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News Bulletin

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

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June 23, 2023

Bacon Seniors Reflect, Inspire at Graduation

By Michael Sinkewicz

The members of the Bacon Academy Class of 2023 celebrated the culmination of 13 years of education last Friday, turning their tassels from right to left as they officially started a new chapter in their lives.

The graduation ceremony was full of reflection, guidance and inspiration. Although the festivities were forced to move inside the gymnasium due to inclement weather, families and community members brought enough energy to ensure that the night was truly memorable.

“Pomp and Circumstance” officially ushered the class to their seats before the Bacon Academy Choir sang the National Anthem.

Ryan Moores, the class valedictorian, thanked a plethora of faculty, family and friends during his speech for their ongoing support and informed the students that they will “forever share this identity as members of Bacon Academy’s Class of 2023.”

All of their favorite memories, their celebrations, their photographs, would now be answers to trivia questions such as, “Where are you from?” and “What was life like when you were a kid?”

But, Moores stated, some students may experience the “panic of realizing that our search for identity does not abide by deadlines.

“Take a moment to look around you and never forget the feeling of knowing that there’s more to come; this moment is only what you make it out to be,” he said.

Moores reminded the class that they “have so much time to discover and follow-up with yourself” and urged them to “take only the parts of your past that have served this journey and leave the rest behind.”

The moment itself — walking across the stage — seems significant and built-up, he expressed. However, he added, the students’ journeys are



Members of the Bacon Academy Class of 2023 smiled – and some even waved – as they filed into the school auditorium last Friday, to begin their long-awaited commencement ceremony.

not defined by a diploma, and so many experiences are yet to come.

“Know that this is only an instant in the beau-

tifully challenging road trip of life that we are just starting to navigate,” he said.

Moores will attend Princeton University with

a penciled-in major of neuroscience.

However, before officially heading to New Jersey, Moores is embarking on a nine-month “gap year” trip to Indonesia through the university’s Novogratz Bridge Year Program.

Moores’ father Steven told the *Rivereast* that he was “very proud” of his son.

“This is something he earned,” he said. “He was driven.”

Moores will join a group of five students on a “cultural experience” that includes living with a family abroad and backpacking through national parks.

“It’s frightening a little bit,” Steven Moores added. “Because I’m psyched for him, but we’re going to miss him.”

Grace Gorreck, the salutatorian, said the Class of 2023 encountered unprecedented circumstances, namely the pandemic, which impacted learning.

“But we stand here today in our caps and gowns — evidence of our unwavering determination and resilience, a testament to our ability to rise above,” she said.

She pointed to a possible silver lining to emerge from that experience — the art of procrastination. While many associate the word with laziness, Gorreck explained that deploying the skill in a balanced manner can be the “catalyst for self-discovery.”

“High school is so much more than going from class to class and completing all the different assignments,” she said. “It’s about finding who you are — your strengths, your weaknesses, what you are passionate about and the people you truly care about.”

As the class embarks on a new chapter, she continued, perhaps a little more procrastination is advised. She charged students with using the time to learn a new skill or discover an undevel-

See Bacon Seniors, page 3

RHAM Seniors Start New Chapter

By Michael Sinkewicz

Last Thursday, the RHAM High School Class of 2023 officially walked across the stage, embarking on a new journey together.

The setting for the graduation ceremony was picturesque — not every district was so lucky. Families flocked to the softball field at 85 Wall St. where the scoreboard fittingly read 20-23.

The excitement in the crowd was palpable as “Pomp and Circumstance,” performed by the RHAM Wind Ensemble, welcomed the graduating class to the field. The Senior Vocal Quartet then sang the National Anthem.

Class President Daniel Tamburro, from Andover, was the first speaker of the evening. His speech began with thanking those who guided him through his academic journey, including band director Nicholas Kokus. The most sincere message, however, was directed at his parents.

“You’ve been with me through it all,” he said. “No one on earth could ask for better parents and I don’t tell you that enough.”

Tamburro then quoted Julius Caesar — he apologized to those who believe Latin is a dead language. The rough translation: “experience is the teacher of all things.”

He explained that during freshman year, the class was perhaps robbed of a “normal” high school experience due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, by senior year, there were plenty of highlights, including dancing at prom, visiting Six Flags, watching the sunrise as a graduating class, staging a wedding as a prank in the school atrium and eating lunch with friends.

“RHAM has filled us with the memories and experiences of a life time,” he said, later adding

that he “wouldn’t trade any of it for the world.”

But what is “normal?” Tamburro asked.

There aren’t instructions or a set of rules for a “normal” high school life.

He referenced comedian Mel Brooks, who said life should be noisy, colorful and lively.

“We certainly had anything but a normal experience,” Tamburro concluded. “That fact alone is enough to guarantee that we’re the best class to ever walk across this stage.”

He challenged the class of 2023 — “Let’s be anything but normal.”

Following the ceremony, Tamburro’s parents reflected on their son’s accomplishments.

“Where did the time go?” Frank Tamburro told the *Rivereast*. “It goes quick.”

His gratitude extended to the whole RHAM

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The Bacon graduates joyfully toss their caps into the air at the end of last week's graduation, as happy friends and family cheer and take pictures.

★ Bacon Seniors, cont. from page 1

oped passion. "Today, we stand on the threshold of infinite possibilities," she expressed. "The world is vast, waiting for us to make our mark as we pursue our dreams and goals."

Gorreck's father, Mike, summed up his impressions of the evening in one word — "Hopeful." While he asserted that his optimism extended to the whole graduating class, he was certainly impressed with his daughter.

"Knowing she put in the hard work to do it — I don't know if I could've stomached it, so I'm very proud of that," he told the Rivereast.

Mike Gorreck added that although he's not a nostalgic person, the emotions of the ceremony will likely sink-in shortly.

"I'm just assuming that's going to hit me pretty soon," he said.

In the fall, Gorreck will attend Marist College and study environmental science or chemistry as part of the college's honors program.

Both Gorreck and Moores were previously recognized as Bacon Academy's Scholar-Athletes of the Year for the 2022-23 school year, as well. For those two students, their parents were also welcomed to the stage to present their diplomas personally.

Principal Amy Begué noted that this year was the 220th anniversary of the founding of Bacon Academy, an exciting milestone.

"I encourage each of you to take a chance, put yourself out there and perhaps re-invent yourself or your path where opportunities present themselves," she said. "Believe in your abilities, have confidence in your ideas and never be afraid to pursue your passions."

She challenged students to "be the best human you can be," but reminded the class that each of them "will always be a Bobcat."

Following the ceremony, Begué took a moment to reflect on the ceremony with the Rivereast.

"The weather gave me heart palpitations," she said jokingly.

The administration informed her that she could distribute the diplomas on stage, which left her "incredibly honored."

"For me personally, that was the moment to celebrate each of them individually," she said. "To be able to look at them before they came up the steps, and give them that smile, that nod, recognizing each of their individual paths to get to that moment was incredible. It was a thrill for me."

Unlike other districts, Bacon Academy has a tradition not to invite any outside keynote speakers to graduation. Instead, a montage of messages from school faculty is recorded, which offers a personal touch for each class.

"Here's your family sendoff," Begué explained. She wrapped up her first year as principal and survived her first graduation; like many students, she also tried to appreciate the moment.

"It might be a little surreal my first time around when I'm soaking it all in and really appreciating it," she expressed.

Grace Galarneau, the Gilbert Lamb Essayist, touched upon a number of topics in her own speech.

She encouraged the graduating class to recognize the family members and mentors who were consistently present in each student's life.

"Even when we made bad decisions, they provided us with unwavering love, guidance, and support in the face of all challenges," she said, adding that they've "given us the courage to live

big." Her charge — "Let us not underestimate the significance of these important figures in our lives."

Board of Education Chairman Alexander Oliphant thanked Moores for his contribution as the student representative on the board. His speech mainly focused on the emergence of artificial intelligence and its impact on the world.

He urged the class to "go forth and use AI to propel your imagination to new heights."

Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III is new to district, starting his role in January, and began his speech to the students with a word of advice.

"Do not, do not let the COVID-19 pandemic define your high school experience," he said.

Sullivan expressed the importance of kindness and understanding before underscoring another theme — family.

He cited his "golden era" growing up that involved watching classic television shows with own family and urged students to think of their equivalence.

"The days are long, the years are short," he said. "Look around and soak this all in. This is a moment in time that will not repeat itself."

After the ceremony, Sullivan elaborated on the emotions of the day.

"It's pride, it's sadness, it's excitement for them because while one chapter ends and so many new, exciting ones lie ahead," he told the Rivereast. "You look back and you think, these students have been in our district for 13 years. All of those experiences they had, their families had — the end sneaks up on you quickly."

He agreed that the collective keynote speaker portion is a unique idea.

"The pre-recorded faculty messages are awesome," he asserted. "It allowed so many people to say a couple words, which I'm sure brings around more emotions and memories."

The class officers presented gifts to the school. Funds were donated to future classes and for a fountain outside of the science classrooms.

Class President Megan Swanke enjoyed her own mic-drop moment, declaring, "It's been real, Class of 2023 — class prez out."

The officers acknowledged the Class of 1973 — celebrating its 50th anniversary. A member of the Class of 1948 — celebrating her 75th graduation anniversary — was also present.

Of course, a Bacon Academy graduation wouldn't be complete with the singing of the alma mater "Baconia."

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Summer is officially here, so no doubt a lot of folks are hitting the road for vacations or day trips.

If you too are one of those road warriors, here's some news you may want to know.

As you may be aware, the state Department of Transportation has been at work rehabilitating the East Haddam Swing Bridge (Route 82). The work includes a full deck replacement, at which time the bridge will need to be closed to traffic.

And that time has come.

The 63-hour road closures actually began earlier this month, and will run each week through late fall. The scheduled time for each closure will be from Sundays at 8 p.m. until Wednesdays no later than 11 a.m.

Pedestrians and cyclists are advised that during these 63-hour closures, the bridge will be closed to them as well.

Now, the bridge work doesn't need to sink your whole vacation plans. There are alternative options to cross the Connecticut River during these 63-hour road closures.

If traveling to/from the south, use the signed detour utilizing the Baldwin Bridge (I-95 Old Saybrook). And if you're traveling to/from the north, use the Arrigoni Bridge.

Inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances could cause cancellations of a 63-hour road closure. To be alerted of changes to the schedule, text the word SWINGBRIDGE

to 888777.

If you have questions related to the construction, email them to dotproject40-141@ct.gov.

This is pretty neat: Hebron will hold its first-ever Pride Month celebration Friday, June 30.

The new group Small Town Pride and Douglas Library are collaborating to host the event "Celebrate Pride" on Friday, June 30, from 5-8 p.m., in the community room at Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

LGBTQ+ community members and allies, of all ages, are welcome. There will be vendors, wood flag painting, a "Safe with Me" station, a Storybook Corner, and more.

All are also invited to meet at the Town Hall gazebo at 4:45 p.m. to help kick off the celebration by walking across to the library.

It sounds like a delightful way to wrap up one of my favorite months. Kudos to Hebron for getting in on the Pride Month festivities.

Lastly, want to take a hike and listen to some live music at the same time? Then head to nearby Moodus on Saturday, July 8, starting at 11 a.m., for a guided hike and concert at Machimoodus State Park.

There will be both easy and moderate hikes led by Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Drumming Up Fun... As part of the Juneteenth celebration, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, hosted a community drumming workshop. Participants from Hebron and surrounding towns were invited to register to attend. Over 30 joyful drummers were led by Bolokada Conde, a Grandmaster Djembefola from Guinea, who was in town to participate in the Hebron and St. Peter's Juneteenth activities.

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

Survey

To All Hebron Voters:

A survey is out and we need your input concerning proposed locations of the Public Works building. The survey is available online or on paper. The paper copies are available at the Town Hall, the Library, and the Senior Center. There is also information and (if done online) links to documents and studies and reports by experts concerning the proposed site.

Please study the information and fill out the survey. This is your opportunity to be heard.

Thank you,

Daniel Larson - Amston

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

you to reassure me that not all humans have venomous thoughts and tongues. Again, thank you.

Most of all, I thank the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission for putting on such an affair. You did a splendid job. I expect nothing less.

And, finally, to all who dropped by to see the splendor of the day lilies that make up my yard and gardens, you are most welcomed back to view them in full bloom come mid-July. No need for an invite. Just appear. You are welcomed here to view the splendor of nature. And maybe catch a glimpse of a horse or two being worked. I will be most honored and privileged to have you back.

Alison Walck - East Hampton

I Thank You

To the Editor:

To all who came by Saturday during the Plein Air painting and garden tour, I thank you. To those who came to admire the blossom-less gardens all bathed in their greenest finery, I thank you. For those who understand nature doesn't work on man's whim or schedule and produce showy flowers for a pre-planned tour, I thank you for your understanding. And finally those who dropped by to meet and visit my two magnificent horses, and compliment them and their surroundings, I thank you.

You all restored my faith and admiration for humanity, kindness and compliments. I needed

Reporting on the Good

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago, I launched a new website called UpliftColchester.com because I wanted to start highlighting some of the goodness happening in our town. Someone said to me recently, "While we can't control everything, we can control what we give our attention." In all the negative news shared in both local and national media, the stories of human goodness get lost. And there is so much good, all around us, if we just pay attention.

As I started writing stories, opportunities to highlight acts of kindness started pouring in. We've shared stories about the Colchester uni-

Bulletin Board

An old (even then) World War I veteran told me years ago that when his platoon was mired down in the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne in 1918, they received an issue of hard tack (a sort of indestructible cracker) that, according to the wrappings, had been packaged during the Spanish-American War. It's all they had to eat, and you can bet they ate 'em, though they had to soak them in water first to keep from breaking their teeth.

I thought of that old warrior recently when a much younger acquaintance—who falls into one of those convoluted "Gen-whatever" categories that I can never keep straight—expressed concern that the recommended "consume by" date had passed on the can of soda he was about to open.

As someone who grew up when dirt and germs were considered a perfectly acceptable part of childhood (though I did miss World War I), I rarely bother to look at expiration dates on whatever it is I'm shoveling into my mouth at the moment. It certainly would never occur to me to look for an expiration date on a can of soda. Pork, maybe, but soda? As far as I know, nobody ever died from taking a sip of flat soda unless maybe their spouse was looking to cash in on their life insurance policy.

Still, I realize that I have aged into a new world where threats to our wellbeing lurk behind every corner—a world where someone or something else is always to blame for whatever misfortune happens to befall us. This ever-expanding litany of dangers is well demonstrated by the horde of lawyers taking out television ads promising to adopt us as treasured members of their "family" while pursuing swift justice for all injuries large or small.

But let me get back to the topic at hand, that being expiration or "use by" dates.

Earlier this morning, in the interest of scientific research, I examined a jar of hot dog relish languishing in the far corner of my fridge. I don't remember exactly when it arrived, but the expiration date is September 2024. Does this mean that, at one second after the stroke of midnight on Aug. 31, 2024, the contents of the jar begin to bubble and boil as they're suddenly afflicted with a variety of potentially fatal plagues? Is it possible that the same tasty relish-covered hot dog you enjoy on Aug. 31 becomes a toxic instrument of death and disease on Sept. 1?

That seems unlikely. In fact, food experts say that expiration dates and "best consumed by" dates are only guidelines. They are not governed by law or regulated by government. They're placed on products by the manufacturers themselves—not as "safety" warnings, but simply to give the consumer some idea of "freshness." (And, possibly, to encourage the more fearful among us to replace product before it's really necessary? Nah.)

In reality, I am informed that your average canned food has a suggested shelf life of three years, but a practical shelf life of as long as seven years. Food safety experts say that turning down the temperature in your refrigerator below the generally recommended 40 degrees will prolong the shelf life of meat and pasteurized milk by 50 percent. Because freezing kills the microbes that cause spoilage, frozen foods are good indefinitely, barring nasty side effects like freezer burn.

While a terrible wastrel in some other aspects of my life (I have been reprimanded, for instance, for throwing empty beer cans in the trash; none of which, I can assure you, ever reached their "use by" date), I am a veritable Greenie when it comes to what I like to call "food conservation." My approach to whether a food item has actually expired (as opposed to the date of death listed on the label) is to use a little common sense—an approach I (paradoxically) developed as a college student (no money and immortal) and subsequently refined as a bachelor (still no money and too lazy to go shopping).

This practical approach is fairly simple. Look at the food item in question, smell it and maybe take a small taste before rashly throwing it out. If the milk resembles cottage cheese, it's terminal. Green beer on St. Patrick's Day may be a novelty, but green mayonnaise at any time of the year should be avoided like a rabid leprechaun. Any food item in your refrigerator that has developed a thick sweater, regardless of color, should be tossed (you might want to wear rubber gloves).

A general rule of thumb: If it's green and it's not from the Vegetable Kingdom, it's suspect. If you need a spoon to access a food item that's supposed to be pourable, it's time to move on. If it has the aroma of a four-day-old corpse, bury it.

Seriously, it's that simple. You don't even have to know how to read an expiration date. And why bother? It'll only make you nervous, anyway.

[PS: My wife suggests there should be expiration dates on certain politicians. I'm definitely on board with that.]

Jim Hallas

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

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corn who was spotted waving at cars on the town green to spread cheer, a local company who generously donated a new bus shelter, two women who crochet blankets and other items for local shelters, students at our elementary school decorating over 500 kindness rocks, a Plum Tomato employee who developed a Braille menu, and more.

Highlighting these human-interest stories has filled me with incredible joy and reinforced that people are, generally, good. If you'd like to feel uplifted by reading local stories about human kindness, please check out UpliftColchester.com. I promise you won't be able to stop smiling.

Michelle Noehren
Founder of Colchester is Kind
and Uplift Colchester

DPW Survey Questioned

To the Editor:

I see we are proceeding with a survey for the proposed Public Works facility in Hebron at a cost of \$15,000.

In the March 10th issue of the *News Bulletin*, it stated that the survey would provide information from at least 3-7% of the voting public, or a minimum of 400 people.

Will the survey be based upon a scientific database of Hebron voters or just sent out to names on the voters' list in Hebron? Surveys are only good if the database used is representative of the community surveyed. The firm selected to do the survey is DKA Advertising. Is the survey an advertisement for the new facility? It seems like it might be based upon some of the statements made by Mr. Kasper.

So, 400 survey results will give the city the information it needs to move forward. I would doubt it. If you take the \$15,000 and divide it by 400 results you are paying \$37.50 per survey.

I can tell you the results of the survey and you don't have to pay me anything.

1. Don't build the new public works facility in my neighborhood.

2. The cost of the facility is too expensive.

Thomas Spittler - Hebron

Still an Expert

To the Editor:

Several months ago, Bill Warzecha, a retired hydrogeologist and supervising environmental analyst with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), offered his expertise regarding the proposed placement of a new Public Works facility on Kinney Road. His concern was the associated salt shed. In a Sept. 16, 2022 letter to Kevin Tulimieri (which was shared with the Board of Selectmen, but is yet to be posted on the town's Public Works Building Project homepage), he noted that "since the residential properties on Kinney and Millstream roads are topographically side and down-gradient of the proposed site and served by on-site drinking water wells, the potential for road salt impacted ground water emanating from the site to directly affect those potable wells is very concerning." He noted there is no good water treatment technology available to remove salt from groundwater.

Public statements by some that Bill and his expert opinion should be disregarded because he is retired from DEEP are misplaced. The sci-

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

State Parks with grand views of the Connecticut River, and then enjoy Boston's Americana band, Cold Chocolate for an acoustic performance at the park.

Tickets are sliding scale, with a recommended \$15 per adult. Kids are free. For full details and tickets, visit www.sustainmusicandnature.org/july82023.

See you next week.

ence of ground water, its movement, and the effects on it from contamination has not changed since his retirement and has been established science for a long time.

Further, Bill was a highly valued member of DEEP. Evaluations from his supervisors note:

"Bill is an expert on remediation and potable water matters."

"Bill is a highly skilled professional and his advice is in great demand by staff and the public."

Bill "continues to provide leadership on potable water issues/projects ... and is in great demand for his time and advice on complex matters."

"Bill is a division-wide resource for potable water and technical issues due to his wealth of experience and expertise."

Bill and the contents of his Sept. 16, 2022, letter deserve respect.

Denise Rodosevich - Hebron

Increase These Budgets

To the Editor:

The Colchester Board of Finance has some work to do. The referendum vote left no question about what the taxpayers want. It wasn't even close: BOE - 529 Yes, 1546 No; 728 too high, 1164 too low. Town - 741 Yes, 1335 No; 683 too high, 1073 too low.

Throughout the budget process, many Colchester citizens expressed their concerns that these budgets were too low. We always got push-back from members of the BOF, with answers like "The group in this room doesn't represent the whole town" and "I was elected by people who want me to reduce these budgets."

Now that the vote has happened, I hope that the BOF is ready to roll up their sleeves and try again, with what is best for our town and schools in mind. Many more than the 50 or so people who regularly attended the meetings have spoken, and it's time to increase these budgets.

Respectfully,
Erin Shuman - Colchester

Budget Referendum Message

To the Editor:

Last Tuesday, the community sent our elected leaders a clear message that the town and education budgets were too low. This is the second year in a row that the first selectman has failed to pass a budget on the first go. The budget referendum made three key points.

First, the referendum had the largest turnout of the last three years with 2,076 voters (2021 had 1,754 and 2022 had 1,867 at the initial referendum).

Second, there was overwhelming support for the too-low advisory question. Even if everyone who didn't answer suddenly had the chance to answer, it would not have changed the results. Three hundred eighteen did not respond to the advisory question, but the too-low won by 388 votes. One hundred eighty-three did not answer on the education side, but the too-low won by 436 votes.

Third, the "Too Low" voters could have car-

ried both budgets over the finish line without any other voters. On the town side, the "Too Low" voters alone would have passed the budget with 51.7% of the votes. On the education side, the margin is nearing landslide standards in this age of hyper-polarization - with the "Too Low" crowd making up 56.1% of the voters!

The elected officials in Colchester would do well to heed the voters' message. As my wife noted, they kicked the hornets' nest by ignoring us during the various meetings, including the Town Meeting. We will not back down; rather, we are energized and plan to continue this fight until November, when we will have the chance to elect new officials who remember that they are there at the behest of the community they serve. There are around 130 days until the election; we are not going anywhere!

Jeremy M. McKenzie - Colchester

Referendum Thanks

To the Editor:

As moderator, I would like to publicly recognize the diligence and collegiality of the poll workers during the Colchester budget referendum last week in ensuring everyone who was eligible to vote was able to vote, including a number of first-time voters. They started work early to have everything ready for the opening of the polls and stayed after the closing of the polls to help complete the count and the documentation needed for the report to the secretary of the state.

To me, part of the beauty and genius of our democracy is that people voters may know from their neighborhoods, community or social groups are those who take on the responsibility for a free and fair vote.

My special thanks to the registrars of voters Jayme LaGrega and Julie Shilosky, the assistant registrars Delaney LePage and Ursula Tschinkel, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman for their knowledge, experience and guidance throughout the day.

Respectfully,
Stan Soby - Colchester

Don't Approve Condos

To the Editor:

We are writing about the proposed development of condominiums on North Main Street in Marlborough. We respectfully ask that the Planning Commission not approve the request that would allow this to proceed.

Currently the section of North Main Street between Route 66 and West Road consists of approximately 60 residential homes built between the 1700s and now. There is great diversity in architectural styles and affordability. The 50+ condominiums almost double the number of residences, adding all homogeneous units. This changes the character of North Main Street. There are more appropriate places to put this development in Marlborough.

Our concern is also that the traffic will increase on North Main Street and exacerbate problems that the town is already trying to deal

with. Has there been a recent traffic study that assesses the impact of the additional traffic?

It is unclear how this development will affect Town services. Will there be enough volunteers for the ambulance and fire departments? Will there need to be additional police staff hired?

The lot and the land adjacent to the lake currently have old deciduous trees. The developer says they will keep these but that will be impossible as the structures are built, the driveways and parking areas are installed. The character of the land will change.

This is not the right development for North Main Street. If this development is what the town needs, it should be at a more appropriate location.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth and William Keister - Marlborough

Listen to the Voters

To the Editor:

On June 13, Colchester citizens turned out for the town and school budget referendum in numbers we haven't seen in over five years.

The message was loud and clear: No/Too Low on both budgets.

Since then, I've heard some people in town saying that since "only" 18% of voters turned out for the referendum, we really shouldn't raise the budgets, because we don't know what the other 82% wanted. Isn't that the point of a referendum? The 82% had the same opportunity to come out and vote as the 18% who showed up.

