



Congrats to the UConn Women's Basketball Team on another great season!

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RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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## RHAM Cheerleading Hits New Heights

By Josh Howard

RHAM High School's cheerleading team reached the New England Regionals for the first time in program history, placing 6th overall at the multi-state competition at Worcester State University on March 18.

The trip to regionals ended another banner year for the Raptors, who won a second straight Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) championship and finished first in the New England Cheerleaders Association (NECA) Open Championships.

The Raptors also placed 3rd overall at the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Class M state finals – the highest finish in program history.

Head coach Danielle Levasseur said the key to success was the team approaching competition season with a relaxed, fun-loving attitude.

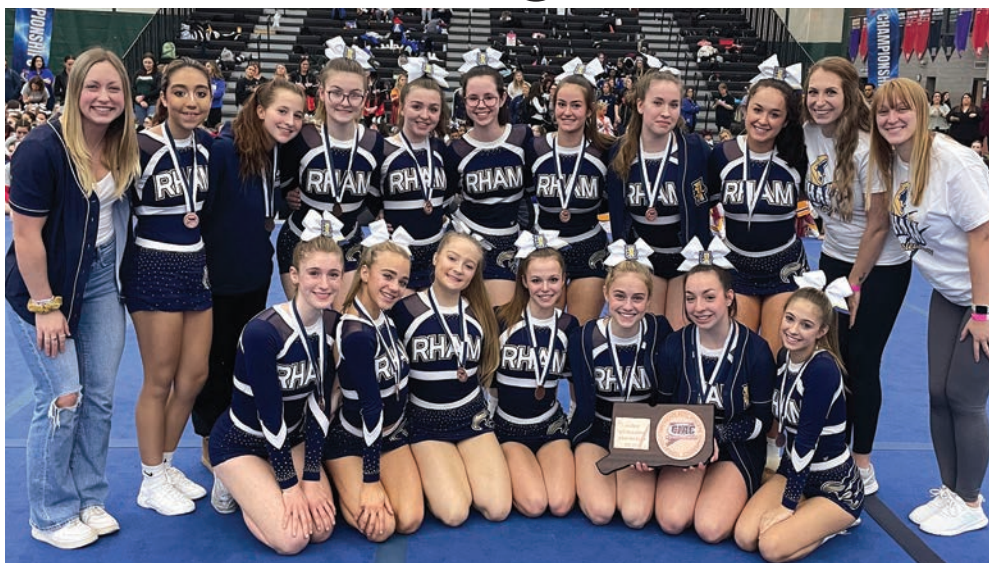
"I think it really helped calm some nerves and helped the team have consistently clean and solid routines," stated Levasseur, a 2012 graduate of RHAM High School. "We are so proud of all of the hard work they put in this season and we are excited to see them continue to excel next season."

Coaching the team with Lavasseur were Ali Goode and Isabelle Goode, sisters who were also RHAM graduates.

Lavasseur and Ali Goode had previously cheered together at RHAM before returning to the program and coaching the team to conference title a season ago. This year, the duo welcomed in the younger Goode sister, who is a 2022 graduate of Boston University, where she cheered for the Division I Terriers the previous four years.

Ali Goode said her younger sibling provided a new perspective, crediting her with challenging both the team and the coaches.

"She brought a whole different level of expertise," added Ali Goode. "The kids really latched



RHAM High School cheerleading placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Class M state championships at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven on March 4. It was the highest the program has ever finished at the state competition, advancing the Raptors to the New England Regionals in Massachusetts for the first time.

on to a lot of things that she was teaching them and they took it and ran with it. They blew us out of the water."

Despite each coach having hectic schedules, the three longtime friends made it work.

"It was a lot of fun," Ali Goode said of the coaching trio. "Creatively we worked together and were able to bounce ideas off each other."

Mia Tyler, the Raptors' only senior, was an extension of the coaching staff.

Tyler called cheer her "happy place" and said the last four years have been full of challenges, but the ending couldn't have been any better.

"I was honestly so glad the season did go on for a few extra weeks, not because I get to tell people I went to New England for cheer, but

because I truly did not want the season to end," stated Tyler, who added it was emotional once it was over. "I have been a part of the program through all the ups and downs, virtual practices, cheering at soccer games when football wasn't allowed to be played, and I enjoyed every second of it."

Tyler was in a unique position because she was the only cheerleader that had been with the program prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which put significant restrictions on high school cheerleading for nearly two full seasons.

It was both the big and little things that Tyler helped with this year. Being a senior, she was the only cheerleading member that had participated in an in-person school pep rally because

the previous years had been canceled or were virtual.

"Mia was able to step up and guide everyone else through it," said Ali Goode. "She has a lot of spirit and she really thrived in the leadership role."

Helping captain the team was Paige Cavaleri, a junior who was named All-CCC.

Tyler said Cavaleri was the ideal co-captain, calling her "the greatest support anyone could ask for."

Cavaleri is part of a large junior class that also featured fellow all-conference selection Dani Poudrier, who was also named the team's Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Other team awards this season were the Coaches Award, presented to Kiley Foley, and Most Improved Award, given to Lauren Hefferman.

Foley, Brianna Kjellquist, Olivia Arcari, and Emma Bernier earned All-Academic honors.

"This is probably one of the most talented teams that we have had," said Ali Goode. "They have a great baseline level of talent and ability."

Goode added that the team gained confidence with each passing competition, saying, "We gave them hard material and every time we presented them with something difficult they mastered it a lot faster than we expected them to."

Next season the team should again be stacked with talent with 14 of 15 cheerleaders returning.

The one exception will be Tyler, who will attend Springfield College and is leaving the program in good hands after helping guide them through a historic season.

"I'll miss all my girls the most, especially those I have seen grow and develop into amazing cheerleaders," said Tyler, who also thanked her coaches. "The team was amazing to be on and I'm so glad I get to say I'm a RHAM varsity cheer alum."

## Colchester School Budget Focus of Forum

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education hosted a community forum on Tuesday, as officials try to provide further insight into the 2023-24 school budget proposal and the ongoing disagreement with the Board of Finance, which has prevented the spending plan from moving forward.

Board members and district administrators fielded questions for over two hours in what was officially designated as a special meeting of the school board.

In contrast to regular meeting procedure, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III stated that the panel would respond to every question, emphasizing that no topic was off-limits.

Unsurprisingly, the majority of inquiries were related to the school budget. The Board of Education's spending proposal for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$46.15 million — a \$4.13 million, or

9.83%, increase from the current year.

Sullivan, while referencing data from neighboring school districts, explained that Colchester has adopted minimal year-to-year budget increases over the past 10 years, often less than 2%. Combined with expiring grant money, contractual increases and inflation, a substantial hike in spending was unavoidable for the upcoming fiscal year.

"There's no place left to cut corners or make it work," he said, adding later in the meeting that the district "needs to catch up" in many areas.

The more pressing issue for many school employees and parents, however, is what the possible reductions to the proposal would mean for Colchester schools.

Previously, Sullivan outlined what would potentially take place if the budget were adjusted

to 6.4% increase.

First, class sizes at grades 1-5 would be set at their maximum limit. Then, full-day kindergarten would be eliminated, replaced with a half-day program. Preschool offerings at Colchester Elementary School would be reduced, as well.

Band at Jack Jackter Intermediate School and William J. Johnston Middle School would be eliminated, but general music would continue to be offered.

Several teacher and staff positions that were added back into the budget proposal would be eliminated once again. At a Feb. 23 workshop, the school board reinstated a business teacher, Spanish teacher at Bacon Academy, physical education teacher at William J. Johnston Middle School, three library paraprofessionals and two

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**Bulletin in Boynton Beach!...** Celine Ryan of Marlborough and Dianne Gorrick of East Hampton are shown here in Boynton Beach, Fla.

# 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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Seeing Singapore...** Marlborough residents Marco and Kim Irizarry are shown here with the *Rivereast* on their recent trip to Singapore!



**The Happiest Place on Earth...** The *Rivereast* recently went to Walt Disney World in Florida! Pictured from left are Vanessa Rourke of East Hampton, Ashley Wolf of Marlborough, Cap Egan Nelson of East Hampton, Greyson Wolf of Marlborough and Hunter Turner of Marlborough.



**Down in the Dominican...** Dick and Elaine Cote of Portland recently vacationed in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, enjoying the warm weather, beach and pool – and, of course, the *Rivereast*!

## Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?  
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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Well this is incredibly depressing.

According to a new report issued earlier this month by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), white supremacist propaganda distribution reached an all-time high in the United States in 2022 – with the increase in Connecticut particularly troubling.

The ADL's annual assessment of white supremacist propaganda incidents recorded 6,751 incidents in 2022. This was a 38 percent increase over the previous year – and while that's bad enough, in Connecticut, the increase was even starker.

The ADL recorded 207 incidents in Connecticut in 2022, a whopping 115 percent increase from the 96 incidents recorded in 2021. According to the ADL, Connecticut is the 29th most populous state with just over 3.5 million residents, and yet ranked as the state with the ninth most incidents in 2022.

Approximately 1 in every 10 Connecticut communities was targeted in 2022 with flyers appearing across every region and size of town and city.

Of course, *Rivereast* readers may recall one of those communities was Hebron. Last November, a RHAM High School staff member discovered a noose in the boys' locker room.

The discovery sparked community outrage and calls from civil rights organizations for local, state and federal inquiries.

A 17-year-old male RHAM student was later arrested in connection with the incident, and charged with placing a noose on property and second-degree breach of peace.

Other incidents in Connecticut included: white supremacist stickers and flyers at state parks; racist, homophobic and antisemitic flyers found in people's yards; and the Goyim Defense League – a particularly nauseating antisemitic hate group – livestreamed while placing flyers on car windows in Waterbury, in an effort to fundraise.

"Incidents of white supremacist propaganda distribution in Connecticut are at a historic high," said ADL Connecticut Regional Director Stacey Sobel. "Everyone must come together to reject hate and extremism and work towards creating a better community that does not exclude, marginalize, or target any person. ADL Connecticut remains committed to working with all communities in the region to unite against hatred."

I absolutely agree. Seeing such a jump in white supremacist propaganda is just incred-

**Editor's Desk continued on page 5**



**Wonderful Whist...** Gilead Congregational Church recently hosted a Military Whist tournament (a card game similar to Setback). The church said it was a huge success. Pictured from left are the winners: Dave Henry, Lauren Henry, Renee Ellis and Ned Ellis.

## Bulletin Board

I read somewhere once that of all our senses, the sense of smell is the biggest memory trigger. The scent of some long-forgotten cologne, maybe a baking apple pie, the smell of a coastal salt marsh: these and others may summon up memories of people and events we haven't thought of in years.

For me the other day, it wasn't a smell that brought up a long-forgotten memory. It was the remnants of a loaf of bread. More specifically, it was the two heels of what was left of a loaf of bread. And the memory was summer camp.

When my cousin and I were eight or nine or 10 years old, our parents used to pack us off to summer camp someplace up in eastern Connecticut. Off we'd go with our sleeping bags and sneakers and shorts and swimsuits to spend the next two weeks sleeping in bunk beds in cabins and doing camp stuff.

I think some kids might have gone for a week, but we always went for two. I'm sure our parents would have sent us for even longer, but there were probably child neglect laws or something that kicked in at some point. I guess we were lucky the Marines won't take you until you're 17 years old or they probably would have dropped us off at Parris Island with a cheery, "Have fun, boys! See you in four years!"

Meanwhile, while we two boys were at camp enjoying poison ivy outbreaks and early morning polar swims in the lake and using a communal latrine (talk about smells!), our parents and our sisters were enjoying two weeks at Disney World and all the ice cream they could eat—or so we suspected, though we were never able to prove it.

One of the "highlights" at camp, as I recall it, was crafts, which typically consisted of braiding a lanyard out of this colored plastic string called "gimp." The round braid part of the lanyard that went around your neck wasn't that hard to do, but it all came together in front in a sort of box braid that I was never, in three years of camp, ever able to master. This boxy part was fitted with a little snap hook where you could hang stuff like a whistle or a house key or possibly a .45 caliber pistol if you were lucky enough to find one lying around. Since I could never get the box part done, it really didn't matter.

As I recall, we were 12 to a cabin on double bunk beds. Top bunks were preferred by veteran campers because every so often some kid on a top bunk would blow dinner in the middle of the night—I recall one spectacular case involving spaghetti—and you could be in mortal peril if you were unlucky enough to be sleeping underneath.

Such fun aside, not everyone adapted well to camp life. One year we had a kid in our cabin who cried at night. We figured he'd get over it, but he didn't. Night after night, he'd be sobbing in his sleeping bag. When the cabin counselor tried to console him, he just cried harder. I don't know if he was homesick or afraid he'd get eaten by a bear or what. We felt sorry for him at first, but after two or three nights, it all started to get a little irritating. Here we are all giggling at some clown who's making fart noises and stuff after Taps and lights out and this guy's sobbing in his sleeping bag. I guess you could say he was bad for morale. Anyway, one afternoon about halfway through the first week, a couple of unhappy-looking adults showed up and took him away, leaving an empty bunk to remind us that camp ain't for everybody.

But you're probably wondering what any of this has to do with bread and for that I'll have to introduce you to the dining hall.

The dining hall had these long tables and we all ate family style from big dishes of whatever. Dinner and maybe lunch too (I don't really remember) included a loaf of Wonder bread or some imitation and butter. For some reason, the two end pieces—the bread heels—had come to be considered the most desirable part of the loaf among the camping community. Kids who would pitch a fit if their mother tried to give them the heel at home called dibs and fought pitched battles over who was to get the end of the loaf at camp dinners. The winner would then slather butter on his prize and slowly devour it with exclamations of delight, studiously pretending to ignore the envious glares of his fellow campers.

Looking back on it now, I wonder if this heel of the loaf thing wasn't some clever ploy concocted by camp staff to avoid wasting food. Or maybe it was just some weird kid thing involving supply and demand. Perhaps because there were only two heels on the loaf, they somehow became more desirable to our grasping little selves? Anyway, as I recall it, the bread heels remained the Holy Grail of the dinner table all three seasons I attended camp. I should add that as soon as I got home the heel returned to its previous lowly status as the least palatable part of the loaf, so this particular camp tradition apparently had no lasting effect on our behavior.

This whole chain of memories went through my head the other day as I stood in my kitchen decades later with a plastic bag containing the two last slices of bread—the two heels. And, yes, I ended up throwing them out.

I think there's a moral here somewhere, but I'll be damned if I know what it might be.

**Jim Hallas**

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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### Correction

At the end of last week's story on the *Addams Family* musical in East Hampton, an incorrect web address was given for tickets. Tickets may be purchased at [www.eventcreate.com/e/ehhs-addams-family](http://www.eventcreate.com/e/ehhs-addams-family). The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

### Get Involved!

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is looking for new members! We encourage all Republicans, Independents, and unaffiliated residents to get involved. You can do as little or as much as you are able to. We participate in Old Home Day, fundraise for delegates, support the seniors, have fun, give scholarships, and help with the lake clean up (just to name a few).

If this is something you are interested in, we would love to meet you! Our next meeting is on April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeside Bar & Grill. If you have any questions, please email us at [ehctgop@gmail.com](mailto:ehctgop@gmail.com). Facebook: East Hampton GOP. Instagram: East\_Hampton\_CT\_RTC.

**Chrissie Aloia, Vice Chair**  
East Hampton Republican Town Committee

### Beneficial Bats

To the Editor:

I am a state-licensed wildlife caretaker who has been working with bats for more than 20 years. After a long winter's nap, our local bats are active and ready to rid us of countless insects, including those that carry disease and crop pests. However, due to many factors, including habitat destruction and a devastating disease, white nose syndrome (WNS), there are far fewer of these beneficial, harmless creatures than ever before.

WNS first appeared in the United States in 2006 in a cave in upstate New York. It was unknowingly carried to the U.S. from Europe by human means, and the New York bats had no immunity to the devastating effects of the invasive fungus that causes WNS. To date, millions of insectivorous bats have died, and WNS has spread through half the U.S. states and several Canadian provinces, and it's still on the move.

Adding to the problem, ridge-tops at certain sites are now spiked with an array of windmills, and the spinning blades cause the death of thousands of migrating bats (and birds) every year. Energy companies are working with wildlife conservationists and biologists to find a solution to the problem. Meanwhile, the death toll

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is staggering. Natural pest-control services provided by insect-eating bats in the United States save the agricultural industry billions of dollars, as high of \$53 billion a year.

In many parts of the world, bats pollinate fruits and nuts and replant rain forests through seed dispersal. More than 500 plant species, including food crops, and 530 flowering plants depend on bats for pollination and/or insect control.

Bats provide safe, non-toxic, services free of charge.

How you can help bats: Keep pet cats indoors; don't use pesticides; create a garden of native species plants, and visit Bat Conservation International for more information [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org).

**Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton**

### Honoring the Fallen

To the Editor:

On Sunday, May 28, starting at 12:30 p.m., Colchester will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade. The Parade is a community effort supported by local groups that are committed to make this event a success. We strive to show the pride we feel in our departed military veterans by asking local organizations and members of the community to step up and participate by making a float or marching in the annual parade.

We are honoring and remembering the fallen from all our wars beginning with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War and the more recent conflicts World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, the Gulf War and the continuing conflicts.

The agreement that ended World War One was between the Allies (France, Britain, Italy, the United States) and the Axis (Germany and Austria). It was the agreement that ended the fighting on the Western Front in Europe. Remarkably that agreement was signed more than

100 years ago.

The parade committee is expecting to have several military units represented. They will include the Connecticut Army National Guard, 1109th TASM-G, U S Navy Silver Dolphins Drill Team, US Marine Reserve, the Coat Guard and the US Air Force Reserve. Our American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard will also participate. There is plenty room for community organizations to help fill in our ranks.

The Parade Committee will award prizes in three categories; 1. Best marching unit, 2. Most patriotic float and 3. Most creative float. Applications to join this years Memorial Day Parade are available online from the Town Hall, First Selectman's Office. We encourage any veteran, or local organization in Colchester and our surrounding towns to join us in honoring our fallen heroes.

**Alphonse Letendre  
Colchester Memorial Day Parade Committee**

### Go? or Whoa?

To the Editor:

In the *Rivereast* of 09/30/22, we read quotes from an Environmental Analyst working for the Drinking Water Section, Source Assessment and Protection Unit, Connecticut Department of Public Health. The analyst was addressing concerns, on 8/3/22\*, from a resident regarding the placement of a Public Works facility on a Hebron watershed. The concerns centered around water contamination for the Raymond Brook Marsh, Aquifer and fractured bedrock aquifers that feed neighboring wells.

The quotes, from this person, used in the paper, sound like "it's a go!" However, if you read their second email, 8/8/22\*, you get another perspective. According to this analyst, regarding the Dept of Public Health, "The CD of PH maintains records and databases as are relevant to the preservation, enhancement and promotion of CT's constituents. This scope does not extend to the subsurface geology or interactions between non-drinking water bodies and aquifers."\* From here they recommend contacting other listed (non DEEP) State organizations and emphasize best management practices must be implemented.

Their closing statement is, "As the Dept of PH was not involved with and cannot speak for the referenced ERT, it may be useful to contact the developers of the document for further infor-

mation on the findings there within." \*

Ironically, a 36-year veteran Connecticut DEEP hydrogeologist, from the Environmental Review Team, read the *Rivereast* and contacted us. Familiar with our watershed, geology and fractured bedrock aquifers, they are seriously concerned. Serious enough to write two letters. I've spoken with them many times. They have a no-nonsense approach to sharing knowledge, including accidental spills, monitoring wells, long term water pollution, modern salt sheds (with double lined monitored bladders) and the law. (\* letters posted, Save Hebron Center FB)

Water pollution is not a game, but it is a game changer. #save17

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

### Save by Going Green

To the Editor:

Everyone who is struggling with the high cost of energy is invited to check out a comprehensive list of money-saving, emission-cutting incentives for energy efficiency, electric vehicles, solar, home energy storage, etc. Visit [Portland-CT.org](http://Portland-CT.org), and navigate to the Clean Energy page under the Government tab.

I would also like to acknowledge and reciprocate the shout-out from Portland First Selectman Ryan Curley concerning the new solar array on Brownstone Intermediate School's roof. Portland's move towards renewable energy has enjoyed multi-year, bi-partisan support across many Town boards and commissions. This array is projected to save Portland \$10K a year. Mr. Curley, like former first selectwoman Susan Bransfield, deserves credit for keeping a good idea moving forward.

**Andy Bauer, Chair  
Portland Clean Energy Task Force**

### Celebration of Hebron's Farmers

To the Editor:

I truly enjoyed the celebration of Hebron's farmers and agricultural heritage at the recent Maple Festival. The large crowd of people that lined Main Street for the annual Tractor Parade clearly felt the same way. The stream of over 100 tractors of all sorts captured an enduring local legacy. Hebron has a unique opportunity to preserve our cherished farmland and expand our eco-tourism.

