

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 18

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

May 19, 2023



Scouts Say Thanks... Girl Scouts Troop 63000 from Colchester says thank you to everyone in the community, as well as friends and family, who supported Girl Scouts by purchasing cookies this year. The funds help the scouts give back to the community - and in fact they already have a few projects lined up! Next chance to purchase Girl Scout cookies will be in November, during election week. Pictured from left are Charlotte Bunting, Katherine Hormuzdiar, Delaney Scholl, Kendall Scholl, Sarah Wisniewski, Alyssa Zajac (top right) and Isabel Weiner (bottom right). Not pictured are Chelsea Albetski, Kaelah Clark, Jenna Crowell and Maggie Parekh.

More Funds for Belltown to Finish Air Line Trail

By Jack Lakowsky

This week Gov. Ned Lamont's office announced the state's sending East Hampton nearly \$405,000 to complete the town's portion of the Air Line Trail.

This adds to a grant of more than \$1 million the town received from the feds last month, meant to help build a boardwalk over a narrow wetland, a project long in the works.

In the span of just weeks, the town has gained more momentum to complete the trail than it has in years.

East Hampton Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Hall told the Rivereast that on top of the \$1.4 million, the town has to match close to \$400,000. The state money, he said, will cover that, and leave a little bit leftover to handle some odds and ends.

Hall said this 1,800-foot gap is the last major one in the entire trail. There are a few to be "buttoned up," but this will essentially complete the state-trotting path. The work's completion will let walkers "pass through without any real issue."

Hall said the town still has to do some work with the state transportation department, then it can secure funding for boardwalk design and, eventually, construction.

The state and relevant towns are trying to make the Air Line Trail one extensive, continuous trail crossing half the state, from Portland all the way to Thompson, the state's most north-eastern town.

According to Lamont's information, the state's parks and forests have seen a 75% increase in use, and the value of outdoor recreation to the state is estimated at nearly \$4 billion, supporting more than 40,000 jobs.

East Hampton was one of 28 communities awarded projects. Awards are meant to help towns with environmental justice and making more equitable access to outdoor recreation.

The \$405,000 will advance the closure of the 1,800-foot East Hampton gap.

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), one of Belltown's Hartford lawmakers, issued a statement thanking the governor for supporting Middlesex County's outdoor recreation.

"The many positives of outdoor recreation - the beauty of nature, breathing fresh air, great exercise - are directly beneficial for mental and physical health. I'm excited to see these projects move forward with this valuable funding," said Needleman.

The 1,800-foot section of trail is near the corner of routes 66 and 16, Cox said.

Aside from a few gaps in Portland, this project makes the Air Line Trail continuous right up to Pomfret in the state's northeast corner.

While Cox attributed the application's success to the work of federal delegates, U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney (D-2) credited the town's effort, telling the Rivereast the town manager is up to the task.

Of the 63 towns in Courtney's district, he was See Air Line Trail, page 33

Bacon Capstone Spotlights Future Journalist

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Senior Capstone Project at Bacon Academy in Colchester is designed to empower students, allowing them to craft a project that captures years of academic study.

Creating a project over the course of a semester that adequately encompasses all the skills picked up along the way can be a bit daunting; seniors certainly have a lot on their plates regardless.

For Megan Swanke, the president of the Bacon Class of 2023, the capstone program was an opportunity to explore her future and a chance to narrow down exactly what path she will pursue.

And that path, she learned, was journalism. On the surface, the capstone class is a simple pass/fail grade. But unlike other courses, the senior capstone is almost entirely self-driven, which gives students a unique opportunity to focus on something of interest to them.

The hard work culminates during the "Senior Capstone Night," which will be held on May 31. Parents and community members are invited to inspect the final product, before the students receive their diplomas just a few weeks later.

Completing the capstone is required for graduation, and there are certain criteria, including shadowing an expert in the student's field of interest.

Swanke seized the moment, ensuring that her capstone would be a worthwhile endeavor.

Initially, she intended on diving into the broad STEM field before coming to the realization that a career in writing might suit her better.

"I love to write and share my ideas," she said. "I wanted to explore different possibilities with English."

Instead of shadowing one writer or author, Swanke was able to connect with numerous individuals, including media professionals, which gave her confidence in a new career path.

In the fall, she will be attending UConn, pursuing a degree in English with a journalism minor; perhaps, if possible, she'll weave a broadcast journalism facet into her studies.

"It's nice that I'm figuring this out in high school," she said. "Capstone allowed me to dedicate time to my future and hone in on what I want to do."

To achieve her goals, Swanke interviewed several people.

At Bacon Academy, she spoke with English teachers David Williams and Kelly Blain. From the Irish Arts Center, she shadowed Aidan Connolly and Victoria Provost. Swanke talked to Traci Slot, a Cigna supplemental benefits senior manager and Amy Domeika, a Cision client insights manager.

At WFSB, she shadowed news reporter Luke Hajdasz and producer Katie Coen. She also interviewed Sabrina Rivera, a McDowell News social and digital media manager.

She noted she spoke with a variety of professionals from different types of companies, including both news and public relations. Most students, she said, shadow an individual from their "hobby" of choice, which helps them create a focus question and a final project.

Throughout her interviews, the focus was somewhat unclear; she used them to help "narrow down what I want to do."

The PR route wasn't the right fit, but her interview with Coen was promising. Being a producer, Swanke expressed, could involve aspects of writing - which she loves - and helping her colleagues throughout the process.

"She was very similar to me," she said. "I'm able to do this."

Gathering the information, and the valuable insight, wasn't easy. As she reached out to different professionals, the responses were scarce.

"Initially, it was a little stressful," Swanke recalled.

The teachers, she confessed, were easy interviews to secure. As she started to get a few bites, the connections began to grow. Contacts would

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★ *Future Journalist, cont. from page 1*

help her get in touch with additional people to shadow, and her list became well-rounded.

Her confidence also soared. “I was excited,” Swanke said. She recalled thinking, “I’m going to figure out what I want to do.”

The actual definition of “shadowing” was also malleable.

Many people, Swanke said, work from home. Shadowing them, or following their every move in their work environment, was often unachievable.

Instead, she offered meetups at restaurants or simple phone calls; interactions that had to be capitalized on.

Typically lasting around 45 minutes to an hour, the calls allowed her to “pick the brain” of these professionals. As most journalists can attest, it gets easier over time.

“I really had to learn to create good questions to ask them,” Swanke expressed.

But why pursue a career in writing or news-gathering?

Swanke stated that she enjoys the “variety and freedom” of writing, along with the research involved.

“It’s an escape for me, an outlet for me,” she said, adding that it can be a viable career. “It can be more than just a hobby, and I could have a job I enjoy doing.”

Swanke encountered certain realities as she interviewed different people. PR, she was told, is where the money is, and should be at least considered as a potential profession.

A news or journalism job can be both sustainable and fulfilling, she said, as long as you choose the right path. Reporters like Hajdasz encouraged her that news is a promising career.

“They made it realistic,” she said. “It was reassuring.”

In her mind, the journalistic landscape is full of opportunities. She consumes local news and outlets, a need that won’t go away any time soon.

“I like knowing what’s happening,” she said. “I don’t see it as a dying industry.”

Currently, Bacon Academy doesn’t have a school newspaper, she said. Still, Swanke finds



**Megan Swanke**

ways to write and explore her passion, even if that means writing notes on her phone.

For her project, it only makes sense to present her findings in a newsworthy format.

She’ll be showcasing a TV news report and an online article. Both aspects allowed her to gather new details and edit the final product, an undertaking a professional newscaster might also be tasked with executing.

The project highlights her shadowing process and the “mock” reports feature interviews with her peers, and information from their own projects. For those who stop by to view her presentation, you may be meeting a future media star.

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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

A quick little apology for last week's cover. For the 15 years I've been editing the *Rivereast*, week in and week out I've been extremely careful – to the point of being a little anal at times – to make sure the cover stories have the name of the town prominently featured.

Ideally, I'd fit the town in the headline, but there are space limitations so sometimes I frankly can't – so I put it somewhere in the lede or at least the first few paragraphs.

Well, I advertently didn't work it in to last week's top cover story, about the Colchester budget – and, judging from the voicemails, emails, and comments left on the *Rivereast* Facebook page, it looks like a lot of you noticed!

While I don't exactly think it's "absolutely atrocious newswriting" – as one anonymous reader politely told me – it was definitely an oversight. Thanks for bringing it to my attention, and it won't happen again.

\*\*\*

And speaking of budgets: there are a lot of letters to the editor this week about the various budget referendums taking place in coming weeks. I love to see that reader engagement! I just hope that it translates into folks actually showing up at the polls.

Turnout for these springtime budget votes are usually so low. Even a "good" turnout rate is around 20-25 percent.....and I'm sorry, but that's not good enough in my eyes.

The *Rivereast* towns are fortunate to still have budget referendums. There are other,

larger municipalities, like Glastonbury or Manchester, for example, that have their budgets decided by a Town Council or Board of Directors. The public doesn't get to directly vote on the spending proposals.

Now, there is something to be said for that approach. The people sitting on those Town Councils or Boards of Directors are put there by voters and, well, elections have consequences. But the fact is the referendum method allows voters to have a direct say on budgets – and I feel too many people are not embracing this opportunity.

For example, when Marlborough had its budget referendum earlier this month, a little over 300 people showed up to cast ballots. That's just 7 percent of the registered voters in town – a turnout rate that, I'm sorry, is absolutely pathetic.

As a letter to the editor notes this week, your vote matters more in these budget referendums than even in the presidential elections! Now, of course presidential elections are important, but the populations of our *Rivereast* towns are so small – and even those "good" turnouts are so slight – that it makes each individual vote even more important.

So when the next Referendum Day arrives in your town, show up! Vote! Let your voice be heard! You never know if your voice will be the one that carries the budget or sends it back to the drawing board.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

## Bulletin Board

As summer approaches, I tend to relax my usual iron-like intellectual vigor, which includes projects such as reading *Finnegans Wake* in the original Greek.

Okay. Okay. The legendary novel, which took James Joyce something like 17 years to write, was not written in Greek, but if you've ever taken a stab at it, you might agree with me that it may as well have been. It is also true that, despite my intentions (or perhaps my pretensions), my "intellectual vigor" seems to run more frequently toward "intellectual lassitude," particularly as warm weather arrives.

Departing from futile struggles with the likes of James Joyce (which consists mainly of staring helplessly at the book cover), I turn instead to science fiction or fantasy-type "beach read" paperbacks that entertain without requiring an undue amount of intellectual energy. And so it was a while back that I picked up a light (but emotionally rewarding) read that revolved around the adventures of an opera singer who is transported to another world (I'll spare you the technical details). And, it just so happens that in this other world, the ability to sing is a great rarity that essentially gives the singer the extraordinary powers of a witch.

Are you with me so far? C'mon people, this isn't Faulkner we're talking about here.

Okay, so it turns out that our heroine was brought to this unusual world by direction of the king and queen in order to cast spells and defend the population against an army of evil invaders, which she accomplishes quite handily by singing a little ditty which causes an earthquake which swallows up the advancing horde. Again, the details don't really matter here. Having saved the kingdom and unable to return to her own world due to some interstellar dimensional issue, she is then employed by the king and queen to perform civil engineering projects like singing highways and rest stops into existence and stuff like that.

Unfortunately, once the danger to the regime is disposed of, the gratitude of those in charge toward the musically gifted woman who saved them quickly evaporates. Attending a gathering of society's elites at the palace, our heroine is subjected to extended verbal abuse by an obnoxious nobleman who says she's a fraud and a liar and this and that and calls her all kinds of nasty names. Fed up with his other-worldly disregard for what we would consider simple #metoo courtesies, she hums a little ditty and the guy promptly bursts into flames and ends up as a little pile of ash on the palace floor.

Would that we could similarly dispose of certain of our own obnoxious "noblemen" so painlessly and move on to more constructive pursuits. On the other hand (and I'm sure I'm not just speaking for myself here), if we were able to set the people that annoy us ablaze with a simple tune, it wouldn't be long before the whole country was one big forest fire. Heck, I could probably burn up most of New England all by myself in an afternoon after a couple of beers.

Sadly, our heroine's trials are not completely resolved by the incineration of our obnoxious misogynistic nobleman. It turns out that the king and queen—the former being stupid and the latter being a grasping ingrate (think Harry and Meghan)—have decided that their once-useful minion has become a threat to the monarchy. So, at a subsequent gathering of the elites (I should note that there are a lot of formal parties in this book), the king and queen publicly announce that they are confiscating our heroine's estate (presented to her in the heady days following the disposal of the evil invaders) and banishing her to perform roadwork on the far side of the kingdom.

Showing (in my opinion) remarkable restraint, our heroine objects, declaring that it is unconstitutional for the monarchs to arbitrarily confiscate her property. The queen then demonstrates her deep regard for whatever passes for a constitution in this other world by retorting, "How dare you question the king's will, you hussy?!" or something to that effect.

The king chips in with, "Yeah. How dare you?!" as the assembled noblefolks (apparently suffering from less in-breeding or perhaps recalling how one their more outspoken colleagues had been transformed into a human Yule log at a previous palace gala), murmur uneasily. Apparently, none of these reservations occur to the dimwitted king and his shrewish queen, who don't have so much as a portable fire extinguisher on hand, just in case.

Well, you can guess the rest. Our heroine hums a little ditty, the king and queen are expeditiously culled from the gene pool in twin pillars of flame, the complicated questions of property rights and royal prerogatives are settled without the need for a lengthy court process involving multitudes of lawyers, and our witch is treated with the respect she deserves from this time forward and lives happily ever after. Oh, yes, and the kingdom is transformed into an otherworldly constitutional Camelot.

I guess that's why they call this kind of literature "fantasy."

Jim Hallas

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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



**Tag Sale Volunteer Crew... Saturday, May 13, provided perfect weather for the Portland Historical Society's 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale. The group would like to thank everyone who helped make the event a success. Sporting new yellow volunteer vests are, from back left, Bob McDougall, George Gilbert, Nancy West, Julie Macksoud, Deb Freitag, Jim McCabe, Martha Lutecki, Sarah Perruccio, Malory Rowley and Susan Bransfield; from front left, Linda Cunningham, Caroline Murray, Chris Sullivan and Deb Ellsworth. Missing Amy Knous, Babs & George Sheer and Susan Young. Photo by Cari Klick.**

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### Correction

A letter to the editor in last week's *Rivereast* misidentified Christina Tammara-Dzagan as chair of the Colchester Board of Education. She is actually chair of the East Hampton Board of Education.

The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

### Council Out of Touch

To the Editor:

On May 9, our Town Council proved to be out of touch, out of control, and openly contemptuous of the people it is sworn to serve. Chairman Philhower is a disgrace to the town, showing complete disregard for public sentiment and using his gavel only as an instrument to silence dissent and assert personal authority. Councilman Goff proposed cuts to the town budget that he seemed to claim had been approved by the various department heads, only to be caught in a lie by other council members and the town manager. Councilwoman Walck publicly compared public sentiment toward education funding to the atrocities of the Vietnam War, while accusing our superintendent of "brainwashing" our students. Councilman Peterson managed to stay awake long enough to tow the party line.

For nearly two hours, the council sat through public comment that was unanimous in its message: send the budget back to the Board of Finance for review. We do not support reductions to the education budget, reductions to teaching, counseling, or any other school staff. They sat through this passionate defense of our educators without hearing a word. Of the five members that had previously expressed a desire to push forward with the reduced budget, only Vice

Chairman Feegel showed any degree of understanding the public demand for a budget review prior to referendum, changing his previous position.

Philhower and Walck showed open disgust to those who criticized their positions and actions. Philhower spent the duration of public comment actively avoiding even the slightest glance at a single speaker. Walck avoided eye contact but glared openly at the backs of her critics as they returned to their seats or standing-room-only spots.

Philhower continues to condescend to anyone with a difference of opinion, treating his position as a ruler, rather than a representative. If he and his inept cronies won't step down, we must remember who it was that sold out the town's future based on party-line cut-at-all-costs politics and vote them out.

Jordan Werme – East Hampton

### Exchange Club Thank You

To the Editor:

On Friday, May 5, the Exchange Club of Portland held their annual Charity Golf Tournament. The Exchange Club would like to thank the golfers, volunteers for their help and support. The Exchange Club would also like to thank the sponsors of the tournament:

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From your support the Exchange Club was able to make contributions to Gilead Community Services, New Horizons Domestic Violence Shelter in Middletown, Rushford, Middlesex Hospital Hospice and the Perfect Prom program in Portland.

**Thank you,  
Jamie Leonard  
Exchange Club of Portland**

**Compassionate Citizens**

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the gentleman who came to my son Jason's aid after he fell off his bike on Main Street on Wednesday, May 10. Jason was in shock and had a hard time remembering what happened, but he later told me a man came to him, called an ambulance and waited with him until it got there. I arrived shortly after the ambulance, but the gentleman had already left. I greatly appreciate that this man was kind enough to take care of my son until help arrived.

I would also like to thank the three volunteers in the ambulance that took wonderful care of my son. They were kind, gentle, patient and thorough.

Thankfully this was the first time my family required this service, but it is comforting to know that our town contains such compassionate citizens.

**Respectfully,  
Natalie Hurt – East Hampton**

**Food Drive Thanks**

To the Editor:

Carriers and managers of the East Hampton Post Office wish to thank their customers for the generous donations of food items to the annual postal food drive this past Saturday. It was a big success.

**Tom Denman  
Food Drive Chairman**

**Budget**

To the Editor:

Good day. A few clarifications. I have been receiving letters concerning the BOE budget. I, as a selectman, after my initial remarks on the BOE's proposed budget, have no further input. The BOF only has bottom-line input. The BOE has complete control over how they use their money. They decide what programs will continue, expand or be eliminated. They are the ones that make staffing decisions. (There is a class size matrix they use.)

I also think there is a misconception of all of the services that affect the schools that are provided by the town. These include the town's share to AHM, interactions between the administrative staff, town hall and the state, Parks and Rec. for the mowing and related work, Public Works for road and parking lot plowing, sanding, and maintenance, the police, including the SRO, and the fire department and the fire marshal who perform inspections and respond to emergencies.

Some of the town's major budget drivers: The population shift at RHAM (that budget has passed), that equated to \$1.13 million added to our expenses; the retirement of the Public Works director and the building/fire marshal, which will necessitate the hiring of multiple people to take their places; new state-mandated police accountability standards with no money from the state (some may come from the state if they pass the appropriation); AHM due to increased workloads (COVID-related). Also, the fire department, due to a lack of people stepping forward to volunteer and be "good neighbors." At this time, there are approximately 30 firefighters and EMTs and a limited number of support staff. In keeping with our responsibility to protect our citizens and property, we are obligated to hire staff to accomplish this need because, for whatever reason, people don't seem to want to get involved.

I feel that we all have an obligation to support our home and our town. I ask that you support this budget.

**Daniel Larson – Amston**

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

**Disappointment Over Council Decision**

To the Editor:

I wanted to express my profound disappointment regarding the decision made by the East Hampton Town Council. Despite numerous concerned parents passionately speaking out, the Council has chosen not to send the education budget back to the BOF for reassessment. This decision has left many of us feeling unheard and disheartened.

As parents, we strive to provide the best educational opportunities for our children. We understand the challenges faced by the BOF in balancing the needs of the community, but we firmly believe that the education of our youth should be given the utmost priority. Our children's future depends on a well-funded and thriving educational system.

The collective voice of parents, educators, and community members was resoundingly clear during the TC meetings. We presented compelling arguments and shared our genuine concerns about the potential consequences of budget cuts on the quality of education. We implored the Council to reconsider and reassess the budget considering our appeals.

Yet, to our dismay, the council chose to dismiss

our pleas without giving them due consideration. The Republicans on the council, excluding Tim Feegel, ignored the voices of the very people invested in the future of this community, the council has undermined the spirit of democracy and public participation.

A reassessment of the education budget would have demonstrated the Council's commitment to addressing the needs of the community in a fair and equitable manner.

Now it goes to referendum and we as parents need to step up and Vote "No – Too Low" for the education budget on May 30.

Let us work together to find common ground and forge a path that prioritizes the education of our children. Our collective efforts can lead to a stronger community that values and supports the growth and development of everyone.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Donata Barber – East Hampton**

**Stopping Donald Trump**

To the Editor:

Ed Kozlowski says, "Democrats are fearfully desperate to stop Donald Trump." He's right. While I would prefer "resolute," "adamant," or "steadfast," the majority – including Democrats – absolutely want to stop Donald Trump. The reason is simple: we love our country.

Our democracy began in earnest with the 1789 adoption of the Constitution, expanding since in land, people, and democratic ideals. Starting in 2017, a cult of personality stressed existing fractures in the foundations of our nation and created new ones. Authoritarian Donald Trump convinced the gullible that he, a narcissistic scion of wealth and privilege, was a man of the people who could actually lead.

That "leadership" consisted of racism, sexism, bullying and incessant lying. Where relations between groups were frayed, he tore them apart. Where they seemed solid, he drove in wedges. He began the dismemberment of our nation. Now he wants to finish the job.

Anyone who loves this country should be fighting this tooth and nail.

Mr. Kozlowski does not act like a patriot, uncritically repeating Trump's lies. A few responses: Mueller found incontrovertible evidence of obstruction of justice; I've read the report: sitting president Trump was not indicted because of a longstanding Justice Department prohibition. As with Watergate, the New York indictment is about an illegal cover-up. Trump admitted to lascivious behavior; Hillary Clinton was never accused of it. Hunter Biden is a private citizen; we need care no more about his behaviors than about

those of Baron Trump, Sasha Obama, Ron Reagan Jr. or Amy Carter. And anyone who disagrees with helping our ally – and major world food producer – battle aggression from our long-time foe has neither compassion nor an understanding of geopolitics.

Those who love our country must ceaselessly battle these lies and the grandstanding politician who promulgates them!

**Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet – Andover**

**Resign**

To the Editor:

Four members of the Town Council need to resign immediately. According to Council Chairman, supporters "call him" but they don't come to the meetings. Yeah, everyone believes that. Ms. Walck, you made an irreparable mistake. You should have voiced opinions in person at public meetings instead of sitting in arrogant silence. Reasonable Republicans are embarrassed that you represent them after your unhelpful attacks on the education profession and children. Please, resign.

I've never seen a more blatant display of disrespect to a community than what I witnessed at TC's meetings – excluding Mr. Feegel because he demonstrated courage, standing for what was right, rather than cowering to a bully. Mr. Feegel: thank you. The rest of them made it apparent that they believe they are smarter than every educator, professional, student, and constituent that spoke to them. Where is the humility? The respect?

The self-serving actions and the disrespectful attitudes of the TC are severe contradictions of the duties they swore to uphold in their oath of office. In the end, the East Hampton BOF and TC's legacy will be insults, lies, manipulation, and deceit. Taxpayers of this town only asked to have the budget reviewed a second time. Council had numerous attempts to take a "no risk" approach, but instead chose to spit in the faces of the people who ran with them, and helped them to get elected, while also spitting in the faces of those who they serve. One TC member (Republican) had a "moral dilemma" over pickle ball courts though.

A fire has been ignited in so many who previously would have blindly voted for Republicans because of

national politics. Thor, pack up your gavel. Residents: Vote "No...too low" for the education budget. In November, don't vote across any row. Vote the person, not the party.

**Michael Buck – East Hampton**

*Note: Buck is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education but said he is writing as a citizen.*

**You Shouldn't Have**

To the Editor:

Ed, thanks again for honorable mention, you shouldn't have, didn't get you anything, now here it is.

No Tucker Carlson fanboy here. He doesn't make up my mind. Lemon, Cuomo or Stelter make up yours? Fired from CNN though, right? I don't really trust politicians or the government in general that much; you seem to blindly trust only one party.

Someone slower on the uptake though? Fact check; peel back the onion more. When it comes to "politicians" wealth you mention Trump, Scott, Romney and Braun, naming a few, but didn't make their money as politicians though did they? Trump's a businessman, Romney co-founded Bain Capital, Scott Columbia Hospital Organization, Braun manufactured truck bodies for farmers and owns Meyer Body. Employing people with paying jobs.

Obama became president worth \$800K and after eight years' worth \$40M. Biden has been a politician all his life, the Clintons worth over \$120M, Schumer, Pelosi and Waters, career politicians, never created jobs and employed people.

Keep harping on MAGA Republicans. Address past inquires. Why did you visit Trump Store in Windham? Why isn't Hunter under indictment? Why are banks failing? Why doesn't Joe hold press conferences? Why don't the Bidens acknowledge Hunter's illegitimate daughter? Trump was accused of playing too much golf, but all Biden does is ride his bicycle (and fall off it) and eat ice cream.

Best of all, secure border? Illegals and drugs pouring over it. Hakeem says it's a MAGA Republican story blown out of proportion. Laws are being broken. The swipe of a pen on day one, no border wall (except around Biden's Rehoboth Beach mansion), no Keystone XL pipeline, but can he pen-swipe the border

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

closed? Why won't they?

Trump, "Groper in Chief," funny. Also funny, jury finding him guilty in New York. Like Brett Kavanaugh, 30 years ago and no witnesses or evidence.

These are only crimes or issues if Trump, his family and/or Republicans commit them.

Michael Chotkowski - Marlborough

Can't Always Believe Government

To the Editor:

I have read numerous times that 90% of our citizens approve and want universal background checks before purchasing a firearm, myself included. If this was the only thing included in the bill that would be a good thing but every bill that I have seen contains other items not as well-accepted by others. One back-

ground check bill also makes it a felony if you loan someone a gun!

If your daughter's ex-husband becomes an alcoholic or drug user and becomes belligerent and abusive and you loan her your gun for her own safety you can be arrested and charged with a felony. If your teenage son, daughter or nephew is interested in shooting skeet and you want to help them, you then educate

them in gun safety and coach them. When you are confident that they can now handle a skeet gun safely and you decide to lend them your skeet gun so they can practice on their own, you can now be arrested and charged with a felony, which means, when convicted, and released from prison, you will not be allowed to possess a firearm.

When people found out about this, the approval rating of this bill dropped below 50%!

I will never forget the quote from Nancy Pelosi a few years ago. "Let's pass this bill, so we can find out what's in it."

Frank Blume - Colchester



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Leadership Essentials

To the Editor:

The recent CNN Republican Town Hall, by comparison, reflected on Biden's demonstrated inability to think on his feet, his diminished mental acuity, and his lack of cognitive leadership ability.

All are skills essential to preserving our country's democracy and security.

Peter Kushkowski "Almost Heaven" Portland

I Never Said That

To the Editor:

Following a BOF meeting, several teachers demanded that I tell them why I said that they were not doing their job. I told them that I never said that. I said that because of the test scores, they needed to do their job. They needed to work with students to improve those poor scores. They failed to understand the difference between the two statements, proving my point in my letter last week that my comment was being twisted by education "advocates."

I had to leave at that point because there is only so much you can explain to someone who doesn't want to hear. Perhaps with more thought, they will understand and, along with Christina and Mike, apologize.

Richard Brown - East Hampton

Note: Brown is a member of the East Hampton Board of Finance but said he is writing as a concerned voter.

You are the Mark

To the Editor:

"Republicans think the media and the justice system are 'biased' to help Democrats because of the stories that are pursued and the indictments and convictions that are made, while GOP claims are often not taken seriously outside of their propaganda media bubble and usually get eviscerated in the court of law. But they have it backwards.

It's because, on the whole, the 'controversies' pushed by the GOP are wholly made up. They push salacious claims without any real evidence to back them up, and then when inevitably they fail to gain traction, they blame Democrats, the press and the justice system for engaging in a coverup.

On the other hand, the scandals pursued by the media and the DOJ are typically backed up with hard evidence, and frequently result in indictments and convictions.

Instead of being mad at the media, Democrats, or the DOJ, perhaps Republican voters should turn their anger towards the Republican politicians and propagandists who lie to them every single day and make big promises and never deliver.

They are using you. They are grifting off you. You are the mark." -MeidasTouch

And the members of Congress that lied to you, dear neighbor, they are in a lot of trouble.

Annie Steinbrecher - Marlborough

Glaring Omission

To the Editor:

The Riverast's lead story on the Colchester Board of Finance's controversial decision to advance the school and town budgets to the Board of Selectmen was comprehensive and well written, but had one major flaw. The word Colchester wasn't mentioned until the 45th of its 63 paragraphs, or even in the headline or jump!

As a longtime resident of Colchester I was able to determine the story was about my town's process within a few paragraphs because I know some of the players. Residents of other towns in your readership who stayed with the story long enough might have figured this out when they got to reference to Bacon Academy a few paragraphs earlier because they know Bacon is Colchester's high school. But it shouldn't take detective work.

The solution here was easy. Just insert Colchester in the first phrase of the story's lead sentence before Board of Finance.

Michael Sinkewicz is a good reporter and otherwise did a good job here. But reporters editing their own copy and editors who give it the needed second look must be alert to correct obvious omissions and mistakes.

Peter Dane - Colchester

Supporting Schools

To the Editor:

The Board of Finance should have reconsidered its options and the impact of potential reductions on Colchester Public Schools before moving budgets toward referendum.

I am glad that the Board of Education and superintendent have found options to meet the Board of Finance's demands without ending full-day kindergarten. However, I am still disappointed and concerned about the wide range of impacts to instruction including the loss of teachers for kindergarten, first grade, world language, and business as well as para-professionals.

It frustrates me that we are talking about these



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kinds of impacts when it seems that the Board of Finance wasn't even sure what it was voting on when it moved this budget forward. The BOF and BOE appeared to be using different numbers when discussing the budget. The Board of Education's reductions amount to \$1.5 million but the Board of Finance claims the reduction is only \$1.3 million. It wasn't even clear to BOF members what that discrepancy represents, which is why former first selectman Art Shilosky abstained from the vote – resulting in a budget passed with 'yes' votes from just three members of the six-member board.

This is especially disappointing because there seemed to be a glimmer of hope just before that vote when the BOF chair proposed delaying their vote until later in the week to allow for further discussion and maybe a compromise the entire board could get behind. Unfortunately, before that conversation could go anywhere, a vote was called and the budget was moved forward – despite the confusion over hundreds of thousands of dollars equating to multiple teacher positions.

These are not trivial matters. They deserve to be re-addressed before the referendum takes place.

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

**No, Too Low**

To the Editor:

When we first started looking for homes five years ago, what drew us to East Hampton were the schools: high ratings, glowing reviews.

A good education system grows towns. It's disappointing to see that not matter to the Board of Finance and Town Council (half of whom seemed openly disdainful of those speaking out against the budget cuts).

For \$20-\$30 more a month, we're maintaining the status quo. How can anyone not be willing to find that to benefit children?

What drew us here were the schools, and they're ultimately what will decide if people stay. I hope everyone not only votes 'no, too low,' but also remember this come November.

Michael Faulk and Jessica Salmon  
East Hampton

**Worst President in History**

To the Editor:

Joe Biden is the worst president in history. He's intent on destroying our country and dismantling the middle class. Every action he takes comes at the expense of our own citizens while benefiting those here illegally.

Biden's focus is on destroying anything that provides strength for America. He's ravaging our great energy infrastructure while claiming he's bolstering the fraudulent clean energy lunacy. There's nothing clean about this garbage that's more polluting and ecologically damaging than anything carbon-based fuels could ever do. These morons have no idea how they can safely discard solar panels and wind turbine blades once their usefulness has expired. Why is Biden closing electric power-producing plants at the same time he's herding everyone into complete dependency on electricity that will continue to become increasingly unaffordable?

Greenpeace founder Patrick Moore said higher CO2 levels "are the salvation of life on Earth." We need more CO2, not less. It fuels the photosynthesis process providing biomass and the oxygen we breathe. Of course, the party of death – Democrats, want to reduce or eliminate it, not only because they're very stupid people, but because they love death more than the rest of us love life.

Scott Sauyet loves to defame and insult people.

It's all he's capable of doing. He libeled Tony Heller as a charlatan. This is very rich coming from someone who never backs up any of his absurd claims. He loves his ridiculous tiny URLs he writes himself and then absurdly presents as his truthful evidence. Heller backs up everything he says with NOAA's and NASA's own data and shows how they have fraudulently adjusted/fabricated it. He also has extensive newspaper articles from the past to show that nothing is new under the sun for these actual charlatans.

Sam Prentice – Andover

**Support Budget Request**

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Town Council has voted to send the proposed Board to Finance to the voters.

Please support this budget request on Tuesday, May 30, at the new Town Hall at 1 Community Drive, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Sincerely,  
Jay Owens – East Hampton

**Flower Sale Thank You**

To the Editor:

Boy Scout Troop 72 would like to thank all the wonderful people who purchased Mother's Day flowers. All the scouts and parents who participated were pleased to see how much support the community provides to Troop 72.

Each year we see many returning customers and are pleased by the comments we hear regarding the quality of the flowers. For those people who asked, flowers are locally grown in Lebanon by Jeff Drucker of Kristen's Country Greenhouses in Lebanon. So your purchase also supports local agriculture. We also get visits from past troop members and are happy to hear how they have grown into new careers and about new families and adventures.

All proceeds that were earned will go to support scout camping and youth training activities for the coming year. Troop 72 has over 16 scouts and has been serving Colchester since 1939.

If you have a scout aged youth (11-17) who would benefit by joining our Troop, please visit the Troop. We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Colchester Federated Church.

Thank you for your support now and in the future.  
Al Letendre – Colchester  
Troop 72 Chairman

**In for the Long Game**

To the Editor:

As expected, the majority of the East Hampton Town Council rubber-stamped the budget proposal from the Board of Finance. Now begins the long game, one that requires resolve and unwavering community support.

A large portion of Belltown is angry, and with good reason. By refusing to send the budget back to the Board of Finance, most of the GOP members of the council continued to show their ambivalence, stubbornness, and arrogance. They are ignoring the overwhelming outcry from residents across East Hampton. At least Councilor Tim Feegel had the courage to break rank and he deserves credit.

Now we have an ambiguous, misleading ballot with nonbinding questions on "too high, too low" that can be skewed.

But the GOP underestimated their constituents. There are hundreds of East Hampton residents dedicated to voting the budgets down and flipping the majority in November.

We've expressed our anger at the council members. The Board of Finance is starting to receive the criticism it is due. Now it's time to convert that energy into patience and determination.

These budget proposals need to fail spectacularly.

Then, we need to drive the message home that they failed because they shortchange education, impair public safety, and diminish the quality of life in East Hampton.

No matter how long it takes to be clear and how many times we have a referendum, residents must "vote no, too low" repeatedly until the original budget proposals from the Town Council and town manager are put forward to a vote.

We know what's at stake and we know the tactics that the Council might employ. The latter would be unwise to test our resolve. We are in this for as long as it takes to see the progress East Hampton demands.

Sincerely,  
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

**Vote No – Too Low**

To the Editor:

The Board of Finance detrimentally cut both the town and education budgets while the Town Council, despite the outpouring of citizens opposing the cuts, is moving forward with a dismal budget for citizens to vote on. I will be voting no/too low on both budgets come referendum on Tuesday, May 30. I will strongly encourage and advocate other East Hampton citizens to do the same. Join the Facebook group: East Hampton, CT – Rock the Vote.

While prices are rising, we do need to be mindful about our spending; however, the answer isn't always cutting resources and programming. You have citizens who rely on our police department, ambulance services and those who have been in our community who deserve programming at the senior center. There are other solutions – and there needs to be more creativity on how to generate revenue in our town. The Town Council and Board of Finance have a habit of cutting, instead of finding better ways to serve our citizens.

Board of Finance and Town Council-- prepare for when the referendum fails for both budgets. There will be community members who will continue to advocate for these programs and resources. Don't look the other way. This time, listen to the community you are supposed to represent so we don't continue the cycle of a failed referendum. Don't cost the town even more money. Vote no/too low on May 30 at Town Hall.

Tania Sones – East Hampton

Note: Sones is a former member of the East Hampton Board of Education.

**Vote May 23**

To the Editor:

I encourage all Hebron residents who are registered to vote to please vote on the town budget, which includes the local education budget, on Tuesday, May 23. On May 2, barely 24% of voters came to the polls. It is imperative that we all vote so the Board of Finance hears from the majority of voters, rather than a small percentage.

It's also important that the Board of Finance mem-

bers make decisions based on data, instead of just making arbitrary cuts. 68% of voters said the town budget was too high, 64% of voters said the town CIP budget was too high, and 54% of voters said the Hebron Board of Education budget was too high. Even though the highest percentage of people said the town budget was too high, the Board of Finance decided – with hardly any discussion of the consequences – to cut \$250K from both the town and the education budgets. Meanwhile, the BOF had already cut \$1 million from the education budget prior to the referendum.

Ultimately, these cuts had virtually no effect on the town budget - the Board of Selectmen cut the \$245K from the CIP budget that was earmarked for the design plans for the Public Works project.

On the other hand, the additional \$250K cut from the BOE budget is disastrous. Next year, our elementary school students will have larger class sizes; reduced speech services, reading intervention, and academic tutoring; no designated STEAM class at Hebron Elementary; and reduced Challenge and Enrichment programs at both schools.

If the May 23 budget does not pass, and if the Board of Finance makes additional cuts to the BOE budget, the results would be catastrophic for our schools and families, including skyrocketing class sizes. We must support the budget.

Meg Clifton – Amston

**Science Strives to Unify**

To the Editor:

A new study reports that of all mammals on Earth, humans now comprise 36% of the total and our livestock 60%. The remaining mammals have been reduced to 4% and continue declining. Of all birds on Earth, the poultry we raise and eat comprise 70% of the total, with wild birds reduced to 30% and declining. In Genesis God commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the Earth and subdue it, to rule over all other life. We have certainly subdued the Earth and depleted to extinction or rarity the remaining wild mammals, birds, reptiles and fish. Perhaps had Yahweh not taken offense at our united human race speaking one language, we might now live in sustainable harmony with the rest of the creation. But God grew jealous at our engineering potential, building a tower in Babel reaching to the heavens. So, he confounded us to speak multiple languages, that we would misunderstand each other and no longer threaten him.

Only science strives to unify. All biologists use Latin to name animal, plant, fungal and bacterial species. All scientists, but especially physicists use math. All use logic and the scientific method to winnow through the noise and discover truths. Science understands Newtonian physics so well we predict eclipses and comet arrivals with certainty centuries from now. The best religious believers could do was kill or torture humans and other animals to appease imaginary angry gods. Many current scientists pre-

See Letters, page 31

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# Andover Budget Soars at Referendum

By Michael Sinkewicz

Andover residents resoundingly passed a spending plan on Tuesday for the 2023-24 fiscal year, signing off on a \$12.48 million budget — a \$246,671 decrease from current year spending; the mill rate is 31.33 — a 1.8% decrease.

According to the town clerk's office, the budget passed by over a 2-1 margin; the proposal passed by a 358-122 tally. Overall turnout topped the first budget referendum from last year, but fell just shy of the second vote.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson suspected that the proposal would go through, largely because of the resulting tax decrease and the general lack of controversy surrounding the budget this year.

"You always want more turnout," he said, but expressed that the town's municipal votes typically draw low numbers when the budget drivers are relatively simple.

Compared to some neighboring towns, Andover generated little debate with both its school and town spending.

The town budget bottom-line is slated at \$3.51 million — a \$104,842, or 2.9% increase.

The Andover Board of Education budget is \$4.23 million — a \$182,000 or 4.5% increase from current year spending.

Perhaps most consequential was the savings resulting from the RHAM budget proposal. While the overall bottom-line increased, Andover's levy decreased by \$533,524 and represented just 4% of the budget, or \$4.49 million.

The large slash in spending helped combat rising inflation, and resulted in a minimal ask from Andover voters.

"We had some luck in our budget," Anderson said. "I'm happy we established a budget on the first go around; it makes everyone's life easier."

Due to a charter revision last fall, the budget would've been bifurcated if shot down after the first referendum — a mechanism town officials are happy to test during another fiscal year.

Along with the RHAM savings, the town was able to secure 100% grant funding for the

replacement of the Bunker Hill and Long Hill Road bridges, which helped balance the budget.

The Board of Finance recommended the purchase of a new Squad rescue Pumper Fire 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.

Another item that caused uncertainty in the budget was the additional expense resulting from early voting. After Connecticut voters approved of the measure last fall, municipalities speculated on the extend it would impact their spending; or how much it would cost them.

Anderson expressed that an early voting bill at the state level would likely increase town spending "pretty considerably," but the implementation will not take place this November.

Therefore, towns have more time to adjust and spend accordingly. Still, Andover, likes others, will "feel it in the following year's budget."

For infrastructure the construction of a new community center in town is 100% funded through APRA funds, approximately \$1 million. The town is designating \$125,000 from the multi-use building fund to furnish the building. Andover received a STEAP grant for \$275,000

to cover the demotion of the old firehouse at 15 Center St. and replacing it with a new parking structure. An additional \$75,000 will be used to complete the project.

Road spending increased; the town plans on expending approximately \$600,000 for roads. State funding will cover \$193,000 with \$410,000 coming from the road improvement fund.

Andover Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau told the Rivereast Wednesday she was "thrilled beyond belief" with the outcome of the referendum, especially with the lopsided result.

"The numbers showed that 75% of the vote was in favor of the budget and only 25% opposed," she said. "I believe that the people have spoken and they don't want to be divided any longer. The parents love the seniors and want what the seniors need. The seniors love the children and want what the children need."

She continued, "Over the past 12 months the community has become much more unified. I am grateful to the Board of Finance with its changes and to the Board of Education for both working hard to help understand our needs."

For Bruneau, unity was perhaps the key to this budget cycle.

"I really feel like this is a different Andover," she said.

## 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 and equipment.

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.

# Big Week for State Senator

By Michael Sinkewicz

State Senator MD Rahman (D-4) continues to advance legislation in Hartford, leading the chamber in passing two bills last week.

Rahman, whose district covers the Rivereast town of Andover as well as 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 Connecticut.

Then, a second bill introduced by Rahman to the General Assembly earlier this year was unanimously approved with a 36-0 vote.

If supported by the House, Senate Bill 497, "An Act Eliminating the Property Tax on Motor Vehicles And Establishing The Motor Vehicle Property Tax Revenue Replacement Account," would establish a task force to study potential impacts and effects of repealing that tax.

In March, the bill was advanced by the Planning and Development Committee, which Rahman chairs, with a 14-7 vote.

Rahman stated that the legislation pursues better and more equitable approaches to taxation and to provide relief to taxpayers.

"This bill is close to my heart and means a lot to my constituents. I'm glad we're moving this conversation forward," Rahman said in a press release. "The vehicle property tax model is outdated in Connecticut and we owe it to taxpayers to find new and better taxation methods. This tax disproportionately impacts seniors, young residents and workers and can have drastically different costs from community to community. This bill will study this issue thoroughly and determine the best possible ways to make changes in the future."

The task force will examine whether eliminating the motor vehicle property tax is possible, and what alternatives could account for the resulting loss of municipal revenue.

In their report, expected by January 2024, the task force would consider the impact to municipal budgets and ways to generate new revenue. The legislation lists potential avenues to explore, including 8% annual taxes on the total amount of premiums insurance companies earn from policies including automotive and homeowner's insurance. Further ideas will be studied by task force.

This week, Rahman told the Rivereast that he has "full confidence the bill will go through."

"I'm so excited," he said. "I put my heart and soul into it."

The group would be comprised of representatives of tax reform organizations, organizations supporting residents ages 50+, municipal leaders, insurance carrier officials, the secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioner of Revenue Services and members of

the Planning and Development and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees.

For Rahman, this issue was critical to address. As a Bangladesh immigrant, he shared his own story of saving money to purchase a car, only to find that the tax payments afterwards were difficult to manage.

