was a scenario where the additional staff members could be added, without the "sticker shock" of a significant bottom-line increase.

"I'm afraid that's a picture I can't draw for you," Sullivan said. "There's not a scenario where we don't reduce teachers and we also don't have a budget increase. The two don't go together; not even exaggerating - it's impossible to do."

The only way to lessen the overall budget ask, he continued, would be to utilize an additional funding source, which the district does not currently have.

Assistant schools superintendent Charles Hewes explained that grant funding previously used from 2019-21 for summer programming and tutoring, as well as some salaries - nearly a million dollars during that period - was lapsing. Other positions that were grant funded are also returning to the operational budget.

Hewes said that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding was used to offset any increase in the budget that would've resulted in a reduction of services. Overall, he said, ARPA money was used to "reduce the bottom-line."

"We knew we had to deal with the implications at some point," he said. "That's what we call the funding cliff."

Sullivan said the combination of budget factors this year created the "perfect storm." In addition to expiring grant money, contractual increases and inflation, the town has also approved minimal year-to-year increases, he said. From 2013-23, the average education budget proposal typically called for a 2% increase, with the town ultimately adopting an even lower amount.

See Colchester Budget, page 3

New Cul-De-Sac Eyed for East Hampton

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week, East Hampton's Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency (IWWA) heard and discussed a proposal for a 22-home development, a new cul-de-sac developers want to build on 37 South Main St., the second attempt to build homes on that property since 2007.

This comes as smaller towns like East Hampton also have to consider how to raise their stock of affordable housing, a state mandate. A plan about 15 years ago to make this same site a larger multifamily development passed

the IWWA but failed at the Planning and Zoning Commission level, after a skewering by the commission's then-vice chair Ray Zatorski, now the chair.

In the end, the IWWA continued discussion to its next meeting on March 29. The applicant has a ways to go, needing to go before the PZC for a zone change and, eventually, a public vote.

As the application stands now, which isn't cemented, Bakaj Construction wants to build a 22-single-family home neighborhood dubbed

the "Hampton Village" subdivision.

There are wetlands near the development, said Mark Reynolds, an engineer representing the company, but only one is adjacent to the development, and the plan is to avoid it entirely and build in ways to prevent pollution or other effects.

The development will affect a bit more than a half-acre of land in the town's "Upland Review Area," and is within 100 feet of a wetland; more See New Cul-De-Sac, page 35

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★ **Colchester Budget, cont. from page 1**

If the increases had been steadier, he said, than the district's proposal for 2023-24 would be more in line with comparable school districts.

"Sooner or later, we needed to get caught up and it's concerning to me if a lot of people believe that you need to be taking a further reduction as opposed to getting caught up because it will have a significant impact on our school's improvement," Sullivan said.

During the workshops, citizens spoke both in favor of trimming the budget and adding more positions. Sullivan addressed some calls for a lofty budget decrease from current-year spending. He explained that a 10% budget decrease would result in around 54 teachers being cut, which wasn't an option.

He also confirmed that reducing athletic funding would not generate significant budget relief.

"I don't ever intend to come to the board and say we're cutting sports," he said.

Cutting teachers, for any district, is also painful for students and the community, the school administrators said. Hewes and Sullivan explained that removing the Spanish teacher, for example, would likely result in increased class sizes and fewer section offerings, which means students would potentially have to default into a language course they didn't want to take. In other cases, students might not be able to take a third year of language courses and would miss out on valuable cultural exposure.

Still, while the school budget was approved at the first town referendum last year, municipal spending went through several rounds before getting passed. A substantial increase could encounter similar opposition this year.

"We budget really tight here and that puts us in a position that doesn't leave a lot of wiggle room," Sullivan told the board. "We tried finding all the ways to bring in the lowest number possible and we brought you an honest number."

Board member Chris Rivers expressed during the meeting that the board's job was to determine what "we need to educate the kids in this town," and not contemplating alternative funding sources or ideas.

Sullivan agreed, stating that the board should

always put forward a "responsible" budget. Naturally, he said, residents may not agree on the bottom-line amount.

"What may be viewed by some as fiscally responsible may be viewed by others as being fiscally reckless," he said.

During the first budget workshop on Feb. 14, the board heard presentations from the principals of the district's four schools and administrators.

Sullivan, who began his new role as head of schools in January, has emphasized that a major objective would be resorting community trust and the reputation of the district. He echoed a similar point during the workshop, expressing that investing in the budget would only help the schools.

"I'm concerned that moving things backwards because of budget cuts will not help us improve the reputation of Colchester schools," he said.

The community also received additional information on the district's plan to strengthen school security. Included in the adopted budget are four new safety officers, who would assist the current school resource officer that splits time between each of the schools.

District School Resource Officer Corporal Craig Scheel emphasized the importance of adding more security personnel.

"Ultimately, I think we can all recognize that the threat to schools and school violence is much different now than it was 15, 20 years ago," he said. "Unfortunately, the staffing levels [of security personnel] have been unchanged since that time."

For now, Sullivan is not saying whether the new officers would be armed or unarmed. Once the funding is approved, then that dialog with the board can begin, he said.

"I know that the armed aspect is a divisive issue for some people and if we start debating that right now, I think we're going to lose sight of all the other important priorities that the principals and directors have spoken about tonight," he said.

The goal of having the officers, regardless if they possess firearms he said, is to have additional trained staff to walk the halls, monitor bathrooms and lunches, be present at student

drop-offs and form healthy relationships with students. Ideally, these officers would be able to pick up on odd occurrences at the schools and identify when a student is "off."

Last year, Interim Superintendent T.Y. McDowell sent out a survey to the community to gauge interest in adding armed security at the

schools. Over 65% of respondents were in favor of the additional measure.

"It's staring us in the face," McDowell said before the start of the school year, referring to updates to school security. "It's the world we're living in."

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

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.

CCSU Dean's List

The following area students made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Central Connecticut State University:

Amston: Cameron Lettieri and Jady Nembhard.

Andover: Aria Adee, Leo Cappello and Eliana Raes.

Colchester: Rachel Akers, Krystal Csuka, Amber Duperry, Katelyn Hickey, Amanda Magyarik,

Rebecca Magyarik, Spencer Nauss, Tyler Nguyen, Matt Reynolds, Joseph Ringuette, Adam Rochette, Charlie Tabris, Victoria Violette and Zeek Zurita.

East Hampton: Lauren Anelli, Lizzy Barber, Julia Borrelli, Luke Brooks, McKayla Connelly, Lily Cordeiro, Alex DiStefano, Natalie Driggs, Thomas Engel, Kaylee Gravel, Jordan Hall, Jacob Ireland, Elise Krotky, Richard Leone, Ardyn Lezak, Agnieszka Mozerowska, Emma Pawlak, Konrad Piech, Ryan Sharp and Kelly Wilson.

Hebron: Lily Freer, Kaylin Hadley and Andrew Wilkinson.

Marlborough: Jason Belanger, Rosie Henderschedt and Simone Lesci.

Portland: Amanda Austin, Jonathan Bongo, Nicholas Francesco, Clara Guilmette, Matthew Hernandez, Clara Kopacz, Mya LaMalfa, Nicholas Lee, David Preli, Lia Smith and Olivia Velasco.

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.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

An Apology

As many of you have seen and written me about, the *Rivereast* made the horrible mistake of publishing a letter to the editor last week from a Marlborough resident who was pretty clearly advocating for the assassination of the president of the United States.

It was an abhorrent dereliction of my duties as editor – and I sincerely apologize.

Yes, the letter-writer didn't mention President Biden by name, nor did he specifically write the word "assassinate," but it was obvious what he was pushing for, and it was hugely irresponsible for me to publish it.

There frankly is no excuse for it. A letter suggesting violence never should've been published, regardless of whether the target is a local or national figure.

The letter has been deleted from the digital edition of the newspaper, but I realize the damage has been done. I sincerely regret any harm I may have caused anyone by publishing that grotesque letter.

I guarantee something like this will never happen again. I will be seriously reexamining the way letters are vetted in the future – and in fact will review our entire letters to the editor policy. The letters have gotten out of hand in recent months, with this being the absolute nadir.

In conclusion, I take full responsibility for that letter being published last week, and I deeply, deeply apologize.

* * *

As for the future of letters to the editor, this whole regrettable situation has led me to

reevaluate our policy. Obviously, I will vet letters more carefully in the future. And obviously, calls to violence – be they specific calls or implied – will not be tolerated.

But even beyond that, there are some changes, effective immediately, that will hopefully make reading the letters to the editor a more enjoyable experience for all. The letters pages have become something of the wild west lately, and they need to be reined in.

Therefore, here is the *Rivereast's* new letters to the editor policy, effective immediately. All letters must be 300 words or less. All letters must be signed, and include the writer's town of residence and daytime contact phone number (don't worry, the number won't be published).

Anonymous letters will not be published. Also, all letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity. Writers are reminded to be civil; no form of harassment or personal attack (such as bullying or name-calling) will be tolerated. Letters will be fact-checked, so be prepared to have sources for your information – or better yet, provide the sources when submitting the letter.

Lastly, there is no guarantee that all letters will be published.

Hopefully, these changes will help clean up the letters pages – something that is very much overdue.

And again, I offer my sincere apologies for that disgraceful letter being published last week, and I ask all of the readers to please give me another chance. Like I said, it won't happen again.



Stone Age Scouts... Twenty scouts and leaders from Hebron's Scouts BSA Troops 28 and 1028 recently visited the Stone Age Rock Gym in Manchester for some indoor climbing. Each scout was fitted with a climbing harness, a chalk bag, and climbing shoes. Scouts were then given an orientation to climbing and climbing safety by the gym staff followed by an introduction to climbing techniques by Hebron Senior Scout Alec Bryne. For some scouts that were new to climbing, the trek up the two-story walls was a little challenging at first. Other scouts with some climbing experience sharpened their skills on the assorted climbing holds and inverted walls. Girls and boys ages 11-17 that are interested in learning more about the Scouts BSA program in Hebron or the Hebron Cub Scout program for boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grade can find information on joining at www.HebronScoutsBSA.org.

Bulletin Board

I was sorting through a drawer in my file cabinet this weekend when I came across an undated newspaper clipping. I have this habit of saving newspaper articles that contain possibly life-altering information and then misplacing them. When they eventually surface in some unexpected place, it's sort of like a brand-new revelation.

Anyway, this particular clipping reported on a (then) recent study out of the University of New Hampshire suggesting that spanking your kids might make them dumber. The lead author of the study, Professor Murray Straus, maintained that those of us who were spanked as children have lower IQs—as much as 2.8 to 5 points lower—than IQs among those pampered little brats who escaped rightful retribution.

I wish I had known this all those many years ago when I was a struggling elementary school student with an attitude problem. How convenient it would have been when my father came home to punish me for some innocuous offense (like setting the back yard on fire or throwing rotten apples at cars in front of my very own house) to be able to say, "Hold on a minute, Pops. You don't want me to be any dumber than I already am, do you?"

I think I might have given the old boy pause if only because of my less than stellar academic record. Those were the days before bumper stickers proclaiming stuff like "My Son is an Honor Roll Student," which is just as well as far as I'm concerned. Had my parents pasted a bumper sticker on the family station wagon, it would have read something like, "My Son Got a C in Science" maybe with a parenthetical notation below reading "(Hey, it's Better than a D!)" or maybe the proud proclamation, "Still Out of Juvie." So, confronting my father with the idea that a simple spanking could complete my transformation into a total moron might have been my personal get-out-of-jail-free pass.

According to the news article, Professor Straus and his colleagues looked at corporal punishment practices in 32 countries by surveying nearly 20,000 university students. "The more the spanking, the slower the development of the child's mental ability," he reported. "But even small amounts of spanking made a difference."

Also weighing in on the spanking issue was Heidi Baker, director of the Child and Family Development Center at the University of Utah, who said, "Contrary to what most people believe, spanking is really a traumatic experience."

I know this to be true, because I distinctly recall my father informing me before any punishment, "This is going to hurt me a lot more than it hurts you."

But to get back to Professor Straus and his study...

It seems to me there is a danger in making sweeping conclusions about low IQs based on university students who—if recent campus events are any indication—often don't appear to be that bright to begin with, at least not in real-world terms. On the other hand, I'm not a famous university professor, which I now realize I can blame entirely on my father's approach to discipline.

Nevertheless, I can't help but wonder if kids who get spanked might just be dumber to begin with. Smarter kids are more likely to avoid punishment by coming up with a creative excuse for their misbehavior. My sister-in-law, for instance, used to blame "Timmy and the Little People" for everything from jello in the toilet to her sister's decapitated Barbie. She subsequently spent 20 years or so living in France. Whether this was a reward for being cutely clever or a form of atonement, I am unable to say.

Since I seem to be on a confessional jag here, you may be interested to know that the familial cycle of spanking ended with me. My wife likes to think the "no spanking" development in our household resulted from her more modern thinking. Actually, it's more because our two boys were just too quick. When you wait until your early 30s to have kids, you tend to lose the agility that enables you to scurry under tables and around couches in pursuit of pint-sized evildoers. Given a choice between diplomacy and a heart attack, I opted for diplomacy. I may be dumb, but I'm not stupid.

I brought the yellowed clipping about Professor Straus's spanking study to my wife's attention the other day. "You know," I mused, "there's no telling how smart I might be today if I hadn't been spanked as a child."

"Yeah," she replied. "You'd probably be the smartest inmate in the Connecticut State Prison system."

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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Do Better

To the Editor:

Did I just read a letter in your rag calling for bringing back John Wilkes Booth to assassinate our current president? I know many people in the area have questionable views and opinions on current events and you print their letters calling for harassment of certain groups of people, but this seems especially irresponsible. Do you even read what you print? And then you give it the headline "If Only..." This letter should be reported to the cops, not printed to inspire more of the crazies and embolden them into action. Do better, *Rivereast*.

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

Shame on You

To the Editor:

Is it possible, that in our local paper, I just read a poem wishing that the president of the United States be murdered? Did the *Rivereast* actually print someone's hateful dream that

John Wilkes Booth, President Lincoln's assassin, could return and kill President Biden? Have you knowingly published Don Newsch's demented fantasy where Booth is told he doesn't need to kill at point blank range anymore... he can use a sniper rifle and "do it from one thousand meters" and be a "hero"? Mr. Editor, we're used to your "Letters" section being filled with a clown car of political extremists who have little else to do but send their bile to you week after week. I understand that it is your duty to reproduce them.

That said, anyone who has sent a letter to the *Rivereast* knows that the titles are created by the editorial staff. So, after reading this screed, you titled it "If Only..."?

If Only what, Mr. Editor? If only Mr. Newsch's violent desire could be fulfilled? Surely the *Rivereast* isn't endorsing the murder of a president? It sure reads that way.

What's next, Mr. Editor? Are you willing to endorse any kind of hate speech as long it's disguised as limerick? Antisemitism okay? How

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about using the “N” word as long as it rhymes with something? When does an “Editor” actually “edit”?

I know people like Mr. Nowsch are among us and believe all their problems can be solved with a bullet. I didn't realize their right to free speech included having traitorous calls to murder a sitting president in cold blood published.

Our country is drowning in gun violence. Children are murdered in classrooms. And yet, you chose to print this and title it “If Only...” Shame on Nowsch, the *Rivereast* – and you.

Jay Kamins – Andover

Appalled by Letter

To the Editor:

I was appalled to read the Reader Forum entry titled “If Only...” by Don Nowsch in last week's *Rivereast*. It is extremely disheartening to see the *Rivereast News Bulletin* publish something advocating for the assassination of a political leader. This is not just voicing an opinion; this is harmful and dangerous. Criticism of a politician or leader has a place in public discourse; however, public calls for violence are unacceptable.

**Jack Fidler, Chair
Marlborough Democratic Town Committee**

Funds Sought for Driver

To the Editor:

The Department of Senior Services is requesting additional staffing resources for a medical driver in next year's budget. This position was requested last year; however, it did not pass through budget cuts, and was eliminated.

The Department of Senior Services has grown, and part of my role is to educate the public about the growing needs of the senior community. There are currently 1,662 registered members of the Colchester Senior Center. This represents a growth rate of 198.921% in the past 10 years. Although the number of citizens we are serving has grown substantially, our staffing ratios have remained the same. We cannot continue to grow services without first adding more labor. The most critical need is our out-of-town medical transportation services.

When you live in a rural community, traveling across town lines to access medical care is a reality. This can become problematic, especially as citizens age and no longer drive. Between 2019 and 2022, requests for medical transportation to appointments outside of town have increased by nearly 43%. Because our staffing levels have not changed in response, our rate of ride refusal climbed by 92% -- meaning we are 92% more likely to deny rides to people requesting them today than we were four years ago. Without additional staff support, our ability to serve seniors will have reached its maximum capacity, and unfortunately that amount is not representative of the community's need. For this year's operational budget, the Department of Senior Services is budgeting for a part-time driver at 20 hours per week at a cost of \$19,000, which includes salary, FICA and licensing fees. Town leaders have indicated their support for this initiative; however, we will need the support of the community to pass a budget which allows for vital medical access for Colchester's seniors.

**Patty Watts
Director of Senior Services
Municipal Agent for the Elderly
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Irresponsible

To the Editor:

You published a letter that threatened the life of the president of the United States. As editors/publishers you chose to do this.

You owe the communities you serve an apology, and a commitment to never publish such a letter again.

Mr. Nowsch, threats to the president can result in repercussions.

Linda Estabrook – Marlborough

Nobody Will Be Laughing

To the Editor:

I just read, in your paper, the worst Letter to the Editor I've ever read. I honestly don't know why you printed it.

It's disguised as a poem which at first seems innocent enough but ends in a wish for a voodoo lady to resurrect John Wilkes Booth to murder the current president. Apparently it was supposed to be a joke.

I don't want to villainize the writer. I think I know him and the guy I know is usually a pretty decent person. It's not the problem. His letter is just a symptom of the real problem.

In the last few decades, we have slowly gotten used to ruder and meaner behavior. So-called reality shows, YouTube videos, and various media influences have made the act of dehumanizing anyone who disagrees with us commonplace. Notice I used the word commonplace, and not the word acceptable.

Joking about harming someone you disagree with may sound clever. But there's always some nut who will take the joking seriously.

When that happens, nobody will be laughing.
Don Dzienis Jr. -- Moodus

Fox News

To the Editor:

Fox News has been America's No. 1 cable news network for over 20 straight years. It has never won a single prestigious journalism award. Newly published internal emails of its most popular hosts and billionaire owner Murdoch show they knowingly and willingly lie to their viewers to maintain high ratings and profits. They know many loyal viewers will abandon them if told the truth, as happened when their veteran politics editor was first to predict Biden defeating Trump in Arizona in the 2020 election. He was fired, becoming one of many of their former journalists who were unwilling to continue being part of a propaganda machine.

What does this say about the Americans who rely on Fox News for their information? We encounter several of them nearly every week here in *Rivereast*, loudly spouting their anti-Democrat, anti-science, anti-truth nonsense. Knowledgeable writers like Scott, Joe, Annie, Ed G., Mike and many others do their best crafting letters or editorials filled with facts

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and reason. Seemingly to no avail, as Trumpist *Rivereast* writers consistently mock them as libtards and fools. But now, with the Dominion lawsuit against Fox News revealing the damning internal emails of its hosts and owner, everyone knows who the real fools are, except the fools themselves.

Fools are the people who go to known liars for their information, instead of the truth-tellers that keep winning prestigious journalism awards. Fools are haters of America, willingly spreading untruths about our country to weaken its democratic functions. They are cut of the same cloth as the secessionist fools that tried to rend our country with a Civil War. They are saboteurs of the country built by Washington, Jefferson, Paine, Lincoln, the Roosevelts, MLK and others that strove for greatness. They are arsonists willing to burn it all down. They have no shame.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Improving Numbers

To the Editor:

Last spring, writers on these pages blamed President Biden for high inflation rates and gas prices. They claimed that specific Biden policies were to blame. Since then, both the inflation rate and the price of gas have fallen thirty percent.

I would like to ask these same people: which of Biden's policies are responsible for the improvement?

**Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover**

Library Expansion Project

To the Editor:

Seeking a second opinion has become common practice in the medical field. It is also helpful in evaluating preliminary architectural drawings – in this case for the Middle Haddam Library expansion plan which involves a 200-plus sq. ft. porch and a long handicapped-access ramp extending close to Knowles Road. This presents a safety issue as well as negatively impacting the simple architectural beauty of this National Register iconic Library building.

There are many sensitive ways to provide handicapped access to an historic building and as such, we have engaged the state-designated historic architectural firm of Crosskey Architects to come up with an historically-compatible plan which meets all state standards for

historic preservation and is available for view at Middle Haddam Post Office building. This proposal provides the shortest and safest route and smallest handicap incline and would allow library patrons direct access without disturbing ongoing programs in the community room. It is also considerably less expensive than the porch and stone ramp proposed and would not disturb any recorded easements including well, septic and buried gas storage tank on the property.

