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RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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## Ground Finally Broken on New Senior Center

By Michael Sinkewicz

For many, it was an event years in the making: ground was finally broken last Friday for a new senior center in Colchester.

Dozens of seniors crowded outside of Town Hall at the adjacent lot where construction on the 14,500 square-foot building has already begun.

There, seven gold shovels glistened in a pile of dirt waiting to officially celebrate the first scoops of the project.

“What a day,” selectman Rosemary Coyle told the *Rivereast*. “It’s overwhelming to feel that everything that everybody has done is finally coming to fruition and that we’re going to see the end result of this. I couldn’t be happier.”

Coyle, who has advocated for the new facility since 2006, was joined by several state and local officials, including Congressman Joe Courtney, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, State Senator Norm Needleman (D-33), former state representative Brian Smith, state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48), First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Director of Senior Services Patty Watts, former director Cathy Russi, and Senior Center Building Committee Chairman Tony Tarnowski.

“For me this is very personal,” Coyle said. “I really didn’t know senior issues until I got on the Board of Selectmen and I started to learn about them and realized how important it was and how lacking their facility was.”

She added that “a lot of people helped and the community came together and realized that this isn’t just about seniors, this is about our whole community.”

In 2021, residents overwhelmingly voted in favor of the project at referendum, but the work began years before, featuring contributions from leaders at both the state and local level.

“This is an intergenerational project,” Smith said during a gathering inside Town Hall. “It was raised initially by a generation that is no



After many years, ground on the new home of the Colchester Senior Center was finally broken last Friday. From left are former state representative Brian Smith, selectman Rosemary Coyle, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, former senior center director Cathy Russi, Senior Center Building Committee Chairman Tony Tarnowski (in the background), Director of Senior Services Patty Watts, Congressman Joe Courtney, state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48).

longer with us and it will serve our children and our grandchildren and their children in the years to come.”

Smith has the unique perspective of having represented Colchester on the Board of Selectmen and in the state House of Representatives. He told the *Rivereast* that finally arriving at the groundbreaking date was a “total thrill.”

“It’s been percolating all these years,” he said. “The need has done nothing except grow.”

Smith credited town leaders like former First Selectman Art Shilosky for laying the groundwork to put in for bonding for the project. Then Smith became a leading advocate in Hartford,

ultimately securing \$2.5 million in state funding — a significant boost for the community.

“If I think back on the time that I was in the House, this for me is probably the highest point,” he said. “For me, because this is my home, it really means something extra.”

Obtaining the funding wasn’t easy, Smith said, and many projects wait years to earn state support.

“It’s really a matter of trying to get yourself onto that top priority list and that takes work,” he said. “I was fortunate.”

Courtney, in his remarks, emphasized how enthusiastic the community was for a new

building and how impactful it would be once complete.

“The turnout this morning speaks volumes about just how passionate this town — particularly the senior citizens population — is about the need for this facility,” he said. “This is going to be a spectacular facility and it’s going to enable so many important activities in terms of connecting seniors to benefits.”

The project, he continued, had been passed along like a daisy chain until the town finally reached a “tipping point.” That continued pursuit, and its inescapable challenges, shouldn’t be overlooked, he stated.

“This is not for the faint of heart, trying to get that kind of public support,” Courtney said, adding that “breaking that ground is obviously a huge symbol of the fact that this is now real.”

Courtney asserted that volunteer leadership helped keep a coalition in place to sustain external pressure, resulting in the project reaching this moment.

“We’re not talking about this; it’s really happening,” he said. “This does not happen by itself.”

The congressman gifted the town a flag flown at the U.S. Capitol the previous day.

Tony Tarnowski thanked the members of the building committee, along with the partners tasked with designing and constructing the new facility, including BRD Builders LLC, Silver/Petrucelli & Associates and Construction Solutions Group.

“It was a little surreal,” he told the *Rivereast*. “It exceeded my expectations.”

While the intent was always to invite distinguished guests, Tarnowski said he was “pleasantly surprised” that the Congressman was able to attend. Overall, he believes the turnout indicated that people recognized the importance of the moment.

See *New Senior Center*, page 31

## Parents, Students Speak Against Budget Cut

By Jack Lakowsky

This Tuesday parents, school staff, students and news crews packed the East Hampton Town Council chambers, with dozens of locals calling on the council to send the proposed town and education budgets back to the Board of Finance.

For now, the council, decided by a party line vote, will not be doing so. The council’s five Republicans voted to keep the budget in the council’s lap, while its two Democrats, Pete Brown and Kevin Reich, heeded the nearly 3 hours of public comment. There was little discussion among the council before its vote, which drew considerable ire.

After sitting through quite a lot of vented frustrations before and after the vote, Republican council chair Mark Philhower said the council has not made a final decision to send the budget to referendum. It can still send the

budget back to the finance board.

Per the town government’s rules, the council can only cut or send the budget back to the finance board for further review before its ultimate approval, which is the last step before a public vote.

Recently, the Republican-controlled Board of Finance voted to slash almost \$800,000 from the school district’s proposed \$36.35 million budget, among other controversial decisions. Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith has said this cut, which would leave the spending proposal at \$35.61 million, would require losing five teachers — including a much-adored high school English teacher. At Tuesday’s council meeting, a roomful of local students fiercely advocated for their teacher, called a trusted, beloved adult whose made a hugely positive impact on many,

many students.

Enja Barry, an EHHS junior, said there are already 520 students split between five high school English teachers, many of whom also teach popular electives.

“Cutting any teacher removes a trusted adult” from a student’s life, he said. He beseeched the council to defy cuts that harm local learning.

Students said they felt that allowing the cut to go forward would be akin to telling them their needs don’t matter.

Also on the cutting board is a school psychologist one high schooler said saved her life her freshman year after she experienced suicidal ideations.

Many students, parents and teachers fervently said cutting teachers causes larger classes.

See *Budget Cuts*, page 31

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**Church Tag Sale May 20**

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Tag Sale Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., with a bag sale from 1-2 p.m.

The church will accept donations for this sale starting Monday, May 1, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. daily until May 17.

For more information, call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave a message with your contact information.

**Bingo & Baskets**

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night on Friday, April 28, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

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

**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 May 10. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is May 3.

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

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



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### Garden Tour and Plant Sale

As part of the Town of Andover's 175th Anniversary Celebration, Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Garden Tour and Plant Sale Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Four Andover area gardens will be open to the public. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and include guided tours of the gardens as well as coffee and breakfast pastries at the church prior to the tour. The plant sale, featuring perennials, will be held from 9 a.m.-noon at the church. The church will also be offering a tag sale of gardening related items.

Tickets for the Garden Tour are available at Andover Landscaping and OverAndOver, or by calling the church at 860-742-7696.

Donations Sought: Tag sale organizers are looking for garden-related donations for the sale - including hand tools, pots, hanging baskets, pruners, statues, wind chimes, fountains and birdhouses. The church will begin accepting donations for this sale on Wednesday, May 31, at 3:30 p.m. Also, if you have yard stuff you want to sell you can rent a space on the lawn for \$20. Call the church at 860-742-7696 for more information or to rent a space.

### Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

**Shopping Dates:** Tuesdays. Willimantic: 5/9, 5/23. Manchester: 5/2, 5/16, 5/30. Masks available on all vehicles.

**Senior Luncheons:** Fridays, 5/5, 5/19. Reservations required by previous Wednesday. Menus: 5/5 - celebrate with the 175th pizza that Andover Pizza has created in honor of the town's 175th year of Andover; 5/19 - barbecue outside the tent.

**Senior Trips:** Rose trip to Elizabeth Park, 6/14; train/boat ride to Gillette Castle, 6/30; Main Moose, 7/14 and 8/11. Sign up with Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2.

**175th Anniversary of Andover:** Celebration events will begin with a dedication ceremony Thursday, May 18, at the town hall gazebo with speakers, AES children performing from 6-7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The tent will be up with tables for seating available. Rides

available by calling Palazzi. Watch *Rivereast* or search for "Andover 175th" on Facebook for more information.

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

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

**Rides to Farmers Market:** The market opens Wednesday, June 14, from 4-7 p.m., at the Congregational Church. Call Palazzi for a ride.

**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.

### 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.

### Commission on Aging Vacancy

Any Andover elector interested in serving on the Commission on Aging for a term ending June 30, 2025 should send a letter of interest to: Town of Andover, c/o Commission on Aging Vacancy, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232, or email townclerk@andoverct.org.

### Town-Wide Tag Sale

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, June 3, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; rain date is Sunday, June 4.

Residents who would like to be included and have their address listed on the tag sale map should send a check for \$10 payable to Town of Andover and mail it or bring it to: Town Clerk, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232. Include a list of items that you will have for sale so it can be included on the map. Send information and payment so that it is received by May 31.

Proceeds will benefit the Andover Senior Luncheon Program.



**Clean-Up Crew...** Earth Day, April 22, was celebrated in Andover by many volunteers helping to clean up the beautiful town. Pictured are some of the volunteer: Sean Barrett, Kayla Kriss, Scarlet and Delilah Beaulieu, Mike Palazzi, Sharon Shevchenko and Cathy Desrosiers.

### 175th Anniversary Events

Several events have been planned for the Andover 175th Anniversary. Offerings include:

Thursday, May 18: Anniversary Dedication Ceremony of Town Gazebo, 6-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 20: Anniversary Fun Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Andover History Talk, 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, June 3: Olde Andover Burial Ground Tour, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Townsend Cemetery Tour, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 3: Funky Monkey (OverAndOver), 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, June 4: Doris Chamberlain Trail Hike, 9-11 a.m.

Saturday, June 10: Congregational Church Garden Tours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Andover Library Mural Lecture, 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, June 17: Pollinator Garden Tour, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 24: Finale - Andover Lake BBQ Beach Party, at a time to be determined.

For more information, search for "Andover CT 175th Anniversary" on Facebook.

### Library Friends Seek Members

The Andover Friends of the Library group is looking for members, as it hopes to surpass last year's record high of 138.

Membership spans the January-December calendar year and a donation is all that is required to become a new or renewing member. To join the Friends or renew your membership, visit the library at 355 Route 6, or access the

membership form at [tinyurl.com/ymfwz6bk](http://tinyurl.com/ymfwz6bk).

Membership can also be renewed at the Library Friends' annual Goods and Services Auction, taking place Friday, May 19, at 6 p.m., at the Town Hall community room. For more information, email [andoverfol@gmail.com](mailto:andoverfol@gmail.com) or call the library at 860-742-7428.

### Notice for Andover Veterans

The lieutenant governor of Connecticut will host an appreciation ceremony honoring Korean War-era and Vietnam War-era veterans in the Andover community. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for January 2024.

All veterans who served during the Korean War era from June 27, 1950 through Jan. 31, 1955, or in the Vietnam War era from Feb. 28, 1961 through July 1, 1975, are asked to provide their name, branch of service, and years of ser-

vice to Andover veterans representatives. The representatives can be contacted by emailing [Veterans@andoverct.org](mailto:Veterans@andoverct.org), or calling Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481.

This ceremony is to honor and recognize all veterans who served during these two eras, no matter where they were stationed. Contact the Andover veterans representatives for more information.

### Norton Commission Scholarship Available

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

Andover residents who are graduating high school seniors and will attend a 2- or 4-year accredited college/university or technical school are eligible.

For applications, visit [www.andoverconnecticut.org/norton-childrens-fund-commission](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org/norton-childrens-fund-commission). Applications can be submitted online or saved as a pdf and emailed to [nortonchildrensfundcommission@gmail.com](mailto:nortonchildrensfundcommission@gmail.com).

### East Catholic Honor Roll

Melanie Plausse of Andover earned Honors with Distinction on the East Catholic High School honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

Plausse is a member of the Class of 2025.

### 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).

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.

Completed applications must be dropped off at the library or emailed to the Friends at [andoverfol@gmail.com](mailto:andoverfol@gmail.com). For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends.

### Kentucky Derby Tea

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Kentucky Derby Tea Saturday, May 6, from 1-3 p.m. The tea will include an assortment of teas, a basket raffle and homemade delicacies.

The theme for this year's tea is mint julep. Admission is \$10. Reservations required. Leave a message at the church office, 860-742-7696, to reserve seats.

### Cancellation of Veterans Meeting

The May Veterans meeting is canceled, due to conflict with the events surrounding the 175th Anniversary of the Town of Andover to be held on the same day, May 20.

All are encouraged to attend the Andover festival that day, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Town Hall.



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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Some of you may recall about a year ago at this time the *Rivereast* ran a cover story about jumping worms – an invasive invertebrate that was causing a “mini horror show” in Hebron and surrounding towns.

Well, the weather's getting nice again – the weathermen assure me it's spring, despite the frost on my car earlier this week – so the worms are making their return. Ann Zitkus, a member of Hebron's Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, shared with me some information for all area towns, since, as she said, many people are beginning to garden now and thus this is when the tiny jumping worm cocoons are most likely to be inadvertently spread. So, I thought I'd share what she'd shared, in the hopes of stopping the share of these creatures before the “earthworms on steroids” cause even more of a nuisance.

Gardening is the main way that the cocoons/eggs of jumping worms are being brought into the landscapes of local residents and businesses, and even farms and open spaces, Zitkus said. These cocoons can be brought in unobtrusively, in such things as soil, mulch, compost, or leaves from infested areas. She said the cocoons can be as small and dark as poppy seeds.

It only takes one cocoon to start a population of jumping worms. In addition, they do not all hatch in one year; they can take two years to hatch. The jumping worms themselves can spread 17 acres in a season, climb walls, cross wide areas of pavement – and there are no viable means to eradicate them once established.

Jumping worms are voracious eaters of all organic matter in the soil, Zitkus said. “Their castings are granular and easily wash away, leaving an area devoid of the soil needed by our native plants and trees to sprout or grow,” she said. “This can be readily seen, for example, around previously mulched trees which now have bare roots exposed. Left unchecked, this would be devastating to our ecosystem as

plants are needed by animals, pollinators and us.”

While the jumping worms themselves die during the winter, their cocoons do not. In fact, the cocoons survive even to temperatures of minus 39 degrees! So it would be quite the cold snap to kill those off – one that I'm fine with never seeing. Zitkus said it's been discovered that heat-treating cocoons to 105 degrees for three consecutive days will kill them; however, they survive forest fires since jumping worm castings are very insulating.

Zitkus said helping to warn and educate others about preventing the transportation of cocoons in soils, mulch and compost is important, as this is the way to help slow down or even stop the spread of jumping worms.

Zitkus shared an important point of clarification:

“The worms we see in the spring are almost certainly not jumping worms,” she said. “Regular earthworms survive through our winters, are not a threat, and are very different from the tropical jumping worms, which have to hatch from cocoons and start their growing cycle over each year.”

She said that once adult jumping worms are discovered they have already been multiplying. Therefore, it is the prevention of bringing in jumping worm cocoons into new areas that is the best/only way to control the current rapid spread of these destructive worms.

Zitkus then shared with me the following prevention guidelines from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station:

Buy plants with bare roots, not in pots. Jumping worms are being distributed in potted plants. Check everything very carefully. If suspicious, wash root systems at home. [Added note: Filter water with fine sieve to catch all solids. Place all solids in sealed plastic bag, place in hot sun for at least 10 minutes, then discard in trash.]

Nursery staff should watch for worms by

**Editor's Desk continued on page 7**



**Earth Day with a Painting...** John Griffith and his grandchildren, Addelyn and Ryan Warner enjoyed the event Earth Day with a Painting Wednesday, April 12, at East Hampton Senior Center. This was a collaborative event with the East Hampton Public Library.

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

### Leadership Needed

To the Editor:

We are waiting to hear something from the Marlborough Board of Selectmen regarding what will come from the search for a town manager. The Town Manager Search Committee has been operating behind closed doors for the last few months and even members of the Board of Selectmen claim to know nothing about what is happening.

It has been stated that we will have a town manager hired by July, but that is not definite. I am hoping that whoever is selected by the Board of Selectmen will be an independent thinker and will fill the leadership void that we have been experiencing during the last year.

To put it simply, things at Town Hall are a mess. The Board of Finance found this year's budget to contain numerous large errors and how many other mistakes exist, that were not discovered, is a matter of conjecture. The budget also contains \$127,500 for the settlement of a longstanding former employee suit against the town and \$300,000 for a new HVAC system at Town Hall, which is a number that astounds me. And we have yet to start the audit for fis-

cal year 2021-22, which should have been completed months ago. This has been delayed due to the lack of a new financial person at Town Hall ever since our last person left a year ago and a finance office in disarray.

I am praying that we get a competent town manager who can clean up this mess and provide some transparency. Heaven help us if we end up with someone who can't fill this immense leadership void that has been haunting us for the last year.

**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough**

*Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.*

### A Town in Disarray

To the Editor:

To every citizen paying attention, and there are many, the situation in Colchester Town Hall is discouraging. Partisan politics and personalities pervade. Every official is 110% in favor of everything, yet they bicker and obfuscate endlessly. They argue politely, usually with suave manners, but don't compromise. They hire experts as employees (e.g., school superintendent) or consultants, then ignore the provided exper-

## Bulletin Board

As many of you are well aware, part of the fun of attending a professional baseball game is the possibility that you might snag yourself a foul ball hit into the stands.

I must admit I'm not sure exactly what the allure is—that is to say, why a grown man who can hardly walk around the block without suffering heart palpitations will drop a full cup of beer to scramble like a demented ape over men, women, children and people in wheelchairs in pursuit of a baseball valued at less than 10 bucks, but you see it all the time.

At a game between the Houston Astros and Atlanta Braves some years ago, a screaming foul ball hit a young woman in the stands, knocking her down. Her boyfriend scrambled off in pursuit of the ball (he got it, too), leaving her lying there. Fortunately, she was not badly injured, though the damage to their relationship proved terminal—she broke up with the moron days later. Still, he got to keep the baseball.

There are certain unwritten rules of courtesy concerning foul balls—one of which is that guys are expected to catch, or, if necessary, use their body to block any foul ball that endangers their mother, sister, wife or girlfriend. Another rule, unless you want to be maligned by the sports announcers doing the game for television, is that grown men who retrieve a foul ball should immediately turn it over to the nearest child. This rule, however, is frequently broken as it seems that many grown men are also children.

I myself nearly caught a foul ball at Fenway Park several years ago, but Son #2 messed me up. As I rose to my feet with my eye fixed firmly on the ball, Son #2, who stands about 6'5," got up and stretched his hands up well past the reach of the rest of us hopeful pygmies. Of course, the ball (my ball!) bounced off his fingertips and rolled off down the aisle, where it was probably snatched up by some numb nut tourist from Luxemburg who insists on referring to soccer as “football.”

When I admonished Son #2 for ruining my catch, he replied that he was quite familiar with my athletic abilities and that his actions almost certainly saved me from serious injury or possible death. He also insisted that he wasn't actually trying to catch the ball; he intentionally knocked it aside, giving up his own opportunity to obtain a prized souvenir out of filial concern for my welfare. To this day, he maintains that he was only thinking of his elderly and somewhat feeble father and that I should be grateful to him for his quick thinking and impeccable timing. All of which is a lot of hooley.

I recently got to wondering what my chances were of ever having another opportunity to catch a foul ball and I turned to the Internet for answers. After a lengthy detour through a positively appalling site called “20 Hottest Major League Baseball Wives and Girlfriends” (which persuaded me that there's a lot more to Major League Baseball than a big paycheck), I found that your chances of possibly catching a foul ball at a Major League Baseball game are anywhere from 1:580 to about 1:1,189 depending on where you sit in the stands.

This indicates to me that my future chances of ever snagging a foul ball are not that great—though some kid at a Marlins game a couple of years ago actually caught two, which is some kind of statistical miracle second only to the odds that a presidential candidate is actually speaking the truth at any given moment. On the other hand, as Son #2 reassures me, my chances of catching a foul ball are positively rosy as compared to my chances of getting to within shouting distance of even the grandmother of one of the “20 Hottest Major League Baseball Wives and Girlfriends.”

He certainly does know how to raise one's spirits.

**Jim Hallas**

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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## RIVEREAST

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Kevin and Pat Rarey, Publishers

Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor

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Staff Reporters:

Jack Lakowsky—East Hampton, Portland & Marlborough

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Art Department

Jeanne Giovann, Julie Kristoff

and Julie Misuraca

Advertising Representatives:

Jason Baran, ext. 231 • [jason@glcitizen.com](mailto:jason@glcitizen.com)

Lisa Sniетка, ext. 232 • [lisa@glcitizen.com](mailto:lisa@glcitizen.com)

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tise, contesting guidance and budgets. I want to believe that all of the folks charged with running our town mean well. Most of them are not professionals in all of the operational and administrative aspects that are required to operate a town. Many are volunteers and spend many, many hours serving Colchester. They are doing the best they can with what they have: a severe limitation in some instances. When these folks are elected to office, paid or unpaid, the electorate assumes their integrity, honesty, and good will.

However, watching the process unfold in various board meetings makes it hard to trust in this assumption. Hearing the rumors about Facebook posts, emails and Twitter comments is disconcerting to say the least. Watching the bickering in meetings is exasperating; the innuendo and sniping is outright maddening. It seems that some of the hours officials spend are spent in researching ridicule and retribution. All involved will deflect such accusations as hearsay, hyperbole, and rumor. Certainly, much of it is rumor. Who starts such rumors? But much of it can be seen firsthand by attending town meetings (online or in person).

Colchester Town Hall is dysfunctional. Politics have always been messy, but the current administration is setting new lows in bad politics. Delays, bickering, turnovers, attrition, and lawsuits should not be part of a functioning town government. Colchester deserves better. The citizens, taxpayers, deserve better.

**John Barnowski – Colchester**

### Thanks for Generosity

To the Editor: The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 95 of Hebron would like to thank Bryan Hoffman of Ace Hardware for donating several American flags to our organization. Members of the auxiliary presented these American flags to several residence of the Hebron area who had flag poles with no flag flying.

Thanks again Bryan your generosity is greatly appreciated by members of the auxiliary.

**Darlene Opocensky, President  
Ines Morris, Treasurer  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 95 – Hebron**

### East Hampton Budget

To the Editor: My wife and I moved to East Hampton in 2015, with the plan to set down roots and start a family. We've now got two boys, one of whom is getting close to starting elementary school. We live within walking distance of all four schools and are very much looking forward to seeing them flourish in these schools.

The proposed budget by the Board of Finance for next year does a disservice to all of the young families and children in this town. The cuts to school psychologist, math and reading teachers, and elementary school teachers would be a detriment to those who need those services the most.

I urge the Board of Finance and the Town Council to strongly consider the impact that the BoE budget (and the other budget cuts) will have on the members of this town, and to invest in the future of our town, state and country.

**Jacob Kravitz  
East Hampton Resident and Parent**

### In the News

To the Editor: A host of 1940s *New Yorker* cartoons have recently come to mind. Images of rotund politicians with cigars and pocket watches, shown dangling citizens by the ankles while shaking every last coin from their pockets. Meanwhile, a dinner of steaming roast beef, heads of cabbage and boiled potatoes awaits, along with an equally overstuffed woman in tiny shoes.

Last week, the USA celebrated national Earth Week. It's great the U.S. can acknowledge good ole' Earth once a year. After all, this planet can survive without us, but we are at her mercy. A splash of respect might go down nicely with roast beef. ABC News featured *The Power of Water* which pointed out that clean drinking water is, indeed, in crisis globally.

Last week also brought the Connecticut Historical Society's spring 2023 publication, "Making History." It was of great significance to see this two-page color spread on Gov. John S. Peters and his life in the center of Hebron. CHS embraces history, even at times, when politically dysfunctional towns won't.