Some are even implying that the budgets "can't be increased" at this point in the process - which is untrue. The Board of Finance can - and should - reconsider the drastic cuts they made to the proposed education budget and restore funding before the next referendum. The town budget is also underfunded and should be reconsidered.

The voters have spoken - will our elected officials listen?

Susie Milner - Colchester

Project Grad Thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of AHM Youth & Family Services, I would like to thank the following individuals who were responsible for making this year's Project Graduation possible:

The onboarding volunteers: RHAM Administrators, Principal Penny Brysgel, Assistant Principal, Chris Mader, and Interim Assistant Principal, Laurie Vega-Boulay. Our parents and community members who helped with the bus onboarding process: Maura Baker, Heather Little, Meghan Ford, Jeri Gauthier, Machel Gauthier, Charlotte Giaccone, Ines Morris, Brenda Keleher, Jenn Kischell, Terry Laliberti, Jody Sandberg, Kate Williams, Jenn Wood. The event chaperones: Carri-Ann Bell, Brian Byrne, Heidi Bryne, Nancy Dooley, Machel Gauthier, Jeri Gauthier, Selina Guerriero, Eric Forrest, Alan Laliberti (EMT), Maria Morelli-Wolfe, Rosetta Popolizio, Charles Totten and Officer

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

Tom Topulos. The following local business owners: Michelle Nicholson of the Flour Girl Café (Hebron) for hosting our Tip A Musician Fundraiser, Julie Veilleux (Amston) owner of Simply Soy Candles, who partnered with AHM for two fundraisers this past academic year and Amy Ordonez owner of Studio 13 (East Hampton) who led our Paint Night Fundraiser. And, the many parents and community members who donated raffle prizes through our online Amazon gift list – the grads were very touched by your generosity and kindness!

One hundred and twenty-eight RHAM High School graduates chose to attend a celebration free of alcohol and substances on the night of their graduation at Revolutions in South Windsor. AHM Youth & Family Services is proud to coordinate and give this opportunity to our

community to keep our children safe on a night that statistically can be very dangerous.

AHM is extending the invitation to RHAM High School junior and senior parents to join the Project Graduation Committee for the “Class of 2024”. Please contact Jenn Boehler at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org or 860-228-9488 Ext. 22 to learn how you can help out!

**Ann Marie Drury
Individual Giving and Event Coordinator
AHM Youth and Family Services**

Hebron Survey Statements

To the Editor:

As Hebron’s Public Works Survey continues to circulate, I encourage residents to let their voices be heard. But before completing the survey I hope everyone will take a moment and

read through statements from Professor Robert M. Thorson of UConn, Professor John Demos of Yale, Preservation Connecticut, and the Hebron Green Committee, all posted on Save Hebron Center on Facebook. These engaged specialists all acknowledge that a Public Works facility does not belong on the Horton property on Kinney Road. This pristine area features significant historic and environmental conditions that should be preserved and protected.

The leading stone wall expert in the country, Prof. Thorson has visited Kinney Road and confirmed the unusual stone wall laneways are unique artifacts of important 18th and 19th century community efforts to preserve the agriculturally vital glacial soil found in Hebron Center. A nationally recognized historian, Professor John Demos has also visited the area and suggested it would make an excellent outdoor

history museum. This is supported by Preservation Connecticut, a leading statewide preservation organization that has submitted a letter recognizing the benefits of preserving this area and noting state funds are available for preservation planning. Historical and eco-tourism can be a low impact and low-cost boon for Hebron’s economy. At the same time we expand our economy Hebron can also expand a unique educational opportunity for our students and community.

The Hebron Green Committee report is a powerful statement that clearly documents the significant environmental dangers of placing a Public Works facility on the Horton property. It has been suggested that an alternative drinking water source may be available for Kinney Road, however, that will not prevent the contamination of the groundwater and fractured bedrock aquifer below. The only responsible plan is to keep Public Works on Old Colchester Road.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Thanks from Garden Club

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club would again like to thank the community for attending our annual plant sale held Memorial Day weekend on the Congregational Church grounds in the center of town. Proceeds are donated back to the community in a variety of efforts, from purchasing plants for the gardens we maintain, to providing resources for the Food Bank garden. We hope we were not only able to provide buyers with ‘tried and true’ perennials, but also any information on gardening needs. As you know, our plants come from member gardens, as well as a neighbor or two ... with permission, of course. A special thank you to Rick’s Sugar Shack for his annual generous donation of the healthy division of plants from his own gardens. Another special thanks to Paul’s & Sandy’s Too for their continued support of our Garden Club.

We look forward to seeing those who expressed an interest in joining our club. We usually meet monthly on the fourth Monday in the community room of the public library. Look for notices in River East or visit us on Facebook (East Hampton Belltown Garden Club).

Belltown Garden Club

Listen to the People

Dear Colchester Residents:

The people have spoken on the town and school budgets. Will certain elected officials finally listen?

Last week, clear majorities voted that the proposed town and Board of Education spending plans were too low. Last year, the town overspent its budget by hundreds of thousands of dollars, but for political reasons the first selectman presented an unrealistic, flat budget anyway. The Board of Finance should listen to the people who saw through the games and restore funding to areas that are being neglected.

Last year, the paving/road improvement budget was cut and those cuts were left in place this year. When I served on the Board of Finance, we had a strategic plan to increase the paving budget annually because we knew road maintenance in Colchester was underfunded. Right now, instead of moving forward on the plan, we are going backwards.

This year, the first selectman wisely proposed

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hiring a facilities maintainer. Unfortunately, the proposal was one step forward two steps back as he also proposed cutting a grounds maintainer. With all of the issues we have in Colchester with field maintenance and other outdoor areas, a grounds maintainer should not be on the chopping block. The Board of Finance should restore funding for this position.

On the school side, the BOF has the opportunity to restore funding that could save teachers and programming while ensuring equal access to band. Based on updated revenue calculations provided by BOF member Mike Egan, they could do this and still keep the same mill rate they already proposed.

The Board of Finance and first selectman should listen to the people. I hear you. Will they?

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman

Garden Tour Thanks

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) thanks all the gardeners, artists and visitors who participated in our second annual Garden Tour and Plein Air Paint event on June 17. The weather forecast was dire, but it turned out to be a pretty fair day with only an occasional rain shower. Visitors to the eight different gardens on the tour found gracious hosts who took time to greet them, answer questions and share stories about their beautiful properties. Their pride and hard work on their gardens were quite evident in the beauty we encountered.

The EHACC looks forward to hosting another garden tour in 2024. Contact us at arts@easthamptonct.org to participate. We also need members to serve on the commission. Please join us and help us plan and support arts and culture events in town. Applications are available at the town manager's office. www.artsforeasthamptonct.org for information about EHACC.

Sincerely,
EHACC Members
Betty Sennett, Carol Lane, Melissa Pionzio,
Mindy Mills Maynard and Rebecca Tinelle

Most Illogical

To the Editor:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it." In Hebron the Raymond Brook watershed is far from broken, but residents may soon be broke after paying millions polluting water supplies, then paying millions again "fixing" the situation.

Let's just say, for the sake of argument, that there really is backup water for Kinney Road in Hebron. Besides a blurb in the *Rivereast*, 3/11/22, what documents actually support this claim? Does, supposedly, having backup water justify wiping out surrounding waters? What about the soil between the facility, households and the marsh? Do we have backup marshes and soils too? Can backup cows readily toler-

ate over salted, possibly diesel enhanced, hay and corn? Secondly, Kinney Road is not the only road involved. Nearly half of Millstream and lower Rte 207, near Church Street, are also involved. Water is tricky. I count 26 homes, to start. Third, sounds like "having backup water" confirms that our water will be contaminated by the proposed development in Hebron Center.

Installing pipes under the Raymond Brook, Kinney's middle stream and the stream flanking Church Street, is going to be big bucks. On the other hand, it's good to know there might be enough backup water, especially when you hear the news about the dangers of Public Works facilities and NaCl. How long will installation take? Who pays the millions more in taxes to replace perfectly good water? Will they give us a gallon a day? Do we wait at the fire stations to lug buckets home for washing? After all, your water will be unusable because NaCl pulls heavy metals, like lead, out of pipes and fixtures as it destroys your plumbing. Will fellow taxpayers cover neighborhood plumbing costs too?

Be logical. Be smart. Rebuild Public Works on Old Colchester Road and #save17.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Protect the People

To the Editor:

"...I'm from Texas, so let me be clear, I also own firearms, Democrats own guns to, let me make it clear, I own guns and I'm licensed to carry, that is a regulation, regulations aren't necessarily bad, it didn't stop me from being able to get a gun...because we know that seemingly the people that run this chamber don't have the courage to come up with one of the things we've heard is common sense regulations when it comes to guns and to be clear our Constitution, the second amendment anticipates people having common sense. Unfortunately *we* (emphasis mine) have not done that and unfortunately it has cost us lives." Jasmine Crockett, U.S. representative serving the 30th Congressional district of Texas.

"...Because the government does have a responsibility to protect – I'm sorry? The government does have a responsibility in certain instances to protect children." Jon Stewart interview with Oklahoma state Sen. Nathan Dahm.

Two elected officials, one federal and one state acknowledging the responsibility of government to come up with regulations to protect the people.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover

Hunter Biden

To the Editor:

Hunter Biden plans on pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges for late filing of his 2017 and 2018 federal taxes. Included in his arraignment will be lying about his drug use on his firearms application. This investigation began under former President Trump, who actively pushed his crony appointees to find anything they could on Hunter, or his father Joe Biden.

Trump was impeached for trying to blackmail Ukrainian leader Zelenskyy, requiring him to 'find' dirt on Hunter's business dealings or else Trump would not release the military support that Congress had already approved. President Trump appointed attorney David C. Weiss to handle the Department of Justice investigation into Hunter Biden. This same attorney has been kept on during President Biden's presidency.

This is the worst dirt found on Hunter Biden during Trump's tenure – with Trump's impeachable offense and Trump's appointed attorney working non-stop until today. The far-right media and Republican leaders will ignore all this. They will continue to scream about invented conspiracies and a Democrat deep state. The far right does not want you to think about the \$2 billion that the Saudis gave Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner. The shrill noise they spew is their continued propaganda push to hide from view the true Republican deep state, and Republican conspiracies. They continue to follow Joseph Goebbels' plan to the letter.

The American judiciary and press have prevented us from collapsing, as Germany did under Adolph Hitler. They may not be able to hold much longer unless the American electorate can do the basic math, and jettison the Republican Party to the wilderness until it follows its sane voices, like Mitt Romney and others.

Edmund Smith – Andover

A Concern for Colchester

To the Editor:

I am concerned with the state of our town. Last Tuesday our town and Board of Ed budgets failed. Our BOF canceled their regularly scheduled meeting for the next night, a time when the citizens needed to hear from them most. The next meeting is not scheduled until June 28. Two full weeks after the failed budget. At our Board of Selectmen meeting the agenda was over taken by ridiculous and unnecessary administrative issues. The first selectman was asked several times why the budget wasn't on the agenda, he eventually answered and stated "he's not losing sleep over it." What an unsettling thing to say to your citizens. This is something we are concerned about and our first selectman should be too! Fifty-six percent of voters showed up and voted no/too low; that should be very concerning to town officials and they should be assuring the citizens that they hear them and are working

hard on a solution to meet everyone's needs.

If anything, this budget season has proven we don't have the right people in place to represent the citizens of our town. Citizens are not being heard, emails from concerned citizens are not being answered, even after being sent week after week. Meeting agendas are being taken over by absolute nonsense. This is all nothing but a distraction and we will not fall for it. The focus now should be on the town and BOE budgets, come November all eyes will be on the elected officials who ignored the real needs of our town. Please focus on what's important!

Beth Tiezzi, concerned citizen
Colchester

Another Clear Message

To the Editor:

Last week, Colchester residents sent another clear message to the Board of Finance that the town and education budgets were too low and too much had been cut from the budgets. Over 2,000 residents voiced their opinion that both budgets were too low. The BOF needs to finally listen to what the townspeople are saying and what they want. And what they want is critical programs and services to be funded, not cut! Operating on too low of a budget will only hurt the town in the long run and cause significant tax problems when it comes time to make up for the cuts.

I urge the BOF to properly fund the town and the schools and give the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen the funds they need to run the town and keep Colchester a great place to live.

Suzanne Salemi – Colchester


Where is the Response?

To the Editor:

Just a week ago, Colchester residents gave a clear no / too low outcome on the budget referendum. These no / too low votes were for both the town and the education budget. Through the last few months, citizens of our town have showed up at meetings and written letters to tell our elected officials how we felt about budget proposals and to highlight funding priorities. Faced with difficult decisions about the budget for the coming year, our Republican-controlled Board of Education acted like adults and signifi-

See Letters, page 8





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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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To keep your teeth and to keep them strong, be sure to keep your dental appointments for regular checkups! Remember that nothing is more economical than regular, professional visits to the dentist to help guard against any problems that may threaten your smile. If you have questions about caring for your teeth and gums and achieving optimum dental health, please feel free to call us for an appointment.

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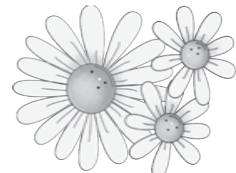
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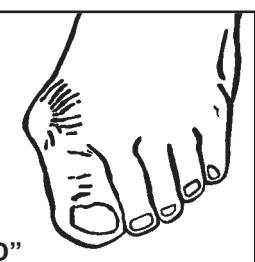
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How Does Your Garden Grow?... Pictured is new construction of the Andover Community Garden. The Garden Committee said it is very proud of the garden and hopes the community will take part in using a plot to grow vegetables or fruits this summer. It is anticipated that any extra food will be donated to the Food Pantry, as it was last year.

Chamber Music Series Moves

The Hop River Chamber Music Series has moved to von der Mehden Recital Hall at the University of Connecticut. Prior to this current season, concerts were held at First Congregational Church (UCC) of Andover.

The three Thursday evening concerts of season 45 are on July 20, 27 and Aug. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

On July 20, pianist Gary Chapman will perform, joined by oboist, Stephen Wade and HSO concertmaster Leonid Sigal, violist Michael Wheeler and cellist Tom Hudson. On

July 27, featured will be music for strings and clarinet by violinists Lu Friedman and Mary Ellen Briga, violist Arthur Masi, cellist Jacob Nordlinger and clarinetist Chris Howard. On Aug. 3, the series will wrap up with music for string quartet performed by violinists Barbara Vaughan and Mary Ellen Briga, violist Laurel Thurman and cellist Fran Bard.

Admission to each concert is free, though there is a suggested donation is \$10.

For more information, call 860-429-0865 or visit www.hoprvmusic.com.

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. Manchester, 6/27, 7/18; Willimantic: 7/11, 7/25.

Senior Luncheon Dates: Fridays at noon, July 7, July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18. Reservations required by the previous Wednesday.

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

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pan-

try – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

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

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.

Wanted: Children's Books for Mrs. Merry Claus

New or slightly used children's books are being collected for giveaway by Andover's, New England Santa Society's Hall of Famer, Mrs. Merry Claus, a.k.a. Dianne Grenier.

Each year, Mrs. Merry Claus visits many Christmas Holiday events in the area. Not only in December but nearly year-round. At each visit, she shares tales of life at the North Pole, hands out candy canes, and small gifts, and poses with Santa for photos while spreading the joy of the season.

Mrs. Merry Claus does not take payment for her event visits. Instead, she asks event organizers to make a donation to the Andover Friends of the Library.

This year she would like to offer each child a book to take home from the "Elves Library." The North Pole Elf Librarian, Reed Daly, has been cleaning out the elves' library and is donating them to Mrs. Merry Claus for distribution during her visits.

Collection bins have been placed at the Andover Elementary School, the Town Hall, and the Andover Library. Anyone who is cleaning out their children's book collection and would like to donate to Mrs. Merry Claus, please visit one of the collection sites.

For more information, Mrs. Merry Claus can be reached at 860-742-3033 or via email at [Mrs_Merry_Claus@comcast.net](mailto:Merry_Claus@comcast.net).

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 email

their name, branch of service, and years of service to Veterans@andoverct.org, or call Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481.

All veterans who served during these two eras are eligible, no matter where they were stationed. Contact the Andover veterans' representatives for more information.

175th Grand Finale

This month's celebration of Andover's 175th anniversary will wrap up with the Andover 175th Day of the Year Beach Party Saturday, June 24, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Andover Lake Beach.

Veterans Monument Park Brick Sale

Bricks are again being sold, to be placed in the walkway at Veterans Monument Park. Up to 50 4x8 bricks will be sold.

The cost per brick is \$80; if you would like to add a military insignia there is an additional \$10 charge. Order forms are available on the town website; andoverct.org or in the town clerk's office.

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.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, June 23, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

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

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday school is provided.

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

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

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

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

cantly cut down their original budget proposal, but maintained key areas of spending. However, our Board of Finance forced forward more cuts and questions remain about how much money there is to spend for both town and education budgets. The resulting proposals have been soundly defeated.

But where is the action to respond to this budget referendum? Nowhere to be seen. Instead, we have only had a chaotic Board of Selectmen meeting, where hours were spent on the petty grievances of our first selectman. We pay our first selectman a significant salary, as is appropriate for the job. Regardless of our political affiliation, all town residents want to see meaningful work on the budget. We should expect all of our elected boards to follow the example for the Board of Education and just get on with doing their job. I hope we don't have to see the kind of politically-motivated circus our First Selectman presented us with last week ever again. The residents of Colchester deserve better.

Sarah Croucher – Colchester

Andover Community Garden

To the Editor:

The Garden Committee originally had 16, 4' x4' beds with a total of 256 cubic feet, now increased to 2,906 cubic feet. An unused concession building at the ballfield needed restoration work. The Hartford Foundation grant allowed us to purchase materials and tools. Volunteers brought the shed back to life and was moved by the Public Works to the garden area at town hall. The Garden Committee is proud of the garden and it is hoped the community will take part in using a plot to grow vegetables this summer. It is anticipated that any extra food will be donated to the Food Pantry as it was last year.

The Andover Community Garden Committee would like to thank the following who donated their time, labor, support and materials to make the garden a successful reality:

Board of Selectmen for approving money to fund the materials for the six 20'x 8'beds and cover costs of bed construction, irrigation, water collection and storage of collected water; Adrian Mandeville for a private donation, used for roofing, gutters and water collection materials; Mathew Cordner, owner of Andover Landscaping for a donation and delivery of 20 yards of topsoil; Karen Hunter, employee of Andover Landscaping for donations, advice and coordination; Scott Person, for 15 yards of compost delivered and tractor time to fill the beds; Jessie Person, for tractor time and labor on multiple occasions; Larry Tibbets, for labor in fabricating, moving, constructing and installing the beds; Todd Eckert and Vincent Spellman, for their labor to fabricate beds; Jim Fitting, for donation of soaker hoses; Brandon Sears, for his future materials of fabric and stone dust for between the beds; Eric Anderson, for his advice and support.

**Garden Committee, Chairman Amy March
Jeff Ballard, Jim Fitting, Grace Gostanian**

Are You on the List?

Dear Colchester Citizens:

Have you ever spoken during the "citizens comments" portion of a public meeting held by a board, committee or commission in Colchester?

If the answer to that is 'yes' – you should be aware that Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Turner, Town Clerk Gayle Furman, Former FS Mary Bylone, DTC Chairman Monica Swyden-Egan and Democratic FS Candidate Bernie Dennler have engaged in a campaign to put your comments, name, address and in some cases, directions to your home on a list – if your political views don't agree with their democratic party agenda or if you spoke out in support of a republican agenda or voiced support for Republican political candidates.

In other words, they have marked you as a "political dissident" on their secret list, based upon the "citizen comment" you made during

a public meeting!

This should concern every citizen in Colchester, every business owner or anyone transacting business in Colchester, no matter your political affiliation!

We must take a stand to protect the First Amendment! As citizens we should be able to engage in the freedom of speech and exert our right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances without the fear of retaliation or reprisals.

We must stand together with our fellow citizens who are being labeled, and targeted by this group of officials.

Sincerely,

Deanna E Bouchard, Chairman
Colchester Independent Party

Banning Our 'History' Books

To the Editor:

How will our children learn and understand how far we've come in our country, if they haven't been made aware of our past?? Wouldn't that knowledge give them the incentive to do their part, as they grow, to move forward for a better and more positive future??

Anita Pothier – Colchester

Tree Identification

To the Editor:

Wondering what those pink ribbons on certain trees at Raymond Brook Preserve mean? Or the wood stakes with red paint? These are part of a project sponsored by the Hebron Pollinator Pathway (HPP) with a grant from the Hebron Greater Together Community. Through this project, we will be identifying trees and invasive plants within the Raymond Brook Preserve. Last week, Felicia Millet, a plant diagnostician with the Connecticut Agricultural Extension Service led us on a walk through the preserve and helped us to formally identify some of the wonderful trees that we have.

Over the summer months, HPP will be working to design signs and present proposals to both Hebron Parks and Recreation and Conservation Commissions regarding the design and placement of identification signs. A number of the identification markers will be located near the new pollinator garden being created along the pond edge to provide sources of food and cover for birds as well as near the Pollinator Demonstrator Garden at the Kinney Road entrance to the preserve.

The Hebron Pollinator Pathway is excited to be a part of enhancing our native habitats and creating education opportunities for us all.

Candace O'Shea – Hebron

Bill Barr

To the Editor:

Trump's 'personal' ex-AG William Barr is not interested in saving our country but rather his own neck. The question remains: When will Bill Barr and John Durham be indicted for covering up Trump's crimes through lies – and the weaponization of the DOJ? Despite all his repeated criticism of Trump, Barr still says he'll vote for him if he's the Republican nominee.

Former U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman says Bill Barr was the chief architect behind politicizing the DOJ and turning it into a tool for Trump to attack his critics, political opponents, and interfere with Mueller investigation and the Kavanaugh investigation. Bill Barr has to be held accountable.

Let's also not forget how Bill Barr had Preet Bharara fired from his position as head of the N.Y. Southern District US Attorney's office because he was investigating Trump and Trump Corporation.

How it ended for Nixon's Attorney General John Mitchell:

Nixon's former law partner served as Attorney General. John Mitchell stood trial in 1974 and was convicted on charges of conspiracy, perjury & obstruction of justice. He served 19 months in prison in Alabama.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

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Council Restores Funds, Sends Budget to Voters

By Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton Town Council cooled tempers last Tuesday, restoring hundreds of thousands of dollars to the town and education budgets after several tense meetings.

The council set for June 27 at 6:15 p.m. a town meeting to hear the public's thoughts on the spending plan, which totals about \$53.85 million, made up of about an \$18 million town budget and a \$35.86 million school budget.

The vote is set for July 11. The school budget is up about \$1.59 million from the current budget (about 4.6%) and the town's is up about \$509,000.

As part of his last email out to the community, East Hampton schools superintendent Paul Smith celebrated the council's adding \$250,000 to the district's budget to retain teaching positions that otherwise would've been laid off.

The money restores several full and part-time classroom positions – including an East Hampton High School English teacher who multiple

students had passionately defended and advocated for.

Before the vote, at a Monday East Hampton school board meeting, Smith addressed what he called misperceptions about how he and the board handled the budget process.

Smith said the issue revolved around the district's unexpected insurance savings, which was significant.

He said it's been said that the budget process would've gone smoother had this information been more available, there would've been less contention.

Smith said the savings, about \$292,000 initially, was shared publicly (and was reported several times in the *Rivereast*).

Further, Smith told the *Rivereast* this week, the unions the district negotiates with agreed to a concession that resulted in another \$200,000 break for the district – and Smith said characterizing this as nearly a \$500,000 break isn't ac-

curate.

"Really," he said, "it's a \$292,000 savings and a \$200,000 concession by the unions." No one wants to have to switch insurance plans, said Smith, but the unions agreed to do so to help save the at-risk positions.

The council also voted to use American Rescue Plan dollars to help the East Hampton Ambulance Association, the local volunteer ambulance service that, due to volunteer shortages, has to hire two 24/7 employees to cover the area's needs, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Town Manager Dave Cox this is a way to help the EHAA without impacting the town's pockets, and thus taxpayers' pockets. The association has been asking for money for two years now, starting not long after the town got the federal stimulus dollars.

Since then, the council and the finance board, mostly from the Republican side, have been dead set against it. Republican council chair Mark Philhower advocated for switching to a private service, but this wouldn't be simple and

the EHAA would have to agree to hang up its hat and give up its supplies and vehicles. The council gave the EHAA \$280,000 more than asked for.

At the meeting EHAA chief Donald Scranton thanked the council, and said he looks forward to working more closely with the town.

