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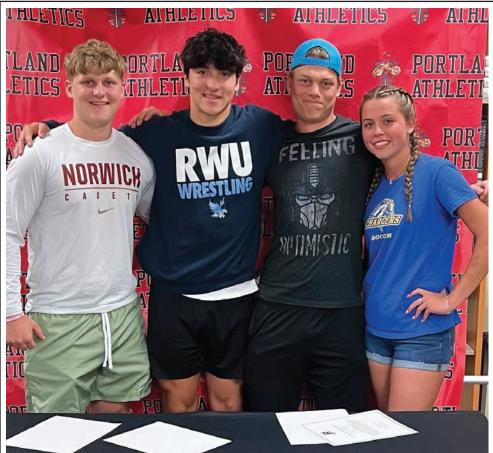
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Volume 47, Number 21

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

June 9, 2023



Happy Highlanders...On June 2, four Portland High School student-athletes committed to play sports in college. From left, Allen Cohen (Norwich University - football), Andrew Johnson (Roger Williams University - wrestling), Alex Hair (Worchester Polytechnic Institute - football), and Mia Quesnel (University of New Haven - soccer) each signed letters of intent in front of family and friends during a ceremony at Portland High School.

Budgets Controversially Head to Referendum

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester residents appeared to defeat two motions during the annual town budget meeting last week that would've sent both the 2023-24 municipal and school budget proposals to referendum.

Registered Colchester voters packed the cafeteria at William J. Johnston Middle School on May 31, overwhelmingly opposing both spend-

The municipal budget was defeated by a 114-33 tally; the school budget didn't get past a voice vote, where the "nos" clearly carried.

The significance of those results and the legitimacy of the motions has generated controversy and confusion in town, as residents remain perplexed as to what happens next.

Throughout the town meeting, elected officials and community members debated the town charter, with some claiming that the budgets could be denied by the voter, equating a "no" vote to rejecting the budgets and preventing them from going to a town-wide referen-

Others quoted directly from the town charter and a legal opinion provided by the town attorney, which claimed that the body of residents that night had no authority to reject the budgets; instead, the referendum would take place regardless of what occurred at the town meet-

ing.
"I don't think this has ever happened before," First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos told the Rivereast immediately following the meeting. "It's kind of like uncharted territory."

The next morning, after consulting with town attorney Matthew Ritter, from Shipman and Goodwin LLP, Bisbikos stated that the motions made not to recommend either budget at the town meeting were "invalid" and "contradictory" to the town charter.

The town will be moving forward with a referendum scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023,"

On Wednesday morning, Colchester Town Clerk Gayle Furman confirmed to the Rivereast that a referendum is in fact taking place next week at Town Hall.

Furman said she couldn't find any record of budgets ever being rejected at a town meeting.

The school board's budget is slated at \$43.68 million — a \$1.65 million, or 3.9%, increase over the current year. Municipal spending is billed at \$15.63 million — around \$10,000 more than current year spending. The mill rate would be 27.22, a .4 increase.

Leading up to the town meeting, there was considerable debate as to what was allowed to happen at a town meeting. The Board of Selectmen advanced both proposals to a town meeting itself, but several members suggested that they would be in favor of modifying the spending plans in hopes of either increasing or even rejecting the proposals.

The town charter states that at a town meeting, voters may "reduce, but not increase" the municipal or school budget upon the passage of a "proper motion." Then, the town meeting is "automatically continued" to the referendum.

Selectman Denise Turner reached out to Ritter a week before the town meeting, seeking See Budgets Head to Referendum, page 3

Top Two RHAM Students Reflect

By Michael Sinkewicz

Daniel Tamburro and Nina Wang — the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the RHAM High School class of 2023 — are both excited for the future and grateful for the memories they collected at 85 Wall Street.

In an interview with the Rivereast this week, they reflected on their school days, and discussed what lies ahead.

Spoiler — both will graduate with GPAs above 5.0 and are undoubtedly destined for sweeping accomplishments.

For now, reality hasn't exactly set in; there's still a week left to accept that high school is indeed coming to an end.

'That's going to hit me in a way that's hard to understand," Tamburro expressed. "It's interesting to feel that we're a part of history right now." The emotions? Mostly bittersweet.

"It'll probably hit me when I'm walking across e next week and I might start crying afterward," Wang said. "It's a new chapter of all our lives and I hope that we'll all have great sto-

Both students sought academic success and

eyed the distinguished titles as far back as middle school. Specifically, Tamburro recalled making valedictorian a goal in seventh grade was "a way to prove myself and push myself and see how far I could get."Likewise, Wang shared that she comes from an academically gifted family her sister graduated high school a year early. While that was a feat she was unable to match, the next best thing she could identify was finishing at the top of the class.

After numerous AP courses, long papers and exams, they can breathe for a moment, having reached their milestone objective.

The Valedictorian

For many, becoming valedictorian would perhaps be worth bragging about at any given chance. But for Tamburro, the joy of the announcement didn't linger.

"I was elated for a little bit but it kind of wore because this is something that I kind of expected of myself for a very long time," he said. "I always thought that this was the goal and there really wasn't an alternative; I just never thought of anything else in terms of how the outcome

To take it even further, the attention the title brought was certainly never his intent. Instead of boasting — like some would be at least tempted to indulge — Tamburro is quick to point to others who deserve praise and acknowledgement.

"You worry that the recognition is too much because it's not just you," he said. "There's so many people that along the way have helped you. I believe that we're no different than anybody else and it doesn't make us inherently a better person. I think it's just that we decided to value this specific thing in our lives and we were lucky enough to have the opportunities to do that."

He pointed to the support system created by his family.

His grandfather was an Italian immigrant and a tile worker who valued hard work. That mindset was passed along through the generations and rubbed off on Tamburro.

"If it weren't for that, I don't know if I would've had the dedication to get this far," he See Top Two RHAM Students, page 27

Inside... Will 3rd Time Be Charm?.....pg 15 **East Hampton** EHHS Top Two Profiled.....pg 18 BOF Advances Revised Budgetpg 23 Top Scholar-Athletespg 24 Marlborough Housing Proposal Draws Ire.....pg 28 Regional Obituariespgs 32 & 34



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Cover Story • Co

★ Budgets Head to Referendum, cont. from page 1

clarity as to the role of the town meeting and what the citizens' choices were.

"Is the only option for the voters to send the budgets straight to referendum as some are say-Turner asked Ritter. "Or do they have the following options: send them to referendum, reduce them further at the meeting, or reject and send back to the Board of Finance?'

Ritter then forwarded his legal opinion to the entire Board of Selectmen.

"In summary, there is no option in the town charter for the town voters to reject the budget at the annual budget meeting and send the budget back to the Board of Finance," he wrote. "The town charter does allow the town voters to reduce [but not increase] the Board of Selectmen and/or Board of Education budget but it does not allow the town voters to «reject' the budget."

He specifically referenced section C-1105a. E that states that the town meeting "shall be automatically continued to the annual budget referendum, at which the budgets of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education as recommended by the annual budget meeting, shall be presented to the town voters for final approval or disapproval."

For many, including Bisbikos, the legal opinion served as the imperative answer as to how to proceed during the town meeting.

'What's the point of even having this law firm if we're going to ignore their opinions because we have another perspective on it?"

He told residents that the town has always adhered to the counsel of Shipman and Goodman, which is what should occur this time, as well.

"I will not deviate from the charter and I will not deviate from the legal opinion," he said.

Voters cannot "reject" the budgets, he told the Rivereast, which is exactly what they attempted to do at the meeting.

"It's unfortunate that everything turned out the way it did tonight," he said. "I will follow the legal opinion of the town attorney and his opinion is very clear that we will be moving forward to referendum."

While he understood that people are "passionate," there are other ways to object to the town meeting procedure.

"Here's my prediction: I feel that there will be an injunction regardless of how this plays out."

He indicated that a coalition of people will file a lawsuit if the town moves forward with a referendum; a different group would seek legal relief if the budget *doesn't* head to referendum.

"I'm jammed in the middle," he expressed. "It's going to get interesting."

According to the Colchester town clerk, an injunction has not been filed, as of press time.

Residents have listed numerous reasons for opposing the budget proposals. Some simply want additional funding restored to the school budget, others have issues with the way the budgets were prepared and whether information was presented in an accurate manner; the budget numbers were even inexact in the Rivereast

Mike Egan, a member of the Board of Finance, prepared large cutouts for the town meeting, showing that the mill rate calculation may have been off. The town's revenue is currently being listed at \$3.3 million, but his calculations show that it should be \$3.9 million — a \$633,579 difference, which would've brought mill rate to 26.82 - a.04 increase, he said.

"If the numbers are wrong, how can the people have confidence in them?" Egan asserted.

Procedure Debate Dominates

Still, much of the debate at last week's town meeting centered around procedure, rather than the actual budgetary issues.

Selectman Jason LaChapelle said that the town meeting body should be able to reject the budget, but it cannot, according to the charter.

While I agree that it is authority we should have, it's authority we do not have."

He added that the only option is clear — "we send it to referendum."

Two of the most prolific voices during the debate belonged to former state Rep. Brian Smith and Ronald Goldstein, an attorney who formerly served on the Colchester education and finance boards.

Smith was the chairman of the town's original charter commission in 1993 and helped formulate the document that ultimately took effect in

He explained the history of the charter, and the commission's intent with the language regarding the town meeting. The idea, he said, was that the overall body of a town meeting was too small to determine the final outcome of a budget, therefore the phrasing in the charter states that the town meeting will make a "recommendation" to the voters that they can go to referendum to either accept that recommenda-

Nobody thought it was fair for 100 people to choose a budget to govern the lives of 17,000 people, he continued, and "that's why we do it the way we do it."

"What we're supposed to be doing here today is make two recommendations: one — we either recommend the town side budget to the voters or we don't," he said. "We do the same thing with the Board of Ed."

If those gathered at the town meeting don't vote in favor of recommending the budgets, Smith contended, the budgets would not move forward to a referendum.

"The question that we put on our ballot must say 'shall we pass these budgets as recommended by the town meeting," he said. "Therefore, the town meeting must vote to either recommend these budgets or not. We get to vote 'no' and if we vote 'no' on both of these issues, that ballot cannot be printed and it cannot go to referendum."

Goldstein, who was also a member of the charter commission, expressed that "it was very clear from the get-go that the annual budget meeting was to remain a very important part of

He interpreted Ritter's opinion to mean that the town meeting effectively had no power; an incorrect assessment in his own legal opinion.

"As recommended by the annual budget meeting requires an affirmative action of the annual budget meeting and only then do you automatically adjourn," he said, adding that "our practice forever has been for this meeting to have a voice."

Later in the meeting, Goldstein clarified his stance, agreeing that the budget cannot be "rejected," as some people asserted. But, he added, 'What we can do is fail to recommend."

The moderator of the town meeting, John Malsbenden, was asked several times what the procedure of the meeting was, including what a "no" vote represented.

If the motion for either budget is defeated, he said, "it goes back to the drawing board."

He later added that "another figure more than that [budget amount] can come back from the Board of Finance."

Bisbikos interjected, stating that the budget was "not going to go to the Board of Finance; it's going to go straight to a referendum."

'This is Not Governing'

After the meeting, Smith told the Rivereast that "if you live in any town or any place that has a town meeting form of governing and stay there long enough, you're going to see everything," but expressed that "this was unusual for a town budget meeting."

In his opinion, the next steps should involve further deliberations on the budget proposals.

"What I think should happen is that the Board of Finance would meet and take a look at the issues and factual points that people were trying to bring forward and do something about them," he said. "And then there should be another town meeting."

As of now, that outcome seems unlikely.

The meeting was at times contentious, similar to most of the town's budget season. Malsbenden called for civility throughout the night, warning that he didn't "want this meeting to get out of hand."

One Colchester resident told the Rivereast that the meeting felt like a "shell game."

"This feels like nothing but a circus to ensure that the people of this body do not have the power to affect what is happening in our town," Craig Hester said. "I'm so disappointed in what I saw here tonight. This is not governing."

At one point, a motion to adjourn the town meeting — before any budget vote took place was moved. However, residents defeated that motion, avoiding an outcome that might've caused further confusion.

The budget referendum will take place Tuesday, June 13, at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

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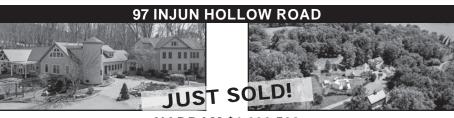
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Veteran readers of my column know that I'm a big fan of musicals - Broadway ones, big-screen ones, even ones on television (if you've never seen Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, folks, remedy that stat. It's on Netflix!).

So I thought I'd devote a little time this week to one that doesn't seem to get a ton of love: the 1982 movie version of Annie.

Over the years, there have been a few different movie adaptations of the late '70s Broadway musical. But the 1982 one – that's the one I grew up with: directed by John Huston and starring Aileen Quinn in the title role, with Albert Finney as Daddy Warbucks.

I recently revisited the movie, and while it's true not every entertainment from my childhood holds up today (I'm looking at you, Head of the Class), I'm glad to say Annie is an exception. I had as much fun watching it as I did watching my family's VHS of it when I was young. Maybe even moreso, since I was able to pick up on the political jokes sprinkled throughout, something I couldn't quite pull off when I was 10.

The songs were, of course, fantastic - well, most of them. There were a couple less-thangreat ones along the way, and I wasn't entirely shocked to find later that those were the songs written especially for the film, and didn't come from the Broadway play. The Broadway ones – such as "Tomorrow," "Hard-Knock Life," "I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here" and the just-about-perfect "Maybe"—were, like I said, fantastic, and really planted themselves in my head.

The film was big-budget all the way, and it

"Big Boy Lumber & Other Cool Guy Stuff?" she inquired.

Bulletin Board

showed with some sumptuous set-pieces. The acting (and, most importantly, singing) was solid across the board - with the standout performance being Carol Burnett's hilarious turn as the evil Miss Hannigan.

I just had a great time watching the film so much so that, when I took to the internet after the movie was over to read more about it (something I often do with movies I enjoy), I was sad to see that, when Annie first came out some 41 years ago, the critics savaged it.

While I enjoyed the lavish feel to the movie, critics thought it was overproduced. I felt the direction was very nice, with creative shots and choreographic decisions along the way, but instead Huston was blasted for not knowing how to shoot a musical. The performances were panned (except for Burnett, who was almost-universally praised as the best part of the movie), the ending was slammed, and in short the whole thing was seen as a misfire. Perhaps the kindest review from the time came from the late Roger Ebert, who wrote, "And yet I sort of enjoyed the movie."

I just don't get the beef. Was Annie perfect? No. For example, as I said, some of the songs written just for the movie were stinkers, and some of the new characters, such as Warbucks' butler Punjab, don't quite work (and to be honest is a little problematic in the year 2023). Yes, the ending is vastly different from the original play; whereas the play features FDR and the Secret Service exposing Rooster and Lilly as frauds and not Annie's parents, the movie has a dramatic chase sequence, with

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Scholarship Presented... Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary members Heidi Moody (right) and Christine Grossman (left) recently presented the Auxiliary's seventh annual scholarship awards to, from left, Christopher DeVine, Kaden Hutchins and Max Nylen. Missing from photo: scholarship recipient Diana Zito.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

School Budget

To the Editor:

You may have heard about raising budgets in towns or cutting teachers to remain within budget but have you ever been in the shoes of a middle school student having the one thing you love stripped away from you in a snap of a finger? That is what these little girls and boys are feeling at JJIS and WJJMS in Colchester. I can tell you from firsthand experience that these kids care about the band not just because they may have a future in it, but because that is where they create relationships with their peers.
Along with other students from my AP U.S. Gov-

ernment class, I attended a Board of Finance meeting on 3/21. At this meeting, I experienced firsthand the love and passion that these kids had for their band classes. There were kids no older than 13 years old stepping up in front of the whole meeting room with instruments in hand expressing their frustrations with the Board of Finance. Colchester's Board of Fi nance is not giving the schools a shot.

The solution to this problem is not as easy said than done but in order to protect the band in Colchester Public schools and teacher cuts, then we need to care more about our schools. People forget how important teachers and extracurricular activities are in a kid's life. I have played sports all through high school so I really haven't spent a lot of time in the band room but I know it is very important to people just like how sports are important to me. As a student-athlete, I couldn't imagine having sports taken away from me just like how the band programs may be stripped from JJIS and WJJMS. As a supporting community, we need to take action and start caring about our future.

> Jack Holmes - Colchester **Bacon Academy 12th-Grader**

Thanks, John and Art

Dear Colchester Residents:

I have served the citizens of this town for many years as a volunteer on the Board of Selectmen (BOŚ) and it's always been my privilege to get to know and work alongside some of Colchester's most incredible public servants. Recently two individuals were recognized by our town for the work that they did and who they are.

John Jones was the honoree on Founder's Day for his long history to our town - whether as an employee, elected official on the Board of Selectmen or for his more than 50 years in the fire department. I so enjoyed the two years he was on the BOS. We sat next to each other. John had his special chair rolled in at every meeting to accommodate his stature. I always appreciated his perspective, his knowledge on an issue and his practical decision making. Founder's Day was followed by a retirement party at the firehouse,

best professional building contractor imitation. She looked like she was trying not to laugh.

"How did you know?"

"I need a 4 x 4 for the grape arbor by the garden," I explained in my most knowing guy voice the voice that says, "I know you have no idea what a 4 x 4 is—go ahead and ask, Little Lady, and the Big Fella might possibly condescend to explain in short, non-technical terms that even you will be able to understand."

She eyed my "official heading out to the hardware store look"—the baseball cap, faded t-shirt,

work boots and jeans with a genuine Stanley measuring tape hooked to my front pocket in my

"You need a 4 x 4?" she said.

"Yep," I said, patting the measuring tape. "It's a timber. Pressure treated."

"I've got to go out for about an hour," I informed my wife Saturday morning.

"Make sure you get the right length this time. The last ones you bought were too short. They're still behind the garage where you tried to hide them."

"They were mismarked," I said. "I swear."

"Maybe I should go with you. I need a couple of overhead lights for the kitchen. Wait a minute and I'll get my pocketbook." The Little Devil who rides on my left shoulder started jumping up and down shrieking, "No!

The Little Angel who occupies my right shoulder said, "Oh, stop it. He needs to be more cooperative." "Cooperative?!" exclaimed Little Devil. "Cooperative?! He's like a little lap dog, he's so coop-

erative. It's pathetic." "Are you kidding me?" retorted Little Angel. "If ever there was somebody that could benefit from a re-education camp, it's him. Why, his own mother warned her years ago that he's basi-

cally untrainable. All he wants to do is lie around and eat potato chips and scratch himself." "Yeah? Who do you think cuts the grass?" said Little Devil.

"Oh, sure. Once a week, if you're lucky, he cuts the grass. Big deal. Who does everything else,

'Pipe down you guys," I said.

"What?" said my wife.

"Nothing," I said. "I was just thinking out loud."

"You remember the last time you were at Big Boy Lumber, don't you?" warned Little Devil. 'Remember that poor guy whose wife was asking his opinion on shower curtains?" He switched to a high falsetto: "Oh, look at this one, honey! Do like this one with the pandas or the one with the little duckies?"

"It was sweet," said Little Angel.

"I was unholy," opined Little Devil. "You know what's going to happen, don't you? She's going to wander into the paint and wallpaper section, spend the rest of the afternoon comparing hundreds of colors which all look basically the same, decide that it's time to repaint or re-wallpaper the entire downstairs of the house and your whole summer is shot."

"Are you all right?" asked my wife.

"Maybe we should take separate cars," I said.

"Don't be ridiculous. You get what you need and I'll pick up the light bulbs and we're out of there. I just want to take a quick look at the paints to see if they have a light gray that would look nice in the dining room."

"There goes your summer," said Little Devil.

"Shut up," said Little Angel.

"You shut up," said Little Devil.

"Helloooo," said my wife. "I said I'm all set."

"Let me just get my keys," I said.

Little Angel said, "That's right. For once you're thinking of someone besides yourself." Little Devil snickered. As we headed out to the car, he started humming the Funeral March.

Jim Hallas

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his home away from home. John, I wish you well in your retirement and thank you for your service and for what you shared as we all worked together on the Board of Selectmen.

Art Shilosky, who served in the Marine Corps, was the grand marshal of this year's Memorial Day Parade. I couldn't think of a better individual to lead our parade. I have best known Art from the four years he was Colchester's first selectman, as I served as his vice chair. Art and I worked side by side daily for our town on all kinds of issues including the senior center. We always found ways to find solutions together for our town and became good friends along the way.

Colchester is a better place because of John and Art. Thank you both.

Sincerely, Rosemary Coyle - Colchester

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

Vote No, Too Low

To the Editor:

At the Colchester town budget meeting last week, we saw democracy in action. The framers of our town charter discussed what they meant when they wrote it, which was not in agreement with the opinion of one lawyer presented by the first selectman. What is the purpose of a town meeting that includes a vote if that vote doesn't matter? The people in attendance again sent a loud and clear message that the proposed town and school budgets are too low. The first selectman ignored the people and pushed forward the proposed budget to referendum.

We are at a tipping point after many years of cutting programs and staff, the proposed budget is too low and we cannot suffer in silence any longer. Vote no, too low, on both budgets Tuesday!

Nicole McKenzie - Colchester

Senior Center Progress Photos

As construction on the new Senior Center progresses, the Senior Center Building Committee in its effort to keep Colchester's citizens informed as to the progress of the construction, has started to post progress photos to its web page on the Town of Colchester website. We will continue to post photos during the construction phase. To see the photos, please go to the Town of Colchester website at www.colchesterct. gov. On the home page, click on Town Services to access the drop-down menu and click on the Senior Center Building Project. Once on that page, click on 'Progress Photos' and you will be able to scroll through the pictures.

To date, the site has been cleared of trees, bushes and shrubbery. Unusable soil has been removed and replaced with structural fill. Building concrete footings have been installed and approximately fifty percent of the concrete foundation walls have been

If you have questions regarding the activities, please forward an email to the Building Committee at: seniorcenterbuildingcommittee@colchesterct.gov

This site is monitored almost daily and someone will answer any questions you may have regarding the construction.

Anthony J. Tarnowski, LEED A.P. Chairman, Colchester Senior Center **Building Committee**

Love Letter to CT

To the Editor:

Thirty-eight years ago, on a snow-covered Christmas Eve I first set my eyes upon the Connecticut River Valley. I was so struck by its natural beauty and the miraculous number of surviving historic structures, I almost couldn't believe it was a real place. So when I commented to my hosts that it was more like a toy town under a Christmas tree which had suddenly sprung to life, they proudly elaborated on Connecticut's early and steadfast commitment to environmental conservation and historic preservation. In other words, the beauty and history I was seeing all around me didn't just survive here by accident. It had survived because enough people in the past had made up their minds that clear water, a beautiful countryside and rich history are truly priceless. They are the valuable, tangible, quality-of-life-enhancing assets

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

Rooster following Annie up a giant ladder; Annie nearly falls, but is rescued by Punjab.

The movie ending is much more actionpacked than it sounds like the play one was (I've actually never seen Annie in play form), but you know what - if you're making a bigbudget version of a play, why not? Having read what the original ending is, I wouldn't mind seeing a movie version of it, but it's not like the ending the film has is a clunker.

Does my fondness for the 1982 Annie have something to do with the fact that, as I said before, I grew up with it? Yeah, I'm sure that plays a part. But mostly, the film just is a lot of fun: the actors are obviously having a ball, the production values are top-notch and, again, the songs are terrific.

So, here's my verdict: If you've never seen Annie, seek it out on streaming or hop down to your local library and see if they have it. The critics in 1982 may not have liked it, but I think you'll have a grand time.

See you next week.

which any community would be grateful to receive. They constitute the kind of irreplaceable riches which ought never be squandered. Because once they have been squandered, you never get them back.

I was recently invited on a tour of the ancient stone walls and pristine, prehistoric fields of Hebron. I have to admit, I didn't expect to find it as compelling as I did. But compelling it is. Because a community gifted it to us. A community long ago. We owe it to them for not squandering the riches we now enjoy. The only question which remains is what kind of community are we? Are we the kind of community who wants to be remembered for our generosity, our foresight, our commitment to protecting and providing for the future residents of this place we so gladly call home? Or are we the kind of community which prefers to be forgotten? Or worse yet, will we be remembered only for what we squandered?