Finally, signs are making the news. Signs are popping up all over. It's a sign that people, in Hebron, don't want the town to change, don't want congestion at Ted's, don't want the noise and threat to the environment on the watershed and people don't want higher and higher taxes.

People want to save. Save Hebron, Save Kinney, Save our Pocket Change. Save our Neighborhoods and Culture. The tax increases don't even touch the money needed for the proposed Raymond Brook Watershed development.

We heard public pushback at a recent Board of Finance meeting, on April 18. Hearing the public's educated concerns is one thing; addressing those concerns with respect is something else, and that does need to change. Vote No. #save17.

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

### Enough

To the Editor: A young Black man goes to the wrong house to pick up his brothers and is shot by the owner of the house. Critically injured.

A young white woman pulls into the wrong driveway and is shot. Dead.

Consider this:  
· The Gun Violence Archive recorded that this year, there have been 12,503 gun related deaths, 165 mass shootings, and that 522 children from 1 to 17 years of age have been killed and 1,212 injured.

· Gifford Law Center found that an analysis of public mass shootings resulting in four or more deaths found that more than 85% of such fatalities were caused by assault rifles.

· *Scientific American* reports that in a study comparing gun deaths in the U.S. to other high-income countries in Europe and Asia tells us that our homicide rate in teens and young adults is 49 times higher. Our firearm suicide rate is eight times higher. The U.S. has more guns than any of the countries in the comparison.

Last year, the editors of *Scientific American* wrote:

We need to become the kind of country that looks at guns for what they are: weapons that kill. And treat them with the kind of respect that insists they be harder to get and safer to use. And then we need to become the kind of country that says the lives of children are more valuable than the right to weapons that have killed them, time and again. Since Columbine. Since Sandy Hook. Since always.

This year, we have added to the list of mass shootings at schools, to the children who have been murdered, to the heartbreak that seems to greet us each morning.

Enough.  
How many more people will be killed before gun legislation is passed?

**Suzanne Heise – Andover**

### EMS Open House

To the Editor: The East Hampton Ambulance Association and the East Hampton Fire Department will have a joint Open House on Saturday, April 29. The Ambulance Association is located at 4 Middletown Avenue and Company 1 is on Barton Hill. The hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to meet your First Responders!

You might have met some of them before, but this will be a fun experience! You can take a tour of the vehicles and buildings. Your children will love to climb on the trucks and learn about safety. They will also explain Hands-Only CPR. Fire extinguisher demos will be available at the firehouse.

The East Hampton prevention coordinator, Courtney Widrick, will be at the Ambulance Bay and can answer your questions about overdose prevention.

Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you next Saturday!

**Barbara Moore  
East Hampton Ambulance Association**

### The Meaning of 'Rights'

To the Editor: For those who do not understand the meaning of "Rights," we need to make this clear so everyone understands it.

The 2nd Amendment does not apply to semi-auto rifles nor does it apply to pump-action or bolt action rifles, pistols or revolvers. The 2nd Amendment restricts government. Let me repeat: restricts government.

The technology of the firearm is irrelevant! The restrictions on government remain the same, regardless of the type of firearm. The 2nd Amendment was not written to grant permission for citizens to own and bear firearms. It forbids government interference in the right to keep and bear firearms! "The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Our lawmakers that want to reduce crime need to focus on the person that is committing the crime, and punish them, not the weapon the criminal is holding, whether it be a stone, a hammer, a knife or a firearm. Moses didn't attempt to prevent people from possessing stones!

**Frank Blume – Colchester**

### Hebron's Boondoggle

To the Editor: The world has radically changed since Hebron's grandiose masterplan was conjured up turning a rural historic town into a wannabe suburban shopping mall. Yet Hebron's benighted leadership robotically promotes it, despite inflationary prices, educational losses due to COVID-19, global unrest, and increasing violent weather events. This year's solution is an astronomical tax hike with reduced services and safety. Clearly, Horton Boulevard and miles of high-maintenance sidewalks have failed to attract new businesses. Unfortunately, town officials continue to promote an out-of-date masterplan with costly new town facilities which produce no income, only continual expense.

It is reprehensible that Hebron's schoolchildren should be forced to shoulder the burden of town leaders' mistakes. COVID has diminished educational gains making preschool and support programs all-the-more needed. Social, emotional, educational and safety problems require early intervention. Has Hebron forgotten the tragic RHAM murder or when the building was sprayspainted with racial hate slogans?

Timely repairs and expansion during the past 20 years of neglect at the current Public Works Garage should have addressed issues, eliminating the need for a \$20 million solution now. Hebron's historic graveyards have grown up in brush. Invasive species degrading soil quality and harboring disease bearing insects flourish on town land.

Clearly Hebron's leadership is out of touch

with reality. Town leaders have no vested interest in either Hebron's past or future. Like mayflies, town leaders have promoted expensive projects and then moved out of Hebron because of high taxes, leaving Hebron's aging population to pay for their shortsighted irresponsible mistakes. As stewards of the town and agents of the people, Hebron's leadership has abandoned their sworn obligations for which they now expect taxpayers to remedy. Bring democracy back to Hebron's government. Support Hebron schools, but vote down irresponsible town spending.

**John Baron – Hebron**

### Thanks for Service

To the Editor: Our sincere thanks to the East Hampton Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Service for their professional and compassionate conduct in assisting us during two medical emergencies.

**Susan and Peter Kelly – East Hampton**

### Open House Thanks

To the Editor: The Portland Agricultural Fair would like to thank Concentric Brewing Company, Portland for hosting our first Volunteer Open House. We appreciate the partnership, wonderful hosting space, and, of course, their delicious cold beer.

We would also like to welcome our new volunteers. Oh, the fun you will have!! For those of you who are interested but couldn't attend, your help is still very much needed and welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Hemlock Grange (17 Sage Hollow Road) at 7 p.m. You can also reach out to us at [info@portlandfair.com](mailto:info@portlandfair.com). Be on the lookout for another Volunteer Open House coming soon!

**Kelly Chester – Portland**

### Protect the FD

To the Editor: I was taught as a child to respect men and women of the military, the first responders: law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, etc. It saddens me that these men and women who put their lives on the line are not making near enough money to do what we are asking them to do let alone if they are even paid at all. Some of these people volunteer. They put their lives on the line for no pay other than the desire to serve the people of their communities.

Take our Marlborough volunteer firefighters and paramedics for instance. They are giving up their time and their family's time going on calls every day without a second thought. Last

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

Friday's article in the *Rivereast* upset me. Why is there even a discussion on signing off on a check for a new fire truck? The people voted to purchase a new truck to replace one that is from 1991. Why is the BOS continuously opposed to the fire department?

It is very apparent that there is a personal grudge against the MVFD. The allocation of money for needed equipment is being used as a weapon. Why? The equipment is meant to protect the MVFD responder and used to help protect us the citizens. If my house is on fire, do I want an old truck or one that is up to date with all the necessary safety equipment? I want the safety of the responder going in to save my family, my home and they cannot do that without safe and up to date equipment.

It is common sense. Protect the people that protect us. Give them what they need within

reason to make sure everyone comes home safely at the end of the day.

Sincerely,  
Judy Kelly – Marlborough

**Senior Center Groundbreaking**

To the Editor:

On April 21, our Colchester Community came together to celebrate the groundbreaking of our new Senior Center (SC). What an incredible event and milestone.

This is a project that is near and dear to my heart. When I first got on the BOS, I became the liaison to the Commission on Aging. This began my long journey into advocating for seniors and a new senior center.

Our community achieved this SC project together – so many people who understood the importance of this project to Colchester, so many committees, so many reports, so many

years before we began to make progress – the Friends of the New SC (2007), the SC Study Group report (2011), WJMS/Community Center/SC Referendum (2013), the purchase of the present SC (2016), the land purchase (2017), the SC building committee (2019), the bonding referendum (2021) and the state grant for \$2.5M (2021). Thank you to everyone who helped make the groundbreaking happen.

We have an incredible SC Building Committee led by Chairman Tony Tarnowski. To finish this project successfully we need to approve an additional appropriation of \$1.5M brought on by the pandemic, inflation, and escalating costs.

Once approved, a referendum for an additional appropriation of \$1.5M will allow us to use the \$575,000 Bendas Gift and a \$32,691 state SC ARPA grant. That leaves up to \$892,309 to be funded by bonding. In addition, the SCBC applied for a Federal Grant of \$1.5M that might

negate the impact, but referendum approval is required to use any of these funds.

Barry Bernabe, Colchester's financial advisor, stated the "incremental impact of issuing bonds solely for the SC is zero" and the SC debt service won't "impact the current mill rate in any year."

Working together we can get this done for our seniors and our community.

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

**Barn Swallows are Back**

To the Editor:

The Barn Swallows are back again. Every spring around mid-April they make their grand appearance. I hear them first. Warbling in glee as they home in on the open barn doors. Flying circles, swooping and diving, they proclaim the barn as their barn, the intended place to raise their young. Then in they fly and go right to the nest they claim as theirs. I find it amazing that this graceful aerobic bird can depart from Central America and arrive here. Right here.

There is no bickering over the nests built years ago. They seem to know which is theirs. Once it is claimed they go to work patching up its winter hardened and brittle structure with mud. Flown in beak full by beak full, they repair the chinking and often add horse hair to the mix for strength and continuity. As the pairs work, they chatter back and forth in gleeful song.

Every year I wonder how the feat is accomplished by these amazing birds. I'm certain there are answers to my wonderment and query but the mystery of this yearly phenomenon keeps me amazed and in awe. I could Google it and get an answer. But that may ruin my level curiosity and make this display of nature more a scientific process and one with less wonderment and mystery.

Yes, the Barn Swallows are back and with the barn doors swung open and wide they come back into my life after a winter of silence and greet the day with warbling and the sense of a new beginning.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

**Senior Center Groundbreaking Ceremony**

To the Editor:

As attendees at Friday's 04/21/23 Senior Center Groundbreaking Ceremony, we were proud and excited to have witnessed this long-awaited occasion. And what a glorious day it was for seniors and our town! Immediately following the groundbreaking, attendees proceeded into Town Hall where the ceremonial event continued. What a treat to hear the voices of the Colchester Senior Center "Senior Serenaders" who performed their delightful song with witty lyrics honoring our new senior center. Way to go ladies!

State and local officials, Senior Center representatives, members of the Senior Center Building Committee, the Commission on Aging, and representatives of the engineering and construction companies, came out to celebrate with us. During that time we noted that all, but one, of the keynote speakers' speeches were cheerful, upbeat, and non-partisan in nature commemorating this wonderful and joyous occasion.

Yet when it came to First Selectman Bisbikos' turn to give his speech he, in true "Debbie Downer" fashion, turned it into a politically-motivated and self-centered commentary rehashing the lawsuit concerning the injunction filed against the town regarding the Senior Center (a lawsuit initiated by two of his fellow Republicans, causing further discord within his party and angst among the townspeople). That portion of his "I was the victim" speech managed to garner some gasps and groans from attendees, as if to say that portion of his speech was fully unsuitable for the occasion.

Once again Bisbikos' overly inflated ego of self-centered pity and paranoia of being victimized was evident in that portion of his speech. Perhaps his role at the ceremony should've been

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limited to being a participant in the groundbreaking only (he loves being in photo ops), and to spare the rest of us from having to listen to his self-centered pity-party speech.

**Tricia Heldmann – Colchester**

**Hebron Budget: Vote No**

To the Editor:  
I am voting 'no' on this budget for the following reasons:  
The BOS have slipped in a \$245,000 charge for a study to be done for the proposed DPW site on Kinney Road. I oppose for several reasons:

1- We already have completed a study to fix the present site. It was completed in 2016 and our BOS have failed to act on it. So why are we wasting taxpayer money yet again? And it is a significantly less expensive solution.

2- If we do place the DPW on this site the town is entirely responsible for any pollution including remediation. "The town will remain responsible for addressing any unacceptable water quality impacts."- DEEP letter dated 11/29/22. You are betting the financial future of Hebron with this one and I am completely uncomfortable with it.

3- Building an industrial site in the middle of a residential area is not intelligent. Lowers the property value of the surrounding homes so my question is, how is the Town of Hebron going to re-imburse them if this comes to pass.

And a note to BOS: You were elected by the people and to represent the people. You are not doing that on this project. Leave your egos at the door and perform your job. And really, slipping this \$245,000 into the budget without clearly stating your intent is nothing short of unethical.

**Davis Howell – Hebron**

**Ignorance is Dangerous**

To the Editor:  
It's easy for the Board of Finance to cut \$792k from education, then throw their hands up and say "We're not choosing to cut teachers! That's not up to us!" and walk away. It's easy for them to say the Board of Ed wasn't "transparent" even though three budget books, including line-by-line items, were distributed months ago. It's easy to say "The last teacher to enter the district makes the least amount of money" when you fail to realize that teachers have to be hired and paid based on their experience, not simply based on being a first-year teacher in *this* district. It's easy to say we should cut "custodial and administrative assistant staff" until there's no

one left to maintain the buildings, and no one left to answer parent phone calls or schedule IEP sessions.

It's easy to say "BOE should share the youth and family services van," except that would be against the law. It's easy to say "cut extracurricular programs, maybe sports" until juvenile crime skyrockets because kids aren't given an outlet outside of school. It's easy to ask why teachers "aren't doing their job" when you haven't stepped foot inside a classroom. It's easy to cut this much from education, but not specify where the funds should come from. Why wasn't the location of cuts specified? Because there's not a place where these funds wouldn't directly impact the children and families of East Hampton.

Parents: Remember this in November.  
**Christina Tammaro-Dzagan – East Hampton**  
*Note: Tammaro-Dzagan is chair of the East Hampton Board of Education but said she is speaking as a parent.*

**Breaking Ground**

Dear Colchester Residents:  
Last Friday, I attended the groundbreaking of the new Colchester Senior Center. It was exciting to see a shovel in the ground after so many years, but it would still be premature to declare mission accomplished.

Since the event, I've been reflecting on comments made by former state representative Brian Smith, who spoke at the groundbreaking. Brian discussed the long road to this point and the culmination of work by multiple administrations and generations of volunteers and advocates. This was an intergenerational effort that will have an intergenerational impact for seniors today and into Colchester's future.

Getting here took persistence and planning. It would be a shame to falter at the last minute because we stopped planning and chose to roll the dice instead. Unfortunately, the plain truth is that right now this project's future is still filled with uncertainty due to its budget. Since December, I have been calling for a referendum that would give the Building Committee clear direction on how to proceed and prevent further costly legal battles. The first selectman and Board of Finance's decision to delay any discussion on this until after construction begins is a dangerous gamble.

In my day job, I have worked as a liaison for my office on a multimillion-dollar municipal construction project. When we faced financial uncertainty, it was addressed before construc-

tion started. It is unfair to ask a committee of volunteers to manage a construction project with a question mark for a budget. The Building Committee has asked repeatedly for direction. They deserve an answer.

I am looking forward to seeing a ribbon cutting for the new Colchester Senior Center sometime next year, but first we need a plan – and budget – that gets us there.

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

**General Michael Flynn**

To the Editor:  
"Michael Flynn is Q of QANON. Flynn was under a gag order, so he started Q to speak for him. Q began a month after Flynn started his legal defense fund. Q ended a week after Mike Flynn got his pardon from Donald Trump." – Jim Stewartson

"He [Flynn] was fired from his last command because he was a virulent Islamophobe, extreme Evangelical, and misogynist who wanted women employees to dress like Amish. I've never in my military career and after met someone who was happy working for Flynn. He was a toxic leader." – Fred Wellman, Army combat veteran, On Democracy Podcast.

Mike Flynn is currently selling a book called "Citizens Guide to Fifth Generation Warfare" which is a how-to-psyops manual which has a chapter called "How to Make People Kill People." He puts it into four steps:

1. Polarization: the act of dividing people or opinions, into two completely opposing groups. This would be the us vs. them rhetoric as well as the false replacement theory.
2. Tribalization: the act of making or becoming a single unit. They combined far right domestic terrorist groups, religious groups, especially the Evangelicals and members of the Republican party. This is the MAGA group.
3. Dehumanization: the act of representing a person or group as less than human. Demonize Democrats, BLM, immigrants, LBGTQ, the

Jewish, etc. Call them all pedophiles and accuse them of atrocities.

4. Killing  
Flynn is one of the most dangerous men in America. He is an expert in radicalization and insurgency. He recruits digital warriors and runs psyops. His Fifth-Generation Warfare will be fully exposed.

**Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough**

**No Unfair Tax Hike**

To the Editor:  
I urge the citizens of Hebron to vote 'no' on Tuesday, May 2, and let the Board of Selectmen know their proposed budget is irresponsible and their priorities are misplaced. As stated by Board of Finance member Mal Leichter at the April 18th BOF meeting, "My support this year is going with the taxpayers... it's a 2.39 mill increase... the least expensive grouping of homes is looking at close to a \$400 a year increase, with really no additional services, after that same group of homes last year saw a \$1,000 increase, that's not fair... we need to find ways to spend less."

The budget proposed by the Selectmen is indeed not fair, among many issues is the choice to fund unnecessary Public Works design plans over education and reasonable taxes.

No on Question No. 1 – This includes an 80% cut to Open Space funding that is unacceptable!

No on Question No. 2 – This is a 24.77% increase and includes \$245,000 for site specific design plans for a new Public Works facility in Hebron Center. The town needs to accept that environmental, historic and economic considerations confirm an upgrade of PW at Old Colchester Road is the only option.

No on Question No. 3 – The Town of Hebron needs to reorganize its priorities and fully fund education, School Resource Officers and balance the 10% increase to RHAM contribution that will continue to climb.

Yes on Question No. 4 – This is a reasonable  
**See Letters, page 8**

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

washing sample plant roots.  
Propagate plants yourself from seeds or cuttings.

Do not share potted plants unless you are certain there are no jumping worms or wash the roots before planting.

Make your own compost.  
Avoid purchasing compost unless the seller can prove that the compost has been heat-treated between 105°F and 131°F (40-55°C) for at least three days and there was no opportunity for trapped worms to flee to cooler areas of a compost pile during treatment.

Avoid purchasing mulch unless similar precautions have been taken.

Pay attention when bringing soil [or leaves] onto property. Worms, particularly juveniles and/or cocoons, can be carried in. [Added note: make sure equipment, tires, and shoes are free of soil before entering or leaving property.]

Do not buy worms for fish bait or vermicomposting unless you are certain there are no jumping worms. Many outlets have com-

posting worm cultures that are contaminated with jumping worms. Do not buy on the internet.

Do not discard unused bait-worms on the ground or in water following fishing.

Do not move dead wood or wood mulch. Worms have been found under the bark of dead trees.

Do not use jumping worms as fish bait in remote natural habitats. They do not stay on the hook and fish don't like them.

Do not dump infested yard waste in natural areas.

Find out more by reading the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Fact Sheets on Jumping Worms online. They can be found by going to [tinyurl.com/4zb2hb53](http://tinyurl.com/4zb2hb53).

And if you want to revisit the *Rivereast's* story from last May on jumping worms, check it out at [glcitizen.com/archives/2022/5-13-22.pdf](http://glcitizen.com/archives/2022/5-13-22.pdf).

\*\*\*

See you next week.



## Better Dental HEALTH

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**BIRTH CONTROL AND ORAL HEALTH**

Whether you are taking birth control for its original intention or for one of the myriad other reasons it is prescribed, you have most likely heard of many of the possible side effects of taking it. But are you aware of the impact birth control can have on your oral health? The fluctuation of hormones, including estrogen and progesterone, can result in problems such as gum disease, which not only causes inflamed, often bleeding gums, but has also been linked to an increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, cancer, and other conditions. Fortunately, most forms of modern birth control have lower levels of problematic hormones in order to reduce such risks.

Our many years of training and experience have made it abundantly clear that the connection between oral health and a patient's overall health is a strong one. We therefore will use the many techniques available in today's dentistry to diagnose, treat, restore, and promote total patient well-being. We offer this column as a way of educating the general public about the benefits of oral health. If we can help, either by answering questions or by providing comprehensive dental care, please call us. State-of-the-art dentistry and a dedicated professional dental team make our office the ideal place to achieve optimum oral health.

*P.S.* Smoking while on birth control results in an increased risk of potential side effects, including those that impact oral health.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC  
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RE4-28-23

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RE 10-16-20



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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

request to maintain the RHAM facility and show support for our students.

Hebron's Board of Selectmen needs to control its spending and restore funding to education and Open Space. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

## Hebron is Worth Saving!!

To the Editor:

Every week I read the *Rivereast* and find the dialog that is written, by those opposing the new DPW facility, states things in such a way that it is very misleading. We are proposing to increase the CIP budget by 24.77%! While that is a correct statement, one can also say the proposed budget is \$10,277 less than the approved 2021-22 budget. Every year there are different items on the CIP budget. A new library roof, dump truck, or fire engine; to replace things that have worn or aged out. This is prudent management. Whether the town rebuilds the DPW at the current Old Colchester Road site, or a new one on Kinney Road, there still needs to be a plan. Plans are not free.

In the 9/16/2022 *Rivereast* issue, John Cole, Hebron DPW employees' trade union representative, stated that there were multiple issues with the existing facility. The quote "I don't want them [the town of Hebron] to build a new building. I want them to fix what they have" was also used out of context. Mr. Cole was not advocating for staying where we are, but rather to fix what is broken. Some things, as the town manager said in the article, can easily be repaired. Retrofitting a very old building to accommodate additional showers, lunchroom, resting area, and a truck lift bay would be a very costly Band-Aid.

I am saddened and find it shameful that statements, like the ones above, are taken out of context to completely change the narrative. Our DPW facility has been outdated for many years. The town knows this and has been working on an upgrade for many years.

Please don't be misled. Read all the information available, form your own opinions!

Sincerely,  
Todd Habicht – Hebron

## Let's Get It Right!

To the Editor:

The board of the Middle Haddam Public Library's current priority is to provide handicapped access to the library and community room (former children's wing) at 2 Knowles Rd. This is a noble pursuit. However, in my view, their plan with a large porch and long arduous access ramp, which would involve significant future maintenance, is not the way forward.

This design is not in the best interest of those who actually need handicapped access to the library. The alternative plan proposed by Crosskey Architects is shorter, less intrusive and goes directly to the library side of the building – with minimal disturbance to the program room. The board's decision no doubt was made after much discussion and effort, but once an alternative was presented to the public at the Middle Haddam Post Office it elicited a variety of community opinions on what is actually the best plan for handicapped access to the building.

The least-intrusive and shortest access proposed by Crosskey is more in line with state and government regulations for handicapped access, and it doesn't dominate the historic integrity of this beautiful building. In light of this, and significant community outcry, the board should reconsider their plan. Let's get it right!

Sincerely,  
Ronald W. McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

## Just Plain Clumsy

To the Editor:

In a rather typical attempt to vilify DJT, Joe Stevens peddled false allegations about Trump's alleged crimes.

Despite his alluding to Trump as a "Nazi sympathizer" and "sexual predator," the glaring contradiction in this outlandish conclusion is that Democrats are actually arming Ukrainian Neo-Nazis and Bill Clinton is still respected.

The difference today is that Democrats believe whatever CNN tells them, whether it's true or not, and project all of their own crimes onto their political opposition...which is one of Saul Alinski's "Rules for Radicals."

And because they don't admit that the Hillary campaign financed the fictitious Steele dossier they still believe the Russian collusion hoax.

And because they still believe Russian collusion, they still consider Trump guilty of obstruction of justice in the Mueller probe despite him never being charged.