Last Tuesday, Philhower changed his tune, saying the money's being put to good use and won't impact the mill rate, which is up 1.4 mill to a rate of 36.06. The mill rate is used to calculate property taxes. With this proposed rate, a property assessed at \$250,000 would cost about \$9,000 annually, up about \$30 a month.

Earlier this month the local finance board also restored funding for a police lieutenant position and a patrol officer position. The council removed the police officer but kept the lieutenant. Police Chief Dennis Woessner has been asking for this position for some time now, saying he needs it to help meet the demands of the state's police accountability bill, passed two years ago.

Belltown Garden Club Meets Monday

On Monday, June 26, at 6 p.m., the Belltown Garden Club will meet in the community room of East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St. Lynn Kochiss, an East Hampton resident and master naturalist, will then lead a hands-on walk-about to identify non-native invasive plants in our area and possibly in your backyard.

Interested club and community members should be prepared to walk to the nearby sec-

tion of the airline trail to have an opportunity to identify invasives. Kochiss will educate on the threat of non-native invasives and how to control or remove these plants. Refreshments and a club meeting will follow in the community room.

This event will occur rain or shine so dress accordingly. All are welcome. For more information, call Lynne Finnegan-Bailey at 860-267-2575.

YPCCA to Present Rent This Summer

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

Mornings at the camp are devoted to various workshops, while afternoons are spent in rehearsals for the summer mainstage production – which this year is *Rent*.

For teens interested in a leading role in the show, auditions are held a few weeks before camp starts. Auditions, however, are not mandatory and students who do not audition will

be featured in the ensemble. There are also opportunities to learn behind-the-scenes skills involved in theater work and many campers work as stage and set crew.

Admission is \$675 per child; additional children in a family are \$625 each. A \$100 deposit is required at registration, and payment in full is due by the first day of camp.

Registration and more information on the camp is available by visiting www.yppcca.org. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need. Email info@ypcca.org for more information.

Tax Bills to be Mailed

Tax bills for real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles levied on the Grand List will be mailed out June 28. Tax bills become due and payable July 1, with the last day to pay being Aug. 1.

Real estate and personal property tax bills will reflect a temporary mill rate due to the Town budget not being adopted by June 30. Once the annual budget is adopted, a permanent mill rate will be established by the Board of Finance. Since this permanent mill rate is likely to differ from the temporary one, the town said,

a second billing will be done in December for the second installment. This billing will convey the new tax amount and mill rate.

Motor vehicle bills will not utilize a temporary mill rate as they are set at the state-capped mill rate, and are due in one installment.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes and interest charges. Taxpayers that did not receive a bill should contact the tax office immediately at 860-267-2300.

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/east-hampton-senior-center.

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

Weekly Activities: Quilting Group: Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Wii Bowling:** Wednesdays, 11 a.m.; **Cross Stitch:** Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. – all levels welcome; **Cornhole:** Thursdays, 11 a.m.; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. – let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mah-jongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon – call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play; **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:

There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet outdoors, weather permitting, or indoors or via Zoom.

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group: Monday, June 26, 10:30 a.m. This is a casual opportunity to meet others and discuss what's on your mind.

Ageless Meditations with Victoria: Monday, June 26, 1-2 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude in a group setting.

Chatham Health Presents – Staying Healthy Outdoors: Tuesday, June 27, 10:30-11 a.m. Pre-register.

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

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

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Open Wed & Fri 12-5PM
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Mention offer upon scheduling.

Free Paper Shredding
The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, June 24, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Westbrook Town Hall, 866 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook. This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes Portland and East Hampton. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

Resident Graduates
Brittany Kenney of East Hampton recently graduated from Boston University. She graduated magna cum laude, and was inducted into the honor societies Phi Theta Kappa, Tri-Alpha, and Alpha Kappa Delta for her high scholastic performance.

Boston University Graduates
Brittany Kenney of East Hampton recently graduated from Boston University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. Keeney graduated magna cum laude, and was inducted into the honor societies Phi Theta Kappa, Tri-Alpha, and Alpha Kappa Delta for her high scholastic performance.

On it.
Ending racial injustice requires all of us to work together and take real action.
What can you do to help?

- Educate yourself about the history of American racism, privilege and what it means to be anti-racist.
- Commit to actions that challenge injustice and make everyone feel like they belong, such as challenging biased or racist language when you hear it.
- Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.
- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community. Visit lovehasnolabels.com/whiteforfreedom



Burke Honored... Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095 Adjutant Lou Carillo, left, present East Hampton volunteer fire department fireman James Burke with the National Firefighters Award and the VFW Post 5095 Public Servant Award.

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Rails to Trail 5K

Old Home Days Rails to Trail 5K Run will be at 7 p.m. Friday, July 7, in conjunction with Old Home Days. This is a point-to-point 5K race that will start at the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue.

Shuttle buses will be provided starting at 6:15 p.m. – departing from Center School to the start line. Race starts promptly at 7 p.m. The first mile of the race leads you down Chestnut Hill Road to Route 16, crossing over Route 16 to Alden's Crossing and taking a right onto the Air Line

Trail. You will continue approximately two miles down the shade covered Air Line Trail, crossing Forest Street, exiting at the Company One Firehouse on Barton Hill, left onto Main Street and right into the Center School driveway to the finish line at the Old Home Days fairground.

Entry fee is \$25. All participants that pre-register will get a free 2023 race T-shirt. For more information, contact Elisha Milton at 860-655-2743 or OHDrailstotrails@gmail.com.

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's P.O. Box number is 123.

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

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

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

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

Autism: A Spectrum in our Community: Monday, June 26, 7 p.m. Charlie Bennet will return for this Reprise Talk about Autism in peoples' lives and community. All are invited.

Bean to Bar: What Do You Know About Chocolate? Thursday, July 6, 7 p.m. Everything you always wanted to know about chocolate and more.

CommuniTea: Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors and other patrons. Take out a book, have a cup of tea or coffee, and listen to live Americana music with a local band.

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.

Bottles for Babies: This is a way to provide financial support to the ministry of the ABC Women's Center. The bottles are filled with change, cash or checks and returned to the church by Father's Day.

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

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

Vocal Choir: Choir rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome.

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

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

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.

Zoom Bible Study: Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. Email bobette@kahn.com for more details. June 28th will be the last meeting until September.

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

cans by the shed.

Parish Survey: The Vestry is mailing a Parish Survey to all church members. It is part of the church's ongoing search for a new part-time clergy person and is required by the diocese. Fill it out and return it as soon as possible.

Haddam Neck Fair Cookie Booth Fund-raiser: Church members are asked to sign up to work at the fair, which will run Sept. 1-4. Volunteers are also needed to buy cookie dough.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0278 or contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472.

No Second Congregational Services

For June, no worship services will be held at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam. Instead, church members will worship at the hill at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Rd., Haddam Neck.

All are invited to the 10 a.m. service there.

EHMS Soccer, Cross-Country Registration

East Hampton Middle School student/athletes interested in trying out for boys soccer, girls soccer or boys/girls cross-country teams can register at www.FamilyID.com. Athletes must have all the proper paperwork submitted online and have an updated physical in order to try out.

Registration should be completed by Monday, Aug. 21. For more information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

ROLL OFF DUMPSTER SERVICES

15, 20, 30, and 40 yard Dumpsters available for your next job, renovation, or clean up.

- Construction & Demolition Debris
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- Brush, Stumps, Trees, Wood Chip Debris
- We provide dumpsters for Steel & Aluminum



Center School students Alexa Baer, Isabelle Fromme and Emma Roberge advanced to the state level of the Invention Convention this year. The state finals took place Saturday, June 10, at the University of Connecticut.

Young Inventors Advance to State Finals

Earlier this year in East Hampton, the Center School Invention Convention was back in person – and three students were chosen to go to the state finals, which were held last weekend.

Coaches Kate Cote and Mary Sawyer were excited to have everyone back in the Center School gymnasium earlier this year, presenting their prototypes after a few years of virtual presentations.

"We would like to thank the East Hampton Rotary Club for sponsoring this event, and to the East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department for sponsoring the celebration for all of our participants," said Sawyer.

Inventors documented the process they went through to design, test, and refine their inventions. They constructed prototypes to dem-

onstrate the potential implementation of their ideas. Finally, they presented their products to judges from the Rotary Club and the East Hampton High School Interact Club. Inventions were judged based on originality, attention to detail, purpose/practicality, and presentation.

Eight finalists were selected to represent East Hampton at this year's regional competition, and from there three went on to compete at the state level – which took place Saturday, June 10, at the University of Connecticut.

The eight students who participated in regionals are: Bridget Adams, Alexa Baer, Hunter Ellis, Tobias Finn, Isabelle Fromme, Ella Ploszay, Emma Roberge and Ryker Shumbo-Jenks.

Of those eight, Alexa, Isabelle and Emma advanced to the state level.

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 RLTinon@gmail.com.

Police News

6/1: Timothy Smith, 52, of 8 S. Wangonk Trl., was issued a summons for driving under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

6/3: Kyle Windels, 24, of Stormville, N.Y., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

6/4: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident that occurred in the area of Cobalt Center on West High St., in which one of the operators fled the scene, Brandon Sajdak, 25, of 39 Edgewood Rd., Portland, was arrested and charged with evading a motor vehicle crash, police said.

6/8: While investigating a two-car motor vehicle crash in which one of the operators fled the scene at the intersection of West High Street and Middletown Avenue (routes 66 and 16), officers were dispatched to a car vs. stone wall crash on Middle Haddam Road. The vehicle described matched the vehicle involved in the earlier evading motor vehicle crash. As a result

of the investigation, Javier Gonzalez, 48, of 36 Skinner St., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right, and operating under the influence, police said.

6/10: Frederick Everett III, 40, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear, police said.

6/10: Scott Jackson, 31, of 244 E. High St., was arrested and charged with second-degree unlawful restraint for second-degree, third-degree strangulation/suffocation, risk of injury to a child and disorderly conduct, police said.

6/12: A 13-year-old male, a 14-year-old male and a 15-year-old female were issued juvenile summonses for second-degree trespassing, police said. The youths were observed leaving the town-owned building at 13 Summit St. that is clearly posted as 'No Trespassing,' police said.

From June 5-11, officers responded to 12 medical calls, eight motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made 11 traffic stops, police said.

Quilt Raffle

East Hampton Old Home Days is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a piece of history.

Handmade by Delores Morgano of East Hampton a "Quilt of Old Home Days Past." King-size natural cotton batting made with T-shirts from past Old Home Days. The quilt is on display at Town Hall. Tickets are \$5 (cash or check), and available at East Hampton Public Library or the town clerk's office.

The drawing will be Saturday, July 8, at 8 p.m. You do not need to be present to win.

Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. Visit www.ehohd.org or call Pam Greenwald 860-965-4646 for more information.

Sports Boosters Golf Tournament

The East Hampton Sports Boosters' 31st annual Golf Tournament will be held Tuesday, June 27, at Blackledge Country Club. The Boosters support various team requests along with awarding two scholarships to graduating seniors.

Golfing and sponsorship opportunities are available. To register, go to tinyurl.com/584trjty or call Jeff at 860-398-1263.

Resident Graduates

Marissa Jedziniak of East Hampton recently graduated magna cum laude from the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vt.

She received a bachelor's degree in music education with a minor in special education.

Jedziniak is currently employed in the Burlington area as a band and chorus director in the K-8 school system.

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Paramedics Provide CPR to Crash Victim

By Jack Lakowsky

According to information from East Hampton police a man in his 60s, not yet publicly identified, struck a utility pole in town and had to be given CPR by Middlesex Hospital paramedics.

The operator had been found unresponsive, without a pulse.

Luckily, by time the man was brought to the Marlborough Medical Center in Marlbor-

ough, he was conscious and alert.

Along with local police, the East Hampton Fire Department and East Hampton Ambulance Association and crews from Middlesex Hospital assisted in the emergency.

Police have not released further details as of press time.

Any witnesses are asked to call East Hampton police at 860-267-9544.

Walking Tour of Hog Hill Cemetery

The Chatham Historical Society will host a walking tour of the Hog Hill Cemetery Saturday, June 24, at 10 a.m., as part of its "Explore East Hampton" monthly series of walks. East Hampton Parks and Recreation will sponsor the event.

The walk will be led by Kevin J. Tulimieri, who is a historian and researcher at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques in Colchester. Tulimieri has published numerous articles on the subject of American antiques of the 18th century as well as his research on Venture Smith's 1805 gravestone and its carver, John Isham of East Haddam. The Hog Hill Cemetery was established in 1741 and the tour will include many Middle Haddam families. Tulimieri and members of

the Chatham Historical Society will share many stories about the people who "reside" there.

Adults and children are welcome. Directions: From the Stop & Shop in East Hampton: drive West on Route 66 to the intersection of Route 16. Turn left on Route 16 and go east. Take the first road on the right, Hog Hill. Travel 2.2 miles to the cemetery on the right. The tour will take approximately one hour. Heavy rain will cancel the walk.

For more information about upcoming walks or the Chatham Historical Society, contact Marty Podskoch, coordinator of the "Explore East Hampton" walks, at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net.

Lions Award Senior Scholarships

On June 8, the East Hampton High School held its senior class awards night – and the East Hampton Lions Club awarded its four \$1,000 scholarships.

The Joseph Beckon memorial scholarship went to Isabella Bafumi, who plans to attend Penn State University majoring in forensic science.

The William O'Neill was awarded to Jaclyn Taylor, who plans on attending Central Connecticut University to study English education.

The East Hampton Lions scholarship went to

Jordan Murphy, who will go on to the University of Hartford to pursue occupational therapy.

The Lions' fourth award, the Nelson Gustine Service Award, was presented to Ephraim Butson, who plans on attending Clark University to study law.

The Lions Club funds the scholarship through its annual raffle, which the Lions will run again this year, from July 1-Oct. 21. The grand prize will be \$2,023 with a total of just 700 tickets to be sold.

Resident Wins Essay Contest

The Connecticut Bar Foundation and James W. Cooper Fellows have announced resident Benjamin Nolan is one of the winners of the 23rd annual Quintin Johnstone Statewide High School Essay Contest.

Nolan recently graduated from East Hampton High School and lives in East Hampton. For being one of two statewide winners, he received a \$2,000 cash prize.

The contest is open to all high school students in Connecticut, and invites entrants to prepare an essay on a timely legal topic that is relevant to students. This year's topic, "Out with the Books," imagined a situation regarding the First Amendment issues surrounding a school's book ban, the violation of which resulted in a teacher's termination. The teacher in the scenario had provided a banned book to a student to read at home. She then requested a public hearing to

appeal her termination, claiming that the book ban violated the First Amendment and that the Board of Education could not prohibit reading those books off of school premises.

Students were asked to perform research and analysis in creating a memorandum that addressed these claims. Essayists acted as attorneys advising the school district's Board of Education on the merits of the teacher's appeal.

During his time at East Hampton High School, Nolan ran outdoor track and was a member of the Interact Club. His coursework included AP Government and Politics, AP Physics, and UConn English. Nolan plans to pursue a career in engineering, and will attend the University of Connecticut's School of Engineering next year.

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. Pastor is Cathy Rohrs. The church is handicapped-accessible and air-conditioned.

Bible Hour is Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The book of Luke is the topic. The Bible study is informal. No prior knowledge is needed; just the zest to learn.

All are welcome to a Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday, June 21, in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5 p.m. Free will offerings will be appreciated.

Resident Commissioned Second Lieutenant

Rachel K. Gerzabek of East Hampton was among the 11 members of the University of Scranton's Class of 2023 who were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army during a ceremony held in the Kane Forum of Leahy Hall on campus on May 20.

Gerzabek earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and criminal justice.

Dean's List

Lauren Kasperski, a management major from East Hampton, made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Parks and Recreation News

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following upcoming programs. For full descriptions, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonct.myrec.com.

Adult Tennis: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-10:30 a.m., at the high school tennis courts. Pre-registration not required. For more info, call or text Natalie Hurt at 860-227-8538.

Water Olympics: June 26-30, 9 a.m.-noon, Sears Park, \$100.

Adult Pickleball: Wednesdays, June 14, 21, 28, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25.

Dean's List

Lindsay Orbann of East Hampton made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Orbann is majoring in accounting.

Resident Graduates

East Hampton resident Brittany Kenney recently graduated from Boston University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology.

Kenney graduated magna cum laude, and was inducted into the honor societies Phi Theta Kappa, Tri-Alpha, and Alpha Kappa Delta for her high scholastic performance.



Bowling Buddies... Pictured here are members of the Senior Spring Bowling League group. The league wrapped up June 7. Over 40 senior bowlers participated, from East Hampton and surrounding towns. Sign up for the fall season, which starts in early October at Kickback N' Bowl in East Hampton, by calling 860-882-3752.

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.

All-Ages Programs: Summer Reading Kick-Off! Friday, June 23, 5-7 p.m. Head over to the fields at Center School to sign up for this year's program. There will be free SnoCones, an inflatable obstacle course, baby goats and water balloon painting, plus special guests DJ Montez and Epoch Arts.

Find Your Voice with Professional Storyteller Mark Binder: Monday, June 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Binder travels the world sharing original stories and traditional folktales for all generations. This will be an interactive storytelling program.

Children's Programs: Storytimes: Toddler Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years; Stories & Songs: Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers (no session June 29).

Mindful Movements – Outside! Monday, July 10, 10:30 a.m., for ages 2-5 years – siblings

welcome. This early literacy program will take place at Seamster Park/Memorial School playground. Bring a blanket/camp chair. In the event of inclement weather, story time will take place in the library Community Room.

Archaeology in the Library: Friday, June 30, 2-3 p.m., for grades 2-5. Take part in a hands-on mini archaeological dig. Afterwards, write about where your findings came from and what they might have been used for.

Tween Game Hour: Wednesday, July 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 4-8. Play some classic camp games.

Art Explorers: All About Names: Tuesday, July 11, 2:30-4 p.m., for grades 1-5. Explore what makes names unique through hands-on crafts.

Teen Programs: Teen Dungeons & Dragons: Every other Wednesday beginning June 28, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For grades 8-12.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Saturday, July 1, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Play *Super Smash Brothers*. All skill levels welcome.

Adult Programs: Find Your Voice: Podcasters In-Person Series: Tuesday, June 27, 6:30 p.m. Host and producer Mike Allen will discuss his podcast *Amazing Tales from Off and On Connecticut's Beaten Path*. The podcast has highlighted more than 100 stories about people, places and events in Connecticut history.



Scholar Leaders... On June 5, eighth grade students from around the state were recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools as 2023 Scholar Leaders of the year at a banquet at the Aqua Turf in Southington. Among the Scholar Leaders were three East Hampton residents: Jack Salafia and Empress Valencia, who attend East Hampton Middle School, and Lucy Alford, who attends Ana Grace Academy of the Arts.

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Several local student artists were recently honored by the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission. Students Marianna Santos, Alexis Dipace, Molly McWade, Ariana Aragon and Emma Giovanelli are shown here with Memorial School art teacher Carolanne Vining, East Hampton Middle School art teacher Carl Pastor, Center School art teacher Suzanne Faucette, and East Hampton High School art teachers Melissa Winalski and Lisa Lupacchino Gilson. Photo by EHACC member Rebecca Tinnelle.

EHACC Presents Student Awards

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) hosted the annual East Hampton Student Award Ceremony on May 30 at the Sears Park Pavilion. Each year the commission attends the East Hampton Public School All District Art Show held in the spring and selects one piece of art created by a student from each of the town's public schools, along with one digital piece by a high schooler. During the May 30 event, the students received a certificate of appreciation and a Bevin Bell, manufactured right here in East Hampton.

The ceremony was well-attended by the selected students, their families and friends, art teachers and school administrators. East Hamp-

ton's poet laureate, Stan Lindh, was also on hand to perform several original poems. Student artists honored for 2023 included: Marianna Santos, Grade 1 at Memorial School, who did a watercolor abstract; Alexis Dipace, Grade 5 at Center School, who did an oil pastel; Molly McWade, Grade 6 at East Hampton Middle School, who did an autumn bird acrylic; Ariana Aragon, Grade 9 at East Hampton High School, who did a digital butterfly; and Emma Giovanelli, Grade 10 at East Hampton High School, who did a landscape.

Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for services with the Rev. Amie McCarthy every Sunday at 10 a.m. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org.

Church school classes meet every Sunday. The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. All voices are welcome.

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

Belltown Open Golf Tournament

The Congregational Church of East Hampton is seeking sponsors and golfers for the 17th annual Belltown Open Golf Tournament, which will be held Tuesday, Aug. 1, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Proceeds will benefit the East Hampton Food & Fuel Bank. Cost is \$130/golfer for the four-person scramble event that includes cart, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

To register contact Cyndi Shirshac at cshirshac123@sbcglobal.net.

Local ECSU Students Honored

The following residents were among the more than 300 Eastern Connecticut State University students recognized for scholarly excellence at the conclusion of the spring 2023 semester:

Patrick Lynch, a senior accounting major who received the RuJoub Family Endowed Scholarship; Cecylia Szwajger of East Hampton, a senior communication major who received the Excellence in Research Award; Nalaeh Valley, a junior communication major who was inducted into the Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society.

Dean's List

The following local residents made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.:

East Hampton: Grace Cronin, who is majoring in health science/pre-PT; Maggie Donohue, who is majoring in health science/pre-PT; Callie Dubos, who is majoring in communication science and disorders.

Haddam Neck: Connor Michalowski, who is majoring in exercise science/pre-AT.

Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts is accepting donations for its annual fall tag sale. Donations can be dropped off at Epoch, 27 Skinner St., 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 the building.

Items not accepted include: televisions, child car seats, cribs, mattresses, bedframes, couches, encyclopedias, textbooks, large exercise machines, old-style phones and cell phones, large sofa chairs, and computers and any accessories, such as monitors, printers, keyboards and mouses.

Vacation Bible School at Hope Church

Hope Kids invites children going into grades K-6 to a summer Vacation Bible School the week of July 10-14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. each day.

Kids will learn about God's love. The week will feature ames, crafts, music and more.

Registration is \$10 per child. Register at cthope.com/events or at your.verybestsummer.com/cthopechurch.

Class of '88 35th Class Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1988 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 Llofredo@comcast.net.

Sponsors Sought for Old Home Days

Old Home Days is July 6, 7 and 8 - and sponsors are sought to help pay for the three-day Glorious Celebration.

East Hampton Old Home Days is run entirely 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 carlguild@gmail.com.

Resident Graduates

Joseph Caruso of East Hampton graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Connecticut State University in December, with a double major in criminology and sociology.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Sydney Blyler and Abigail Flynn made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of New England.



Challenge Accepted - and Met!... Recently, the East Hampton Lions put a challenge out that if they could raise \$2,300 they would match it to purchase books for Center School and East Hampton Middle School. The East Hampton Rotary provided a grant of \$2,000 to the Lions to be matched. Pictured from left are Rotarians Terry Concannon and Tom Portelance and Lions Club member Mary Krogh.



Diaper Donation... Members of the Missions Team at Christ Episcopal Church, Middle Haddam, prepare to deliver donated diapers to the state Department of Children and Families in Middletown. Diapers of various sizes were collected during May to assist the agency's clients.

Resident Graduates

London Victoria Brazal, the daughter of Dwight and Jodi Brazal of East Hampton, is a 2023 graduate of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

A graduate of East Hampton in 2020, Brazal finished her degree in communication in just three years, achieving the honor of summa cum laude.

While at Marist, Brazal was a member of the Alpha Chi and Lambda Pi Eta honor societies and a board member of the Kappa Kappa Psi fraternity, which primarily operates as a recognition society providing service, leadership opportunities, and social programming for band members.

In addition, Brazal was actively involved in the Marist News television station, MCTV, where she was a main news anchor.

Residents Graduate

Three East Hampton residents recently graduated from the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa.

Shannon N. Bristol earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, Rachel K. Gerzabek earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and criminal justice, and Keagan J. Fields earned a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology.

Resident Graduates

Taylor Caruso of East Hampton recently graduated from the University of Connecticut, with a doctorate in physical therapy.



Graduates, Receives Army Commission... Rachel Gerzabek of East Hampton recently graduated May 21 from the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa., with a double major in psychology and criminal justice. Gerzabek was also commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Gerzabek will serve active duty as a military police officer.

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Local LGBTQ+ Youth Now Have a Support Group

By Jack Lakowsky

According to a 2021 study by the University of Kansas, small-town life can be challenging for LGBTQ+ youth and young people, who widely reported feelings of isolation and that they were the only queer person they knew.

