

News Bulletin

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

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My Baby and Me... The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3), is offering the spring session of the Baby & Me Play and Learn group, for families with children up to 2 years old, with support from the Colchester Lions Club community grant. This program provides parents and caregivers time with their child to enjoy music, movement and play as well as connection with each other. Families bond and build a network of friendship and support. The program takes place at Colchester Jazzercise Studio on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Pictured here are Jessica Prisco playing with her son Jeffrey. To register or for more information, visit ColchesterC3.org.

BOF Controversially Advances Budgets

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance, during a public hearing Monday, advanced both the town and school budget proposals for the 2023-24 fiscal year to the Board of Selectmen, who will schedule a town meeting and referendum date. The mill rate would be 27.22, a .4 increase.

Then on Tuesday, the Board of Education adopted a series of cuts totaling \$1.5 million to absorb the bottom-line reduction to their spending plan.

The school board had requested \$46.15 million to run the schools — a \$4.13 million, or 9.83%, increase in spending.

The finance board, however, reduced that request. And while there appeared to be much confusion Monday — among finance board members and citizens alike — at the end of the day, the school board's budget wound up being \$43.68 million, a \$1.65 million, or 3.9%, increase over the current year.

While the finance board unanimously approved the town budget proposal of \$15.63 million — around \$10,000 more than current year spending — the board seemed to be deadlocked, 3-3, when it came to the school budget. Republican Art Shilosky appeared to initially vote against adopting the school spending plan, joining the board's two Democrats in opposition.

However, after some chatter with the board, including Republican chairman Andrea Migliaccio, Shilosky ultimately decided to abstain, allowing the motion to pass.

Following the vote, Democrat Mike Egan called the development an "absolute farce."

Shilosky's hesitation was in regards to the ac-

tual size of the school budget reduction — a point that appeared to confuse everybody Monday.

The Board of Finance's reductions to the school budget would leave it at a \$2.82 million, or 6.7%, increase. In addition, Migliaccio proposed reclassifying \$1.17 million from the budget, which would allow the funding to remain in the proposal by utilizing school and town savings.

This officially brought the spending plan to \$43.68 million, a \$1.65 million, or 3.9%, increase from the current fiscal year.

There was confusion involving the reclassification, however; specifically, whether the reclassified items were truly being gifted to the school district.

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.

Migliaccio stated that she received confirmation from the auditor that the \$695,000 could be covered through the district's assigned fund balance account. The \$212,336 would be covered through the town's undesignated fund balance account.

The \$271,175, according to school business director Rachel Linkkila, did not have a corresponding funding source, effectively turning the \$1.3 million reduction request into a \$1.57 million reduction.

Migliaccio said during the public hearing that the \$1.3 million was her request, and that she didn't want to "play gymnastics with numbers."

During the over four-hour meeting, residents again questioned what a \$1.3 million — or \$1.5 million, as the school board understood the re-

See *BOF Budgets*, page 28

Rebuffing Residents, Council Advances Budget

By Jack Lakowsky

On Tuesday, four East Hampton Town Council members cold-shouldered clamorous cries from citizens to return the town's 2023-24 spending plan back to the local finance board — with hopes to restore the nearly \$800,000 the finance board cut from the Board of Education's proposed budget increase.

Advocates for restoring the cuts — which among other things means laying off five teachers, school officials have said — won some minor victories, but ultimately, council Republicans Mark Philhower (council chair), Alison Walck, Eric Peterson and Brandon Goff weren't swayed by hundreds of locals or two hours of pleas, which ranged from calm to angry to sad, made by locals, teachers and students.

These four councilors also voted to send the town budget to vote without the \$174,000 for the local East Hampton Ambulance Association, another item multiple locals wanted restored.

In the end the council passed just what it got from the finance board. What's heading to voters is a proposed budget totaling \$53.60 million, up about \$1.84 million, or 3.6%. Education is at \$35.61 million, up more than \$1 million.

Votes for both the education and the town budgets were split 4-3, with Walck, Goff, Peterson and Philhower approving, and Democrats Pete Brown and Kevin Reich and Republican vice chair Tim Feegel voting against.

The council set a town meeting date of Tuesday, May 23, with a referendum on the 30th. There, it will be up to voters.

Drawing a series of outraged calls — "This is BS!" among them (and at one point Philhower, called a bully more than once, had the local police chief escort a heckler out of the room) and — Republican Goff suddenly suggested cutting the \$30,000 slated to fund a new police lieutenant, in the 11th hour of what has been a multi-month deliberation, among some other smaller cuts.

When asked by council Democrat Kevin

Reich, town manager Dave Cox said Philhower and Goff approached him about the sudden cuts less than an hour before Tuesday's meeting. Philhower piped up, saying that wasn't "entirely true", that he and his caucus have said they don't want more staff.

Goff said the town "takes good care" of its cops, always funding their equipment needs. When he ran for state senate last year, Goff was all about changing state legislation to help local police departments. Reich pressed Goff, and the latter fumbled when asked how this decision came to be, how, and if, the department was run by town staff.

The last-minute move failed. Called to a vote to cut the items, it was Republican Alison Walck's vote, something of a surprise from the councilor who tends to vote with the party (to the point it seemed Philhower presumed she was going to vote for the measure, even saying it went through before realizing Walck voted no).

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REG-12-23

Awareness and Early Detection Are Key to Preventing Lyme Disease...

- After coming in from outside, immediately put your clothes in the dryer for 10 minutes. This will dry out and kill any ticks on or in the clothing.
- Do a full tick check, getting any ticks off as early as possible. If a tick is found embedded, pull it out by using fine point tweezers at the head, do not squeeze the body and send all the fluids in the tick into the person it is attached to.
- If you find an attached tick save it. Put it in a container with a moist cotton ball, so if you start to feel sick or get a rash the tick can be sent to a lab to see what infections it has.
- Don't wait or assume Lyme disease is hard to catch and easy to cure, as nothing can be further from the truth!

May Is Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Here are some facts, you may or may not know:

- The CDC estimates 476,000 Americans get Lyme disease a year, that breaks down to 9154 cases per week which is 1308 cases per day!
- Tick bites are painless, especially if bitten by the poppy seed sized immature tick (called a nymph). Only 41% of Lyme patients ever recall a tick bite. What's more is only about 50% of people infected with Lyme will ever get the classic bulls eye rash.
- Ticks don't and can't jump, fly or drop from trees. Ticks sit at the top of tall grass, in brush and other places waiting to attach to clothing, skin or fur on an animal.
- Most ticks carry a host of co-infections making it harder to treat. Early treatment is the key and a person does NOT need a positive blood test to be diagnosed or treated for Lyme disease. The criteria for diagnosing Lyme disease is symptoms, physical findings and exposure risk (which is very high here in CT). Blood testing is only done to confirm and should NOT be waiting for to start medication. One reason is current Lyme testing has about a 50% accuracy rating, which is as good as flipping a coin. For proper accuracy blood testing should be done by a Lyme specialty lab.
- Many ticks carry a host of co-infections, meaning a tick can infect you with Lyme disease or many other bacterial infections – more on co-infections next week!

For more information, please visit our website:
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REG-13-22

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

Budget Referendum Next Week

By Michael Sinkewicz

Andover voters will head to the polls next Tuesday to vote on a combined 2023-24 school and town budget of \$12.48 million — a \$246,671 decrease from current year spending. The mill rate would be set at 31.33 — a 1.8% decrease.

The town budget bottom line is slated at \$3.51 million — a \$104,842, or 2.9% increase from current year spending. The local school board budget is \$4.23 million — a \$182,000 or 4.5% increase.

However, those increases are more than offset by a drop in spending for the RHAM middle and high schools. The regional school board's 2023-24 budget passed last week, locking in Andover's levy at 14% of the budget, or \$4.49 million — a \$533,524 decrease from the current year.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson told the *Rivereast* this week his suspicion is the budget

will pass. When there's a tax decrease, he said, residents usually sign off.

Due to a charter revision last fall, if the budget fails after the first referendum, they would be bifurcated moving forward.

Along with the RHAM savings, the town was able to secure 100% grant funding for the replacement of the Bunker Hill and Long Hill Rd Bridges, which helped balance the budget.

The Board of Finance recommended the purchase of a new rescue pumper apparatus for the fire department that will cost roughly \$1 million over a 10-year period. Anderson said the town will put aside additional tax dollars into the permanent fire engine fund built-in the budget to cover future lease payments.

Polls will be open in the community room of the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd., from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. May 16.

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.; 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.

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.

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday school is provided.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is May 24. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is May 17.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.
Sonshine Stamps: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

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: 5/23. Manchester: 5/16, 5/30. Masks available on all vehicles.

Senior Luncheons: Friday, 5/19. Reservations required by previous Wednesday. Menu: different alfredo pasta options.

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.

Library Friends Collecting for Auction

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

Popular items include: gift certificates, handmade items like jewelry, scarves, quilts, afghans, sports items, paintings and music/video games.

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

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 daily from 3:30-5:30 p.m., until May 17.

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

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RE5-12-23

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Some of you may recall an interview the *Rivereast* ran last year with East Hampton resident Elaine Alexander, who had recently published her first children's book, *Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep*.

Well, that book has now won an award! *Anglerfish* combines science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education with a plotline engaging readers on the life of an anglerfish.

"The front part of the book reads like a story," Alexander told the *Rivereast* last year. "It follows the anglerfish through her life cycle and then the back part of the book has back-matter that goes a little more in depth about how she hunts, how she mates and where she lives and special adaptations that she has."

Last week, Alexander was honored with the Cook Prize, an award presented by the Bank Street College of Education's Center for Children's Literature (CCL). The prize honors the best STEM picture book for children aged 8-10. It is the only national children's choice award honoring a STEM book.

A panel of judges selects finalists for the award, but children from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia voted to choose the winners.

"Bank Street is a great advocate for experiential and child-centered learning," CCL director Cynthia Weill told the *School Library Journal*. "The process of choosing these awards helps children sharpen their observational and advocacy skills. It is a very fun critical thinking activity that deepens children's love for and joy in reading."

Congratulations on the award, Elaine!

Kudos are also in order for Andover's freshman state senator, MD Rahman, who led the Senate in passage of legislation for the first time as a sitting lawmaker.

Rahman (D-4), whose district covers Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester, introduced a bill that would establish a working group to study whether a federal Title IX assessment of municipal recreation areas and public school facilities used for organized sports, studying access to athletic resources for male and female students under the federal law established in 1972, would be feasible in the state of Connecticut.

Now that it's been okayed by the Senate, the bill would need to pass the House and then signed into law by the governor.

"Introducing a bill to the floor for Senate passage is a great honor, especially in supporting a cause like this," Rahman said in a press release. "It is valuable for our state to study and monitor whether our public sports facilities are compliant with federal policy ensuring equal access, helping prevent and rectify potential discrimination. I look forward to its future consideration in the House and to our state making sure all of our children and students are treated fairly."

Rahman's bill received important bipartisan support, as Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff (D-25) and Senate Minority Leader Kevin Kelly (R-21) both introduced testimony advocating for it. According to the press release, Duff and Kelly both noted that athletic fields and recreational facilities historically have had issues meeting legality in equality of access and use. Duff added that, in the past, municipalities and schools have invested in facilities for male athletes without ensuring female athletes would have access to facilities for their chosen sports.

So, congratulations, MD, on successful passage of your bill. Hopefully it goes swimmingly through the House.

See you next week.



Members of the RHAM Leos Club presented checks totaling \$2,000 to area charities at the recent Hebron Lions Night of Giving. From left are club president Michael Hamburger (a senior at the school), vice president Nina Wang (senior), and members Isabelle Kreamer (freshman) and Mya Strumskas (sophomore).

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

Let's Save the Baby

To the Editor:

We are one dead child away from a bear season. We should not wait. A crying baby is a call to dinner for a bear, it is chromatically similar to a dying rabbit squall; it turns the bear into a killer. Nobody wants to kill the cuties but when they show up in your yard the house becomes your prison and the bears' likely food source, something's gotta give. Let's try and save the baby.

We can't continue to grin and bear it.
Tim Rinell - East Hampton

cuts and, especially, false and insensitive board comments hurt our town. We may have to tolerate this behavior in national politics, but not in East Hampton.

We can still do the right thing and restore funding to education and the ambulance association, and start working with them in real time to understand their challenges going forward, as we should with all boards. From experience, they would appreciate support.

And we can commit to a new vision in town government: that we in East Hampton work together to "make good things better."

For all of us.

Rich Knotek - Middle Haddam

Make Good Things Better

To the Editor:

There was a time in East Hampton when town boards worked together to make each other successful in their public service because, doing that, the citizens of East Hampton would be the winners. It took time, work and genuine interest throughout the year, often without fanfare, but built a better town with each successive year.

It has been increasingly evident this budget season that this vision doesn't guide a majority of our elected board members.

Board members certainly deserve thanks for their service, regardless of their views. But it has become obvious that complacency and disinterest occupy seats in the council chambers, and have sadly created pain and budget brinksmanship which destroy the fabric of our community.

Real leadership in our world today recognizes that dedicated, selfless performance in businesses and public service alike need to be supported, encouraged and celebrated. In East Hampton, that applies to all who work to make our town better, including and especially educators and emergency personnel. Unfortunately, the opposite has occurred: excessive budget

Will of the People?!

To the Editor:

The Colchester Board of Finance (BOF) made it clear that they answer to no one after last Tuesday night's vote. During the previous four weeks, they have heard, but not listened to, numerous citizen comments urging them to support the schools and let the people decide. Yet, they have ignored those calls, led by their right-wing extremist colleague (Tim Vaillancourt), who wore an "FU" t-shirt to one of the meetings. Last Tuesday night's vote sent a clear message to the voters that was in line with Tim's shirt.

The most agonizing part of this process is realizing that the board could have stopped the worst cuts for less than the cost of a weekly single tall latte at Starbucks. As I have noted at multiple meetings - we are part of a community. I am not a senior, but I voted for the senior center. I do not have children in pre-k or kindergarten, but I am for both programs. I have thankfully never needed the fire department, but I am glad to pay my part for my neighbors who have. A community is better off when we all work together for the common good. Everyone benefits from a quality

Bulletin Board

"What are you drawing?" inquired my wife, looking over my shoulder as I sat at the kitchen table last week.

"My fantasy summer home," I said, carefully adding some more windows to my sketch.

"It looks more like Buckingham Palace," she said. "What are those round things sticking up all over the place?"

"Turrets," I said. "They're round so you can see danger approaching from any direction. You can't have too many turrets, especially in these troubled times."

"Just what sort of dangers are you anticipating?"

"I don't know. IRS auditors. Vacuum cleaner salesmen. Boneheaded college students who think the best way to defend democracy is to revoke the constitutional rights of anyone who expresses an opinion they don't like. Unannounced visits from in-laws. You just never know."

"It certainly has a lot of windows. I wouldn't want to have to wash all that glass."

"That's what minions are for."

"Ah, yes. Minions. What would we do without minions?"

Recognizing a disdainful rhetorical question when I hear one, and realizing that she is the one who typically takes care of washing perfectly (or mostly) functional windows during annual spring-cleaning frenzies, I wisely declined to respond.

"And just where do you hope to build this monstrosity... this imposing edifice of yours?" she continued.

"You certainly do ask a lot of questions. You're not constructing some sort of psychological profile to have me declared mentally incompetent, are you?"

"Oh, perish the thought."

"Okay. Well, I was originally planning on building somewhere on the Rhode Island shore. Maybe Newport. But now I'm thinking of finding some desolate, wind-swept moor, far from human habitation."

"Because?"

"Because humans are so annoying."

"I see."

"Preferably someplace with acid rain and poisonous fogs and huge slavering hounds that materialize unexpectedly out of the night."

"To discourage visits from vacuum cleaner salesmen and similar riff-raff, I presume."

"There I will be free to roam the cavernous echoing halls at will, mumbling to myself without interruption."

"You do that here. Wander around mumbling to yourself, I mean."

"I did say 'without interruption,' didn't I? Besides, it's hard to get an echo here. The rooms are too small and the TV is always on. Also there's no turrets."

"I don't mean to be a naysayer, but just how do you plan to pay for this palace of yours?"

"People who can live in places like this like to refer to them simply as secondary homes," I corrected her. "It transforms our arrogance into false modesty while at the same time insinuating that we're even richer than we actually are."

"I hate to be the bearer of bad news, honey, but despite your indisputable arrogance, you're far from rich. I don't know how you think you're going to be able to pay for all this."

"Covid money," I replied smugly. "I hear there's billions of unspent dollars in Covid relief money floating around out there that politicians are just itching to flush down the toilet. I expect sooner or later I'll be receiving a generous Covid hero paycheck from our pandering leaders."

"You don't qualify. All you did was go without a paycheck for two months, then you went back to work and did your job. It's not like you did something really heroic like pay dues to a powerful state employees union that owns the legislature."

"And here I was afraid the days of the robber barons might be a thing of the past."

"Not hardly, dearie. Now we just elect them."

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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

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school system—from property values to lower crime rates.

I urge fellow community members to continue to come out and voice their extreme displeasure with this board. These officials work for us, and they serve at our pleasure, and if they want to ignore the people, then it is time to send them packing. This town deserves better leadership than the clown show we have seen over the last two years. In November, voters will have the opportunity to change direction when two members of the Board of Finance see their terms end – it is time to say bye to Andrea Migliaccio and Art Shilosky.

Jeremy M. McKenzie – Colchester

Autocracy vs. Democracy

To the Editor:

Hebron's May 2nd referendum revealed two significant shortfalls:

1: In this inflationary period, Hebron property taxes are too high and not balanced by a diversified economy.

2: Hebron's government is divorced from its electorate and needs to engage Hebron residents' support.

Relocating the Public Works Complex (PWC) with a master plan relocating Hebron's fire department and town offices to 17 Kinney Rd. will destroy the last intact farm in Hebron Center. It's detrimental to Hebron's ecological and rural environment. Failure to repair the current PWC when necessary, has split Hebron asunder with Hebron's leadership fighting its own citizens. By insisting there is no Plan B, Hebron leaders admit that they have mishandled the town's greatest asset – Hebron's rural historic town-owned land. Should Hebron's schoolchildren have to pay the price for the sins of the town fathers?!

Bullying and belittling concerned and aware citizens has not resulted in a carte blanche to support a pre-COVID/pre-recession master plan. Revisions to the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development need to concentrate on preserving Hebron's history, tackling environmental issues like disease-spreading, soil changing invasive species and scrapping a master plan that promotes suburban sprawl to the detriment of Hebron's historic center.

Hebron is worth saving. Vote 'no' for unnecessary town expenditures. A referendum should have taken the place of a \$15,000 survey to promote an overly expensive PWC. Hebron's leaders need to redefine their role as stewards of the town and agents of the people, without appropriating autocratic powers utilizing some Yankee wisdom:

"Use it up, wear it out
Repair when due, or do without."

This is the foundation of New England's small-town democracy.

Preserving Hebron's rural, historic character without denying Hebron's children a quality education is clearly what the electorate wants.

John Baron – Hebron

Note: Baron identifies himself as "just another over-taxed Hebron suburban peasant."

'We Can't Blame Ourselves'

To the Editor:

The Town Council and Board of Finance still, amazingly, refuse to take responsibility for their words and actions. It's clear that most people were upset by the decorum of Town Council at the April meeting, rightfully so. To make/encourage such a large cut and cite the reason as irresponsible BOE spending is a failed attempt to gaslight the community.

The Board of Education is audited on financials every year. The district has been transformed for the better since superintendent Smith joined the district. The Council and BOF can point their fingers and say the "superintendent works for BOE, not the other way around," and make no mistake, that is the truth. The superintendent fulfills every BOE request.

Speaking personally, I have been told that I have "no right to chair the BOE" because I refuse to publicly berate the people around me. However, I cannot morally operate like this. I don't know, maybe it's because I wasn't raised by a chauvinist, or maybe it's because most of my colleagues and I operate with humility, combined with the fact that we have children in attendance at almost all of our meetings. After all, we sit on a board for education. I can't speak for anyone else, but I believe in setting an example for the young eyes that are watching us. It's part of our duty as elected leaders.

Additionally, while every inch of operations within the district are evaluated by the BOE, I think most of us have learned that we can accomplish more as a team. And while we certainly seek to understand and improve all aspects of Education in East Hampton, it would be a dangerous dereliction of duty to pretend like we know more than someone with 40 years of experience in education.