The board needs to consider all alternative proposals in an effort to get it right the first time. The dangerous lack of safe parking on this narrow, poorly lit road along with access to the handicap ramp also need to be addressed before any plan is adopted. Please address your concerns to the Middle Haddam Library Board. It takes a village!

Ronald McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

Big Lie Fading

To the Editor:

While the Big Lie seems to be fading, it is not yet dead. Many Republicans are shunning CPAC, which has become more extreme in its anti-democratic leanings.

A recent letter-writer to this paper invokes presidential assassination themes. This is in line with a Ballots vs. Bullets theme. The writer may possibly expect a call from the Secret Service.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Mouse Tracks

To the Editor:

Last week's article in the *Rivereast* was yet another story about Hebron I'd rather ignore. It is most unfortunate to continually read unhelpful insults used about our town and I wonder why the person in question is so unhappy. Hebron is a beautiful town and its future rests in the hands of the voters.

Likewise, it's unfortunate that, over the summer, residents of Kinney and Millstream roads heard about the potential threat of well water pollution from someone outside town government. Pollution stemming from the proposed development on the Raymond Brook Watershed is a real concern and should have been addressed by the Board of Selectmen years ago. Hearing it from a stranger has only confirmed people's underlying suspicions.

However, all is not lost. This town is full of
See Letters, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

like-minded people who enjoy the great outdoors and want to see Hebron saved for future generations. We have super intelligent and creative folks willing to help. Between all of us, surely we can come up with a successful layout for a better Public Works on Old Colchester Road.

“And so now I’d like to say people can change anything they want to. And that means everything in the world. People are running about following their own tracks, I am one of them, but we’ve all gotta’ stop just following our own little mouse trail. People can do anything. This is something I’m beginning to learn. People are out there doing bad things to each other. It’s because they’ve been dehumanized. Its time to take the humanity back into the center of the ring and follow that for a time. Greed,

it ain’t goin’ anywhere, they should have that in a big billboard across Time Square. Without people you’re nothing. Thats my spiel. “ - John G. Mellor

Jean Tulumieri – Amston

Pride and Prejudice

To the Editor:

Hebron’s BOS, Historic Properties and P&Z commissions have all been notified that the SHPO report published on the town website traced the wrong property, changing the historical significance of the site and surrounding area. Hebron land records reveal the Public Works site was not owned by Sylvester Gilbert, but by John S. Peters, one of Connecticut’s most significant governors. Governor Peters’ farm is the last intact farmstead in Hebron Center. His

social/economic relationship with his “colored cousins” is well-documented --a narrative of local and state importance. Yet, Hebron’s government has made no attempt to recognize or accommodate this information.

As Black History Month concludes, it’s time to reflect on how town government charged with preserving Hebron’s unique “rural historic character” is reshaping the town. Sadly, historic sites associated with Hebron’s people-of-color have repeatedly been targeted for destruction. Hebron’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) promotes a fictitious white Yankee stereotype. It excludes Indigenous people who occupied Hebron for 10,000 years. Hebron has one of Connecticut’s rare Paleoindian sites. The POCD makes no attempt to preserve archaeological sites. It also misrepresents facts, the Peters House is not on the Connecticut

Freedom Trail. The Hebron Historical Society is named as a collaborative preservation partner, but P&Z has never contacted or consulted with them. As a result, P&Z’s recent decision on Kinney Road was based solely on personal definitions of “scenic” rather than documented historic/cultural connections, yet again, disparaging Hebron’s under-represented minorities.

Hebron’s leaders continue to promote their own personal agenda not that of the electorate. Numerous town positions are vacant due to this indifference toward town residents. Implicit bias should play no role in town government. Yet, it’s embedded in town actions and encoded in its POCD, blatantly promoting Jim Crow values.

John Baron – Hebron

Get Involved!

To the Editor:

The East Hampton RTC is looking for new members! Our mission is to elect and appoint candidates who embody the core Republican principles: individuals freedom, limited government and fiscal responsibility. If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to us or come to one of our meetings!

Our next meeting is at Lakeside Bar and Grill on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see some new faces soon!

Email: ehctgop@gmail.com
Facebook: East Hampton GOP
Instagram: East_Hampton_CT_RTC
Chrissie Aloia – East Hampton

Confounding Obstruction

To the Editor:

It was dismaying but by no means surprising to see that the East Hampton Town Council is once again refusing to support the needs and interests of a developing community.

We’ve seen this routine before from council Republicans. Last year, they denied a request to add a much needed lieutenant position to the police department. Over the summer, they strung along Parks and Rec. when the director presented survey results on requests for programming, only to receive an indifferent response to ideas benefiting everyone from seniors to young families.

Now it’s the library’s turn to get stonewalled. At the last meeting, GOP council members balked at the mere concept of surveying residents on their expectations from the library – especially confounding when library services are in high demand townwide. The survey would cost nothing, yet Republicans indefinitely postponed the measure, afraid to stoke expectations.

Refusing to even listen to the interests of East Hampton residents on programs and initiatives that will genuinely improve the town is not good government. Call it what you will – stubbornness, willful arrogance – by any label, it sends a cold message to families the GOP Council members are prepared to stand pat and expect us to deal with it.

East Hampton is a great community and families here have a good quality of life. But maintaining that quality requires forward thinking and an eye toward progress. We have an incredible library, but we shouldn’t be afraid to learn how to make it even better.

The more informed we are, the better decisions we can make. That doesn’t happen through obstruction or arrogance. East Hampton’s leaders owe it to its residents to listen and consider the community we want to build.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Proven Track Record

To the Editor:

The government always protects us...God bless ‘em. They pass laws and regulations regarding the environment, our food/water supply, and the pharmaceutical industry to safeguard the populous. They enjoy approving new compounds, petrochemicals, and technologies to make our lives easier...“better living through chemistry!”

Here’s an incomplete list of the government’s most successfully approved chemicals (i.e., “safe and effective”) and situations off the top of my head: DDT, atrazine (effeminizing), thalidomide (birth defects), Agent Orange (cancer causing), GMOs (poor gut health), Dioxins, artificial food dyes (ADHD/cancer causing), fluoride (calcify the pineal gland/causes thyroid issues), 70+ childhood vaccines (never tested for fertility or carcinogenic effects – science!) cell phone/wifi radiation, cigarettes (“More Doctors Smoke Camels”), Vioxx, aspartame (Thanks, Donald Rumsfeld), the 1976 swine flu vaccine (thousands injured), depleted urani-

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um (just shipped tons to Ukraine...UN banned munitions/war crimes be damned, multigenerational birth defects – hooray!!) Ohioan air and water (it was a “controlled burn!”), 9/11 WTC air (“poses no threat”...24k Ground Zero volunteers with rare cancers), oxycodone (gateway to heroin, fentanyl, corporate profits), glyphosate (non-Hodgkins lymphoma), birth control polluting the water supply, endocrine disruptors, asbestos, leaded gas, Flint, Michigan tap water, copious amounts of high fructose corn syrup (kids love diabetes), seed oils, mRNA gene therapies (Pharma companies got immunity from all liability), processed foods, hormone therapies (children know best), ubiquitous plastic packaging tainting the food, and good ol’ suicide-inducing SSRI’s.

As you can see...the government has a proven track record of looking out for us. They have the experience and expertise we can trust. When the government tells you it’s safe to go outside for some fresh air after millions of pounds of super toxic chemicals have been blown up or that the water is “safe to drink”...take their word for it. They wouldn’t lie to you.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Potential, Preventable Disaster

To the Editor:

As we see the massive train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, resulting in what can be considered an environmental disaster, there are comparisons that can be drawn between what was done or not done by Norfolk Southern Rail and the potential for disaster by building a new DPW complex at 17 Kinney Rd.

Railways have warning systems in place which may or may not have been functioning as originally designed, were overlooked or possibly ignored by those responsible for the safety of the train. Regardless of who or what was at fault, as this is yet to be determined, the NTSB has stated that this disaster was 100% preventable.

Placing a new DPW facility and multi-ton salt shed on pristine farmland which holds historic value, centuries old trees, wildlife, and most importantly a GA rated water source which serves many private wells, creates the potential for a disaster that is 100% preventable.

In Ohio did rail employees downplay the seriousness of an overheating roller bearing?

Did the train crew act fast enough to prevent this? Were the heat sensors not set properly? Were these systems regularly maintained?

Hebron town leaders continue to dismiss and downplay the potential for groundwater contamination the (proposed) location of this facility presents. Monitoring wells are to be installed around the new facility which we believe are to detect the presence or increase in levels of groundwater contaminants. Who is going to monitor these wells and how often? How are they to be maintained? What is the mitigation and communication plan to residents should they detect an increase of any contaminants including sodium chloride?

Most accidents are not accidents at all and are 100% preventable!

Hebron town leaders, please heed the warnings of probable water contamination and upgrade the current DPW site. #Save17

Thank you,
Greg Shortell – Amston

Shameful and Abhorrent

To the Editor and Publisher:

As an elected official, one must expect and welcome consistent feedback about the jobs we do. We have a duty to listen to our constituents. Naturally, in the course of political discourse, this can turn ugly. Certainly, in recent years, it has gotten much worse.

However, I think we would all agree that advocating for violence against a duly elected official, or candidate, or anyone pursuing public service is something that is so clearly out of bounds it is to offend our democracy. Now, imagine my surprise when I opened the *Rivereast* on Friday evening, as my cell phone rang with text messages from constituents, to see a letter implying such violence against an elected official.

I was an editor and reporter. I know how challenging these jobs are, especially given layoffs and overworked staff. Never would I let a letter like this pass my eye, nor even think to publish it. This is not the first time your paper has bent the rules when it comes to these letters. I can recall several election cycles where letters with personal attacks against Democrats were published when they should not have, or letters written by Democrats were not published.

I can only think two things – either this newspaper has a clear, intentional bias toward a po-

litical party or lean and thinks it can get away with it; or, perhaps worse, the staff thought it was perfectly appropriate to let fly a letter implying violence against the president. This, by the way, is absolutely reportable to the FBI and well should be.

I am frankly disgusted that this appeared in the paper. I am greatly concerned about the editorial decisions that are made. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Sincerely,
Tiffany V. Thiele – Hebron

Note: Thiele is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Get Your Act Together

To the Editor:

Shame on you, *Rivereast*, for posting the repugnant “If Only” piece in last week’s edition. Shame on its writer, too. Don Nowsch’s letter to the editor may have rhymed, but it was far from cute. It was hate speech, glorifying and inciting violence. I don’t care who you dislike, common neighbor or president... suggesting offing them is not okay. And that the sentiment was actually printed is also reprehensible. Get your act together, *Rivereast*!

Julie Revaz – Marlborough

Complete Frustration

To the Editor:

I write this letter out of complete frustration for the inaction of our first selectman and his unwillingness to respond.

Last week, the BOS interviewed two applicants for Public Works director who submitted applications in June 2022. We are considering one of them. We could have interviewed them in 2022 instead of hiring an interim.

In October 2022, the Colchester Community Theater, and the CC Orchestra were notified they weren’t covered under Town insurance. The BOS knew nothing about this until recently. We didn’t make this decision, nor did it come before the BOS for discussion. Why the surprise?

The SC Building Committee unanimously requested the BOS and BOF take any necessary action to authorize up to an additional \$1.5 million appropriation. Why hasn’t this issue come to the BOS/BOF to discuss? The first selectman

and BOF chair unilaterally blocked this.

A new SC referendum, an additional appropriation of up to \$1.5M, would allow use of the \$575,000 Bendas donation without more legal proceedings, use of State ARPA SC money of \$32,691, and bonding up to an additional \$892,309.

The town’s financial planner said the impact of an additional \$1.5M appropriation to “issuing the bonds... is zero. The Senior Center debt service... is not expected to impact the current mill rate in any year.” A meeting on value engineering occurred last week. It may reduce some costs but will not cover the \$892,309 shortfall. Why isn’t this project moving forward to the BOS/BOF and to referendum?

In a conversation on 2/28/23 the first selectman refused to add the SC to a BOS 3/2/23 agenda. He wants to wait until after his budget passes.

The BOS needs your help and voices to move Colchester forward.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but said she is speaking as an individual.


Beyond Scenic Survey

To the Editor:

Moving beyond the inexplicable Scenic Road debacle, I am left with many questions and serious concerns about the actions of Hebron’s town leaders. As stated in our town charter, “Public office is a position of public trust.” While my trust in our public officials is eroded, I do have trust in the people of Hebron. As we move into a town wide survey to gauge public opinion on where a new Public Works facility should be located, I believe this decision should be based on the facts. I am hopeful that the people of Hebron will choose to take the fiscally responsible, environmentally conscious and historically aware option: Update Public Works at the current site on Old Colchester Road.

In 2016, the town created plans to expand Public Works at its current location and the adjacent Eversource property. It may be difficult and inconvenient, but clearly it is possible. In fact, the union representative for Hebron’s Public Works employees stated on Sept. 16, 2022, “I don’t need them to build a new building; I want them to fix what they have.” Updating the Public Works at Old Colchester Road will offer an opportunity to provide an improved work-

See Letters, page 11



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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

GOOD FOR YOUR TEETH, BAD FOR YOUR BREATH

The Keto diet can be great for oral health because it is low in sugar and simple carbohydrates (which become sugar when they are digested). Everyone knows that sugar is not good for teeth since it can cause cavities and loss of enamel. It also leads to more bacteria developing on the teeth and gums. Unfortunately, the Keto diet can also result in a problem called “keto breath,” which is bad breath caused by the new abundance of ketones being produced by the liver. Luckily, this is only temporary, and as the body adjusts and acclimates to this new wealth of ketones, the “dragon breath” should begin to subside. This usually happens within a month of starting the keto diet.

If you are bothered by this condition, don’t be shy about discussing bad breath with your dentist. Professional care is always the best course to pursue when unusual symptoms occur. We’re here to offer our patients comprehensive, gentle, family dentistry, including dietary advice, routine maintenance care, restorative work, and cosmetic approaches to enhance any smile. All our staff members are exceptional in their care of every patient who comes through our doors. Please call us for an appointment.

P.S. Those experiencing “keto breath” from a new diet can fight it by drinking lots of water and brushing after every meal to prevent bacteria from building up.

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Highlanders Basketball Headed to New Heights

By Josh Howard

When David Bradbury took over the boys basketball program at Portland High School, the Highlanders were coming off a 5-15 season and hadn't qualified for the state tournament in three years.

Three years later, Bradbury's Highlanders recently wrapped up a 15-5 regular season and are one of the top teams in both their conference and division.

Bradbury credits the turnaround to a culture shift within the program.

"This is the type of success that I envision and I am very proud of the fact that this program has been able to get here," said Bradbury. "Give all the credit to boys; they are doing all the hard work. When I first got here I had ideas and a vision of the culture I wanted, which is rooted in competitiveness and toughness."

In his first season at the helm, the Highlanders won nine of 14 games during the COVID-19-condensed season in 2020-21.

Last season, the team won a state tournament at home game before upsetting the tourney's top-seed Terryville in the second round. The 2022 tourney run came to an end when they lost to the eventual state champions of Windham by only two points in the quarterfinals of the Division V state tournament.

Following the historic season, Bradbury welcomed back an experienced roster featuring six seniors, five of which start.

Captains Ben Fecteau and Harrison Collins, along with Joe Rusczyk, Ryan Kerr, Austin Vess, and William Favale are the senior voices that have helped Bradbury implement his brand of basketball over the last three seasons.

Fecteau said that Bradbury told the seniors immediately following the conclusion of last season that their "time was now."

For the better part of a decade, the seniors have been on the court together, playing through the youth ranks together dating back to the third grade.

"It's about playing as one unit," added Fecteau. "Bradbury has got all the right game plans and it's just about executing and giving effort day in and day out."

Collins was an honorable mention all-

conference player as a junior and is again the team's floor general this winter, averaging over 20 points and dishing out nearly four assists a game.

"He's been tremendous; I can't say enough about him," Bradbury said of Collins. "He's been a leader offensively and the energy defensively, and something that he does extremely well is he's become the best teammate possible."

Collins style of play is also ideal for Bradbury's up-tempo approach.

"Bradbury gives us all the freedom on offense," stated Collins. "I love playing fast basketball and that is what we do."

Helping Collins with the scoring load has been Rusczyk, who is averaging 15 points per game.

Both scoring leaders were instrumental in the state tourney run a year ago, each posting double figures in points as juniors, and Collins said that playing in big games a season ago has paid big dividends this winter.

On Jan. 10, the Highlanders knocked off the defending Shoreline Conference (SLC) champions from Cromwell (52-48) at Portland High School.

It turned out to be only one of two losses the Panthers of Cromwell suffered in the regular season. It was also the Highlander's second victory over the Panthers in the last three meetings after Cromwell had won the previous 22 meetings prior to Bradbury's arrival.

Following the victory over Cromwell, Portland lost to Morgan – another conference powerhouse – before winning nine of their final ten games of the regular season.

Bradbury called the January victory over Cromwell a "huge confidence booster" for the team.

Collins added, "After the Cromwell game we were at an all-time high and after that Morgan game we were at our very low. That stretch in the season was the most important for us. It told us that we can beat anyone, but on any given night we could lose."

The Highlanders lost only one game to a Shoreline Conference (SLC) opponent the entire regular season. The team's four other losses



Six senior basketball players for the boys basketball team at Portland High School have helped change the culture. From left: William Favale, Ben Fecteau, Joe Rusczyk, Austin Vess, Harrison Collins and Ryan Kerr are leading the Highlanders this winter.

came against bigger out-of-conference schools.

Bradbury said he purposely schedules tough out-of-conference games to challenge and prepare his team for postseason play.

On Feb. 16, the Highlanders went toe-to-toe with Ellington, a top-ranked team in Division IV, before losing in overtime.

"I think playing very good teams that are bigger schools late in the season prepares you for these big games," stated Bradbury. "To have a loss at the end of the season is not the worst thing in the world. You get that sense of urgency knowing that we could lose and we have to come ready to play."

The team has also not shied away from the goals they set out to make waves in the post-season.

Fecteau said the team talks about those goals on nearly a daily basis, adding, "[Bradbury] wants us to experience those championships and that's what we are here to do."

Collins added the key to reaching those goals is staying focused in games, adding, "Anything can happen in a game. It's about never getting too high or not getting too low, and always staying together."

With the state tournament starting next week, Bradbury said that regardless of the outcome, this senior class has help lay the foundation for the future of the program.

"This is a mature group that has bought in and changed the culture with me," stated Bradbury.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

Boat America – Online Boating Safety

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

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

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

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone. Facial mask-wearing is optional, but encouraged. The building is accessible. The worship service is livestreamed as well as available for later viewing on the church's YouTube channel; search on YouTube for First Church of Portland CT.

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday

and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

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

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Portland Exchange Offering Scholarship

Again this year the Portland Exchange Club will offer the \$1,000 John W. Goodrich Scholarship to any Portland resident senior going on to a higher education institution after graduation.

For the scholarship the Exchange Club is looking for the student with the most outstanding record of community service as well as good academic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities.

Applications are available at the Portland High School Counseling Center and online at www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship. Deadline for applications is April 15.

Presentation on Eye Research

Dr. Keith Lemire, ophthalmologist and past foundation president for Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation, will present information on all the latest findings in eye research. Lions of Connecticut fund research grants for scientists at UConn and Yale eye centers.

The public is invited to hear Lemire Wednesday, March 8, at 7 p.m., at the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave. For more information, call Lion Teri at 860-670-3940.

Dean's List

Portland residents Bethany Dillon, Stephanie Dimauro and Jayden Schoeps made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

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Pancake Breakfast This Sunday

Portland Volunteer Fire Department invites everyone to an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast Sunday, March 5, from 7-11 a.m., at Engine Company No. 1, 7 Middlesex Ave., right behind the Post Office.

The breakfast will feature sausage, all-you-can-eat-pancakes (chocolate chip, regular and blueberry), and assorted beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Also, PVFD will have ceramic pancake coffee cups for sale, featuring the department's logo and a cartoon character squirting syrup on a stack of pancakes. Cups cost \$20 each, and each time you return with a "clean" cup you will receive \$1 off your breakfast.

For more information or to be placed on an email notification list, call Wayne Mergel at 860-759-6921.

Food Bank, Foodshare Truck

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

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

The lower level of the senior center was recently dedicated to Ruth and Nunzi Maio for

their years of service as Food Bank coordinators.

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 is Monday, March 13, at 1 p.m.

Vocal Chords Awarding Scholarships

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

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

goals and the recommendations of references.

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

Visit vocalchords20.org for more information.

Hearty Highlander Breakfast Saturday

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

The menu is: French toast, scrambled eggs,

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Free Grab-and-Go Meals: The senior center is offering Waverly Senior Center members, who reside in Portland only, one free Grab-and-Go meal starting in February. You must be able to pick up the meal yourself, at 11:45 a.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, in the Mary Lou Rice room. Please do not arrive before 11:30 a.m., as there are programs in that room. Note: You are not eligible if you are already receiving Meals-on-Wheels. You must register one week in advance for a Grab-and-Go Meal. For information, or to sign up, call at 860-342-6761.