"A significant refrain among the participants was the need for community support," the study reads.

Along with some help from nearby LGBTQ+ organizations and the local library Jesse Revicki, Portland's youth services director, has begun a support program for the local queer community. Attendance has been small but consistent, he said.

The idea came in November, after the library held a talk for Transgender Awareness Week, a drop-in group for trans youth and their parents "looking for additional support."

Revicki said people found the group really helpful, and so, he collaborated with the library and Middletown-based nonprofit Q-Plus, which trained Revicki and some other town staff to run the group in the best way possible, and a member of Health Care Advocates International (HCAI), a leading LGBTQ+ healthcare provider.

There are groups for both youth and their parents/guardians, he said. There's no registration either, and the structure's pretty loose. "Come on down and hang out," said Revicki.

Social gatherings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with support groups held the third Wednesday of each month, all at Portland Library. The parent/caregiver group runs concurrently.

To Revicki's knowledge, this is the first such group in Portland. The town's solidarity committee and the local Social Justice Coalition have held and taken part in several Pride events, and the town has had "one-offs" like the transgender support group. Also, Revicki joined the solidarity groups in the Middletown Pride Parade, one of the state's largest.

Revicki said groups like Portland's new LGBTQ+ support group normalize queerness, and that they allow accepting spaces for kids that "often have a lot going on" to just be kids.

"We hope it offers the kids and parents of those kids, if they're struggling or asking questions," a safe place to talk.

Revicki said the town, especially First Selectman Ryan Curley, has been especially supportive.

Still small, Revicki said the group has reached out to Gay-Straight Alliances in local schools, and to bring in more LGBTQ+ adults to speak to the group.

A member of HCAI, advocate and life coach Tony Ferraiolo, a transgender man, was happy to help train the budding Portland group.

Just last week, Ferraiolo, who directs HCAI's youth and family program, screened the chronicle of his transition in order to fundraise for the queer community, created 10 years ago and called *A Self-Made Man*.

The movie won an award for Best LGBT Documentary at the Queens Film Festival in 2014.

The film traces Ferraiolo's transition and affirmation and how he uses his experiences to help other trans people.

According to *CT Insider*, ticket sales for the screening raised more \$2,000 for organizations like the Hartford-based Trans Voice and Visibility-365 Christian ministry, Q Plus, and North Branford High School's Diversity Group.

Ferraiolo's page on the HCAI website has a heartfelt message sure to speak to people questioning or seeking to affirm their true gender.

"After years of suffering with my own gender identity, I transitioned in 2005," Ferraiolo writes. "I quickly realized that my life's purpose was to help guide transgender and nonbinary youth and their families through a gender journey that can often be a fearful one. I created support groups in 2008 that are still running today."

Over the years I expanded my work, working with LGBTQ+ youth and their families."

He goes on: "I joined HCAI in January of 2021 and have helped establish our LGBTQ+ Youth and Family Program, which provides one-on-one family and youth coaching. We also train educators, administrators, and staff to make schools more welcoming and inclusive for all students. We provide free chest binders to the transgender and nonbinary communities, ensuring that money is never a barrier to a binder that can change, or even save, someone's life."

Pride Month Declaration

Keeping on the topic of the local LGBTQ+ community, it was on June 7 First Selectman Ryan Curley and the Board of Selectmen declared June as Pride Month in Portland.

The proclamation reads, "The Town of Portland is committed to supporting visibility, dignity and equality for LGBTQIA+ people in our diverse community with freedom from discrimination."

The proclamation continued, "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that 'LGBTQIA+ individuals have had immeasurable impact to the cultural, civic and economic successes of our country.'"

The proclamation also said LGBTQ+ equality aligns with the nation's founding principles and called upon "the people of this municipality to embrace this principle and work to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists."

YFS News & Notes

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

POWER Up Portland: Wednesday, June 28, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Summer Kick-Off: Monday, June 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m., on the Town Green by the gazebo. There will be a mobile petting zoo from Farm-on-Wheels, free ice cream from Ice Cream Emergency, and lawn games. The Library, Parks

& Recreation, and local businesses will all have tables.

Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night: Wednesday, July 5, 6-8 p.m.

Little Hikers: Friday, July 7, 10:30 a.m., at Portland Air Line Trail, Depot Hill Road lot.

Home Alone Safety: Monday, July 17, 5-6:30 p.m. Sign-ups coming soon.

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

Plant & Learn: Aloe: Saturday, July 22, 10:30 a.m., at the Town Green. For children 10 and under and their parents/grandparents/caregivers. YFS and Fire Ring Farm will discuss aloe while replanting the "pups" into containers to take home.

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. Services are held 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.

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

experience is required. All are welcome.

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

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

First Congregational Church News

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

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

Sunday, June 25, the worship will be led by interim minister the Rev. Julie Olmsted, and her sermon is titled, "Sheep, Wolves and Goldfish." Coffee hour follows the service and all are welcome to worship and coffee hour.

Beginning July 2, worship will be held at 10 a.m. at South Church on Pleasant Street in Middletown. Worship will then be in Portland

starting July 23 at 10 a.m., for the next three weeks, and then on Aug. 13, worship will take place at First Church on Court Street in Middletown. Sunday worship will resume in Portland on Sept. 3 at 10 a.m.

From September to June, 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 Jahne 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.

Zion Lutheran Church News

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

A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheran-portland.org.

Zion will continue its summer tradition of holding worship on the front lawn, one Sunday each month. Future dates, weather permitting, are July 9 and Aug. 13. All are invited; bring a chair and make yourself comfortable.

Beginning in July, the church will again be

exploring the worship series *Faces of Our Faith*, focusing on the Bible's lesser-known stories. The church has selected eight stories of those often overlooked in biblical narratives. Visual art and prompts will be used for reflection.

Zion's study of the video series *The Chosen* is continuing, following worship on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

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

Opportunities for Public Service

The Portland Democratic Town Committee (DTC) is informing Portland residents that there are various opportunities to serve on a board, commission, or committee. This includes both elected and appointed positions. Candidate endorsements for municipal office for the November election will take place by caucus in July.

Any registered voter in Portland may be considered. More information is available at www.portlandct.org under Boards and Commissions.

Individuals interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee should send an email to nominations.portlandct@gmail.com.

The DTC holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information about the DTC, email portlandct-dtc@gmail.com and follow on Facebook @Portland Democratic Town Committee.

Concert to Benefit Fire Department

Tony Rome and the Peacemakers will perform the "Put Out the Fire" summer jam concert Saturday, July 15, at the Adams shopping plaza on Route 66 in Portland. Opening act will be Jam Station.

All proceeds from the show will be given to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department. Bring a lawn chair.

No Foodshare Til July 17

The CT Foodshare truck normally comes to the Waverly Center every other Monday from 1-2 p.m. However, due to the upcoming Independence Day holiday, the Foodshare truck won't be here until Monday, July 17.

People using the Foodshare are required to form a line and everyone will have an opportunity to shop at the truck once it is set up. You do not have to be a Portland resident to attend the Foodshare, but you do need to bring your own bags.


Food Bank Holiday Closing

The Portland Food Bank, located in the lower level of the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., will be closed Monday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday.

The Food Bank is normally open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. You are required to register with the food bank (copy of an ID and recent piece of mail or utility bill) and be a Portland resident to access the food bank's services. Donations are only taken during food bank hours.

Call 860-342-6795 for more information or for volunteer and donation opportunities.

The safety of our patients and staff members is extremely important for us. All recommended COVID-19 safety measures are in place.



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Food Bank Holiday Closing
The Portland Food Bank, located in the lower level of the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., will be closed Monday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday.

The Food Bank is normally open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. You are required to register with the food bank (copy of an ID and recent piece of mail or utility bill) and be a Portland resident to access the food bank's services. Donations are only taken during food bank hours.

Call 860-342-6795 for more information or for volunteer and donation opportunities.

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Another State Title for Highlanders Golf

By Josh Howard

For the third consecutive season, the Highlanders' golf team brought a state championship plaque back to Portland High School.

It marked the program's seventh title overall – and the sixth in the last seven years.

The Highlanders destroyed the competition at the Division III state finals, beating runner-up East Catholic by 17 strokes on June 6 at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain.

With four starters and six of his top seven golfers returning from a year ago, head coach Joe Santavenere said his team was primed to push for a three-peat this spring.

"Obviously that was the goal," added Santavenere. "We wanted to be towards the top and compete with the best teams in the state this year."

Junior Luke Stennett again led the Highlanders' charge, winning the Division III finals to capture an individual state championship.

Stennett shot a (-3) 68, sinking three birdies and draining an eagle on nine, besting runner-up Shane Luca of East Catholic by eight strokes.

It was the third year in a row that Stennett finished atop the leaderboard at the divisional championships, winning it outright as a freshman in 2021 and finishing as the co-medalist as a sophomore a season ago.

Santavenere said that Stennett's game has steadily improved from year to year and that his ball-striking and ability to control his shots are on another level right now.

"He has continued to make strides in every part of his game, from the physical to mentally," added Santavenere. "It's not just one area; it's really across the board."

Stennett also won the Shoreline Conference (SLC) championship as the Highlanders also secured their third straight conference title as a team, pulling away from second-place Crom-

well High School by 20 strokes on May 23.

Although Stennett led the way in most meets this season, Santavenere said it was a complete team effort that allowed the Highlanders to soundly defeat nearly every opponent this spring, finishing with a record of 15-1.

Junior Quinn Lapinski was consistently near the top in every meet, finishing tied for 5th at both the states and conference finals.

Senior Joseph LaMalfa tied for 10th at states to cap a crazy high school career. After losing his freshman year because of the COVID 19 cancellation in 2020, LaMalfa is leaving the high school with a trio of state championships on his resume.

He is one of two seniors who graduated, joining Ben Fecteau. Fecteau joined the team last spring and was part of the team's top golfers this season, tying for fifth at the conference meet.

Santavenere said the friendly competition in practice is part of the team's secret sauce that allows the team to contend on a yearly basis.

"Year after year the kids have to fight to get a spot," added Santavenere. "Someone like Ben was beat out for a spot a year ago and he put in the work to earn a spot, and it made him better. It makes everyone better. They are pushing each other, so when they get to tournaments they are ready to go."

Along with the state and conference championships, the Highlanders also won The Wildcat Invitational, besting a slew of the top Division I, II, and III teams in the state that includes Killingly, RHAM, and Xavier.

"Every test I gave them, these kids passed," recalled Santavenere. "I'm very proud of them; it was a really great year."

In the invite win, Stennett finished first by shooting a 37 at the Norwich Golf Course on May 17.

Stennett, Lapinski, and LaMalfa each made



Highlanders golf won a third consecutive state title on June 6. Pictured, from left, Aidan Peterson, Luke Stennett, Ben Fecteau, Quinn Lapinski, Joe LaMalfa, and Gio Discenza.

the all-state, marking the first time in Santavenere's decade-long tenure that he has had three all-state golfers.

The three all-staters were joined by Fecteau on the All-SLC teams.

Championship performances and all-state selections are one thing, yet Santavenere said one of his proudest moments as a coach this season is when a rules official came over to him during the state tournament and expressed how impressed he was with how the PHS golfers both

played and acted on the course.

"As a coach, that means more sometimes," stated Santavenere.

With a program-high 20 golfers on the team this spring and four starters returning again next year, Santavenere hopes the tradition of excellence can continue.

"It's pretty special. Hopefully we can carry on what we've been doing," he added. "We have great kids. It's been an incredible run; I'm enjoying it while we're in it."

Town Clerk's Office Seeking 'Top Dog'

The Portland town clerk's office is accepting donations of dog and cat food as part of its annual contest to determine which dog will wear the No. 1 dog tag for the upcoming year. The pet food collected will go to the Portland Food Bank, for those in temporary need.

To enter, donate cans/bags of dog or cat food when registering your dog at the town clerk's office by June 30. For each can/bag donated, your dog will earn a ticket for a drawing to be held at 11 a.m. on June 30. Limit of 16 tickets per dog. The first three tickets chosen will receive the #1, #2, and #3 dog tags.

All dog owners must obtain a license or renew their current licenses by June 30 for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The state-mandated registration fee is \$8 for a spayed/neutered dog, and \$19 for a non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Certificate of spayed/neutered must be provided for first time licenses to receive the \$8 fee amount. A rabies vaccination certificate must also be provided for first time licenses or if the previous vaccination has expired.

More information can be found at www.portland.ct.org/licenses-certificates.

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.

Summer Storytimes: For ages birth-5. Mondays at 10:30 a.m., June 26 and July 10-31. There will be stories, rhymes and songs about the ocean and its animals. A craft project will be offered.

Ocean Adventures: For those going into grades K-2. Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Aug. 2; no program July 5. Explore animals and games about ocean life.

Mysteries Under the Sea: For those going into grades 3-5. Tuesdays at 11 a.m. through Aug. 1 (no session July 4). Create coral reef crystals, make bioluminescent paintings, explore aquatic cryptids and analyze unsolved shipwrecks.

Family Experience: Touch Tanks from Mystic Aquarium: Wednesday, June 28, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Guides from Mystic Aquarium will be on hand to answer questions and provide information. There will be ocean-themed crafts and activities to explore before and after.

Teen Program: Sand and Seashell Mosaics: Thursday, June 29, 3 p.m., for students going into grades 6 and up. This is a hybrid paint and sand/seashell mosaic. Space is limited.

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

Adult Programs: Adult Summer Reading

Program: Runs through Aug. 31. When you sign up, you receive a coupon for a free book (up to \$2 in value) from the Friends' Ongoing Book Sale, and another coupon when you log 2000 pages. On June 12, register for summer reading and start logging pages you read in June. For every 250 pages the Adult Summer Reading participants of Portland Library log as a group, the library will donate funding for two musical instrument rental scholarships for the 2023-24 school year for two students at Brownstone Intermediate School.

Multi-Generational Drumming Circles: Mondays, June 26, July 17 and Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m., on the Waverly Town Green or in the Mary Flood Room if inclement weather. Gather for a West African-inspired drum circle led by Mark Zarrillo. Drums will be supplied.

Movies: Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Schedule: July 12, *Dog*; Aug. 9, *Moving On*.

Birds: The Audubon will present Birding by Sight & Sound Tuesday, July 25, at 6 p.m., and Fall Bird Migration Tuesday, Aug. 22, also at 6 p.m.

Beekeeping Basics: Monday, July 31, 6:30 p.m.

Dean's List

Portland residents Samantha Lasky and Leah May made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Lasky is majoring in exercise science/applied ES, and May is majoring in exercise science/pre-AT.

Dean's List

Joshua Hurley of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Central Connecticut State University, attaining a 3.75 GPA.

Hurley is a finance major in the School of Business and currently participating in a summer internship with Brown and Brown Insurance.

Chancellor's Honor Roll

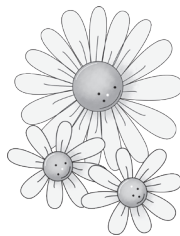
Mia Lapinski of Portland made the spring 2023 Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Mississippi.

Lapinski is majoring in allied health studies.

Correction

A story last week about Portland's new composting program last week said the town's partner has a service of picking up composting bins at home. Portland has decided not to use this service. The bins will be available at the transfer station, and as a reminder, the town will start free compostable bag giveaway on July 5.

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Soccer Wraps Up with a Win... The Portland U14 soccer team closed out its spring season with a win in their final game Sunday in Portland. The win is an added punctuation mark for the players whose time with the Portland Soccer Club comes to an end. Some played for as many as 10 years and formed many friendships and memories along the way. Pictured from left are, back row, Coach Chad Wilson, Elijah Eckert, Blake Harlow, Remy Wilson, Nathaniel Dietrichsen, Aiden Maselek, Evan Piascik, Costandinou Caratasios, Chad Gatto; front row, Aidan Currie, Joseph LeCara, Shane Guilmette, Patrick Fraro, Emma Murphy, Jack Payne, Diego Puente. Not pictured: Liam Currie, Colin Martin, Evan May, Finn O'Shea, Levi Srb, and coaches Erin Gatto and Heather Guilmette.

Celebrating Center Cemetery

The Center Cemetery (also known as the Portland Burying Ground) will be the featured program at Portland Historical Society's monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Following a short business meeting, the program will last about an hour and will highlight 10 sites of notable residents and families

where we will pay our respects and tell some stories about names that may be familiar, such as Perry Hale, Jeff Kelsey, Dorothy Robinson, PFC Peter Chapman, Horace Buck, General Seth Overton and Sylvester Gildersleeve.

This is the fourth and final installment of the 2023 Cemetery Program Series. The meeting is open to the public and free of charge.

Library Friends Book Sale, Read & Recycle

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

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

Also, the Friends' Read & Recycle program will accept donations on Saturday, June 24, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the Mary Flood Room of the library. The Friends welcome donations of gen-

tly used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No textbooks, business books, computer books, self-help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition; the Friends cannot accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition.

Donations must be dropped off at the library side door, and volunteers will be available to receive the donations. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgement forms will be available. Donated items are sold at various Friends' book sales held throughout the year, and all proceeds are used to support programs of the Portland Library

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

Middle School Honor Roll

Portland Middle School has announced the honor roll for the fourth marking period of the 2022-23 school year.

High Honors

Grade 8: Madison Anzellotti, Max Bernard, Ava France, Avery Johnson, Ellery Keoppen, Lucas Kirsche, Evan May.

Grade 7: Ian Binnington, Lucas Bolstridge, Marcus Clements, Karly Cruz, Elijah Eckert, Colin Fitzgibbons, Thomas Gaetani, Fiona Graham, Lily Hale, Jack Hallinean, Jonah Hess, Parker Johnson, Rowyn Kootz, Alyson Low, Miles Matterfis, Peyton Mazzullo, Ryan Nadolski, Aurelia Napp, Lily Otero, Mya Peterson, Zoey Pires, Luke Thompson, Erika Tine, Lena Trojanowski, Ella Woodward.

Honors

Grade 8: Giselle Castellano, Aliyah Cherry, Penelope Christensen, Kelsey Desmarais, Nathaniel Dietrichsen, Connor Doyle, Anthony

Ezzo, Abigail France, George Germaine, Daniel Glezen, Isabel Grzegorek, Juliette Hair, Lila Hair, Jameir Henry, Samuel Jacobsen, Drew Kelly, Lucas Kozyra, Connor Libby, Zoe Malanczuk, Sierra Markham, Blake Marquis, Aiden Maselek, Audrey Morico, Blake Pandolfo, Anna Piascik, Evan Piascik, Abigail Rascati, Molly Reilly, Piper Rettich, Jeremiah Rowe, Alex Trovato.

Grade 7: Isabella Aquino, Alex Brown, Alanna Burton, Caylee Carter, Calvin Celinski, Leah Cruz, Chad Gatto, Shane Guilmette, Ellen Hanks, Isabella Hayden, Lydia Heath, Megan King, Bianca Labbadia, Terrance Lin, Brianna Liranzo, Matthew Maldonado, Ema Medunjanin, Giancarlo Mendez, Brady Mierzejewski, Reese Nicol, Lilah Nolan, Nolan O'Connor, Brooks Oliva, Joseph Phelps, Elizabeth Porter, William Rau, Jason Revicki, Leonxia Rivera, Levi Srb, Danica Vess, Anna Vicino.

Juneteenth Celebration Tomorrow

Juneteenth: A Community Celebration of Freedom Day will be held in Portland Saturday, June 24. The event will be held at Riverfront Park from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. In case of thunderstorms, the event may move to the Portland Senior Center. In that case, a notice will be posted at the entrance to the park, on the Portland Parks and Recreation hotline at 860-262-7234 and at [Facebook.com/PortlandCTSocial Justice](https://www.facebook.com/PortlandCTSocialJustice).

Juneteenth 2023 is a free, family-friendly event. There will be Black food vendors and free ice cream from central Connecticut's Ice Cream Emergency truck. Entertainment and speakers will include: DJ Mx. Chalk; Josh Curzan, Manchester Public Schools Teacher of the Year and collaborator on the Witness Stones Project; and John Mills, an equity advocate and scholar who has been working to memorialize enslaved residents of Connecticut including Prince Mortimer in Middletown. Poetry and songs will be performed by Portland residents including

Portland's poet laureate Naji Chester-Payne. First Selectman Ryan Curley will read Portland's Juneteenth Proclamation.

Activities for all ages will include: contribute a message on the Chalk Car, courtesy of Mx. Chalk; collaborative art with Middletown Free Center, a bounce house and a treasure hunt for all ages. The StoryWalk featuring *A Flag for Juneteenth* by Kim Taylor, yard games and free face-painting by local artist Ana Ughetti are all sponsored by Portland Library.

Booths of local businesses and organizations will include: Portland Historical Society, Portland Youth & Family Services, Middlesex NAACP, Chatham Health District and True Vine Holiness Church, celebrating 100 years in Portland.

For any questions, contact portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com. Follow the Portland CT Social Justice Coalition Facebook page for updates.

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.

Food Bank Donation Info: The senior center asks that residents not leave Food Bank donations at the senior center unless the Food Bank is open. The Food Bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

Also, the senior center does not need any donations directed toward the senior center. People are asked to only leave donations for the Food Bank, and only during food bank hours.

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); Watercolor Lessons, 9:30 a.m.-noon - email bivenne@yahoo.com to register; 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.

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

Free Hearing Screenings: The second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m., with Virginia Dulos 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.

High School Honor Roll

Principal Kathryn Lawson has announced the Portland High School Honor Roll for the fourth marking term of the 2022-23 School Year:

High Honors

Grade 12: Victoria Bailey, Rowan Bell, Sophie Binezewski, Rachel Brown, Landry Carroll, Amelia Ciarleglio, Faith Doyle, Lauren Eckert, Ava Evison, Shannon Farley, Ryan Green, Kyle Guibord, Olivia Hungerford, Gregory Ives, Anton Kiwimagi, Camille Kopacz, Lily Larson, Annette LeShane, Ginia Lin, Caymus Lopez, Marley Malanczuk, Heather McDougall, Brandon McPhee, Sean Mearman, Mya Mogulnicki, Katharine Nedobity, Olivia Porter, Natalie Przestrzelski, Mia Quesnel, Maureen Reyes, Madison Szymaszek, Emma Warshaw and Joseph Woszczyna.

Grade 11: Sara Austin, Cooper Beck, Lillian Carroll, Gabriela DeLeon, Camryn DiMauro, Evan Guilmette, Kadir Hamidovic, Isaac Handel, Lincoln Hanks, Joshua Hanna, Erin Hunter, Abigail Keaveny, Sarah Kresser, Mason Lavalley, Phillip LeShane, Sunny Lin, Rachel Mailhot, Ava Maselek, Abbey Pickel, Selena Shukis, Benjamin Sorrell, Lillian Tabellione, Pierson Webster, McKayla Wilk and Corinne Woszczyna.

Grade 10: Gabrielle Arnold, Frederick Bailey, Chloe Brennan, Elizabeth Bustamante, Laurel Carroll, Keeleigh Christensen, Emily DeRing, Amelia Dietrichsen, Emelia Eckert, Paige Fitzgibbons, Evangeline Graham, Nathan Green, Aiden Jahnke, Lillian Kagan, Alina Kroeber, Jack Larson, Abigail Leone, Raymond Lin, James Marquis, Annabelle Maruschock, Cassidy Maruschock, Owen McGinley, Elizabeth Nedobity, Nicholas Oliva, Claire Palma, Aiden Peterson, Morganne Pineda, Avery Quesnel, Michael Rambarose, Gracie Roberts, Gretchen

Roche, Elliott Rowland, Ella Royea, Anna Stone, Parker Thompson, Madelyn Varano, Caitlin Walsh, Summer Wright and Maryn Yost.

Grade 9: Cayleb Alvarez-James, Joseph Angersola, Cristina Austin, Elizabeth Barr, Breckin Burke, Aiden Burrus, Hailey Bustamante, Aaron Ciarleglio, Dylan Cohen, Maksim Connolly, Cole Coppolino, Brady Daggett, Drey Farmer, Lillian Gaetani, Evelyn Hair, Gerry Hall, Toby Hunter, Logan Kehoe, Rita Lin, Caleb MacKay, Ryan McGrew, Leana Mierzejewski, Cade Modon, Ryan Modon, Eunice Ngunjiri, Patrick O'Rourke, Romeo Overton, Evan Piacente, Logan Prince, Nathan Quesnel, Skyla Rascati, Liam Rowe, Emelia Rowland, Kiley Scott, Cate Stone, Allison Tine, Mara Tuttle, Kai Vardon and Ethan Wells.