Sincerely and respectfully, Greg Frutchey - East Hampton

Vote Yes in Hebron

To the Editor:

One of the primary reasons we moved to Hebron 13 years ago was the high reputation of the school system. Our schools have produced state and national winners of the Invention Convention, as well as winners of the Future Problem Solvers competition. We have an accredited preschool program that has a phenomenal staff of teachers. We have outstanding teachers and staff at all grade levels who truly care about their students.

I was unable to attend the last BOF meeting, but in the minutes, it was noted that one of the speakers said, "Without a great school system, Hebron has nothing else to offer." Now, we do have a great set of trails for walking, our Parks & Recreation department offers a wide range of programs, we have wonderful local restaurants and ice cream shops, but what really draws families? An outstanding school system.

Unlike one of our neighboring towns, I was glad to hear that our BOF listened to the residents and added some funding back to the Education budget. I've looked through this the last couple of years, and though I'm not a finance major, I don't see any real fluff there. Costs have gone up for everything, and we have more students, so it makes sense that the budget needs to increase as well.

I encourage everyone to be next ballot to pass the budget.

Michael Czepiel – Amston

No, Too Low

To the Editor:

Here's why I am voting 'no, too low' on both budgets on Tuesday, June 13:

The Board of Education budget reductions are drastic and include cuts to Kindergarten, Grade 1, Preschool, Bacon Business, and WJJMS Language teachers in addition to complete elimination of all capital improvements and security upgrades as well as much more.

- The Board of Finance has ignored pleas from voters to increase the BOE budget. The first selectman took away the democratic rights of voters at the town

Warnings, publications, and budget documents have been incomplete and consistently full of errors making it impossible for taxpayers to know what they are actually voting for.

- A significant amount of revenue has been purposefully excluded from projections suggesting that

the first selectman and BOF chair are trying to pad revenue collections. Including it could easily bring education dollars back without affecting the mil rate. Honest calculations would lower the mil rate signifi-

-No 2021-22 town audit has been done. Transfers between town lines are out of control this year and indicative of a spending problem.

The attacks on education and lack of transparency need to be stopped.

Please vote no, too low on both budgets on Tuesday. Be sure to not only 'vote no' but please remember to mark both advisory questions as 'too low' as well. This will send the message that BOF needs to hear. Polls will open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in Town Hall.

Respectfully, Monica Swyden - Colchester

Note: Swyden is chair of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee but said she is speaking as an indi-

Quality Education is Essential

A quality public school education is essential in our community, and having excellent educators is where we need to begin to have success in our school systems. As the school year ends, Connecticut's teacher shortage continues to worsen. The Connecticut Education Association explains how working conditions and salaries are making it more difficult to hire new teachers. At the start of the year there were 1,200 vacant positions in the state of Connecticut. This problem continues as teachers leave midway through the year because they don't feel appreciated due to their

Over 43,000 teachers in Connecticut said that they have not received enough compensation for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic; they have not been acknowledged for their work. Factors such as low salaries, challenging work environments, and lack of support and resources have contributed to a decline in the number of individuals choosing teaching as a profession. In Connecticut, 74% of teachers polled, considered leaving their profession which is up from 37% two years prior.

The consequences of this shortage are detrimental to the children's educational experience. Overworked teachers can struggle to give individual students attention which can result in lower academic performance and achievements.

Addressing the teacher shortage requires collaboration between board members, schools, and the community in order to work toward improved salaries and provide more opportunities. Teachers play a crucial role in nurturing individual students and deserve respect and recognition. Without this, young individuals will not pursue teaching as a career

Olivia Carnelli - Colchester

BOF Suppresses Voices

To the Editor:

The Board of Finance's agenda stated there would be no public comments heard at the June 6 special Board of Finance meeting that discussed the budgets. Why are they suppressing our voices? With a referendum that has failed once, how do they know what the community is asking for without hearing public comments?

Receiving a 'no, too low' means what to the BOF? What does a 'no, too low' actually mean to the residents? It sounds as though the elected officials are not representing the East Hampton community. Again.

Tania Sones - East Hampton

Public Servant Problem

To the Editor:

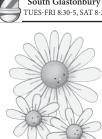
Paid and volunteer public servants should not have to defend themselves or their actions. This underscores two problems with the current administration. Actions by various board members have elicited dramatic and/or litigious responses, and board members too often apparently feel threatened by questions or comments and respond defensively. The first selectman personifies these flaws.

The process of running the town is complex, but should be manageable. In public sessions a lot of give and take is expected among board members and between the board and the public. Naturally, many people, especially those with the passion to be involved, have different opinions and suggestions for how to accomplish the ends under discussion. Discussion is constructive, but it can also be obstructive, even toxic. This is especially true when the discussions are of a fiscal nature. The current budget donnybrook is out of all proportion with sensible governance.

The Republican conservatives on the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen have displayed willful disdain for the citizens of Colchester. Despite many voices deriding the current education budget, their fiscal agenda is driven by allegiance to less than a quarter of the voters. Those voters are unsympathetic to the majority of citizens, but hew to a con-

See Letters, page 6





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★ Letters cont. from page 5

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servative agenda that pares down all discussion to a simplistic notion of having low taxes. Of course, we would all like to pay less, but most of us realize that a livable town requires expenditures.

Voters elect fellow citizens for the various boards in the expectation that they will represent us faithfully: all of us. The citizenry should be able to trust that their officials are doing that. The officials should act in a manner that serves the general public, exhibits integrity and embodies trust. The Bisbikos boards do none of that.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Bacon Academy Field

To the Editor: The field down at Bacon Academy has had quite a bit of green lately. The problem has risen throughout the spring and is causing fields across the town of Colchester to fill up with large droppings. As a senior athlete at Bacon, I have played through the rough field conditions whether it is from the geese, or just the bumpy dirty grass field. I want to make the field conditions more suitable for future athletes who pass though Bacon, and as the goose population has taken a substantial growth over the past decade due to protective measures put into place in the 1900s, Ca-

Daily

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nadian Geese have started to take over parts of Connecticut - where there is the right combination of water, cover, and grazing areas. This can be found more specifically in Colchester with the Lions Pond located near the middle school field, and in close proximity to the high school field.

One strategy which is inexpensive, non-lethal, and a fairly simple option that may tackle the issue would be visual frightening. Items including cardboard coyotes, hawks, foxes, snakes, raccoons or scarecrows can be used to help prevent geese from flying into our recreational and varsity fields. These have been used at many golf courses, and at nearby Ledyard

High School fields to prevent geese from flying in. To make sure that this tactic is effective, the deterrents may need to be moved once or twice a week to ensure that the geese do not catch on to the placement of the statutes. Another option could be "Do Not Feed the Waterfowl" signs in areas such as Lions Pond, which is located near the middle school fields and in close proximity to the Bacon Academy fields as well. If we prohibit the feeding, less birds will not only be attracted to these locations but also will not make them want to stay in the area.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Anna LeGault - Colchester

Value Our Teachers

As a Bacon Academy student who values their education, I find it important to speak on the teacher shortage. For years the amount of teachers has declined and since the COVID-19 pandemic those numbers have only grown. Many reports have shown that the reason for this decline is due to low pay and mistreatment of teachers. Since the pandemic, 60% of teachers have reported being burned out, compared to 44% of other workers. It is important to take into consideration that when students are struggling, so are teachers. I believe, to combat this issue we must place more value on our teachers. To achieve this we can increase pay to subjects who are consistently lacking in teachers, like math, sciences, and special education. Other states have agreed to help pay for bachelor's degree or master's degree in exchange for agreeing to teach. Without value placed on our teachers there is no value placed on our students' educa-

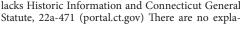
Teachers are forced to accommodate for the increase in students misbehavior and some reports say they are up by 84%. Teachers have also had to innovate their technology since COVID-19. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when schools were closed, teachers had to create new lesson plans on the spot. Since the pandemic, teachers have burned out from the lack of support provided to them. Teachers' pay has stayed stagnant, while the cost of a four-year degree has nearly doubled. Teachers are shaping the next generations yet they are not treated as such.

Layla Meekins - Colchester

Pollution is Divisive

When Horton heard the "hoo" on a dust puff, on a clover flower top, what did he do? He listened. When the residents surrounding the Raymond Brook Watershed, in Amston, cried out, who listened? William Warzecha listened, volunteering his time and his hydrogeology expertise. Lissette Stone listened. In her Aug. 8, 2022, letter Ms. Stone explained that her branch of DEEP does not handle fractured bedrock aquifers. Hebron's Green Committee listened. These letters, and more, are posted on Save Hebron Center, Facebook. Hebron's Small Town Economic Assistance report, 2003, listened, suggesting hydrogeology studies, to insure local well waters were protected. (see

portal.ct.gov) Hebron's DPW Survey appears ready to go, but it lacks Historic Information and Connecticut General



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nations about bedrock aquifers, local wells or well water remediation for neighborhoods on Kinney, Millstream, lower 207 and parts of Church. There is no information regarding Public Works' monthly use of water. Or the amount of water at Amston Lake. Or if this "abundance of water" can actually meet all the requirements for the proposed construction, the PW, and watershed households, especially during droughts? (Rivereast 3/11/22)

The Hoos, down here in Hoo-ville, are jumping and shouting. They see the ominous shadows of large boots about to squash them. Their pleas fall on deaf ears. Deaf ears that complain about a nation that is divided. (BOS 6/1/23)

Thomas Frank and Jane Mayer flood my mind. But if Town Hall cannot handle bedrock fractures and gravity, then dark money and backlash divisions are, understandably, still too abstract. Sometimes it's easier believing the bamboozle than listening to the experts and so, divided, we carry on.

Rebuild on Old Colchester Road. Unite our community and #save17.

Jean Tulimieri - Amston

Sauyet, Smith

To the Editor:

Scott Sauyet's obsession with the Mueller report is puzzling. Beside expressing pride in the fact that he actually read it, he clearly considers this document to be as relevant as the Magna Carta or Monroe Doctrine. Unfortunately for Scott, the premise of the Mueller report is based on a fabrication. A lie. A hoax. A made-up story. It's surprising that someone who tries to pass himself off as erudite would embrace the validity of an entirely invalid report generated by an assembly of anti-Trump Democrats and named after an FBI has-been whose mental faculties make Joe Biden look like Stephen Hawking. Talk about nonsense. But, whatever. I'm sure Mr. Sauyet will not relent in his pursuit of truth and justice.

I want to compliment Sam Prentice on last week's poignantly written letter regarding Edmund Smith's 'sports vs. science" conundrum. As only Edmund Smith can, he not only misses the boat on logic, he sinks it in the process. Aside from the commercial and financial aspects of sports, school students obtain greater benefit and attain greater goals when they engage in athletics, making them better students. For the vast majority of students, participating in sports teaches discipline, sacrifice, and responsibility, not exactly staples of the new modern model of teaching. The reason the U.S. lags behind other countries in academics is the liberal policies that coddle and brainwash children with machinations of victimhood and entitlement. If Mr. Smith is worried about society's sport "addiction" being unfair to members of the math team, maybe he should pay closer attention to addictions to fentanyl, gambling, porn, and booze being unfair to society as a whole.

Plus, for better or worse, woke, liberal, white billionaires don't buy math or science teams and build stadiums for them to turn a profit.

Happy Trails, Ed Kozlowski - Colchester

Voting No, Too Low

On Tuesday, I'll be voting 'no, too low.'

Over the last few months, I have become involved in Colchester budget meetings because I care about our community. My involvement is not about party politics - I 100% support our Republican-led Board of Education. They asked for a reasonable budget, but they were ignored by the Board of Finance, just like the Board of Finance ignored the vast majority of the people who came to their meetings. The town and school budgets are set too low; therefore, I will vote no, too low on both the town and school budgets on

The people sent a message to the Board of Finance at each meeting; they sent the same message to the Board of Selectmen and said it at the Town Budget Meeting. Now it is time for the people to repeat it so that it is absolutely clear what we want. The first selectman wants to ignore us, but he and the Board of Finance cannot ignore us after a referendum. Vote no, too low on Tuesday because our town and schools need more money. Vore no, too low on Tuesday because this is not about party politics; this is our home, budgets on Tuesday because we must adequately fund our children's education and town.

Jeremy McKenzie - Colchester

Disrespectful Remarks

To the Editor:

'Why aren't the teachers doing their jobs?" This quote is courtesy of Richard Brown, member of the Board of Finance.

Teachers are individuals who play an instrumental role in shaping our society and our future. My question is which time were you referring to when you felt we were not doing our job? Was it when we had to shift our paradigm of teaching at a moment's notice due to a worldwide pandemic? Or maybe it was when the events of Sandy Hook, Parkland or Uvalde took place? Actually you were probably referring to each and every day that we step into the arena of education and give every ounce of our being to prepare the children of our community to be loving, kind and well-

educated members of society. Resorting to making degrading comments about teachers is not only disrespectful but also undermines the importance of our vital contributions. We tirelessly work to provide a solid foundation of knowledge, inspire children to dream big, and instill the values necessary for success.

Every day, we step into classrooms armed with passion, creativity, and a genuine desire to make a positive difference. We invest countless hours in preparing lesson plans, grading assignments, and providing individual attention to our students. Our dedication goes far beyond the regular school hours, as we often take work home and spend our evenings and weekends in pursuit of enhancing our teaching methods.

Moreover, such disrespectful remarks perpetuate a culture of devaluation and disrespect for education. Comments like this discourage talented individuals from pursuing teaching as a profession, ultimately diminishing the quality of education available to future

Unfortunately the Board of Finance made the decision to suppress the opportunity to express our opinions as members of this community so I chose this medium of expression.

Craig Frost - East Hampton

Three Strikes on Budget

Dear Colchester Residents:

Colchester's budget process has failed to produce a budget proposal that is transparent or which meets the needs of our community.

Strike One: Budget documents presented to the public, including in this paper, were inaccurate. They literally did not add up. Some corrections were made online, only for incorrect information to be distributed again at town meeting last week.

Strike Two: The revenue calculations which will be used to determine the town's mill rate appear to be severely flawed. Hundreds of thousands of dollars appear to have been undercounted resulting in a proposed mill rate that is inflated to justify cuts that may not actually be needed.

Strike Three: Cuts made to the school budget would cause significant disruption to programming and education including the loss of teachers for kindergarten, business, and world language, and loss of paraprofessionals. The uncounted revenue could fund many of these positions and still result in the same mill rate the BOF already presented to the public.

When I served on the Board of Finance, we knew that understanding revenue from taxes and other sources was a key part of our responsibility. The board's mission statement is to balance the needs of the community with the ability to pay. You cannot achieve that mission without analyzing a potential mill rate, and you can't do that unless you know the

Alone, any of these issues would be cause for concern. Taken together, they are cause to reject this incomplete, inaccurate, and harmful proposal and tell BOF to try again. On Tuesday, I will vote "No" and mark advisory questions as "Too Low".

The Board of Finance needs to reexamine the budget before it gets approved.

Sincerely, Bernie Dennler - Colchester Candidate for First Selectman

Frustrated Taxpayers

To Colchester's Frustrated Taxpayers:

You're not alone. Concerned citizens from every corner of town showed up and voted on Wednesday, May 31. Following a holiday weekend with family and friends, the legislative body of the town mobilized and made it abundantly clear that both of the proposed budgets (town and education) are too low. And yet... we are being ignored.

Communication from elected officials has been inconsistent. Figures (representing our tax dollars) are fraught with errors and inconsistencies. Critical revenue numbers have been omitted and could have serious, positive impacts — offering the opportunity to increase the BOE budget and simultaneously lower the proposed mill rate.

So what's the problem?

To be honest, I wish I knew. As a parent and community member, I find myself seeking exactly that community. Instead I'm met with divisiveness at the

People who are working (read: fighting) daily to shape a town we can be proud of are hitting brick wall after brick wall. Rather than encourage community members to engage in the civic process throughout this budget season, town representatives have rejected and devalued the opinions of townspeople and sought no connection, compromise, or collective problem-solving. My point?

It's time to vote again. As frustrated and defeated as we all feel, it's not time to stop. Against the will of parents, homeowners, community members show up and vote no, too low on budgets that can be better for

This isn't a right-against-left argument. This isn't a partisan issue. This is a community problem. And it's critical that all of us are heard, as the town charter intends. Please vote!

> Sincerely, Stefanie Tracey-Calash - Colchester

We Need More Turnout!

Hebron's budget has failed twice, due to a very low voter turnout, some unclear communication, and disagreements over our public works facility. The budget going to vote for the third time on Tuesday, June 13, is one simple question - are you in favor of passing the town budget? This includes the budget for the town as well as for the Hebron schools. To be clear, there is no money in the June 13 budget related to the public works project.

There will no longer be a too-low, too-high question on the ballot this time either. If we don't get enough people out to vote 'yes' for this budget, critical things will be cut from our town services and schools. Both town and school parts of the budget have already been cut since their first proposals. The original higher education budget had even been unanimously approved by all their Board of Education members of both political parties.

Please vote 'yes,' but don't stop there. Please ask every voting member of your household to come vote, as well as asking your friends and neighbors in town.

Many of us moved to this town in part due to the excellence of the schools, and it would be a mistake to let them decline in quality. Long term that would reduce property value, as fewer people would want to move here. Our town services are often taken for granted, but we will feel it if they are not fully funded. Our town services and our schools are the backbone of our town's community, and I hope you'll support

Please come out and vote 'yes' at Hebron Elementary School on Tuesday, June 13, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. For information on absentee ballots, if needed, see the town clerk's website, hebronct.com/town-departments/town-clerk

> Thank you, Nicole Lotko - Hebron

East Hampton Past

To the Editor:

Celebrating the centennial anniversary of the incorporation of our fire department, our town leaders, both government and business, supported its formation to protect the houses and businesses in the event of fire. If one researches our history, you would find numerous accounts of very serious fires that shaped East Hampton's development (Chatham until its name change in 1915). Too numerous to report today, I will write over several weeks about what I call "It's a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" - about 16 fires that shaped the character, looks and development of our community. There are certainly others, especially house fires such as the one on Knowles Landing a couple years ago, or barns or structures like the Edgerton Street ice house, many resulting from a lightning, but several from arson.

I refer to the Village Center fires as "The Big Six." The first occurred in 1854 at the original Meeting House, as the Congregational Church was then known, built in 1755. It occupied the current site of today's Congregational Church. Destroyed and rebuilt as a much recognized white New England church with its familiar sheeple and bell tower, only to succumb to flames one again nearly a century later. That second Congregational Church fire occurred on

Three painters employed by the Goodrich Construction Company of Cromwell were working in the north end of the church, burning old paint off the clapboards with a blowtorch. Unthinkable today! Flames from the blowtorch got through a crack in the corner of the building near the lower end of the structure, shot up inside the west wall to the attic. This is a very common occurrence with balloon construction where the interior wall cavities function much like a chimney, now disallowed under current building code.

Dean Markham - East Hampton

Vote No, Too Low

To the Editor:

If you want to have a say in the education and town budgets, exercise your vote.

The referendum process is for you - for your democracy. The town meeting left citizens without the correct information needed to evaluate the budgets, and many dissatisfied with the cuts to the education budget and the town meeting process. It's time to hear from you at the June 13 referendum.

Vote no - too low on both budgets and send them back for rational and democratic review and resolu-

Sheila Horvitz - Colchester

DPW Concerns Not NIMBY

I commend the Hebron Green Committee (HGC) for their efforts in addressing the proposed construction of a new DPW complex at 17 Kinney Rd. Their detailed seven-page letter to the Board of Selectmen, accompanied by two pages of cited sources, highlights their genuine concern and opposition to the Kinnev Road location.

It is essential to recognize that the HGC is not driven by a NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) mentality like some individuals in the Kinney Road area have been accused of. They are dedicated environmental stewards who take their responsibilities in our town seriously.

Appointed by the Board of Selectmen, the HGC serves as a valuable resource for matters related to environmental conservation and sustainability. They collaborate closely with Town Hall and the Public Works Department, acting as the eyes and ears of our community in these vital areas.

The intent of their letter is not to instill fear or spread misinformation, as has been wrongly claimed in the past regarding concerned residents. On the contrary, the HGC's primary goal is to assist the town and the Board of Selectmen in finding a more suitable, safe, and environmentally friendly location for the proposed DPW complex. They aim to ensure that the chosen site minimizes the potential for day-to-

See Letters, page 8

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★ Letters cont. from page 7

day operational mishaps or accidents that could lead to groundwater contamination, both in the short and long term.

Their dedication to protecting our environment and advocating for the well-being of our community is commendable. The HGC's expertise and research-based approach deserve careful consideration and collaboration from all relevant parties involved in the decision-making process. Together, we can work towards a solution that prioritizes the preservation of our natural resources and the long-term sustainability of our beloved town.

For more information please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook. #Save17

Greg Shortell - Amston

Reject Town, School Budgets

I urge you to vote 'no - too low' on both the town budget and the education budget Tuesday, June 13. Both budgets are dangerously too low to adequately fund the needs of the town. The budget process for both was confusing and full of missing, misleading and incomplete information. There is money available to restore programs and services without a dramatic increase in the mil rate. We are all concerned about the impact of the budgets on our taxes, however, by underfunding the town, we will be paying more in the future to correct these problems.

The education budget has significant cuts to programs and services that do a disservice to our community. Requiring students to pay directly for a course they take during the school day and receive a course grade for - the pay-to-play model for elementary and middle school band - is a slippery slope. Any class that has a curriculum and is part of the academic day should not have a separate fee attached to it as a way for the district to make money and make up for shortfalls in the budget. This not only penalizes the families participating in the band program, it is also expecting those families to directly contribute more to funding the education budget (as the band program is already funded in the current budget) in the form of expected revenue.

Similarly, cutting security services and much needed maintenance to school buildings is not providing a safe environment for the people in those buildings. Kicking the can down the road on maintenance only sets us up for greater expenses in the long run.

Vote no - too low on June 13 and tell the BOF to adequately fund our schools and town!

Suzanne Salemi - Colchester

Extremely Upsetting

To the Editor:

It has been extremely upsetting to see how our elected officials treat the members of the town they represent. For months we, the parents and citizens of Colchester, have been begging for clarity and transparency. We have been told they are listening. It was made abundantly clear that clarity to the town citizens had not occurred when we gathered on May 30th for the town meeting. Many, many citizens stood to argue that we weren't clear what number we were voting on to send to referendum. And no one, including the FS because he had to get a legal opinion, was clear on how the town meeting worked according to the town charter. Citizens tried repeatedly to be heard and were told repeatedly that they were wrong. In the end the majority voted not to pass the budget to referendum until we had a clear understanding of the

The budget was sent to referendum anyway, stating that the citizens at town meeting were blocking the town from their right to vote. That could not be further from the truth. All along those of us who have been showing up to meetings have been fighting for clarity and understanding. We have been fighting for a number that works for all. Most importantly, we have been fighting for our right to vote! I am urging you to vote no/too low on Tuesday, June 13. The town is not asking for enough money to maintain our town and the BOE is not being given the appropriate amount they need to run our schools. The budget needs to go back to the BOF for reworking. I know we can work together to find a number that works if all the members of the BOF will listen.

Beth Tiezzi

Vote No, Hebron!

To the Editor:

Hebron citizens voted overwhelmingly to cut town government spending in the past two referendums. The town government has chosen to ignore us. Instead, they increased the budget. In our democracy, this cannot stand. Vote 'no' on June 13.

The genesis of our budget problems comes from 20 years of insiders using taxpayer money to build the infrastructure of a small city. Money that should have gone to tax reduction and other priorities has instead gone to roads to nowhere, phantom services, pet projects and other nonsense. Without our consent, the town government planned a New-town on the Horton property, something that would have changed the fabric of Hebron and caused massive tax increases.