"As an immigrant at that time, it was really hard," he said. "Twenty-five years later, I had an opportunity to do something for all people."

He added, "This is personal." Some groups, like seniors, may particularly benefit from the tax being repealed, especially if they're dependent on fixed incomes.

"They can save more now and keep their hard-earned money," Rahman said.

Reaching this point wasn't easy, he shared. As a freshman senator, colleagues would ask him if pursuing this immense tax bill was truly a worthwhile endeavor.

Rahman said he'd reply, "Yes, I feel confident."

He pointed out that several neighboring states don't levy a similar tax. After hours of debate, and the prospect of further investigating the topic through a task force, the Senate unanimously agreed to move forward.

"I think I'm making a difference," he said, regarding his recent legislative victories.

Rahman believes the report will identify a successful roadmap moving forward. A solution, he asserted, is more than necessary.

As costs of living have spiked in recent years, the tax is regressive in locale and contributes to high vehicle ownership fees. Rahman stated that because local property taxes and mill rates vary between towns, a vehicle owner in Hartford can pay significantly more than a Greenwich resident pays yearly.

Rahman took over the seat of longtime Democrat Steven Cassano, who retired last November after a four-decade political career, including representing the Fourth District since 2011.

Filling the seat of an experienced politician can be difficult, but Rahman believes he's doing a "good job" in his first year.

"I came so far," he expressed. "America made room for me; the district made room for me. Now I think the district is confident I can do this and have a positive impact."

The legislation received bipartisan support in Hartford, as well as resident testimony.

Herron Keyon Gaston (D-23) stated that financially burdened municipalities are especially vulnerable to the brunt of the motor vehicle tax and that his district struggles from its costs, along with other hurdles.

Testimony from residents in support of the bill applauded the prospect of financial relief amid rising inflation.

Rahman believes this bill will achieve major objectives for his district and the whole state.

"I'm elected to serve every resident," he said. "I'll continue to work hard for them."

## 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: 5/30. Masks available on all vehicles.

**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.

**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.

## 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

## 175th Anniversary Events

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

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.

## Goods and Services Auction

The Andover Friends of the Library will hold the 21st annual Goods and Services Auction Friday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

Membership to join the Library Friends will also be accepted at the auction.

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 31.

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

**Sonshine Stampers:** Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.; **Bingo & Baskets:** Friday, May 26, 5:30 p.m. dinner/6:30 p.m., game.

## 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.

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



**They Say It's Your Birthday...** Andover Seniors Young at Heart recently celebrated May birthdays with cake and ice cream. Pictured are Georgette Conrad, Morgan Steele, Cathy Palazzi and Roberta Dougherty. Photo by Mary Duval.



# Schools Reveal \$30M District Overhaul Plan

By Jack Lakowsky

Though the process has quite a long way to go, and it's come just a tad later than expected, Superintendent of schools Charles Britton and the local school board's facilities subcommittee are ready to raise the curtain on a 5–10-year, district-wide facelift, set to cost over \$30 million.

Britton told the *Rivereast* the school board and Board of Selectmen will meet to discuss the plan at a meeting on either May 24 or May 30, pending confirmation.

Britton said he's looking forward to the selectboard's input, and even more from the community.

Britton shared his plan, a thorough document going back to the district's last major fix-up over 20 years ago.

Earlier this month the facilities study committee voted 5-3 to make several major recommendations to the community.

They include decommission Gildersleeve Elementary School; extend and renovate to new Valley View Elementary School to create a grades PreK-3 facility; renovate-to-new/alter Brownstone Intermediate School to create a grade 4-6 facilities and apply savings from the consolidation of schools to fund an annual capital improvement budget for the Portland Secondary School complex and Town of Portland.

All this goes back to 2020, when an architecture firm identified huge and necessary work in the district's infrastructure. According to Britton's document a major expense, more than 15%, about \$5 million, is for security upgrades, with the rest divided up between just about all a school district needs to run its buildings.

During the 2020-21 school year, a committee formed by the school board began discussing the "Sightlines Report" and considering current

and future facility needs in the Portland Public Schools.

While much of the work was complicated by the shutdown and reopening of schools during the pandemic, the committee made progress by exploring a wide variety of options for the Portland Public Schools.

The facilities subcommittee shared initial findings with the Portland Board of Selectmen in the spring of 2021.

The selectboard asked the committee to prepare a report for submission to the Portland Board of Education and Portland Board of Selectmen relating to the current and future facilities needs of the Portland Schools by June 1, 2022.

Due to logistical challenges and the extent of research necessary to complete this report, Britton wrote, the committee asked for and received a one-year extension. The Board of Selectmen authorized the extension and established a new deadline for July 1 of this year.

Early in the process, the committee rejected the option of maintaining three elementary schools. The committee rejected this option for the following reasons:

Maintaining three elementary schools negatively affects the continuum of teaching and learning by creating too many transitions for students. These transitions influence a unified system of faculty and staff collaboration that promotes a singularity of curriculum, instruction, assessment, intervention, and student support programming in grades PreK-6.

According to the committee, maintaining three elementary schools does not support the development of a cohesive climate and culture. There are too many programmatic adjustments

and transitions that influence school climate and culture for students in grades PreK-6, the report reads.

The staffing and overhead costs associated with maintaining three elementary schools are fiscally inefficient, Britton said.

Once the committee determined that it is in the best interests of the Portland Public Schools to decommission at least one elementary school, the committee considered which elementary school was best to recommend for decommissioning.

The committee determined that Gildersleeve Elementary School is best suited for decommissioning. The committee recommended decommissioning Gildersleeve Elementary School for the following reasons:

The physical space at Gildersleeve limits expansion capacity.

Valley View School is located on the same physical campus as the secondary school and therefore makes the least sense to decommission.

The historical and cultural significance of Brownstone Intermediate School is treasured by the community and would therefore influence community support for decommissioning.

Once the committee determined that decommissioning Gildersleeve makes the most sense, discussion ensued over grade-level configurations.

This discussion necessitated a conversation about whether sixth grade should be moved to the middle school or remain in the elementary school grade level configuration. The committee ultimately recommended keeping sixth grade in the elementary school configuration for the fol-

lowing reasons:

From a school culture and climate perspective, there was a prevailing opinion that sixth graders thrive developmentally from the additional year in the elementary grade configuration.

Keeping sixth grade in the elementary grade configuration builds space capacity for the possibility of future enrollment increases and the possibility of full-day prekindergarten.

Keeping sixth grade in the elementary grade configuration maximizes state reimbursement, which is determined formulaically by average daily members (i.e., enrollment).

Once, the committee determined that keeping sixth grade in the elementary school configuration makes the most sense, a discussion ensued about whether the Committee should recommend the decommissioning of Brownstone and creation of one large PreK-6 Valley View School, or the creation of two elementary schools.

This determination ultimately began the most complicated consideration for the committee. After enormous discussion, consideration of focus group feedback, review of a staffing and overhead analysis, consideration of the financial projections provided by the town financial planner, discussion of logistical challenges associated with large elementary schools, and consideration of community support for closing two elementary schools, the committee ultimately determined that maintaining two elementary schools is the best option.

Specifically, in a 5-3 vote, the committee endorsed the creation of a grade PreK-3 Valley View Elementary School and grades 4-6 Brownstone Upper Elementary School.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

**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.

## United Methodist Church News

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

In-person worship services are held Sundays at 9 a.m., with a Fourth Sunday weekly Communion service at 1 p.m. replacing the regular 9 a.m. service on those Sundays. However, due to the Memorial Day parade on Sunday, May 28,

the 1 p.m. service that will be at 9 a.m.

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

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

## YFS News & Notes

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

**Youth Services Advisory Board:** Tuesday, May 23, 4:30-6 p.m., on the first floor of the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. This is a town-appointed advisory board that is open to the public.

**Power Up Portland:** Wednesday, May 24, 6:30-8 p.m., at BFCC. The Prevention & Wellness Council will help the community work on youth substance use prevention and positive

mental health.

**Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night:** Wednesday, June 7, 6-8 p.m., in the Wagner Room of Portland Library. There will be games, art supplies and other activities, along with snacks.

**Little Hikers:** Friday, June 9, 10:30 a.m., at Portland Riverfront Park on Brownstone Avenue. Note the new date.

**Plant & Learn: Aloe:** Saturday, June 10, at a time and place to be determined. All budding gardeners and their parents/grandparents/caregivers are invited to learn about aloe and replant the "pups" into containers to take home.

**After School Drop-In & Draw:** Tuesday, June 13, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Drop-In & Draw Arts & Crafts:** Friday, June 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Youth & Parent LGBTQ+ Support-Style Groups:** Wednesday, June 21, 6-8 p.m.

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



Pfc Henry Chapman and Pl Sgt. Oliver Ellsworth were two of 100 Connecticut residents who died in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. The Portland Historical Society will be remembering their sacrifice at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History this Sunday.

## Museum Remembers Iwo Jima

In honor of Memorial Day, the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History will be remembering the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima and the two local soldiers who lost their lives there.

Jr. and Marine Private First Class, Henry Stanton Chapman, both died in the early days of the battle and are buried in Portland's Center Cemetery. The Museum, located at 492 Main St., will be open from 2-4 p.m. this Sunday, May 21.

All are invited; admission is free.

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**QP Farm Market**  
Rt. 66, Portland  
(860) 342-5030  
M-F 8am-6:30pm • Sat & Sun 8am-6pm

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# The Busy Year of a Poet Laureate

By Jack Lakowsky

Portland's magnanimous poet laureate Naji Chester-Payne, the first to hold the position in town, has organized and produced a poetry and comedy showcase, an event he told the *Rivereast* is the culmination of all his work since he was chosen as town poet.

Not only that – Chester-Payne has joined that group so essential to small towns. He's now a small business owner, recently opening his own personal training studio in town.

"I've done all these events and met all these performers," said Chester-Payne earlier this week.

Chester-Payne met the night's poets and comedians through both open mics and his personal training, and based on their talent, asked them to join the free night of spoken art.

Chester-Payne's featured artists include poet Melanie Gonzalez, and comedians Johngotvibes, Comedian Q Turner and David Quast. Discover and support your local artists, Chester-Payne stressed.

Chester-Payne said he's serving up his "most powerful and spiritual poems", new works he only plans to perform at Laugh & Poetry, set for Saturday, May 27, at 6:30 p.m., at the Free Center on Main Street in Middletown.

These poems are deeply personal, he said, and not the type he can rattle off unaffected. He went through that most dreadful of life changes in recent years – losing his beloved mother who, like her son, organized get-togethers and events for the town's lower income neighborhood kids.

He said, "these are totally different, and totally me."

"I'm hoping this sparks something," he said. "I always want to do something new and exciting and different for the area. I'm out here to keep creating things; there are so many talented people around here."

On his upcoming performance, he said he hopes to be seen as a spiritual poet focused on humanity and how to positively influence the people around us.

"That's what these poems are about," he said. "They're kind of a series that go together, they're definitely different. I can't wait!"

He didn't want the roster to be all serious though, knowing laughter is as therapeutic as poetry or exercise.

Chester-Payne is growing his writing career right alongside his training work – he has two kids books written and is out looking for illustrators. He was able to share them with, and get an approval from, his mom before she passed.

Somehow, in the midst of doing his own thing and bringing fun to Portland and Middletown, Chester-Payne started a business, getting his own LLC from the state and launching In the Power Out the Pain Personal Training, opening at the Portland Shopping Center at 322 Marlborough St., near Adams Hometown Market.

The basis of his business is the same as his poetry: "Finding the balance of mind, body and soul" and meeting a demand he sees as unmet.

"It's been about a month and half, and I keep

getting more and more customers, I have two classes now," and he does individual sessions.

Interested in signing up? Contact najicpayne@gmail.com or look for Chester-Payne on Facebook, or @najzilla1 on Instagram.

Last year, after the loss of his mom, Chester-Payne started the Portland Riverfront Rumble: A Fight Against Cancer. He's looking to run another one this year and is actively seeking sponsors.

The event benefited the American Cancer Society.

"Unfortunately, cancer has probably affected every single person in Portland, either directly or indirectly," Chester-Payne said at the time.

Chester-Payne said his goal is continuing his mother's work of spreading positivity to the community.

"This desire to continue my mother's service to our community led me to organize this event in her honor as a way to continue her legacy, and to help others in our amazing town," he added.

"It's something me and my dad did when I was kid, and I just carried on watching, I'm defi-

nately a fan," he said of wrestling.

Chester-Payne said he wanted to do something "totally different." He shared the idea and got really positive feedback.

"It first started as a private party," he said. Then, as more and more people said they were interested, he decided to take the party public. "Let's make this a little bigger."

Chester-Payne's mom's condition degraded over the course of a year.

"Seeing my mom pass, it changed my perspective on life; it sucked," he said. "It gave me a little PTSD."

He thought; what can I do to help people going through the loss of a parent?

"This is all about trying to improve the way people with cancer are looked at, it's all about healing," he said. He wants to reach anyone whose life has been affected by terminal illness, to be a good influence for anyone dealing with loss.

"A lot of people can relate unfortunately," he said.

## Connecticut Trails Day

On Connecticut Trails Day, Saturday, June 3, at 10 a.m., the Portland Air Line Trail committee and the Middlesex Land Trust are partnering to provide a hike through the Palmer Taylor Preserve including a detour onto the Air Line Trail – see how these two trails intersect to provide a varied walking experience.

The hike will be at a slow to moderate pace, with some moderate inclines for short distanc-

es and occasional tricky footing, but generally suitable for new hikers. Hiking boots are recommended, as the trail crosses some wet areas. Bring water and snacks. Well-managed dogs are welcome.

Rain date is Sunday, June 4, at 11 a.m. Complete details and sign-up information is at [trailsday.org/events/portland-air-line-trail-palmer-taylor-preserve](https://trailsday.org/events/portland-air-line-trail-palmer-taylor-preserve).

## 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](mailto: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.

**Trip to Travelers Spring Concert:** Thursday, May 22. Bus leaves the Senior Center at 6:15 p.m. The concert is free; however, it is requested that each person bring a Non-perishable food item(s) to be donated to local food banks. The transportation fee is \$5. Call 860-342-6761 to register.

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 founda-

tion'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 community 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.

## Foodshare Truck

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

The next Foodshare visit will be Monday, May 22, at 1 p.m.

## Horseshoe League Seeks New Members

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

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

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

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### Portland Library News & Notes

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

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Mon. 29, for Memorial Day.

**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.

**Endangered Snow Leopards:** Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m. The Himalayan Snow Leopard is rarely seen and rarely photographed. Dr. Richard Benfield, former chair of the Central Connecticut State University geography department and a snow leopard researcher, will discuss this mysterious creature. This is a multigenerational program. There will not be live animals at this event.

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

**Summer Reading Volunteer Training:** Thursday, June 1, 3:30 p.m. This is a mandatory training session for kids and teens entering grades 7-up who are in the volunteer program. Volunteers are needed for program preparation and assistance, logging reading minutes and awarding prizes, and staffing the summer read-

ing desk. Interested applicants should visit the library or the Teen section of the library website to pick up an application. For more information, call the library.

**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: Artist Reception for Linda Tomaiuolo:** Saturday, May 20, 1-3 p.m. Tomaiuolo has a passion for painting, printmaking and photography. Her main focus is observing and capturing nature, and this exhibit is a reflection of that. Tomaiuolo earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut, a master's degree from the University of Hartford, and her art education certificate from Central Connecticut State University. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Portland Library.

**June Book Discussions: First Thursday Night Book Club:** June 1, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – *The Last Flight* by Julie Clark will be discussed; *Talk About Books:* Tuesday, June 6, 1-2 p.m. – *The Christie Affair* by Nina De Gramont will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, June 20, 1 p.m. – *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie will be discussed.



**Portland students celebrated the annual Walk/Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 3**

### Local Students Walk to School

Portland students joined communities from around the country to celebrate national, Walk/Bike to School Day on May 3. This is the fourth time that both Portland Middle School (PMS) and Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS) have participated in this event.

Walk to School events are designed not just to emphasize active transportation but to reinforce the need to consider student safety when planning, designing, and repairing sidewalks and streets around area schools. Creating safer routes includes making car traffic aware of these shared, public spaces where our town's youngest residents walk and bike to school, the Complete Streets Group (CSG) of Portland said in a press release.

CSG, with support from BIS PTO, PMS track

coaches Deb Rooth and Michael Pelton, Portland schools and the Portland Police Department, helped to coordinate the two groups of student walkers.

Some PMS students said, "walking/jogging is a good way to focus and calm yourself down" when you're feeling a little unsure or anxious about something. On the BIS walk, Principal Michael Searson, PTO members, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton, and parents joined the students and everyone commented what a beautiful morning it was to take a short walk to school.

CSG gave a special shout-out to Heather Guilmette for her consistent effort spearheading the BIS turnout efforts, and to all the students who participated.

### Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

The Portland Soccer Club (PSC) Board of Directors will award the \$500 Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship again this year. The scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who are headed to college or a post-high school institution. 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.blue-sombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://www.blue-sombrero.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](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com).

### 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 21, worship will be led by the Rev. Julie Olmsted. Her sermon is titled "Power of Gentleness" and the focus is on mental illness. Coffee hour follows the service and

all are welcome to attend.

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

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

### 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 Brown-

stone 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.

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](mailto:ssterryrutter@yahoo.com).

### Police News

5/8: Sylvester Turner, 49, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with third-degree violation of protection order, third-degree assault, disorderly conduct, and second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

5/15: Kasey Dykas, 37, of 354 Main St., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, police said.

### Flags For Veterans' Graves:

The Portland Veteran Affairs Committee and the American Legion Post 69 members will place flags on graves of veterans buried in Portland cemeteries during the week of May 22, in advance of Memorial Day.

If residents notice that a flag was inadvertently missed for a Portland veteran, or because a grave marker does not list them as a veteran, the Portland town clerk's office has additional flags.

### Preschool Screening May 26

Valley View School will conduct a preschool screening Friday, May 26, for children ages 3-4. The screening is designed to answer questions about a child's development, as well as identify children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening, children will meet with members of Valley View's preschool team and participate in a variety of activities that assess different such developmental areas as cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills, and social interaction. During this time, parents/caregivers will meet with another member of the team to discuss the child's adaptive and personal social skills.

Following the screening, parents/guardians will be sent a letter stating their child's results. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View at 860-342-3131.

### Country Concert This Saturday

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](mailto: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.

### Juneteenth Celebration Returns This Year

On Saturday, June 24, the Portland Committee on Solidarity will host a Juneteenth celebration from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Riverfront Park. There will be speakers, a food truck, 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.

Sponsors are welcome; sign up your business/organization for a table at the event.

For more information, email [portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com).

### Transfer Station Summer Hours

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, the Portland Transfer Station's summer hours will be in effect. The hours are:

Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The scale closes 30 minutes before closing.

### 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](mailto:theriz4@sbcglobal.net). Rain date is Sunday, May 21, at 10 a.m.

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The Kehl family of Glastonbury recently made a gift and engineered a company match to fund the creation of the Kehl Family Disc Golf Course at Camp Ingersoll. Pictured from left are, back row, Rich McCarty, Middlesex YMCA VP of Healthy Living & Social Responsibility, Barret Katuna and Benjamin Kehl; front row, Hans and Henry Kehl.

### Glastonbury Family Donates to Camp Ingersoll

The Kehl family of Glastonbury – Barret Katuna and Benjamin Kehl, parents of campers Hans and Henry Kehl – recently made a gift and engineered a company match to fund the creation of the Kehl Family Disc Golf Course at Camp Ingersoll.

“It was on the second family night of Hans and Henry’s first year at YMCA Camp Ingersoll that we became inspired, as a family, through our family business KW Wealth Management Group, to do something meaningful for the camp,” said Katuna. Their sons are twins who had a special Ingersoll experience this summer and are already registered for “the best summer ever” in 2023.

Camp Director Ben Silliman said he was very grateful to have this next piece of Ingersoll funded. “With this generous gift, we are starting the process of designing, preparing, and building an 18-hole disc golf course at Ingersoll. Disc Golf can now be a program that we run at Ingersoll during the summer as well as making

it available for our Outdoor Center members,” Silliman said.

Said Katuna: “Our hope is that the disc golf course will be a way for kids and their families to come together on Family Nights, weekends during the year, and also gives the YMCA an opportunity to host tournaments.”

Camp Ingersoll is over 70 acres of program space, waterfront and wooded trails. To carve out an 18-hole course will take some doing, said Silliman, who is now in his 10th year as camp director. “The goal is to have the course outline and at least four holes/baskets in use by the 2023 summer, with more of the groundwork happening after the summer in preparation for an opening in the spring on 2024.”

YMCA Camp Ingersoll is located in Portland located on Route 66, just a short drive from downtown Middletown.

For more information about YMCA Camp Ingersoll, visit [www.campingoll.org](http://www.campingoll.org) or contact Ben Silliman at [bsilliman@midymca.org](mailto:bsilliman@midymca.org).

### 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.bluesombrero.com/portland-soccerclub](http://www.bluesombrero.com/portland-soccerclub).

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.

### Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

### 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.

### 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 Freestone Ave. The sale takes place during regular library hours.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children’s books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc 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](http://www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) for more information or email questions to [friendsoftportlandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftportlandlibrary@gmail.com).



The Ben Foley Sportsmanship Award recipients, from left, are Erika Tine, Arianna Aquino, Nicholas Vibberts, and Zephyrus Stone. They are pictured here with Foley in the center at Portland Recreational Complex on April 22.

### Little Leaguers Honored with Sportsmanship Award

Portland Little League (PLL) annually awards several select players from its entire Little League baseball community with the Ben Foley Sportsmanship Award.

The 2022 recipients were Erika Tine (Softball Majors), Arianna Aquino (Softball Minors), Nicholas Vibberts (Baseball Minors), and Zephyrus Stone (Baseball Majors).

The four were recognized at Opening Day ceremonies on April 22 at the Portland Recreation Complex.

