RIVEREAST =

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

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May 5, 2023

Hebron Lions Donate \$100K to Area Causes

The Hebron Lions held their annual "Night of Giving" last week, donating \$100,000 to numerous local charities and causes.

Former club president John Johnson Jr. said during the event, held at the Lions fairgrounds on April 26, that the two main sources of donation funding were the new Lights in Motion initiative — an extravagant light show put on over the holiday season – and the annual favorite, the Hebron Harvest Fair. Johnson said last September's fair was the Lions' second most-attended event in the last 20 years.

Throughout the night, Lions members introduced and recognized different charities before presenting the groups with their donation — often in the form of fun oversized checks.

The totality of the night, and the seemingly endless string of donations, became almost overwhelming at times.

"It's affirmation of why I work so hard throughout the rest of the year," Johnson told the Rivereast.

Members of local institutions humbly accepted donations, including RHAM Youth Football and Cheer, the Douglas Library, and Hebron Interfaith Human Services. Money was also given to many other groups whose members weren't in attendance.

What became undeniable is that the Hebron Lions Club touches a variety of charities across the state, impacting many unique causes.

'They're our biggest club," said Mary Krogh, the current president of East Hampton Lions, and a past Lions district governor. She oversees Lions activity from Maryland up to Maine, and said Hebron's influence is perhaps unmatched.

Wishes on Wheels, which serves as an external fundraiser for Make a Wish CT, received



The Hebron Lions held their annual "Night of Giving" last week, donating \$100,000 to numerous area charities. Among the groups receiving donations was Wishes on Wheels, whose members are shown here. Wishes on Wheels received \$35,000 presented by Lion Russell Strumskas.

\$35,000 from the Lions.

"For us, it's huge," said the organization's president, Mark Picard.

Wishes on Wheels recently passed the \$2 million mark with its contributions to Make a Wish, in large part due to the partnership with the Lions.

"The Hebron Lions last year became our largest donor in our history and then this year, they surpassed it," he expressed.

Picard, and the whole group, were greatly involved in helping with the Lions' lights show, including construction of the course. He emphasized that despite any challenges associated

with organizing or preparing for the show, the end result is more than worth the effort.

"It's fun because I know what the Lions' goal is; it's a night like tonight," he said. "Our money is going to grant wishes for families with children that are battling health issues.'

He added that "it's been an incredible oppor-

The atmosphere of the night certainly encouraged socializing. Members mingled with guests, all wearing name tags to make for smooth interactions, and exchanged stories. Picard asserted that for him, the personal connections have

"I've gotten to know some of the members and become friends with them because they're just good people," he said. "You meet people you respect. They're trying to do something good and benefit the community and you're doing the same thing and you end up helping each other - it's something that's rare and hard to find."

Wishes on Wheels brought wish recipients each weekend throughout the holiday season for the lights event, which the Lions also appreciated.

"It was nice to get to meet the families that had wishes granted and see the impact," John-

Many of the speakers got emotional when trying to express their gratitude. Dominic Mantuano, executive director of Connecticut Burns Care Foundation Inc. — a camp for children who are victims of burn injuries — told the packed room of Lions that he could "never thank them enough."

Mantuano was a firefighter for 13 years and sang to children in burn centers; he is also an entertainer. After visiting the camp, free to children ages 8-18, and seeing the children come together, he felt that he was "called on" to work for the group. Mantuano was a 9/11 responder and expressed that he didn't get this specific feeling until visiting the camp.

"It took everything I had to stand and not be brought to my knees because these children are just that strong," he said after the event.

The children were not born with the pain but they live with it, he said, and the one-week camp and the group's programming leaves them recharged.

Overall, it costs around \$2,500 to send a kid to camp — but they never pay a dime, Mantuano confirmed. With the donation the foundation received, a life will be affected.

'That money is going to cover a child to go to camp for the entire week," he said.

See Hebron Lions Donation, page 8

Calls to Resign Follow Heated Meeting

By Michael Sinkewicz

Calls for two Colchester officials' resignations are being made following a contentious Board of Finance meeting on April 25.

Finance board member John Thomas and First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, both Republicans, called on finance board Democrats Mike Egan and Mike Hayes to resign this week.

In two letters to the editor in this week's Rivereast, both Thomas and Bisbikos stated their requests were the culmination of behavior both during the meeting and outside of Town

Egan and Hayes both told the Rivereast they do not plan on resigning.

Thomas wrote that both Egan and Hayes conducted themselves inappropriately during last week's meeting. He stated that they sent out false statements that damaged the town and its employees and that one member threw a "temper tantrum" and stormed out of a meeting.

"I am asking for their immediate resignation, as they are putting their own agendas ahead of

the townspeople that voted for them," he stated. In his letter, Bisbikos admonished Hayes for

providing an email chain to the Rivereast, which resulted in a story about the town finance direc-

Hayes, he wrote, "originally denied involvement but later confessed" and should resign.

Bisbikos continued by stating that Egan left the meeting shouting an expletive and then confronted Jason LaChapelle, a member of the Board of Selectmen, who was participating in the meeting virtually via his cell phone. Bisbikos said he called the police in regards to the situa-

The Meeting

The April 25 meeting was a finance board workshop centered around the town budget proposal. During workshops, the chairman typically allows citizens more leeway to speak, often extending the normal three-minute allotment per-person.

Thomas, vice chair of the board, presided

over the meeting, as chairman Andrea Migliaccio was absent.

LaChapelle made a comment referencing the 'leakage" of emails to the Rivereast. He asked both Egan and Hayes if they were responsible.

Last month, school board chairman Alex Oliphant and budget committee chairman Chris Rivers emailed town officials regarding potential payroll deadline concerns.

At the time, town finance director Mary Williamson told the Rivereast that the situation and potential concern "had already been resolved."

In general, LaChapelle took issue with the email correspondence from the school board being made public.

"It's completely and totally improper for elected officials to be leaking private communications that have to do with town employees that effectively accuse a town employee of purposely being derelict in their duty and trying to effectively screw the Board of Education out of

Inside...

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Notice for Andover Veterans

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

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

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

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

Congregational Church News

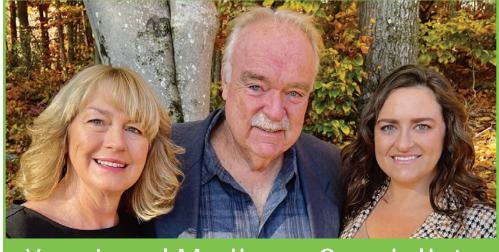
Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com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

Children's Church: Sunday school is pro-

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is May 10. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is May 17.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7

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



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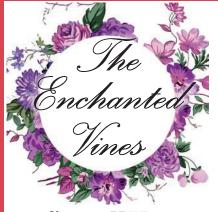
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175th Anniversary Events

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

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

Saturday, May 20: Anniversary Fun Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Andover History Talk, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 3: Olde Andover Burial Ground Tour, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Townsend Cemetery Tour, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

Shopping Dates: Tuesdays. Willimantic: 5/9, 5/23. Manchester: 5/16, 5/30. Masks available

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

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

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

Kentucky Derby Tea

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

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

Cemtery ToursAs part of the 175th Anniversary events, on Saturday, June 3, folks will be able to tour two cemeteries in town. This is a free event.

Meet at Town Hall by 10:15 a.m. to board the bus that will travel to Olde Andover Burying Ground Cemetery. Lisa Brown, owner of Beyond the Gravestone, which has been restoring OABGC, will share facts about the cemetery. Two members of the committee will speak about those who founded the town and are bur-

The second stop will be at the Townsend Cemetery, a more modern-day area. Sexton Rob Whitcomb will give a tour and speak about the background of the cemetery.

Town-Wide Tag Sale

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

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

Proceeds will benefit the Andover Senior Luncheon Program.

Library Friends Seek Members

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

Membership spans the January-December calendar year and a donation is all that is required to become a new or renewing member. To join the Friends or renew your membership, visit the library at 355 Route 6, or access the membership form at tinyurl.com/ymfwz6bk.

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

more information.

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

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

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

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

Church Tag Sale May 20 Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route

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

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

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

Vacancies on Boards, Commissions

Any Andover elector interested in serving on the following appointed town boards and commissions for a two-year term starting July 1, 2023 should send a letter of interest to townclerk@andoverct.org:

Library Board of Directors, Farmers Market, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Wetlands Commission, Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Norton Fund Commission, Memorial Day Committee and the Recreation Commission.

Cancellation of

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

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

Commission on Aging Vacancy
Any Andover elector interested in serving

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

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REFERENDUM TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

The Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in the Town of Andover are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling place in said Town on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 for the following

To adopt the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June

The location of the polling place is as follows; Community Room of the Town Office Building - 17 School Road - Andover, CT

The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office for anyone who is eligible to vote in the Town of Andover who will not be able to vote in person at the polls.

Dated at Andover, Connecticut this 3rd day of May, 2023

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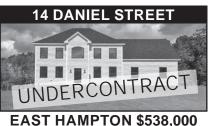
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

First off, let me wish Jan Nocek best wishes in her retirement.

For all of my time as editor, Jan has been director of Portland Library. So I've had many occasions to speak with her, often about different upcoming events. She was always a pleasure to deal with - friendly, very responsive, and very professional.

And she spearheaded so much at the library! Regular Rivereast readers likely noticed the wide variety of activities taking place at Portland Library. Week in and week out, it seemed like there was always some interesting stuff going on. And, as director, Jan played a big part in that programming.

In this week's Rivereast, reporter Jack Lakowsky has an interview with Jan on her retirement. Be sure to look for it.

Also this week, Laurel Steinhauser, chair of the Portland Library Board of Directors, has a very nice letter to the editor, publicly thanking Jan for all her years with the library. As Laurel wrote, "Jan can retire confident that she leaves the Portland Library in excellent shape: beautifully renovated, well-run, and fulfilling its purpose as a safe haven, fostering learning, connection, and joy for so many in our community."

You'll be missed, Jan; enjoy your wellearned retirement.

Also cause for celebration: Goodspeed Musicals turns 60 this year!

While the iconic Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam dates back to 1877, its history for its first 75 years was a little.....rough.

According to Wikipedia, the house, built by local merchant and banker William Henry Goodspeed, was initially a venue for presenting plays. However, Goodspeed died in 1882, after which the house fell into disrepair. It was used for a variety of purposes in subsequent years, from a militia base during World War I to a general store and a Department of Transportation storage facility.

In 1959, after the state of Connecticut condemned the building, a group of concerned citizens formed Goodspeed Musicals, purchased the building from the state, and restored it to its former glory. The revived theater opened June 8, 1963.

Well, it's now almost June of 2023 - and Goodspeed is ready to party.

All are invited to help celebrate the anniversary at Goodspeed's 60th Anniversary Gala & Auction on Monday, June 12. The event will feature a special concert by Broadway legend Jennifer Holliday, who rose to fame with the hit 1981 musical Dreamgirls, which netted Holliday a Tony award for Best Actress in a Musical. (She famously sung "And I am Telling You, I'm Not Going" in the play.

Festivities will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by a four-course dinner provided by Riverhouse Catering. Entertainment will occur throughout the evening along with a Live Auction of unique experiences. The evening's fundraising will be in support of Goodspeed's 60th Anniversary with an emphasis on their support and development of new musicals.

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



People Empowering People... The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) recently offered UConn's People Empowering People program. This 10-week course is a personal and family development program with a strong community focus. The program emphasizes the connection between individual and community action. The graduates will host a community event at the Colchester Playground on Friday, May 19, from 4-7 p.m., and will collect laundry detergent donations for Colchester Food Bank. Pictured from left are program facilitator Joy Lenares and graduates Natalie Holcroft, Candace Michaud, Brittany Goodwin, Robli Bell, Chelsea Long, Courtney Lewis and Christina Stewart.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Quilt Show Thanks To the Editor:

The members of the Haddam Neck Congregational Church send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our annual quilt show on April 29 and 30; exhibited your glorious quilts and supported our tea room and bits and pieces fabric sale! So much work goes into preparing for and setting up this is event, so it is especially meaningful and gratifying to have you all come to enjoy the quilts and our little church in the wildwood.

With love and gratitude, Melissa Pionzio and all the members of Haddam Neck Congregational Church

Open Letter to Paul Smith

Dear Superintendent Smith:

You have said so often that you care about the children. That you provide a "foundation" for furthering one's knowledge. That you instill principles that are meant to endure. All these lines you violated by your weaponizing the budget process with the threats of a particular high school teacher being laid off prior to the Town Council meeting last Tuesday evening. The students' pleas were sincere and certainly heartwrenching. Yes, Mr. Smith, this tactic in which you were engaging fully worked getting them desperate and defenseless and asking us for forgiveness and reconsideration.

This was truly a cowardly act. By creating the emotional turmoil in the "children" and parents that you have believing in your guidance, knowledge and experience, you created a storm of emotional turmoil and distrust, condemning the leadership of this community. You encouraged the students and parents to speak based on falsehood, lies and deceit.

What you are doing is not caring about these children as you profess to the parents. Last Tuesday eve-

ning we heard their anguish and pleas not to lay off the one adult they have learned to trust and probably love more than those at home. You used that teacher as your "lightening rod" and a pawn in your game. As a person in a leadership role, you are doing exactly what we abhorred in the Vietnam War. An atrocity of war. You are using children. Innocent ones. They are naively doing your dirty work. Nice going, Mr. Smith.

They spoke out magnificently, passionately and honestly. I admire them, one and all for their efforts. That was a difficult task for them. But they did it for this teacher, not for you, Mr. Smith.

Alison Walck - East Hampton Note: Paul Smith is East Hampton superintendent of schools. Walck is a member of the East Hampton Town

Conformity

To the Editor:

Council.

Unsurprisingly, Edmund Smith unwittingly displays his dependence on group-thinking conformity while absurdly projecting that onto those he's seeking to ridicule. He stupidly believes that Trump supporters require others to tell them what to think. It's people like him who don't know what they believe until their betters tell them what that is. And then for some inexplicable reason, they all think they're intellectually and morally superior to everyone else.

I haven't watched a second of Fox News or Fox Business in over three years. I saw they were abandoning their loyal base in order to futilely curry favor from leftists like Smith who will always hate them. Unlike Smith, I always perform my own due diligence on the information I seek and receive, and never take anything at face value.

This so-called information age has produced dumber people than have ever previously lived in our great country. And Smith's disclosure of his trusted sources of information indicates why the students of

Bulletin Board

Sons #1 and #2 were home a while back, which always turns into an education of sorts. This time it started with a fairly innocuous remark by yours truly after I tripped over one of Son #2's size 15 shoes he'd left lying around. He's 6'5 or so and got the flippers to match and I'm not as agile as I used to be.

"Geez!" I exclaimed. "You shouldn't leave these things lying around like that. I could fall and break a hip or something."

He smiled at me. Patronizingly.

I hate that. "You've got bigger feet than Bigfoot," I added.

"Bigfoot is dead," he replied, unmoved.

"What? No way. Says who?"

"It's true. Bigfoot is dead," he repeated.

Son #1 took that opportunity to pop in. Probably thought he was missing out on the reading of my will or something. "What's all the excitement?" he said.

"Dad didn't know that Bigfoot is dead," said Son #2.

"Really? Yeah. It's true, Dad. He was just a hoax. It was all over the news like years ago. Turns out there was this guy from Seattle who used to put on these wooden feet and walk around leaving tracks that everybody thought was Bigfoot," explained Son #1. "When he died, his family admitted he was the hoaxer."

"Seattle," I said. "West Coast clowns. It figures."

"I hear the Abdominal Snowman went to the funeral," said Son #2.

"Abominable," I said.

"It was a joke," he said, injured.

"Hilarious," I said.

"Well, he's still dead," remarked Son #1, checking his phone. "Bigfoot, I mean. His name was Ray L. Wallace and he was 84 years old. He had heart failure."

"I thought they had a movie of Bigfoot running through the woods," I said, a little petulantly. 'He looks kind of like a big hairy muppet. You know, that blue one."

"Cookie Monster," said Son #2.

"Right. Except Bigfoot wasn't blue. He was kind of a dirty brown."

"A total hoax," observed Son #1. "Just some guy in a Bigfoot suit."

"How sad," I remarked.

"Why is it sad?" asked Son #2, who would think absolutely nothing of barbecuing the last passenger pigeon on Earth while complaining that there wasn't a second one for a really decent

"Because it's one less mystery in the world. I kind of like the idea that we don't know everything ... that something like Bigfoot could really exist."

"Dad's showing his feminine side," observed Son #1, looking a little uncomfortable

"They said Bigfoot smelled really bad," chimed in Son #2 as if that were sufficient reason to expel the poor creature from the ranks of the living.

Yeah, well, running around in a Bigfoot suit in August is apt to overpower even your higher priced deodorants," I noted.

"Maybe there really is still a Bigfoot," said Son #1, apparently concerned that the news about the hoax would send me into an emotional tailspin. "Just because somebody dressed up in a fur suit doesn't mean there isn't really a Bigfoot out in the woods someplace."

"Naw," I said glumly. "I think after all these years somebody would have found a dead one or one of them would have gotten hit by a car or something. It's like elves or leprechauns, I guess. If they really existed, a dead one would turn up or the cat would drag one home or something."

Sons #1 & #2 gave me a pitying look. "What?" I said.

"Geez, Dad," said Son #1, "a leprechaun would beat the crap out of a lousy cat."

"No question," added Son #2. "It wouldn't even be a contest."

Of course. How silly of me.

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.

RIVEREAST -

News Bulletin

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

(860) 633-4691 — bulletin@glcitizen.com

people like him are the lowest performing students in the developed world. One of his trusted sources is *Scientific American*, one of the most pathetic excuses for science you can find.

The never-ending fear-mongering from leftists, especially in education, has produced a pandemic of mental illness among our most impressionable young students. They're told the scam of climate change is going to kill them, their country's political and economic systems are evil, and that their parents are not to be trusted. They are obscenely driven to question whether they're actually the gender to which they were born, as if that is some arbitrary assignment that can be changed.

Leftist Democrats are the most destructive and devastating forces in the world.

Sam Prentice - Andover

Please Run the Town

To the Editor:

Dear Officials: We've elected you to run our town. We expect good services, paved roads, public safety, well-maintained public spaces, contented town employees, an educational system that values students and teachers, and a town budget that adequately subsidizes all of these things. "We" being the average citizen. Individual citizens will always take exception to civic projects and department budgets. All the conflicting exceptions that come from individuals would undoubtedly make it impossible to attain an adequate budget and have a functioning town.

Dear Officials: please run the town. Make your decisions and accept the fallout if a workable budget necessarily results in a mill rate increase. Listen to the

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Send anonymous pic to myglasspane@gmail.com and get info and a ballpark price.

"Pane in the Glass" 860-342-3253 department heads and experts called upon to advise on financial matters. You can't please everyone, so don't try. Run the town as it should be run to achieve the most good, not to achieve the least friction from factions. You were elected in part because of your ideas and promises. Act on those and don't call it the will of the people. In a good election year, maybe a quarter of the citizens voted for you; your cronies and politically aligned folks voted for you. That is not "the will of the people." The rest of us are citizens too. Work for us. Run the town for all of us. If you do a good job, you will be re-elected. If not... well the next person will perhaps try harder.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Debt Ceiling

To the Editor:

We had to raise the debt ceiling three times under Trump. He gave a huge tax cut (\$1.5T) to the rich and corporations.

"For context, roughly 25% of our total national debt incurred over the last 230 years actually occurred during the four years of the Trump administration. That's right, 25% of our entire national debt, all during the Trump years." – David Jolly, former member of Congress. Trump's national debt amount verified by *Newsweek*, ProPublica, *USA Today*, Business Insider

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Rebuilding Gardens

Paul's and Sandy's Too! Thank you all!

In case you missed it, the gardens surrounding the gazebo in the center of East Hampton village have disappeared! The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton is funding a project to rebuild those gardens and we have currently completed Phase 1. This could not have happened without the dedication and generosity of our town's DPW, Parks and Rec, club members and

Stay tuned for future project developments that will ultimately bloom in the village.

Susan Hewes, Project Director Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton

Just the Facts

To the Editor:

Many residents are being misled by the way the Board of Education budget has been presented.

Especially, their use of the word "cuts." So, let's be

clear, there will be an increase to the BOE budget! The BOE's original budget request was \$36,400,655 – a 6.21 % increase over last year.

After review, Finance recommended they receive \$35,608,655 – a 3.9% increase over last year.

On top of that, Finance has approved \$707,925 for BOE in the capital budget. Of that, \$403,600 is slated to support new technology.

Additionally, a \$2 million roof will be constructed at the Middle School this year.

Sadly, on top of all this, the BOE currently has a

projected deficit of more than \$500,000.

Does this seem like "cuts" to you?

Mark Philhower East Hampton Town Council Chairman

Safe Boating Tips

To the Editor:

As the temperature rises and the days become longer, our minds turn to fun on the water. The following are brief safety and regulation reminders for boating at Lake Terramuggus. We hope you have a fun and safe summer!

Boating Actions:

See Letters, page 6



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8		1				3		5

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\$245,000

| PROPERTIES



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JUST LISTED!



88 Stancliff Rd, Glastonbury Kadji Anderson 860-836-2721

UNDER CONTRACT \$509,90

97 Derek Dr, Tolland Kelly Britt 860-559-7124



30 Uplands Way, Glastonbury Laura McConville 860-508-5131

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\$529,900



UNDER CONTRACT

2015 Main St, GlastonburyMichelle Collins 860-982-4684

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FIRST FLOOR IN-LAW \$289,800



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Michelle Collins 860-982-4684



Parker Rd, Marlborough Jamie Bell 860-604-8459



7 Beacon Rd, Windham Kellee Smith 860-373-8849



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★ Letters cont. from page 5

Notify someone of your intended schedule and when you expect to return.

· Drain all water from your boat and bilge before entering the lake to prevent the spread of invasive

· Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment for invasive plants and animals.

Boating Checklist:

Current boat registration, trailer registration, and CT safe boating certificate.

Personal flotation devices in good condition for

· Fire extinguishers which are fully charged and

· Paddle in case of motor problems.

Restaurant & Catering Service

Well-stocked first aid kit.

· Dedicated tool/repair kit with spare spark plugs,

Proper signaling devices (day, night, visual and

A Marlborough town parking pass - required

when parking at the lake.

· Gas motors in excess of 3.3hp are prohibited at

Dan Dupre, Chairman Marlborough Lake Advisory Commission

Befuddled Biden Boosters

To the Editor:

Instead of reciprocating in kind by gleefully bashing Rivereast's Biden boosters, as was done last week with the broadside of ad hominems leveled at socalled "Rivereast Trumpists" by the biggest of Biden boosters, readers would be better served if the basher and his ilk addressed the implications to national security of the reality of Biden's (un)fitness for office; his cognitive and physical impairments.

Examples of the latter were captured in TV news clips of the two occasions when Biden fell when ascending the stairs to board Air Force One; news clips that the Biden-biased media avoided. The few that did air the falls blamed "the wind" for the first incident. Other Biden-media-withheld instances include

Full Menu

Served Daily

clips of a confused and befuddled Biden groping his way on podiums after speaking.