In the past, to ensure funding of this New-town, the town government manufactured and inflamed antagonism between the general populace and the schools. Everyone asks, where has the money gone? The Town points to the schools. But, really, to a large extent, the money has gone to finance a bloated town

government building a city that nobody wants.

It is government by bully. The appalling BOF berating of schoolchildren at a public meeting and the profane and inappropriate responses by the town's consultants to the excellent Green Committee Report are only two recent examples. According to them,

everyone else has an "agenda." Said a selectman, our financial mess is not due to reckless BOF/BOS policies, but because presumably lazy Hebronians don't

The recent referendums were an old-fashioned butt-kicking, but the BOS/BOF remain in denial. With or without them, the town is set on a new course. We can have affordable taxes and excellent schools if we stand up to bullies. The proposed budget is an insult and must be defeated. Vote 'no' on June 13! John Collins - Amston

We Will Be Heard

To the Editor:

Last Wednesday night, Colchester residents attending the town meeting voted overwhelmingly against the budgets put forward for town and school. The next day, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos used his official communication platforms to politicize residents' votes, accusing the Democratic Town Committee of trying to disenfranchise residents of Colchester by not allowing them to vote at referendum.

This is laughable. For months, individual residents have been standing up at the Board of Finance meetings and begging the board to send the budgets to referendum as they stood. Instead of listening to the people who elected them, the Board of Finance has played a shell game with our finances, moving money around between budgets and accounts, sharing incorrect numbers, cutting here and reducing there – without listening to the sincere input of residents. The residents voted against sending these budgets to referendum because they are not clear and transparent budgets – and they are lower than the residents in attendance last Wednesday night believe they should

Well, we will get our chance to vote on June 13, and our voices will be heard. If anyone is trying to take away your right to influence the process, it's the first selectman who scolded us for voting the "wrong way" and the Board of Finance Chair who kept hammering away with nonsense until nobody understood what was in the budget or out of it. I can't wait to vote on June 13 - and also in November.

Susie Milner - Colchester

Vitally Important to Vote Yes

To the Editor

The next budget referendum is coming up next week on June 13th. You've no doubt been inundated with information from multiple angles by this time. It's so vitally important that people get out and vote yes on this referendum.

The Board of Education budget was cut by 1.3 million, and many dedicated members of our community came out in force to claw back \$100,000 of that. While that seems like a lot of money, it truly is barely anything when spread out amongst the tax base. However, it can prevent some detrimental changes to the school system.

The presently proposed budget is less than ideal, but it's what we have to work with and the Board of Finance *will* cut education further if this does not pass referendum, make no mistake of that.

There continues to be conflicting messaging around town from those who are too short sighted to see that their tactic is off. They want to shake things up and send a message and are taking the kids down with them. Change like that occurs in November when we have a chance to completely alter the landscape and trajectory of this town. Now is not the time for a protest vote.

Keep in mind the facts:

We are not voting on a DPW building right now.

We are not electing people to boards right now. We are funding essential town services (road maintenance, EMS, fire, 911 service, etc).

We are funding public education, which, even if you don't have kids, strongly correlates to your property values and quality of life.

Voter turnout in this town is dismal. Please turn that around and vote yes on the budget on June 13 at Hebron Elementary School.

Nicole Matthews - Amston Note: Matthews is a member of the Hebron Board of Education but said she is writing as an individual.

BOE Asks You to Vote Yes

To the Editor:

The Board of Education would like to thank all Hebron students, families, staff, and community members who engaged in the budget process with us this season. We understand that these past few months have been difficult navigating both potential setbacks in education and town services balanced with reasonable taxes. Although the Board of Education budget was significantly reduced before and after the first referendum, we are thankful that the Board of Finance listened to the community and restored \$100,000 to the education budget for the upcoming referendum vote. Our town's last two referendums have failed and we have heard from several individuals that it was due to confusion on the ballot questions and/or wanting to support one budget and not the other.

We humbly ask all Hebron residents to please Vote Yes on Tuesday, June 13. We need to move forward for our children, their education, and our school staff, as well as for our town. Multiple failed referendums often lead to further cuts in programs and services. We do not want this to become our children's reality. The Board of Education is dedicated to the children and staff of our wonderful schools and we will do the very best we can with the funds available to continue to serve them well. Please vote yes on Tuesday, June 13.

Thank you, The Hebron Board of Education Heather Petit, Allyson Schmeizl, Joseph Margaitis, Sera Coppolino, Alexander Crawford, Nicole Matthews,

No Snow, No Audit, No Budget

To the Editor:

Colchester's finances are a mess. The old budget reports said the town was over budget for snow removal. I don't remember a lot of snow last winter...

With the annual audit, typically completed by February, still pending, its delay raises eyebrows.

Let's vote 'no' on the town budget until we get clar-I don't want any surprises with my taxes like what

John Farrell - Colchester

Thank You for Support

To the Editor:

happened last year.

The volunteers and horses of the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) would like to thank the East Hampton community for their continued support. We recently celebrated our sixth anniversary at our Chestnut Hill Road location with an Open House. We had food and craft vendors, children's activities, retail sales, paddock talks and wagon rides. Special thanks to Marvin Foreman for the use of his tractor and Walter Squier who donates wooden rocking horses for us to sell. We invite everyone to our first annual car show to be held at The Farm at Carter Hill on June 11. Details are on our website and Facebook page

CDHR is dedicated to saving the lives of draft horses that were bound for slaughter in addition to horses that are victims of starvation, neglect and abuse or owner surrenders. We could not do our work without your support. Thank you.

Lori Harris, Volunteer **Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue**

Supports Interpretation

To the Editor:

I find it rather strange that certain Board of Selectmen members in Colchester no longer place any value or merit upon the legal interpretations made by Town Attorney Matt Ritter, which, until this year, were once held in high regard.

If one were to look at past examples when a legal opinion was needed through Mr. Ritter, a pattern can be found where members of the board—Rosemary Coyle, in particular - accepted his legal opinion. For example, when Selectman Jason LaChapelle challenged the town on the Senior Center referendum, Selectman Coyle gladly accepted Mr. Ritter's advice.

Were those board members wrong the numerous times they based their decisions on Ritter's advice, or are they wrong now?

My guess is the latter.

I support First Selectman's Bisbikos in his interpretation and implementation of the town charter. Let's go to referendum to put this issue to bed once and

Rich Tanner - Colchester

Vote Yes for Hebron

To the Editor:

Please vote 'yes' for the Hebron budget on June 13 to preserve our town services and excellent schools. The town budget includes the fire department, emergency services, the library, the transfer station, snow removal and other services. An additional decrease in the town budget will result in cuts to these services, and the June 13 budget does not include funding for the Public Works facility.

The school budget has been reduced by over a million dollars since it was first proposed by the Board of Education, who will already need to make difficult decisions about cuts. A 'yes' vote will keep class sizes down and preserve important educational programs, including the Hebron Elementary School band that did such a wonderful job in the Memorial Day pa-

Vote 'yes' for our children and our town!

Thank you, Maura Curran Baker - Hebron

Pizza and Politics

To the Editor:

The Hebron Republican Town Committee invites you to Pizza and Politics on Monday, June 19, at 5 pm., at Gina Marie's, 71 Main St., Hebron.

Election season will be here before you know it. Please join us and connect with local Republicans working to keep our community thriving

For ticket information, please email HebronRepublicans@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!

Angela Corentin, Vice Chair Hebron Republican Town Committee

Take Back our School System

To the Editor:

During the fall of 2020 I was silently working to understand why our children weren't in the classroom. What I learned was the Colchester Board of Education (BOE) was not following the state's CO-VID-19 school guidelines. They didn't tell us that, did they? I sent an email to the BOE, blowing the lid off their plan to put our children's future on the backburner to prioritize their agendas. Shortly after that, our children were back in the classroom for fulltime in-person learning.

Their new plan is to massively increase spending

and threaten children's programs if they don't get their money. Their first threat if they didn't receive their 10% increase was to threaten to fire one specific teacher. This teacher is popular among students and a resident of Colchester. I support this teacher and want her to be able to continue living and teaching in our community. BOE supporters want to talk about civility- it looks a lot more like extortion to me.

The problem is there are many people who can't

afford a tax increase, and there are also a significant number who are willing to pay an increase in taxes if the spending is justified. Unfortunately, the BOE hasn't justified the increased spending and refuses to answer our questions. For example, why hasn't special education spending been reimbursed by the state?

The BOE has failed to answer the big question: in the past 10 years, why has per pupil spending increased faster than inflation? The BOE is asking for per-pupil spending to increase 36.5% in 10 yearsthat's 8.5% over inflation. Where is the money going?

As citizens and parents we need to take our school system back! Michael Dubreuil - Colchester

Who is setting the priorities of our school system?

The Clergy

To the Editor:

It's not the drag queens. In the last two months the AG of Maryland & the AG of Illinois each released reports documenting decades of actual abuse against thousands of children perpetrated.

Illinois State Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced that a four-and-a-half-year investigation found 1,997 children were abused by 451 Catholic clergy in Illinois between 1950 and 2019 (Chicago

A report from Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown c-ites 156 Catholic clergy members and others abused at least 600 children over the course of more than six decades.

Director of Children's Ministries, Christopher Fourcade, arrested for child porn, molestation for a child under the age of 12 in Oklahoma (kfor.com/ Oklahoma news station 4).

A list of abusive priests and clergy members can be found at www.abuselawsuit.com. In Connecticut, the Diocese of Bridgeport lists 51 abusers, Diocese of Hartford lists 50 and Diocese of Norwich 37.

More information can also be found at www.bishop-accountability.org.

Annie Steinbrecher - Marlborough

Thank You, Youth Group

To the Editor:

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Senior Youth Group of Marlborough Congregational Church and Scott Reid, the senior high youth director and chef extraordinaire!

They have been providing deliciously prepared meals monthly to the residents of Florence Lord Senior Housing. In May after serving a delicious meal, they cleaned out all the flower beds and planted beautiful flowers on the patio and the entrance area.

They are a great group of children and who are always very friendly and helpful.

Thank you and God Bless to all at Marlborough Congregational Church who help to make this pos-

> Sincerely, Janet Zaino, Resident Florence Lord Senior Housing

Field Maintenance

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my frustration with the poor state of field maintenance in our community. As a frequent user of the Bacon Academy sports fields, I have noticed that the fields are often in disrepair, making it difficult to play and increasing the risk of injury. As an athlete, this deeply concerns me. The grass on the varsity field is often overgrown and uneven, making it difficult to run and move around. In addition, there are often large patches of dirt and mud that can cause players to slip and fall. The lack of proper maintenance also means that the fields are not able to drain properly, leading to standing water and muddy conditions that can make it impossible to play.

During the spring 2023 lacrosse season, the girls experienced a near forfeit as Waterford claimed that the field provided is unsafe to play on. After a 40 minute wait, and changes being made by our own BA coaches and players the teams were lucky enough to

I have spoken with other members of the community who share my concerns, and we feel that this is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. We believe that the field maintenance should be a top priority for the community.

Maddox Burton - Colchester

Why Did We Vote?

To the Editor:

Hebron had their second referendum this year which clearly showed the majority of voters thought the budget was still too high. So what did our town officials, who were elected to represent the people, do? They raised the budget!

And then our BoS Chairman went on publicly to bemoan a lack of volunteers as one of the driving factors behind our increased budget (i.e. it's not our fault the budget went up, its the taxpayers' fault!). Has anyone on the BoS and/or BoF noticed the decline in volunteers tracks to our ever-increasing budgets? Mhhh, maybe because most of the households need two incomes or more to pay our bloated budgets and do not have the time or energy to volunteer.

I really thought we live in a democracy, not a dictatorship. Apparently our BoS and BoF board members do not believe in democracy, only in what they think is right. So the next referendum goes way beyond just the budget question. Now we are being asked to validate their dictator decision. A 'yes' vote validates that; a 'no' vote will validate democracy.

So I am changing my 'yes' vote to a 'no' vote. In good conscience I cannot support the actions taken by our elected officials.

Davis Howell - Hebron

Thank You East Hampton

To the Editor:

On behalf of the East Hampton Nursery School board, our current students, and families we are happy to announce that EHNS will be able to continue into the next school year. We are so thankful to our community for supporting the school through individual, group, and business donations. Due to your support, our doors will be open this fall and the school is financially stable. We are currently accepting applications for new students for the 2023-2024 school year. EHNS is set to continue to be a part of the East Hampton for years to come. As our motto states "EHNS...the start of something good," this "good" can continue, all because of our wonderful community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With gratitude, **East Hampton Nursery School Board of Directors**

Vote 'Yes' for Hebron

To the Editor:

I encourage everyone in the Town of Hebron to approve the budget on June 13. This is a vote to maintain essential town services and preserve our outstanding

I was deeply moved by the parents and children who attended the Board of Finance meeting on May 25. While I was disappointed at the initial behavior exhibited by the Board of Finance, I am pleased that, eventually, all voices were heard, including our children. Advocacy does not suddenly begin at 18 when one starts paying taxes, as was implied at the meeting, and we would do well to acknowledge our children's interest in public service and activism. However, now the call to action is clear - we need people to vote and pass a budget that reflects our values.

Having now been through two budget cycles as a board member, it's my opinion that the boards are often not respectful of each other's purview, and that the Hebron Board of Education is not treated as an equal partner in the budgeting process. In fact, they undergo a level of scrutiny that includes questioning factual enrollment numbers, which are received by the Board from the state. We have some work to do to truly be more collaborative during the next budget

On June 13, vote 'yes' for Hebron.

Disaster

could

show

up at

YOUR

doorstep.

Make

today.

Ready.

gov/plan

Ready

FEMA

Tiffany V. Thiele - Hebron Note: Thiele is a member of the Board of Selectmen, but said she is writing this letter as an individual.

Why I'm Voting No

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to explain why I am voting 'no too low' on both budgets that are going to referendum on Tuesday, June 13, and why other Colchester residents should do the same.

The Board of Education budget is too low and is forcing the decision to make drastic cuts to Kindergarten, Grade 1, Preschool, as well as Middle School Language in addition to complete elimination of all capital improvements and security upgrades.

The Board of Finance has ignored pleas from voters to increase the BoE budget. The first selectman took away the democratic rights of voters at the town meeting.

Warnings, publications, and budget documents have been fraught with errors making it impossible for taxpayers to know what they are actually voting

A significant amount of revenue has been purposefully excluded from projections. Including it could easily bring education dollars back without affecting the mail rate. Honest calculations would also lower the mail rate.

There has not been a 2021-22 town audit. Transfers between town lines are indicative of a spending

The attacks on education and lack of transparency need to be stopped. Please vote no, too low on both budgets on Tuesday. Be sure to not only vote NO but also please remember to mark both advisory questions as "too low" as well.

Thank you, Mike Verruso - Colchester

Shameful Colchester DTC

Dear Colchester Citizens:

While we may not always agree with First Selectman Bisbikos, the Colchester Independent Party supports the FS's position in regards to the annual town meeting.

It's a shame the local Democratic Town Committee (DTC) led by Monica Swyden (wife of Board of Finance member Mike Egan) and Rosemary Coyle are attempting, once again, to take away the citizens' right to vote on budgets.

If you remember it was FS Bylone and selectmen Coyle, Turner & Mizla who refused to allow citizens the right to vote at the 2020 budget referendum. In making her claim, Bylone and Coyle cited "health concerns." However, other towns had elected leaders who fought to protect the sanctity of the citizens' right to vote with things like drive-up voting. The Colchester Democratic FS and BOS refused. They cited the legal opinion of the town attorney and his interpretation of the governor's executive order, giving Colchester's leader the right to suspend a citizen's right to vote at a budget town referendum.

Fast forward and that same attorney – who is also the CT Democratic speaker of the house - provided FS Bisbikos and the BOS a legal opinion on the current budget process and the annual town budget meeting. The local Democratic Town Committee (DTC), selectmen Coyle, Turner and Bates along with former FS Bylone and the current Democratic FS candidate Bernie Dennler didn't agree with the

town attorney's opinion on the budget process.

So what did they do? They encouraged the moderator of the town meeting, John Malsbenden (former DTC chairman), to ignore the legal opinion. The DTC and its surrogates are trying, once again, to take away the citizens' right to vote at the budget referendum.

Don't be fooled; this is a power grab by the local DTC who want more of your hard-earned tax dollars! Had enough?

Deanna E. Bouchard, Chairman Colchester Independent Party

Walk & Talk About Trees

To the Editor:

Curious about trees and how to identify them? Leaf design, branching structure, bark all are clues. Join us on June 14th at 4pm for a fun and enlightening walk and talk about the trees of Raymond Brook Preserve. Felicia Millett from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is going to lead us through the preserve as she shares her insights on our native and non-native trees. It's a great time for tree viewing as the leaves are out making identification easier! So often we focus on the flowers which attract

pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths and birds), but our trees are really the super pollinators! Serving as host plants for many butterflies and moths, they are a critical link in the health of our ecosystem. And they provide an important source of food to songbirds and their broods. Sponsored by the Hebron Pollinator Pathway, this event is open to all.

So, bring your tree questions and meet us at the Kinney Street entrance to the Raymond Brook Preserve off Route 85 in Hebron. If possible, we do suggest a small donation of \$5 to help support the work of the Hebron Pollinator Pathway.

Candace O'Shea - Hebron

Belltown Spring Sprint

To the Editor:

East Hampton High School Project Graduation has hosted the Belltown Spring Sprint yearly. During COVID we offered a virtual race. This year at the last minute we had to cancel it. Thanks to the Ben Sullivan Family and the Kissane family, the race was able to go on. Within a month these families were able to put on a race that started at East Hampton High School and went through the neighborhoods surrounding it to

make a 5K run. They were also able to set up a walking course and a kids fun run. The race took place on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Thank you so much to the neighborhoods and neighbors that came out to cheer on our runners. Special thanks to the Maplewood Grove Neighborhood who were out with their

EHHS Project Graduation cannot run without the countless volunteers

> Cyndi Buchan, Chair **EHHS Project Graduation**

Education and Preservation

The people of Hebron are taking a stand. Education and preservation are two pillars of our community, supporting the quality of life that is important to us all. The recent actions by the Board of Finance to chastise students who dare speak up and call in the police are beyond unacceptable. Their decision to restore \$100,000 to the Board of Education is a step in the right direction. However, to only cut \$50,000

See Letters, page 33



Hello! **Remember Me?**

The Red, White and Blue?

Remember when I led the parade? Hats came off and hands were placed over one's heart as I approached and passed by.

Remember where I have been and what I stand for—ANZIO, NORMANDY, LEYTE, IWO JIMA, KOREA, VIETNAM, the ongoing war on terror, etc. The MEMORIAL HONOR ROLLS of those who did not come back are saluted when you salute me.

REMEMBER THE 31-WORD PLEDGE:

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE... I am RESPONSIBLE as an INDIVIDUAL not to take our freedom for granted and thus to risk losing it.

...AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS... Not a DE-MOCRACY (Rule by the Ruled) but a REPUBLIC (a Constitutional Republic governed by law where I am represented). The word DEMOCRACY does not appear in our documents of LIBERTY (The Declaration of Independence, The Articles of Confederation, the Constitution or the Bill of Rights).

...ONE NATION, UNDER GOD... our right to know that LIFE and LIB-ERTY are GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS, not the GRANT of GOVERNMENT. Our Constitution gives us a government limited to the delegated authority that "WE THE PEOPLE" allotted to each branch of civil government.

...WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL... LIBERTY is the love of individual independence, being free from tyrannical rule and control- a LIB-ERTY that does not degenerate into license. The Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty are fitting symbols. JUSTICE is "the virtue which consists in GIV-ING TO EVERYONE WHAT IS HIS DUE." Thus justice calls for law and equity, right rules and fair play for all. This explains the once prevailing concept in America – PUNISHMENT TO FIT THE CRIME.

To lose the meaning of OUR FLAG is to encourage the loss of our Republican form of government and our God-given, responsible pursuit of LIFE and LIBERTY.

"REMEMBER, O LORD, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old. **REMEMBER** not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to Thy mercy **REMEMBER** Thou me for Thy goodness' sake, O LORD." (Psalm 25:6-7). "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him. For he knoweth our frame; HE REMEMBERETH that we are dust" (Psalm 103:13,14). "REMEMBER ME, O LORD, with the favour that Thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with Thy salvation" (Psalm 106:4).

May you be **BOTHERED** to the point of being BLESSED. May our GRAND OLD FLAG remind us of our great American HERITAGE, "one nation under God" without Whose grace we cannot survive the erosion and corrosion of our day. May you look to the GOD OF TRUTH in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (who said, "I am THE TRUTH"- John 14:6), so that you might REST in the TRUTH of God's Word ("the TRUTH shall make you free"-John 8:32) and the TRUTH of God's Son ("the SON shall make you free"-John 8:36). To RECEIVE HIM is to receive the **LIFE** and **LIBERTY** He alone can give (John 1:12).

Middletown Bible Church • 860-346-0907

349 East Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Route 217 (East Street, Westfield) midway between Routes 66 and 372

SUNDAY:

9:30 am Sunday School-all ages 10:45 am Morning Worship 7:00 pm Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY:

7:30 pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study www.middletownbiblechurch.org

Independent • Bible Centered • Christ Exalting For information or spiritual help, please call or write. "A friendly church where you're a stranger only once!" BIBLE LINE: Call 860-346-0021 for a timely message 24 hours a day.

BIBLE LINE for CHILDREN: Call 860-344-1103



Portland • Portland •

Portland: Friendly and Sustainable

By Jack Lakowsky

The Town of Portland is among the Connecticut municipalities to be recognized this year for achieving Sustainable CT Climate Leader designation - not only that, World Atlas named it one of the top 10 friendliest towns in the state.

"Big week for Portland!" First Selectman Ryan Curley told the *Rivereast* in a text.

The Sustainable CT designation is prestigious, and comes just a few years after the town, under former first selectwoman Susan Bransfield, joined up with Sustainable CT.

Sustainable CT is a statewide initiative that inspires and supports communities in becoming more efficient, resilient, and inclusive.

Portland achieved Sustainable CT Silver level certification in 2021 and now adds the

Climate Leader designation to its accomplishments for "exceptional leadership in addressing climate change and fostering resilience.

"The Town of Portland is thrilled to receive the Climate Leader designation from Sustain-

able CT," said Curley in a statement. "This was the culmination of a lot of hard work from many individuals."

In its application for Sustainable CT Climate Leader designation, Portland demonstrated significant achievements in implementing strategies and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and promote sustainability.

Their efforts encompass a broad spectrum of activities such as community engagement, green infrastructure development, clean energy adoption, and climate adaptation planning.

Specifically, Portland completed actions including streamlining the solar permitting process for small solar installations and benchmarking and tracking energ usage throughout all town owned properties.

Portland is one of the first nine municipalities in Connecticut to earn designation as a Cli-

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. Holiday Closing: Monday, June 19, in honor of Juneteenth.

Summer Reading Kickoff - BMX Champ Chris Poulos: Wednesday, June 14, 6 p.m., at the Portland High School gymnasium. All ages welcome. Poulos is a world champion athlete and youth motivational speaker who shares powerful life lessons as he demonstrates bicycle

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 of-

Ocean Adventures: For those going into grades K-2. Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., June 21-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., June 20-Aug. 1 (no session July 4). Create coral reef crystals, make bioluminescent paintings, explore aquatic cryptids and analyze unsolved

Family Show: Comic Mime Robert Rivest: Wednesday, June 21, 6:30 p.m. Held on the Town Green; in case of rain, the show will move indoors and registered participants will be noti-

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: Candy Sushi: Thursday, June 22, 3 p.m., for grades 6 and up. Make and try these rolls with chopsticks. Space is limited.

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: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, June 20, 1 p.m. - And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie will be discussed.

Seed Library: Now available for garden enthusiasts, whether beginner or seasoned. You will find free seeds available for your garden. Sign them out. Call Jenn Billingsley for more information, at 860-342-6771. If you have leftover seeds, donations are welcome.

Knifty Knitters: Saturdays 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Drop in, get helpful knitting tips and chat with others. Beginning knitters are welcome too. Check out some of the projects this group has created in the library's display case this June.

LOOK...

YOUR

AD

SHOULD

BE

HERE!