And because they still believe that, they're

convinced Trump is guilty of a Ukrainian "quid pro quo" despite video of Biden bragging about withholding \$1 billion in loans to Ukraine until the prosecutor who just happened to be investigating his families business dealings was fired.

Because Democrats refuse to recognize this, they support funding a proxy war with Russia that involves arming Neo-Nazis and killing Russian sympathetic citizens.

And because this Democrats KNOW Trump's evil/guilty despite never being found guilty during two impeachment proceedings.

And because Trump's guilty without conviction, it's easy to believe a selectively edited conversation about "stealing votes" in Gerogia.

And because Democrats believe anything CNN/*NY Times* says, our actual reality is being corroded and they are now celebrating political prosecutions.

The truth is that both political parties are morally bankrupt, hypocritical, and soaked in grievance (whatever that means?).

They never care about the actual working class/poor, but only their megadonors and securing funding for their next reelection. The only thing both political parties actually do care about is maintaining control over an increasingly disillusioned and questioning population.... no matter the cost.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

## Colchester Special Education

To the Editor:

The Colchester School System Special Needs Program does not work for my daughter. During COVID-19 in the fall of 2020, I began homeschooling my daughter who has a diagnosis of autism, OCD, and social anxiety. I homeschooled her for two years. At home, I was teaching her both academic courses and living skills.

After making extensive progress at home, I decided to enroll her back into high school so that she could enjoy the social aspects of being with her peers again and to graduate with the classmates that she grew up with since kindergarten. Because I was unaware that the home-school website needed to be accredited for Bacon Academy to accept any of her credits, my daughter was put back two grades, from grade 12 to grade 10. She is now saddened by the fact that she is being left behind this year for the graduation commencement in June.

The Special Needs curriculum is comprised of only Basic Living Skills, so my 18-year-old daughter is bored in school. Along with being bored, it is also upsetting for her to have to start classes in the fall with new students, understandably considering her diagnosis. For these reasons, she has made the decision to not go back to Bacon Academy.

Just a word of advice: If parents begin homeschooling their children, it is best to continue doing so, unless an accredited transcript can be provided. Awareness of educational laws and the protocols of public schools here in Connecticut is a must. When it comes to re-enrolling your child after homeschooling, there are consequences of the high school having complete jurisdiction over handling course credits.

Moving On, Donna Bigalbal – Colchester

## Rivereast Trumpists

To the Editor:

The world must be spinning out of control for Rivereast Trumpists. Peter Kushkowski, Sam Prentice, Don Denley, Colin McNamara, Ed Kozlowski, Michael Chotkowski and Peter Allatin are now at a loss where to go for their ready-made opinions. Fox News, their main source, just lost \$787.5 million to Dominion and could possibly lose billions more to Semantic once that lawsuit settles. Fox is now a proven propaganda tool of billionaire Rupert Murdoch. He keeps his under-informed dupes perpetually angry at the progressive Democratic policies that would actually help them in their lives, allowing Murdoch and other billionaires to keep their taxes and hoard evermore wealth.

Now that their Fox spirit-guide Tucker Carlson has been sent packing, not so much for his lies but for his exposed emails that disparaged Murdoch, where will his minions go? Probably not to the BBC, *NY Times*, AP, CNN, ABC, CBS, MNBC etc. that are known to them as the "Biden-biased media," having won multiple journalistic awards for excellence. No – likely they will rely on OAN and Newsmax, who along with Fox News never won a single prestigious journalism award.

That way they won't have to learn about MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell being stuck paying \$5 million for his election denial lies. They won't have to learn about all the Proud Boys and Capitol rioters being given jail terms for their attack upon our country. They won't be reminded of SCOTUS justice Clarence Thomas's immoral-

ity, raking in millions of dollars of perks from conservative billionaires, selling his soul and jurisprudence for wealth and being able to rub elbows with the real 'deep-state' clandestine actors working behind the scenes to keep our Trumpists in denial of demonstrable truths.

Bring on Biden vs. Trump for the 2024 election. Trump's bleating sheep daily grow fewer in number.

Edmund Smith – Andover

## I Found the Answers

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter from Danny Larson last week asking to learn facts and not rely on rumors, signs or letters to the editor. I went to the town's website and at the top of the page was a link to information on the DPW project. I found the answers to my questions. The site is on lot 59 of the Village Square Zoning District. The lot is 88.62 acres. According to zoning regulations last approved in 2018 the type of development allowed on this site include a long list of commercial development including such thing as bars and restaurants, light manufacturing, retail shopping and government buildings. The site is planned for two driveways; one on John E Horton Blvd and one on Kinney Road. The nearest houses on Kinney Road are about a quarter of a mile from the nearest building. Google Earth shows the area between the project's buildings and the nearest houses is heavily wooded. Depending on final landscaping the project will not be visible from Kinney Rd.

Based on what I know now, I would vote go ahead with the project. I urge everyone to go to the town website, do your own research before you are asked to vote. One last note: the suggestion I made a few weeks ago about building next to Company 2 firehouse would not work. Most of the area is an upland wetlands area and development is prohibited.

Louis Palshaw – Amston

## Supports RHAM Budget

To the Editor:

As an educator and longtime member of the community, I understand the importance of investing in education while considering the pocketbook of taxpayers. As such, I am writing to express my support for the proposed 2023-24 Region 8 (RHAM) budget.

Currently, many school districts and municipalities are responding to inflation and increased student needs with 4-10% increases in the bottom line. The RHAM Board of Education has kept taxpayers in mind with a modest 2.85% increase, which is both prudent and responsible. The need for this slight increase arises primarily from inflation costs and pre-negotiated contracts. Passing this budget will ensure that our schools continue to excel, while maintaining current programming. This budget does not replace previously eliminated jobs like the literacy support teachers in the middle school or the full-time library media specialist, a position irresponsibly cut in 2018, the impact of which is still felt in both schools.

Our schools are the backbone of our towns and a significant reason people come to our communities to live and raise families. This presence of new families lets us enjoy a vibrant community, as well as healthy property values in the short and long term. And, though we would all like to see no increase at all, the RHAM schools have continued to run with fewer resources than most regional and municipal school districts. Further cuts may mean that current programs and courses will not be maintained.

I strongly urge you to support the proposed budget for Regional School District 8, RHAM middle and high school. Regardless of where you stand on municipal budgets, please vote yes for the RHAM budget. It is responsible, necessary, modest, and an important investment in the future of our children and our community.

Mary Rose Meade – Amston

## Vote No on Hebron Budget

To the Editor:

On May 2, Hebron has its first chance to vote against the proposal to build a \$20M+ public works facility in the town center. The town intends to follow this project with construction of a police station, fire station and town hall. They want to use the public works project as a "driver" (BOS minutes, 5/18/2017) to create a grandiose "Municipal Complex." All told, these projects will cost north of \$50M (my estimate, pre-inflation).

Central to this proposal besides its stupidity and its utter lack of sense is the harm it will bring to every Hebron citizen. First, who puts a PW facility in the town center? Virtually no one. It will ruin 55 acres of town-owned land that has better uses. Second, there is no reason for a pa-

lial "state-of-the-art" facility to be "envied by other towns." A much cheaper, updated facility can be constructed at the current Old Colchester site. Most importantly, these unneeded projects will create an urban environment that will fundamentally change Hebron.

Town officials have conceded that they probably don't have the votes for the PW project.

Instead, they have hired a public-relations firm. That's right, town officials are using our taxes, not for needed tasks, but to lobby us for a project that we don't want and don't need. Instead of free and fair elections, they want to use an easy-to-manipulate public survey to gauge our preferences (and presumably the preference of any person or cat with a laptop).

The town budget CIP proposes a 25 percent increase in spending that includes a \$245K work plan for the new \$20M+ PW facility. Let's nip these projects in the bud. Stop the work plan and stop a generation of tax increases. Vote no on the town budget/CIP!

John Collins – Amston

## Cryptic Perception of Morality

To the Editor:

Clearly, progressive liberals have a very cryptic perception of morality. And, as a "clumsy apologist" for Donald Trump, I admit to confusion trying to understand the convolutions, contortions, and factual omissions the Toilet Paper Mafia tries to pass off as sentient and reasonable thought. The fact that Joe Stevens believes Democrats hold their elected officials "accountable" is only the tip of a very large iceberg, and the rest of us are on the Titanic. It is a combination of unscrupulous fiction and audacity. But not surprising...

Democrats are gasping over alleged "campaign finance reform" for payments to a porn star? \$130K seems paltry to get upset about. That's less than a Hunter Biden painting. And lascivious behavior is news to Democrats? Democrats? C'mon, Joe! Ever hear of Bill Clinton, Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose? In fact, George Santos would make the perfect Democrat. What Joe won't admit, and doesn't like to hear, is that Democrats are fearfully desperate to stop Donald Trump. Very desperate. So much so, they'll do anything. Unfortunately, Democrats, and some Republicans, envision a gravy train derailment if he gets elected again. Can't have that...

"Morally destitute" is the fabrication of a Russian collusion story. "Morally destitute" is the Clinton campaign hyping the *Access Hollywood* tape. A Clinton? How ironic is that? "Morally destitute" is the FBI stifling Hunter's laptop and producing a bogus document signed by 50+ law enforcement personnel saying it was Russian disinformation. "Morally destitute" is financing a pointless war in a country with nefarious business ties to the U.S. president's son. "Morally destitute" is financing your family with money from foreign governments as a sitting member of the U.S. Congress. And "morally destitute" is a five-year IRS investigation into Hunter Biden that has gone nowhere despite evidence of felony crimes.

Happy trails, Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

## Earth Day Clean-Up

To the Editor:

Earth Day, April 22, was celebrated in Andover by many volunteers helping clean up our beautiful town. Volunteers included:

Mike Palazzi, chairman of the Conservation Commission; Senior Coordinator Cathy Palazzi; Mike Burke, president of ALPOA; Bill Penn, Boy Scout leader; representing our library, Cathy Desrosiers.

We are thankful to Alexa Burke, Andrea Gaines, Hugh Blumenfeld, Abby, Linda Chambers, Lenny Weir, Bill Penn, his Boy Scouts, Mike, Susan, Nicholas and Benjamin Slater and their relatives from Manchester, who cleaned the Rail of Trails and it is looking great for those who enjoy using it. Thank you to Debbie Bolduc, Nikki Eberly, Ellen Repay, Kayla Kress, Scarlet and Delilah Beaulieu, Sean Barrett, Trooper Sebastian Nesci – Troop K, Michelle Lorentz and her wonderful Pack 124 Cub Scouts, Sage and Hudson Lorentz, Logan and Hunter Parvenski-Newman, Ellone Elias, Andrea Biel, and Sharon Shevchenko.

Between trash and bottles we had 51 bags! It would be great when people were walking if they took a bag with them and picked up any litter they see. Our town would stay clean every day!

All recyclables were donated to our C.A.R.T. program. It was an extremely windy day but everyone had a smile and did an excellent job! A very special thank you to our town clerk, Carol Lee who purchased all the supplies for us to use. Carol gives of her own free time to help so many in our town. Thank you everyone!! If any name has been omitted, please forgive us – everyone is of importance to us!

Sincerely,  
Cathy and Mike Palazzi – Andover







# 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).



**Hitting the Beach...** Jose and Lynne Henriquez of Portland vacationed in February at the beaches in the Turks and Caicos Islands!



**Fire Academy Visit...** Colchester firefighters attended CT Officers' Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md., from March 24-26 – and of course, they brought along the *Rivereast*!



**Reunion in Florida...** East Hampton residents Sandy Wirth and LuAnn Dinihanian recently met up with longtime friends Debbie Hallenbake and Jill Aspinwall in Tampa, Fla. It was a fantastic reunion!



**Visiting Japan...** Sachiyo Langlois of Marlborough is at Kumamoto Castle during her family visit in Japan – right on time for cherry blossoms!

## Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?  
Bring along the *Bulletin*!**

Submit your travel photo holding the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, and you will win a \$25 Gift Card to Campagna Restaurant if your photo is one the four entries selected!

**To enter, email your photo and address to: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)**

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# Highlanders Baseball Hopes for Strong Second Half

By Josh Howard

Portland High School's baseball team has dropped nine of its first 10 games this spring.

But if last season is any indication, there is reason for optimism.

One of the latest losses was a 9-2 defeat to the Bellrings in East Hampton on April 20, marking the team's sixth straight loss.

The Shoreline Conference (SLC) rivals battled to a draw through the first three innings before the Bellrings pulled away with a five-run fifth inning.

"East Hampton got some big hits and we didn't," Portland head coach Rick Borg said following the seven-run defeat.

Returning all-conference senior Harrison Collins scored both of Portland's runs in the loss, scoring once in the first and again in the third inning following a sacrifice fly from Allen Cohen to tie the score at 2-2.

Collins is captaining the team with Spencer Rosado and Austin Vess. The captains are three of the team's five seniors that are helping Borg navigate the rocky start.

Borg said his field generals bring a lot of experience and are setting a standard for a lineup featuring several young players.

"We have needed them; they lead by example," added Borg. "We'll keep plugging away and see what happens."

Borg and his boys only have to look back to last spring to find a silver lining.

A year ago, the Highlanders lost nine straight games to start the season before rebounding to win three games down the stretch.

The highlight of last season was a 2-0 upset victory over a tourney-bound East Hampton team at Dunkin' Donuts Park late in the regular

season. In the team's earlier meeting last spring, the Bellrings won by 14 runs.

This year's Highlanders are hoping for a similar turnaround and have also shown promise at times on the diamond, evidenced by an 8-4 win over Old Saybrook in the second game of the season.

In the home-opening win over the Rams of Old Saybrook, Collins and Ryan LaPila each had multiple hits and scored two runs apiece. Rosado, the team's ace, earned the win on the mound, striking out six in five innings of work and also scored twice from the plate.

Freshman Aaron Ciarleglio also scored his first two high school runs in the early-season win.

Ciarleglio and fellow freshman Ethan Wells are two first-year players that are filling important roles for the Highlanders this spring.

Borg said his freshmen have played well under the circumstances, adding, "We've had some freshmen growing pains, but they will benefit from those growing pains down the road."

Borg added that the team has the "ability to win more games" down the stretch and is hoping that April's losses bring May victories.

"Our bats have been good, better than I expected," Borg said of the team's performance through the first 10 games. "We're struggling defensively and we're without pitching depth, but we're getting a little better each day."

Next is a home date with Cromwell this Friday, April 28, at Portland High School. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Portland will host the Bellrings later in the season, aiming for a similar result to last year, on Wednesday, May 17, at 4 p.m.



Portland's senior first baseman Ethan Krasniewski and East Hampton senior shortstop Gavin Santillo during the Bellrings 9-2 win on April 20.

## 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 in 2011.

Show car entry fee is \$10. 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 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."

## Final Days to Register for Tag Sales

The Portland Historical Society's 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day will be on Saturday, May 13 - and all registrations must be received (even if mailed at post office) by Monday, April 30.

Fee to register is \$25. To register online, visit [www.portlandhistsoc.org](http://www.portlandhistsoc.org) and click on the big yellow banner. Registration sheets were also included in the society's March newsletter and are also available in the barrel on the front steps of the Ruth Callander 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, and received by April 30.

The sign-up period will then close to allow time for preparation and printing of the map

prior to the May 13 sales. Portland residents who sign up will be assigned a spot on the society's official Tag Sale Map issued for that day listing the sale locations and types of items featured at each one. Each registered tag sale will be marked with a numbered pole sign corresponding to sale locations on the map.

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.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day is a major fundraiser for the Museum. For more information, call 860-982-1486 or email [portlandcthistory@gmail.com](mailto:portlandcthistory@gmail.com).

## 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).

**Intro to Dungeons & Dragons:** Wednesdays, May 3 and 10, 5-7:30 p.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. Learn to play this roleplaying game with folks from The Battle Standard in East Windsor. The classes are currently full; contact Revicki for a waitlist.

**Little Hikers:** Friday, May 5, 10:30 a.m., at the Portland Air Line Trail, Middle Haddam

Road parking lot.

**After School Drop-In & Draw:** Tuesday, May 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at BFCC.

**Youth & Parent LGBTQ+ Support-Style Groups:** Wednesday, May 17, 6-8 p.m.

**Drop-In & Draw Arts & Crafts:** Friday, May 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Youth Services Advisory Board:** Tuesday, May 23, from 4:30-6 p.m.

**Power Up Portland:** Wednesday, May 24, 6:30-8 p.m.

**Juneteenth Celebration:** Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Save the date! There will be speakers, food truck, art, games, entertainment.

**Summer Kick-Off:** Monday, June 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Save the date! There will be a mobile petting zoo, ice cream and more.

## 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.

MHVC will also 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.

## Pet Parade!

All are invited to dress their pet in their finest outfit or Kentucky Derby-style hat and join the Democratic Town Committee for a pet parade Saturday, May 6, on the Portland Town Green (in front of the senior center).

Registration is from 9-10 a.m., and the parade kicks off at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 per pet, with a \$10 max per family. There will be prizes for all pets!

## Horseshoe League Seeks New Members

The Portland Horseshoe League is looking for new players of all abilities to participate for the 2023 season, which will start in late May (date to be determined).

Folks from surrounding towns are welcome also. Games take place at the horseshoe pits in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill in Portland. The league meets from 5:45 to 8 p.m., and league leaders are currently deciding on the best day of the week to throw.

Email Andy Bauer at [AndyTBauer@gmail.com](mailto:AndyTBauer@gmail.com) if interested and let him know what days work for her. Portland Horseshoes is an alcohol-free activity.

## National Day of Prayer

St. Mary Church, along with the Knights of Columbus Council 7, will host a National Day of Prayer ecumenical service on Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m., at the church, 45 Freestone Avenue.

The service will feature prayer and song from the choir of St. Mary, as well as guest speaker Alyssa Martin. She is the community outreach and education coordinator for New Horizons Domestic Violence Services in Middletown.

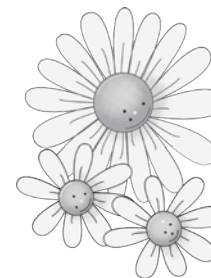
On the night of the service, a goodwill collection will be held in support of New Horizons Domestic Violence Services. At the conclusion of the service, refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall.

## Zion Lutheran Church News

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

A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at [zionlutheran-portland.org](http://zionlutheran-portland.org).

All are welcome. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email [zion.lutheran@snet.net](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net), or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org). Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.



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# Zoning Looks at Water Access, More Riverfront Business

By Jack Lakowsky

The closing of a popular Haddam restaurant sparked some aspirational conversation among the Portland Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Blue Oar, a popular American-fare restaurant that had been right on the Connecticut River, recently shuttered suddenly.

"After 26 years since opening the Blue Oar, it is with a heavy heart and careful consideration we've decided to close. There are many reasons for making this decision, most are out of our control," was the message posted to the business's Facebook page.

Though saddened by the news, Portland zoning commissioner Victoria Tchetchet said there are now only 2 or 3 restaurants along the Connecticut River, none of them in Portland.

With the closing of the Blue Oar, the zoning commission wants to look into how to advance the town's effort to bring more business to the riverfront, namely in the area of Brownstone Park.

Attracting businesses, particularly high-traffic ones like restaurants, has been a challenge. Tchetchet said the town may have more success looking at businesses that need little infrastructure - i.e., food trucks. In recent years food truck parks have popped up frequently, like the large one on the wharf in New Haven.

"It would be a really fantastic thing near the attractions we already have in the area," like Brownstone Park, Tchetchet said. She said canoers and kayakers could pull up to a dock and

get something to eat, boosting local spending and attracting day-trippers. She said she's had talks with a food truck village in West Hartford, and some of the people there said they'd be interested in coming to Portland.

Commissioner Chantal Foster enthusiastically embraced the idea, calling it a "great fit" for the town.

Portland Town Planner Dan Bourett said it wouldn't be hard to get the area ready for food trucks, just some restrooms and a trash area, all of it minor. The commission does have a balance to strike, avoiding spot zoning while not opening up the whole riverfront zone to development.

Zoning board chair Bob Ellsworth said the effort could be synergistic with the town's effort to open up water access along Portland's shore. He also said the spot could, potentially, work as a new, less flood prone location for the Portland Fair.

Among the many towns along the Connecticut River, Portland is distinguished; it likely has the most riverfront land of any town in Connecticut.

Despite this stretch of waterside land, there is no public access residents can use to enjoy a prominent town feature, nowhere to conveniently launch a kayak or canoe.

In its March 22, 2022, meeting the town's Board of Selectmen unanimously approved an easement allowing public access through the Birdon property on Airline Avenue.

For some time, the town negotiated with the company to allow for public access to property the town already owns, going back years.

"This will eventually allow public access to town property along the riverfront," First Selectman Ryan Curley told the select board at the time. "We can have a road connecting to town property [and we can] use this for a potential boat launch."

Curley said a boat launch wouldn't be for motorized watercraft, but canoes and kayaks. He estimates about 20 cars will be able to park there.

"This has been a goal of the board for many years," said Curley.

Next step: construct a road and clear the space of overgrowth. This will take time and money.

The town has a \$4,000 grant for this work from the Rockfall Foundation, but this won't

cover the whole price, Curley said.

Also, Curley told the *RiverEast* on Wednesday, the town got from the state bond commission a sizable \$300,000 to push the project forward. Eager as Curley and the town's riverfront access committee are, there's little they can do right now, the first selectman said. The town's waiting on approvals and information from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), a process that's taking many months, Curley said.

"It's been slow going, but we're making progress," he said. Portland has not ever, he said, had public riverfront access. He said the Riverfront Committee, and himself, are ready to go and find a suitable launch spot/entrance as soon as the state stamps its approval.

"Once we can move, we move," Curley said.

## 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.

On April 30, the church will not hold worship. Rather, members and friends will venture into the community of Portland to offer friendship and assistance to those in need. The program is titled, "God's Work, Our Hands." It begins in the church hall at 9:30 a.m. with a prayer before heading out into the community. The workers will return to the church hall for lunch and fellowship following their

scheduled work.

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

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

## 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 Portland United Methodist Crafters will meet alternate Fridays beginning May 5, at 2 p.m., at the Pastor's Residence. Anyone who would like to join us is invited to call 518-729-8215.

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.

## Foodshare Truck

The Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave., every other Monday from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays. People do not have to be a Portland resident to attend. Please bring bags.

The next Foodshare visit will be Monday, May 8, at 1 p.m.

## Police News

4/15: Daniel Maselek, 23, of 17 Carousel Drive, was charged with reckless driving, Portland Police said.

4/20: Bruce Vaughan, 58, of Cromwell, was charged with first-degree robbery, sixth-degree larceny and second-degree threatening, police said.

## Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Facility, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton.

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 to learn more.

## Portland Library Retirement Celebration

The Portland Library Board of Directors and the Friends of the Portland Library invite community members to celebrate Library Director Janet Nocek as she retires after 20 years.

The celebration will take place in Portland Library's Mary Flood Room on Thursday, May 4, from 4-6 p.m., with a brief program at 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

People are welcome to drop in anytime. The library is located at 20 Freestone Ave.

## 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.

**Next Week's Programs: Monday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; Syncocize II Dance Fitness, 10:30 a.m.; Blood Pressure Clinic, 10:30 a.m. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. - making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, call 860-342-0809; Watercolor Lessons, 9:30 a.m.-noon - to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m.; Walking Club with Lynn, 3:30 p.m.; Beginning Dulcimer, 5 p.m.; Progressive Dulcimer, 6 p.m. **Wednesday:** 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. **Thursday:** Tone & Stretch with Lynn, 9:30 a.m.; 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 Duclos of "All Ears" in Portland. No registration is necessary.