The most recent indication of cognitive impairment was Biden's announcing his run for president via video. Biden and his handlers played it safe by opting for the video, a first-in-the-annals of presidential politics, to avoid risking the inevitable, extemporaneous, in-person gaffes. The public is left to speculate on how many video retakes were required to get the job done. Can the video be a harbinger of another stayat-home Biden presidential campaign?

Peter Kushkowski "Almost Heaven" **Portland**

Daily

Lunch

Specials

It's Your Decision!

To the Editor:

The BOE has one interest only and that is the education of East Hampton students. That is their job! However, BOF and Town Council must provide for

Hard choices need to be made at all levels in East

the health, safety and education of ALL residents.

Hampton. And borrowing from the general fund to pay off poor budgeting practices is not the answer. We cannot risk lowering our bond rating and losing our ability to fund municipal projects.

And, if the state succeeds, your property assessment will be going from 70% to 75% - a 5% increase in your taxable property!

We should all take the time to understand what is at stake and how much money will be coming out of our wallets. Hard times call for difficult choices.

Make the right one for you and your family. Deborah Cunningham - East Hampton **Note:** Cunningham is a member of the East Hamp ton Board of Finance but is speaking as an individual.

Seeds of Hope Thanks

To the Editor

Saturday, April 29, was the sixth annual Seeds of Hope 5K, 10K, walk to raise funds for our yearly Mission Trip. We would like to thank our sponsors, supporters and anyone who ran or walked...you all help us to spread "Seeds of Hope": DATTCO, Spencer Funeral Home, Jackie Hooper-Hage, Dave Shulman, Carl Guild, Attorney Ken Barber, VALAN, AirLine Cycles, The Jasenski Family, Rick & Jill Walker and Royal Oaks Laser Engraving, LLC

Lisa Aarrestad **Fundraising Coordinator** Seeds of Hope-Congregational Church of East Hampton

Hayes, Egan Must Resign

Good Day, town of Colchester.

I am writing this letter with a heavy heart. It has become clear that as an elected citizen to the Board of Finance, I have a very big responsibility to do what I

Some of these responsibilities include:

Being a team player, working with everyone on the

Members of both parties showing respect for each other, putting personal attitudes and beliefs aside. Not undercutting the other board members.

These responsibilities do not include the following: Sending out false statements that we know are false

to hurt the town, employees, or elected officials. Putting forth a school budget that was done by one

Throwing a temper tantrum and storming out of

Unfortunately, I have seen all the above occur by two Democrats, Michael Hayes and Michael Egan, on

I am asking for their immediate resignation, as they are putting their own agendas ahead of the townspeople that voted for them.

This must be done for the good of this town.

Please support your town with this uncomfortable,

John Thomas - Colchester

Note: Thomas is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.

No Apology?

To the Editor:

State and federal leaders love that a small town in Connecticut is battling over an education budget. They love that instead of banding together to demand that they right their wrongs when it comes to underfunded rural districts, we're staying busy fighting amongst ourselves, while the young learners in our district deal with the fallout. Despite a Board of Finance member declaring the budget cut as a way of "sticking it to the state" (I'm paraphrasing), this has done quite the opposite.

Speaking of fighting, Town Council took a lot of heat at their last meeting, which arguably should have been more directed at the Board of Finance (the ones who actually made the cut - so far). I'm hopeful that our elected council will do the right thing this year. In the meantime, our community won't soon forget that when a member of the Board of Finance asked not once, but twice, "Why aren't teachers doing their jobs?" not one member aligned with his party denounced that statement. Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up, and I can't think of a better way to express gratitude to our hard-working teachers than for a public apology to be offered for the appalling impli-

Teaching is a calling. Our teachers answer to increasing demands with great passion for what they do. Their work deserves to be celebrated.

Christina Tammaro-Dzagan **East Hampton**

Note: Tammaro-Dzagan is chair of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an

More Spending Coming!

I warned in November 2021, before the referendum, completing the proposed new senior center would cost substantially more than \$9.5 million. In November 2022, the Building Committee reported a cost overage of \$976,000. Now it's \$1.5 million. Don't be fooled thinking it'll end there.

I attended a SCBC meeting on April 11 and learned they hadn't researched whether or not the new SC property is located in the historic district (it's not). They also didn't bother to notice that it's located in an aquifer protection area and a land conservation area identified as prime farmland soils (i.e., wetland soils). The most disconcerting issue, however, is that when the property was cleared, they discovered a significant amount of water drains onto the property, and they have no idea why or how to fix it (that extra \$1.5 million doesn't include fixing this issue). Researching the property details during the meeting, I quickly discov-



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ered why. A 1959 highway right-of-way map shows a drainage pipe running under Lebanon Avenue directly onto the property - something else they missed

Researching the property history also shows that in 1960 an earlier subdivision plan for this property was canceled because it was found to be too wet (shocker)! However, the construction of the houses on Louis Lane continued as planned, and water drains from three of them onto the abutting SC property. SCBC members indicated during their meeting it's the responsibility of those homeowners to address that.

More spending ensues. The building plan doesn't include the fill required to stabilize the ground for the massive 16,750 sq. ft. building footprint (actual usable space is 14,650 sq. ft.). Additionally, there's been no mention of the operational budget increase necessary for the beyond triple-sized facility. So, be warned additional funding requests are imminent

DeAva Lambert - Colchester

Taking Credit

To the Editor:

Andreas Bisbikos spends a lot of time taking credit for barely started projects he has little to do with.

Last week, Bisbikos got a vote of approval to spend money to fix the fields. However, his latest social media posts make it sound like the town already finished the project and he did all the work himself.

Multiple boards, experts, and volunteers have been working on how to fix the fields for at least a decade. Detailed plans were available; all the town needed was money.

As a member of the Board of Finance, Bisbikos was against providing the money for field improvements in two previous budgets. When "free" COVID money was available, Bisbikos prevented the money from being used.

After being in office for a year and a half, he's finally gotten around to using free money to start plans the town already had. He could have advocated funding field repairs more than four years ago. Instead, he left the fields in terrible condition until he could take full credit for barely getting started.

John Farrell - Colchester

Contradictions, Conspiracies

Another week, another amusing round of halfbaked contradictions, and conspiracies. Including one comical antidote from Ed Kozlowski, who somehow managed to contradict his own argument regarding the difference between Republicans inability to hold Trump accountable for allegations of rape, sexual abuse, and porn stars with the Democratic party's commitment to hold Anthony Weiner, John Edwards, Al Franken and Eliot Spitzer accountable.

Colin McNamara reminded readers of his obsessive Christian nationalist conspiracies. Claiming that Trump was taken out of context when he uttered, "I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have." Coincidentally, the exact number required to steal the vote in Georgia. Colin also went on to illustrate his tenuous grasp of reason by asserting that Trump isn't a Nazi sympathizer. Despite having hosted white nationalist and Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes at his Florida country club.

The truth is, MAGA Republicans are being manipulated with manufactured fears of Socialism, tyrannical government, immigrants, minorities, guns and religion. Worse, they believe Trump is the answer to their imaginary problems. In reality, corporations,

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

Over the past 60 years, Goodspeed has seen 21 musicals move on to Broadway, including Man of La Mancha, Shenandoah and one of my personal favorites – *Annie*.

Goodspeed was also the first theatre in the nation to receive two Tony Awards for outstanding achievement in musical theatre.

So it's indeed a glorious history to celebrate. The night sounds like fun. Tickets and tables for the Gala & Auction may be purchased by contacting Mary Miko at mmiko@goodspeed.org or 860-615-0368 as well as online at goodspeed.org/gala.

See you next week.

billionaires and Faux News are using Trump to distract MAGA Republicans from the truth. Not because it might hurt their feelings, but because the truth might provoke them to make choices which no longer serve the interests of corporations and billionaires.

One of the strangest transformations in history has to be the metamorphosis of Jesus from humble servant of the abject poor to a Conservative symbol that stands for guns, intolerance, war and the endless pursuit of wealth. History will reflect on a people who willingly sacrificed their democracy for Christofacism, and are convinced they're being persecuted because of their Christian values. In truth they are not being persecuted for worshipping Jesus; they are simply being held accountable for not acting like him. Joe Stevens - Hebron

Pet Parade Coming!

To the Editor:

As you may already be aware, the annual Kentucky Derby will be held Saturday, May 6. In celebration of this special day, we are having the first Kentucky Derby Pet Parade right here in Portland. It will be held on the Town Green, located next to the Waverly Senior Center, with registrations starting at 9 a.m. The parade will start at 10:30 a.m. The registration fees will be \$5 per pet or \$10 for your whole family of pets. All entrees will receive a prize. This event is sponsored by the Portland Democratic Town Committee.

Hope to see you there, along with your favorite pets in their finest outfits and derby hats!

Thank you, Susan Bransfield - Portland

Students Outshone Adults

I watched with dismay the April 25th Town Coun-

I was disappointed in the adults who spoke – including some members of the Board of Ed.

I heard the adults use name-calling, heckling, and employing bullying tactics to support their opinions. As I listened, I was thinking I now know where bullying is taught. It starts at home.

was, however, heartened by the students who spoke! They were respectful. They did not find it necessary to support their opinion with name-calling, threatening or bullying. Their emotions were high but they handled them gracefully and stated their opinion

I hope the adults take a lesson from the students. Differences of opinion can and should be shared. They were able to do so with respect, consideration and language suited to the topic as opposed to name calling. That's democracy at its best!

Bridget McLennan - East Hampton

Note: McLennan is chair of the East Hampton Board of Finance but said she is speaking as an individual.

Responsibility

To the Editor:

Richmond, Ind., April 11, 2023. Tacoma, Wash., April 9, 2023. Philadelphia, Pa., March 27, 2023. Eagle Mountain, Utah, March 6, 2023. Flint, Mich., Feb. 10, 2023. East Palestine, Ohio, Feb. 7, 2023. Newtown, Oct. 31, 2022. Ridgewood, N.J., Oct. 26, 2022. New Milford, Oct. 3, 2022. Unity, Maine, April 11, 2022. Putnam, March 22, 2022. Tolland, March 21, 2022. Lake Michigan, Feb. 25, 2022. Cheshire, Feb. 13, 2022. Katherine Loy, DEEP - NBC CT Aug. 4, 2021.

Water pollution doesn't remain stationary, it travels, often miles, from the point of contamination through soils and right into domestic water supplies. Those soaked soils are now contaminated as well. Any food grown there will, surly, absorb the chemicals.

Pollution problems come to our attention in news

clips rarely to be heard of again. Meanwhile, millions will be dealing with these complex and, often health threatening, issues for years to come. These stories back up concerns about development on watersheds, especially those feeding private wells and aquifers. This is why Paul Tonko of New Jersey and the EPA are advancing watershed protection through land conservation. June 2022.

What does pollution have to do with citizens? Everything. As Û.S. citizens we're beholden to our land and water, not our politicians or corporations. Politicians and CEOs are people and, like us, they come and go. But our soil remains. Right now we are leaving the next generations debt, polluted water and polluted soils, most of which is permanent. Some of it, like PFOAs and PFOSs, are forever chemicals and carcinogens. As for sodium chloride... "You can now think of chloride as a permanent pollutant in the water. Once it's there, there is very little opportunity to treat it." -Christie Alwin. Michigan Dept. Environmental Great Lakes and Energy. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Who's Really In Charge?

Does the Board of Education really support the superintendent's list of possible cuts which are primarily classroom teachers???

At the last BOE meeting some members (from both parties) requested the superintendent create a "menu" of alternative ways they could save money.

Members of the Board of Finance and Town Council do not support cutting classroom teachers. In fact, the Board of Finance has proposed an increase of \$1.2 million for the Board of Education.

Remember, the superintendent reports to the Board of Education – not the other way around!

The Board of Finance and Town Council have no say in how the BOE chooses to spend their money. Only they do.

Hold them accountable!

Eric Peterson - East Hampton

Boy Scout Thank You

To the Editor:

Boy Scout Troop 72 had a very successful "Financial Records Shredding Project" on April 22. We would like to thank all the people we saw during our event for their support. The scouts also had many requests to do another shedding project. We will certainly think about doing it again.

Start collecting your financial and personal records for another project in April or May 2024.

Al Letendre **Unit Commissioner Boy Scout Troop 72**

Emperor Has No Clothes

To the Editor:

As someone who harmed his own potential political future by leaving the Republican Party in order to get away from tribal party politics, I am greatly disappointed with my colleagues on the left-hand side of the aisle. It has become clear that all their claims of "it's not political" are nothing but hollow platitudes and lip service.

You'd think all parties could agree that elected officials should not storm out of board meetings yelling obscenities, nor should they approach citizens in public and shout expletives at them. Mike Egan, a Democrat member of the Board of Finance (BOF), did exactly that during the April 25th BOF meeting.

For over a year, Democratic leaders in town complained about the first selectman using the newspaper to politicize town business. I agreed and I urged my fellow selectmen to take action to prevent it from con-

tinuing, something they chose not to do. At the same April 25th BOF meeting, Democratic member Mike Hayes lied about, and eventually admitted to, leaking an email full of misinformation about a town employee to the newspaper in order to attack the department and the first selectman (his words, not mine).

Democratic leaders are deafeningly silent about the behavior of Mr. Egan and Mr. Hayes. In fact, when is the last time a Democratic leader in Colchester publicly questioned, let alone disagreed with, the decisions or actions by a member of their own party? Tribalism rules the roost of politics. While I don't expect anyone else to go to the same choice I did, I do expect them to not pretend to be something they're not. That should be a rather low bar for any principled

Democratic leaders in Colchester are not above the politics or the chaos – they are willing participants.

Jason LaChapelle - Colchester Note: LaChapelle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an in-

Civility Matters

Dear Colchester Residents:

As part of my campaign to "bring Colchester together" I'm trying to talk to as many folks around town as I can about the issues we're facing as a community. I want to share one of the biggest themes I've been hearing from neighbors:

Civility matters and we need to remember that we are neighbors sharing one community.

We all need to do some self-reflection about what it will take to change the tone in Colchester and bring civility back to our town government. Something I've learned from working in public service (and from life in general) is that we can't control what other people may say or do, but we can control how we respond

In public service, sometimes people are going to say things to you that you don't like or don't agree with. Sometimes people will be angry, but meeting anger with more anger doesn't fix the problem - it just escalates the situation. In both my professional work and my volunteer service, I always try to understand where others are coming from. I won't let misinformation go unanswered, but I try to communicate calmly and clearly and to keep in mind that I am not always going to be right.

Sometimes the intensity of our disagreements in Colchester gets fueled by misunderstanding each other. It's important for all of us to try to understand where each other are coming from as neighbors and to look for opportunities to cooperate.

I believe it is the responsibility of the first selectman to set a positive example for how to conduct town business. Leadership can be firm without being disrespectful. That's how I plan to lead Colchester and that's why I'm in this race.

Bernie Dennler - Colchester Candidate for First Selectman

Abuse of Power

To the Editor:

The first selectman continues to abuse his power to attack and intimidate elected officials who are Democrats for political gain. His most recent strategy is to publicly misrepresent facts and threaten investigations against the tax collector and town clerk.

In recent weeks, the first selectman has publicly questioned the town clerk's attendance at a professional conference and the reasonable costs associated with it. And at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting, he interrogated the tax collector about mileage reimbursement requests for mileage put onto her personal vehicle while traveling to collect outstanding taxes on behalf of the Town of Colchester. In both cases, he alluded that the elected officials were acting unprofes-

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See Letters, page 8



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★ Letters cont. from page 7

sionally and attempted to embarrass them. Since then he has told department heads that all training, associated costs, and mileage must be cleared through him before they occur.

Also, in both cases, the First Selectman publicly said that he is "conducting investigations" to "get to the bottom" of these incidents. As per the charter, Article IV, Section C-405, the Board of Selectman is the only body with the authority to, "to investigate any and all Town Departments, Elected Officials, Appointed Officials, Elected Boards and Appointed Boards for such purposes as they shall deem necessary." The first selectman does not have any power to investigate at his own free will independently.

The only unprofessional behavior here is on the part of the first selectman. Elected officials who are employees of the town do not deserve to be subject to workplace bullying that is carried out on a public forum with the intent to undermine and intimidate prior to an election.

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

Cemetery Tours

To the Editor:

As part of the 175th Anniversary events, on Saturday, June 3, the Olde Andover Burying Ground cemetery (OABGC) and the Townsend Cemetery will give free tours. Meet at the town hall by 10:15 a.m. to board the bus. No reservations needed. First stop is the OABGC, where you will be greeted by members of the committee and guest speaker Lisa Brown, owner of the Beyond the Gravestone company who repairs and restores old stones. She has done a fantastic job at the OABGC and will speak about different methods used and other interesting facts about the restoration of stones. Two committee members will also speak about some of those who founded our town.

Then the bus will travel to the Townsend Cemetery to meet our sexton, Rob Whitcomb, who will talk to people about the background of the creation of our more modern-day Townsend Cemetery.

This is an exciting free tour you will not want to miss. Thank you.

Sincerely, Joan Foran and Cathy Palazzi 175th Anniversary Members, Andover

Portland Library Director Retiring

To the Editor:

Today, Friday, May 5, marks Janet Nocek's last day as director of Portland Library, after a remarkable 20 years of service. This is a milestone, and a career, deserving of celebration. On behalf of the Portland Library Board of Directors, I would like to thank Jan for her dedication to the Portland Library and the immense contribution she has made to our community.

Under Jan's thoughtful leadership, the Portland Library has been a hub of community activity. Jan has built deep and meaningful connections between the Portland Library and other town departments and organizations. These relationships and collaborations have given rise to a richer and more diverse array of programs, services, learning opportunities, and cultural events for the Portland community. Jan's commitment to equity and intellectual freedom have fueled her work to ensure the library is accessible and meets the diverse needs of our patrons. Throughout her career, Jan has prioritized staying abreast of library trends, carefully navigating the shift from print media to digital media, advocating at the state level to make digital resources affordable for libraries, and working to advance digital equity in Portland. Jan can retire confident that she leaves the Portland Library in excellent shape: beautifully renovated, well-run, and fulfilling its purpose as a safe haven, fostering learning, connection, and joy for so many in our commu-

Jan, you have your community's, and this board's, deepest gratitude for all that you have done to further the services and reach of the library. It has been an honor and a delight to get to know you, to learn from you, and to support you in your service to the library. Wishing you plenty of travel and gardening in your retirement, and at least a solid week of rest before you're onto the next adventure!

With gratitude, Laurel Steinhauser, Chair Portland Library Board of Directors

Rare Breeds

To the Editor:

Ed Smith, what do you get when you cross a squawking parrot repeating whatever it hears and an ostrich sticking its head in the sand, hearing and seeing nothing?

Thank you for honorably mentioning me in your last letter. Not really a Trumpist, but a realist. Not at any loss where to go for anyone's opinion; can certainly form my own – not sure about you? Parrot, if Fox is a proven propaganda tool of Rupert, then are the minion media you mention the propaganda tool of the Democratic Party?

The same Democratic Party who weaponized FBI, DOJ and IRS to go after its enemies, sort of neo-Nazish isn't it?

Please tell us more about those Democratic policies that are actually helping our lives? You mean failing banks, inflation and future recession, crime surge, southern border being closed, foreign policy?

Fox got rid of spirit guide Tucker; what happened to CNN's Don Lemon and Chris Cuomo? What's your point?

Who's being duped by those multiple "journalist awards for excellence winning" news outlets? Awards given to them by those who completely agree with what they report.

Media who feed questions for a president who needs flash cards with peoples' pictures, their name phonetically spelled out, the question and answer. That's embarrassing! Don't need Fox to form an opinion on that! The president who stated "there is no such thing as someone else's child; our nation's children are all our children"? Joe and Jill don't even recognize their own 4-year-old illegitimate granddaughter Hunter has with a stripper and doesn't want to pay child support for? Imagine if that were a Trump?

Billionaires, you mean Bezos, Zuckerberg and Soros who race to pay their fair share of taxes and give of their wealth. How is it politicians like Biden, Obama and Clinton are as rich as they are, just from being politicians?

Michael Chotkowski - Marlborough

Budget Referendum

To the Editor:

Monday, May 8, is the budget referendum vote here in Portland. Registered voters, as well as Portland property owners, may cast their ballots on the 2023-24 annual budget in person, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Middle School, located at 93 High St. The selectmen – John Dillon, Mike Hernandez, Bobby Hetrick, Shaun Manning, Mike Pelton, Ralph Zampano and myself – worked together on a bi-partisan basis and unanimously voted to send this budget to the voters. Total government expenditures increase by 3.35%. The entire budget is available for review at the Portland Library, the Town Clerk's office or online at www.portlandct.org/budgets.

My sincere appreciation goes to each selectman. Thank you for your leadership, and all that you do for Portland.

Sincerely, Ryan J. Curley Portland First Selectman

Shameful

To the Editor:

What a shameful display by the Town Council. Would it have been that difficult to share your feelings with the people who got you elected and took the time out of their schedules to share their feelings with you? Or perhaps simply treat them with dignity instead of like they are the enemy?

Board of Finance, everyone is waiting for your public apology about Mr. Brown's comments also. It's not too late.

To simplify things, I'll leave you with this. The TC asked the BOE to present a budget with no more than 2% increases in "wants." We gave you 0%. The TC's own mission statement asked to "maintain current services." The BOF spit on that and knowingly voted to lay off five staff members and more services beyond that.

A citizen quoted the great Dr. King at the last meeting. "It's always the right time to do the right thing." It's not too late, TC and BOF. Swallow your pride, keep that ego at bay, and make this right for our community. Let's join together and demand the state Capitol do the same and give us the funding we desperately need, but in the meantime, we have to remember what is within our own sphere of influence while taking care of our house, our town, East Hampton.

Respectfully, Michael Buck – East Hampton

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

Why No Mow

To the Editor:

Why mow less in the spring?

The start of the growing season is a critical time for hungry, newly emerged native bees. Floral resources may be hard to find, by allowing lawns to grow longer, and letting flowers bloom, your lawn can provide nectar and pollen to help your bee neighbors thrive. Dandelions, clover, and the common blue violet start to bloom in the spring and can add some diversity to your lawn. Another benefit of this campaign is that lawn mowers, unless they're electric lawn mowers, use gasoline, which contributes to air pollution.

Another key principle of No Mow May is forgoing the use of fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides for the month. Pesticides, for example, have been found by scientists to be a factor in the decline of honeybee colonies in both North America and in Europe. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that one-third of the water U.S. households use every year goes to landscape irrigation. That's nearly nine billion gallons each day! You can help reduce that number by taking part in the No Mow May campaign. So, if you're not spending your time mowing, watering or spreading chemicals on your lawn in May, you'll have more time to do other things! Maybe just sit back and watch the grass grow...imagine that! Lawn signs are available for a \$10 donation, Contact Michele at sinkezmichele@gmail.com to arrange pick-up.

Michele Sinkez Hebron Pollinator Pathway

Community Shines, Council Flops

To the Editor:

The battle over the East Hampton budget is proving to be a Tale of Two Belltowns. One side is showing the absolute best of this community. The other... not so much.

Last week's Town Council meeting was equal parts inspiring and infuriating. The heart of the community shone brightly, with passionate speakers detailing what proposed budget cuts would do to the quality of life in East Hampton. Students spoke eloquently about their needs and how their teachers make their lives better. Parents explained how education drew them to town and how their kids have been better for the experience given to them.