CALL US

TODAY AT:

860-633-4691

"Congratulations to our Climate Leaders," said Lynn Stoddard, executive director of

Sustainable CT. "The decisions of local government - from zoning to transit systems, sidewalks, and building codes - play a huge role in determining the carbon footprint and resilience of residents and businesses. We are inspired by the leadership and commitment of these communities."

Sustainable CT is independently funded, with strong multi-year support from the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, Hampshire Foundation, Connecticut Green Bank, Common Sense Fund, and the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

Portland and all of this year's certified and Climate Leader communities will be recognized at Sustainable CT's Awards Celebration this Fall.

You've Got a Friend in Portland

Also, the website WorldAtlas.com named Portland one of the Top 8 friendliest towns in the state, out of nearly 170 towns. WorldAtlas gushes quite nicely over Portland.

"Located in central Connecticut, Portland is an amazing town filled with friendly vibes and people," the website states. "What makes

Portland special is its location along the Connecticut River. To this end, you can always find activities, people, and events taking place along the many waterside areas. For example, Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park is an amazing amusement park with loads of fun rides for both kids and adults. Or you can spend the day at Wadsworth Falls State Park, a large natural area that is home to hiking trails, scenic views, and much more?

They go on, "Move back into the town's center and you'll be met with an array of lovely establishments ranging from souvenir shops to restaurants and everything in between.

"If you want to grab a bite with someone special, book a seat at Sittin' Pretty Picnics which is known for its romantic picnic spots.

"Or, if you want to grab a snack, visit the famous Arrigoni Winery, a small winery with dozens of unique wines on offer. What makes these spots even better is that Portland's locals can always be seen enjoying some food or drink

'Way to go Portland!" Curley said on Face-

Sewer Line Flushing & Cleaning

The Portland Sewer Department are conducting sewer line flushing and cleaning over the next two weeks. Streets include:

Main Street - Arvid Road to Airline Avenue; Marlborough Street - Cross Street to Main Street; Airline Avenue; Brownstone Avenue; Pickering Street.

Cleaning and inspection of the public sewer lines are essential to maintaining the community's wastewater infrastructure and preventing blockages and interruptions in service. A closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection of the internal condition of sewer lines will be conducted as well as cleaning.

Over the next few weeks, you may see vehi-

cles mobilized in the area. This activity is part of our preventative maintenance program. Flushing and cleaning the lines should clear the pipes of excess fats, oils and grease, as well as rags and roots which sometimes build up in the lines and may lead to blockages.

The Sewer Department suggests people close the lid on your toilets to prevent any water from leaving the toilet. This process at times causes a small amount of air to be forced back into the toilet which can cause splashing of the toilet water.

For more information, call the Department of Public Works at 860-342-6733.

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

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

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

Sharades to Perform

at TrinityOn Saturday, June 10, at 7 p.m., Brownstone Vital Connections will present The Sharades, featuring music from the '50s,

The performance will take place in the brownstone and stained glass sanctuary of Trinity Church at 345 Main St. There is room to dance and light refreshments will be available. All proceeds will be donated to Middlesex Land Trust.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show, and are available by emailing trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com or calling 860-463-6444. You can also purchase tickets on Eventbrite for an additional fee.

PHS Alumni Soccer Game

Calling all former Portland High School soccer players! Get your former teammates together and come Saturday, June 10, at Brownstone field (behind the Post Office).

Alumni will play the current PHS teams. Girls kick off around 5 p.m., with boys to follow around 6:30 p.m.

For more information and to sign up to play, contact (Girls) Giuliana Discenza on Instagram @giulianadiscenza or by email at discenzagiuliana@gmail.com or (Boys) Gio Discenza on Instagram @gdisc10 or by email at gpdiscenza@ gmail.com.

Resident Graduates

Taylor Young of Portland recently graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

Juneteenth Celebration Returns This Year

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

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

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

For more information, email portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com.





Portland • Portland •

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. The daily schedule includes demonstrations, learning the rules of golf, golf skills & techniques, learning the short game (putting and chipping), and golf etiquette. 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.

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

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

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

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

Slamma-Jamma Basketball Camp: Monday, June 26-Friday, June 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Port-

land High School, for boys and girls in grades 3-8. Cost: \$150.

Lady Highlanders Hoops Camp (Grades 7-8): Wednesdays, July 5-26, 6-8 p.m., at Brownstone Intermediate School. Taught by Portland High School basketball coaches Kelly and Diane Coleman, members of the 2011 championship and current team members. Cost is \$20 for this four-week class.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dean's List

Alexandra Stevas of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

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 11 is Christian Education Sunday when the church will honor Church School students and end the school year. The worship will be led by interim minister Rev. Julie Olmsted and her sermon is titled, "Celebrate, Good-Bye, and Hello." During the worship service, the

church will also celebrate Ann Labby, the Director of Christian Education, who is retiring. Coffee hour and potluck lunch, follows the service and all are welcome to worship and coffee hour.

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

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

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.

Plant & Learn: Aloe: Saturday, June 10, at a time and place to be determined. All budding gardeners and their parents/grandparents/care-

givers are invited to learn about aloe and replant the "pups" into containers to take home.

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

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

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

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

The committee of the

Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli's

would like to extend its thanks to all who came out to support us this year for our 11th car show on May 6th. Although we had to postpone it to our rain date we still had a huge crowd and over 200 show cars, and we are very thankful to everyone who came out.

We would especially like to thank all of our sponsors who are there each and every year to support us. Without you we could never give the donations we give.



As Always, A Big Thank You To All Our Show Sponsors!!

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Rivereast News Bulletin Redi Rooter LLC Robert and Karen Redman Dennis and Linda Cunningham Warner Turf Equipment Portland Collision LLC Fowlers Auto Wrecking Hanna Transport Tristar Construction LLC Nadeau Brothers Concrete LLC Law Office of George A. Law Bud's Café Mustang Madness Motorsports Gilbert & Jones Classic Auto Inc Colby Direct Delivery DiMauro Oil Company LLC Farrell's Restaurant Gildersleeve Spirit Shop Bill and Kathy Richards LTD Racing DMR Offroad LLC Manning Home Builders Inc PFD Engine Company #1

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Donations in Kenny's memory have been made to the following organizations: Portland Food Bank, Portland High Class of 2023 Project Graduation, Portland Zion Lutheran Church, Middlesex Hospital Hospice, Portland VFW Post #6121, and Middlesex Cancer Center. Thanks again and hope to see everyone at next year's car show.

Portland • Portland •

Local Man Killed in Motorcycle Crash

By Jack Lakowsky

On June 4, near 6 p.m., the Middletown Police Department responded to a motor vehicle collision involving a motorcycle and SUV on Hartford Avenue in Portland' neighboring

On arrival, police learned that the operator of the motorcycle, identified as 54-year-old Daniel Richer from Portland, seeing he'd sustained a serious head injury.

Richer was transported to Middlesex Hospital and airlifted to Hartford Hospital via

Tragically, Richer succumbed to his injuries and died at Hartford Hospital on June 6, shortly after midnight.

The operator of the second vehicle, a 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee, was not injured.

The collision is still under investigation but evidence and witness testimony suggests that Richer was traveling west on Hartford Avenue when he crossed the centerline and struck the

Anyone who witnessed the crash is encouraged to contact Sgt. Peter Botsacos of the Middletown Police Department at 860-638-4000.

The police offered condolences to Richer's family and friends.

Town Clerk's Office Seeking 'Top Dog' All dog owners must obtain a license or re-

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.

new 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.portlandct.org/licenses-certificates

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call 860-342-6760.

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; SyncoCize II Dance Fitness, 10:30 a.m.; Volunteer Appreciation Tea, noon. 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: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. Friday: Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.

Special Events: Monday, June 12, noon -Volunteer Appreciation Tea and Jeff Weiselberg on Piano. Call 860-342-6761 to register.

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

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

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

Police News

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

5/16: John Coppola, 43, of 604 Main St., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, second-degree threatening and third-degree assault, police said.

5/22: Richard Schofner, 34, of 4 Spring St., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, third-degree strangulation/suffocation, and disorderly conduct.



Exchange Donation... Jill Deane of Perfect Prom receives a donation check from Exchange Club Member Roger Jensen. The program run by Deane offers high-schoolers rental of prom dresses. The donation is from proceeds from the Exchange's recent charity golf tournament and will go towards operating costs. Follow Perfect Prom on Facebook for more information.

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-

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.

Zion Lutheran Church

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 You-Tube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheranportland.org.

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.

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.

Fowler's Auto Wrecking

Garden Clubs Scholarship Awarded Ryan Green, a gradu-

ating senior of Portland High School, was the recipient of this year's Garden Clubs of Portland's \$500 Scholarship. The ceremony took

place on May 25 and the scholarship was awarded to Green in honor of his outstanding academic performance and dedication.



The scholarship is funded from the proceeds of the community activities of the Portland Garden

Club and the Portland River-Garden Club.

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, June 19, for the Juneteenth 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste collection event Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School, 49 Lyme St., Old Lyme.

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

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





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NEWS BULLETIN • June 9, 2023

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.





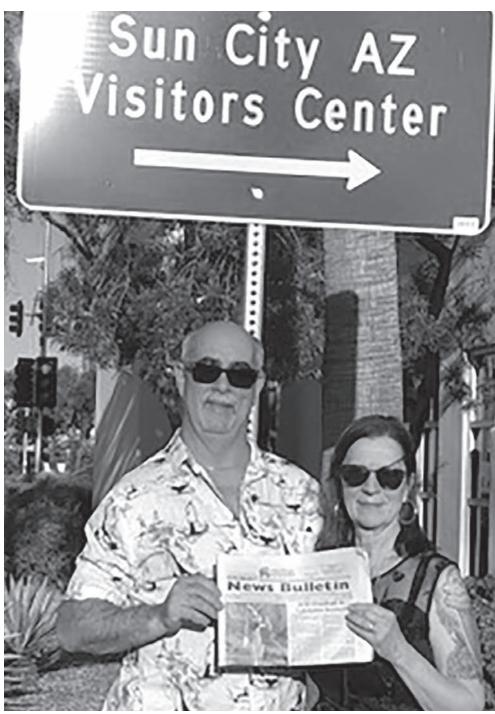
Gathering at the Garden... John and Rhoda Szymkowicz, of Colchester, are shown here with Al and Cheryl Letendre, also of Colchester, at the Keukenhof tulip gardens in the Netherlands. Also on the itinerary was a riverboat tour to include Belgium and the Netherlands.



Beautiful Day for a Bike Ride ... Portland residents Kristin Medvecky and Cheryl Zalewski took on the Five Boro Bike Tour in New York May 7, along with Madeline Christensen and Anuja Rizal.



Rivereast Loves a Wedding... Judy Thompson from Hebron attended the wedding of former Hebron resident Kevin McGuire to Abby Margolis in Missoula, Mont. Also attending were several current or former Rivereast-area residents: TJ, Kerry and Patrick McGuire, Andrew Thompson, Hannah Rouillard (who officiated at the wedding), Richard Shok, Kaitlyn Kennedy, Kevin Eichler, Kim and Leo Mazotas and Patti and John Wenrich.



Fun in the Sun (City)... Janet and Cliff Boyce of Amston visited Janet's sister Martie in Sun City, Ariz.

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



Selectmen Advance DPW Building Survey

By Michael Sinkewicz

In addition to discussing the 2023-24 budget proposal, the Hebron Board of Selectmen covered several other items on their agenda during their June 1 meeting.

The board took action on a new DPW building project survey, approved a proclamation for the beginning of Pride Month and debated a potential transition back to in-person meetings.

Public Works Survey

The board approved the final draft of a DPW building project survey with a 4-0 vote; Gail Richmond was absent; it will now be prepared for public dispersal and feedback.

For weeks, a small committee consisting of both elected officials and community members had been working to finalize a survey and project summary that will ultimately be released to all of Hebron.

The feedback from the survey will guide the town on the next steps for a new DPW facility in town — a topic that has caused considerable controversy in recent months.

The selectmen enlisted the expertise of DKA Advertising, out of Bloomfield, on a \$15,000 contract, to assist the committee with the survey and subsequent rollout.

Approval of the survey comes after several drafts and delays, most recently due to a letter submitted by the Hebron Green Committee, who presented a thorough review of the environmental impacts of the new facility, along with a warning against building the facility on Kinney Road.

"While we fully understand that the Town of Hebron is in dire need of a new DPW facility, and we acknowledge the considerable amount of time and effort that have gone into the site selection process, we are not convinced that the Kinney Road location is optimal for the proposed activity," the committee wrote.

Utilizing the current facility site on Old Colchester Road along with Burnt Hill Park could be feasible, the group wrote. While ideas that mix and match certain aspects at different sites create their own unique problems, and potential environmental concerns, they are minimal

compared to the Kinney Road site, according to the Green Committee.

Selectman Peter Kasper, the board's liaison to the survey committee, suggested that the board hold-off on advancing a final survey until the committee could review the Green Committee's letter together, and decide how, or if, to incorporate that perspective into the survey.

The letter generated pushback, including from Dave Campbell, an environmental analyst for Nathan L. Jacobson, who wrote an email to Thomas Fenton, the town engineer, that the Green Committee's letter was "more fear mongering than constructive."

"This is all a matter of management and implementing the regulations put on the facility," he said. "The public works site will be doing monthly inspections of all storage and work areas, maintaining logs of maintenance activities to the site, street sweeping paved surfaces, cleaning catch basins out etc."

While a link to the committee's letter will be included in the survey, Chairman Daniel Larson inquired into how the counter-perspective would be incorporated.

Kasper expressed that the Green Committee was comfortable with the factual research included in their letter, and that it would serve as a "reference point" and "additional piece of information."

"It gives, I think, some to support to the idea that we're trying to be unbiased and this is a town committee who wants to provide a position on something that does impact the environment from their perspective which is one of their charges," he said.

Kasper has provided the board with numerous updates on the survey committee's work. At times, it has appeared that progress with a new facility had stalled; a survey was the board's main tool in establishing a clear path on how to proceed.

"The most important thing for me is that we're getting some public feedback in general because that's one thing that been missing," Kasper said.

at's one thing that been missing," Kasper said. Many of the same faces provide opinions during meetings — many Kinney Road residents have weighed-in, along with numerous Rivereast letters to the editor — but "I want to hear from hundreds of people," Kasper expressed

"And then we're back to the [Board of Selectmen] with the findings to say okay now here's some clarity as to not only direction, but maybe some clarity relative to the points that might've been confusing or need some information put out."

The survey would represent the first official tally for board members to digest. Previously, town officials pointed to \$245,000 earmarked for the design of a new DPW facility for sinking the 2023-24 CIP budget proposal; the item was ultimately removed and the CIP budget passed at the subsequent referendum.

But officials, including Kasper, have asserted that the budget vote was entirely separate than the DPW facility; the survey is opening the dialog.

"I think it's just sending a message to the town that we're listening, let's start the process of making you feel like we're listing," Kasper said.

The survey contains detailed information for residents to process. The estimated cost of the facility is listed at between \$15-20 million, obtained with a 20-year bond. The resulting annual tax increase would be somewhere around \$150-\$325.

Overall, the survey will likely require around 10 minutes to complete and the responses will remain anonymous. Residents can receive additional information from the town by providing and email or mailing address; paper copies of the survey will also be available.

The survey will ask respondents which sources of information they find both helpful and unhelpful when seeking Hebron updates.

There are several potential issues listed concerning the construction of a new facility, including cost, salt contamination and building location; residents can indicate their level of

Another question asks for a preference, if any, for the site of a new facility.

Along with a survey section, there are also sections providing a history and background of Hebron Public Works, as well as a project summary to date

There are thorough paragraphs outlining the different potential sites, and links for further background information.

The next steps listed after the survey included forming a Frequently Asked Questions based on the findings. Then, the selectman will select a site and authorize a bond. This would be followed by an eventual town meeting and referendum on the project.

Pride Month Proclamation

The board voted 4-0 in support of a drafted proclamation for Pride Month, which is celebrated globally throughout June. The vote wasn't without some controversy, however.

In part, the proclamation reads that Hebron officially recognizes and declares the month as Pride Month.

"We commend the efforts of local LGBTQ+ organizations, activists, allies and community

members who work tirelessly to advance the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals in our town," the proclamation states. "Their dedication and advocacy contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our community."

It continues, "Let us celebrate Pride Month with joy and unity, reflecting on the progress made and continuing our work towards a future where everyone can live authentically and with dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Selectman Tiffany Thiele emphasized the importance of the proclamation, especially "in light of the fear that many in the LGBTQ community are feeling right now."

"I thought this was a really good opportunity for the town to reiterate its commitment to the values of diversity and inclusion and acceptance," she said.

Larson, though, was hesitant on moving forward, stating that "these proclamations I think sometimes create more issues than they fix."

"We need to do stuff that brings us together as a nation and I'm not sure this proclamation does that," he asserted.

Larson expressed that he has relatives who are a part of the LGBTQ community and that sometimes, people want to stay out of the "spotlight."

He did acknowledge that sometimes his passion on topics "comes out too strong," and apologized if that was happening in this circumstance.

Selectmen Kasper and Marc Rubera both stated that they supported the proclamation; Larson then indicated he'd also sign off, as well, if his comments were duly noted in the discussion

He expressed that "all groups" needed to be included.

"We are all American and we need to realize that we all Americans and I don't care about skin; I don't care about any of that stuff," he said.

In-Person Meetings?

As the pandemic has gradually ended, many communities and volunteer boards have abandoned their virtual meeting formats and returned to in-person gatherings.

While in-person meetings are familiar to many residents and elected officials, virtual meetings have arguably made it easier for more people to attend and participate.

Gail Richmond, who was unable to attend the meeting, passed along her own thoughts in favor of remaining in a virtual setting.

Her reasons included that community participation has increased with online meetings, families don't need to worry about childcare, senior citizens don't have to drive at night, and weather typically doesn't interfere or cancel a scheduled meeting.

Thiele expressed that there's value in residents seeing their elected officials in person, and indicated that a transition to that format would be preferable. Perhaps, she added, a hybrid option that would allow people to watch both online and in-person could be pursued moving forward.

Kasper suggested that the town, which has ARPA funding set aside for this topic, look into the feasibility of the hybrid meeting option and add a further discussion point to a future agenda.



The HPP (Hebron Pollinator Pathway) will host a tree identification program Wednesday, June 14, from 4-6 p.m., at Raymond Brook Preserve; meet at the Kinney Road entrance.

At this walk with Felicia Millett, a plant diagnostician at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), folks will learn to identify trees by their leaves, bark, overall tree structure, fruit, and flowers. Participants will

includes fluid top off.

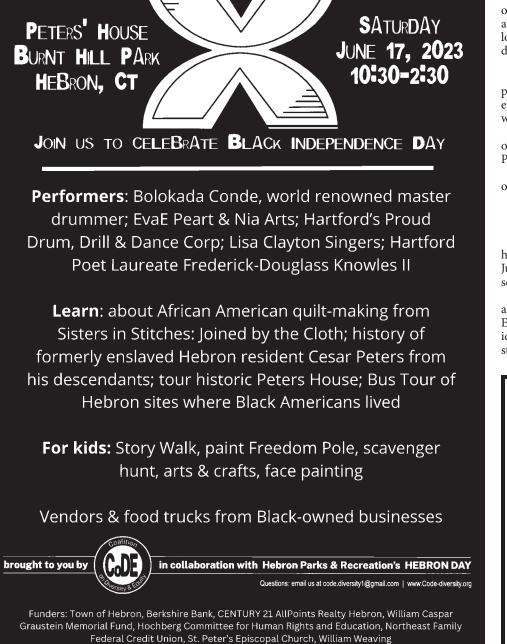
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learn the names, characteristics, function, special features and environmental contributions of trees. Learn what is threatening trees, how trees help mitigate climate change, and how we can support tree populations in open spaces, parks, forests, or your own backyard.

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RE6-9-23

Will Third Time Be the Charm?

By Michael Sinkewicz

Hebron's combined 2023-24 budget proposal of \$39.11 million is heading back to referendum next Tuesday; the plan is \$2.09 million more than current year spending.

Voting will be held at Hebron Elementary School from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The mill rate is penciled-in at 33.54 — a 1.84 increase; the average household's tax bill increase would be \$457. Under the previous budget numbers rejected at the second referendum, the median tax bill would've been a \$442 increase; the first referendum called for a \$594 median tax bill increase.

Compared to the figures presented at the first referendum, the town budget has now decreased by \$300,000 and the school budget has been cut by \$150,000; both budgets are still above their current-year spending levels, however.

The proposal being presented to voters next week is for a town budget at \$10.92 million around \$375,000 more than the 2022-23 fiscal year. The school budget is \$12.79 million around \$590,000 more than the current year.

The notable changes: the Board of Finance reduced the town government budget by \$50,000 and increased Hebron Board of Education budget by \$100,000.

Following the previous budget referendum results, the finance board could only modify the town and local school budgets.

The CIP budget of \$602,886 was approved by a 730-650 tally at the second referendum. Initially, the plan was slated at \$847,886, but after receiving considerable pushback from residents, \$245,000 earmarked for the design of a new Public Works facility was eliminated.

RHAM's spending plan of \$31.13 million a \$863,057 or 2.85% increase from current year spending — passed at referendum on the first attempt. While Hebron — the largest of the regional school district's three member towns rejected the proposal, the combined vote of the three member towns advanced the budget.

Hebron's levy of the RHAM budget was locked-in at \$15.38 million — a \$1.13 million increase from 2022-23.

In reducing the town budget while increasing the Hebron Board of Education budget, the finance board seemingly followed the roadmap left behind though the ballot advisory ques-

For the town budget, 859 voters stated that the bottom-line was "too high," while just 155 said the total was "too low," and 366 people had "no answer," an indication that the total was the right amount.

However, for the school budget, the majority of voters expressed that the total was either "too low" — $42\overline{3}$ voters — or "no answer" — with 342 votes. Still, 615 people voted that the school budget was "too high."

The total budget was rejected soundly by an

The Hebron Board of Education previously released a letter to students, staff, families and community members, outlining what a \$1.3 million cut would've looked like: increase class size in 4th grade, eliminate the dedicated STEAM class at Hebron Elementary School, reduce instructional supplies, eliminate our tutoring program, reduce speech and reading intervention services, eliminate any possibility of offering additional preschool classes, resulting in a lengthy wait list.

Following the \$100,000 restoration, Hebron Superintendent of Schools Thomas J. Baird said the school board can pull back "one or two" of the proposed staffing reductions.

"Most feedback we have received is to restore the 4th grade teacher position, lowering classsize, and I believe that would be a good decision for kids," he told the Rivereast last week.

The Board of Selectmen met on June 1, but did not commit to any official cuts to the town budget. Once the spending plan is approved by the community, the board will determine where to trim \$50,000; if the budget is once again rejected, that amount may change, as well.

Chairman Daniel Larson stated during the meeting that he would not be in favor of cutting any funding to pubic safety or town roads.

With previous reductions already implemented by the selectmen, along with state-mandated items, identifying further areas to trim is a challenge, he asserted.

The board, he continued, will have to target "things that are nice to have that we may have to pull a few funds out of."

"It's just sad," he said. "I'm just very upset." Larson continued, "We don't have really any fluff [in the budget], nor have we had fluff in our budget for a number of years."

Budget deliberations have been continuous in recent weeks, with tempers flaring during the finance board's most recent meeting last month.

>>>'Not My Proudest Moment'<<< According to school board member Nicole Matthews, one sixth-grader attempted to read a prewritten letter during the public comment section of the meeting, but was dissuaded from speaking when pressed by the finance board chairman Diane DelRosso if they were a registered voter. A school board member then accompanied the student at the microphone.

Matthews said DelRosso then, after banging her gavel, requested that a police offer who was stationed outside the room, come inside.

Matthews previously told the Rivereast that

the exchange was "antagonistic." "It escalated for no reason and it was uncalled

for," Matthews expressed. A second public comment section was added later in the meeting, and DelRosso apologized for the events that transpired.

She also reflected on the incident during last week's selectmen meeting, as well.