Next Week's Programs: **Monday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Syncoize II Dance Fitness; Blood Pressure Clinic, 10:30-11:30 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; 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.; Syncoize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m., multipurpose room. **Thursday:** Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Family History Fun with Ken

Doney, 10:30 a.m.

Trip to Pagliacci's Restaurant: Tuesday, March 7. Bus leaves the senior center at 11:15 a.m. There is a \$5 transportation fee. 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.

Chancellor's Honor Roll

Mia Lapinski of Portland made the fall 2022 Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Mississippi.



There was a full house at Portland Library's Mary Flood Room last Saturday, Feb. 25, to hear Alain Munkittrick, local author and architectural historian, discuss his new book *Historic Homes of the Connecticut River Valley*. Munkittrick was the guest speaker at the Portland Historical Society's annual meeting. On March 12, there will be a book-signing event with Munkittrick at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main Street, from 2-4 p.m.

Historical Society Presents Annual Awards

The Portland Historical Society held its annual meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Library, with over 50 attendees.

Highlights of the meeting included the election of the following slate of officers: President, Julie Macksoud; 1st Vice President, Amy Knous; 2nd Vice President, Susan Bransfield; Corresponding Secretary, Linda Cunningham; Treasurer, Jim McCabe; Directors, Debra Fritag and Sarah Perruccio. They were all elected to terms beginning this year.

Recognition awards were announced for: Sarah Caratasios, in recognition of her children's book *The Adventures of Nibbles Munk-Munk, the story of Nibbles, a chipmunk, discovering Portland, with references to people, places and events from the town's past*; Alain Munkittrick, in recognition of his *Images of America* book *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley*, which features several prominent Portland homes, and in appreciation for his presentation at our annual meeting.

Also, Spencer Deane was awarded in recognition of his contributions promoting appreciation of Portland history through posting on the "Portland, CT History" Facebook page, which he established Dec. 30, 2018. In four years, over 300 Portland photographs have been posted, generating numerous discussions about Portland history among the more than 800 followers on the page. Portland Library was also honored, in recognition of its work commemorating the 125th + 2 Anniversary of the Portland Library 1895-2022. Despite a two-year delay due to the COVID pandemic, the celebration on June 11 of last year featured live music, crafts, games, food, and an exhibit highlighting the Portland of 1895.

An Appreciation Award was announced for Boy Scout Troop 2 in appreciation of its help

refreshing the tag sale poles for the historical society's annual Town-Wide Tag Sale. Last May, scouts Matt Mucinskas, Matt Smith, Colin Wallace, Gerry Hall, Liam Row and scout leaders Jeff Hall and Rick Huebner spent a day at the historical society replacing tag sale signs on over 100 poles.

In addition, three appreciation awards issued earlier in the year were announced for: Joseph Morneault, in appreciation for his generosity in enabling the acquisition of the Overton portraits for the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History and for his work on the biography of General Seth Overton; the Portland community, c/o First Selectman Ryan Curley, in appreciation of the community's ongoing support of the society's mission to collect, preserve and share Portland history - including the society's restoration of the Portland welcome sign on Main Street that is used by many non-profits to promote their activities; and the Portland Garden Club in appreciation for its work maintaining the Betty Keser Scott Garden at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History for over 20 years, acknowledging their efforts and dedication to provide a beautiful oasis of flowers on the museum grounds.

Following the business meeting, Alain Munkittrick offered a program on his new book *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley*. For anyone who missed the meeting, he will be at the Sunday, March 12, opening of Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History for a book-signing event from 2-4 p.m. The museum is located at 492 Main St.

Inquiries about Portland history can be sent to PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com. The society, a volunteer organization, will respond and/or advise you where you may be able to find information. If interested in joining the historical society, visit www.PortlandHistSoc.org.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., and there will also be a gathering in the church office at the same time,

for Anglican Prayer beading. No prior beading experience is required. All are welcome.

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

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

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PHS Senior Honors a Life Cut Short

By Jack Lakowsky

Just after Thanksgiving 2020, during the fraught early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Portland's Todd Weber died of the virus at the far-too-young age of 45.

Weber had a large network of friends in Portland and East Hampton, known for his infectious laugh, and having left after a brief life a legacy of friendship and love, a Portland High School Senior has, as part of her final high school project, called a Capstone, started raising money to start a scholarship in Weber's honor.

Weber graduated PHS in 1994, going on to attend the New England Institute of Technology in Rhode Island, getting a degree, beginning a 20-year career in security technology, rising to vice president of his firm.

Hillary LaMalfa, mom to McKenzie LaMalfa, said her daughter is very close to her \$10,000 goal. As of Wednesday morning, it had reached more than \$8,500.

"He was like family to both my kids," said Hillary. "They called him 'Uncle Web'."

Owing to Weber's career, McKenzie decided to make the money available for students going into trades, a fairly novel idea. The money will be awarded in \$500 allotments, once per year.

"This was a really new experience for her," Hillary said.

McKenzie changed her Capstone choice three times, initially wanting to do something for the local women's shelter.

"Then we all talked about it and came up with the idea as a group," said Hillary. "This

one finally stuck."

McKenzie involved Weber's widow as one of her two project advisors.

"Thank you to my two technical advisors, Amy Weber and Erika France," said McKenzie. "Also, a big thank you to all who have donated, without such generous people supporting this project it would not have been possible."

In addition to supporting great causes, McKenzie is also involved on the school's varsity soccer team, and earns high grades.

"This was such a big confidence boost for her," her mom said. "She did something not a lot of people would think to do."

Donations from GoFundMe will benefit the Todd E. Weber Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will be presented to a Portland High School Class of 2023 graduating senior who plans to pursue a skilled trade.

"He is remembered for his magnetic personality, infectious laugh, and overall love of life! He was fondly known as 'Web,' to his beloved friends and as a loyal man to his immediate as well as extended family," the GoFundMe reads.

To donate, visit [gofundme.com/the-todd-e-weber-scholarship-fund](https://www.gofundme.com/the-todd-e-weber-scholarship-fund).

Last year, a Portland High School senior also honored a friend who was claimed by disease.

Jaxson McClelland, who graduated last year, organized an awareness campaign for Gray Day, coordinating with the state's Brain Tumor Alliance to raise awareness about deadly brain tumors.

McClelland was closely affected by a loved one's brain tumor diagnosis, and he found a



For her Capstone project this year, Portland High School senior McKenzie LaMalfa is honoring Todd Weber (pictured) a dear family friend lost to COVID-19 in 2020 – one of millions the virus has claimed in the last three years. To keep her friend's memory going, McKenzie is raising money for a scholarship in his name.

role model and PHS staff who went through the same trial – PHS library media specialist Elisha-Millerd Lewis sadly lost her husband, Dan, to brain cancer in 2021.

Eric Martin, the district's curriculum director, said Jaxson, and now McKenzie, are examples of the "ceaseless" support Portland students give their community.

Book Sale, Read & Recycle

The Friends of the Portland Library received a large selection of art books from a private collection including books on master artists, Impressionism, both French and American, and art collections in museums around the world.

There are also puzzles, games and DVDs as well as fiction, romance, teen and children's used books in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc and puzzles and games are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

Also, the Friends of the Portland Library's Read and Recycle program will accept donations on Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m.-noon in the Mary Flood Room of the library.

The Friends welcome donations of gently used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No 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.friendsofportlandlibrary.org for more information or email questions to friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

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.portlandlibrary.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.

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: 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. No storytimes the week of March 6.

Renaissance Times: Thursdays, March 9-23, 3:30 p.m., for grades K-2. Go on a quest to gather ancient coins, fashion a dragon for a jousting tournament, and prepare a medieval snack. Registration is required and space is limited.

Family Craft Night: Pressed Flower Lanterns: Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children.

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 portlandcltionsscholarship@gmail.com.

All applications must be received by April 15.

to help with supervision. Registration is required and space is limited.

Teen Advisory Board: Monday, March 6, 3:30 p.m. Share your thoughts on what you would like to see the library offer in terms of programs, materials and more while enjoying some snacks. You will earn community service hours for each meeting you attend. Registration is required.

Teen Event: National Pi Day: Monday, March 13, 3:30 p.m. This time, kids will be making their own pies. Registration is required.

LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups: The library, in conjunction with Portland Youth and Family Services, QPlus and Health Care Advocates International (HCAI) will be hosting social and support groups for LGBTQ+ youth beginning in March. Teens are invited to social meetups at the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Support groups will meet on the third Wednesday of the month, with a parent and caregiver support group running concurrently in another room at the library. For more information, contact Jenn Renk at 860-342-6770.

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

Book Discussions: TAB – Talk About Books: Tuesday, March 7, 1 p.m. *The Women's March* by Chiaverini will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, March 21, 1 p.m. *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* by Kate Racculia will be discussed.

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

Dean's List

Olivia Smith of Portland made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Emerson College in Boston.

Smith is majoring in media arts production and is a member of the Class of 2024.

Town-Wide Tag Sale Plans Begin

The Portland Historical Society's 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is fast approaching. With the start of spring less than a month away, plans for the town-wide tag sale on Saturday, May 13, have begun.

The Town-Wide Tag Sale is six hours of bargain shopping at over 100 tag sales throughout Portland. Organized by the historical society, individuals, families and organizations can be included on the free map for a fee of \$20- \$25. Your location will be clearly marked and a brief description of your items will help buyers find what they are looking for. Local restaurants and businesses can show their support by purchasing a space on the map to advertise their offer-

ings. The map is seen by thousands of people on that day.

Publicized widely and with shoppers visiting from all over the state, the Town-Wide Tag Sale can be a fundraiser for you, your family or for an organization or business.

Online registration for tag sales is underway. Visit the society's website at www.PortlandHistSoc.org and click on the link to register. Watch RiverEast for the opening date of paper registration, coming in late March.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main fundraiser for the Society. Proceeds help to maintain the museum and to further the mission to collect, preserve and share Portland's history.

Class of '73 Reunion

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

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

a cash bar.

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

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 include: March 5, soap and body wash; March 12, paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues,

napkins); March 19, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss; March 26, deodorant, feminine products; and April 2, shaving cream, hand lotion, and body lotion.

Also, individuals who wish to purchase memorial lilies are encouraged to call the church or check zionlutheranportland.org for an 'In Memoriam' form. Forms should be submitted by April 2. Lilies are \$10 each and may be picked up from the church after Easter services on April 9.

The community is welcome to participate in any or all worship services and special events. For more information about any church activities, or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org. Sara Stall-Ryan is Pastor.

YFS News & Notes

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

Youth & Adult Leadership Training: Tuesday, March 7, 6-7:30 p.m., held virtually. In this follow-up to the Youth Listening Circles, YFS will invite youth back, as well as anyone else interested in some leadership and development on culture, diversity, equality, and other issues facing the community. RSVPs encouraged; contact Revicki to sign up.

Afterschool Drop-In & Draw: Tuesday, March 14, from 2:30-4:30 p.m., at Buck-Foreman Community Center (BFCC), 265 Main St.

This is a time for students to come after school and do some semi-structured art. Come when you want, and stay as long as you want.

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

Drop-In & Draw Arts & Crafts: Friday, March 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at BFCC. This month, make handprint shamrocks.

Youth Services Advisory Board: Tuesday, March 21, 4:30-6 p.m.

Prevention & Wellness Council: Wednesday, March 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 1.

Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night: Wednesday, April 5, from 6-8 p.m.

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

place and expand environmental protections.

This choice is supported by CT DEEP's own Best Management Practices for siting Road Salt Storage facilities, which states such operations should not be located in, "An area of GA/GAA Groundwater, unless other locations are not feasible." One of the few locations in Hebron that meets that criteria is the Old Colchester Road site. Since our town leaders appear unwilling to make this choice, I urge the people of Hebron to come together and let them know our taxes, our environment and our history are important. More information at Kinney Road Matters on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Shocked

To the Editor:

A responsible news outlet would not have published Don Nowsch's poem glorifying political assassination.

I am shocked to see this in your publication's pages. As you well know, freedom of the press does not mean that you are required to print incitements to violence. You are directly contributing to the coarsening of our society's moral values.

Linda Schroth MD
East Hampton

Eversource Price-Gouging

To the Editor:

I have a simple question for Norm Needleman and Irene Haines. Do you want people to leave Connecticut? If you do, just say so. Because the egregious increases in our electricity bills seem to be saying "get out" and go to a state where our precious retirement funds can keep us in good financial standing.

PURA states residential generation rates for Eversource customers have risen about 59 percent in the past 10 years, from 7.6 cents per kilowatt hour in the second half of 2013 to 12.1 cents per kilowatt hour in the second half of 2022, and my current rate is 24.17 in 2023!! In fact, my wife and I left for 6 weeks, and the bill for February 2023 said my usage was down 18% from the same period last year, but my cost went up \$124.00, almost double the prior year.

Eversource blames the war in Ukraine, Russia, and world markets for the rate increases, despite the fact they buy either nothing or very little supplies from either location. And please tell me why I can buy electricity from a 3rd party supplier for 10-12 cents (that's right; half the price), yet Eversource price gouges with impunity. Yes, Eversource offers help with saving electricity, but then they jack up the rates to recover the lost revenues, which means your bill never really goes down. And to add insult to injury, Eversource proudly declares they made \$1.4 billion in profits in 2022. The whole situation smells of back-room deals, state officials happily looking the other way, and an indifference to the good people of Connecticut.

Is anybody in the Connecticut government seeing this? Where is your sense of outrage?

Regards,
Bob Yenker – East Hampton

The Beauty of Ice

To the Editor:

When the "ice" is mentioned, there is usually an association with road or under-foot hazards.

Ice is beautiful.

Early Sunday morning, well before sunrise, I made my usual trip down to the barn to feed the horses with the snow-covered path illuminated by my headlight. In the atmosphere, against the very dark surrounding, I clearly saw fog. Well below the freezing point of water, there was fog suspended in the air.

Whenever and wherever these micro drops of super cooled water landed, they stuck to that surface.

Hours later when I went back out to finish the morning routine, there was a magical sight to be seen. Every surface was plated with a slight coat of rime ice. The trees took on a silver patina. The holly leaves were fringed in silver. Billions of these microdroplets of fog froze solidly on some surface transforming the scene from a dull late winter gray to silver.

Every one of these ice crystals were multifaceted and reflected off the light from the overcast sky. A wonder of Nature few notice unless they really observe the immediate world in front of them.

Ice is a fascinating phenomenon. It's not always welcome but pretty to be sure if one takes the time to look.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

DTC Seeks Volunteers

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 or 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 2-4 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.

Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Chair
Andover Democratic Town Committee

Bringing Colchester Together

Dear Colchester Residents:

In January, I announced my campaign for first selectman of Colchester because I believe that our town deserves experienced leadership with vision and compassion. Since then, I have been overwhelmed and honored by support from so many other members of our community who are also eager for change in Colchester.

On Sunday, March 12, I am holding a campaign kick-off and fundraiser at Priam Vineyards from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The theme of my campaign is "Bringing Colchester Together" – so let's get together!

This is a chance to meet others who care deeply about the future of this community and communities in Connecticut similar to ours. There will be hors d'oeuvres, snacks, cake, and a cash bar. I will also give my first in-person speech of the campaign about my vision for the future of Colchester and why I am in this race.

We may not agree on every issue, but we can work together to fight for transparency and affordability while protecting our investments in roads, parks, schools, and buildings like the Youth Center and Senior Center at the same time. We can build an administration that will collaborate with community organizations and will support local businesses while preserving Colchester's farms and open space.

Tickets are available in advance at BernieForColchester.com and will be for sale at the door. Your contributions are greatly appreciated, but even if you are unable to donate at this time, I hope you will still come and enjoy the afternoon with us!

I believe that we can bring Colchester together and start a new chapter for our town.

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
**Bernie Denler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman**

Hebron is Worth Saving

To the Editor:

Several years ago, the citizens of Hebron bought about 90 acres of farmland and wetlands in the town center known as the Horton property or 17 Kinney Rd. If there is a soul to Hebron, it is this land. It was part of the original European settlement in the early 1700s and dates to Paleo-Indian times. It has been farmed continuously for 300 years. Here, there is American history, including Blacks, whites, Native Americans and other groups, that should be preserved. Beautiful wetlands abound that protect the watershed and provide the basis for a rich diversity of wildlife and biota.

In the post-pandemic economy, successful rural towns now market eco-tourism, agro-tourism and historical tourism. Passive recreation on the Horton property, which costs almost nothing, will become the economic heart of Hebron. Walking and biking trails will connect the commercial district with Air Line Trail. You will be able to walk down quaint, stone-lined wagon trails past actively farmed cornfields. Boardwalk wetland trails will exit across from Hebron Elementary allowing it to become an outdoor classroom for Hebron's schoolchildren. Post-pandemic, workers working remotely

are the engine of rural economies. Surveys show that residents moved here because of rural living (80%), schools (64%) and safety (59%). (Town services rated 4%.) The preservation of the Horton property will save our rural town, brand Hebron as a center of healthy living and help attract more young families.

I worry that our town government is trying to build a kind of town that died long ago. Putting dump trucks and toxic salt piles in the middle of historic farmland and wetlands in the town center is not an attractive or responsible vision. (There are much better alternatives for Public Works.) We should decide our own future. Send Public Works to referendum.

John Collins – Amston

Profound Disbelief

To the Editor:

I'm writing to express my profound disbelief that a recent letter to the editor written by Don Nowsch was actually chosen to be published in your paper. Giving any kind of violence a public platform is unacceptable, but in this day and age, the glorification of political violence is particularly concerning. In recent years we have seen numerous displays of increasingly violent political behavior, starting with people with dissenting voices getting punched at Trump rallies with no repercussions, escalating to a woman being hit and killed by a car in Charleston in a white supremacist attack that was barely decried by President Trump, and continuing with convoys of trucks waiting for and following campaign buses and vehicles in Texas and attempting to hit them and run them off the road, multiple deaths and hundreds of injuries resulting from Jan. 6, and, most recently, a man breaking into the Pelosi home attempting to kill Paul Pelosi with a hammer, and openly sharing with the cops that he had been more than willing to wait for Nancy Pelosi to return home from DC so that he could hold her hostage and break her kneecaps.

I am shocked and horrified that this poem, with its wistful dreams of a modern presidential assassination, was received and read by the editor and subsequently chosen to be printed. A letter that encourages and endorses the murder of a president of the United States. Violent rhetoric must not be normalized or deemed acceptable by being given a public platform such as this one. If this poem had been about any regular person, would it still have been published? If it was about a local politician, maybe someone who helps run your town, would it have been published?

This choice was so wildly unprofessional and that I'm honestly not even sure how to word my thoughts. There is importance and value to publishing the thoughts and opinions of voters of all parties and beliefs, but an unequivocal line needs to be drawn wherein thoughts and opinions that glorify any kind of violence (such as presidential assassination) are marked as inappropriate and do not ever see the light of day. This paper and editor need to acknowledge their mistake and an apology needs to be published.

Thank you for your time,
Caroline Dowd – Coventry

Solutions

To the Editor:

As someone who was once a registered Democrat, Republican and unaffiliated individual, I have found it difficult to fully align my views with any one political party- especially when it comes to local level politics. What is best for our quaint town does not necessarily follow the party lines that have been offered in the past. I am beyond ecstatic to be one of the founders spearheading the Independent Party Slate Committee of Marlborough. As a mom of four young children, I am invested in their future where we have chosen to lay out our roots almost 8 years ago. "Complaining about a problem without proposing a solution is called whining," according to Teddy Roosevelt. I chose to find solutions.

Compromise is crucial within our town. Working together, and transparency is the key to success in any situation. The IPSC has a survey out to our residents, so we can gauge how to prioritize our neighbor's concerns. This will be the basis of our focus as a party, and we are looking forward to sharing the results with all of you. I hope you join me in my efforts of revitalizing the options for our town political parties.

Feel free to join our second Wednesday of the month meetings at 7 p.m. in the MES library. We also offer a hybrid option, to be all inclusive of those in our town, who may not be able to make it in person. It is available on our agenda; join our mailing list to receive it. Find out more on our website, which we are very proud

of: marlparty.com.

Kerri Barella – Marlborough

Note: Barella is treasurer of the Independent Party Slate Committee of Marlborough. She is also a member of the Marlborough Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Hebron DPW

To the Editor:

I started writing to the *Rivereast* when it was suggested that the Public Works facility be put at Burnt Hill Park. I live on East Street and was an advocate for the park. Knowing the park and having been involved with it since inception, the thought of literally jamming more activity into it would be detrimental to the park and its intended use. I was saddened that the water at my home from my well was not as important as those wells on Kinney Road.