Honors

Grade 12: Andrew DiMauro, Amelia Hair, Tyler Ives, Yusuf Kadric, Ryan Kerr, Mckenzie LaMalfa, Gaspar Miranda-Ajpop, Grace Quirindongo Roche and Mason Tuttle.

Grade 11: Matthew Binezewski, Alexander Dawson, Noah Decker, Aaron DeYoung, Rocco DiMauro, Giovanni Discenza, Ariana Hettrick-Rivera, William Jahnke, Ryan LaPila, Quinn Lapinski, Jamison Lasky, Benjamin McGrew, Meghan McPhee, Erik Medvecky, Tyler Quinn, Luke Stennett, Jackson Williams and Dakota Wolak.

Grade 10: Matteo Brousseau, Nija Chester-Payne, Landon Currie, Kaitlyn Hickey, Kathryn Laverty, Mazzotta, Gianna Phelps and Teagan Strycharz.

Grade 9: Joshua Abbott, Hasan Abdulqader, Adella Alberino, Peyton Black, Evan Brown, Hayden Burke, Adam Dean, Jayden Dorsey, Jacob Gaudino, Elizabeth Hanna, Ella Klotz, Leah Lamson, Jonah Lavalley, Cameron Lopez, Spencer Masterson, Dzejla Medunjanin and Brody Quinn.

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Free Paper Shredding

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, June 24, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Westbrook Town Hall, 866 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook.

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

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St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. Office hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org. Pastor is the Rev. John Antonelle. Masks are strongly recommended.

Weekend Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed each week; visit the parish

website for more information.

Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.

Confession: Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m., or call Antonelle for an appointment.

Other Programs: For information on faith formation programs, baptisms, blessings of marriages, Knights of Columbus, the St. Mary Ladies Guild and more, call the church office.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Portland Parks and Recreation offers a variety of programs for adults and children. For a complete list of programs, full course descriptions, or to register, visit portland.recdesk.com or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required.

Junior Golf Workshops (Grades K-8): Tuesdays, June 27-July 25, at Portland West golf course. Times vary by grade level. This workshop is designed to acquaint participants with the game of golf. Cost is \$95 for residents, \$105 for non-residents.

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

Summer Concert Series: Tuesdays, July 11-Aug. 8, 6:30-8 p.m., at Riverfront Park. The schedule is: 7/11: Mixed Signals; 7/18: The 70s Project; 7/25: Juice Box; 8/1: Backstage Pass; 8/8: The Great Hill Mountain Band.

Themed Ballet and Tap Classes: For ages 3-6, held at The Inner Circle. **Fancy Dancy:** Wednesdays, July 19 and 26, from 4:30-5:15 p.m.; and **Enchanted Fairies Dance:** Wednesdays, Aug. 9 and 16, from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Fee per two-week class: \$25.

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

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

Local Businesses

Win Awards

Two local businesses are among the winners of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce's annual Small Business Awards.

Snyder Civil Engineering LLC won Business of the Year for businesses with 31 or more employees, and **Birdon America Inc.** won Manufacturer of the Year.

The awards will be presented Thursday, June 29, from 4:30-7 p.m., at the Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddam.

Dean's List

Connor Tatro of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

Thomas S. Stoto of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Fairfield University in Fairfield.

Meghan Flynn of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Megan H. Kostraba of Portland, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, made the spring 2023 Dean's List.

Kostraba is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English.

Nathan Disalvo of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Disalvo is majoring in mechanical engineering.

Megan H. Kostraba of Portland, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, made the spring 2023 Dean's List.

Kostraba is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English.

Portland residents Christina Aresco, Joshua Doncet and Sierra Koss made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford.

The three are all nursing majors.

Police News

6/12: Gregory Brosseau, 32, of Newington, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence, Portland Police said.

Resident Graduates

Alexandra Stevas of Portland recently graduated magna cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in fashion merchandising and management, from Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

President's List

Carlie Hasselman of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

Resident Graduates

Jacob Kostraba of Portland recently graduated from Fairfield University in Fairfield.

Dean's List

Megan H. Kostraba of Portland, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, has been named to the spring 2023 Dean's List.

Kostraba is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English.

Local ECSU Students Honored

The following residents were among the more than 300 Eastern Connecticut State University students recognized for scholarly excellence at the conclusion of the spring 2023 semester:

Julia Berthiaume, a sophomore health sciences major who received the Fall 2022 Certificate of Appreciation for Teaching Assistants; Kelly Schneider, a junior biology major who was inducted into the Eta Omega Chapter of the Beta Beta Beta honor society; Bryan Dinnis, a junior finance major who was inducted into the Delta Mu Delta honor society; Anna Maselek, a senior elementary education and communication major who was inducted into the Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society.



Service Superstars... The Portland Lions Club supports the newly launched Leos Club. The Lions recently presented a Leos Prize to three high school juniors with the most service hours. They are: Dorothy Riley, with 37.5 hours; John Thompson, with 46.5 hours; and Carson Nicols, with over 100 hours. Nicols also received a special ribbon in appreciation for his contribution to the Portland community.

Knights' Car Show Rescheduled

Knights of Columbus Freestone Council No. 7's seventh annual car show – which was to be held but was postponed – will now take place Friday, July 28, starting at 3 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave. The show is dedicated to Antonio "Buddy" Hernandez.

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

The Knights' Kitchen will be open, offering

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

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

Rain date is Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

United Methodist Church News

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

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

a.m. service on those Sundays.

The Portland United Methodist Crafters meets alternate Fridays at 2 p.m., at the Pastor's Residence. If interested in joining, call 518-729-8215.

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



On June 11, Portland Soccer Club President Chad Wilson presented Aidan Fenton with the \$500 Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship, during a ceremony at the Portland Recreation Complex.

Xavier Grad Wins Scholarship Award

Aidan Fenton of Portland is the recipient of the Portland Soccer Club's annual Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship Award for 2023. Fenton is a 2023 Xavier High School graduate.

Fenton is a former longtime member of the Portland Soccer Club's Youth and Travel programs, where he played on the same team until entering high school. He has been a regular member of the program's referee corps for many years, including a stretch during the uncertainty of the recent COVID-19 pandemic when he refereed youth soccer games with his father in town for free. Fenton's father donated his time

to the program as a coach and serves as a referee, inspiring his son to follow a similar path at an early age.

Giving back to the community is a motivation Fenton credits having acquired during his years playing and refereeing for PSC, and he said he is committed to continuing his involvement with Portland's soccer-playing youths in the future. Fenton recently donated his time to a summer youth soccer camp in town, where he cited the opportunity to work with kids who currently walk in the same shoes as he once did, as one of his favorite soccer-related experiences.

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Democrats Maintain List Not ‘Nefarious’

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen last week debated opening an investigation into two of its Democratic members — Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner — along with Democratic Town Clerk Gayle Furman and Public Safety Subcommittee member and presumptive Democratic nominee for first selectman, Bernie Dennler, for allegedly tracking citizens during public meetings for political purposes.

However, the item, brought forward by unaffiliated selectman Jason LaChapelle, never reached a vote and no investigation has been launched.

Prior to the June 15 meeting, LaChapelle sent correspondence to the board stating that a citizen provided an email chain from July of 2022, including the aforementioned town officials and Democratic Town Committee Chairman Monica Egan and former Democratic first selectman Mary Bylone.

In the email chain, Coyle provides the names and addresses of five citizens who spoke during a selectmen meeting who appeared to voice support for First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, a Republican.

Egan wrote that the names were added to a list “in case we ever crossed paths.”

The Democrats told the *Rivereast* the names were updated to mark as “skip” in a VAN list, a digital platform used for political campaigns to organize whose homes to visit and whose to avoid in the community.

The names were being removed from a list for Democrat Chris Rivers — who was a candidate for state office at the time.

While creating lists of campaigns and utilizing canvassing applications is common, LaChapelle took exception to the practice being done during public meetings by an elected official.

He stated during the meeting that creating a “skip list” based on publicly available data is acceptable; phone banking and marking which citizens support a candidate is acceptable; knocking on doors and then using canvassing apps to note peoples’ political leaning is acceptable.

“These are all perfectly normal, accepted and completely expected ways that political parties might use peoples’ information or gather information about people to use in a local, state and federal elections,” he said. “What we are talking about is an elected member of the Board of Selectmen during a live and active board meeting, in which they were acting in their elected capacity as a government agent, using comments

made by citizens to note only those citizens who supported their political rival.”

LaChapelle expressed that he wasn’t claiming there was any “nefarious intent,” but said “it does open up lots of questions with some rather potentially concerning answers.”

The investigation, he continued, would examine who is using their seat for their “own political aspirations.”

Potential fears, outlined by LaChapelle, include whether officials could use a list of political dissidents to block members of the public from joining a board or commission.

Democrats pushed back on claims of wrongdoing, emphasizing that nothing abnormal was occurring.

Rivers, who is still an active Board of Education member, provided insight, stating that voter information, including names, addresses and party affiliation is publicly available and was put into the canvassing app.

The citizens listed on the email chain were rated as “5,” which Rivers said is an indication to skip those citizens when door knocking. A campaign has limited time and resources, and stopping by homes of people who will in all likelihood voter against your campaign is a misuse of effort.

Democrat Mike Egan, a finance board member, agreed, saying, “There is nothing nefarious in interpreting those comments in directing campaign resources or get out to vote efforts.”

LaChapelle again highlighted his main concern with the tactic, stating that Coyle clearly wrote names down while acting as a selectman.

“I don’t believe it’s proper for a selectman while doing the town’s business to be tracking that type of information,” he said. “I don’t understand why that’s such a controversial statement.”

LaChapelle noted that launching an investigation would take four votes — an unlikely outcome. Instead, he suggested the board simply agree not to pursue political or campaign objectives while in the middle of meetings.

‘Political Theatre’

This week, Coyle called the discussion “political theatre.”

“The first selectman is so desperate to get elected,” she told the *Rivereast*, adding that the item should never have made it onto the agenda.

“There is no secret list,” she continued. “It’s normal; this happens all the time. This is what [political] parties do and it’s not unique to Democrats.”

In regard to LaChapelle’s concern that she

was working on a list during a meeting, Coyle confirmed that she writes down almost everything that occurs.

“Do I take notes? I absolutely do,” she said, adding that “it’s not really the point.”

She indicated that both Bisbikos and LaChapelle were aware that an investigation was never going to take place, and that the real motive was to score political points.

“Why are they targeting me? It’s because I hold them accountable and they don’t want my voice there,” Coyle said.

Instead of focusing on town business, she said, the board was caught up in unimportant subjects, a point echoed by Dennler, who expressed that the agenda item amounted to an attempt to launch an investigation into a political opponent.

“This was used a political tool,” he told the *Rivereast*. “It wasn’t a real debate.”

He also indicated that claims that a list was generated were misleading. In fact, he said, names were removed from a list.

Dennler stated that any official is free to take notes on anything that takes place during a meeting. The specific meeting in question revolved around the removal of a book at the town library — a subject that caused substantial controversy.

It was a “core political issue in the community,” he asserted, and citizens opinions during the meeting were relevant.

How LaChapelle obtained the email chain is unclear. The source, he said, wished to remain anonymous.

“You will never find out,” LaChapelle said during the meeting.

However, he pushed back on any claims that

the email was obtained through hacking, which he called “libelous” and “outright false.”

In official meeting correspondence, Monica Egan wrote that, “Evidently, someone on the Republican team, probably Andreas Bisbikos or Jason LaChapelle, has hacked our emails.”

She stated that there was “no way” the email was provided by a concerned citizen. Hacking emails, she continued, is illegal, and potentially punishable with a prison sentence.

Dennler stated that he “didn’t have any idea” where the email came from.

“I’m not sure how this person could’ve had lawful access to the email,” he said referring to LaChapelle’s source.

Coyle emphasized that this chain was through private email accounts, not town accounts that are subject to FOI requests. Personal information, including medical or banking data, could be stored on those private accounts. Her fear is that somebody has access to *that* information now.

“That’s really upsetting to me,” she said. “I don’t know how he got them.”

She ruled out the possibility that anyone of the six people included on the email chain would’ve leaked the information.

“Nobody would’ve provided it,” she said.

During the meeting, Bisbikos called the email chain and list a “violation of public trust” and “at a minimum, quite creepy.”

“How many people will be denied a chance to sit on a board or commission if their names are on the list?”

He added that “lists like this won’t bring Colchester together,” an apparent reference to Dennler’s campaign theme.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Card-Making Class: Thursdays, July 20 and Aug. 17, 6-8 p.m., at Town Hall. Cost: \$15 per class, per person (\$20 for nonresidents).

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.

SPT Summer Soccer Camp: For ages 5-15. Monday-Friday, July 24-28, from 5-8 p.m., at the RecPlex. Cost is \$150/player.

Gentle Yoga: Mondays, July 24-Aug. 14, 4:45-5:45 p.m. online with Facebook Live. For ages 45 and older. Cost: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

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.

Car Wash

The Bacon Academy football team is holding a car wash to raise funds for the upcoming season on Saturday, June 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Advanced Auto Parts on Linwood Avenue. Donations will be accepted.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday: Aggadata class, 6 p.m.; Talmud, 6:30 p.m.; 8 p.m., Kabbalah. All via Zoom – call for link.

Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., Zoom and in-person; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.

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

There will be a chicken barbecue Sunday, July 23.

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



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Holt's Football Flame Keeps Burning

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy's Aiden Holt, who recently graduated, will continue his career on the gridiron at Bridgewater State University.

"When I have football in my life, I feel more focused," said Holt, who is following in the footsteps of recent Bacon Academy graduates Ryan Guire and Brandon Guifarro, who both played for the Bears in Bridgewater, Mass.

"It was exactly what I was looking for," Holt said of Bridgewater. "It felt like home. The culture is the same as Bacon; it's one big family."

Bacon Academy first-year football coach Bill Chaffin said that Holt was part of a mature and motivated senior class that helped turn the football program in the right direction last fall after three tumultuous seasons that included the COVID-19 cancellation – which wiped away the group's sophomore season.

"Aiden was a great leader," added Chaffin. "He's a hard worker and he played with his emotions on his sleeve."

The team captain was also very adaptable. He played primarily as an outside linebacker on defense and tight end on offense, but because of a team need this past fall, Chaffin said the coach-

ing staff approached Holt about playing offensive line if needed.

Holt didn't hesitate, letting his coaches know he ready if needed.

"He was willing to step into any position to help the team. That's the kind of kid he is," recalled Chaffin.

Holt, who also had a gift for playing baseball and golf, said that football became his main focus after growing up in a family that loved the game. His father was an all-state linebacker in high school and originally from Pittsburgh, so the black and gold of the Steelers were prevalent his entire life.

During the COVID-19 cancellation that cost him his sophomore season, Holt began to hit the weight room in an effort to take his game to another level.

He credited his time in the gym for his development as a player and the reason he is now able to go play at the next level.

The added muscle and explosiveness paid dividends and this past fall where Holt became a feared edge rusher for the Bobcats, racking up eight sacks and 72 tackles (a dozen for loss).

Holt said it was not only important to leave

it all on the field during his senior season, but also set the standard for the next generation, stating that he and fellow senior captains Aidan Fritz, Jack Holms, and Zachary Perreault wanted to showcase an example of hard work for the younger players to strive for.

"We wanted to leave our mark. We wanted to leave the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in the best possible situation," stated Holt. "We'll be coming back to watch our boys play."

Because he started playing at such a young age, youth football is also near and dear to his heart. His hope is to come back during breaks to support his teammates at Bacon Academy and help out the Colchester Cougars at the youth level.

Holt also stated that Chaffin helped him through the college recruiting process, adding that all the entire staff at Bacon Academy created a welcoming environment.

"The community as a whole is one big happy family," added Holt. "All the teachers are unbelievable, I will miss [the school] so much."

Holt will now join a Bear program at Bridgewater that plays in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) and are led by veteran head coach Joe Verria, who has guided the team to four straight winning seasons.

Chaffin believes that Holt has the "desire" and "attitude" to excel at the next level, adding, "Your first year in college is like a roller coaster, but he has that type of personality and work ethic where it will slow down a little bit."



2023 Bacon Academy graduate Aiden Holt will play football at Bridgewater State University.

For Holt, he has a simple approach to his freshman season in college.

"School, practice, lift, homework, sleep — repeat," said Holt. "I'm excited to get there and get into the weight room and start practicing with my new team. When football season is around I'm more structured."

Beyond football, Holt will study criminal justice and hopes to follow in his dad's footsteps, working as a cop or possibly in law enforcement on the state or federal level.

Ahavath Achim Kosher Chicken Barbeque

Congregation Ahavath Achim will hold its annual kosher chicken barbeque on Sunday, July 23, at the synagogue, 84 Lebanon Ave. Dinners will be take-out only and will be served from 3:30 p.m. until sold out or 6 p.m., whichever occurs first.

Dinners are \$18 and include half a barbecued kosher chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, and dessert cookie.

Tickets will be available at the door the day of the event but advance sales are encouraged.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, June 26: 9 a.m., Making Memories; no Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Stitch & Fix; no Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, June 27: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Inspired by Art – Pollock; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting.

Wednesday, June 28: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 9:45 a.m., AARP Smart Driving TEK; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; noon-4 p.m., AARP Driver Safety

No reservations will be accepted unless prepaid. Advance tickets can be obtained by remitting payment to Ahavath Achim, P.O. Box 5, Colchester, CT 06415. Upon receipt of payment, tickets will be mailed to your address provided or held in your name at the door if sufficient time does not allow for postal mailing.

For more information, call the synagogue office at 860-537-2809. Local delivery in Colchester will be available, if requested.

Course; 1 p.m., Life Review Journaling.

Thursday, June 29: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3:30 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling with Ellen; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 5:30 p.m., Pride Month Panel.

Friday, June 30: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch at the Lakeside Grill (sold out); 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Program: Hearing Screenings: Friday, July 7, 10:30 a.m. Dr. Matthew Cross from HearUSA of Glastonbury will be at the senior center to offer free hearing screening appointments. Space is limited; call the senior center to make an appointment.

Pride Month Discussion at Senior Center

A Pride Month discussion, entitled "Elevating Awareness, Building Community," will take place at the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., on Thursday, June 29, at 5:30 p.m. All are invited.

The senior center will assemble representatives from various local and state organizations to offer an evening discussion designed

to increase understanding and awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community, how to become more supportive allies, and how to provide better access to the resources available within the community.

No pre-registration required. For more information, call 860-537-3911.

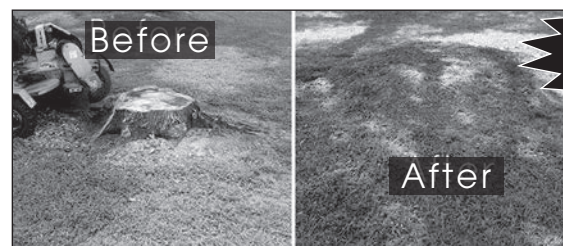


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Selectmen Remove Head of Sewer & Water Commission

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen voted last week to remove Stephen Coyle, the chairman of the Sewer and Water Commission, following a lengthy presentation of evidence by Republican First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos.

Coyle, the husband of Democratic selectman Rosemary Coyle, was given notice on May 17 that the board intended to remove him from his position.

The selectmen voted 2-1 in favor of removal; Bisbikos and Jason LaChapelle, who is unaffiliated, approved the motion; Democrat Denise Turner voted in opposition.

Rosemary Coyle recused herself from the discussion and Republican selectman Deborah Bates abstained.

Bisbikos provided substantial documentation to lay the foundation that Coyle should be removed. After his presentation, he told the board that the decision was evident.

"If this town wants to stay away from the abuse of those that are entrusted to serve on boards, it is my strong recommendation that Mr. Stephen Coyle is removed from the Sewer and Water Commission."

Grounds for Removal

In making his case, Bisbikos cited numerous email communications from Coyle and town employees. Because the correspondence was conducted through town accounts, Bisbikos stated that conducting the review through an executive session — that wouldn't be public — was unnecessary.

The first charge related to Coyle ordering a town employee to shut down the Public Works office in order to conduct a confidential personnel meeting, actions that Bisbikos said were not authorized by the town and that went beyond Coyle's capabilities.

"He has no business getting involved in personnel matters," Bisbikos said. "If there were concerns about anything from the auditors, to behaviors, they should've been brought to my attention or should've been brought to human resources. He overstepped his bounds here."

Next, Bisbikos claimed Coyle authorized

a town employee to take time off work and to work from home — power he didn't have.

Bisbikos expressed that Coyle refused to make certain documents available to the public, including a proposed sewer budget, water budget and proposed fee increases — all of which were subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

"That's pretty disgusting," the first selectman asserted.

Similarly, Bisbikos claimed Coyle told another town employee not to make the rates available to the first selectman's office or public until the date of the hearing itself. This amounted to keeping citizens "in the dark."

This action was "deplorable," according to Bisbikos.

The next set of allegations related to cronyism. Bisbikos stated that Coyle crafted a job description in order to help an employee without deliberating with the rest of the commission. He requested an emergency meeting with the selectmen on "false pretenses" to "blackmail" the board into making a decision. Coyle, Bisbikos stated, made a job description that one person could meet, creating a better circumstance for that individual. Lastly, Bisbikos said Coyle interfered in a personnel matter with an employee who was on paid leave.

With that allegation, Bisbikos also provided screenshots of text messages indicating that Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner were roped in, as well, in an attempt to help that employee.

Coyle Response

Stephen Coyle told the *Rivereast* he was "astounded" by the allegations raised during the meeting.

He stated that Bisbikos "concocted" the grounds for removal to "embarrass" himself and his wife, a notable Democrat in office.

Coyle had the option of attending the meeting or even requesting a public hearing to further discuss the claims, something he had "no interest" in pursuing.

"What is there to say?" Coyle rhetorically asked. "[Bisbikos'] word is not to be trusted, so why should I get into a debate?"

He offered a blanket rebuttal of all the claims made by Bisbikos, calling them "fabricated."

Coyle said that in his view, the victim of his removal is the commission itself, which has been setback by the recent onslaught of allegations and personnel shifts.

"It's disheartening," he asserted.

He took a moment to reflect on his time on the commission, stating that he's "accomplished a good deal."

"We addressed a lot of longstanding issues with both sewer and water," he said, adding that normally, the commission stays relatively out of public sight compared to bodies such as the Board of Education. "If [the commission] stays out of the public eye, that's probably a good thing."

Coyle recused herself from the discussion and vote during the June 15 meeting. This week, during a separate phone call, she told the *Rivereast* that the entire discussion shouldn't have been public.

"But you don't get the political bang for your buck if it's in executive session," she expressed.

She stood by her husband, who she said was the victim of a political attack.

"He cares about Colchester," she said. "He's not a politician but unfortunately, he's married to Rosemary Coyle."

The first selectman's actions amount to damaging the town, she continued.

"He's done nothing but take away knowledge from the Sewer and Water Commission."

Rosemary Coyle also defended her husband's decision not to pursue a public hearing to further debate the claims, which she said would've been pointless.

"Why would he want to subject himself to that? A kangaroo court? He's taken enough abuse from this administration."

Rosemary Coyle said her goal is to get back to the business of the town — she noted that around three hours were dedicated to non-town agenda items last week.

"I will not be deterred," she said,

Board Discussion

Bisbikos made the initial motion at the meeting, which received a second from LaChapelle.

"I feel that the evidence here presented is extremely strong and I'm disgusted by Mr. Stephen Coyle's behavior," Bisbikos said. "And he has no business serving on any of our boards."

He challenged the selectmen to have the "courage to do what's right."

Selectmen Turner and Bates each said they wanted additional time to review the documented evidence. The emails, they said, were not provided ahead of time.

Turner also said she would like a chance to process the information without the "excess commentary."

"I don't want to be forced to make some kind of a decision without being able to read through this," she asserted.

When Bisbikos asked Bates if she found anything concerning with the claims made during the night, Bates replied, "There are some concerns, but I'd like to read it myself."

LaChapelle expressed there were issues included in the allegations, although he pushed back on some of the language, such as the use of "blackmail."

Still, holistically, he agreed with the spirit of the motion.

"If I did these things in my role in the private sector, yeah I'd probably be fired," he said.

Bisbikos emphasized that the charter allows the board to take action within 30 days of his initial letter of intent to Coyle, which would expire before an additional meeting could be scheduled.

"The problem here is that there is apparent abuse of power and corruption in this town and I'm not going to stand for it," Bisbikos said. "I'm calling for a vote tonight on this."

Turner still wanted to wait in order to review the documents.

Bisbikos stated, "I think you want to delay the inevitable."