The Ben Foley Sportsmanship Award was created in 2001 to honor one or more players who have exhibited one or more of the ideals of sportsmanship, including fairness, civility, honesty, unselfishness, respect and responsibility.

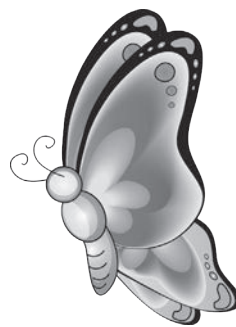
Both the nominees and the recipients of the award are deemed leaders both on and off the field, had respect for their fellow opponents, managers and umpires, and showed a love for the game. In short, there is no higher award given in Portland Little League.

Foley started his baseball career in Portland’s Minor League, playing for the Angels. The Yan-

kees drafted him into the PLL Majors where he was a team leader at the plate and in the field. In his final year in the Majors, he hit five home runs. He was also known for his speed, which led him to steal 27 bases in 15 games, on a very good 13-2 team. Foley was a four-time All Star centerfielder in Portland.

Unfortunately, in 2001 a stroke left him partially paralyzed and ended his baseball career. After life-saving brain surgery and a 50-day coma, he worked hard to recover, and rejoined his friends and teammates at Portland High School. He refocused on academics, and was able to graduate with his class. He went on to earn his associate’s degree at Manchester Community College, and then his Bachelor’s degree in Entrepreneurship from Central Connecticut State University.

Foley’s doctors told him that his love of sports probably saved his life, since his strength and good health were a key to his survival and recovery. He and his family, to this day, thank his former coaches and teammates for pushing him to be his best.



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Philip Hernandez, Judy McLane and Talia Suskauer star in *Gypsy*, playing at the Goodspeed Opera House through June 25. Photo by Diane Sobolewski.

## Winning Performances Bolster *Gypsy* at Goodspeed

By Mike Thompson

One of the most beloved musicals of all time, *Gypsy*, is currently playing the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam—and it provides a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Suggested by the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the play tells the tale of Momma Rose, the ambitious stage mother determined to drive her daughters toward stardom. With music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, *Gypsy*, first performed on Broadway in 1959, features such now-famous tunes as “Let Me Entertain You,” “Together, Wherever We Go” and, of course, “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.”

Chosen as the show to kick off Goodspeed’s 60th anniversary season, this marks the first time *Gypsy* has been performed at the iconic, beautiful theater resting along the shores of the Connecticut River. It’s a most lively production, bolstered by a terrific cast and some nice flourishes by director Jenn Thompson.

Thompson is a Goodspeed veteran, and helmed the world premiere of *Anne of Green Gables* there just last summer. She shows her familiarity with the facility by having Rose make her debut entrance from not just offstage but from the audience. It’s an unexpected treat to be sitting there watching the show and have Momma Rose march right by you.

As those familiar with *Gypsy* know, there’s a necessary time jump midway through Act One. Thompson handles it interestingly; while the child actors are in the middle of a performance as the troupe Baby June and her Newsies, the stage lights start to flash as one by one the children are replaced by their adult counterparts.

It’s through the performances, though, that *Gypsy* really excels. The entire cast is great, but

there are three particular standouts. Philip Hernandez, a Broadway veteran of *Les Misérables* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, brings just the right mixture of strength and sadness to his role of Herbie, the man who wants nothing more than to marry Momma Rose and settle down into a more normal, less hectic life.

Talia Suskauer, fresh off a run as Elphaba in *Wicked* on Broadway, is terrific as Louise. She gives a very affecting performance as the shy wallflower who is reluctantly pushed into the spotlight. Suskauer handles Louise’s eventual transformation into a famous striptease artist with great aplomb. You can feel the apprehension and nervousness when Louise makes her first turn as Gypsy Rose Lee, just as the confidence is fully palpable as Louise quickly grows into the role, and embraces the world of celebrity.

But, of course, *Gypsy* is nothing without a strong Momma Rose, and boy does this production deliver. Judy McLane, another Broadway veteran (with over 4,000 performances in *Mamma Mia!* under her belt), just knocks it out of the park. She commands the stage every time she appears. The musical gives Rose several songs, and McLane handles all with gusto, from “Some People” at the beginning of the play to the sad and extremely powerful “Rose’s Turn” at the end.

In short, fantastic performances, inventive direction and, of course, beloved songs all add up to a delightful night at the theater. *Gypsy*’s run at the Goodspeed has been extended through June 25, and it’s easy to see why. This production is a real crowd-pleaser; it not only hits the heights, it crashes right through them.

For tickets, call 860-873-8668 or visit [www.goodspeed.org](http://www.goodspeed.org).

## Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of May 8-14:

**Alex Gallardo - Bacon Academy (Golf):** Gallardo shot a 79 during an 18-hole tournament at the Fishers Island Club earlier this month. Gallardo, a junior, then shot a 41 against Plainfield at Foster Country Club in Rhode Island before posting consecutive solid scores in home matches at Chantclair Golf Course, scoring a 39 against Windham/ Parish Hill and a 41 against Waterford.

**Ben Dalton and Harrison Moorecroft - RHAM High School (Tennis):** Dalton and Moorecroft swept the No. 1 doubles match, blanking Shain Gonzalez and Alex Huntley (6-0, 6-0) as the Raptors defeated Bristol Eastern (4-3). Dalton and Moorecroft, both seniors, were one of a pair of doubles teams that won, joining Ryan Eaton and Trevor Hooker, who also won (6-0, 6-0) in straight sets. No. 4 singles player Luke Schomer defeated Robbie Beveridge (6-0, 6-0) as the Raptors won their third match as a team this spring.

**Olivia DeMartino - East Hampton (Softball):** DeMartino drove in four runs on three hits as the Bellrings defeated Morgan 9-2 on May 12. DeMartino, a sophomore, led an offensive unit that scored six runs in the second inning and never looked back. Madison Reola, Sophia Long, and Neha Sidana each scored twice for the Bellrings and sophomore pitcher Allison Jacobsen went seven solid innings from the mound to pick up the win.

**Kyle Guibord - Portland High School**

**(Track and Field):** Guibord won the 110-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles, setting personal-best times in both, at the League No. 4 Meet that featured host North Branford and Old Saybrook on May 8. Guibord, a senior, ran a 19.4 in the 110 meter hurdles to beat runner-up Elliot Hurdis (20.7) of Old Saybrook and then ran a 48.2 to edge North Branford’s Ryan Chasanoff (49.9) in the 300 meters.

To nominate someone as an Athlete of the Week, or to offer sports-related comments, email [joshhowardsports@gmail.com](mailto:joshhowardsports@gmail.com).



Seat of Our Pants will return to Marlborough Arts Center’s 4th Friday @ the Arts Cafe on Friday, May 26. The band – featuring Carolyn Brodgerski, Mark Hall, Jeff Gorman and Michael Frantzen – is shown here in a 2021 appearance at the arts center.

### SOOP Returns to Arts Center

The Marlborough-based group Seat of Our Pants (SOOP), is starring on the stage at the Marlborough Arts Center’s 4th Friday @ the Arts Cafe on Friday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Formed in 2011, SOOP features original award-winning songs performed by Carolyn Brodgerski, Mark Hall, Jeff Gorman and Michael Frantzen. The group’s instrumentation

continues to evolve with the addition of a Celtic harp.

The arts center is at 231 North Main Street in Marlborough. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission at the door is \$10. The building is handicapped-accessible and there is on-site parking. See [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org) and [seatofourpantsmusic.com](http://seatofourpantsmusic.com) for greater details.

### 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. 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](mailto:MarlboroughCTLions@gmail.com). Registration forms are also available at various locations. People can also register online at [itsyourrace.com](http://itsyourrace.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.

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

**Weekend Masses:** 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Week-day 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 ac-

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

### ‘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](http://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.

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# Town Takes Steps Towards Major Goals

By Jack Lakowsky

On Tuesday, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen and Interim Town Manager Amy Traversa had some progress to report after a few months of slow news.

First up, the town is ready to move ahead by hiring an armed security officer at Marlborough Elementary School, a position approved late last year after a difficult, hotly debated process. The crux of it was the board didn't want to use its money to pay for the guard; rather, it'd prefer the school board cough it up.

They came to a compromise favoring the town, which agreed to pay just 10% of the guard's salary.

That settled, the town began devising a job description, specifically a subcommittee of Traversa, interim board chair Deb Bourbeau and board Republican Joe Asklar that met with schools and local police to get ready to vet and interview candidates.

"We've been talking about this forever," said Bourbeau.

Another major thing, possibly the most-major thing to affect the town in years: the town is gearing up to hire its first-ever town manager, a position brought about by the 2021 town

charter change that nixed the directly elected first selectperson's office and established a town manager, a chief administrator for the town government that reports to and serves at the pleasure of the selectboard.

"The search committee is ready to start interviewing," said Bourbeau.

Because the search is conducted behind closed doors, little information has been made public. This was, board members said at the hairy beginning of the town manager search, which saw red-faced arguments, attempts at unseating the interim town manager and, for almost a year, the selectboard struggled to come to terms.

Now it seems things have calmed down. (In fact, in a scenario nearly unthinkable a year ago, Asklar and fellow Greg Lowrey voted unanimously to keep Bourbeau as the board's temporary chair and Democrat Betty O'Brien as vice chair – this from a group that, a year ago, couldn't seem to agree on anything from commission placements to project funding).

This more cooperative board expects to get recommendations for managers by Memorial Day, turning a page on this formerly divisive,

knock-down drag-out process that saw Traversa, O'Brien and Bourbeau going 10 rounds against Asklar and Lowrey.

In November, after much debate the board assured Traversa it would commit to keeping her as the interim until the town finds a permanent town manager.

Traversa, after months of not answering the question directly, told the board she had zero interest in applying for the full town manager's position.

"I don't think it would be in the best interest of the town, we need to move past all this," said Traversa. "I will serve at the pleasure of this board and get us to a manager, but I am not interested in applying for that."

After seven months of combative debate, which have included accusations ranging from sexism and obfuscation of facts to hard-liner partisanship and political jockeying, the selectboard has no money in place to begin the very first step in finding the charter-mandated town manager.

But the storm at Town Hall seems to have finally quelled.

\*\*\*

Also, for months the town's been getting a new website, and in public comment at meetings and in some Facebook chatter, the process has been criticized as taking too long, the website's clumsiness under repair residents (and re-

porters) have a hard time navigating.

The end is in sight, Traversa revealed Tuesday. She's expecting the shiny new site to go live on May 25, and only warned it will be buggy at first.

The town got a break on setting it up, with a local college intern home from school volunteering to help get it ready.

"This'll be a great change," said Traversa, "I know it's taken some time. Fingers crossed it goes live next week."

\*\*\*

Lastly, selectmen on Tuesday briefly went over the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

The annual Memorial Day parade will take place again this year. The parade is organized by the American Legion Post 197 in conjunction with the town of Marlborough.

A short Memorial Day service will take place at the rear of the town cemetery off Route 66. Flowers will be presented at the memorial, followed by taps and a firing squad salute.

After the short ceremony, the parade will stop at approximately 1:30 p.m. The parade will be assembled in front of Marlborough Elementary School on School Drive.

The parade will proceed to South Main Street and then march north to the Marlborough Green, after crossing Route 66. At the Green, a memorial service will be held. For more information, check out the related clipping in this week's *Rivereast*.

## Parks and Rec Programs

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

**Adult Programs: 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.

**Youth Programs: 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.

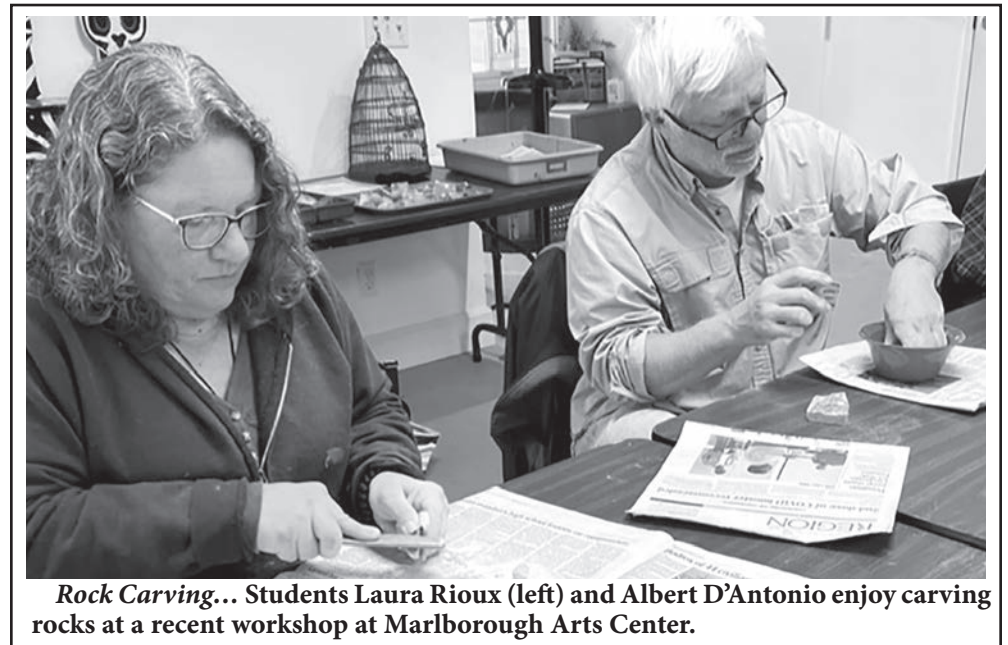
**Kids Summer Beach Yoga Nights:** For ages 3-6. Meets biweekly on Wednesdays, June 21-Aug. 16, 5:30-6:15 p.m., at Blish Park. Each week, children and their parents/guardians will embark on a "yoga adventure" centered around movement, play and mindfulness. Fee: \$60/residents, \$65/non-residents, or a \$15 per week drop-in fee.

**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.

**Acrylic Landscape Painting: July 5 and 6, 9 a.m.-noon, at Marlborough Elementary School, for grades 3-6.** Students will learn techniques to guide them through a landscape painting on canvas. Fee: \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident.

**Skyhawks (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball): July 5-7, 9 a.m.-noon, at Blish Park. Mini-Hawk is for ages 4-6, and Multi-Sport is for ages 7-10.** Fee: \$115/residents, \$120/non-residents.



**Rock Carving... Students Laura Rioux (left) and Albert D'Antonio enjoy carving rocks at a recent workshop at Marlborough Arts Center.**

## 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.

Two 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.

## 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.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.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 21 worship will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "Lose Your Marbles." The service will include the presentation of two

leaves to be placed on the Living Tree. After the service the Junior Youth Group will sell homemade baked goods.

**Outreach:** The church supports a variety of mission projects. Second quarter mission-giving will go to AHM Mental Health Fund. The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. The Drive Thru Café provides a take-away hot meal at the church for Marlborough Food Bank clients who have received a meal voucher; the next café will be held Sunday, May 21, from 1-1:30 p.m. 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 will be closed Memorial Day weekend on May 26 and 27. The shop also sells items year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

**General Info:** Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call the church office at 860-295-9050 or the Rev. Valerie Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432.

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### 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 22:** Free bread and bakery goods donated by Stop & Shop, 10 a.m.; socialization, 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: vegetable soup, plain hamburger on hamburger bun, potato wedges, shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, ketchup & mayo packets, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 23:** Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

**Wednesday, May 24:** 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. Celebrate Strawberries! Menu: orange juice, turkey pot pie with peas and carrots, Brussels sprouts, 100% whole wheat bread, strawberries with biscuit and topping; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 25:** Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.;

Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

**Friday, May 26:** Socialization, 8-Ball Pool, Mahjong Playing Cards, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Sofrito boneless pork chop, Spanish-roasted potatoes, broccoli Normandy, cornbread, fresh fruit/wholegrain fruit bar; 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.

### Memorial Day Parade Info

The annual Memorial Day parade will take place this year Monday, May 29. The parade is organized by the American Legion Post 197 in conjunction with the town of Marlborough.

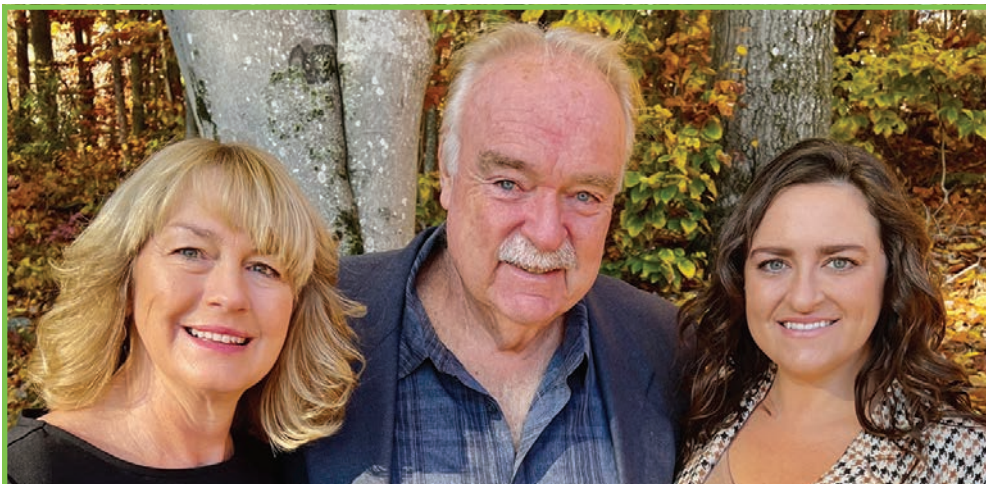
A short Memorial Day service will take place at the rear of the town cemetery off Route 66. Flowers will be presented at the memorial, followed by taps and a firing squad salute. After the short ceremony, the parade will step off at approximately 1:30 p.m. The parade will be assembled in front of Marlborough Elementary School on School Drive.

The parade will proceed to South Main Street and then march north to the Marlborough Green, after crossing Route 66. At the Green, a Memorial Day service will be held.

Participation will include town and state officials, the American Legion Post 197 Color Guard, East Hampton VFW Color Guard, senior and junior bands from RHAM, the Marlborough Fire Department, several Fife and Drum Corps, the scouts, youth groups, East Hampton VFW, Marlborough American Legion 197 and more.

If your Marlborough group would like to participate, or you would like to enter a car to carry individuals, submit a request through post197.com. The parade length is limited, due to closing Route 66 for parade crossing.

In the event of rain at the time of step-off, the service will move to the elementary school.



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

**Openings on Commissions**  
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.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.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@marlborough.ct.net](mailto:CEO@marlborough.ct.net).

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<p><b>SOUP OR SALAD</b></p> <p>Cup of soup of the day or Garden Salad</p>	
<p><b>DINNER CHOICES</b></p> <p><b>Chicken Parmigiana</b></p> <p><b>Eggplant Rollatini</b></p> <p>Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers</p> <p><b>Chicken Marsala</b></p> <p>Sauteed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce</p> <p><b>Stuffed Pork Chop</b></p> <p>Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce</p> <p><b>Stuffed Sole</b></p> <p>Crab meat stuffing served over spinach</p> <p><b>Balkan Meatballs</b></p> <p>Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce</p>	
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**'School of Rock' Concert**  
There will be an Outdoor Summer Concert on the lawn at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Saturday, May 20, at 2 p.m. The School of Rock will perform. Bring your own seating and refreshments. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved inside. There is on-site parking. Goodwill donations of \$10 are suggested; all donations are appreciated. There will be another outdoor concert Saturday, Aug. 19, again at 2 p.m., and again featuring The School of Rock.

**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 members. Proceeds will support the Lions. The raffle drawing will take place at Blish Park Sunday, May 28. Winners need not be present. For more information or to purchase raffle tickets, call Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537, or Lions Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054 or Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

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# LYME BITES

**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:**

- Many ticks carry a host of co-infections, meaning a tick can infect you with Lyme disease or many other infections. It is estimated that 50% of patients with chronic Lyme disease had one co-infection and 33% had two or more.
- **Bartonella:** Bartonella are bacteria that live primarily inside the lining of the blood vessels. Early signs of bartonellosis include fever, fatigue, headache, poor appetite, and an unusual streaked rash that resembles "stretch marks" from pregnancy. Swollen glands are typical, especially around the head, neck and arms. Other common symptoms include blurred vision, numbness in the extremities, memory loss, balance problems, headaches, ataxia (unsteady gait), and tremors. Bartonellosis also sometimes triggers psychiatric manifestations.
- **Babesia:** Babesia is a malaria-like parasite, also called a "piroplasm," that infects red blood cells. Symptoms of babesiosis are similar to those of Lyme disease but babesiosis more often starts with a high fever and chills. As the infection progresses, patients may develop fatigue, headache, drenching sweats, muscle aches, chest pain, hip pain and shortness of breath ("air hunger"). Babesiosis is often so mild it is not noticed but can be life-threatening to people with no spleen, the elderly, and people with weak immune systems.
- **Mycoplasma:** Mycoplasma is a unique group of bacteria. They lack a cell wall, which renders them resistant to many common antibiotics. They are the smallest of all bacteria, allowing them to penetrate cells and a variety of tissues, and they are considered obligate parasites because they cannot survive outside of a host. They are capable of causing a wide range of symptoms and infections including pneumonia and genitourinary infections.
- **Alpha Gal Syndrome:** Alpha Gal is carried by the lone star tick (identified by a white spot on its back). Alpha-gal syndrome is a recently identified type of food allergy to red meat and other products made from mammals. The bite transmits a sugar molecule called alpha-gal into the person's body. In some people, this triggers an immune system reaction that later produces mild to severe allergic reactions to red meat, such as beef, pork or lamb, or other mammal products.
- There are many other co-infections as well, Ehrlichiosis, Tick Paralysis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Powassan Virus, Q Fever & Tularemia just to name a few.

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### Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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

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

**Spinning and Fiber Arts:** Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome.

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

**Writer's Workshop/Meet-Up Group:** Wednesdays, May 24 and June 21, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be constructive criticism, writing exercises and more. Get the opinion of other writers. Registration requested.