Knowing intimately the amount of traffic coming and going from the park, the thought of adding the Public Works Department facility to it felt like it was a very uninformed and insensitive suggestion. The Parks and Recreation operations being housed there was a smart move as this was the largest park in town at the time. They have been very respectful of their speed on East Street. The town Public Works employees would, I'm sure, be just as respectful.

Burnt Hill Park was for the greater good of Hebron. The new Public Works facility would also be for the greater good! Investing in our future, keeping our infrastructure, and town properties-maintained, requires change. I have accepted the increased traffic on East Street, as the park supports an abundance of activities, including, trails, Hebron Day, Trunk or Treat, football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and don't forget the historic Peters House.

I have been looking forward to John Horton Boulevard being completed and some actual growth to our town center that is long overdue.

I want to thank the volunteers on the Public Building Committee and our Planning and Zoning Commission for taking the heat for doing what's right. And to Natalie Wood for saying eloquently that the scenic road was just another diversion tactic.

Todd Habicht – Hebron

Affordable Housing?

To the Editor:

I have lived in Hebron for 38+ years and one of the ongoing challenges has been how to get affordable housing in town. And before some people start a litany of protest, I am not talking about low-income housing but affordable housing.

Our young people starting their careers and many of our seniors entering their retirement time cannot afford to live in town due to the cost of housing and the associated heavy property tax burden. Affordable housing is a way to keep these people in town and helping to build local business income.

A few weeks ago I opened the Sunday paper to read about an innovative affordable housing project being built in Meriden. After reading the article I thought, what a forward-looking town management group who teamed with a builder to build a small home subdivision in town. They just broke ground and the waiting list is full.

I also thought the article showed how incompetent our town management is in this critical area.

So, where is our Board of Selectman? Oh yea, bringing us the road to nowhere (a failure), no apparent town plans for any kind of affordable housing and mired down in the fight over the placement of the DPW.

So, to the BOS I suggest you get your heads out the sand about the DPW location-for which we have had a solution since 2015 and should be implemented- and get your heads around a solution for affordable housing. For once do your job!

Davis Howell – Hebron

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RivereastNewsBulletin

Leaders Discuss Future of Theatre, Orchestra

By Michael Sinkewicz

Members of the Colchester Community Theatre and Colchester Choir and Orchestra met with town representatives last week as the future of the groups remain uncertain.

For over 25 years, the CCT has survived through a generous relationship with the town that involved being fully sponsored. While the group is financially self-sustaining, the sponsorship allowed the CCT to utilize school facilities for shows and rehearsals and conduct a summer workshop each year for kids interested in the theatre.

The groups were also insured through the town but last fall, the town informed the organizations that they were no longer covered under the town insurance, a revelation CCT President Diane Ozmun described as “devastating.”

Now, the groups are working with the town to establish a viable solution that would ensure the organizations’ survival.

On Feb. 21, CCT and CCO members met with First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn and two insurance representatives. Rosemary Coyle was also present as a Board of Selectmen member.

Ozmun described the meeting, which took place just days after the CCT’s 25th anniversary production, as “productive.”

“The goal was to discuss how we can move forward in order to be a part of the town,” she told the Rivereast this week. “It helped us move in a different direction.”

During the meeting, the criteria and necessary steps to become sponsored through the town were outlined. Still, as parents throughout the community speculate on whether their children will be able to enroll in the upcoming summer workshop, Ozmun expressed that the organization’s survival is unclear.

“I can’t say I have 100% confidence in that,” she said. “We’re optimistic but we’re still in a place of not knowing what’s going to be acceptable.”

Quinn told the Rivereast that there have been “several recent misunderstandings” regarding the insurance coverage for the CCT and CCO.

“The town did not drop or discontinue insurance coverage for either organization,” she said in a statement. “CCT or CCO have not been covered as they are viewed as independent organizations with their own Board of Directors and bylaws.”

Quinn has previously explained that insurance requirements can evolve over time. During a review in the fall, the town was informed that the organizations were not covered and were likely operating under the belief that they had coverage for a period of time.

“We are very thankful that nothing happened that would have warranted an insurance claim,” Quinn said.

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

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

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

Following the meeting, Ozmun said her organization would review its bylaws and assess what formal documentation would be required by the town moving forward. Currently, that type of documentation “doesn’t exist.”

“We still have to have figure it out so we can get to a place where can meet all the require-

ments,” she said, adding that the exact path forward is hazy. “We need to know exactly what that is and it shouldn’t be a mystery. We got some clarity.”

She emphasized that certain aspects, such as town oversight, already exist.

“Just to reiterate, these are things that have always been in place,” she expressed. “It should continue to work. It’s worked for 25 years.”

While the solutions are not “simple,” the group is working on meeting the provisions. The CCT Board of Directors is forming templates and conducting research to help facilitate the process.

Ozmun called the circumstances frustrating, but “at least we’re in the ballpark,” she said.

“We’re working backwards but all we can do at this point is move forward.”

Quinn believes the town and organizations remain in a position “to make constructive changes that meet the insurance requirements and their organizational needs.”

“The town, as well as our insurance company, are committed to collaborating with both organizations to ensure that they can continue their superior arts opportunities far into the future,” she stated. “We have had several meetings to answer questions, share ideas and talk about possible solutions. We will continue to work together until we find a permanent solution.”

She continued by saying town representatives are “100% invested in supporting these organizations, as well as protecting the town.”

“We believe that these are not mutually exclusive goals,” Quinn added. “They are consistent expectations when providing the best possible services to the Colchester community.”

Although Ozmun said she believes the town has good intentions and will work alongside the organizations, there’s still no guarantee of finding the right solutions.

“I would confirm that we feel that [the town] wants to work with us to make this happen,” she said. “But we’re not there yet.”

The CCT purchased a one-year insurance policy ahead of this year’s production, which was already facing financial hurdles brought on by the pandemic. Even though the CCT is not funded through the town and does not receive

any taxpayer dollars, the sponsorship allowed the organization to function. Without town insurance or access to the facilities, it’s unlikely that the CCT would remain sustainable.

The department has looked at other options, including a municipal or private arts commission and examined how neighboring towns operate their programs. Many towns do have art commissions, but Ozmun stated that a similar idea “just didn’t work with how we function.”

Another solution would involve receiving town funding. Bisbikos said that idea would prevent the organizations from being sponsored, but that the town could still add a municipal budget line to cover the insurance expenses.

This idea, according to Ozmun, is also a non-starter.

“We’re not looking to become part of the budget,” she said. “We don’t want to be given funds that would be cut from the budget.”

The circumstances surrounding the organizations will begin impacting the community in the months ahead. In the fall, the CCT received assurances from the town that they’d be able to utilize Bacon Academy for rehearsals and the final production of Young Frankenstein presented earlier this month. The summer workshop can still take place as long as the facilities remain available, which remains unclear, according to Ozmun.

Another meeting with the stakeholders could possibly take place as soon as next week.

“We feel strongly about continuing to keep this right in front of us,” Ozmun said. “We’ll work until we’re all satisfied.”

Young Frankenstein was a massive success, she said, and the preliminary steps to prepare for next year’s production will need to begin soon. Ozmun hopes the community will continue to support local organizations like the CCT and CCO.

“We really need to keep the conversation about what’s important to us in the forefront,” she said. “Colchester is in great need of this community coming together. The only way we effect change is being a part of it.”

She emphasized that many groups need attention and support, but added that the CCT was “an integral part of Colchester.”

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 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.

Operation FairyTale

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

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

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

Dot Mrowka Scholarship Available

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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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.

Wild Woolies, Wrigglers and Wings

On Sunday, March 12, at 10 a.m., the Colchester Land Trust invites all to "Wild Woolies, Wrigglers and Wings" – a hiking program to be held at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve.

In this 90-minute hike, Liza Sivek will discuss some of the many native creatures – feathered, scaled and furry – who live in and around the preserve and their habitats. Appropriate for all ages, the three-mile hike features some elevation, the CLT said.

The hike is free for land trust members. (Non-member adults \$5 each, kids under 18

free.) Registration is encouraged, as there may be a limit on the number of attendees. Register at www.colchesterlandtrust.org. Questions can be emailed at info@colchesterlandtrust.org. Meet at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve Parking Lot on Bulkeley Hill Road, Colchester.

Colchester Land Trust is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that works to permanently preserve and protect open space in Colchester. Go to www.colchesterlandtrust.org to join or donate.

Project Grad Golf Tournament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

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

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

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

Gorgeous Glass in Boston: Tuesday, April 18. Spend time at the Mapparium at the Mary Baker Eddy Library. This huge glass globe shows the world's boundaries frozen in time circa 1935. Also have a three-course family style Italian lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy, and then see flowers made of Austrian blown glass during a guided tour of The Glass Flowers exhibit in the Harvard Museum of Natural

History. Cost is \$130 per person. Sign up at the senior center by March 17.

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

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.

St. Joseph's Day Dinner-Dance

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host a St. Joseph's Day dinner-polka dance Sunday, March 19. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m., and The Eddie Forman Orchestra will play polka music from 2-6 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

Soccer Club Offering Scholarships

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

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

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

Dean's List

Griffin Sullivan of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Dean College in Franklin, Mass.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Stephanie Davis and Emma Mallett made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

Bacon Students Selling Saplings

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

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

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

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

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

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Sunday School is held dur-

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

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

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

Book and Bake Sale Coming

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold a Book and Bake Sale this weekend at Cragin, located at 8 Linwood Ave.

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

box or bag for \$5.

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

Parks and Rec News

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

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

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

Heartsaver CPR AED/First Aid: This course trains participants to give CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED). Cost: \$90 per person. Next class date: Tuesday, March 21, 6 p.m.

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

non-resident.

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

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

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

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



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From the First Selectman's Desk

Dear Colchester Residents:

On Tuesday, March 7, I will be presenting the town's budget to both the public and Board of Finance for review. In working with the finance director, I have done a top-to-bottom review of every department to identify areas for growth and areas for savings. My intent is to provide a fiscally conservative budget while at the same time moving the town forward. In full transparency, I will be laying out my initiatives and key areas of interests to you today.

The first initiative will be the addition of two full-time firemen/EMS to secure rapid 24-hour coverage, address the dramatic escalation in call volumes while reducing the overall burden on our valued staff and volunteers, and to mitigate costs caused by rising overtime and stipend positions. The second initiative will be to add a senior center medical driver to address the need for our out-of-town medical transportation services. In the last three years, the town has seen a 43% escalation in needs while staffing has remained stagnant. Both initiatives send a message that Colchester takes the safety of its citizens seriously, especially our most vulnerable.

The third initiative is the preservation of historical documents. This initiative is small one in price (\$2K), but important in scope. As a community we must be proactive in preserving our storied history, especially documents that we have buried away at the library. The fourth initiative is transparency software that will make it easier for citizens to access pertinent financial data. Both initiatives demonstrate the need for accessibility, whether it is the for historical information or present-day finances.

The fifth initiative will be adding a facilities maintainer to our staff to work on municipal buildings. The town has failed to maintain its buildings and the cost of that has been pricey. A facilities maintainer will save costs both short term and long term. The sixth initiative will to focus on field maintenance, irrigation, and repair. As the town looks to secure ARPA funding for irrigation, we need to be able to maintain them better moving forward. The fields have become both a liability and a disgrace. The time is now for the Fields of Dreams to come alive. The final initiative will be to secure \$135K directly for tree removal. My administration has made historic gains on tree removal, but more is needed to secure safety and avoid liability. Initiatives five through seven remind us that maintenance and upkeep is too important to ignore.

While the town budget is important, embracing our small businesses is paramount. As a strong advocate for small businesses and the administration behind the Colchester Comeback Program – which reinvested \$1M in ARPA funds to our local businesses – I have been on a business tour highlighting our local businesses and listening to the concerns of business owners. As a community we must continue to shop local and support our small-town treasures. I would also like to thank the Commerce Center LLC for thinking of Colchester and giving us an opportunity to explore options related to the old Jack Chevrolet property. While the Board of Selectmen was not interested in acquiring this space, there will be a support for retail development there. I look forward to a future ribbon-cutting.

Finally, I want to recognize our legendary hometown coach, David Shea, as he will be inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame on Sunday, April 23. Coach Shea honored Bacon Academy by winning 778 games and three state championships over 49 seasons coaching first the boys' basketball team, then the girls'. Coach, thank you for your dedication to our community. This town loves you and congratulations on this historic milestone. You will forever be part of the fabric of our lovely community's history and storied tradition.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester First Selectman

Lions Offering Scholarships

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

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

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

Applications must be received by Friday, March 10.

Dennler Campaign Kick-Off Event

All are invited to the kick-off event for Bernie Dennler's campaign for Colchester first selectman at Priam Vineyards on Sunday, March 12, from 3-5 p.m. Tickets are on sale to raise funds for the campaign, but all are welcome to attend even if they are unable to donate.

The theme of the campaign is "Let's Bring Colchester Together."

The event will feature Dennler's first in-person speech of the campaign about his vision for the future of Colchester and his mission to bring people together. Special guests will include Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz. Hors d'oeuvres, snacks and cake will be served. There will also be a cash bar.

Dennler is a lifelong Colchester resident who has served as vice chair of both the Board of Finance and the Economic Development Com-

mission. He currently serves on the Public Safety Subcommittee. In his day job, he works as the office manager for the Lebanon first selectman.

Dennler recently announced he will seek the Democratic nomination for Colchester first selectman.

"We don't need to solve the nation's problems, we just need to work together for the good of Colchester," Dennler said. "I plan to use my professional experience in municipal government to bring stability back to Town Hall and to fight for residents. It doesn't matter if you're a Democrat, a Republican or something else. We need to come together for Colchester."

For more information or to purchase advance tickets, visit BernieForColchester.com. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Seed Library Opens for Season

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

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

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

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

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 avail-

able. 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.

Upcoming Programs at Cragin

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

Drop-In Storytime: Saturday, March 4, 10:30 a.m. All ages are invited to this all-ages storytime about dragons.

Take & Make Lucky Gnome Craft: Monday, March 6: Pick up a kit in the children's department.

Medicare Educational Event: Thursday, March 9, 6-7 p.m. Learn the ins-and-outs of Medicare and the differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage 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

Take & Make Foodie Fun: Saturday, March 11, for kids and teens. Create a colorful sweet treat.

Butterfly Week – March 13-18: Come to the children's department and follow the butterflies posted in the library to learn lots of butterfly facts.

Free Play: Tuesday, March 14, 10 a.m.-noon, for ages 2-5. Featuring an inside obstacle course.

No-Sew Hedgehog Take & Make: Wednesday, March 15, for adults and teens. Stop by to pick up a craft kit while supplies last.

Take & Make Children's Hedgehog Craft: Wednesday, March 15. Create a cute hedgehog.

Mint Milkshakes: Thursday, March 16, 3-3:45 p.m., for grades 6-12. Stop by the library for some green milkshakes. Let library staff

know if you have any food allergies.

Take & Make Robot Craft: Saturday, March 18. Pick up the craft kit in the children's department.

Take & Make Lion Landscape Craft: Monday, March 20. Pick up the craft kit in the children's department.

Baby Free Play: Tuesday, March 21, 10 a.m.-noon.

Teen Gaming: Tuesday, March 21, 3-4 p.m., for grades 6-12. Hang out and try out a new game or play with friends on the library's new Nintendo Switch.

In-Person: Paint Craft: Wednesday, March 22, 6-7 p.m. Stop into the children's department and paint some dandelions with us.

Take & Make Puppy Craft: Thursday, March 23. Pick up the craft in the children's department.

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.

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 6: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge

Tuesday, March 7: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., AARP Meeting, Bingo.

Wednesday, March 8: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 10:15 a.m., Across the Ages; 1 p.m., Life Review Journaling; 2:30 p.m., CSC staff meeting

Thursday, March 9: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 1:30 p.m., Bunny Wreath Workshop.

Friday, March 10: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide by appointment only; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; no Choral Group today; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group, Hearing Clinic; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1 p.m., Tech Time wotj Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Lucky Leprechaun Luncheon: Wednesday, March 15, 11 a.m. The Tidewater Trio will bring the sounds of the fiddle, guitar fiddle, mandolin and song to the senior center. Following the performance will be a traditional feast of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread and juice. Cost is \$9 per person. Space is limited. Register by March 8.

Cardio Drumming Intro Presentation: Wednesday, March 15, 1:30 p.m. Cardio drumming brings together drumsticks and an exercise ball in a low-impact workout. See a demo of this exercise program and offer feedback. This program is free, but registration is requested.

Meet & Greet with Ellen: Thursday, March 16, 10 a.m. All are invited to welcome Ellen Fougere as the center's new senior benefits counselor. She will volunteer weekly on Thursdays to help senior center members with various benefit programs. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Inspired by Art: Tuesday, March 28, 10 a.m. In this new monthly program, take an in-depth look at an artist, then make a small art project using one or more of their works as inspiration. The March workshop is \$10 per person and includes the blank flag, metal yard stake, and all paint and materials to complete the project. Space is limited. Register before March 21.

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

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

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WJJMS Honor Roll

William J. Johnston Middle School has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

High Honors

Grade 6: Blake Allard, Abbie Barthel, Jack Barthel, Kaylynn Benkert, Caroline Bruni, Charlotte Bunting, Donovan Caruso-Wozniak, Elyse Christoff, Logan Cleary, Ronan Conley, Luke Corrado, Alexander Courtemanche, Gabrielle D'Atri, Ava Galante, Alice Gauthier, Zack Ginand, Nova Gostkiewicz, Kendall Grant, Nora Gudelski, Briana Hawes, Olivia Helms, Eli Henderson, Katherine Hormuzdiar, Savannah Hunscher, Emma Hunt, Sophie Hustus, Aydell Imasuen, Jayden Ingalla, Ilina Kanagara, Delilah Koonankeil, Nadia Korzhoff, Genevieve Kukich, Kayla Lachapelle, Adam Laspino, Carleigh Maher, Finn Maloney, Ellery Markham, Jameson Mauro, Kinsey McCoy, Dylan Molina-Apu, Sophie Mullen, Samantha Nadeau, Maggie Parekh, Julia Rago, Delaney Scholl, Milania Shilosky, Cayden Steele, Ava Sykes, Izsak Treat, Isabel Weiner, Emily Welles, Sarah Wisniewski, Kaylie Wong, Tyler Zajac.

Grade 7: Benjamin Adams, Victoria Adamski, Alex Badrick, Abigail Bantle, Adam Bigelow, Kira Brault, Brayden Buyniski, Grace Clarkin, Hailey Crossway, Isabel Faber, Emily Fougereuse, Benjamin Fuhrmann, Dante Gonzalez, Claire Gould, Jack Grimm, Reid Gross, Carter Hebert, Brody Hochholzer, Damiana Hunt, Sufyan Kasli, Ashtyn King, Connie Lin, Dalila Malz, Owen McLoughlin, Emma Pensa, Lily Pulse, Gabriella Ruccio, Charles Ringuette, Gabrielle Russo, Adrina Ruzsala, Audrey Siborg, Lila Wilson, James Wissler, Ty Wissler.

Grade 8: Raphael Antonacci, Gehrig Bartiss, Katherine Belding, Tyler Bergquist, Nicolas Chiaverini, Kellen Conley, Hannah Ferrigno, Reina Hill, Rowan Hodgkins, Ella Jeffries, Paraskevi Koutsofavas, Zachary Mancuso, Aidan McAlpine, Keegan McKenzie, Cole Mitchell, Kaylee Opalenik, Cora Rago, Talia Ramos, Ian Sanders, Paolo Uccello, Toheed Usman, Zoey Walter.

Honors

Grade 6: Ryleigh Angell, Liam Beeler, Allison Bell, Bryce Berta, Dani Borah, Lauren Brown, Ryan Browning, Nicholas Bruni, Cadence Burchfield, Amber Carmody, Julia Camelli, Zach Carrero, Abygail Carroll, Aviana Chapman, Angellese Colon, Liam Coons, Rylee Cox, Jemma Carrier, Eric Deacon, Gianna Dean, Jayden DeBroske, Gilbert England, Zyyear Farrell, Brin Fecteau, Kaylin Fischlein, Dylan Friberg, Liara Golden, Charlotte Grant, Seraphina Gruss, Jocelyn Hahn, Lillian Harvey, Lillian Hauserman, Fiona Helms, Allyson Hollis, Emanuel Huynh, Gino Intrieri, Owen Ives, Dylan Kapoor, Shea Kellogg, Allison Kennedy,

Jackson Koziol, Maci Lemay, Lily Lenda, Layla Lian, Tammie Lian, Jonathan Lizotte, Benjamin Lockwood, Jessica Mattos, Christopher McGlynn, Molly McMahon, Joanna Miller, William Morsch, Charlotte Orlando, Drew Pazul, Tully Richardson, Landon Robbins, Taydian Serrano, Charlotte Smith, Nolan Tuthill, Karter Viola, Kyra Walter, Henry Williams, Alyssa Zajac.