Turner objected to this comment, telling Bisbikos, "Don't be trying to determine what you think I want to do — I want to be able to read your evidence. That's it. Period."

In the end, though, Turner was outnumbered, and the vote to remove Coyle passed, 2-to-1.

Senior Center Trips

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

Block Island Breeze: Tuesday, July 18. Enjoy a ferry ride for the 12-mile trip to the island complete with an enclosed passenger area, cocktail bar, and galley. There will be a guided tour of the island, lunch at the National Hotel (make meal choice in advance), and time at the beach or gift shops. The bus departs at 8:15 a.m. and returns approximately 8:15 p.m. The cost is \$150 per person.

Maine Lobster - Kennebunkport, Maine: Wednesday, Aug. 16. Have a lobster dinner (or prime rib) at Bull N Claw in Wells, Maine. Then take a guided driving tour of Kennebunk and

Kennebunkport. There will be time for shopping. Cost is \$139/person. The bus departs from St Andrew Church at 7:45 a.m. and returns at approximately 8:30 p.m. Sign up before July 14.

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

Turkey Train - Winnepesaukee Railroad: Sunday, Sept. 24, departing senior center at 8 a.m., returning at 8 p.m. Travel roundtrip to Meredith, N.H. A Hart's Turkey Farm Dinner will be served aboard the train. Following the train ride, visit Mills Falls Marketplace for a collection of shops along with Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. Cost is \$145/person. Registration is required by Aug. 24.

Fairy Solstice Event

The Colchester Land Trust will hold a Fairy Solstice Event at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve Sunday, June 25, at 10 a.m.

CLT board member Liza Sivek leads this all-ages day of walking along the trail, seeking fairy houses and creating forest-friendly fairy homes from found natural materials. Includes a make-and-take fairy house craft.

The event is free for CLT members, and \$5 for non-members. Visit www.colchesterlandtrust.org for updates/cancellations.



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Don't Forget to License Your Dog

June is dog licensing month in Connecticut, and the law requires people to license any dog that is 6 months or older.

Come into the town clerk's office at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., to purchase your license. For licenses by mail, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, proper documentation and a check made payable to "Town of Colchester." People can also renew their dog online at colchesterct.gov/townclerk/pages/dog-licenses. A Rabies Certificate as well as vali-

ation of being spayed or neutered is required at the time of licensing. If you are renewing a license, be sure a current rabies certificate is on file with the town clerk's office. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

By state law, penalty charges are added if licenses are not renewed by June 30. The penalty is \$1 per month starting July 1.

For more information, email dogowners@colchesterct.gov or call 860-537-7215.

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 is broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday. 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.



Special Memorial Day Performance... Residents at Complete Care at Harrington Court in Colchester were treated to a special performance by the Bacon Academy Marching Band on the day of the Memorial Day Parade in Colchester. The students continued to march down to the facility after finishing the parade route in the center of town. This is the second year the Bacon band has performed on Memorial Day at Harrington Court. Many of the residents came out to the front of the facility to watch the performance, many of whom are veterans.

Civil War Discussion by Local Authors

On Sunday, June 25, at 2:30 p.m., Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., will host a talk by authors Norm Dupuis and Irene Watson about their newly-published book *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*. The event is sponsored by the Colchester Historical Society.

The new book carefully documents the 280 Colchester-affiliated individuals who served in some capacity between 1861-1865 to preserve the nation's union. Authors Norman Dupuis and Irene Watson will give an illustrated talk about the book and answer questions from the audience. The book will be available to purchase for \$20 at the presentation.

The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War can also be purchased at the Colchester History Museum, 24 Linwood Ave., for \$20. Stop by the museum on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to pick up a copy, or contact the society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-4032 to arrange for pick up or shipping. Books are also available for purchase at www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1/

This book also contains narratives about the lives of some Civil War soldiers and veterans, including societal and cultural issues, such as PTSD, and the role of women. This is a limited-edition book that you will not find on Amazon.

Air Line Trail Toastmasters

The Air Line Trail Toastmasters meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Town Hall or via Zoom.

Toastmasters isn't just about improving your speaking abilities; the club is designed to provide people with ample opportunities to develop essential leadership qualities such as organizing events, leading meetings, and mentoring others.

For more information, call Chris at 860-537-0143.

Troop 72 Accepting Recyclables

Colchester Boy Scout Troop 72 is accepting recyclable containers that can be redeemed in Connecticut.

If you are in the Colchester area and would like to donate recyclables to Troop 72, email your contact information to letendrej@sbcglobe.net or leave a message at 860-917-8391.

Donations can also be left at the left-hand side of the Polish Club pavilion at 395 South Main St., Colchester.

Land Recording Fraud Alert

The town clerk's office offers a service designed to help people protect their home from fraudulent recordings.

This program allows users to sign up and receive email alerts whenever a document is recorded in Colchester under their name, such as a deed, mortgage or lien. To access this option, go to colchesterct.gov, click on Town Clerk and then Important Links, or go directly to searchiqs.com/fraudalert.

For more information, call 860-537-7215.

Clothing Drive

Colchester Federated Church is collecting bagged clothing and textiles until July 13.

Clothing includes coats, shoes, handbags, ties, and belts. Textiles include bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, and curtains. All items must be in clean and sellable condition.

Drop items off at the church, 60 Main St., Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 860-537-5789 for more information.

School Readiness Program

Colchester's School Readiness Program is offering grant-subsidized preschool for the 2023-24 school year. Spaces are limited. Parent fees are based upon a sliding scale.

There are three options available, including part-day at Colchester Elementary School, school-day at Castle and full-day at Town & Country Early Learning Center.

Colchester residents who want a five-day-a-week program and may find it difficult to pay for preschool are invited to apply. For the application and more information, go to ColchesterC3.org/school-readiness.

Honor Society Inductee

Nicholas Tartsinis of Colchester was recently inducted into the Western New England University chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society.

Dean's List

Loudon Chupas of Colchester made the spring 2023 Dean's List at American International College in Springfield, Mass.

Chupas is majoring in criminal justice.

Resident Receives Dot Mrowka Scholarship

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee has awarded the Dorothy Mrowka scholarship to Bacon Academy senior Kaitlyn Romprey.

Romprey will attend American University in the fall and intends to pursue a career in law. In her scholarship application essay, she wrote about how Ruth Bader Ginsburg has inspired her to want to "help people who may not understand the rights they have."

The \$500 scholarship in honor of Mrowka, who the DTC said will always be remembered for her devotion and public service to her community, is awarded annually to a graduating Bacon Academy student who will pursue a career in political science or government service. Anyone interested in donating to the scholarship fund may send a check written to Bacon Academy with "Dorothy Mrowka Scholarship" noted directly to the school at 611 Norwich Ave, attention Danielle Bossie.



Kaitlyn Romprey

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: Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.; Bible

Study for Women: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Community Bible Study and Prayer: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Fridays: Donuts with Don at 10 a.m. -- this is an open discussion on how God fits in your life.

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

Resident Graduates

Madeline Sullivan of Colchester recently graduated cum laude from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Sullivan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication sciences and disorders.

CYSS Summer Trips

Colchester Youth and Social Services is offering summer trips for Colchester students entering grades 4-12. Copies of the trip calendar can be found in the CYSS office at Town Hall, on Facebook, the digital backpack, and online at www.colchesterct.gov/yss.

Registration for trips will continue all summer - and is online only. Call CYSS for more information, at 860-537-7255.

Football Friends Award Scholarship

Each year, The Bacon Academy Friends of Football group awards a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior on the football team. This year, Zachary Perreault is the recipient.

Perreault will be attending the University of Connecticut in the fall, where he will major in graphic design.

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Bizarre, Racist Packet Sent to Town Officials

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week a strange and racist packet of random statements and quotations went out to town officials, including the Board of Selectmen, seeming to rail against the proposed Greylock multi-family development on North Main Street.

The selectboard and interim town manager Amy Traversa issued a statement last week, at first not saying exactly what it was about.

"All employees and all volunteers who serve on boards and commissions in the Town of Marlborough follow rules and procedures when making decisions," read the statement, which ran in last week's *Rivereast*.

"Every decision made by boards and commissions will be based on the merits of the application or issue being discussed," the statement continued. "The Board of Selectmen will promote equal access and equal opportunity. With recent cowardly correspondence, leafletting and raucous comments, the Board of Selectmen is making this statement: We will not tolerate attacks on public officials in any manner."

Last week Traversa told the *Rivereast* the package was sent to local police.

This week the *Rivereast* received a smaller version of the package in the mail, absent the more inflammatory material.

It contained a copy of a *Rivereast* article ("Proposed Housing Development Stokes Local Ire," which is about the North Main development) with contact information for Water Pollution Control Authority Administrator Scott Clayton, several clippings of legalese language, quotes from Voltaire, Vladimir Lenin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

The quotes are all truisms about lying.

The article is heavily underlined, including the phrases about the strain on local infrastructure, the need for diverse housing in Marlborough, "younger people", and a passage about a separate housing development on South Main Street.

The *Rivereast* obtained a copy of the full packet, which had over a dozen pages.

It included an anti-immigration cartoon and racist etching of young "Haitian illegal aliens," "self-proclaimed 'refugees'" overwhelming "Europe and America" and threatening the very foundation of civilization.

There was an article containing anti-immigrant rhetoric, stating that Democrats and President Joe Biden "welcome immigrants to cross the border illegally and stay," and called the immigrants part of criminal gangs.

There was also a racist clipping titled "Racist Policies". It said officials and speakers at a NAACP conference "explicitly blamed shortcomings on the part of blacks on alleged housing discrimination perpetrated by whites."

The article, apparently older, accuses the Obama administration of "forced integration" of neighborhoods using "billions in federal grant money", building "low-income housing marketed toward blacks and Latinos in majority-white neighborhoods", bringing "ghetto dwellers" to white neighborhoods. There is a handwritten note saying "and schools" would be "forcibly" integrated.

The article said the Obama administration wanted to "dictate" neighborhood makeup.

Curiously, that same page with such hateful rhetoric has an ad for "Feeding America," which has a photo of a Black family, two young girls, an infant and an older woman.

The packet also has a page alluding to the "great replacement theory", a white nationalist, far-right conspiracy that white people are being replaced as the country's "dominant" subgroup. Another anti-Semitic version of the lie blames Jewish people for the "plan."

The packet states that, by opening the border with Mexico, Democrats are working to "eliminate America as a national entity and totally destroy our children's future. They promise to do that for the only reason that they have, to change this nation into a socialist dictatorship."

The packet also contains this passage: "Unbridled immigration [is how] the White majority in Europe and America is systemically being destroyed."

It also has a statement from a former Florida mayor calling the "present social engineering educational agenda" unacceptable, "inferior and a complete failure."

Then, without any context, there's a black-and-white photo of four young Black individuals, arms over shoulders, dancing, simply living their lives and minding their own business.

The *Rivereast* got some thoughts from Board of Selectmen interim chair Deb Bourbeau, as well as selectman Greg Lowrey.

"We won't tolerate this," said Bourbeau. She said this isn't the first packet of this nature to go out to residents.

Bourbeau said local volunteers and commissioners, who appear to have been the targets of the handout, volunteer their time to serve the town. She said any application for a develop-

ment has a process to go through and has to meet town rules and regulations. If they do, and it aligns with the town's goals, there's not much the town can do to legitimately stop it.

Bourbeau disclosed that she in fact neighbors the proposed Greylock development, as does selectman Joe Asklar, who is also the local fire marshal.

She said while she likes the quiet of the land as it is, the decision on the proposed development simply isn't up to her.

She commended Greylock for speaking with the public, arranging an "impromptu" meeting for Monday, June 26. The public hearing on this matter is set for the zoning board's Thursday, June 29, meeting.

"If you have something to say," said Bourbeau, "put your name to it, or face us in person. Come forward and speak your mind."

Bourbeau said the selectboard opted not to share the information for fear of legitimizing the sender.

Lowrey said the packet "goes beyond reason" and is "just inflammatory." While he said he didn't agree the packet rose to the level of extremism, he said the sentiment expressed is "completely misplaced" and smacks of disinformation and total misunderstanding of how developing reasonably priced housing works, how it affects neighborhoods.

In a February information seminar, town planner Peter Hughes revealed there are people currently in town in need of more affordable, accessible digs.

Most of Marlborough's housing, 92%, are single-family homes. Marlborough's stock is aging, with 25% predating 1970 and an average unit age of more than 40 years old.

There's been a steep decline in building permits since 1991, according to Hughes' information.

According to the information 22% of homeowners spend more than 30% of their income on their home bills, while 52% of renters spend more than 30%.

Half of Marlborough seniors are below 60% of the area's median income.

"There is a need for 1- and 2-bedroom housing units," Hughes' presentation said. "There is a need to increase the number of housing units [for rent]."

The percentage of rental units, 12%, is well below the state average of 34%.

There's also a need for senior housing opportunities, Hughes wrote.

Lowrey said local affordable senior housing is key for seniors looking to downsize and wanting to stay in Marlborough. Lowrey said the town's population is beginning to age into senior citizens.

Hughes wrote affordable housing has a broad definition, encompassing apartments, townhouses and duplexes. It can house seniors, young families, single people and people with disabilities.

Hughes dispelled some affordable housing "myths and misconceptions."

He said one misconception is that affordable housing depreciates property values. Hughes cited a trulia.com study that did not find a connection between affordable housing and nearby property values.

Affordable housing isn't just about helping low or very low-income people, "it's about improving business and raising the standards of working- and middle-class families."

According to Hughes, affordable housing has a small to negligible effect on local tax rates.

Single-family homes bring more kids to local schools than do affordable homes, he said.

A lack of affordable housing and its dwellers can slow economic growth, Hughes said, because there aren't enough employees to fill jobs residents need. A balance of higher and lower income homes helps communities, he said.

"There is no correlation between safe, decent, affordable housing and [an increase in] crime," according to Hughes.

Consistently, Lowrey has said affordable housing should be thought of as "workforce housing."

Lowrey said the selectboard is committed to "combatting misinformation," that it is not their role or desire to "put a velvet rope around this zip code."

Lowrey said any misinformed "shotgun approach" should be ignored as "disorganized and unvetted."

The proposed multifamily development of 52 residences in 13 buildings would be built over the course of a year and some change, though an exact timetable isn't yet set.

The project would use public water and sewer, according to the application.

It's located at 163 North Main St., about a 24-acre site of forested land, a few inland wetland areas, with Dickinson Creek along its western edge. About 13.5 acres, about 56% of the property, will be preserved and left alone, protected with a permanent covenant.

Openings on Commissions

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

Economic and Community Development alternate, Water Pollution Control Authority regular seat plus two alternates. The application form can be accessed 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.

Local ECSU Students Honored

The following residents were among the more than 300 Eastern Connecticut State University students recognized for scholarly excellence at the conclusion of the spring 2023 semester:

Emily Boyd, a senior health sciences major who received the Outstanding Senior Award; Daniel Cormier, a junior accounting major who was inducted into the Delta Mu Delta honor society; Cameron Soulagnet, a senior environmental earth science major who was inducted into the Theta Upsilon chapter of the Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) national honor society for earth sciences.

Dog Licenses Now Available

Dog licenses are now available at the town clerk's office. Remember to check and make sure your dog's rabies certificate is up to date. Licenses cannot be issued without a current rabies certificate.

The fee for spayed or neutered dogs is \$8 and \$19 for dogs who have not been altered. You must license your dog before July 1 or a \$1 late fee will be added each month. Checks should be made out to the Town of Marlborough.

The town clerk's hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on Tuesday; and 8 a.m.-noon on Friday.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. Activity bags, prepared by the deacons and Christian Education Team, are provided for older children to use during worship.

Sunday, June 25 is Children's Sunday. The service will be held outside on the lawn with Sunday School students leading various parts of the service. The Rev. Valerie Seaver's children's sermon message is titled "Rock or Sand?" After worship, all are invited to a barbecue luncheon, participate in lawn games, and visit the face-

painter.

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 is now closed for the summer to prepare for fall. It will reopen Friday, Sept. 7. The shop is open for selling and donations this summer by appointment by contacting the church at office@marlconchurch.org. The shop sells and weekly lists new 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 email office@marlconchurch.org.

We will be closed for the holiday weekend from July 1 to July 4th and will reopen on the 5th.

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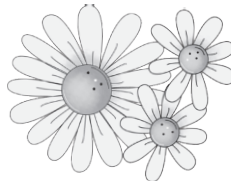
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With Two Decades of Success, Jessica's Goes Year-Round

By Jack Lakowsky

Local restaurateurs Matt and Jessica Carroll have been serving delicious cooking for nearly two decades now, ever since they opened a small, seasonal ice-cream shack.

Then, after success, the couple decided to start serving lobster rolls – and things took off from there.

“We got a good reputation all around New England and beyond,” Matt told the *Rivereast* on Monday.

The prominent pink building on Route 66 stayed a summer joint – until this year. The couple made the big announcement a few weeks back – Jessica's Garden and Lobster Shack is going year-round.

The couple has spent three years renovating the building and has greatly expanded their menu to include gourmet grilled cheeses, fried seafood, burgers, salads, falafel, acai, dragon fruit bowls and oatmeal bowls – a diversified menu like that of the Carrolls' other restaurant in Portland, Burger Heaven and Smooth Acai, which opened last year.

“We really want to have something for everyone,” said Matt.

Jessica said she's excited to be open in September and October, what she calls “the most beautiful time in New England.”

Also exciting – she gets to get in the dirt, her preference to the kitchen. (Hence the “Garden” in the name – the couple also sells mulch.)

“It's brand new to me, not being in the kitchen,” said Jessica. A restaurant kitchen “takes a lot out of you,” she said, and now she has a chance to pretty-up the property even more.

The garden, complete with a rope swing and fairy garden, is a place for kids to burn some energy while parents enjoy a meal. Jessica said on Father's Day, the garden went to good use.

The Carrolls want to ramp up the lobster

shack's takeout business, saying Burger Heaven does well for takeout, and makes sure to package the food so it travels well.

“We're bringing that same concept to Jessica's,” said Matt. “We really want to be the go-to, year-round takeout spot using online ordering.”

The couple said the pandemic accelerated their plans. Matt lost his job, and “basically decided not to go back to it,” instead focusing on his family's businesses.

And as they grow, they want to maintain their customer base and brand – their “funky coolness” and keep adding more and more options for customers.

Running the restaurant seasonally had some challenges, especially with staffing. Keeping people year-to-year wasn't easy, said the couple. Now, they've put together a good staff (though they are looking for a full-time cook).

“We pride ourselves on taking good care of our staff,” said Matt. “So that they, in turn, take good care of our customers. We want customers to be greeted with a smile.”

The couple is especially excited for its new chef, Justin Smith, who provided a bio to the *Rivereast*.

“I am a local chef with humble beginnings,” he said, noting that he started off at Schmedly's restaurant in Storrs, becoming the kitchen manager for them.

He's a 25-year culinary vet, working in Foxwoods and other major restaurants across the state.

“Together with Matt, Jessica and our team we are looking to elevate and change the way roadside food is perceived within the industry. I am very excited to be with this team at Jessica's garden and lobster shack,” he said.

The goal for both restaurants is to be a “family destination.”

Last year, Matt said Burger Heaven and



Popular local eatery Jessica's Garden and Lobster Shack is now going to be a year-round restaurant. Up until now, the business was only open in the summertime. Pictured from left are owners Jessica and Matt Carroll, and their chef Justin Smith.

Smooth Acai focuses on takeout, serving high-quality food to the “busy family that needs to pick up food on the way home after a game.”

Burger Heaven is at 870 Portland-Cobalt Rd., near the intersection of routes 66 and 17, in the old Dairy Queen location.

To achieve the goal of offering choices for ev-

eryone, Burger Heaven serves gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options.

Jessica's Garden and Lobster Shack is at 198 Route 66 in Marlborough. For more information, find the restaurant on Facebook or visit jessicagarden.net, where there's also info on the store's new mulch delivery business.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Alvin LeBlanc; John McKaig is deacon emeritus. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com.

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 4-5 p.m.

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

Family Faith Formation: This is an active family faith formation program for the church's kindergarten through middle school population. For more information, call the church office.

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

continues. Registration is required as well.

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

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden is once again breaking ground to benefit Marlborough Food Bank and supply fresh produce in season. Garden volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on other programs or adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Input Sought on Food Security

The Marlborough Sustainable CT Team has been formed to examine the town's sustainability and resiliency policies and to engage the community in conversations that lead to new community actions that promote what the team calls “a more inclusive and sustainable Marlborough.”

As part of this effort, the Marlborough Sustainable Team is seeking community input on food security. The team requests that residents fill out a short survey available on the town website (www.marlbroughct.net), and copies are available at the Richmond Memorial

Library, Senior Center, and Town Hall.

Drop your surveys off by June 16 in the survey return box in the foyer of Town Hall. You can also mail them to Land Use Office, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough CT 06447.

The Marlborough Sustainable Team members are citizen volunteers working with the Marlborough Planning Commission to achieve state certification. If interested in joining the team, email Peter Hughes, Planning & Development director, at planner@marlbroughct.net, or call 860-295-6202.

Summer Show at Arts Center

The Marlborough Arts Center is holding its Summer Show through August, featuring the paintings and pottery of several of its member artists.

Currently on display in the gallery are paintings by Scott Rhoades, Michael Atkinson, Jennifer Chaffee, Gabriella DuCharme, Carol Gregoire and Susan Hourihan, and wheel-thrown stoneware by Ray Marino.

The show can be seen throughout June, July, and August during scheduled events or by request.

During July, the gallery will be open on each Saturday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. An artistic

demonstration will take place on four Saturdays in July: Jennifer Chaffee will do a pastel demo on July 8; Gabby DuCharme will do a painting demonstration on July 15; Peter Griggs will give a musical presentation on July 22; and Mary Horrihan will give a watercolor demonstration on July 29.

There is no fee for the painting demos, and children as well as adults are welcome to drop in at any time during the afternoon and talk with the artist, ask questions and learn more about the medium being demonstrated.

For more information, visit www.marlbrougharts.org or call 860-467-5363.

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Second Blessings Makes Donation... The Lead Team from Second Blessings Thrift Shop of the Marlborough Congregational Church recently named the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association of Marlborough as its first bi-annual outreach recipient and presented the association with a check for \$500. Pictured from left are, back row, Second Blessings Lead Team members Stephanie Bunting, Geri Turner, Jessica Trusz and Jess Pozzato; front row, Marge Bartlett, granddaughter of Roy Pettengill; Ida Spooner, Association Board of Directors; Betty Merritt, Association Treasurer; Alice Rowley, Lead Team thrift shop member; and Mark Merritt, Captain, Ambulance Association.

Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has announced the following programs and events. For more information or to register, call 860-295-6210 or email richmond-programs@gmail.com.

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

Babytime: Fridays at 10 a.m., for ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. This is a baby-centered storytime with songs, rhymes, lap bounces and a story. Registration is recommended but drop-ins are welcome if space allows. The program will be held in the upstairs meeting room unless an accessibility accommodation is needed.

Short Books for Long Days: This new book club will next meet Monday, June 26, from 7-8 p.m., outside of the library (the club will be moved indoors if weather necessitates). Discussed will be Seanan McGuire's *Every Heart a Doorway*.

All About Opossums: Wednesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Pam and Bill Lefferts from Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue

will share their experiences as wildlife rehabbers, with a special focus on opossums. Bella and/or Mango, Ferncroft's ambassador opossums, will attend. Guests will not be allowed to hold the opossums but will be able to pet them. Registration is required; space is limited. This program is an adult program and will be open at first for adult/senior registration only. Families may be allowed to register closer to the date of the program if space allows.

Birds of Prey Night and Day: Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education will return Tuesday, June 27, at 4:30 p.m. Explore the world of raptors who share the same habitat but are active at different times – day and night. This family-friendly program will be held outdoors but may move to the senior center. Registration is required.

Pajama Storytime with Yoga: Thursday, July 6, 6:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy a couple stories and then practice yoga. Wear comfy pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal or blanket. Registration is required.

Read to the Dogs: Monday, July 10, from 6-7 p.m. Young readers are invited to come in and read to a certified Reading Education Assistance Dog; there are now two dogs coming. Pre-registration for a 15-minute session is required. Limit one child per 15-minute time slot per dog.

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.

Adult Program: Zumba: Thursdays through June 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School gym. There is a \$12 drop-in fee each week.