Not to be outdone, East Hampton teachers showed up in solidarity, describing the work and love they put into their jobs that goes far beyond what's required of them. We even heard how the East Hampton Ambulance Association saved a child's life, and the ramifications of underfunded public safety.

If the coalition of nonpartisan advocates gave hope, a small but powerful minority – specifically, the five Republican members of the Town Council – did all it could to dash that good will. It was an ugly look.

The council Republicans failed spectacularly as community role models. They appeared alternately hostile and indifferent, as if we all were wasting their time. Much of the poor behavior, including the chair's outbursts, was caught on camera.

It's not over yet. Councilman Philhower and the majority may yet join councilmen Reich and Brown by doing the right thing and send the budgets back to the Board of Finance for fund restoration.

The pressure is going to be on, and hopefully the community turns out again on May 9. When they do, maybe the Council majority will behave like the leaders they claim to be.

Sincerely, Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Artificial Intelligence

To the Editor:

Those suffering angst from Trumpublican failures to dwell in reality ought to consider an even more disconcerting possibility. Dr. Hinton, the 'godfather' of artificial intelligence, just left Google and joined a growing number of AI critics, warning of a potential future where truth is indiscernible. Already AI programs have produced convincing photos, videos and newscasts that tricked humans. Before long it will be impossible to tell real from fake.

How should we prepare? Perhaps we could hang on to our old Encyclopedia Britannicas and 'classics' to fact check against future misinformation. We might lessen our electronics usage and engage with the real, natural world. Hike and learn the names and habits of the flora and fauna around us. Collect wild berries to eat. Visit friends and families more. Play board games together. Worst case scenario, if intelligent AI robots ever do start to take over, maybe a solar super flare, far stronger than even the 1859 Carrington Event would arrive in the nick of time to crush that rebellion.

On the positive side, who wouldn't love to see NASA or ESA build intelligent robotic space explorers to venture to the planets and moons to send back epic views and new discoveries? A video trip through Valles Marineris, double the size of Earth's Grand Canyon. Or sailing Titan's seas and canoeing its rivers? Investigating Europa ice fractures and submerging under the ice to see if life thrives there in water oceans more vast than Earth's. No matter, in time, if we don't destroy ourselves first, the Sun will fry and eventually consume Earth. Perhaps our intelligent robots might then carry our story forward to other solar systems.

To meet up with other robotic intelligences and add humanities history, music, literature – all our knowledge, to the 'Encyclopedia Galactica' that Carl Sagan envisioned.

Edmund Smith - Andover

Campaign of Disinformation

Dear Colchester Residents:

Two weeks ago, the Board of Education sent an email to all members of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance claiming that the finance director had failed to transfer funds needed to pay their employees. The BOE failed to review that the transfers cleared five hours prior to sending their email. The finance director even provided everyone with a screenshot proving a successful transfer took place. Regrettably, the *Rivereast* forgot that "investigative reporting" includes verifying the facts/documents and chose the lazy path of running a non-story defaming our finance director's good name.

Mike Hayes, Democratic BOF member, initially denied, but later admitted forwarding the email chain to the press to inflame them into printing a story damaging the finance director and myself. This was all recorded at the April 25th Board of Finance meeting where Mr. Hayes originally denied involvement but later confessed. In my opinion, Mr. Hayes should resign.

Mike Egan, Democratic BOF member, stormed out of the same meeting shouting an expletive. Moments later he confronted BOS member Jason LaChapelle, who was participating in citizens comments while he was walking the neighborhood. Knowing Mr. Egan's long history of outbursts, I called the police. Mr. Egan should resign.

Also attending this meeting was the Democratic candidate for first selectman, who failed to acknowledge the inappropriate behaviors of his two fellow Democratic Town Committee members.

For months, the local DTC has fueled the newspaper with negative letters and flooded social media with hate and false narratives; all while claiming they wish to run a "clean campaign." If anyone is interested in the facts, feel free to come see me as I have all the documentation. Do not rely on hearsay or rumors intended to mislead Colchester residents.

Sincerely, Andreas Bisbikos Colchester First Selectman

Senior Center Needs Help!

To the Editor:

In her 2024 budget proposal, East Hampton Senior Center director Jo Ann Ewing requested a full-time position be added to Senior Center staff to significantly improve service consistency and outreach capabilities. Ms. Ewing's 2024 budget was included in the town manager's budget, and submitted to the East Hampton Board of Finance.

The Board of Finance has refused to authorize the senior center full-time position. Given Ms. Ewing's comprehensive justification of need, the Board of Finance appears to be less than committed to improving the quality of life of East Hampton's older citizens.

Ms. Ewing's staff consists of two part-time employees and a Senior Center van driver. In spite of their dedication, the very nature of a part-time staff contributes to incomplete communication, uneven program continuity, and service disruptions. Education and health programs, trips and events are all limited by the current staffing level.

The Town Council can restore the full-time position to the Senior Center 2024 budget by shifting money within its total budget. You can encourage the Council to do that with a simple email saying that you support the full-time position. Send your email immediately to budget@EastHamptonCT.gov – it must be received before Tuesday, May 9, to ensure effectiveness!

The East Hampton Commission on Aging has pledged unqualified support for a full-time Senior Center position. We hope that you will, too!

Eric Rosenberg, MD Chair, East Hampton Commission on Aging

Onward Hebron!

To the Editor:

I am grateful for the outpouring of support in the efforts to promote a responsible budget and the preservation of Hebron's environment and history. I am writing this on the morning of May 2nd and the voting on the budget referendum is underway. Regardless of the outcome of the vote, I remain dedicated to work towards a Hebron that lives up to its moto, "Historic Charm, With a Vision for the Future."

We are so fortunate to live in a town such a vibrant, bold and inspirational history. From the deposits of important glacial soil left 20,000 years ago to the mysterious lives of ancient Paleo-Indians, from the Sachem Attawanhood's gift to our earliest colonial settlers to the construction of distinctive stone walls that protect that important glacial agricultural soil, from the dozens of unknown enslaved African Americans to the high-profile rescue of Cesar Peters Sr. and his family, from the development of the first saw mills and grist mills to the founding of the Turner Silk Mill and the increase of European immigrants, from the economic boon that followed World War I to the suburban development that followed World War II, we have so much "Historic Charm" to celebrate.

However, as we celebrate this charm, Hebron needs to move forward carefully, creating a "Vision for the Future" that places our cherished natural resources at the top of all priorities. Clean water is vital to all life and our very existence as a community. As we count the votes cast on May 2nd, it is the responsibility of our Town Leaders and every Hebron resident to protect this finite resource. No matter if your vote wins or loses, please join the efforts to protect our history and environment. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely, Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

\star Hebron Lions Donation, cont. from page 1

He compared the work done by the Lions to constructing a "super building," which can only be completed with the proper infrastructure that always starts at the bottom.

"The lions are apart of a foundation," he said. "Without that solid concrete foundation, we cease to exist."

Other speakers throughout the night acknowledged the hard work of the Lions, as well.

Tressa Giordano, executive director of AHM Youth and Family Services, expressed that "it's because of you the Lions that allows us to serve the community."

Helprop's previous town clerk of 23 years

Hebron's previous town clerk of 23 years, Carla Pomprowicz, who retired earlier this year, runs the "Bolokada and Friends Village Project," a nonprofit that offers support to the village of Morowaya in Africa.

While the organization officially became a non-profit in 2017, Pomprowicz's work began even earlier with the installation of a clean water well, a major breakthrough for the community. Since then, she has traveled back — including a post-retirement trip — with a laundry list of goals.

A Lions donation with further her mission. "I'm so thankful for all the support because it's making a huge difference for this village," she said.

For the Lions, arriving at this moment wasn't easy, and countless nights were spent preparing for all the major events. Johnson stated that during the summer, he's constantly working on the fairgrounds and hatching ideas for the fair and lights show.

"This is essentially my hobby," he said. "I've probably committed myself more than most even should do."

After watching the pig races at the fair or the seeing the children's excited reactions to the lights, the work is rewarding.

"I enjoy it," he said.

RHAM • RHAM

RHAM Budget Passes at Referendum

By Michael Sinkewicz

RHAM's combined 31.13 million — a \$863,057 or 2.85% increase from current year spending — passed at referendum this week, following a relatively smooth budget season.

Unofficial results show that the operating budget of \$30.59 million passed by a 1,165-1,062 tally. Hebron, the largest of the three member towns, rejected the proposal 939-801.

However, Marlborough voters supported the budget 245-58 and Andover voted 119-65 in favor of the spending plan.

According to Hebron's advisory questions, 920 people felt the operating budget was "too high," while just 172 said is was "too low." Just over 530 residents didn't answer, perhaps indicating that the amount was satisfactory.

The \$540,990 capital budget was adopted by a 1,235-995 count. Hebron narrowly opposed the CIP budget by a 872-870 mark. Marlborough voted in favor of the plan, by a 249-55 vote and Andover supported the budget with 116-67

The overall levies for each town are now set. Hebron's, which represents 49% of the total budget, is \$15.38 million — a \$1.13 million increase from 2022-23. Marlborough would pay 36% of the budget, or \$11.25 million — a \$312,756 increase. Andover's 14% share of the budget is \$4.49 million — a \$533,524 decrease from the current budget.

RHAM Board of Education Chairman Mi-

chael Morris was satisfied with the result.

"I wasn't really surprised," he said. "I thought we put together a reasonable budget.

Overall, while the board worked diligently to move the budget forward, Morris credited the Superintendent Colin McNamara, the administration, department heads, finance department and faculty for putting in the hard work.

"Then, it's more about refinement," he said, referring to the board's process.

While it's "tough to compare" RHAM's budget to neighbor districts and their circumstances, Morris expressed that this budget season was "financially difficult for everybody."

"Everybody's realistic," he said, adding that the approach was to be "responsible."

As always, Morris said, the balancing the finical reality with satisfying the educational requirements the district and community expect.

The board was able to identify several areas to reduce the bottom-line of the proposal.

The most substantial savings came from the utilization of 2021-22 surplus funds. In February, the school board added \$362,218 to its Capital Non-Recurring account, covering items and services that would've been in the 2023-24

These items include: HVAC review at \$104,000; wrestling mats for \$12,000; baby grand piano at \$43,000; scoreboards/shot clocks for \$13,500; feminine hygiene products/

dispensers at \$79,493; Touchview monitors at \$68,250; concrete containment for soil/infield mix/gravel \$17,325; locks for doors and fob access at \$17,000; and commercial washers and dryers for \$7,000.

Then in March, the board pre-purchased \$87,000 of tech equipment, library equipment, security equipment and furniture from the 2023-24 proposal. The funding was transferred from accounts in the current fiscal budget, which allowed the district to reduce the upcoming request. The 2022-23 budget is in a strong net favorable position, allowing the transfer and pre-purchase to be completed.

In regards to Hebron's specific result — the only town to vote down the proposal — Morris indicated that it was a "difficult year for any budget to be put up together."

He speculated that "dissatisfaction with one budget may bleed into others."

Hebron's enrollment at RHAM increased, resulting in its allotment spiking. Voters were also juggling local school budget increases and a variety of town projects, some of which were expensive.

These were all things that landed at the same time," Morris said. "I don't know if I foresee it being a long-term problem."

As long as RHAM continues to put forward reasonable budget requests, the community will likely support them, he expressed.

McNamara worked through his first budget season in the district. Morris said that the superintendent was an important presence in the collaboration that took place.

That environment is the "secret to success," Morris stated.

He added that McNamara is doing a "great job."

Following the school's adoption of the budget last month, McNamara also emphasized a team

"I can't say we have a magic formula," he said. "It's a collective effort to get us where we are." He added, "I'm hopeful that it's indicative of what I'll have each year."

ISO Musicians and Vocalists of All Ages

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

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

If interested in performing, complete the application at tinyurl.com/4zn464ma.

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

Vote for AHM!

AHM Youth and Family Services was nominated by the Red Sox Foundation as a finalist for the 2023 Impact Awards. In 2023, the IMPACT Awards will continue to focus on organizations that have demonstrated a deep impact in raising awareness and improving mental health outcomes in their community.

The three organizations with the most votes in each state will win a grant: \$10,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place and \$2,000 for

People can vote daily until May 31, at redsox. com/impact.

Time to Register for Project Graduation

RHAM High School graduating seniors can register for their Project Graduation celebration through May 31.

Project Graduation will be at the indoor/outdoor venue Revolutions, located in South Windsor. To register, go to ahmyouth.recdesk.com/ community/home. If you do not already have an AHM Rec Desk account, you will have to create one. If you do have an account, select Project Graduation Registration from the list of programs.

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

Spring Swing Golf Tournament

All are invited to support RHAM Youth Baseball with the Spring Swing Golf Tournament Friday, May 12, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Golf registration includes 18 holes with cart, lunch, dinner and two drink tickets. There will also be raffle prizes and silent

Register and pay online at www.rhamyouthbaseball.org.

See More RHAM News, page 31

Raptors Lacrosse 'Learning on the Fly'

Boys lacrosse at RHAM High School features a young roster that is aiming for a strong finish

The Raptors ran into a buzzsaw from Glastonbury on Monday night, losing to 14-3 at RHAM High School. Early on, the Raptors went toe-to-toe with

the visiting Guardians, battling to a draw for the first eights minute. After falling behind 1-0, junior Josh Weers tied it up with a goal at the 7:52 mark of the first

quarter. Glastonbury senior Parker Wallace countered with the first of his game-high four goals to regain the lead for the Guardians before RHAM senior Brady Lalonde again knotted the game with 3:41 to play in the opening frame.

Senior goalie Zach Bogdan went the entire way between the pipes for the Raptors, making several saves, yet the Guardians broke the tie by reeling off the next five goals to take a lead they would not relinquish.

"I thought we played a solid 48 minutes against a tough opponent," RHAM head coach Michael Humphreys said following the team's sixth loss this spring. "Our goal is to get better every day and I think this is a good test for the rest of the season."

Weers added his second goal midway through the second quarter, cutting the deficit to 7-3, but the Raptors would not score again over the final 31 minutes of game action.

Despite the 11-point defeat, the arrow is pointing up for RHAM under Humphreys.

Humphreys is in his second season as the team's head coach after serving as an assistant coach for the previous three seasons.

Following his initial season at head coach last spring, the team lost an influential senior class featuring four all-conference players in Boden Landers, Gino Deliseo, Nick Pace, and Tim

The team's lone returning all-conference player is Jacob Tresser, a junior who is captaining the team this year with Weers and Lalonde.

"We are a very young team, so there's a learning curve, but I think they've picked it up very quick over the last nine games," stated Humphreys. "It's been up and down with injuries and everything else, but our boys have really stepped up to the challenge and are learning on the fly."

Humphreys' Raptors started the season by winning three of five games, earning quality victories over E.O. Smith (10-7), Rocky Hill (18-9), and Woodstock Academy (7-5).

The game with Glastonbury marked the team's fourth straight loss, yet Humphreys is hoping to see the team find a groove as they enter the final month of the season.

"Our offensive needs to hold the ball a little better and with a young team that is learning how to win, that will help win down the stretch," he stated.

The Raptors' next travel to Norwich Free Academy this Saturday (May 6) for an out-ofconference bout at noon, before returning to RHAM for an important conference tilt with Tolland on Monday, May 8 at 4:40 p.m.

Simply Soy 'Graduation' Candle Fundraiser

candles can be ordered through Friday, May 12, at 5 p.m., via ahmyouth.org/fundraisersevents/project-graduation.

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

A RHAM Project Graduation fundraiser, TIONS! 'Class of 2023." Two sizes are avail-

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

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ ahmyouth.org.

Simply Soy limited-edition "Class of 2023" able: 25 ounces and 16 ounces.

College Scholarships Available AHM Youth and Family Services is accepting scholarship applications from Andover, Hebron,

and Marlborough students who are planning to

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

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

leading organization, and had planned on pursuing a career in early education.

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

Each of the AHM scholarships are needsbased. Application deadline is May 15. Find the online application at ahmyouth.org/collegescholarship-application.

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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.





By George, They've Got It!... Rich and Joanne Kupis of Portland are shown here with their favorite newspaper at St. George Island in State Park, Fla.



Taking in Tennis... Matt and Kristy Roloff of East Hampton brought the Rivereast with them to see the Miami Open tennis tournament!



Enjoying the Everglades... Marlborough residents Katherine Cragnotti and Warren Thime recently visited their son Adam Thime, who works for the National Park Service in the Everglades as a hydrologic technician. The Everglades are home to numerous species. Katherine and Warren said they saw crocodiles, alligators, anhingas, purple gallinules, red-bellied cooters, dolphins, blue herons, egrets and roseate spoonbills, to name just a few.



The Happiest Place on Earth... The RHAM High School music department took a field trip to Disney World from March 24-28. In the front row are Ella Hall and Sophia Peeling; in the back row are Evan Davis, Michael Hamburger, Jonathan Goldstein and Daniel Tamburro.

Going on a trip? Bring along the Bulletin!

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

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



Portland • Portland •

At Library, a Warm Welcome and a Fond Farewell

By Jack Lakowsky

After 20 years leading the Portland Public Library, director Jan Nocek has decided to retire. Nocek's successor has already been picked Jenn Billingsley (whose pronouns are they/ them) a kid's department head at Russell Library in Middletown. They started last week.

From the Reference Desk to the Captain's Chair

Some 20 years ago, Portland welcomed a young career woman to Portland Library. This new hire would, given some time, lead the Portland library through modernization and the pandemic, possibly the most challenging time in her career.

"I have to go sometime," Nocek told the Rivereast last week. "They seemed to like me alright, they kept me around 20 years."

Quite casually, like it was really no big thing, Nocek brought up her nationally known 2006 fight with the federal government, taking to task the controversial USA Patriot Act, passed in the wake of 9/11.

After a legally binding nondisclosure agreement expired, Nocek and her underdog cohort removed their muzzles in a press conference.

"I'm John Doe, and if I had told you before today that the F.B.I. was requesting library records, I could have gone to jail," said one of the four, Peter Chase, a librarian from Plainville, quoted in the Harford Courant.

"Four Connecticut librarians who had been barred from revealing that they had received a request for patrons' records from the federal government spoke out yesterday, expressing frustration about the sweeping powers given to law enforcement authorities by the USA Patriot Act," the Courant wrote.

The librarians, Nocek included, took turns at the microphone at their lawyers' office and publicly identified themselves as the collective "John Doe" who had sued the United States attorney general after their organization received a confidential demand for patron records in a secret counterterrorism case.

They had been ordered, under the threat of prosecution, not to talk about the request with anyone. The librarians, who all had leadership roles at a small consortium called Library Connection in Windsor, said they opposed allowing the government unchecked power to demand library records and were particularly incensed at having been subject to the open-ended non-

The scrappy group won at least part of its court fight, when a three-judge panel of the

Horseshoe League **Seeks New Members**

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

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

Email Andy Bauer at AndyTBauer@gmail. com if interested and let him know what days work for her. Portland Horseshoes is an alcohol-

Foodshare Truck

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

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

Police News

4/24: Justin Rowen, 35, of 48 Freestone Ave., was arrested and charged with fourth-degree sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor, Portland Police said.

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

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

United States Second Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan dismissed the government's appeal and allowed a lower court judge's revocation of the nondisclosure order to stand.

'We were under a gag order for a year," Nocek told the Rivereast. "They were kinda painting with a broad brush." A political cartoon that ran in the Courant showed Nocek and her co-librarians protecting the U.S. Constitution.

Before that trial, and right up till now, nearly 20 years later, Nocek said the Portland library is a wonderful place to be, and its service to the community has only grown, the result of the hard work of staff, the board, and the very active, very supportive Friends of the Portland Library all of whom, Nocek said, have been key in the library's achievements - particularly the recent interior renovation and navigating the library through the complexities of COVID-19.

'The pandemic really made us look at things differently," said Nocek. The library brought on curbside pickup and, because of the financial strain the pandemic wreaked on countless people, eliminating late fees, a move libraries everywhere from Portland to Los Angeles have made.

The pandemic, dominating much of Nocek's last few years, did prevent her from accomplishing a few goals she would've liked to reach by time she moved on to her next chapter - which, she said, will consists of more down time and, hopefully, a long trip to Spain with her husband.

"It took a lot of time away as I was winding down," she said. "I wanted to do some other things, but that's okay."

Like other libraries - including East Hampton and Nocek's former stomping ground, Manchester - Portland has seen a surge in use.

'The statistics are crazy, we're really getting back to it," she said.

Among all her accomplishments, Nocek is especially proud of making the library a partner and friend to many community organizations, like the local solidarity committee. After the U. S's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan and waves of refugees had to find safety elsewhere, the library helped house a family of asylum seekers in Middletown.

"It'll be strange, not to be involved in all this," said Nocek.

A New Director

After trotting half the nation on their career path, Portland Library's new director Jennifer Billingsley has landed in little Portland, crossing the bridge from the Russell Library in Middletown, where they were the youth department director. Before that, they were a manager at a library in Lake County, Ind., and in the same

Referendum Voting Information

The referendum on the 2023-24 budget will be held Monday, May 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Portland Middle School, located at 93 High St. Remember to bring identifica-

Curbside voting will be available for those with disabilities. To utilize this service, call the town clerk's office at 860-342-6743 when you are on your way to the polls. When you arrive, pull into the circle in the front of the school and put your hazard lights on, so that the poll workers will know you are there.

Town Clerk's Office **Closed May 10**

The Portland town clerk's office will be closed Wednesday, May 10, to allow staff to attend a required certification training class. There will be normal late hours on Tuesday, May 9, until 7 p.m., and the office will re-open Thursday, May 11, at 8:30 a.m.





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This picture of new Portland library director Jennifer Billingsley pretty much sums it up – they're energetic, enthusiastic and proud of their work. They come from across the way in Middletown, leaving their much-loved job as youth director at the Russell Library.

district was a manager for a different facility and has worked at a few places in Illinois.

Billingsley is from just outside New York City, getting their undergrad degree at Western Connecticut University, then went to pursue theatre in Chicago. They got a job at a library, and, already a lifelong reader, fell in love, especially with working with the library's youngest patron, deciding to get a master's and pursue a career in librarianship. Wanting to move closer to home, they took the job in Middletown.

"It's hard to brag" about their accomplishments so far because everything in a library is a team effort.

During the first scary weeks of the pandemic, and as a proud theatre kid, they empathized with the students and young actors that, after the hard work of rehearsal, lost the chance to show their talents.

Reaching out to Middletown directors, Billingsley helped set up a virtual Shakespeare performance, jokingly titled "A Midsummer's Night Stream," with a cast ranging from preteens to older adults.

"Such a broad range," they said of the cast's experience levels. "It felt really good to figure out a need, figure out the resources and be the connection to bring those things together. It was lovely, it was really, really wonderful."

On their career step-up, Billingsley is overjoyed, and is a goal long sought. They worked as an interim assistant director at Russell, helping oversee more than 30 employees, getting their experience, and now, "I think I'm ready," they said.

"Portland's a beautiful community and this is such a well-loved library. A good job posting reads like a love letter, and that's what this was for me," they said. Billingsley spoke highly of the library board, Nocek and First Selectman Ryan Curley, who welcomed them with open arms.