Grade 7: Elyason Beeler, Reagan Beeler, Temperance Berard, Aidan Bisi, Charlee Boothroyd, Madelynne Brownell, Grace Busby, Megan Buscetto, Camden Capone, Cameron Chabot, Carmen Champagne, Ashley Cleary, Evan Coakley, Benjamin Coughlin, Cameron Cruz, Addison Daniels, Wesley Engleman, Seriaa Farrell, Allison Field, Abigail Floyd, Teresa Formica, Aubrella Fowler,

Jacob Gardiner, Noah Garvie, Charlie Gott, Jameson Grant, Yunyang Gu, Quinn Guntulis, Jack Hiegl, Cadence Hlasyszyn, Mason Howard, Brendan Jennette, Zackary Jodojin, Joshua Lund, Chance Markovitz, Jillian Marshall, Claire Martin, James Mattison, Benjamin Matos, Logan McClafferty, Shane Meyer, Mark Miano-Talbot, Mickayla Moroch, Aidalyn Pacheco, Kiersten Page, Krish Patel, Rylee Perry, Saria Potter, Arianna Przechodzki, Isabella Rivera Kloss, Benjamin Romasanta, Nayelis Ruiz, David Rumph, Adriana Russo, Logan Sheridan, Riley Simmons, Dylan Simon, Christian Stabach, Julius Suggs, Maeve Sweeney, Maci Swenson, Colleen Talbot, Jacob Teal, Cameron Velazquez, Brandon Verruso, Zachary Weisensee, Chelsea Williams.

Grade 8: Ali Ali, Jake Ashley, Ethan Blanchette, Cody Blanda, Cole Boutin, Brooke Burchfield, Judas Butler, Leah Chen, Zachary Chiarella, Aidan Claffey, Skyy Courtemanche, Timothy Crowell, Sarah Deane, Anthony DePaola, Jacoby Eisenberg, Leah Eveleigh, Elizabeth Floyd, Matthew Galante, Bray Geleney, Savanna Healy, Asha Hormuzdiar, Madeline Ives, Averi Johnson, Mason Koji, David Landa, Kadyn Landry, Rae Lenda, Hayden Liddy, Charles Mauldin, Johnathan McAllister, Pyper McIver, Nathan Metcalfe, Michael Migliaccio, Peyton Mikalonis, Joshua Millington, Diego Negron, Sai Parekh, Simon Parra, Boden Paul, Karah Pensa, Maddyn Reinholtz, Abigail Richards, Garrett Rodgers, Zachary Russo, Kagan Ruzsala, Benjamin Salemi, Katelyn Siena, Alexa Smith, Mason Steele, Marina Swanback, Riley Trudeau, Jason Trusz, Eleni Tsakiris, Miles Viggiani, Ashleen Walsh, Delaney Walsh, Shauna Wells, Michael Wisniewski.

President's List

Sarah Grant of Colchester made the fall 2022 President's List honors in the Bachelor of Science electromechanical engineering technology program at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, Vt.

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.

Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host an Incoming Kindergarten Story Time session Tuesday, March 14, from 11:10-11:40 a.m., in the media center, 315 Halls Hill Rd., for 4- and 5-year-old Colchester children who will be entering kindergarten during the 2023-24 school year.

Children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers, while parents learn about the registration process, the kindergarten curriculum, readiness expectations, the school day, school policies and transportation. A question-and-answer period will be available. No pre-registration is required.

Future sessions will be Tuesdays, April 4 and May 9. Parents and children are invited to attend multiple story times. Topics for parent information change each month.

Lions Accepting Grant Applications

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

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

Completed applications must be submitted by March 15.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will serve a corned beef and cabbage dinner Sunday, March 12, from 1-3 p.m. Dinner will be served with potatoes, carrots, rye bread, and butter. Dine-in or takeout available.

Advanced tickets only. Tickets are \$15 per person and on sale now at the club. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

Troop 13 of Colchester is holding a pasta dinner fundraiser Saturday, March 4, at St. Andrew Parish Hall, 128 Norwich Ave. There will be two seatings: one from 4:30-6 p.m., and one from 6-7:30 p.m. Takeout is available.

Dinner includes: ziti with/without sauce, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverage if dining in; there is no beverage for takeout.

Cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 10.

Pre-order tickets by contacting Sharon Colburn at troop13pastadinner@gmail.com or 860-798-5341

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.



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A Cup of Cocoa... The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) held a program at Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands on Sunday, Feb. 19, to celebrate the Storywalk's new book: *Best in Snow* by April Pulley Sayre. Families read the book together and participated in a Nature Scavenger Hunt. Pictured here enjoying a cup of hot cocoa is Rocky Chasse. For more information about C3, go to ColchesterC3.org.

Ladies Guild Offering Trip

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Story at Colchester StoryWalk

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

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

The StoryWalk is located at 96 McDonald

Rd. Children and their families can follow the trail of weatherproof stations along a short hiking trail. Each station features suggested questions or simple activities to enrich the story and hike.

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

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.

Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School meets during the worship service.

Meetings: The church hosts several groups meeting weekly: Al-Anon, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; AA, Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA

Troop 109, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; and Cub Scout Pack 109, one Thursday per month at 6 p.m.

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

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

Giving Garden Starts Soon

It's time to start preparing for another year of growing and donating at the Colchester Giving Garden. There will be an open meeting for anyone interested in joining in at the garden on Monday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., in Norton Room A.

People are invited to discuss the new growing season, ways to improve the garden, items needed for purchase, and offer any other suggestions.

For more information, send inquiries to colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com or come to the meeting on March 13.

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.

Local Photo Contest

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

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

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

ButterBraid and Cake Roll Fundraiser

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

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

Dean's List

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

Samantha Ciaglo, Jade Hostetler, Elizabeth Ladegard, Colin Larkin, Sokheta Nguon, Mackenzie Root, Kayden Sargent, Tybal Slatery, Lucas Slomski, Emily Tellar and Lillian Wonderly.

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.

President's List

Maile Blumberger of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

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

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

Dean's List

Lindsey Reilly of Colchester made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Fla. Her academic achievement also earned her an invitation to join the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

Reilly is majoring in aerospace engineering and is a member of the class of 2026.

Project Graduation Trivia Night Fundraiser

All are welcome to a Trivia Night fundraiser Friday, April 28, at St. Joseph's Polish Club in Colchester. 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 now 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 enhance drug- and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy, Colchester. All of the events Project Graduation will conduct are entirely paid for through the fundraising efforts and contributions of Bacon Academy parents, students and community members.

Town Officials Discuss Budget Proposal

By Michael Sinkewicz

Andover's budget season continues to move ahead, with the Board of Selectmen looking to finalize a proposal later this month that would then be turned over to the Board of Finance.

Last month, the local school board adopted a moderate budget increase and the RHAM school board continues to modify its own proposal, as well.

During a budget workshop on Feb. 27, the selectmen reviewed a general outline for municipal spending and organized their priorities moving forward.

This week, Town Administrator Eric Anderson told the *Rivereast* that the town's goal is "not to increase" the mill rate.

As of now, he couldn't provide a bottom-line total for a combined education and municipal spending package, or whether that number will be an increase or decrease from current year spending, expressing that it's "up in the air."

A few lingering questions will be finalized in the weeks ahead, including Public Works expenditures, which are typically a major municipal budget line, and the possible addition of a town planner. Anderson stated that there's still details yet to be determined with that position and how it would be formulated.

The case for a town planner was brought up in January by Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Jed Larson, who advocated for the new position.

"I do think it could significantly benefit the town," he said.

Larson expressed that it's difficult for a volunteer group such as PZC to implement all the recommendations in the plan of conservation and development. Hiring a professional who could assist with any planning decisions and be retained by the town may solve that problem.

A planner could assist with bringing new businesses, he added, and with executing the affordable housing plan and preparing regulation changes. The town may also be missing out on potential grants, which a planner could potentially seek out.

"I just hate seeing Andover not being able to take advantage of more of that money that's out there that I think we could put to good use," he said.

According to his own estimates for a 10-hour-per-week position, the cost would be around \$20,000-30,000 a year, Larson said.

On Feb. 8, the Andover school board adopted a modest increase in spending. The proposal was for \$4.23 million — a \$182,000 or 4.5% increase from current year spending.

"I think it's a fair budget," school board chairman Gerard Creme said following the vote. "I think it's fair to the residents. It's fair to the school."

Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau told the *Rivereast* last week that she believes "the community will appreciate that we gave them the smallest increase we could."

For RHAM, the operating budget proposal was for \$31.18 million with the capital budget penciled in at \$529,645. Overall, the combined budget is \$31.71 million — an increase of \$1.44 million or 4.76% from current year spending.

Andover would pay \$4.5 million of the operating budget, the lowest of the three towns, and \$76,428 of the capital budget.

However, Anderson stated that the final budget for RHAM will likely come in below those initial figures. During last month's meeting, the RHAM school board unanimously approved the utilization of 2021-22 surplus funds.

Over \$360,000 will be allocated to capital

non-recurring projects, including such items as HVAC review, wrestling mats, a baby grand piano, scoreboards/shot clocks, and feminine hygiene products/dispensers.

While the overall RHAM proposal may ultimately be trimmed, the current education budget numbers would result in a 2.9% decrease, when factoring in both RHAM and the Andover school board figures.

To begin the budget workshop, first selectman Jeffrey Maguire asked the board to highlight any concerns or revisions.

"Do we have any areas where anybody has any desire to make changes?"

By the end of the board's discussion, Maguire reflected that he'd already sign-off on at least "90%" of the proposal; there weren't a lot of necessary changes.

The exact figures for salaries and benefits will be finalized, but Anderson said during the meeting that healthcare would likely increase by 3%.

Other positions, like a temporary Public Works position, are yet to be finalized.

Preschool Openings

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

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

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Friday, March 17, from 5-7 p.m. The meal is takeout or eat-in. Cost is \$18 and includes dinner, drink and dessert. Pre-order by March 13, by calling 860-742-7696.

Open Call to Apply for Grant Funds

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

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

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

Dean's List

Emily Sklodosky of Andover, a student at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, made the fall 2022 Dean's List.

DTC Seeks Volunteers

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.

AVFD Anniversary Banquet

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

Tickets must be purchased no later than March 22.

Senior Trip

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

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

Andover Seed Swap

The Andover Community Garden will host a Seed Swap Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. All are welcome.

For more information, email Amy at andoverctgarden@gmail.com.

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.

Senior Trip to Aqua Turf

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

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

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.

New Adventure Backpacks Available at Library

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

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

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

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

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 15. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is March 8.

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

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

Bingo & Baskets: Friday, March 24. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m., followed by the game at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$12/person.

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

Library Friends Collecting for Auction

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

Popular items include: gift certificates, 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.

Tuesday Shopping: Manchester, March 4. Masks available on all vehicles.

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

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

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m.

and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry — all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

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

New Seniors Welcome: New seniors are welcome to all events. Call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs, including rides to medical appointments. For all Young at Heart events including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext 2 for all trip information.

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A Hall of Fame Newspaper... Marlborough residents Mark and Brenda Semmelrock recently went to Tennessee and attended the UConn women vs Tennessee basketball game, and also stopped at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville.

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.




Hawaiian Honeymoon... Hunter Styles and Erica Kowsz of East Hampton recently celebrated their honeymoon by hiking on Kauai, Hawaii's "garden island" and home to the beautiful Kalalau Trail.



Rolling the Dice... Carmen and John Bianco of East Haddam, while visiting family in Florida over the holidays, decided to try their luck at the Hard Rock Casino in Tampa.



Happy in Honduras... The FFMF Crew of Colchester recently traveled to La Ceiba, Honduras, to visit Dean and Zelma Berube at their Casa De La Luna. Pictured from left are Jenn Mancini, Mary Fitzgerald, Sam Reed, Mara Matteucci (whose picture is being held) and Zelma Berube. The ladies said they had the time of their lives!

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Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers

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Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce

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Artwork on Display

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

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

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

Lions Eyeglass and Hearing Aid Collection

The Marlborough Lions collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids, which are then provided to people in impoverished countries all around the world.

The Marlborough Lions drop boxes are located at Town Hall, Liberty Bank, the Marlborough Senior Center and at the office of Dr. Steven Rafalowsky on Saner Road. The Lions collect the eyeglasses and hearing aids all year long, but on March 12, Lions Clubs from all over Connecticut will be meeting to turn in the collected items. Eyeglass cases are also appreciated.

For more information, or to learn more about the Marlborough Lions, call Lions Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

Dean's List

Brian Capozza of Marlborough made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Capozza is in the computer science program.

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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Marlborough Lions Pancake Breakfast

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

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

The Lions Club supports programs that address various issues, including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness as well as supporting many local charities such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and vision screening for children in grades pre-K to 6

at Marlborough Elementary School.

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

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

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



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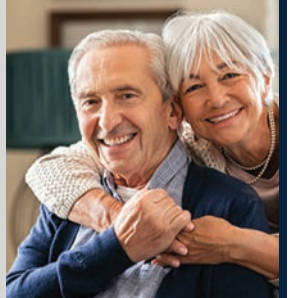


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Spring Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

Local artist Mary Horrigan will offer adult watercolor classes at the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., Tuesdays, March 7-April 11, from 10 a.m.-noon. The lessons are designed for "Basic Beginners," and will cover brush-handling, laying a wash, making simple shapes, controlling values, mixing colors. Subject matter will include still life objects and landscape elements.

Cost for the class is \$120. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.marlbrougharts.org, and a check mailed to The Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447. For more information, contact Horrigan at mehorrigan@comcast.net or leave a voice-mail message at the Arts Center at 860-467-6353.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Alvin LeBlanc; John McKaig is deacon emeritus. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone or email at stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com.

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

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Weekday Mass:** Monday-Thursday, 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 also bring non-perishable food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank continues to supply fresh produce each week and volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

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

Richmond Library News & Notes

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

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

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

Digital Microscope Kit: Did you know the library has four digital microscope kits that can be checked out for a three-week loan period?

Each kit contains one pluggable USB 2.0 digital microscope with a versatile observation stand and two sets of 25 prepared microscope slides. These kits have been donated in memory of Audrey Skorski.

Zoom Storytime: Mondays at 10 a.m. through April 3, for children ages 2-5. Register online.

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

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

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

Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit marlbroughct.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: Acrylic Landscape Painting: Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., March 8-29, at Marlborough Elementary School, for grades 3-6. Fee is \$90 for residents/\$95 for non-residents.

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

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

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

in Hebron. Fee: \$180.

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

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

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

Little Yogi and Me: For ages 3-6. Mondays, 5:15-6 p.m., from March 20-April 17. Fee: \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

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

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

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

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

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

Adult Drop-In Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee is \$5 per week to drop in. Session runs through June 2.

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

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

Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

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New Church Members... Membership Sunday was recently celebrated at the Marlborough Congregational Church, when Pastor Val Seaver welcomed a group into church membership. A reception in their honor followed the service. Pictured are, back row, Lea Poresky, Wendy McCarthy, Beth Alves, Debbie Cook, Marianne Lacy, Seaver, Billie Bunking, Elizabeth Kukich, Walter Kelly; front row, Jason LaCresse, Jillian LaCresse, Brittany Croasdale, Lori Eifler, Julie Naseef, Pauline Denson, Genevieve Kukich. Not pictured: The Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy, and Meredith and Michael Concodello.

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.congchurch.org.

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

March 5 worship will include Holy Communion. Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free. Pastor Val Seaver's sermon title is "You Know What It's Like" based on Genesis 12:1-4 and John 3:1-17. Next Sunday is a Bluegrass Sunday with the church's Joyful Blue bluegrass band providing the music.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Upstairs in the Thienes Lounge at 6 p.m. Wednesdays through March 29.

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 located 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.

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 6: Free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: beef stroganoff, steamed orzo, vegetable medley, 12-grain bread, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon, setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, March 8: Not Just Quilters (sew day), 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. National Cold Cut Day! Menu: sliced turkey, American cheese, club roll, shredded lettuce and sliced tomato, fresh fruit, yogurt cup; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, March 9: AARP Tax Preparation, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, March 10: 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: vegetable lasagna, zucchini, garlic knot, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

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

Food Bank: Located at 3 Willhenger Drive (860-295-6008), the food bank is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need of food. Transportation for seniors and/or physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center if you need a ride.

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

Town, DOT Issue Lead Paint Warning

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week the Town of Marlborough was given notice by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) that the Route 2 bridges over West Road and South Main Street are chipping toxic lead paint.

Residents are asked to keep an eye out for paint chips. Officials stressed that no one should touch the chips; instead, report them to the local public works department at 860-295-6229. The state will then handle cleanup.

Marlborough's bridges are not alone. DOT said there are ongoing issues with other bridges and overpasses throughout the state.

In a release, DOT went into more detail.

Bridge structures statewide have been experiencing a sudden, unexpected release of lead-based paint chips, which is believed to be related to the recent extreme swings in temperature.

Cleanup efforts are already in progress and a larger state-wide mitigation plan is in development.

Although lead is a known health hazard, the existence of paint chips on the ground poses little danger to health if a few common-sense practices are observed.

The goal is to reduce exposure and contain the hazard.

First, do not handle or move the debris.

Second, avoid walking through or disturbing the debris. Crushing the paint chips and tracking them to other locations on the soles of your shoes can increase the size of the contaminated area and increase your likelihood of exposure.

Third, when encountering areas of paint release on roadway travel surfaces, limit your

time in areas where traffic is crushing paint chips and possibly creating contaminated dust.

Finally, take note of the location and the area of impact. Is it on the roadway, sidewalk, in a stream or river, or is it in a residential or school zone?

Record the information and inform officials to the best of your ability.

If you encounter areas that have been impacted by the sudden release of lead-based paint, following these few simple best-practices will either reduce or eliminate your chance of exposure to lead and help contain the hazardous material.

Lead paint is extremely prevalent in the state's infrastructure — whether housing, roadways or industrial buildings.

Lead paint was banned in the United States in 1978 for use on homes, so homes built before 1978 likely contain lead.

It is estimated that 71% of the housing stock in Connecticut was built before 1980 and that 69% of homes built prior to 1960 and 87% of homes built prior to 1940 contain some lead paint. This means most single family and apartment homes in Connecticut may contain lead paint.

If your home was built before 1978 and you find paint chips, they should be cleaned up using wet mopping or wet rags. The mop head or rags should be thrown away so the lead is not spread to other places in the home.

Lead-based paint, and dust from same, are primary sources of lead. Health damage can be profound and lasting, including brain damage, reduced IQ, seizures, coma, and, in rare instances, death.

Student Art Show Coming

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

The show is coordinated by Sue Hollister and Lin Gotta, collaborating closely with art teachers from all the schools in Regional School District No. 8. The art teachers are: Denise Ketterer at Marlborough Elementary, Roseanne Modzelewski at Hebron Elementary, Susan Giammarco at Gilead Hill Elementary, Jessica Waive at Ando-

ver Elementary, Micaela Van Sicklin at RHAM Middle School, and Bev Fisher, Shelly Osowiecki and Carrie Dinunzio at RHAM High School.

Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts, and fine crafts. Parking is free and the building is handicapped-accessible. Details about this and other artistic endeavors, rentals, and membership can be viewed online at www.marlbrougharts.org. Anyone who has particular questions or would like to speak with a member of the Board of Directors can leave a message at 860-467-6353.



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Residents Sought to Serve

The Hebron Board of Selectmen is seeking residents to serve on various town agencies.

There are currently vacancies for regular members on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Parks and Recreation Commission, Commission on Aging, Public Building Committee, Library Board of Trustees, Hebron Green Committee, Water Pollution Control Authority and the Commemoration Commission.

There are vacancies for alternate members on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Commission on Aging, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Public Building Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Properties Commission.

Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the board or commission in which they may

have an interest and discuss with the chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved.

There is also a vacancy for a Hebron resident to serve on the Catchment Area Council 15 for Amplify – North Central Regional Mental Health Board.

A vacancy exists for a Hebron representative on the Central Regional Tourism District Board of Directors. The mission of the district is to promote leisure, business, group and corporate travel to the region.

All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest may be sent to the Town Manager's Office, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead St., Hebron CT 06248. For more information, call 860-228-5971.

Resident Graduates

Nicholas Malgioglio of Hebron graduated magna cum laude from the University of Connecticut in December, with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and actuarial sciences.

He was part of the UConn marching band and the UConn pep band, and is currently employed by Lincoln Financial.

Hands-Only CPR

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

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

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

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.

Mobile Mammography Clinic

Hartford Hospital's Digital Mobile Mammography coach bus is coming to the Russell Mercier Senior Center, 14 Stonecroft Drive, on Tuesday, May 9. Appointments are available from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

All women ages 35 and older can make an appointment, provided their last mammogram was more than one year ago and was normal/negative. The clinic is also for 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; to do so, call 860-228-1700.

Preschool Screenings

The Hebron Board of Education, through the Hebron Early Childhood Center Program at Gilead Hill School, will hold a few screenings for children that reside in Hebron and are 3 and 4 years old by the time of the screening.