To the other boards: do better. To the public, please accept my sincerest apologies for helping the BOF/TC Republicans get elected. It's a mistake I'll never forgive myself for after I've seen the destruction they're willing to cause.

Christina Tammaro-Dzagan – Colchester

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

Show & Tell

To the Editor:

Wow!! The *Rivereast* May 5th paper really put Colchester on the map, between the key article on page 1, "Calls to Resign Follow Heated Meeting," and the many letters to the editor by some of same people in the article it seems our town just loves to air our dirty laundry for Everyone to see.

At first, I was taken back by what I called sensationalism reporting but as Mike Thompson (*Rivereast* editor) explained to me, "I thought the public had a right to know just what happened..." I may not fully agree with that but I do understand his journalistic thinking. But what I don't understand is why this meeting got so out of hand and why the parties involved felt it necessary to write letters to the editor compounding the black eye it gives to our town.

Why did Mr. Thomas not put a gavel to the virtual carrying-on – why was Mr. LaChapelle making meeting comments virtually while walking around his neighborhood; does he not have enough respect for the process and meeting to be in a more conducive setting? Why did Mr. Vaillancourt & Mr. Bisbikos accept this behavior and contribute to it – instead of asking for a recess or again putting a gavel to it. Gentlemen (courteous, gracious, considerate) – and I use that term loosely – public town meetings are to be conducted in a professional manner and to accomplish an agenda's business. It is not for personal agendas, vendettas, or leisurely strolls; otherwise, don't call them Public Meetings, call them Party Meetings. You owe us, the public; you are supposed to represent a much better showing.

Ralph Bianco – Colchester

Don't Ask Us Again

To the Editor:

Quite frankly, the thought of the Horton Farm becoming the new and expensive DPW 'legacy' of our town, as it has been referred to, is simply disgraceful. The town has not provided enough justification nor complete detailed information on why it must be constructed on that specific site off Kinney Road. Hebron's current DPW site is not up to current standards, but we are not addressing those issues. Yet we want to destroy another parcel of land in Hebron and recreate the same problems in a different place. One of my mother's favorite sayings is "stop rearranging the dirt." And we are. And we are affecting home values... and water tables... and sadly, people's lives.

You can gather townspeople again and again and

offer professional presentations on the Kinney Road site, but the simple question remains... When will they address the current DPW property for future development instead of a new location? Didn't we update our schools on their current site with temporary portable classrooms? Can't we move DPW staff to portable offices? If kids can do it, then adults can! We spent the money to provide plans for the Kinney Road site because that's easy...it's an empty lot. Now we need to do the hard part. Spend the money to provide plans for Old Colchester Road because that will take talent, coordination and planning. Saying the proposed plans will not work on the existing property is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole. The town needs to offer development plans on the existing DPW site. Get to work. Then ask us again....

Ellen Ludwig,
Hebron resident for 31 years

We Need to Be Better

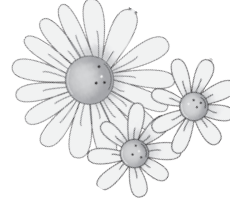
To the Editor:

In responding to the Board of Education budget cuts implemented by the Board of Finance, a number of issues come to mind. After dealing with the effects of an unprecedented pandemic, our educators are being criticized due to a decline in standardized test scores. This would seem to call for an increase in resources to support the strategies put forth by our education professionals to compensate for any decline resulting from limited classroom instruction. Putting forth a budget that could eliminate teacher positions and increase class sizes seems counterproductive, if not irresponsible. A pathetic attempt to shift the blame to our superintendent of schools through denigrating rhetoric that is totally untrue is an insult to all of us.

No one I can think of is looking to pay higher taxes or watch their property decline in value. Throwing money indiscriminately at a problem does not ensure success. However, to maintain and improve, well thought out investment, in consultation with those with relevant expertise, must be made. Whether it be home, car or personal health, neglect will result in failure. The quality of our public schools, which is dependent on our investment, is the first area families consider when deciding if East Hampton is the place to be called home.

Education and public safety are the cornerstones of any community. Lack of support from our elected officials will result in stagnation, which is not in anyone's best interest. This is not the image we want projected by the town of East Hampton. We need to be better than that.

David May – East Hampton



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★ Letters cont. from page 5

hard to imagine that this outcome is not clear enough. The cost of \$245,000, from traditional budget funding or "alternative funding sources" is a waste of hard-earned taxpayer money. And this is only the tip of a \$20 million iceberg that will sink our environment and history and raise taxes exponentially. The town can try to ignore the destructive impact of their plan, but the people of Hebron are listening. The only responsible plan is to fix Public Works at Old Colchester Road. For more information, please visit 'Save Hebron Center' on Facebook.

is a symptom of a deeper problem in Hebron. It appears our town leaders are out of touch with the residents and the entire town budget does not reflect our priorities. The decision to maintain deep cuts to education and the 80% cut to Open Space funding is hard to comprehend. Vote after vote, survey after survey, the message has always been clear. People live in Hebron is for its fantastic school system and its vibrant historic rural character.

The Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the town manager need to go back to the drawing board and start over again.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri - Amston

Nuclear War

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of fear mongering lately over the specter of nuclear war. Although it's an attention trap, you can't do anything meaningful against it...and that's the point. It's meant to distract you from the actual war - the war against the nuclear family.

Society has succeeded in separating children from parents with the creation of compulsory government-run schools, which allows both men and women to focus on their career aspirations. What started off as "empowerment," however, has quickly led to subervience as having dual incomes is necessary for most modern families to function. Meanwhile, the federal

government is able to tax two incomes instead of one.

With parents focused on careers, divorce has exploded, fragmenting families and creating more single-parent households. The welfare system has been weaponized to incentivize homes with no father present as benefits hinge on women being single. Media/pop culture has spent decades eroding the moral fiber of the country with most awards show performances dripping with both gratuitous sex and satanic imagery. Why?

As we enter "The Great Reset," I'm reminded of Mao's Cultural Revolution. "The Great Leap Forward" employed a student led Red Guard to target the "Four Olds," demanding that people cast aside Old Ideas, Old Culture, Old Customs, and Old Habits in favor of adopting communism. This resulted in youths targeting, beating, sometimes murdering, older people who disagreed and forced a generational rift meant to fracture traditional society. Today public institutions are exposing our children to transsexual lifestyles and divisive gender/racial identities that further disrupt the nuclear family while dissenting adults are labeled as "intolerant" and "bigoted" for not "affirming" this nonsense. As parents, we need to focus more on fighting for our nuclear families in our schools, towns, and state and worry less about nuclear Armageddon.

Colin McNamara - Marlborough

Let's Talk About Walck

To the Editor:

In her "open letter" last week, Town Councilor Alison Walck painted a highly inaccurate picture regarding the East Hampton budget snafu and made some ludicrous comparisons. Her letter, along with her performance and seeming indifference to her community, demands a response in kind.

The many letters from the Republican members of the Town Council and Board of Finance in last week's *Rivereast* displayed strategy regarding the ongoing budget debate. They are going to scapegoat the Board of Education and claim the public is being purposely misled.

If that's their strategy, fine. The very purpose of an op/ed section is to offer a mix of opinions, and the East Hampton GOP leaders are entitled to state their views.

But Walck's letter was baffling, following a series of other letters she has published over the year that pitted her against local educators and journalists.

It was confounding a few months ago when she insinuated that too many students are making the Honor Roll, thus East Hampton must not be challenging students enough.

Soon after, she lashed out against this newspaper for its coverage of disagreements between the Town Council and Board of Education.

Now, she is accusing the superintendent of using school children in a manner that somehow invokes the Vietnam War. All because students and parents are aware that a favorite English teacher is in danger of losing her job.

Ms. Walck, these students are not being weaponized. They are educated and understand the ramifications of the proposed budget. They are smart, erudite, and they make us proud. It's no wonder so many of them make the Honor Roll. They must have excellent teachers, too.

We look to our leaders to inspire, not scapegoat. Ms. Walck and the Republican majorities must do better.

Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt - East Hampton

The Fiasco Continues

Dear Colchester Residents:

I can hardly believe this budget season and the fiasco that continues. We must face the facts in our community: both the education and the town are underfunded. While I fully understand financial limitations, we must acknowledge the impact to our town services as a result of drastic reductions. Our town hall is in constant flux due to the mass exodus of employees, as well as those current employees that are afraid to share their opinions in community forums due to fear of retaliation. Our school system is on the verge of the most drastic cuts I have seen in the last 15

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years of my teaching career.
 This current budget that the BOF will send forward to the BOS is underfunding at its finest. The ridiculous circus that has become BOF meetings is beyond words. The blatant shaming that a particular first selectman has directed at community members because of the confusion over the budget is reprehensible. The claim of transparency in this budget process is false. At the BOF meeting on 5/8, there were continued discussions between the finance directors of the town and BOE regarding the significance of the cuts that were proposed. It is impossible to send forward a budget with absolute clarity if the numbers don't add up on both sides.
 Don't send forward an incomplete and unclear budget for the sake of sending it forward, just to meet a narrative of conservative spending. You are not representing the constituents of our town.
 November can't come soon enough.
Erin Kaiser – Colchester

Thank You, Poll Workers

To the Editor:
 On behalf of the Town of Portland, I would like to thank all of the poll workers and our registrar of voters who supported Portland's budget referendum on May 8. In addition to being at the polls during the day on Monday, there is advanced set-up and breakdown work that is done.
 Also, thanks to Assistant Town Clerk Elizabeth Morand for her assistance with the absentee ballot process over the last few weeks. Finally, I would like to thank Linda Martin and the Portland Middle School team for all their assistance.
**Michael Tierney
 Portland Town Clerk**

Recuse Yourself

To the Editor:
 I'm writing this letter concerning an issue in Colchester with the Board of Selectmen.
 There was a discipline issue with a Sewer and Water employee where two selectmen got involved by having contact with the employee and the Chair of the Sewer & Water Commission. The issue being one of the selectmen involved, Rosemary Coyle, is the wife of the Sewer and Water Commission chairman.
 In my opinion, based on 23 years' experience as a union officer, 13 of which as a business agent, it is a reasonable and prudent request that the two selectmen involved in this issue recuse themselves from any and all discussions or actions in and around this issue.
Rich Tanner – Colchester

Roller Derby Scholarship

To the Editor:
 Hartford Area Roller Derby is a 501(c)3 nonprofit women's flat track Roller Derby league here in central Connecticut. Our league is skater-owned and operated, and we are offering our annual \$500 scholarship soon. We are looking for a high school athlete that is actively involved in athletics and mirrors HARD's values of sportsmanship, teamwork, uplifting others, and giving back to the community. You can find the application on our website at Hartfordarearollerderby.com; the deadline to apply is May 31.
 And if you'd like to watch Gory Killmore, Wicked Ozone, Demi Goddess and the rest of our skaters do their thing on eight wheels, come see us live at No-mad's Adventure Quest in South Windsor on Saturday, May 13! Doors open at 5 p.m. and first whistle is at 6 p.m.! It's fast-paced, full-contact and tons of fun!
Sue McFarland – Marlborough

Financial Mismanagement

To the Editor:
 The town of Colchester is moving forward with budgets without any of the expected transparency or accuracy. Citizens or elected officials that ask why the numbers are off get bullied with rude and condescending excuses.
 Last year, a slate of Republicans ran on the idea of "people over government." They actually meant "me over you."
 Now that they are elected, the Republicans have no interest in doing what's best for the town; only starting chaotic and childish drama to distract us from their financial mismanagement.
John Farrell – Colchester

'Rosemary is All Over It'

To the Editor:
 Last Thursday, I witnessed a meeting where two Board of Selectmen members refused to recuse themselves in a personnel matter in which they clearly showed a conflict interest. This personnel matter involved a Sewer & Water employee who was recently terminated for allegedly falsifying time records and for insubordination. When the employee was placed on paid administrative leave, Stephen Coyle (the Sewer & Water chairman and husband of selectman Rosemary Coyle) texted to the employee that "Rosemary is All Over It." Selectman Rosemary Coyle and selectman Denise Turner proceeded to interject themselves in the matter. None of them reached out to the first selectman to find out what wrongdoing had taken place but rather ran to the aid of the employee. We know this because text messages and phone records were revealed at the Board of Selectmen meeting as they came from the town phones.
 Furthermore, Jason LaChapelle revealed at the meeting that he was lobbied by the two selectmen to overturn the decision of the first selectman without even knowing what the concerns (at the time) were. We also learned that Rosemary's husband, Stephen Coyle, helped develop a job description that would give the recently terminated employee a \$30K salary bump and allegedly instructed the employee not to

provide FOI-able information, which included massive fee increases that would hurt residents and businesses, to the First Selectman.
 Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner should recuse themselves from any matter pertaining to the recently terminated employee or with Stephen Coyle. Anything less would be an abuse of power.
**Sincerely,
 Tim Vaillancourt – Colchester**

Note: Vaillancourt is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance but said he is speaking as an individual.

Hay Seeds

To the Editor:
 If you have not seen the 2007 BBC production, Planet Earth, I encourage you to do so. My favorite episode is the one on wild grasses. Grass is simply amazing and it covers the earth above and below the water and their roots are the best part. Resilient and deep, wild grasses survive droughts, floods, fires and foot traffic, coming back year after year to keep life going. Remember, wild grasses are not the same as modern lawns. Wild grasses have deeper root systems and are more resilient. They get paved over but somehow manage to survive and eventually grow between the cracks, damaging unnatural pavement and concrete beautifully. They have a life of their own.
 Grassroots political campaigns have a life of their own as well. "What was striking was that these young people were not only voting for us, they were the foundation of our grassroots campaign. They were the ones handing out literature, making phone calls, texting, raising small contributions, and volunteering in a hundred different ways." – Bernie Sanders.
 Deep down, most campaigns are all ages shows, with older residents being just as outraged by the destruction of land, water and history, while facing hostile political environments.

We were raised loving America's purple mountains and amber waves of grain. Nowhere were politicians or corporations mentioned. But I digress, grass is the topic. Grass roots are hearty and interesting. People are too and, like grass, people have strong roots.... grassroots. In 2023, people still band together and, supported by our family roots, here we are. If you like grass or roots or grassroots, then join us by politely opposing invasive development on the Raymond Brook Watershed in Hebron Center. Salt or no salt, pollution happens causing us headache both at home and nationwide. #save17
Jean Tulumieri – Amston

Elect Clowns – Get a Circus

To the Editor:
 Ronald Reagan is likely rolling in his grave – because Monday night, the Republican-led Board of Finance was a poster demonstration of why it is so hard to trust the government. Ultimately, the Board of Finance passed a motion on straight party lines to push through a Board of Education budget with draconian cuts. What was the problem? No one knows how much the cuts are – are they \$1.3 million or \$1.57 million?
 At the beginning of the meeting, the chairwoman, Republican Andrea Migliaccio, displayed an Excel spreadsheet to explain the budget, an Excel spreadsheet with an inaccurate mill rate. For those of you following the debate, you know how ridiculous this is. The same chairwoman wasted an entire meeting earlier this cycle criticizing the Board of Education for using Excel because it could be inaccurate. When the board adjourned, I saw Chairwoman Migliaccio and First Selectman Bisbikos in the hall and told them they should adjourn until they knew what the numbers were. They laughed; it was all a joke to them.
 The unfortunate reality is that this joke will negatively impact our children. Reduced pre-k, the only town in Connecticut with half-day kindergarten, pay-to-play band and no middle school language offerings. It is also going to impact our property values negatively. Finally, it will ultimately cost the town more money in the long run, with more kids needing special support to meet minimal standards.
 The battle is not over – come out to the Board of Selectmen and town budget meetings.
 Remember to vote in November—elections have real consequences. The good news is that we can change direction, but only if we show up. Two seats will be open on the Board of Finance, including Andrea Migliaccio's. Save our schools.
Jeremy McKenzie – Colchester

Three Budgets

To the Editor:
 In trying to protect the taxpayers from the burden of large tax increases and excessive taxes the Board of Finance found it necessary to reduce each of the proposed budgets: town, capital, and education.
 The town operating budget was reduced by \$371,470 a reduction of 2.6%. It is a fair but lean budget.
 There were also items eliminated from the capital budget, however we funded \$400,000 in school technology, \$95,000 for school security and \$52,000 for pickleball courts among many other items.
 The Board of Education budget continues to receive a large increase, although not the massive increase it requested. The Board of Education's requested increase was \$2,172,000 or 5.80%. Instead, the Board of Finance proposed an education increase of 3.9% or \$1,335,000. It is in the hands of the BOE to spend your money prudently.
 My reasoning for the education proposal: the education budget has grown at an alarming rate over the past five years while the school population has gradually but steadily decreased. Over the past five years enrollment has decreased by 108 (6%) and in the same period their budget has increased by 12.88%.

This year alone the BOE proposed budget increase is nearly 6%. That's almost half of the cumulative increases over the past five years. Will the education budget in 2025 be another 6% increase or more?
 How much can the taxpayers afford before they are taxed out of their homes or are forced to take a loan just to pay their taxes. The BOF has tried to keep all East Hampton's taxpayers in mind when crafting the three budgets. We work for all the taxpayers not just parents.
Alannah Coshow – Middle Haddam

Note: Coshow is vice chair of the East Hampton Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.

Cemetery

To the Editor:
 As part of the 175th Anniversary events, on Saturday, June 3, the Olde Andover Burying Ground Cemetery (OABGC) and the Townsend Cemetery will give free tours. Meet at the Town Hall Office Building, 17 School Rd., by 10:15 a.m. to board the bus. No reservations are needed.
 The first stop is the OABGC, where you will be greeted by members of the committee and guest speaker, Lisa Cornell, owner of the Beyond the Grave-stone company which repairs and restores old stones. She has done a fantastic job at the OABGC and will speak about different methods used and other interesting facts about the restoration of stones. Two committee members will also speak about some of those who founded our town.
 Then the bus will travel to the Townsend Cemetery to meet Rob Whitcomb, sexton for the Andover Cemetery Corporation who will talk about the history of Townsend Cemetery. This is an exciting free tour you will not want to miss. Thank you.
**Sincerely,
 Joan Foran and Cathy Palazzi
 175th Anniversary Members, Andover**

Vote 'Yes' for Andover Budget

To the Editor:
 Please vote "yes" in support of the Andover budget on May 16. Your elected representatives from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education spent many hours preparing the town budget that passed by a vote of 70-8 to proceed to referendum. The total Andover budget is a 1.8% decrease from last year's budget and will result in a 2% decrease in the mill rate!
 Andover's total education cost included in the budget, comprising the budgets for Andover Elementary School and RHAM, is a 4% decrease from last year's budget, because of the decrease in the number of Andover students at RHAM and, therefore, a lowering of

Andover's levy.
 The May 16th referendum vote on the Town Budget for 2023-24 will cost Andover taxpayers at least \$1,900 to conduct. Should a second Referendum be needed due to a failed vote on this first Referendum, it will cost the Andover taxpayers at least another \$1,900, not to mention the time and probable divisiveness in needing to then consider two separate budgets as a result of the required bifurcation.
 Please vote 'yes' for the Andover budget on May 16th. Thank you!
**Sincerely,
 Shannon O. Loudon – Andover**

Note: Loudon is secretary of the Andover Bard of Education but said she is writing in her individual capacity.

Colchester Deserves Better

To the Editor:
 Over the past two months of budget meetings in Colchester, residents have witnessed some truly shocking behavior from our elected officials and board members. Shouting matches, snide remarks, eye-rolling, passive-aggressive comments and near incompetence are the norm at our public meetings this year.
 The May 9 Board of Finance meeting was just the latest demonstration, with a lack of accurate documentation, circular reasoning that seemed purposefully confusing, and Republican BOF members openly laughing and smirking at the citizens who stood up to make public comments. At the last moment, the board chair appeared to pressure one of the other members to abstain rather than vote no, so that the budget moved forward.
 Colchester deserves better than this. If only the BOF could emulate the students who have spoken up at these meetings in support of their schools and teachers. They are more respectful and act more mature than our elected representatives.
Susie Milner – Colchester

Annual Buzz in Gardens

To the Editor:
 Nothing like the spike of color in between the seasons of perennial blooms. Annual flowers are the best for immediate fill in color and a valuable food source for our local pollinators. Stand-outs are full sun cosmos, 2' tall feathery and delicate they may even reseed themselves! Zinnias are wonderful, sending up blooms all the way to frost. Sunflowers are the ultimate pollinator attractor. Some, up to 6 feet tall, are irresistible to butterflies and bees, and after the blossoms are spent the seed heads bring out a variety
See Letters, page 25

OZN BONES
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Alumni Benefit Event for Scholarships, Project Grad

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

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

will be a raffle of many items.