The Horton property and fields along Kinney

Road feature an important array of prime agricultural soil and historic stone walls. Professor Robert Thorson of UConn's Earth Science Department documented the connection between the largest deposit of glacial lodgment till soil in the area and the distinctive stone wall laneways. This ancient and important soil represents less than 20% of all soil in Connecticut and these are not your average stone walls. The unusual series of laneways demonstrate a community effort during the late 1700s and the early 1800s to preserve this important soil. Professor Thorson noted the preservation of these fields is vital "because this is a larger state wide concept and this may be the best place to show and illustrate it."

These distinctive fields survive just a short and scenic walk from Hebron's downtown business district. The *Hartford Business Journal* (3/20/23) reported that since 2012 Connecticut has lost 13% of its farmland. At the same time a 2015 study by the UConn College of Agriculture estimated the economic impact from local agriculture and agritourism was \$90 million a year. Instead of destroying our most prized agricultural soil and putting the Raymond Brook Watershed at risk from a Public Works facility and municipal complex, the Town of Hebron should be exploring ways to promote this treasured farmland and preserve it as an economic and educational magnet. Please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook for more information.

**Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston**

### Remove the Emotion

To the Editor:

Let's remove emotion from the Town of East Hampton financially assisting the East Hampton Ambulance Association.

Let's ask the Town Council to examine any outside organization's motivation for providing EMS to the town. The only organization with the town's best interest as their primary goal is the EHAA, demonstrated by 70 years of continuous, exceptional service. Any outside organization offering to provide EMS to the town is doing so to further their own organizational goals.

An example, Middlesex Hospital, which appears to be the personal preference of some council members, is not coming into East Hampton with the goal of providing or improv-

*See Letters, page 6*

#### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

ibly saddening. We're supposed to be more enlightened these days than in years and decades past. So why are incidents of racist hate on the rise?

Like I said, just incredibly saddening – as well as angering, and, to be honest, worrisome.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

ing the level of care provided residents. The primary motivation would be the immediate increase their fleet by 3 ambulances. They would be better positioned to address challenges they face with their non-emergency transport scheduling. (The preferred revenue source for any hospital-based/ private commercial ambulance service are non-emergency transfers.) Additionally, they would acquire approximately 1,000 new billable 911 calls.

When Middlesex Hospital became Durham's primary EMS provider, 2 ambulances were added to the Middlesex fleet free of charge. Those resources are now part of the Middlesex fleet, dispatched based on the overall needs of Middlesex Hospital, which includes Durham.

EHAA currently owns two ambulances, adding a third ambulance to its fleet. These ambulances, dedicated exclusively to East Hampton, have been acquired 100% through Association funding. Would the town expect the association to "donate" those 3 ambulances to Middlesex Hospital?

Any service would reap similar benefits, an immediate increase to their fleet, that can be allocated the provider chooses and the new 1,000 billable 911 responses.

EHAA has 70 years of skin in the game, others have none.

Do your due diligence. I think you'll find working with EHAA is the right decision.

**John Buciak – East Hampton**

### Noisy Bikeshedding

To the Editor:

Andrea Migliaccio, the chair of the Board of Finance, and Andreas Bisbikos, the first selectman of Colchester, spend a lot of time arguing about processes and making a lot of noise about minor problems.

They start battles over Excel spreadsheets and harass town employees about printer ink usage while ignoring the bigger picture.

The current education budget could cut some services, and further funding cuts will only cause more pain for kids and families.

Migliaccio and Bisbikos appear to be avoiding addressing the cuts and working to find solutions. Are they trying to take attention away from the cuts and hoping you don't notice? Both are up for reelection and maybe that's their priority.

**John Farrell – Colchester**

### The Food Stamp Program

To the Editor:

The Food Stamp Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is proud to be distributing the greatest amounts of free meals and food stamps ever.

Meanwhile, the National Park Service, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks us to "Please do not feed the Animals." Their stated reason for the policy is because the animals will grow dependent on the handouts and will not learn to take care of themselves.

**Frank Blume – Colchester**

### Totally Dysfunctional

To the Editor:

I've heard people say Colchester's budget season is off to a heated start, but this year's budget season isn't just heated. It's totally dysfunctional.

The Board of Finance canceled the first budget workshop with the Board of Education because of the format of this year's BOE budget request. The fact is neither the first selectman nor the BOE have submitted their requests in the usual format. However, only the BOE saw their budget workshop canceled by BOF, even though the first selectman's budget fails to meet the requirements laid out in the Town of Colchester charter.

The charter requires the budget presented to voters to include a "summary of each department's proposed budget with a comparison to the amount budgeted in the current fiscal year". That comparison has not been provided.

As a former Board of Finance member, I can appreciate that the BOF may need more information or data from the Board of Education about this year's budget request. I have questions as a resident, but I have questions about the first selectman's budget too.

In the past, these questions could be answered at public board meetings that were collaborative and honest.

That collaborative relationship between boards has completely broken down. There is no longer a shared chief financial officer to help bridge the gap, and the first selectman seems unwilling to mediate. Instead, we keep getting shows of political theater. The BOF's cancellation of the school's budget workshop did nothing to answer anyone's questions or concerns about the budget. All we got was accusations and finger-pointing.

The first selectman should work to mediate

and bring back an environment of cooperation and transparency between Colchester's boards to move us forward in this challenging budget season.

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

### Wants Versus Needs

To the Editor:

As I trudge through the budget documents, and attempt to decipher all the needs verses wants of every department townwide, this song by The Rolling Stones comes to mind.

Good ol' Mick Jagger sings:

"No, you can't always get what you want.

You can't always get what you want.

No, you can't always get what you want.

But if you try sometime you'll find, you get what you need."

Really all these deliberations boil down to this. Wants verses needs. We all have wants. More importantly we have needs that must be addressed. They are a priority for all of us in our lives.

That's all that counts in the end – the needs. The needs of the town and her residents.

That's the hard part separating wants verses needs. So I sing to myself this ditty by The Rolling Stones and it makes the decisions certainly more musical but clearer too.

Happy singing. And thank you Mick for making the budget process fun.

**Alison Walck – East Hampton**

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

### Only a Matter of Time

To the Editor:

While time is running out for the United States, our octogenarian representatives are busy debating whether they should ban TikTok or not; oh the irony! It's all pretty comical when you consider the absurdity of the fact that many of our representatives don't often use email, social media, or even own a cell phone. While the video-sharing app is wildly popular among people younger than 40, it is also owned by a Chinese-based company that may be using it for the purposes of spying and societal manipulation. Banning TikTok would be a great way to restrict alternative voices that question government narratives and MSM talking points while reminding us that it's the government's job to keep us safe...from ourselves. Although the U.S. government is 100% for the mass surveillance/ collection of its citizens cell phone data, search history, and social media posts it is unappreciative when another competing government muscles in on some of its territory. Spying on Americans is our job; sometimes censorship is

the most patriotic move you can make!

While the country is distracted by sensationalized Senate hearings and rumors of a Trump indictment (please, lock him up!!) the economy continues to take a beating and Russia just announced it will start using the Chinese Yuan as its currency of choice for all international business. Saudi Arabia is also in talks with Beijing to do the same and 142 other countries in total have already signed onto the BRICS agreement to trade in Chinese Yuan, a currency that is easily convertible to gold. Blood is in the water, as our global economic dominance rests solely on the fact that the global reserve currency to trade oil in is the U.S. dollar ("petrodollar") and that appears to be coming to an end...

TikTok.

**Colin McNamara – Marlborough**

### Exciting Activities Planned

To the Citizens of Colchester:

We wanted to share with you some of the exciting activities we have planned here at Complete Care at Harrington Court for the month of April. We are planting a poison ivy garden in our courtyard for all the residents who are itching to go outside. All the residents will be required to run a 5K race in April against the Bacon Academy track team. We plan to win. One of our residents won the lottery and is buying each resident their own horse to ride in the race.

We are raising bunnies for Easter. We will have at least 1,000 of them by the end of the month. We plan to set them free on the Town Green.

We are getting a swimming pool installed in our lobby so all of our visitors will have to take a quick swim across the Harrington Court channel to get into the building. This may seem cumbersome, but we have discovered the fountain of youth under the lobby and it will be fed into the pool.

One last thing: April Fools!

**Micheal Erardy, Ralph Piscitelli, Tom Foley, Gina Mattila, Flo Stevens, Mary McMurray and Pauline Wirzbicki, residents at Complete Care at Harrington Court**

### Hebron's Budget Farce

To the Editor:

Years ago, Hebron switched to a Board of Selectmen/town manager form of government in the hopes of bringing in professional management. Clearly, that has not happened recently. The town has been mismanaged for years. The resulting high taxes forced half the town's families to move between 2010-2020.

The bossism that has replaced town management is seen every year during budget time. The

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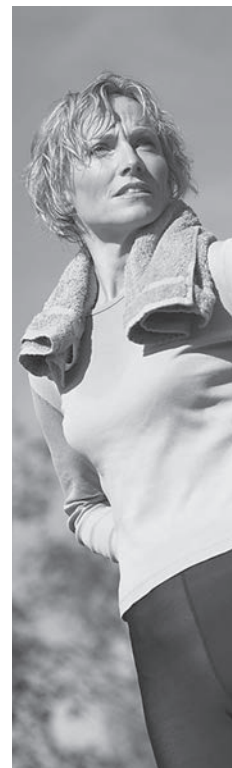
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by George M. Mantikas, DMD



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Teething time is the perfect time to address any concerns you may have about your children's teeth and gums. Our philosophy is not only to treat dental needs, but more importantly, to educate our patients to prevent future problems. To this end, our mission is to provide open and free communication and the highest standard of personalized care in an environment of health, mutual understanding, and respect. We see patients of all ages.

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town government and its budget do not reflect the values of the town citizens. The BOS and BOF have been so consistently anti-education and, in my mind, anti-child, that the annual budget kabuki dance has become a farce. This year's bossing of the BOE is nothing new and no surprise.

The budget is a zero-sum game. If you want an excellent education system and a rural town, you cannot be funding an unnecessary \$20M+ "state-of-the-art" Public Works facilities as part of a \$50M+ municipal complex expansion. If you want open space, farming and reasonable taxes, you need a town government that has the wherewithal to manage in a professional way.

Easy access to preschool education is a must for Hebron. Preschool not only benefits children, it benefits the economy in attracting young families to Hebron. It promotes greater equality in permitting both parents to work. It has the long-term effect of promoting public safety.

The BOS and BOF do what they're told, so they attack education. Of course, the BOF did not go after the wasteful \$250,000 budget item to design a Public Works facility that nobody wants and that will soundly be defeated at referendum – our last vestige of democracy. To do that would require some independent thought and moral courage, both of which are in short supply in our town government.

Bring public works to referendum.

**John Collins – Amston**

**More Liberal Nonsense**

To the Editor:

I'm back! Took a little break: my first actual vacation since the 'dark years' of the China Virus/ COVID Scamdemic introduced us to "executive orders" – another phrase for Absolute power and the right to reduce our constitutional rights in the name of safety," the most overused word in 2020 and 2021. Happy to see that my people Colin, Ed K. and a few new writers have held our position!! I was also happy to see that the dreaded "masks" mandate has been removed at airports and in-flight.

Eileen Kenny – another anti-American/so-

cialist who berates the *Rivereast* for "allowing" a legal business owned by a veteran to advertise? Ms. Kenny claims to support the Second Amendment. That's fake news. She is just another member of the Disarm Legal Gun Owners Club.

What is her position on advertising for cannabis, and alcohol? Should these be "censored" as well? Connecticut already has hundreds of gun laws and has driven out most if not all legal gun and ammunition manufacturers who have relocated to friendly red states.

If Ms. Kenny is so concerned about gun violence then she must be up in arms over the policies of radical NYC prosecutor Alvin Bragg – who has reduced 52% of felony arrests to misdemeanors and is in favor of making armed robbery a misdemeanor as long the gun was not fired. This man is making NYC less safe every day in the meantime he is on a personal "Witch Hunt" to indict President Trump over the extortion of \$130K by escort queen Stormy Daniels.

Our constitutional rights are being attacked by the left and their prosecutors are making soft-on-crime policies that are making our cities and our streets less safe.

**Don Denley – Andover**

**Religion and Morality**

To the Editor:

In 1798, John Adams expressed the genius and wisdom of our founders by saying, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." Paraphrasing Adams, "as long as we remained a faithful and moral people, we would continue receiving the blessings of Providence. But if we assumed the language of justice and moderation while practicing iniquity and extravagance, and displayed pictures of candor, frankness, and sincerity while actually rioting in rapine and insolence, unbridled by morality and religion, our country would become the most miserable habitation in the world."

That uncannily describes the current situation foisted upon us by two-faced, hypocritical progressives. We're designed to exist as a self-

governing republic. Formal government is only called upon to provide very limited functions as the people would guide themselves according to the moral and religious principles they'd been inculcated with. We're a representative republic that utilizes democratic processes to operate, but not a democracy.

Religion and morality have largely been abandoned in this society fashioned by progressives. As a result, people no longer govern themselves and we see breakdowns in every aspect of our culture. We see deterioration of the nuclear family, mass shootings and wanton violence, and depraved perversions running amok.

My high school had a rifle team and an indoor range. Students brought their own rifles to school and nobody was ever shot. Now, students are suspended for merely drawing a rifle.

Students are taking their own lives in unprecedented numbers as social dysfunctions such as gender dysphoria and irrational climate paranoia, promoted by progressives, continue to abound. Reflect upon these facts whenever confused progressives bizarrely tout their non-existent superiorities over the rest of us while mocking our traditional religious values.

**Sam Prentice – Andover**

**What Will it Take?**

To the Editor:

I had wanted to submit a letter for the end of women's history month writing about Elizabeth Peratrovich and Sophie Scholl but I heard a number on the news and it piqued my interest. There are many links that come up when you do a search for things associated with this number: 13. Not because of the horror movie franchise, not because of superstition attached to a particular day of the week but because of another school shooting.

Thirteen school shootings this year resulting in 10 killed and 13 injured according to Education Week information updated 27 March, after the Nashville school shooting. I personally don't know anyone that has had to endure this (and I hope that I don't go through it) so I have a question. Now I know this is being written and not in a classroom or online but: can I get a show

of hands from anyone willing to take the phone call telling them that their (grand)child has just been killed in a school shooting? I'll wait.

I have a similar experience in this area and it remains one of the most painful days of my life. If you're willing to go through that kind of pain because it might "infringe" on your right then I have another question, how many more guns until we're "safe?"

What will it take? "Our (grand)children deserve better than this." Dr. Jill Biden.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Manning – Andover**

**Outsourcing a Terrible Idea**

To the Editor:

I lived in East Hampton for 45 years. During that time, I served on the Board of Education, the Town Council and the Board of Finance. I was known as a budget hawk. I also was a patient in the East Hampton Ambulance, served by volunteers three times. In September 1983 my daughter was rushed from Memorial School to Hartford Hospital in the ambulance.

It is a terrible idea to outsource the wonderful life saving service the Ambulance Association provides.

**Don Coolican – Ponte Vedra, FL  
Formerly of East Hampton**

**Citizens.... Vote!**

To the Editor:

At a recent Board of Finance meeting it was stated that the current board was elected by the voters to ensure that budgets are lean and taxes are not raised. That, I'm sure, is the platform the candidates ran on. However, I contest the assertion that their election constitutes a public mandate. We never know how the public feels about their government because the average citizen does not participate in government! Too many do not even vote!

In the 2021 election for Colchester's municipal offices, including two members of the Board of Finance, only 5,302, out of 11,219 registered voters cast their ballots: 47%. Only 217 votes

**See Letters, page 8**

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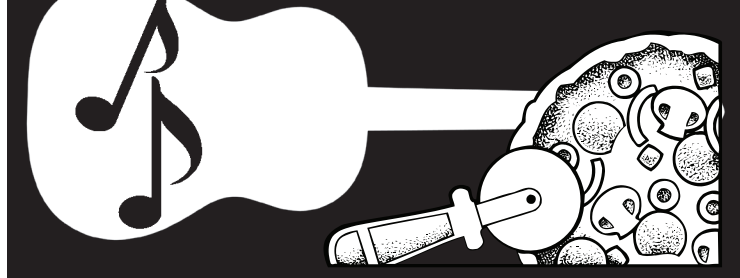
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★ Letters cont. from page 7

separated the first Republican from the first Democrat BoF candidate: roughly 2% of registered voters. Two percent! The best ballot outcome was for one of the Republican candidates, and that was barely over 50% of the votes.

In my view, that does not represent an enthusiastic endorsement. Not a ratification of ideas. Less than a quarter of Colchester's voters chose to give the finance board a conservative majority, yet conservatives will dictate our town budgets until the 2023 municipal election. If a significant majority of us votes to elect our leaders and commissioners, I could see that the citizens of Colchester had expressed their will. I might like it or not like it, but I would accept it.

Voters, don't be apathetic! Don't sit out the process then complain about the results. If we actually voted our conscience and our interest, perhaps we would get the town government we want. Collectively.

Citizen, vote! Elected official, show more humility and respect. There is no mandate for your views, only a sliver of difference between you or your opponent sitting in that seat. This argument cuts both ways.

John Barnowski - Colchester

**Latest Mass Shooting**

To the Editor:  
As we sit and click away the truth is still out there. We see the news of the latest (even if it's only for a moment) mass shooting. Three children and three adults dead, shooter killed by police. Do we think the woman killed by police is part of the three dead adults? Is the total 6 or 7? We click away. When the world needs us most our minds are afloat in the Ocean of Gratification. Now back to that cat video...

Breaking, Fox News reports... Biden joking after latest mass shooting. Chris Christie says all we need to do is tell our children how great this country is while they grow up. The next segment was on how rare these mass shootings are and crazy people aren't getting the help they need....agreed....wonder what was on fake news?

Tim Rinnell - East Hampton

**Paper Shred Event**

To the Editor:  
The Hebron Green Committee is once again sponsoring a free COVID-safe paper shred event for residents of the RHAM towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough (please note - residents only, no businesses). This event (postponed from last fall due to bad weather) will be held on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m.-noon in the upper parking lot of RHAM High School in Hebron.

To keep this event as safe as possible, everyone must stay in their vehicle, with papers placed in your trunk so we can remove them without reaching into the passenger area, and so you can stay in your vehicle. As in past years, to ensure that everyone has a chance to have their papers shredded, there will be a limit of five boxes of papers per vehicle.

To make the process go as quickly as possible, if you want to just drop your papers off and not wait for them to be shredded, you should bring them in paper bags only. Cardboard boxes or any other bins cannot be put into the shredding process, so you must take them back.

Also, we are pleased to announce that we will again be collecting nonperishable food items for donation. Our community has stepped up in a big way in past years with food donations, so let's do the same this year.

We hope to see you on April 29 at RHAM High School!

Mike Harder  
Hebron Green Committee

**Thanks from Boy Scouts**

To the Editor:  
Boy Scout Troop 13 would like to thank St. Andrew Church and our sponsors who contributed to a successful Pasta Dinner Fundraiser held March 4th. The proceeds will be used to offset the cost of activities for the Troop and provide community service throughout the year.

Our sponsors were: Advance Auto Parts, Angelo's Bakery, Baldi, Cold Spring Farm, Carl Guild & Associates, Colchester Florist, Dominick & Sons Monument Works, Gifts on the Green, Honestly Natural LLC, Maria's Pizza, Tim's Bistro, Westchester Market and Wild Bill's.

Sharon Colburn, Fundraising Chair  
Troop 13 Committee

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## Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email [andoverctchurch@gmail.com](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://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 April 12. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is April 5.

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

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

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

**Easter Services:** Sunday, April 9. Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m., at Siismets Farm.; Church Worship Service, Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m.

**Bingo & Baskets:** Friday, April 28, 5:30 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. game. Cost is \$12/person.

## Norton Commission Scholarship Info

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

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

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

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

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

## Scholarship Available

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

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

Applications are due May 5.

## 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.

Items can be purchased at Town Hall.

## 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](http://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.

## Earth Day Clean-Up

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22, when town residents will meet at the Andover Congregational Church on Route 6 at 9 a.m. to pick up trash bags and gloves to help clean up Andover streets. Mike Palazzi, Bill Penn and Cathy Desrosiers will be there to give out assignments and instructions to those who can help clean up the town.

All are welcome to participate; no experience needed. Mike Burke, in charge of the Lake District, will have his helpers meet at the lake for distribution items.

Cleaning is completed at 11 a.m., when bags will be taken to the Transfer Station.

## Veterans Meeting April 15

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

The meeting will feature special guest author MSG (R) Marc Youngquist. Youngquist was a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard 143rd Military Police Company, and has written a book based on the deployment of his unit to Iraq in 2003-04. Copies of his award-winning book will be available following his presentation.

For this special event, all interested persons are invited; no military affiliation is required.

## Planting to Save Pollinators

Andover Public Library will present "Planting to Save Pollinators" at the library, located at 355 Route 6, on Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m.

Hebron Pollinator Pathway will give a PowerPoint presentation offering essential information on the decline of pollinators, why pollinators are essential to the food chain, who are the pollinators, and how their survival rests with community stewardship of wildlife habitat and landscapes. This free program will offer an overview of plant selection and elements of garden design.

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428.

## Easter Plant, Bake Sale

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

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

## Library Friends Offer Scholarship

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

Completed applications must be dropped off at the library or emailed to the Friends at [andoverfol@gmail.com](mailto:andoverfol@gmail.com).