**CommuniTea:** Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m.-noon. Take out a book, have a cup of tea, and see the library's new art displays. Coffee drinkers welcome.

### Town Center Water System Flushing

The Town Center Water System will be flushed from Tuesday, May 23, through Thursday, May 25.

The East Hampton Water Department periodically flushes its water lines to ensure the valves are in good working order and to maintain water quality.

Flushing will be between 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 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 Town of East Hampton Water Department at 860-267-2536.

### Church in Tag Sale

Once again, Haddam Neck Covenant Church will participate in the Chatham Historical Society's Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 17. The church will have a table and will offer spaces to others in the community that wish to participate but do not have space to hold their own sale.

To participate, register with the Historical Society (applications available at the town clerk's

office) and pay a reservation fee; enter the address of 17 Haddam Neck Rd. as location for the map.

Text Debbie Markham at 860-918-1490 if you would like to set up in our field which is right on the road and has plenty of parking space and set-up space. The church will be open for those that need to use restrooms.

### Tag/Bake Sale

The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd., will host a Tag/Bake Sale Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the lower hall.

The sale will feature a range of baked goods, gently used pieces, Rada cutlery, and various crafts including hand-painted bottles with mini lights. There will be 50% off oil paintings by Heidi House.

The church is handicapped-accessible. Parking is across the street and in an upper-level parking lot to the left.

### 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.



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# Updates on Various Town Projects

By Jack Lakowsky

The budget-related fireworks at last week's Town Council meeting overshadowed some of the other things going in town – good stuff, as Town Manager Dave Cox explained in his written report for the meeting.

### Parks and Recreation

The new tennis courts at the high school, which suffered cracks in the playing surface during the last few months, are scheduled to be repaired based on discussions with the town's contractor, Mountain View. These warranty repairs will occur after the tennis season ends in June, Cox said.

### Library

Staff and patrons are excited that chickens will soon be back at the library. Six eggs are incubating in the public area of the library and nearly 50 patrons so far have weighed in on when they think the eggs will hatch.

Patrons are invited to stop in to see the process and even check out a book or two to learn more.

### Police

On Saturday, April 22, the Department participated in the National Drug Take Back Day sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and undertaken locally as a part-

nership with the Town's Prevention Partnership and the Prevention Coordinator.

This year, 34 pounds of prescription medications were collected that were ultimately destroyed by the DEA. All residents are reminded that in addition to these special collection days, the department maintains a prescription Drug Take Back box in the lobby of the police department and residents are welcome to dispose of prescription medications during normal business hours.

Since 2018, the department has collected 1,379 pounds of outdated and unneeded medication for proper disposal, Cox said.

More good news – actually, it's great; during the month of April, the department did not use Narcan, nor did it respond to any medical call in which a family member or other person had used it.

### Senior Center

The Senior Center continues to develop the local transportation system using the town-owned bus, Cox said. The service is provided Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a focus on getting people to the center for activities and the nutrition program. Additionally, the program can offer limited rides

to local doctor's offices, depending on schedule availability. This program continues to be used to complement existing transportation services offered by River Valley Transit.

Cox also said special celebrations and entertainment are being held this month in honor of Older American's month and planning continues for summer and fall, especially for September, which is National Senior Center Month.

### Water Subcommittee

The saga of getting enough clean water to East Hampton continues.

The Town Council's Water Subcommittee met in the last week of April to receive and discuss an update to the planning for implementing a new water source for the existing systems and interconnection and expansion of said systems.

The town's paperwork shows the approximate potential location of various facilities, including water treatment and storage facilities, and the boundaries of service ("pressure") zones based on the town's topography. The subcommittee is planning a public information meeting in early summer to present the plans to date and allow the public to ask questions.

The engineering efforts being undertaken

related to the water system are funded by two grants the town received from the state, totaling \$1.75 million, Cox said.

### Sidewalks

Lastly, town staff has finalized the plans for the grant-funded Village Center streetscaping project and is forwarding the proposed plans to the state Department of Transportation for its approval related to the work.

While a timeline for DOT approval is not known, staff is working toward preparation of the Request for Proposals document on a phased project that is expected to begin late this summer.

Based on final cost estimates and the details of some proposed work, the project will likely need to be broken into segments to address funding availability, Cox said.

The project budget is \$625,000, including \$500,000 from the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program and \$125,000 funded through the town's Capital Reserve Fund sidewalk project and the TIF Fund. To aid in completing more of the project this year, staff is investigating additional grant options that will supplement the available funds, Cox said.

## Impressionist at Next EHAA Meeting

East Hampton Art Association to feature contemporary Connecticut impressionist Leif Nilsson at its meeting and program on Wednesday, May 24, at 7 p.m., at the East Hampton Community Center, 105 Main St.

Inspired by the Lower Connecticut River Valley, Leif (pronounced LAYF) Nilsson paints his plein air impressionistic landscape compositions directly from life. Setting up his easel in and around his hometown of Chester, Nilsson creates garden, Connecticut River and village paintings.

Nilsson completed a full curriculum of classical studies at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme. He enhanced that education with several sojourns to Scandinavia, Asia Minor and Europe where he studied the French 19th and early 20th century painters; Bonnard and

Monet for color; Pissarro and Vuillard for composition and Van Gogh for energy.

A successful working artist for over 30 years, Nilsson continues to exhibit his paintings in several galleries throughout the United States, while also promoting his work through his website, and at the Leif Nilsson Spring Street Studio and Gallery in Chester, where collectors visit him regularly to view and purchase his latest works. The studio is open on weekend afternoons from noon to 6 p.m. and other times by chance or appointment. Learn more at [www.nilssonstudio.com](http://www.nilssonstudio.com).

Artists and students of every level are encouraged to attend. This will be the last program of the East Hampton Art Association until September.

## 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.

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](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org), [www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](https://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue), or send an email to [ctdraftrescue@aol.com](mailto:ctdraftrescue@aol.com).

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. The church is located at 1 East High St. Bible study is Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Lounge.

## Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) will sponsor the Town-Wide Tag Sale Saturday, June 17.

Applications will be available at East Hampton Public Library and the town clerk's office in the new Town Hall building. Free maps will be handed out the day of the sale showing all the participants who are supporting CHS.

For more information, call Debbie Day at 860-267-4732.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

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

**Vocal Choir:** Choir rehearsals are held

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome.

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

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

## 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.

**Early Memorial Day Ceremony**

The Haddam Neck Cemetery Association will hold an early Memorial Day ceremony Sunday, May 21, at 2 p.m., at Rock Landing Road Cemetery.

New flags along with flowers will be put on all veterans' graves starting at 1:45 p.m. The Moodus Drum and Fife will provide patriotic songs. A veteran from East Hampton will give a speech.

Children are encouraged to decorate their bikes or wagons for prizes.

The Haddam Neck Fair Association will provide ice cream and cookies.

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**Catchers' Clinic...** The East Hampton Little League is currently sponsoring an ongoing T-Ball-age catchers' clinic for players currently enrolled in the league's T-Ball program. Pictured in catcher's gear is Jackson Daley, fielding a "swinging bunt" and throwing to his dad Steve at first base. The basic mechanics of the position are being taught. The half-hour clinic is being held Saturdays through May and June. To enroll or learn more about the program, contact Jim Radavich 860-319-9288 or jradavich@yahoo.com.

### East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**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.

**National Trails Day Bike Rodeo!** Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m.-noon, at Center School. Learn about bicycle safety, practice your skills on an obstacle course, register for Summer Reading, and more.

**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.

**Kids Comic Creators: Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales:** Wednesday, May 24, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5. Use the *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales* graphic novels to inspire comics, play games, and learn new illustrating techniques.

**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.

**Kids Comic Creators: Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales:** Wednesday, May 24, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5. Use the *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales* graphic novels to inspire your own comics, play games, and learn new illustrating techniques.

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

**Teen Friday:** Friday, May 26, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. There will be a variety of games, activities and crafts.

**Adult Programs: 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.

**Cookbook Club - The Salad Days of Summer:** Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite salad and copies of the recipe to share.

### EV Owners Sought for Electric Car Show

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force (CETF) invites owners of electric and hybrid vehicles to show off their cars at the Electric Car Show on Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St. Rain date is June 4.

More and more people want to know what it is like driving electric, the CETF said, adding that no one is better to answer those questions than existing owners.

Owner registration is fast and free. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/ehcarshow](http://www.tinyurl.com/ehcarshow) and complete the online registration.

### '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. All are invited.

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](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org) for more information.

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Lunches:** Served 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, 1-3 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 outdoors, weather permitting, or indoors or via Zoom.

**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.

**Old Home Day Parade Meeting:** Wednesday, May 31, 10 a.m. Discussions will take place about how the senior center will participate this year.

**Hayride on the Air Line Trail:** Tuesday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m. Call the senior center to sign up and for more details.

**Movie Day:** Friday, June 9, at 1 p.m. *The Woman King* will be shown. Snacks will be provided.

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

### 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](http://www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org) for information and upcoming events.

### Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library will hold a book sale in the community room of the library, 105 Main St., on Friday, June 9, from 2-7 p.m., and Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Donations of used books in good condition may be dropped in the community room from May 27-June 7.

Email any questions to [friendsfehpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsfehpl@gmail.com).

### Church Tag Sale

St. John Paul II Parish will hold a tag sale at its St. Patrick Church location, 47 W. High St., on Saturday, June 3, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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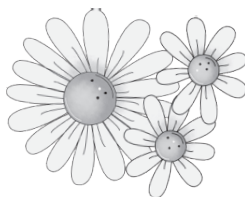
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### Police News

4/30: Thomas Boucher, 53, of 8 Wildwood Lane, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, evading responsibility, traveling too fast for conditions and operating with a suspended license, East Hampton Police said.

5/12: Michael Fazzino, 23, of 10 Birchwood Rd., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension, traveling unreasonably fast and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

From May 1-14, officers responded to 30 medical calls, 12 motor vehicle accidents and 12 alarms, and made 80 traffic stops, police said.



With Dave & Dawn 6:30PM  
Mon. & Thur., At Haddam Neck Covenant Church 17 Haddam Neck Rd, East Hampton, CT. \$10.00 Drop In, 3<sup>rd</sup> class free. \$50.00 for a 10 class card. Email [zumbadave@comcast.net](mailto:zumbadave@comcast.net)



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# First-Gen Farmers Take Root in East Hampton

By Jack Lakowsky

For a little while now East Hampton has been home to a small, first-generation, woman-owned farm, and its owners couldn't be happier to start in a town they say has been nothing but wonderful to them and their young enterprise.

Last April, partners Caley Brooks and Brittany Hall started the long process of making productive again a piece of town that'd been fallow for close to a decade.

The couple found their property in East Hampton and "fell in love" after searching the whole state. Turns out their slice of paradise was right under their noses; as residents of Middletown, they loved the idea of staying in the area.

Last year, the two got their toes wet, growing a small plot of just winter squash and some flowers, no infrastructure or anything like that.

"It needed some love," said Caley.

Enter 2023, and Beets & Blooms Farm is ready and raring to go – it's their first year in full production. They're officially organic-certified and are set to sell at their first summertime fairs.

"We have a big plan for crops," Brittany told the *Rivereast* last week, and they're keeping their flowerbeds going, hoping to sell bouquets of mixed, in-season flowers. This would coalesce with their selling through the Connecticut Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

With CSA, customers purchase shares of a farm's harvest in advance and then receive a portion of the crops as they're harvested. It includes products such as honey, eggs, bedding plants, fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meat.

Hall and Brooks are a team of that rare group – first-generation farmers. Not only that, the business is women-owned and queer-owned, which they noted are demographics that are growing in the agricultural industry. Their neighbors, they said, have been incredibly welcoming and helpful to these young business owners preserve a local piece of farmland. Caley said of all the country's regions, New England loses the most farmland per day.

"Which is unfortunate," she quipped, "considering how many there are, and that most of them need to eat."

Before starting off on their dream, they'd sort of bought into the idea that to own a farm, your family has to own a farm. Happily, this proved not to be the case – Brittany has worked farms for a few years (starting with no experience and no history of farming), and three years ago, decided she wanted land of her own.

Caley's story is a little different. In college she had an inkling to farm, but without one in her family and because she was studying entirely different things, she wasn't sure how to get started.

Either way, farming professionally has always "been kind of something on both our minds."

When they started dating, the conversation of starting a professional farm began. At that time Brittany was at her farm job in East Haddam, loving it, but knowing she could have a far grander career. She was there five seasons and made lifelong friends and mentors with the owners.

Along with friends and mentors, the couple took advantage of the wealth of resources Connecticut has for first generation farmers, especially training for skills you wouldn't expect to need – complex math and/or carpentry, for example, as well as hands on skills, machinery care and all the DIY that farmers excel in.

Starting a farm nowadays has a new, and overwhelming, challenge that didn't hinder farms of past generations – climate change. For centuries climatic reliability fueled farms, and so, fed society. With climate change making weather far less predictable, farmers must contend with drought, floods and extreme heat far more than ever before.

They got this from the jump and had a challenge right at the start of the season. This past winter was a mild one, and the lack of snowmelt has challenged spring plants that depend on the rush of water and nutrients.

"Learning to adapt to climate change has been something to figure out," said Brittany.

To meet like-minded people, the couple joined the New Connecticut Farming Alliance, the state chapter of a national organization, and at Connecticut events, they're encouraged at how many women they see.

"It's really amazing to see the influence wom-



**There's a new farm in town – and new farmers. Starting its first full-production season, Beets & Blooms Farm on Oakum Dock Road, selling fresh, organic crops and flowers. Owners and partners Brittany Hall and Caley Brooks are set to sell at the Glastonbury Farmers Market starting Saturday, June 3, and at the Middletown Farmers Market starting Friday, June 30.**

en have had in New England farmers," said Caley.

The queer farming community is small, but interconnected on a national scale, and the couple is part of the national Queer Farmer Network, an organization connecting workers with queer-friendly farms.

They feel making more visible the existence of women-owned, queer-owned farms, encouraging others to start their own operations, is key to their brand and business.

As is sustainability and green farming.

Though essential the very foundation of society, farms are not innocent in the climate crisis, with fertilizers and industrial farms polluting land, water and air.

"We just love sustainability," said Brittany. "And we love sharing it with people. It's such a vital thing, seeing where your food comes from and how it grows. We want to get people closer to that."

For more information, visit [beetsandblooms.com](http://beetsandblooms.com).

## Christ Episcopal Church News

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

**Sunday School:** New students are welcome. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard for information at [jneelrichard16@gmail.com](mailto:jneelrichard16@gmail.com).

**Diaper Drive:** Diapers in sizes 3 and 4, and Pull-Ups in sizes 3, 4 and 5, can still be dropped off in the Parish Hall. They will be donated to our Covenant to Care Social

### Worker for her clients.

**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:** It is not too late to have your picture taken for the updated church directory. See Dick Napoletano after the service. If your information needs to be updated, contact Regina Starolis at [regina.starolis@yale.edu](mailto:regina.starolis@yale.edu).

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.

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## 5 Simple Summer Car Care Tips

### 1) Coolant System

Keeping cool is essential, not just for ourselves but also for our cars. In addition to checking the level of coolant fluid in your car, allow us to inspect the state of the hoses and the coolant reservoir.

### 2) Wipers

Yes, it's summer, but it's probably going to rain at some point. Worn wipers can affect your vision while driving. Replacing them doesn't cost much and will help your vision while driving.

### 3) Air-Conditioning System

Air-conditioning is a summer essential. If you have an older system, then leaking Freon into the atmosphere is not good. Remember, if there's not enough refrigerant in the system, you have a leak.

### 4) Air Filter

The winter's decomposing leaves may be clogging up drainage points, windshield-washer nozzles or your car's air filter. Now might be a good time to buy a new one or take the current one out and give it a cleaning. When in doubt, call Belltown!

### 5) Tires

Tires really need to be checked regularly all year round. Pressures must be correct, treads should be free of stones, stray nails and the like, and all four should be in good condition. Good condition means no cracks, no uneven wear (this might be caused by a suspension problem) and plenty of tread depth. Summer is a time for road trips so allow us to keep your family safe!

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# How a Life Coach Makes a Difference

By Michael Sinkewicz

"I feel like it's a calling." Earlier this year, Kim Klein opened up Butterfly Life Coaching after decades of working with patients.

Last year, she opened her business in Marlborough before moving to her current Colchester location around four months ago, which is under the umbrella of the Westchester Community Wellness Center.

As a life coach, Klein believes she is thriving and impacting people in ways she couldn't before.

"It really is my passion," she said. "I'm doing what I've always wanted to do. It's a gift and I've got it and I feel blessed."

For most of her life, Klein was engrossed in other forms of medical treatment. She has a master's degree in neurology from the MGH Institute in Boston, a Harvard affiliate, in addition to a degree in physical therapy from Russell Sage College in New York.

After working as a physical therapist for over 30 years and as a professor, her grasp on the mind-body connection is perhaps unmatched.

"I took all that knowledge and said, 'I'm going to be a life coach,'" Klein explained.

About five years ago, she started dabbling in the new profession after earning her coaching certificate. She had a small practice on the side in Ohio as she continued to work as a physical therapist, before ultimately deciding to return to Connecticut, where she's originally from.

"I wanted a brand-new start," she recalled. "I sort of came to this massive realization that I don't want to treat anymore. I loved it and there was a time and place for it but I'm also really good at speaking. I'm gonna go for it."

The transition was "seamless."

She sees numerous clients, typically once a week, but it depends on the person; some people might have sessions twice a month.

But what is a life coach?

Counseling, she explained, typically involves diving deeper into the past. For example, what

happened in your childhood, or details that can be like a "dark hole" for people that need to be explored further by a professional.

"That may not be a perfect client for me," she said. "The client for me knows what they want but they just can't get there. They want to lose weight but they don't have the right steps; they want a better mentality but they've been through cancer and they've lost parts of themselves; they're just a different person."

She takes the pieces of a person and goes through them together, saying, "Does this still fit who I am now?" If it doesn't, that piece is tossed away. Other pieces, however, are worth hanging onto and strengthening.

"We piece you all back together so you feel whole again," Klein said.

She helps address grief and loss, empty nest syndrome, creative block, self-esteem, cancer survivorship and divorce.

Perhaps, somebody is looking for a career change, but lacks the confidence or motivation to take the next step – "You want to do it. Let's find ways to get you do it."

For those who relate to sports, Klein said she is your head coach, offering insight and strategy that will lead to success.

"I'm on the sidelines; like you're playing football and I help you figure out what the best play is," she said. "I say this is your strength or this is something we're going to tweak more."

With clients dealing with immense grief, which can develop in a variety of ways, the goal is to heal and come out even stronger than before.

Klein explained a Japanese saying where a vase is broken and the pieces are glued back together. However, a special metal, like gold, is added to the glue so that when the vase is finished, a golden mixture can be seen in the cracks.

"It's more beautiful than it was before it broke," she said. "That's my job."

Klein emphasized that the key to life coach-

ing is collaboration. Each person is unique and she cannot write a universal recipe.

To get there, she listens and forms a roadmap together with the client.

"We decide," she said. "If you think this is the next stepping stone, why aren't you doing it? It's not in an accusatory way, but why is that hard? Then you unravel it."

She continued, "I put it back on them to empower them. What do you think is going on? And I help pull that out of you because the answer is inside everyone; it's already there. You just need somebody to coach it out of you."

The process does have a final destination. There will be a moment when a person has reached their goal and it's time to wean down the sessions or stop altogether.

"You start where the person is and where they want to be and then you get there," Klein said. "So, there's a time when you're done. We checked the boxes; we did it."

That decision, like the rest of the process, is a collaborative decision. Klein will work with the clients until they agree that they're ready for a new step. The constant check-ins ensure that nothing was missed along the way.

When that moment does finally arrive, it's a surreal feeling.

"I just had that happen," she expressed. "My first client since January just finished."

Klein added, "It's great. You just want to do a dance."

Connecting with clients takes a special talent, she explained, and years of experience prepared Klein to take on the role. As a breast cancer

survivor, she also has a strong grasp on many challenges facing the individuals who walk into her office.

"I also feel like sometimes after a session, people will say I knew stuff about them before they said it," she asserted.

The need for life coaches has continued to spike, as well. During the pandemic, new hurdles emerged and there was a collective sense of uncertainty around the world.

"I think over the past three years, there's been such a need for mental health support," she said. "I think that helped propel the career of life coaching because there was such a need and overflow from counselors."

For now, Klein's main goal is growing her business, but her expertise could expand to other areas. As a gifted speaker, she sees herself giving motivation talks at schools or hospitals, for example.

Sometimes, doctors have little bedside manner, she stated, which leaves people distressed.

"I go in and pick up the pieces," she said, adding that she'd like to speak at medical school programs to offer advice and guidance.

In addition to the local business, she runs a breast cancer support group in New London. She can also do coaching sessions for clients at that location. Besides individual coaching, Klein provides group workshops, including her "Return to Self" seminar that focuses on moving forward after loss.

Her job, she said, makes her truly happy. "It's so fulfilling."

## 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.

## 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 cer-

tificate 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

**Forest Bathing in the Salmon River State Forest:** On CT Trails Day, Sunday, June 4, at 10 a.m., at the Air Line Trail (hairpin parking lot) on Bull Hill Road. CLT board member Andrea Stannard will lead this moderately slow-paced

three-mile, adults-only hike. The hike involves the engagement of all senses, with stopping points along the way for re-centering and observation. Call Stannard for directions at 860-912-0144

**Fairy Solstice Event at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve:** Sunday, June 25; time to be announced. CLT board member Liza Sivek leads this all-ages day of walking along the trail, seeking fairy houses and creating forest-friendly fairy homes from found natural materials. Includes a make-and-take fairy house craft.



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**Senior Center News & Notes**

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

**Monday, May 22:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne, Sittercize; 10 a.m., Stitch & Fix with Maria, by appointment; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

**Tuesday, May 23:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Laughing for Healing Presentation (Aging Unbound); 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know with Patty; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting.