No tickets will be available at the door. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check only; checks should be made out to RHAM Alumni.

For more information or tickets, call Bob at 860-558-5823 or 860-228-3388; Lynn at 860-416-1575; or John at 860-295-8484.

College Scholarships Available

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

The Erin Garvie Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was created in memory of Erin Garvie, who passed away in 1998 during her senior year at RHAM. Over the years, this college scholarship has been awarded to RHAM High School students who participate in high school athletics.

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

The William Stelzner Memorial Scholarship:

ship: This scholarship was created in memory of William "Bill" Stelzner, who passed away in 2016. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate who plans to attend a two-year college and has volunteered in the community.

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

Hebron Lions Scholarships Available

The Hebron Lions Club is offering three scholarships for 2023 – and applications are due this weekend.

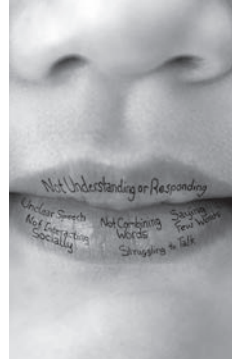
The Lions are offering two \$4,000 scholarships for those individuals attending a four-year college and one \$2,000 scholarship to those attending a two-year college or trade/career school program.

Applicants must be high school seniors, residents of Hebron or active members of the RHAM Leos Club, and must plan to attend a college or technical/career school in the 2023-24 school year. Recipients will be selected based on financial need, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service and other criteria established by the

Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

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

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



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Because our Mother needs to be OUR MOTHER

Today, we are being pressured to disregard the erosion of **historic marriage** and family principles and practice. ENCOURAGEMENT to be a **normal, healthy** family is noted by its absence in the media, government, etc. which presents even that which is contrary. Determination to try to rightly steer straight faces many and varied opponents. These opponents are **determined to eliminate** mother, father, husband, wife—anything and everything that opposes the pursuit of their agenda **no matter the consequences**. Even today's social violence and unrest has at its root the **absence of a father and mother**. We are finding the **wrong road signs** and the **wrong roads**, calling wrong right and right wrong, calling evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20). We face the ABSENCE of MORAL and MENTAL STANDARDS, to be caught up along with the crowd, **trying** to belong, to become, to find oneself, to find peace, to find love, to find worth, to find values which inspire and overcome a society that has abandoned such. There is little to no recovery of the normal and natural God-created family setting. The FAMILY needs the MOTHER; the NATION needs the FAMILY.

God's Pattern is Set:

"HONOR thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee" (Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:2). "Whoever CURSES his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure [utter] darkness" (Prov. 20:20). "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and FORSAKE NOT the law of thy mother" (Prov. 1:8). "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man DESPISETH his mother" (Prov. 15:20).

God's Provision is Needed:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous [difficult] times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, unthankful, unholy" (2 Tim. 3:1-2). "There is a generation that CURSETH their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure IN THEIR OWN EYES" (Prov. 30:11-12). This is promoted by the age old "every man did that which was RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES" (Judges 21:25). And "let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we shall die" (Isaiah 22:13). Take heart and know.

God's Person is Found:

"I will LIFT UP MINE EYES unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. MY HELP COMETH FROM THE LORD, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2). "And YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND FIND ME, when ye shall search for Me with ALL YOUR HEART, and I WILL BE FOUND BY you, saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 29:13-14). "COME UNTO ME, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). The Nation, the Family and YOU need God and His sure and certain Word, the BIBLE.

The Lord Jesus Christ is waiting to provide for you the right and real relationship that God's RIGHTEOUSNESS requires and in which God's LIFE is found. This makes for life that is worth the living. You can find God's HELP and HOPE and ENCOURAGEMENT today. Why not begin RIGHT NOW and receive Him as your personal Saviour and Lord (John 1:10-13)! "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Act 16:31).

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Town, School Budgets Pass Strongly

By Jack Lakowsky

An uneventful budget season ended predictably, with a small number of local voters approving the proposed, now the official, 2023-24 municipal spending plan.

Just over 640 voters showed up to make their voices heard, with 436 saying 'yes' and 205 saying 'no.'

Unlike in neighboring towns Portland's budget process has been an agreeable one.

The general government's asking locals for about \$14.73 million, and schools are asking for \$23.54 million, totaling more than \$38.28 million, a 3.35% jump over the current spending package, down from an initial request of close to 3.5%.

The town is proposing to raise the mill rate about 2.6%, bringing the value of one residential mill to about \$840,729, and a motor vehicle mill rate of about \$110,000.

In Connecticut a mill is equal to \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessment. To calculate multiple the assessment of the property by the local mill rate and divide by 1,000.

"There are not a lot things on there we didn't absolutely need," said Curley of the budget in a previous interview.

He said it would've been easy to deliver a high-aiming budget that called for a stark increase, but doing so is not in the best interest of the town. "We could've added another million," he said, adding 3.35% more when inflation is nearing 8% higher than last year isn't, in his view, too bad at all.

He said there are so many things the town will need to tackle; it's a matter of balance and pacing.

Responsible money management also helps keep things light. Curley said the schools still

had \$200,000 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funds, a drop in the \$13 billion Congress distributed in 2020, an effort at pandemic relief.

The budget adds a 13th officer, which will bring police payroll to about \$1.20 million, from about \$1.05 million.

Along with boosting the number of officers in town the new officer will help the department reach its listed goals for the coming fiscal year, including reducing car accidents, participating actively with the local Solidarity Task Force (a local social equity group), work with the local Complete Streets Group to encourage safe driving and pedestrian safety.

In a statement, Portland school board chair Laurel Steinhauer said, "We are relieved and grateful to the Portland community for passing the budget on Monday.

"The Board of Education's 2023-24 budget request accounts for the impacts of inflation and rising costs associated with meeting students' social-emotional and special education needs, while maintaining small class sizes and the supports necessary to continue providing the excel-

lent education that Portland students deserve."

She continued, "the board is mindful of our obligation to spend taxpayer dollars wisely, and we are fortunate to have an administrative team that puts tremendous thought and effort into crafting a reasonable budget, pursuing grant funding to subsidize our municipal budget, and the careful expenditure of every dollar."

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton said he and the schools are "tremendously grateful for the support." He said schools will "carefully deploy taxpayer resources to maximize student academic, athletic, extracurricular and co-curricular activities."

After the vote, Curley said, "I was very pleased that the budget passed, especially by such a healthy margin.

"This was a particularly tough budget year due to rising inflationary costs impacting nearly every town department and I along with the entire Board of Selectmen are grateful to the voters for recognizing that when casting their ballot."

Turnout was up 12% over 2022; however, still only roughly 10% of the electorate in town voted, said Curley.

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.

On Saturday, May 20, at 7 p.m., Brownstone Vital Connections presents Paul Serra & Country Gold. Paul Serra & Country Gold play traditional country songs, such as "Help Me Make It Through the Night," "Together Again," "Your Cheating Heart" and more.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show, and are available by emailing trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com or calling 860-463-

6444. You can also purchase tickets on Eventbrite for an additional fee. All proceeds will be donated to Wounded Warriors Family Support.

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. If you have any other prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

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

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. Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. - making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, call 860-342-0809; Watercolor Lessons, 9:30 a.m.-noon - to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m. Wednesday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Tai Chi Quong, 1 p.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room. Thursday: Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. Friday: Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.

Trips to Nelson Hall: Friday May 19. See the "Not Fade Away Classics Rock N' Roll Show." Cost is \$40. Buy tickets in advance at 203-699-

5495. Bus leaves the senior center at 1 p.m.; to reserve a seat on the bus, call Alexis at 860-342-6761.

Blood Pressure Clinic: 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (unless the first Monday is a holiday; then the clinic is the following week).

Free Hearing Screenings: The second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m., with Virginia Duclos of "All Ears" in Portland. No registration is necessary.

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

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

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

YFS News & Notes

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 trucks, art, games and entertainment. Among the food vendors present will be the Middletown-based Crab Shack King seafood truck, the Hartford-based No Pork on Dis Fork hot dog cart, and the Ice Cream Emergency truck.

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.

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

Youth & 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,

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Kids' Blast After School Program: Mondays-Fridays, 3-6 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School, for grades K-6. Cost to attend is \$18 a day. Children who live or attend school in Portland may participate. Bussing is provided from Valley View and Gildersleeve schools.

Tai Chi for Long Life: Wednesdays or Saturdays through 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, which started this week.

Lady Highlanders Hoops Camp: For grades 3-6. Wednesdays, June 7-28, 6-8 p.m., at BIS. Portland High School basketball coaches and players, as well as members of the 2011 PHS championship team, will instruct. Cost is \$20 for this 4-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.

Themed Ballet and Tap Classes: For ages

3-6, held at The Inner Circle. **Bluey & Bingo's Big Ballet** is Wednesdays, June 21 and 28, from 4:30-5:15 p.m.; **Fancy Dancy** is Wednesdays, July 19 and 26, from 4:30-5:15 p.m.; and **Enchanted Fairies Dance** is Wednesdays, Aug. 9 and 16, from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Fee per two-week class: \$25.

Themed Dance Classes: For ages 6-8, held at The Inner Circle. **Barbie Blowout Jazz & Ballet** is Thursdays, June 22 and 29, 5:15-6 p.m.; **Magical Unicorns Ballet & Tap** is Thursdays, July 20 and 27, 5:15-6 p.m.; and **Rhinestone Round-up Tap & Jazz** is Thursdays, Aug. 10 and 17, 5:15-6 p.m. Fee per two-week class: \$25.

Adult Tap Dance Exercise: Wednesdays, June 21 and 28; July 19 and 26; or Aug. 9 and 16, at The Inner Circle. All levels welcome. Cost is \$50.

Come Dance with Me: For ages 18 months-4 years. Thursdays, June 22 and 29; July 20 and 27; or Aug. 10 and 17, 4:30-5 p.m., at The Inner Circle. Fee: \$50.

Slamma-Jamma Basketball Camp: Monday, June 26-Friday, June 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Portland High School, for boys and girls in grades 3-8. Cost: \$150.

Kiddie Camp: For ages 3-5. Weekly sessions start July 17, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at PHS. Cost: \$115/residents, \$125/non-residents.

Little Ninjas: For ages 3-6. Thursdays, July 6-Aug. 10, 4-5 p.m. or 5-6 p.m., at The Inner Circle. Cost: \$72.

Kids' Gymnastics: For ages 6 and up. Saturdays, July 8-Aug. 12, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at The Inner Circle. Open to all skill levels. Cost: \$72.

Kids' Karate: For ages 6 and up. Tuesdays, July 11-Aug. 15, 4-5 p.m., at The Inner Circle. Cost: \$72.

Self-Defense for Women: Sundays, July 9, July 23, or Aug. 13, 6-7 p.m., at The Inner Circle. Cost: \$30.

Tiny Tumblers: For ages 2-4. Mondays, July 10-Aug. 14, 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., at The Inner Circle. Children will learn the basics of gymnastics. Cost: \$72.

Kickboxing: Mondays, July 10-Aug. 14, 7-8 p.m., at The Inner Circle. For both the beginner and advanced student. Cost: \$72.

Skyhawks Tennis Camp: Monday-Thursday, July 17-20, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Portland High School tennis courts. For beginning, intermediate or advanced players. Cost is \$145.

Restorative Yoga Workshop: Wednesday, July 19, 6-7:15 p.m., at Portland Riverfront Park. Space is limited to just five people. Cost is \$20.

Skyhawks Camps: Monday-Thursday, Aug. 14-17, 9 a.m.-noon, at Portland Riverfront Park. Cost is \$189 for Sports and Games Camp, and \$145 for Mini-Hawk Camp.

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Boatyard Noise Vexing Neighbors

By Jack Lakowsky

Neighbors to the Birdon marine and boatyard have reached out to the town, the company and now the *Rivereast* to raise concerns about the extremely high noise levels the site's sand blasting work produces.

Birdon, on Riverview Street, at the site of the old Yankee Boat Yard & Marina and the Riverside Marina is currently fulfilling a huge contract with the U.S. Coast Guard. Part of their work is sand blasting, also called bead blasting, a way of stripping paint before recoating.

As the term "blasting" implies, it's a noisy, long process. Town Planner Dan Bouret said the company does it one week a month.

Neighbors are saying the noise has ruined the neighborhood's peace, has scared off local wildlife and is causing great distress and harming enjoyment of their own property.

To the *Rivereast*, First Selectman Ryan Curley said Birdon is trying to remedy the issue, with supply issues for sound measuring equipment clogging the process, according to the company. He acknowledged the noise level isn't compliant with town ordinances.

Virginia Duclos, living within just a few hundred feet of the site, told the *Rivereast* the noise is severely affecting her use of her home and, to boot, the facility is drawing lots of traffic – speeding traffic. She said she and her neighbors feel patronized by Birdon officials, that, yes they've met and heard concerns, but material action has yet to happen, and doesn't look like it'll happen soon, or at least within an acceptable time frame. Duclos said she and her neighbors are fed up and want quick action.

Duclos said the work, highly industrial, is inappropriate for the property. She said in decades of living in the same neighborhood, neither she nor her neighbors had such an issue before. Duclos said she "clocked" the noise levels at significantly higher than what the town ordinance allows.

Neighbors feel the town should've been more thorough as Birdon was working its way through. Bouret told the *Rivereast* the zoning board knew sand blasting could potentially be a problem. Bouret said the zoning board reduced the company's allowable blasting time, but it's still okay between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., and not on weekends. There was at least one incident of the company accidentally blasting on a weekend, Bouret said.

Duclos shared video of a sand-blasting; it is undeniably loud and noisy, enough to fray the nerves of even the most stoic homeowner, and it doesn't exactly sound like a harp.

Curley said, because a resident filed an official noise complaint, the town can now contract an audio technician or other expert to measure the sand blasting's decibels. The town must do this, get an official record of noncompliance, before it can move forward with fines.

As to the issue of Birdon employees speeding down the road, Curley said the company has warned workers against it, and said they (the employees) could face discipline. He said local police will step up surveillance in the area, and the town moved its speed measuring sign to the neighborhood.

Curley stressed the town has no power to simply shut the operation down. It can only enforce its ordinances and work with the company and residents to reach a solution. Now, formal complaint in hand, the town can launch an official investigation.

In an email Curley shared with the *Rivereast*, Birdon America president Robert Scott directed the site to cooperate, and local company officials said the goal is to "become compliant as soon as possible," and listed some actions the company already took – moving equipment, raising sound curtains, and have "engaged professional noise consultants to track the progress." Curley said the company's trying to get it done by the end of the year.

Birdon is based in Australia, with U.S. headquarters in Denver, Colo.

What happens when and if the town "officially" finds the company noncompliant, Birdon will have to pay fines.

Corporate data tracking company Zoom-Info puts the company's average annual profits in the tens of millions. Hard to conceive, then, the company will have much incentive to work quickly to fix the noise problems; Portland's ordinance calls for a first fine "not to exceed" \$50, referred to as a "noise ticket."

Each day a violation occurs after the preordained correction window, the town can fine up to \$400 per day. This means, if they're noncompliant, and assuming they stick to the once-a-month sand blasting and the town fines them the full \$400, a year's fines would accrue less than \$25,000.

Eventually, the town could take the company to court to demand immediate action, but given the company employs locals and plans to invest tens of millions in the town, or says it will, this doesn't seem likely, at least not now.

Last year Birdon came to Portland and got quite a decorated welcome wagon.

Last November, state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) joined Gov. Ned Lamont, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. John Larson (D-1) for the opening of Birdon.

At the time Curley, who joined the state and federal officials, told the *Rivereast* the shipyard is a "big deal" for Portland.

Birdon expanded to the U.S. in 2009, where it has four core business divisions: ship building,

repair, engineering, and marine propulsion.

Birdon currently employs 200 personnel. In addition to Portland, they have USA facilities in Denver and Bellingham, Wash.

Birdon hit the ground, or the water, running, landing a major contract with the Coast Guard.

Including the Coast Guard personnel, Curley said the shipyard could add almost 100 local jobs over the next few years.

"Connecticut's manufacturing industry plays such a vital role in our state's economy, employing countless people and protecting the strengths of our military," said Needleman in a statement.

"Birdon is doing great work to support the Coast Guard and our local communities. I'm proud to stand alongside my fellow officials to celebrate the opening of their new facility. It's a testament to the local business community and our state's workforce that Birdon has found such success."

In April 2022, the company paid \$5.3 million for two marina properties totaling 31 acres along the Connecticut River in Portland.

The company is deciding on further investment up to \$10 million in the next three years for the expansion and refurbishment of the run-down site and river front property. The facility remains a working marina serving Portland and Middletown.

The riverfront and buildings will be expanded and upgraded to accommodate the dry docking, refurbishment, and relaunching of the U.S. Coast Guard 47-foot Motor Lifeboat (MLB) rescue vessels.

Under the U.S. Coast Guard's 10-year, \$220 million "service life extension program" contract Birdon will completely engineer, procure, and refurbish up to 117 rescue vessels. Of the 117, 50+ of the vessels will be done in Portland.

The rest of the mitigation equipment is stuck in limbo, but regardless of supply chain issues, Curley said when it can, the town will enforce

its fines.

"Outside of fines," he said, "there's not much we can do."

Curley said the company isn't "thumbing its nose" at residents and has been cooperative, but said he understands the importance of solving the noise problem for locals trying to enjoy their homes.

Rob Scott, Birdon American President, went over some of things the company is aiming to do to resolve the issue. Since buying their property – which technically merged two riverfront marina properties – Scott said the company has invested several million and hired 70 people.

"Investing in Portland," he said, "that's what we're trying to do."

Scott conceded the company's part in resolving the issue has been one of trial and error. He said when Birdon learned of the noise problems, it hired a consultant and an engineer, moved equipment and put-up temporary sound abatement equipment.

Scott had just received a report he needed to go over more fully, but said based on it, starting immediately, the company will stop blasting for 6 weeks. During that time Scott said the company will analyze and respond to the report, and then try implementing those steps. Scott said the company wants to truly mitigate the sound, not just redirect it elsewhere.

He said he expects a mix of equipment improvements, more noise dampening materials and infrastructure work.

Birdon and residents are scheduled to meet in a "town hall" style meeting May 18 and will have one meeting a month at least through the summer. Scott said residents can keep updated on the company's Facebook page, at the town hall and, coming soon, a regular email sent out to anyone willing to share their information with the company. Scott said he has directed the company's Portland people to try and get emails to send the information to.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone.

Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Nursery care and church school takes place every Sunday during the worship. The worship service is livestreamed as well as available for later viewing on the church's YouTube channel: First Church of Portland CT. The building is handicapped-accessible.

On Sunday, May 14, the worship will be led by the Rev. Julie Olmsted. Her sermon is titled, "Stories of Mother." Coffee hour follows the service. All are welcome to worship and coffee

hour.

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

Knights of Columbus Car Show

Knights of Columbus Freestone Council No. 7 will present its seventh annual car show Friday, June 2, starting at 3 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave. The show is dedicated to Antonio "Buddy" Hernandez.

Classic cars, muscle cars, street rods, trucks and more are welcome. There is a \$15 entry fee, with proceeds to benefit local charities.

The Knights' Kitchen will be open, offering burgers, hot dogs, sausage and pepper grinders, and beverages. There will be a raffle, with prizes including signed Joey Logano collectibles, car accessories, electronics, gift baskets, wine and more.

Awards will be presented for Best of Show, Oldest, Classic, and Truck.

Mercy Honor Roll

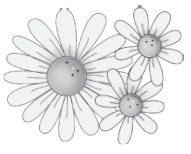
Mercy High School President Alissa DeJonge has announced the following local students made its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

Seniors: Highest Honors: Milana Koji, Michaela Miano, Julia Nadolski; High Honors: Lillian Clark, Lauren Kohs, Gianna Low, Sarah McNickle, Raya Morin, Leah VanDeventer; Honors: Melina Ford.

Juniors: Highest Honors: Tiana Harley; High Honors: Clare Bankoski, Emily Murphy.