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

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends at [andoverfol@gmail.com](mailto:andoverfol@gmail.com).

## Lake Rising

The Andover Lake Management Association has announced that on Monday, April 3, Andover Lake will begin to rise to the normal summer lake level.

## Preschool Openings

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

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

## Easter Egg Hunt Saturday

The Andover Recreation Commission is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt that will be held outdoors behind the Andover Elementary School on Saturday, April 1, at 1 p.m.

The children will be separated into appropriate age groups. Ages 1 to 3 will be in the fenced playscape area; 4 to 6 will be in the larger playscape area; 7 to 9 will be in the area by the swing set; and 10 to 12 will be in the

lower area behind the town office building. All of these areas are behind the elementary school.

Note: In the event of rain, ages 1 to 6 will be in the Town Office Building Community Room and ages 7 to 12 will be in the elementary school gym.

Bring a bag or basket to collect the eggs.

## Library Friends Collecting for Auction

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

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

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

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

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

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

**Shopping Dates:** Tuesdays. Manchester: 4/4, 4/18; Willimantic: 4/11, 4/25. Masks available on all vehicles.

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

**Senior Luncheon Dates:** Fridays, April 14 and 28. Reservations required the previous Wednesday.

**New Trips:** May 12 to see tulips at Elizabeth

Park, and June 14 to see the roses. Call Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for details.

**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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## Scholarship Applications Due Saturday

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall - and the deadline is tomorrow.

There are six \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM

district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all resident seniors can apply.

Deadline for applications is April 1. Visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) for an application, ask your school's guidance counselor for one.

## Applications Due Today for Renewable Scholarships

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](http://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](http://www.asfdn.org) or call the foundation at 860-827-2556.

## College Fair

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

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

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# Council Seems More Open to Keeping Ambulance Local

By Jack Lakowsky

On Tuesday the East Hampton Town Council signaled more openness to partnering with the volunteer East Hampton Ambulance Association, a shift for several members, including chair Mark Philhower.

But, because the association is asking for more town money (about \$173,000 – a sharp increase from the town's current contribution of around \$60,000), councilors want more say on the EHAA board. The EHAA would still be an independent entity, not like the local fire and police departments, which are town-overseen.

Philhower proposed seating a town council member and a member of the Board of Finance on the EHAA board, reasoning taxpayers should have direct representation in any local organization using a good amount of tax money.

Discussion left off with plans to set up a special

meeting between the town and the EHAA, after town attorneys do their diligence.

Republican Town Council member Tim Feegel, whose been less vocal about this issue, said he agrees with elected representatives on the EHAA board. He also spoke to why he feels the EHAA is an important asset to keep.

"In my eyes these are neighbors helping neighbors," Feegel stated, then saying the volunteer service hasn't asked for money before and that in a crisis, it's comforting seeing a familiar face. He said through the worst of the pandemic EMS crews did their jobs. The EHAA has been lucky with volunteers for seven decades, but unfortunately, that's just not how things are anymore.

Barbara Moore, EHAA board president, didn't openly embrace the idea, calling the plan

"unusual." Moore previously sat on the council and held both seats at once.

She was more open to one seated town rep than two, saying two may not achieve more, and that the EHAA board likes to bring in people not already involved in local government.

The change in tone comes after two years of tensions between the council and the EHAA. Previously, council Republicans said switching to a private service would save the town money without compromising service quality.

It also comes after the council's learning its power in the situation is limited.

At the beginning of the month, 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.

Holdsworth said it's not as clear cut as the

council simply changing services, something it's 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 equipment.

First of all, the state decides if the town can change providers. Before a state board the town would present it's 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."



**Dangers of Drinking and Driving...** Last Friday the East Hampton Police Department took part in the Health and Wellness Fair at East Hampton High School. Using the Fatal Vision alcohol impairment simulation goggles. Officers explained and demonstrated the dangers of drinking and driving. Students and staff wore goggles and were ran through aspects of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test to demonstrate the effects of even the smallest amounts of alcohol had on their balance. Pictured is East Hampton High School Principal Eric Verner bracing against the wall as the goggles warp his vision.

## 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 last until April 6.

Lenten services will be shared with Faith Lutheran Church in Middletown. The schedule is:

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at Faith Lutheran at 7:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Good Friday, April 7, at Bethlehem, at 5:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Holy Saturday, April 8, at Faith Lutheran, at 7:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Easter Sunday, April 9, at Bethlehem at 10:45 a.m. in person and via Zoom.

See each church's website for Zoom links.

## Housing Options for Older Adults

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

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

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

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

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## DTC Scholarship Available

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

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

### Easter Bake Sale

An Easter Bake Sale will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., on Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A variety of breads, cookies, cakes and pies will be offered for sale.

### Senior League Spring Bowling

All seniors (age 55 and up) are invited to participate in Spring League Mixed Bowling at Kickback N' Bowl, 9 Bear Swamp Rd. The 10-week league starts Wednesday, April 5, from 2-4 p.m.  
Cost is \$12 per week, plus an extra \$4 per week for shoe rental if needed.  
For more information, contact Jack Anderson at 860-882-3752 or [jackande52@aol.com](mailto:jackande52@aol.com).

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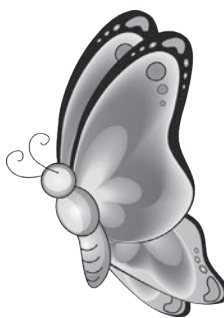
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# Local Kids Tap Dance Their Way to Germany

By Jack Lakowsky

A small, unassuming dance studio in Westchester is training champions – yes, that’s with an ‘s.’

Four students from Doreen’s Dance Center are headed to the International Dance Organization’s World Tap Dance Championships in Riesa, Germany, a city about 25 miles northwest of Dresden. The competition is known as the “Olympics of Tap.”

Until the competition in September, the four Doreen’s students going on to dance for the USA Tap Team and represent the U.S. in Europe, Eloise Alford and Mackenzie Napiello of East Hampton, Hailey Crossway of Colchester and Mel Jandreau of East Haddam, have quite a bit to do.

Hard work, and lots of it, is something they’re more than familiar with. Each student, young teens and preteens all, puts in long hours up to five days a week, balancing school, family, friends and other interests with very adult poise and discipline, as dedicated as anyone three times their ages should hope to be.

Along with all their responsibilities they had to fundraise to pay for the trip, raising about \$1,200 on their own.

Rehearsals for Germany start in May in Brewster, N.Y., a two-hour drive. They only have nine rehearsals to get the performance down. Eloise has actually already started rehearsals for the competition’s younger dancers.

They hope to do some exploring in Europe, saying they were really looking forward to visiting Paris. For parents, and students, this trip is a first, making it all the more exciting – and maybe a little nerve wracking.

The future world champs, and their unwaveringly loyal parents sat down with the *Rivereast* this week to talk about their hopes for their performance. Regardless of what happens the quartet is already made up of accomplished dancers; they’ve already won state competitions and have mastered multiple styles – hip-hop, modern, jazz, tap, you name it.

They’re all lifelong dancers and hope to keep dancing for a long while; Mel even hinted she’d like to go pro one day.

Germany isn’t the only competition they’re getting ready for. They have a few more competitions to dance for Doreen’s – including a national championship that, the dancers said, Eloise and Mel are performing the opening for.

They won a state competition in Hartford this year too, the Royal Dance Competition at the XL Center. The studio excelled, getting high marks and winning a special award for perfect precision.

Their teacher, Esther Erickson, better known to the girls as “Miss Essie,” told the *Rivereast* she couldn’t be more proud to see her students excel. She said Doreen’s has been training state and national champs for years, but this is the studio’s first presence on an international stage. She’s taught at the studio for 17 seasons.

“Everyone’s just ecstatic,” she said. “The kids have worked really, really hard. Not everyone gets the opportunity to do what they’re doing.”

When the chance for entries came up, Miss Essie put the four girls’ names forward. Each had tap solos on their own and had helped Doreen’s earn praise at the Hartford contest, so their dedicated instructor did what all good teachers do – gave their students a chance to excel.

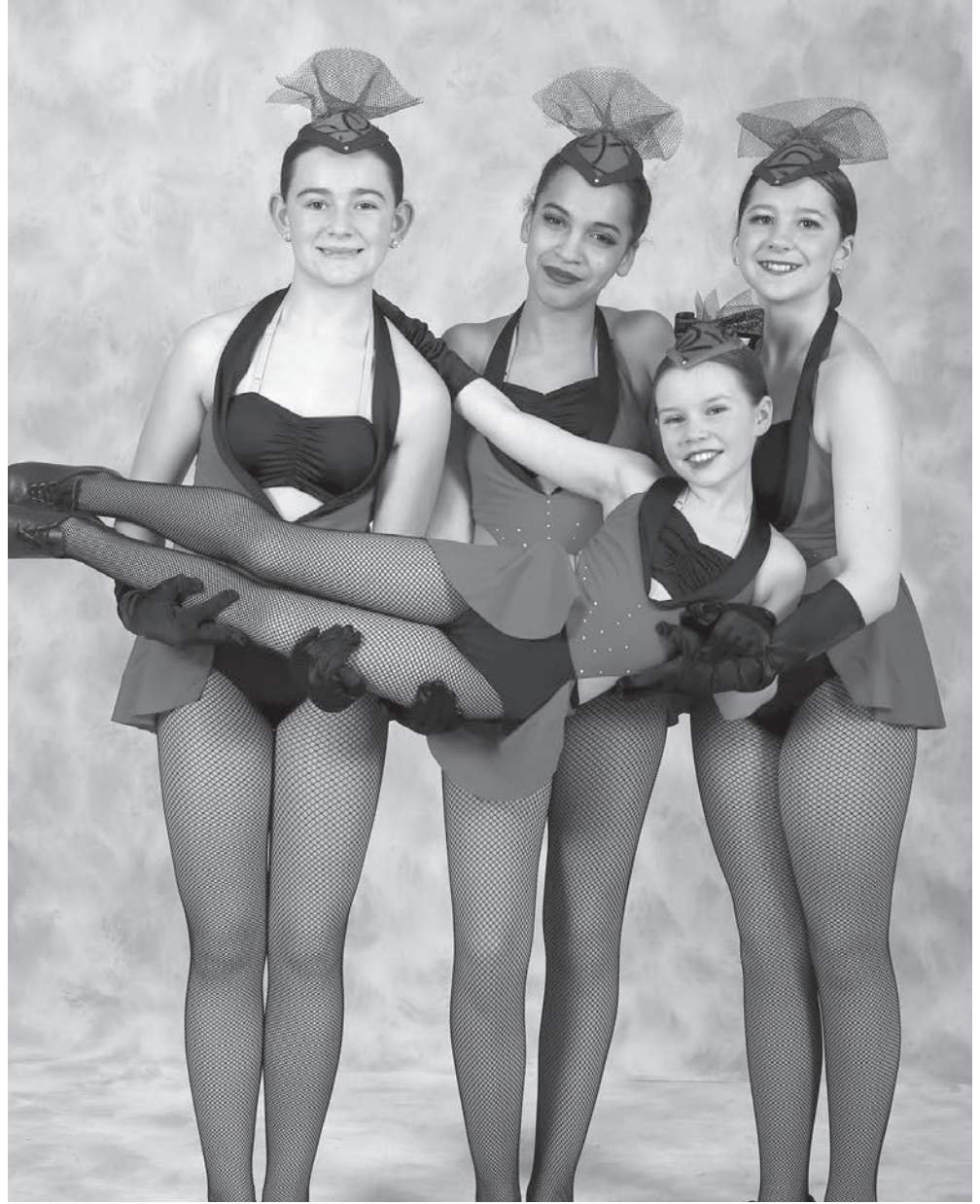
Miss Essie was delighted to say she’ll be joining her pupils in Germany.

“I can’t not go; I have to support the kids,” she said.

No easy feat – with a busy career and an upcoming marriage, the veteran dance teacher has quite a year ahead. And, like her students, she’s able to take the trip thanks to her mom, who’s going to help manage her affairs while she’s away.

“I had to go,” she said. “I didn’t care what it took.”

The IDO World Tap Dance Championships is set to start Sept. 25.



These four accomplished young women are headed to Germany to represent the U.S. in an international tap dance competition.

## Volunteers Needed for Lake Clean-Up Day

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FOLP), with the help of the Conservation Lake Commission and East Hampton Parks & Recreation, will hold the town’s annual Lake Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 22, starting at 9 a.m. at Sears Park.

Volunteers are needed – any amount of time is welcome – to help clean up the perimeter around the lake. All volunteers will receive a new Lake Pocotopaug T-shirt, garbage bags,

gloves, directions, and area assignments, along with snacks at Sears Park.

Dumpsters will be placed at Sears Park. Metals, tires (no rims), wood and plastic can be brought to the park to be put in the dumpsters – but no household garbage, furniture or mattresses.

Rain date is Sunday, April 23. For more details visit [www.flpeh.org](http://www.flpeh.org) or call Joe Carbonell at 860-917-7366.

## 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](http://easthamptonct.myrec.com).

**Spring Candy Hunt:** April 1, 10 a.m., at Center School. Cost: \$5. Pre-registration required.

**April Vacation Adventures:** April 10-14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Sears Park pavilion. Cost: \$210.

**Junior Bellringers’ Run for Fun Challenge:** Tuesdays, April 25-May 16, 6-6:45 p.m., at the East Hampton High School track. Fee: \$60.

## Local Children’s Author Donates Books

Dale Ursin of East Hampton has published his second children’s book, *Just One More Please*, a book of 10 children’s stories for both younger and older children.

The book contains life lessons suitable for discussions with a child on subjects such as kindness, friendship, love, judgment and courage.

The book will be available at the Haddam Neck Covenant Church Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1, at 1 p.m. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the East Hampton Food and Fuel Bank.

## Belltown KoC Scholarship and Grant

The Belltown Knights of Columbus Council 6190 is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to students continuing their education at an accredited college/university. Applicants must be members of St. Patrick Church, East Hampton.

The council will also award two \$500 Helping Hands grants to members of St. Patrick Church attending Mercy, Xavier or East Catholic High School.

Applications are available at guidance offices and the parish center office – email [stpatrick47@sbglobal.net](mailto:stpatrick47@sbglobal.net) – and are due April 14.


## Come Meet the Easter Bunny!

All are invited to come meet the Easter Bunny at the Haddam Neck Covenant Church’s Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1, at 1 p.m.

Hundreds of colorful candy-filled eggs will be hidden outside the church. Come early at 12:30 p.m. for complimentary hot dogs and hamburgers.


There will be Easter gift bags for the children to take home along with their candy.

Rain date is April 2 at 3:30 p.m. Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd.



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## 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](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://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](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

**Spinning Fibers:** Thursdays at 10 a.m. Bring your own wheel and fiber. All are welcome.

## Easter Egg Hunt

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

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

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-Pope John XXIII

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**From the State Representative's Desk...**

On Thursday morning, March 23rd, the National Association for Rare Disorders held a legislative breakfast at the state capitol that I had the opportunity to attend. I was there in support of all people who suffer from various rare diseases that face a multitude of challenges that they face on a day-to-day basis. We had the opportunity to listen to advocates, legislators, and those living with diseases who shared their experiences with us.

Among those who spoke this morning was Rachel O'Grady from Lyme, Connecticut. Rachel's courage and advocacy for her illness was an inspiration, along with others who were in attendance that shared their stories. Rachel is my hero! She's currently studying for her master's degree in social work at Boston College, and commutes to Boston by train several days a week! The one point that rang clear was the need for us as a legislature to work together to support those in our communities with these diseases. I encourage you to read more at [www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org).

Please contact my office if you have questions, ideas or concerns about any issue related to state government. You can follow me on Facebook at State Rep. Irene Haines, email me at [irene.haines@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:irene.haines@housegop.ct.gov), or call my office at 860-240-8700.

**State Rep. Irene Haines**  
R-34th District

*Note: The 34th Assembly District covers East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Salem.*

**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](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com) for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers.

**Sunday School:** New students are always welcome. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard for information at [jneelrichard16@gmail.com](mailto:jneelrichard16@gmail.com). An Easter Egg Hunt will be held for the children after the Easter service.

**Holy Week Worship Schedule:** April 2: Passion/Palm Sunday worship at 10 a.m.; April 6, Maundy Thursday at 6 p.m.; April 7, Good Fri-

day at 6 p.m.; April 9, Easter Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

**Bible Study:** Bible study will not meet on Wednesday during Holy Week.

**Bake Sale Contributions:** People can drop off their contributions for the April 8 bake sale at the Parish Hall.

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

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

**Deadline Saturday for Arts Commission Grants**

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

EHACC welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts. Deadline to apply is April 1. Applications at [www.artsforeasthamptonct.org](http://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org); email completed ones to [arts@easthamptonct.org](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org) or drop them off at Town Hall, in the town manager's office.

**Eligibility:** One of two \$500 grants are available to be awarded to individuals or organiza-

tions residing in East Hampton. The EHACC reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; 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 after the award date.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

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

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an appointment.

**EHHS Music Cabaret**

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

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

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

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

All proceeds benefit the EHHS music department.

**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](http://cc-eh.org).

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

**Easter Week:** Palm Sunday, April 2; Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae service: April 6 at 6 p.m.; Easter Sunday service: April 9 including musical Cantata: Jesus Paid It All. Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Saturday, April 15,

8 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Seeds of Hope fundraiser Race:** Saturday, April 29.

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

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

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

**Epoch Arts Receives Grant from CT Humanities**

Epoch Arts was recently awarded a \$7,300 CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant from CT Humanities (CTH).

CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants assist organizations as they recover from the pandemic and maintain and grow their ability to serve their community and the public. The CT Cultural Fund Grant will be used to support Epoch Arts to help revive current programs and to help bring back specific programs that were shut down during the pandemic, while supporting artists.

"We are so thankful for this funding from the CTH!" said Epoch's art director, Amanda Mor-

ris. "This funding could not have come at a better time for us and is so important in serving our community. It increases our ability to offer more in person events and programs, purchase supplies needed to teach our classes and offer more, free and low-cost events to our community."

Epoch Arts is a nonprofit, 501(c)3, arts-for-youth organization. Epoch Arts offers a variety of classes and events for the youth including theater, art, dances, and educational events as well as community art events and adult workshops. To find out more about the organization, visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org) or stop by 27 Skinner St.

**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](http://myactivecenter.com) or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto: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](http://www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center).

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

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

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

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

**Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group:** Mondays, April 3 and 17, 10 a.m. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources. The group determines the topics for discussion for the next month.

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

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

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

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

**Trails and Tales Storytime:** Wednesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. The senior center will join the library's storytime group for ages 3-5, as Lynn Kochiss, master naturalist, reads an inter-

active story and then leads a short walk around the grounds to teach about the wonders of nature located there. Rain date is Wednesday, April 26, at 10:30 am.

**Family Tree:** Friday, April 21, 10:30 am. Ken Doney continues to help participants search for the history of their families. Bring your own mobile device. One-on-one time will be available.

**Art with Karen:** Sunday, April 23, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through the beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Class cost is \$5 for supplies. Pay Williams the day of the event.

**Birthday Party: Monday, April 24, 11 a.m.** The senior center wishes happy birthday to all born in January, February, March and April. The senior center is celebrating birthdays quarterly now. There will be cupcakes, music and comedy. Guests welcome.

**Trips: Stayin' Alive at the Aqua Turf Club: See a tribute to the '70s band the Bee Gees. This day trip to Plantsville will be Monday, May 22. Cost is \$116. Coffee and donuts provided upon arrival and a family-style lunch will be served. Call for more information or stop by to pick up a flyer.**

**Saratoga:** Aug. 2-3. Visit the Saratoga race-track 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 and 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](mailto: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.

**Ham Shoots**

The Belltown Sportsman's Club will have a ham shoot Sunday, April 2, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the club grounds, located off Tartia Road.

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Shells supplied; 20 and 12 gauge. Cost is \$4 per shot. Refreshments available.

For more information, call Curly at 860-638-7221.

**Women's Self-Defense Workshop**

The East Hampton Police Department will host a free women's self-defense workshop Saturday, May 6, from 1-3 p.m., at the East Hampton Police Department training room. The workshop is for ages 16 and up.

This seminar will teach people how to: be more aware of their surroundings; avoid dangerous situations; and how to defend from violent encounters.

Space is limited to 15 participants. To register, call 860-267-9544.

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**CHS Seeks New Members...** On Tuesday, April 4, at 7 p.m., the Chatham Historical Society (CHS) will hold its April meeting at the CHS Museum at 6 Bevin Blvd., pictured here. All are invited – particularly new faces. Have an item or heirloom you need info about? Bring it along and the group may have answers!



**Lake Clean-Up Coming...** The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FOLP), with the help of the Conservation Lake Commission and East Hampton Parks & Recreation, will hold the town's annual Lake Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 22, starting at 9 a.m. at Sears Park. Volunteers are needed – any amount of time is welcome – to help clean up the perimeter around the lake. All volunteers will receive a new Lake Pocotopaug T-Shirt, garbage bags, gloves, directions, and area assignments, along with snacks at Sears Park. Dumpsters will be placed at Sears Park. Metals, tires (no rims), wood and plastic can be brought to the park to be put in the dumpsters – but no household garbage, furniture or mattresses. Rain date is Sunday, April 23. For more details visit [www.flph.org](http://www.flph.org) or call FOLP vice chair Joe Carbonell at 860-917-7366. Pictured at last year's clean-up day are FOLP chairman Kevin Kuhr, state Rep. Irene Haines (R-34), and Carbonell.