**Medical Rides:** The center provides seniors and disabled with rides to the doctor. Cost is \$5/person round trip. Two-week notice requested. Masks required.

**Cans-4-A-Cause:** Drop off washed cans and bottles in a bin in the rear parking lot of the center. For details or to volunteer, email Jeff Myjak at myjakjeff@gmail.com.

**Volunteer Drivers Sought for Meals-on-Wheels:** The senior center is currently recruiting volunteer drivers to help deliver meals to the homebound Monday-Thursday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Alexis at 860-342-6761.



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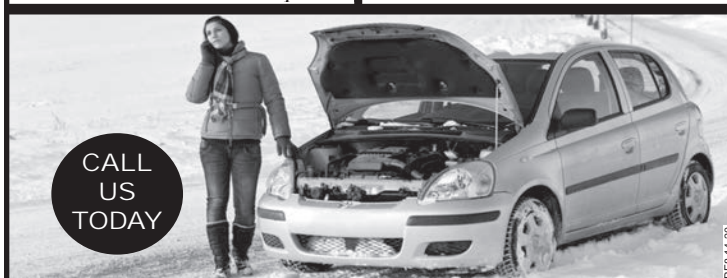
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### Historical Society Accepting Tag Sale Donations Saturday

The Portland Historical Society's Town-Wide Tag Sales 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 this Saturday, April 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.

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

### 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).

**Community Garden:** Portland residents are invited to purchase a 10x10 plot in the community garden located Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road. Cost is \$30 per plot.

**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.

**Yin Yoga:** Tuesdays, May 2-30, 6-7 p.m., at Riverfront Park. Poses target connective tissues of the hips, pelvis and lower spine. Cost is \$70/

residents, \$80/non-residents.

**Juniors Golf Workshops:** Tuesdays, May 9-30, for grades 3-8, at Portland West. Times vary by grade level. This workshop will acquaint participants with golf. Cost is \$95/residents, \$105/non-residents.

**Tai Chi for Long Life:** Wednesdays or Saturdays, May 10-July 1, 9:30-10:15 a.m. or 10:30-11:15 a.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Cost is \$40 for this eight-week class.

**Summer Quest Camp:** Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the Portland high/middle school complex. Week one begins June 26 and week seven ends Aug. 11. Base Camp is for grades 1-6, and Teen Camp is for grades 7-9. Teen campers will go on an average of two field trips per week. Cost for the camps varies by week.

### Absentee Ballots for Budget Referendum

The Portland town clerk's office is now issuing absentee ballots for the May 8 budget referendum. Registered voters and taxpayers can obtain an application in person at the town clerk's office at Town Hall, by calling 860-342-6743, or visiting the town clerk's page on the town website to download the application.

Any applications or completed absentee ballots should be: mailed back to the town clerk's

office at: P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480; brought to the town clerk's office in person, or left in the election drop box located by the rear entrance of Town Hall. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 8 p.m. May 8 in order to be counted.

Portland residents can also obtain a voter registration card at the town clerk's office.

### 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.

**Save the Date - Read and Recycle:** Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m.-noon. The Friends will collect gently used, books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles. Donations support library activities.

**Youth Programs: Nutmeg Voting:** Runs at the library through April 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.

**Spring Storytimes:** The schedule is: Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. through May 23.; Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose, Wednesdays at 10:15 or 11:15 a.m. through May 24.

**Ancient Egyptian Adventure:** Thursdays, May 4 and 11, 3:30 p.m., for grades K-5. Decode secret messages written in hieroglyphics, learn about mummies and make some of your own, and take part in a forensic investigation to see whether King Tut was murdered. Space is limited.

**Lock In for Literacy: Welcome to Camp Half Blood!** Friday, May 19, 6-8 p.m., for grades 4-6. This special after-hours activity night based on

### Free Concert for Police Union

As part of his "New Blood and Hungry Tour," local rocker Tony Rome will put on a free show to benefit the Portland Police Union on Saturday, May 6, at 2 p.m., at Concentric Brewing, 91 Main St. Rain date is Sunday, May 7.

While the show is free, donations will benefit the police union. Donations can be sent to Sgt. Scott Cunningham, Portland Police Department, 265 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

## Police Warn of Work-From-Home Scam

By Jack Lakowsky

This week, Portland Police issued an important warning.

"There is a scam the Portland Police Department would like people to be aware of being perpetrated on Facebook," the department wrote in a statement.

The scam is a work-from-home data entry/clerical position that promises to pay off the applicant's credit cards and hire them for \$20 an hour.

"This is not a real job opportunity," police stressed.

"The scammers are asking people for credit card information, stating they would pay off your credit cards; in return, they're asking for people to purchase gift cards," police said. "They are asking for personal information and then will use your credit card to open up other accounts using a false identity. Please be aware of all scams and look for red flags."

The Better Business Bureau of Connecticut has some tips for protecting yourself from scams in all the many forms they take. Employment scams, said the BBB, rose sharply during the pandemic.

By researching the job offer, BBB says, you eliminate a lot of risk. Call the company or go directly to its website to verify. You can check on BBB.org, or simply search the name of the employer and "scam."

Also, look closely at email addresses. Do they match the company name? Be alert to Gmail addresses (except [jackl.rivereast@gmail.com](mailto:jackl.rivereast@gmail.com) - that's real!).

Create a separate email address when posting a resume to job boards or applying. This can help detect offers from "employers" you didn't contact.

Finally, a more drastic measure, set up a second bank account when you start a job without meeting your employer.

The BBB provides further tips against scams and identity theft.

If throughout any point in the process you're asked to pay for the promise of a job, it's very likely a scam.

Be very wary of secret shopper positions. Work-from-home jobs that involved receiving and reshipping packages are likely scams. The BBB is not aware of any legitimate job offers that send checks to applicants or ask them to send money to a third party - this is very likely a fake check scam, the bureau said.

Use extreme caution when sharing personal information like address, birthday and any financial info in your resume, especially if you send it to an unverified recruiter or use an online application.

Watch out for vague job descriptions. Even if there's work to be done, it may still be a scam.

Don't respond to calls, texts, emails or any other communication from unknown numbers or suspicious addresses.

Do not click any links in a text message from a number you do not recognize. If a friend sends you a text with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to make sure they weren't hacked.

It is key that victims contact any one of the following agencies: the Better Business Bureau - [BBB.org](http://BBB.org) or [BBB.org/scamtracker](http://BBB.org/scamtracker); the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov) or call 877-FTC-Help; or the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) - [ic3.gov/complaint](http://ic3.gov/complaint).

### 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 not fully vaccinated are asked to wear their masks.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., and there is also 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.

### Honor Society Inductee

Curry College of Milton, Mass., welcomes Portland resident Harrison Deane into the education honor society Pi Lambda Theta.

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**Modern Riffs at Arts Café**

The Modern Riffs ([www.modernriffs.com](http://www.modernriffs.com)), a Marlborough-based classic rock, jazz and pop band, will perform at the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café on Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St. This group is a collaboration of high school musicians and long-time experienced musicians. Current members include three RHAM seniors – singer Caelyn Calhoun, bassist

Miguel Genung, and trumpeter Ben Cancelaro. The others, also from RHAM, are drummer Alexa Odoy, trumpeter Trevor Hooker, baritone saxophonist Finn Blake, and tenor saxophonist Jake Sauer. The two adult mentors are Keith Coakley, keyboards; and Bruce Phelps, alto saxophone.

Admission is \$10/person. Doors open at 7 p.m.

**Congregational Church News & Notes**

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed every Sunday at [mcc.marlbconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlbconchurch.org) and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service.

**April 30:** Worship service will be led by singer and songwriter Steve Pozzato.

**Outreach:** The church supports a variety of mission projects. Second quarter mission-giving will go to AHM Mental Health Fund. The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. The Drive-Thru Café provides a take-away hot meal at the church to Marlborough Food Bank clients on

the last Sunday of every month (except July and August). Once a month the youth groups prepare and serve a meal to residents at Florence Lord Housing. Once in May and November, the church sponsors the evening meal at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.

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

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop:** 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 the Rev. Valerie Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432.

**Senior Center News and Notes**

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information.

**Monday, May 1:** Free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; socialization, 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed spinach, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 2:** Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

**Wednesday, May 3:** Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: cracker crumb haddock/tartar sauce, rosemary potatoes, baby carrots, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 4:** Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m.; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

**Friday, May 5:** Socialization, 8-Ball Pool, Mahjong Playing Cards, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-

on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo! Menu: grape juice, Mexican-seasoned pulled pork/pico de gallo sauce, Spanish-style yellow rice, corn and pepper-blend vegetables, cornbread loaf/tres leches; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

**Transportation:** Available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and non-medical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required. Masks are also required, as well as appropriate distancing.

**Food Bank:** Located at 3 Willhenger Drive (860-295-6008), the food bank is open Tuesdays 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 physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center for a ride.

**Republicans Spring Plant Sale**

The Marlborough Republicans are selling geraniums and hanging plants, which will be ready for pickup on Saturday, May 13, from 9-11 a.m. at the Marlborough Town Hall parking lot. These plants will be available just in time for Mother's Day.

The geraniums will be available in a variety of colors, including red, white, pink and fuchsia at a price of \$7 each. The assorted sun and shade hanging plants will be sold at \$25 each.

Orders can be placed by calling Louise Concodello at 860-295-0201 or Barbara Murray 860-295-0792.

These plants are being supplied by Paul's & Sandy's Garden Center in East Hampton.



The Marlborough Arts Center's Members' Show opened with a reception and awards presentation on April 23. Pictured from left are award winners Joan Bonin, Scott Rhoades, Danny Veilleux, Albert D'Antonio and Martha Lynch. Not present is Michael Atkinson.

**Awards Presented at Opening Reception**

The Marlborough Arts Center's Members' Show opened with a reception and awards presentation on Sunday, April 23.

First place, the Ethel Fowler Memorial award, was presented to Scott Rhoades. Second place, the Robert Wayne Whitehill Memorial Award, went to Michael Atkinson. Third place, the Energy Resources Award, was won by Joan Bonin. Honorable mentions were received by Albert D'Antonio, Martha Lynch, Danny Veilleux and Joan Bonin.

Alicia Meluzzo, an artist from Old Saybrook, judged the show. A graduate with a B.A. in fine art/painting from Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Meluzzo has a studio/gallery in Old Saybrook and she shows in several Connecticut galleries.

The Members' Art Show will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. from April 28 to May 28. Photos of all works on exhibit can be seen at [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org).

**Giant Tag Sale**

This year, the annual spring tag sale at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will be held Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m.-noon.

The Great Hall and several classrooms will be filled with a vast selection of household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics, small

appliances, clothing, furniture, and much more. Shoppers are asked to make a generous donation, as everything is price your own. A bake sale, sponsored by Dorcas Women's Fellowship, will be held outside.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located down the hall from the tag sale, will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Veterans Award Ceremony**

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and the Department of Veterans Affairs are hosting a Veterans Awards Ceremony Monday, May 8, at 4 p.m., in the community room at Marlborough Elementary School, to honor all Marlborough veterans who served during the Korean War or during the Vietnam era.

All residents wishing to join in paying tribute to the local veterans are welcome to attend.

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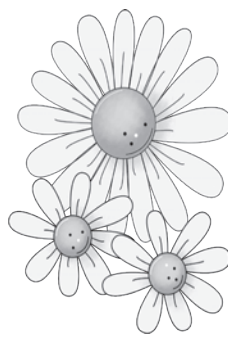
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### Ladies English Tea and Luncheon

There will be a Ladies English Tea and Luncheon, with traditional food served, at Fellowship Evangelical Free Church, 24 South Rd., on Saturday, May 6, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The theme is "A Spring Cleaning for the Heart and Soul." The speaker will be Julie Kieras, mother of two boys, homeschool mom, and author of several books for women and children. She is a former English teacher who helps homeschool families by sharing

resources, encouragement, and motherhood content on her website, happystronghome.com. Her aim is to glorify God by encouraging women to build happy homes on a strong foundation of faith. RSVP by Wednesday, April 26, at fccefree@gmail.com or call 860-295-0844. Ladies ages 13 and up are welcome. There will be gluten-free options.

### Parks and Rec Programs

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

**Special Event: Kids Fishing Derby:** Sunday, May 7, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park, for ages 4-15. Registration is \$10. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish, smallest fish and first fish caught.

**Youth Programs: Kids/Family Sewing - PJ Shorts:** Saturday, May 6, 10-11:30 a.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 8 and up. All supplies 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.

**Lifeguard Certification Course:** Sundays, May 14 and 21, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Camp Hemlocks in Hebron. For ages 15 and up. Participants who successfully complete the course receive an American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED, valid for 2 years. Registration fee is \$350.

**Junior Golf Clinic:** Tuesday, May 16, 4:45-6 p.m., at Minnechaug Golf Course in Glastonbury. Fee: \$40.

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** For ages 5 and up. Lessons are private, an hour in length, and days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

**Adult Program: Zumba:** Thursdays through May 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the conference room at Fire Station No. 2 and virtually. There is a \$10 drop-in fee each week.

**Adult Golf Clinic:** Friday, May 19, 5:30-7

p.m., at Minnechaug Golf Course. Fee: \$40.

**Adult Volleyball:** Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Cost is \$5 per week; drop in. Session runs until June 2.

**Trips: New York Yankees Bus Trip:** Sunday, May 28. See the San Diego Padres vs. New York Yankees, at 1:05 p.m. Trip includes: charter bus, ticket to the game, cookout before the game, games and prizes on the bus. Registration fee: \$120 for upper-level outfield, \$165 for sections 232-234. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 7:30 a.m., and returns at 6 p.m.

**Boston Red Sox vs. New York Yankees Bus Trip:** Saturday, June 10, at 7:35 p.m., at Yankee Stadium. Trip includes: charter bus, ticket to the game, food served on the way to the game, and games and prizes on the bus. Registration fee: \$209. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 3 p.m. and returns at around 1 a.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.

### Scholarship Applications Available

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary is 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.

### Lions Club Ruffling Kayak

The Marlborough Lions are raffling 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. Winners need not be present.

For more information or 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.

### Sewer Bills Due May 1

Homeowners in the Marlborough Sewer District are reminded that the last day to pay their Benefit Assessment Bill, without interest, is Monday, May 1. Late bills will be charged interest at 1.5% a month reverting to the due date of April 1.

The tax office, located at 26 N. Main St., is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Bills can be paid by mail to the Tax Office, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, in person or the lockbox to the left of the Town Hall Door (no cash in the lockbox, checks only). Sewer bills cannot be paid online.

For questions, contact Barbara Murray at 860-295-6205 or taxcollector@marlboroughct.net. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest.

### St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

**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.

**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. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank supplies 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 www.stjohchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

### MES Art Show Coming Soon

The Marlborough Elementary School Student Art Show will be held Tuesday, May 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the school's community room - and student submissions are welcome.

This evening of creativity will showcase artwork from children in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. All students will have at least one piece of art displayed in the show.

All current MES students are invited to submit an additional piece of work created outside of school. To enter an additional piece of work, please complete and return the Art Show entry form by Friday, May 5. (The artwork itself will be collected at a later date.)

For more information, email knd9@comcast.net.

## DOUG'S

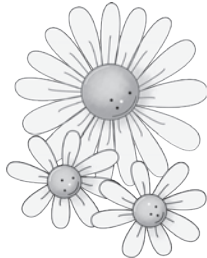
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### MVFD Women's Auxiliary Scholarship Available

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 Monday, May 1.

Mail all completed applications to MVFD Women's Auxiliary, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

### East Catholic Honor Roll

The following local residents made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

#### Honors with Distinction

Christopher Richard, Class of '24; Camden Bevans, '26; Lucy DeCorleto, '26.

#### First Honors

Andrew DeCorleto, '23; Emma Kindl, '23; Luke Veltri, '24; Grace Veltri, '25.

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**National Day of Prayer**

All are invited to celebrate the National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m., on the Colchester Green.

The annual National Day of Prayer is an occasion for all people to gather and pray on behalf of the United States of America. There will be tens of thousands of local prayer gatherings in all 50 states and several U.S. territories.

In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

The 2023 theme invites people to "Pray Fer- vently in Righteousness," and is inspired by James 5:16B. "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Participants will pray for our government, mil- itary, fire department, police department, media, businesses, schools, churches and families. Sev- eral area pastors and lay leaders will guide people in prayer for town, state and country.

For more information, contact Colleen Bjor- bekk, New London County coordinator for the National Day of Prayer, at [bjorbekcol@comcast.net](mailto:bjorbekcol@comcast.net) or 860-537-1609.



**The National Day of Prayer will again be celebrated Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m., on the Colchester Green. All are invited.**

**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](mailto: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](http://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. Chil- dren in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website for more information and to register youth for Sunday School.

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

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

**Upcoming Program at Cragin**

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., will hold a **Dried Flower Bookmarks Craft** Sat- ursday, April 29, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/library](http://www.colchesterct.gov/library) or call 860-537-5752.

**Resident Helps with Lacrosse Win**

Casey Hart of Colchester scored a goal as the Lasell University men's lacrosse team beat Regis 17-2 on April 15.



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**Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Trivia in the Cantina 6-8pm

**Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Ladies Night: Shot & Drink Specials

**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – CINCO DE MAYO OPEN 12-10PM**

- Live music all day long (starts at 2pm)
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- Food specials, craft cocktails & free giveaways all day

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – CINCO DE DERBY OPEN 12-10PM**

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**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY FUNDAY**

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**AARP Chapter to Meet**

The next meeting of the AARP Colchester Area Chapter 4019 is Tuesday, May 2, at 1:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., in the activity room.

Norman Dupuis and Irene Watson will do a presentation about their new book, *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*. Anyone who has an interest in Colchester history or the Civil War is invited to attend.

**Thanksgiving in April?**

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served at Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., on Saturday, April 29, from 4-6 p.m.

Served will be roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, stuffing, cranberry sauce, rolls and dessert, for \$15 per dinner. The meal is drive-thru only, and is first-come, first-served. All proceeds benefit the church.



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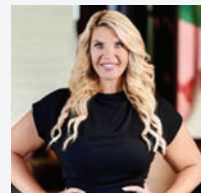
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### Project Graduation Trivia Night Fundraiser

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

Tickets are \$20/person, with tables seating up to 10. Register at [baconacademyprojectgrad.org](http://baconacademyprojectgrad.org).

### Vendors Wanted

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

The event will be held on the Town Green on Sunday, May 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor slots are available at \$40 per booth. There is no charge for nonprofit organizations.

Email [tagnobark@gmail.com](mailto:tagnobark@gmail.com) for more information.

### Understanding Your Utilities

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) will offer a program on Connecticut's utilities Thursday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave.

Marissa Paslick Gillett, chairman of PURA, will discuss what the authority regulates, your monthly electric bills, and information about selecting a third-party supplier.

Registration is required for this free program and opens May 1; call 860-537-3911 to register.

### Polka Dinner Dance

The St. Joseph's Polish Society, located at 395 South Main St., will host a Polka Dinner Dance Sunday, May 7.

Dinner will be served at 1 p.m., and includes choice of chicken marsala or pork roast with rice, roasted vegetables, coleslaw and a roll with butter. Dennis Poliski and the Maestro's Men will play from 2-6 p.m.

Advanced tickets only. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at the club. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

### Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host Kindergarten Story Time Tuesday, May 9, from 11:10-11:40 a.m., for 4- and 5-year-old Colchester children who will enter kindergarten during the 2023-24 school year.

The sessions will run from 11:10-11:40 a.m., in the CES media center. Children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers, while parents learn about Colchester's kindergarten program.

Topics for parent information change each session. No pre-registration is required. CES is located at 315 Halls Hill Rd.

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# Selectmen Approve ARPA Funding

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen approved the usage of \$521,037 in American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] funds for a variety of projects.

During their meeting on April 20, the board reviewed the recommendation from the town's ARPA Committee, who also provided a town survey highlighting the community's priorities.

The committee compiled a list of potential projects totaling in around \$2.2 million, just shy of the remaining funds granted to the town.

The first item unanimously approved by the selectmen was \$250,724 for field irrigation at the Recreation Complex, as recommended by the committee. Selectman Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat, added an additional \$30K for wells bringing the total to around \$780,000.

On top of that big-ticket item, the board approved \$9,059 for a C3 family empowerment facilitator, \$36,260 for an 800 MHz radio system upgrade for the fire department, \$53,933 for the Sablitz open space parking lot and \$141,061 for the Norton Park project.

The town is seeking bids for a number of additional projects, which then could receive ARPA funding as well. Some of these items include repairs to the Town Hall roof, Town Hall HVAC, the Highlands Woods water tower and expansion to the police department.

Fire Chief Steven Hoffmann also expressed the need for new fire equipment and apparatus, which would cost up to \$124,000 if fully funded.

Still, despite the unanimous support for the projects, the selectmen ran into a few hurdles during the meeting, including a debate centered around who actually supported the field irrigation.

Coyle stated during the meeting that Democrats had been portrayed as being against field irrigation, which she said was untrue. She saw emails and texts to local sports league leaders that implied that there was impending doom

with the initiative, which she said "wasn't productive."

"We all want the same good things," she told the board.

When selectman Deborah Bates asked why First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, a fellow Republican, believed he was the only member who pushed for the field irrigation, Bisbikos said Bates was being "disrespectful."

"I'm glad we're all united on this front," he said.

In a column in the *Rivereast*, Bisbikos stated that "securing field irrigation has been a cornerstone of my administration from Day 1."

He thanked selectman Jason LaChapelle, Parks and Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn, the sports league presidents and parents who assisted the town.

Coyle told the *Rivereast* the claim that Democrats in town wanted to block the field initiative was a "blatant lie." She stated that in 2016, she was a member of a field sustainability task force and has pushed for funding for years.

Her additional \$30,000 request was made to ensure that money was available for wells, which would further strengthen the project.

In her mind, the selectmen's conversations have become too contentious.

"It used to be all about the issues," she said. "Now it's all about politics."

While the board does have a healthy portion of ARPA funding to allocate, it won't be able to cover all the potential projects. By approving money for the Sablitz parking lot, the board already broke off from the recommendation of the ARPA Committee.

A challenge moving forward will be the balance between the board's own priorities and the will of the people, conveyed through the community survey.

The Town Hall HVAC project is allocated for

around \$415,000 — a number that may evolve — which represents a significant chunk of the remaining funds. The item scored last on the survey, which LaChapelle said could free up a lot of money to "do things the citizens want more."

Coyle pushed back that the survey wasn't the "only piece."

"I think we have to put all of these pieces together when making decisions," she said.

Instead, LaChapelle suggested the town prioritize a grant program, which was originally earmarked for about \$100,000 — he asked for that amount to increase to \$250,000.

If approved, Colchester residents would be able to apply for up to \$1,000 per family. The applicant would need to elaborate on the hardships weathered during the Covid pandemic, but there wouldn't be any income qualifications — a caveat that may disqualify the initiative under state guidelines.

"I think our citizens need it," LaChapelle said. "I think we owe it to our citizens to give back."

Bisbikos expressed that the board previously gave \$1 million of ARPA funds to a number of small businesses in town.

"The rest of the community needs some love, too."

## New Finance Department Employees

The selectmen agreed to hire two temporary employees through Robert Half to assist the finance department with the budget audits.

Finance Director Mary Williamson previously told the *Rivereast* that the employees would be a "fantastic idea" for the town.

"The audits are too important to not execute flawlessly," she said. "This makes sure it gets the attention it deserves."

Board of Finance Chairman Andrea Migliaccio said one of the employees would be entirely audit-based, ensuring that the necessary documents are prepared. Overall, it would "give us a lot of manpower and professionalism in the finance office."