Sophomores: Highest Honors: Emily Bernard, Kayla Johnson; High Honors: Madelyn Brazeal, Megan Kasperowski, Catalina Koji, Isabella Levesque, Ava Roy; Honors: Logan Binnington, Sophie Favale.

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Getting the big tents ready! Portland Historical Society volunteers Deb Freitag and Susan Bransfield work under the tents displaying and pricing some of the thousands of items donated for the society's own tag sale tomorrow, Saturday, May 13, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The society's tag sale and bake sale are located at 492 Main St.

Town-Wide Tag Sale Ready for Saturday

Tomorrow, May 13, more than 130 tag sales will be held all around Portland, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

This 27th annual event is a fundraiser for the Portland Historical Society's Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. Several non-profits are also participating with their own sales. Look for the official black-and-orange tag sale signs and yellow balloons that signal a registered sale shown on the official Tag Sales Day Map.

The free 2023 Town-Wide Tag Sales Map is now available in a barrel on the front steps at the museum located at 492 Main St., and online at www.PortlandHistSoc.com. The map features locations of the registered and numbered Tag Sales and lists types of items featured at each.

Back this year is the historical society's Tag Sale under the tents at 492 Main St., with everything from kitchen necessities, lamps and china to furniture, collectibles, toys and crafts.

Fill a Public Works Truck

Portland Public Works and the Portland Lions Club will hold the fifth annual "Fill a Public Works Truck" event at Adams Hometown Market. All proceeds are going to support Portland Food Bank. The goal is to raise funds for the Portland Food Bank by asking customers to "Round-Up" at the register.

The event will run in at Adams from Sunday, May 14, through Saturday, May 20. Also, one of the Public Works trucks, along with members of

Portland Lions Club, will be on site on Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

This event, cosponsored in recognition of National Public Works Week, recognizes the work the Portland Public Works Department performs in the community. These tasks include, but are not limited to, road maintenance, fleet services, traffic maintenance, refuse/recycling operations, park/grounds maintenance, building maintenance, and sewer & water operations.

Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library groups has fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, as well as DVDs, at the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Free-stone Ave. The sale takes place during regular library hours.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc unless marked otherwise. There are large-print mystery and general fiction books that have been removed from the library collection on sale for 50 cents each, as well as TV

series on DVD for 50 cents each disc.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library's museum pass program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

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

Memorial Day Returns; Participants Welcome

Portland's Memorial Day parade will take place Sunday, May 28, rain or shine. Sgt. Daniel Clark, "The Singing Trooper," will return to commemorate this day.

The parade will assemble at Victoria Road at 1:30 p.m. Floats should assemble at 12:30 p.m. Step-off will be at 2 p.m.

The procession will stop for a brief ceremony at the Civil War monument on Bartlett Street. It will continue down Main Street as usual. A reviewing stand will be stationed at the Brownstone Intermediate School. The parade will then turn left on Waverly Avenue, left onto East Main

Street, and right onto Fairview Street, ending at Veterans Memorial Park.

Details about parking and road closures for the day will be announced in the weeks ahead.

Participants are welcome; registration forms may be picked up at 32 East Main St.

For more information, contact Sara Sterry Rutter, parade organizer, at 860-342-2815 or 860-250-2041, or email ssterryrutter@yahoo.com.

Visit and "Like" the Facebook page: Portland Memorial Day Parade. More Information will be posted.

Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

The Portland Soccer Club (PSC) Board of Directors will award the \$500 Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship again this year.

Peterson was a lifelong Portland resident, ardent soccer fan, and contributor to the town's soccer program. He was instrumental in forming the Portland Soccer Club.

The scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who are college- or post high school institution-bound. Applicants must be a Portland resident and have played a minimum of two years with the PSC.

All applicants must submit a 250-word essay

entitled "How Soccer Inspired Me to Give Back to the Community." The essay needs to demonstrate the role soccer has had in the applicant's development and how the applicant has used that influence to give back to Portland's soccer community.

Scholarship applications are at www.bluesombbrero.com/portlandsoccerclub, under the "Community Link" drop-down. All scholarship applications must be received no later than June 1.

For more information, email PSC President Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com.

Registration for Fall Travel Soccer

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) has announced registration for the fall 2023 travel soccer season is now open. All eligible players must register online, at www.bluesombbrero.com/portlandsoccerclub.

Cost per travel registrant is \$170. All players must prepay for registration prior to evaluation.

Registration closes June 7. Any registrations received after this date will be charged an additional \$30 late fee, and are not guaranteed a spot on a travel team.

Evaluation sessions will be Sunday, June 11, at the Portland Recreational Complex, located on Route 17 (Gospel Lane) in Portland. Evaluation times will be by birth year: those born in 2015 and 2014 will be evaluated from 5-6 p.m.; 2013 and 2012 will be 5:15-6:15 p.m.; and 2011 and 2010 will be 5:30-6:30 p.m.


If you cannot come for your time slot, a make-up slot will be available from 7-7:45 p.m.

All players must attend the evaluation sessions. Players are directed to wear cleats, shin guards, and bring a water bottle and an appropriately sized ball. The wearing of any PSC uniform by players is prohibited.

New players will receive a uniform kit; ordering information and instructions will be sent after evaluations from PSC's uniform vendor.

PSC said it anticipates fielding gender-based teams within the U9-U14 levels for the fall season, depending on player registration totals. The club reserves the right to combine birth-year players when forming teams. Refunds will be issued if player is not placed on a team.

For more information, contact PSC president Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com or 205-999-8842; vice president Chris Donahue at donahuecj@sbcglobal.net or 860-638-7400; or registrar Stephanie Bolstridge at stephaniebolstridge@gmail.com or 860-478-9693.



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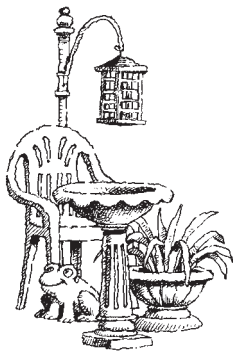
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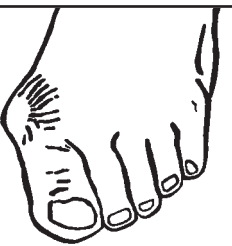
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Fun Run Capstone Project

On Saturday, May 20, at 1 p.m., there will be a Fun Run Capstone Project held at the Portland Recreational Complex (New Park). All are invited.

The Fun Run Capstone is being put on by Portland High School junior Ari Hettrick-Rivera. PHS students are tasked with a final capstone project that will better themselves or their community. The money raised will be donated to the Foundations for Women's Cancer. The foundation's goal

is to eradicate or lessen the impact of gynecological cancer through research, education and public awareness.

This run is for all ages, distances between 25 meters and 1 mile. Age Categories: 0-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-18, 19-40, 41-60, 60 and over. Medals will be awarded to division winners.

Cost is \$2. You will get a bracelet and race entry fee.

Garden Clubs Plant Sale

The garden clubs of Portland will hold their annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 20, in the parking lot at 265 Main Street, next to the Town Green and Police Station. The sale will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 10:30 a.m., or until all plants are sold.

Many plants for sale will be perennials from the gardens of members of the two clubs: The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River Valley Garden Club. In addition to perennials, there will be an assortment of annuals, ground covers, herbs, vegetables and house plants for sale. The sale will also feature a variety of gently-used garden related items for sale. The annual plant sale is a major fundraiser for the com-

munity activities of the nonprofit clubs, which are members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, the National Garden Clubs, and New England Garden Clubs.

Organizers are looking for high school students who will help customers carry plant purchases to their cars during the plant sale. It is a way to obtain community service hours.

Admission is free, with all proceeds benefiting the garden clubs' projects. Inclement weather conditions (i.e., rain heavily) will reschedule the event to Sunday, May 21. If anyone has plants to donate to the sale, call Sue at 959-231-9630 or Amanda at 860-262-0036.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following events. Registration required for all programs unless noted. For more info, to register, and for full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional.

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: 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: Pre-school 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.

Lock In for Literacy: Welcome to Camp Half Blood! Friday, May 19, 6-8 p.m., for grades 4-6. This activity night is based on Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. A permission slip will be sent to registered attendees a few days before the program.

LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups: Teens are invited to social meetups at the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Support groups will meet on the third Wednesday of the month, with a parent and caregiver support group running concurrently in another room at the library. For more information, contact Jenn Renk at 860-342-6770.

Adult Programs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, May 16, 1 p.m. *Eight Perfect Murders* by Peter Swanson will be discussed.

Endangered Snow Leopards with Richard Benfield: Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m. This is a multigenerational child/adult program.

Trinity at Tag Sale

This year's Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. -- and Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., will have space available on its lawn for people to sell their tag sale items.

Call the church office at 860-342-0458 or email trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com to reserve your 20' x 20' space. The reservation fee is \$25, and you must bring your own table/set up. Set-up begins at 7:30 a.m. Space is limited.

Air Line Trail Work Party

There will be a Portland Air Line Trail Community Work Party Saturday, May 20, at 10 a.m.

All are invited to meet at the trailhead on 82 Middle Haddam Rd. and help cut branches, picking up trash, and providing general trail clearing. Bring gloves and hand tools you wish to use.

RSVP to theriz4@sbcglobal.net. Rain date is Sunday, May 21, at 10 a.m.

Post Office Food Drive

The Portland Post Office will hold its annual food drive Saturday, May 13.

On that day, leave food donations in or by your mailbox. The carriers will pick up your donations as they deliver your mail. All food is then distributed to the Portland Food Bank.

Suggested items are any non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, sauces, baby food and formula.

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 if interested and let him know what days work for her. Portland Horseshoes is an alcohol-free activity.

★ Council Advances Budget, cont. from page 1

Another concession by the council was changing the ballot to have a "no – too low" or "no – too high" question. Residents wanted this to be sure voter intent is clear.

It appears Philhower and Goff, at least, have a pension for attempts to slide cuts in at the last minute.

Last year, Republicans successfully cut the same request for a new lieutenant. Then, as he did this week, councilor Pete Brown, a retired cop, advised against alienating a "good chief."

By far though, arguments focused on the nearly \$1 million cut to the schools.

Before the meeting, Walck, in a letter to the *Rivereast* last week, poked the proverbial bear.

In the letter, Walck accused schools chief Paul Smith of organizing students to speak at the council's last meeting and accused him of manipulating them to anger by cutting a favorite English teacher. (This teacher is a recent hire, and layoffs are based on seniority.)

Walck said Smith was getting kids to do his "dirty work," vaguely saying what he did was as abhorrent as things she equated in the Vietnam War. This proved unpopular, with one resident saying his veteran father would love to have a conversation about that.

Walck wasn't the only Republican that wrote to this paper. Philhower and Peterson did too, with Peterson saying Smith made the cuts without school board approval (untrue, or at least an equivocation – without funding, the board was legally obligated to notify the teachers of contract nonrenewal).

Smith included the letters in his update to the community – a first to this reporter's recollection.

Goff, citing state information, said it appeared the schools had added almost 20 staff in the last year. This info isn't clear-cut, however. School district finance director Karen Asseta said the state counts bus drivers and cafeteria staff, who are not directly employed by the school board.

The ever-widening rift between the school board and the council, both Republican-controlled, caused school board chair Christina Tammaro-Dzagan to leave the party. In a letter in this week's *Rivereast* she goes so far as to say she regrets helping the local GOP to victory in 2021.

Resident Brian Corvo said the council was severely hurting schools to save pennies on the dollar.

Corvo said the package the council ultimately past basically raises taxes for an average priced home around \$20 to \$30 a month. The one before the finance board cut \$800,000, according to Corvo, would've raised taxes 40 to 60 bucks a month.

"We're arguing about \$20 to \$30 a month," he said. "Literally the cost of a plate of wings and a beer."

Corvo said the council wanted to make the town a "cheap dump with poor education and bad services."

Michelle Lemire, a resident raised in chaotic post-apartheid South Africa, said at her school on her home continent, large classes overwhelmed teachers, and her learning issues went unnoticed.

She said her daughter also has attention struggles. Not until coming to East Hampton, she said, "did we meet competent and observant teachers." Now her daughter is thriving, she said.

"I pray you have the strength and humanity to do what's right for our kids and send the budget back."

Daniel Fin said the council was inordinately cutting the school board's purchasing power, about 2.5%, because so much of the budget is spent on pay.

Along with a whole platoon of articulate, confident students, recent East Hampton graduates joined the refrain calling for the council to support the schools.

Charlotte Cascio admonished councilors that she's no longer a local student, but a local voter. Several students had the same warning.

EHHS student Brayden Kramer said local schools are great spaces with passionate faculty.

He said the "idea that my fellow students aren't here because of their own independent thoughts" was abhorrent.

Former town council members also showed up. Former Democratic council vice chair Dean Markham said there was definitely manipulation on the council's part, and that sending the trimmed budget to vote was always the plan. Correctly, he said that was the plan that night.

He said to them disapprovingly, everything "takes a secondary position to how low you can keep the mill rate."

He went on. "Council leadership hasn't been truthful." Voting it down, said Markham, was the people's only recourse.

Before the vote debate swung to the attempt-

ed last-minute cuts, namely the lieutenant.

Councilor Brown said he's not worried about equipment. He's worried about personnel. The lieutenant, according to the police chief, is to help the department meet the demands of state accreditation.

"That means manpower," said Brown. "One person can only do so much. You're cutting East Hampton short – for dollars. That's wrong. The people who have spoken at two meetings have been totally disregarded."

Brown said of the new position, "That's been in there."

On this council Republican and vice chair Tim Feegel broke from his party, saying he agrees the department needs the help. He also said he wanted to revisit the ambulance item.

The ambulance argument has been a whole other can of worms and has been just as contentious. For two years the local volunteer ambulance has been angling to get more money for staff, this year asking for more than \$170,000 to pay a pair 24/7 staffers. Town Republicans have been largely opposed to this, with Philhower strongly wanting to switch to a private service.

Councilors had, genuinely or not, said they would consider funding the EHAA if a councilor and a finance board member were allowed to sit on the ambulance's own executive board. While the EHAA wasn't enthused, it seemed amenable to the idea. The two met last month, and did not leave off definitively. In the end the finance board cut the ambulance money, a move embraced by a majority of council Republicans.

The council majority has a history of being unpersuaded by public input. In February, it nixed a possible library survey. Soon after former library director Tim Kellogg found a new job.

The council stalled indefinitely the local library's attempt to send out a survey gauging the town's wants and needs, a guide for the next few years of planning.

Citing concerns over large upcoming costs – debt for the new town hall and the search for a new fire station among them – council Republicans voted to postpone the survey "indefinitely," while the body's two Democrats opposed the postponement. Council dem Pete Brown said the survey cost the town nothing, and that whether it's for now or further down the road, a trail of information always serves the future.

In presenting the survey Kellogg, who like the library's last director Ellen Paul has seen the community use the library more and more, with higher checkouts and program participation, said the survey built off Paul's survey from a few years back, which has guided work up until now.

"We're not starting from scratch," said Kellogg.

This wasn't the first time council Republicans have resisted community feedback. Last June, the party killed any plans presented by Parks and Rec director Jeremy Hall, items based on a survey Hall's department ran.

Back then along with a consultant Hall presented to the Town Council a list of needs and wants the community named.

Most Republican councilors appeared unresponsive to the survey's results.

Hall's consultant, Art Thatcher of the firm BerryDunn, assisted the department in developing a survey disseminated to the public earlier this year.

The survey was meant to gauge the townspeople's wants and needs for the town's recreation facilities and parks.

A renovation and "reimagining" of "loved to death" Sears Park, an indoor multisport complex, better pedestrian infrastructure, public access to the Connecticut River, a dog park and a splash pad were all items locals included in their request.

Another popular request, Thatcher said, was an indoor aquatics facility. Townspeople also want better communication from the town, specifically through email and social media.

Thatcher named as themes in many surveys needs for more facilities, better maintenance, connections to the Air Line Trail, and a need for more gathering places.

People asked for "nontraditional" sports opportunities, like bowling and biking, as well as more fun for teens and preteens.

Thatcher said the survey yielded 292 responses, from nearly a fourth of East Hampton households.



Bake Sale, Scavenger Hunt

This Saturday, May 13, during the Town Wide Tag Sale, the Portland Fire Cadets will hold a Bake Sale and Scavenger Hunt at Portland Fire Department Company 2.

The sale will run from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. All are invited.

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Lions 'Round the Lake 5K

The Marlborough Lions will hold their 39th annual 'Round the Lake 5K Road Race Sunday, May 28, starting promptly at 10:30 a.m.

The entry fee is \$30 and runners must be registered by the day prior to the race. Shirts will be guaranteed for those who pre-register by May 13, with additional shirts provided to runners as available. There is also a \$60 package price for groups of immediate family members participating in the race. Same-day registrations need to be signed in by 10 a.m. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a

course, which circles Lake Terramuggus.

To register or for more information, contact Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or MarlboroughCTLions@gmail.com. Registration forms are also available at various locations. People can also register online at itsourrace.com; search for Marlborough Lions.

Race sponsorships are available; the business sponsor's information will be printed on the shirts handed out to runners. Businesses that wish to provide sponsorships should contact Hjulstrom or Lloyd.

Lions Clear Walking Trails

Members of the Marlborough Lions recently cleared back growth from the sides of the walking trails behind the elementary school and blew leaves off the trails. Marlborough Lions President Megan Lloyd, Tom Reiser and Ken Hjulstrom helped to keep the trail clear, which is an annual effort conducted each spring.

The trails are accessed from the parking lot by the school's Community Room and extend well into the woods behind the school. Parts of the trail are paved, while other sections are gravel.

The Marlborough Lions serve the community in other ways as well, including sponsoring Red Cross blood drives and performing vision screening for elementary school children.

Upcoming fundraising events include a raffle for a kayak (tickets are \$20 each) and the annual 'Round the Lake 5K Road Race, which will kick off at Blish Park on Sunday, May 28. For information on these activities, or on how you can join the Lions, call Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

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 15: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Stop & Shop, 10 a.m.; socialization, 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: chicken stir-fry, white rice, steamed broccoli, wheat bread, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y, 10 a.m.; van leaves senior center at 11:30 a.m. for "Aging with Purpose" at Goodwin; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, May 17: 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: vegetable lasagna, zucchini, garlic knot, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 18: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Friday, May 19: Socialization, 8-Ball Pool, Mahjong Playing Cards, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: boneless chicken marsala, pesto pasta, garlic knot, fresh fruit, mini cannoli; 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 Wilhenger 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.

Lions Club Raffling 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 mem-

bers. 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.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Programs: 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.

Family Sewing - Beach Tote: Saturday, June 10, 10-11:30 a.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. For ages 8 and up. Students will learn the basics of machine operation, and create and take home a beach tote. All supplies are included. Fee: \$48/resident, \$53/non-resident.

Netto Summer Day Camp: For grades K-7. Weekly sessions run June 19-Aug. 11, at Blish Park. There will be camp games, arts & crafts, swimming, sports, field trips and special events. All campers are supervised by counselors and lifeguards trained in CPR/First Aid. Fee per week: \$175/residents, \$185/non-residents.

Swim Lessons: Lessons will begin the week of June 20, at Blish Park. All lesson levels are offered. Fee: \$65/residents, \$70/non-residents.

Skyhawks Basketball Camp: June 26-30. Ages 5 & 6 are 9 a.m.-noon, and fee is \$139/residents, \$144/non-residents. Ages 7-12 are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and fee is \$179/resident, \$184/non-

resident.

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up. Days and times are flexible. Fee: four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

Adult Programs: 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. 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. Fee: \$209. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 3 p.m. and returns at around 1 a.m.



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A Hero's Welcome, Long Overdue

By Jack Lakowsky

This week, the Town of Marlborough and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz joined up to celebrate veterans, alive and passed, of two conflicts far less mythologized than, for example, World War II.

Certainly WWII veterans deserve admiration and are justly honored, but, as Bysiewicz noted, veterans of the Korean War and Vietnam Era came home to a far more different, far less warm welcome. The lack of recognition has further occluded issues facing these vets, especially those with severe health problems related to exposure to Agent Orange, a toxic defoliating agent deployed by the U.S. military during Vietnam.

At a ceremony Monday, vets from many military branches showed up to receive a pin and a photo with the lieutenant governor, a token of recognition for servicepeople who, like their world war counterparts, lost friends, missed time with family and, as many vets shared, had a few laughs along the way.