Trips: Niagara Falls & Winery/Brewery Tour Bus Trip: June 23-25. Trip includes: bus, hotel, boat tour, wine- and beer-tasting, and more. If you have a passport and are vaccinated you can walk over to the Canadian side. Registration fee: \$625 for hotel on the Canadian side, or \$750 for one with American falls view. Departs Glastonbury at 6 a.m. Friday, returns at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Bronx Zoo Bus Trip: Saturday, June 24. Trip includes: bus, zoo admission, boxed lunch and more. Fee: \$90/person for adults, \$80/person for children age 4-12. Departs Glastonbury Park and Ride at 7:30 a.m., returns at 7 p.m.

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

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

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up. Days and times are flexible. Fee for four lessons: \$200/residents, \$205/non-residents.

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

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

Lego: July 10-14, at MES. Ninjaneering, for ages 5-7, is 8:30-11:30 a.m., and Ninjaneering Masters, for ages 8-12, is noon-3 p.m. Fee: \$145/resident, \$150/non-resident.

Tiny Twirlers Dance Class: For ages 2-3 with caregiver. Tuesdays, July 10-Aug. 19, 6-6:30 p.m., or Thursdays, July 12-Aug. 21, 9-9:30 a.m. Class held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$78.

Other Dance Classes: All held Tuesdays, July 10-Aug. 19, at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$108. Offerings are: Funky Tumblers, for ages 4-7, 6:30-7 p.m.; Sparkling Spinners, for ages 3-5, 9:30-10 a.m. or 4:30-5 p.m.; Hip Hop Dance Class, for ages 9 and up, 7:15-8 p.m.; Dazzling Dancers (Tap), for ages 3-5, 10-10:30 a.m. or 5-5:30 p.m.

Watercolor Painting: For grades 3-6. July 11-13, 9-11 a.m., at MES. Fee: \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident.

Pee Wee Craft Corner: For grades 1 and 2. July 11-13, noon-1:30 p.m., at MES. Cost: \$55/resident, \$60/non-resident.

Fife and Drum Corps Accepting New Members

The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corps is now recruiting children between the ages of 8 and 17 to join the ranks.

Members learn to march and play the fife, snare drum or bass drum from our very capable instructors, free of charge. Members have opportunities to travel throughout New England while the Corps performs at parades, musters and other events. This year's performance

schedule includes performances at Minuteman National Park in Massachusetts, Fort McClary in Kittery, Maine, and Fort Griswold in Groton.

The Marlborough Jr. Ancients meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for musical instruction and marching practice. For more information, visit www.MarlboroughJrAncients.com or email MarlboroughJrAncients@gmail.com.

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, June 26: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Free Bread & Bakery Goods, 10 a.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: kielbasa with mustard, caramelized onions, diced potatoes, Prince Edward vegetables, wheat bread, fresh fruit. Lorri L. from CRT will be guest speaker, with the topic "You Are Sweet Enough," DTC meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 27: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Commission on Aging, 4 p.m., Town Hall; Planning Commission public hearing, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 28: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. National Tapioca Day! Menu: grape juice, American chop suey with elbow pasta, vegetable medley, garlic knot, tapioca pudding; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, June 29: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, June 30: 8-Ball Pool, Mahjong, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-

on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: 100% juice fruit punch, Swedish meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas & diced carrots, 100% whole wheat bread, cookie; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

Transportation: Available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and non-medical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required. Assistance is also available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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.

Tag Sale on the Green

The second annual Giant Tag Sale on the Green, sponsored by the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, on Saturday, June 24, from 8 a.m.-noon; rain date: June 25.

More than 25 families have contributed items for the home, garden, recreation and children.

LEGALS

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on July 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
PZC-23-011: Edgewater Hill, 10 Edgewater Circle, Text Amendment regarding water requirement in MUDD zone per Sec. 6.4.D.3.d.3, Map 10A/ Block 85/ Lot 5B
Text Amendment Regarding Required Setbacks on Non-Conforming Lots in the R-1 Zone: Section 8.2 of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations
PZC-23-013: M&J Bus, Inc., 9 Young Street, Special Permit to allow school bus storage per Sec. 5.3.C.6, Map 20/ Block 33/ Lot 7A
PZC-23-012: Michael Bakaj, 37 South Main Street, a 22-lot (33 units) HOD subdivision in existing HOD Zone, Map 20 Block 51/ Lot 27
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman
Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450. 2TB 6/23, 6/30

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF ACTION

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on June 12, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive 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-Denied 1TB 6/23

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Marlborough Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, Marlborough, CT, 06447, to hear the following:
Amendment to the 2020 Marlborough Plan of Conversation & Development as follows:
Adopting the Marlborough Sustainable Housing Plan 2022 – 27 as an Appendix.
Interested parties may appear and/or submit written documentation. A copy of the Plan is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town Website for public review.
Dated at Marlborough, CT this 10th day of June, 2023.
MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
Mark Stankiewicz
Chair 2TB 6/16, 6/23

TOWN OF PORTLAND LEGAL NOTICE

Legal notice to the taxpayers of the Town of Portland that the first installment of real estate and personal property taxes if over \$100.00 on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 are due and payable July 1, 2023. If the amount owed is \$100.00 or under the bill is due in full. Motor vehicle taxes are due and payable in full by August 1, 2023.
Taxes not paid in full on or before August 1, 2023 become delinquent and are subject to interest of 1.5% from due date of July 1, 2023.
Minimum interest charge will be \$2.00.
Quarterly Water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable July 14, 2023. Payment not made in full on or before August 15, 2023 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from due date.
Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax nor interest. For tax information or to PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE. Visit our website www.portlandct.org. Please contact the Collector of Revenue if you do not have a bill.
The Collector of Revenue and Revenue Collection Assistant are available by telephone (860) 342-6737 or email cgotta@portlandct.org.
The staff will be out of the office on Monday, July 3, 2023 and July 4, 2023 in observance of Independence Day.
The normal staffing hours are as follows:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Cynthia L. Gotta CCMC
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue 3TB 6/23, 7/7, 7/21

TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

At its Regular Meeting of June 7, 2023 the Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:
SE09-005 of Settlers Greene, LLC (Applicant) by Atty. David F. Sherwood (Counsel) - Request for final 5-year extension of Special Exception and associated Site Plan to November 27, 2028 in accordance with CT General Statutes Sec. 8-3(m). **APPROVED W/ EXPIRATION DATE OF NOVEMBER 18, 2028.**
PZC2023-009 of Terese M. Russi (Applicant/Owner) - Site Plan application to construct a 32' X 26' (832 SF) accessory building at 136 Chestnut Drive (MBL# 19-00/012-000) that exceeds the size permitted by the Zoning Enforcement Officer pursuant to Section 15.3 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations. Zoning District: Suburban Use (SU). **APPROVED W/ CONDITION.**
Dated June 14, 2023
Planning and Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair 1TB 6/23

LEGAL NOTICE

The following proposed water use rates or changes for owners of properties connected to the Village Center and Royal Oaks Water System were unanimously adopted by the Town Council at their regular scheduled meeting of June 13, 2023. Effective July 15, 2023.
A. Water Billing Schedule
1. Monthly; if not paid within 30 days, such charges shall bear interest from due date at the interest rate charged for delinquent taxes.
B. Water Use and Meter Charges
1. Monthly Meter Charge
a. \$40.00/EMU (5/8" meter)
b. larger meters incur a multiple of \$40.00/EMU
2. Commodity Charge:
a. \$12.00/1000 gallons
Town Council
Mark Philhower, Chairman
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
Pete Brown
Kevin Reich
Brandon Goff
Alison Walck
Eric Peterson
Dated on this day June 13, 2023
The 2023/24 budget of \$241,730.00 will require an increase in water commodity rates. 1TB 6/23

Area High School Graduates

Bacon Academy Class of 2023

Megan E. Swanke, President; Ryan Patrick Moores, Vice President; Theresa Mathieu, Treasurer; Sophia Falkowski, Secretary. Jazmin Adams, Olivia Barbara Adams, Jacob Ambrose, Joshua Ambrose, *Keegan Appleby, Matthew Ashley, Noah Richard Auden, Sebastian Boekweg, Korhal Spring Bartlett-Dennis, Shade Elizabeth Bedard, Annalia Benitez-Goodale, Danielle Benoit, Benjamin Berthiaume, Elijah Black, Alexander Blanchette, Megan Braga, Daetrinn Brannen, Jaydan Brathwaite, Hailey Brault, Leah Brown, Odeen Brown, Benjamin Burger, Maddox Ann Burton, Henry Callan, Amber Lee Capaldi, Cecelia Carnelli, Olivia Faith Carnelli, Paula Castrillon, Donovan Chevette, James Chiaverini, Alexander Constant, Chloe Ariel Coogan, Ethan Corrado, Kailie Cotillo, Kaylie Ella Couch, Madison Elisabeth Crook, Maya Gabrielle Crowell, Nicholas Cushing, Andrew Darling, Emmet A. Day, Mackenzie Dean, Austin Dinsmoor, James Cole Ducharme, Gavin Hunter Emmons, Aden Eslami, Jaden Espejo, Jack Eveleigh, Sophia Falkowski, Andrew Fick, *Catherine Field, *Jillian Filloramo, Ethan James Foley, Alayna Alice Freeman, Aidan Fritz; *Grace May Galarneau, Brianna Georgens, Trinity Marie Georgens, Charles Gionfriddo, Ty Jalen Gonzalez, Sophia Marlene Goodine, *Grace Estelle Gorreck, Grace Elizabeth Graff, Kaitlyn Graham, *Camryn Elizabeth Grasso, Reese Gregoire, Luke Grimord, Qingyang Frank Gu, Nicholas Guire, James Gumbs, Neely Hart, Allyson Marie Hickey, Rhiannon Higgins, Julian Hightower, Jack Thomas Holmes, Aiden Holt, Michelle Marie Jolly, Robert June, William Kennedy, Samantha Kinsey, Isabella Kress, Steven Laliberte, Matthew LaRosa, Anna Gabrielle LeGault, Mitchell Lettieri, Elliot Lewis, Andrew Stan Lima, Isaiah Lindsey,

Lillian Rose Litwinko, Emma Leilani Livesay, Kayden Lorenzana, Brandon Losier, Vivian Jean Lubinsky, Evan Joseph Maldonado, Kiyana Rosalee Malloy, *Meaghan Malone, David Sebastian Marino, Cory Marshall, Jake Martino, Heather Michele Martyszczyk, Theresa Mathieu, *Nico Matteucci, Ava Nicole McCarrill, Brady McIllduff, *Layla Meekins, Alayna Michaud, Ayden C. Michaud, *Ryan Patrick Moores, Charlotte Carrier Murphy, Ariel Eva Nair, Wyatt Nowakowski, Marissa Nudd, Brandon Nye; Colin Theodore Olbrias, Noah Daniel Ondras, Sage Ostergren, Justin Pajor, *Gabrielle Papale, Tyler E. Pennington, Zachary Robert Perreault, Simon Pike, Christopher Post, Kalie Purcell, Mitchell Owen Rathbone, Gwyneth Lee Reagan, Brendan Everett Reas, Dante Joseph Ricci, Isabelle Richards, *Brooke Ellen Rodgers, Angelyn Joy Rodriguez, Mason Romanowski, Kaitlyn Judith Romprey, Gabriella Emma Salfia, Grace Saldana, Ian Donald Sargent, Grace Scaniiffe, Audrey Schuck, Michael Shoemaker, Kaitlyn Maureen Sierra, Lindsey Smith, Reina Spearin, Evan St. Louis, Samuel Steinman, Jack Stillwell, Hannah Suchoski, Amber Lynn Sullivan, *Megan E. Swanke, Drew Tassmer, Jordyn Tassmer, Aden Taylor, Kiera Tedeschi, Joselyn Thomson, Kaitlyn Tracey, Krista Tracey, Connor Tuttle, Paige Tyrrell, Michael Viggiani, Michael Vilardo, Brooke Vivero, *Mia Voiland, Miranda Waters, Elisabeth Joy Westerfeld, Keagan Whitcomb, Eryn Campbell Wholey, Dominik Wiggins, Ryan Wilcox, Ryan Wilkins, Samantha Willauer, McKenzie Anne Wolicka, Isabella Margarita Wood, Peter Wrinn, Ashley Zapata-Enamorado, Eric Zeng.

Key: *Member of the National Honor Society

East Hampton High School Class of 2023

Weston John Allis, Madison Lynn Arnott, Jaden Buell Asklar, Brodie Leroy Babcock, +Isabella Amelia Bafumi, Madeline M Ballou, Madison Nicole Banning-Gorham, Bryce Steven Beuparant, Raymond Jon Beck, Joseph Boulter, Aidan Michael Bowser, ^Samantha M Brubaker, Alyana Marie Burke, +Reagan Leigh Burt, +Ephraim Jacob Butson, +^+Sophia Marie Cahoon, Kydance E Cardillo, Tyler Brian Carrington, David Castiblanco, Alex Joseph Cho, Abigail Christine Chrin, Joshua Thomas Christian- Kent, Nicholas R Chunko, Angelina Mae Clark, Julia Rose Clark, Milo Christopher Cloutier, Ashley E Colegrove, Kevin R Collins, Madeline Rose Crumb, +^+Virginia Margaret Decker, Jonas Michael DeLauro, Devin Joseph DeVeau, Justin Michael Dewhurst, Lehan M Dharmatilake, Salem Joy Didato, *+Daniel Drlik, Sydney Elizabeth Dubos, Sammie Joseph Dugan, Christylee Rose Dus, Michael J Fauvel, *Benjamin David Fazekas, *+Jenna Marie Field, +Matthew C Gallmon, *+Caidyn Olivia Galovich, Savannah Grace Garcia, Mia Concetta Garuti, Evan James Giovanelli, Nathan Raymond Goldner, Alexander Thomas Gordon, Charles Thomas Griswold, Nathan James Oscar Hailey, ^Meaghan M Hall, Maddox Rocco Howland, *+^+Melanie Linda Hurt, Nathaniel Charles Ireland, Antonio Omar Jimenez, Matthew Jacobsen, Brennan A Johnson, Danielle Virginia Johnson, +Georgia Reese Jump, *+Eshani Vivek Karkun, Cody E Keilbach, +Kaleigh Saige Kiernan, David Louis LaFave Jr., Joshua

M Landon, Keith Vernon Lanou, Noelle Orian Lavender, John Gerald Lee, Jarrett David Leith, KayliLynn Levenduski, Sabrina Maleria Lisboa, George William Magaldi, Ethan Tanner Markward, Macy Pauline Marozzi, ^Kate Elizabeth Marshall, Sophia Eva-Marie Martin, Kai B Milewski-Mason, +Brianna Elizabeth Miller, Shawn Victor Minor, +Jewel Elizabeth Miranda, +Thomas George Morton, *+Jenna Michele Murphy, *+Jordan Elizabeth Murphy, Grace Lilith Nichols, Benjamin Jeffrey Nolan, Cole H Norton, Ryan Patrick O'Sullivan, Savannah Mylie Partridge, Matthew James Penn, Alexis Antoinette Pettine, Coen M Phillips, Lucas David Phillips, James Patrick Quinn, +Mikaela Jade Rich, James Floyd Rigoletti, Aiden Catherine Rine, Austin Michael Rivera, Justin Marcos Robbins, ^Aiden Jace Robichaud, Madelyn Mary Rolland, +Kira Lynn Roloff, Alexa Christopher Ruggiero, Nicolas Robert Ruggiero, Skyler Catherine Salafia, Gavin Tyler Santillo, Joshua Lawrence Sattler, Zachary Schools, Sophia Shellenberger, +Alexander Jacob Sones, Robert James Stanford, *+^+Julia Marie Stone, Abbigale K D Sylvester, Taylor Marie Sylvester, +^+Jaelyn Rain Taylor, Sophia Ray Theobald, *+Shea Michael Thibodeau, Gregory Michael Thomas, Josiah Ramon Torres, Bradley Michael Tracy, Olivia Grace Trumbull, Alexander J Urban, Emily Deborah Vick, Adam Michael Wacht, Oren Michael Wilson, Benjamin Hobbs Wysor

Key: *Top Ten Students, +Ferrigno-Bell Chapter National Honor Society, ^Tri-M

Portland High School Class of 2023

Angelisse Acosta, Victoria Bailey (10)* ^ M, Cole Bates M, Dakota Bell, Rowan S. Bell (10) * # M, Sophie Binezewski, Aiden Bonney, Skyla Brandenburg, Rachel Brown * M, Landry Carroll, Amelia Ciarleglio V (10) * # M, Kacie Clark, Ryan Clarke, Allen Cohen, Harrison Collins * M, Ethan Dean, Kayla Deckelman, William DeYoung, Andrew DiMauro, Faith Doyle (10) * M, Lauren Eckert (10) ^ * M, Ava Evison (10) ^ , Shannon Farley, William Favale, Benjamin Fecteau, Adrian Gonzalez, Ryan Green, Kyle Guibord, Alexander Hair, Amelia Hair M, Olivia Hungerford, Gregory Ives, Tyler Ives, Andrew M. Johnson, Yusuf Kadric, Nathaniel Kagan, Ryan Kerr, Anton Kiwimagi, Camille Kopacz (10) ^ * , Ethan Krasniewski, Joseph LaMalfa, Mckenzie LaMalfa, Lily Larson (10) * M, Annette LeShane ^ * , Ginia Lin (10) #, Nathalie Li-

ranzo, # M, Caymus Lopez, Marley Malanczuk M, Matthew Marquez, Jacob Maruschock, Leah Masal * M, Isabelle McClelland M, Heather McDougall * M, Brandon McPhee, Sean Mearman, Wynitch Michel, Gaspar Miranda-Ajpop #, Mya Mogulnicki * M , Katharine Nedobity, Emelina Pasic, Olivia Porter ^, Natalie Przestrzelski ^ * #, Mia Quesnel, (10)*M , Grace Roche Quirindongo, Ashton Rambarose, Maureen Reyes, Spencer Rosado, Ervin Rosario-Ocana, Leanna Royea, Joseph Rusczyk, Griffin Shafer, Angelina Steele, Madison Szymaszek, Mason Tuttle, Austin Vess, Emma Warsaw M , Gwendolyn Weeden, Joseph Woszczyna, Yu Zhegn.

Key: V = Valedictorian; S= Salutatorian; (10) = Top Ten; * = National Honor Society; ^ = National Technical Honor Society; M = Tri-M Music Honor Society; # = Seal of Biliteracy.

RHAM High School Class of 2023

* Summer Acabchuk, Nathaniel Michael Aguiar, * Rowan Akerlind, Katelyn Michelle Aldridge, Phoebe Rose Allen, Brady William Anderson, Quinn Arnold, Amy Lorraine Aston, Charlotte Frost Atwood, Bridget Holleran Austin, Cameron Grant Avery, Emily Nicole Bakke, Jacob Balula, *@ Grace Lee Baran, Rachel Bartolucci, Neelia Lee Bergeron, * Ally Katheryn Bernier, Abby Billings, * Matthew Edward Bogdan, Sebastian James Buccino, *@ Erik A Buden, Alec A Byrne, * Caelyn Campbell Calhoun, Laineey Cameron, Jack Campbell, * Benjamin Paul Cancellaro, Linnea Grace Carlson, Elyse Marie Catania, Micayla Marie Chicoine, Alyssa Chisholm, * Cecilia Anne Chu, Mark Joseph Chu, Jonah Chudzik, @ Kristen Elizabeth Cieslowski, Benjamin Erik Clate, Cole Burton Lee Claughey, William Thomas Coates, Alaina Marie-Caruso Comtois, Ian Thomas Costello, Peyton Alan Cote, Morgan Kate Cyr, Maxwell Stanley Czarnecki, *@ Alexa Hutchings D'Onofrio, Evan Patrick Davis, Jessica Lane Day, *@ Ava Rosemary Dean, Ally Elaine Deckman, Selena Del Valle, Dannely Ellen Delacruz, *@ Stephanie Yvonne Delaney, Benjamin Deltan, *+Ethan Demosthenous, *+Shealyn Rose Dempsey, *+Christopher Lawson Devine, * Jeremy Dylan Devine, *@ Kadence Gabrielle Dietz, Christian Domenicone, * Mackenzie Lee Donnelly, Bethany Doscher, Caden Duisenberg, Patrick Alexander Dunko, Presten Ryan Duprey, Kyle Jess Eckert, @ Chelsea Maria Egazarian, Drake Enger Everlith, *+ Matthew Robert Fago, *@ Jessica Lynn Fagnoli, * Lauren Ruth Feige, Laura Grace Filosa, Caleb Fitzsimmons, Madelyn J Foote, @+ Samuel Eric Forrest, * Matthew Robert Fraleigh, Matthew Oliver Garneau, Dylan R Gasparini, Joshua Paul Gauthier, Ryan Gauthier, Anastacia Gavrish, Miguel Angel Genung, William Michael Giaccone, Hayden Stanley Gilnack, Jonathan Joseph Goldstein, *+ Bridget Anne Grabski, Matthew Granatini, Madigan Skye Haddock, Ally Hadley, *@ Ella Brynn Hall, * Cooper Finn Halotek, *@ Michael Louis Hamburger, Riley Elizabeth Harrington, *@ Ryan Carlton Heneghan, Davion Hernandez, * Logan Hester, *+ Elisa Margaret Hines, * Nina Caelan Holm, Dustin Hossain, *@ Natalia Andrea Huapaya Rojas, Jenna Lee Humphreys, @ Kaden L Hutchins, Xavier Mattia Ingenito, Zachary Ingle, * Konrad Jandzinski, Gregory Stephenson Jordan, @ Garrett Joseph Keleher, * Kinkade Knox-Silvia, Dylan Alexander Kollar, Simon Koonankeil, Evan Jay Kreidler, Justin Neil Krom, Brady Eastham Lalonde, Jared Rich-

ard Langevin, *@ Anna Elizabeth Lavenburg, Ethan David Lessard, Bradley Andrew Lim, Christopher John Lombardi, Shannon Lee Lowell, @ Jack Patrick Luby, *@ Megan Grace Luby, *@ Emma Julia Maguire, *@ Brynn Delaney Maleryn, Hadley Anne Marchand, Michael Marques, Chase Michael Massey, Cameron McDonald, David Mlodzianowski, *@ Isabelle Marie Mondo, Harrison Lee Moorcroft, Julia Lynn Mrachek, Ciara Morgandy Murray, * Madelyn Elizabeth Murray, *@ Grace Catherine Neumuth, *+ Max H Nylan, Paige O'Brien, Halie Ann Oman, Sofia Loren Orama, *@ Abigail Amber Pace, Rylie Ann Panico, * Jake Norman Pantelone, Lilah Mae Patrizz, *@ Sophia Suzanne Peeling, *+Areana Rosalind Petraiulo, *@ Cole James Pilkington, *@ David Pineda, *@ Ethan Claude Polochanin, Luke Edward Polowitz, Thomas Eric Puetzer, Samera Raza, Sonia Lynn Remesch, Emma Jean Rhodes, Michael Angel Rivera, Cameron Talcott Rhodes, * Aiden Gregory Rizzotti, Kodack Gabriel Rodriguez, Kylee Emma Rodriguez, Ethan Rosa, Bella Rae Rose, Julian Emerson Scott, Maxwell Joseph Sementa, Samuel Senes, + Daniella Shani, Destiny Cecile Simkowski, Jacob Magnus Skoog, Hunter James Slayton, Cadance Smith, Brinna Chevelle Smith-Brock, Jayce Spencer, Samantha B Spinelli, Ariana Mia Isabel St. Onge, Gage Michael Stacey, Jenna Mae Stankiewicz, * Holden Thomas Sullivan, Olivia Rayne Swearengen, + Zackary Philip Syme, *+ Daniel Frank Tamburro, Matthew Dennis Tarallo, Emily Elizabeth Tavolieri, Vincent John Terlecki, Griffin C Thomson, Margherita Maria Tominovich, Logan Alexander Topulos, Winter Grace Torres, Julius Thomas Totten, Connor Townsend, Nassere Townsend, Roan Joseph Trzaskos, Mia Angelina-Francesca Tyler, Zachery Verona, Sydney Brooke Viccaro, *@ Maria Felicitas Villanueva, + Anthony M Viveiros, *@ Carson Mark Waddell, *@ Sophie Nollaig Walsh, *+ Nina Wang, @ Tiffany Marie Warren, *@ Chloe Lorelai Weathers, @ Olivia Grace Weingarten, Sarah West, *@ Grace Kelly Whitmore, Nathaniel Winman, Ryan W Woods, *@ Autumn Skye Worthen, * Anthony Andrew Wursthorn, Aidan Thomas Zern, Elijah E Zickefoose, Samara K Zigmund, *@ Diana Marie Zito

Key: # Valedictorian, ## Salutatorian, * Member of National Honor Society in good standing, @ Green cord/100 or more hours of community service, + Enlisted in the Military/ROTC, ^ AP Capstone Diploma Candidate



Obituaries

Colchester

Erin Marie Pelletier

Erin Marie Pelletier, 40, of Norwich, formerly of Colchester, passed away suddenly Saturday, June 17, while camping at Hopewell Pond State Park. Born Jan. 8, 1983, in Manchester, she was the daughter of Michael and the late Kimberly Pelletier of Colchester.