Both employees are expected to serve in the finance office for two months. One of the hourly

rates is \$110 per hour, and the other is \$105. In total, the board expects the total funding for the employees not to exceed \$64,000.

Due to leftover money in the finance department payroll, a significant portion of the funding should be covered with currently budgeted numbers. If the amount exceeds that, Williamson would alert the selectmen and request that the unassigned fund balance be utilized.

Coyle asked several questions about the candidates' professional background, their pay rates and assignments — inquires Bisbikos described as grandstanding. He urged the board not to talk at this request.

Coyle, during a phone call, said the first selectman's comments were "totally out of line."

As a board member, she said, asking questions is not inappropriate, especially with substantial funding being considered.

"Our responsibility is to get the full-picture."

At the beginning of the meeting, the board also disagreed with a procedural matter.

Democrat Denise Turner wanted to add to that night's agenda a discussion regarding a potential future special meeting. A town employee was terminated, and Turner wanted to know the details, which would be the subject of the meeting.

Without the facts, the board was uncertain about the merit and circumstances of the termination.

LaChapelle hesitated to support the motion, expressing that allowing the special meeting to take place — and any further action as a result of that meeting — would potentially show "preferential treatment" to certain employees. He indicated that currently, the town is subject to a lawsuit and that allowing *this* special meeting would possibly make the case that a prior employee was discriminated against.

Turner's motion was received a 3-2 vote in favor of adding the topic to the agenda. However, four votes were required; LaChapelle and Bisbikos voted against the motion.

As of Wednesday morning, Coyle said she still didn't have the details of the termination.

## Colchester Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden is starting its 2023 season and is always happy to welcome new volunteers. The garden is an all-volunteer-run vegetable garden that grows and donates fresh produce to those in need through food banks and area soup kitchens.

The garden is located behind the Colchester Senior Center at 95 Norwich Ave. and has Tues-

day night work times each week, continuing through October at 5 p.m. There will sometimes be another work day during the week when the garden is producing at top speed.

For more information or to be on the Giving Garden's email information list, write to colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com or check Colchester Giving Garden out on Facebook.

## 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. 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.

**Weekly Schedule:** Bible Study for Men: Mon-

days 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 on how God fits in your life.

**Vacation Bible School:** Monday-Wednesday, July 24-26, from 9 a.m.-noon. Contact the church for more information.

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**From the First Selectman's Desk...**

Dear Colchester Residents:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government awarded municipalities around the United States federal funds. The Town of Colchester received nearly \$4.6M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to address the pandemic and fund recovery efforts as the United States begins to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As first selectman, I have had a massive responsibility in not only carefully guiding the usage of the funds, but also administering these funds towards various projects and following through on the successful execution of these projects. Projects that have been successfully executed include the new state-of-the-art playground, the new pickleball courts, new basketball courts, the pavilion roof at the Rec Plex, the Company #2 Fire Department roof, and installing a state-of-the-art hybrid meeting room for unparalleled transparency. The town also invested \$1 million of ARPA funds directly into our local businesses and nearly \$200K in local nonprofits as part of the Colchester Comeback Program. We have also hired counselors and case managers to help at risk students. The Youth Center roof (the Old Town Hall) is also slated to begin its historical restoration in May.

Securing field irrigation has been a cornerstone of my administration from Day 1. I am proud to state that another one of my key initiatives for our community is getting funded. On April 20, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved \$250,724 for field irrigation and an additional \$30K for wells. With \$280K going to field irrigation and the significant investment for grounds, maintenance, and fence repairs in this year's proposed town budget (an increase of \$31,400, for a grand total of \$62,400), the town is making historic strides. I would like to recognize Jason LaChapelle of the Board of Selectmen, Tiffany Quinn, our Parks & Rec director, the league presidents, and the many parents who have helped the town move this key initiative across the finish line. The town will now prepare a bid and hope to have a contract signed subsequently thereafter.

At the same meeting, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved ARPA funding for the C3 Family Empowerment Facilitator (\$9,059), 800 MHz Radio System Upgrade for our Colchester Fire Department (\$36,260), Norton Park Project, Phase 1 (\$141,061), and the Sablitz open space parking lot (\$53,933). Bids are also being prepared for the following: the Town Hall roof, Town Hall HVAC, the Highlands Woods water tower, expansion in the operational quarters of the police department, and a new parking lot for the fire department headquarters. Other items being reviewed are the equipment/apparatus for the new vehicles coming to the fire department and a social services grant program to help residents in need.

The future of our community is extremely bright, and we will continue forward attempting to facilitate all of the goals I outlined in November of 2021. The American can-do spirit is alive and well here in Colchester. A special thank you to the ARPA-Ad Hoc Committee for the countless hours of volunteerism in reviewing the projects, the elected officials who helped bring these projects to fruition, the department heads who I have collaborated with, and the citizens of the community who deserve the absolute best. May God continue to bless our amazing town.

Sincerely,

Andreas Bisbikos, Colchester First Selectman

**Senior Center News & Notes**

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

**Monday, May 1:** 8:30 a.m., Garden Club; 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

**Tuesday, May 2:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Effective Communication and Caregiver Series; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, CHOICES Counseling by appointment; 1:30 p.m., Bingo, AARP Meeting.

**Wednesday, May 3:** 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., Backus Stroke Survivors Program; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming 1; 2 p.m., Cardio Drumming 2 (Aging Unbound).

**Thursday, May 4:** 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., PURA Presentation (Aging Unbound); 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3:30 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling with Ellen; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, May 5:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group, Hearing Screenings; 11 a.m., Yoga, Cinco De Mayo Food Demo; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Floral Denim Pin Class:** Tuesday, May 9, 10 a.m. Learn how to make a floral pin with recycled denim. Space is limited; register by May 5 or until class is full.

**Chatham Health Series:** Friday, May 12, 11:15 a.m. May is Mental Health Month. Chatham Health District talks about ways to care for mental health. This is a free program; no registration required.

**Coffee with the Commission on Aging:** Monday, May 15, 10 a.m. Join the senior center for free refreshments and an informative introduction to the Colchester Commission on Aging. No registration required.

**"Simply The Zest" Mother's Day Luncheon:** Wednesday, May 17, 11 a.m. This will be a lemon-themed Mother's Day luncheon. Following a musical performance by Victoria Rose, enjoy a cheese and broccoli stuffed chicken lunch complete with roasted potatoes, green beans, seasonal fruit salad, and a lemon dessert. Cost is \$9. Space is limited; sign up by May 10 or until lunch is full.

**Angelo's Stuffed Bread Lunch:** Friday, May 19, noon. Select two flavors of Angelo's Bakery's stuffed breads served alongside a tossed salad, a bottle of water and a cookie for dessert. Stuffed bread flavors include eggplant parmigiana, chicken parmigiana, broccoli with cheese, and spinach with cheese. Cost is \$5; register by May 8.

**Ham Radio Meeting:** Friday, May 19, 2 p.m. All are invited to come and learn about the broadcasting site.

**The Healing Power of Laughter:** Tuesday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. Amanda Aaron, recreation director for Buckingham Heights, will look at ways people can start improving their health and heart with humor. The program is free, but registration is required.

**Memorial Day Picnic:** Tuesday, May 30, 11 a.m. Choose hamburger, cheeseburger or hot dog, served with fries or onion rings, all from Harry's Place. Can of soda included. After lunch, partake in a competition of lawn games. Tickets are \$6, available until May 19 or sold out.

**Colchester-Salem Postal Food Drive**

The combined workers of the Salem-Colchester Post Office will hold a Food Drive Saturday, May 13. Donations of current non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted.

Leave donations in, on or next to your mailboxes after 9 a.m. for pick-up by your mail carrier, and other retired Postal workers. Donations can also be brought directly to Colchester Town Hall that day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

All donations will go to stock the Colchester Food Bank.

**Ahavath Achim News**

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

Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Friday night service, 7 p.m., Zoom from Congregation Beth El; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.

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

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**'Spring in Bloom' Vendor Fair Coming**

Colchester Federated Church's annual 'Spring in Bloom' Vendor Fair is Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church, 60 Main St. All are invited to attend.

The fair will showcase local crafters, vendors and farmers; there will also be the Up-scale Tag Sale, Bake Sale and Raffle.

**Spring Baseball, Softball Registration Closes Sunday**

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

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

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# School Board Weighs Cuts to Budget

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education discussed on Tuesday potential ways to trim its budget proposal for the 2023-24 fiscal year, after the Board of Finance requested what certain levels of reductions would look like for the district.

During a finance board meeting last week, chairman Andrea Migliaccio requested that over \$1 million be reclassified in the proposal, by using funding that already exists in town and district accounts. In addition, she asked the school board to reduce its spending plan by \$1.3 million — a request the board struggled to fulfill during its 3 hour meeting Tuesday.

A list of potential cuts was expected to be presented to the finance board on Wednesday night, after press time.

Currently, the school budget proposal for 2023-24 is slated at \$46.15 million — a \$4.13 million, or 9.83%, increase from the current year. Previously, Migliaccio urged the school board to come up with “creative solutions” in their budget, and another member, Mike Egan, urged the board to “sharpen their pencils.”

Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III provided the school board with two big-picture

solutions. The first involved the reallocation of \$1.17 million in funds by utilizing available funding to the district — a topic that has largely served to confuse both board members and members of the community during meetings.

“What are these accounts? Where is this money coming from?” Chris Rivers, a school board member, asked during the meeting. Because the audit for the previous fiscal year is yet to be completed, he suggested that this strategy was similar to “guessing what’s in the checkbook.”

Sullivan replied that this was the request of the finance board, and that town officials had an approximate idea of what funding is available. He simply wanted to know if, “big picture,” this was a plan that school board would be comfortable with.

“It’s not the greatest scenario,” school board member Mary Tomasi said. Overall, after Sullivan’s straw poll, the board appeared generally content with that part of the budget reduction.

The items being reclassified include \$212,336 for a Honeywell International energy efficiency review lease payment, \$695,000 for Special Education and \$271,175 for capital outlay.

Part of that reclassification is expected to come from the school’s assigned fund balance, which Migliaccio said is about \$1.4 million, along with fund balance and capital funds.

During both the school and finance board meetings, the definitions and balance of different accounts was murky. Migliaccio was confident that the funding was available, and that both the town finance director and auditor approved of the strategy. The special education cost, she added, could potentially be reimbursed by the state, replenishing the account, as well.

Egan wasn’t as confident in the plan — he proposed a smaller reduction than Migliaccio.

“We’ve never done something this radical,” he asserted.

Migliaccio disagreed, saying this reclassification was “a solution.”

On top of those funds, Sullivan provided a list of cuts that he suggested people might find “a little more uncomfortable.”

In total, he listed reductions in staff and programs totaling \$1.47 million — meaning that the board could take about \$176,000 off the list and still fulfill Migliaccio’s request of a \$1.3 million reduction.

The school board was able to identify nearly \$500,000 worth of items that didn’t directly impact education, including lowering the health insurance balance, removing bus transportation to the technical school and reducing legal services.

After a lengthy discussion, the board was unable to trim the list to \$1.3 million and instead opted to present the whole list to the finance board.

Sullivan urged the board to attempt to identify items and to fulfill the request, but acknowledged that he shared in the collective “nausea” experienced by the board when thinking of potentially impacting services. If the board didn’t show a \$1.3 million reduction, the budget process would likely be prolonged, he explained.

“We’d all like to bring some closure to it,” he said. “This is the really bad of an ugly situation.”

The list of cuts included items that many of the board members were unwilling to consider, including the transition to half-day kindergarten, eliminating world language at the middle school, charging for instrumental band lessons and charging \$100 for students to park at Bacon Academy.

Sullivan confirmed that if the kindergarten program was reduced to half-day, Colchester

would be the only district in the state without full-day care.

“I refuse to do that,” chairman Alex Oliphant said. “That’s ridiculous.”

Board member Michelle Millington said that cut would be “hugely detrimental” for the town.

“To see that on the chopping block hurts my heart,” she said.

She also said the cut to world language was a nonstarter.

“I see it as taking away from the excellence of our schools,” she said.

Sullivan said he anticipated that those two items would receive significant pushback from the board, but said that if the board kept both programs in the budget and adopted the remainder of the cuts, it would be short of the \$1.3 million request. He added that if world language was eliminated, the class periods would be replaced with study halls.

With the band program, Sullivan expressed that a few districts across the state charge for the supplementary sessions that support the actual band class.

“I’m not saying it’s a great idea,” he said. “None of this is ideal. It’s the challenge we’ve been assigned.”

The revenue generated by the lessons could approach \$100,000, he said, but realistically, many kids might decide to drop out of the band program if saddled with a fee. Others might simply opt for private lessons.

Sullivan also highlighted the need to expand school security. Included in the budget proposal are four new safety officers, who would assist the current school resource officer that splits time between each of the schools.

“I really believe that the most important thing we do every day is keep students and staff safe,” he said. While there’s an option to phase the upgrades in over multiple years, he suggested that the board would be burdened with the decision of which two schools wouldn’t receive the new officers. The board was in unanimous agreement that the security plan shouldn’t be altered in the budget.

When looking at the totality of the impacts looming for the district, Rivers concluded that the budget reduction request was “unrealistic.”

If the school budget request was reworked to include the reclassification of funds along with the full \$1.3 million reduction, the total spending plan would be \$43.67 million — a \$1.65 or 3.9% increase from current-year spending.



Members weeded, mulched and more as the Colchester Garden Club gathered recently at Cragin Memorial Library for the Colchester Spring Clean-Up Day. Pictured from left, front to back, are club members: Mary Spalter, Melissa Deacon, Theresa Fox, Faithe Petty, Frank Zvach, Sylvia Delson and Rick Waugh. Not pictured is Barbara Rafferty, who took the photo.

## Spring Clean-Up Day Recap

Colchester Spring Clean-Up Day brought members of the Colchester Garden Club together at Cragin Memorial Library, which is the club’s largest and longest-running community service project of its 20 years as a local nonprofit organization.

Members weeded, cut back perennials, cleared leaves, mulched and more to set off the spring bulb blossoms and other plants that will be blooming in succession from spring to summer.

April garden maintenance sessions have already occurred with members at other garden club project sites, including the Colchester Senior Center, and Butterfly Pollinator Garden at Cohen Woodlands, with others planned for May. A recurring maintenance schedule is set for each subsequent month for the club’s community service garden projects, along with plans for further enhancements are various sites.

Additionally, Colchester Garden Club members have planted 14 town planters along Linwood Avenue, Lebanon Avenue, at the library

and town hall entrance to further herald Spring in our town.

The Colchester Garden Club welcomes new members. Throughout the gardening season, club members volunteer their time to beautification projects in various areas around town, often with master gardener and experienced gardener members sharing tips and teaching new skills.

The Colchester Garden Club holds monthly meetings on the fourth Monday at 6 p.m. generally in the Cragin Memorial Library with educational programs, short business meeting and time to socialize with other gardener members. For information about the club and how to become a member, send an email to colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com or a note to the Colchester Garden Club Membership Coordinator, P.O. Box 371, Colchester, CT 06415-0371.

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**The Colchester Lions Club distributed a record \$20,000 in grants to 27 local organizations at its recent Community Night of Giving.**

## Lions Club Donates \$20K to Community Causes

The Colchester Lions Club distributed a record \$20,000 in grants to 27 local organizations at its annual Community Night of Giving on April 12.

The grants were the result of a successful year of fundraising projects, according to Lions Club President Pam LaFaille. In addition to a very successful carnival last year, the Lions sponsored many other events, including a Craft Festival on the Green, pierogi booth at the Hebron Harvest Fair, the annual appeal mailing, and a pancake breakfast.

Next month, the Lions Club will award a record \$15,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors, and another \$9000 during its annual District Night of Giving to ongoing Lions projects for sight, hearing and speech, guide dogs and children with cancer.

"We are able to do all of this for two great reasons – the hard work of our volunteer members, and the great support of our events as always

from the community," said Greg Barden, who chaired the Community Night of Giving program.

Groups receiving funds this year were: American Legion Post 54; Bacon Academy First Robotics; Bacon Academy Project Graduation; Caring Community of Connecticut; CASTLE; Colchester 325th Birthday Committee; Colchester Co-op Nursery School; Colchester Dog Park; Colchester Giving Garden; Colchester Hayward Fire Department Cadets; Colchester Is Kind; Colchester Land Trust; Colchester Parks and Recreation; Colchester Senior Center; Colchester Veterans Honor Guard; Collaborative for Colchester's Children; Cragin Memorial Library; Cub Scout Pack 13; Golden Age Team/Martin Lopez; Jack Jacker Intermediate School Lego Robotics; Norton Park Committee; Special Olympics; Troop 13 Boy Scouts; Troop 72 Boy Scouts; Troop 109 Boy Scouts; Troop K Police Explorers and UCFS Healthcare.

## History Museum Reopens for Season

The Colchester History Museum has reopened for the season – and new this year offers a Scavenger Hunt.

Bring your family or be a solo sleuth to find all 20 of the objects pictured on the hunt card and win a \$5 gift card from Dunkin' Donuts, Mel's Downtown Creamery or The Plum Tomato.

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open Sundays from 11

a.m.-2 p.m., until Dec. 3. The museum, adjacent to Cragin Memorial Library, is free and features both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. The museum offers both guided and self-guided tours.

For more information, contact the historical society at [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org) or 860-537-3240.

## Guardian Angels Parish Offering Italy Trip

Guardian Angels Parish – which encompasses St. Andrew Church in Colchester and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon – is making a pilgrimage to Italy from Oct. 30-Nov. 9.

The Rev. Richard Breton will lead pilgrims through Florence, Assisi, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Monte Cassino, ending in Rome. The trip will include an audience with Pope Francis.

Cost is \$3,479, and the trip departs from New York. All admissions, fees and hotel services are included.

For more information, contact Angela Corentin at 860-402-8316 or [acorentin1219@gmail.com](mailto:acorentin1219@gmail.com).

## CYSS Summer Trips

Colchester Youth and Social Services has opened registration for summer trips.

The summer trip calendar has been released, and it features return trips as well as a few new ones. Colchester students entering grades 4-12 were eligible to go on the trips.

Copies of the calendar can be found in the CYSS office at Town Hall, on Facebook, in the digital backpack, and at [www.colchesterct.gov/yss](http://www.colchesterct.gov/yss). Read all information on the website regarding trips.

Registration is open and will continue all summer. This is an online-only registration program; there is no in-person registration.

For more information, call CYSS at 860-537-7255.

## Memorial Day Parade Coming May 28

The theme for this year's Memorial Day Parade remembers those who died in the Vietnam War. All marching units and organizations designing floats should try and use the theme in preparing for the parade, which will be on Sunday, May 28.

Applications to join this year's Memorial

Day Parade are available online at [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov), and at the first selectman's office in Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. File your application before May 4.

The Parade Committee will award prizes in three categories; 1. Best marching unit, 2. Most patriotic float and 3. Most creative float.

## Historical Society Selling Civil War Book

The Colchester Historical Society is selling copies of a new book about the men linked to Colchester who served during the Civil War. *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*, written by residents Norm Dupuis and Irene Watson, documents the 280 Colchester affiliated individuals who served in some capacity between 1861-65 to preserve the nation's Union.

The just-released book is now available at the Colchester History Museum for \$20. This book is only available from the Colchester Historical

Society. Copies can be purchased at the museum, 24 Linwood Ave., on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Email [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org) or call 860 537-4032 to arrange for pick-up or shipping. Books can also be purchased online at [www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1](http://www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1).

This book also contains narratives about the lives of some Civil War soldiers and veterans, including societal and cultural issues, such as PTSD, and the role of women.

## Upcoming Land Trust Events

The Colchester Land Trust has announced the following upcoming events:

**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. Call Cindy at 860-267-7901 for directions and more information.

**Intro to Geocaching:** Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. Experienced geocaching team Joe and Joni Aveni, a.k.a. AlphaDog (a geocacher handle),

will show people how to place and find beginner caches and explain why thousands join in this worldwide scavenger hunt.

**Presentation on Bluebirds, Backyard Habitats:** Wednesday, May 24, 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, Norton Room A. Connecticut Audubon Society's RTP Estuary Center's Conservation & Education Coordinator Joe Attwater will teach people how they can attract bluebirds, sparrows, warblers and more, as well as which bird species are likely to visit at this time of year.

## 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:** Friday, 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.

**Touch-A-Truck:** 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.

**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 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.

**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.

**Card-Making Class:** Thursdays, 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).

**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.

**Community CPR/AED/First Aid Classes:** Cost is \$90/person. Class dates: Sept. 19, 6 p.m., Heartsafe CPR & First Aid; Oct. 17, BLS CPR; Nov. 14, 6 p.m., Heartsafe CPR & First Aid.

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

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

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

## Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School meets during the worship service.

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

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

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

For more information, email [westconchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westconchurch@gmail.com) or call 860-267-6711.

## Mother's Day Flower Sale

Boy Scout Troop 72 is having its 22nd annual Mother's Day flower sale, adjacent to the Colchester Haywood Volunteer Fire Department Headquarters on Old Hartford Road, on Friday, May 12, from 5-8 p.m. and on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or when sold out.

The Scouts will have a large variety of hanging baskets and individual potted plants available on site. There will be many colors and types of flowers for sale. All plants are supplied by a local grower.

All proceeds will go to support scout camping and youth training activities. Troop 72 has more than 15 scouts and has been serving Colchester's youth since 1939.

## Kindergarten Registration

Children who live in town and will be 5 by Jan. 1, 2024, can register for kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year at the Colchester Public Schools website, [www.colchesterct.org](http://www.colchesterct.org). Select the "For Families" tab, and then "Registration and Residency."

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

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



**Funds for Cadets...** The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department Cadet division said it would like to acknowledge the generosity of community member Frank Zvach. Zvach was attending a community CPR class at CHFD when he heard the cadets were fundraising for training. His \$2,500 donation will be put toward sending five cadets to the Connecticut State Fire Academy this summer and training eight cadets as EMR/EMTs. Pictured from left are Captain Gina Didato, Lt. Zerrin Ratzer, cadet Nick June, Zvach, and cadets John Marks and Garrett Geleney.



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# Bellringers Shine on Diamond, Top Highlanders

By Josh Howard

East Hampton High School baseball used a five-run fifth inning to take control and cruise to a 9-2 victory over Portland High School on April 20.

First-year head coach Pat Sirois said the team's offensive fireworks in the fifth inning were sparked by a more aggressive approach at the plate.

"We have been preaching to really focus on driving on fast balls when there are men on base. We want to make sure we don't fall behind on count and attack fast balls early in counts," stated Sirois. "I think just honing in on that approach helped us break the game open in that inning."

After falling behind by a run in the first inning, Jason Johnson had a line-drive single that drove home Gavin Santillo to tie the score at 1-1. Andrew Wagner then singled, scoring David Johnson to give the Bellringers a 2-1 advantage in the bottom of the second inning.

The Shoreline Conference (SLC) rivals traded runs in the third and fourth innings before the Bellringers broke the game open in the fifth.

Facing two outs in the bottom of the fifth, Tyler Varni doubled on a hard ground ball into the right gap, scoring both Alex Zimmerman and James Quinn.

Santillo then doubled to center, sending home Andrew Bigelow, before Santillo crossed home plate thanks to a single from Jason Johnson.

East Hampton added an insurance run in the

sixth when Quinn scored following a sacrifice fly from freshman Jaxson Hanson.

Quinn earned the win from the mound, pitching five scoreless innings and allowing only one hit while striking out six after relieving starting pitcher Blake Kapernaros.