Twenty-two Vietnam vets were honored Monday, and several shared stories of their experiences, ranging from heartbreaking to humorous. Finding them, the lieutenant governor said, was a "sleuthing job"; there's no such thing as a "master list" of vets, she said.

Just before the ceremony began the *Rivereast* spoke with Bysiewicz.

She said when she was secretary of state (a position she held for 12 years), she did a lot of WWII veterans' ceremonies, going to 140 towns and meeting more than 15,000 servicepeople. Time went on, and she did a round of ceremonies for Korean Conflict vets, many of whom also served in WWII.

Now as lieutenant governor, "it was time to say thanks" to Vietnam veterans.

"It was very hard for them," Bysiewicz told the *Rivereast*. "The war was unpopular; they were advised not to wear their uniforms, spat upon, called 'baby killers.' That's why this is special; they didn't get the welcome home they deserved."

She said 530 Vietnam Era and Korean War vets die daily, according to information from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

"It's just right to say thank you," she said. In her speech, Bysiewicz touched on the differences between the conflicts.

Korea, she said, was never officially declared or officially ended, and had none of the pomp and glamor of troops returning from fighting the Nazis. There was also a poor understanding

of post-war trauma and PTSD.

The Vietnam Era, she said, is one of America's most complex episodes, and one of the most painful. Deaths in the tens of thousands, deep unrest at home, fighting in treacherous terrain and torrential rain, a war whose efficacy and purpose continues to spark debate 50 years later. Connecticut lost more than 1,000 between Korea and Vietnam.

And these are those lost in battle. Many more have died due to exposure to Agent Orange.

Ted May, a Marlborough Vietnam veteran, died of Agent Orange-related ALS in 2019.

The Theodore May Memorial Bridge, just past the new Exit 13 on Route 2, is named after him.

Like countless Vietnam servicepeople, May was exposed to a highly herbicidal brew containing dioxin – commonly known as Agent Orange.

The U.S. government employed the herbicide during the conflict. Nearly 50 years after the war's end, many veterans are dealing with the severely adverse health effects of the toxin, linked to cancers, diabetes, birth defects and other disabilities, according to the Aspen Institute.

The Red Cross estimates three million Vietnamese people have been affected by dioxin, including at least 150,000 born with serious birth defects. Millions of Americans and Vietnamese are still dealing with the – sometimes fatal – aftereffects.

The herbicide defoliated millions of acres of forest and farmland, with huge tracts of land unusable to this day. Agent Orange was banned in the U.S. in 1971.

As a trained medic, May knew something was up when he was exposed to the toxin, and brought his concerns to his superiors, May's wife Dolores told the *Rivereast* a year ago, when her late husband was honored in the local Memorial Day Parade.

"He was told his government would never do anything to hurt him," said Dolores. Dolores met May when she was 18. They were married 47 years. They had two sons, who gave them nine grandkids.

In the last years of his life, May battled a debilitating case of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, caused by his exposure to Agent Orange.

"He was sick for many years," Dolores said. "Most things you get from [Agent Orange], he got." She said ALS is a horrible disease she wouldn't wish on anyone.



This week more than 20 vets of the Vietnam and Korean conflicts gathered in the Marlborough Elementary School community room to receive an honor that, the lieutenant governor said, is grossly past due. The Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Air Force and the Coast Guard all had representation at the ceremony.

He may have struggled in his last years, but May never regretted serving his country, Dolores said.

At Monday's ceremony, one May would've surely attended if he could, a squad of local vets, Coast Guard, Army, Navy, Marines, shared stories surprising, funny, and heartfelt, ranging from whole months spent partying, the life-

changing taste of a true-blue Danish Danish ("not the hockey pucks you get here!"), working 20-hour days to keep machinery working properly, how they still have stories they can't legally share, how the only supply under armed guard were the Christmas trees – and how much they miss their fallen friends.

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. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohfnisher30@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.

Weekly Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m., or by appointment

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 is once again breaking ground to benefit Marlborough Food Bank and supply fresh produce in season. Garden 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 other programs or adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjohfnisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Honor Society Inductee

Marlborough resident Francis Brown, a student at Fordham University, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Local Artwork on Display

Local painter Roy Wrenn and local sculptor Neal Alderman are among the artists currently exhibiting their works at Marlborough Town Hall, 26 N. Main St.

The work will be on display through June.

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'Horsepower' Car Show

All are invited to the first-ever car show at The Farm at Carter Hill, 86 E. Hampton Rd., Marlborough, on Sunday, June 11, to benefit the horses of the CT Draft Horse Rescue. Car entries must arrive between 9 and 11 a.m., and general admission starts at 11 a.m. Car entry tickets and general admission tickets are available at tinyurl.com/3xk7yz5b. Cash entries are available during the day of the event. Awards will be presented at 2:30 p.m. There will be live music by local band Beth

and the Boys. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. There will be raffles and games, trophy awards and more. The CDHR is a nonprofit organization located in East Hampton, dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter. For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or email ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

MES Art Show Tuesday

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. 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 are invited; refreshments will be served.



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Arts Center Activities and Events

Marlborough Arts Center (MAC) has announced the following activities and events:

Artist members of the Board of Directors at the MAC continue to display their work at Town Hall until the end of June. Acrylic paintings by Roy Wrenn, wire sculpture by Neal Alderman, mixed media by Laurie Alt, and watercolors by Audrey Carroll Prucnall and Mary Horrigan can be viewed during business hours at Town Hall.

MAC's Members' Art Show is currently on display at the arts center gallery, 231 N. Main St.

The gallery will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. The show runs until May 28.

Musical performances scheduled for May include an outdoor rock concert by School of Rock on May 20. Two additional outdoor rock concerts are planned for August.

A juried regional art show, East of the River, is scheduled for October, and a Holiday Gift and Art Sale will take place in November.

Watercolor classes will be offered in October.

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.

Members' Art Show

The Marlborough Arts Center's Members' Art Show is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-4 p.m., through May 28. All are invited. The center is located at 231 N. Main St. Photos of all works on exhibit can be seen at www.marlborougharts.org.

Purposeful Engagement in Your Community

The Commission on Aging, in collaboration with the Marlborough Senior Center, invites ages 50 and up to the fourth speaker series being held at Goodwin University.

The event is Tuesday, May 16, and the topic is Purposeful Engagement in Your Community. If you need a ride to the event, sign up with Vi Schwarzmann at the senior center, at 860-295-6209. A link to register for the event is at tinyurl.com/bdfszt5.



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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 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.

May 14 is a Bluegrass Sunday, with the church's Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band providing upbeat music. The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver, with United Church of Christ minister the Rev. Marilyn Kendrix as guest preacher. Kendrix's ministry focuses on raising awareness about mass incarceration in America.

Outreach: The church supports a variety of mission projects. Second quarter mission-giving will go to AHM Mental Health Fund.

Join a Commission

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is looking for people to join one of the following commissions:

Economic and Community Development, Lake Advisory, Nature Trails and Sidewalks, Water Pollution Control Authority, Commission on Aging and the Cemetery Committee. The application form can be accessed from our website at www.marlbroughct.net; the link is at the bottom of the page on the left-hand side.

For more information about any of these commissions, email CEO@marlbroughct.net.

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.

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.



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CDHR Anniversary Event

All are invited to celebrate the sixth anniversary at Autumn Ridge, the farm for the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue, on Sunday, May 21, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the farm, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Admission is free. In addition to the CDHR horses, there will be vendors, raffles, wagon rides and more. There will be plenty of parking in the hayfield or along the street, if needed. This event is rain or shine.

If you want to be a vendor, go to www.ct-draftrescue.org/vendorform. The CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter.

For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org, www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or send an email to ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

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 for more information.

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 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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Kids Craft Fair

Kindness with Kids is hosting a Kids Craft Fair at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton, located at the intersection of Route 66 and North Main Street, on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be a variety of kid crafters and creators, as well as a pie and gift basket sale. All monetary proceeds raised from this event will be donated to the East Hampton PTO.

Limited spaces are still available for kid crafters; email BethlehemSecretary424@gmail.com for an application.

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CCEH Spring Market

On Saturday, May 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., the annual Spring Market will take place on the grounds of the Congregational Church of East Hampton at 59 Main St.

The market will include a tag sale, plant sale, food, Tastefully Simple, Photos by Barbara, WarmFuzziesSoftHugs, Syd's Shenanigans, Debby's Sweet Treats, Vinyl Fusion, Autumn Olive Farm, Book Boxes, maple products from Rick's Sugar Shack, and more. The Belltown Garden Club will also sell perennials.

Visit the downtown merchants during their Village Stroll from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. that day.

For more information or to reserve a vendor spot, call Lisa at 860-918-1170.

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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. Church school classes meet every Sunday. The Oure Pleasure Singers will perform Saturday, May 6, at 4 p.m. 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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

partment will sponsor this clinic. Simply stop by; no appointment necessary.

Baby Goats: Monday, May 15, 3 p.m. The goats are visiting again!

Bracelet-Making by Wendy: Tuesday, May 16, 10 a.m. Make a recycled button keepsake bracelet. All supplies provided.

Celebrate Older Americans Month with The Guinea Pigs: Wednesday, May 17, 1 p.m. This is a Connecticut-based musical duo.

Family Tree: Friday, May 19, 10:30 a.m. Ken Doney continues to help participants search for the history of their families. Bring your own mobile device. One-on-one time will be available.

Art w/Karen: Sunday, May 21, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through the beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Class cost is \$5 for supplies. Pay Williams the day of the event.

Ageless Mindful Awareness Techniques: Monday, May 22, 1 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude in a group setting.

AARP Safe Driving Class: Friday, May 26, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bring your AARP number if you are a member and \$20 cash or check to reserve your seat. Fee for non-members is \$25.

Trip: 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.

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

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.

Movie Day: Friday, May 12, 1 p.m. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, a tale of hilarious sadness set in Louisiana. Snacks provided.

Beginners Knitting Class: Fridays, May 12 and 19, 11 a.m. Bring yarn and needles.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group: Monday, May 15, 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet others and share resources.

Free Blood Pressure Screening: Monday, May 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Chatham Health De-

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.

Royal Oaks Water System Flushing

The Royal Oaks Water System will be flushed from Tuesday, May 16, through Thursday, May 18.

The Town of East Hampton Water Department periodically flushes its water lines to ensure that the valves are in good working order and to maintain water quality. Flushing will be between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Customers are asked to excuse any temporary

drop in pressure and any possible discoloration of the water during flushing operations. Customers are also advised to avoid using washing machines, dishwashers or other water using devices during flushing operations.

Running the cold water will help to clear discolored water. If discolored water or low pressure persists into the next day, call the water department at 860-267-2536.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093. The library has a new P.O. box number: 123.

Library Hours: Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m.

Yoga: 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.

Mahjong: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Experienced and new players welcome.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers.

Sunday School: New students are welcome. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard for information at jneelrichard16@gmail.com.

Diaper Drive: The Missions Team is holding a diaper drive to honor all mothers. Drop off donated diapers and Pull-Ups in sizes three and four in the Parish Hall.

Donations: Food items may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church. Clean returnable bottles and cans go in the designated cans by the shed.

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.

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, coffee cake sale, and photo booth. There will be free mini muffins and lemonade for all who attend.

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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Bright Future for Bellringers Softball

By Josh Howard

To describe East Hampton High School's softball team as young would be an understatement.

The Bellringers do not have a senior that has played this season and eight of the nine starters are either freshmen or sophomores.

Despite an inexperienced group on the field, East Hampton head coach Erin Jump said her team has battled like a seasoned squad in every game this spring.

"I am proud of them for sticking together," added Jump. "We have had plenty of times where we've only had nine players and sometimes I'm just hoping we have nine to play a game."

Even with a learning curve and uncertainty at times, the Bellringers began the season smoldering hot by winning four of five games.

But a current seven-game slide has them searching for answers.

On May 3, the Bellringers dropped their fifth in a row, losing to Cromwell 9-1 at East Hampton High School.

The visiting Panthers came out of the gate swinging for the fences, scoring four runs in the first inning and adding five more in the sixth to cement the win.

"Even though we let things get away from us sometimes, [the players] stick with it and work well together," Jump said of the growing pains. "They try and work through everything they can. We have to stay positive, because sometimes they get down and it's hard to get out of it."

Shortstop Olivia DeMartino provided the only offense for the Bellringers, cranking an inside-the-park home run in the first inning when she blasted a shot to deep center field off of Cromwell's all-state pitcher Lily Kenney.

The May results haven't been ideal, but they only have to look back to April to find positives.

They started the season with a pair of impressive conference wins, defeating Valley Regional and Cromwell — the defending Class S state champs.

In the April win at Cromwell, sophomore Em-

ily Jovel singled to drive in DeMartino for the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and sophomore pitcher Allison Jacobsen retired the side in extras to seal a 2-1 win in eight innings.

Jacobsen, who played in the field last spring, has shifted over to the hill and assumed the team's ace role this year.

Jump said that Jacobsen worked extremely hard in the offseason to prepare for her new role, saying her transformation has helped solidify the position.

"I am proud of her. She has stepped up and done great things on the mound this year," Jump added. "The strides she has made just in her pitching abilities and her ability to move the ball around has kept up in a lot of games."

Captaining the team are the team's oldest players in juniors Madison Reola and Makayla Wolf. Jump said her junior duo has helped keep the group's morale up during the struggles.

DeMartino and Jovel, both sophomores, have done the most damage from the plate, each driving in 17 runs through the first 10 games.

Following an all-conference season as a freshman, DeMartino has taken her game to another level this spring, also leading the team in hits and runs.

Jump praised DeMartino for her adaptability, saying she is gifted enough to play anywhere on the field and added that she is one of the most "talented" and "coachable" players that she has had in her six years leading the program.

The team is finishing up a three-game road trip that started with an 11-5 loss to Morgan on Monday. They will return to East Hampton High School tonight (May 12) for a rematch with Morgan in an important Shoreline Conference clash. First pitch is 4 p.m.

The home conference game is part of five games in seven nights, with four of those games at EHHS. The handful of games will determine a spot in the state tournament.

Jump said she likes how the team has played in the field, but stated that they need to be more consistent offensively, adding, "We need to be



East Hampton pitcher Allison Jacobsen has been solid in her first season on the mound. Jacobsen and shortstop Olivia DeMartino (background) are part of a large, talented group of sophomores that are playing major roles for the Bellringers this spring.

more confident at the plate. That is also part of youth, but they're getting there and they are coming along."

Win or lose, Jump said the experience the group has gained this year will pay major divi-

dend over the next two seasons.

"They are a very tight-knit group. They mesh together so well and everyone gets along," stated Jump. "They lift each other up and that's one of the best things you can have in a team."

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.

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.

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.

Pollinator Pathway Meeting

There will be a Pollinator Pathway meeting in the Haddam Neck Firehouse Wednesday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m. Cooking and use of herbs will be a primary topic. All are welcome.

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

Road Closure

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department will conduct its mandatory pressure testing of all fire hoses Wednesday, May 17, weather permitting. An annual certification requirement, this testing will be conducted in the area of the Fire Department's Pump House at the western end of Walnut Avenue.

As a result, Walnut Avenue will be closed to through traffic between Main and Watrous streets between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Residents are advised to utilize alternate routes.

No Services at Haddam Neck Congregational

During May, Haddam Neck Congregational Church members will worship at the 2nd Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam. All are invited to the 10 a.m. service there.

No worship services will be held at Haddam Neck Congregational during May.

Visit www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org for information and upcoming events.

EHHS Botany Plant Sale

The East Hampton High School botany plant sale will be held Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the greenhouse in front of the High school.


A variety of annuals, perennials, sunflowers, and vegetable garden plants will be available for sale, all grown by the students. Varieties include dahlias, purple cone flowers, cosmos, delphinium, verbena, Shasta daisy, sweet pepper, aster powder puff, hot peppers, large leaf basil, cherry peppers, gaillardia, monarda tomatoes, cilantro, rosemary, eggplant, pink brandy wine tomatoes, four o'clock, cucumber, large red cherry tomato, Mexican sunflower, broccoli, scarlet poppy, beefsteak tomato, lilliput zinnias, marigold, red salad bowl, lettuce, buttercrunch lettuce, Brussels sprouts, crackerjack marigolds, lavender, catnip, sage, thyme, parsley, cilantro and more.

Bring along a box to fill and remember to bring any plant trays or pots you would like to donate for reuse.



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Elizabeth Stone, Author

koco4kids.org



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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 purpose of the program 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.

For more information or to be evaluated for the award, contact Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Department (860-267-7300 or jhall@easthamptonct.gov) or Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Dept. (860-267-7450 or jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov), or any members of the C&LC.

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.

Friends of the Library: Booksale Donation Dropoff Begins: Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the first day to drop off gently used book donations at the library. Books must be in good condition, free of mold, stains or smells. The book sale will then take place June 9 and 10. The sale is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

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, May 20, 10:30 a.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. 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 – Kinetic Sand: Saturday, May 27,

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.

Yoga for Gratitude: Grades 1-5: Monday, May 22, 4:30-5:30 p.m. There will be meditation, yoga poses, and a creative activity to help practice gratitude.

Teen Programs: 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.

Teen Paint Night: Wednesday, May 17, 6 p.m., for grades 6-12. Supplies are limited.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Saturday, May 20, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. All skill levels welcome.

Adult Programs: 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.

Belltown Book Blast: Friday, May 19, 10 a.m. There will be coffee or tea and bookish banter. No registration needed; just drop in.

Backyard Chickens with Mark Gostkiewicz: Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. Learn everything you need to know to start and maintain a happy, healthy flock of chickens, all while using sustainable and organic practices.

Free Paper-Shredding

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton.

This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

Budget Referendum Location Change

The location of voting for the budget referendum is now Town Hall.

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.

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* Letters cont. from page 7

of birds including chickadees, goldfinch, titmice, nuthatches and woodpeckers.

Petunias look great in hanging baskets as they send out cascades of trumpet-shaped blossoms. They bloom all season long if you deadhead (remove spent flowers) them regularly. Hummingbirds will often visit because of their trumpet shaped flowers. The annual Marguerite Daisy draws both moths and beetles and African or Cape Daisies are a big hit with bees and butterflies. Annual salvia is an easy-care, long-blooming plant that shows off beautiful flowers loved by bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. They come in red, blue, purple, pink, salmon, & white color. Calendula, also known as "pot marigold" is notorious for being a bee magnet and comes in assorted shades of yellow and orange. Gaillardia is a flower that you can count on to bloom from spring straight into fall.

All season long, the flowers just keep right on coming. Petunia excreta, a non-hybridized red petunia, is favored by hummingbirds. Cardinal Climber vine and Scarlet Runner Beans are also great vines for these tiny birds. So keep in mind that we may only enjoy them for one season but they provide a valuable service to our pollinators.

Michele Sinkez
Hebron Pollinator Pathway

Grants Received

To the Editor:

The Hebron Historical Society has been awarded two grants which provide professional services vital to helping us improve our small organization.

The Collections Assessment Grant, managed by Conservation ConneCTion, allowed a collections review by an archivist who furnished a detailed report for proper cataloging and storage techniques. We are in the process of implementing these improvements.

Support for this grant is through a partnership of the Connecticut Heritage Foundation and the Connecticut State Library with funding from the Connecticut DECD.

The Museum Makeover Grant, a program of Con-

servation ConneCTion and Connecticut League of History Organizations, will direct us in creating a dedicated storage/workspace allowing safe and organized storage. A Curator has toured our space in Old Town Hall and we will utilize a forthcoming report to plan a dedicated storage area. Funding for the storage will be provided by Ct Cultural Fund through CT Humanities.

Preservation of Hebron's past is important to the Hebron Historical Society. Advice from these dedicated professionals will assist us in keeping the history of Hebron and its artifacts safe for future generations.

Please check hebronthistoricalociety.org for past projects and programs. Stop in and check us out when the door is open this summer.

Thank you for your support,
The Hebron Historical Society

Bleeding Control Stations?

To the Editor:

Texas HB 1147 section 1, subsection D, instruction for the use of a bleeding control station will be offered annually to students enrolled in grade three or higher. Contents as follows: tourniquets (studies demonstrate Gen 7 tourniquets work well on small limbs) approved for use in battlefield trauma care by the armed forces of the United States, chest seals, compression bandages, space emergency blankets, latex-free gloves, markers, scissors and instructional documents developed by the American College of Surgeons or the United States Department of Homeland Security detailing methods to prevent blood loss following a traumatic event.