"The room was very emotional," DelRosso said, adding that those speaking were a "very emotionally charged group of parents and students concerned about their favorite things being cut from their school."

DelRosso stated that the majority of the comments made during the finance board meeting should've been made directly to the school board, because that body has ultimate line-item authority over school spending; the Hebron Board of Education held a special meeting last week following the events of the finance board meeting to allow students an additional opportunity to speak on the budgets.

She later thanked the board members who offered support at the prior meeting and during the selectmen meeting that night.

'It was a very difficult night for sure," she said. "It wasn't my proudest moment."

She suggested that the town discuss how children should be treated in public meetings to help protect their identities and whether their images and names should be used without per-

For those who were upset following the finance board meeting, DelRosso again apolo-

"I am sorry for how that was initially handled and the police were not called for the children but for the disorderly conduct of adults who were not being mindful of a formal board meeting," she said during the public comment por-

Earlier in the meeting, the selectmen also weighed-in regarding the budget season.

Marc Rubera, a Democrat on the board, said the process this year was "disconcerting."

"I think the discourse has devolved into rightself against wrong-others; my interests are more important than your interests," he said.

The board, he continued, is charged with providing services for the town, but at an affordable expense. School spending, while a top priority, is out of balance with what is affordable for the

He pointed to the salaries for school administrators and whether those costs had become too lofty. Then, at the finance board meeting, students were used as "pawns," which Rubera said was "distasteful."

Rubera, who is a sergeant with the Hebron Police Department, compared the maneuver to himself asking victims of local crimes to speak at meetings in order to shame the town into spending more money on police.

"I found that offensive and to speak the truth and to be shamed or demeaned or attacked for that is not right."

Republican board member Peter Kasper also spoke out, stating that "when we have a member of our community [Rubera] who has selflessly given years to this community feel this way, something is wrong."

"We are all volunteers that live in this community, so the idea that we're vilified for trying to bring something forward — if you don't like it, come out to vote. If you like it, come out to vote."

He continued by expressing that there's noth-

ing wrong with opposing the budget, "but we're not the problem; we're trying to be part of the

Kasper said the "us versus them" attitude on display with the boards in town "should never happen."

Beyond the general tone of the meetings and outlook on the boards' budget approaches, Larson also encouraged more people to participate in the budget process, which might eliminate some of the contention experienced this year.

"We are supposed to somehow know what everybody is thinking, but nobody shows up," he said, adding that typically, the same few faces attend meetings. "We're working in a vacuum and that's frustrating and it's gotten more and more frustrating with every passing year because everybody screams and yells at the end of the process but we need input, we need participation from the beginning of the process.

At the end of the meeting, DelRosso echoed these points, stating that the finance board was "seen as the people to fight against rather than

"This is a budget we need to get passed together and not be divisive," she asserted.

Absentee Ballots for Budget Referendum Absentee ballots for the June 13 budget refer-

endum are available at the town clerk's office at the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St. Office hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Fri-

In-person voting will be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St. Polls will be open Tuesday, June 13, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

For more information, visit hebronct.com or call 860-228-5971.

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From the Town Manager's Desk...

Dear Hebron Residents:

Hebron will come alive this month with many exciting outdoor community events; a few that are noteworthy are:

· The Farmers' and Artisan Markets will be taking place throughout the summer months thanks to our Parks & Recreation Department. These markets are held on Saturday at the Hebron Elementary School, for a list of dates please visit the town's website.

· The Town Center Project is sponsoring the Summer Concert Series to begin on June 23rd featuring the Modern Riffs, a Connecticut-based jazz band. The concerts continue every Friday through July. These concerts are held at 17 Main St. and are free to all.

· Hebron Day 2023 is on June 17th at Burnt Hill Park. This event has grown over the past several years and offers many activities including a car show, bounce houses, face painting, lawn games, wagon rides, food trucks, live music and Juneteenth celebration at the Peters House.

We are also privileged to have two beautiful golf courses located in town. The full-service Tallwood Country Club and the nationally highly rated Blackledge Country Club offering two beautiful 18-hole courses. If you are looking for a relaxing round or two of golf or to grab some lunch and enjoy the beautiful scenery, Hebron's golf courses are the answer.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely. Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager

Parks and Recreation News

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

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

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

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

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

Babysitters Training: Thursday, June 29, 9

a.m.-2 p.m. Gilead Hill School, for ages 11-17. This is an entry level course intended to teach age-appropriate skills to care for children of all ages. Basic first aid, including adult and child CPR, will be taught. Cost is \$80.

Nerf Zone and Schoolyard Games Camp: July 3-7, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at Hebron Elementary School, for grades 1-6.

Minds in Motion RE/CO Robot Camp: For ages 8-12. July 10-14, 9 a.m.-noon, at Gilead Hill School. Fee: \$145.

Minds in Motion Future Engineers Camp: For ages 8-12. July 10-14, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at GHS. Fee: \$145.

Building Up S.T.E.A.M. Lego Camp: For ages 5-6. July 17-21, 9 a.m.-noon, at GHS. Fee: \$140.

S.T.E.A.M. Works Using Lego Summer Camp: For ages 7-10. July 17-21, 1-4 p.m. at GHS. Fee: \$140.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Movie Night: Friday, June 16, 7 p.m., at the church. Jesus Revolution will be shown. All are

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

Scheduled Events/Meetings: 6/11: Board of Missions meeting, 11:30 a.m.; 6/12: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 6/12: Deacon Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.; 6/13: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 6/13: Final Pastoral Search Committee meeting, 7 p.m.; 6/14: Yoga in the Fellowship Hall, 9:30 a.m.; 6/15: Church Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Yoga in the Fellowship Hall: Will continue

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., through June 14. There will be no yoga Saturday, June 17. Starting Wednesday, June 21, yoga will move to Burnt Hill Park. Call Jennifer Goodine of Wise Warrior Yoga to register, at 860-531-

Father's Day Cards: The Board of Missions will sell Father's Day cards in support of the Church World Service Tool Program.

Choir: The choir is on break for the summer months, and will reconvene after the Hebron Harvest Fair. However, the choir will make a cameo on June 18 for the Rev. Matt McCaffrey's final service (see below).

Transition: The Rev. Matt McCaffrey's final Sunday worship is June 18; there will be a retirement reception following the service. Pastor Brian Hardee will start July 5, with July 9 being his first worship service with the congregation.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Legislative Wrap-Up: Tuesday, June 13, 11 a.m., with Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19). Sign up by calling the senior center.

Movie Monday: Monday, June 12, 12:45 p.m. Book Club will be shown.

Fun with Stitches Open Quilting Group: Friday, June 16, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Pre-reg-

Chatham Health Monthly Presentation: Tuesday, June 20, 11:30 a.m. The topic will be Outdoor Safety. Anyone can attend. Call the

Watercolors Painting Class: Fridays, June 23 and 30, 12:15-2:15 p.m. Cost is \$20 for the class. All levels welcome. Supply list available before the class

Created to Create Open Arts Group: Friday, June 23, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. This will be an open time to come work on your art projects; bring your own supplies.

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

Shopping Trips: Walmart June 16th, Big Y June 23rd, Stop and Shop June 30th. Pre-registration for each trip is required by Thursday at 10 a.m. To sign up, call the senior center.

Massage Therapy: Mondays and Thursdays, by appointment. Massage therapist Beverly Williams will perform 25-minute (for \$25) or

OPEN 24/7

50-minute (for \$50) chair or table massages or hot stone massages. Appointments available from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday. Call the senior center to make an appointment.

Bus Transportation to Mobile Food Truck and Food Bank: Every other Tuesday; call the center for dates. Pick-ups start approximately 10:30-10:45 a.m., and the food truck arrives at 11:15 a.m. at the Church of Hope/Red Barn at the corner of routes 85 and 66. Food bank arrival is approximately 11 a.m. Bring your own bags. Must sign up by 10 a.m. the day before.

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

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

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

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

Card-Stamping, 1-2:15 p.m.

Wednesdays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Mindful Meditation, first and third Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

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

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

Legislative Wrap-Up

June 13, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Flour Girl

If you want to discuss the 2023 legislative session, have questions about state government, are experiencing an issue with a state

agency, or have comments you'd like to share, this event will provide you with that oppor-

For more information, contact Weir at 800-

Calling All Musicians The Town Center Project (TTCP) is once

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State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) will nost a Post-Session Legislative Wrap-Up Tuesday,

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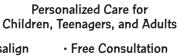


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Make Music Day is an international event dedicated to the celebration of music. This year's festivities will be held Wednesday, June 21. All levels of musicians are welcome,

in all genres. Musicians will line Main Street, bringing back the "Mile of Music." To sign up to participate, or for more in-

formation, visit thetowncenterproject.org or facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc, or email ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org.

Hartford Chorale Golf Tournament

The annual Hartford Chorale Classic golf tournament will be held Monday, June 26, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Registration is at 9 a.m., with a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

The activities include 18 holes of golf with a scramble format, lunch on the course, contests, prizes, raffles, and dinner at the clubhouse. There is also an online auction, that can be viewed at hartfordchorale.org/classic2022.

The Hartford Chorale is the primary symphonic chorus serving the Greater Hartford community. The annual tournament is an end-of-season celebration and fundraiser.

There are many ways to participate in the golf event. For more information or to sign up, visit hartfordchorale.org/classic2022. Sign up is also available at www.Blackledgecc.net.

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Friday Films: June 9, *The Quiet Girl* (rated PG-13); June 16, *A Good Person* (PG-13): June 23, 65 (PG-13); June 30, *Sweetwater* (PG-13.) Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

Want to Program Games?: Tuesday, June 20, 6-7 p.m. Are you an adult or young adult interested in programming games? Come meet up with others looking to start a group for collaboration.

Book Discussion at American Legion:

Wednesday, June 21, 7 p.m. Book discussion at the American Legion, located next door. *One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serle will be discussed. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk. Must be over 21 years of age to attend.

Teens & Adults Take-and-Make: Pick up your kit from the adult circulation desk while supplies last.

Chess Night: There are pickup games every Thursday in June, starting at 4 p.m., in the Community Room. All skill levels are welcome.

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

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional



Bacon Academy girls lacrosse team after winning the program's first state tournament game last Tuesday. Senior Katie Graham scored four goals during the historic victory, earning a Standout of the Week recognition.

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

It's another double dose of *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week, for the week of May 29 - June 4:

Katie Graham – Bacon Academy (Lacrosse): Graham, a senior, scored four goals as the Bobcats defeated Tolland 13-11 at Bacon Academy in the first round of the Class S state tournament on May 30. It marked the program's first state tournament victory in program history. Marissa Nudd also scored four goals, while Maddox Burton netted a pair of goals and had three assists and Anna LeGault scored a goal and dished out a team-high four assists in the historic win.

Josh Ambrose – Bacon Academy (Baseball): Ambrose, a senior, pitched a gem in the opening round of the Class M state tournament, striking nine and shutting out Seymour 3-0 on May 30 at French Park. Ambrose's effort from the mound propelled the No. 21 ranked Bobcats to an upset over the No. 12-ranked Wildcats. To provide support for Ambrose, Mason Pingree connected on a pair of hits and scored a run, while Steven Laliberte also had two hits for the Bobcats.

Aubrey Brainard – RHAM High School (Softball): Brainard, a freshman, drove in what turned out to be the game-winning run in extra innings when she doubled on an 0-2 count, driving home Abigail Pace as the Raptors defeated Tolland 3-2 in the second round of the Class M state tournament on May 31. Brainard's RBI cemented the Raptors second upset victory of the tourney, also defeating Stonington (6-0) in the opening round. Senior pitcher Hadley Marchand was spectacular in the two tourney wins, combining to strike out 26 batters and allow only seven hits and two runs.

Rachel Bartolucci - RHAM High School (Track and Field): Bartolucci won a state championship, finishing first in the 800 meters with a time of 2:18.99. Bartolucci, a senior, soundly defeated runner-up Ripley Penney of New Fairfield by more than three seconds to capture the event's crown at Willow Brook Park in New Britain on May 30. The soon-to-be graduate will run cross-country and track at Central Connecticut

State University.

Emily Jovel – East Hampton High School (Softball): Jovel, a sophomore, had three hits, driving in a run and scoring another as the No. 29 Bellringers upset No. 4 ranked Wilcox Tech 7-3 in the opening round of the Class S state tourney on May 30. Jovel connected on a single, double, and triple as the Bellringers scattered 11 total hits, including three from freshman Jocelyn Gustavsen, who also scored two runs.

Brian Collisson – East Hampton High School (Track and Field): Collisson won a state championship in the pole vault, taking first place at the Class S state finals at Willow Brook Park in New Britain on May 30. Collisson, a junior, also won the Shoreline Conference Championship the previous week, clearing a personal-best height of 12' 00".

Andrew Johnson – Portland High School (Track and Field): Johnson won a state championship in the javelin, finishing with a meetbest toss of 151'04" at the Class S state finals at Willow Brook Park in New Britain on May 30. Johnson, a senior, also teamed with Parker Thompson, Sam LaMalfa and Cole Bates for a runner-up finish in the 4x400 meter relay. The foursome would later break the school record in the 4x4 relay at the State Open, running a time of 3:29.29 on June 5.

Lillian Tabellione – Portland High School (Track and Field): Tabellione won a state championship in the 1600 meters and was the runner-up in the 3200 meters at the Class S state finals at Willow Brook Park in New Britain on May 30. Tabellione, a junior, ran a time of 5:19.36 to defeat Stephanie Burzynski of Somers by more than two seconds to capture the 1600 meters crown. Fellow junior Meghan McPhee also took home a state championship, winning the 800 meters with a time of 2:21.08.

To nominate someone as a Standout Athlete of the Week, or to offer sports-related comments, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.

Juneteenth Celebration Returns June 17

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

Juneteenth is a national holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. A variety of educational activities will be offered for children, youth and adults, to be held in and around the historic Peters House, 150 East St.

During the event, attendees will learn about the lives of formerly enslaved residents of Hebron, including Cesar Peters and his family, and about the path to freedom for all African Americans.

Live entertainment will include world-renowned master drummer Bolokada Conde; EvaE Peart and Nia Arts, a West African drumming and dancing troupe (audience invited to participate); Lisa Clayton Singers; Hartford's Proud Drum, Drill and Dance Corp.; and Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles II. In addition, Sisters by Sisters: Joined by the Cloth, a quilting guild celebrating culture, color, design and tradition through an African American perspective, will display quilts and share the history of quilts and quilt-making among the Black community.

Kids' activities will include a Story Walk with the book, Juneteenth for Mazie, written and illustrated by Floyd Cooper; face painting; arts and crafts, and more. Families can also take a narrated bus tour of several sites in Hebron where Black Americans lived and worked and tour the Peters house.

Church of the Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Camping equipment is critically needed for clients for whom the shelter has been unable to acquire temporary or permanent housing: 2-person tents with waterproof features, if possible [new or used (clean) with all parts; all other sizes not needed at this time]; 8'x10' and larger tarps (brown or green; no bright colors); tent cord or rope; tent stakes; sturdy adult backpacks (new

or used in good condition); and foldable shovels. Additional critical needs: 55- and 13-gallon trash bags; insect repellent; sunscreen; antibacterial ointment; men's flip-flops (S,M,L,XL; used as shower shoes); men's and women's deodorant and razors; paper towels (great need; mainly used for cleaning and sanitizing); toothpaste; men's boxer briefs (M,L,XL); women's briefs (sizes 6-10); shower curtain rings; plastic travel bottles to fill with hand sanitizer; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas mainly to support people living in their cars; and Walmart gift cards (\$15-\$25). Call to arrange the pickup of gift cards. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

AHM Annual Golf Tournament

All are invited to AHM Youth and Family Services' 20th annual Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, July 21, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

With the support of players and sponsors, this event benefits the mental health, drug prevention, and youth & family services AHM provides for local children, teens, young adults, families and seniors.

Cost per player is \$125. Registration includes 18 holes of golf, hole-in-one contests, morning and midday snacks, a swag bag with a commemorative 20th Anniversary AHM hat, a luncheon & hot dog cart provided by Ted's IGA, and more.

Visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/charity-golf-tournament to register.

High School Plans to Destroy Records

Confidential special education records and academic records for those students who have withdrawn/graduated from RHAM High School in 2017 will be destroyed after July 1.

Records may be obtained prior to this date by contacting the special education office at 860-228-5302.

FRC Summer Programs

The AHM Family Resource Center has summer programs available for young children and families. Find information at ahmyouth. recdesk.com/Community/Home.

Financial aid is available for families who qualify, by contacting Tressa Giordano at tressag@ahmyouth.org or going to ahmyouth.org/program-scholarship-application.

For more information about any of the programs, contact Becky Murray at 860-573-1260 or beckym@ahmyouth.org, or contact Ashlee Parks at ashleep@ahmyouth.org.

Graduation Lawn Signs on Sale

Parents and friends of RHAM High School Class of 2023 seniors are invited to purchase graduation lawn signs.

AHM Youth and Family Services recently purchased extra lawn signs, and will continue to sell them until supplies run out. Signs are \$20 each. To order, visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation. Note: if you don't already have a Rec Desk account with AHM, one will need to be created. If you do have an AHM Rec Desk account, select Project Graduation Lawn Sign Fundraiser from the program list.

Contact Jenn Boehler at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org or 860-228-9488 ext. 22 for more information.



Lions Donate to RHAM Youth Lacrosse... The Hebron Lions recently donated to the RHAM Youth Lacrosse organization. All funds donated by the Hebron Lions have been used to help with the purchase of an equipment shed for the league. Pictured above are the RHAM Youth Lacrosse players from both the boys and girls Bantam- and Lightning-level lacrosse teams. RHAM Youth Lacrosse is a nonprofit youth lacrosse organization for girls and boys in grades K-8 that serves the Hebron, Andover and Marlborough area. This youth organization has operated for 19 years and this is the first equipment shed they have had to store items for the league in program history. In all years prior to this spring season, all equipment had been stored at the homes of parent volunteers in the community. RHAM Youth Lacrosse said it is extremely grateful for the Hebron Lions' generosity.

Page 18 NEWS BULLETIN • June 9, 2023

East Hampton • East Hampton

EHHS Top Two Learners Building Their Futures

By Jack Lakowsky

Daniel Drlik and Melanie Hurt, respectively, are East Hampton High School's Class of 2023 valedictorian and salutatorian, both highly decorated individuals heading to UConn for STEM majors in the fall.

Both spoke to the *Rivereast* this week about their plans for the future, on a path paved in part by the dozens of accolades between them, especially impressive given their first year of high school, and the second, was disrupted by the pandemic.

Hurt has a backbreaking number of medals and achievements.

Last year, Hurt earned a Clarkson University Leadership Award for "outstanding leadership qualities who's been a positive contributor to both the school and greater community." She got a Computing Medal and Scholarship Award from the Rochester Institute of Technology, and is a member of the National Honor Society, multiple clubs, concert band, the tennis team, and is vice president of the Bring Change to

To boot, she's a teacher's assistant at Epoch Arts and on the Teen Advisory Board for the local public library.

Her ambitions are fittingly lofty. At UConn, she'll pursue neuroscience and computer science. She told the *Rivereast* she can see herself doing cybersecurity, a field rife with opportu-

nity, and likes the sound of being a penetration specialist, who "mock"-hacks companies that want to test their cybersecurity, an especially important job in the age of ransomware.

Valedictorian Drlik, recipient of a litany of awards – the Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Merit and the Rensselaer, both highly coveted, achievements recognizing exceptional math scores. He's class president, National Honor Society president, and captain of the crosscountry team. He plans to pursue civil engineering and wants to design a famous structure.

Drlik's accomplishments in cross-country are, to put it mildly, remarkable.

In the CIAC Class SS Championship last October, Drlik helped lead the team 4th place in the entire state. Individually, Drlik placed 17th, the second of two East Hampton boys to place in the top 20, with EHHS's Aiden Palen placing

UConn wasn't Drlik's first choice, but it was the best choice, he said. The university has great STEM programming, and just recently put up a new STEM building. He said the campus isn't "too big or too small." After college, he hopes to follow in his dad's footsteps, conceiving, designing, and creating buildings, particularly houses.

"I was a big Lego kid," he said.

For Hurt, it was a choice between Northeastern in Boston and UConn. The former costs \$80,000 a year, so that was a no-go.



Melanie Hurt

UConn, she said, has a manageably sized campus, and a well-stock, large library. She's deciding between being a neurosurgeon and a cybersecurity analyst.

"The brain may be more of a hobby," said Hurt.

Early coding classes sparked her interest in cyber work, as did the pandemic. When her class was learning remotely, she decided she wanted to make computers better.

Neither is single-minded, with interests galore

Accomplished athlete Drlik learned as much from sports as he did in the classroom – which is saying something, considering how highly he spoke of his teachers. Like many young athletes, Drlik got his ticket to adult confidence from his sports.

"It's been a really important part of my life," he said.

In the short years of high school, he said he's grown to be more supportive of other people, learned to set goals and, once accomplishing them, growing them, and to be more confident in his academics. He said as a freshman, he was "scared and anxious,"

Drlik said he feels the pandemic, in a kind of perverse way, brought people closer togeth-

Church in Tag Sale

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

To participate, register with the Historical Society (applications available at the town clerk's office) and pay a reservation fee; enter the address of 17 Haddam Neck Rd. as location for the

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



Daniel Drlik

er. People "came together for people's physical safety," he said.

"We worked to make the school safer," Drlik aid.

To this past self, he'd say, at the risk of corniness, high school goes by incredibly fast.

"And make sure you just have some fun," Drlik said.

Hurt actually caught COVID-19 not long ago and had to retake two AP exams on the same day, a hard but key lesson about dealing with life's natural unpredictability. Tied into that, her freshmen year, Hurt lost out on the high school's band trip to Virginia Beach. She did get the Disney Trip and got to perform in concerts.

To her little 14-year-old self, she'd say: "For the most part, it gets better."

Both young scholars said they're only parting wish is that the school designate more quiet spaces, where, during the long, stressful school day, any student can take a moment to breathe and unwind – certainly a life skill as this gifted pair move on to bigger, better things.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste collection event Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School, 49 Lyme St., Old Lyme.

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

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

Police News

5/31: James Tadeschi, 63, of 7 Jobs Gate 1, Portland, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

6/1: Dennis Donovan, 59, of 6 Pine Tr., was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

6/4: Maria Nieves, 27, of 291 Chestnut Hill Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

From May 29-June 4, officers responded to 12 medical calls, seven motor vehicle crashes and four alarms, and made 20 traffic stops, police said

Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

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

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

OHD Parade to Honor Fire Department

On Saturday, July 8, the Old Home Day Parade honors the men and women of the East Hampton Fire Department and its 100-Year Anniversary. Several area firetrucks of all sizes and sounds are expected for the parade.

All local businesses, organizations, groups, clubs and teams are invited to participate in the parade. If you are designing a parade display, please consider these themes: "100 Years of Service – Thank You East Hampton Fire Department!"; "Local Recognition – Did a citizen

or group in East Hampton recently receive an award or recognition for their recent contribution to their school, town, state or country?"; or "The Power of Education – How can your display educate spectators?"

If interested in participating, fill out the Parade Request Form online at www.ehohd.org. For more information, contact Bo Tinson, parade chair, at 860-414-9712 or RLTinson@gmail.com.

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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: Éach 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 interac-

Library Friends Book Sale

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

For more information, email friendsofehpl@gmail.com

tive activities about God's love are offered for kids in the Fellowship Hall during the worship service. All are welcome.

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

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

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

Sports Boosters Golf Tourney

All are invited to East Hampton Sports Boosters' 31st annual Golf Tournament on Tuesday, June 27, at Blackledge Country Club.

The Boosters support various team requests along with awarding two scholarships to graduating seniors.

To register, go to tinyurl.com/bp8szmcx or call Jeff at 860-398-1263.

Garden Tour and Plein Air Paint Event

The second annual East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission Garden Tour and Plein Air Paint Event will be held Saturday, June 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring six private and two community gardens.

Locations include 23 Old Skinner St., 82 Young St., 11 Markham Rd., 69 Collie Brook Rd., 32 Daly Rd. and 26 Barton Hill Rd., as well as the community garden at the Air Line Trail/Cranberry Bog on Smith Street and Epoch Arts at 27 Skinner St. Seven local artists have also registered to set up easels and paint live during the event.