**Wednesday, May 24:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Color-

ing, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Gypsy trip departs; 1 p.m., Life Review Journaling (Aging Unbound).

**Thursday, May 25:** 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 26:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

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

**Colchester Federated Church News**

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

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

**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.

**Parks & Rec News & Notes**

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

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

**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](http://christianlifechapel.org).

**Weekly Schedule:** Bible Study for Men: Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.; Bible Study for women: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Community Bible Study and Prayer: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Fridays: Donuts with Don at 10 a.m. -- this is an open discussion on how God fits in your life.

**Vacation Bible School:** Monday-Wednesday, July 24-26, from 9 a.m.-noon. This year's theme is "Army of God." Contact the church for more information.



**John Jones**

**Jones Retires After 60 Years with CHFD**

Colchester Hayward Fire Department Fire Police Captain John Jones recently retired after 60 years of active continuous service.

Jones joined in 1963 as one of the original cadets, established under Fire Chief Bud Clark. Jones moved up through the ranks from a cadet to a firefighter/EMT to his final position as fire police captain.

Jones held the ranks of fire lieutenant, fire captain, fire police lieutenant and ultimately fire police captain, which he held for over 35 years. Jones was also an EMS instructor, assisting in training new EMS personnel.

The fire police division has provided assis-

tance to mutual aid departments in the area. Jones was always ready to help in any capacity. When there was an event, Jones was on it, handling the logistics to ensure smooth operations and coordination of fire police personnel.

Jones was recognized on several occasions over the years with Exemplary Service of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Fire Police of the Year plaques. He leaves the department having placed thousands of cones and impacting thousands of citizens, the fire department said in a press release.

**Scouts Hosting Drive for 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.

More information about the CLFB is at [www.colchesterct.gov/agriculture-commission](http://www.colchesterct.gov/agriculture-commission).



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[www.ichibancolchester.com](http://www.ichibancolchester.com)

**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, but donations are welcome. For more details about CCO, or for information about joining the choir or orchestra, visit [www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org](http://www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org). CCO is also on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/Colchesterchoirorchestra](http://www.facebook.com/Colchesterchoirorchestra).

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**Scoutmaster Wins Award...** Brian Marburger, scoutmaster of Troop 13, was awarded the Samuel Huntington District Service Award at the Leaders of the Revolution District Volunteer Recognition dinner held April 28. Marburger is a role model in his community and is dedicated to the scouts.

### Eastern Bluebird Program

Connecticut Audubon Society's RTP Estuary Center's Conservation and Educator Coordinator Joe Attwater will deliver a program Wednesday, May 24, at 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

The program will teach people how they can attract bluebirds, as well as other birds, to their property, and which species are likely to visit in Connecticut at this time of year.

This program is co-sponsored by the Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Land Trust,

and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library. It is in support of the Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester and its annual recertification with the National Wildlife Federation.

For more information on Colchester Garden Club, email colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com. For information on Colchester Land Trust, visit www.colchesterlandtrust.org/about. For more on Friends of Cragin, visit www.colchesterct.gov/cragin-memorial-library/friends-cragin-memorial-library.

### Senior Center Trips

Colchester Senior Center is offering a pair of trips. Call 860-537-3911 for more information. Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18.

**Best of Boston:** Tuesday, July 11, departing at 8:15 a.m. See the New England Aquarium, have lunch on your own at Quincy Market, then take a narrated tour of Boston ride aboard the "Duck," an amphibious vehicle that rides on land and becomes a boat in water. Cost is \$138/person. Book your trip at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave., by June 9.

**Block Island Breeze:** Tuesday, July 18. Enjoy a ferry ride for the 12-mile trip to the island complete with an enclosed passenger area, cocktail bar, and galley. There will be a guided tour of the island, lunch at the National Hotel (make meal choice in advance), and time to explore on your

own at the beach or gift shops. The bus departs at 8:15 a.m. and returns approximately 8:15 p.m. The cost is \$150 per person.

**Maine Lobster - Kennebunkport, Maine:** Wednesday, Aug. 16. Have a lobster dinner (or prime rib) at Bull N Claw in Wells, Maine. Then take a guided driving tour of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. There will be time for shopping. Cost is \$139/person. The bus departs from St Andrew Church at 7:45 a.m. and returns at approximately 8:30 p.m. Sign up before July 14.

**Essex Steam Train & Riverboat:** Thursday, Aug. 24, 10:15 a.m. Have a three-course lunch on a restored 1920s Pullman Diner as part of this four-hour train and riverboat sightseeing excursion along the Connecticut River. Cost is \$72 per person. Space is very limited. Registration required by Aug. 1.

### Book and Bake Sale Returns

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold the Book and Bake Sale at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. All are invited.

The sale begins Friday, June 2, from 4-7 p.m., with a pre-sale admission of \$5. The sale continues with no admission charge on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, June 4, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and June 5-7 during regular library hours. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are

the \$5 special days; fill a box or bag for \$5.

The sale will feature books, music, movies, puzzles and games. Baked goods will be individually wrapped for safety. All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends. These programs include, but are not limited to, museum passes, adult programs, children's programs, summer reading programs, and other materials to benefit patrons of the library.

### Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday: Aggadath 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.

### Historical Society Selling Civil War Book

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

The book is now available at the Colchester History Museum for \$20. This book is only available from the Colchester Historical Society. Copies can be purchased at the museum, 24 Linwood Ave., on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Email mail@colchesterhistory.org or call 860 537-4032 to arrange for pick-up or shipping. Books can also be purchased online at www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1.

### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

**Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also broad-

cast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

### Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School meets during the worship service.

**Meetings:** The church hosts several groups meeting weekly: Al-Anon, Wednesdays at 7

p.m.; AA, Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA Troop 109, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; and Cub Scout Pack 109, one Thursday per month at 6 p.m.

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

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

### A Civil War Christmas

St. Andrew Ladies Guild is promoting a new travel opportunity, and all are invited.

A Civil War Christmas will take place in Gettysburg, Pa., from Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Cost: \$555/person double, \$639/person single. Includes: Transportation, hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners, admissions, gratuity for the driver, and escort. Trip protection coverage is strongly recommended.

For full details or to make a reservation, contact Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179 or barbogzzo@gmail.com. The trip is first-come, first-served, so early registration is suggested.

### 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.

For more information, email tagnobark@gmail.com.

### National Stop the Bleed Day

National Stop the Bleed Day is Thursday, May 25, and the Colchester Hayward Fire Department will be holding a Stop the Bleed open house for Colchester residents from noon-4 p.m. that day, at fire headquarters 52 Old Hartford Rd.

This is training for medical and non-medical personnel. You will receive training on how to save someone from bleeding to death before EMS arrives. Stop in anytime to view instructional materials and have a personalized hands-on training session.

For more information, call 860-537-2512 or email firedepartment@colchesterct.gov.

### Project Graduation Fundraiser

All are welcome to a Bacon Academy Project Graduation fundraiser event at Fornarelli's, 112 Halls Hill Rd., on Saturday, May 20.

Dine upstairs or downstairs from 5-9 p.m., and Fornarelli's will donate 10% of sales to Project Graduation, whose mission is to enhance drug- and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all Bacon graduating seniors.

At 8 p.m., the classic rock band In Deep will play in the lounge and is donating its performance fee to Project Graduation.

### Vendors Wanted

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

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

Email tagnobark@gmail.com for more information.

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# Bacon Academy Softball Keeps Grinding

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy softball battled RHAM until the final out last Thursday, showcasing a fight and effort that made head coach Anna Dipierro proud.

“We’re a young team, but they never give up,” stated Dipierro. “They keep their heart in the game and do the best they can.”

Following an eight-run second inning by RHAM, the Bobcats staved off defeat in the fifth inning by scoring a pair of runs to avoid the mercy rule and extend the game for the home crowd at Bacon Academy.

Down 11-0 and facing two outs in the bottom of the bottom of the fifth, junior Jazlyn Small-Yu tripled on a deep shot to left field, scoring Natalia Vernali. On the next at-bat, senior Trinity Georgens connected on a short fly to the gap in left field, scoring Small-Yu to extend the game.

Small-Yu, a junior, connected on a team-high three hits – including a pair of triples.

Dipierro said Small-Yu has been outstanding from the plate and called her the “backbone” of the defense, adding the versatile shortstop is even better than she was last spring when she was an Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) All-Star selection as a sophomore.

Through the team’s first 14 games, Small-Yu leads the Bobcats in hits, runs, and RBIs, also accounting for three of the team’s four home runs.

“She has been amazing,” added Dipierro. “She plays like a senior.”

The veteran coach also complimented her only two seniors, Georgens and Ava McCarvill, for accepting the captain’s role and leading the

young team on field through a season in which the Bobcats have suffered multiple losing streaks.

“They have stepped up as leaders of the team and they are always bringing the girls up when things aren’t going that well,” stated Dipierro. “They always have positive attitudes no matter if we are winning or losing, and they support each other.”

Following the 11-2 loss to RHAM and a 16-0 defeat at Woodstock Academy, the Bobcats bounced back with a 13-1 win over New London at Bacon Academy on Monday.

McCarvill shined, connecting on four hits to drive in four runs and score three more.

Junior pitcher Samantha D’Atri posted her best all-around outing of the season, striking out nine in six innings of work from the mound and scoring four runs from the plate.

The hard-throwing righty has been steady for the Bobcats and Dipierro praised her reliable pitcher for being dependability from both the hill and in the batter’s box.

The win over New London improved the Bobcats to 3-13 and snapped a five-game losing skid.

Dipierro, who has been coaching the program for nearly three decades, noted that the goal is to eventually get the program back into the state tournament, which the Bobcats last made in 2014.

Bacon has three straight home games left, starting with Bolton today (May 19) at 4:00 p.m. They close by hosting a doubleheader against Windham, scheduled for Saturday, May 20, with first pitches scheduled for 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at Bacon Academy.



Bacon Academy junior Jazlyn Small-Yu catches a pop fly as senior teammate Trinity Georgens and RHAM’s Natalie Assunto look on last Thursday at Bacon Academy.

## Memorial Day Activities

Colchester Boy Scout Troops 13, 72 and 109 and Cub Scout Packs 13 and 109 will work with the American Legion and VFW to replace all the American Flags on veterans’ graves on Saturday, May 27. This will entail visiting all 11 Colchester cemeteries and installing new flags.

Should a veteran’s grave be missed, write to the Legion or VFW at P.O. Box 54, Colchester,

CT 06415, and provide the name of the veteran, the cemetery and the location of the gravesite.

Also, all scouting units in Colchester will march in the Memorial Day Parade on May 28. Scouts urge all Colchester residents to either march in the parade with their group, social club or sports team or attend the parade.

## 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.

## Aid and Support After Pregnancy

Knights of Columbus Spellman Council, 6107, is sponsoring an Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) drive the weekend of 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.

## Resident Graduates

Chelsea M. Kranc recently graduated summa cum laude from Simmons University in Boston, with a degree in social work. She will continue there this coming fall for her master’s.

Kranc is the daughter of Andrea and Herman Kranc of Colchester.

## 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.

## Resident Earns Award

Jennifer Sobolewski of Colchester has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University School of Education.

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*News Bulletin in Norway...* Joseph O'Connor of Hebron visited Tromso, Norway, from March 22-29. Tromso is located in the Arctic Circle.

## Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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




*Tiptoe Through the Tulips...* Laura and Al Penda of Amston brought the *Rivereast* with them on a recent trip to the Netherlands Keukenhof Tulip Gardens! They said they were fortunate to arrive when the flowers were at peak.



*Bulletin in Ballycastle...* Roy and Laurie Ivers visited Dark Hedges in Ballycastle, Ireland! Thanks for bringing along the *Rivereast*!



*Down Mexico Way...* Colchester residents Jack and Lori Faski brought the *Rivereast* with them on a recent trip to Mexico, where they stayed at the Iberostar resort in Playa del Carmen.

# Where in the World?

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**★ Letters cont. from page 7**

dict impending environmental collapse, lest we reign in our population, energy usage, wasteful agriculture and materialism. But Christian evangelicals relish that collapse, solicitous of 'End of Days,' 'Armageddon' and biblical 'Rapture.' Who then speaks for all humanity while respecting the original creation? And who thinks only of themselves with selfish tribal egotism?

**Edmund Smith – Andover**

**Flags Over East Hampton**

To the Editor:

The flags were reinstalled by Mother's Day on the Eversource poles along the town's two parade routes, Main Street, throughout our downtown center, along Route 151 in the historic district of Middle Haddam and in Cobalt Center. This program, which is not supported by your tax dollars, occurs through those that so generously donate to the Flags Over East Hampton fund drive. We annually have a goal of \$2,000. Unfortunately, due to the number of storms we weathered last year, we had to replace this spring 150 flags, 50 flag poles and 24 pole brackets, that will cost approximately \$4,000, well above what we typically have to spend to support this program annually. I am hopeful your generous support as in the past will allow us to reach our goal and continue a program that the Town of East Hampton's residents have come to appreciate.

A very special thank you to the East Hampton Fire Department who once again assisted with the installation of the flags this season. We would also like to thank the McCann family, for donating the laundering over 130 flags this past year and very generous donations from Markham Meadows Campground and the East Hampton Rotary Club. Those interested in making a donation may want to consider making a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone who served our country proudly in the armed forces.

Please make your check out to "Flags Over East Hampton," c/o the Town of East Hampton, and send your donation to the attention of Renee Bafumi, Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Your donation will assist the committee in maintaining this worthy program.

**Kevin M. Reich, Chairperson  
Flags Over East Hampton Committee**

**Vote What You Can Afford**

To the Editor:

East Hampton taxpayers are being asked to pass the following budget increases:

- A 3.9% increase for the Board of Education which equals a \$1.3 million addition to their current budget of \$34.2 million

- A 2.9% increase for General Government which equals a \$527,000 addition to their current budget of \$17.5 million.

- The combined budgets equal a 1.17 mill increase to our current mill rate of 34.66.

Also on the ballot, we will have the opportunity to tell our elected officials if we think each budget is too high or too low.

Exercise your right and answer those questions. Vote for what you can afford.

Vote on Tuesday, May 30, at the Town Hall off Route 66 on 1 Community Drive, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

**Sincerely,  
Melissa H. Engel – East Hampton**

**We Can Do Better**

To the Editor:

It is disheartening to read about the "process" by which the Board of Finance and Board of Education set a budget for the next school year. Decisions were made in spite of what appears to be another instance of people responsible for the town's finances not seeming to have a common understanding underpinning their decisions. Those decisions will negatively impact educational opportunities for Colchester's students and seemingly run counter to best practices in education.

As a once and always band parent, the learning opportunities that ensue from the study of an instrument help develop lifelong skills: taking up what may be a challenge, the need for diligence in practice, the ability to work harmoniously with others for a common goal, and joy that can ensue from immersion in the effort. There may be students who will miss that opportunity because of the cost. And, once the camel's nose is in the tent, what comes next for 'play to pay'?

We, as a community, can do better.

**Respectfully,  
Stan Soby – Colchester**

**Save the Date**

To the Editor:

May 30. Set the paper down, and write it on your calendar – or set an alarm on your phone – and pay attention to the rhetoric displayed by the boards responsible for the Board of Ed budget cuts over the next few months. We heard some of it at the last BOF meeting: A vague accusation about a budget transfer that simply doesn't exist; a desire for the special education deficit to be covered by a supplemental tax bill, riddled with malintent.

Even though there's an abundance of finger-pointing going on, and still no clear reason for the cuts made, it's important to note that East Hampton is not an outlier when it comes to increased costs. There's a national conversation happening about rural districts being strapped for funding in an effort to keep up with rapidly increasing educational demands (yes, we should all contact our representatives and demand action – no, our students shouldn't suffer in the meantime). The stats have already been provided. East Hampton has been doing more with less for too long. What is the root cause of the animosity towards

education? Since when did education become something our officials want to "sink their teeth into" to take a bite out of? – with the exception of Councillor Feegel, who deserves credit for advocating for what he felt was right.

As we head to the polls on May 30 as a united front, I leave the student who recently spoke at a Town Council meeting about the screens/monitors that are turned off throughout EHHS with this: thank you for calling attention to this. Those screens are intended to display important information for students, but last year the BOF cut \$1,650 in funding (specifically for the smart stick technology that powers the digital signage) from the capital budget.

Vote No, Too Low on May 30.

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

**The Children Deserve It**

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of the schools and students of East Hampton as the Board of Finance and Town Council seek to undermine them through underfunding. Though neither my husband nor I grew up in East Hampton, we have lived here for 14 years and consider it home. We care deeply about this town and its future and recognize the vital importance of investing in the education systems. We do not and will never have children but are not so foolish or short-sighted as to think that we, as residents and taxpayers, do not still directly benefit from a robust school system. Everyone in town does.

Inflation is rampant and even as it stands, educators are being asked to do so much more with so much less. This proposed budget would callously slash the already meager funds upon which our schools operate. Attacking our schools in a mindless attempt to save a few bucks is town cannibalism and will inevitably cost us all a great deal in the long run. East Hampton is a growing vibrant town whose future can be bright, but only if we do not allow those few who lack a sense of civic duty and community loyalty to steal the right to a solid education from the children. I encourage all citizens of East Hampton to stand strong against cheapskate fast money tactics including underfunding our schools. We are better than shorting children's futures to line our own pockets.

On May 30, please vote in the budget referendum, decline the proposed budget that currently cuts \$800,000 from our schools. The future of East Hampton, the educators of East Hampton, and the children of East Hampton deserve it.

**Respectfully,  
Kate Avery – East Hampton**

**Car Show Thanks**

To the Editor:

We would like to thank everyone who came out to support our 11th Kenny Fletcher Memorial Car Show at Valli on May 6. Although we had to go to our rain date, we still had an amazing turnout. Special thank you to all the show car owners for bringing out your gorgeous cars. Once again it was a huge success, with over 200 show cars. It was a beautiful day and we would like to thank the following people for continuing to volunteer to help each year. Without them it would not be such a success and we would not be able to make our donations.

Thank you so very much, Donny, Jacqui and Megan Etheridge, Karen and Rob Hanna, Colleen, Tom and Rachel Briggs, Lori and Jackie Brown, Tommy, Missy and Ashley Ghent, Lynne and Jimmy Nursick, Shaun Manning, Doug Simmons, Kenny and Beth Burt, Brian Leary, Jimmy Agogliati, Josh Hanna, Ryan Lapila, Dawn Lutecki, Dan (MT Pockets) Pritchard, Clayton Brown, Adam Fontenault, Clayton Puida, Billy Hanna, Michael Hernandez, Butler Construction, Mike Wornoff, Mike Scranton, and Riverast News Bulletin. We would also like to thank Michael Ruffino, Bonnie and Vic Realejo, Portland Ale House and the Town of Portland for allowing us to put up our signs on their properties.

Hope to see everyone again next year.

**Respectfully,  
Michael Bellobuono and Michael Brown  
Portland**

**Dolly Goes Green**

To the Editor:

If you have not been to the Raymond Brook Preserve, off Kinney Road and Church Street, you are in for a treat. Last week it was bursting with flowering trees, birds of all kinds and lush fields of super green hay. I have met people from Colchester, Andover, Amston Lake, Lebanon, Columbia, Glastonbury and even Great Britain. Recently, I met a couple from Windsor. He's U.S.-born while she hails from South America. She was so stunned by the view, she kept saying, "This is how it should be. No buildings. No buildings."

Recently, a present, disillusioned water professional reluctantly suggested "just giving up," and immediately I thought, "what is wrong with people? What if Paul Revere had given up or even over slept? Has the U.S. public lost its revolutionary spirit or are people taking charge?" Personally, I think people are standing up for what's right. We hear more and more reports of outraged citizens pushing back, including Dolly Parton. Her new song "World on Fire" says it all.

Speaking of revolutionary, I am sending out a big thank you to Hebron's Green Committee for their professional and comprehensive letter submitted to Hebron's Board of Selectmen meeting (May 18, 2023 – see agenda). Defending the watershed means a great deal to many of us in Hebron and beyond. The Raymond Brook Watershed is more than a lovely landscape; it is a way of life, our way of life. Hearing others publicly defend our POCD, charming rural

landscape and quiet lifestyles, in addition to defending our drinking water, is a huge and vital leap in the right direction.

The proposed PW facility, slated for Hebron Center, will not be invisible and it will not be silent. Unfortunately, most forms of water pollution are both. #save17

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

**Trumpism**

To the Editor:

The latest AR-15 shoot-up prompted the honorable Rep. Lauren Boebert to reintroduce a bill rolling back the recently passed gun control legislation. Right out of the sixth-grade playbook. Trumpism has affected the Dems as well. Take zero sugar. Sucralose, found while chlorinating chemicals to find a better way to kill insects, was stumbled upon and voila! It will help you lose weight. It doesn't. What it can do is cause hyperactivity in children, increase the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease; drink up. It also changes the microbiome – the little buggers that make you, you. Sucralose, acesulfate k, sweet poison for profit.

Back to Trumpism. Used to be you could count on the snowflake tree-hugging Democrats to love clean air and water to regulate this crap. Wouldn't be a good look getting into people's lives. Right? Leave it to the states. Our health care costs are unsustainable; where's Dick Blumenthal when you need him?

**Tim Rinell – East Hampton**

**Historical Society Thanks**

To the Editor:

The Portland Historical Society sends out a huge thank you to everyone who played a part in our most successful town-wide tag sale ever. We are truly grateful to our generous contributors of items to sell, to Neil's Donuts of Middletown and our own Adams Market for irresistible baked goods, in addition to our many baker friends who provided tables worth of treats. Also, to our volunteers, new and seasoned, who helped get this special annual event organized and set up.

We were delighted to have 135 official tag sale families and friends participate from all around town who registered their sales shown on our large map that was made possible by the generous support of our 34 local business sponsors.