Will the training for the third-graders be under real-world conditions – watch the life drain out of their classmate or teacher as they try to apply a tourniquet, chest seal, or compression bandage while real weapons using real bullets hit them, their classmates and teacher, blood pooling on the floor – or standard classroom teaching: step by step, no bullets, no confusion, no chaos? Applying Narcan this is not.

Maybe if the amount of energy put into telling

what an 8-year-old child that is not yours could not read were put into making sure that the parents of that 8-year-old didn't have to worry about that same 8-year-old going to school and getting shot.

The inaugural Right to Read Day was Monday, April 24. The same day the American Library Association released its list of the 13 most-challenged books of 2022. The next Banned Book Week is Oct. 1-7, 2023. Visit a library or bookstore, get one of the books on the list and broaden your mind!

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover

Prison Boys

To the Editor:

"The leaders of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers have been convicted of seditious conspiracy. Our work will continue." -Merrick Garland

Four Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrío, Joe Biggs, Zachary Rehl and Ethan Nordean, have been found guilty of seditious conspiracy. Defense attorneys for Tarrío had blamed former President Donald Trump for inciting the riot. A fifth defendant, Dominic Pezzola, was acquitted of seditious conspiracy but convicted of numerous felonies for his own role in the attack – which included igniting the breach of the Capitol itself when he smashed a Senate window with a riot shield.

8 U.S. Code § 2384 - Seditious conspiracy says that if two or more persons in any state or territory, or in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, conspire to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the government of the United States, or to levy war against them, or to oppose by force the authority thereof, or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States, or by force to seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall each be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both. (FBI.gov, CBS, NBC, law.cornell.edu)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

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. For more information, contact Bo Tinson, parade chair, at 860-414-9712 or RLTinson@gmail.com.

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.

'Hope Resides Here' Encore

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will hold the music worship event "Hope Resides Here" again on Sunday, May 21, at 9 a.m., due to the overwhelming response to the April performance.

The church invites the community to this celebration of Jesus' love through contemporary music. The Vocal Choir will be accompanied by June Ingraham on violin, Matt Seymore on

drums, Frank Natter and Wayne Visintainer on guitars, and Jan Ulanowicz on keyboard.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., the road to the fairgrounds. Visit www.hncovenantchurch.org for more information.

'Running for Brews' is Back

'Running for Brews' is back for the season. The runners meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales (91 Main St.) and run a 5K – or whatever distance they want – on the Air Line Trail.

After the run, folks return to Dexter's for a cold brew (or water or whatever you need to quench your thirst), conversation and live music.

Contact Greg Jones for more details at jone-sinthrulife@gmail.com or text 860-966-7179.

Perennial Plant Sale

Belltown Garden Club will hold its annual Perennial Plant Sale in conjunction with the East Hampton Congregational Church's Open Air Market Saturday, May 27.

There will be a variety of perennial plants as usual, dug from local gardens.

The Plant Sale will officially be from 9 a.m.-noon, although the club will be there after noon to clean up, so if you want to purchase anything, you're still welcome to stop by.

For more information, text Hollye Thomas at 860-986-1240. Additionally, any nonprofit or community group that would like to be contacted at the end of the sale for leftover plants should text Thomas as well.

Nonconformity

To the Editor:

Not to detract from Annie Steinbrecher's debt ceiling point, but the quote about 25% of our debt coming during Trump's budgets needs context. As Obama's budgets ended, 42% of all debt had been incurred during his two terms; for Bush Jr., it was 50% in two; for Clinton, 24% in two; for Bush Sr., 35% in one; for Reagan, 65% in two; for Carter, 30% in one. Clinton was the only one far better than Trump; Bush Sr. and Reagan were far worse.

Regarding our nonconformist, Sam Prentice says he always "performs my own due diligence on the information I seek and receive." This from someone who lamely attempts to rebut established climate science by invoking charlatan Tony Heller? This from someone who – recycling stories from Fox News, *The Daily Caller*, and the *New York Post* – claims his independent Clinton Foundation research reaches the exact conclusion they did, and clings to it even as it's demolished by experts?

Think of the folderol about critical race theory. In 2020, the entire "do your own research" posse simultaneously did their own research about a discipline unchallenged since its 1975 introduction, and amazingly reached identical conclusions... unrelated of course to Fox's incessant hype. Totally coincidental independent investigations by these nonconformists made them all write anti-CRT letters to the *Rivereast*.

Choosing lesser-known and less-respected sources of information is not independent research. Acting just like everyone else in the smaller crowd is not nonconformity.

Note, *Scientific American* does not practice science but explains and popularizes science. Just like *National Geographic* describing but not practicing anthropology, or *People* reporting on performers but not performing itself. Also, I'm curious: If "Leftist Democrats are the most destructive and devastating forces in the world," where do leftist Independents, centrist Democrats and MAGA Republicans fall on the scale?

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover
See Story, page 25

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of May 1 -7:

Carson Waddell – RHAM High School (Golf): Waddell shot a blistering (-4) 32 to finish as the medalist during the Raptors victory over Tolland (144-160) on April 24. Waddell, a senior, shot birdies on holes one, three, six, and seven -- paring the other five holes -- to finish four-under on the Gilead Highlands Course at Blackledge Country Club. The following day, Waddell again shot a course-best (+1) 34 as RHAM downed E.O. Smith (141-170) at The Windham Club.

Ryan LaPila – Portland High School (Baseball): LaPila drove in a season-high four runs as the Highlanders defeated Coginchau Regional 7-5 on May 5. LaPila, a junior, connected on a pair of hits as the Highlanders scattered 11 hits as a team. Freshman Aaron Ciarleglio crossed home plate twice to lead Portland in runs scored, while Harrison Collins, Josh Hanna, Gerry Hall, Austin Vess, and Allen Cohen each scored once. The win over Coginchau was the Highlanders second in three games, also beating Hale Ray on May 1 behind three hits and three RBIs from Hanna.

Chelsea Woods – East Hampton High School (Golf): Woods, a junior, shot a (+4) 40 on the back nine at Black Birch Golf Club in East Haddam to lead East Hampton to a victory over Hale Ray (190-194) on May 5. Woods, the Bellingers top-seeded golfer, shot par on the final four holes and got help from senior Brodie Babcock, who shot a 46 to help secure the victory. East Hampton will return to Black Birch Golf Club to take on Cromwell on Tuesday, May 16, at 3 p.m.

Josh Ambrose – Bacon Academy (Baseball): Ambrose pitched a complete-game shutout, striking out nine during Bacon Academy's 6-0



RHAM senior Carson Waddell has been outstanding on the links this spring, recently posting a four-under to earn the medalist during a victory over Tolland.

win over Montville on May 6, earning the team their eight win and qualifying them for the Class M state tournament. The victory ended a perfect three-win week for the Bobcats, who also beat Waterford on May 3 and Fitch on May 4. In a 5-3 win over Waterford, Ambrose earned the save from the mound and James Chiaverni drove in two runs on a double in the third inning to put the Bobcats up 5-0. In a 7-4 win over Fitch, Steven Laliberte had a double to drive in a pair of runs.

To nominate someone as an Athlete of the Week or with sports-related comments, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 25*

Tucker Carlson Fanboys

To the Editor:

Last week our Tucker Carlson fanboys let off a lot of steam. Their rants were 'News of the Weird' worthy. Sam Prentice said he stopped watching Fox News three years ago because he saw "they were abandoning their loyal base in order to futilely curry favor from leftists." Could Prentice share one example of why he considers Fox News too left-leaning? Or where he now gets his ultra-conservative opinions? Is it QAnon? Newsmax? OAN? *The Daily Wire*? When I shared my multiple science and media sources he belittled only one of them, *Scientific American* as "one of the most pathetic excuses for science." Could Prentice state a single example to support his conclusion? Probably not. His default setting is to blow out generalized accusations and leave them hanging without evidence. It's his personal self-therapy regimen, leaving *Rivereast* readers stuck like unfortunate apartment dwellers with noisy renters on the floor above.

Then there's Michael Chotkowski lamenting the wealth of President Biden (\$8 million fortune) and Barack and Michelle Obama (\$40 million). But no mention of Trump's \$2,500 million fortune, or G.W. Bush's \$40 million – or Republican Senators Rick Scott (\$300 million), Mitt Romney (\$175 million), Mike Braun (\$137 million), John Hoeven (\$47 million), etc. Typical Tucker Carlson fanboy ploy; keep harping on things Democratic and never look at anything Republican, though it be magnitudes worse.

Next up, Trumpist Peter Kushkowski attacked President Biden for "groping his way on podiums". A poor choice of words as Trump, our former 'Groper in Chief' currently deals with multiple rape and sexual harassment court cases. Groping women is the sordid criminal act.

Curious how far-right distractors will handle Tucker Carlson's 'how white men fight' embarrassment, or SCOTUS Clarence Thomas mining his billionaire friend to secretly pay for his grandnephews elite private schooling.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Pay Attention; Vote No!

To the Editor:

You all need to pay attention! While you are hard at work toiling away every day, the boards of education are hard at work picking your pocket. Did you notice RHAM's budget passed and we hardly noticed? Hebron knew there was a problem with that budget. Are they really going to get a grand piano?

Let's not let Andover Board of Education get away with wasting your money!

When you have a boundary concern do you hire a lawyer to figure it out? Or do you walk over to the town and settle it as neighbors who care about each other? If you're Andover BOE you have the luxury of spending \$16,000 of taxpayer money to create a battle over nothing! And that's not even the entire bill. The boundary dispute is settled and we're stuck paying the bill!! And this amount is in next year's budget also! Why? What do they have against our seniors in town?

**Jane Boston, Member
Lake Advisory Commission
Marlborough**

Don't they realize they could be one someday? Oh, wait the person running the show doesn't even live in Andover. Did you know our superintendent makes \$80,000 and only works 2 days/week? No wonder she has time to go to all these senior functions to butter them up and then turn around and fight against them.

Wake up Andover! What do you think of a school that continues to add things in their budget they don't need? Look at expenditures as of April 1 and you'll see what they didn't need. Plenty! Remember the day when the town would get money back when they didn't need it all?

You voted to bifurcate the budgets. All you need is to do is vote 'no' on May 16.

Marcie Miner – Andover

Safe Swimming Tips

To the Editor:

Marlborough's Lake Advisory Commission wishes everyone a fun and safe summer! Here are safety tips for swimming at Lake Terramuggus.

Keep an eye on friends and family. Drowning can occur in as little as 20 seconds for children and 60 seconds for an adult. It's known as the "silent killer" because most victims slip beneath the water without a sound.

Learn to swim! Parks and Recreation offers lessons each summer. Visit the town's website for details.

Swim in designated swim areas. They are marked and typically have lifeguards.

Swim near the shore. Drowning most often occurs within 10 feet of safety and 50 feet from shore.

Never swim alone. Let others know your plans.

Make sure children are supervised at all times.

Don't attempt to swim if tired, cold or overheated.

Inexperienced swimmers should wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.

Before diving, inspect the depth of the water to ensure it's deep enough.

Carefully monitor weather conditions. Avoid being in the water during storms, fog or high winds.

Learn to help drowning victims without entering the water. Practice the "Reach or Throw, Don't Go" method.

Learn to perform CPR. In an emergency, always call 911.

Swimming and alcohol or drugs can be a deadly combination.

Know your swimming ability and endurance – swimming to the raft, or across the lake IS further than it looks.

No horseplay on the rafts.

Avoid weeds in which you could become entangled.

While boats or paddlers shouldn't be in swim areas, look out for them.

It's fun swimming in the lake and seeing other lake life. You may see fish, turtles, waterfowl, birds and other lake creatures.

Please don't feed ducks or geese! This causes high bacteria levels in our lake.

From the State Legislators' Desk...

House Republicans Unveil Biennial Budget Proposal

On Tuesday, May 2, Connecticut House Republicans released a balanced budget proposal that provides more than \$1 billion in broad-based tax relief to Connecticut residents while also making historic investments in education and providing more funding for nonprofit providers. The proposed budget has received praise from four local eastern Connecticut legislators who are hopeful that this budget would ease some of the additional burden inflation has created for local families.

"Each session, we hear so often how expensive it is to live and do business in Connecticut. With that said, I am very supportive of this budget that will offer our residents much-needed tax relief," said state Rep. Irene Haines (R-34). "I am pleased to see some key points in this budget that support students, parents, and educators. These investments in education are important for our residents, and I am hoping that these policies are included when we vote on a budget later in the session."

The two-year \$51.9 billion plan from House Republicans constrains overall spending growth in the general fund to less than zero percent in FY24 and 2.5% in FY25. The Republican plan offers \$1.16 billion in tax relief through a variety of means, including a retroactive structural middle-class income tax cut with additional relief for seniors and, for the first time, a state child tax deduction for everyone at a rate of \$2,000 per child.

"Almost daily I hear about how costs are rising and families need to prioritize spending. This proposal does just that – it is a balanced budget, with significant funding dedicated to our students and to key social service providers. Our budget contains meaningful financial relief that residents and businesses can count on," said state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32).

"Connecticut residents need relief as inflation, along with our gas prices are continuing to soar," said state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48). "This budget is a step in the right direction offering tax relief to hard-working families across Connecticut. I am very supportive of the investments in education, funding for victim and child advocacy offices, along with many other points that are found within this budget."

"I'm pleased that the House Republican budget proposal presents more ways to return tax dollars to the hard-working residents of this state, many of which are in desperate need of this type of relief," state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) said. "In order to provide a more balanced and responsible proposal the people of Connecticut can be proud of it takes give and take from all parties involved. The best results for the residents of Connecticut come from a bipartisan effort. It's my hope that all of my colleagues sit down with one another as they did a few short years ago and do just that."

The Republican budget meets the challenge of funding core government services, and in several cases spends more in key areas than Democrats. That includes a \$290 million investment in local education funding that provides fully funded special education grants (more than \$50 million) for the first time. The budget matches Democratic-level funding for colleges and universities but also installs new reporting requirements for both the UConn and CSCU systems. The plan also provides a 2.5 percent increase for nonprofit service providers.

The 2023 Legislative Session adjourns on June 7, 2023.

Summary of Republican Budget & Policy Points

Tax Relief for Connecticut Residents (\$200 million more than Governor or legislative Democrats)

Adopt but enhance Governor's income tax cut proposal by using one-time \$300 million of FY23 surplus to make it retroactive to January 2023. Removes benefit from top 1% earners.

Create first-ever state child tax deduction for everyone, \$2,000 deduction per child.

Help job creators by restoring pass-through entity tax credit to 93.01%.

Eliminate Highway Use Tax on trucks.

Establish phase-out threshold for state tax on retirement income.

Eliminates sales tax on children's clothing under \$100.

Supporting Students, Parents, Educators

Invests \$290 million in education, including \$214 million to implement components of H.B. 5003, \$20 million to hold harmless towns that would have seen an ECS decrease; fully funds special education grants (\$50 million); funds Danbury charter school (\$4 million)

Expands support for Care4Kids program (\$60 million)

Increases minority teacher scholarship funding by \$1 million

Meets Democrats' funding level on higher education, but requires oversight

Increase parent representation on State BOE and Parent Cabinet

General Government

Increases funding for nonprofit social service providers by 2.5 percent (\$100 million)

Fully funds effort to eliminate DSS waitlist

Save \$200 million by reducing number of budgeted but unfilled positions across state government

Increases investment in gun violence prevention programs

Increases current services funding for rail and bus

Eliminates proposed messaging program for inmates, saves taxpayers \$3.5 million

Enhanced 2-1-1 crisis services for housing and homelessness (\$2.4 million)

Reinstate Transportation Strategy Board to review investments and recommend savings

Increases pay for assigned counsel in public defender cases (\$23 million)

Expands GPS monitoring for domestic violence offenders (\$6 million)

Increases funding to Women's Business Development Council to almost \$1 million

Invests in firefighter training, creates \$1 million support fund for families of fallen officers

Doubles what Democrats provided for senior meals funding to \$3 million

Greater detail is at taxreliefbudget.com.

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32)

State Rep. Irene Haines (R-34)

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48)

State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55)

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Death by 1,000 Cuts

To the Editor:

In the past three months, the first selectman has used his position to begin his "Death by 1000 Cuts" campaign. He abuses his power to goad and attack Democrats with misinformation at public meetings, in the newspaper, in email blasts and on Facebook. He has attacked the following individuals:

Gayle Furman, Town Clerk – Democrat
Michele Wyatt, Tax Collector – Democrat
Stephen Coyle, Sewer and Water Commission volunteer – Democrat
Mike Egan, Board of Finance – Democrat
Mike Hayes, Board of Finance – Democrat
Rosemary Coyle, Board of Selectmen – Democrat
Denise Turner, Board of Selectmen – Democrat
Michelle Millington, Board of Education – Democrat

Do you see a pattern here?

You can watch him explain his campaign strategy to the Trump Freedom movement on YouTube at t1nyurl.com/frb9fnwp.

**Monica C. Swyden, Chair
Colchester Democratic Town Committee**

Twisted a Serious Comment

To the Editor:

In their annual battle for an ever-expanding education budget, the current BOE chairwoman and other education "advocates" have taken a serious comment and twisted it. As the BOF reviewed the upcoming budget requests, we discussed the number of reading and math specialists employed and the poor reading and math scores. At that point, I commented that teachers needed to do their job.

Yes, they need to reverse the trend of declining test scores and improve our students' skills. We are counting on them. Our kids are depending on them.

Why are some education "advocates" more interested in personal attacks than with the troubling test scores? Maybe it's time for them to do their jobs.

Richard Brown – East Hampton

Note: Dr. Brown is a member of the East Hampton Board of Finance but said he is writing as a "concerned parent and taxpayer."

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RivereastNewsBulletin





At the Boardwalk... Greetings from along the ocean and boardwalk in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Here is Sam Gray, 11, of East Hampton!

Where in the World is the Rivereast?

Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the Rivereast along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to bulletin@glcitizen.com.



Rivereast at the Grand Canyon... The Agosta family of Portland recently visited the Grand Canyon – and brought the Rivereast! Pictured are Emma, Jen, Rich and Ella.



NASA News... Lee Hart and Charles Bayha from Portland recently visited the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Merritt Island, Fla.



When Irish Eyes are Smiling... Arnie and Jeanne Bishop brought the Rivereast to the rope bridge on the tiny island of Carrick-a-Rede in Northern Ireland. Newfound friends are behind them!

Where in the World?

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

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

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

\$25 GIFT CARD

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Community Playground Day, Laundry Detergent Drive

The PEP group sponsored by the Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) is hosting a Community Playground Day and Laundry Detergent Drive.

All are invited to see the new playground at the Colchester Rec Plex at 297 Old Hebron Rd

on Friday, May 19, from 4-7 p.m., and donate laundry soap to Colchester Youth and Social Services. This has been identified as a high-need item.

Rain date is Friday, June 2, also from 4-7 p.m.

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 15: 9 a.m., Making Memories; no Exercise with Anne or Sittercize today; 10 a.m., Pet Therapy; 10:30 a.m., Coffee with CoA (Aging Unbound); 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, May 16: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, May 17: 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; 11 a.m., Simply the Zest - Mother's Day Luncheon; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming 1; 2 p.m., Cardio Drumming 2.

Thursday, May 18: 9 a.m., Exercise with

Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 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 19: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Angelo's Stuffed Bread Luncheon; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: 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.

★ BOF Budgets, cont. from page 1

quest — would mean for programming.

Migliaccio pushed back on the previous outline provided by Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III, which indicated that in order to reach that amount, some uncomfortable decisions would have to be made.

"I just don't see it happening," she said, adding that previous superintendents never threatened programming in this way.

Sullivan stated that he could fulfill a \$1 million reduction without touching the more extreme areas, but \$1.5 million would almost certainly require programs to be cut.

Migliaccio disagreed.

"I don't believe him," she said.

Later in the meeting, after citizens and school board members in attendance criticized her comment, Migliaccio apologized and said she was not calling Sullivan a liar.

"I did not mean to offend you," she said.

Taking into consideration Sullivan's remark, Egan — who originally proposed a \$750,000 bottom-line reduction — suggested that the board amend its \$1.3 million request (or \$1.5 million) to a \$1 million cut, which would ensure that programming would not be jeopardized.