Billingsley also partnered with Middletown Pride and was part of Russell's hosting the very first drag reading in the state, beating out New Haven by just a few days. They also sit on the city's LGBTQIA+ Commission.

Billingsley's directorship started last Friday and, they said, they have luck other new administrators don't always get - briefly working under their predecessor so they can learn every rope of directing a robust library that's only set

Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

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

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show, and are available by emailing trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com or calling 860-463-6444. You can also purchase tickets on Eventbrite for an additional fee. All proceeds will be donated to Wounded Warriors Family Support.

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

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

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

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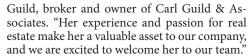
Local Relator Joins Firm

Carl Guild & Associates has announced the addition of Portland resident Shannon Therrien to its team of real estate agents. She will be working out of the East Hampton office.

Therrien has five years of experience in the industry. She also previously worked as a real es-

tate paralegal for over 10 years and retired as an eighth-grade science teacher.

"Shannon is an outstanding addition to our team of real estate professionals," said Carl



Therrien has lived in various counties across Connecticut, including New London, Windham and Hartford.

"I am thrilled to join the Carl Guild & Associates team," said Shannon. "Their commitment to providing exceptional support to their agents and clients aligns perfectly with my values, and I look forward to serving the community's real estate needs."

For more information, visit www.CarlGuild.

Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library groups has puzzles, games, DVDs, and fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, all at the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

The sale takes place during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc and puzzles and games are \$2 unless marked

There are also several TV series on DVD that have been removed from the library collection all for 50 cents each disc. A small collection of "vintage" books is also available for 50 cents

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

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library's Museum Pass Program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

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

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 gentlyused 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

Homemade Treats and Something Sweet

The Portland Historical Society will have a Bake Sale on Town-Wide Tag Sales Day next Saturday, May 13. Members and friends of the society are invited to contribute.

All baked goods should be wrapped and brought to the Callander House at 492 Main St. after 7:45 a.m. next Saturday. If you can't bake, a financial donation can be dropped off at the sale or mailed to PO Box 98, Portland CT 06480.

Set your alarms to get to the Bake Sale early though after 8:30 a.m. please. The sale is always a sell-out, the historical society said.

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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.

Free Concert for Police Union

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

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

Honor Society Inductee

Anna Maselek of Portland, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, was recently welcomed into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.

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First Congregational Church News

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

On Sunday, May 7, worship will be led by the Rev. Julie Olmsted. Coffee hour follows the service and all are welcome.

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

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

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

Memorial Day Returns; Participants Welcome

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YFS News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Drop-In & Draw Arts & Crafts: Friday, May 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Youth Services Advisory Board: Tuesday,

May 23, from 4:30-6 p.m. Power Up Portland: Wednesday, May 24,

6:30-8 p.m. Juneteenth Celebration: Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Save the date! There will be speakers, food truck, art, games, entertainment.

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

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; Hearing Clinic, 11 a.m.; 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.; Family History Fun with Ken Doney, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Pet Parade

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

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

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.

Delaney Poach earned Honors with Distinc-Farley earned First Honors. tion and Ryan They are each members of the Class of 2026.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

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

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region which includes East Hampton and Portland. No commercial or business waste

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste to learn more.



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After Long Wait, Senior Center Gets its Makeover

By Jack Lakowsky

It's not often a development project, whether a renovation or a new build, takes an extra few years for good reasons - they're usually slowed by anything from bureaucracy to supply hiccups - but that's what happened with the Waverly Senior Center renovation.

Last week, state and local officials broke ground on the Waverly Senior Center renovation project, an effort that started under former first selectwoman Susan Bransfield. Since it started, it grew substantially, and received quite a large chunk of state funding, a cool \$725,000 from federal COVID relief dollars distributed through the state with help from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Portland First Selectman Ryan Curley expects the work to be done as soon as July. He doesn't expect it to disrupt programming.

When Bransfield first got the project going a few years ago, the plan was limited to kitchen improvements. Then, as covid highlighted the need for good indoor HVAC systems and robust senior support services - a group, Curley said, the pandemic greatly affected, causing loneliness and financial strain, issues for seniors at the best of times – the scope of project grew to address these needs.

In hindsight it might be a bit obvious, but "clean air is so important," Curley told the Rivereast this week.

With new HVAC, the center will be another local warming and cooling center, essential to keep people sheltered and comfortable during mass power loss or other emergencies. The center's backup power is getting better too, and because that's where the local food bank is, Curley said it's really important to have a reliable gen-

The project improves the center's air and makes more available that other kinda important need: food.

The center partnered with Meals-on-Wheels

late last year, and, with the grant money, it'll bring its kitchen right up to 2023.

"It'll be state-of-the-art," said Curley. "We'll be able to run our own meal program." The grant also went towards getting meals from local restaurants to seniors, keeping the money local and giving fresh, delicious food to those who may not be able to afford it normally.

The town selected a Portland company, Arresco Construction, to do the work, another way the project is keeping dollars local.

"We're really excited to have these improvements for seniors, especially with how much covid impacted them, and we were thrilled to get that grant." Curley said the redone kitchen will let the center hold larger scale events.

Previous selectwoman Bransfield attended last week's groundbreaking, along with state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) and state and federal officials.

"I am thrilled to see this bigger version of what began under my administration finally get started. I applaud Ryan Curley for his work on this important project that will benefit all seniors in Portland," Bransfield told the Rivereast in an email. "I just love it!"

Carpino said, "The Waverly Center is key to so many people in Portland. It serves as an important gathering place to seniors as well as community gathering place for many groups. The ability to make such major upgrades will serve many in town.

Portland is a community - and the ability of multiple partners working together to obtain this grant is what sets us apart."

It's been a big couple years for the center. Last year it brought on a new leader, Lynn Tracey, after longtime director Mary Pont retired.

The local Senior Advisory Board has praised Tracey's performance, saying that the center just keeps getting busier.

The center has more to accomplish this year too - in November, Tracey outlined for the

RENOVATIONS TO PORTLAND SENIOR CENTER KITCHEN STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Work on the renovation project at the Waverly Senior Center is at long last underway. Pictured from left are Senior Advisory Board member Elaine Cote; former first selectwoman Susan Bransfield; First Selectman Ryan Curley; Joe Aresco of Aresco Construction; Amanda Cleveland of Silver & Petrucelli; Carlotta Lord, Dale Kroop and Suzanne Piacentini of the Department of Housing & Urban Development; and Dominic Carew of the state Department of Health.

Portland selectboard some hang-ups with local senior transportation. The town shares a sevenpassenger van with Cromwell, a 2009 used by Portland two weeks every month. And during those weeks, the van gets stopped up by repairs and maintenance.

In the meeting a pair of senior van drivers said the vehicle's lifetime is winding down, it's noisy and riding rough, all while more seniors are using the van.

Now, the town's looking to get a bus, priced at \$114,000.

Food Drive May 13

food drive Saturday, May 13.

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

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

Throughout the country, the food drive has

The Portland Post Office will hold its annual been going on for 26 years; in that time, almost a million pounds of food is collected per year. Last year in Portland, over 3,000 pounds of food were collected.

The Portland Post Office offered thanks in advance for the donations.

This drive is sponsored by the United States Postal Service, and the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

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

Youth Programs: Drop-In Playdates: Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., through May 25. Ages birth through 5 and their caregivers are invited to come for an hour of socialization and open play with the library's story room toys. No registration required.

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

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

Lock In for Literacy: Welcome to Camp Half Blood! Friday, May 19, 6-8 p.m., for grades

Car Show Rescheduled

weekend, the Kenny Fletcher Car Show was

rescheduled to this Saturday, May 6, from 3-7pm at Valli Construction, 22 Sand Hill

For more information, call Michael Bel-

lobuono at 860-707-4231 or Michael Brown

Free Paper-Shredding

of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the East Hampton Wa-

ter Pollution Control Authority, 20 Gildersleeve

Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-

hazardous-waste for more information.

This event is free to residents of the River-COG region, which includes East Hampton and

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council

at 860-982-3227.

Drive, East Hampton.

Due to the inclement weather this past

permission slip will be sent to registered attendees a few days before the program. LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups: Teens

4-6. This activity night is based on Rick Rior-

dan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. A

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

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

Movie - 80 for Brady: Wednesday, May 10,

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

Town-Wide Tag Sales Ready To Go

Registration is closed for the Portland Historical Society's 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day on Saturday, May 13. There will be more than 125 sales around town and out on the country roads.

The official free Tag Sale Map will be available Wednesday, May 10, on the front porch of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main St. and online at www.PortlandHistSoc.org. Volunteers will be at the Callander House on Saturday, May 13, to help shoppers at the Society's tag sale - a major fundraiser for the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History.

For more information, call 860-982-1486 or email PortlandCThistory@gmail.com.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Lady Highlanders Hoops Camp: For grades 3-6. Wednesdays, June 7-28, 6-8 p.m., at BIS. Portland High School basketball coaches Kelly and Diane Coleman, members of the 2011 PHS championship team, and current team members 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

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

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

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

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





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Budget Soundly Rejected at Referendum

By Michael Sinkewicz

Despite an increase in turnout, Hebron residents overwhelmingly rejected both the town and CIP budgets this Tuesday, setting up a second referendum later this month.

The total proposal, which included funding for town government and both local and regional school systems, was for \$39.56 million a \$2.54 million or 6.88% increase from current year spending.

Hebron voters rejected the spending plan by a 1,177—561 tally.

The CIP budget of \$847,886 fared even worse, and failed 1,182-558.

Turnout was up to 1,732 from 1,072 the previous year — a substantial hike. For weeks, residents have spoken out specifically against the inclusion of \$245,000 for the design of a new Public Works facility, which was a key item of

The mill rate would've been 34.09 - a 2.39mill increase. The median tax bill was slated to be \$8,467, an increase of \$594.

On Wednesday morning, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said he wasn't surprised the budget failed, but didn't expect the wide margin.

"We heard the people loud and clear," he said. Moving forward, the Board of Selectmen will

discuss potential modifications to the spending plan. The town budget proposal of \$11.22 million — a \$678,954 increase or 6.44% - and the local school budget of \$12.94 million — a \$739,274 or 6% increase — are the only options

While Hebron voters rejected its levy of the RHAM budget, the overall proposal was adopted by the combined vote of the three member

The advisory questions included on the ballot reveal that voters largely thought each of the budget proposals were "too high."

Tierney speculated that the mill rate might have been a smidge over voters' comfort level. His goal is to try and revise the mill rate to below a 2-mill increase.

"I would hope the towns people would support that," he said.

Another change will involve the \$245,000 for the design of a potential new Public Works facility. Tierney said he plans on recommending to the selectmen that they remove that item from the proposal and seek alternative funding sources in the future.

While he emphasized that the design was not site specific, perhaps the community was still confused over the exact details associated with its inclusion in the budget, or generally opposed to the Kinney Road/John Horton Boulevard

"People thought we were putting the cart before the horse," he said.

The school budget was "tough," Tierney continued, and while "it's nobody's fault," Hebron battled increased enrollment, which amplified its RHAM levy.

The Hebron Board of Education in February adopted a \$13.98 million budget proposal for 2023-24 - a \$1.77 million, or 14.5%, increase from current year spending. The Board of Finance then shaved \$1 million from that requested increase.

Previously, Hebron Board of Education Chairman Heather Petit requested that \$250,000 be reinstated to the district's spending plan — a request that was not granted.

"I did feel that a reduction of \$1 million was a bit aggressive," she said.

Now, though, Petit's board may be tasked with digesting additional cuts — 933 residents felt the budget was too high, while just 313 believed school spending was too low.

More cuts, Petit said, would be "detrimental"

to the schools and programming.
Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird

"I am very concerned that further budget reductions will result in eliminating programming we have had in our schools for many years," he said. "Families move to Hebron for our excellent schools and we want to continue to provide the very best to our students. This keeps housing values high and adds to the value of the town at large. I hope the community can come together and pass a budget that supports our kids."

After the selectmen's meeting this week which occurred press time, more information on the direction of the budgets, and the anticipated bottom-line reductions, will likely be known.

"Hopefully we'll have some direction coming out of that [meeting]," Tierney said.

The next chance for voters to hit the polls will be May 23, he said.

The Lending Library Alert

After the death of George Floyd, Gilead Congregational Church, located at 672 Gilead St., created a Little Lending Library (not to be confused with a Little Free Library).

The church purchased over 125 books on themes of acceptance, diversity, empathy and inclusion. These books were to be borrowed and returned. However, there are only 36 books left!

People are asked to, while they're doing

their spring cleaning, look for any of the missing books.

They all have a label on the inside cover with a picture of children and Gilead Congregational Church Lending Library.

There are no fines; the church said it just hopes to see its books returned so other children will be able to read them.

For more information, call the church office or email GCC@GileadChurch.net).

Juneteenth Celebration to be Held June 17

The Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) is sponsoring its second annual Juneteenth Celebration Saturday, June 17, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in collaboration with Hebron Parks & Recreation Department's Hebron Day.

A variety of educational activities will be offered for children, youth and adults, to be held in and around the historic Peters House, 150

During the event, attendees will learn about the lives of formerly enslaved residents of Hebron, including Cesar Peters and his family, about the path to freedom for all African Americans, and the ongoing work necessary to ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the benefits of living and working in equitable, vibrant and diverse communities.

Entertainment will include EvaE Peart and Nia Arts, a well-known African drumming and dancing troupe (audience invited to participate!); Lisa Clayton Singers; Hartford's Proud Drum, Drill and Dance Corp.; and Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles II.

Kids' activities will include a Story Walk with the book, Juneteenth for Mazie, written and illustrated by Floyd Cooper; scavenger hunt; face painting; and more. Adults can take guided tours of the Peters House and learn more about getting involved with social justice activities.

New this year will be a narrated bus tour of several sites in Hebron where Black Americans lived and worked, including an archeological dig site of the home of Cesar Peters, hosted by state archeologist Sarah Sportman. The tours will run several times throughout the event.

Once again, about 70 members of the Peters family are planning to attend and several of them will present information about the life of Cesar Peters in artistic form.

Technology Program for Caregivers

Do you have a mom, dad, aunt, uncle, friend that is living alone or in a retirement community? Would you like to hear about how technology can help keep them safe and give you peace of mind during your absence?

If yes, you're invited to an information session hosted by the Alzheimer's Association Wednesday, May 17, from 5-6 p.m., at Colebrook Village (in the movie theater), 55 John E. Horton

This is a session isn't just for those with de-

mentia; it is geared toward how to identify behaviors and help keep loved ones living as independently as possible for as long as possible.

Attendees will learn about how cameras, door sensors, automatic timers for stoves, and more, can help with behaviors that may lead to a safety

Pre-registration is required, by contacting Tonya Maurer at 860-539-9287 or multitasking@comcast.net.



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

Hebron Youth Running Club: Tuesdays, May 16-June 20, 6-7 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School. Kids ages 5-12 (and adults) will participate in weekly workouts that will be tracked throughout the year. Kids show off their progress with necklaces and toe tokens. Cost \$15

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

Babysitters Training: Thursday, June 29, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Gilead Hill School, for ages 11-17. This is an entry level course intended to teach

age-appropriate skills to care for children of all ages. Basic first aid, including adult and child CPR, will be taught. Cost is \$80.

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

Summer of Swish Basketball Camp: June 19-22, 8 a.m.-noon, at RHAM High School. Cost: \$110.

Football Camp: June 26-30, 8-11:30 a.m., at RHAM High School. With RHAM Football's head coach and the RHAM football players Fee: \$125.

Crafting Camp: June 26-30, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at Douglas Library. Fee: \$130.

Nerf Zone and Schoolyard Games Camp:

July 3-7, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at Hebron Elementary School, for grades 1-6.

Preschool Screening May 10

The Hebron Board of Education, through the Hebron Early Childhood Center Program at Gilead Hill School, will hold a screening Wednesday, May 10, for children that reside in town and will be 3 and 4 years old by that date.

The screening will be at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St., and will feature screens in the areas of speech, language, cognitive and motor development. Parents will also receive information designed to assist in fostering their child's

Reservations are required; call the office of the director of educational services at Hebron Public Schools at 860-228-2577 to register your child. This is the last preschool screening of the school year.



by joining and cleaning up the parking lot and along the Church Street frontage of Raymond Brook Preserve. This was in participation with the Hebron Green Committee's request to pick up trash and litter. Pictured from left are state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) and Trail Rangers Frank Zitkus, Mary Jean Wakefield, Joanna Chester and Ann Zitkus. If interested in joining and/or receiving notification of Hebron Trail Ranger activities, email hebrontrail.leader01@gmail.com.

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Volunteers Go Bald to Support Childhood Cancer Research

The St. Baldrick's Foundation, which funds children's cancer research grants, will host one of its head-shaving events at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds Sunday, May 21, where more than a dozen people will shave their heads to raise money for lifesaving childhood cancer research.

Dr. Juan Vasquez, a pediatric oncologist from

Yale University, will speak about progress being made in treatment. DJ Avery Mullins of Magic Moments will provide entertainment.

To participate in a head-shaving event and raise money for cancer research, visit Stbaldricks.org/get-involved to learn more.

St. Peter's News & Notes

Services of Holy Eucharist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., are held each Sunday at 8 a.m. (Rite 1) and 10 a.m. (with music). All are invited to the Church Hall for coffee and conversation after the services. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

Meetings and Events: Balancing Class, Mondays, 10-11 a.m. - cost is \$5; Cub Scouts: first Mondays of the month, 5:30 p.m.; Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop): Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Vestry: third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30

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

or email office@stpetershebron.com.

TTCP Upcoming Events

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

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

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

For more information, visit stpetershebron. com, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook,

Contact TTCP for an application.

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

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



The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/ calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors, and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube; go to tinyurl.com/ yby64wph to access.

Life Groups: Meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Caseys' home in Hebron, and the second Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30pm at the Swensons' home in Columbia, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: May 7.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship: Held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church. All are invited.

Youth Group Food Drive: The Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic is running low on supplies. The Youth Group is collecting dona-

Painting on Canvas for AHM

The Gilead Congregational Church Board of Missions is sponsoring a paint on canvas event to benefit AHM Youth and Family Services Lanterns Mentoring Program. The program will take place Saturday, May 20, at 2 p.m., at the church, 672 Gilead St.

Adults and children in grade 7 and up are welcome. Cost is \$45. RSVP by May 12.

Attendees will create a country bouquet painting to take home. All materials will be provided and you will be guided through every step of the painting. Refreshments will be provided.

To register, email Laurie Larsen at laurie.p.larsen@gmail.com.

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tions after church service for the next two weeks and then delivering them on May 7. The kitchen is in need of canned goods, non-perishables, and household items. For a more detailed list, see the Covenant Soup Kitchen Facebook page.

Fellowship Luncheon: Sunday, May 7, following the 10 a.m. service. Held out on the patio (weather permitting), the luncheon will feature hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring a dish and/or lawn game to share.

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

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

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

Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts is accepting donations for its annual fall tag sale - Epoch's biggest fundraiser every second and fourth Saturday of the month, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Do not drop donations off at any other time, and do not leave donations outside our building. You will only be able to drop off donations if somebody is there to accept them.

Items not accepted for the sale include: computers and any accessories including monitors, printers, keyboards and mouses; televisions; child car seats, cribs, mattresses, bed frames, couches, encyclopedias, textbooks, large exercise machines, old-style phones and cell phones, and large sofa chairs.



The Hebron Pollinator Pathway recently hosted its second annual Invasive Walk, Talk and Cut event at the Raymond Brook Preserve Pollinator Garden on Kinney Road. Pictured from left, bottom row, are Rose Hiskes, Michele Sinkez, Hannah Fiducia; top row, Katie Fiducia, Bonnie Calkins, Jeff Fiducia, Margo Fiducia, Mary Brescia, Lynn Sheldon, Kathy Labadorf, Candace O'Shea, Millie Ramsey.

Invasive Walk, Talk and Cut Recap

The Hebron Pollinator Pathway hosted its second annual Invasive Walk, Talk and Cut event on April 22 at the Raymond Brook Preserve Pollinator Garden on Kinney Road.

Rose Hiskes from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Workshop Group led the walk, identifying invasive plants that many folks have on their properties. Participants learned how invasives overtake native plants by spreading seeds, extending rhizomes and resprouting stem cuttings underground. How to remove or manage invasive species, over time, was the focus of discussions, demonstrations, and instructions.

Mechanical strategies presented were: Cutting: is effective at delaying/preventing seed production and depleting plants resources-but, follow-up is often necessary; Pulling: is effective at removing seedlings; and, Mowing: effective at removing vegetation and repeated mowing is an effective control strategy for some plant species. Chemical strategies included: Leaf Spray: which is effective at controlling large infestations of invasive plants but remember foliar herbicide spray can kill non-targeted species as well; Cut/Paint: is effective at precise control, but disposal of cut material is important to con-

sider given the nature of how plants spread.

A general practice is to prevent seeds from spreading by removing invasive plants before seeds are produced. Some plants continue to grow, flower, and set seed even after pulling or cutting. Seeds can remain viable in the ground for many years. If the plant has flowers or seeds, place the flowers and seeds in a heavy plastic bag "head first" and transport it to a disposal site. Lastly, do not compost any invasives unless you know there is no viable (living) plant material left.

Church of the Holy Family News

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The overnight stay program has ended for the season. Therefore, camping equipment is critically needed for clients for whom the shelter has been unable to acquire temporary or permanent housing: 2and 3-person tents [new or used (clean) with all parts]; 8'x10' and larger tarps (brown or green; no bright colors); tent cord or rope; tent stakes; and sturdy adult backpacks (new or used in good condition). Additional critical needs: paper towels (always needed); men's and women's (M,L,XL) sweatpants, sweatshirts, and hoodies; men's (M,L,

XL) thermal shirts, T-shirts, and boxer briefs; women's briefs (sizes 6-10); Lysol disinfectant spray and spray cleaner; liquid cleaner such as Pinesol; laundry detergent pods; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas to assist people living in their cars; and Walmart gift cards. Call to arrange the pickup of gift cards. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Bottle and Can Drive

Troop 28/1028 Hebron Scouts BSA will hold a Bottle and Can Drive fundraiser Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. -1 p.m., in the Ted's IGA parking lot in Hebron.

All are asked to bring refundable bottles and cans to support local scouts. This fundraiser will benefit the Hebron Scouts BSA Troop and help make scouting affordable for all participating Hebron boys and girls.





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Hebron • Heb



Karen Zimmer of Joshua's Trust presents Hebron's Open Space Land Acquisition Committee with their "Group Conservationist of the Year Award". Pictured from left: Frank Zitkus, Hebron's OSLAC Secretary; Karen Zimmer, Joshua's Trust Secretary; Brian O'Connell, OSLAC Chairman; Jim Cordier, Hebron's Inland Wetlands and Conservation Officer and OSLAC member; and John Mullaney, OSLAC Vice Chairman

Open Space Committee Receives Award

At its annual meeting on April 15, Joshua's Trust presented the Hebron Open Space Land Acquisition Committee (OSLAC) with its "Group Conservationist of the Year" Award.