This was a genuine team effort that took months to plan and weeks to organize. We benefited from a brilliant spring day and met lots of new friends and neighbors. Many folks were from out of town which we always appreciate. On behalf of our board of directors and trustees, I offer our humble thanks for a wonderful 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day. Stay tuned for the announcement of events celebrating our 50 years of collecting, preserving and sharing Portland history.

**Gratefully,  
Julie Macksoud, President  
Portland Historical Society**

**Rules for Safe Recreation**

To the Editor:

With summer fast approaching, we begin to make plans for fun under the sun at the town parks. The following list serves as a reminder of the safety rules and regulations for swimming, boating and recreation at Lake Terramuggus and other town athletic fields.

General Rules:

1. The following items are strictly prohibited at all town parks and fields.
  - Use or sale of alcoholic beverages; Operation of unauthorized motor vehicles; Feeding or annoyance of wildlife; Unauthorized camping; Pets (except service animals); smoking or vaping; glass containers; firearms or weapons.
2. No mooring of boats or boats with engines greater than 3.3 horsepower.
3. Parking is restricted to designated areas and for use by town residents with a town parking sticker.
4. Beach closings may occur if one or more inches of rain have fallen within 24 hours.
5. Take out what you take in.
6. Open fires and cooking is restricted to designated areas with permission only.
7. One or more Lifeguards may be on duty between Memorial Day until the end of the season.
8. Parks and athletic fields are open from dawn to dusk.

For a full list, please visit the Parks and Recreation link through the [www.marlbroughct.net](http://www.marlbroughct.net) homepage.

**Louise Concodello, Member  
Marlbrough Lake Advisory Commission**

**Vote No**

To the Editor:

Support education, not an environmental catastrophe.

The location of the proposed Public Works Complex (PWC) has festered in Hebron's soul for months. Selectmen want it, but the May 2 referendum shows citizens do not. Ironically, selectmen elected as "stewards of the town and agents of the people" are now in opposition to the people who elected them. Clearly this situation goes far beyond the issue of a new PWC.

There are numerous historic reasons for preserving 17 Kinney Rd., which is Governor Peters' farm and the last intact farm site in Hebron Center. There are also significant environmental issues.

Recently, the Hebron BOS received a letter from the Hebron Green Committee questioning the ecologic wisdom of locating the PWC on 17 Kinney Rd. It clearly states that no matter how well-designed a new PWC might be, human error or violent weather hold the potential to contaminate Hebron's potable water. The Douglas Library's costly re-roofing project supports this conclusion. The Hebron Green document is well-written and carefully researched, referencing Hebron's stated policies. It should be made available

to Hebron's electorate. before the next referendum or the PWC survey is distributed.

The unique geology of 17 Kinney Rd. has been recognized for millennia, first by Indigenous people and then by Euro-American settlers. The purchase of the Barber farm by Gov. Peters in the early 1800s is one of the earliest examples of open space preservation in Connecticut by one its most significant philanthropic governors! The interplay of geology, ecology and history make this site one of the most outstanding examples of Hebron's rural historic character. The land deserves to be treated respectfully.

Compromising Hebron's educational budget while continuing to promote a PWC project that would destroy Hebron's historic heritage and endanger the regions water system is reprehensible.

**John Baron – Hebron**

**Remember in November**

To the Editor:

Since the failed budget referendum, an additional \$250K was slashed from the BOE budget without even a moment of discussion during a meeting that seemingly only the attendees were aware of. Most of the BOE budget accounts for payroll and special education costs; two things that are set in stone. That leaves very little wiggle room for the rest of the budget, yet the BOF treats it like a retractable allowance for a child rather than a necessary expenditure.

The BOE now has to consider increasing class sizes, downsizing the STEAM program, cutting reading specialists and speech therapists, and laying off tutors. I can assure you that not a single person on the BOE, staff or administration wants to see those cuts. Was the budget presented to the BOF high? Yes, of course. It was kept down during the height of the pandemic by additional COVID relief funding. That funding is now gone, but the need to support these students is not. Scoff if you must, but for those who haven't witnessed the process, I challenge you to find and administration more dedicated to a fiscally responsible, sound, and clearly presented budget.

It's so mind-numbingly short-sighted to not fund elementary schools. The issues that these systems support don't go away. They snowball, becoming more difficult to tackle down the road. And, let's be honest, people don't come to Hebron to listen to 24/7 target shooting. Most of us came here for the school district, but that tax base will cease to grow if we don't fund education and lose this amazing faculty and staff.

The BOF and town management have spent years playing chicken with the BOE budget. I hope they're proud of besting little kids.

Remember this in November.

**Nicole Matthews – Hebron**  
*Note: Matthews is a member of the Hebron Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.*

**Police Legislation**

To the Editor:

I am a police cadet, with the Connecticut State Police. I am going to college, and then to the Army. When I get out of the Army, I plan to look for employment in the law enforcement field. That will be many years from now, and a lot will have changed.

I watch the daily news, and I hear about stories of traffic stops gone wrong, and people being hurt by cops, and people and cops being shot. This line of work is not supposed to be fun, and it is not always going to be safe, but the legislation that police have to work with can have a large impact on how safe a routine traffic stop is.

I want to do this job because I want to help others, and serve my community to the best of my ability, but I want to know that for as long as I serve, and am loyal and treat everyone I encounter with respect, that lawmakers will have my and fellow officers' backs. My career, and my life, and the lives of many others, depends on it. We cannot change the laws on our own, and we need support. I want to know that when I am deployed, and serving to protect our freedoms that we enjoy, that lawmakers will have the uncomfortable, ugly conversations, and talk about the facts that matter. To be the best they can be, police need strong legislation that protects them when they protect others. They also need to be held accountable when they screw up.

I will serve this country to the best of my ability, and I will be humbled to do so, with the best legislation for everyone's personal safety and well-being backing me up.

**Brendan Reas – Colchester  
Bacon Academy student**

**Hebron Goes Green & Votes**

To the Editor:

Thank you to the Hebron Green Committee for taking a stand to protect our environment! I urge all residents to please read the comprehensive report submitted by the HGC to the Board of Selectmen and Building Committee, see BOS Agenda April 18, 2023. This fully documented statement of truth, with two pages of footnotes, is both compelling and profound. The Hebron Green Committee is clear in its message, there are serious environmental risks involved in placing a Public Works facility on the property between John E. Horton Boulevard and Kinney Road. The most environmentally responsible action the town can take is to fix and update the facility at Old Colchester Road. The HGC's exemplary report offers scientific based facts and the Board of Selectmen have a responsibility to act accordingly.

On Tuesday, May 23, we will be heading back to the polls for another Budget Referendum. There will be two important questions on the ballot:

1. Shall the Town of Hebron approve a FY 2023-2024 budget of \$39,065,203.

Please vote no on Question 1. The town needs to return funding to the Board of Education and Open

**See Letters, page 33**



## Obituaries

### Marlborough

#### Daniel Joseph Alfieri

Daniel Joseph Alfieri, passed away at his home in Marlborough Saturday, May 6, with his loving daughters by his side. He was 72 years old. Born in Norwich March 4, 1951, he was a son of the late Joseph and Theresa (LaRowe) Alfieri.



Daniel grew up in Norwich and graduated with the class of 1969 from NFA. He went on to study at Mitchell College and then went on to earn his master's at Southern Connecticut State University. He had a diverse career as an environmental and safety engineer and also as an OSHA safety inspector. He worked for Stanadyne, Electric Boat and several other companies before finally retiring.

Daniel raised his family in Hebron, where he was a member of the Republican Town Committee, a former member of the Board of Education and a communicant at the Church of the Holy Family, before relocating to Marlborough. In his free time, Daniel could usually be found boating on the ocean or with his toes in the sand somewhere. He was a life member of Walker's Dock in Stonington where he entertained many friends and family members while making life-long memories of clamming, scuba diving and boat driving lessons with his grandchildren.

His loss will be mourned by many, especially his children and their spouses, Melissa (Daniel) Jordan of Marlborough, Stephani (Patrick) Whalen of Morristown, N.J.; grandchildren, Aubree, Grace, and Delaney Jordan, Dylan and Benjamin Whalen; brother, Jeffrey (Debbie) Alfieri of Norwich; niece, Jenna (Terrell) Williams of North Hollywood, Calif.; and numerous extended family members and friends, including his beloved cat, Mittens.

Funeral services will be held privately, according to his wishes.

Donations in his memory may be made to Boston Children's Hospital ([bostonchildrens.childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org](http://bostonchildrens.childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org)), or to the charity of one's choice.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of his arrangements. To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Daniel, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

The daughters would like everyone to know that Dan was very stubborn and fought a very hard battle right to the end, and is now flying high as "Superhero Pepe" watching over everyone, breathing easy and with a healthy heart. He made sure to keep us guessing right until the last breath, and made sure he went on his terms, and in the comfort of his home, with his cat and daughters right there with him.

### Portland

#### Mary Sienkiewicz

Mary Elizabeth (D'Emanuele) Sienkiewicz, beloved widow of Joseph T. Sienkiewicz, left this life Thursday, May 11, at Middlesex Health Hospice, peacefully surrounded by her loving family.

Mary was born in Middletown on May 26, 1941, to Salvatore and Mary (Pillarella) D'Emanuele. She moved to Portland on Grove Street, early on and attended St. Mary School, Portland High School and the University of

Hartford, before becoming a bookkeeper in several places including Brownstone Pharmacy, Elmcrest and, briefly, Middlesex Hospital Radiology before retirement to enjoy family and friends.

She married the love of her life, Joe, in September 1961. They made their home in Portland for the 60 years they were together before Joe's passing.

Mary most recently lived at The Atrium in Portland, where she spent the last year happily walking with her friends, playing setback and canasta, and going to bingo in Moodus. She missed going to the casinos with Joe, but was able to enjoy a couple of trips there with her sons and grandchildren. She looked forward to Spa Day every year to relax and celebrate Mother's Day and her birthday.

Mary is survived by her children: Theresa Krauth, Joseph J. Sienkiewicz, Paul C. Sienkiewicz, Thomas P. Sienkiewicz and his wife Sheri (Slomkowski) Sienkiewicz, whom she loved as another daughter. She was Gramma Mary to five grandchildren: Amy J. Krauth, Evan Gustafson, Alexandra J. Krauth, Edward J. Krauth, Beau T. Sienkiewicz, and Carli Sienkiewicz. She was Great Gramma and godmother to Easton J. Gustafson. Brother-in-law William Sienkiewicz remains as the last of Joe's brothers. She leaves many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins. Her dear friends Janice and Richard Stanhope survive her to share their memories of wonderful times with all of us.

There are so many lives she has touched; know that she loved everyone and that she will always be with us in spirit.

She was predeceased by her parents, her sister, Philomena (Joseph) DiMauro, and brother Salvatore Jr. (Norma) D'Emanuele; her in-laws, Raymond (Geraldine) and Edward (Patricia Sullivan) Sienkiewicz.

All of her family on both sides have many members welcoming her to heaven. We are all saddened by her passing, but know that she is at peace with Pops and probably already having fun with all that are there with her.

The funeral was held Tuesday, May 16, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church, Portland, at 10 a.m. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at the funeral home Monday, May 15.

### East Hampton

#### Stasia Bilski Murray

After a long and painful illness, Stasia Bilski Murray of East Hampton has passed and joined her brother Joseph and parents, who predeceased her.

Stasia was born in 1936 in a dirt-floor, thatched-roof-house in Plesna, Poland, to Stanley and Zosia Bilski. At 4 years of age, her family was taken to Germany as forced farm labor. After 4 years of starvation and hardship, American forces took them to a Displaced Persons camp in West Germany. Following four more years in the DP camps, an aunt, Tekla Hanczarek, sponsored the family's immigration to America.

Stasia leaves her husband, Jack (John); her children, John Jr. (Roy) and Patti of Vernon, Susan of Danbury, Stephen and Lori of Acworth, N.H., Douglas and Carrie of Abington, Mass., and Andrew and Lynn of Oakwood, Ohio; and her brother's son, Joseph and Michelle of Glastonbury, 10 grandchildren and two great-



granddaughters.

Stasia was a very active member of St. Patrick parish in East Hampton, the Girl and Boy Scout troops and the school bands. She was employed for 30 years as bookkeeper/accountant for Bailey's Express of Middletown and Haddam Neck.

Stasia had a huge love for books and read constantly. Her favorite pastime was running five miles a day through Haddam Neck until she was 80 years old. Her abundant love was apparent as our extended family grew and grew.

We thank the nurses and aides from the Middlesex Hospice Service who provided care at home for Stasia.

Memorials, if you wish, can be made to the Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Department or East Hampton Ambulance Association. A memorial Mass will be celebrated in July.

### East Hampton

#### Monique Ferris

Monique (Leclerc) Ferris, 87, of North Port, Fla., formerly of East Hampton, wife of the late Donald Ferris, died peacefully at home Wednesday, April 26, surrounded by her loving son and daughter.

Monique was born in Sainte-Claire, Quebec, Canada, the daughter of the late Francois and Azilda (Dorval) Leclerc. At the age of 6, Monique moved to New Britain, with her family and became a U.S. citizen at the age of 12. She worked at Tuttle & Bailey for several years before she decided to stay home to raise her two children. She started working part-time at Pratt & Whitney while her children were in high school, eventually working full-time and retiring at 55 from Pratt & Whitney.

After retirement, she traveled all over the world, with several close friends, for many years, with the last trip traveling with her daughter to Europe in 2019 at the age of 83. She also traveled to NYC several times a year to see Broadway shows and The Rockettes' Christmas shows.

Monique enjoyed volunteering for several years at the Middlesex Hospital gift shop. She was loved by the people she touched, including her family, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and many friends. She was very active with her friends, playing cards, going out for lunch, spending a few hours at the casino, going to the movies, or meeting some of her high school friends monthly for breakfast. She enjoyed living in the warmth of Florida these last few years, sitting outside in the wintertime reading her newspaper, and rocking in her glider on the lanai. Monique was a member of St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton and was a member of several organizations.

Monique is survived by her two children, Ronald (Pamela) Ferris of Savannah, Ga., and Donna Filler of North Port, Fla.; three grandchildren, Christopher (Sara) Ferris of Surprise, Ariz., Amanda Rueda of Lancaster, Calif., and Athena Wagner of San Diego, Calif.; and five great-grandchildren, Domynick, Aislynn, Aliyah, Jordyn and Killian; and her brother, Adrien Leclerc.

She was predeceased by her sister, Lorette Simcic and her brothers, Claude Leclerc and Roland Leclerc.

Funeral services will be held Monday, June 26, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl., Memphis, TN 38105.

To express condolences online, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Marlborough

#### Crystle Fleming

Crystle (Bowers) Fleming, 88, formerly of Marlborough, Conn., and Zephyrhills, Fla., passed away Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022.

Crystle was predeceased by her husband Murvyle "Durfy" Fleming of 65 years.

She leaves behind a daughter Cheryl and son-in-law Mark Mathiau of Marlborough and Zephyrhills, along with two grandsons, Jason and Joseph, and three great-grandsons, Tyler, Jacob and Lucas.

Along with her husband, they had a hobby business of making square dance badges that took them all over the country. Crystle was so proud to have been in all 50 states as well as Canada, Aruba and Mexico.

She will be laid to rest in Marlborough, where she lived for 60 years, on Saturday, June 10, at 11 a.m.

### Hebron

#### Kenna Carpenter

Kenna Jacqueline Carpenter, 66, mother, wife, free spirit, passed away suddenly Friday, April 21, with her husband and children by her side. Kenna lived a life full of love and laughs. She will be remembered for her generosity, distinctive sense of humor, and unflappable spirit. She loved music, dancing, and her family. She will be remembered for her jokes and wit that would often push the limits of a normal conversation.

Kenna was born Aug. 20, 1956, in Bethesda, Md. She grew up with her sisters, Corliss and Lelaini. She traveled the country in her 20s, living in Maryland, Mississippi, Arizona, Florida and then settling in Hebron to raise her beautiful family.

Kenna had a 32-year career working for social services, the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut and the local town Board of Education. She touched many people's lives through all her journeys. Kenna enjoyed reading, games, and brightly burning Christmas trees. Never turning down an invitation to a good bonfire. She spent many summers at the beach with her family and friends; a good book, and cold drink were never found far away.

Kenna loved her family and was never shy about letting the world know. Kenna retired to Hudson, Fla., in 2019 and spent the last four years on one continuous vacation with her adoring husband, Mark, and dog, Banjo.

Kenna is survived by her husband, Mark Carpenter; her daughter, Anna Fagan (and husband Matthew) of East Hampton; her sons, Benjamin Warner (and wife Katie) of Actworth, Ga., and Sam Warner (and wife Carly) of Manchester. Additionally, she had seven incredible grandchildren, Cameron, Avery, Jacob, Michael, Nicholas, Norah and Carter, who will forever carry her creative spirit. She is also survived by her sisters as well as many nieces and nephews, and cousins and friends from all over the country.

Some walk, some run, Kenna waltzed through life and never lost her sparkle. She will be forever missed.

A celebration of life in Connecticut is planned for Saturday, July 8. Please contact Kenna's daughter Anna at [aafagan@hotmail.com](mailto:aafagan@hotmail.com) for more information.

## 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.

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than a family can afford."



## 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, June 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.

Application #22-26: Proposed amendment to the Town of Portland Zoning Regulations: Article 4.1, 5.1 and 6.1, Add infrastructure to public utility use in each section. Application of the Town of Portland.

Application #22-27: Portland Cobalt Road (Land-locked parcel accessed through and located northeast of 984 Portland Cobalt Road). Request for Special Permit Renewal of Sand and Gravel Excavation Permit to Excavate and Remove 150,000 Cubic Yards of Earth Material. Application of Herbert E Butler Construction Company and property of Eversource Energy. Map 33 Lot 27. Zone RR.

Application #22-28: 127 Main Street. Proposed map change to extend Village District Boundary over 1 Quarry Lane and portion of 127 Main Street. Application of the Town of Portland. Map 19, Lot 175 and Map 19, Lot 31. Zone I.

Dated at Portland, CT this 17th day of May 2023  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission



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

★ **Letters cont. from page 31**

Space. Quality education and historic rural character are two of the most fundamental reasons we live in Hebron. The town has taken no action to control spending or cut from its own expenses and needs to be held accountable.

2. Shall the Town of Hebron approve a FY 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program budget of \$602,886.

Please vote yes on Question 2. The \$245,000 Public Works design expense has been cut from the CIP budget. Now the town needs to adjust the town budget and find new ways to fund education.

For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

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

**Budget Voice of Reason**

To the Editor:

Colchester, this is the first of several installments I will be providing to keep you, the taxpayer, educated going into the referendum. This week I am going to share my thoughts on the school budget.

Why are we rewarding failure with funds that will not benefit our students? Over the past 10 years our enrollment has declined by 33% while our funding has increased by at least that much. Our test scores have declined, truancy is up, and college admittance is down. I would conclude that throwing money at the problem is neither helping nor producing a better product. On top of that, the superintendent is looking for a \$50K raise, and our educational leadership has made such poor business decisions that it has led to legal jeopardy and settlements. The school also used ARPA funds to hire staff and those funds are now gone and as a result it will leave behind a commitment that they can't afford. In addition, Colchester is acquiescing to unfunded state mandates, whereas surrounding communities have chosen to defund the state by cutting the unfunded mandates.

Every year the school organizes its supporters to attend the budget meetings to show what appears to be overwhelming support. Every year we hear how reducing the budget will hurt our children and every year I point out to you that we are only looking at cutting the increases. In recent history I cannot recall a time that we reduced the collection of increases that now make up the school budget.

Every year the BOE threatens your children with cuts that it is choosing to make. Think about it for a second; they are looking to student programs, why cut those? Why not cut the unfunded mandates or the obscene raises?

Thank You,  
**Taras W. Rudko – Colchester**

*Note: Rudko is chairman of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, but is speaking as an individual.*

**Made for the Shade**

To the Editor:

Those of us with shady yards can find ourselves challenged when visiting garden centers. Sun loving plants seem to be everywhere and the options for shade often seem few. Take heart shade gardeners- there are some great choices! And pollinators love these! For full shade, think yellow with golden groundsel, bush honeysuckles or celadine poppies, white with Snakeroot, foam flowers, ghost beard and Solomon's seal, blue with lobelia and for pinks, astilbes. And of course, hostas offer a wide range of sizes and colors.

Red columbines, tall bellflowers, bleeding hearts, Jacob's Ladder, Wood phlox, Crane's bill geraniums, turtleheads (Chelone glabra), swamp milkweed, coral bells, bee balm and evening primroses all add color through the season and wonderful differences in leaf color. There are many native asters. Wild ginger, strawberries and bunchberries can make great ground covers.

Don't forget the world of ferns – so graceful and lush. Use them as a statement or create beautiful understory beds.

Finally, many of the prettiest shrubs prefer part to full shade. Think about viburnums, sweet pepperbush, azaleas, mountain laurels and rhododendrons. I love the Pagoda dogwood, Redbuds and the native honeysuckles.

Your shade gardens can be beautiful. Enjoy!

**Candace O'Shea – Hebron**

**Value Teachers by Voting No**

To the Editor:

Dear East Hampton Community of small, tall, young, elderly...we need you all!

I am writing this letter to help others understand the need to 'vote no – too low' for the education budget during the upcoming referendum. Being an educator myself, a town parent, and a concerned taxpayer, I am worried about the impacts to our schools, children and community. We are at risk of losing five certified teachers, even though we are currently operating with less certified teachers than we had in 2009.

The need for these professionals is great. The social-emotional well-being and academic sacrifices are immeasurable. We *must* invest in our children and our town. 85% of the education budget is to pay teachers as professionals and provide benefits. When asked to cut, there is nowhere to get that money except to eliminate teachers.

Teachers are the backbone of our schooling and it is vital that they be valued in order for our children to truly become the best they can be. Successful schools – successful adults – successful citizens who want to give back to their community. This all starts with teachers. Please consider this for the greater good of our society today, tomorrow and for the future!