## Deadline Soon for Rotary Scholarships

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

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

A new scholarship, in memory of Rotary's

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

Applications can also be obtained through the Rotary Club website at [www.easthamptonrotary.org](http://www.easthamptonrotary.org) and can be returned electronically to [scholarshipapp@yahoo.com](mailto:scholarshipapp@yahoo.com).

All applications must be submitted no later than April 3.

## 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](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary)

**Library Hours:** The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed for Good Friday on April 7.

**Children's Programs: Storytimes:** Toddler Time: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. for children ages 18 months to 3 years, Stories & Songs: Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. for ages 3-5 years, Mindful Movements: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Held in the library community room. For ages 18 months and up; siblings welcome, Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. For children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. Held in the library community room.

**Family Storytime:** Saturday, April 1, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-5. There will be songs, dancing and stories. Siblings welcome.

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

**Let's Paint! Grades 1-5:** Wednesday, April 12, 2-3 p.m., at East Hampton Senior Center.

**DIY Days – Spring Cleaning:** Saturday, April 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for children and families in grades K-8. This week, come do a DIY project you missed earlier this year. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

**Kindergarten Readiness Skills:** Monday, April 17, 6:30 p.m. Learn about the skills that kindergarten teachers suggest spark success for young learners and how caregivers can introduce and support their development at home. Presented by the Child and Family Agency of

Southeastern Connecticut.

**Trails and Tales:** Wednesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. Lynn Kochiss, master naturalist, will read an interactive story to both the storytime group and local seniors, then lead people on a short walk around the library/senior center. Best for ages 3-5 but all are welcome. Rain date: Wednesday, April 26, also at 10:30 a.m. Held in partnership with the East Hampton Senior Center.

**Kids Comic Creators: Phoebe and Her Unicorn:** Wednesday, April 19, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5. Discuss, craft and create comics inspired by the graphic novel *Phoebe and Her Unicorn* by Dana Simpson.

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

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

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

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

**Book Club:** Tuesday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. *We Are the Brenmans* by Tracey Lange will be discussed.

## Friday Fish Dinners Wrap Up Today

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 will wrap up this year's Friday fish dinners tonight, March 31, in the St. Patrick Parish Center, 47 West High St.

This year's offerings include breaded cod, clams and shrimp, which will be served with French fries and coleslaw. Chowder will also be available. Coffee, tea, water and soda will be offered, as will desserts. Meals will be served from 4:30-7:15 p.m.

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 tonight, March 31, will be John Moore.

## Senior Center Offering Trip

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

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

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

## Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship are due soon.

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

Applicants must be an East Hampton resi-

dent graduating with the Class of 2023 (whether from East Hampton High School or another high school), who has been accepted to attend an institute of higher learning after graduation.

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

## Anchor Lodge Scholarships Available

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

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

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

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

## George Seely Memorial Scholarship

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

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to graduating students of East Hampton High School or RHAM High School. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who will further their edu-

cation in technical, military or academic fields of study.

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

## YPCCA to Present *Rent* This Summer

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts is now accepting registrations for its summer theater camp for students in grades 6-12. YPCCA will run Monday through Friday June 26-July 23, from 8:30 a.m.- 2:45 p.m., at East Hampton High School. Discounted registration is now available.

Mornings at the camp are devoted to workshops in skills that include Acting, Show Choir, Dance, Stage Make-Up, Voice, and Stage Combat. Afternoons at camp are spent in rehearsals for the summer mainstage production – *Rent*.

Based loosely on Puccini's *La Boheme*, Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony award-

winning *Rent* follows a year in the life of a group of poor young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The rock musical bowed on Broadway in 1996 and ran until 2008. It was also adapted into a movie in 2005.

All students at YPCCA perform onstage by participating in the show and *The Event*, a cabaret evening of performances rehearsed in the morning workshops and presented free of charge to the public during the third week of camp. For those teens interested in a leading role in the show, auditions are held a few weeks before camp. Auditions, however, are not mandatory and those students who do not audition will be featured in the ensemble. There are also ample opportunities to learn behind-the-scenes skills involved in theater work and many campers work as stage and set crew.

Registration and more information on the camp is available by visiting [www.yppcca.org](http://www.yppcca.org). Register by May 1 and tuition is \$625 for the four weeks. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need.

Email [info@ypcca.org](mailto:info@ypcca.org) for more information.

## Police News

3/23: Paige Einsiedel, 24, of 6 Edgerton St., and Chelsea Sklodosky, 24, of 81 Middletown Ave., were both arrested and charged with third-degree assault, East Hampton Police said.

3/28: James Sciarrino, 64, of 9 West High St., East Hampton was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, police said.

Also, from March 20-26, officers responded to 17 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 20 traffic stops, police said.

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**New Real Estate Agent...** Countryside Realty of Hebron would like to welcome Theresa Casasanta. Casasanta (far right, pictured with Countryside broker/owner Cathyann Schulte) spent over 10 years in the automotive industry before joining the world of real estate. Casasanta can be reached at [theresa@countryside Realtyct.com](mailto:theresa@countryside Realtyct.com) or 860-826-9418, or at the Countryside office at 30 Main St.

### Lions Scholarships Available for Residents

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

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

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

criteria established by the Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

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

Completed forms must be received by May 13 for consideration. For more information, contact Lion Richard Griswold at [Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org](mailto:Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org).

### Tax Abatement Applications Available

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

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

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

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

### Joshua's Trust Honors Hebron Open Space

Each year for the past 34 years, Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust (Joshua's Trust) awards our Conservation Award to a group that exemplifies its values of preserving and maintaining land in the interest of conservation and for the development of open space programs.

This year, the Trustees have chosen Hebron's Open Space Land Acquisition Committee (OS-LAC) as its honoree, for its 25 years of identifying and protecting important conservation land in town. Following recommendations by the committee, the Town of Hebron has acquired 22 properties, a total of 943 acres, for the benefit of

all. The committee members have followed state and town guidelines when making recommendations, including seeking to create greenway corridors in the town. The committee has also actively worked with the state to help protect hundreds of acres of additional town lands, including farmland.

Joshua's Trust is a Mansfield-based accredited land trust that currently works in 14 town and owns properties or easements totaling more than 5,000 acres. New London counties) and owns properties or easements totaling more than 5000 acres. For more information, visit [www.joshuastrust.org](http://www.joshuastrust.org).

### Clothing Drive at Old Town Hall

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

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

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

towns. Just come with your bags of clothing.

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

For more information on the Hebron Historical Society, visit [hebronhistoricalsociety.org](http://hebronhistoricalsociety.org).

### Church of the Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit [holyfamilyhebron.org](http://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. The shelter is preparing for the close of the overnight stay program on April 30 by requesting critically needed camping equipment: 2-, 3-, and 4-person tents; 8'x10' and larger tarps (brown or green; no bright colors); tent cord or rope; tent

stakes; and sturdy adult backpacks (new or used in good condition). Additional critical needs: paprt towels, men's and women's (M,L,XL) sweatpants, sweatshirts, and hoodies; men's (M,L,XL) thermal shirts, T-shirts, and boxer briefs; women's briefs (sizes 6-10); Lysol disinfectant spray; liquid cleaner such as Pine-Sol; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas to assist people living in their cars; and Walmart gift cards. Call to arrange the pickup of gift cards. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKeeracher 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](http://gileadchurchucc.updates.church), email [gcc@gileadchurch.net](mailto:gcc@gileadchurch.net), or call 860-228-3077.

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

**Scheduled Events/Meetings:** 4/3: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 4/4: Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.; 4/4: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 4/5: Choir Practice, 7 p.m.

**Mission Trip Shares:** All are invited to support the Youth Group Mission Trip by purchasing a "Mission Share" for \$10. Shares can be purchased through April 2.

**Palm Sunday Breakfast:** The Men's Fellowship and the youth group will host breakfast on

Sunday, April 2, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The menu will include the youth group's French toast casserole along with scrambled eggs, sausage and fruit. A free will offering will be accepted to cover the cost, with proceeds going towards the youth group mission trip to Boston.

**Faith, Food and Film:** Friday, April 7. Bring a dish to share. Gathering begins at 6 p.m., followed by a meal, dessert and a movie.

**Maundy Thursday:** There will be an in-person and livestreamed worship service on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**Easter Sunday:** There will be a community Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 9. All are welcome.

**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](mailto:wisewarrioryoga@gmail.com). Note: No yoga April 15 or 22.

### 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](http://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.

### Transfer Station New Hours

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

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

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

### Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

All are invited to an Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, April 9th. The service will be held in the field behind the Gilead Congregational Church, UCC (672 Gilead St., Hebron).

Hebron clergy will participate in leading this service. Light refreshments will be served in the church Fellowship Hall following the service.

In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary of the church.

### Dean's List

Derek Johnson of Hebron made the fall 2022 Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

### Free CPR Class

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

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

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**Parks and Recreation News**

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering the following programs. For full program descriptions and to register, visit [hebronct.recdesk.com](http://hebronct.recdesk.com) or call 860-530-1281.

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

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

**Fling into Spring Basketball Skills Clinic:** Tuesday, April 11, 9-11 a.m., at Hebron Elementary School, for grades 3-6. This clinic covers basic and advanced fundamentals from both the offensive and defensive end of the floor. Fee: \$30.

**Home Alone Safety for Kids:** Monday, May 15, 5-6:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School, for boys and girls ages 8-13 who will be staying home alone. Each student will receive a workbook that covers house key safety, outdoor and indoor and safety (including kitchen), gun safety, fire safety, gas leaks, first aid kit essentials, and phone and internet safety. Fee: \$45.

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

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

**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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut) and on YouTube; go to [tinyurl.com/yby64wph](http://tinyurl.com/yby64wph) to access.

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

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

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

**Life Group Hebron:** Meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Caseys' home, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship. Next meeting: April 3.

**1st Wednesday Prayer:** Wednesday, April 5, 11 a.m. All are invited on the first Wednesday of every month to bring prayer requests before the Lord.

**Kingdom Women Bake Sale:** Saturday, April 8, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be cookies, brownies, pies, bars and more. This is a fundraiser to

subsidize the Women's Retreat in September.

**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. Normally meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: April 23.

**Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship:** Usually held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church. However, the April one will be held April 14. All are invited.

**Virtual Prayer Night:** Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. All are invited to pray for each other, the community and the country. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

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

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

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



**Lenten Workshop...** Over 30 residents of Colebrook Village, a senior living community in Hebron, recently attended a Lenten worship service held there. Lent is the solemn Christian religious observance commemorating the 40 days leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and Easter. The Rev. Ron Kolanowski of St Peter's Episcopal Church celebrated the service. He offers a service monthly at Colebrook for the residents.

**TTCP Upcoming Events**

The Town Center Project (TTCP) has announced several upcoming events. For applications or more information, visit [towncenterproject.org](http://towncenterproject.org) or [facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc](http://facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc), or email [ttcp@towncenterproject.org](mailto:ttcp@towncenterproject.org).

**Town-Wide Tag Sale:** Fill out an application and get on the town-wide map today. The event will take place Sunday, May 7, as part of Hebron's Market Day weekend. Want to be in the thick of it downtown? Pack up your tag sale and bring it to TTCP's "Brimfield Lite," centrally located downtown on Saturday, May 6.

**Art Show:** TTCP is looking for artists to participate in Art On Main, Hebron's juried art show, on Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This outdoor, open air event will feature artists from many forms of media, including watercolor, woodworking, oils, ceramics, fi-

bers and more. Contact TTCP for an application.

**Market Day:** TTCP is seeking vendors for its Vintage Market and Farmers Market, which will both be held Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. If you have vintage flair, love to repurpose, redesign, reuse, collect old treasures or simply create art out of any media, submit an application to participate in the first of what TTCP hopes to be an annual event.

**Calling All Musicians - Make Music Day Hebron:** TTCP is once again bringing Make Music Day to Hebron. Make Music Day is an international event dedicated to the celebration of music. This year's festivities will be held Wednesday, June 21. All levels of musicians are welcome, in all genres. Musicians will line Main Street, bringing back the "Mile of Music." Sign up to participate.

**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](http://www.douglaslibrary.org).

**Friday Film:** Friday, March 31, 1 p.m. *The Whale* (rated R) will be shown. Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

**Teen Tag:** Teen meetings will be Wednesdays, April 5 and 26, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Bring your ideas for spring programs.

**Chess Night:** Thursday, April 6, 4:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome.

**Tories, Spies and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut:** Thursday, April 13, 1 p.m., presented by the Connecticut Historical Society. Which side are you on? That's the question that every single person in Connecticut had to answer in 1775, as the 13 colonies began a rebellion against British rule. This presentation reveals stories — some well-known, some obscure— of Nutmeggers who risked and sacrificed to support their chosen side during this "tumultuous jarring time of civil war."

**Spirited Book Club:** Wednesday, April 19, 7-8:30 p.m., at the American Legion, located next door to the library. *What Happened to the Bennetts* by Lisa Scottoline will be discussed. Copies of the book will be available for check-

out at the adult circulation desk. Must be over 21 to attend.

**Folded Book Workshop:** Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Local craftsperson Carol Gregoire will lead a workshop on folded book art. Learn how to read a pattern and walk away with your own butterfly to display. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required since space is limited.

**Facing War: Connecticut in World War I:** Thursday, April 27, 1 p.m., presented by the Connecticut Historical Society. Learn about this dramatic time during which Connecticut confronted women's demand for the vote, a deadly flu epidemic, and mass immigration — all while sending thousands of men and women to the front.

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

**Take & Make:** During April, adults and teens can pick up an Earth Day Seed Bomb craft kit from the hold shelf across from the adult circulation desk, while supplies last.

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

**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.

**Gathering of Local Poets Saturday**

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

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

**Fishing Derby April 30**

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

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

**Dean's List**

Hebron residents Elliot Morelli-Wolfe and Piper Redman made the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Maine at Farmington.

Morelli-Wolfe earned High Honors, and Redman earned Honors.

**Gymnastics School Turning 50**

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

Former students are invited to send photo and/or video submissions to: [dunnegymnasticsct@gmail.com](mailto:dunnegymnasticsct@gmail.com). Include the name and year in the subject line. Deadline: April 15.

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Fixing the Flagpole... Pictured is some ladder-truck training as the Hebron Fire Department helps to repair the Colebrook Village flagpole. The senior living facility offered thanks to Hebron Fire Department and EMS.

**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 Kolanski.

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

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

**Wednesday in Holy Week:** Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m. This is a traditional service of moving from light to dark.

**Maundy Thursday, April 6:** 6 p.m. This year will be traditional liturgy following the service in the prayer book.

**Good Friday, April 7:** Noon. This will be

a traditional Good Friday service from the prayer book.

**Easter Sunday:** Sunrise Service at Gilead Church, 6:30 a.m.; 8 a.m. service with hymns; 10 a.m. service with brass.

**Meetings and Events:** Balancing Class, Mondays, 10- 11 a.m. – cost is \$5; Cub Scouts: first Mondays of the month, 5:30 p.m.; Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop): Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 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](https://stpetershebron.com), search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email [office@stpetershebron.com](mailto:office@stpetershebron.com).

**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.

**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](http://tinyurl.com/3xfm862d). For more information, contact the senior center or look to the senior newsletter.

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

**Shopping Trips:** Schedule is: to Stop & Shop Friday, March 31; Big Y Wednesday, April 5; and Walmart Friday, April 14. Registration for each trip is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.

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

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

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

**Senior Transportation:** Offered to ages 60

and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended – and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

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

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

**Tuesdays:** Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; mobile food truck and HHS 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.

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- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.



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





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### Aging with Purpose

The Marlborough Commission on Aging has announced the following pieces of news: The commission, in collaboration with the Marlborough Senior Center, invites those age 50 and up to next session of the "Aging with Purpose" series, being held at Goodwin University in East Hartford. The event is Thursday, April 6, at noon. The topic is "Younger You: Reduce Your Biological Age and Live Longer." For a ride, sign up with Vi Schwarzmann at the senior center, 860-295-6209; van departs the senior center at 11:30 a.m. For a link to register for the

event, visit [tinyurl.com/yckkxtsd](http://tinyurl.com/yckkxtsd). Also, the Marlborough Senior Center has a pool table available for use – first-come, first-served. No sign-up is necessary. The table is available any time the senior center is open (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). People can also have lunch Monday, Wednesday or Friday, by signing up with Schwarzmann. For more information on the Commission on Aging, call Colleen Kaplan at 860-918-5705. The commission meets every third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m., at Town Hall.

### 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, April 3:** Free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: grape juice, vegetarian lasagna, vegetable medley, wheat bread, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 4:** Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Hall Park Beach Association, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 5:** Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Spring Holiday Meal! Menu: orange juice, glazed holiday baked ham, cut-up sweet potatoes, green beans, cornbread loaf, apple crisp; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

**Thursday, April 6:** Meals-on-Wheels, noon;

Red Cross Blood Drive, 5 p.m.  
**Friday, April 7:** Senior center closed for Good Friday.

**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 Wilhenger 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.

### 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](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com).

**Holy Week and Easter Services:** Visit the church website, [www.stjfchurch.org](http://www.stjfchurch.org), for information on services and Mass schedules or contact the church office.

**500 Acts of Kindness:** All are welcome beginning at 9 a.m. in the church hall on Saturday, April 1, to participate in hands-on service supporting our Marlborough and surrounding communities.

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

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Sundays, 4-5 p.m. (Note the time change.)

**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.stjfchurch.org](http://www.stjfchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).



Marlborough Elementary School sixth-graders Tessa Wallace and Jackson Howe were presented with the CAPSS Superintendent's Student Recognition Award by Marlborough superintendent Holly Hageman during a recent Board of Education meeting.

### Local Students Win CAPSS Award

Marlborough Elementary School sixth-graders Tessa Wallace and Jackson Howe were recently presented with the CAPSS Superintendent's Student Recognition Award. CAPSS is the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

The two were honored by Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman during the Marlborough Board of Education meeting held March 23.

Tessa was selected as a model student who works diligently, is extremely self-motivated, and goes above and beyond expectations. Her favorite classes are math and physical education. Outside of school, Tessa plays defense on a Premier Soccer Club for Oakwood Soccer. She also plays basketball in the Marlborough Youth Athletic League (MYAL) and has taken part in

Lego League competitions. Tessa enjoys using the Air Line Trail for walks and bike rides. She is artistic, family-oriented, and loves animals. Tessa also has an interest in interior design.

Jackson goes out of his way to help others. He worked with a classmate to collect recyclables in an effort to raise funds for the sixth grade Garden Project. Jackson is a terrific big brother to his two younger brothers and has recently taken on some babysitting responsibilities. He plays soccer, enjoys bike rides with his friends, and runs one mile after school each day. He excels in tennis, often playing up a division or two in tournaments. He also enjoys the drums, is artistic, and loves board games that have a strategy element to them. He would like to be a lawyer or a doctor in the future.

#### Scholarship Applications Available

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary is now accepting scholarship applications from any graduating senior who resides in Marlborough. The applications are available online through the RHAM guidance department. Applications are due by Monday, May 1. Mail all completed applications to MVFD Women's Auxiliary, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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Susan Hourihan will lead a workshop on rock-carving at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Saturday, May 6. Some of her soapstone carvings are currently on display at the arts center.

### Workshop on Rock-Carving

Marlborough Arts Center will hold a workshop on Rock-Carving Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the center, 231 N. Main St. All materials will be covered in the \$60 fee. This class is offered to adults and teenagers.

Instructor Susan Hourihan, a new resident of Marlborough and an experienced high school art teacher, said rock-carving is a therapeutic process. She has been teaching soapstone rock carving for the past eight years.

Hourihan's training is in photography (both darkroom and digital), but she has recently add-

ed other media. She is an acrylic landscape painter who has shown her work at Scranton Public Library and with the Madison Art Society.

Some of her soapstone carvings are currently on display at the arts center.

A class registration form can be downloaded from marlborougharts.org and mailed with a check for \$60 to the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447.

For more information, contact the Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com.

### Call for Artists and Artisans

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

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

additional \$5 for a third. Membership dues must be up to date.

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

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

More information, including a prospectus and exhibition forms for the artists, will soon be available at [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org).

### 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 richmondprograms@gmail.com.

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

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

**Digital Microscope Kit:** Did you know the

library has four digital microscope kits that can be checked out for a three-week loan period? Each kit contains one pluggable USB 2.0 digital microscope with a versatile observation stand and two sets of 25 prepared microscope slides. These kits have been donated in memory of Audrey Skorski.

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

**Kids Crafting Club:** Meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m. Next meets March 28. Registration required.

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

### Holy Week at Congregational Church

Holy Week services are scheduled at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St. All sanctuary worship services are livestreamed at [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.org) for those who can't attend in person and can be watched later through the church webpage. The Rev. Valerie Seaver will lead all the services.