A closing reception will be hosted by Mc-Clean Hill Farm on Depot Hill Road in Cobalt from 2-4 p.m. Admission to the garden tour is free, though donations to East Hampton Food

Dean's List

Jose Thomas Diaz of East Hampton made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

He is a freshman majoring in computer sci-

Bank are appreciated.

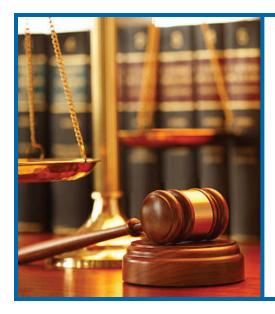
Informational fliers will be posted around town and maps will be available soon at the town clerk's office, East Hampton Public Library, and at Old Bank Flowers and Greenery in the East Hampton Village Center on Main Street. People can also email arts@easthamptonct.org or visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org.

For more information, call Melissa Pionzio at 860-993-5311.

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



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Rotary Drums Up Donation... The East Hampton Middle School band thanked the East Hampton Rotary Club for donating a \$500 Rotary Club grant this year to the EHMS Music Department to purchase three new marching drums. Pictured with the new marching drums are, from left, seventh-grade band students Kaeden Owen, Kayla Rau and Gabby Zisk. These drums were played in school concerts, school events and at the East Hampton Memorial Day Parade.

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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

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, June 14, from 1-6 p.m., at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St.

All who donate will receive a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice. They'll also be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package including a projector and screen, projector tripod, smokeless firepit, Adirondack chair set and a movie night snack

Mercy Honor Roll Mercy High School President Alissa DeJonge

has announced the following local students made its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-23 school year:

Seniors: High Honors: Harper Carlson; Honors: Mairan Hall.

Juniors: Honors: Brooke Adams.

Sophomores: Highest Honors: Clara Romero; High Honors: Olivia Arcari, Sianna Fagan, Courtney Klewicki, Jerica Leary, Payton Polsonetti, Sage Svalestad; Honors: Riley McCormick.

Freshwomen: High Honors: Abigail Hintz, Calista Nephew, Lauren Riegler; Honors: Kendall Beaulieu, Madison Benigni, Eva Hintz.

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.ypcca.org. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need. Email info@ypcca.org for more information.

Local Brewery, Authors Team Up for Event

On Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11, from 1-4 p.m. both days, local authors will team up with Rule of 3 Brewing in East Hampton for "Books and Brews II."

Anyone who stops by Rule of 3 on Saturday or Sunday will have a chance to chat with 40 local authors, buy signed copies of their books, and have a locally brewed craft beer.

The works of the 40 authors selected for the two-day event represent a wide variety of genres, including murder mysteries, historical fiction, military, poetry, horror, romance, children, and young adult.

Rule of 3 Brewing is located at 201 West High St., Unit B1.

Resident Graduates

Skylar Vicino of East Hampton recently graduated from Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.



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East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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.

Children's Programs: Storytimes Notice: Toddler Time, Stories & Songs, Mindful Movements, and Baby Rhyme Time will resume starting June 14.

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.

Free Blood Pressure Screening: Monday, June 12, noon-1 p.m., at the senior center. Sponsored by the Chatham Health Department. All are welcome to stop by and monitor their blood pressure; no appointment necessary.

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group Now Twice a Month: Mondays, June 12 and 26, 10:30 a.m. This is a casual opportunity to meet others and discuss what's on your mind.

Ageless Meditations with Victoria: Mondays, June 12 and 26, 1-2 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude

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.

Kick Back and Bowl: June 14, 1-3 p.m., for grades 4-9. Cost is \$30.

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.

No Second **Congregational Services**

For the month of June, the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam members and friends will worship at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Rd., Haddam Neck.

All are invited to the 10 a.m. service there. No worship services will be held at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam during June.

Resident Graduates

Meagan McLaughlin of East Hampton recently graduated cum laude from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., with a Bachelor of Science degree in health care administration and management.

Teen Programs: Nintendo Switch Game Play for Grades 6-12: Saturday, June 17, 2-3:30 p.m. Come to the library to play Mario Party: Superstars. All skill levels welcome.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons: Every other Wednesday beginning June 28, from 5:30-7:30

Adult Programs: Belltown Book Blast: Friday, June 16, 10 a.m. Come for coffee or tea and bookish banter. No registration needed; just

LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham: Saturday, June 17, 10:15 a.m. Meacham, a Yoga 200 certified instructor, will lead an hour of gentle yoga in the Community Room. All levels welcome.

Book Club: Tuesday, June 20, 6:30 p.m. In a Sunburned Country by Bill Bryson will be discussed. Copies are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

in a group setting.

Book Club: Tuesday, June 13, 11:30 a.m., at Sadler's Ordinary. Have a review of Vanishing Half by Britt Bennet over lunch. Each member is responsible for their own meal. Let Donna know if you will attend. The senior center van will be available for transport. The group will not meet in July or August.

Celebrate Flag Day Ice Cream Social: Wednesday, June 14, 1-3 p.m. There will be music and ice cream in memory of Bob Atherton.

Family Tree: Friday, June 16, 10:30 a.m. Ken Doney will again help participants search for the history of their families. Bring your own mobile device. One-on-one time will be available.

Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW): Monday, June 19, 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.

Leaves Up Close: Wednesday, June 21, 10:30 a.m. Master Naturalist Lynn Kochiss will discuss the role leaves play in helping the planet, and how they guide people to know trees better.

Art w/Karen: Sunday, June 25, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will lead people through beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Cost is \$5 for supplies. Pay Williams the day of the event. Pre-registration is necessary.

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

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

Dean's List

Isabella Marie Diaz of East Hampton made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut State University.

She is a senior majoring in health science.







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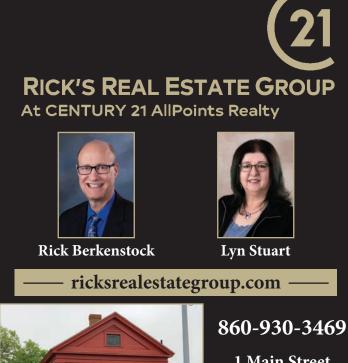
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Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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

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 wel-

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

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

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

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





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Classical Guitarist.... East Hampton Public Library welcomes classical guitarist Daniel Corr for an evening of music Tuesday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m., in the library Community Room. Seating is limited; please register at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org or call 860-267-6621. Light refreshments will follow.

Dean's List

Victoria Kelpen of East Hampton made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.









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- Get a hat.
- Wear sunglasses. Apply sunscreen.

To learn more about keeping your kids safe in the sun, visit www.cdc.gov

koco4kids.org

East Hampton • East Hampton

Finance Board Advances Revised Budget

By Jack Lakowsky

On Tuesday, the Board of Finance quickly advanced a revised budget to the Town Council, for approval of a combined education and town budget of \$54 million, which includes a restoration of \$250,000 to the schools.

This has been a budget season for the books. After a relatively quiet start, things exploded in April when the finance board chopped nearly \$800,000 from the school district budget, which would've cost teachers and programming, as well as funding for an additional police officer and about \$174,000 to help the East Hampton Ambulance Association bring in some nonvolunteer staff.

The East Hampton Town Council, GOP-led like the finance board, sent this budget to voters. Last week, they put a torch to it at the polls and rejected it soundly. Students, parents and residents mobilized to push back a budget they felt short changed two essential town jobs – educating kids and protecting citizens.

The town side was resoundingly rejected – 2015 to 904, with 1,500 of those calling the number too low. A further 1,100 said it was too high.

The school board vote was a total knockout – nearly 2,300 voters said yes, totally overwhelming the 617 nos. Nearly 1,650 said it was too low.

Adding the town's totals bring the number of voters that showed out to almost 6,000, though numbers are not yet official.

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.

Goff House Sponsorships Available

There is still time to support The Joseph N. Goff House 2023 Gazebo Concert Series, which will be held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. from June 22 through Aug. 3 (no concert July 6) in the East Hampton Village Center.

There are many levels of participation including: Maestro, \$300 or more; Orchestra, \$250-\$300; Soprano, \$150-\$250; Alto, \$100-\$150; Tenor, \$50-\$100; Bass, Up to \$50. All amounts are welcome.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to: Joseph N. Goff Inc., PO Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Last week, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said the result was encouraging, telling the *Rivereast* now the plans go back to the finance board at its June 6 meeting, and after they have their say, it'll go to the council.

Along with the school money, the finance board gave the ambulance association almost \$300,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARPA) stimulus dollars. The EHAA has been angling for help for two years, and when ARPA first came through in 2021, it was one of the first local organizations asking for support. The original \$174,000 cut by the board would've been town money.

Here's what's headed to the council: a town budget of about \$18.13 million, a bump of about \$643,000 or close to 4% above the current spending plan.

With the addition of the quarter million, the school board budget is now about \$35.86 million. Combined, the education and town budgets are about \$54 million, about \$2 million, or just over 4%, higher than the current spending plan.

According to info from Town Manager Dave Cox, the council is expected to take up budget talks at its June 13 meeting. Cox expects voters to head to the polls again soon after July 4.

Along with the ambulance money the finance board put in about \$134,000 to fund the new cop it cut previously.

Before the vote, finance board vice chair Alannah Coshow said the process has been needlessly painful, rife with "vitriol" and falsehoods, and said the finance board did not have all the necessary information about a budget document published long before it had its April discussion.

Coshow said the budget still saved taxpayers

about a half million dollars. Coshow said the headbutting "caused too much damage", and that people "should do better."

Finance board member Russell Bonaccorso commented on the ambulance money, saying now, there were enough details to give them the money. What they said wasn't clear, but one member of the public vocalized a degree of displeasure at Bonaccorso's claim.

Bonaccorso voted against the town side of the budget, saying it wasn't fair to other departments, who were told to freeze or minimize new hiring. He said he wants the lieutenant, but the new beat cop is unnecessary. Coshow joined him opposing the town budget, also saying the new cop isn't needed.

Finance board Democrat Ted Turner said police chief Dennis Woessner serves the town well, and deserves these new employees, especially considering he's been asking for them for more

than one budget cycle at this point.

In the last year, the rift between the local school board and the two other major boards, the council and the finance board, has widened greatly. The school board is also under Republican control, though its chair, Christina Tammaro-Dzagan, has since left the party, and now sits as an independent. Republican school board members Mike Buck and Auggie Ardnt have also blasted both the council and finance for shortchanging local kids.

In a letter to this paper, Tammaro-Dzagan went as far as to say she regretted helping Republicans to victory in 2021.

In letters to the *Rivereast* locals accused the finance board of suppressing public comments. There was no agenda item for public comment in the special meeting, and because it was a special meeting, Cox said, the item couldn't be added in meeting.

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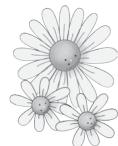
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Bacon Academy Scholar-Athletes: Gorreck and Moores

Grace Gorreck and Ryan Moores were selected as Bacon Academy's Scholar-Athletes of the Year for the year 2022-2023 school year.

The Scholar-Athlete Program annually recognizes two high school seniors from each member high school of the Connecticut Association of Schools/Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CAS/CIAC) whose academic and athletic careers have been exemplary, whose personal standards and achievements are a model to others, and who possess high levels of integrity, self-discipline and courage.

The pair was honored at the 40th annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington last month.

'Rock Steady' Gorreck

Along with being the Class of 2023 salutatorian, Gorreck was a four-year member of the school's volleyball team, playing on the varsity team since her sophomore season and serving as an outside hitter for the Bobcats.

In the fall of 2022, Gorreck earned Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Scholar-Athlete recognition on the courts and was also a standout her junior season when the team won an ECC Division II title in 2021.

Gorreck stated that volleyball has "helped me grow mentally, socially, and physically more than any other activity I have participated in."

Bacon Academy volleyball head coach Scott Dumond called her "rock steady", adding that Gorreck was an "extremely smart player and

"She demonstrates her leadership through action. I could count on her for anything and that rolled into her being a great captain," added Dumond. "The same effort that she puts into her school work and in life, she would put into vollevball."

Gorreck was also instrumental with helping the volleyball program grow, organizing and leading a week-long clinic for middle schoolers last spring and also running two charity games that raised more than \$2,300.

Dumond said Gorreck's dedication to the program was evident from the first day she stepped onto the court.

"Grace was always looking to help," added

Dumond. "If I needed fliers printed out or something done for the team, Grace was the one I went to. She would spread the word and com-

municate with other girls."

Dumond added, "She was always doing what she was supposed to do. I am going to miss her completely.

Gorreck, who was also a volunteer coach for youth basketball in Colchester, will attend Marist College and study environmental science as part of the college's honors program.

Moores Goes the Distance

Moores was ranked No. 1 in his class academically, earning the school's valedictorian distinction, and was also one of the state's top distance

Along with a slew of academic achievements, Moores was a three-season runner, competing on the cross-country trails in the fall and the outdoor and indoor tracks in the winter and

Moores was three-sport captain his senior season and earned all-conference multiple times in all three.

He won dozens of events during his tenure at Bacon Academy, including an Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) title in the 1600 meters during indoor track and followed his conference title with a 3rd place finish at the Class S championships, running a personal-best time of 4:24.99 in February.

Track and field head coach Steve Browning said that Moores' work ethic is second to none.

"He has done a lot for the program," added Browning. "It's been a real pleasure to coach

Browning noted that Moores was able to juggle his extensive school and volunteer schedule with his desire to become an elite runner.

"He's really bright, really dedicated. He is pretty much anything you would want in an athlete," added Browning. "He's very independent and he'll do the work when you're not looking, which is a good influence on younger kids."

This past fall, Moores placed 3rd in the Class M cross-country championships to wrap up four productive years on the local trails.

Moores was also capable of excelling at a variety of distances during track season, compet-



Grace Gorreck and Ryan Moores were selected as Bacon Academy's Scholar-Athletes of the Year.

ing in the 400, 800, 1600, and the 3200 meters, along with participating in several relay teams.

"Kids fed off his energy," stated Browning. "Knowing how good he was, the other kids would work harder and Ryan could pull us through the toughest events. I can't tell you how many meets we won because of him."

Moores, who is the vice president of the Class of 2023 at Bacon Academy, will attend Princeton University to study neuroscience. He will use his first year at the university as a gap year and study abroad in Indonesia through the Novogratz Bridge Year Program.

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

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

Block Island Breeze: Tuesday, July 18. Enjoy a ferry ride for the 12-mile trip to the island complete with an enclosed passenger area, cocktail bar, and galley. There will be a guided tour of the island, lunch at the National Hotel

(make meal choice in advance), and time 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.

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-aweek 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.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Haylee Skoog, Liah Brown and Andrew Navickas made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Lasell University in Newton,



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Boy Scout High Adventure Trip Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 72 will have a car wash Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Colchester Federated Church at 60 Main St. The purpose of the car wash is to raise funds for scouts and leaders to pay their way for the seven-day Maine High Adventure canoe trip.

Troop 72 will also collect recyclable cans

and bottles during the car wash.

Cash donations to the High Adventurer fund will also be appreciated. Donations can be sent to Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester, CT 06415, attention "Troop 72 BSA." Add note: High Adventure Trip.

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.

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

Gentle Yoga: Online with Facebook Live. For ages 45 and older. The four-week classes are held Mondays from 4:45-5:45 p.n. Choose June 12-July 17 (no class June 19 or July 3), or July 24-Aug. 14. Cost per four-week session: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

SPT Summer Soccer Camp: For ages 5-15. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the RecPlex. Cost is \$225/player for full-day (9 a.m.-3 p.m.), and \$150/player for half-day (9

CYSS Summer Trips

Colchester Youth and Social Services' summer trip calendar features trips revisiting some favorite places and included a few new ones too. Colchester students entering grades 4-12 will have the opportunity to come on trips throughout the season.

Copies of the 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. This is an online-only registration program; there is no in-person registration. Call CYSS for more information, at 860-

537-7255.

a.m.-noon). There will also be a camp Monday-Friday, July 24-28, from 5-8 p.m., at the RecPlex. Cost is \$150/player.

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

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

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

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-

Alter's birthday; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on 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.

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, June 12: 9 a.m., Commission on Aging meeting at Town Hall, Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, June 13: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., LTC Ombudsman Meeting; 11:15 a.m., Eating Healthy for Bone Health; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, Choices Counseling; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting.

Wednesday, June 14: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1 p.m., Life Review Journaling; 2:30 p.m., Senior Center Staff Meeting; 4-7 p.m., CoA's Aging in Place vendor fair at Cragin Memorial Library

Thursday, June 15: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip to Waterford; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3:30 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling with Ellen; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, June 16: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; no Yoga today; 11 a.m., Anniversary Party; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., Ham Radio Group – new members welcome.

"Fintastic" Father's Day Luncheon: Wednesday, June 21, 10:45 a.m. Celebrate all the important men in your life, both past and present, with a fishing-themed luncheon. Wear a silly tie or hat. Enjoy a barbecue chicken lunch with baked beans, coleslaw, and strawberry shortcake. Musical entertainment will be provided by the hilarious Elderly Brothers. Register by June 14 or until full. Cost is \$9 per person.

AARP Driver Safety: Wednesday, June 28, noon-4 p.m. Learn how to manage and accommodate age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time – and possibly qualify for a discount from your insurance provider. Open to anyone 50 and over. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Register by June 21.

AARP Smart Driver Tek: Wednesday, June 28, 9:45 a.m. This free, 90-minute workshop will teach drivers the latest in high-tech safety features in their current or future cars. Open to ages 50 and up. Pre-register for this class by June 21. Space is limited.

Pride Month Discussion: Elevating Awareness, Building Community: Thursday, June 29, 5:30 p.m. Representatives from various local and state organizations will offer an evening discussion designed to increase understanding and awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community, how people can become more supportive allies, and how to provide better access to the resources available within the community.

Did You Know...

DIABETICS: We have the highest resolution imaging system available to look at your retina for the earliest signs of diabetic changes. The eye is the only part of the body where we can see arteries and veins and brain tissue under normal conditions without opening you up. And it's painless. Control diabetes by monitoring the eye for diabetic changes once a year.

MIGRAINE SUFFERERS: There are now therapeutic eyeglass lenses available that can help stop a migraine before it starts or help it fade away faster. Based on a study from Harvard University, these lenses absorb wavelengths (colors) of light that aggravate migraines and transmit the ones that don't. If you experience severe light sensitivity during a migraine, these lenses may be as effective as medications. We have demo lenses in our office.

INSOMNIA SUFFERERS: If it's hard for you to get to sleep or stay asleep, there are now eyeglass lenses that block the wavelengths of light that have been shown to interfere with going to sleep and staying asleep. Wearing these lenses for at least 2 hours before bed helps the brain prepare to release natural sleep hormones to help you fall asleep and stay asleep. Studies at Tulane University have identified the offending wavelengths, so special filtering lenses can eliminate them. They are similar to the "Blue Blocking" lenses that have helped so many computer users relieve eyestrain.

FLOATER SUFFERERS: Floaters are those annoying, shadowy spots that many people see in their vision that move away whenever you look at them. Most people have them. Some are annoying; some really interfere with vision. A study from Ireland concluded that almost 70% of participants who took a new once-a-day supplement reported a reduction or elimination of floaters after 6 months of use. Our office can identify your floaters with our imaging systems as you follow the study protocol for at least 6 months. We stock the supplement at the Palmer Eyecare Center.

BOATERS: Have you ever watched a pair of sunglasses go overboard and sink out of sight to the bottom of the lake or ocean? We now have sunglasses that FLOAT! With polarized lenses from 3M, these wraparound sunglasses can't sink. You still have to fish them out of the water though. We also carry floating eyeglass cords that will help keep your sunglasses near the surface.

LIGHT SENSITIVITY SUFFERERS: Summertime means more sun and brighter sun. There are new generations of Transitions lenses that get darker outdoors (and even in cars). The ultraviolet wavelengths in sunlight power the lenses to darken in seconds! And when you go inside, they completely lighten up in a couple minutes. 'TIS THE SEASON for sunglasses and Transitions lenses.

HEADACHE, VERTIGO, DOUBLE VISION and CAR SICKNESS SUFFERERS: Calibrating your vision so that the vision is crystal clear at all distances AND that your eyes are precisely aiming exactly where they are supposed to aim helps most of these problems go away. It's what we do every day with eyeglasses and contact lenses.

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Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School meets during the worship ser-

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

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

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

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

Summer Children's Theater Workshop

Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) will hold its Summer Children's Theater Workshop in July - but auditions are next week.

Auditions will be held Sunday, June 11, from 2-3:30 p.m., and Monday, June 12, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Congregation Ahavath Achim (Colchester Synagogue) on 84 Lebanon Ave. The workshop is open to all children entering grades 2-12 in the fall.

Every child must audition to attend the program. There are no exceptions. Registration before auditions is required and includes completion of a participation form, liability waiver, copy of physical exam and volunteer form for parents in addition to the registration fee of \$135 per child (additional \$15 Town of Colchester processing/administrative fee included).

Registration can be done online at colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Home. Each child is to bring sheet music or an instrumental recording and be prepared to sing. An accompanist will be provided.

The workshop will be held at Bacon Academy July 10-21, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-noon each day. The workshop will culminate in a show Monday, July 22, at 2 p.m. Colchester Community Theatre will follow Colchester Parks and Recreation policies and procedures as well as the Colchester Public Schools guidelines during auditions and the workshop for the health and safety of its performers, pa-

This summer, CCT will produce Disney's Finding Nemo Jr., a musical adaptation of the 2003 Pixar movie Finding Nemo, with new music by award-winning songwriting team Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez. Marlin, an anxious and overprotective clownfish, lives in the Great Barrier Reef with his kid Nemo, who longs to explore the world beyond their anemone home. But when Nemo is captured and taken to Sydney, Marlin faces his fears and sets off on an epic adventure across the ocean. With the help of lovable characters such as optimistic Dory, laid-back sea turtle Crush, and the supportive Tank Gang, Marlin and Nemo both overcome challenges on their journey to find each other and themselves.

The musical features memorable songs such as "Just Keep Swimming," "Fish Are Friends Not Food," and "Go With the Flow."

Contact Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or Laura Brown at RTR1982@aol.com for more information.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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 allages day of walking along the trail, seeking fairy houses and creating forest-friendly fairy homes from found natural materials. Includes a makeand-take fairy house craft.

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

All are welcome. The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www. facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

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-addresses 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 validation 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 \$1.00 per month starting July 1.

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

History Museum in Open House Day

The Colchester History Museum will be open for a special public event on Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., for Connecticut's 19th Annual Open House Day. In addition to free admission, the Colchester History Museum is offering several family-friendly Scavenger Hunts. There are prizes for successful searchers!

For the family-friendly Museum Scavenger Hunt, folks will search for 20 objects within the exhibits at Colchester History Museum. Additional scavenger hunts can be done at the nearby Colchester Burying Ground. There you can discover the story of the many gravestone carvers and notable citizens. We offer both a kid and adult version of the hunt for the Burying Ground. Prizes are available for everyone finding the items on the scavenger hunt cards.

The Colchester History Museum is open on Sundays through December, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. each week. The museum is free and open to the public, with five rooms of exhibits highlighting the history of the town. Discover Colchester's past through exhibits illustrated with vintage photographs and objects.

For more information, email mail@colchesterhistory, call 860-537-4230, or visit www.colchesterhistory.org.

Guardian Angels Parish

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

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

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

For more information, contact Angela Corentin at 860-402-8316 or acorentin1219@ gmail.com.

Bacon Class of '73 Reunion

The Bacon Academy Class of 1973 will conduct its 50th year reunion at St. Joseph's Polish Club on Saturday, June 17, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person, payable to Debra Martin.

The reunion committee is presently looking for information on the following classmates: Charles Arnold, Dina Bienvenue, Terry Corn, Robert Giguere, Diana Hula, James Kellogg, Debra Skut, Donald Smith, Wayne Zielinski and

Anyone with questions or information email BaconAcademy73@gmail.com.