The award is granted by the Trust to a group that "exemplifies values of preserving land in the interest of Conservation [...]." In the Trust's official notification to the town, as stated by Karen Zimmer, secretary of the Trust, "We are impressed with the good work that this committee has done for the benefit of Hebron's citizens over the past 25 years."

In a press release, Hebron OSLAC secretary Frank Zitkus noted multiple resident surveys rank Hebron's rural setting and open spaces as top reasons that people move to and live in Hebron. Residents of Hebron and beyond enjoy Burnt Hill Park and Raymond Brook Preserve; protected forests from border to border along the Air Line Trail; and other open spaces with preserved trail systems. He said all are possible because of Hebron's OSLAC efforts. Zitkus added, "Receiving this prestigious

Zitkus added, "Receiving this prestigious award from this highly respected land trust is recognition of the significant efforts of OSLAC members and town staff combined with financial support from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and state DEEP, as well as vast public support, as evidenced by near unanimous town meeting votes for open space property acquisitions over the years."

Joshua's Trust is an accredited land trust that currently operates in 14 towns in Tolland, Windham and New London counties and owns open space properties or easements totaling more than 5,000 acres.

St. Peter's Plant Sale

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will hold its 51st annual plant sale Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the church, 30 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron.

Patrons will have a choice of large hanging plants, potted geraniums, perennials, limited annuals and vegetables, hanging tomatoes, patio pot tomatoes, and small shrubs. The plants will be from Paul and Sandy's in East Hampton and Malerba's Farm in Norwich. Also available will be potted perennials from

parishioners' gardens, and gently used plant and garden items.

Also, the cement statues are back. Mark and Theresa Laprise will bring an assortment of cement statuary for sale or order. There will also be a display of Pollinator Pathways and native plants available for purchase, and plant, garden and outdoor items made by parishioners.

For more information, visit www.StPetersHebron.com.

Shepherds distributes household and hygiene

items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles,

and prayers. For more information, call Caring

childcare, preschool and before/after school in

a Christian environment. The center is open to

all walks of faith. Ande Shutler is director. Call

860-228-5134 for more information. The center

is taking applications for summer camp; the ap-

plication form is at www.clecchebron.org.

Early Childhood Center: The center offers

Shepherds Ministry at 860-494-0431.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. People can also watch live online at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

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

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

Caring Shepherds: The next Open Pantry is in May; watch for the date soon. Caring

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For more info and full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org.

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Schedule: May 5, *Maybe I Do* (rated PG-13); May 12, 80 for Brady (PG-13): May 19, Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (PG-13); May 26, Creed III (PG-13). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

That's Weird! Thursday, May 11, 1 p.m., presented by the Connecticut Historical Society. This presentation explores some of the society's strangest items, such as earrings made of human hair, and a piece of a revered state tree carved in the shape of a ham.

Spirited Book Discussion: Wednesday, May 17, 7 p.m. at the American Legion hall, located next door. This month, *The Queen's Secret* by Karen Harper will be discussed. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk. Must be over 21 to attend.

Rosie the Riveter: Thursday, May 25, 1 p.m., presented by the Connecticut Historical Society.

Look at propaganda posters, art, music, photos, and hear real-life accounts of Connecticut women who worked for victory in World War II.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Tuesday, June 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the community room. Register on redcross.org.

Teens & Adults Take & Make for Mother's Day: Want to make your own soy candle? Pick up your kit from the Adult Circulation Desk while supplies last

Chess Night: There are pickup games every Thursday during May at 4 p.m. All skill levels are welcome.

Teen Meetings: Wednesdays, May 10 and 31, 2:30-3:30pm. Bring ideas for summer programs.

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

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

Tax Abatement Applications Available

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

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

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

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

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

Scheduled Events/Meetings: 5/6: Favorites

Tea, 2 p.m.; 5/8: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 5/9: AA meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 5/10: Choir Practice, 7 p.m.; 5/11: Trustees meeting at 7 p.m.

Yoga in the Fellowship Hall: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Call Jennifer Goodine of Wise Warrior Yoga to register, at 860-531-2217. There will be no yoga Saturdays, May 6 or June 3.

Card-Making: Sunday, May 21, at 11:30 a.m., cost is \$15 with a portion being sent to the Connecticut Food Foodshare. All are welcome; email gayle.sylvester@comcast.net to register.

Students Complete Internships

Two local residents were among the Eastern Connecticut State University students completed internships this spring 2023 semester.

Kelly Ayen of Hebron, a senior majoring in social work, interned with Horace W. Porter School in Columbia.

"I pursued this particular internship because the student clients have a diverse range of age spreading from K-8th grade gifting me an experience with clients from both elementary and middle school cohorts," said Ayen.

Meanwhile, Rebecca Ristow of Amston, a

senior majoring in theatre, who interned with TheaterWorks Hartford.

"I was able to be the assistant director for their production of *Queen of Basel*, which I pursued because I knew I'd be able to learn from industry professionals and make valuable connections," Ristow said. "I was lucky to be able to experience the entire rehearsal process at a regional theatre company, seeing the project come to life from its first stages! This was extremely valuable as a theatre student who wants to pursue directing as a career path."

Lions Scholarships Available for Residents

The Hebron Lions Club is offering three scholarships for 2023 and is looking for RHAM or Hebron resident senior candidates. The Lions are offering two \$4,000 scholarships for those individuals attending a four-year college and one \$2,000 scholarship to those attending a two-year college or trade/career school program.

Applicants must be high school seniors, residents of the Hebron or active members of the RHAM Leos Club, and must plan to attend a college or technical/career school in the 2023-24 school year.

Recipients will be selected based on financial need, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service and other criteria established by the Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. Registration required for all programs, unless noted. To register, and for more information and full program descriptions, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. The senior center newsletter is online at tinyurl. com/3xfm862d. For more information, contact the senior center or look to the senior newsletter.

Adopt a Plot – Beautify the Senior Center: Would you like to help beautify the senior center? If so, there are 4x4 plots (general size) available to adopt. Create a spot with flowers and maintain throughout the season. Call Linda at the senior center for more information or to adopt a plot.

Bridging the Digital Divide: Wednesday, May 17, 10:30 a.m. William Seaman from NEAT (New England Assistive Technology) will gives an overall presentation on technology, and will then be available to set up one-to-one appointments for specific questions and needs. Bring your device (if you're able or choose to).

Chatham Health Monthly Presentation: Wednesday, May 17, 2 p.m. The topic will be mental health. Anyone can attend.

RHAM Bingo: Wednesday, May 17, 2:30-4 p.m., run by RHAM National Honor Society students. The games are free and prizes are awarded.

Shopping Trips: Fridays at 10 a.m. Schedule is: Big Y, May 12; Stop and Shop, May 19; and Walmart, May 26. Registration for each trip is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.

Massage Therapy: Mondays and Thursdays, by appointment. Massage therapist Beverly Williams will perform 25-minute (for \$25) or 50-minute (for \$50) chair or table massages or hot stone massages. Appointments available from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday. Call the senior center to make an appointment.

Bus Transportation to Mobile Food Truck and Food Bank: Every other Tuesday; call the center for dates. Pick-ups start approximately 10:30-10:45 a.m., and the food truck arrives at 11:15 a.m. at the Church of Hope/Red Barn at

the corner of routes 85 and 66. Food bank arrival is approximately 11 a.m. Bring your own bags. Must sign up by 10 a.m. the day before.

Senior Transportation: Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended – and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

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

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

Tuesdays: Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; mobile food truck and HIHS Food Bank transportation, 11 a.m.; Hand and Foot Canasta (cards), 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Card-Stamping, 1-2:15 p.m.

Wednesdays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Mindful Meditation, first and third Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; RHAM bingo, third Wednesday of the month (through May), 2:30-4 p.m.

Thursdays: Massage, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunshine Singers, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.

Fridays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Fun with Stitches Open Quilting Group, first and third Fridays of the month, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Created to Create Open Arts Group, second and fourth Fridays of the month, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Marlborough • Ma

Light Turnout Passes Small Budget Increase

By Jack Lakowsky

This week a small group of Marlborough voters, just over 300 according to interim town manager Amy Traversa, passed the combined town and school budget of about \$27.10 million, an increase of close to \$329,000 or 1.23% over the current spending plan.

Marlborough's was a relatively quiet budget process compared to the scuff-ups in East Hampton and Colchester.

The budget passed easily, with 253 'yes' and just over 50 'no' ones.

Some good news for local taxpayers – the mill rate has gone down for the second year in a row, from a rate of 35.55 to 34.73, a drop of .82 mill. Now, if your property's assessed at \$250,000, your annual tax bill will be about \$8,700.

There's some growth in the grand list, another plus, growing in value by about \$6.5 million.

School board chair Wes Skorski said, "I'm very thankful that the budget passed, and that the town supports one of our largest and most valuable assets.

"The budget adds two very important positions: a Director of Operations and a School Resource Officer (SRO). The Director of Operations will be responsible for the physical building and as well as the technology infrastructure within the school - both functions have been critically needed for a long time."

The SRO was a topic of controversy before the budget process began in-earnest, when the selectboard agreed to fund just 10% of the salary of the new armed guard posted at Marlborough Elementary School.

The school board budget, increasing less than 1%, also looks to start a long-term capital plan. Before Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman took over, MES had no long-term plan for its facilities, which many school districts use. The budget hopes to fund an architectural study to get this off the ground, informing a long-

The budget replaces five problem doors. For two decades, according to local Fire Marshal and selectman Joe Asklar, these doors haven't met fire code; they're simply too heavy.

Hageman has said the budget commits to class-size guidelines, supporting programs that show "demonstrable results," supporting the "branding" of MES, considering new programs after studies and resident input, look to other high-performing schools to guide decisions, and aims for fiscal responsibility, collaboration with the finance and select boards, and to seek alternate funds through outside sources.

On the budget passing, Hagemen told the Rivereast: "We are extremely grateful to the citizens of Marlborough for voting in favor of the town budget which includes the school district budget.

"In addition to the essential new positions of the School Resource Officer and the Director of Operations, the school budget allows us to maintain advantageous class sizes, implement high-quality instructional and extracurricular programs, and provide services that are integral to the success of Marlborough Elementary School students."

In addition, the approved capital funding will allow us to engage in an architectural study of the school building and grounds leading to the development of a long-term capital Plan.

"Both the study and the plan will put the school district in a position to be eligible for federal or state reimbursement for projects intended to maintain and enhance the facility's infrastructure, systems, and exterior spaces."

On the town operations budget, which is about \$6.26 million, finance board member Ken Hjulstrom said there were many mistakes

The Marlborough Lions will hold their 39th an-

nual 'Round the Lake 5K Road Race on Sunday

May 28. The race will utilize electronic timing

with computerized race results. The race starts

promptly at 10:30 a.m. The race is now a registered

The entry fee is \$30 and runners must be reg-

istered by the day prior to the race. Shirts will

be guaranteed for those who pre-register by May

13, with additional shirts provided to runners as

available. There is also a \$60 package price for

groups of immediate family members participat-

ing 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 pro-

ceed on a course, which circles Lake Terramuggas. The Lions Club supports programs which ad-

dress various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addi-

tion to supporting local organizations such as the

5K per CT USATF Certification CT 18052JHP.

in the budget that had to be rectified, like health insurance and legal fee calculations, and he feels the town doesn't have faith in its own numbers. Hjulstrom opposed the approval, and board member Chris Barella abstained.

Hjulstrom also took issue with the town's not using \$70,000 in public works reserves to work on the town garage, and some finance board members questioned the \$300,000 eyed for HVAC work at town hall.

Town public works director Peter Hughes said patching the HVAC system has cost \$90,000 in five years and will likely keep rising.

With a sharp - and certainly fortunate - decrease in capital spending, the total town request, including general operations and capital needs, is about 7.30%, combined with the school board request, it comes in at about 8%.

After the budget vote, Hjulstrom said there are still unanswered questions and possible mistakes, particularly about the high HVAC repair

Commission on Aging News

The Marlborough Commission on Aging meets every third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m., at Town Hall.

Also, the commission, in collaboration with Marlborough Senior Center, invites ages 50 and up to the fourth speaker series being held at Goodwin University in East Hartford. The event is Tuesday, May 16. The topic is Purposeful Engagement in Your Community. If you need a ride to the event, sign up with Vi Schwarzmann at the senior center, by calling 860-295-6209. To register for the event, go to tinyurl.com/bdfsztc5.

Mahjong Weekly: There is a mahjong group that plays at the Fire House on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. If there is enough interest, another group could be held at the senior center. For information concerning the Commission on Aging, contact Colleen Kaplan at 860-918-5705.

'Horsepower' Car Show

All are invited to the first-ever car show at The Farm at Carter Hill, 86 E. Hampton Rd., Marlborough, on Sunday, June 11, to benefit the horses of the CT Draft Horse Rescue. Car entries must arrive between 9 and 11 a.m., and general admission starts at 11 a.m.

Car entry tickets and general admission tickets are available at tinyurl.com/3xk7yz5b. Cash entries are available during the day of the event. Awards will be presented at 2:30 p.m. There will be live music by local band Beth and the Boys.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. There will be raffles and games, trophy awards

The CDHR is a nonprofit organization located in East Hampton, dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter.

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

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; 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.

Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and performing annual vision screening for Marlborough's Elementary School students.

Lions 'Round the Lake 5K

The Marlborough Lions offered their thanks to many local businesses, which have provided race sponsorships of \$100, \$250 and \$500 over the years. If any additional businesses wish to provide sponsorships, contact one of the Lions listed below. The business sponsor's information will be printed on the shirts handed out to runners.

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

Cemetery Spring Clean-Up The annual cemetery spring clean-up

is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m. Residents are asked to remove any personal items and decorations prior to the clean-up.

All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, items hanging from trees, pots, or items beyond the front of the stone. Consult the town's website, www.marlboroughct.net, for a complete listing.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

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

Youth Programs: Kids/Family Sewing - PJ Shorts: Saturday, May 6, 10-11:30 a.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 8 and up. All supplies included. Fee: \$48/resident, \$53/nonresident.

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

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

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

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

Adult Golf Clinic: Friday, May 19, 5:30-7 p.m., at Minnechaug Golf Course. Fee: \$40.

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

Trips: New York Yankees Bus Trip: Sunday, May 28. See the San Diego Padres vs. New York Yankees, at 1:05 p.m. 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.









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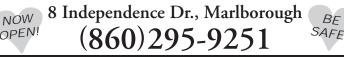
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500 Acts of Kindness

On a rainy Saturday in April, dozens of people gathered at St. John Fisher Church with a unified goal in mind: completing 500 Acts of Kindness. Led by members of the church's Teen Youth Group, projects were designed to benefit groups in Marlborough and beyond.

Hundreds of Easter eggs were filled with candy for festive hunting and gifting for numerous kids in several towns, including those whose families benefit from services provided by the Marlborough Food Bank and Catholic Worker House which offers support programs for kids who live in poverty and violence.

Other projects completed included making hundreds of sandwiches and filling lunch bags which were delivered to Immacare and House of Bread, shelters that serve the hungry, homeless and needy with compassion, dignity, and respect. Blankets were made for Head Start East Hartford, a program that promotes school readiness for children of low-income families, and A Hand Up, an organization which helps people transitioning from homelessness into a home of their own. Activity bags for children were created and shared with My Sister's Place shelter, and the Hartford and York Correctional Center and York Correctional for kids visiting incarcerated relatives.

Also, some spring pansies were transplanted into hand-decorated pots to be given to Marlborough residents who receive well-check visits, Marlborough Senior Center, and to brighten up the rooms at Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation Center and By the River Residential Care Home, Marlborough. Over 200 candy bags and cards of cheer and hope were decorated for Grace Academy and Covenant Prep (transforming the lives of kids in Hartford through education); City Mission (Christian nonprofit focused on community development through children and youth); Community 1st (empowering kids in the North End of Hartford with education); Mercy Shelter (for families experiencing homelessness); Meals on Wheels; and more.

In the end, well more than 500 Acts of Kindness were completed.

"Seeing everyone working together reminded

Veterans Award Ceremony

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

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



gathered at St. John Fisher Church and, led by members of the church's Teen Youth Group, completed 500 Acts of Kindness. Teen leader Abigail Pace, pictured here, oversaw several projects as the 500 Acts of Kindness were completed to benefit dozens of organizations.

us of how kindness has a ripple effect," observed Jennifer O'Neill, director of youth ministry at St. John Fisher Church. "How lucky we are to have incredible people who are willing to use their hands and hearts to answer the call to help our

Organizers said they would especially like to thank the local merchants who so generously donated gift cards and supplies that made this day possible: Ace Hardware in East Hampton; Big Y of Marlborough; Knights of Columbus; and Stop & Shop in East Hampton. Grant funds received from were also utilized.

St. John Fisher Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. More information is available at www.stjfchurch.org.

Purposeful Engagement in Your Community

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

The event is Tuesday, May 16, and the topic is Purposeful Engagement in Your Community. If you need a ride to the event, sign up with Vi Schwarzmann at the senior center, at 860-295-6209. A link to register for the event is at tinyurl.com/bdfsztc5.

ADVERTISERS

Lions Club Raffling Kayak

The Marlborough Lions are raffling off a 10foot 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-

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@

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

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 of-

Confirmation Community: The church's active 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program

continues. Registration is required as well.

Adult Worship Choir: Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information can be found on the church web-

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. Sandwichmaking 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.stjfchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic

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 8: Free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; socialization, 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: barbecue pork, tater tots, green beans, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit, chocolate pudding; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of

Tuesday, May 9: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Driver's Safety Course, 8:30 a.m.noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, May 10: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Speaker Suzanne Sorensen, Buckingham Heights, 11 a.m.; Mealson-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: baked ham, potato salad, peas & carrots, 12-grain bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m. **Thursday, May 11:** Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.;

Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Friday, May 12: Socialization, 8-Ball Pool, Mahjong Playing Cards, 10 a.m.-noon; Mealson-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: beef meatballs with gravy, garlic smashed potatoes, vegetable blend, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

Transportation: Available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and nonmedical 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.

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.marlcongchurch.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

May 7: Worship will include Holy Communion with the Rev. Valerie Seaver leading the service. At Marlborough Congregational Church, Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten free. Next Sunday is a Bluegrass Sunday, with the church's Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band providing the music along with a guest preacher, the Rev. Marilyn Kendrix.

Outreach: The church supports a variety of mission projects. Second quarter missiongiving will go to AHM Mental Health Fund. The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a

Workshop on

Rock-Carving

workshop on Rock-Carving Saturday, May

6, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the center, 231 N.

Main St. All materials will be covered in the

\$60 fee. This class is offered to adults and

A class registration form can be down-

loaded from marlborougharts.org and

mailed with a check for \$60 to the Marlbor-

ough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., Marlbor-

Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or marlbor-

For more information, contact the

teenagers.

ough, CT 06447.

oughartscenter@gmail.com.

Marlborough Arts Center will hold a

basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshipers to bring their donations. The Drive-Thru Café provides a take-away hot meal at the church to Marlborough Food Bank clients on the last Sunday of every month (except July and August). Once a month the youth groups prepare and serve a meal to residents at Florence Lord Housing. Once in May and November, the church sponsors the evening meal at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Open for selling and donations Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop also sells items year-round through eBay at bit ly/MCCebay.

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

Republicans

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

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

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

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



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 $Marlborough \bullet Marlborough \bullet$

Local Artwork
On Display

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

The work will be on display through June.

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.







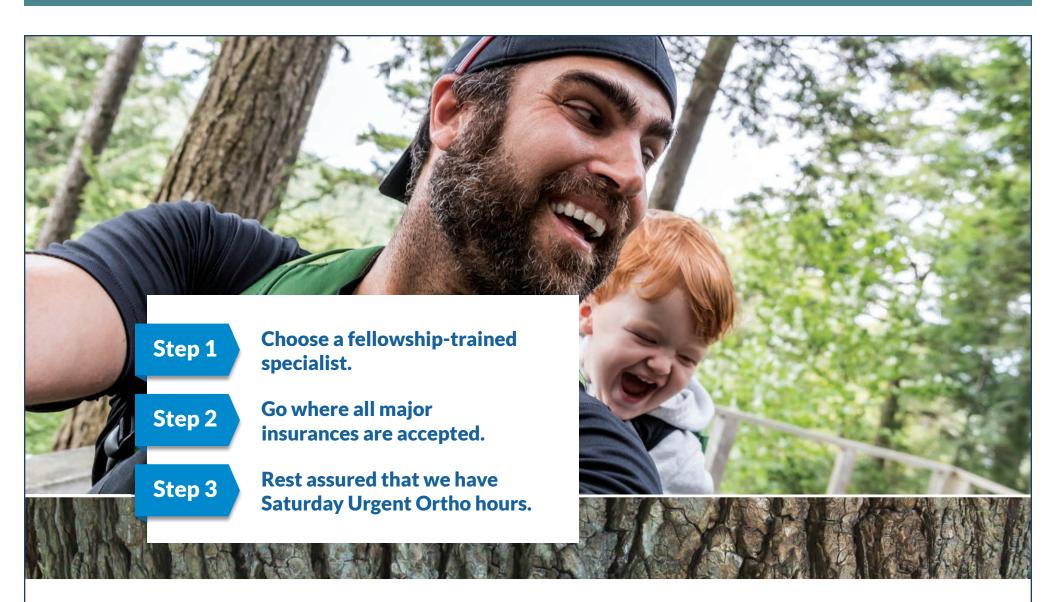
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Page 20 NEWS BULLETIN • May 5, 2023

Colchester • Colch

Resident Chips into Lacrosse Win

The Lasell University men's lacrosse team defeated Johnson & Wales this week, 13-5 – and Colchester resident Casey Hart contrib-

uted to the win.

Hart led the team with three caused turnovers.

Library Friends Seek Donations

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library group is accepting donations for its June Book Sale.
All are asked to donate their books, movies,

music, games and puzzles at the Cragin Me-

morial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., during May. People are asked to donate complete games and puzzles.

The book sale will run from June 2-7.

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RE5-5-23

THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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A federal PHE allows states to take special actions. These include expanding health care coverage or adding benefits, like the SNAP emergency payments.

What are some changes that will happen after the PHE ends on May 11th?

- HUSKY Health members will need to renew their coverage between March 2023 and March 2024
- Coverage for COVID-19 testing may change

How will I know if this affects me?

You may receive a notification by mail if your benefits will be affected. Check with your provider to determine any changes to your benefits.

For more information:





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NEWS BULLETIN • May 5, 2023 Page 21

Colchester • Colch

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

For more information, call the church at 860-

Three-Troop Car Wash

Boy Scout troops 72, 13 and 109 are going to have a car wash Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Advanced Auto on Linwood Avenue (Route 16), Colchester.

The purpose of the car wash is to raise funds to maintain the three troops camping programs and other activities. The proceeds will be divided between the three Boy Scout troops so that summer camp, trip travel expenses and ongoing programs can be funded by the scouts paying for their own way.

Donations to the three-troop project fund will be appreciated.

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.