"I'm not for it," Migliaccio responded, but offered to delay a final decision until Wednesday's finance board meeting. However, Republican Tim Vaillancourt put forward a motion to advance the recommended spending plan as-is.

Egan said the process that evening was "unbelievable."

"The cuts will be absolutely devastating to our school system," he said.

Migliaccio told the Riverast in an email that "the new interpretation of the amount of the reduction was a curveball thrown in a hectic meeting."

She indicated that the confusion was regarding the capital plan funding, and how increases are not supported in the finance board proposal for multiple reasons.

"One, Board of Education abandoned the existing capital plan and did not create a new one [nor vet the new items], and [Daniel Sullivan] placed large amounts of cash in 'Supplies/Maintenance,' which don't belong in a capital plan," she wrote. "The budget proposed by Board of Finance funds the existing Capital Plan, which the Board of Education has represented they had no intention of following. I have provided Rachel [Linkkila] with some funding options the Board of Education could employ, but it's their purview if, when, and how they could fund the increase in spending from within without a tax levy. If they choose not to fund it, it's a reduction."

Regarding whether or not she tried to influence Shilosky's vote, Migliaccio stated she made no such attempt.

"There is no circumstance I could tell Art how to vote," she said.

What the Reduction Means

On Tuesday, the school board identified exactly what the bottom-line reduction would mean for the district.

Sullivan presented the board with an outline that would trim the budget by the requisite amount — \$1.5 million.

The cuts, while not ideal, were the "best of a bad situation," he said.

To start, the board agreed to eliminate the capital spending — totaling in \$271,195 — and to delay the implementation of the new school security initiatives — saving \$168,432.

Other significant reductions included the elimination of World Language for grade 7, eliminating a business teacher at Bacon Academy, implementing a pay-to-play fee of \$180 a year for instrumental music instruction at JJS and WJMS, increasing preschool tuition and transitioning to a half-day pre-k program.

As a result, some building maintenance will

be delayed throughout the district and several courses at Bacon Academy, including marketing, accounting, sports marketing, investment and finance classes will not be offered next school year.

Sullivan stressed the importance of reaching a consensus that night, giving closure to district teachers and staff who were concerned about losing their jobs.

"For tonight, a decision allows people to have some certainty in their life moving forward," he said.

Still, he acknowledged that his proposed reductions left the district in "a bad spot."

Following the board's unanimous approval of the cuts, Sullivan expressed that although the district was able to save programs like all-day kindergarten, his rhetoric was not a "ruse."

There were "no extras" in the budget proposal, he said, and some of these concerns will likely arise again next budget season.

"That's not a good place to be," he expressed.

This was Sullivan's first budget cycle in Colchester since taking over as head of schools in January.

"It's been quite a few months here," he said, thanking the parents, educators and community members for attending all of the meetings. "That kind of investment means a lot."

Republican school board member Donna Antonacci gave an impassioned speech during the meeting.

"I'm a little disgusted with this whole thing," she said, referring to the board's reductions. "I feel like we kind of let down the community with this budget."

She denounced the party politics on display throughout the budget process and condemned comments made about the school board, including that they did not do their due diligence.

"We were forced into this decision," she stated.

Antonacci also defended Sullivan, who she said was blatantly called a liar during the finance board hearing.

"I fully support and trust Dan Sullivan," she said.

During the hearing, citizens urged the finance board to reconsider their request.

"The public doesn't have the information it needs to understand the gravity of the cuts," resident Jeremy McKenzie said.

Keegan McKenzie, an eighth-grader, told the Riverast that the board wasn't listening to their constituents.

"I care about my school more than some of the adults do," she said. "We owe it to our teachers to not have them worrying about their jobs."

The McKenzie family also brought signs to the meeting to further emphasize those views.

Along with the confusion over the actual budget reduction number, Egan also expressed that the budget documents and revenue updates were not properly presented to the public, further complicating the process.

Other members, like Shilosky, placed the blame on the school board for not providing the typical budget details it requires, which has impacted the finance board's ability to scrutinize the proposal.

"The Board of Finance was shortchanged by the Board of Education," he said.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle spoke during the meeting, stating that the four Republicans shouldn't be able to decide on such a dramatic reduction.

"Why won't you let the people vote?" Coyle asked.

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Food Truck Festival Draws Huge Crowds

By Michael Sinkewicz

A two-day festival brought hundreds of residents to the Town Green last weekend, as the community enjoyed tasty food and vendors.

The Kids Spring Fest Food Truck Festival featured 15 different food trucks and close to 40 crafts, goods and novelty vendors, along with a petting zoo with alpacas and miniature ponies. A train shuttled kids around the green – an enjoyable ride and a shield from the sun.

The verdict from the community was unanimous — this was a fun event.

“We have a lot going on,” said Steve Louyakis, president of American Food Truck Festivals, who organized the event.

The Green was transformed for the weekend, with countless items catching the eye. At one point, Spider-Man was bounding through the crowds.

As Louyakis looked around the venue, he celebrated the gorgeous weather, which undoubtedly contributed to swarms of people.

“It’s in the 70s, the sun is shining, the music is right, it’s a great vibe,” he said. “It’s what I was hoping it would look like. You never can predict when God’s going to bring a thundershower on you — it’s New England.”

This was Louyakis’ second event of the season and it was a hit.

“The goal is to bring the community together and to support these local businesses,” he said. “Almost every single business here is a Connecticut small business.”

Beyond the weather, residents flocked to the food trucks, where lines piled up. The aroma, even for cars driving by, was almost painfully tempting.

Even more difficult for the patrons was finalizing a menu for the afternoon. There was so much to choose from: barbecue, bite-sized balls of almost anything, ice cream and more.

Claudia Kirkpatrick, a young girl from Montville, was camped out by the gazebo with a cup of mac and cheese and a dangerously delicious lemonade — she didn’t share.

Niether did Kaleb Sykes, a 25-year-old from Columbia, who had just secured a mouthwatering pulled pork sandwich.

“Honestly, I think it’s great,” he expressed.

He indicated that he was going to “probably,” and then “definitely,” going to search for more food.

Cameron Reynolds, a high school student in Lebanon, was in line for food, and thus couldn’t even offer to share his meal.

“I thought this was pretty cool,” he said. “This doesn’t happen a lot. Coming down here and seeing all the food trucks, all the people out having a good time kind of brings this happy feeling.”

He shared a sentiment that others passed along, as well, regarding the transition out of the pandemic and into unrestricted times. It’s important, he said, to jump at these types of events.

“Ever since the pandemic, there wasn’t much to do,” he explained. “I take a chance at every opportunity I can to get out and go have some fun.”

It became clear that many traveled from out of town to enjoy the festivities. Reynolds and Sykes both saw signs promoting the event and Kirkpatrick — or more likely her father, who accompanied her — saw a notice on Facebook.

Sykes recently got a new job and he’s making an effort to inspect the local landscape. After seeing the sign, his interest peaked and he called his friend to tag along.

“I said, oh we should go check it out,” he expressed.

Louyakis had a few friends grow up in the area who suggested he setup an event in Colchester. He reached out to town and coordinated the itinerary with the Parks and Recreation department.

Robin Siczkowski, an event planner who runs Events by Robin, was the primary goods vendor coordinator for the weekend. Most of the vendors were arranged through her and she was pivotal in the rollout of the festival.

Her partnership with Louyakis is basically 50/50 — he handles the food trucks and she

bring in the goods and services; they come up with other entertainment together.

Leading up to the event, she’s constantly brainstorming ideas with Louyakis and they try and come up with new ways to connect local businesses with their communities.

“It is a lot to put together,” she said. “It’s a nice to see everything together and having a good time.”

At this point, Siczkowski is fairly confident in her ability to organize an event.

“We’ve kind of got it down to a science,” she asserted.

Entry was free to the public and the funding was all secured through the attendees, like the food trucks, who all pay for the space. One of her goals is to open up avenues for non-profits, and some are able to attend to event free of charge.

Over time, she’s become attached to the faces behind the booths.

“Every vendor has a background,” she said. “They all have a story, they’re all unique.”

Siczkowski has a soft spot for one who business, who was battling personal matters, but still tries to attend festivals.

“I love that we can help vendors like that.”

Sometimes, towns can present challenges with scheduling festivals, she stated, but the red tape this weekend was minimal.

“Colchester is super community-oriented,” she expressed.

Specifically, this event was catered for children. The music was perhaps slightly modified to cater to a family audience. Planning out distinct features for kids can be a fun task for a planner, as well.

“I really have a passion for it,” she said.

The petting zoo, which features many adorable animals, was one of her favorites.

“My friend wants to bring a baby goat home,” she joked. Hopefully, no goats were stolen but her idea had merit.

Zach Hensch, owner of The Plant Place in Colchester, offered a self-potting station for kids free of charge.

“I try and do a lot of the events on the green because we’re so close,” he said. “You make a closer connection with the community.”

He added that this event was “cool because it’s something just for kids.”

Hensch praised the promotion of the event, which attracted a variety of people and customers. By marketing outside of Colchester, new faces see his product and other local establishments.

“That gets people that are just outside of town to come in and see some of the local businesses, which is nice,” he said.

One of the groups responsible for that outreach was radio station 97.7 WCTY. Krystal Dyer, a sales executive at the Norwich-based country music station, explained that Louyakis contacted them about promoting the event and having a booth during the weekend.

Last week, the station previewed the festival and noted that it was giving away tickets to see comedian and ventriloquist Jeff Dunham — which Dyer said probably made a difference in drawing attention.

“It’s all about promoting it on the air to make sure people know that it’s here,” she said.

WCTY morning show host Shelly Martinez was the one leading the efforts on air, spotlighting the trucks that would be stationed both days and what was in store for those who made the trek.

Basically, her job was to “create a level of excitement,” but ultimately, she got enlivened herself.

“It’s a great festival and it’s got lots of great food and things for the kids — a little bit of everything,” Martinez said.

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 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.

Upcoming Land Trust Events

The Colchester Land Trust has announced the following upcoming events:

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

People Empowering People

The Collaborative for Colchester’s Children (C3) recently offered UConn’s People Empowering People program. The 10-week course was a personal and family development program, with a strong community focus.

The graduates will host a community event at the Colchester Playground on Friday, May 19, from 4-7 p.m., and will collect laundry detergent donations for Colchester Food Bank.



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The residents from Complete Care at Harrington Court will celebrate National Skilled Nursing Care Week next week. The theme this year is "Cultivating Kindness."

The residents from Complete Care at Harrington Court will celebrate National Skilled Nursing Care Week from May 13-19. The theme this year is "Cultivating Kindness," and the residents are reaching out to the community for a little help.

Harrington will have a food drive for Colchester Food Bank in its front lobby for the duration of Skilled Nursing Care Week. The food bank is in need of unopened, unexpired food, household and hygiene products of all kinds.

Harrington Court is also looking for individuals who would like to join its volunteer program.

No special skills are needed but if you have a special talent or skill that you would like to share, it would be more than welcome. Harrington has a number of needs both inside and outside the building, such as visiting, reading to residents, playing games, watering plants outside, filling birdfeeders, and assisting with outings. There will be a volunteer fair on Wednesday, May 17, from 4-5:30 p.m., for anyone who would like to apply.

Harrington Court is located at 59 Harrington Court Colchester, near the center of town, off Lebanon Avenue. Call the Therapeutic Recreation Department at 860-537-2339 for more information.

CCO Concert May 20

The Colchester Parks and Recreation Department has announced a new affiliation with the Colchester Choir and Orchestra (CCO). CCO's 22nd Spring Concert is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m., at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave, Colchester.

Classics will be featured with classical favorites and classic folk music sung by the choir. A reception will follow the concert. Everyone is invited to attend this final concert of our season.

The concert is free of charge, but donations are welcomed. For more details about CCO, or for information about joining the choir or orchestra, visit www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org. CCO is also on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/Colchesterchoirorchestra.

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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday: Aggathath class, 6 p.m.; Talmud, 6:30 p.m.; 8 p.m., Kabbalah.

Wednesday: Hebrew, 2:30 p.m.; Jewish Literacy, 3 p.m.; Jewish Ethics, 3:30 p.m.

Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., Zoom and in-person with cantor Tami Cherdack Sherman; 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.

Upcoming Events: Thursday, May 25, at 7 p.m., and Friday, May 26, at 10 a.m. – Community Shavuot Program and Service at Emanuel and Beth Jacob.

Friday, June 9: Friday Night Service with Cantor Tami Cherdack Sherman at 6:30 p.m., followed by birthday dinner for Rabbi Ken Alter. RSVP by June 5.

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

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.colchester-ct.gov/recreation-department. Parks and Rec. can also be reached at 860-537-7297 or at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

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).

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 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.

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.

Aging in Place

Aging in Place, a vendor fair sponsored by the Colchester Commission on Aging, will be held at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Wednesday, June 14, from 4-7 p.m.

Several agencies will be present to provide information on the resources available to help you or a loved one remain in home safely. Vendors present will include services such as homecare, assistive equipment, transportation and more.

Mercy Honor Roll

Mercy High School President Alissa DeJonge has announced the following local students made its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

Seniors: High Honors: Sarah Lynch.
Juniors: Highest Honors: Tallulah Malz; High Honors: Katherine Grelotti.

Sophomores: Honors: Brianna Hurlock.
Freshwomen: High Honors: Ileana Koonan-keil, Aubrey Nosal; Honors: Mallory Wheaton.

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.

History Museum Open Weekly

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.

New this year is 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.

For more information, contact the historical society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

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Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Anniversary Service: All are welcome Sunday, June 4, at 9 a.m., for a special worship service to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of being a Welcoming, Open & Affirming Church. All are

encouraged to wear colorful clothing to show their support.

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

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.

Scouts Raise Awareness of Livestock Food Bank

Junior Girl Scout Troop 63223 is hosting a food drive to benefit the Colchester Livestock Food Bank (CLFB), as part of the scouts' Bronze Award community service project.

The collection of expired, non-perishable food items will take place Saturday, May 20, from 9-11 a.m., in front of Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St. Residents are welcome to drop off eligible items during this time.

This food bank collects expired food items, not accepted by local food banks, to give to Colchester farmers as feed for their livestock and chickens. This effort has the dual benefit of helping farmers save money in the face of rising feed costs and reducing waste in landfills. Accepted items include canned or jarred vegetables, fruits, beans, soups, powdered milks and fresh fruit, dried beans, oatmeal (raw), quinoa, barley, lentils, couscous, microwave popcorn,

crackers, cookies, pastas, breakfast cereals, flours and cornmeal. No frozen or refrigerated foods or old fruits or vegetables, please.

"This is a great way that Colchester residents can ease the financial pressure on Colchester farmers," explained Donna Rosenblatt, chairman of the CAC. Her farm, Rose'n'Petal Farm, is the normal drop-off location for the CLFB. "This year, when you clean out your cupboards of unwanted and expired canned goods, beans, cereals, and pasta, consider donating them to the Livestock Food Bank.

Troop 63223 is also coordinating a school-wide food collection at JJIS as part of their effort from May 15-19. Through their project, the scouts are trying to raise awareness of this food bank to benefit it long-term.

More information about the CLFB is at www.colchesterct.gov/agriculture-commission.

Aid and Support After Pregnancy

Knights of Columbus Spellman Council, 6107, is sponsoring an Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) drive the weekends of May 13-14 and May 20-21, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave.

The drive is to collect supplies for new mothers in need. Donation containers will be placed in the vestibule of the church and at the handicapped entrance for new and gently used items for babies from birth to age one. Some suggested items include: Diapers, formula, clothing, wipes, and toys.

Monetary donations are also appreciated and those donations should be made to Guardian Angels Parish and clearly marked for the ASAP initiative.

Honor Society Inductee

Colchester resident Amy Wiscons, a student at the University of Florida, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Founder's Day Ceremony

The Bacon Academy Board of Trustees will hold its annual Founder's Day award ceremony Wednesday, May 17, at 11 a.m., at the gravesite of Pierpoint Bacon in the cemetery behind the original Bacon Academy. All are invited.

In addition to paying tribute to the academy's founder, Pierpoint Bacon, and his wife, Abigail Newton Bacon, the trustees will honor Bacon Academy graduate Captain John Jones. A reception will follow immediately after in the Stage Room at Colchester Federated Church.

If there is rain, the ceremony will be in the sanctuary at Colchester Federated Church.

Colchester Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden is starting its 2023 season and welcomes 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 Tuesday 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.

Spring Bark for the Park

The Colchester Dog Park will host the ninth annual "Spring Bark for the Park" on the Town Green Sunday, May 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, June 4.

The event will feature an activity for dogs, May Baskets, a blessing of the dogs, and many food and dog-related vendors. Vendor slots are still available for \$40 per booth. No charge for nonprofit organizations.

The event is sponsored by the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department. If interested in being a vendor, email tagnobark@gmail.com.

Town Celebrates Arbor Day

Colchester held its first Arbor Day Celebration Friday, April 28, on the Town Hall campus at 127 Norwich Avenue in Colchester.

The town purchased a six-foot-tall dogwood locally at Mackey's Garden Center to adorn the Mill Street secondary entrance to town hall and First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos read a proclamation to recognize the overall importance of trees to the environment and cement the town's commitment to planting trees, saving trees and preserving the natural environment.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1872 as a day set aside for planting trees in Nebraska, and today Arbor Day is celebrated the world over. Millions of trees have been planted on Arbor Day. Colchester is gearing up to become a Tree City USA under the guidance of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The town will pursue adoption of a tree ordinance through the Board of Selectmen, and also appoint the existing Colchester Conservation Commission as the Tree Commission. The new commission will explore ways the community can fund the planting of more trees in Colchester, especially when it comes to replacing trees.



Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos planted a dogwood tree at Town Hall campus on April 28.

Annual Top Dog Contest

All are invited to enter the town clerk's 31st annual "Top Dog" Contest to win the No. 1 dog tag from the town clerk's office and a basket donated by Wagging Tails Pet Shop in Colchester.

To enter the contest, you must pre-register your dog for the 2023-24 license year. Return the application with payment to the office by 4:30 p.m. Friday May 26. The drawing will be held Wednesday, May 31, and the winner will be notified. The application can be found at colchesterct.gov under Town Clerk. There will also be applications available at the Bark for the Park event on Sunday, May 21.

A copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate and, if it is not listed on the rabies certificate, a current spay/neuter certificate must be included. Checks/money orders should be made payable to Town of Colchester. Your license and tags will be mailed to you after registration begins on June 1.

You can mail the application to: Colchester Town Clerk, 127 Norwich Ave., No. 101, Colchester, CT 06415. Applications may also be returned via the drop box located outside Town Hall or emailed to dogowners@colchesterct.gov. Email can only be done with a credit/debit card and there is an additional \$2 convenience fee the vendor charges to use your credit/debit card.

License year: July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Spayed/neutered: \$8; not spayed/neutered, \$19.

June is dog licensing month by state law, penalty charges are added if licenses are not renewed by June 30. The penalty is \$1/month starting July 1.

For more information, email townclerk@colchesterct.gov or call 860-537-7215.

East Catholic Honor Roll

Two local residents made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-23 school year.

Matthew DiBenedetto, a member of the Class of 2023, earned First Honors, and August Riccio, a member of the Class of 2026, earned Honors With Distinction.

Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

The St. Joseph's Polish Society, located at 395 South Main St., is hosting a pasta dinner to benefit Boy Scout Troop 72 on Friday, May 26. Dinner will be baked ziti, meatballs, sausage, peppers and onions, tossed salad, and garlic bread.

Dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m. and is available for dine-in or take out. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Limited tickets available.

Purchase tickets from 4-10 p.m. weekdays or noon-9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 860-537-2550.

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. 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.

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Obituaries

Colchester

Gray Sawyer

Gray Coughenour Sawyer, of Colchester, formerly of Winston-Salem, N.C., St. Louis, Mo., and Wakefield, Mass., passed away Tuesday, May 2, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. She was 74 years old.



Born to the late Richard and Mary (George) Coughenour on Dec. 4, 1948, in Winston-Salem, N.C., Gray was raised "in the shadow of tall bookshelves," inheriting a lifelong love of literature from both parents.

Gray described her perfect day as one that involved a visit from a friend, especially a visit from both her daughters together. She loved clean sheets, a gray sky (it's right there in the name), sushi, tomato tarts, and lemon sherbet. She loved music, especially "homemade" music: her husband playing the piano, or her daughters singing. She loved to read and helping others learn to love reading.