The screening will be held at Gilead Hill School at 580 Gilead St., Hebron. Screenings will take place Wednesdays, March 8 and May 10. Screens in areas of speech, language, cognitive and motor development are provided, as is an opportunity for parents to learn more about their child's development. Parents will also receive information which will assist in fostering their child's growth.

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

President's List

Dylan DePersia of Hebron made the fall 2022 President's List for the fall semester at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C.

DePersia is a health science major.

Dean's List

Giovanni Vecchiarino of Hebron made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

A member of the Class of 2024, Vecchiarino is majoring in mechanical engineering.

Timothy Wilson, daughter of Tim and Barbara Wilson of Hebron, made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Providence College in Providence, R.I.

Wilson is a sophomore at the school.

Amston resident Michael Colonna and Hebron residents Paige Cyr and Meghan Fraleigh made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

Liron Golan of Amston made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Furman University in Greenville, S.C.

Golan's parents are John Golan and Liat Golan.

Rachel Salamone of Hebron made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

She is a senior and her major is political science and minors in cybersecurity and data science.

The following local students made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.:

Amston: Patrick Emmons, who is in the game design and development program; Josh Susman, who is in the computing security program.

Hebron: Jacob D'Onofrio, who is in the computing security program.



The Hebron Lions recently donated another \$7,000 to RHAM Youth Football and Cheer. Pictured in back are Hebron Lions Club President John Flahive and RHAM Youth Football Director of Football Operations Matthew Gagliardi. In front are RHAM Youth Football players Johnny Flahive and Eli Gagliardi.

Lions Support RHAM Youth Football

On Saturday, Feb. 25, Hebron Lions Club President John Flahive presented a check to the RHAM Youth Football Director of Operations Matthew Gagliardi in the amount of \$7,000.

This was in addition to the \$7,000 donation made to the organization last year, making it a total of \$14,000 for RHAM Youth Football and Cheer. The funds will be used towards the purchase of new bleachers where the fans of RHAM Youth Football and Cheer can enjoy the home games at Burnt Hill Field.

RHAM Youth Football and Cheer is a non-

profit youth organization serving the greater Hebron, Andover and Marlborough area, including Bolton, Columbia, Coventry and Lebanon. The organization has operated for more than 50 years, and is for children ages 6-13.

If interested in learning more about how to volunteer at the Hebron Lions Club, email membership@HebronHarvestFair.org or attend a monthly membership meeting, held the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Den of the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds.



The Senior Friends of Hebron held its final luncheon as a group on Thursday, Feb. 23. Pictured are, front row: Lucy Szwed, Janet Kendall, M. Cecile Piette, Barbara Soderberg, Barbara VanAchterberg, Roberta DeGray, Margaret Ludwig; back row: Tressa Giordano (AHM Youth and Family Services executive director), Aline Tischofer, Robb Warner, Loretta Martina, Marianna Sargent, John Soderberg, Diane Dixon, Don Cruess, Bruce DeGray. Present but not pictured: The Rev. Ron Kolanowski and Kathy Williams

Senior Friends Hold Final Meeting

The Senior Friends of Hebron held a final luncheon as a group on Thursday, Feb. 23. The luncheon was well-attended and everyone enjoyed socializing along with the handouts that were there.

The organization has been in existence for 12 years and incorporated for 11 of those years. Over those years, the group has donated benches to the Air Line Trail, the Raymond Brook Preserve and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, as well as sponsored programs open to the public on a variety of topics such as local produce, nutrition, the pollinator pathway, wine making, exercise for all abilities and laughter as a health booster.

However, attendance at meetings has fallen since the COVID-19 pandemic and no one has

stepped up to serve as officers, as the existing officers have served for years beyond their original intent. Currently serving as officers are M. Cecile Piette and Barbara Soderberg, co-presidents, and Judi Babin, treasurer. Serving on the planning committee are the officers along with Don Cruess, webmaster, and Kathy Williams, publicity coordinator.

The Senior Friends offered thanks to those that have served as officers over the years, along with St. Peter's Church for allowing the organization to meet there; Ted's IGA Food Center for allowing bake sales to be held there; and Hebron Parks and Recreation for assistance in getting benches placed on the Air Line Trail and Raymond Brook Preserve, and for allowing gatherings at Burnt Hill Park.

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Vendors Sought for Maple Fest Craft Fair

Gilead Congregational Church (672 Gilead St.) will host a Craft Fair on Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., during Hebron’s Maple Festival – and vendors are wanted. If you are a crafter and would like to secure a space in the Fellowship Hall, contact the church office at 860-228-3077 or GCC@GileadChurch.net.

At the fair, crafts expected to be available for sale include handmade soaps, jewelry, local photography, hand-carved wooden pens, kiln-fused glass art, and more. There will also be Maple Cakes for sale by the church’s Women’s Fellowship, for people to munch on as they shop.

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.

Meetings and Events: Balancing Class: Mondays, 10-11 a.m. – cost is \$5; Cub Scouts: first Mondays of the month, 5:30 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Tuesdays, 7

p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Vestry: third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

Outreach: Food Donations: Items for various local food pantries can be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall.

For more information, visit stpetershebron.com, search for St. Peter’s Hebron on Facebook, or email office@stpetershebron.com.

Church of the Holy Family News

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Critical needs: men’s L/XL and women’s M/L insulated waterproof winter gloves or insulated work gloves as an alternative; hand warmers; casual winter coats (new or used in good condi-

tions with zippers that work; men’s and women’s sweatpants (M, L, XL); Lysol disinfectant spray; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas to assist people living in their cars; Walmart gift cards; and plastic rain ponchos. Call to arrange the pickup of gift cards. Additional needs: men’s M, L, XL sweatshirts, hoodies, thermal shirts, T-shirts, and boxer briefs (always needed); women’s briefs (sizes 6-10); and sturdy adult backpacks (new or used in good condition). 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.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

Scheduled Events/Meetings: 3/4: Youth Group/Soup Kitchen, 8:45 a.m.; 3/6: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 3/7: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 3/8: Choir Practice, 7 p.m.; 3/9: Trustees.

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.

Faith, Food and Film: Friday, March 3. Bring a dish to share. Gathering begins at 6 p.m., followed by a meal, dessert and a movie.

Lenten Series: There is a three-session Lent-

en Series being offered and there is still time to sign up for a session. If you haven’t signed up already, contact the church office or see the newsletter for specifics.

Yoga in the Fellowship Hall: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Contact Jennifer Goodine of Wise Warrior Yoga to register, at wisewarrioryoga@gmail.com.

Maple Fest Craft Fair: Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group Activities: This Saturday, March 4, the youth group will serve a meal at the Covenant Soup Kitchen. Also, the youth group’s monthly meeting is on Sunday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m., the Mission Trip Team Building and Parent Meeting is on Sunday, March 19.

Palm Sunday Breakfast: The Men’s Fellowship and the youth group will host breakfast on Sunday, April 2.

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 6.

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 12.

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

New Co-Ed Bible Study – ‘Forgiving What You Can’t Forget’: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Lysa TerKeurst shares her personal journey with forgiveness and what the Bible has to say about letting go of resentment and finding peace. Call the church or visit Church Center app for more information and to register.

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.

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.

RHAM Bingo: Wednesday, March 15, 2:30-4 p.m. The games will be run by the RHAM National Honor Society Students. The games are free and prizes are awarded.

Bus Trip – Shopping and Lunch: Wednesday, March 22, leaving the senior center at 11:15 a.m. Have lunch at The Spicy Green Bean in Glastonbury, followed by shopping at the newly-opened Trader Joe’s. Price is \$5 for transportation. Lunch is on your own. Estimated return time is 3-:30 p.m.

St. Patty’s Day Celebration featuring the Sunshine Singers: Thursday, March 16. Doors open at 11 a.m. and singing will be at 11:15 a.m., with lunch served at noon. Menu: orange juice, corned beef/boiled carrots, boiled potatoes, rye bread and green shamrock cookie. The Sunshine Singers will perform some Irish classics and other well-known songs. Cost for lunch is \$3. Pre-registration for lunch is required and the deadline to sign-up is Wednesday, March 15, by 10 a.m.

AARP Tax Preparation: Appointments are available for in-person tax prep at the senior center. Tax preparation will take place Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., through March 28. Ages 50 and up are welcome; you do not need to be an AARP member.

Shopping Trips: Fridays. Schedule is: to Stop & Shop March 10 and 31; to Walmart in North Windham March 17; and to Big Y March 24. Registration for each trip is required by the

prior Wednesday at 10 a.m.

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.

Energy Assistance Winter Heating Program: The senior center is taking applications for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which is designed to help offset winter heating costs. If a household’s primary heating costs are included in rent, the household may also apply for assistance. Deadline to apply: March 15.

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.

President’s List

Marissa Colonna of Amston made the fall 2022 Dean’s List at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

Free CPR Classes

The Hebron Fire Department (44 Main St) is offering free AHA Heartsaver CPR classes for those who live or work in Hebron. Adult Child, Infant CPR & choking emergencies are covered.

The classes begin at 6 p.m. and will be offered March 15 or April 19. Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve your seat. Classes are first-come, first-served.

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Pollinator Pathway Recap

After an informative first meeting of the Hebron Pollinator Pathway (HPP), the organization held a successful Winter Seed-Sowing event at Douglas Library on Feb. 18. Folks came away with mini greenhouses to mimic nature through the winter for Swamp Milkweed, Black-Eyed Susans, and Butterfly Milkweed to bloom this coming spring.

The next HPP meeting is Monday, March 6,

at 6 p.m., at Douglas Library, 22 Main St. The group will present at AHM Youth and Family Services during the Maple Fest, so volunteers will be sought to participate.

For more information on the HPP, stop by the meeting, look for "Hebron Pollinator Pathway" on Facebook, or call Michele Sinkez at 860-228-1520.

Parks and Recreation News

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

Preseason Baseball Clinic: For grades 5-8. Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14 and 15, at the RHAM High School gym. Cost \$30.

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.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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 10, *The Fabemans* (rated PG-13); March 17, *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13); 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.

The Art of Container Gardening: Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m., with expert gardener Mark Gostkiewicz of Tri Gable Lea Farm LLC. In this workshop, how to create a thriving container garden in any space.

Pet Professions: Wednesday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. The Connecticut Humane Society will teach children aged 10 and up, as well as adults, about the many careers related to animal welfare. Participants will get an overview of the different professions at animal welfare organizations, will learn about the different skills needed for each job, basic interview tips, and other ways to get involved with helping pets at the Humane Society.

Spirited Book Club: Wednesday, March 15, 7-8:30 p.m., at the American Legion, located next door to the library. *The Yellow House* by Patricia Falvey will be discussed. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the adult

Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of Douglas Library group will hold a used book sale Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the community room at the library, 22 Main St. From 1-3 p.m., the Friends will offer a \$5 per bag sale.

In addition to books, CDs and DVDs, the sale will feature an expansive special table of seasonal books and items.

Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase new material for the library, museum passes, equipment, as well as to pay for children's and adult programs.

Quilts Sought for Show

The Hebron Historical Society has been planning for its participation in Hebron Maple Fest 2023. This marks the 31st year of the quilt show.

Quilter or quilt collectors who have a new or old quilt they'd like to have displayed in the show are asked to email Mary-Ellen at mergon-ci65@comcast.net.

This year's Maple Fest will be Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. The quilt show will take place at Old Town Hall.



Pinewood Derby... The Cub Scout Pinewood Derby took place at St. Peter's Church Hall on Sunday, Feb. 26, with 18 scouts from Pack 28 Hebron participating. Twenty-eight cars in all raced the four-slot track because moms and dads have to have a little fun too. After four heats for each scout's car, Tanner Bergsten won first place, with Eve Gilbert coming in a close second and Tommy Case finishing split seconds later in third. Afterward, snacks and juice boxes were enjoyed by the exhausted participants. The Hebron Cub Scout program is open to all boys and girls in grades K-5; for more information, visit www.HebronScoutsBSA.org.

Artisan & Craft Market March 18

Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) will host an Artisan & Craft Market Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School.

In attendance will be over 50 vendors from across Connecticut, selling their handcrafted good and wares. There will also be breakfast and lunch selections for purchase, and raffle items donated by vendors.

Admission is \$1 per person. Proceeds from

admission, raffles and table fees will benefit the HIHS Community Food Pantry and its Organic Garden Expansion Project, located at 26 Pendleton Drive. Currently, the food pantry provides food and necessities to over 750 people each month from around the region.

For more information about the market or the food pantry, email hihsfoodpantry@gmail.com or visit www.hihsct.org.

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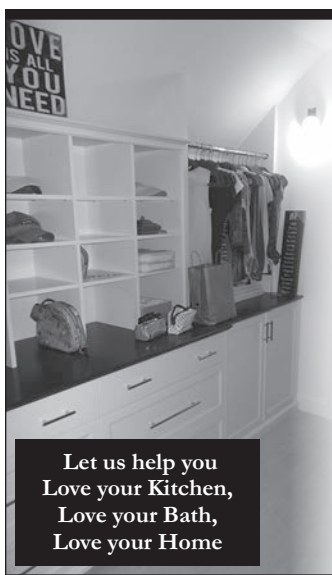
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New Spot for Local Bike Shop

By Michael Sinkewicz

Despite the blanket of snow that covered the state this week, spring is around the corner and it might be time to take your bike out.

A familiar East Hampton business has a new home in town, although it's just a walk — not even a bike ride — away from its old location.

AirLine Cycles opened a new store at 55 Main St. in December, less than a quarter-mile from what had been its home since 2016.

A new store also welcomes new opportunities and the chance to bring offer even more services to residents. Sunshine Cycle, in Colchester, was purchased by AirLine Cycles in 2020. After maintaining that store for two years, the lease expired, and ownership decided to bring everyone under one roof.

Brian Holdt, owner of AirLine Cycles, expressed that opening the new store wasn't stressful at all, but rather "100% excitement."

"It was a really fun process," he said. "We're a more service-oriented facility now."

Purchasing the property allowed Holdt to renovate the store in his own vision, creating a state-of-the-art shop that the community can be proud of.

The merger, he said, mainly allowed his business to optimize its services. There are 55 years of mechanic experience between two individuals alone, including one who came over from the Colchester location.

Customers are ensured expert advice and quality assistance when they stop by the store. All of the work is done in-house, from tune-ups, which include adjusting breaks or suspension work, to more advanced tasks, it's just best to trust the professionals.

"You don't want to follow a YouTube video," Holdt joked. "We have the specialized tools."

For Colchester residents who became attached to their local store, Holdt said he looks forward to earning their business and anticipates that they'll make the quick drive to East Hampton.

"Our hope is that we'll be able to retain as many customers as possible," he said.

Holdt possesses a long background in the industry and has watched it evolve over the last 30 years. While managing his own business, these insights help guide him with creating a successful local spot.

"I grew up working in a bike shop and there's been tremendous changes since then," he said.

One of the largest differences, he explained, is the advent and prominence of online shopping. Customers, in general, have shifted away from visiting physical locations, instead opting for the convince of digital browsing. Likewise, some companies encourage online spending and prefer working through those vendors, which could further impact small and local businesses.

To counter this trend, Holdt believes quality service is irreplaceable.

"You can't buy that online," he said. "You need local expertise."

Still, the effect on businesses, including bike shops, is evident. Online retailers can snatch the high margin items away local stores. For example, AirLine Cycles offers a variety of new and used bikes, but consumers then turn to online sites for their other bike gadgets.

This, however, is not in the best interest of the buyer, who is not receiving the proper guidance that they'd get at Holdt's store.

"They're getting sub-standard products because they can't hold it and see it," Holdt said.

Simple errors, like purchasing a helmet that doesn't fit properly, are more prevalent when buying online.

Even buying a bike in-person allows the customer to fully experience the product and ensure that it's the perfect fit. In other cases, uninformed shopping can even be dangerous.

Electric bikes, which include integrated motors, are sold at AirLine Cycles. Without the proper guidance, someone may see a low price online, though, and add it their cart, enjoying the good deal without fully recognizing the important details.

"But it's not a safe or decent quality product," Holdt said, adding that electrical fires can become an issue.



AirLine Cycles has a new location in town – not far from the old one – and it also incorporates Sunshine Cycle of Colchester, which AirLine acquired in 2020.

"People buy bikes online and find out that the bike doesn't fit well, or they see an e-bike for \$500," he said. "At best, you'll have a terrible experience, but at worst, you'll hurt your family."

AirLine Cycles also sells different types of e-bikes, including consumer-level models and more high-end products for advanced riders. Most of the bikes can reach speeds of 20-28 mph.

Holdt explained that the current e-bike trend is mainly centered around retired individuals or enthusiasts who are looking to reach a higher level. Perhaps, he speculated, they have fast friends and they want to keep up with them.

According to Statista, e-bike revenues may reach over \$50 billion by 2027, with a growth rate over 12% during that time. The projection is mainly due to heightened environmental and health concerns.

Overall, AirLine Cycles features a wide-ranging customer base. People come from all over the state and with varying levels of expe-

rience. Sometimes, it's a local enthusiast, or someone is looking to check out an e-bike for the first time. Perhaps, a family comes in to test out bikes for their kids.

There's an emphasis on community, Holdt said, and the shop hosts group rides and events.

"Making connections" is one of the main priorities with running a business, he explained.

"We're here to support their cycling however we best can and we encourage everyone to find a local shop even if it's not our shop," he said. "We have good relations with other shops and we're all going through the same thing."

Before owning his business, Holdt expressed that he had a "real job." He then decided to return to his main passion.

"I missed being in bike shops," Holdt said. "It keeps getting better and better."

The work remains satisfying and the new store is ready for the spring season.

"I've said it's a terrible way to make a living, but it's a wonderful way to make a life," Holdt said.

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.

Goff House Concert Lineup

The Joseph N. Goff House board has announced the lineup of musicians for the 2023 Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series.

The shows will be Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. from June 22-Aug. 3 (no show July 6, due to Old Hoe Days), in the East Hampton Village Center at the Center School Gazebo on Summit Street. Admission and parking are free.

The schedule is: June 22 – The Jesse Liam Band, featuring hits from the '50s to present; June 29 – country band Cobblestone Road; July 13 – Seat of Our Pants, featuring music with a positive message; July 20 – 9th Wave, featuring

surf music; July 27 – Flamingo Road, featuring Big Band hits; Aug. 3 – Big Deal Rock, performing classic rock hits.

Also, sponsors for the concert series are accepted; donation levels include: Maestro – \$250; Soprano – \$150; Alto – \$100; Tenor – \$50; Bass – \$25; or donate at any level you choose. Tax-deductible checks, made payable to The Joseph N. Goff House Inc., should be mailed to: The Joseph N. Goff House, P.O. Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424.

For more information, visit goffhouseehct.blogspot.com.



The cool cats of the East Hampton High School jazz band will perform today, March 3, at the Knights of Columbus' Friday fish dinner.

KoC Friday Fish Dinners

The Knights of Columbus Belttown 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.

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. Today, March 3, entertainment will be provided by the East Hampton High School jazz band.



Busy Belttown ... It's been a busy and exciting past few weeks for East Hampton schools. In the photo at left, U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (D-2), whose district covers East Hampton, stands with members of East Hampton High School's Interact Club. The congressman visited EHHS as part of his announcement that the school had been awarded a federal grant to fund mental health specialists. School districts are putting focus on student mental health as young people face an ongoing mental health crisis. In the picture at right, Gov. Ned Lamont signs legislation to restore free meals for all Connecticut public school students, taking effect March 1. Free school lunch, an effort to give families some relief during the pandemic's economic slump, was set to end this year with the end of federal support. East Hampton Public Schools Director of Nutrition and Food Services Jen Bove, smiling in the far right of the photo, effectively advocated for free lunches in Hartford, so much so she was invited to attend the bill's signing. Bove has earned praise for her achievements in the schools, among other things partnering with local farms to serve students fresh food, raising the food program's revenue multifold and, in 2020, overseeing the serving of free meals throughout the first spring and summer of the pandemic, winning awards and starting a veggie garden at Memorial School.



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Council, Ambulance Service Again at Odds

By Jack Lakowsky

This week the local volunteer East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) asked the Town Council for \$173,000, funds the EHAA says it needs to hire per diem employees to help make up for its volunteer shortage.

The shortage of volunteers is straining the EHAA, and has been for a few years now. The association previously tried to get funds from the town's American Rescue Plan money, which the council denied, kicking off a protracted and often contentious exchange between the 70-year-old EHAA and the council.

The council's mood, particularly chair Mark Philhower, has not sweetened for the EHAA, and Tuesday's meeting was as tense as previous meetings. Philhower has strongly suggested the town switch to a private service, which he believes will save the town money.

On the other end Democrat Pete Brown staunchly believes in aiding the EHAA, funding it further, keeping local emergency services under local control; though the EHAA is not town-owned, it does depend on the town for money and is offering to have a councilperson seated on their, the EHAA's, director's board.