Polka Dinner Dance

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

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

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









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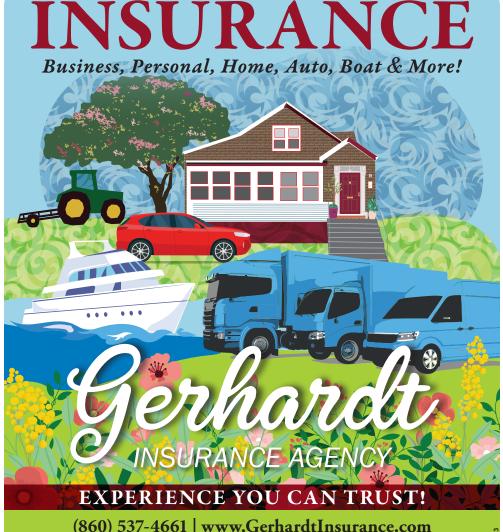
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Colchester • Colch

Finance Board Adopts Town, School Budgets

By Michael Sinkewicz

After weeks of debate and public input, the Colchester Board of Finance Tuesday adopted both the town and school budgets for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The board will schedule a public hearing for later this month, when both budgets will be officially sent to the Board of Selectmen, who then will set a date for the annual budget meeting and referendum. Currently, finance board chairman Andrea Migliaccio has penciled in a referendum date for the beginning of June.

The board unanimously approved a town budget proposal of \$15.63 million — around \$10,000 more than current year spending.

During the meeting on Tuesday night, the finance board agreed to increase several department's bottom-line totals, including the fire department and library. Most of the costs were offset by applying unassigned fund balance to cover a Honeywell International energy efficiency review lease payment for \$82,000.

However, most of the three-hour meeting was focused on the school spending plan. The board largely agreed that the school board's adopted \$46.15 million proposal — a \$4.13 million, or 9.83%, increase from the current year — needed to be reduced; they disagreed, however, on the required amount.

Ultimately, the board passed a motion to approve a \$43.67 million spending plan — a \$1.65 million, or 3.9% tax increase, and \$2.82 million increase or 6.7% increase in spending.

The motion passed 4-2, with the board's two Democrats voting in opposition. The mill rate would be 27.27, a .4 increase.

The reason for the difference in the tax and overall spending increase was explained by Migliaccio. The board reduced the original request approved by the Board of Education by \$1.3 million — the school board would make the final determination on what is eliminated from their budget after the referendum.

In addition, the finance board reclassified \$1.17 million in funds initially included in the proposal by utilizing available funding to the district. The items being reclassified include \$212,336 for a Honeywell International energy efficiency review lease payment, \$695,000 for Special Education and \$271,175 for capital outland

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

These reclassified items allow the items to remain in the school proposal, without the funding needing to be secured through taxation, lowering the budget request to the public.

Central to the debate was the availability of the assigned fund balance account. Migliaccio, and the board's Republican members, were confident that \$1.4 million was available to the potential school board to utilize — including to offset the \$1.3 million in reductions, as well.

Dating back to the 2023-24 fiscal year, the school board has nearly \$2.5 million that went unexpended, the Republicans expressed, and after the budget audit for the previous fiscal year was complete, there should be nearly \$1.5 million "cash on hand" for the board to expend.

Democrat Mike Egan said that while the usage of assigned fund balance was "creative," it was also risky. He expressed that previously, the board had discussed offsetting the \$695,000 special education cost but now the whole account would be "drained" with Migliaccio's plan

would be "drained" with Migliaccio's plan.

Egan suggested that the board postpone a

vote until it had confirmation from the auditor regarding how and if the funds could be utilized

"We should not move forward until we have an explanation," he said.

Egan then recommended that the board move forward if the motion was contingent on the board, and the town and school district finance directors. Being content with the auditor's feedback. The board agreed.

School Budget Concerns

For many community members jammed into Town Hall, the debate over capital and fund balance accounts was perplexing. The overwhelming concern expressed by parents, educators and students was what a \$1.3 million reduction to the budget would mean for the school district.

Last week, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III listed possible reductions in staff and programs totaling \$1.47 million — meaning that the school board could take about \$176,000 off the list and still fulfill Migliaccio's request of a \$1.3 million reduction.

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

Then, Sullivan listed more "uncomfortable" ideas, including program reductions. The district would potentially transition to half-day kindergarten, eliminating world language at the middle school, or reduce preschool from school day to half day classrooms.

For revenue increases, Sullivan expressed that the district could charge for instrumental band lessons at the intermediate and middle school, increase preschool tuition and charge \$100 for students to park at Bacon Academy.

Migliaccio said that with her suggestions, programming should not be threatened in any

way.
"I've done the deep-dive research," she said.
"They have the funds. They can manage their money around these issues."

Egan – who motioned for a smaller budget reduction of \$750,000, instead of \$1.3 million — disagreed.

"This is definitely going to affect programs," he said, before gesturing to the audience. "I think you should decide."

He expressed, "Let the citizens have a say."

Egan asserted that with his proposal, the mill rate would only be slightly higher than the number linked to Migliaccio's plan and it would not threaten school services.

"What we're seeing is reasonable," he said, referring to his proposed tax increase.

Judy O'Meara, Colchester Elementary School principal, defended the importance of full-day kindergarten, saying the data is "compelling."

Megan Roberts, a kindergarten teacher, said "it's not possible" to continue to meet school standards with a limited program, and would harm students.

"It would certainly put them at a disadvantage later in life," she said.

When faced with the prospect of these cuts, one citizen asked Migliaccio if she could potentially be swayed to lessen her budget reduction request.

Later in the meeting, she reaffirmed her stance, claiming that no previous superintendent had threatened programming like Sullivan and that it "was a different way to do business." She again stated that drastic cuts to program-

ming were not necessary.

"It's just not true," she said. "I'm not changing my mind."

Another source of funding in the future could be a federal grant obtained by the Police Department. Resident State Trooper Sgt. Zachary Cash shared during the meeting that the town was seeking a grant that would provide two officers — one would be for patrol and the other could be an additional school resource officer.

The town's match per officer would be around \$28,000 – a significant savings overall. After three years, the town would have to fully fund the officers.

Cash expressed that if the grant was approved, which wasn't certain, the officers would likely be available for the 2024-25 school year.

Migliaccio mentioned the savings as another potential avenue for the school board to consider. Currently, Sullivan is recommending the addition of four new safety officers.

District School Resource Officer Corporal Craig Scheel stepped in during the meeting and reiterated that by pursing this grant, he is not modifying his recommendation of bolstering school security in the budget proposal.

Migliaccio explained that she wasn't suggesting that, and stated that her board does not have line-item authority – deciding what to actually trim is a school board decision.

If the school board is able to utilize its unexpended funds as outlined by Migliaccio, the total budget reduction would likely be minimal.

But when determining where the remaining cuts would be made, she pushed back on the suggestions made by Sullivan and the school board.

During a budget workshop last week, she inquired into why some lines in the proposal, including supplies, which saw spikes, were not decreased even slightly. Small tweaks to those lines cumulate into a large reduction.

Sullivan stated that in January, administrators already made significant changes. By the Feb. 7 budget presentation, those items were at "barebones" levels, he said.

"We've already reduced it," he explained. "We're not comfortable reducing another 2% across the board."

After receiving more questions, Sullivan elaborated on the district's approach.

"We're not trying to be hostile or difficult," he said. "We tried bringing in the lowest possible budget to the Board of Education to avoid being in this position tonight. I understand why we're here, I respect it, but I cannot sit here tonight and tell you in good faith that we're comfortable reducing it by 1% or 2%. If we thought we could, we would've already done it."

Finance board member Tim Vaillancourt suggested that the district appeared to be stating that it would rather cut full-day kindergarten instead of reduce supplies, which Sullivan said was inaccurate.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Sunday School is held during worship from September through

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

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

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

Upcoming Land Trust Events

The Colchester Land Trust has announced the following upcoming events:

Hike-and-Seek for Families: Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m., at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Colchester Land Trust and C3 will join up to offer this free family hike. Pick up your hike-and-seek card to see what you can find along the path. The trails have mild inclines and can be rough, so the hike is not stroller friendly. Call Cindy at 860-267-7901 for directions and more information.

Intro to Geocaching: Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. Experienced geocaching team Joe and Joni Aveni, a.k.a. AlphaDog (a geocacher handle), will show people how to place and find beginner caches and explain why thousands join in this worldwide scavenger hunt.

Presentation on Bluebirds, Backyard Habitats: Wednesday, May 24, 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, Norton Room A. Connecticut Audubon Society's RTP Estuary Center's Conservation & Education Coordinator Joe Attwa-

ter will teach people how they can attract bluebirds, sparrows, warblers and more, as well as which bird species are likely to visit at this time of year.

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 allages day of walking along the trail, seeking fairy houses and creating forest-friendly fairy homes from found natural materials. Includes a makeand-take fairy house craft.

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Legendary Bacon Coach Elected to Hall of Fame

By Josh Howard

Dave Shea, a graduate and longtime coach at Bacon Academy, was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame on April 23.

"Being honored by the prestigious Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame is certainly a highlight of my career," Shea said in his induction speech at the Cascade in Hamden. "I feel like a pro baseball player that has been playing in the minor leagues for a long time and I'm now getting a call to report to the big leagues."

A 1952 Bacon Academy graduate, Shea eventually returned to his alma mater and won 778 games and three state championships over 49 seasons on the court, first coaching the boys basketball team and later taking over the girls

In 2000, Bacon Academy honored him while he was still coaching by naming the school's gymnasium the 'Dave Shea Gymnasium.'

But long before the gymnasium was named in his honor, Shea was the school's first 1,000-point scorer in boys' basketball.

Shea credited his high school basketball coach at Bacon, Hal Judenfriend, with helping him develop as a player and into the coach he would later become.

"He taught me to respect and appreciate the game, and the virtues of hard work and sacri-

Following his graduation from the University of Connecticut, Shea used those lessons and work ethic that Judenfriend instilled in him to become a coaching legend at Bacon.

He coached the boys basketball team from 1962-1985, amassing a record of 329-168, including the 1981 Class S championship. Beginning in 1993, Shea coached the girls' basketball

program to a 449-140 record over 25 seasons with state championships in 2009 (Class M) and 2012 (Class L)

Shea joined Bill Reagan (St. Thomas Aquinas boys, Old Saybrook girls) as the second coach in Connecticut history with titles on both the boys and girls sides.

He credited longtime Westbrook girls basketball head coach Pete Shuler for his advice while he was making the translation between coaching the boys and the girls.

Shea recalled Shuler telling him, "Don't change anything you're doing basketball-wise for the girls. Basketball is basketball whether you're coaching boys or girls."

Regardless if Shea was leading the boys or

girls, basketball became a family affair. He coached his son John Shea, an all-state player who was on the 1981 championship team.

"It's special," John said of his father's career. "He's the rock star of it all. It's fun to think about his career and all the people he's helped."

Along with his son, Shea coached his granddaughter Katie Mahoney, the 2011 Gatorade Connecticut Player of the Year and the program's all-time leading scorer, and also coached his granddaughter Caitlin Shea in her freshman and sophomore seasons prior to his retirement.

Another granddaughter, Cara Shea, is currently a junior and an all-conference basketball player for the Bobcats.

Shea said family played a major role in his success and thanked his late wife Dorothy, better known as "Dottie," for her "everlasting encouragement and inspiration."

During his illustrious tenure at Bacon, Shea was much more than a basketball coach. He worked as an educator for nearly four decades, moving from the science department to guid-



Longtime Bacon Academy head coach Dave Shea was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame last month. Shea (second to left) is pictured with his son, John Shea, and granddaughters Caitlin and Cara Shea following a game in 2021.

ance and later physical education, where he served as athletic director.

Current Bacon Academy athletic director, Kevin Burke, congratulated Shea on his latest hall of fame induction, calling it, "Another well-deserved accolade for a legendary player, teacher, coach and community member of Colchester/Bacon Academy."

"Dave's leadership at Bacon Academy goes back to his high school years and continues to this day," added Burke.

Along with the latest honor, Shea was also inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in 2004, to the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009, and was awarded a Gold Key by the Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance in 2012.

Shea also was a star on the diamond, signing a pro baseball contract with the Philadelphia Athletics before his career was cut short by injury. He went on to win more than 300 games as the Bobcats' varsity baseball coach – giving him 300 or more wins in three different sports program at Bacon Academy.

"First and foremost I would like to share this honor with my players, who gave 100% effort," Shea said. "I was very fortunate to have many outstanding players."

Shea added that administration at Bacon Academy was one of the keys to his longevity as a coach, adding, "No program is without the support of the administration. I was very fortunate to have this kind of support."

"The town of Colchester has been great to me," added Shea. "They gave me the opportunity to teach and coach all of these years and I don't take it for granted."

Founder's Day Ceremony

The Bacon Academy Board of Trustees will hold its annual Founder's Day award ceremony Wednesday, May 17, at 11 a.m., at the gravesite of Pierpoint Bacon in the cemetery behind the original Bacon Academy. All are invited.

In addition to paying tribute to the academy's founder, Pierpoint Bacon, and his wife, Abigail Newton Bacon, the trustees will honor Bacon Academy graduate Captain John Jones. Jones graduated from Bacon Academy in 1967. During high school, he was part of the All-State Basketball Champion team in 1967 and an early member of the Jr. Fire Department. John retired from the Colchester Volunteer Fire Department on April 30, after 60 years of service with the rank of Police Captain. During his years of service, John was a police officer for the city of Willimantic, director of operations for Colchester, and EMS instructor. John has been previously recognized as Firefighter of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year. John Jones was chosen as this year's Founder's Day Award recipient to honor all his years of service and dedication to helping the town of Colchester and its citizens.

Class officers from Bacon Academy, as well as other students, will take part in the ceremony. Guest speakers include Superintendent Daniel P. Sullivan III, Bacon Academy's principal Amy Begué, and Board of Education Chairman Alexander Oliphant. Dave Shea, Don Lee, Arthur Liverant, and John Jones' daughter, Jan Jones Maynard, will also be speaking about their connections to Jones. A reception will follow immediately after in the Stage Room at Colchester

If there is rain, the ceremony will be in the sanctuary at Colchester Federated Church.

Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers - the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." - at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org

Weekly Schedule: Bible Study for Men: Mon-

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

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



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Historical Society Selling Civil War Book

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

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

Society. Copies can be purchased at the museum, 24 Linwood Ave., on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Email mail@colchesterhistory.org 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-

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, May 8: 9 a.m., CoA meeting (Town Hall), Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m.,

Tuesday, May 9: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:15 a.m., blood pressure clinic; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Denim Brooch Class, LTC Ombudsman Meeting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting.

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

Thursday, May 11: No Exercise with Anne or Sittercize today; 10 a.m., Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., shopping trip; 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; 4:30 p.m., Ultimate Bingo.

Friday, May 12: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group, Hearing Screenings; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Series (Aging Unbound); 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Coffee with the Commission on Aging: Monday, May 15, 10 a.m. Join the senior center for free refreshments and

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, Col-

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 con-

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

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday, Lag B'omer; Wednesday classes, 2:30- 4 p.m.; Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., Zoom and in-person; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom. There will be a musical havdalah at a private residence at 7:15 pm with Rabbi Ken Alter and Cantor Tami Cherdack Sherman.

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

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

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

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

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

an informative introduction to the Colchester Commission on Aging. No registration re-

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

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

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

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

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

Colchester Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden is starting its 2023 season and is always happy to welcome new volunteers. The garden is an all-volunteerrun 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.



Cookies for Heroes... The Bengal Tiger Hot Yoga Studio in Colchester recently supported the Girl Scouts' Cookies for Heroes program through Junior Troop 63223. Through the Cookies for Heroes program, individuals can make donations to send cookies to women and men serving in the military, both nationally and internationally, and to veterans. Bengal Tiger members donated a total of \$1,025 for a total of 205 boxes. Since starting the drive in 2018, the studio has raised \$5,025 for a total of 1,005 boxes of cookies. Rhom Saunders, owner of Bengal Tiger and a U.S. Army/Desert Storm veteran, and Caroline Hathaway, of Troop 63223, have worked together since 2018 to coordinate the drive. Pictured from left are, front row, Dina Curran, Rhom Saunders, Caroline Hathaway, Nicole McKenzie; second row: Jeff Collins, Merrill Collins, Maria Fazzino, August Wolf and Heather Matthieu.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongchurch.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 westcongchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

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 De-

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

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

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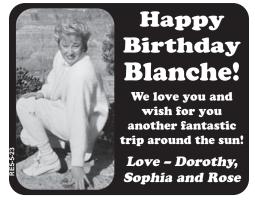
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Colchester • Colch



Pack 109 is Busy!... Pictured are Pack 109 Cub Scouts Liam Raulerson, Delaney Berta, and Drew Martin along with their Cubmaster Aaron Berta at their recent Pack Meeting at the Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester. The scouts received several activity awards: Bear Necessities; Fur, Feathers, and Ferns; Protect Yourself Rules; Fellowship and Duty to God; Forensics; Baloo the Builder; and the Cyber Chip which is an internet safety activity. All three scouts in the Bear Den will attend a week of summer camp this year. The next Pack Meeting is Thursday, May 11, at 6 p.m., at Westchester Church, 98 Cemetery Rd. For more information, email westcongchurch@gmail.com.



Colchester-Salem **Postal Food Drive**

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

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

All donations will go to stock the Colchester



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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. Parks and Rec. can also be reached at 860-537-7297 or at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Food Festival on the Green: Sunday, May 6 (rain date May 7), on the Town Green. Follow the event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ FOODIEAFF.

Spring Pickleball: For adults age 16 and older. Tuesdays, May 16-June 13, at Colchester Elementary School. Beginner is from 6-7:30 p.m. and is \$30/player; Intermediate is from 7:30-9 p.m. and is \$20/player. Limited spaces available.

Card-Making Class: Thursdays, May 18, June 15, July 20 and Aug. 17, 6-8 p.m., at Town Hall. Cost: \$15 per class, per person (\$20 for

Gentle Yoga: Online with Facebook Live. For ages 45 and older. The four-week classes are held Mondays from 4:45-5:45 p.n. 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.

Mother's Day Flower Sale

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

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

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

their payroll," he said.

LaChapelle said that in his view, the action was political in nature - which was "gross."

Furthermore, LaChapelle stated that Williamson provided evidence that there wasn't a financial crisis, but Hayes chose to shed light

Hayes denied involvement at first, but admitted later in the meeting that he passed along information because "the public has a

Egan defended the relevance of the information itself, saying that "it was a serious issue" and that the "Board of Education was

Following the meeting, Hayes told the Rivereast that he did "nothing wrong" and shouldn't have to resign. Thomas, he contin-

of the upcoming November election.

Egan left Town Hall, after yet more heated

Around five minutes after his departure, LaChapelle was making another citizen comment. On the audio recording of the meeting, LaChapelle can be heard interacting with

there a reason you're approaching me in pub-

He continued, "Mr. Egan is in my neighborhood. I don't know what's up with that.'

LaChapelle, but the audio picks up him saying

please not call me an a-hole? I'd appreciate that."

At this point, Tim Vaillancourt, a finance board member, asked LaChapelle if he needed the police called, which he responded, "no." Bisbikos then states that he'd make a call, which was for the police.

Before ending his citizen comment, LaCha-

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.

Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

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

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

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

★ Calls to Resign, cont. from page 1

He said he had proof that Hayes was responsible for providing the information. Now, instead of "owning it," he said Hayes was "gas-

on the issue regardless.

Both Hayes and Egan faced criticism from LaChapelle and citizens during the meeting.

ued, let the meeting "get out of hand."

Bisbikos said during the meeting that he was "disgusted" by the Democratic Town Committee. Hayes said he believes the criticism by the first selectman is mainly the result

"He's going into campaign mode," Hayes

A Confrontation?

Nearly an hour and a half into the meeting, citizen comments regarding the leaked email.

"Yes, Mr. Egan?" LaChapelle stated. "Is

It's unclear what exactly Egan says to "throwing something out."

Then, LaChapelle is heard saying, "Can you

pelle expressed that it was a "shock to see him approach me."

The *Rivereast* spoke to both LaChapelle and Egan about the incident.

LaChapelle was walking through an apartment complex lined to his neighborhood in Highland Farms.

I was walking, as I always do during citizens' comments," LaChapelle said, adding that he consistently frequents that route. He said he was standing in a grassy spot when he saw Egan eyeing him with what he described as a "menacing look." He stated Egan took a few steps towards him.

He said Egan used expletives and stated he lived there.

LaChapelle confirmed that the police drove around the area a few times, as well.

"I want to believe it was a chance encounter," he said.

"I'm a big proponent that politics should be ugly and passionate," LaChapelle said. "But it never needs to rise to the level it did at that meeting."

Officials, he said, "shouldn't be storming out" and "everybody needs to stand up and say that's not acceptable."

He said Egan should resign. Egan told the *Rivereast* his side of the in-

He stated that none of the citizen's comments were related to the budget workshop topic. Instead, he was subjected to "partisan

"I'm not going to put up with that," he said. "I did everything I could to not escalate the

Egan left, and drove home to the apartment complex referenced by LaChapelle.

"I pulled into my driveway," he said, emphasizing that he did live in that location and did not purposely seek out LaChapelle. When he arrived, Egan walked towards a dumpster to throw away trash and saw LaChapelle.

Egan said that, he initially thought LaChapelle was there waiting for him, because he was standing close to his home.

"It was bizarre," he said, comparing the situation to a bear and hunter encounter where both parties are startled. "They can spin it however they want," he

said, referring to LaChapelle and the Republicans who called for his resignation.

He called the entire meeting, including the criticism of Hayes, a "disgrace."

"This is not how it used to be," he said, referring to the level of attacks and chaos in local government.

East Hampton • East Hampton

Foodshare Returns May 11

The East Hampton Lions remind all residents that the mobile Foodshare food pantry will be at the St. Patrick Church parking lot next Thursday, May 11, from 9-10 a.m. The truck leaves promptly at 10 a.m., so people shouldn't come at the last minute.

The food pantry is open to all, with no proof of residency and no income verification

If the line is long when you arrive, stay in your car until the line goes down some but

please get in line by 9:45 a.m., the Lions said. The other option is to come early so when the truck arrives you'll be one of the first in line; the line normally starts forming by 8:15 a.m., the Lions said. St. Patrick Church puts out chairs for people to sit on while they wait in

For more information, visit the "Let's Talk East Hampton" Facebook page or call 860-

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

Bible Study: Held via Zoom Wednesdays at 6 p.m. For details, email bobette@kahn.com.

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

Church Directory: An updated directory is in progress. If you have not yet had your picture taken, see Dick Napoletano after the service.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0278 or contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-

OHD Parade to Honor Fire Department

On Saturday, July 8, the Old Home Day Parade honors the men and women of the East Hampton Fire Department and its 100-Year Anniversary. Several area firetrucks of all sizes and sounds are expected for the parade.

All local businesses, organizations, groups, clubs and teams are invited to participate in the parade. If you are designing a parade display, please consider these themes: "100 Years of Service - Thank You East Hampton Fire Department!"; "Local Recognition - Did a citizen

or group in East Hampton recently receive an award or recognition for their recent contribution to their school, town, state or country?"; or "The Power of Education - How can your display educate spectators?"

If interested in participating, fill out the Parade Request Form online at www.ehohd.org. For more information, contact Bo Tinson, parade chair, at 860-414-9712 or RLTinson@ gmail.com.

Electric Car Show Moves to Spring

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force (CETF) is holding the fifth annual Electric Car Show on Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St. Rain date is June 4.