**Palm Sunday, April 2:** The worship service will include the annual Sunday School palm processional and Hosanna Wave. After the parade, Sunday School students will have an Ice Cream Seder meal, downstairs in the Great Hall.

**Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service:** April 6 at 7 p.m. The service will include Holy Communion and a dramatic reading of the Passion Story.

**Good Friday:** April 7. The church sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection from noon to 3 p.m.

**Easter Sunday:** April 9. A Sunrise Service will be held lakeside at Lake Terramuggus at 7 a.m. Hymns will be led by a brass ensemble and hot cocoa will be served.

The 10 a.m. Resurrection Celebration at the church will feature special music from the Chancel Choir including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to close the service.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Will be closed April 7 and 8.** The shop is normally 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](http://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.

### Fish and Game Club Easter Egg Hunt

The East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held this year Sunday, April 2, at the club.

The event is free and open to the public for those with children up to 12 years old. It begins promptly at 1 p.m. There will be staggered starts for appropriate age groups.

Free refreshments are available for the kids following the egg hunt. All are invited.

The club is located on Planeta Road in Marlborough, just off West Road and Route 2. For more information visit, [www.EGFG.org](http://www.EGFG.org) or look for the club on Facebook page.

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### Parks and Rec Programs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Adult Program: Zumba:** Thursdays through April 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the conference room at Fire Station No. 2 and virtually. There is a \$12 drop-in fee each week.

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

**Driveway Reflective Number Signs Available:** Cost of the sign is \$35. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double-sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

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**Local Artwork on Display**

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<b>Altos Tequila Blanco or Reposado</b> 750 ml <b>\$27.99</b>	<b>Twisted Tea Whiskey</b> 750 ml <b>\$13.99</b>	<b>Apothic Wines</b> 750 ml Assorted Excludes Inferno <b>\$9.99</b>	<b>Aperol Aperitivo</b> 750 ml <b>\$24.99</b>	<b>Nutri Vodka Seltzer</b> 8 Packs 12 oz cans <b>\$16.99</b>
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### 'Breaking Free from Routine'

The Marlborough Lions will host Daniel (Dan) Blanchard as a guest speaker Tuesday, April 25, at 7 p.m. The presentation will take place in the Marlborough Elementary School library and is entitled "Breaking Free from Routine: How to Live a More Exciting Life."

Blanchard, a TEDx speaker, award-winning author, educator, Junior Olympian wrestler, and veteran of the U.S. Army and Air Force,

will discuss ways to help people break free from their old routine and start living an exciting life.

All are welcome and there is no charge to attend. The Lions Club meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., with Blanchard's presentation commencing at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Lions Club Vice President Kevin McNally at 860-682-3588.

### Lions Club Ruffling Kayak

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

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

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

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



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## 2023 - 2024 RHAM Proposed Budget Overview

The proposed RHAM budget is a **2.85%** increase over the 2022 - 2023 budget.  
\$30,598,391 Operating Budget & \$540,990 Capital Budget  
\$31,139,381 Total Budget

2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	Average
1.76%	1.94%	(.01%)	1.67%	(1.22%)	.83%

### Priorities in Budget Planning

- Support academic and social emotional needs of students
- Maintain a program of studies with a variety of course offerings and career pathways that help ensure RHAM graduates are college and career ready upon graduation
- Ensure curriculum and instruction utilized in the district are current and aligned with best practices
- Improve or maintain facilities and grounds
- Ensure a safe and secure school environment for students, staff, and community

### Regional School District 8 Board of Education

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Gabriel Marques - Hebron  
Eric Shevchenko - Andover  
Heather Summerer - Hebron

Town	22 -23	23 - 24	Difference	Town %
Andover	\$5,026,937	\$4,493,413	(\$533,524)	14.43
Hebron	\$14,259,027	\$15,389,082	\$1,130,055	49.42
Marlborough	\$10,944,130	\$11,256,886	\$312,756	36.15

	Adopted 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Difference	% Change
<b>Operating Budget</b>	\$ 30,485,991	\$ 31,279,929	\$ 793,938	2.60%
Gross Expenditures	\$ 30,485,991	\$ 31,279,929	\$ 793,938	2.60%
<b>Less Anticipated Revenue</b>				
Excess Cost and Agency Placement Grant	\$ 577,967	\$ 549,419	\$ (28,548)	-4.94%
Instrument Rentals 2 yr avg	\$ 650	\$ 438	\$ (212)	-32.62%
Community Use of Buildings (based on 2 year average)	\$ 42,229	\$ 47,002	\$ 4,773	11.30%
Gate Receipts (based on 2 year average)	\$ 7,684	\$ 13,030	\$ 5,346	69.57%
Tuition, RE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Tuition, SE (incl summer)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Food Service	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ (35,000)	-100.00%
Medicaid (based on 2 year average)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0.00%
Misc (based on 2 year average)	\$ 20,307	\$ 34,332	\$ 14,025	69.06%
Student Obligations (2 year average)	\$ 1,217	\$ 953	\$ (264)	-21.69%
E-Rate ( guidelines have changed )	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Interest (2 year average)	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,200	\$ 3,200	160.00%
Student Parking (233 Spaces 2 year average)	\$ 17,232	\$ 21,164	\$ 3,932	22.82%
<b>Total Anticipated Revenues</b>	\$ 714,286	\$ 681,538	\$ (32,748)	-4.58%
Gross Expenditures	\$ 30,485,991	\$ 31,279,929	\$ 793,938	2.60%
Less Anticipated Revenues	\$ 714,286	\$ 681,538	\$ (32,748)	-4.58%
<b>Net Expenditures</b>	\$ 29,771,705	\$ 30,598,391	\$ 826,686	2.780%
<b>Member Town Levy and Enrollment</b>				
	Adopted 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Enrollment 10/1/22	Town %
Andover	\$ 4,951,035	\$ 4,415,348	174	14.43%
Hebron	\$ 14,043,313	\$ 15,121,725	596	49.42%
Marlborough	\$ 10,777,357	\$ 11,061,318	436	36.15%
	\$ 29,771,705	\$ 30,598,391	1206	100.00%
	Adopted 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Difference	% Change
<b>Capital Improvement Plan Budget</b>	\$ 504,619	\$ 540,990	\$ 36,371	7.210%
<b>Member Town Levy and Enrollment (CIP)</b>				
	Adopted 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Enrollment 10/1/22	Town %
Andover	\$ 83,918	\$ 78,065	174	14.43%
Hebron	\$ 238,029	\$ 267,357	596	49.42%
Marlborough	\$ 182,672	\$ 195,568	436	36.15%
	\$ 504,619	\$ 540,990	1206	100.00%
<b>Expenditures - Revenues + Capital</b>				
Gross Expenditures	\$ 30,485,991	\$ 31,279,929	\$ 793,938	
Less Revenues	\$ 714,286	\$ 681,538	\$ (32,748)	
Net Expenditures	\$ 29,771,705	\$ 30,598,391	\$ 826,686	
Capital Improvement Plan Budget	\$ 504,619	\$ 540,990	\$ 36,371	
<b>Net Expenditures + Capital Budget</b>	\$ 30,276,324	\$ 31,139,381	\$ 863,057	2.85%

### Unfunded Mandates

There are \$183,493 in new unfunded state mandates for 2023 - 2024.

### Ongoing Efforts to Reduce the Budget

The administration has collaborated closely with the Board in taking steps to reduce the budget. \$526,900 has been removed from 2023 - 2024 by taking the following steps:

-allocated \$362,218 of surplus funds from the 2021/22 budget to pay for items and services originally in the 2023/24 budget.

-allocated \$87,746.52 from 2022/23 budget to pre-purchase items originally in the 2023/24 budget.

-made staff reductions totaling \$76,936.

### First Steps in Music

The AHM Family Resource Center has room in the First Steps in Music class for children age birth-5 and adults.

First Steps in Music is an early childhood music program facilitated by a trained music teacher with singing, movement, rhythm, and instruments. This eight-week program will take place Wednesdays starting April 5, from 9:30-10:15 a.m. each week, at 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron.

Additional information is at [ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center](http://ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center).

To register, visit [ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home](http://ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home). For more information, contact Becky Murray at [beckym@ahmyouth.org](mailto:beckym@ahmyouth.org) or 860-573-1260.

### Graduation Lawn Signs on Sale Now

Parents and friends of RHAM High School Class of 2023 seniors are invited to purchase graduation lawn signs.

Online orders will be accepted through March 31 via the AHM Project Graduation webpage, at [ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation](http://ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation). Signs cost \$20 each.

Orders will be available for pick-up at AHM Youth & Family Services on Tuesday, April 18, from 4-6:30 p.m., and Wednesday, April 19 and 26, from 2-3:45 p.m. Lawn sign sales are an annual fundraiser for Project Graduation.

Comments or questions should be directed to Jenn Boehler 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org).

### National Take-Back Day

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

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

To learn more about CHEC, follow on Facebook or visit [ahmyouth.org/programs-services/prevention-programs](http://ahmyouth.org/programs-services/prevention-programs).

Direct questions or comments to Jenn Boehler at [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org) or 860-228-9488 ext. 22.

### HAMR Softball Trivia Night

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

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

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

To buy tickets, visit [www.hamrsoftball.org](http://www.hamrsoftball.org) or email [hamrsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:hamrsoftball@gmail.com) for more information.

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# School Board Reduces Budget Proposal

By Michael Sinkewicz

While many local school boards are proposing substantial budget increases for the 2023-24 fiscal year, the RHAM Board of Education continues to slash the bottom line by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

During last week's meeting, the board unanimously agreed to pre-purchase around \$97,000 of items by utilizing funds transferred from the current school budget. About \$87,000 of that sum is being removed directly from the 2023-24 proposal.

On top of that amount, the district identified additional areas that allowed the proposal to be reduced further — these items did not require board approval.

Overall, the 2023-24 budget request for the taxpayers is now a 2.85% increase from current-year spending.

Following RHAM Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara's initial budget presentation in January, the board has taken several steps to lessen the overall ask. Originally, McNamara called for a \$31.71 million, or 4.76% increase from the 2022-23 budget.

In February, the RHAM school board approved the utilization of 2021-2022 surplus funds, which allowed the overall levy for the three towns to be trimmed.

The surplus was added to the Capital Non-Recurring account, covering \$362,218 in items that would've been in the 2023-24 proposal. These items include: HVAC review at \$104,000; wrestling mats for \$12,000; baby grand piano at \$43,000; scoreboards/shot clocks for \$13,500; feminine hygiene products/dispensers at \$79,493; Touchview monitors at \$68,250; concrete containment for soil/infield mix/gravel, \$17,325; locks for doors and fob access at \$17,000; and commercial washers and dryers for \$7,000.

After that reduction, the total spending package became \$31.3 million — a 3.4% increase from the current year. For Hebron, with 596 students enrolled at RHAM — the most at the

school — that revision represented a \$200,000 reduction in the town's levy for 2023-24.

This month, McNamara hinted that further savings were likely, and that a few numbers were still being finalized.

During the March 20 meeting, McNamara shared that some staffing adjustments led to reductions in the bottom line. The legal fees line item was reduced by \$20,000, diesel costs were locked in, saving around \$53,000 and a revenue projection increase accounts for a \$174,000 bump.

McNamara stated that the district's goal was to be "fiscally conservative while continuing to offer high quality programming for our students."

"We definitely recognize that we are in what could be considered to be tough financial times and we want to make sure that the budget we put forward is responsible but also responsive to the needs of the district," he said.

With just those adjustments, shared by McNamara, the budget increase dropped from 3.4% to 3.14%.

The board then approved the pre-purchased items, which brought the request down to 2.85%, which is "really the number that I think is what we're going to promote and push forward," McNamara said, confirming that further changes weren't expected.

The school board is hosting a public budget hearing on Monday, April 3rd.

The \$87,000 being transferred will allow the district to reduce the budget request and pre-purchase a variety of items. These include tech equipment, library equipment, security equipment and furniture.

In addition, the board agreed to buy a software program that tracks school assets loaned to students such as graphing calculators and charging cords. Another item is for two additional four station workbenches for the art program. These two items — which would've likely been in future budget proposals, but not 2023-

24 — cost around \$10,000, bringing to total amount of pre-purchases to \$97,754.

School board chairman Michael Morris emphasized that all of the items were not part of a "shopping list" for the board.

"It's important that we understand that these aren't new items," he said, adding that the board was simply pulling items out because the district had available funding. The 2022-23 budget is in a strong net favorable position, allowing the transfers to be made.

Salaries and benefits will likely make up the bulk of the proposal — they represented 70% of the total budget, or over \$22 million, in McNamara's original outline.

RHAM, while managing to reduce costs, is still bound by contractual salary increases and unfunded state mandates. There are a few staff additions in the proposal, including a new instructional coach/curriculum coordinator at \$106,864.

While Andover's levy is projected to decrease in future years, Hebron is expected to contribute a larger share moving forward.

Hebron finance board member Janet Fodaski asked McNamara earlier this month if Hebron's allotment would continue to grow on a yearly basis if the student enrollment projections remained accurate.

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

McNamara also followed-up on the district's

efforts to promote a more inclusive school environment after two racially-charged incidents took place at RHAM High School in less than three months.

"I am confident that we are on the right path and making good progress in addressing the issues we have contended with through a variety of approaches," he told the school board.

In response to a question by Hebron selectman Tiffany Thiele at a budget workshop, McNamara said the incidents would have an impact on systematic decisions in the district. The budget proposal, he added, includes funding for professional development for teachers and staff, which can be utilized to focus on that subject.

As RHAM and the other local school boards continue to work on their budgets, Board of Education Appreciation Month, celebrated during March, comes to end.

"We are fortunate to have such a committed group of individuals who comprise the board and advocate for the district," McNamara said. "I am extremely humbled and appreciative of the work that you do."

He added that all of the members balancing their own careers, jobs and lives to participate.

"And then you're doing this out of the goodness of your hearts to volunteer to better the district and the school and for the students and staff," McNamara said.

## Candle Fundraiser Ends Today

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

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

TIONS! 'Class of 2023.'" Two sizes are available: 25 ounces and 16 ounces.

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

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org).

## College Scholarships Available

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Alumni Benefit Event for Scholarships, Project Grad

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

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

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

will be a raffle of many great items.

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

Checks should be made out to RHAM Alumni.

Further information and tickets are available from committee members Bob at 860-558-5823 or 860-228-3388; Lynn at 860-416-1575; or John at 860-295-8484.

## 'Dinner and Laughs' Comedy Fundraiser Tomorrow

The RHAM boys basketball team will host the second annual "Dinner and Laughs" Comedy Night Saturday, April 1, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. The show will feature PG-13-style humor.

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

## Anchor Lodge Scholarships Available

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

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

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

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

## Hebron Lions Scholarships Available for RHAM Seniors

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

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

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

established by the Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

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

Completed forms must be received by May 13 for consideration. For more information, contact Lion Richard Griswold at [Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org](mailto:Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org).

## George Seely Memorial Scholarship

The George Seely Memorial Scholarship is offered by Anchor Lodge No. 112 in East Hampton. Warrant Officer Seely chose a career in the

military, serving his country with honor and dedication in the U.S. Army in World War II and was a member of Anchor Lodge.

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

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

## Youth Baseball Spring Registration

RHAM Youth Baseball spring registration is open. Families residing in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough should visit [www.rhamyouthbaseball.org](http://www.rhamyouthbaseball.org) to register their children.

Scholarships are available for families that have experienced a financial hardship. Contact league treasurer Eric May [ericmay51@gmail.com](mailto:ericmay51@gmail.com) for more information.

## ISO Musicians and Vocalists of All Ages

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

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

If interested in performing, complete the application at [tinyurl.com/4zn464ma](http://tinyurl.com/4zn464ma).

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org).

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# Voters Overwhelmingly Approve Track Funding

By Jack Lakowsky

On Tuesday evening, more than 100 Portland voters approved the town's request to increase the funding for refurbishing the local high school track, which has been unusable for years.

It's a heavy haul – \$700,000. Inflation and unexpected problems with the track's sublayers spiked the price severely. Hopefully this is the medicine needed to quell the headaches the track causes.

Last year, the town got \$500,000 from the state to replace the track. Turns out it wasn't enough, according to First Selectman Ryan Curley, who ran for election on getting the track up and running.

From track-building firms, the town couldn't get an estimate for under \$1 million.

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

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

To give a picture of what a journey fixing the track has been Curley reviewed a little local history, saying the track was first built in 2002, and hasn't had major work since.

Fast forward to 2020, when the school district

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

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

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

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

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

Curley said he reluctantly reached out to the town's state delegation, who politely told him more money wasn't impossible, but also isn't likely.

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

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

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

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

Curley, who ran for election saying he would get the track done and is already up for reelection in November, believes it's a worthwhile invest-

ment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Cemetery Program Series Launches

The Portland Historical Society has resumed monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month – and has launched a new series in the process.

As a follow-up to last October's successful Celebrating Cemeteries tour series, a Cemetery Program Series launched last week. Each program will feature a narrated slide show of a cemetery visited during the October tours. Following a short business meeting, each program will last about an hour and will highlight 10 sites of

notable residents and families, where they will be remembered while learning a little history.

After beginning at St. Mary's Cemetery on March 28, the series will continue at Trinity Cemetery on April 25, the Swedish Cemetery on May 23 and concluding with Center Cemetery on June 27.

Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public, free of charge. All meetings will be held in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

**Holy Week and Easter Schedule:** Palm Sunday Service, Sunday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.; Healing Service, Monday, April 3, 6 p.m.; Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service, Thursday, April 6, 6 p.m.; Good Friday Walk, Friday, April 7, noon, at St. Mary Church, and Good Friday service, 7 p.m., at the church; Easter Sunday Ser-

vice, Sunday April 9, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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



**Tanker 6 Makes Debut...** Last week, Portland Tanker 6 was able to pump at its first fire. Local firefighters responded out to Penfield Hill Road for a reported brush fire that was in very close proximity to a detached garage. With help from Mother Nature the wind shifted, and the fire spread was pushed the opposite way of the garage. The situation was placed under control in about 45 minutes with the help of about 10 firefighters.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Kids' Blast After School Program:** Mondays-Fridays, 3-6 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School, for grades K-6. Cost to attend is \$18 a day. Children who live or attend school

in Portland may participate. Bussing is provided from Valley View and Gildersleeve schools.

**Tai Chi for Long Life:** Through April 29. Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., and Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at Buck-Foreman Community Center. Drop-in fee is \$7 per session.

**Boat America - Online Boating Safety Course:** April 18, 19 and 25, 6:30-9 p.m., via Zoom. This eight-hour course is taught by qualified members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary; successful completion will include a Completion Certificate needed to obtain a boat-er's license/certification in many states. Cost: \$65.

**Skyhawks Multi-Sport Program:** Saturdays, April 15-May 13, at Riverfront Park, for ages 2-5. Times vary by age. This soccer, baseball and basketball class uses age-appropriate games and activities to explore balance, hand/eye coordination, fitness, sport skills and child development. Cost: \$75/residents, \$85/non-residents.

## United Methodist Church News

Portland United Methodist Church, located at 381 Main St., is a member of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. The church is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone. The building is accessible.

In-person worship services are held Sundays at 9 a.m., with a Fourth Sunday weekly Communion service at 1 p.m. replacing the regular 9 a.m. service on those Sundays.

The church mails a monthly newsletter from the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Judith Johnson-Siebold. To join the church mailing list, email [Portlandctumc@gmail.com](mailto:Portlandctumc@gmail.com).



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# Britton Expects Facilities Report this Summer

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton said he expects to report the work of the district's facilities overhaul committee to the community in the summertime.

Three years ago, the district commissioned a facilities study that identified over \$30 million in necessary work. During a round of community talks last summer, most locals approved of closing Gildersleeve School, possibly the effort's most impactful consequence.

The timeline is longer than Britton has previously said, when he expected it to be finished by the end of 2022. Work will take between 5 and 10 years.

The district reconstruction is being addressed separately from the restoration of the defunct high school track, which Britton and first select-person Ryan Curley have said is a more immediate need.

Britton has previously told the *Rivereast* he expects the price tag, around \$34 million, to rise.

"We don't know for sure," said Britton, "but year over year I'd say add 2.5-3%."

Britton said, for example, Valley View, Gildersleeve and Brownstone Intermediate schools

all bleed heat energy in the winter, driving up the district's expense. Overall, utilities at the three schools cost nearly \$400,000, the most expensive of which is Gildersleeve.

Britton presented parents with three routes, all options costing between \$30 and \$35 million at current estimates.

"The cheapest option would be doing nothing, which isn't a good idea," Britton told the *Rivereast*, saying buildings have old windows and old boilers, that a chimney needs to come down and that, a persistent problem, the lower schools don't have air conditioning.

HVAC improvements, with the pandemic highlighting the importance of good air quality and filtration, are a priority of the overhaul. The lack of AC can disrupt learning, Britton said. Too-high temperatures can force a shortened school day.

"Will things fall apart tomorrow? No," said Britton. "Next year? Probably not. But I give it five years before serious degradations and problems start impacting the usefulness of the schools. In my uneducated guess, I'd say 5 years is about it, otherwise they'll start looking like the track."

The first option, maintaining all five schools and fixing up their infrastructure and utilities, was coolly received last week, and Britton said this has been consistent.