Aging in Place

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

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

Colchester on the Green

The 43rd annual Colchester on the Green event is happening on June 11 (rain date of June 25) and the Colchester Business Association is accepting applications for tag sale booths, craft fair and business booths, nonprofits and enter-

The Colchester Business Association organizes this annual event and you can learn more about it and apply for a booth online at www. ColchesterCBA.com or by sending an email to info@colchesterctbusiness.com.

Troop 13 Seeks **Tag Sale Items**Boy Scout Troop 13 of Colchester is seeking

tag sale items for their booth at the Colchester (Tag Sale) on the Green, Sunday, June 11.

Donations such as toys, books, holiday decorations, kitchen items, and small household items will be accepted. No clothing, TVs or outdated electronics, please.

Call Gail at 860-212-1743 or email troop-13tagsale@gmail.com to arrange for pickup or drop-off of donated items.

Car Wash Fundraiser

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Cadets, along with the Connecticut State Police Troop K Explorers, will hold a car wash fundraiser Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Colchester Fire Headquarters, 52 Old Harford Rd

Advisors will assist with this event using foam power sprayers.

Donations will be accepted. For more information, call Debi at 860-204-1598.

Residents Present Workshop

Two Colchester residents were among the students at Lasell University in Newton, Mass., who presented at the recent annual Connected Learning Symposium.

Haylee Skoog presented their senior graphic design practicum portfolio at Lasell's Yamawaki

Liah Brown presented the latest issue of Polished, Lasell's student-run and student-produced fashion magazine. Brown was a co-man-

Resident Graduates

Ryan Isenberg of Colchester recently graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., with a Master of Science degree in healthcare administration.





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Senior Trip to Boston

Colchester Senior Center is offering a "Best of Boston" trip Tuesday, July 11, departing at 8:15 a.m.

See the New England Aquarium, have lunch on your own at Quincy Market, then take a narrated tour of Boston ride aboard the "Duck," an amphibious vehicle that rides on land and becomes a boat in water.

Cost is \$138/person. Book your trip at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave., by June 9. Call 860-537-3911 for more information. Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18.

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.

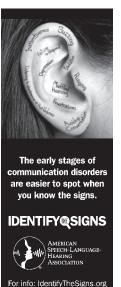
Scouting for GirlsGirls age 11-17 are now eligible to join
Girl Scouts, and even though Colchester doesn't have a female troop at this time, there is still an opportunity to participate.

Troop 1028 in Hebron has an active girls troop. It meets Wednesday evenings at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Parish Hall on Route 85 from 7-8:30 p.m. Call 860-670-8351 to get more information.

Dean's List

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

Grant Barber, who is majoring in psychology; Laney Barrett, who is majoring in education; Kevin Giulini, who is majoring in criminal justice; Skylar Gustavsen, who is majoring in health science; Paige Lawrence, who is majoring in exercise science/pre-AT; Sarah Newton, who is majoring in health science/pre-PT; Julian Prignano, who is majoring in psychology; and Jessica Schuth, who is majoring in health science/pre-OT.







New Hours: Tues-Thur 11:00am-9:30pm • Fri-Sun 11:00am-10:00pm • Closed Monday

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Cover Story • Co

★ Top Two RHAM Students, cont. from page 1 said, adding that the atmosphere at home was one where "there's no reason why, if you try your hardest, you couldn't succeed at anything

The hard work clearly paid off for Tamburro, who asserted that it was all worth the effort.

"It's a ton of work and it's relentless but I ask myself, what would I be doing if I wasn't doing that?" he said.

His own answer to that question was that he probably could've spent more time in the music department. But he uses that "regret" as a lesson moving forward and a reminder to balance priorities in college.

Tamburro will be attend the distinguished Brown University in the fall, majoring in applied math, which he hopes to utilize to help the environment. Perhaps, he shared, he'll pursue different concentrations in something such as geology or biology.

His thoughts on studying at an Ivy League

"I'm very excited to be in an environment where people are really passionate about their learning and really passionate about using their academics to make a difference in the world," he

For the record, Tamburro was also accepted into Cornell.

There wasn't much that could hold him back, either. Academically, the COVID-19 pandemic didn't cause any disruptions and actually served to benefit Tamburro.

His love for the outdoors expanded and he found areas to explore and actives to pursue, like fishing.

'I don't think I would have a lot of the parts of who I am today if it wasn't for the pandemic,"

What might've shaped him even more, however, was jazz band. In his eyes, the goal of the music department is "to teach students before they leave RHAM to be able to understand and appreciate what music can do for people and how valuable it is to the human experience."

A specific, special moment stands out — last year's Waterford Jazz Festival last year.

The band, in his words, "brought the house

"That is something from high school that I will never forget as long as I live," he said. "It was so amazing to realize that you could move people so much with sound."

Tamburro is also the class president, a member of the math team and Latin club.

The Salutatorian

Nina Wang is attending UConn in the fall with a presidential scholarship. She will be majoring in finance, but is leaving the door open to a potential double major, adding on linguistics, political science or Chinese.

Wang said her goal is to graduate a year or two early — made possible due to the basket of AP credits she'll take along — and then possibly pursue an MBA or get into law school.

Similarly to Tamburro, Wang strove for the top academic title for years, and saw that by junior year of high school, she appeared to be on track. So she wasn't surprised when she got the news regarding being the class salutatorian.

Her influences?

"It's mostly been my family," she said. "My mom has always pushed me to do my best and strive to be at the top, really since elementary

There were challenges along the way, mainly searching for the right fuel to stick with the course load. Many people will likely relate to her particular snag.

'I developed a procrastination habit, so it's kind of hard for me, in the moment, to find motivation to do things," she said. "But eventually once I get started, I have a really great work ethic and it all goes pretty smoothly.

Then, with the pandemic, and the resulting online learning, "there was very little energy or motivation to do anything."

Students could typically roll out of bed and hop online five minutes before class started — a routine everyone had to learn manage.

"I definitely would've done a lot better in all of my classes during the pandemic if [they] had been in-person," she said. "Obviously that wasn't possible [but] I think I did my best in that situation."

A lot of Wang's time at RHAM was spent in the art department. She's the co-president of the school's National Art Honors Society, which does art-based community service.

The group helped with leadership skills and was a voluble opportunity to explore a hobby.

"I like seeing younger students showcase their passion for art," she said. "It makes me happy that RHAM has so many resources and opportunities for students who have passions for art."

One of her fondest memories actually took place in a science classroom — a setting Wang admitted is her strong point. Her AP chemistry class last year consisted of only 9 or 10 students and while the material was challenging, the teacher, Sera Coppolino, created a memorable atmosphere.

"She made the class and the material fun," she said. "We were a really close-knit class. At the end of the year, she wrote us a heartfelt note congratulating us on completing AP chem and the exam."

What Will You Miss?

"I'm probably going to miss the people the most," Tamburro said.

He referenced a quote from Avengers: Endgame - "No amount of money ever bought a second of time."

The point, he said, "It's important to work hard but it's also important to spend time with the people that you care about."

Wang answered, "My close friends."
While many of them are more STEM-oriented, they all bonded together.

"Our different perspective and our different upbringings make us better friends and better people," she said. "I'll really miss our dynamics when we all go off in different directions."

Tamburro took a trip with the music department to Disney World this year. While the music portion was rewarding, spending time with his peers was truly meaningful.

"It's just really touching," he said. "I hope that I don't lose contact with these people because I feel honored to have known them. We have grown up together."

Both Tamburro and Wang will be giving speeches during commencement next week; Tamburro will actually be giving two — one as valedictorian and one as class president — he's

"I think I've got a lot to say," he expressed. "I don't know how good I am at English on the whole, but I'm pretty good at expressing my emotions."

Wang laughed and admitted that she's maybe a little nervous for her speech.

"I hope that I'll be able to sufficiently relate to everyone and accurately encompass everyone else's experiences in high school," she said. "I hope I can strike a chord in everyone's hearts."

Wang stated that people in the Spanish exchange program have said that RHAM is exactly like American high schools in the movies.

"I think that's pretty accurate," she said.

She added that her positive experience at RHAM can mainly be attributed to the teachers and staff, who are all "flexible and supportive."

"They help push us to our limits and they're very understandable."

Tamburro's final thoughts on RHAM was equally encouraging.

"We've got amazing faculty here," he said. "As long as you find something that you're passionate about, you don't have anything to worry about. RHAM does an exceptional job nurturing what people are interested in, as long as they



Marlborough • Ma

Proposed Housing Development Stokes Local Ire

By Jack Lakowsky

A proposed development of 13 buildings containing 52 residences drew many vocal opponents to Town Hall last week in a Thursday Marlborough Zoning Commission meeting.

The company, Greylock Property, is seeking a zone change on North Main Street property to allow for the development. The board received it but did not take action on the application.

Resident comments were chaotic and could not be easily recorded, but several mentioned the excess strain on local infrastructure, which can barely support what Marlborough has now, they said.

Greylock provided documents detailing their plans.

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 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.

The company says the plan is "wholly consistent with the Town of Marlborough's Plan of Conservation and Development," directly addressing one of the town's major goal - diversifying its homogenous housing stock, which is over 90% single-family residences.

"There is an identified lack of both multifamily and affordable housing units in the town that

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@

and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. Week-

day Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fri-

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30

are required to meet the needs of the community's changing demographics.

"Both seniors and younger people are seeking nontraditional housing arrangements other than detached single-family homes, at attainable purchase prices.

Calling the proposal to make the North Main Street spot a "floating zone", will be the kind of "flexible" zoning approach contemplated in the town's development plan, broadening housing choices in Marlborough.

"Further the preservation of a significant amount of open space and inland wetlands in the vicinity of Lake Terramuggus also satisfies several environmental goals of the plan.

The development will provide inclusive, "mixed income" housing opportunities, Greylock said.

The average median of Marlborough's statistical area is \$112,700. The property must have at least 10% of its units be affordable, sold to people with 80% of the average income, or less.

Marlborough's water servicer, Aquarion Water Company, penned a letter to Greylock saying it, Aquarion, has sufficient water supply to meet the estimated demands of around 4,600 gallons per day on average, with a max of around 9,200.

Aquarion said its assessment wasn't an approval to tap the town's water main.

"Why doesn't the public get a say?" called out

Town Planner Peter Hughes replied that their voice is in the elected officials of the Zoning Commission.

"When does the public get a say? When does

common sense come into play?" called out a local man, with commissioners saying they weren't in a place to answer questions. "We don't have infrastructure, why are we even entertaining [this]?'

Things got testy, with people saying they weren't fully informed, and Hughes saying, "Don't pretend I didn't send you anything."

And all this occurred before the meeting was even technically called to order, a roomful of people murmuring their displeasure. The commission discussed a site walk but were briefly drowned out by the crowd.

Commissioners approved the site walk for June 29 and quickly moved on.

In February, Hughes presented the need for Marlborough to bring in more housing within its homogenized borders, especially affordable housing. Previously, Marlborough selectmen Betty O' Brien and Greg Lowrey have spoken for more housing. Lowrey said affordable housing would be better branded as "workforce housing."

Lowrey said Marlborough is behind on its affordable housing stock. The state requires 10% of a town's dwellings be considered affordable.

He also said Marlborough is a hot commodity for developers right now.

And he seems to be right - in March, the Zoning Commission approved a multifamily development for a 48-unit building on South Main Street, an application they first heard in November last year.

According to project engineers that spoke to the zoning board at the time, the two threestory multifamily buildings will sit on 12 acres of land just by the Village District at 25 South Main St., both at the end of a small access road.

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 12: Free Bread and Bakery Goods, 10 a.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Setback or a card game of choice, 1-4 p.m.; Congregate Meal, Noon. Menu: orange juice, meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, spinach, 12-grain bread, doughnut.

Tuesday, June 13: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, June 14: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: barbecue beef brisket, Lyonnaise potatoes, Brussels sprouts, 12-grain bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 15: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, June 16: Assistance, 8-Ball Pool, Mahjong Playing Cards, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-

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 ra-

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 \$1.00 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.

on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Summertime Barbecue: grape juice, grilled chicken/peach sauce, five=cheese mac 'n cheese; collard greens, cornbread stuffing, sweet potato pie; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

Transportation: Available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and nonmedical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required.

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.

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 Student Awarded... At an end-ofthe-year Prize Assembly, Kingswood Oxford recently awarded Kyra Dunnirvine of Marlborough The Robert A. Lazear Award. The award is given to a senior who, by example and dedication, has contributed the most to Kingswood Oxford athletics. Kingswood Oxford is a co-ed college preparatory day school in West Hartford, for students in grades 6-12.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is continues. Registration is required as well.

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

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. Sandwichmaking and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden is once again breaking ground to benefit Marlborough Food Bank and supply fresh produce in season. Garden volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on other programs or adult faith formation, youth group, RČIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

day, 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



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'Horsepower' Car Show

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

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

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

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

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

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 richmondprograms@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

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

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

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.

Summer Reading Kickoff: Wednesday, June



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21, 6:30 p.m. See an all-ages musical puppet show by Tom Knight. Also, sign up for summer reading and snag some giveaways. Registration is not required. The puppet show will be held outdoors, weather pending. In case of inclement weather, the program will be moved to the

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 blankie. Registration is re-

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. Preregistration for a 15-minute session is required. Limit one child per 15-minute time slot per dog.

President's List

Marlborough resident Alexander Demosthenous made the spring 2023 President's List at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass.

Demosthenous, who also made the fall 2022 President's List, recently wrapped his freshman year at the university.

Scouts Sought for New Troop

Troop 57 in East Hampton is starting a Scouts BSA Girl Troop for girls from the area - including Colchester. Girls ages 11 to 17 are invited, particularly if they're interested in hiking, camping, outdoor cooking, learning first aid, fishing, boating and other skills.

For more information, call Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962 or Eric Buckley at 860-833-

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.marlboroughct.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@ marlboroughct.net, or call 860-295-6202.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

June 11 is Music Appreciation Sunday, along with a presentation in honor of the church's 275th anniversary of its founding, with the Rev. Valerie Seaver leading the service. Connecticut Valley Field Music Fife and Drum will welcome parishioners as they arrive with colonial dress and music. Scheduled music participants during worship include church organist Dave Mulligan, saxophonist Bruce Phelps, the Chancel Choir, and Bell Choir. Seaver's sermon title is "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Worship will include Holy Communion. Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free.

Immediately following June 11 worship, the **276th Annual Program Meeting** will be held in the in the sanctuary, to vote on the new slate of officers and board and committee reports.

June 18 worship will highlight the church's Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band. The Sunday School will celebrate Father's Day with special activities for children, fathers, uncles, grandfathers and

Outreach: The church supports a variety of mission projects. Second quarter mission-giving will go to AHM Mental Health Fund. The church collects non-perishable food items yearround for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshipers to bring their donations. The Drive Thru Café provides a take-away hot meal at the church for Marlborough Food Bank clients usually on the last Sunday of every month (except July and August). Once a month the youth groups prepare and serve a meal to residents at Florence Lord Housing. Once in May and November, the church sponsors the evening meal at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Through June 24, the shop will feature its annual year-end 50% off sale of handbags, totes, jewelry, framed artwork and Christmas items. The shop is open for selling and donations Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop also sells items year-round through eBay at bit.

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@marlcongchurch.org.



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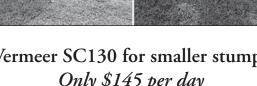


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For the second straight year, a local couple - William and Sybil Sanders - won the Marlborough Lions 'Round the Lake 5K.

Local Couple Wins Lions' 5K

The May 28 running of the 39th Marlborough Lions 'Round the Lake 5K featured 100 runners and, for the second year in a row, the overall winners Marlborough residents William Sanders (time: 16 minutes, 46 seconds) and Sybil Sanders (time: 19 minutes, 16 seconds). The couple made excellent time around the course, the Lions said.

The Marlborough Lions also offered thanks

to many local businesses that have provided race sponsorships over the years. The Lions also thanked the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members and the town constable for providing traffic control.

For information on how to become a Lion, call Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Adult Program: Zumba: Thursdays through June 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School gym. Fee: \$50/residents, \$55/ non-residents, or \$12 drop-in fee each week.

Trips: Sip and Shop Bus Tour: Saturday, June 17. Trip Includes a charter bus, a wine-tasting at Brotherhood Winery in New York, lunch, shopping at Woodbury Commons Premium Outlets (over 220 stores), and games and prizes on the bus. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 3 p.m., and returns at 1 a.m. Fee: \$80.

New York Mets Bus Trip: Sunday, June 18, 1:40 p.m. See the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Metropolitans at Citi Field. Trip Includes: charter bus, ticket to the game, cookout before the game, games and prizes on the bus. Fee: \$115/ person for seats in the 400 level Promenade (third base side) or \$145/person for Big Apple Reserved (field level - Center Field). Departs Glastonbury Park and Ride at 9 a.m., returns at

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

Netto Summer Day Camp: For grades K-7. Weekly sessions run June 19-Aug. 11, at Blish Park. There will be camp games, arts & crafts, swimming, sports, field trips and special events. All campers are supervised by counselors and

Athlete Honored

Jack McClurg of Marlborough was among the student-athletes recognized at State University of New York (SUNY) Delhi's end-of-the-year athletics banquet on May 1.

McClurg won the Team Leader award for

lifeguards trained in CPR/First Aid. Fee per week: \$175/residents, \$185/non-residents.

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

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

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

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:

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

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.

Dean's List

Jordan Frey of Marlborough made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Frey has a primary major of exercise science/ applied ES.



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Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday school is provided

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is June 21. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is June 14.

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

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

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

Farmers Markets Start June 14

The Andover Farmers Market will take place the second Wednesday of each month, starting June 14, from 4-7 p.m., along Route 6 at the First Congregational Church.

There will be several farmers, bakers, a food truck and music. The markets are held outside.

The final market will be Saturday, Nov. 4, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and will include crafters.

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.

Vacancies on Boards, Commissions

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

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

Resident Graduates

Julia St. Jean of Andover recently graduated magna cum laude from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in administration of justice. 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 Birthday Library Program

Library ProgramAndover Public Library presents a program in celebration of Andover 175th birthday Saturday, June 10, at 2 p.m.

Town Historian Scott Yeomans and mural artist Sara Walling will be at the library to present "All About the Andover Mural." The event will be held outside, rain or shine.

For more information, call the library: 860-742-7428.

Library Friends Seek Members

The Andover Friends of the Library group is looking for members. Membership spans the January-December calendar year; a donation is all that is required to become a new or renewing member.

To join the Friends or renew your membership, visit the library at 355 Route 6, or access the membership form at tinyurl.com/ymfwz6bk.

For more information, email andoverfol@gmail.com or call the library at 860-742-7428.

Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2023-24 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is fullday.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2023, are asked to contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet or access it at www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten, not attend school until the following year, or who will be homeschooling are asked to inform the school of this decision.

Busy June 21 at Library

Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, has a busy day planned for Wednesday, June 21.

At 10:30 a.m. that day, Robert Markowitz ("The Guitar Guy") will present songs and stories for the whole family to enjoy. If weather permits, this program will be held outside on the Library Friends' patio; if not, it will be inside.

Then, at 6:30 p.m., the library will present "How Authors Create Fiction from Their Lives" with Robert Markowitz. Markowitz

draws upon his life experiences leaving his lucrative criminal law practice to become a clown and kids' musician, and the process of writing a novel called *Clown Shoes* (to be published this month by Heliotrope Books). This program will be held downstairs in the library.

Information about all of the library's upcoming programs for the summer can be found at the Andover Public Library's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT.

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, 6/13, 6/27. Willimantic: 6/20.

Senior Luncheon Dates: Fridays at noon, June 30, July 7, July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 25. Reservations required 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.

Tales of the Past: After lunch June 19, Andover Historian Scott Yeomans will show slides of old and new Andover buildings and share stories of the past about them.

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m.

Storytime with Opossums

On Wednesday, June 14, at 11 a.m., Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, will present a program for kids, entitled "Storytime with Opossums."

Pam and Bill Lefferts of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue in Woodstock will visit the library to share a story (*From Pouch to Couch* by Pam Lefferts) and talk about backyard wildlife with a special focus on opossums. Bella and Mango, ambassador opossums, may also attend.

All are invited to attend. Registration is not required, but requested. Call the library for more information at 860-742-7428.

and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

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

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

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

Garden Tour and Plant Sale

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

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

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



Better Dental HEALTH



by George M. Mantikas, DMD

PROACTIVE DENTAL CARE CAN PREVENT OTHER HEALTH ISSUES

Proactive dental care can reduce cavities, decay, and infection. A dentist's primary goal is preventing dental issues rather than treating them. Patients who are focused on proper dental hygiene and oral care can avert many destructive conditions and eliminate the need for future costly and possibly painful treatments. The goal of preventive dentistry is to enable patients to retain their natural teeth in their best condition. Like any part of the body, teeth require proper care to maintain health. Tooth neglect can aggravate dental issues to the point where they become problematic, painful, and expensive. By practicing preventative dental care, patients can significantly decrease the risk of infection and prevent plaque build-up, staining, and bone damage.

It is essential to take the necessary steps to prevent both tooth decay and periodontal disease in order to maintain good dental hygiene and a healthy smile. This includes a healthy diet, conscientious home care with brushing and flossing, and periodic professional cleanings and exams. Research repeatedly demonstrates that those people who own better dental health live longer, stay healthier longer, and enjoy a better life. If you'd like to maximize your oral health, thereby enhancing every day of your life, why not call us for an appointment?

P.S. There are over 700 different types of bacteria present in the human mouth.

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Obituaries -

Colchester

Timothy Towle Curtis Timothy Towle Cur-

tis died at home in Colchester Thursday, May 18, a few months after he was diagnosed with an untreatable form of pancreatic cancer. At home in hospice care, his final two months were greatly enriched by a steady stream of calls and visits from family and longtime



friends and he endured his terminal condition

with stoic grace.

Tim was born in Waterville, Maine, on June 2, 1942, to Marjorie (Towle) and Paul Revere Curtis Jr. A direct descendant of Paul Revere, the Revolutionary War patriot, he was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. When he was an infant, Tim's family moved to Farmington, where as a boy he attended public schools. In the fall of 1955 he was admitted to the Kingswood School in West Hartford where he later graduated as a member of the Class of 1960. Many of his friendships forged during these years proved to be enduring. Tim attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, for two years and then transferred to the University of Hartford where he in 1965 with a B.A. in psy-

During the Vietnam War, Tim enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, attended the Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Va., where he earned his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1966 and completed USMC basic training in 1967. Next he went to Camp Pendleton in California for tank training. Deployed to Vietnam and on his first mission as a tank commander, he and his men were ambushed by enemy forces and his left eye was hit by shrapnel. This injury necessitated his medical evacuation from the war zone and then a return to the U.S. for surgery to replace his blinded eye with a prosthetic one. Tim was awarded a Purple Heart medal and was honorably discharged from the service with a medical retirement in November '67.

Tim married Suzanne Olsson in 1968 in Farmington and they moved to Glastonbury. They had two daughters, Elizabeth ("Liza"), born in 1970, and Jane, born in 1977. Their marriage was ended by divorce in 1989, and Suzanne died in 1998.

While living in Glastonbury, Tim embarked upon his long career in the insurance industry in Connecticut including many years as a sales rep of the CNA Insurance Company based in its Farmington field office. In 1998 he bought CEA Associates, an independent life, health, and financial services insurance agency in East Hampton.

Tim met Leslie Setterholm Fox and they eventually moved together to Colchester in the summer of 1998 and married in November 2000. Tim joined the East Haddam Lions Club and for 22 years he unstintingly lent his best efforts to insure success of the organization's civically philanthropic service projects.

A lifelong athlete and physical fitness buff, Tim was a runner who also enjoyed skiing, sailing, tennis, golf, mountain-climbing, bicycling, and kayaking He ran several marathons and competed in almost every 5.5 mile Salmon River Road Race sponsored by the Colchester Land Trust. In 2022 he was the only octogenarian in that race, remarkably finishing ahead of 20% of the pack. After he sold his business in 2009, he joined a league of fellow golfing enthusiasts who met once a week, weather permitting, at various courses in central Connecticut. He played a competitive game of tennis despite his lack of depth perception. He climbed Mt. Katahdin in Maine once and Mt. Washington in New Hamp-

Tim was blessed with such an amiable personality that he readily made friends and tended to keep them for life. Always a gentleman, he was hard-working and dependable, thoughtful and wise, cheerful and generous, and unfailingly modest about his abilities and accomplishments. Tim lived his life energetically and admirably for the almost 81 years that were allotted to him, setting an excellent and honorable example for everyone who knew and loved him.