The change to spring is in recognition of the start of the prime driving season. Dealerships have expanded electric and hybrid inventories, and the CETF expects a wider dealership presence. There will be food, ice cream and music as well.

Owners who want their cars to be displayed at the show are asked to register before the event. Bikes, scooters and anything else powered by

Road Closure

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

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

electricity are also welcome. Registration is free and can be done online at www.tinyurl.com/ehcarshow. Owners can also email the CTEF at ehcetf@gmail.com and request a registration form. Groups, nonprofits, clubs and associations interested in using less fossil fuel for vehicles can request booth space, also by emailing ehcetf@gmail.com.

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.

Kids Craft Fair

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

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

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

Police Chief Issues Yet Another Scam Warning

By Jack Lakowsky

East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner on Facebook warned residents of another sophisticated scam that's hit town.

'We have seen an increase in [scams] where individuals are able to hack a person's Comcast or T-Mobile account and access their phone."

The chief went on: "Once they access to your phone, they're able to gain access to your bank accounts and, in some cases, your passwords."

With this information, they can transfer funds out of a person's account.

"Everyone should be checking their bank accounts on a regular basis to ensure fraud isn't occurring," wrote the chief.

Two-step authentication - like, when recovering a forgotten password, using both a security question and an email verification - is 'very important," said Woessner.

"Never give out personal information over the phone – this is how fraud starts," the chief entreated. "Additionally, companies will not ask you to purchase gift cards to pay an outstanding bill. This is a huge red flag.

'When in doubt, contact the police department at 860-267-9544," and they'll help you determine if something is a scam.

Lock Your Car Doors

In reference to an uptick in vehicles being entered over the last several weeks - in five of those cases vehicles have been stolen - the chief made a familiar refrain: please lock your

"In most cases these types of crimes are preventable," said Woessner. "Leaving your car unlocked and key fob in the center console increases likelihood of becoming a victim."

In several interviews, the chief has said the belief that thieves will break a locked car's windows is largely unfounded.

"We have received several videos from individuals that captured people walking up to their car while it was parked in their driveway and trying the doors. When they find it locked,

"We have also seen videos of what happens when the doors are left unlocked," wrote the

The chief emphasized, "If you encounter someone trying to enter or steal your car, do not attempt to engage the individuals. Dial 911 immediately. Some of them are known to carry guns or other weapons and it's not worth getting injured to protect your personal property."

Sign Up this Spring for Lake-Smart Evaluation

With spring here, folks are invited to have their lake or watershed property evaluated to see what improvements they can make to their property in order to have a cleaner Lake Pocotopaug. People might also qualify for the Lake Smart Award that is given by the East Hampton Conservation and Lake Commission (C&LC).

The purpose of the program is to encourage property owners to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug by doing projects to prevent infiltration of phosphates, nitrates, pesticides, and other impurities from entering the lake. Those that achieve seven requirements will receive a

> Garden Club Plant and Tag Sale

The Middle Haddam Garden Club will hold a plant and tag sale at the Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lake-Smart Award sign they can display on their property.

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

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-

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koco4kids.org

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Some Town Goings-On, in Brief

By Jack Lakowsky

The tempestuous temperaments in last week's East Hampton Town Council meeting - over a deep slash to the school district's requested budget - drowned out some of the other activities the town has going on. Here's a brief recap.

Library

According to Town Manager Dave Cox's town report, library staff members planning for this year's "Find Your Voice" summer reading program, Head over to the fields at Center School to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Program, enjoy a free snow cone, an inflatable obstacle course, baby goats, and water balloon painting, plus special guests DJ Montez and Epoch Arts.

Planning is also underway for the Bike Rodeo that will be a part of National Trails Day and is being hosted in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department, the police department, town council several downtown businesses.

The grant-funded event uses hands on activities to teach youth about bicycle safety.

The library is pleased to announce that 3D printing services are now available at the for a small fee. More information about the size of items that may be printed and availability of models may be found on the library's website.

This new service is made possible due to a generous donation of the printing device and the fees will offset materials and operational

Finally, in recent weeks, the Children's Department has collaborated with the Senior Center to host two programs that bring youth and older adults together; a paint party and an interactive nature storytime and walk.

Participants at the storytime were delighted to stroll the Library and Senior Center grounds, attempting to spot the flora and fauna from the book.

Fire Department

Twelve members of the department have completed a state-certified Fire Instructor One course.

During this 48-hour course, the team spent eight hours on six consecutive Saturdays learning the fundamentals of instructing others.

This class will help membership and the

whole community, as the team will be certified to teach others the tricks of the trade. Fundamentals of this class are public speaking, what information is retained by students, how to cater to your audience and laws/standards pertaining to students.

Parks and Rec

Formal progress is being made on the grants received for improvements on the Air Line Trail to construct a boardwalk through the wetlands area of the trail northwest of Route 66 near the public works building.

In addition to the \$1.4 million grant received from the Congress, staff has been notified that the town also received a \$400,000 grant from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), which will serve as a portion of the local match for the federal grant and will cover other, related improvements to

Staff and representatives from the state Department of Transportation, who is overseeing the federal grant, DEEP, and the town's engineer will be meeting next week to begin coordination and administrative efforts related to the grants.

The town hopes the boardwalk project will commence in fall and continue through winter and be ready for use in spring 2024.

Senior Center

The Senior Center director and the town manager met with representatives of River Valley Transit to discuss a pilot project River Valley Transit (RVT) is hoping to implement in East Hampton.

RVT is applying for a grant from the state DOT to implement an on-demand transportation service that would allow users to begin and end trips locally within the main portion of East Hampton.

Similar to a typical ridesharing or taxi service, users would be able to call for a ride, which would then be provided within a short time.

Rides may be individual or shared, depending on demand at the time, and would bear a very minimal cost. The DOT is testing the viability of such a service in various areas of the state through several pilot programs like this one. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the community, wrote Cox.

Project Grad Spring Cleaning

East Hampton High School Project Graduation is hosting a Spring Cleaning with Savers - and the last collection date is Saturday, May 6, from 9-11 a.m., at Global Self Storage, 265 W.

Items will be collected for resale. Acceptable items include clothing, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, ties, belts, backpacks, bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces, hand-held appliances, home decorative items, toys, games, and small electronics.

Use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly packed boxes for small household goods (such as books). No large items and no furniture, please. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

Lions Collecting for School Libraries

The East Hampton Lions Club is hoping to spend \$2,023 for the purchase of new library books for both Memorial and Center schools. The Lions have committed to this amount if residents match it. Anyone who donates can request which school their donation will benefit.

Donations will be accepted through May 15. All titles will be selected by library media specialist Rebecca Flannery. Titles will be ordered this school year to be added into circulation at

the beginning of next school year. Checks should be made to East Hampton Lions Charities. Donations are tax-deductible and should be mailed to: East Hampton Lions Club, P.O. Box 153, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Contact Tim Csere at csere4@comcast.net for more information.

EHHS Botany Plant Sale

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

A variety of annuals, perennials, sunflowers, and vegetable garden plants will be available for sale, all grown by the students. Varieties include dahlias, purple cone flowers, cosmos, delphinium, verbena, Shasta daisy, sweet pepper, aster powder puff, hot peppers, large leaf basil, cherry peppers, gaillardia, monarda tomatoes, cilantro,

Postal Food Drive

Hampton will conduct their annual food

drive to help replenish the local food bank

shelves. This is part of a nationwide effort

that has been carried on for more than 20

Donations can be left at your mailbox or

Donations should have current use-by

brought to the Post Office lobby. It would be

helpful to put items out early our carriers

Sponsors Sought

for Old Home Davs

sors are sought to help pay for the three-day

tirely on donations from the community and

local businesses. All donations are welcome. To

donate, visit www.ehohd.org. For sponsorship

information, call Carl Guild at 860-813-2275 or

Old Home Days is July 6, 7 and 8 - and spon-

East Hampton Old Home Days is run en-

will be assisted by volunteers.

dates

Glorious Celebration.

carlguild@gmail.com.

On Saturday, May 13, mail carriers in East

four o'clock, cucumber, large red cherry tomato, Mexican sunflower, broccoli, scarlet poppy, beefsteak tomato, lilliput zinnias, marigold, red salad bowl, lettuce, buttercrunch lettuce, Brus-

sels sprouts, crackerjack marigolds, lavender, catnip, sage, thyme, parsley, cilantro and more. Bring along a box to fill and remember to bring any plant trays or pots you would like to donate for reuse.

rosemary, eggplant, pink brandy wine tomatoes,

Free Paper-Shredding

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

This event is free to residents of the River-COG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-

hazardous-waste for more information.

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

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

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

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

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East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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

Family Story Time: Saturday, May 20, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-5. There will be songs, dancing, and stories. Siblings welcome.

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

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

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

'Running for Brews' is Back

'Running for Brews' is back for the season! The runners meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales (91 Main St.) and run a 5K – or whatever distance they want – on the Air Line Trail. After the run, folks return to Dexter's for a cold brew (or water or whatever you need to quench your thirst), conversation and live music.

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

No Services at Haddam Neck Congregational

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

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

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

moving.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mother's Day Pop-Up Boutique

On Saturday, May 13, the Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St., will hold a Mother's Day Pop-Up Boutique from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Featured will be gifts, Kids Buy for Mom Store, gift basket raffle, Rada cutlery, coffeecake sale, and photo booth. There will be free mini muffins and lemonade for all who attend.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group: Monday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. This is a social hour of fun facts and sharing activities, and snacks, just for the guys.

Ageless Mindful Awareness Techniques: Mondays, May 8 and 22, 1 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude in a group setting.

Book Club: Tuesday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey. Also, special

guest speaker Martin Podskoch will talk about books he's written. His book will be on sale.

The Art of the Sit Spot: Friday, May 12, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the Cranberry Bog. Bring a mat, folding chair or camping stool. Meet at the Bog kiosk in the parking lot. Transportation may be available if requested by May 6.

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

Beginners Knitting Class: Fridays, May 12 and 19, 11 a.m. Bring yarn and needles. **Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group:** Mon-

day, May 15, 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet others and share resources.

Free Blood Pressure Screening: Monday, May

15, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Chatham Health Department will sponsor this clinic. Simply stop by; no appointment necessary.

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

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

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

EHACC Seeks Members

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) is accepting applications from East Hampton residents to serve on the commission. The board of volunteers meet every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph N. Goff House Museum, 2 Barton Hill Rd., and helps support and promote arts and culture in the Town of East Hampton.

For more information on EHACC, visit www. artsforeasthamptonct.org or email arts@easthamptonct.org.

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NEWS BULLETIN • May 5, 2023 Page 30

East Hampton • East Hampton



Officer Promoted... On April 18, East Hampton Police Officer Timothy DeRoehn was promoted to the rank of sergeant, filling the vacancy created by a recent retirement. He is seen here being sworn in by Town Clerk Kelly Bilodeau. On Facebook the department congratulated Sgt. DeRoehn, who joined the department in 2017. DeRoehn - whose father was also a police officer in town - is a 2016 graduate of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, where he majored in psychology with dual minors in criminal justice and social justice, according to The Middletown Press.

Self-Care for the Caregiver

The St. Patrick Guild will host Middlesex Health Hospice and Palliative Care for a presentation Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m., in the Parish Center at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High

The presentation, entitled "Self-Care for the Caregiver: Staying Safe, Healthy, and Sane So That You Can Be There for Someone Else," will

offer insight on the value of caring for oneself, while caring for someone who is homebound. Participants will learn to recognize when they need self-care, and how to give it to them-

The presentation is 50 minutes, and there will be an opportunity to answer questions. Refreshments will be available.

Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for services with the Rev. Amie McCarthy every Sunday at 10 a.m. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org.

The Oure Pleasure Singers will perform Saturday, May 6, at 4 p.m.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30

April Showers bring May

Flowers and May SHOWINGS

will bring June CLOSINGS!!

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have buyers, but we need more sellers!

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

activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday

Police News

4/19: Steven Wesolowski, 50, of 37 N. Main St., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

4/27: Chrisovalanda Sialas-Giagios, 37, of 87 Main St., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

4/29: Zachary Lavigne, 32, of 20 Flannery Row, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

5/1: Alan Dubowsky, 68, of 46 Haddam Neck Rd., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and charged with impairing morals of a minor.

From April 24-30, officers responded to 21 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and five alarms, and made 12 traffic stops, police

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. Communion will be served this Sunday.

Take Two! Because of the overwhelming response, the music worship event "Hope Resides Here" will be held again Sunday, May 21, at 9 a.m. The Vocal Choir and musicians will present contemporary music.

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

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.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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

Mahjong: Mondays at 10:30am. A spirited

group of players; experienced to brand new. Join

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

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

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

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

a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

and crocheters are welcome.

For more information about CCEH and its and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free Household **Hazardous Waste Collection**

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

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region which includes East Hampton and Portland. No commercial or business waste

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste to learn more.

11th Annual

Gelding Clinic
CT Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) is sponsoring the 11th annual Gelding Clinic Saturday, May 6 (rain date: Sunday, May 7), at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd., East Hampton.

Veterinary students from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, under the direct supervision of both Tufts and local veterinarians, volunteer to perform the gelding.

Fee is \$125 per horse/donkey/mule. Limited appointments are available. Preregistration/payment required, at www.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2023.

Note: CDHR will be closed to the public on this day.

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Troop 8 Mother's Day Breakfast On Sunday, May 14, the Boy Scouts of

Troop 8 will host their annual Mother's Day Breakfast at VFW Post 5095, located at 20 N. Maple St., from 8-11 a.m.

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

Belltown Garden Club

Offering Scholarship
The Belltown Garden Club is offering a graduating high school senior who lives in town the chance to apply for a \$500 scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded to an East Hampton High School senior with preferences given to a student who intends to major in sciences or education related to the earth. Related fields of study will be considered. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office, 15 North Maple Street. Applications are due May 15.

Class of '88 35th Class Reunion

The class has entered a float in the Old Home Day Parade on July 8, followed by a get-together at Kick Back n' Bowl beginning at 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to be on the float or walk in the parade. Alumni from classes of '85, '86, '87 and '89 are also welcome to attend.

Contact Lisa Loffredo if interested or for more information, at 860-930-0689 or LLoffredo@comcast.net.

Senior Center Transportation Change

There has been a change in the driver hours, due to changing needs. Previously the hours were Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The new schedule is Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Occasionally a medical transport can be accommodated, if time is available. Transportation continues to be available for local trips within East Hampton.

The service is available to East Hampton residents age 60 or over on a first-come, first-served basis. The van is accessible, allowing transportation of wheelchairs and similar equipment. There is no charge for the service; however, donations are accepted.

Schedule your ride by calling the senior center at 860-267-4426.

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awmakers Drive Extension of Utility Shut-Off Freeze

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), state senator for East Hampton, Portland and Colchester and chair of Hartford's Energy and Technology Committee, along with several other lawmakers, urged the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the state's utility company oversight board, to extend a utility shut off moratorium.

Needleman described the news as "welcome and relieving."

As chair of the energy committee, Needleman is heavily involved with PURA and utility oversight.

The moratorium is a holdout from the worst of the pandemic, meant to relieve people in financial straits. It was set to expire May 1.

Now, with the extension, it's set until Halloween of this year.

According to Needleman, thousands of state residents would've had their utilities shut off this week without the extension.

"This will protect thousands of residents already facing challenges," said Needleman.

Westport state Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Needleman's energy chair counterpart in the house, also issued a statement.

"This is welcome news," Steinberg said. "The moratorium extending to next year will allow many at risk of shutoffs to access new, lower rates for utilities at the start of 2024

Needleman and Steinberg cowrote a letter to PURA chair Melissa Gillett.

"The ongoing pandemic has had a severe impact on the economic situation of many households in Connecticut," they wrote.

"It has left many struggling to make ends meet and pay for their essential utilities, such as electricity and gas; [given] how the climate is changing and the recent 90+ degree days we saw in April, we must ensure that the most vulnerable among us are protected from the heat of the summer months as well.

"We urge you to take action and extend the moratorium on service disconnections, except for reasons of public safety, for all residential financial hardship customers of regulated electric and gas utilities. This will ensure that families who are struggling financially do not have to face the added stress of disconnection during these difficult times."

Furthermore, the lawmakers requested that customers not need to request individual protection. We believe this is necessary as many people may not be aware of the available protections or may be hesitant to come forward and request assistance.

In conclusion, we believe that extending the moratorium until Oct. 31, 2023, will help alleviate the financial burden on families and ensure that they have access to essential utilities during

This comes as Needleman's signature legislation, the Take Back Our Grid Act, an attempt to increase oversight over and accountability of the state's major utilities, especially Eversource, is due to become law in January 2024. The bill passed in the wake of Eversource's botched response to a 2020 tropical storm. Town leaders, like then-first selectpersons Mary Bylone (Colchester) and Susan Bransfield (Portland) joined a chorus denouncing Eversource's performance.

Some Republicans, including the late Brendan Saunders, Needleman's 2020 election opponent, said the bill lacked teeth. In 2021, during an election interview, Republican state Rep. Irene Haines (R-34) said the bill was merely a way for Democrats do get clout before that elec-

Ten years ago, after the early 2010s hurricanes, Needleman, before he was in Hartford, fought to get Eversource more money for hiring and equipment. Based on information he shared with the Rivereast at the time, Eversource did a lot of hiring until about 2013, then tapered off.

PURA said companies that don't comply face penalties.

Part of the Take Back Our Grid Act was performance-based regulation, and this has just come to fruition.

Now, to improve utility company accountability, performance and speed must be considered during ratemaking.

"We worked very hard to fashion legislation that was in the best interest of ratepayers [and hope] all the parts of the [act], as well as additions that will be in the legislation...will move the needle so ratepayers of Connecticut can feel assured the utilities are working in their best in-

Gov. Ned Lamont also chimed in, saying a performance-based system ensures "that the earnings and profits of utility companies are tied to good performance and certain penalties can be enacted amid extensive service disruptions."

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the Rivereast Standouts of the Week for the week of April 24-30:

Jazlyn Small-Yu- Bacon Academy (Softball): Small-Yu connected on three hits, including a home run, as the Bobcats defeated New London 9-3 on April 24. Small-Yu, a junior, drove in two runs and scored two more as she nearly hit for the cycle, reaching base on a double and a triple to go along with her first fence-clearing shot of the year. Through the first nine games, Small-Yu leads the team in hitting percentage (.458), hits (11), runs (11), and triples (4).

R.J. Stanford - East Hampton High School (Baseball): Stanford drove in five runs and scored three more as the Bellingers defeated Hale Ray 15-3 on April 28. Stanford, a senior center fielder who had a team-high three hits, led an offensive attack that broke the game open with an eight-run first inning and scored a dozen runs over the first two innings.

Taryn Brysgel - RHAM High School (Lacrosse): Brysgel, a junior goalie, was stout in between the pipes last week as the Raptors won all three games. Brysgel made 23 saves (stopping 66% of the shots she faced) as RHAM defeated Berlin (15-6), Woodstock Academy (9-4), and Norwich Free Academy (9-7). Joelle Goralnik and Diana Zito led the offensive charge for RHAM, combining for 16 goals and nine assists in the three games.

Samuel LaMalfa - Portland High School (Track & Field): LaMalfa won the 400 meters, running a personal-best 50.33 to hold runnerup Cole Robertson of Tolland at the Ellington Invitational on April 29. LaMalfa, a sophomore, was also part of the school's 4x400 relay team er Thompson — as the Highlanders 4x4 relay team finished as the runner-up at the invite held at Ellington High School.

joining Noah Decker, Cole Bates, and Park-

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

★ RHAM cont. from page 9

Hebron Lions Scholarships Available

The Hebron Lions Club is offering three scholarships for 2023 and is looking for RHAM or Hebron resident senior candidates. The Lions are offering two \$4,000 scholarships for those individuals attending a four-year college and one \$2,000 scholarship to those attending a two-year college or trade/career school pro-

Applicants must be high school seniors, residents of the Hebron or active members of the RHAM Leos Club, and must plan to attend a college or technical/career school in the 2023-24 school year.

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

established by the Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

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

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

From the State Senator's Desk...

With the high cost of energy on most of our minds, and many of us none too pleased about the service and quality we receive for that cost, I am pleased to share some positive news with you regarding the future of energy regulation in Connecticut. For several years, following the passage of the Take Back Our Grid Act that I led development of, state workers have been hard at work developing a performance-based regulation plan for state utility companies.

What does this mean? Much like how students are graded for their in-class performance and workers are graded for in-office performance, this shift will mean utility companies will be rewarded or penalized based on their performance. The objective is to incentivize better service for utilities through these regulations.

Under this model, which will go into effect next year, initial targets and objectives for the work in question will include investment efficiency, reliability and resiliency of electric service and customer empowerment. These metrics will have real and defined criteria that utilities will need to follow in order to attain better regulations; conversely, if they do not meet those criteria, they will see worse stipulations for regulations.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, which regulates state utilities, has said a move to this model of regulation better serves the public interest, with accountability directly mentioned as a major driver behind the decision. PURA was required to develop the framework as a result of the Take Back Our Grid Act, which came after the state's electric utilities provided a poor response to Tropical Storm Isaias; the resulting damage left thousands without power for more than a week. The new program and decision are directly tied to the poor response to Tropical Storm Isaias and the negative impacts on which it left the state.

In coming months, you'll likely hear more about these performance-based frameworks, and I'm excited for their implementation to come closer to fruition. These changes are well overdue in Connecticut and I look forward to seeing how they improve our state's energy grid.

State Sen. Norm Needleman, D-33rd District Note: The 12-town 33rd District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

Alumni Benefit Event for Scholarships, Project Grad

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

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

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

will be a raffle of many great items.

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

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

Checks should be made out to RHAM Alum-

John at 860-295-8484.

LEGALS

TOWN OF COLCHESTER **LEGAL NOTICE**

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition(s):

Certificate of Appropriateness - COA 2023-002 - of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Department for installation of a pre-fabricated, permanent bus shelter at the CT Transit stop located on the on the Town Green at Broadway and Main Street.

At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 105, Colchester, CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Historic District Commission Ellen Sharon, Chair

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 April 26, 2023: Application #IWWC 23-04: Connecticut Meditation Center

Inc., 131 U.S. Route 6- Construction of an approximately 7-foot-by-5-foot statue and construction of an approximately 18-foot-by-18-foot wooden structure to cover the statue. Location and dimensions of the statue and enclosure are indicated on the site plans and construction plan submitted on 04-17-2023. Statue and enclosure are located within the 100-foot Upland Review Area of a wetland.

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.

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due

and payable April 17, 2023. Payments not made in full on or before May 17, 2023 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org

Please feel free to leave your payment in the drop box located

33 East Main St., Portland, CT or by mail at the address listed

to the right of the back door at the Town Hall, which is located at

month from the due date.

Town of Portland

P.O. Box 71

Water/Sewer Dept.

Town of Portland

Collector of Revenue

Portland CT 06480-0071

Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals took the following action at a meeting held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following

TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

Petition 2023-2: Request of Mark and Kandy Caccio, Applicant, for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 216 square foot accessory structure (shed) to be located 2' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 10', on premise located at 44 Ames Road, Amston Lake District. **Approved**.