The second is to cut one school building, put an addition on Valley View, making it a single larger school with pre-kindergarten through grade 3, making Brownstone grades 4-6, or the reverse of this, selling or repurposing Gildersleeve either way.

Britton's third option is cutting two schools, enlarging Valley View to preschool through 6<sup>th</sup>, and selling both Brownstone and Gildersleeve. Reception on this option was mixed last week.

Getting Gildersleeve off its hands, parents said, seems the most cost-effective option, option two. This plan is eligible for significant state reimbursement, Britton said. The school is awkwardly located away from the other school buildings, is outdated and needs quite a bit of work.

Running three schools for the district's relatively small number of elementary school kids is

costly and demanding, Britton has said.

Brownstone, though it desperately needs air conditioning, has historical and aesthetic value, and Valley View is directly adjacent to the secondary school complex.

No matter what path the town takes, "there's no cheap way out," said Britton. Since the cost of each project is similar, planners have the benefit of looking beyond price, at the project's real tangible benefits.

After the meeting, Britton had good news on the HVAC front; just after he saw parents, he got an email from the state with new information about a state grant for HVAC improvements.

Britton said the pandemic changed perspectives on the necessity of the VAC parts of HVAC, that venting, and air conditioning are no longer considered wants, but needs.

It won't be right away, and it's too late to factor the grant opportunity into this stage of planning, Britton said, but grant money could go a long way to offsetting some of this project's significant cost.

## YFS News & Notes

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

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m., at the Route 17 Portland Rec Complex. Contact Parks and Rec. for more information.

**Community Leadership Series:** Tuesdays, April 4, 11 and 25, 6-7:30 p.m. This virtual three-part program is designed to help the participants develop strong, effective leadership skills in order to make positive changes in their schools and communities. The program will consist of self-reflection and team building activities, as well as a focus on engaging in mean-

ingful dialogue and action. Contact Revicki to register.

**Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night:** Wednesday, April 5, 6-8 p.m., in the Wagner Room of Portland Library. There will be games, art supplies and other activities, along with snacks.

**Intro to Dungeons & Dragons:** Wednesdays, April 5, 12 and 19, 5-8 p.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. For grades 5 and up. Learn to play this roleplaying game with folks from The Battle Standard in East Windsor. Contact Revicki to save a spot at the table.

**After School Drop-In & Draw:** Tuesday, April 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Little Hikers:** Friday, April 14, 10:30 a.m.

**Youth & Parent LGBTQ+ Support-Style Groups:** Wednesday, April 19, from 6-8 p.m.

**Drop-In & Draw Arts & Crafts:** Friday, April 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.



The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords' spring concert will be Saturday, April 29, at Portland High School. Pictured at right is the Vocal Chords' musical director, Samuel Tucker, who will be accompanied on piano that night by Alan Dougherty (left).

## Vocal Chords Spring Concert

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) will present its 33rd annual spring concert, entitled "It's a Grand Night For Singing" on Saturday, April 29, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St.

Samuel Tucker, the Vocal Chords' musical director, has prepared a performance featuring various genres of music. He will be accompanied on piano by Alan Dougherty.

"It's a Grand Night for Singing" will include The Fifth Dimension's "Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine In," Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," Elton John's "Rocketman," Neil Diamond's "I'm a Believer" from *Shrek*, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Crosby, Stills & Nash's "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes," Billy Joel's

"Tell Her About It" – which was inspired by the Motown sound that was popular in the 1960s – and a special moment with "What a Wonderful World," arranged by Mark A. Brymer. For classic purity, the MHVC will also perform "For the Beauty of the Earth" (John Rutter).

In addition, MHVC will present scholarships to graduating students from Middlesex County who will be pursuing a career in nursing or music. Proceeds from ticket sales and the Patron Drive help to fund this community outreach program.

Tickets for the concert are \$25; call Diane at 860-347-2787 or Joyce at 860-342-3120 to reserve your seats. For more information, visit [VocalChords20.org](http://VocalChords20.org) or "like" the group on Facebook.

## 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](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

**Holy Week:** The schedule for Holy Week at Zion is: April 6, Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m.;

April 7, Good Friday worship, 7 p.m.; April 9, Easter Sunday, 9 a.m.

## Tag Sale Donations Sought

The Portland Historical Society's Town-Wide Tag Sale Day is coming Saturday, May 13 (see separate notice in this paper), and the society is as usual hosting a sale of its own during the event.

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

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

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

For more information about donating items, call 860-982-1486 or email [PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com).



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Portland's Emergency Resource Management and Connecticut Training & Consulting recently donated a fully-stocked training ambulance, to be put to use in Ukraine. Pictured is Robert Ziegler, ERM president.

## Ambulance Donated to Ukraine

Last Friday, Portland's Emergency Resource Management and Connecticut Training & Consulting donated a fully-stocked training ambulance to be put to immediate and necessary use in the effort to support the humanitarian efforts of the EMS and health care system in Ukraine.

This is now ERM's second supportive donation. With Ukraine losing over 400 ambulances since the course of this conflict, "this delivery will now total 48 ambulances and 6 fire trucks

that have been sent over," said Chris Mason, vice president of Government Relations for OSF Healthcare System in Peoria, Ill., and coordinator of the donation efforts nationwide.

Another ambulance donated is from upper Vermont. Both rigs will be placed on a barge which will take approximately two weeks to get to Germany, where they will then be driven through Poland and into to Ukraine.

## Registration Continues for Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Portland Historical Society's 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale Day will be on Saturday, May 13 – rain or shine – and online registration and payment for tag sales is still open.

Visit the society's website ([www.portlandhistory.org](http://www.portlandhistory.org)) and click on the big yellow banner to register. Registration sheets were included in the society's March newsletter and are also available in the barrel on the front steps of the Ruth Callender House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main St. Completed paper registrations along with payment should be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480.

Starting tomorrow, Saturday, April 1, the fee to register is \$25. All registrations must be received by Sunday, April 30. Portland residents who sign up will be assigned a spot on the society's official Tag Sale Map issued for that day

## First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Nursery care and church school take place every Sunday during the worship. The building is accessible. The worship service is livestreamed as well as available for later viewing on the church's YouTube channel; search on YouTube for First Church of Portland CT.

April 2 is Palm Sunday. The 10 a.m. worship will be led by Rev. Julie Olmsted. Her sermon is titled "I Love a Parade." Palms will be distributed during the service. Coffee time follows the

service and all are welcome to worship and coffee hour.

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](mailto: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](mailto:first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-342-3244. Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

## From the State Representative's Desk

### 2023 Session Update

Legislation continues to move quickly in Hartford, as many committees are close to or have recently met their statutory deadlines to advance legislation. My focus has always been public health and safety, affordability, and personal privacy. I wanted to provide and update on several concepts I introduced earlier in the year that are among those to receive favorable committee action or are still under consideration.

Children's data privacy has been an ongoing issue in Connecticut and across our country. Adolescents have been thrust into a digital world that revolves around sharing information – often from the convenience of their phone. However, it is difficult for minors to comprehend the permanent implications of their online footprint. Photos, very personal information, and much more are routinely shared. I have discussed this issue with Portland and Cromwell parents, many concerned about the types of data that is being collected, or potentially sold.

I introduced a concept to prohibit the collection and commercial use of certain digital information concerning minors. I've worked with similar minded legislators on both sides of the aisle since last session on this complex issue and I'm pleased to report it has advanced out of committee.

If COVID-19 taught us anything, it was to have a greater appreciation for our first responders. They *always* answer the call. But, we must do more than just say thank you. To that end, I've introduced a bill that will provide enhanced tuition waivers for the children of first responders if they are killed in the line of duty. It received unanimous support in committee and awaits action by the House. In addition, I continue to advocate for the necessary state funding to provide a fire training facility for Middlesex County. The men and women of our fire service deserve an adequate training facility and a regional facility would allow our neighbors to train locally.

The rising cost of goods and services is an issue for many of us. My colleagues and I successfully petitioned the Finance Committee to consider a proposal that would repeal the Highway Use Tax. This tax, enacted in 2021, is a new fee schedule derived from mileage traveled on state roads and weight of the truck. The additional costs will result in higher costs for goods here in Connecticut. We are hearing that the tax itself, coupled with the administrative costs to ensure compliance with the law, is already having a detrimental impact on local trucking companies. The committee has a couple of weeks to consider the testimony on the proposal before it reaches its deadline on Thursday, April 20th.

A lot will happen at the Capitol between today and the end of our legislative session at midnight on June 7th, and this is an update on just a few of the hundreds of bills that will make it out of session. Always feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance with a state issue or concern by calling 860-240-8700 or emailing [Christie.Carpino@housegov.ct.gov](mailto:Christie.Carpino@housegov.ct.gov).

Always,  
State Rep. Christie Carpino  
R-32nd District

Note: The 32nd Assembly District covers Portland and Cromwell.

## Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following events. Registration required for all programs unless noted. For more info, to register, and for full program descriptions, visit [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org) or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Good Friday Closing:** The library will be closed Friday, April 7; it will be open Saturday, April 8.

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

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

**Drop-In Playdates:** Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., through May 25. Ages birth through 5 and their caregivers are invited to come for an hour of socialization and open play with the library's story room toys. No registration required.

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

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

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

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

**Family Craft Night: Im"peck"able Birdhouses:** Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Space is limited.

**Teen Programs: Teen Advisory Group Meeting:** Monday, April 3, 3:30 p.m. Share your thoughts on what you would like to see the library offer in terms of programs, materials and more. You will earn community service hours for each meeting you attend.

**Spring Egg Hunt for Teens:** Monday, April 17, 3:30 p.m., on the town green (weather pending), for grades 6 and up. There will be some egg-themed Minute to Win It games and a competitive teen egg hunt.

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

**Adult Programs: Seed Library:** Now available for garden enthusiasts, whether beginner or seasoned. You will find free seeds available for your garden. Sign them out to help the library know what is "hot" and to keep up the inventory. For more information, call Jan Nock at 860-342-6771. Have some leftover seeds? Donations are welcome.

**Book Discussions: TAB:** Tuesday, April 4, 1 p.m. *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. *Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, April 18, 1 p.m. *Under the Harrow* by Flynn Berry will be discussed.

**Historical Buttons: The Connecticut Connection:** Tuesday, April 18, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. Lynn Keller will discuss and display historical brass buttons, known as Golden Age buttons, which were produced in the Waterbury area in the early to mid-1800s. She will provide an overview of production methods, the many companies who manufactured these buttons, and the button designs. Brass button manufacturing was the foundation of the industry which led to Waterbury being called the "Brass City." Registration requested.

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## Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli

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

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

purchase. No dogs allowed.

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

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

## Scholarship Offered by Garden Clubs

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

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

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

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

## Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library groups has puzzles, games, DVDs, and fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, all at the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

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

There are also several TV series on DVD that have been removed from the library collection all for 50 cents each disc. A small collection of

"vintage" books is also available for 50 cents each.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library's Museum Pass Program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

Visit [www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org](http://www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) for more information or email questions to [friendsofportlandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofportlandlibrary@gmail.com).

## Food Bank, Foodshare Truck

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

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

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

The next Foodshare visit will be Monday, April 10, at 1 p.m.

## Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School has announced kindergarten registration for the 2023-24 school year.

Parents/guardians whose children will be five years of age on or before Jan. 1, 2024, should contact Valley View School at [pgross@portlandct.us](mailto:pgross@portlandct.us) to indicate you will register your child for kindergarten. Provide your child's full name, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection event Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Clinton Public Works Garage, 117 Nod Rd., Clinton.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region which includes East Hampton and Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed.

Visit [rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste](http://rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste) to learn more.

## Exchange Offering Scholarship

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

The club is looking for the student to provide the committee with a short essay describing its community service and its impact on how the community benefited. Other secondary factors considered are good academic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities.

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

## Easter Bake Sale

The First Congregational Church of Portland is holding an Easter Bake Sale Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the church, 554 Main St.

The sale will include Swedish cardamom bread, chocolate lollipops in Easter shapes, pies, cookies, tea breads and some gluten-free items. There will be other treats available as well. All are invited.

## Brownstone Quorum Annual Meeting

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

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

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

## Lions Club Scholarship Available

The Portland Lions Club is now 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 Portland CT Lions Club at [portlandctlions-scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:portlandctlions-scholarship@gmail.com).

All applications must be received by April 15.



**Record-Breaking Runners...** Portland High School track stars Meghan McPhee (left) and Lily Tabellione were selected All-State after a record-breaking winter on the indoor tracks. McPhee won the state championship in the 600 meters and Tabellione won a state championship in the 1,000 meters, each breaking the school record in the respective events.

## Opportunities for Public Service

The Portland Democratic Town Committee (DTC) is informing Portland residents interested in becoming involved in their community that there are various opportunities to serve on a board, commission, or committee. This includes both elected and appointed positions.

Any registered voter in Portland may be considered. More information is available at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) under "boards and com-

missions." Individuals interested in serving on a board, commission or committee should send an email to [nominations.portlandct@gmail.com](mailto:nominations.portlandct@gmail.com).

The DTC holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information about the DTC, send an email to [portlandctdtc@gmail.com](mailto:portlandctdtc@gmail.com) and follow on Facebook @Portland Democratic Town Committee.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Free Grab-and-Go Meals:** The senior center is offering Waverly Senior Center members, who reside in Portland only, one free Grab-and-Go meal. You must be able to pick up the meal yourself, at 11:10 a.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, in the Mary Lou Rice room. Please do not arrive before 11 a.m., as there are programs in that room. Note: You are not eligible if you are already receiving Meals-on-Wheels. You must register one week in advance for a Grab-and-Go meal. For information, or to sign up, call at 860-342-6761.

**Next Week's Programs:** **Monday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Syncocize II Dance Fitness, 10:30 a.m.; **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. - making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, call 860-342-0809; Watercolor Lessons, 9:30 a.m.-noon - to register, email [bivenne@yahoo.com](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** AARP Tax Preparation, appointments from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (last appointment at noon, to register call Lynn or Alexis at 860-342-6760); Light

Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room; Tai Chi Qigong, 1 p.m.; **Thursday:** Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.

**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 Duclous 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](mailto: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.

## Soccer Club Spring Registration

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

Visit [clubs.bluesombrero.com/portland-soccerclub](http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/portland-soccerclub) for the registration site, or contact PSC President Chad Wilson at [nosliw.dahc@gmail.com](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com). Birth year determines division.

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

is \$75. Pre-K and Dribblers play Saturday mornings only. Kickers play Saturday morning games and practice Wednesday evenings. All Rec activities are held at the Portland Rec Complex on Gospel Lane. The Rec season runs from April 22-June 10.

Note: Late registrations are not guaranteed participation.

## St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. Office hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, visit [www.stmaryportlandct.org](http://www.stmaryportlandct.org). Pastor is the Rev. John Antonelle. Masks are strongly recommended.

**Weekend Mass:** 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed each week; visit the parish

website for more information.

**Weekday Mass:** Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.

**Confession:** Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m., or call Antonelle for an appointment.

**Other Programs:** For information on faith formation programs, baptisms, blessings of marriages, Knights of Columbus, the St. Mary Ladies Guild and more, call the church office.

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# Bisbikos Slams Town Clerk Over Fund Usage

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos accused Town Clerk Gayle Furman of using taxpayer money “without any approval or oversight” — a claim Furman described as a political attack.

In an email to the *Rivereast*, Bisbikos stated that Furman “has been debiting a ‘revenue account,’ unsupervised, to spend thousands of dollars on hotel rooms over the past few years and signing off on the approval herself.”

He added that the account was meant for “administrative duties,” and that historically, the town doesn’t pay for employee’s lodging for training and conferences.

“These practices, with zero oversight, betray the trust of both the Town Hall and the community,” he wrote.

Bisbikos first raised his concerns during a March 20 Board of Finance meeting, during which Furman was sharing her proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. In response to the assertion that she was using taxpayer dollars for hotel stays, Furman said the funding didn’t come out of the municipal budget, but rather two separate accounts reserved for the town clerk — the historic preservation account and MERS account.

In a statement to the *Rivereast* this week, Furman again pushed back on any claims of wrongdoing. She stated that her response was in regard to the first selectman’s “political grandstanding” during the finance board meeting.

“Per Connecticut statutes when a land record is recorded in the town clerk’s office a portion of the fee paid is to be retained by the Town Clerk’s office,” she said. “These funds are kept separate from the town’s general fund to be used for town clerk purposes only. They are not taxpayer dollars.”

She continued, “These funds are commonly used for conference related expenses among many other non-budgeted items.”

Furman said the accusation represented “just another example of how Mr. Bisbikos brings politics into the workplace.”

Bisbikos, in his own statement to the *Rivereast*, referred to the Connecticut General Statutes. He stated that while the statute doesn’t specifically reference that the recording fees should be used for administrative duties, the practice was established in the Office of Legislative Research report 2006-R-0652. The report was on the legislative intent regarding surcharge on document recording fees and historic document preservation fees.

The report reviews questions on whether the legislature intended for town clerks to use the funding for record management and related costs, or whether the intent was the money to enter the town’s general fund.

A representative is quoted in the report estimating that the bill would provide town clerks with \$1 million annually “to handle their administrative duties.”

Based on that interpretation, Bisbikos stated that Furman’s actions were not appropriate.

He said Furman has been using the funding for lodging at hotels for conferences, but that the town does not budget for these types of expenses. Bisbikos stated that Furman paid for memberships in associations, which should’ve been included in the town budget and approved by the Board of Finance and ultimately at referendum.

Two additional claims by Bisbikos suggest that Furman cut a check made directly payable to the town clerk for reimbursement of \$400 for

virtual training sessions, but that the requisition submitted to the town didn’t include documentation proving that the town clerk actually spent \$400.

A second check for \$340 for “Fall Conference Hotel,” also failed to include proper documentation, Bisbikos wrote.

The first selectman stressed he was not accusing Furman of embezzlement, but was instead requesting that she “amend that requisition and include proof she actually incurred that expense.”

“I believe the intent of the legislation was very clear in that these funds should be utilized for ‘administrative duties,’” he said. “With no specific power for these funds to be used for anything other than ‘administrative duties,’ I feel the town clerk has overreached by spending taxpayer dollars without any approval or oversight.”

He continued by stating that both town clerk employees are state certified and that future conferences should be avoided, especially in a “tough budget year.”

“NEVER would we approve hotel lodging,” he said.

While Bisbikos said he “applauds professional development and continuing education, I feel that those items must go through the regular approval process like every other department.” He said that the cost of those trips — totally over \$2,000 since 2015 — are too high.

“Imagine the budgetary problems we would experience if every department could decide how much training they would attend, where it would be, and they included hotel stays?”

Instead, he argued, conferences can be taken virtually.

“When our town cannot even pass a budget without four referendums, and our residents

are telling us they cannot afford more, I feel it’s completely inappropriate and disrespectful to bypass the approval process and use to taxpayer dollars for lodging at a hotel you could drive to,” he wrote.

Bisbikos said Furman intended on staying at the Onni New Haven Hotel next month, costing nearly \$300. Another “social gathering,” he said, would cost \$45.

“In my opinion, you can reunite at the conference and if you wish to attend the social gathering, you can do so on your own dime and not the backs of my taxpayers,” Bisbikos said.

He said has “serious concerns” with how the money is being spent, he added. The largest concern, though was that Furman “never sought approval for how she wanted to spend these taxpayers’ dollars or even ever reported to the [selectmen] or [finance board] on what the total amount of money was in the account. There was zero oversight, he said.

“Why does our town clerk not put ‘hotel stays and lodging’ in her ‘regular department budget?’ Because if she had, it would have been denied and removed from the budget,” Bisbikos said.

Bisbikos expressed that moving forward, the selectmen and finance board should “institute written rules and protocols” for the town clerk’s revenue account. This would ensure that the town clerk is always seeking approval for every expense and that the money is focused on administrative duties.

## 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?

**Easter Schedule:** Palm Sunday: April 2, 10 a.m.; Good Friday service: April 7, noon (no Donuts with Don this day); Easter Sunrise: April 9, 7:30 a.m., Town Green; Easter Service, April 9, 10 a.m.

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.

## Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

**Holy Week Schedule:** Palm Sunday: April 2:

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

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

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

## Scripture, Music and Dance

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

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

Following the performance, refreshments and fellowship will be held in the Parish Hall.

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



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# Meet Tim Crowley: Bacon Academy's Athletic Trainer

By Josh Howard

March is National Athletic Trainer Month and today we recognize Tim Crowley, the athletic trainer at Bacon Academy High School.

Since joining the Bobcats athletic department last May, Crowley has developed a rapport with the student athlete, coaches, and administration at the high school that is needed to provide safe and successful athletic seasons.

Crowley, a contracted employee who works for Select Physical Therapy, said he feels appreciated at Bacon Academy, adding, "The athletes and the coaches really respect and enjoy what I do for them."

This isn't Crowley's first foray in athletic training, although it is his first in a decade and a half.

Crowley was born and raised in Waterford before graduating high school in 1990 and attending Southern Connecticut State University where he received a bachelors' degree in physical education and athletic training.

After spending two years as a graduate student studying biomechanics at the University of Connecticut, Crowley served as an athletic trainer from 1994-2007 before answering to a different calling.