With a keen eye for each individual's particular talents, she mentored and encourage numerous girls and women while working for Girl Scouts of America's Patriot's Trail Council, generations of children and adults as a children's librarian at Lucius Beebe Memorial Library in Wakefield, Mass., and helped guide the spiritual

journeys of children, laity, and candidates for priesthood through her work for the Episcopal church. She was a gifted storyteller, an insightful mentor, and a resourceful leader who brought people together to work toward common goals.

She loved her husband of 52 years, Dana Sawyer; her two daughters, Mary and Nora; her many friends, and a lifetime's worth of dogs, cats, and other rescues. She was joyful, gracious and kind, and equipped both of her children with the tools they will need to face the world without her.

She spent her last days charming the staff at Backus Hospital in Norwich, and was surrounded by friends who were as good as family and family members who were also friends. She passed away holding hands with both her daughters, listening to one of her favorite hymns: "Hallelujah! We sing you praises" and "All our hearts are filled with gladness."

Her loss will be mourned by all who knew her, especially her husband Dana; her daughters and their spouses: Mary Clark Sawyer (Andrzej Lipski) of Portland, Elinor Gray "Nora" Sawyer (Brian Andrews) of Sausalito, Calif.; three sisters, Carolyn (Bill) Taylor of Somerville, Mass., Ann Coughenour and Ruby Coughenour, both of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and a host of beloved relatives, in-laws and friends.

As befits someone who wore so many hats, Gray enjoyed wearing elegant fascinators at teas, costume parties, and other occasions. Mourners are encouraged to wear hats in her honor at a memorial service and celebration of Gray's life that will be held Saturday, June 3, at 1 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main St., East Haddam. Burial will be in the adjoining memorial garden.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Girl Scouts Council of Eastern Massachusetts, or St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in East Haddam.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Gray, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Benford Hilliker III

Benford James Hilliker III, 81, died Saturday, April 15, at home with his wife of 60 years, Beverly, at his side.

He is survived by his three daughters, Holly Turner (Frank), Heather Hilliker and Hope Caye (Patrick); also, 13 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and his two sisters, Ruth Boyle and Debbie Salvi.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Hellen; his parents, Benford J. Hilliker Jr. and Olive (Sherwood) Hilliker; his sister, Phyllis Kachinsky; and brother, Terry Hilliker.

He was a Mason for the Warren Lodge in Portland for 54 years. Skip served in the United States Navy for five years, aboard the USS Hartley 1029. Upon discharge, he worked at Northeast Utilities for 30 years. He was an animal control officer/constable for the town of East Hampton for many years.

Upon retirement from Northeast Utilities, he worked for the Fund for Animals, the Humane Society of the United States and DEEP. He was a wildlife rehabilitator and beaver specialist. He gave countless volunteer hours towards wildlife conservation. In March 2023 he was awarded a lifetime achievement award recognizing his dedication and commitment to protecting Connecticut's wildlife especially for his work rescuing beavers and installing beaver bafflers.

Honoring Skip's wishes, there will be no funeral.

Donations in Skip's memory can be made to Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, P.O. Box 3643 Amity Station, 1449 Whalley Ave., Woodbridge, CT 06515.

Portland

Jereme Charles Christensen

A mild-mannered family man and father of three, Jereme Charles Christensen is sorely missed by everyone whose life he touched.



Although kind and gentle, he was brutal when playing board or card games with family and friends, and did all that he could to destroy his opponents. He loved a good New England IPA, and was often found sipping a Manhattan in his fedora. Jereme had never met a fancy chair he didn't want to sit on. While he was a brilliant mathematician and mechanic, he never could find his car keys or wallet. Jereme loved escape rooms, and was incredible at solving puzzles that made no sense to anyone else. He was a total wizard with a Rubik's Cube, able to solve it in under two minutes no matter how much his wife tried to mess it up.

Jereme grew up in Colorado, where he was a diehard fan of the Rockies, before moving to Connecticut and making Portland his home. A hard worker with a 12-year career at Eversource, Jereme prided himself on supporting his family and making sure his children had a happy and fulfilling childhood. He never missed cheering on his three adoring children, Penelope, Genevieve, and Roman, in any youth sports game they ever played in.

Jereme was a proud subscriber to the *Economist* and would read it from cover to cover. He had a love for learning languages, and over the years took classes in French, Spanish, and Italian with his wife, Lauren. He was famous for belting out his own renditions of Billy Joel and Elton John tunes in the kitchen while making Sunday morning omelets.

Jereme was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving as a submariner on the USS Tucson as a

machinist mate. His time in the Navy left him with a couple of stories that he liked to tell frequently and repeatedly.

Jereme is predeceased and welcomed in heaven by his mother, Cathy Gentile, and brother, Justin Gentile. He is survived by his wife, Lauren, his children, Penelope (13), Genevieve (11), and Roman (10), his sister, Sylena Manes, her husband, Sean, and nephews, Aaron, Andrew, Sean, and Seth. He is also survived by his father, Charles Christensen, and two half-sisters, Gracie and Elisha Christensen. Jereme is loved and missed by his mother- and father-in-law, Nancy and Robert Behrens, and his brothers- and sisters-in-law, Gregory Gallo, Genevieve Meli, Emily Gallo, and Dennis Murphy, and his nephew and niece, Leonardo and Sabrina.

May Jereme's soul rest in peace and his legacy live on.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 13, at noon at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by military honors. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m. until time of service.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.

BLISH MEMORIAL PARK TENNIS COURT & BASKETBALL RESURFACING TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for the Blish Memorial Park Bathhouse Project will be received by the Town of Marlborough by hard copy at the Issuing Office until 10:00 AM local time on Monday, June 12, 2023. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum as indicated in the Bid Form. The project is replacing existing plumbing fixtures, construction of changing room partitions, and painting.

Bidding Documents are available for free download from the Town Website Marlboroughct.net and in the Town Clerk's Office. Issuing Office is: Town Clerk's Office, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut (860-295-6200). Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents from the Town Web Site or at the Issuing Office during Town Hall hours of operation.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 3:00 PM local time on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at Blish Park Bath House located at 32 Park Road. Pre-bid conference attendance is encouraged but is not mandatory. The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Surety Company shall be licensed in the State of Connecticut and listed on IRS Department Circular 570. A Payment Bond and Payment of Prevailing Wage Rates will not be required unless Contract amount is equal to or greater than \$100,000. Bid Bond is not required. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed. All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver the Contract and furnish a valid Certificate of Insurance with full policies, and Performance Bond to the Town prior to the start of any work.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.

This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town. The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.

This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.

The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply. Owner: Town of Marlborough, Connecticut

Amy J. Traversa, Interim Town Manager

2TB 5/12, 5/19

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LEGALS

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on May 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
 PZC-23-005: Lynn Robinson, 27 North Main Street, Special Permit for conversion to different non-conforming use, 8.2.D, Map 01A/ Block 39A/ Lot 15 – Approved with Conditions
 Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

1TB 5/12

TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

At its Regular Meeting of May 8, 2023 the Colchester Historic District Commission made the following decision:
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. **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.**
 Dated May 10, 2023
 Historic District Commission
 Ellen Sharon, Chair

1TB 5/12

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
 Application #22-25: 16 Sand Hill Road. Proposed zone change from IP to B-2. Application of Michael Brown and property of 16 Sand Hill Properties, LLC. Map 22, Lot 4. Zone IP.
 At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT this 2nd day of May 2023
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 5/5, 5/12

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF ACTION

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on May 8, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive to consider the following:
 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 - Denied

1TB 5/12

LIQUOR PERMIT Notice of Application
 This is to give notice that, I, **DENIS KANDIC**, 191 MCCLINTOCK ST NEW BRITAIN, CT 06053
 Have filed an application placarded 05/08/2023 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at:
9 ROSE HILL RD PORTLAND, CT 06480-1247
 The business will be owned by:
 AC & DK LLC
 Entertainment will consist of:Acoustics (not amplified), Disc Jockeys, Live Bands, Karaoke
 Objections must be filed by: 06-19-2023
 DENIS KANDIC

2TB 5/5, 5/12

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON ANNUAL BUDGET REFERENDUM May 23, 2023

The electors and voters of the Town of Hebron, Connecticut, and any other persons entitled to vote upon any matters contained in the notice are hereby notified and warned to vote in the Annual Budget Referendum to be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church Street in Hebron between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.
 1. SHALL THE TOWN OF HEBRON APPROVE A FY 2023-2024 BUDGET OF \$39,065,203 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE?
 2. SHALL THE TOWN OF HEBRON APPROVE A FY 2023-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$602,886 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE?
 Voters approving the recommendation of the Board of Finance will vote "Yes" and those opposing the recommendation of the Board of Finance will vote "No".
 Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut this 5th day of May, 2023.
 BOARD OF SELECTMEN
 Daniel Larson, Chairman
 Gail B. Richmond, Vice Chairman
 Peter D. Kasper
 Marc P. Rubera
 Tiffany V. Thiele

TOWN OF HEBRON BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDED BUDGET May 23rd, 2023

EXPENDITURES	AUDITED ACTUAL 2021-2022	ADOPTED 2022-2023	PROPOSED 2023-2024
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3,395,951	3,497,919	3,619,792
PUBLIC SAFETY	1,019,519	1,137,949	1,355,372
CIVIC & HUMAN SERVICES	807,872	991,324	1,037,066
PLANNING & LAND USE	158,978	211,618	194,258
PUBLIC WORKS	1,094,928	1,025,997	1,108,462
INSURANCE & BENEFITS	1,704,828	1,670,107	1,760,405
CONTR. OPEN SPACE LAND ACQ.	125,000	125,000	25,000
CONTR. TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	768,877	587,485	488,017
CONTR. TO DEBT MANAGEMENT FUND	1,000,000	0	0
CONTR. TO CAP-NON RECURRING	0	0	0
CONTR. TO CAPITAL PROJECTS	152,022	156,796	230,187
CONTR. TO REVALUATION	50,000	40,000	40,000
TOWN PROPERTY SEWER FEES	14,280	14,280	15,400
DEBT SERVICE	1,093,110	1,092,124	1,105,594
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION	0	0	0
RHAM ASSESSMENT	13,971,475	14,259,027	15,389,082
HEBRON BOARD OF EDUCATION	12,030,194	12,207,294	12,696,568
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	37,387,034	37,016,920	39,065,203
REVENUES			
TOTAL TAX REVENUE	29,716,676	29,190,545	31,177,264
STATE - GEN GOV'T SUPPORT	426,631	400,082	419,447
STATE - EDUCATION SUPPORT	5,989,237	5,997,693	5,713,831
DEPARTMENTAL	1,159,614	786,600	892,661
OTHER FUND TRANSFERS IN	45,000	0	0
DEBT MNGMT /JFB APPROPRIATED CONTR.	99,143	642,000	862,000
TOTAL REVENUES	37,436,301	37,016,920	39,065,203
MILL RATE:			
Real Estate/Personal Property	36.33	31.70	33.48
Motor Vehicle	36.33	31.70	32.46
PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET 2023-2024			
Road Resurfacing and Road Improvements			\$320,930
Replace Truck 52 (2007)			\$226,956
Jones Street Culvert Replacement - First Year Funding			\$55,000
TOTAL CIP BUDGET			\$602,886
PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REVENUES 2023-2024			
Balance from Previous Appropriations			\$33,639
LOCIP Funding			\$68,830
Funding from Other Sources: Public Safety Fund			\$11,400
Interest			\$1,000
General Fund Contribution			\$488,017
TOTAL CIP REVENUE			\$602,886

1TB 5/12

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LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:00pm on the following:
Sign Application – New Wall Sign and Replace Freestanding Sign at 117 Main Street, Main Street District. **Approved with conditions:** 1) Any wall signage lighting shall be full cutoff; 2) Ground lit lighting shall not glare off the site; 3) All plantings shall be of a native variety.
Petition 2023-01 – Site Plan Modification of Town of Hebron Parks and Recreation Dept. to Replace Playground Equipment and associated surfacing at Veteran's Memorial Park, 66 Wall St., R-1 District. **Approved.**
Petition 2023-02 – Receipt of Special Permit Application of the Hebron Lions Agricultural Society for the sale of beer and wine on September 7th thru 10th, 2023, under Section 5.0.3 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, premise located at 347 Gilead Street, R-1 District. **Public Hearing set for June 13, 2023.**
The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/01f5dc6dbdb6b93e7c18420f30dcf3e34b9870a8f7e4860d432d062ef4de8e37>
 Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on May 12, 2023.

1TB 5/12

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS #107 6:00 P.M.
 The electors of the Town of East Hampton and those entitled to vote at town meetings are hereby notified that the Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held in the East Hampton Town Hall Council Chambers Room #107 at 1 Community Drive in said Town of East Hampton on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Pursuant to Section 7 - 7 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 4.1 of the Town of East Hampton Charter, said meeting shall be immediately adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 from 6:00am to 8:00pm at the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, for a vote on voting machines for the approval or disapproval of the Annual Budgets for the Board of Education and the Town Government for fiscal year 2023 - 2024 as recommended by the Town Council.
EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
 Mark Philhower, Chairman
 Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
 Pete Brown
 Brandon Goff
 Eric Peterson
 Kevin Reich
 Alison Walck

1TB 5/12

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FOR RENT: AMSTON LAKE SEASONAL COTTAGE:
 Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms, air/heat, screened porch, washer/dryer, lake view. Avail weekly \$950 plus security and cleaning or monthly rates calculated based on length of stay. Available as of April 16th. 113 Deepwood Drive Lebanon. Contact Rita 860-207-7680


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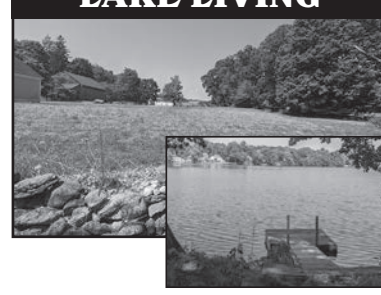
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RES-12-23

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HELP WANTED- PAINTERS: Looking to hire painters for summer and permanent employment. Must have own transportation. Please call (860-) 659-1921

COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS: is looking for part time liquor store clerk. Stop in person to apply at store, 99 Linwood Avenue, Colchester, CT.

PART-TIME BARTENDER POSITION AVAILABLE AT THE ST. JOSEPH POLISH CLUB, Colchester. Private club with public functions. Hours include some afternoons, but mostly nights and weekends. Must be dependable with reliable transportation. Responsibilities are, but not limited too; opening and closing the bar, restocking, and cleaning the facility after closing. May have to lift up to 20 lbs. TIPS certified. Please call 860-537-2550

SOUTH CHURCH SEEKS DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury has a 20 hours/week opening for the Director of Children's Ministry. Primary requirements are for a person who loves children, is energetic, creative, and faithful. South Church is a vibrant faith community, known for our ministries to youth and children, our commitment to missions and social justice, our love of music, and our inspiring worship services. This person would be welcomed into our team of ministers, lay staff, and committed volunteer teachers. We believe all people are loved by God and that faith formation can begin at any age. We are an Open and Affirming church, welcoming to all. Please see full job description at <https://tinyurl.com/6c8myyt9>. If you are interested and qualified for the position, please contact jobopenings@southchurch2.org.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! Join the culinary team at Sadler's, we are now hiring both kitchen prep/pantry and utility (dish washer & food prep) positions. Competitive pay, 401K matching, meals, and great hours. Apply in person at 61 North Main St. Marlborough.

DRIVER & PCA NEEDED, part-time. For appointments, shopping, errands, cleaning, cooking and personal care depending on which position. Experience preferred. Excellent driving record required for driving position. \$18.25/hr. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016

SEEKING RETIRED CNA / CARE GIVER: To care for elderly couple in Colchester. 3-7pm M - F Email zal092569@gmail.com

CARE GIVER NEEDED FULL TIME FOR ELDERLY MAN IN PORTLAND. Call Susan 860-685-1966.

HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER BOARD CLERK

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for part time Board Clerks for approximately 3 to 6 hours per month. This position is responsible for transcribing minutes and motions for boards and commissions. The position requires attendance at meetings on weeknight evenings. Candidates must have excellent writing skills and be proficient in word processing on a personal computer. A Town of Marlborough Employment Application and Board Clerk job description are available in the Town Clerk's office, online at marlboroughct.net or by calling 860-295-6206. Completed applications are to be submitted to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 29, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447. Open until filled. We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

EMPLOYMENT

Full Time Maintenance Mechanic/Counter Assistance Help Wanted For Rental Business

Job will include maintenance on multiple types of equipment, including small lawn and garden equipment, chippers, skidsteers, sharpening hedge trimmers and other tools, & helping assist with phones and customers at the counter. Applicant must have own tools, be able to operate multiple types of equipment, have a valid driver's license, and work well with customers, and other employees. Will train as needed on different types of equipment, but a general mechanical knowledge is a must! Pay rate based on experience.
 Call 860-537-4256 and speak with Tony or Jason

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NOW HIRING Production Employees Mortise & Tenon, Pine Shed, Delivery Driver

Summary
 Country Carpenters Inc. is currently hiring Production Employees. These are full-time positions, 8:00-4:30, Monday through Friday*. Responsibilities include sorting, packing, and cutting material. Loading and unloading delivery trucks, using forklifts to move material, and more.
 *Overtime may be required depending on workload.
Qualifications
 2 Years + Carpentry, Woodworking or Warehouse Experience Preferred; Job Training Provided
Benefits
 • Competitive, Weekly Pay
 • Paid Holidays, Vacation and PTO
 • Medical, dental and vision plans
 • 401 K plans

Scan Below To Apply



Now accepting applications. Apply on our website. www.countrycarpenters.com/join-our-team
 We are also accepting applications at:
 326 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248

PART-TIME TAX CLERK

The Town of Marlborough is seeking applicants for the following position:
 Part-Time Tax Clerk - position provides clerical and office administrative assistance to the Tax Collector in preparation of bills and the collection and crediting of taxes and related billings. Excellent computer and interpersonal skills required. General expectation is up to 24 hours per week. Starting wage \$19.00-22.00/hour based on experience. Please submit a letter of interest and completed application to the: Town Clerk P.O. Box 29 Marlborough, CT 06447 Employment Application and Job Description available online at www.marlboroughct.net or from the Town Clerk's office, (860)295-6206. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Prevention Coordinator

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Prevention Coordinator. The Prevention Coordinator shall implement grants received to reduce alcohol and drug use among youth and young adults that adversely affect our community. This position requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Counseling, Social Work, Human Services, Public Health, or Psychology; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, including one year of youth services work - master's degree and /or Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) credentials preferred. The salary is \$51,251 per annum, with a 37.5-hour flexible work week and benefit package. This is a two-year grant-funded position with the potential for an additional five years pending grant funding. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov. This position is open until filled with the first review of applications on or around 5/26/2023. EOE/M-F/AA. www.easthamptonct.gov.

Town of Marlborough Full-Time Maintainer - Department of Public Works

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the position of full-time Maintainer in the Department of Public Works. This is a 40 hour/week position, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:30 pm., and offers a competitive starting wage and comprehensive benefit package. This is a Collective Bargaining Unit position. The successful candidate will work under the supervision and direction of the Public Works Supervisor performing a wide range of facility, grounds and road maintenance duties. A complete job description and application is available from the Marlborough Town Clerk, or online at www.marlboroughct.net. Candidates will be considered based on knowledge, skills, abilities and previous experience. Candidates will be required to pass a thorough background investigation and physical exam, including a drug screening. An application and current resume must be received by the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447 deadline Friday, May 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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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 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.

Parks Maintainer


The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Seasonal Parks Maintainer for the Parks and Recreation Department. This position performs manual labor in the operation and maintenance of municipal parks, facilities, grounds, and athletic complexes. Applicants should have knowledge and experience in the safe operation of equipment including but not limited to hand and riding mowers, hand and power tools, trimmers, paint machines and other equipment used in maintenance of municipal facilities, turf, athletic fields, recreational areas, etc. Custodial duties include cleaning restrooms, refuse removal, and general housekeeping. Applicant must be 18 years or older, hold a valid Connecticut driver's license and have a clean driving record. This is a seasonal position, May-August. \$16.50 per hour, 40-hour work week. EOE/AA/M-F. Interested candidates should submit an employment application by 5/22/2023, or until filled, to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424 or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov.

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Email Maryla Underwood at MUnderwood@colebrookvillage.com or call 860-801-1114

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