"He's been phenomenal whenever we've needed him," Sirois said of his senior lefty. "He can come in and throw strikes, and doesn't need a warm up. He's been a great reliever in big situations."

Quinn and Santillo each scored two runs, while Varni, Wagner, and Jason Johnson each drove in two runs.

Santillo, a shortstop, connected on all three attempts at the plate and is one of four seniors that have helped Sirois settle in during his first spring in the Bellringers' dugout.

Sirois is a former basketball and baseball standout at Cromwell High School, helping the Panthers baseball team win a state championship during his senior season in 2012.

After high school, he played baseball collegiately at Central Connecticut State University, Southern New Hampshire University, and Eastern Connecticut State University.

He most recently coached the Rocky Hill-Cromwell-Portland (RCP) 19U American Legion Baseball team in the summer before taking over an East Hampton program previously coached by Tom Seidl.

The win over Portland marked the team's third win in nine games this spring and Sirois

said the players are starting to get a feel for how he likes to operate.

"It took some time, but they're buying in," added Sirois. "All I've asked of the kids is to buy in and give effort. We're building a winning culture here."

Among the team's six losses are a pair of walk-off defeats and another two-run loss.

Sirois said the team is focused on finishing innings, both offensively and defensively in order to turn those close losses into wins.

"We are building that confidence and we are starting to believe in ourselves," added Sirois. "The other team knows we're going to give them a hard game and we expect to play with every team in the conference."

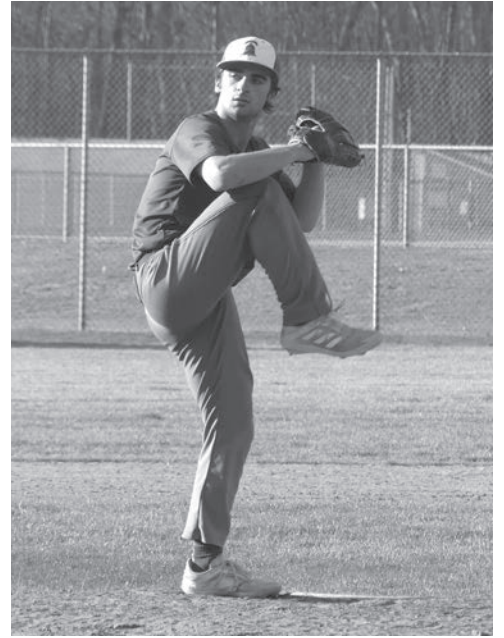
The team has been impressive in the three wins, winning all three games by seven or more runs.

Along with the seven-run win over Portland, they also soundly defeated North Branford (11-4) on April 7 and a shellacked Westbrook (14-4) on April 14.

In the win over North Branford, the Bellringers scored nine runs in the second inning, getting four RBIs from Zimmerman.

Zimmerman came up big again in the win over Westbrook, hitting a grand slam in the fifth inning, driving in six total runs as the team has their best offensive output of the season.

Next is an away game at Nathan Hale Ray High School in Moodus on Friday, April 28. The



East Hampton pitcher James Quinn winds up during the Bellringers 9-2 victory over Portland last Thursday. Quinn, a junior, earned the win after throwing five scoreless innings.

Bellringers then return home on Monday, May 1 to welcome Valley Regional to East Hampton High School. First pitch for both games is 4 p.m.

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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

**Family Story Time:** Saturday, April 29, 2-3:30 p.m., for ages 3-5. There will be songs, dancing, and stories. Siblings welcome.

**Hatch the Chicken!** Through a partnership with Hatch the Chicken, the library is incubating seven live chicken eggs, beginning Tuesday, May 2. Stop by to see them and hopefully catch a glimpse of them hatching sometime around May 23. Then visit the baby chicks before they go back to the farm on June 6.

**DIY Days - Light Up Fireflies:** Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game or treat together. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

**Tween Game Night:** Wednesday, May 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 4-8. This will be an hour of in-person games to get people up and moving.

**Teen Programs: Teen Cookbook Club - Breakfast is Served!** Saturday, April 29, 1 p.m., for grades 6-12. Make your favorite breakfast recipe and bring it to the library ready to share. The library will supply plates and utensils.

**Nintendo Switch Tournament:** Saturday, April 29, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. All skill levels welcome.

**Pre-Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, May 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 6-8. Earn community service hours. New members always welcome. Register online or drop in.

**Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, May 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m., for grades 9-12. Plan and create events and programs you want, and provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection. Earn community service hours. New members are always welcome. Register online or drop in.

**Adult Programs: Cookbook Club World Tour:** Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 p.m. Bring a Mexican-themed dish and copies of the recipe to share.

**LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m. All levels welcome.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. *Eight Perfect Murders* by Peter Swanson will be discussed. Copies of the month's book are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

## Troop 8 Mother's Day Breakfast

On Sunday, May 14, the Boy Scouts of Troop 8 will host their annual Mother's Day Breakfast at VFW Post 5095, located at 20 N. Maple St., from 8-11 a.m.

The scouts will be serving eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, coffee and juice. The breakfast will cost \$12/person. All proceeds from the breakfast will be used to support the scouting activities of Troop 8.

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## Ambulance, Fire Open House

All are invited to join the East Hampton Ambulance Association and East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department for an Open House Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Folks can meet public safety experts, visit the ambulance bay and the fire station, and learn valuable skills.

At the Ambulance Open House, the ambulance crew will teach hands-only CPR and overdose prevention education, along with

offering truck tours and Files of LIFE (Life-saving information for emergencies). The address is 4 Middletown Ave.

At the Fire Department Open House, firefighters will offer fire education, fire extinguisher demos and vehicle extrication demos as well as truck tours. The address is 3 Barton Hill Rd.

These events are open to all ages.

## 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.

**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 or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

## DTC Scholarship Available

The Democratic Town Committee invites East Hampton High School seniors interested in 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.

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# Ambulance Future Still Up in the Air

By Jack Lakowsky

After another round of discussion, the town has not yet decided how to move forward with the future of a key local service: the East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA).

Right now, the choice is between keeping the 70-year-old volunteer service by upping town contributions to their funds and bringing on paid staff or switching to a private service out of Middlesex Hospital.

Council chair and Republican Mark Philhower has said the switch to a private service would save the town money.

The EHAA has refuted this claim, saying there would be costs to the town, at the association's expense; for example, Middlesex will serve East Hampton only if the EHAA agrees to turn over its equipment.

The EHAA, like services everywhere, has been hit hard with volunteer shortages.

Last week Philhower said the council still has questions it needs answered.

Also, per state law, the EHAA has to agree to disband, according to a consultant that addressed the council earlier this year.

Should the town give the EHAA more money, most of the council wants one of its own and a finance board member to be voting members of the EHAA board. Board president Barbara Moore has signaled apprehension about this idea.

Last Thursday, the council and the EHAA, its chief and executive board, met to continue the discussion, a back and forth that's gone on for two years. Relations between the EHAA and the

council have been, in short, difficult.

And, in one among several controversial decisions last week, the local finance board axed every penny town manager Dave Cox had marked for the EHAA, an amount of close to \$174,000. While the EHAA is okay for now, according to EHAA chief Donald Scranton, it hopes to have that funding restored in the next budget cycle.

Philhower said, "I don't understand the resistance to Middlesex."

He added that things – as the EHAA has itself said – are not the same anymore, and that now that the town has to foot a bill, it has to consider a larger picture.

"People have to afford to live here," Philhower said. Philhower also stated concern about future funding hikes.

The EHAA's staunchest ally on the council has been Democrat Pete Brown. Brown's wife serves on the EHAA directors' board. Republicans had previously called into question the ethics of Brown's taking part in these talks, but after a closed-door meeting with the town ethics commission, Brown is still in on the process.

"I want this association around; I want it in this town," he said. "They provide us with good service, and I don't see that stopping."

Brown said legislators in Hartford are aware of the statewide issue also hitting Belltown, that emergency services cannot find volunteers in the numbers they need to operate properly. While the local ambulance continues to meet demand, the staffing challenge does not abate, an issue exacerbated by the pandemic. He also said the EHAA wouldn't have made it 70 years

without doing something right.

Lots of towns, he said, have the same problem.

Republican Tim Feegel, council vice chair, has been less firm than his GOP colleagues, and has previously said he supports the EHAA.

Last week Feegel dug into what he felt were some poor buying practices on the EHAA's part. It folded into the point several councilors have made, that they want a more thorough portrait of the association's finances.

Feegel said, by using an exclusive vendor for its engines, which are ubiquitously back ordered, the EHAA is paying more than it should, as much as \$10,000. He said not shopping around for vendors is a good way to get played.

Council Republican Alison Walck asked about a Chevy Tahoe the service uses. Chief Scranton said the Tahoe frees up local officers, can move faster than a larger ambulance, and is equipped with all but a few of the same tools.

Council Republican Brandon Goff focused on a long-forgotten agreement between the town and the EHAA. Passed about 20 years ago, it says the EHAA must submit yearly reports to the town. There have been none, which both sides agreed was a shortfall on the part of both the EHAA and the town, both sides agreed. He's also been adamant that he wants more town oversight, especially since the EHAA is asking for town money.

"[You'll] lose some independence," said Goff.

There was consensus that any new EHAA board members from the town would have to fully serve – that deadweight helps no one.

Moore pointed out that the fire commission, for example, doesn't have a councilor on it. Goff said this is because that board is in the town aegis, whereas the EHAA is its own entity.

Scranton said this got waylaid when the town switched to a regional health board from a local one.

Scranton also pointed to improved response times. He said between this and last year the EHAA cut response times by five minutes.

Geographically, East Hampton's a little wonky, Scranton said, and makes regional work with other ambulances complicated. East Hampton's at the intersection of a few different service areas and dispatch networks between the shoreline and Tolland County. East Hampton has aid arrangements with nearby services like Middlesex and Marlborough, but the town's location makes formal agreements tricky.

Democrat Kevin Reich, said he "truly appreciates" the EHAA, and that he's interested in seeing if the town and the association provide any of the same services, if these can be consolidated.

He also pointed to the association's deficit, which totals nearly double the requested (and now nixed) \$173,000. He said he would want a plan to address the deficit if "in fact the community gave you the money."

## Seeds of Hope 5K/10K/Fun Walk

The Congregational Church of East Hampton mission group, Seeds of Hope, will hold its annual 5K/10K/Fun Walk on Saturday April 29. Register at [firstmile-fitness.com](http://firstmile-fitness.com) or in person the day of the race.

On race day, pick up your race bag beginning at 7:30 a.m., at the church, 59 Main St. The race will begin at 9 a.m. at the entrance to the Air Line Trail located at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street. Transportation will be provided to and

from the trail head. All participants must park at the church. Awards will follow the race, at the church.

All proceeds from the race will help to defray out-of-pocket costs for Seeds of Hope members when they are able to make their next mission trip. For more information or to register, go to [firstmile-fitness.com](http://firstmile-fitness.com) or contact Lisa at 860-918-1170.

## Project Grad Spring Cleaning

East Hampton High School Project Graduation is hosting a Spring Cleaning with the thrift store Savers. Project Grad is collecting items for resale.

Collection days are Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-noon, and Saturday, May 6, from 9-11 a.m. Both collection days will be at Global Self Storage, 265 W. High St.

Acceptable items include: clothing, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, ties, belts,

backpacks, bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces, hand-held appliances, home decorative items, toys, games, and small electronics.

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly-packed boxes for small household goods.

No large items and no furniture. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

## Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet

The Belltown Antique Car Club will host its 48th annual Antique Engine & Tractor Meet Sunday, April 30, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Fireman's Field at Salmon River State Park, across from the Comstock covered bridge.

Note: This year's show is being held "rain or shine" on a "field conditions permitting" basis. Rain prior to or on the day of the show may cause cancellation.

On display will be an assortment of antique stationary engines, as well as working scale reproductions, of the types that once powered early farm equipment, sawmills, lathes and even washing machines. Vintage farm tractors will

also be exhibited, many of which have been restored. Judging begins at noon and trophies will be awarded at 3 p.m.

Also included in the show is a flea market with vendors offering antique engine, tractor and vehicle parts, used power equipment for home/farm use, and tools.

Food will be available, provided by the East Hampton Lions Club.

Admission is free, though contributions are accepted. Spectator parking is free. Please, no bicycles or pets.

For more information visit [www.belltownantiqueclub.org](http://www.belltownantiqueclub.org).

## 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.



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## George Seely Memorial Scholarship

Anchor Lodge No. 112 is offering the George Seely Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship 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.

## 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:** With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Mondays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. No Saturday classes until summer. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

**Mahjong:** Mondays at 10:30am. A spirited

group of players; experienced to brand new. Join the fun!

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

**CommuniTea:** Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.-noon. Take out a book and have a cup of tea. Coffee drinkers welcome.

**Small Stream Presentation:** Friday, May 19, 7 p.m. Rowan Lytle will talk about small-mouth bass fishing.

**Writer's Workshop/Meet-Up Group:** Wednesday, May 24, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be constructive criticism, writing exercises and more. Get the opinion of other writers. Registration requested.

## Police News

pear, police said.

4/16: Christopher Piaszkowski, 28, of New Britain, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, disorderly conduct and following too close with intent to harass or intimidate, East Hampton Police said.

4/16: Antolina Distefano, 31, of 95 Wall St., Colchester, was issued a summons for failure to have headlights, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

4/17: Tina Cowee, 34, of 60 Mountain Rd., was issued a summons for misuse of plates, operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

4/19: A 15-year-old juvenile from East Hampton was issued a summons stemming from an incident that occurred April 6 at East Hampton High School, police said. The juvenile damaged lockers and a water fountain in the boys' locker room, causing \$5,500 in damages, police added.

4/20: Ryan Huffman, 39, of East Granby, was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a protective order, unlawful restraint and disorderly conduct, police said.

4/20: Todd Goodspeed, 33, of 85 Main St., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear and first-degree failure to ap-

pear, police said. 4/20: A 17-year-old juvenile was issued a summons for third-degree criminal mischief and second-degree breach of peace, police said. The incident occurred at East Hampton High School and involved the 17-year-old juvenile writing a threatening letter to another person and throwing several pieces of cheese onto the other person's vehicle, police said.

4/21: Nicholas Siena, 29, of 75 Daniel St., East Hampton was issued a summons for Breach of Peace in the 2nd Degree and Threatening in the 2nd Degree. Siena is scheduled to appear at the Middletown Superior Court on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. to answer to the aforementioned charges.

4/21: Courtney Wenzel 42, of 611 Ocean Ave., New London was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for her arrest held by this department and charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Larceny in the 6th Degree. Wenzel was unable to post the \$15,000.00 court-set cash or surety bond and was held in police custody until her arraignment on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Middletown Superior Court.

From April 17-23, Officers responded to 16 medical calls, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 6 alarms, and made 35 traffic stops, police said.

## RTC Trade Scholarship

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is accepting scholarship applications for its inaugural Trade Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to any East Hampton High School senior who is planning on pursuing a career in a trade.

Applications may be obtained from the East Hampton High School guidance department and are due by April 28.

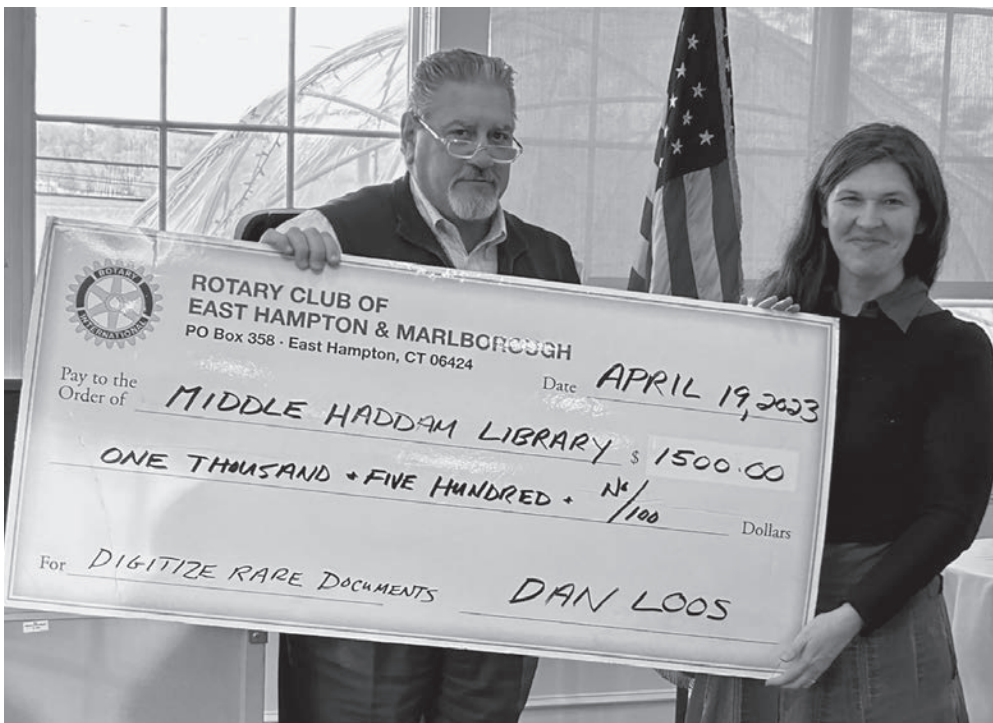
## Fundraising Paint Night

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library will host a fundraising paint night at Rule of 3 Brewing, 201 W. High St., on Friday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 and include your painting and a drink; food will be available for purchase at The Farm Kitchen food truck. To purchase tickets, visit [www.amy-studio13.com/book-online](http://www.amy-studio13.com/book-online).



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**Library Receives Grant...** The East Hampton Rotary Club recently awarded the Middle Haddam Public Library a grant. Linda Bailey Bennet, programs director at the library, attended the monthly Rotary meeting and accepted the grant check from Rotary President Tom Portelance. The library will soon begin a digitalization project of one-of-a-kind documents. Initial funds will go towards equipment, materials & research to digitize and preserve irreplaceable & deteriorating photographs, handwritten letters, diaries, maps, ledgers, postcards & artifacts concerning local history, culture & people dating back to the 1790s. The project includes a functional inventory and the library's goal is to make them digitally accessible for public and research. If interested in assisting or for more details about this project, email [Middlehaddam-library@gmail.com](mailto:Middlehaddam-library@gmail.com).

## Budget Referendum Location Change

The location of voting for the budget referendum will be the Town Hall starting with the 2023 budget referendum. Voting will occur in the community room of Town Hall.

The budget referendum is normally scheduled for May or June during a school day. Due to security concerns at the schools, a decision has been made to move the referendum voting to the Town Hall, so as not to interfere with the students.

Voters will enter through the front door of the building and proceed to the community room. Signs will be posted. Curbside voting will be available at the entrance on the left side of the building.

The regular elections and primaries will continue to be held at the high school because school is usually not in session for those events.

More details will be announced.

## Lions Collecting for School Libraries

The East Hampton Lions Club is hoping to spend \$2,023 for the purchase of new library books for both Memorial and Center schools. The Lions have committed to this amount if residents match it. Anyone who donates can request which school their donation will benefit.

Donations will be accepted through May 15. All titles will be selected by library media specialist Rebecca Flannery. Titles will be ordered

this school year to be added into circulation at the beginning of next school year.

Checks should be made to East Hampton Lions Charities. Donations are tax-deductible and should be mailed to: East Hampton Lions Club, P.O. Box 153, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Contact Tim Csere at [csere4@comcast.net](mailto:csere4@comcast.net) for more information.

## Electric Car Show Moves to Spring

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force (CETF) is holding the fifth annual Electric Car Show on Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St. Rain date is June 4.

The change to spring is in recognition of the start of the prime driving season. Dealerships have expanded electric and hybrid inventories, and the CETF expects a wider dealership presence. There will be food, ice cream and music as well.

Owners who want their cars to be displayed at the show are asked to register before the event. Bikes, scooters and anything else powered by electricity are also welcome.

Registration is free and can be done online at [www.tinyurl.com/ehcarshow](http://www.tinyurl.com/ehcarshow). Owners can also email the CETF at [ehcETF@gmail.com](mailto:ehcETF@gmail.com) and request a registration form. Groups, nonprofits, clubs and associations interested in using less fossil fuel for vehicles can request booth space, also by emailing [ehcETF@gmail.com](mailto:ehcETF@gmail.com).

## 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 welcome. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard for information at [jneelrichard16@gmail.com](mailto:jneelrichard16@gmail.com).

**Lenten Vitamin Drive:** The cutoff for dona-

tions is April 30. Bring your change to church or make out a check with Missions/St. Vincent's in the memo line.

**Church Directory:** An updated directory is in progress. If you have not yet had your picture taken, see Dick Napoletano after the service.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0278 or contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

**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 about God's love are offered for kids in the Fellowship Hall during the worship

service. All are welcome.

**Vocal Choir:** Choir rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome.

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

**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).

# Police Report Rash of Car Thefts

By Jack Lakowsky

This week East Hampton Town Manager Dave Cox reported a local rise in stolen car incidents.

Cox said in the past several weeks five cars have been stolen from "densely populated areas of town."

In every case the vehicle was left unlocked. In some, keys were left in the vehicle. Without blaming the victims, local police chief Dennis Woessner has, countless times, urged people to lock their cars. He has said the fear that suspects will break windows to get into a locked car is largely baseless.

Cox said two Hyundais, a Mercedes, a BMW and a Nissan were stolen. Four of five vehicles have been recovered in Southington, New Britain, Waterbury and Bristol.

In New Britain, police arrested a 13-year-old caught driving one of the stolen vehicles from East Hampton.

"All of the vehicles have been processed by [local police] or other law enforcement agencies," Cox said. "We are hopeful evidence obtained from the recovered vehicles will lead to other arrests."

Once again, Cox reminded people to make sure they lock their cars, and that keys and valuables are removed whenever empty.

East Hampton residents have been posting what they see as attempted car break-ins to a local Facebook forum.

Colchester Avenue resident Rachel Nicole Cassarino said "someone dressed in gray hood-

ie and gray sweatpants with belt bag break into our cars.

"I didn't see how they got away, but I saw them run out of our driveway while I was getting ready around 10 a.m.! I alerted the police, but everyone please lock your car doors and stay safe."

And Tuesday, near 3 a.m., Comstock Trail resident Lindsey Donato posted home security video from around 1 a.m. of a person appearing to try to get into their car.

Another community dealing with a spike in car thefts is Wallingford – in March, the department said the number of stolen vehicle complaints between 2022 and 2023 went up 243%, 24 compared to the previous year's seven.

According to NBC Connecticut, police said thieves make their move when cars are unlocked, especially when someone leaves it warming up.

Wallingford police shared some tips on securing your car.

Lock your car doors when your vehicle is left unattended; remove any keys or fobs from the vehicle when you are not in it; remove any expensive or valuable items from your vehicle if it must be left outdoors; do not leave your car running with the keys in it while you are not present; install surveillance cameras on the exterior of your home; try installing a remote starter kit if your vehicle is not equipped with one if you like to warm your vehicle up in the morning.

## 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/easthampton-senior-center](http://www.easthamptonct.gov/easthampton-senior-center).

**Lunches:** Served Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. Call 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; 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; Cross Stitch: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. – all levels welcome; 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.

**Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group:** Mondays, May 1 and 15, 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet others and share resources.

**Walmart (Windham) Shopping Trip:** Wednesday, May 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. A \$3 transportation donation is requested. Space is limited.

**Mighty Magnificent Men's Group:** Monday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. This is a social hour of fun facts and sharing activities, and snacks, just for the guys.

**Ageless Mindful Awareness Techniques:**

## Anchor Lodge Scholarships Available

Anchor Lodge is offering 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.