Crowley took a hiatus from athletic training to become involved in the ministry, working in the ministry until last year when he decided to get recertified in the field of athletic training.

"I still loved [athletic training] when I stepped out, but I had a calling to do some more education," recalled Crowley, who is still a family pastor at LifeWay Church in Newington.

Despite 15 years away from the profession, Crowley passed the athletic training exam last February before arriving at Bacon Academy prior to the current school year.

His typical day is a mixed bag full of training for a variety of ages and ability levels.

During the mornings, he runs fitness classes at the Vernon Senior Center before heading over to Bacon Academy for the afternoon where he preps for incoming student athletes that may need tape, ice, or various other forms of preparations for practice and games.

"I love taking care of athletes and making

sure they are set to play," said Crowley.

In his 15 years away from the profession, Crowley said there have been some changes, mainly in how concussions are handled.

But for the most part, Crowley was able to hit the ground running again following the long layoff.

Athletic trainers are the first line of defense in emergencies and during home contests at Bacon Academy, Crowley is on campus, ready to react in a moment's notice.

At any given time, multiple sporting events may be going on at the same time and Crowley will attend the sport that may need him the most. He added that he is only a call away if needed in another part of the building.

The dedicated work and importance of athletic trainers was highlighted earlier this year when Demar Hamlin, a professional football player for the Buffalo Bills, suffered cardiac arrest and collapsed on the field during a game in Cincinnati on Jan. 2. First responders performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and used other emergency treatments for 10 minutes on the field before Hamlin was transported by ambulance to a local hospital.

Following nine days in the hospital, Hamlin was released to rehabilitate at home and the medical personal that gave him aid on the field have since been lauded for their immediate reactions and life-saving efforts.

"It is a very service-oriented profession; we are usually thinking of others," Crowley said of the line of work.

Crowley said the key is to be prepared for any situation that may arise and that creating a harmonious relationship between the school nurse, coaches and administration is vital to best serve the student athletes on a daily basis.

Since he joined Bacon's athletic department, the Bobcats have remained safe and have thrived in competition. The Bobcats athletic teams have produced multiple state tournament appearances and individual conference titles, along with individual state championships in swimming.

Currently Crowley is being shadowed by a Bacon Academy student as part of the student's



Bacon Academy athletic trainer Tim Crowley (left) is pictured with Coginchaug's athletic trainer Ethan Bankoski.

Capstone Project.

The mentor's main message to the mentee is the life of an athletic trainer is filled with change.

"I told her the most important thing that I do is know that every day is going to be a different day," said Crowley. "We could have five days of practice that all seem like they'll be the same,

but none of them are going to be the same."

Crowley, who lives in Berlin with his wife and the couple's five children, added that he has enjoyed his time in Colchester and looks forward to finishing up the school-year with a safe and successful spring sports season.

## AARP Meets April 4

The next meeting of the AARP Colchester Area Chapter 4019 will be held on Tuesday, April 4, at 1:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT in the activity room.

Kim Talarczyk and Terry Brown will present about a relatively new charitable organization in town called Colchester Cares. Colchester Cares members vote to donate to various local causes.

The public is welcome to attend to learn more and ask questions.

## Polish Club Fish Fry

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host its annual fish fry Friday, April 7, from 4-7 p.m.

Dinner will be \$16 for adults and \$9 for children under 12. Guests will have their choice of baked or fried fish. The club will open at 4 p.m. You can call your order in and pick up, or eat in the hall. Orders will start being taken at 4 p.m. For pick-up, call 860-537-2550.

## Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SPT Summer Soccer Camp:** For ages 5-15. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the RecPlex. Cost is \$225/player for full-day

(9 a.m.-3 p.m.), and \$150/player for half-day (9 a.m.-noon). There will also be a camp Monday-Friday, July 24-28, from 5-8 p.m., at the RecPlex. Cost is \$150/player.

**Spring Pickleball:** For adults age 16 and older. Tuesdays, May 16-June 13, at Colchester Elementary School. Beginner is from 6-7:30 p.m. and is \$30/player; Intermediate is from 7:30-9 p.m. and is \$20/player. Limited spaces available.

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

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

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

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

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



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# Department Heads Request More Money

By Michael Sinkewicz

Following Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos' budget presentation for the 2023-24 fiscal year earlier this month, numerous town department heads have asserted that they need more funding.

Bisbikos called for a \$15.62 million spending package — a \$96, or .0006%, reduction from the current budget. Still, despite the minimal slash in the bottom line, multiple new initiatives are included in the proposal, while some department line items were reduced.

Over the past two weeks, department heads have reviewed their budget proposals with the Board of Finance, often requesting additional funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Town Clerk Gayle Furman petitioned for an increase, which would still bring her bottom line below the 2022-23 total. Michele Wyatt, the town's tax collector, asked for around \$2,000 more to run her department. Library Director Kate Byroade wrote a lengthy letter to the finance board, requesting that a variety of items be reinstated to her department budget.

"I wanted to be sure that [the finance board] understood that these cuts are not at my request and I don't believe that they are sustainable," she wrote.

Included in the cuts was a part-time employee, at around \$4,000. This employee, Byroade said, allowed the library to expand the children's programming on the weekend and support the new Family Place program.

Byroade wrote that she was "particularly concerned" that the line item for books, media, magazines and periodicals was reduced below the 2022-23 amount, decreasing from \$53,000 to \$50,000. She stated that every year, the library requests a \$2,000 increase to the book budget, but typically the amount remains flat year after year.

One of the new initiatives included in the first selectman's proposal was \$2,000 for historic document preservation. Byroade wrote that even with the initiative, her understanding was that the book budget would at least remain at

its current fiscal year level. Instead, she added, the amount was reduced to what it was in the 2016-17 budget.

Byroade outlined several other cuts, including office supplies and library media supplies.

Including the part-time employee, she was requesting that around \$14,000 be reinstated to her budget. She emphasized that while the first selectman is entitled to edit or remove items from each department's individual budget, these specific cuts had not been discussed or disclosed to her before the presentation this month.

After Byroade spoke during a March 20th budget workshop, finance board member Art Shilosky expressed that the plethora of little cuts "worried" him. The board requested that she provide a report comparing the proposed 2023-24 budget to her current fiscal year numbers. As the board continues to debate what amount of money, if any, to potentially put back into the proposal, they also requested that Byroade prepare a prioritized list of the items she had reviewed that night.

Furman, with her budget, requested that around \$2,000 be returned to her bottom line. Wyatt also stated that her department required an additional \$2,000 for office supplies and costs associated with training and recertification.

Wyatt faced pushback from Bisbikos as she attempted to explain her budgetary needs during a March 22 meeting. Bisbikos wanted clarity into Wyatt's trips to different locations throughout the state, expressing that those costs could possibly be trimmed moving forward.

Wyatt said she travels out of town for several reasons, including bank executions.

"It is part of my job," she explained.

## Leos Fundraiser

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

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

For more information, email [colchesterleos@gmail.com](mailto:colchesterleos@gmail.com).

## Spring Baseball, Softball Registration

Registration for Colchester spring baseball and softball teams is at [www.cbsl.org](http://www.cbsl.org). Registration closes April 30.

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

Finance board member Mike Egan took exception to Bisbikos' contribution to the conversation, saying that once the budget was officially presented to the board, it was no longer the first selectman's responsibility. Bisbikos, he said, had ample time to talk with department heads prior to submitting the spending plan.

"I think it's inappropriate for you to be up there and doing this," he asserted, adding that Bisbikos was "dominating" the discussion.

Wyatt also alerted that finance board that the town is projected to collect less tax money than expected. According to her figures, the town is projected to face an over \$400,000 shortfall in taxes for the 2022-23 fiscal year. She was unsure what was accounting for the low projection.

Bisbikos stated during the meeting that the finance department would "investigate" the situation moving forward.

While some departments have asked for more money, others appeared satisfied with their slated amounts.

Resident Trooper Zachary Cash said the Police Department was content with an \$80,000 reduction. Around \$50,000 of the savings comes from Cash's salary, which is lower than his predecessor.

He called the police budget "very fair and adequate."

## Email Requests

While the finance board has requested that the school board present its 2023-24 budget proposal through the Munis program [a debate that's ongoing], one selectman is questioning why the same level of scrutiny isn't being applied to the town budget.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle sent an email to the finance board this week, expressing that municipal budget proposals typically include actual expenditures from previous years in order to compare the numbers to the new proposal.

Those documents, she wrote, allowed the boards to track changes and reductions in each

department and review individual line items. After the boards received a complete binder of information, an "abbreviated" version was then made available to the community.

"Without this kind of line-by-line comparison, the budget and adjustments are not transparent and it is impossible to make good decisions concerning additions and deletions to the town budget," Coyle said.

She added that the town charter required that the information be provided, as well.

In a separate string of emails dating back to the beginning of February, Coyle highlighted the need for a 2021-22 audit report.

"I am very concerned that we are going through a budget process with not having the results of last year's audit that provides us with all this information and so much more," she wrote in an email on March 24 to the selectmen and Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III.

She added that while there was a delay in the process resulting in the budget being passed late in the year, audits are usually completed in June.

"If we don't really know where we stand as a town financially, how can we truly proceed in our current budget process?"

On March 26, she asked additional questions, including whether there is a timeline for the extension of the audit completion and if an estimate could be provided. She requested that her statements be added as future finance and selectmen board meeting correspondence.

"I truly believe this issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible to move the budget and our town forward," she said.

According to Coyle, a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Feb. 6 to discuss having an audit. They requested a meeting with the auditor to review whether an operational audit or financial audit was appropriate.

However, "this entire issue seems to have dropped off the radar," she said.

## Fraternal Benefits Night

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

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

No registration is necessary. Light refreshments will be served.

## From the State Representative's Desk...



On Thursday, March 23, I had a great trip to the Colchester Early Childhood group during their "Joyful Noises" program! During this time, the students engage in many different activities which includes playing, socializing, along with arts and crafts. Circle Time followed where the children could listen to music while engaging in other activities.

I want to thank Colchester Public Schools Superintendent Daniel Sullivan III, Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begue, and Colchester Early Childhood Coordinator Cindy Praisner, for allowing me the opportunity to join them. I was able to learn about the importance of the Early Childhood programs in Colchester, as well as the importance of programs like this and how impactful they are for early childhood educational development.

As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have questions, ideas or concerns about any issue related to state government. You can follow me on Facebook at State Representative Mark DeCaprio, email me at [mark.decaprio@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:mark.decaprio@housegop.ct.gov), or call my office at 860-240-8700.

**State Rep. Mark DeCaprio**  
R-48th District

*Note: The 48th Assembly District serves Colchester, Bozrah, Franklin and part of Lebanon.*

## Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday, Aggadadah 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 p.m., hybrid in-person and on Zoom, followed by Model Seder; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.

There will be a Wednesday morning service on April 7, at 7:30 p.m., followed by breakfast.

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.

## Youth Lacrosse Registration Wraps Soon

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](http://Colchesterlax.org). Registration closes April 11.

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# Making a Difference in Colchester

By Michael Sinkewicz

As communities struggled at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kim and Brian Talarczyk thought of a way to make an impact on local organizations who needed a boost. In the spring of 2020, the couple started Colchester Cares, whose mission is to donate funds to worthy causes throughout the town.

Through a partnership with the Giving Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, the couple launched a Donor Advised Fund, which ensures that 100% of every donation goes directly to the cause.

When the organization initially launched, the group enlisted around 10 members who generated \$1,000 in total donations, which was distributed to three different causes in Colchester. Flash-forward to today, where the group has over 40 members, and a target goal of donating \$20,000 by the end of the year.

The initial batch of donations in June of 2020 was viewed as a success, but after consulting with like-minded individuals, the Talarczyks decided to further pursue the initiative.

"There's always a need," Brian said. "This doesn't make sense to stop."

A small idea is now blossoming into a meaningful stimulus for many entities in Colchester. While there are other groups or mediums with similar objectives, this specific model is unique. The goal is to make donating easy, with the added bonus of collaborating with fellow members who map out creative strategies together.

Brian said he believes it's the members' creativity is perhaps the best feature of the organization. Sometimes a cause will receive a standard donation, but in other cases, the members brainstorm a special way to generate the greatest impact.

For example, in January 2022, the group donated \$825 in gift cards to Youth and Social Services. Those cards were split and distributed to different local businesses in smaller chunks, such as eight \$25 cards from Family Pizza.

"It's not just donations, but the way we can try to channel those funds," Brian said.

Every quarter, members meet to discuss possible causes and then vote on the top options. Each member gets one vote (which could also

represent a family, for example) and commits to donating \$100 each quarter. The members have an opportunity to suggest a cause, and then all of the ideas are reviewed and prioritized through an online survey. Ultimately, the top three choices receive a portion of the collective funding.

Originally, the quarterly meetings were held on Zoom, and a vote would take place the same night. Over time, the meetings have transitioned to hybrid formats before switching entirely to in-person settings. Each member comes prepared and often the discussion generates additional ideas.

"People like to hear other people's ideas," Kim expressed. "They get inspired."

For those who simply wish to donate without attending the meetings, that's another option as well.

Previously, the organization would hold a weighted vote — members could select their top cause, a second choice and a third option. Now, the three final causes receive an equal share of the total pool of money.

"Everybody likes what's happened and it's a very democratic process that takes everyone's opinion," Kim stated.

Since its inception, Colchester Cares has donated to 12 different causes, distributing around \$28,000 in total. The hope is to cross the \$30,000 mark next month, at the quarterly meeting held on Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m., at the Oz N Bones Restaurant in Colchester, and to reach 50 members.

"We're just blessed," Brian said, regarding the expanding membership. "We're pretty excited. We'd be really happy to get there."

Overall, operating the organization is fairly "relaxed" and "hands-off." Members can visit the group's website and donate directly online. The approach is meant to be as safe as possible for the user, and the Talarczyks don't directly touch any of the money themselves.

The couple is thankful that the community has embraced their initiative, a reality that wasn't certain during the early stages.

"I think we weren't sure," Kim said, referring to whether they thought the charity would have

this level of success. "We knew we felt this way and said, 'Let's just see where it goes.'"

Of course, they understand that not everyone can afford to make a \$100 quarterly donation, or \$400 a year. Their group will always be present as a "vessel" for those that are able to contribute whenever possible.

"Our primary goal is to funnel resources back into the community," Brian said, adding that the recipients are always appreciative.

Kim expressed that many people often remark that it's "groups like you that make us be able to do what we do."

"They're looking anywhere for sums of money to get them to their goals," she said. "Here's a group that's doing dedicated giving."

Sometimes, an organization in town will reach out and see if any help is available. Other times, a group member will highlight a cause that has been overlooked in the past. As membership continues to grow and connections with local institutions expand, Colchester Cares anticipate that it will have a substantial impact on a variety of projects.

When local establishments host bake sales or car washes, it can be difficult to make a profit, whereas a donation is simple and effective.

"It's had a lot of success," Brian said. "We have definitely seen a difference and [the money] goes a long way."

In January, Colchester Cares donated a \$1,100 sum to three different causes: Freezin' for a Reason, the Colchester Fire Cadets and a Bacon Academy Senior Scholarship.

It can be easy to donate to the same causes every quarter, Kim explained, especially with the group only focusing on Colchester. However, while members bring fresh ideas, it's also advantageous to build lasting relationships throughout the community. Whether it's with the senior center or Parks and Recreation department, sustaining those connections is a major priority.

"Those partnerships are the most impactful," Kim said. "It's the secret to our success that we did not plan."

For other causes, like Freezin' for a Reason, the organization takes pride in helping spread awareness for worthy community initiatives.

"It's kind of cool to be a reoccurring part in that mission," she said. "Personally, I'm connected in ways in town that I wasn't before."

The Talarczyks — who moved to Colchester in 2015 — enjoy their interactions with members and folks around town, as they discover new places and highlight local residents. When they group is searching for a place to host their meetings, a restaurant will often volunteer the space and offer a meal.

Brian stated that their group's intent could not be mistaken — receiving money is the key to being successful. But, he added, the collaboration with the community, the creativity of the members and the friendships that have formed are important takeaways.

"That's the part we couldn't have imagined."

For those looking to become a member, visit [colchestercares.org](http://colchestercares.org) to sign up.

## 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](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center).

**Monday, April 3:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Pet Therapy; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

**Tuesday, April 4:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Dementia Conversations; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo, AARP Meeting.

**Wednesday, April 5:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1-3 p.m., Stroke Survivors Program; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

**Thursday, April 6:** 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; no Yoga today; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3:30 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling with Ellen; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, April 7:** Senior center closed for Good Friday.

**Upcoming Programs:** Survivors of Stroke (SOS) Support Camp: Wednesdays, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, 1-3 p.m. The center is collaborating with Hartford Health Care to offer a stroke support group in Colchester. Survivors and their families can come together to focus on stroke prevention, education, socialization, and community resources. This program is facilitated by Hartford Healthcare. People can register at any time. To register, contact Maureen Hahn RN, B.S., Stroke Nurse Navigator, at 860-823-6324 or [Maureen.Hahn@hhchealth.org](mailto:Maureen.Hahn@hhchealth.org).

**Boost Your Budget: Benefits Check-Up**

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

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

**Floral Frenzy Luncheon:** Wednesday, April 19, 11 a.m. Wear your finest floral patterns (shirt, tie, hat, skirt, etc.) and come listen to Richard Badowski, who performs blues, country, jazz, and more with a sense of humor and his harmonica. After his performance, there will be glazed ham, rice pilaf, green beans almandine, dinner rolls & butter, and apple crumble pie. Cost is \$9. Space is limited. Sign up by April 12 or until full.

**New Senior Center Groundbreaking Ceremony:** Friday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to the parking lot behind Town Hall to witness this event, followed by speeches by elected officials, members of the Senior Center Building Committee, and special dignitaries in meeting rooms 1 and 2 at Town Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Please make bus reservations if you need them.

## From the First Selectman's Desk...

Dear Colchester Residents:

Nearly two years ago, I entered the race for first selectman. I ran on four key tenets: Affordability, Transparency, Economic Development, and Tradition. Today, I want to focus on observations related to affordability and transparency.

This year I presented a budget whose expenditures were less than last year's while including seven major new initiatives. Strategic spending, historical trends, ARPA, and the influx of new employees replacing retirees were some of the factors enabling a fiscally conservative and responsible budget. The town's finance director and I have been transparent throughout the process, providing the Board of Finance with everything they asked for and or may request.

Once presented, some Democratic Town Committee (DTC) members strongly scrutinized my budget; however this is something that I welcome. Michelle Gilman, the former DTC chair, recommended removing proposed transparency software that allows the public to follow financial information in a very accessible way. The budget that is most affordable and promotes the greatest level of transparency has been scrutinized and vetted by the BOS and BOF.

Unfortunately, you are about to hear how the same level of scrutiny being applied to my budget appears absent everywhere else.

I have been asked about the Board of Education (BOE) Budget and whether our town residents can afford it. Ultimately, that is up to the voters, but an overall 8% BOE tax increase, or a 2.20 mill increase, may likely be difficult to pass. As a former educator, I believe in the importance of a quality education and strong schools. As a former Board of Finance (BOF) member, I applaud Andrea Migliaccio for her commitment and advocacy for greater transparency regarding the BOE budget. One cannot levy taxes purely on emotion. The BOF should be allowed to follow the numbers as they have in the past and the BOE budget should receive the same level of scrutiny as the town side.

The Sewer & Water Commission (S&W) voted on March 22nd to approve their "budget as presented" with a 6.5% rate increase. I'm hearing they also have increased fees on businesses and residents. This comes after they implemented a 6% increase last year. Why is their "budget as presented" not available to the public? I've requested information and been informed that Steven Coyle, the S&W chair, told town employees to keep these increases quiet and to not share the information. The same Steven Coyle who recommended to the BOS that a town employee he works closely with should receive a \$30K salary increase with a collection of perks, including taking a town truck home an hour away (something that would cost the town \$18,000 or more annually). Why did he shut down the Public Works Department office twice, without authorization from the first selectman's office, to conduct confidential meetings with my staff? Where is the same transparency, and scrutiny that was applied to my budget?

For those in the S&W district, the Town Meeting for these increased rates and fees will be Wednesday, April 26.

As first selectman, I will continue to fight for an affordable community and push for greater transparency. Colchester belongs to everyone, not just those looking to tax and spend. I will also continue to look under every rock and be transparent with the findings — even if it means traveling on a path of greater resistance.

Sincerely,  
Andreas Bisbikos  
Colchester First Selectman



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## 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](http://www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org). Email [ba.projectgrad@gmail.com](mailto:ba.projectgrad@gmail.com) to request a printed brochure, which is also on the website; mailed registrations can be sent to: Bacon Academy Project Graduation, P.O. Box 393, Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## CES Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

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

Three sessions will be held – April 4, April 25, and May 9, from 11:10-11:40 a.m. each day, in the CES media center. During each of the sessions, children will listen to books read by kin-

dergarten teachers, while parents learn about the registration process, the kindergarten curriculum, readiness expectations, the school day, school policies and transportation. A question-and-answer period will be provided.

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

## Upcoming Land Trust Events

The Colchester Land Trust has announced the following upcoming events:

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

on the right. Call Cathy at 860-917-6096 for more information.