Erin was a 2001 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester. In recent years she worked for Bob's Discount Furniture in Taftville and worked for a time as a visiting CNA for private residences in the Colchester area. She was an avid fan of music and enjoyed music festivals. Her family often joked that you would hear Erin coming before you saw her because of how loud she was playing her music as she pulled up in her car.

She had a contagious smile, held a deep appreciation for nature, and loved to go camping. However, her greatest joy in life came from being a devoted mother to her two daughters Kaelyn and Alenah whom she loved and treasured.

She is survived by her partner, Anthony Cohn; her children Kaelyn and Alenah; father, Michael Pelletier; sister, Heather and her husband Michael Festa; nephews, Michael and Anthony Festa; and numerous extended family and friends.

She is predeceased by her mother, Kimberly Pelletier.

The family is taking some comfort in knowing that Erin has helped save the lives of others through organ donation.

Calling hours will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., on Monday, June 26, from 10 a.m.-noon, followed by a noon chapel service.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Lung Association at www.lung.org.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

David H. Kelsey

David Howard Kelsey, 90, of East Hampton, husband of the late Marianne (Fitzpatrick) Kelsey, passed away Thursday, June 8, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late Howard and Greta (McDaniels) Kelsey.



David retired as senior vice president and treasurer of Farmers and Mechanics Bank, and was a member of East Hampton Board of Finance and director of the WPCA of East Hampton. David was past president of Middletown Rotary Club where he received the Paul Harris Fellow Award, a member of Middletown Exchange Club, a member of Men's Club at Banner Lodge and member of Congregational Church of East Hampton.

He is survived by three sons, David H. Kelsey Jr. and his wife Sandy of Al Dhannah, United Arab Emirates, Daniel S. Kelsey and his wife Susan of South Berwick, Maine, and Dean P. Kelsey and his wife Michele of Monroe, N.C.; one daughter, Kimberly K. Clouser of East Hampton; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Besides his parents and wife, David was predeceased by two brothers, Richard H. Kelsey and John R. Kelsey; one sister, Hazel W. Blackburn; and his son-in-law, Timothy Clouser.

Funeral services and burial will be private. Family and friends may call at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, on Tuesday, June 27, from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in David's memory may be made to the Weiss Hospice Unit c/o Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

East Hampton

Phyllis Woody-Stanchfield

It is with a heavy heart that family of Phyllis E. Woody-Stanchfield shares the news of her untimely passing on Saturday June 17.



Phyllis was born on Sept. 12, 1937, to the late Charles and Alice (Delaney) Kaminske Sr. Prior to her retirement, Phyllis worked in the regional laundry at Connecticut Valley Hospital.

Phyllis is survived by a daughter, Pamela Woody-Austin and her fiancé Gregory Warzecha of Middletown; a son, Michael and Suellen of Chester; grandchildren, Jessica, James, Kaitlin, Austin, Jason, Kyle Woody; great-grandchildren, Max Veseskis, Nicole, Jocelynn, James Jr. Boe, Darcie Austin, Ernie Noah, Carter Austin-Noah; a sister, Janet and Charles Russell of Portland; step-grandchild, Tyler Warzecha of New Britain; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two sisters and two brothers.

Phyllis enjoyed traveling to Spruce Pine, N.C., in her early years. She also enjoyed spending summers in Maine at Torsy lake and traveling and seeing the world

Phyllis loved her family more than life itself. She loved spending time with family and friends at family cookouts and going on day trips. She would enjoy sitting on the back porch watching her grand and great-grandchildren play while listening to a little country music on the radio.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, June 25, at 6 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Friends may call prior to the service from 4 to 6 p.m. Burial will be held Monday, June 26, at 10:30 a.m. at Lake View Cemetery, East Hampton.

A celebration of life for Phyllis will be held at a later date; the family will post details.

Hebron

Elizabeth Zima

Elizabeth Zima's love of life didn't come to an end with her death. Elizabeth passed away Friday, June 16, at the age of 61, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor her legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

Elizabeth is survived by her two daughters, Kellie and Nicole Zima; son-in-law, Neil Murthy; lifelong partner, Stanley Zima III; and her six siblings, Robin Bishop, Deborah Wilson, Kim Russell, Barbara Haney, Tammy Paggioli and Gary Chapman.

She will forever be remembered for her sense of humor and feisty zest for life. Elizabeth was a beloved mother, sister, aunt and friend to many.

Elizabeth grew up in Connecticut and spent the last several years in Orange Beach, Ala., surrounded by a group of women she loved dearly.

To honor our mother's wishes, ceremonies will be private.

Elizabeth loved the beach, especially the New England coast. Donations can be made in her honor to the Charlestown Land Trust, at www.charlestownlandtrust.org/donate.html.

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TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH MARLBOROUGH SUSTAINABLE TEAM NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUM

The Town of Marlborough Sustainable CT Team will hold a Public Forum on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive for a Community discussion on:

- Food Security Impacts on Marlborough
- Community Food Action Plan
- Community Pollinator & Vegetable Gardens
- Reduce Waste by Home Composting

Dated at Marlborough, CT this 10th day of June, 2023.
MARLBOROUGH SUSTAINABLE CT TEAM

2TB 6/16, 6/23

TOWN OF HEBRON TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

Taxes levied on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 become due and payable on July 1, 2023. Real Estate tax bills of less than \$250, Personal Property tax bills, and Motor Vehicle tax bills shall be due in a single installment on July 1, 2023. Real Estate tax bills over \$250 shall be due and payable in two equal installments on July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024.

Taxes received/postmarked by **August 1, 2023** will be considered timely. Payments received/postmarked August 2nd or later will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month or 18% annually from the due date in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes. Initial interest starting August 2nd is 3% of outstanding taxes with a minimum of \$2.00 per tax account. **State Statutes dictate that failure to receive a bill does not invalidate amount due.**

Please make checks payable to: **Town of Hebron**. Payments may be mailed to: **Tax Collector, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248-0134**. A secured drop-off box is located on the lower level, south side of the building for payments. Please see the town's website www.hebronct.com for on-line payment options. The Collector's office is located in the lower level of the Town Hall at 15 Gilead Street. Our hours are Monday to Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Tax and Assessor's Offices will close from 12:30 to 1:15 Monday - Thursday for lunch to accommodate a reduction in staff.

Respectfully,
Adrian MacLean
Hebron Revenue Collector

3TB 6/23, 7/7, 7/28

CLASSIFIEDS PAY
in The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

Email your Classified Line Ad to admin@glcitizen.com & call with your credit card no.

- ❑ \$10.00 per week for 25 words or less in *The Glastonbury Citizen*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ❑ \$9.00 per week for 25 words or less in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ❑ \$18.00 per week combination rate, 20¢ for each additional word for insertion in both the *Citizen* and the *Bulletin*.

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tcmemorials@aol.com

Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.

The Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home
Family and Staff are honored to provide full services to all denominations with attention to every detail.

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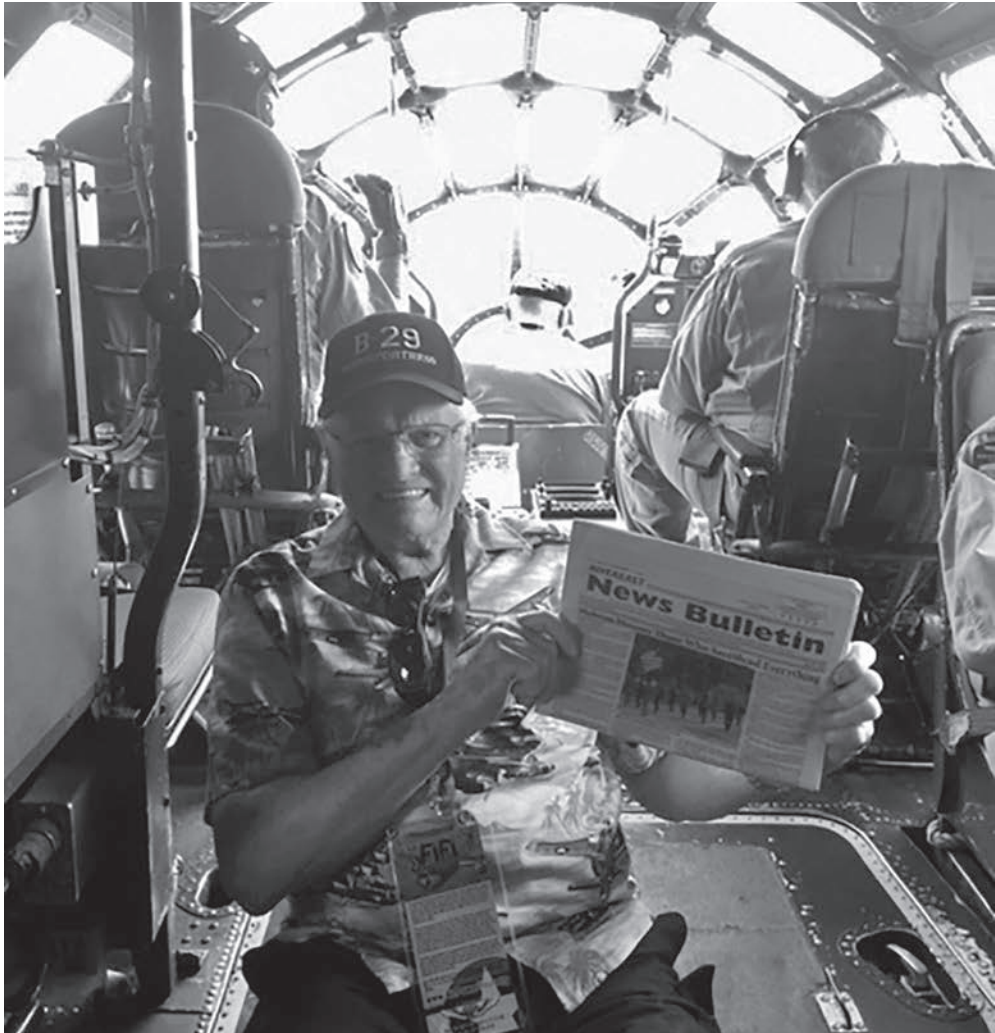
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B-29 Bulletin... East Hampton resident Bob Jones brought the *Rivereast* with him in a B-29 about a mile high.

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.



A Wonder-ful Time... East Hampton High School Class of 2023 graduating senior Kai Milewski-Mason went to Chichén Itza, one of the new seven wonders of the world, during spring break. She is pictured at left with her mom Mary Milewski, in front of El Castillo, an ancient Mayan pyramid at the center of the 1,500-year old archaeological site.



Brunching with the Bulletin... Sue and James McGann of Colchester recently brought the *Rivereast* with them on their first-ever trip to New Orleans. They celebrated their 49th anniversary at a Jazz Brunch at the famous Muriels Jackson Square Bistro, where the jazz band serenaded the two with a song. It was a wonderful trip, they said. Happy anniversary, Sue and James, from all of us at the *Rivereast*!



London Calling... Teddy Kenney and his wife Brittany recently returned from a trip to Ireland and London. They were able to attend the coronation of King Charles III, and then did sightseeing around the London, admiring the architecture. They're shown here on the street in front of Westminster Abbey during the king's coronation.

**Where
in the
World?**

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

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

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

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The members of the RHAM High School Class of 2023 file to their seats on the school softball field last Thursday, as they begin their graduation ceremony.

★ RHAM Seniors, cont. from page 1 community.

"I'd like to thank each and every faculty member of RHAM High School and Middle School," Frank Tamburro said. "I don't think you could get a better education at any private school."

Christina Tamburro expressed that she was "very proud" of her son.

"It's bittersweet to be honest," she said. "We had three children go through this school system; it has been nothing but outstanding."

She continued, "We chose to send our kids here because we felt it was going to be an outstanding experience and we were right. You don't get that kind of experience without the administration's support."

Tamburro will attend the Ivy League school of Brown University in the fall, majoring in applied math, which he hopes to utilize to help the environment.

Salutatorian Nina Wang, of Hebron, praised the class for persevering through numerous challenges during their high school years. Along with joyous occasions, students dealt with on-line learning and a newfound effort to increase diversity and equity awareness.

"Through it all, we have remained strong, determined and united," she said during her speech.

Wang urged her fellow graduates to pause and remember this moment.

"Look at the faces around you, the friends and classmates who've walked this road with you for years, some since childhood, and etch this feeling into your memory."

Even though Wang was new to the school district her freshman year, she said she formed valuable relationships with her classmates who became her closest friends. RHAM, she said, taught her to truly appreciate those bonds.

Still, it's time for a new chapter.

"We all have our own stories to write and I could not be more proud of that," she said. "I look forward to seeing what amazing things we will accomplish someday, what great stories we'll have and I hope that you'll remember where you came from, the experiences and relationships that shape who you are and who you'll become."

To end her remarks, Wang quoted poet and playwright Oscar Wilde — "Live! Live the wonderful life that is in you! Let nothing be lost upon you. Be always searching for new sensations. Be afraid of nothing."

Wang will attend UConn in the fall on a presidential scholarship. She will be majoring in finance, but is leaving the door open to a potential double major with either linguistics, political science or Chinese. Her goal is to graduate a year or two early and then possibly pursue an MBA or get into law school.

Tamburro gave a second speech, this time as the class valedictorian.

While many students may have felt stretched thin during the year, it's important to remember how far the Class of 2023 has come to arrive at this moment.

"In these classrooms, we've learned a wealth of knowledge far beyond what we could've hoped to understand on our own," he said. "Our eyes have been opened to a whole world of possibility. In these classrooms, we've had the honor to work with some of the most supporting and caring teachers we could've hoped to encounter; in these classrooms, we have been here for each other."

Life is a crazy, wild adventure, Tamburro continued. What makes the journey worth the effort, is the people. Everyone, he said, has individuals in their lives who love them, support them and believe in them. Whether a teacher, parent or mentor, students should not forget those influences.

"These people are what make the human experience human — keep them close and hold them tight," he asserted.

Moving forward, he urged the class to always

celebrate those special people.

"As we prepare to step out into the world, I only hope we can remember to enjoy the ride and to cherish the people."

The guest speaker for the evening was Michelle Nicholson, the owner of the Flour Girl Bakery and Café. She is a Hebron resident of nine years, a mother of three, who earned a master's degree in business and marketing from Salve Regina University.

Her message mainly centered around community, and how Hebron invested in her business.

She pushed back on the quote, "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life." She disagreed — "When you do what you love; when you find that goal, that dream — you will work harder than you have ever worked on anything in your life."

For her, the community support made her effort manageable, something that will resonate with the graduates.

"Today, when your family tells you how much this day means to them, I believe that you will also understand, just as I have, that it wasn't really work at all," Nicholson said.

The Senior Chorus performed Elton John's "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" in the middle of the ceremony. Beyond the music, the atmosphere of the event was energetic, and at times rowdy.

Some audience members shot off confetti sporadically throughout the evening. Others deployed air horns and cowbells. As the class roll was read, the fire trucks in the background would occasionally offer a "salute" through sirens and horns.

Even the graduates had fun, tossing beachballs around by the end of the ceremony.

Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara officially presented the Class of 2023, instructing the students to move their tassels from right to left.

His first year leading the district went by "amazingly fast," he told the Rivereast. After 27 years involved in education, graduation ceremonies are still some of the proudest moments.

"It's been a great year; obviously we've had some ups and downs — it's a great place," he said. "It's the reputation of RHAM that motivated me to be interested in this position. I've known about this district for years and it has lived up to everything I heard about it."

He highlighted many aspects of the district, but one stood out the most.

"The strength of the school and the community is the people," he expressed. "There's incredibly great kids, amazingly talented and dedicated staff and parents who are supportive."

McNamara explained how handing out the diplomas is a "cool experience." Some students, he said, are excited and beaming when they reach the stage. Others, are more nervous.

"When I'm up there, I'm just trying to talk them through or talk them down a bit if they're anxious," he said. "It's the culmination of 13 years of public education. It's what they've been working for and it's the start of a new beginning."

Like the family and community members in attendance, McNamara was also impressed with Tamburro and Wang.

"They're obviously incredibly strong students but just really well-rounded, good kids," he said. "Dan is a kid who I've seen and enjoyed performing in the high school for the past year."

He was also moved by Wang's speech and believes that her future is promising.

"She's up there talking and I'm thinking about what an amazing experience she has had and how many doors are going to be available to be opened up for her because of everything she has done to get herself into that position — it's amazing."

The graduation procession began with the school's daisy chain tradition. The top students of the junior class serve as an honor guard, leading the seniors onto the field and acting as a transition from one graduating class to the next one.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, June 29, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School Community Room located at 25 School Drive.
a. APPLICATION #Z-04-23- Greylock Property Group, LLC, (applicant), Terramuggus LLC (property owner), 163 North Main Street, Amendment to Zoning Map from Resident (R) to Floating Zone Design Multiple Resident Zone (DMR).
Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building /Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.
Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 6/16, 6/23



LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ATTENTION ALL TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of East Hampton taxpayers that taxes for real estate, personal property and motor vehicles levied on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 are due and payable on July 1, 2023. The last day on which to pay without penalty is August 1, 2023. Real estate and personal property taxes are based on a temporary mill rate of 34.66 mills which equates to \$34.66 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed value. Motor vehicle tax is based on the state mill rate cap of 32.46 mills. Tax bills are mailed on June 28, 2023.

Taxpayers will receive an additional bill for the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes with the permanent mill rate in December 2023. It is likely the permanent mill rate will differ from the temporary mill rate resulting in the second installment being different than the first.

Late payments will be subject to interest penalty at the rate of 1 1/2% per month or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 145 and 146. Payments legibly postmarked by the USPS on or before August 1, 2023 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Tax Office. Payments received August 2, 2023 or later, and payments received without postmark are considered past due. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes and interest charges should the tax become delinquent.

Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting www.easthamptonct.gov Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Respectfully,
Kristy L. Merrifield, CCMC
Collector of Revenue

3TB 6/23, 7/7, 7/21

WEST ROAD EMERGENCY TOWER LAND CLEARING TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for the WEST ROAD EMERGENCY TOWER LAND CLEARING PROJECT will be received by the Town of Marlborough by hard copy at the Issuing Office until 10:00 AM local time on Monday, June 26, 2023. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum as indicated in the Bid Form. The project is clearing trees and ground vegetation as shown on the plan.

Bidding Documents are available for free download from the Town Website Marlboroughct.net and in the Town Clerk's Office. Issuing Office is: Town Clerk's Office, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut (860-295-6200). Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents from the Town Web Site or at the Issuing Office during Town Hall hours of operation.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM local time on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at Fire House #2 located at 200 West Road. Pre-bid conference attendance is encouraged but is not mandatory. The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Surety Company shall be licensed in the State of Connecticut and listed on IRS Department Circular 570. A Payment Bond and Payment of Prevailing Wage Rates will not be required unless Contract amount is equal to or greater than \$100,000. Bid Bond is not required. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed. All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver the Contract and furnish a valid Certificate of Insurance with full policies, and Performance Bond to the Town prior to the start of any work. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.

This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town. The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.

This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.

The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply. Owner: Town of Marlborough, Connecticut
Amy J. Traversa, Interim Town Manager

2TB 6/16, 6/23

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

All persons liable to pay taxes to the Town of Marlborough as levied on the October 1, 2022 Grand List which includes Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle, are hereby notified that the first installment is due July 1, 2023 and will be delinquent August 2, 2023. The second installment will be due January 1, 2024 and delinquent February 2, 2024. Delinquent bill will be subject to interest of one and a half percent a month reverting to the due date or 18% a year.

Minimum interest is \$2.00. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the interest or tax. If you do not receive a bill, please check online at marlboroughct.net, bill lookup or contact the Tax Office. Tax bills \$800.00 or less are due in one installment. Bills over \$800.00 are due in two installments. The Mill Rate for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year is 34. 73.

Tax payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, placed in the DROPBOX at Town Hall, in person at the Tax Collector's Office during normal business hours or, paid online www.marlboroughct.net with Mastercard, Visa or ACH.

Tax Collector hours are:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara C. Murray
Tax Collector

3TB 6/23, 7/7, 7/21

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTION

The Andover Planning & Zoning Commission took the following action at their meeting held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023:

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:
Application of the Town of Andover, for a Special Permit to construct a Community Center at 25 School Road, install parking and perform associated site work. Conditions address stormwater management concerns, lighting requirements, lot coverage, and traffic circulation.

Details of the above-reference application can be found on the Town of Andover's web-site (andoverct.org) under Boards and Commissions/Elected/Documents.

Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

1TB 6/23

LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

1. **Petition 2023-02** – Petition of the Hebron Lions Agricultural Society requesting Special Permit approval for a Temporary Liquor Permit on September 7th thru 10th, 2023, under Section 5.0.3 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, premise located at 347 Gilead Street, R-1 District. Continued from June 13, 2023.

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 14th day of June, 2023.

Natalie Wood, Chair

Planning and Zoning Commission
Jun 27, 2023, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New_York)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on June 16 and June 23, 2023

2TB 6/16, 6/23

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that tax bills on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 are due and payable on July 1, 2023. Real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes are due and payable on July 1, 2023. Real estate taxes of more than \$100.00 may be paid in two equal installments, July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024.

The Town of Colchester does not have an approved budget for FY 2023-2024. Therefore, at this time you are receiving the tax bill based on last year's rate. Once the budget is approved, you may receive an ADJUSTED TAX BILL for any increase to the budget, which reflects the approved mill rate. Additionally, the Town of Colchester this year will be mailing the 2nd Real Estate Installment.

If any tax due on July 1, 2023 is not paid on or before August 1, 2023, the tax installment shall be delinquent and interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2 % per month) shall be charged dating back to the original due date of the bill. Taxes that become delinquent on August 1, 2023 shall be charged delinquent interest for the months of July and August, 2023, or 3%. The minimum interest charge for delinquent taxes is \$2.00.

Taxpayers who did not receive a bill should contact the Tax Office immediately. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. Taxpayers may access tax bill information and pay on-line from the homepage of the Town of Colchester website at www.colchesterct.gov and clicking the "View and Pay Tax Bills" link under Online Services – fees apply.

Avoid waiting in long lines by paying on-line under Online Services, return your payment by mail or use our night drop box located to the left of Colchester Town Hall's entrance. If a receipt is desired, please send a self addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before August 1, 2023 will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30p.m. on August 1, 2023, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late.**

Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector. Checks may be mailed to the Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.

Michele Wyatt, CCMC
Town of Colchester
Tax Collector

3TB 6/23, 7/7, 7/21

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markk.realestate@gmail.com

CIT3-23-23

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WANTED TO BUY

LOOKING TO BUY: exercise bike with a seat on it. Call John 860-237-9072.

WANTED TO BUY: your loose and bulk change, pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and silver coins. Also wanted silverware or any item made of sterling silver. Cash paid on the spot. Will make house calls. Call/text Dom, 860-866-5013.

WANTED TO BUY: your loose and bulk change, pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and silver coins. Also wanted silverware or any item made of sterling silver. Cash paid on the spot. Call or text Dom 860-836-5013.

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REG-23-23

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REG-18-21

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TOWN OF HEBRON TRUCK DRIVER / MAINTAINER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Town of Hebron is seeking candidates for the position of Truck Driver/Maintainer in the Public Works Department. Applicant must have a CDL Class A or B license. Must have a minimum of a High School Diploma or GED. Three years of truck driving experience including snow plowing and public works operations or an equivalent combination required. Experience should also include working with heavy trucks and heavy equipment. Applicant must be available nights and weekends during winter months. Must be able to pass a complete physical examination and pre-employment drug test. This is a bargaining unit position. Letters of interest or resumes should be mailed along with a Town of Hebron employment application to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by July 14, 2023. Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

1TB 6/23

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Please email resume to:
info@colchesterdentalgroup.com or mail to:
PO Box 193, Colchester, CT 06415

REG-23-23

Drivers Wanted

Attention To Detail is looking for drivers to pick up and deliver cars to and from car dealers.

Part time position.

If you are interested in this position please come to our facility in Middletown, CT to fill out application.

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195 Dekoven Drive
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CIT12-10-20

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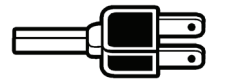
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