"We want this association," he said, "one we control."

Bob Holdsworth, a consultant the EHAA hired to get its finances and plans together, said the \$173,000 subsidy would last about 7 years, funding 24/7 per diem staff.

This model of paid and volunteer staff is the "new norm" for nonprofit ambulance services, Holdsworth said.

"It's a state and national shortage," Holdsworth said.

Philhower said that in private conversation he was told Middlesex Hospital could provide private ambulance services for no cost to the town, as opposed to \$230,000 for the EHAA, which with the \$173,000 and current funding would be the town's obligation. Town Manager Dave Cox said, though he hasn't finished it yet, the \$173,000 is preliminarily included in the budget.

"Middlesex would not cost us that much," said Philhower.

Philhower also decried a rumor that Middlesex doesn't provide 911 services.

Philhower's fellow Republican Brandon Goff said the town hasn't done an obligatory review of its contract with the EHAA, and that the council has an obligation to explore its options.

Republican and council vice chair Tim Feege was doubtful the town could find a better priced service and said the town can already count the 70 years of free service it already got as a win.

However, the council's powers in this decision are decidedly limited.

Holdsworth said it's not as clear-cut as the council simply changing services, something the town is obligated by law to provide. Apparently privy to Philhower's private talks with Middlesex, Holdsworth revealed he knows Middlesex will start service at no cost if the EHAA agrees and hands over all of its equip-

ment.

First of all, the state decides if the town can change providers. Before a state board the town would present its reasons for wanting to change providers, and the provider itself, in this case the EHAA, gives its reasons why it should stay.

Before it gets to this point towns must already have a new committed provider dedicated to providing the exact same or better service, said Holdsworth.

"Middlesex will have had to say 'yes,' and have the resources, and [the town] would have to prevail at the state level hearing," said Holdsworth. "It's not as simple as passing a resolution and changing next week. This could be a nine-month process that may or may not work out [for the town]. We're trying to partner for the best interest of the town."

Holdsworth also pointed to the unpredictability of the private market, and that the town would have less say with a private contractor. He also said in nearby East Haddam, the town sought private service, only to get no offers from the major providers and, on top of that, getting bids ranging between \$400,000 and \$600,000. He said if a provider doesn't meet the town's

needs, the town's hands are tied.

Philhower said major providers skirted the East Haddam bid because that town's volunteer service didn't agree to shuttering.

Before the council moved to its next piece of business, councilor Brown said "nobody wants more taxes," but at the same time, he's willing to pay to have an "ambulance at my door, with qualified people."

"We've been lucky for years relying on volunteers, and they've done a great job," Brown said. "Therefore we have to look at this from another point of view. We have money to do this. We need the will to do, that's what it comes down to. People in East Hampton will pay for [an ambulance service] just like they pay for the schools."

"People in town love the service," Brown went on. "If it costs \$173,000, that's what it costs. Consider us lucky for the number of years it cost us nothing."

Republican Eric Peterson said he wants to see the EHAA stay in town, but said he wants the town to have far more control over it, saying if the EHAA's getting taxpayer funds, it needs to have taxpayer representation.

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 interac-

tive 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.

EHACC Grants Available

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts.

Deadline to apply is April 1; email applications to arts@easthamptonct.org or drop them off at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

Eligibility: One of two \$500 grants are available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. The commission reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and

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

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

Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Sam Gibson and Kyle Lapolt made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

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Spring Classes at Epoch Arts

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of classes this spring. Students in grades pre-K-12 can register online to take classes like art, ceramics, theater, improv and more.

Classes run for eight weeks and begin March 13. For full class description and registration, visit www.epocharts.org/classes-registration. Classes are held at 27 Skinner St.



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BOE Adopts Budget Proposal, Adds Supplies, Staff

By Jack Lakowsky

This week the East Hampton school board, after some debate, added a bit more than \$45,000 to superintendent Paul Smith's budget proposal, bringing the total to about \$36.4 million. The board voted 6-1 to adopt the budget, with Republican Josh Piteo opposing.

Piteo said a \$2 million hike isn't sustainable, and said he thinks the town's executive board will agree with him.

The total request, which must still pass through the local finance board, Town Council and, sometime in the spring, local voters, is still about a 6% increase over the current operating budget after the additions, despite a comment late last year by council chair Mark Philhower, who said any request more than 2-3% would be unacceptable.

One relatively small item that drew debate last year was buying more supplies for classrooms, a move that failed to pass. This year though the board changed its tune. Republican Mike Buck successfully asked the board to add \$4,000 for classroom supplies, a need East Hampton teachers spend their own money on. Buck said he regretted not granting the supplies last year.

Buck said the fact that teachers spend large amounts of money on their class supplies is "deplorable."

The \$4,000 is far less than what teachers asked for last year.

Each school building requested items, worth a

total of around \$25,000. The elementary schools requested replacements for their "well-loved" stock of books for young learners.

The middle school and high school asked the board to replace exercise equipment. High school principal Eric Verner also asked for a pair of color printers for the art departments.

Smith said he didn't believe any of the requests to be luxuries.

After hearing the principals out, board Democrat Ken Barber proposed to amend the budget by adding the \$25,000.

The amendment failed along party lines, with Democrats Barber, Nancy Kohler and Martha Wick voting for the measure. The Republican majority voted it down.

Barber's proposal to add the \$25,000 – less than 0.1% of the budget – sparked debate among the board.

"I'm deeply disappointed that elementary school teachers have to beg us for books," Barber said, adding he "can't even put into words" his reaction to the high school requesting basic printers.

The largest thing the board changed, which Smith had originally proposed cutting, was keeping a part-time psychologist for the lower grades, a \$42,000 cost. During discussion Smith also suggested compromising and reducing the psychologist's hours by half, and doing same for a part-time math support worker.

Board Republican Sal Nucifora, said with East Hampton's math scores still lagging, the district needs what help it can get. Nucifora praised the work of Smith, curriculum director Mary Clark and district finance director Karen Asetta, saying the budget meets the district's needs without "padding."

Before that though, Nucifora asked Smith about watering down the role of the district's food services and nutrition director, Jen Bove, under whose leadership the district's food program has undeniably grown and thrived, winning awards and partnering with local farms to provide students fresh food being just a few of Bove's accomplishments.

Nucifora called back to a previous arrangement that did save the district money, when East Hampton shared a food director with East Haddam, an arrangement, Smith said, that soured, leading to Bove's full-time commitment to Belltown learners.

Asetta was quick to list off Bove's numerous accolades, including growing the program's revenue all while schools served free school lunches, saying that considering all the income, savings and clout Bove has brought the district, it's more than worth paying for.

In a January presentation Smith said driving 80% of the request is salaries, up almost \$450,000.

The remaining 20%, "non-staff" needs, Smith said, has little wiggle room. A major pusher of this rise is the school's need for more paraprofessionals and interventionists, as student mental health needs have gone up significantly since the pandemic started.

He said if the board looks to cut, it will likely have to be from teaching staff, resulting in larger classes or reduced extracurriculars.

Same as last year, the district's cost of funding employee insurance plans is skyrocketing. Up 12%, almost \$600,000, insurance now accounts for almost 30% of Smith's requested increase.

The state, which runs the district's health plan, made modest increases until last year, when it started hitting schools with double-digit bumps.

Smith said East Hampton, like schools all over the world, are still "dealing with pandemic needs."

"This town has been very good about taking care of students," said Smith. Schools must keep on recovering pandemic losses, and keep focus on academic and personal growth, said Smith.

Denim, Diamonds and Drafts

"Denim, Diamonds and Drafts," an evening of dancing, dinner and drinks to support the CT Draft Horse Rescue, will take place Friday, March 31, from 6:30-10:30 p.m., at Saint Clements Castle, 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland.

There will be music, food, dancing, raffles, live auctions, and silent auctions. Tickets are limited and are \$80 per person. Tickets are available at tinyurl.com/3vrbypuv, and must be

purchased by March 17 – that is, if they don't sell out first. The event is snow or shine. Contact the organizer to request a refund.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization located in East Hampton that is dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter. For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.com or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or email ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

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:

Maunder 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.

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Helping Hands Reopens Saturday

Helping Hands, a ministry of Cornerstone Church, will reopen Saturday, March 4. The church is also accepting donations again.

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Sun. 10am-5pm

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,

bread 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.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093. The library has a new P.O. box number: 123.

Library Hours: Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m. **Yoga:** Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m., with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com. **Spinning Fibers:** Thursdays at 10 a.m. Bring your own wheel and fiber. All are welcome.

CommuniTea: Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.-noon. Visit with neighbors and patrons, take out a book and have a cup of tea. Coffee drinkers welcome.

Historic Houses Talk: Wednesday, March 15, hosted by author Alain Munkittrick, who wrote the book *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley*.

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

Featured Artist: Through March 8, see Secondnature objects gathered and constructed by the maker, Ann C. Burke. Burke will present **Art with the Artist** Wednesday, March 8, 7 p.m.

Schools Offer Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public School System is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents interested in preschool programs for the 2023-24 school year. There will be two preschool programs offered: the Integrated Preschool half-day program and full-day Smart Start program.

Memorial Elementary School's preschool Integrated Program will be held three times a week for 3-year-old students and four times a week for 4-year-old students. Due to limited spaces, selection for peer models will be determined through a lottery process. If selected, peer models demonstrating age-appropriate skills will be assigned by age to either a three day or four day a week schedule (2.5 hours per day). Children must be toilet-trained and turn 3 prior to Sept. 1 to be eligible.

Memorial's Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.), following the East Hampton Public School cal-

endar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have other factors for consideration. Other applicants, regardless of economic or risk factors will then be selected.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School or the East Hampton Public Library. Packets are available at both locations. The completed Parent Interview Form, Immunization Form and a Proof of Residency must be returned to Jodi Blyler at Memorial School office no later than March 17.

Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted, no later than March 24, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after March 17 will not be accepted.

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.

Tai Chi & Qigong – Moving for Better Balance: Thursdays, Feb. 23-April 27, 10:30-11 a.m. Cost is \$50 for the 10 weeks. Register with a check, made payable to the Town of East Hampton, or with cash to the senior center. Once payment is received, instructor Tom Cushing will send you the link to the class. This class is also available via Zoom at the Senior Center, also. Call for more details.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW): Mondays, March 6 and 20, 10 a.m. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources. The group determines the topics for discussion for the next month.

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group: Monday, March 13, at 10:30 a.m. A social hour of

fun facts and sharing activities, and snacks, just for the guys.

Games with the Interact Kids: Friday, March 10, 10 a.m.-noon. Snacks provided.

Book Club: Tuesday, March 14, 10:30 a.m. This month's book is *Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.

Family Tree: Friday, March 17, 10:30 a.m. Ken Doney will help people search for the history of their families. Bring your own mobile device. Monthly program with one-on-one time available.

Trips: Stayin' Alive: See this Bee Gees tribute band at the Aqua Turf club in Plantsville Monday, May 22. There will be coffee and doughnuts upon arrival and a family-style lunch served. Cost is \$116. Deposit of \$25 to reserve a spot by March 9. Please call for more information or stop by to pick up a flyer.

Lighthouse Cruise-Narragansett Bay: Wednesday, July 12. Cost is \$127. Deposit of \$25 is needed by April 6. Cruise aboard a catamaran and see 10 famous lighthouses and 10 islands. Brunch at the Quonset 'O' Club before the cruise and go shopping at Olde Mistick Village after. Call for more information or stop by to pick up a flyer.

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 Jewling@easthampton.gov. The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a prearranged designated spot.

Adult Workshops at Epoch Arts

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

Needle-Felted Owl: Monday, March 6, 6-9 p.m. In this workshop with artist Kristen Walsh, you will master mixing color, creation of texture, building "pieces" of your owl on your work surface and then adding it to your project.

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

Needle-Felted Field Painting: Saturday,

March 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In another workshop with Walsh, you will learn to blend colors and use the appropriate colors to make your landscape appear to recede in the distance. As an added bonus (and if time allows), you will learn to create a three-dimensional focus flower.

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

Kindergarten

Registration Underway

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

To secure a screening appointment for your child, return all completed registration paperwork to the Memorial School office or drop box in the foyer by Friday, March 31.

Kindergarten screenings will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on May 11, 12 and 15.

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Salamone Honored as Bellringers Capture SLC

By Josh Howard

Last Friday evening, Feb. 24, was a banner night for East Hampton girls basketball and star sophomore Liana Salamone.

Prior to the Bellringers Shoreline Conference (SLC) title bout with Cromwell, Salamone was presented as the SLC Player of the Year.

Salamone said she had no idea that she would be selected as the conference's best player, calling the honor a "surprise."

"It means a lot; I am really grateful. I didn't expect it," recalled Salamone, who thought the award might go to Valley Regional senior Abby Bradbury, who Salamone called "a really good, experienced player."

Once the conference championship tipped, Salamone was all business as the Bellringers defeated the Panthers of Cromwell 35-24 to capture a fourth consecutive conference crown.

East Hampton used a methodical offense and a smothering defense to limit Cromwell to a season-low in points.

Trailing 18-16 at the half, the Bellringers kicked the defensive intensity into an extra gear in the second half, holding Cromwell to a mere six points over the final two quarters.

Salamone said the team focused on stopping all-conference players Neveah Clark and Adela Cecunjanin from getting easy looks.

East Hampton's strategy worked as Cromwell's all-conference duo, which entered the game averaging nearly 25 points per game, combined to score only 12 points.

"We all played together and played help defense," stated Salamone.

Salamone outscored the Panthers by herself in the second half, finishing with a game-high 16 points to lead the Bellringers on the offensive end.

The win marked the second time in two weeks that East Hampton had dealt Cromwell a loss, also winning 44-37 on Feb. 10.

Cromwell had handed East Hampton their only loss of the season on Jan. 3. Since that defeat, the Bellringers haven't lost a game and now enter the Class M state tournament riding a 17-game winning streak.

Salamone said the wins over Cromwell always mean a little more, adding this one was extra special because it was for all the conference marbles.

It also allowed the Bellringers to retain conference bragging rights for another season. East Hampton's four straight conference championships matches Cromwell's four straight SLC titles they won from 2016-19.

So what makes the girls' program at East Hampton so special?

"We are all so close to each other and it's to the point where we aren't doing it for ourselves, we are doing it for everyone on the team," answered Salamone, who said the team wanted to keep the conference streak going for the team's two seniors, Jordan Murphy and Mikeala Rich. "We wanted to win this for them, we didn't want them to go out on a loss and we wanted to get them another championship."

Entering this season, Salamone was coming off a first-team All-SLC selection and Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHS-CA) All-State selection as a freshman.

She has taken her game to another level this year after spending the offseason traveling the country with her Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) 'WeR1' team, which is a highly-competitive club team sponsored by Under Armour.

"It has helped a lot. I'm playing against some of the best players that I've ever seen, so I think overcoming those challenges with the team from my AAU program has helped me in high school," said Salamone. "It has helped me communicate and stay composed out there."

Along with scoring over 20 points per game for the Bellringers, she has assumed a larger bulk of the leadership responsibilities too.

"I think I have the trust of the girls now more than ever and I feel more confident in my role on the team," stated Salamone.

Salamone was joined on the SLC first-team by junior Jackie Russell. Sophomore Olivia DeMartino earned honorable mention status.

But the team is just getting started. The next goal is a state title, which would be the program's first since 1980.



East Hampton sophomore Liana Salamone (#5 on the bottom right) celebrates with her teammates after the Bellringers won a fourth straight conference title. Salamone was named the Shoreline Conference Player of the Year prior to the Bellringers defeating Cromwell in the conference title game on Feb. 24.

After earning the top-seed in Class M (and a first-round bye), Salamone and the Bellringers start the quest for a state title today (Friday, March 3) when they host a second-round game at East Hampton High School, tipping at 6:30.

"We are very confident in each other and know what we are all capable of doing," stated

Salamone.

Salamone is also close to achieving another milestone.

Despite being at the school less than two years, she is only 18 points away from reaching the 1,000-point scoring mark.

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

Sunday School: New students are always welcome. Call the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard at 203-671-3455 for details or contact her at jneel-richard16@gmail.com.

richard16@gmail.com.

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

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

Parks and Rec News and Notes

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following programs. For more information or to register, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonct.myrec.com.

Bicycle Stunt Show: Tuesday, March 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for grades K-5 (Memorial and Center students).

Volleyball Clinics: March 23, 30, April 6 and April 20, at East Hampton High School, for grades 5-8. Girls' clinics are from 5:30-6:45 p.m., and boys' clinics are from 7-8:15 p.m.

Cost: \$125.

Spring Candy Hunt: April 1, 10 a.m., at Center School. Cost: \$5. Pre-registration required.

April Vacation Adventures: April 10-14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Sears Park pavilion. Cost: \$210.

Junior Bellringers' Run for Fun Challenge: Tuesdays, April 25-May 16, 6-6:45 p.m., at the East Hampton High School track. Fee: \$60.

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 - Squishy Stress Balls: Saturday, March 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for children and families in grades K-8. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

Tween Game Night: Wednesday, March 8, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 4-8. This will be an hour of exciting, in-person, live-action games.

Nintendo Switch Tournament: Saturday, March 11, 3-4:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. All skill levels welcome. This month, play *Just Dance 2023*.

Nature Yoga: Monday, March 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. Practice mindfulness and some animal-themed yoga poses with Amie Meacham, Yoga 200 Certified instructor.

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

Teen Programs: Teen Dungeons & Dragons: Wednesday, March 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience is required. The library will provide basic fifth edition, level four characters and all the supplies needed to play.

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

Adult Programs: Cookbook Club - Anything Irish: Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. Share your favorite Irish-themed recipes. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 10 copies of the recipe to share.

Cabin Fever Series - Marty Podskoch: Saturday, March 11, 1 p.m. Chatham Historical Society's Cabin Fever Series concludes with a talk by Podskoch.

Libraryyoga with Amie Meacham: Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room. Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga.

Belltown Book Blast!: Thursday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom or Friday, March 17, 10 a.m., in person. Meet with the adult librarian and get a sneak peek at the library's newest titles and upcoming new releases. For the in-person gathering, drop in and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. For Zoom, register online to get the link.

Local PD Issues Rash of DUI, Speeding Tickets

By Jack Lakowsky

February was apparently a rough time on East Hampton roads. Local police made about a dozen traffic stops for separate incidents of varying alleged driving violations, including reckless driving, speeding, and operating under the influence of alcohol, according to East Hampton police.

Last week police charged 35-year-old Kellen Huban of Dalton, Mass., with excessive speed and driving under the influence, set for court March 1.

On Feb. 19, a 27-year-old man of Amston was issued a ticket for driving an unregistered vehicle, and on Feb. 17, a 67-year-old East Haddam woman, Kathy Bryson, was accused of failure to drive right.

In an incident on Feb. 15, a 31-year-old Norwich man, Jorge Cruz-Menendez, received a citation for driving with a suspended license and driving an unregistered vehicle.

On Feb. 10, after investigating an accident, police faulted a local 17-year-old, charging them with travelling unreasonably fast.

Also on Feb. 10, Robert Carlson, a 40-year-

old of East Hampton, was ticketed for illegally driving an unregistered vehicle, without insurance. Also on Feb. 10, police charged Brandi Hawyer, a 47-year-old of Meriden, with driving under the influence after she supposedly hit a tree. Police did not report any injuries.

On Feb. 13, police arrested Colleen Dumas, a 43-year-old Amston resident, and charged her with driving an unregistered car, and also alleged she was under the influence.

On Feb. 9 police charged a Marlborough woman, Amanda Castelonia, and a Guilford man, Tanner Chialastri, both with breach of peace, and also accused Castelonia of driving with a suspended license.

The month also featured the Feb. 8 arrest of Szymon Kasjanski, a 20-year-old from East Berlin, who was brought into custody for an active warrant, and also charged with engaging police in a pursuit, reckless driving, unsafe passing, disobeying a stop sign, driving with a suspended license and second-degree reckless endangerment, police said.

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.

All are asked to donate to Avenue of Dreams to provide foster and adopted youth with free prom wear: gently used dresses, suits, tuxes, shoes, jewelry and accessories. People may

drop off items in the church office Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., through March 5.

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

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

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

Rev. Jack Olson Memorial Service

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a memorial service in honor of the Rev. John "Jack" Olson on Sunday, March 12, at 11 a.m., in the church sanctuary, 408 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Neck.

All who knew and loved Jack are most welcome to attend. A reception hosted by his daughters will follow.

For more information, visit www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org.

Obituaries

Portland

Mark Mitchell

Rockhound, Mineral enthusiast, Artist, Curmudgeon, Artisan, Lapidarist, Fisherman, Song bird lover, Bird feeder builder, Hunter, Horseshoe player, Handyman, Mushroom Seeker, Tyrer of Flies, Jewelry maker, Chickadee Tamer, Smoker, Good Neighbor, Accepting Friend, Loving Brother



Born Oct. 15, 1954, Mark Mitchell died Saturday, Feb. 4, at home, with loved ones by his side, after a lifelong battle with stubbornness. Known more politely as fortitude, Mark's never-give-up attitude was no friend in death but extended his time alive longer than anyone expected.