**Hike and Seek for Families:** Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m., at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Colchester Land Trust and C3 will join up to offer this free family hike. Pick up your hike and seek card to see what you can find along the path. The trails have mild inclines and can be rough, so the hike is not stroller friendly. Bring a baby carrier, take a short loop, or hike to the beaver pond. From Route 2 in Colchester, take a left on Route 16W towards Middletown. Turn left onto Bulkeley Hill Road. Follow until you see the sign for Bulkeley Hill Preserve on the right. Call Cindy at 860-267-7901 for further information.

## 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.

## Upcoming Programs at Cragin Library

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

cut's Safe Haven Act.

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

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

**Teen Gaming:** Tuesday, April 11, 3-4 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try a new game or play with friends on the library's Nintendo Switch.

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

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

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

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

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

## \* CColchester School Budget, cont. from page 1

custodians.

During the community forum, Colchester resident Sara Mussen shared a petition to save the district's music education. Those who sign are pledging not to support any budget at referendum that includes cuts to music teachers. The petition garnered nearly 1,000 signatures as of press time.

Sullivan stated that discussions regarding possible cuts were premature.

"It's all very hypothetical," he said, adding that his list was only preparing for the "worst case scenario."

He assured the community that there wasn't a "targeting of band."

The panel was also asked how transitioning to half-day kindergarten would affect children. Assistant Superintendent Charles Hewes said it would be a "multi-year process to catch those kinds up."

"It will have a social and academic impact on students," he said, adding that the district would need to take action addressing those concerns.

Once the finance board has officially approved a budget proposal, which would then require approval at referendum, the district can begin deliberating on any necessary reductions. For now, Sullivan said, the finance board has not given any indication on whether it will drastically slash the bottom line.

However, some members of the finance board have already suggested that the school budget needs to be trimmed.

John Thomas, vice-chair of the finance board, said during a meeting earlier this month that he was "appalled" by the school board's budget ask, and added that "the townspeople can't afford this."

Another member, Tim Vaillancourt, has also said the consistent school budget increases were "unsustainable."

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

On March 15, Board of Finance Chairman Andrea Migliaccio sent an email to the education board criticizing the proposal, stating that in "no budgetary year have we ever threatened teachers or programming like you have this year."

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

### Munis Controversy

Another major topic during this week's forum revolved around the controversy and tension between the school and finance boards regarding whether the requisite documentation had been submitted.

A budget workshop between the two boards was scheduled for last week but was canceled after Migliaccio requested that the school board's budget details be entered into the Munis program — the system the town utilizes for budget information. The budget information had been largely presented through Excel spreadsheets — and this was inadequate, Migliaccio said.

She stated that the documents contained "substantially less information" than previous budget presentations, and that it would be impossible to examine this year's proposal with the current data.

"I need to see it in the way that I'm used to," she said during a special meeting last week. "I don't see what the issue is." She added that because the school board was requesting an increase of \$4 million, the Munis documents were necessary to "justify" that proposal.

"So this really is not a big ask; it's protocol," she wrote, in an email to the school board.

On Tuesday night, Sara Mussen asked the panel why they didn't provide the Munis reports. If the finance board needs the documents, why not provide them?

School board member Chris Rivers expressed that the Munis system was not a "logical" way to present budget information. Compared to Excel, the Munis report requires the board to pro-

vide a breakdown that's "inherently misleading."

"It's just not a good management system to go down to that level of detail," he said. When the board crafts a budget, he continued, there are many unknown factors, and Munis would force the district to identify line items that Rivers said are impossible to predict.

Rivers added that the school board provided a report with all the known information, and that providing anything extra would be "disingenuous."

Sullivan explained that a Munis report would essentially require the district to "make up" certain details, such as the names of novels being purchased for the upcoming school year.

Earlier this month, the school board sent an official letter to Migliaccio defending the decision to use Excel, stating that the board was in "full compliance" with both the town charter and state statutes.

Rachel Linkkila, the district's business director, said during the forum that the Excel sheets provide all the necessary information for the budget process. She did provide the finance board with a historical budget comparison document, which was presented through Munis.

Donna Antonacci, a school board member, asked if generating a Munis report would be as simple as pressing a button on her computer. Linkkila confirmed that the process was more complicated. She expressed that numbers can be easily calculated through Excel, which she prefers.

"It's just a much more confident budget presentation," she said, adding that she can provide sufficient detail to the community by using that platform.

Antonacci asked if Linkkila would be able to answer the finance board's questions accurately and efficiently based on her Excel reports and knowledge of the budget presentation.

"Yes," she replied.

Later, she elaborated, expressing that with Munis, "there's a lot of digging," but with Excel, "all my ducks are in a row."

During the finance board's special meeting, Migliaccio claimed that the Munis program had been erased by administrators earlier this month.

"They intentionally deleted the entire program," she said.

After a community member asked about this accusation, Sullivan stated that nothing was intentionally hidden.

He explained that after beginning his role as head of schools in January, he contacted Linkkila to see what stage the budget process was at, and how the documents were being generated. While the understanding was that Excel would be the main platform, some department heads still preferred using Munis. He said Linkkila took those Munis reports and entered the information into Excel.

To avoid potential confusion caused by having multiple working documents, the Munis information was deleted, he said.

Residents asked about other increases in the budget, including special education costs and state mandates. Administrators stated that these expenses are often nonnegotiable.

Sullivan presented a 50-page document showing the number of mandates, both funded and unfunded, impacting the district.

"We assume that responsibility," Hewes said. Sullivan added that the situation was not "unique to Colchester."

The school board is scheduled to participate in a joint-meeting with the finance board on Tuesday, April 4. However, many of the same issues that caused the previous meeting to be canceled remain unresolved.

School board chairman Alexander Oliphant stated that no additional correspondence has taken place with the finance board since the March 21 meeting.

## LEGALS

### TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) to consider the following:  
Application #22-24: 60 West Cotton Hill Road. Proposed 3 lot subdivision. Application and property of Bill and Jennifer Mizener. Map 100, Lot 12. Zone R-25.  
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT this 20th day of March 2023  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 3/24, 3/31

### LIQUOR PERMIT Notice of Application

This is to give notice that, I,  
**NIKOLETA ELEZI**  
307 AMSTON RD  
COLCHESTER, CT 06415-1030  
Have filed an application placarded 03/27/2023 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at:  
**26 E HIGH ST**  
**EAST HAMPTON CT 06424-1002**  
The business will be owned by:  
**TRADITA, LLC**  
Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment  
Objections must be filed by: 05-08-2023  
**NIKOLETA ELEZI**

2TB 3/31, 4/7

### TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on April 10, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:  
ZBA-23-001: Tommaso Prognano, 12 Terp Road, Reduce front setback from 50' to 15' and west side setback from 25' to 16.75' for Garage, Map 06/ Block 14/ Lot 5/6  
ZBA-23-002: Gunnar Anderson, 86 Spellman Point Road, Reduce front setback from 25' to 5.0', south side setback from 15' to 7.2', north side setback from 15' to 7' and rear setback from 25' to 7.9' for single family residence with garage, Map 09A/ Block 70/ Lot 1  
ZBA-23-003: Global Self Storage, 1 Sinco Place, Reduce front setback for Lot 1 from 25' to 7.5' and rear setback from 50' to 10', increase lot coverage from 50% to 54.5% and Lot 2 reduce rear setback from 50' to 7.5', Map 6/ Block 14/ Lot 2007.

2TB 3/31, 4/7

## 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](mailto:rouillette01@snet.net) for more information.



**Obituaries**

**Portland**

**Sally C. Ledger**

Sally C. Ledger, 94, of Portland, widow of Richard Ledger, "2004," passed away peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 11, at home with her daughter Barbara by her side.



Sally lived in Portland for the past 45 years. Sally made her home on Freestone Avenue. A home that she loved with all her heart. Sally had five children "the late Paul Galo" and four surviving children. Sally was a member of the Eagles Falcons and the V.F.W. where she loved to socialize and play cards with her friends.

She will be greatly missed by all those who know and loved her, especially Barbara and Skip "her son in law" where she made her home with, and her furry buddy Shelby!

"Thank you Father for all you have done for mom."

**Colchester**

**Joyce Vitorino**

Joyce Alexandria (Comportie) Vitorino of North Windham passed away Monday, March 27, after an extended illness. She was 78.



Born March 24, 1945, to the late Leontien Herbert and Alexander Comportie in New Bedford, Mass., Joyce was a talented artist in her youth who enjoyed drawing portraits of her favorite performing artists, including Elvis Presley and The Everly Brothers. Joyce's grandparents - Elizabeth Sylvia and Giuseppe Comportie - were an important part of her life, and she spent a lot of time with them growing up. She graduated from New Bedford High School in 1963 and worked briefly at Aerovox.

Joyce married Tome Vitorino in October 1964 in New Bedford, where they lived before moving to Connecticut. They were the proud parents of two daughters - Theresa (Vitorino) MacNaughton of Wethersfield and Elizabeth (Vitorino) Blackmore of Hebron. Joyce and Tome raised their family in Colchester, where they lived until moving to North Windham six years ago.

A bird and animal lover, Joyce doted on her beloved dogs Poochie (deceased) and Ginger. She enjoyed cooking delicious meals for her family, and her lasagna, New England clam chowder, Thanksgiving stuffing, and Shrimp Mozambique earned rave reviews. She supported both of her daughters in all their endeavors and was known for her generosity. She was also a big fan of the UConn women's basketball team and tried to watch nearly every game through the years. She liked playing solitaire on her computer and word search puzzles. Joyce especially loved spoiling her only grandchild, Thomas, who she was incredibly proud of.

Joyce was predeceased by her brothers Richard Comportie of New Bedford, Mass., and Alexander Comportie of Warner Robins, Ga. She is survived by her husband, daughters, sons-in-law Charles MacNaughton and Robert Blackmore, and grandson.

No public services will be held, and Joyce will be laid to rest privately at Saint Andrew Cemetery in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her memory to Connecticut Foodshare or World Central Kitchen, organizations whose missions Joyce felt strongly about.

**East Hampton**

**Cecelia May Cordeiro**

Cecelia May (Price) Cordeiro, 86, of East Hampton, widow of Ernest Cordeiro, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 25, at Portland Care and Rehab. Born May 17, 1936, in Warren, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Theodore and Bertha (Jacques) Price.



Cecelia "CeCe" was a loving mother, wife and Nana, who had a passion for gardening and cooking incredible meals for her family. She loved attending events in support of her grandchildren and gathering for family holidays.

She is predeceased by her brother, Theodore "Teddy" Price, and is survived by her daughter, Derrie Ann Cordeiro of East Hampton; her three sons, Steven Cordeiro and wife Camille of Cromwell, Thom Cordeiro and wife Kimberly of East Hampton, Grant Cordeiro and Laura of Cheshire; a sister, Virginia Craig of Virginia; nine grandchildren, Andrew, Ryan, Samantha, Eric, Sydney, Richie, Jenna, Mason, Lily; and three great-grandchildren, Emily, Adelynn and Elijah.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, March 28. A graveside service was held Wednesday, March 29, in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to East Hampton Public Library.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

**Colchester**

**Josephine C. Haagensen**

Josephine C. Haagensen, 90, of Colchester, formerly of Hebron/Glastonbury, widow of Erling J. "Earl" Haagensen, passed away peacefully Monday, March 20, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. Born March 19, 1933, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late John and Mary (Camilleri) Cocolla.



Josephine worked as a real estate agent for the Beazley Agency in Colchester. She also enjoyed gardening and was a former member of the Country Gardeners of Glastonbury and a member of the Colchester Senior Center. She fiercely loved her friends and family.

She is survived by her daughters, Eileen Higgins (John) of East Hampton, Susan Haagensen (David Morgan) of East Hampton, Claudia Soprano (John) of Cromwell and daughter-in-law Missy Haagensen of South Windham; her six grandchildren, Jondahl (Jeff), Nathan (Lyndita), Jack (Amanda), Laura (Jake), Richard (Anna) and Ryan (Topher). Her eight great-grandchildren were the light of her life, especially these last few years; Ana, Delilah, Juliet, Madeline, Trent, Kyleigh, Cameron and Brennie.

She was predeceased by her beloved son, Earl J. Haagensen.

A sincere thank you to the staff at Apple Rehab Colchester for the heartfelt care you have given her during these past years.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, April 4, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Private burial will be held Tuesday, April 5, at Green Cemetery in Glastonbury.

Donations in her memory can be made to [smiletrain.org](http://smiletrain.org) or to the charity of your choice.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

**East Hampton**

**Mary E. Mahoney**

Mary E. Mahoney, 63, of East Hampton died unexpectedly Monday, March 20. She was born on Nov. 6, 1959, in Bristol, daughter of the late Paul and Georgia (Alt) Mahoney. Mary grew up in New Britain, and moved to East Hampton in the early 1980s. She was employed at the UConn Health Center, leaving in 1986 to start to raise a family.



She loved animals, gardening, stained glass, reading, playing Rummikub with family and friends, and was a very crafty lady. She graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Capital Community College, and was a librarian around East Hampton for many years. She will be remembered for her humor, her fierce sense of loyalty and the love that she felt for her family and friends alike.

She leaves her two beloved sons, Andrew Giorgetti and his wife Natalie of Rhode Island and Ethan Giorgetti and his girlfriend, Vivian Englund of New Britain; her ex-husband, Mark; two brothers, Mark Mahoney (Kathie), Peter Mahoney (Marie); two sisters Kathy Bellmar (Gary) and Meg Catenzaro (Jim); six nephews; two nieces; five great nieces and nephews; and her kindred spirit, Marie Wodnicki (Eddie).

She was predeceased by her parents, her beloved Aunt Monnie and her nephew Brendan.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 29, at the Farrell Funeral Home, 110 Franklin Sq., New Britain. Burial followed in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain. Visitation was Wednesday morning, before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

To send a condolence, please visit [www.FarrellFuneralHome.com](http://www.FarrellFuneralHome.com).

**Portland**

**Michael Monahan Clancy**

Michael Monahan Clancy, 78, of Portland, passed away Tuesday, March 21, at his home with his family by his side. Michael was born Feb. 6, 1945, in Fall River, Mass., and grew up in Wethersfield.



He served on the USS Harlan R. Dickson DD 708 in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. A graduate of CCSU in

1974, Michael went to work for the U.S. Postal Service in Newington for 33 years. After retirement, he worked for the Connecticut Department of Transit for another 10 years. It was his last position as a ranger at Quarry Ridge Golf Course, where he golfed daily and made lasting friendships, that he truly cherished.

Michael was an avid newspaper and book reader, golfer, music and cat lover. He was a great friend and host to many gatherings at his home on Great Hill Pond where anyone was welcome to stop by anytime. His biggest accomplishment though was being the world's best Dad and Grandpa.

Michael is predeceased by his parents, Michael Francis Clancy and Helen (McGrath); brothers, Tim Clancy and Kevin Clancy; and brother-in-law, Richard Melluzzo.

He is survived by his daughter, Sarah Reed and her husband Brian T. Reed and grandson Thomas Michael Reed; his sisters, Mary Ellyn Vicino and her husband Nick and his sister Patrice Melluzzo, several nieces, nephews and countless friends.

A memorial Mass will be held Monday, April 3, at noon, in St. Mary Church, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Monday, April 3, from 10-11:30 a.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Portland Food Bank.

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366 Windham Road, Willimantic, CT  
860-456-8658

[www.TriCountyMemorials.com](http://www.TriCountyMemorials.com)  
[tcmemorials@aol.com](mailto:tcmemorials@aol.com)

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with attention to every detail.



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We handle all the paperwork and details. This service is provided through our office free of charge.

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[www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com)

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"A monument should cost no more than a family can afford."



**Obituary Policy**

Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.



RE3-31-23

RE3-17-23

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
LEGAL NOTICE**

The East Hampton Police have recovered the following items as lost property. If you are the owner of the following property, please contact the East Hampton PD at (860)267-9922 during business hours.

1. Leather Jacket
2. Keys on lanyard
3. Rings
4. Black bicycle

2TB 3/24, 3/31

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on April 5, 2023, beginning at 7:00 P.M. in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following petition(s):

1. **PZC 2023-001** of HWY 95, LLC (Applicant) and Tri Town Plaza, LLC (Owner) - Special Permit Application for proposed Adult-Use Cannabis Retail in existing multi-tenant retail plaza at 493 Westchester Road (Assessor's ID 03-17/013-000). Zoning District: Westchester Village (WV)
2. **PZC 2023-002** of the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission (Applicant) - Proposed Amendments to Sections 3.2, 3.4, 4.2, 5.3.1, 5.7.2, 15.3, and 20.4 of the Land Development (Zoning) Regulations.
3. **PZC 2023-003** of ARK Distillery, LLC (Applicant) and ARK Station, LLC (Owner) - Special Permit Application for proposed distillery at 200 Lebanon Avenue (Assessor's ID 22-00/039-000). Zoning District: Town Center (TC).

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Planning and Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 3/24, 3/31

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8  
HYBRID and IN-PERSON HEARING  
ANDOVER, HEBRON, MARLBOROUGH  
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 - 6:30 PM**

Google Meet joining info  
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xpv-bhba-qgo>  
Or dial: (US) +1 901-881-2218 PIN: 104 093 793#  
More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/xpv-bhba-qgo?pin=7393.216452486>

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BOTH VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON (RHAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM) ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023, AT 6:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023-2024."
2. "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2023-2024."

**DATED AT HEBRON, CONNECTICUT, March 14, 2023  
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8**  
Michael Morris  
MICHAEL MORRIS, CHAIRPERSON  
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION

3TB 3/17, 3/24, 3/31

**LIQUOR PERMIT  
Notice of Application**  
This is to give notice that I,  
**FIKRET CECUNJANIN**  
1106 RIDGEWOOD RD  
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457-8712

Have filed an application placarded 03/23/2023 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at  
**105 GOSPEL LN  
PORTLAND CT 06480-1736**

The business will be owned by: **FOX ON THE GREEN LLC**  
Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics (not amplified), Comedians, Concerts, Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands, Magicians, Plays/Shows, Sporting Events  
Objections must be filed by: 05-04-2023  
FIKRET CECUNJANIN

2TB 3/31, 4/7

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular Town Council Meeting in the East Hampton Town Hall Council Chambers, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Town Council will review amendments to the Code of the Town of East Hampton for Chapter 278 Regarding Modification of Tax Relief Programs to expand and modify qualification criteria and Chapter 18 Regarding Commission on Aging to add alternate members. A copy of the draft ordinances will be available in the Town Clerk's Office.

**EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
Mark Philhower, Chairman  
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman  
Pete Brown  
Brandon Goff  
Eric Peterson  
Kevin Reich  
Alison Walck

1TB 3/31

**FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE: WOOD SOLD IN HALF OR FULL CORD.** Split and seasoned. \$270/cord. \$135/ half. 503-367-7513 Haddam Neck. Ask about steel racks also for sale.

**FOR SALE:** 1-7 ft Air Hockey table \$375. 1- 4 ft Foosball table with balls \$175. Both like new! Call 860-705-9825

**FOR SALE: 2017 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 HD Z-71 All Star Addition.** Super clean, never plowed. New tires and front brakes. Roll & Lock Bed Cover 71,500 miles. \$38,500 Call 860-685-1487

**TAG SALE IN HOME HEBRON. SATURDAY April 1st THRU SUNDAY April 9th. 8AM-5PM. EVERYTHING WINTER MUST GO.** Womens up to date, gently used and new Fur-lined Jackets, Coats, Sweaters, Hats, Scarfs. I am sure there is something waiting for you. CALL 860-993-3637.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE:** \$240/full cord \$140/half cord Call Troy 860 338 6283

**SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE:** \$200/cord. Local delivery around Columbia. Call 860-335-8148 or 860-428-4398

**END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT.** Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. The Glastonbury Citizen 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

**JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES** Inside Garage Sale, Sat. 4/1/23, 8am - 1pm, 20 Fairview St., Portland, CT; nails, screws, bolts, electrical, drainage and pipe fixtures, garden items, bird houses, office supplies, household items, and more.

**EASTER BAKE SALE: SATURDAY APRIL 8th 10-3.** The Worship Center, 99 Marjorie Circle, HEBRON. Cakes, Pies, Cookies and More. Fundraiser to support the Woman's Ministry.

**SELL YOUR UNWANTED LOOSE** pennies, nickles, dimes and quarters, etc. for Cash paid on the spot. Call or text 860- 836-5013



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35 South Main Street

**NOW OPEN**  
for sales and donations  
Fridays ~ noon to 3 p.m.  
Saturdays ~ 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
CLOSED EASTER WEEKEND 4/7 & 4/8

CIT3-30-23

**FOR SALE:** Older King Size maple headboard great shape \$50. 4 Gun Oak Locking wall mount gun rack w/ drawer \$100. 6ft. chain link panels, various lengths. For pricing call 860-295-9974

**TAG SALES**

**ESTATE SALE:** 79 Old Farms Roads, South Glastonbury, APRIL 1st & 2nd. 9am - 6 pm. Upholstery. Many imports. Lighting and Art. Cash and Carry. 860-922-0371

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WANTED TO BUY**

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RE7-1-22

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