Mondays, May 8 and 22, 1 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude in a group setting.

**The Art of the Sit Spot:** Friday, May 12, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the Cranberry Bog. Bring a mat, folding chair or camping stool. Meet at the Bog kiosk in the parking lot. Transportation may be available if requested by May 6.

**Free Blood Pressure Screening:** Monday, May 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Chatham Health Department will sponsor this clinic. Simply stop by; no appointment necessary.

**Bracelet-Making by Wendy:** Tuesday, May 16, at 10 a.m. Make a recycled button keepsake bracelet. All supplies provided.

**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. 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 [Jew-ing@easthampton.gov](mailto:Jew-ing@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.

## Sports Boosters Golf Tournament

The East Hampton Sports Boosters' 31st annual Golf Tournament will be held Tuesday, June 27, at Blackledge Country Club. The Boosters support various team requests along with awarding two scholarships to graduating seniors.

Golfing and sponsorship opportunities are available. To register, go to [tinyurl.com/584trjty](http://tinyurl.com/584trjty) or call Jeff at 860-398-1263.

## Belltown Garden Club Offering Scholarship

The Belltown Garden Club is offering a graduating high school senior who lives in town the chance to apply for a \$500 scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded to an East Hampton High School senior with preferences given to a student who intends to major in sciences or education related to the earth. Related fields of study will be considered. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office, 15 North Maple Street. Applications are due May 15.



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**The Clean-Up Crew...** This past weekend, Chatham Historical Society members (from left) Larry Lawrence, Karen Stein, president Carol Morris and secretary Paula Alm worked to clean up the grounds of the historical society at 6 Bevin Blvd., in preparation for Brian Spack of B & S Landscaping, who has volunteered to seed the newly cleared land behind the museum. *Photo by Maggy Morales.*

## OHD Parade to Honor Fire Department

On Saturday, July 8, the Old Home Day Parade honors the men and women of the East Hampton Fire Department and its 100-Year Anniversary. Several area firetrucks of all sizes and sounds are expected for the parade.

All local businesses, organizations, groups, clubs and teams are invited to participate in the parade. If you are designing a parade display, please consider these themes: "100 Years of Service – Thank You East Hampton Fire Department!"; "Local Recognition – Did a

citizen or group in East Hampton recently receive an award or recognition for their recent contribution to their school, town, state or country?"; or "The Power of Education – How can your display educate spectators?"

If interested in participating, fill out the Parade Request Form online at [www.ehohd.org](http://www.ehohd.org). For more information, contact Bo Tinson, parade chair, at 860-414-9712 or [RLTinson@gmail.com](mailto:RLTinson@gmail.com).

## EHACC Seeks Members

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) is accepting applications from East Hampton residents to serve on the commission. The board of volunteers meet every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph N. Goff House Museum, 2 Barton Hill Rd., and helps support and promote arts and culture in the Town of East Hampton.

EHACC offers several initiatives to the East Hampton community, including the annual Community Grant, which supports organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts; the Capstone Grant, which supports East Hampton High School students' proposed Capstone Projects; the Student

Art Award program, which highlights the artistic talents of students in public schools; and the Art Purchase Award, through which locally made artwork is presented to a town facility as a way to support local artists and for the enjoyment of the East Hampton community.

EHACC also hosted a garden tour in July 2022, which featured a plein air painting opportunity for local artists and self-guided tours of six community and private gardens in East Hampton. Application to serve on the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission are available in the town manager's office at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

For more information on EHACC, visit [www.artsforeasthamptonct.org](http://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org) or email [arts@easthamptonct.org](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org).

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Facility, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton.

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.

## Lions Club Offering Scholarships

The East Hampton Lions Club is offering graduating high school seniors who live in town the chance to apply for four \$1,000 scholarships.

Those planning to attend any accredited college, university or trade school are welcome to apply. It doesn't matter if the student attends public, private, charter or magnet high school or if they are home-schooled.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office, 15 N. Maple St. Applications are due at the end of April.

## CDHR Volunteer Info Session

The Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue is looking for volunteers – and no experience is necessary!

If interested, come to the upcoming volunteer information session Sunday, April 30, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at CDHR, 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

You must be at least 15 years of age to volunteer, and no volunteers under 18 can be at the farm without an adult family member.

Read and fill out this form prior to the info session: [www.ctdraftrescue.org/volunteer](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/volunteer).

Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue is 100% volunteer-operated.

## 11th Annual Gelding Clinic

CT Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) is sponsoring the 11th annual Gelding Clinic Saturday, May 6 (rain date: Sunday, May 7), at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd., East Hampton.

Veterinary students from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, under the direct supervision of both Tufts and local veterinarians, volunteer to perform the gelding.

Fee is \$125 per horse/donkey/mule. Limited appointments are available. Pre-registration/payment required, at [www.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2023](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2023).

Note: CDHR will be closed to the public on this day.

## Garden Club Plant and Tag Sale

The Middle Haddam Garden Club will hold a plant and tag sale at the Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Senior Center Transportation Change

There has been a change in the driver hours, due to changing needs. Previously the hours were Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The new schedule is Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Occasionally a medical transport can be accommodated, if time is available. Transportation continues to be available for local trips within East Hampton.

The service is available to East Hampton residents age 60 or over on a first-come, first-served basis. The van is accessible, allowing transportation of wheelchairs and similar equipment. There is no charge for the service; however, donations are accepted.

Schedule your ride by calling the senior center at 860-267-4426.

## Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts is accepting donations for its annual fall tag sale – Epoch's biggest fundraiser – every second and fourth Saturday of the month, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Do not drop donations off at any other time, and do not leave donations outside our building. You will only be able to drop off donations if somebody is there to accept them.

Items not accepted for the sale include: computers and any accessories including monitors, printers, keyboards and mice; televisions; child car seats, cribs, mattresses, bed frames, couches, encyclopedias, textbooks, large exercise machines, old-style phones and cell phones, and large sofa chairs.

## 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 various workshops, while afternoons are spent in rehearsals for the summer mainstage production – which this year is *Rent*.

For teens interested in a leading role in the show, auditions are held a few weeks before

camp. Auditions, however, are not mandatory and students who do not audition will be featured in the ensemble. There are also 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). For those who register by May 1, tuition is \$625. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need. Email [info@ypcca.org](mailto:info@ypcca.org) for more information.

## Sign Up this Spring for Lake-Smart Evaluation

With spring here, folks are invited to have their lake or watershed property evaluated to see what improvements they can make to their property in order to have a cleaner Lake Pocotopaug. People might also qualify for the Lake Smart Award that is given by the East Hampton Conservation and Lake Commission (C&LC).

The C&LC started the Lake-Smart Award Program for property owners living on Lake Pocotopaug or in the surrounding watershed. The purpose is to encourage property owners to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug by doing projects to prevent infiltration of phosphates, nitrates, pesticides, and other impurities from entering the lake. Those that achieve seven requirements will receive a Lake-Smart Award sign they can display on their property. It is hoped the program will not only improve the quality of the lake but also encourage neighbors to make improvements to their property.

Some of the seven criteria property owners will be evaluated on are: do they have a "buffer zone," rain gardens, diversion ditches, etc. that contain stormwater runoff before it reaches the lake? Do owners refrain from using chemical fertilizers containing phosphates and nitrates or using pesticides and herbicides? In mowing their lawn do they maintain the level of their lawn at 2 ½-3" and use a mulching blade instead of bagging grass clippings? Do they cover bare soil areas with mulch or plantings? Do they refrain from feeding water fowl and discourage them from coming onto their property? And, do they prevent leaves and grass clippings from entering the lake?

Those wishing to be evaluated for the award, should contact: Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Department (860-267-7300 or [jhall@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:jhall@easthamptonct.gov)) or Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Dept. (860-267-7450 or [jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov)), or any members of the C&LC. An appointment will be arranged for a C&LC member to visit the owners and help them evaluate their property. If there is a

## Knights of Columbus State Raffle

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering Connecticut State Council raffle tickets.

There are 10 prizes to be awarded. First prize is \$5,000; second is \$3,500; third is \$2,000; fourth is \$1,500; fifth is \$1,000; sixth is \$600; seventh is \$500; eighth is \$400; ninth is \$300 and tenth is \$200.

The drawing will be held Friday, May 5, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford. Ticketholders need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased through any of the Knights of Columbus members or by calling Bob DeMarchi at 860-267-5978.

## Quilt Show Coming

The Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

The show will feature dozens of hand-made quilts, a tea room, and a Bits & Pieces sale of fabric, yarn and notions. Admission is a suggested \$8 donation.

To submit quilts, email [mapionzio@com-cast.net](mailto:mapionzio@com-cast.net).



**John Roach of Raymond Road in East Hampton signed up to have his watershed property evaluated and was awarded a Lake Smart sign because his property does not contribute to the spread of phosphates and nitrates into Lake Pocotopaug.** *Photo by Marty Podskoch.*

deficiency, owners will be given suggestions on improving their property. If they achieve all the goals, they will receive a Lake-Smart Award.

Lake and watershed property owners can also apply for the Lake-Smart Award Grant Program sponsored by the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug who are offering resident grants up to \$150 to make one or more Lake Smart improvements. They can apply after they have been evaluated and shown need for improving their property.

## Postal Food Drive

On Saturday, May 13, mail carriers in East Hampton will conduct their annual food drive to help replenish the local food bank shelves. This is part of a nationwide effort that has been carried on for more than 20 years.

Donations can be left at your mailbox or brought to the Post Office lobby. It would be helpful to put items out early our carriers will be assisted by volunteers.

Donations should have current use-by dates.

## 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 police station. The workshop is for ages 16 and up, and will teach them 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.

## Mother's Day Pop-Up Boutique

On Saturday, May 13, the Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St., will hold a Mother's Day Pop-Up Boutique from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Featured will be gifts, Kids Buy for Mom Store, gift basket raffle, Rada cutlery, coffeecake sale, and photo booth. There will be free mini muffins and lemonade for all who attend.



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## Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of April 17 - 23:

**Fayz Baig – RHAM High School (Baseball):** Baig hit a walk-off single, driving a shot to center to score Sam Senes as the Raptors edged Tolland 17-16 on April 19. Baig, a sophomore, was a beast from the plate, connecting on five hits. He drove in four runs and scored another to help the team hold off a rally from the visiting Eagles from Tolland, who scored nine runs in the sixth inning. Junior Sean Connolly added three hits, scoring three runs and driving in two more, while senior Ethan Polochanin also had three hits, driving in a run and scoring twice. All told, RHAM scattered 19 hits as the team improved to 5-2.

**Joseph LaMalfa – Portland High School (Golf):** LaMalfa shook off a rough opening hole to finish at the medalist, shooting a 37 as the Highlander defeated Old Saybrook at Portland Golf Course on April 19. LaMalfa, a senior, shot par on the fifth hole to edge junior teammate Luke Stennett (38) atop the leaderboard. Portland won the overall meet (159-178) over the

conference rival Rams to remain undefeated on the season.

**Maddox Burton – Bacon Academy (La-crosse):** Burton scored five goals and dished out five assists as the Bobcats defeated Killingly 17-10 on April 20. Burton's five helpers were a season-high and her five goals equal the total she scored in a win over Woodstock Academy on April 15. Burton, a senior, was one of five Bobcats to score goals in the win over Killingly. Anna LeGault and Katie Graham each scored four, while Marissa Nudd tallied three and Megan Swanke found the back of the net once.

**Anthony Miro – East Hampton High School (Tennis):** Miro defeated Old Saybrook's Brent Ling (6-0, 2-6, 6-2) to win the No. 1 singles match as the Bellingers defeated the Rams (4-1) at East Hampton High School, securing the team's first victory of the season. Miro, a junior, was one of three Bellingers to win individual matches. No. 2 player Zach Selger defeated Drew Demers in straight sets and No. 3 player Landon Vaillancourt defeated Jason Lee in straight sets.



**Catholic Scout Award Recipient...** On April 23, Megyn Perez, as a Catholic scout in Cub Scout Pack 57, received her Light of Christ emblem presented by Bishop Michael R. Cote (seated) at the Catholic Scouting Award Ceremony held at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich. Catholic scouts are recognized each spring upon completion of a religious program designed for the scout's rank or age. The program booklets are begun in the fall and finished by March 1. The younger scouts work on a program booklet with their family while older scouts work with a trained counselor. For more information, contact the Office of Faith Events in Norwich at 860.848.2237 ext 305 for Scouting. Pictured with Cote and Megyn is the Rev. Martin Noe.

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★ *Budget Cuts, cont. from page 1*

Mike Buck, a Republican member of the Board of Education who said he was addressing the council as a resident, said manageable class sizes are key to monitoring for students in emotional or mental crisis.

A few finance board Republicans have characterized the cuts as a protest against unfunded Hartford mandates. But many who spoke Tuesday said this is actually the finance board just "sticking it" to local kids.

In all, around 200 people showed up at Tuesday's meeting to support the school system. There were students, teachers, staff, parents, residents without school kids, and members of the local board of education.

Local teachers fought for their coworkers. Kelly Snyder, a Belltown kindergarten teacher with school-age kids, said the district's teachers already have to strive to meet mental health needs. Snyder said she used to work in Hartford classrooms, with 27 or more kids. Managing this number of kids, she said, is "impossible."

In East Hampton, Snyder said, "every single teacher rose to the challenge of teaching during the pandemic," switching to online learning in a matter of days. "Students in East Hampton didn't miss a beat" thanks to those teachers, said Snyder.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Finance, Republican board member Richard Brown noted that grades and test scores have fallen, and asked rhetorically, "Why aren't teachers doing their jobs?"

Snyder said Tuesday that such a question only shows the finance board is "far removed" from the day-to-day "struggle and hustle" of teachers and school workers.

Snyder suggested local officials educate themselves as to the workload of teachers.

Deborah Field, a 21-year East Hampton para-educator, said she understands the difficult task of weighing budget priorities.

Before the Board of Finance cut, the school system learned it would save \$200,000 in insurance costs. Field, and a few others, said it would be reasonable to cut this amount from the budget – not almost quadruple that number.

"I implore you to send this back," she said. A Republican on the local zoning commission, Angelus Tammaro, said the council had nothing to lose by sending the budget back to the finance board.

Buck, in a school board meeting Monday, said he thought after Republicans swept the 2021 election, taking control of the council, the school board and the finance board, that there'd be harmony among the boards. He said he's saddened to see this isn't the case.

Buck said the council was seeing a lot of anger that night. Anger, he said, is more often a symptom than the illness itself. In this instance, the anger is a symptom of sadness. Buck said the actions of the council are why many local Republicans have been alienated. Buck said his fellow Republicans bowed to party loyalty and "bullies."

Board of Education member and Republican Auggie Arndt – who stressed he was speaking as an individual – said the district has highly favorable and cost-effective student-teacher ratios. He said if there's a fight to be had it's with the state, not local kids.

He made his feelings quite clear.

"I could not be more ashamed of the five of you," he said to the five Town Council members who voted against sending the budget back to the finance board. He said the five raised their hands "like the puppets you are."

There's some division among the school board, too. Republican Sal Nucifora at Monday's school board meeting characterized superintendent Smith's cutting of teachers as irresponsible and even lazy, and said other things need to be looked at. To the visible discomfiture of several school board members, Nucifora floated some unusual ideas, such as raising school lunches by double or even triple.

On Monday, Nucifora said he voted against cutting the teachers. By law the district has to notify people being laid off of contract non-renewals; thus, the school board's vote largely being a formality. Speaking to the council Tuesday, Nucifora neglected to mention that the school board was required to vote to lay off the teachers, saying instead that he refused to approve it.

School board chairperson Christina Tammaro-Dzagan said whenever there is a budget cut of this magnitude, the school board gets accused of "threatening" to lay off teachers "as if it's a game of chicken."

She said the town gets a "no-wants" budget and makes cuts anyway. Maybe it's not the board actually cutting jobs, "maybe it's you," she said. In the Monday school board meeting Tammaro-Dzagan seemed visibly frustrated by the cut, and by Nucifora's suggestion the superintendent did a bad job.

To the council, Tammaro-Dzagan seemed wary of the claim it needed more review time, pointing out the superintendent first published his draft in January, and that there've been many workshops and meetings since, and that the school board's "lines were open."

Among other residents speaking Tuesday, school board member and Democrat Nancy Kohler said she was "outraged" the finance board would question teacher performance. She also said the finance board's cut goes against the council's own 2023-24 budget policy.

Council Democrat Reich said the budget process has yet to conclude. At its next meeting, talks, he said, are likely to continue.

"This is not something new," Philhower said. He said the council must "digest" all the comments made before making a decision.

"That's the process," he said. Between the town and school budgets, and assuming nothing else changes, voters have final say in the proposed \$53.60 million budget, up about \$2 million from the current spending package, a bump of close to 3.6%.

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★ *New Senior Center, cont. from page 1*

"It was good to see that the community is excited about it," he said. "This thought process has been in the town for almost 20 years."

Besides a new location, the new facility will feature multi-purpose rooms, a health office, library, fitness room and event space. Seniors will have opportunities that were previously unavailable to them.

"The thing that I notice [with the design] is that there's room for seniors to expand their programs," Tarnowski said. "They've been held back."

While it's hard to envision by simply glancing at the piles of dirt fenced in by Lebanon Avenue, the new building will emanate a positive atmosphere. There will be plenty of light pouring in, a fireplace and many accommodating features.

"When you walk in the front door, you're going to feel welcomed," Tarnowski said.

Bysiewicz also highlighted the group effort to bring the project forward.

"It really took a village to make this project happen, from all of the volunteers who are elected leaders in this town, to the people who served on the building committee, to all of the advocates in this room and beyond who were putting forth their ideas to make this happen," she said. "You can tell from the turnout that Colchester is a place that has a very big heart and when the senior center is built, we'll have a place to put it."

Throughout the ceremony, the occasional "go seniors!" chant would burst from the crowd. The anticipation in the room was perhaps best captured by Watts, who called the groundbreaking an "important milestone."

"Today is a day which remembers our rich history and propels us forward into a bright future," she said.

On September 13, 1978, the Colchester Senior Center was established and it's been at the current location on Norwich Avenue since 1980. Over the past 10 years, Watts said membership has spiked from 550 to 1,700 — "historic growth."

With the expansion – which Watts said she doesn't expect to slow down -- a new facility was more than necessary.

"We are symbolically moving senior services forward and with it the Colchester Senior Center to its next and final destination."

When asked if this was the most historic day

for the Colchester Senior Center, Watts laughed. "I'd say our grand opening will be, but this gets the ball rolling," she told the *Rivereast*.

Still, last Friday will be tough to beat.

"This was probably one of my most meaningful days on the job," she said. "I've always joked that our current facility is the envy of no one, but our people are the best, and now we'll have a facility that kind of rises up and greets us and that will be a game changer in all sorts of ways."

Bisbikos highlighted the work done by previous first selectmen to make strides with the project. He also noted recent hurdles that he said posed a serious threat to the facility's future, and said some concerns still need to be resolved.

He stated, however, that his administration "will deliver on this project as it has with every project that we've embarked on."

The town faced a lawsuit in December which would've prevented a construction contract from being awarded. Although a favorable ruling allowed the town to proceed, officials have signaled that the project still faces a budget shortfall.

In 2021, residents signed-off at a referendum on \$9.5 million for the building of the new senior center. The Senior Center Building Committee requested an additional \$1.5 million earlier this year, taking the overall budget to \$11 million.

The boards of selectmen and finance are expected to address the budget request at a joint meeting next month and discuss a potential referendum to secure the funding.

Tarnowski expressed that originally, the town could afford \$9.5 million, but the \$2.5 million state grant brought the total bonding to \$7 million. With the request of \$1.5 million, the town would still be under its original budget goal.

Although he's hopeful that the community would support the funding at referendum, there would be "serious problems" with the project if the money wasn't secured.

"I think people realize we got caught in the inflationary cycle," he said.

To wrap up the ceremony at Town Hall, the attendees were treated to a memorable performance by the senior center's "Senior Serenaders." And of course, the day wouldn't have been complete without the cutting of cake.

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## Obituaries

### Portland

#### Pamela Jeanne Bayha

Pamela "Pam" Jeanne Bayha, 70, of Portland, passed away peacefully from this life Sunday, April 2, at Middlesex Hospital with her family by her side. Born to James and Shirley Reed in Meriden Jan. 27, 1953, Pam grew up in Meriden and Cromwell, graduating from Cromwell High School in 1971.



Pam worked throughout her life at Middlesex Hospital and Orthopedic Associates of Hartford before retiring in 2022.

Like her mother, Pam was beautiful inside and out. She was loved by everyone including family, friends, co-workers and patients for her kindness, compassion, witty sense of humor and her courage, while battling various health issues, always with a smile on her face.

Pam always put others' needs and happiness before her own; always available to lend an ear or helping hand.

Pam enjoyed the beach, camping, spending time with family, motorcycle rides, dining out and road trips just meandering the countryside, stopping along the way at whatever caught her eye. She loved the state of Maine, making many trips with family or friends over her lifetime. Most recent years also included outings with her sister, Lynda and husband Joe, on their boat relaxing and enjoying the many lakes of Connecticut.

Pam was especially fond of cats and participated in rescuing many, with her stepsister, Virginia, and finding good, loving homes for them, including her own!

Pam was preceded in death by her father, James C. Reed; mother, Shirley G. Clement; and her brother, David A. Reed.

She leaves behind her beloved son, Russell David Bayha, whom she was so very proud of, and his wife Kelly of Amston; and her sister, Lynda Reed Derosier and her husband Joseph (who had a special bond with Pam referring to her as his "second" wife) of East Hampton, and whom Pam resided with for her final months of life. She is also survived by her stepfather, David Clement of Sebring, Fla., whom she loved dearly for loving her mother, Shirley, unconditionally for over 40 years; stepsisters, Virginia Surdel and husband Richard and Rhonda Clement Terragna, all of Ruthersfordton, N.C.; stepbrother, David Clement Jr. and wife Patti of Middletown; special friend, Kevin Chameroy of Windham; former husband and father of her son, Charles Bayha of Portland; as well as many extended family and friends.

Pam also leaves behind her "kids" (as she referred to them) Dorito, Cheeto, Smudge and

Bucky, all rescue kitties whom she loved and spoiled. They will continue to be loved and cared for by her son Russell and sister Lynda until they cross the rainbow bridge to be with their "Mom" again.

At Pam's request there are no calling hours. A graveside service will be held at Rose Hill Memorial Park in Rocky Hill on Friday, May 26, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make donations in Pam's name to the CT Humane Society in Newington, CT.

Thank you, "mom", "sis", "Pam" for all your love, support and special memories. We love you, miss you and will always keep you close to our hearts.

For online condolences, memories, or photo tributes, please visit [www.rosehillfuneralhome.com](http://www.rosehillfuneralhome.com).

### Andover

#### Richard Linden

Richard Linden (Rick), 69, passed away peacefully and surrounded by his family Sunday, April 16, in Venice, Fla.

Rick was born in Rye, N.Y., on Oct. 26, 1953. He graduated from Cornell University with a BS in biology and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Rick initially worked as a hospital administrator for 20 years. He then discovered his passion for teaching and became a proud member of the RHAM community teaching chemistry. He took great joy in creating a fun learning environment for his students. It was rumored that Mr. Linden would dress up as Professor Snape on rare occasion, though his students were never able to prove this.

Rick enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid hiker, runner, swimmer, biker, and skier. He also had a passion for volunteer work. This included testing the water quality of Andover Lake out on his canoe, leading nature walk tours in Florida preserves around his retirement home, tutoring students online, and much more. Rick had a special ability to make his many adventures and everyday life experiences more light-hearted, easygoing, and silly for the people around him.