As Frederick Douglass once said, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Please 'vote no – too low' and let us work together

to build strong children with the education they deserve.

Sincerely, **Jessica Grenier Johnson  
East Hampton Resident and Parent**

**No Again to Town Budget**

To the Editor:

The recent budget referendum, which was defeated by more than 2-1, showed once again that the town government does not act for the citizens of Hebron, but rather is captive to a small group of insiders and consultants. Not one elected leader spoke out against the budget excesses. Not one spoke out against the Public Works boondoggle that would have changed the fabric of Hebron.

In response, the BOF permitted the town to cut the \$245K PW workplan from the CIP budget because no budget will ever pass again with it in it. There were no cuts from the town budget.

Meantime, instead of using the \$2.8M of Hebron ARPA monies to defray town budget costs, insiders have spent the money like drunk sailors largely on their own pet projects that voters "would never pass" (BOS, 5/8/2023, Transcripts).

The BOF directed that \$250K be cut (on top of \$1M previously cut) from Hebron children's education. FOIAed BOF/BOE emails showed that not one member considered the devastating impact of the pandemic on children's school performance and mental health. Instead, a selectman, who has himself benefited mightily from public education programs, stood up against preschool funding while passionately advocating for a \$50K dog park. His slogan: "revenue neutrality for children, but not for dogs!"

The town government, BOS and BOF act with a herd mentality. These members are cowed by certain elected old folk who refuse to retire. As such, our mill rate continues to climb funding pork-barrel projects at the expense of the town's future. We've stopped one, Public Works in the Town Center. Now, we need significant town budget reductions. On May 23, please vote no on the town budget! (And, yes on CIP.)

**John Collins – Amston**

**Reject the Budget**

To the Editor:

I want to urge all eligible East Hampton voters to come out to the East Hampton budget referendum on May 30 to vote no, too low on both the town and Board of Education budgets. Residents deserve to have the services, that the current budget proposals would cut. Our public safety force must be supported with sufficient staffing. Times have changed, and we must keep up with the added challenges of today's world.

Our schools have done more with less for years already. There is no more digging deeper. Teaching is stressful enough as it is and the proposed staffing cuts would have long term devastating effects on staff stress and moral, not to mention that students would be robbed of a quality education by the nature of larger class sizes, and less resources.

It puzzles me that the Board of Finance and the Town Council expect our public safety and education departments to do exactly what they say residents of East Hampton cannot. Do more with less. The logic of this escapes me. It's is not possible without dire consequences. I understand the challenges of a tight budget. I find it still easier for a household to save \$20 a month, than the BOE finding \$600K to cut. Contractual obligations have to be met, buildings have to be maintained, heated and lit. Money must be restored to these budgets. Vote no, too low!

Respectfully,  
**Irene Kuck – East Hampton**

**Birdon Noise**

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Rivereast for their great article in exposing a terrible situation in our once quiet and peaceful Portland neighborhood. I did want to point out two things not mentioned.

No. 1. Birdon bought this property and it is zoned residential...not industrial. And No. 2... why do we and our neighbors have to put up with this for who knows how long? A big, responsible company would have addressed this beforehand. They need to cease and desist until they can comply with the laws. Why do we have to suffer their poor management.

Also, on a side note...how does something like this happen? They just come in and steamroll their way in and change the fabric of our neighborhood? It's like having a neighborhood auto body shop in your neighborhood, they change hands, and now there is a GM production facility next door...how does this happen without any public input or referendum, or even traffic study? Portland was hoodwinked...and Birdon knew what their plans were and did not care about our community, only their million-dollar contract.

We want our old neighborhood back...you are not welcome here. Fix the noise or stop until you do!

**Virginia Duclos – Portland**

**Protect Our Students**

To the Editor:

East Hampton residents, please make sure to vote on Tuesday, May 30! Your voice has far more impact at a town budget referendum, than at any presidential election!

The Board of Finance and the Town Council have cut both the town and education budgets, forcing our town and our students to lose important programs and staff.

Our town is losing police, ambulance and senior center funds! Our schools are losing teachers that will result in class sizes of up to 26 students. We are also losing a librarian and mental health services for our kids, at a time when mental health is incredibly important.

Don't let Mr. Philhower fool you into believing he

is doing what is best for our town. He has pressured other Town Council members to side with him, and refuses to listen to town residents. His "agenda" was made perfectly clear at the 5/9 Town Council Meeting when he mistakenly thought a vote had passed, because he had already discussed with his fellow board members how they would vote, and did not expect them to vote against him.

He advocated that he would support education when he ran for election, and instead he is opting to be the "hero" that saves tax dollars at the expense of our residents.

At the same meeting Mr. Goff suggested that we don't need as many police officers and compared us to Colchester, who has less officers. The fact is Colchester is supported by a resident trooper, the state police, and is currently at risk for losing their accreditation! We have seen an increase in car thefts and break-ins! We need more officers, not less!

Protect our town. Protect our students.

Vote no, too low!

**Karen Wanat – East Hampton**

**Corona-tion of a King**

To the Editor:

After waiting a lifetime, Charles, the sausages-fingered "Red Dragon" was finally crowned King of England. It couldn't have come at a better time, with the springtime coronation happening just days after Beltane...the rebirth of the monarchy. While the media likes to portray the Royal family as a vestigial hold over of tradition/symbolic power the general public

isn't aware just how evil/controlling these people are.

Charles spent his younger days psychologically abusing/alienating his wife, palling around with his best friend – notorious pedophile and necrophiliac, Jimmy Savile, and playing polo/painting watercolors in between royal speaking engagements where he promoted his Malthusian beliefs to the world's elite. While his father, Philip, dreamed of reincarnation as a virus to solve the world's "overpopulation problem," King Charles isn't one to sit idly by and wait for nature to act.

Charles, coincidentally one of the first global figures to contract coronavirus, and was a keynote speaker at the 2020 WEF meeting where he called for a "Great Reset" and urged us to "Build Back Better" in the wake of the plandemic. He is the first person to use these buzzwords and has put his full power behind the establishment of a neo-feudal society that will "reset" us back to the days of kings and serfs. Remember, "you'll own nothing...and like it" by 2030.

While Charles summers in the Transylvanian castle of Vlad the Impaler, he never takes his eye off the sustainability prize, calling for a restructuring of global society and a "New Marshall Plan" to counter climate change while promoting his "Terra Carta," replacing Magna Carta with a new societal contract for the Earth while profiting off the scheme with his "Sustainable Markets Initiative" in hopes of a "greener" (\$cha- chings\$) future.

While there is nothing new under the sun, it's still good to be the king.

**Colin McNamara – Marlborough**

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

★ **Air Line Trail, cont. from page 1**

limited to pushing to Congress just 15 requests. East Hampton was one of the few to make the cut. Members of Congress can ask the legislature to fund in-district projects from nonprofits or municipalities.

"You have to sort the requests to come up with a package that's ready to go, that really fits all the criteria," Courtney said. "Kudos to the town; they submitted a strong request."

Courtney said satisfying the Army Corps' requirements "takes real elbow grease."

The congressman said the fact that the project was attractive to officials because, though centered in Belltown, the work benefits a great tract of eastern region towns.

"That was a major selling point," said Courtney. "The multitown regional benefit really jumps off the page when competing against other requests."

The project also has health benefits for residents.

If they were so inclined, ambitious hikers could start their trek in East Hampton and make their way all the way to the Quiet Corner where, Courtney said, another trail, the Quinebaug, received funding to be made handicapped accessible.

Last month the feds awarded \$1.4 million in community project funding to help pay for the long-awaited boardwalk in a stretch of Belltown's share of the Air Line Trail, a walkway that will bridge a stream.

Town Manager Dave Cox told the *Rivereast* the boardwalk has been planned for years. Progress

was made in recent months when Eversource started removing old telephone poles in the same area, to be finished soon, Cox said.

The money was included in the federal government's budget package, passed late last year.

In a release Courtney said the investment will pay dividends for the town's economy. He said a completed trail will draw outdoorspeople from all over the state, and that, on his own, he's observed people leaving the trail and heading to the Village Center.

The trail's completion will make this easier, he said. Connectivity to the Air Line Trail has been a goal of Village Center businesses for some time. East Hampton's downtown is one of the only ones right on the trail, and one of the largest.

"This project has been in motion for several years" said Jeremy Hall, saying he's happy the funding finally went forward, saying that it could be of use to hundreds of thousands of people.

"I think the optimistic person might think work would start on that maybe this fall," said Cox. He said work can be done in winter too. Hopefully, the new boardwalk will be open next spring.

**BLISH MEMORIAL BATHHOUSE RENOVATION  
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](http://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

**Legal Notice  
Andover Inland Wetlands and  
Watercourses Commission**

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on May 10, 2023:

• Application #**IWWC 23-05**: Eric Anderson (Town of Andover), **17 School Road**- Construction of an approximately 75-foot-by-33-foot Community Garden and removal of approximately 0.15 acres of trees within the 100-foot Upland Review Area of a wetland. Location and dimensions of the garden and associated fill and grading plans are indicated on the site plans and project description submitted on 05-09-2023.

The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at [www.andoverconnecticut.org](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org).

1TB 5/19

**MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC  
DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
6:30 pm at TOWN HALL  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:  
Application 580 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 46 Keighley Pond Road --- to construct a three rail fence with wood posts for horses. If that cost is prohibitive then a flexible rail horse fence will be constructed --- for applicant Theodore Hintz Jr.

Application 581 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 105 Middle Haddam Road --- to replace a exterior entry door on the addition left front side of the house with another nine lite door from a historic Virginia church --- for applicants Andrew and Christy Gorman.

The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

Dated: May 17, 2023  
Regina Starolis, Clerk, MHDC

1TB 5/19



# FOR SALE

**DUMP TRAILER BUSINESS FOR SALE:** Owner retiring. One truck and eight trailers. \$120,000. No financing. Rich 860-881-4745

**END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT.** Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **The Glastonbury Citizen** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

**FOR SALE GARDEN TOOLS:** Gilson Rototiller with cultivator attachments \$500. Garden Tractor Brinley Harrow \$75. Lawn Aerator \$50. 860-633-4836.

**FOR SALE:** French Black Copper maran well-started pullets. Hatched 2/28. \$30. 8608100832.

**FOR SALE:** Older King Size maple headboard great shape \$50. 4 Gun Oak Locking wall mount gun rack w/ drawer \$100. 860-295-9974

**FOR SALE:** Solid Maple Desk with 8 drawers, \$225. W-43", L-21", H-30.5" Must pick up. Call 860-633-3812

**FOR SALE:** Solid Wood Mission Style single bed frame, \$125. Call 860-633-3812



## TAG SALES

**TAG SALE:** 5/20 9-3, 255 Ceder St, Newington. Household items, Harley clothing, crafts, xmas items, tools.

**ESTATE SALE:** 60 Wangonk Trail, East Hampton. May 20th, 8am-1pm. Household items, glassware, books, pewter items, smart tv, some furniture.

**HUGE TAG SALE:** Saturday May 20th, 9-12, 317 Waterhole Rd. East Hampton. Liquidating all items. Mega mens tools. Rain or Shine. We negotiate all fair offers.

**FLEA MARKET at WAIM:** Saturday, May 20th 8am-12pm. 866 Main Street, Willimantic. Lamps, pictures, VTG records, glassware, curio cabinets, telescope, brass bed, costume jewelry.

**TAG SALE!** Sunday, May 21st. 8-Noon. Rain date Sunday, May 28th. Tons of baby gear, clothing, toys, outdoor power equipment, home decor, and more. 152 Penfield Hill Road, Portland.

**DOWNSIZING:** Sat 5/20 10am-3pm 14 Sherry Drive EHampton. Clothes, furniture, books, kitchen, kids and sports items. Rain 5/21

**MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE:** Saturday May 20th, 830-1p. 264 Old Colchester Rd. Amston. TVs, tools, china, framed art, exercise equipment, metal weights, and kitchen items.

**TAG SALE:** Saturday May 20th 9am -12pm. 148 Hubbard Street, Glastonbury. **PLEASE NO EARLY BIRDS.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE:** & Estate Sale, Cromwell Hills Condominiums May 20th & 21st. 9am - 3pm. Estate Sale location 2 Hemlock Court Cromwell. Call with questions. 860-635-6049.

**ESTATE SALE:** Saturday May 20th, 9am-2pm. 128 Lakeside Dr, Andover. Tools, furniture, household items, kids items, and more.

**TAG SALE:** Cromwell Hills Phase 1 over 20 units dvds to furniture, antiques, toys etc. Something for everyone. Rain or Shine. May 20 & 21, 9am-3pm.

**ESTATE/TAG SALE:** 192 Kinne Rd, Glastonbury. May 20-21, 10-4 (please, no early birds). Vintage decor and collectibles, fine china, furniture, artwork, kitchenware, jewelry, clothing and much more.

**MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE TO BENEFIT MS (Team Sabrina):** 630-730 West Road, Salem, CT. Saturday & Sunday May 20 & 21. 9am-3pm. Something for everyone. Including local craft items.

**TAG SALE:** Saturday May 20th, 9am-4pm. 24 Phillips Farm Rd., East Hartford. Decor, lots of curtains, bar stools, wall art, and more.



**HUGE NEIGHBORHOOD TAG SALE:** in Historic New Britain Neighborhood. Big historic houses! Lots of stuff! Neighborhood-wide tag sale takes place Friday, Saturday, Sunday May 19, 20, 21, 9am to 2pm daily, in the New Britain West End Historic District, on Forest, Liberty, Vine, Woodbine, Murray and Adams Streets. NINETEEN participating homes with something for everyone- furniture, kitchen appliances and gadgets, home goods, antiques, many vintage items, ephemera, lamps, clothing, tools, toys, children's clothing, photo equipment/supplies/costumes/backdrops, vinyl records, and so much MORE! Notable items: Vintage Hitchcock ladder-back chairs, old wood-fired cook stove, vintage Daisy rifle, vintage train set, vintage doctor's scale, new wood picture frames (standard sizes) and photo equipment, 2006 5-speed Subaru Impreza, running condition. All sellers are eager to sell, sell, sell! Pick up a map at any sellers location and visit all the participating homes, all within walking distance. NOT TO BE MISSED! All participants may not be selling on all three days. No early birds! All sales begin at 9:00am.

**ESTATE/TAG SALE:** 192 Kinne Rd, Glastonbury. May 20-21, 10-4 (please, no early birds). Vintage decor and collectibles, fine china, furniture, artwork, kitchenware, jewelry, clothing and much more.



# EMPLOYMENT

## 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. 3TB 5/19, 5/26, 6/2

## Senior Center Activity Specialist (Part-time Position Opening)

**Activity Specialist**  
The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Senior Center Activity Specialist. Duties include the coordination and implementation of programs, special events and activities and management of facility usage. Experience working with older adults, strong customer service, and communication skills required. First aid and CPR a plus. This is a part-time position, Monday-Wednesday 9:30AM-2:30PM with some flexibility to meet the needs of the Senior Center. \$16.00 per hour. A valid Connecticut driver's license is required. Applicants 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 Human Resources at lseymour@east-hamptonct.gov by 6/1/2023, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F. 1TB 5/19

# NOW HIRING: Cook \$18-\$25/hour Busser \$15-\$16/hour



**PT/FT Negotiable, with an excellent benefits package for FT employees.**



**Apply online at:**  
[www.foxhopyard.com/join-the-team](http://www.foxhopyard.com/join-the-team)  
**Or in person at:**  
1 Hopyard Road, East Haddam, CT

# EMPLOYMENT

**FULL TIME CARE GIVER:** needed for elderly man in Portland. Call Susan 860-685-1966.

**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

**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



## CAREGIVER NEEDED

Non-medical, mostly companionship, meals & light housekeeping. Colchester. Part-time days. Great small caring agency. Must have caregiving experience, paid or non-paid & pass background check. Looking for long term employee. Mon-Sat hours. Older adults encouraged to apply. Immediate work. **Call 860-967-0831**

## Assistant Mechanic / Maintainer 4

DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS – VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DIVISION  
Town of Portland, CT (EOE)  
Deadline: 5/31/2023  
Wage Range: \$29.18 to \$34.85  
Send Town CDL application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480  
Or email: [mceppaglia@portlandct.org](mailto:mceppaglia@portlandct.org)  
Full time Assistant Mechanic/Maintainer 4 position in the DPW Vehicle Maintenance Division; 40 hours weekly (M-F) starting wage: \$29.18; AFSCME union with fringe benefits. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing, Clearinghouse & DMV background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Go to [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) for job details & application. 1TB 5/19

## Dental Assistant

Colchester Dental Group is seeking a full time Dental Assistant for a modern 2 doctor and 3 hygienist dental practice. Primary duties include assisting very high quality dental procedures, digital x-rays, impressions, temporaries, overseeing bleaching procedures and supply ordering. Hours 8:45 - 5:30 Tuesday through Friday, and some Saturdays 8:45 to 1. We are a very low turnover office and are looking for an experienced professional for the long term. Salary negotiable, Experience with Dextrix and Dexis a plus! Also, seeking a temporary assistant position to start asap for approximately 8 weeks. Please send resume to: 79A Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 or email to [info@ColchesterDentalGroup.com](mailto:info@ColchesterDentalGroup.com)

# GOODSPEED MUSICALS

## WE'RE HIRING!

### Administrative

- Box Office Reps
- Ushers
- Membership and Annual Fund Manager
- Payroll & Benefits Coordinator
- Development and Membership Assistant

### Production

- Props Artisan
- Stagehand
- Drapers
- Carpenters
- Costume Rentals Asst.
- Audio Assistants
- Lead Hair & Wig Stylist

**Work at your local theatre!**

**Details at [goodspeed.org](http://goodspeed.org)**

# Assistant Teacher Colchester Cooperative Nursery School

**Location:** 80 Main St, Colchester, CT 06415

**Terms:** Part Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m and 12:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m, following a school year calendar

**Salary:** \$7,800-\$8,700

**Requirements:** A high school diploma or GED is required, Early Childhood Education or Experience is preferred.

### ABOUT US:

- CCNS is entering our 65th year of operating a high quality preschool in Colchester.
- We are committed to each child achieving his/her highest potential academically, socially, and emotionally. Please visit our website at <https://colchestercoop.com/> to learn more about our current teachers, history and mission.

### ABOUT THE ROLE:

- The Teacher's Aide will help the head teacher and the parents of CCNS in teaching and supervising the children safely and in accordance with CCNS bylaws.
  - The Teacher's Aide will fulfill continuing education courses.
  - The Teacher's Aide will be allowed paid time off, bereavement days
- RESPONSIBILITIES:**
- The Teacher's Aide will be required to attend the following training sessions, as required by state law: First Aid Training, CPR training, Injectables Training, and Administration of Oral Medications Training. The Teacher's Aide shall follow and adhere to all State of Connecticut licensing requirements.
  - The Teacher's Aide may be required to work additional CCNS events such as parents meetings, executive board meetings, open house, graduation, and other special events.

Please send a resume, cover letter and three references by May 31st to [ccns.colchester@gmail.com](mailto:ccns.colchester@gmail.com). Interviews will be held at the beginning of June and the position would start in August.



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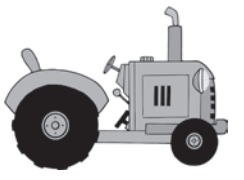
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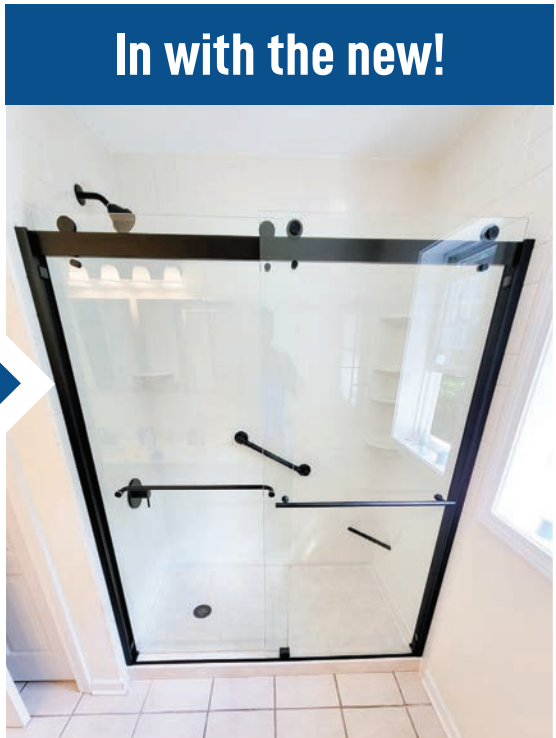
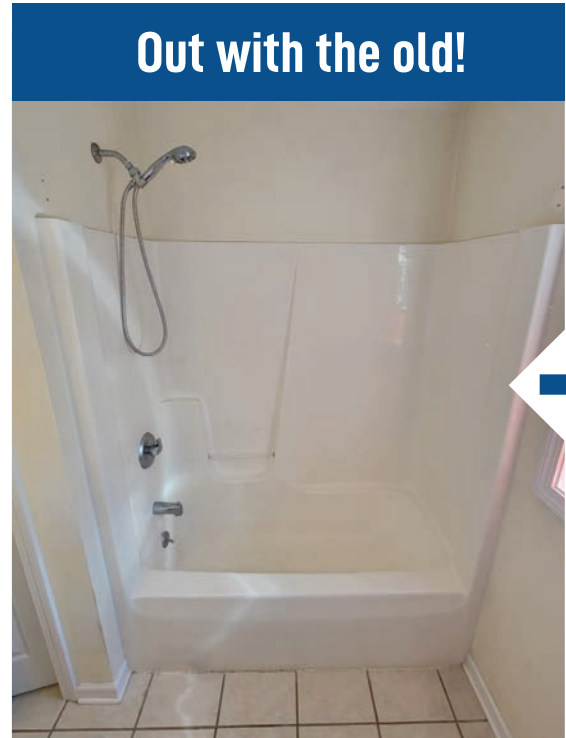
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