Mark, Marky, Sparks, Turk...

Eldest son of E Stuart and Janet Bates Mitchell, Mark grew up and spent much of his life in Portland. He also lived and worked at the marinas in Saybrook for many years. When relationships ended or wanderlust struck, and seeking adventures in rockhounding, Mark set off for points south and west. He lived and spent time in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, California, Arkansas, Florida and back east in Vermont, periodically returning to Portland and finally settling close to his childhood home in the eastern woodlands he so loved.

Mark was an exceptionally talented individual. He could do anything he set his mind and imagination to doing. He created extraordinary artwork using natural materials. Those lucky enough to have one of his birdfeeders or Mica stars, flowers, bugs, staffs or jewelry will tell you how much they loved his work. Those who he worked for will tell you how much they valued his ability to build or fix anything, especially when allowed to work on his own schedule.

Mark was fiercely independent and unconventional, most himself when living alone – on his own terms and rhythm in one of nature's beautiful settings. He loved and held in his head deep knowledge of nature. He could name most of the flora and fauna in his surroundings. His knowledge of rocks and minerals began in childhood diggings in Pelton's quarry, which was in the backyard of his childhood home. Rocks were Mark's forte, Connecticut minerals especially; he knew specifically where to find which color beryl, or other gem or mineral and might tell you if he thought you could keep your mouth shut and not ruin the prospects.

Mark will be missed by those he touched, in his own ways according to what was required, including many fellow rockhounds, dedicated friends, coworkers and long-time neighbors.

His sister Lynne would like to thank his extraordinary support network who supported her and nurtured Mark in his life and final months...

Ricky and Terry, Danny, Torrie, Kathy, Chrissy, Mike and Vicki, Neil and Jess, Dick, Ray, Joe, Cliff, Shannon and Christina, Colton and Reid, among others – who all brought sunshine, support and love to Mark and helped him to die as he lived, on his own terms.

In Mark's memory, go rockhounding or take a walk in nature with a kid, teach them about the natural world by learning with them, make a connection and nurture the spark of learning.

A celebration of Mark's life will be held in the spring at or near his place. (Time and date to be announced.) Interment will be at the Portland Burying Grounds, a.k.a. Center Cemetery. Donations can be sent to: KEEP YOUR MONEY and BUY SOME BIRDSEED!

RIP Mark, We miss you!

Colchester

Roland Harmon Pelkey

Roland Harmon Pelkey passed away peacefully at his home in Colchester Friday, Feb. 10, surrounded by his family. Roland was born Feb. 3, 1938, in Putnam, to the late Harold and Mildred (Blackmar) Pelkey. He grew up with his sister Joyce (Pelkey) Fall of Woodstock and brother, the late Russell Pelkey.



Roland was an astounding athlete and all-state pole vaulter in high school. He attended UConn for a short time before deciding to join the AirForce. He served for four years and then briefly worked for Pratt & Whitney. Serving as a CT State Trooper for 20 years with Colchester's Troop K was one of his proudest accomplishments. Following retirement from the CT State Police, Roland was a stay-at-home father, a bus driver, and a handyman at Liberty Hall (Apple Rehab) in Colchester. He always made time to pursue his passions, too.

Roland was an avid hunter, master woodworker, and beloved story/joke-teller. He was a true artist who built furniture, hobby crafts, and treehouses—finding beauty and purpose in everything he did. Roland was also a huge fan of UConn women's basketball and never missed a game on the radio or TV.

Roland loved life, but he especially loved his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 43 years, Barbara (Schoen) Pelkey, who gave every ounce of her being to caring for him at the end of his life, and his adoring daughters who were by his side in his final days: Sarabeth Markham of Colchester, Sandra Pelkey of Marlborough, and Kimberly Hagan of Colchester. He will be greatly missed by his grandchildren, his sister, and his numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members.

To know Roland was to love him. Services will be private.

Portland

Nancy Christina Godwin

Nancy Christina Godwin (Ahlberg), 68, of Portland, died peacefully at home Friday, Feb. 24, surrounded by her loving family, after a short but courageous battle against cancer.



Nancy was born in Middletown on Dec. 9, 1954, to Eric and Dorothy (Johnson) Ahlberg of Portland. She was a 1972 graduate of Portland High School and a 1995 graduate of the Ona M. Wilcox College of Nursing in Middletown. She retired from Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown in 2016. She loved her career as a nurse, and she served her patients with true compassion and humanity.

Nancy is survived and greatly missed by her loving husband of 48 years, Robert, of Portland, and their children Matthew (Jamie) Godwin of East Hampton, Betsey (Philip) Lynch of Nantucket, Mass., and Jennifer (Stephen) Lohmeyer of East Haddam. She will be forever cherished and remembered by her seven grandchildren Dylan, Madison, Colin, Pdraig, Keira, Ellinor, and Abigail, and her three great-grandchildren Lily, Daisy, and Weston. She is also survived by her sister Lisa Brochu of Portland, Joan (Ellen) Ahlberg, of Portland, Ore., and William Ahlberg of Middletown. She will be loved and missed by her many loving aunts, nieces and nephews, and cousins.

Nancy is predeceased by her parents, Eric and Dorothy (Johnson) Ahlberg of Portland, and several aunts, uncles and brothers-in-law.

Nancy will be remembered for her kindness, generosity and compassion. She always saw the good in people and truly cherished her family, friends, coworkers, and even random encounters with strangers. She was an attentive listener and cared deeply about people and their stories. She had a gift for serving others and was accepting of all. She was an active member of her community and Zion Lutheran Church, where she was a lifelong member.

On the morning after her passing her children found an old newspaper clipping in her jewelry box that perfectly captured her outlook on life. It said, "On judgment day if God should say 'Did you clean the house today?' I'll smile and say, 'I did not – I played with my children, and I forgot.'" She valued spending time with those she loved, especially her children and grandchildren, and creating beautiful memories together.

She loved family vacations on the coast of Maine and could always be found swimming in the frigid cold water. Her cold-water dips weren't exclusive to Maine. She was lucky enough to live by Great Hill Lake which she frequented almost daily from spring until fall. She loved camping with her husband, especially in her retirement when she had the freedom of packing up and going whenever they wanted to. She was very proud of her Swedish heritage and loved traditional Christmas Eve celebrations with her extended Swedish side of the family.

Nancy found easy joy in the simple things in life: listening to the birds, gardening, playing setback, and having a good cup of coffee. She loved her frequent visits to Nantucket to visit her daughter, where she enjoyed walking along the many beautiful beaches, reading books while listening to the sounds of the ocean, and shopping at the "Madaket Mall."

Nancy was passionate about volunteering and giving back to her community. She was active in the organization Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) and with Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to

these organizations at irisct.org/donate and svd-middletown.org/donate-to-svd.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 2, in the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Wednesday, March 1.

Portland

Joan Post

Our dear mother, Joan (Ellsworth) Post of Cromwell, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 18, at the age of 91. She was born in Portland to H. William and Beatrice (Mott) Ellsworth on Dec. 13, 1931.



Joan was a devoted wife to the late James A. Post of Cromwell and a wonderful mother and grandmother who was always there when we needed her.

She leaves her son, Keith Post and wife Susan of Colchester, and her daughter, Deborah Post Brennan and David O'Neil of Charlestown, R.I.; grandson, Steven Post and wife Stephanie of Colchester; two great-granddaughters, Josslyn and Jillian Post.

When she wasn't working and taking care of her family, she spent time traveling in her motor home with her husband, Jim, and enjoying her passion for antiquing. She especially loved buying and selling vintage jewelry and spending time with her many friends who shared her love of collecting.

A private family burial will be held at Center Cemetery, Portland.

We invite you to make a donation to the American Heart Association in her honor, in place of flowers.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

East Hampton

John J. Wunner Jr.

John J. Wunner Jr., 79, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully at home Sunday, Feb. 26. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Ann Virginia (Broden) Wunner. Born April 2, 1943, in Queens, N.Y., he was the son of the late John J. and Marguerite (Clarke) Wunner, and brother of the late Joseph Wunner.

John graduated from Manhattan College and had a long career as an electrical engineer, during which time he was granted three patents related to timing technology. John and Ann Virginia initially raised their family in Sayville, N.Y., later moving to Warrington, Pa., and Woodinville, Wash., before retiring to Monroe. John had a special interest in genealogy and spent many years researching his family's ancestry.

He is survived by his daughter, Nancy Oakley and husband Sean of East Hampton; son, William Wunner and wife Christina of Dallas, Ga.; daughter Kristin Mark and husband Michael of Brewster, N.Y.; and his grandchildren, Brendan and Jillian Oakley, Audrey and Erin Wunner and James Mark.

Private funeral services will be held prior to burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Trumbull.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

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RE2-17-23

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RE5-7-21

Obituaries

Colchester

Karen D. Gambolati

Karen D. Gambolati, 68, of Colchester, passed away surrounded by her three daughters on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 18.



Karen Dorothy Loew Gambolati was the third of six children born to the late Ernest and Eva Loew of Hampton. She was raised on her family's dairy farm, a place that she always held dear. There is no doubt that growing up with such a strong and hard-working family shaped Karen's can-do attitude toward all she took on in life. She volunteered to serve not only as her daughters' softball coach, but as the first female commissioner of the Colchester Little League. She was avidly involved with her synagogue, Congregation Ahavath Achim, and served on their Board of Directors for many years. Karen loved teaching, especially her position as math specialist at Colchester Elementary School, but her favorite job was raising her three daughters.

Karen is survived by her daughters, Leah (Joe) Groves, Sarah Gambolati and Erin Gambolati, (Zach Demuth), and their father, Joseph Gambolati (Laurie Gypson). She is also survived by her brother, Howard (Louise) Loew, and her three sisters, Margaret Loew (John Taylor), Jacqueline Jacobsohn and Jessica (Mark) Samios. She was predeceased by her sister, Suzanne Loew. Karen is also survived by her grandchildren Marissa, Everett and Benjamin.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 22, at Temple Israel, Coleytown Road, Westport. Shiva was observed at the Groves residence in Wilton on Wednesday, following funeral services, as well as on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 23 and 24.

Donations may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (nationalmssociety.org) or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (lls.org).

For more information and to share a condolence message, please visit www.greensfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Nicholas Norton

Nicholas Norton, of the North Westchester section of Colchester, died on Tuesday, Feb. 28. He was 92. He was the son of Edward Norton and Dorothy McCall Norton. He lived his entire life on the land where his ancestors helped found this small New England town.



He is survived by his wife of 69 years, the former Lynn Kilbourne of San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic. He is also survived by his sons, Christopher (Carter), Andrew (Tom), Jeremy (Jane) and son-in-law, Greg Giles; and also grandchildren Katherine, Alexandra, Edward, Oliver and Sara and great-grandchildren Evie, Jack, Addie and two more on the way. He is also survived by his sister, Nan Wasniewski.

He was predeceased by his devoted and cherished daughter, Diana Giles, and his sister, Pat Engel.

Nick graduated from Bacon Academy (1947) at 16 and then also graduated from the Loomis School (1948). He then went to Haverford College (1952). When he was at Haverford, Edward Murrow visited the college to interview a number of students and he chose Nick's spoken essay to broadcast on his national radio program, "This I Believe."

Nick then served four years as a communications officer in the United States Naval Reserve at Sangley Point (the Philippines), Norfolk and London. He then began work at the C. H. Norton Company, the family's shoe board mill in North Westchester. After the passing of his father, he served as president from 1958 until its sale in 1966.

During this time he also served a decade on the Colchester Board of Finance and was elected chair under both Democrat and Republican majorities.

Nick then went on to serve as Governor Tom Meskill's Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of Welfare. While there, Nick noticed that many people regularly called the state with various questions. It was his decision to organize a dedicated bank of employees to field questions from the public across a range of topics – an effort which survives today as 211.

Nick then went to Washington to serve as

Commissioner of Welfare in the department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) under President Ford. After that, he consulted on these matters with the U.S. Senate Finance Committee.

Later, Nick served as a founder and chair of Grassroots East, the GOP organization for eastern Connecticut. He also served both as finance director and executive director of the Connecticut Republican Party during the 1980s. For 15 years he served as a member and chair of the Colchester Wetlands Commission. He also chaired the Open Space Commission, the Republican Town Committee and the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees. He also served as town moderator many times between the 1950s through the 2000s.

Nick was kind, quiet, bright, honest, gentlemanly and decent. He was a very good cook. He was a very good father. Most of all, he admired and adored Lynn Kilbourne, the woman he loved for over 74 years.

Calling hours will be held today, Friday, March 3, from 4-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415. A memorial service will take place the following day, Saturday March 4, at 11 a.m., directly at the Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

Donations in Nick's memory may be made to the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, P.O. Box 67, Colchester, CT 06415.

The family also wants to thank the good people at the Colchester Hayward Fire Department for the many times they came to Nick's aid.

Portland

Robert C. Mogulnicki

The spirit of Robert C. Mogulnicki, "The Pope," 83, of Bow Lane, Middletown, was peacefully set free Thursday, Feb. 23, at his home, with family and friends by his bedside. He was born Sept. 14, 1940, in Middletown, son of the late Charles C. and Genevieve (Kuzina) Mogulnicki.



He was predeceased by sister by his sister, Carol Dickinson.

He was a lifetime resident of Portland. Prior to his retirement, he was the owner of Café 66 for 38 years where he was known and loved by so many in the community.

He leaves behind his son, Robert T. Mogulnicki (BT); daughter, Michelle Lee and son-in-law Michael Benczkowski of Parkville, Md., and sister Kathleen Young (Mogulnicki) and her husband Tarp.

Bob also leaves behind a granddaughter Mya G. Mogulnicki of Portland and his longtime partner of 42 years, Ellen Steinberg as well as several nieces and nephews.

Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, on Thursday, March 2. Burial, with full military honors, will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to The Portland Food Bank, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480 or the Connecticut Human Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

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

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LEGAL NOTICE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 7:30 PM, to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, concerning the following:

Petition 2023 – 1, Request of SYM LLC, Owner, for a variance of Section 3.A.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow the creation of a 12,156 square foot lot where the minimum lot area is 21,780 square feet, on premise located at 13 Church Street (AKA 7 Toomey Lane), Hebron Green District. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 22nd day of February 2023.

Martin Halloran, Chairperson
Interested persons may appear and all written communications will be received.

Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on Friday, February 24, 2023 and Friday, March 3, 2023.
Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

Zoning Board of Appeals
Mar 7, 2023, 7:30 – 9:00 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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2TB 2/24, 3/3

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★ New Cul-De-Sac, cont. from page 1

specifically, this project is about 80 feet from a wetland, which is a sensitive and important ecosystem towns make efforts to preserve.

Also, according to the company's documents, a good chunk, roughly half, of the parcel is being designated open space and won't be developed.

Reynolds said the site will have an "efficient footprint," and retention efforts and drainage will stop increases in runoff.

In an unrelated interview, local Conservation-Lake Commission chair Chuck Yenker said was concerned about more residential development near wetlands or within the Pocotopaug watershed, as fertilizers are the main cause of the lake's persistent toxic algae issues.

Wetlands commissioner Scott Hill spoke of his concerns about further polluting local waters.

Hill suggested restricting fertilizer use in the cul-de-sac, which would need to come from the town because there's no plans to establish a homeowner's association for Hampton Village.

Hill also suggested the company talk to the

public, that not only is it a sign of a good faith, but good information can often be gleaned from public comment.

"We need to talk to locals about impacts," said Hill.

Whether the company will do its own talks isn't known, but the public will have opportunities to make their voices heard at wetlands and zoning meetings over the next few months.

Hill was also pleased that this development is smaller in scale than the 2007 multifamily one, which went through a turbulent process – approved by wetlands, but soon killed in zoning.

Dubbed "Belltown Place," it was a proposed multifamily construction on about 24 acres of property, close to 130 units

However, just a week after the IWWA ruled in its favor, the proposed Belltown Place housing development was squelched by the Planning and Zoning Commission, citing, among other reasons, "lack of a demonstrated public water supply."

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of February 2, 2023 took the following action:

PUBLIC HEARING SET:
APPLICATION #Z-01-23- C&B Marlborough Associates LLC (Applicant/Property owner) 41-45 Hebron Rd. 1 MW solar installation. Public Hearing set for 3.16.2023
APPLICATION #Z-02-23-Hazel Licratz/Farm at Carter Hill (Applicant/Property Owner) 86 E. Hampton Rd. Special Permit Public Events- Public Hearing set for 3.16.2023
PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED; APPLICATION CONTINUED:
APPLICATION #Z-08-22- Austin HGB, LLC Bill Gjonbalaj (Applicant / Property Owner) Map 6 Block 28 Lots 4,5,6, 12 and #25 South Main Street Provide apartment housing by building (2) 48-unit buildings.
CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:
APPLICATION #Z-12-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ. Cannabis Regulations (PERMITTING)
APPLICATION #Z-14-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ. Cannabis Regulations (PROHIBITING)
PERMIT APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:
Special Permit- # 3-20 - 17 East Hampton Road LLC, Site Plan Amendment
APPLICATIONS TABLED:
APPLICATION #Z-12-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ. Cannabis Regulations (PERMITTING)
APPLICATION #Z-14-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ. Cannabis Regulations (PROHIBITING)
TABLED:
Amendments to Article Six A.1 Parking and Storage of Recreational Vehicles and Trailer's
Amendments to Article Six Election of 2023 Officer
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 3/3

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

The town of East Hampton Social Services Department will conduct a foreclosure auction of contents from one of its storage units located at 80 Industrial Park Access Road, Middlefield, CT on Friday March 10 at 9 a.m.
Lauren Incognito, LMSW
Director of Social Services
Town of East Hampton

1TB 3/3

HEBRON SELF STORAGE
Auction Legal Notice

Facility operator's sale for non-payment of storage charges pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 42-159 through 42-169. For the satisfaction of the facility operator's lien, the following property will be sold at public auction on Friday, March 17, 2023 @ 11 AM, on the premises of Hebron Self Storage, 555 Church Street, Hebron, CT 06248. Hebron Self Storage reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time for any reason.

Unit #	Occupant	Contents
56	Philip Creech	Miscellaneous Household Goods

1TB 3/3

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
IWWA ACTIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 22, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:
Application IW:23-001: Amanda Cavanaugh, 41 Day Point Road, Addition to single family home. Map 10A/ Block 83/ Lot 36C – Approved with Conditions
Application IW:23-002: George Koutouzis, Lakefront, 77 North Main St. Rebuild 12x30 deck. Map 04A/ Block 63B/Lot 22/3A – Approved with Conditions
Chairman Joshua Wilson

1TB 3/3

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RE1-422

**TOWN OF PORTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the February 23, 2023 special meeting, the following action was taken:
DENIED-Application #22-03: 117 High Street. Request to appeal a Zoning Cease and Desist Order by the Zoning Enforcement Officer that roosters are not allowed on property per zoning regulation 9.7.1. Application and property of David Rutter. Assessor's Map 39, Lot 70. Zone R-15.
Dated in Portland, CT. this 27th Day of February 2023
Joan Giesemann, Chairwoman
Zoning Board of Appeals

1TB 3/3

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

At the regular meeting of the East Hampton Town Council held Tuesday, February 28, 2023, an ordinance amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Chapter 278 Taxation regarding additional tax relief programs was adopted. The ordinance is available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk and shall take effect 20 days after publication.
EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Mark Philhower, Chairman
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
Pete Brown
Brandon Goff
Eric Peterson
Kevin Reich
Alison Walck

1TB 3/3

LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Portland, CT**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public hearing on the proposed Budget for 2023-2024 to be held, by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to Section 1201.3 of the Town of Portland Charter, at the following place and time:
**Tuesday, March 14, 2023
7:00 P.M.
Portland High School
Library Media Center
95 High Street, Portland CT**
In-person and live streamed on YouTube

SUBJECT: General Government, Board of Education Budget; and all other Special Revenue Funds
At this hearing, any resident or taxpayer may be heard concerning the proposed budgets. Copies of the proposed budget are available for inspection in the Town Clerk's Office, Public Library and online at www.portlandct.org.
Dated this 1st day of March 2023
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

2TB 3/3, 3/10

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition(s):
Certificate of Appropriateness - COA 2023-001 - of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Department for (1) maintenance of the gazebo on the Town Green; (2) removal of the existing utility closet, utility pole and light located southerly of the gazebo and installation of new electrical utility appurtenances. At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department and the Office of the Town Clerk at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).
Historic District Commission
Ellen Sharon, Chair

2TB 3/3, 3/10

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RE3-3-23

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RE3-3-23

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: CASO 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.

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Please send resume to: 79A Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 or email to info@ColchesterDentalGroup.com

RE3-24-23

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CIT3-2-23

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CIT2-23-23

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RE3-13-20

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