He is survived by his wife, Katie Linden; his children, Ellie and John; his brother, Robert (Bob); and his niece and nephews, Beth, Jeremy and Todd.

A celebration of life ceremony is scheduled from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake St., Coventry, CT 06238.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to AHM Youth and Family Services ([ahmyouth.org](http://ahmyouth.org)) and Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut ([habitatect.org](http://habitatect.org)).



### East Hampton

#### Antonio Rotundo

Antonio "Tony" Rotundo passed away peacefully Saturday, April 22. He was a resident of East Hampton for over 50 years. Tony was born in Calabria, Italy, on Oct. 2, 1933. He was the son of the late Frank and Rosina Rotundo.



Tony is survived by his daughter, Rosa McGibney and her husband Richard; son, Frank Rotundo and his wife Meg; brother, Luigi Rotundo and his late wife Maryann; sisters, Vincenzina Perri, Antonia Fazio and her late husband Vincenzo, and Phyllis Suma and husband Tony; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Tony was preceded in death by his wife Michelina Rotundo (Fazio), his youngest daughter, Frances Rotundo, and granddaughter, Olivia M. Rotundo.

Tony came to the United States with his family, after living in Australia. He and his wife worked selflessly to build a beautiful life and home for themselves, their children and grandchildren.

For almost 25 years, Tony worked for Hartford Electric Light/Connecticut Light & Power. There he worked as an equipment operator and was chief of building maintenance. There he formed long lasting bonds with a group of amazing friends that included practical jokes, witty humor, and a lifetime of memories.

Tony was an avid hunter, winemaker and family man. He was passionate in everything that he did, whether it was making sauce or soppresata, splitting wood, or in the garden.

After the passing of his wife, Tony enjoyed the rest of his years with his late partner, Ann Hale. They enjoyed traveling and spending time with their families. Tony was loved by all and will be dearly missed.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, April 27. Funeral services will be held today, Friday, April 28, at 10:30 a.m., at First Congregational Church of Portland, 554 Main St. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Hebron

#### Savannah Hanelius

Savannah Sarah Hanelius, 23, passed away unexpectedly in her home in South Saint Paul, Minn., on Sunday, April 16, leaving behind grieving family members in both Minnesota and Connecticut.



Savannah was born May 17, 1999, and was adopted by her loving parents in 2009, while living in Arizona, along with her brothers, Derrick Hanelius and Devin Hanelius. Her father, Jayson Hanelius, and her mother, Jenna Konior, are both natives of Connecticut, and they moved the family to Hebron in 2010 where the children were joyfully welcomed by new grandparents, aunts, uncles and numerous cousins.

When Savannah was 19, she reconnected with her biological family, and within a year (and with Jayson and Jenna's understanding and support), she moved to Minnesota to reestablish relationships. She was well-loved by friends and family both there and here in Connecticut.

Savannah went through the Hebron school system for a number of years and finished her education through both home and private schooling. She then earned a certificate in phlebotomy and also a certificate as a medical assistant (CMA). She attended Hope Church in East Hampton, where she helped her mom with children's ministry. She also loved helping her dad, who is a coach at RHAM, as a wrestling team manager.

Savannah will be remembered for her smile, her laugh, the joy she could bring into any room, and most of all for her love for babies. Sadly, she leaves behind her own baby, Za'Kiyah, whom she adored with her whole heart.

As hard as it is to include this portion, as her parents, we feel it is important to allude to what happened. Although it is difficult, if it helps to save one life or save one family from immense grief, it is worth it. We want to remind people of the horrific impact of fentanyl, and to say to anyone who may read this that it is a hidden evil, prevalent in so many substances, even the ones that are deemed "not that bad." It is never worth taking the chance. Ever. It leads to nothing but heartache. This tragic and sudden loss brings sadness to so many. Yet for our Savannah, we believe that she held on to the simple yet profound message of her Christian faith in which she was raised - that Jesus paved the way for her through His sacrifice for all of us. That brings us great hope that one day, we will be reunited in Heaven.

Memorial services will be held both in Minnesota and in Connecticut. Local friends and family are invited to attend Tuesday, May 2, at The Worship Center, 99 Marjorie Circle, in Hebron. Visitation with the family will be between 5 and 6:45 p.m., and a memorial service will begin at 7. Guests are welcome to attend either or both. Light refreshments on site will follow.

In lieu of flowers, if you are so inclined, please consider making a donation in Savannah's memory to His Mansion Ministries, 395 Wolf Hill Rd., Deering, NH 03244.

### Andover

#### Curtis W. Dowling Graveside Service

The family of Curtis W. Dowling will be gathering to honor Curt in his burial alongside his father Donald Dowling Sr. at Townsend Cemetery on Townsend Road, Andover, on Sunday, May 7, at 12:30 p.m., presided by the Rev. Rose Nilson. Family and friends are invited to attend.

Dowling, 69, passed away Jan. 27, after a short illness.

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RES-17-23

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RES-28-23

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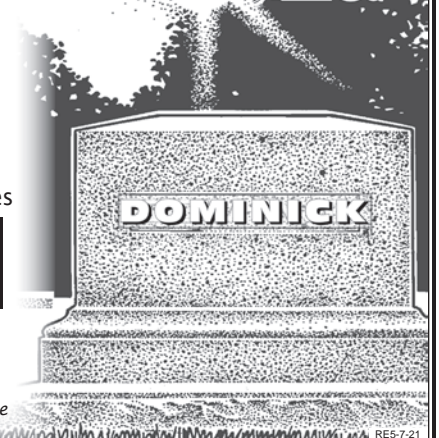
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RES-7-21



**Obituaries**

*Hebron*

**Kirk Lionel Spencer**

Kirk Lionel Spencer, 82, of Coventry, Vt., passed away Friday, April 14, in St. Johnsbury, Vt. He was born Dec. 5, 1940, in East Hartford, to the late Edward and Lillian (Whitman) Spencer. On Nov. 20, 1965, he married Marie (Lucy) Sylvester, who predeceased him on July 11, 2017.



In Hebron, Kirk helped run and own his family's business Spencer's Used Auto Parts. He moved to Vermont in 1976 and in 1977 Kirk started his own Spencer's Used Auto in Coventry, Vt. He also enjoyed hunting (especially deer), fishing, being outdoors, and all types of cars. His family was very important to him.

He is survived by his special niece, Barbara DeVost and her husband Richard of Coventry, Vt.; grandchildren, Jessica Guyette and her husband Jeff of Coventry, Vt., and their children Emilee and Bailee; Victor Carter II and his girlfriend Carrie Lucas and their dogs that were special to Kirk, Miles, Heidi and Maddie. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren were very special to Kirk. He is also survived by his sister Lynne Sandahl and her husband Paul of Hebron, as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was also predeceased by his step-son Victor Carter, brothers Karl and Morton Spencer and sister Muriel Fuller.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the Coventry Village Cemetery in Coventry, Vt., with the Rev. Leo Bilocheau officiating.

If friends desire, memorial contributions in memory of Kirk Spencer may be made to Frontier Animal Society, 243 Woods Farm Road, Newport, VT 05855.

Online condolences may be made at [curtisbritch.com](http://curtisbritch.com). Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Curtis-Britch & Bouffard Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

*Portland*

**Beverly J. Merk**

Beverly J. Merk, 89, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, April 19, after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's. Beverly was born and raised in Portland to Annie and Edward Walden and a graduate of Portland High School.

Beverly, known as Bev, was a member of the First Congregational Church of Portland for 76 years. She was a natural, working with young children and would volunteer to take care of the nursery during services. Children always loved her friendly, warm energy, her ready smile and welcoming disposition. Wherever she was, for work or family, people enjoyed socializing and having fun with her, whether it was Portland Garden Club, ceramics, line dancing or tai chi.

Her husband, Louis, was given many opportunities for overseas assignments with Pratt & Whitney, which made it possible for her to explore her sense of adventure. Their travels took them to Europe, Scandinavia and Japan. Her early career included involvement in 4-H Club, Future Homemakers of America where she was awarded Degree of State Homemaker in May of 1950 by CT College for Women. After her four children were in grade school, she worked part-time at G Fox & Company and then full-time at Middlesex Assurance Company.

Beverly was predeceased by her son, Larry Merk, and her daughter, Bonnie Birman. She

leaves behind her husband, Louis; her daughter, Lynn and husband Steven Rossi of East Had-dam and her son, Jeff Merk and wife Laura of Portland; and four grandchildren, David and Michael Rossi and Kevin and Sarah Merk.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 26, in First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland. Friends called at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Wednesday morning. Burial will be in Center Cemetery, Portland.

*Colchester*

**Pamela Jean Jobs**

Pamela Jean Jobs, fondly known as Pam, of Colchester, passed away Friday, April 21, at Backus Hospital, with her loving and attentive family by her side. She was 76 years old. Pam was born March 16, 1947, in Pontiac, Mich., a daughter of the late James and Jean (Smith) Burtraw.



Pam grew up in Jacksonville, Fla., where she graduated from Ribault High School. She enlisted with the United States Navy, serving during the Vietnam War. While stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, she met the love of her life, a career military man, John Jobs. The couple were married Feb. 11, 1967, in Jacksonville, Fla. As a military family they moved from place to place, yet always keeping their family at the center of their attention. For many years, wherever they were living, Pam and John found places where they could share their love for square dancing. In 2003, they moved to Colchester where they have enjoyed their retirement ever since.

In her spare time, Pam enjoyed crafting and was a talented seamstress. Most importantly she will be remembered for her devotion to her family (the glue that kept them all connected), and she was the biggest fan supporting every endeavor her grandchildren engaged in.

Pam will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her husband of 56 years, John; her children and their spouses, Christopher (Rachael) Jobs of Clancy, Mont., Rebecca (Nathan) Emmons of Colchester; James (Jacqueline) Jobs of Jacksonville Fla.; grandchildren, Dylan (Brittany) Jobs, Gavin and Lauren Emmons, Makenna and Eli Jobs, Carrie McClellan; great-grandchildren, Audrey-Ann, and Landyn Jobs; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Carla Ann Pearson.

A celebration of Pam's life will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Saturday, April 29, from 3-5 p.m. Burial will be private.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Pam, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

**LEGAL NOTICE  
Annual Town Budget Meeting and  
Budget Referendum  
Town of Portland, Connecticut**

The **Annual Town Budget Meeting** will be held in person at the Portland Middle School-Cafeteria, 95 High Street Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM, EDT  
The **Budget Referendum** will be held at the Portland Middle School-Band Room, 93 High Street Monday, May 8, 2023 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, EDT  
Contact Town Clerk's Office for Absentee Ballots  
Pursuant to Section 1201.4 of the Town of Portland Charter, the Annual Town Budget Meeting and the Budget Referendum shall be held at the above noted dates, places and times to consider and act upon the 2023-2024 General Fund Operating Budget as adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its meeting of April 5, 2023. The recommended budget for FY 2023-2024 is \$38,280,900. The recommended amounts for the major budget functions are highlighted in the following table.

General Government	\$1,628,182
Public Safety	\$2,463,785
Public Works	\$2,558,250
Planning and Development	\$204,039
Health and Human Services	\$390,255
Portland Library	\$801,000
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$3,531,405
Risk Management	\$238,500
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT:</b>	<b>\$11,815,416</b>
<b>EDUCATION:</b>	<b>\$23,547,317</b>
Debt Service	\$1,593,299
Sundry	\$1,324,868
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$2,918,167</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$38,280,900</b>

The estimated mill rate would be 32.27, an increase of 0.83 mills over the FY 2022-2023 mill rate of 32.44. The estimated mill rate is subject to adjustment based on approved State of Connecticut Budget revenues to the Town.  
The budget is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office located at 33 East Main Street, the Portland Public Library located at 20 Freestone Avenue, and on the Town's website [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org)  
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 18th day of April 2023  
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

1TB 4/28

**LEGAL NOTICE  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:30 PM, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:

- Petition 2023-2:** Request of Mark and Kandy Caccio, Applicant, for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 216 square foot accessory structure (shed) to be located 2' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 10', on premise located at 44 Ames Rd, Amston Lake District.
  - Petition 2023-3:** Request of David M. Pescatello, Owner, for a variance of Section 2.E.4 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 960 square foot accessory structure (garage) to be located 10' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 20', on premise located at 765 East Street, Residence 1 District.
- Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 18th day of April 2023.  
Martin Halloran, Chairperson  
**Interested persons may appear and all written communications will be received.**  
**Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on Friday, April 21, 2023 and Friday, April 28, 2023.**  
Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

2TB 4/21, 4/28

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**LEGALS**

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition(s):

**Certificate of Appropriateness - COA 2023-002** – of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Department for installation of a pre-fabricated, permanent bus shelter at the CT Transit stop located on the on the Town Green at Broadway and Main Street.

At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 105, Colchester, CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).  
Historic District Commission  
Ellen Sharon, Chair

2TB 4/28, 5/5

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on May 3, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following petition(s):

**PZC 2023-006** of ASW, LLC (Applicant) and Roaring Brook Advisors, LLC, Kathleen B. Fabian, and Patrick M. Shugrue (Owners) – Zone Change from Future Development (FD) to Suburban Use (SU) for 57± acres of land located on Lake Hayward Road (Assessor's ID 03-09/049-000 - 19± acres; Assessor's ID 03-09/52B-000 - 18± acres, and Assessor's ID 03-09/52A-000 – 20± acres). Zoning District: Future Development (FD).

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is located in the Land Use 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 4/21, 4/28

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE**

At its Regular Meeting of April 19, 2023 the Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:

**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). **APPROVED.**  
**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. **APPROVED W/ EFFECTIVE DATE OF 5/5/23.**  
**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). **APPROVED.**

Dated April 20, 2023  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 4/28

**INVITATION TO BID  
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS OF DETENTION BASIN  
RHAM HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS  
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT  
APRIL 28, 2023**

Regional School District # 8 Board of Education ("RHAM") is seeking competitive bids for construction services related to **MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS of the DETENTION BASIN, located at RHAM HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS** in Hebron, CT. Scope of work for this project generally includes earthwork and grading, installation of bituminous pavement walkways, concrete pads, miscellaneous site work, and site restoration.  
Beginning on Friday April 28, 2023, plans and specifications for "DETENTION BASIN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS, RHAM HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS" will be available to bidders. Plans and specifications may be viewed and purchased on-line at <http://www.advancedplanroom.com/public.php>. Advanced Reprographics, Plainville, CT. There is a charge for Portable Document Format (.pdf) file sets, paper copies, and shipping. Bidders are responsible for any printing or shipping costs, or pickup at the Advanced Reprographics office and for obtaining all addenda from the Advanced Reprographics website.  
Sealed Bids for "DETENTION BASIN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS, RHAM HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS" may be mailed or delivered in person to: Eva Gallupe, Business Manager, in the Central Office for Regional School District No. 8 at 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 until 2:00 pm on Friday May 26, 2023. All bids will be publicly opened and will be read aloud. Bid Results will also be posted on the on-line plan service website for review within 24 hours of due date. Emailed or faxed Bids will not be accepted. To obtain or review Bids refer to the bidding instructions.

**RHAM reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, in whole or in part. Any or all Bids may be rejected if there is any reason to believe that collusion exists among the bidders. Individual Bids may be rejected for irregularities of any kind, including without limitations, alteration of form, additions not called for, conditional Bids, incomplete Bids and unexplained erasures. RHAM retains the right to waive any formality or procedural irregularities in the Bids received. Nothing should be constructed to limit in anyway the right of RHAM to reject any and all Bids, should RHAM deem it to be in its best interest. No bidder may withdraw his Bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.**

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid site walk-through will be held at RHAM High School, 85 Wall Street, Hebron, Connecticut on **Monday May 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM.** All prospective bidders are encouraged attend. The meeting will be held at the location of the detention basin. As a secure school campus Bidders are asked NOT to visit the site unescorted while school is in session. Site visits outside of this day and time shall be requested and will be coordinated by appointment only. No site visits will be allowed without a previously scheduled appointment.

Contact the Director of Facilities at 860-228-5311 or [michael.schlehofer@rhamschools.org](mailto:michael.schlehofer@rhamschools.org). Any questions regarding the proposed work should be addressed, in writing, by e-mail to Michael Schlehofer, Director of Facilities at [michael.schlehofer@rhamschools.org](mailto:michael.schlehofer@rhamschools.org). Questions will not be considered past 4:00 pm on May 12, 2023 and responses will be posted via addendum no later than 4:00 pm on May 17, 2023.

1TB 4/28

Eva Gallupe  
Business Manager  
Regional School District No. 8  
85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248  
(860) 228-2115  
[eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org](mailto:eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org)



# LEGALS

## TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MAY 01, 2023 NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET REFERENDUM MAY 02, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Marlborough are hereby notified and warned that the Board of Finance with the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing in the Community Room at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School located at 25 School Drive on May 1, 2023, at 7:00p.m for the following purpose:

- To discuss the Annual Town of Marlborough Budget in the amount of \$27,094,944 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Board of Finance.
- To Consider and act upon any additional items which are the proper subject of a Public Hearing including Special Appropriations or Transfers of Unexpended funds and Retirement of Capital Project funds, as needed.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the budget shall be submitted to a Referendum vote upon the voting machines at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT on Tuesday May 2, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote the following questions:

- "SHALL THE BUDGET of \$27,094,944 FOR THE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, BE ADOPTED?" (This includes Town Operations, Local BOE, Town & Local BOE Capital Improvements, & Marlborough's Share of RHAM Budget)
- "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$30,598,391 FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 BE ADOPTED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) is \$11,061,318)
- "SHALL THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$540,990 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 BE ADOPTED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) \$195,568)

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, 26 NORTH MAIN STREET, PLEASE CALL 860-295-6206.**

Zoom Link:  
Topic: BOS PH Proposed Annual Town Budget  
Time: May 1, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87363134202?pwd=01ZVnVCUHVjaj9tWm5HNXdTUjFLOt09>  
Meeting ID: 873 6313 4202  
Passcode: 7DPAW4  
Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 873 6313 4202  
Passcode: 179724  
Dated at Marlborough, CT on April 17, 2023, by:  
Deb Bourbeau, Chair Board of Selectmen  
Michael Nastri, Chair Board of Finance

2TB 4/21, 4/28

## 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 May 8, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

ZBA-23-004: James Bansemer, 15 Tennyson Rd., Increase lot coverage from 20% to 39.3% for construction of a concrete driveway. Map 10A/ Block 81/ Lot 64

ZBA-23-005: James Marino, 65 West High St., Reduce side setback from 25' to 10' for construction of a new residential duplex and associated improvements. Map 19/ Block 46/ Lot 14

2TB 4/28, 5/5

## MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its special meeting on April 20, 2023 took the following action:  
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED; APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:  
APPLICATION #Z-01-23- C&B Marlborough Associates LLC (Applicant/Property owner) 41-45 Hebron Rd. 1 MW solar installation.  
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 4/28

## LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH WPCA COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough WPCA Commission will hold the following Public Hearing May 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM at Town Hall located at 26 North Main Street:  
Benefit assessment- 29 South Main Street- \$12,060.00  
Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building /Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.

2TB 4/28, 5/5

# REAL ESTATE

## RENTALS

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## VACATION RENTAL

**CHARLESTOWN BEACH, RI** - All the amenities of home. Large screen porch, outside deck with gas grill, cable TV/ Wifi, very private, large lot, 5-min. to beach, sleeps 6. Renovated bathroom. 860-306-3850, Leave Message. Dogs allowed.

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CIT3-23-23

# EMPLOYMENT

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**PART-TIME COOK:** 3 days/wk includes every other weekend. Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509.

**HELP WANTED PART-TIME BARTENDER:** A position available at the St. Joseph Polish Club, Colchester, CT. Private club with public functions. The hours will be nights and weekends and may include some afternoons. Must be dependable with reliable transportation. Responsibilities are, but not limited to opening and closing the bar, serving drinks, restocking, and cleaning the facility after closing. May have to lift up to 20 lbs. TIPS certified. Please stop by to apply at 395 South Main Street, Colchester or call 860-537-2550.

**HELP WANTED: (F) NEEDS ASSISTANCE WITH EVENING MEAL / BED PREP.** Mon-Thurs \$18.25 an hour. 15Hrs+/- Please call 860-342-2054. PORTLAND.

**COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS:** is looking for part time liquor store clerk. Stop in person to apply at store, 99 Linwood Avenue, Colchester, CT.

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CIT4-27-23

**Andover School District  
General Kitchen Worker**

The Andover School District is seeking qualified candidates for the position of General Kitchen Worker, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. School food service or related field experience helpful. Pay rate as per contract. Applications are available online at [www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org) and should be sent to:  
Taylor Parker, Principal  
Andover Elementary School  
35 School Road  
Andover, CT 06232  
Or send via email to [parker@andoverelementaryct.org](mailto:parker@andoverelementaryct.org).

3TB 4/28, 5/5, 5/12

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**TOWN OF HEBRON  
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

The Town of Hebron is accepting resumes for the position of Public Works Director. The candidate should have at least five years high-level supervisory and broad public works experience. The Public Works Director plans, organizes and directs the activities of the Public Works Division in the functional areas of public works, construction, road development, building projects, maintenance and repair, facility maintenance and; refuse, recycling, engineering, sewers and equipment maintenance. The Public Works Director will also be responsible for budget development and capital improvement planning for the Department. Familiarity with road management system preferred.  
Starting salary is \$100,000 plus a generous benefit package. Resumes should be submitted to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by May 26, 2023. More details and a job description are available at [www.hebronct.com](http://www.hebronct.com). Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

1TB 4/28

**HELP WANTED – SEASONAL LABORERS  
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH**

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  
The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for two (2) Seasonal Laborers:  
This is a seasonal position within the Public Works Department with up to 40 (forty) hours a week for the summer. The successful candidate will be expected to perform general work in construction, repair and maintenance of town roads, grounds and facilities. \$15.00/hour. Positions open until filled.  
Requirements: Familiarity with, and an ability to operate, grounds maintenance equipment and small power equipment. Ability to use hand tools and a valid Connecticut driver's license are required. Employment Application and a general job description are available at the Town Clerk's Office or at [www.Marlboroughct.net](http://www.Marlboroughct.net). Completed applications are to be submitted to the:  
Marlborough Town Clerk  
26 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 29  
Marlborough, CT. 06447

2TB 4/28, 5/5



**TOWN OF HEBRON  
FIRE MARSHAL**

The Town of Hebron is seeking qualified candidates for the part-time position of Fire Marshal. State Fire Marshal Certification is required for this 16 hour per week position. The starting salary will be \$25,000. Please send resumes to the attention of Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by Friday, May 26, 2023. The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

1TB 4/28

**BUILDING OFFICIAL  
TOWN OF HEBRON**

The Town of Hebron is seeking qualified candidates for the full-time position of Building Official. Please consider this opportunity to assist the Planning and Development Department facilitate the sustainable growth in an historic, rural community. The candidate should be a State of Connecticut certified building official with at least five years of relevant experience. The duties include planning, organizing, and directing a comprehensive building advisory, inspection, and enforcement program; administering and enforcing the State Building Code, town building ordinances and regulations related to health, safety, and fire codes. Zoning enforcement in coordination with other Town staff is involved.  
Starting salary range is \$90,000 to \$95,000 depending upon qualifications and experience plus a generous benefits package. Resumes and employment application should be submitted to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by May 26, 2023. More details and a job description are available at [www.hebronct.com](http://www.hebronct.com). Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

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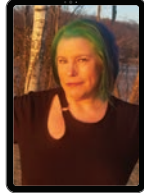
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