Petition 2023-3: Request of David M. Pescatello, Owner, for a variance of Section 2.E.4 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations to allow a 960 square foot accessory structure (garage) to be located 10' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 20', on premise located at 765 East Street, Residence 1 District. **Approved**.

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 3rd day of May 2023. Martin J. Halloran, Chairperson

Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at https://hebronct.com/agendas/

3TB 4/7, 4/21, 5/5

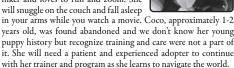
"PET OF THE WEEK"



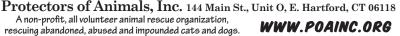
Two-year-old Achilles is a beautiful black and white boy with the most adorable pink nose, and he wants your love. Achilles, ever the fighter, had survived outside for at least a month before he was brought to

shelter. As a result, he is adjusting to life in the shelter and ometimes he gets a tad overwhelmed. But he seeks out affection and absolutely loves a good scratch behind the ears. He loves ball toys and of course, dinner time! If you bring him home, Achilles will seek you out and be over the moon to spend time with his new family. Come and meet our little hero on adoption day.

Kenya, affectionately known as Coco, is a petite espresso colored velvet fur pibble whose smile is contagious. She loves a good sniffari walk, a game of tug and to chase small balls. She is a strong hiker and loves to run and zoom. She will snuggle on the couch and fall asleep



FOR MORE INFO ON ADOPTING CATS OR DOGS, CALL 860-569-0722 **VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - CALL: 860-569-0722**

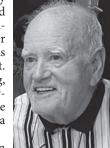


Obituaries _

Colchester

Jan McKelvey Sr.

Jan Russell McKelvey Sr. of Colchester passed away at Middlesex Hospital Sunday, April 30, after a recent illness. He was 89 years old. Born Oct. 7, 1933, in Greensburg, Pa., he was the last surviving of four children of the late Jacob and Lauretta (Poundstone) McKelvey.



Jan was a proud veteran having served in the U.S. Army. He married his beloved wife, Barbara (Anderson) on June 23, 1956. The couple settled in East Haddam on Lake Hayward, where they made their home and raised their family. Jan retired several years ago after a long and successful career as a telephone installer. Since 1959, Jan was a member of the Colchester Fish and Game Club where he enjoyed hunting, fishing and most any outdoor activity. He was also a former member of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer fire Department.

Jan will be remembered by his family as a hardworking family man who was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his wife Barbara of 66 years; his children and their spouses, Jan "JR" (Doreen) McKelvey of Marlborough, Karen (David) Wilson of Wolcott, Kevin McKelvey of Colchester; grandchildren, Kristen (Steve), Michael (Amanda), Timothy (Andrea), Jeffrey; great-grandchildren, Hannah, Owen, Benjamin, Emily, Madison, Savannah; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a son, Jeffrey McKelvey.

A graveside funeral service will be held Saturday, May 6, at 11:30 a.m., at Linwood Cemetery, Linwood Avenue, Colchester, with full military honors.

Donations in his memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Jan, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Joyce H. McDonnell

Joyce H. (Bonesio) McDonnell, 92, of Hebron, beloved wife of the late Thomas J. McDonnell, passed away peacefully Friday, April 21. Joyce was born in Hartford on Feb. 20, 1931, daughter of the late Michael and Mary Bonesio.

Prior to living in Hebron since 2020, Joyce enjoyed living for over 30 years in Eastham, Mass. Prior to Cape Cod, Joyce resided in New Britain and Hartford. For many years, Joyce and Tom spent winter months at their home in Vero Beach, Fla. She was a 1947 graduate of Bulkeley High School in Hartford.

Mom, Gram, Mimi, Nona, enjoyed Point O' Woods Beach as a young girl with many family memories. On the Cape she and Tom loved First Encounter Beach and sunsets at Rock Harbor. Her passion was cooking, but her "hobby" consisted of plastering her kitchen fridge with as many grandkid and family photos as she could! Her grandchildren and great-grands brought her many years of enjoyment and pride. "Bibs" was always quick to hand out homemade cookies and treats or invite you over for a meal. If you needed something, she found a way to get it to you.

Joyce is survived by her sister, Faith Stapleton of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.; two sons, Tim McDonnell of Aliso Viejo, Calif.; Kevin McDonnell and his wife Gail of Hebron; one daughter, Marylou Bengston and her husband

Steve of Brewster, Mass. She is also survived by seven special grandchildren and their partners: Michael McDonnell and partner Alise Benzie of Woodbridge, Va.; Eric McDonnell and fiancé Aria Paxton of Dillon, Colo.; Laura McDonnell and partner Chris Wazer of Hebron; Kevin McDonnell and wife Annie of Lebanon; Nicholas Bengston of Brewster, Mass.; Dylan Bengston and wife Remy of Norfolk, Va.; and Sawyer Bengston of Brewster, Mass.; also, three beloved great-grandchildren: Nari and Noah Bengston and Grayson McDonnell.

Joyce was predeceased by a wonderful daughter-in-law, Jane McDonnell.

The family would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the staff at Colebrook Village Assisted Living in Hebron for their attentive care of Joyce since she became a resident and particularly since early March of this year.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 13, at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield. A reception will follow at Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf St., Newington.

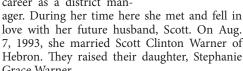
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Children's Hospitals at www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/giving, or plant a tree or shrub in Joyce's memory.

Hebron

Joan Dembinski Warner

On Sunday, April 23, Joan Ellen Dembinski Warner, loving wife and mother, passed away at the age of 64. Joan was born on Aug. 25, 1958, in Norwich to Ed and Audrey (Eels) Dembinski.

Joan worked many years for the emissions program for the State of Connecticut where she ended her career as a district man-



Joan was preceded in death by her father, Edmund; her mother, Audrey; her brother, James; and her sister, Jane. She is survived by her husband, Scott, her daughter, Stephanie, and their dogs, Bella and Dixie, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and more close friends than we could hope to list here. She loved them all. Joan was open to anyone who entered her life. She welcomed everyone with open arms.

She loved her home and community in Hebron just as much as she loved their second home and the small community in Norton, Vt. In her younger years, she loved to spend time at her second home in Vermont snowmobiling, fishing or just exploring the country on dirt roads finding moose and other wildlife. Joan had a passion for all animals; over the years she rescued many animals who she took in and loved with her whole heart.

Although Joan had numerous medical issues throughout her lifetime, she was always well cared for by her doctor, whom she loved and considered to be her friend, Ralph Laguardia.

If you knew Joan, you knew she always had a Dunkin' coffee in her hand. Her door was always open, she was always ready to lend an ear and provide her best advice. Joanie will be missed terribly by her many dear friends and family; she was a kind soul whom everyone loved.

She is beyond all her medical problems and reunited in heaven with all the loved ones that went ahead.

There will be a celebration of Joan's life at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Colchester Fish and Game Club, located on Old Amston Road in Colchester.

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Cromwell

Timothy C. Gagnon

Timothy C. Gagnon, 45, of Cromwell, had a sudden and untimely passing Monday, April 24, at his home in Cromwell. He was born in Middletown, son of Cornelia (Oppenheimer) Malmberg of Cromwell and the late John E. Gagnon Jr.

Tim attended Cromwell High School. Follow-

ing high school, he was employed in the construction industry in all aspects for many years. Tim was the jokester. He had a quip for every situation, that came with a kind-hearted smile and an infectious laugh. He adored his three boys more than anything. He was a loving father, brother, uncle, friend and dog dad. He was an avid Kansas City Chiefs and New York Yankees fan. He loved being active which included outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, skiing, and golfing.

Tim is survived by his mother Cornelia and her husband Jeffrey Malmberg; his sons, Mason, Trenton of East Hampton and Finnian Gagnon of Middlefield; brothers, John E. Gagnon III and his wife Violet of Berlin and their sons Trevor and Connor; his brother, Matt Gilman of Middletown; his sister, Heather Smith of Manchester; his great aunt, Ruth Shapiro; his aunt Emmy Pavelka and uncle Robert Pavelka of Killingworth; his aunt Donna Gagnon of Middletown; and Brenda Stassola of Middletown.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, May 6, from 1-3 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 3 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

Those who wish may send memorial donations to cthumane.org.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Tennie A. Ideman

Tennie A. (Bowman) Young Ideman, 79, of Hebron and Port St. Lucie, Fla., beloved wife of Karl E. Ideman, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 23, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown.

Born in Hartford, Tennie was the oldest child of the late Kenneth and Antoinette (Tomassi) Bow-

man. She graduated from RHAM High School and worked in the insurance industry for most of her professional career, starting at the Travelers. She retired from Liberty Mutual as a highly respected customer service agent in 2006.

Although she enjoyed her career, her true devotion was to her family. First to parents and brothers, then to her children and grandchildren. She lived her life to the fullest and touched so many people personally and professionally. Her passion for cooking was a form of art and a means to connect to the ones she loved. Those who knew her will remember her not only for her unique name but her smile, her laughter, her spice of life, and the ability to connect to anyone.

Travel was always on the agenda and with her beloved husband she had found the perfect

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www.TriCountyMemorials.com tcmemorials@aol.com partner to explore all the wonders of the world. She loved to read, paint, and garden, especially her herbs. She was a strong matriarch to her family and through her ability to listen, share wisdom, and a perfectly timed look, she created an example we can all look to. Tennie described a significant part of her purpose in life as helping others who could not adequately help themselves. She was a fighter, who never gave up despite apparently insurmountable odds and beat

them time and time again.

Tennie has reunited, in heaven, with her family members that has predeceased her, including: her parents, Kenneth and Antoinette Bowman; her brother, Kenneth Bowman; and her daughter, Tracey A. Callahan.

Tennie is survived by her husband, Karl E. Ideman; her brother and his spouse, Tom and Elaine Bowman. She will be deeply missed by her children and their spouses, Kevin and Becky Young, Matthew and Asha Young, Eric Ideman, Alyson and Jeff Bohenko; and her eight grand-children, Sean Callahan, Noah and Jonathan Young, Brayden, Madison, and Rylie Young, Ryan and Tyler Bohenko.

A memorial service will be held Friday, May 12, at 12:30 p.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Friends and family may call on Friday morning from 11 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at the funeral home. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to hibiscuschildrenscenter.org and hfhscommunity.org/donate.

For online condolences, please visit www. mulryanfh.com.

East Hampton

Barbara W. Cassista

Barbara (Walker) Cassista, 86, formerly of Cheshire and Spring Hill, Fla., passed away Saturday, April 15, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation Center in Moodus. She was the devoted wife of Joel Cassista for over 64 years, until his passing in February 2022. Barbara was born on Feb. 22, 1937, in New Haven,



daughter of the late Theodore and Ethel (Rode) Walker.

Barbara graduated from Hillhouse High School in New Haven and worked as a book-keeper for several local businesses until her retirement. In 2005, Barbara and Joel relocated from Cheshire to Timber Pines in Spring Hill, Fla., where they enjoyed golf and many other activities with their friends.

A strong-willed and determined woman, Barbara loved her family and God, and had a faith that was unshakable. She was very social and enjoyed entertaining her family and many friends. She and Joel were members of the Brooksville Bible Church in Florida and founding members of the Cheshire Bible Chapel.

Barbara was the beloved mother of Michael Cassista; Michele (Tony) Cassista Rossini (twins); and Paula (Cary) Cassista MacDonald. She was predeceased by her oldest daughter, Lauren Cassista Giaimo. She leaves five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and was predeceased by a great-grandson. Barbara is also survived by her sister, Judy (Ernie) Creta of Branford; and several loving nieces and nephews.

Barbara was predeceased by her sister, Carol (Sparky) Anthony.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 6, at 11 a.m., at Cheshire Bible Chapel, 1103 Waterbury Rd., Cheshire.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Cheshire Bible Chapel.

The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire is assisting with her arrangements. To leave online condolences for her family, please visit www.fordfh.com.

Portland

Benford Hilliker III

Benford James Hilliker III, 81, died Saturday, April 15, at home with his wife of 60 years, Beverly, at his side.

He is survived by his three daughters, Holly Turner (Frank), Heather Hilliker and Hope Caye (Patrick); also, 13 grandchildren, 10 greatgrandchildren, and his two sisters, Ruth Boyle and Debbie Salvi.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Hellen; his parents, Benford J. Hilliker Jr. and Olive (Sherwood) Hilliker; his sister, Phyllis Kachinsky; and brother, Terry Hilliker.

He was a Mason for the Warren Lodge in

Obituaries -

Portland for 54 years. Skip served in the United States Navy for five years, aboard the USS Hartley 1029. Upon discharge, he worked at Northeast Utilities for 30 years. He was an animal control officer/constable for the town of East Hampton for many years.

Upon retirement from Northeast Utilities, he worked for the Fund for Animals, the Humane Society of the United States and DEEP. He was a wildlife rehabilitator and beaver specialist. He gave countless volunteer hours towards wildlife conservation. In March 2023 he was awarded a lifetime achievement award recognizing his dedication and commitment to protecting Connecticut's wildlife especially for his work rescuing beavers and installing beaver bafflers.

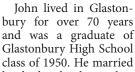
Honoring Skip's wishes, there will be no fu-

Donations in Skip's memory can be made to Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, P.O. Box 3643 Amity Station, 1449 Whalley Ave., Woodbridge, CT 06515.

Glastonbury

John Joseph Vullo

John Joseph Vullo, 91, of Glastonbury, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, April 19. Born on June 19, 1931, in New Britain to Sam and Sarah Vullo.



his high school sweetheart Joyce Ann Wilson and together they raised five children in a home they built with the help of family and friends. He began his lifelong career in the paving industry with Monaco Paving.

John worked his way up to Paving Foreman before cofounding New England Blacktop Inc. in 1973. He maintained the title of President until his passing. Always striving for excellence, he pushed his crew to always do their best, for which he was so very proud.

John was predeceased by his wife, Joyce Wilson Vullo; sister, Carol Pehr; daughter-in-law, Joanne Vullo; son-in-law, Stephen Davis; and longtime friend, Ed Kowsz.

He is survived by his five children, Jeff Vullo (Carol), Judith Vullo, Jayne Meserlian, Jeryl Davis and John Vullo (Jill Stevens). John cherished his nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and four wonderful nieces, to which he also leaves behind.

Together, John and Joyce also founded Seven J's Horse Farm in Glastonbury. The couple frequented Equestrian events alongside their daughters and granddaughters, all across New England. John was President of the Connecticut Hunter and Jumper Association for three years, as well as a lifelong member of the Glastonbury Elks Lodge. In the 1970s, John and Joyce began vacationing each winter in the Florida Keys. They enjoyed camping with the many lifelong friends they met along the way.

The family would like to thank Daria (Dee) Simpson for her devoted care of John and Joyce for the past seven years.

Because John was often seen with at least one Jack Russell terrier in his lap, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St. Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118.

A celebration of life will take place at Seven J's Farm, 24 Candlewood Rd., Saturday, May 20,

Town of Portland **Notice of Referendum** Monday May 8, 2023

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 1201, of the Charter of the Town of Portland and Chapter 90 and 152, of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended. Notice is hereby given to the electors and the citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Portland that a Referendum will be held on May 8, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of voting on the adoption of a budget for the

"SHALL THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT ITS MEET-ING OF APRIL 5, 2023, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, AMOUNT BEING \$38,280,900 BE ADOPTED?"

YES NO Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is: Portland Middle School 93 High Street

Portland, Connecticut Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office at 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut during business hours. Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls. Optical Scan Voting Tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6 A.M.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8 P.M.). ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney

Town Clerk

Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 18th day of April, 2023.

LEGALS

LIQUOR PERMIT **Notice of Appication** This is to give notice that, I DENIS KANDIC 191 MCCLINTOCK ST NEW BRITAIN, CT 06053

Have filed an application placarded 05/08/2023 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 9 ROSE HILL RD

PORTLAND, CT 06480-1247 The business will be owned by: AC & DK LLC

Entertainment will consist of:Acoustics (not amplified), Disc Jockeys, Live Bands, Karaoke Objections must be filed by: 06-19-2023 DENIS KANDIC 2TB 5/5, 5/12

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on May 8, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting

(see Town website for details) to consider the following: ZBA-23-004: James Bansemer, 15 Tennyson Rd., Increase lot coverage from 20% to 39.3% for construction of a concrete driveway. Map 10A/ Block 81/ Lot 64

ZBA-23-005: James Marino, 65 West High St., Reduce side setback from 25' to 10' for construction of a new residential duplex and associated improvements. Map 19/ Block 46/

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON NOTICE OF SITE WALK

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency will hold a Site Walk at 5:00pm on May 9, 2023 at 102 Quiet Woods Rd. The purpose of the site walk is to explain the proposed project and potential environmental impacts and discuss the data and studies to be provided in its upcoming application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a 10 megawatt exemption for the Quiet Woods Water Wheel Hydroelectric Project as it relates to the following application IW:23-009: Scott Sanicki, 102 Quiet Woods Rd, Construct a 6'x 6'x 3' concrete base, install electrical lines, and conduct other activity in the Upland Review Area to support the installation of a residential water wheel installation Chairman Joshua Wilson

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON **IWWA ACTIONS**

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 26, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following: IW-23-005: Michal Bakaj, 37 South Main, 22 Lot Residential Open Space Subdivision, which includes 8 proposed building lots within the Upland Review Area. Map 20/ Block 51/ Lot 27 - Ap-. Chairman Joshua Wilson

TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

At its Special Meeting of April 25, 2023 the Colchester Historic District Commission made the following decision:

Certificate of Appropriateness - COA 2023-001 - of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Department for (1) maintenance of the gazebo on the Town Green; (2) removal of the existing utility closet, utility pole and light located southerly of the gazebo and installation of new electrical utility appurtenances. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Historic District Commission

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH WPCA COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough WPCA Commission will hold the following Public Hearing May 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM at Town Hall located at 26 North Main Street:

Benefit assessment- 29 South Main Street- \$12.060.00 Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building /Land Use Depart-

ment at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing

TOWN OF PORTLAND **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION** LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.

Application #22-25: 16 Sand Hill Road. Proposed zone change from IP to B-2. Application of Michael Brown and property of 16 Sand Hill Properties, LLC. Map 22, Lot 4. Zone IP. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this applica-tion is available for review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT this 2nd day of May 2023

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 5/5, 5/12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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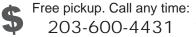
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HELP WANTED- PAINTERS: Looking to hire painters for summer and permanent employment. Must have own transportation. Please call (860HELP WANTED PART- TIME BARTENDER: A position available at the St. Polish Club, Colchester, CT. Private club with public functions. The hours will be nights and weekends and may include some afternoons. Must be dependable with reliable transportation. Responsibilities are, but not limited to opening and closing the bar, serving drinks, restocking, and cleaning the facility after closing. May have to lift up to 20 lbs. TIPS have to lift up to 20 lbs. certified. Please stop by to apply at 395 South Main Street, Colchester or call 860-537-

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**

Andover School District General Kitchen Worker

The Andover School District is seeking qualified candidates for the position of General Kitchen Worker, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. School food service or related field experience helpful. Pay rate as per contract. Applications are available online at www.andoverelementaryct.org and should be sent to:

> **Andover Elementary School** 35 School Road Andover, CT 06232

Andover, 01 00202 Or send via email to parkert@andoverelementaryct.org. 3TB 4/28, 5/5, 5/12

Taylor Parker, Principal

HELP WANTED - SEASONAL LABORERS TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for two (2)

This is a seasonal position within the Public Works Department with up to 40 (forty) hours a week for the summer. The successful candidate will be expected to perform general work in construction repair and maintenance of town roads, grounds and facilities \$15.00/hour. Positions open until filled.

Requirements: Familiarity with, and an ability to operate, grounds maintenance equipment and small power equipment. Ability to use hand tools and a valid Connecticut driver's license are required. Employment Application and a general job description are available at the Town Clerk's Office or at www.Marlboroughct.net. Completed applications are to be submitted to the:

Marlborough Town Clerk 26 North Main Street P.O. Box 29 Marlborough, CT. 06447

2TB 4/28, 5/5

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.

- CCNS is entering our 65th year of operating a high quality preschool
- 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. Interviews will be held at the beginning of June and the position would start in August.

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work alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a

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you do, reach out for details about this unique health care

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colebrookvillage.com or call 860-801-1114

opportunity! 401k, Dental, Life Medical, Vision

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you do, reach out for details about this unique health care

Email Maryla Underwood at MUnderwood@

colebrookvillage.com or call 860-801-1114

opportunity! 401k, Dental, Life Medical, Vision

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PART-TIME TAX CLERK

The Town of Marlborough is seeking applicants for the following

Part-Time Tax Clerk - position provides clerical and office administrative assistance to the Tax Collector in preparation of bills and the collection and crediting of taxes and related billings. Excellent computer and interpersonal skills required. General expectation is up to 24 hours per week. Starting wage \$19.00-22.00/hour based on experience

Please submit a letter of interest and completed application to the Town Clerk

P.O. Box 29 Marlborough, CT 06447

Employment Application and Job Description available online at www.marlboroughct.net or from the Town Clerk's office, (860)295-6206. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Town of Marlborough Full-Time Maintainer -Department of Public Works

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the position of full-time Maintainer in the Department of Public Works. This is a 40 hour/week position. Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:30 pm., and offers a competitive starting wage and comprehensive benefit package. This is a Collective Bargaining Unit position.

The successful candidate will work under the supervision and direction of the Public Works Supervisor performing a wide range of facility, grounds and road maintenance duties. A complete job description and application is available from the Marlborough Town Clerk, or online at www.marlboroughct.net. Candidates will be considered based on knowledge, skills. abilities and previous experience. Candidates will be required to pass a thorough background investigation and physical exam, including a drug screening. An application and current resume must be received by the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447 deadline Friday, May 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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 applica tions are to be submitted to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 29, 26 North . 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

TOWN OF HEBRON FIREFIGHTER/EMT/MAINTAINER

The Town of Hebron is seeking candidates for a full-time position of Fire Department Firefighter/EMT/Maintainer. The individual prepares for, responds to and performs required functions at emergency fire, ambulance, rescue and service calls and performs such other fire service duties as defined in the General Statutes as a Firefighter/EMT. The individual performs general maintenance work and upkeep of the fire department buildings, grounds, vehicles, equipment and alarm systems, including appropriate record keeping. The applicant must have the following to apply for this position: State of Connecticut Firefighter II certification; current valid EMT certification; a valid CT Driver license with a Q Endorse ment or CT CDL B; and a current CPAT Card (or ability to obtain within one (1) year). Starting rate \$26.64 plus benefits Please send resume with a Town of Hebron application, copies of certifications, Connecticut Driver license, current FMT and CPAT Cards to the attention of Andrew J. Tierney Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by Friday, May 26, 2023. For further information please visit www.hebronct.com The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

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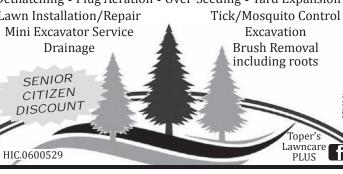
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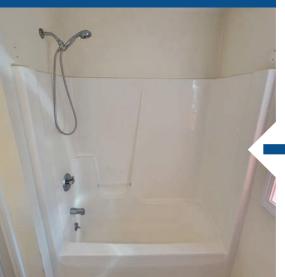
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