Tim leaves behind his wife, Leslie Setterholm Curtis of Colchester; his daughters, Elizabeth Begin and her husband Andrew of East Hampton, and Jane Curtis and her wife Nicole Golden of Watertown, Mass., and all their children and grandchildren; his stepchildren, Ashley Fox Grant and her husband Ronald of Saddle River, N.J., and their three children, and Christopher Scott Fox and his fiancee Melissa Stedman of Lyme. He also leaves his older sister, Susan Emery of Little Compton, R.I., and her children and grandchildren.

Tim has donated his body to the Yale School of Medicine for use in educating med students in a future Anatomy 101 class. After that, his remains will be cremated and subsequently interred in a burial service with full military honors at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. A memorial service to celebrate his life is planned for June 16 at noon in the Westchester Congregational Church, 95 Cemetery Rd., Col-

For anyone wishing to honor Tim's memory with a charitable donation in his name, the East Haddam Lions Club, the Colchester Land Trust, or any organization which capably serves our fellow human beings who are in need are some suggestions.

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Family Serving Families

Portland

Dale Randall Halberg Jr.

Dale Randall Halberg Jr., beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin and friend, age 73, of Saluda, Va., formerly of Portland, died unexpectedly Tuesday, May 30. Dale, or Randy, as he was affectionately called by his family, was born Jan. 31, 1950, to Dale and Joan Halberg near St. Peter,



Minn., where they attended Gustavus Adolphus College. He is the oldest of four and their only

When he was 4 years old, the family moved to Connecticut to be near his paternal relatives. He grew up in Farmington and Portland. Although his professional life was as an engineer, Dale grew up a gifted artist and athlete. He captained the tennis team in both his junior and senior years in high school and was a graceful and expert snow skier. His high school art teacher claimed he was the best artist she had ever taught and he wanted to attend Rhode Island School of Design. At that time, the Vietnam War was raging and art school students could not qualify for draft deferments. He decided to join the Navy and spent the next eight years on and off the European continent, mostly in Italy, but spent significant time in a Spanish hospital while he recuperated from appendicitis that turned toxic. Dale had a great sense of humor and loved to tell the story that when they found out he could fix anything including incubators, they kept him at the hospital claiming he wasn't well enough to leave.

Dale left his mark on everyone. He was a true leader. He was always there to help whoever needed him, his family, friends, and the Spanish hospital. Everyone loved and admired him. He never let anyone down. He worked harder than anyone we knew both at his job and with his family and friends. Dale attended Old Dominion University. He joined Jonathan Corporation in Norfolk, Va., as an engineer after he left the Navy. He had a long and illustrious career with Jonathan Corporation, and later spent 25 years with Newport News Shipbuilding. He left an indelible mark on his colleagues, as evidenced by their uncanny impressions of his signature catchphrases.

Dale led the life he wanted and was fulfilled by his work and family. Most importantly he and his wife, Sylvia, created a warm and loving family. They had a beautiful home on seven acres of woods, where they could "forest bathe" while overlooking the lake. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, birdwatching, gardening, feeding the chickens, and spending time with his family. One of his favorite titles was the one of being a Poppa to his grandchildren. He spent many a time at sporting events, fishing, teaching, working on art projects, homework, being silly and telling his childhood stories with his grandchildren who adored him. He had the instinctive ability to comfort others with his gentle spirit and empathetic heart. He was proud of his Swedish heritage and loved to share stories about his childhood. He was the very best husband, father, and poppa.

He is and will always be missed by his wife of 40 years Sylvia, children, Tara and Nathan Ford, Ethan and Kayla Halberg, and Eric Hansen, as well as his grandchildren Addison Harrison-Halberg, Noah Ford, and Archer Ford, and his siblings Dana and husband Larry Pless, Leslie and late husband Michael Flood, late sister Jaye and husband Tom Egan, sister-in-law Lois and husband Sam Warren and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He has been greeted in heaven by his mother

and father and his sister, Jave.

The family received friends at Hogg Funeral Home in Virginia Monday, June 5. A memorial service was held that day in the chapel, followed by Navy funeral honors. Inurnment will be pri-

In memory of Dale, memorial contributions may be made to The Lupus Foundation of America at 2121 K Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20037 or online at https://www.lupus.org.

Services are under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home and Crematory.

Portland

Robert P. Traggio

(1937-2023)
Robert P. Traggio of Portland, and Lakeland, Fla., passed peacefully Friday, March 17, in Lakeland, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Teresa Borelli (Terri); two sons, Christopher and Michael; two daughters, Nancy Miller and Maria Rivera; and five grandchildren, Nicholas, Ellie, Giaco and Tieler Traggio and Madelyn Miller.

There were no calling hours.

Colchester

Arlene Ruth Campanelli Arlene Ruth Campan-

elli, 85, of Colchester, passed away Monday, May 29, at Water's Edge Center for Health & Rehabilitation in Middletown. Born June 26, 1937, in New Britain, she was a daughter of the late Corad and Corrine (Ringquest)



For 25 years she worked at S&S Worldwide in Colchester, and later also worked as a receptionist at Easter Seals in Norwich for a time. Arlene was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester and enjoyed going down to the Polish Club in town to play cards and socialize with her friends. Her greatest joy in life, however, came from being a grandmother; she eagerly looked forward to welcoming every new arrival into the family and getting to bond with them.

She is survived by her children, Brien Gregoire and wife Yvette of Hebron, David Gregoire and wife Laurie of Colchester, Mark William Gregoire and wife Ashley of North Carolina,

Tri-County Memorials

See Obituaries, page 34

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★ Letters cont. from page 9

from town government appears to show a lack of effort and understanding. The Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen have clearly fallen out of touch with the residents.

This lack of connection on critical issues was also on display in the shameful response of the Board of Selectmen to the exceptionally detailed report from the Hebron Green Committee. This fully documented statement features numerous reasons why a Public Works facility should not be built at the Horton Property on Kinney Road. As noted in last week's *Rivereast* article by Michael Sinkewicz, "While some of the arguments are not necessarily new, the letter represents a sweeping condemnation of the Kinney Road site, with justification for pivoting to an alternate location for future construction."

Regardless, the Board of Selectmen are moving forward with a dubious public opinion survey that will deflect their own responsibility in the Public Works project. Ample evidence on the environmentally sensitive and historically significant characteristics of the Horton Property has been presented. To ignore these facts and offer a survey that is still clearly biased towards the Selectmen's perspective is dangerous and reckless. Fortunately, there is only one question that matters, #6, "Do you have a site preference (for the) DPW?" The only economically, environmentally and historically responsible answer is "Old Colchester Road." For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely, Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

A Casual Observation

To the Editor:

The morning was nearly silent. The Barn Swallows, whose songs fills the morning air and sky, were silent. Their morning chatter was mute.

Sunrise was unusual too. The rising sun was crimson. Ill defined in a matte-grey sky. Colors filtered by the thick smoke were unfamiliar to me.

The sun's reflection on the pond looked to be tinged with blood. The croaks of the frogs were silent. The eerie shaded light, far from the norm created not only a void of voices but an odd light defining the early day.

Even the shadows of the usual morning were absent.

No shadows. A morning of no contrasts and eerily silent.

The reds and salmons of the fresh poppies in the garden were brilliant though. One of the few colors I could find in the early morning of today.

It's amazing how one element of change, the smoke, affects so much around you.

Alison Walck - East Hampton

Support This Budget

To the Editor:

Hebron voters go to the polls Tuesday to vote on a single question: whether to approve a budget which pays for all of the different items residents use each day: including the roads, the parks, the transfer station, the employees at the town hall, police protection from the resident trooper and local officers, and the operation of the volunteer fire department. It will also pay for teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, cafeteria workers and other staff at our elementary schools and the books, instructional materials, and other supplies used to educate the town's children.

If your natural inclination is to vote no on these budgets, please consider that the Board of Finance has slashed more than \$1.5 million from the original submissions. At some point, you have to agree that enough is enough. If you believe, as did virtually every speaker at the recent Board of Finance meeting, that the school budget is much too low, understand that the board members made it clear that if people wanted to avoid more cuts to the budget they needed to get out to vote and to get their neighbors to join them and certainly not to listen to anyone who tells you to "vote no" because the budget it "too low."

If you are going to be out of town on referendum day, see the town clerk for an absentee ballot. Otherwise, get up early and vote first thing before the day gets busy and you have trouble getting to the polls. There is nothing wrong with reminding your friends throughout the day to vote. Let's double the voter turnout from the lackluster showing at the most recent referendum. Please support this budget because your community needs it passed.

Robert M. Fitzgerald - Amston

Durham Report

To the Editor:

The special prosecutor John Durham's report has been released after years of investigations what it shows is that Donald J. Trump never colluded with Russia and every allegation made against him was false. The only collusion was between a group of corrupt people and agencies that include Clinton, Obama, Biden, politicians, DNC, DOJ, FBI, CIA, IRS, news media that want to destroy Trump and his familv and all that support him. What these corrupt people accomplished is putting a corrupt, incompetent person in the White House. Biden and his family have taken millions of dollars from people and governments that include Russia, China, Romania, Ukraine and other foreign countries. What did countries and people get for all this money? Why did the Biden family set up LLCs to hide this money? Why was Hunter Biden flying around the world on Air Force Two and now Air Force One? Why did Hunter Biden's business associates have access to the White House?

There are many more questions I would like to ask. Biden is responsible for the deaths of 13 members of the Armed Forces and wounding of many others

his open borders has allowed millions of illegal migrants, terrorists and drugs to enter this country he has destroyed the economy and divided this nation. According to Biden and the radical Socialist Marxist Democratic Party, the greatest threat to this country is anyone that wants to make America great again. The 2024 election will determine if this country will continue on a path of destruction and division or start the road to recovery. Look at the evidence that is what an intelligent person would do before they vote.

David K. Anderson - Colchester

Church in Tag Sale

To the Editor:

Hello friends and neighbors. My church, Haddam Neck Covenant Church, is taking part in the Chatham Historical Society Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 17. We are offering the use of our parking lot and field to anyone that wants to participate but hesitant to do so because of location or lack of parking – off-road visibility. We can accommodate a few more people. Pay the \$15 to Chatham Historical Society and set up at our place.

The deadline for registering with CHC for placement on the map they are providing was June 8. If you missed that date, there is still time to register with CHC (so they get their donation) and come on down to 17 Haddam Neck Rd. and set up in our field. We are on the CHC map – so everyone has a chance to make some money and clean out the house.

I can be reached at 860-918-1490 – leave a message to let me know you will be there.

Debbie Markham – East Hampton

Comments During BOF Meeting

To the Editor

The past few weeks have been needlessly painful. They have been rife with vitriol, threats and false statements. Most of this could have been avoided if the citizens and the BOF had all the information before the referendum.

If the voters and the BOF had known there was \$500,000 savings in medical insurance available to the educators, would everything have developed differently?

The community, in my opinion, was needlessly whipped into a frenzy causing a lot of damage along the way. What a shame! The only good result of the past few weeks is the compromise between the superintendent and the Board of Finance of returning \$250,000 to the education budget. We will be saving the taxpayers \$542,000. It needn't have been so painful and caused such damage.

We need to do better for the good of the commu-

7. Alannah Coshow – Middle Haddam

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

Support Town Budget

To the Editor:

I am writing to support the newly negotiated town budget and urge people to come out and vote.

Ensuring that our town has a budget to work with allows us to move forward in all areas, including education, an area that requires a great deal of funding, but for whom some do not see the value. But there is value. The children receiving quality education today will grow up to become the people who will drive our community forward. They will be the ones contributing to our economy, generating tax revenue, and contributing to the social security fund that will benefit retirees in the next 10-15 years.

There are no frills in our school budget. In fact, funding from the first proposed budget intended to support a growing student population and address student needs as we exit the pandemic has already been cut. There is nothing left to remove without drastically altering services.

A talking point raised by some individuals is that they are paying taxes to support schools despite not having school-aged children. While I understand their perspective, we must remember that education is an investment in our collective future. It is in everyone's best interest to support services that ensure a skilled workforce, attract businesses, and foster an environment that encourages innovation and growth. These elements are essential for the well-being of our community as a whole.

As we approach this vote, let's remember that we are a community. If we want other changes, we all need to get involved and look to the municipal elections to make those changes. Right now, let's pass this budget

Please vote yes for Hebron on June 13.

Sincerely, Mary Rose Meade – Amston

They Should Step Down

e Editor:

Members of the East Hampton Board of Finance: Residents of East Hampton sent you a clear message on the referendum vote, May 30.

I hope that you have had a chance to process and understand the mandate set forth in the resounding rejection of the inadequate budgets that this body proposed, knowing that it was likely to fail. When the counting was done, 68 percent of voters told you the Education Budget was Too Low; 71 percent said the General Budget was Too Low. These numbers should tell you one thing: underfunding critical services and education is not only unpopular but also energizes those who may not turn out to vote otherwise.

Unfortunately, as of the time of this writing, the Board of Finance has not yet made its decision. That

meeting happens tonight (June 6), and based on the outcome we will either have a new referendum to consider or we will not. This meeting's agenda originally included public comment. However, a revised agenda was published that removed any opportunity for residents to voice their opinions directly to the board prior to any action being taken. Are the members afraid of what they'll hear? Do they not care what residents think? At the last meeting ahead of the referendum, one member stated that they were "tired of listening to people" and just wanted to get finished.

I hope that this fiscally conservative group will not intentionally waste more money pushing a referendum that won't pass. Failure to provide a budget that meets the needs of the people is a dereliction of the office to which you have been elected. If BOF members are unwilling to properly meet the demands of the office, they should step down and allow those who are willing to take up the office.

Jordan Werme – East Hampton

We Need to Trust Them

To the Editor:

I have a lot of respect for the difficult tasks that the boards have to accomplish not only during the budget season but throughout the year. I recognize and appreciate that these jobs are not only difficult but are also often thankless. But with that in mind, winning a seat on a board is a great privilege and with that privilege comes the crucial responsibility of working selflessly to listen to and work in the interest of the majority. Those who have a seat at the table need to be held accountable to actually listen to constituents and make decisions accordingly. It has been made abundantly clear these last weeks exactly where the majority stands when it comes to both the town and education budget. We voters have done our part. We've voted members into the board seats and shared with them our desires to fully fund not only the town's education system, but the senior center, library and emergency services.

It has been and is now the boards' responsibility to listen and act accordingly. Please add the funds back to the departments as requested. The town manager, police chief, and superintendent are the experts on what we need as East Hamptonites to continue to thrive here. We need to trust them and fully fund their budgets.

The citizens of East Hampton are watching and listening and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that those who sit on the boards take the privilege and responsibility to its citizens seriously and to listen not only to the majority's thoughts, but to respect how they cast their votes.

Thank you, Cristin Flannery – East Hampton

We the People!

To the Editor:

The people of Colchester have spoken out over a period of months at budget workshops and at a recent town meeting stating that the town and school budgets are too low. As a member of the Colchester Finance Board, I voted against moving the BOE budget forward to a town referendum because I felt the reductions were too drastic, the use of the BOE designated fund balance was questionable and there were multiple mistakes which needed to be corrected. The mill rate was wrong and there was a discrepancy between the BOE and the BOF on the amount of BOE reductions.

At the last BOE/BOF workshop, the majority of our Republican finance board members found it easier to eat a bag of potato chips and pass notes and roll their eyes rather than listen to town residents. When Mike Egan and myself presented an alternative reduction to the BOE budget the Republican BOF chairwoman was not even willing to debate it, instead she pushed her reductions forward to the BOS. The vote was 3 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention. This vote was far from a majority. After attending the town meeting, it is clear that the majority of town residents feel that the Town and BOE budgets are too low. Please vote no – too low on both the town and BOE budgets.

Michael Hayes - Colchester Note: Hayes is a Colchester Board of Finance but is speaking as an individual.

Calls for Civility

To the Editor:

At the 6/1 Board of Selectmen meeting we heard from two citizens who spoke about civility in the budget process. The comments were not so discreetly directed only at the outspoken citizens who do not support a 9.83% BOE spending increase. I agree with their calls for civility; however, it's not the "no crowd" – as they've not so respectfully named us – who've been uncivil.

Throughout this entire budget process the "no crowd" has been accused of hating education, hating teachers and, worst of all, actively harming children. I shouldn't have to explain to anyone the societal damage that comes with being publicly labeled as someone who "hurts our children". And for what reason? Because a few outspoken citizens have been up front and honest about their inability to afford a 2 mill increase?

On social media some of the citizens who cannot afford the increase have been told by educators in our schools to leave town if they cannot afford the tax increase. The two citizens who criticized others for being uncivil actively participate in a Facebook that strives on incivility and divisiveness. In fact, they have equated their support for a 9.83% spending increase to the opposition of Nazi Germany.

We can also look no farther than the annual budget

meeting where one of the citizens mentioned above effectively called anyone who disagreed with his interpretation of the charter stupid and undereducated and nearly the whole room erupted in applause! This same citizen also recently threatened to sue the *Rivereast* for printing criticism about him in a Letter to the Editor by another citizen of Colchester.

Their calls for civility do not extend to those who share their opinion. Their incivility is not only allowed, but actively applauded, because it is targeted at the "right people".

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester Note: LaChapelle is a member of the Board of Selectmen, but is speaking as an individual.

Budget Voice of Reason

To the Editor:

Colchester, this is the fourth and final educational installment prior to our referendum. This week I am going to share my thoughts on the town meeting, a.k.a. "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Not only was it a circus, but a mockery staged by the BOE and the unions. Both teams did an outstanding job in packing the room with roughly 160 residents. Those individuals, mostly parents, sold on the idea that their children are at risk of losing programs through cuts in funding. The remainder of the attendees were teachers, union members and members of the town's Democratic Party.

To put this in perspective, there are roughly 16K residents in Colchester and so the meeting attendees made up 1% of the population. These individuals attempted to circumnavigate the town charter, thumbing their noses at the legal opinion that was sought and demanded an increase in both the town and school budgets.

I hold the moderator (John Malsbenden) personally responsible for allowing the circus to play out as he too thumbed his nose at the charter and the legal opinion. He had an obligation to follow the facts at hand and not the emotions of the crowd. He failed and should never be allowed to moderate another town meeting.

Thank You, Taras W. Rudko – Colchester

Vote Down Budget

To the Editor

Every budget has challenges, even the most well-developed budgets have detractors on both sides citing differing ideologies. Those budgets are developed through careful analysis, compromise and careful consideration.

The process around the Colchester budget this year offered none of those critical components. Board of Finance members have repeated asked for clarifications and to have errors in spending and mill rate calculations corrected. None of that has been provided. The budget provided to this paper as a legal notice had numerous, significant errors and miscalculations.

Even during the vote to move the budget from the BOF to the BOS a question as to the exact amount of the BOE budget cut was asked by a board member and not answered.

At a Board of Selectmen meeting recently there was discussion that the appearance of impropriety can be worse than the actual impropriety, I am paraphrasing, and shortly after this discussion the BOS ignored questions asking to send the budget back to gain clarification on the calculations. This gave the appearance of something improper.

How can we be asked to vote on a budget without any accurate information on revenue or mill rates? The budget needs to be voted down, clarified and resubmitted for referendum.

Kyle Bellemare – Colchester

Voting No

To the Editor:

I'm writing in regards to the upcoming budget referendum in Colchester. I plan to vote no, too low on both the town and BOE budgets on June 13th and I encourage others to do the same.

The BOE budget process has been a circus from the beginning. The meetings consisted of focusing on the use of Excel, rather than Munis, BOF members shaming citizens for coming to meetings now, rather than all along and BOF members outright accusing the superintendent of being a liar. One BOF member said early on that the sole reason he was elected was to reduce BOE spending and he was sticking to it, regardless of what the BOE (which holds a republican majority), superintendent or citizens said. Citizens speaking out in favor of increasing the school budget were met with hostility by the BOF. These shenanigans wasted valuable meeting time, which could've been spent solving the problem of the fiscal cliff.

The result of these dysfunctional meetings was a budget being pushed through to the BOS with even the finance board members not being clear about how much the BOE budget was being reduced by or the effect on the mill rate. The numbers on the documents at the final BOF budget meeting were not correct. One BOF member even abstained from the vote to move it forward because he was confused on the numbers. This budget needs more work.

As for the town budget, I don't believe that this is an honest budget for the needs of the town. I believe that it is purposely low to assist in the reelection of our first selectman. The underfunding of our town will only result in needing to transfer funds from other sources at the end of the year.

Thank you for listening, Erin Shuman – Colchester

Obituaries cont. —

and Ellen Young and husband John of Colchester; sister, Betty Kehner of Manchester; stepchildren, Lisa Peay and husband Mike, David Campanelli and Ricky Campanelli and wife Judy; grandchildren, Johnny Young and wife Angela, Heather Underwood and husband Kris, Jessica and husband Geoff Salvatore ,Shawn Gregoire and companion Amy Daniels, David Gregoire and wife Jen, Mark Anthony Gregoire, Angela Gregoire, Scott Gregoire, Corinne Kurtz, Kyle Kurtz, Dane Morgan, Darby Wood, Allie Morgan great grandchildren James, Reese, Jase, Zoey, Cole, Emma, Noah, Mason, Layla, Stella, William, Julian and Parker; and loving friend Erica Marotto and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her first husband William Gregoire and second husband, Arthur Campanelli; siblings, Henry Gosselin, Doris Tillman and Shirley Wil-

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LEGALS

TOWN OF PORTLAND **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the June 1, 2023 meeting, the following actions were taken: APPROVED PZC Application #22-26: Application #22-24: 60 West Cotton Hill Road. Proposed 3 lot resubdivision. Applica-tion and property of Bill and Jennifer Mizener. Map 100, Lot 12. Zone R-25.

APPROVED with Conditions PZC Application #22-27: Portland Cobalt Road (Land-locked parcel accessed through and located northeast of 984 Portland Cobalt Road). Request for Special Permit Renewal of Sand and Gravel Excavation Permit to Excavate and Remove 150,000 Cubic Yards of Earth Material. Application of Herbert E Butler Construction Company and property of Eversource Energy. Map 33 Lot 27. Zone RR.

APPROVED PZC Application #22-28: 127 Main Street and 1 Quarry Lane. Proposed map change to extend Village District Boundary over 1 Quarry Lane and portion of 127 Main Street. Application of the Town of Portland. Map 19, Lot 75 and Map 19. Lot 31. Zone I.

Dated at Portland, CT this 6th day of June 2023 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 6/9

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY MARLBOROUGH TOWN CENTER/LAKE TERRAMUGGUS SEWER PROJECT **SOUTH MAIN STREET SEWER EXTENSION BENEFIT ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 7 – 250 the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority on Wednesday June 21, 2023, at 7:45 p.m. in the Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, will hold a public hearing for the Marlborough Town Center/Lake Terramuggus Sewer Project Benefit Assessment Levy. The anticipated Benefit Assessment levies are:

Residential Housing Units <u>Assessment</u> 27 South Main Street \$12.060.00

<u>Payment</u> \$603.00 per vear for 20 years

At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard and written communication will be received. Benjamin Levin

Chair, Marlborough WPCA

2TB 6/9, 6/16

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON **IWWA ACTIONS**

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on May 31 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:

Application IW-23-006: James Marino, 65 West High St. Construction of a new residential duplex and associated improvements in upland review area. Map 19/ Block 46/ Lot 14 - Approved with Conditions

Application IW-23-008: 86 Spellman LLC, 86 Spellman Point Rd., Construction of Single-Family Home in Upland Review Area. Map 09A/ Block 70/ Lot 1 - - Approved with Conditions Application IW-23-009: Scott Sanicki, 102 Quiet Woods Rd., Install 3' x 3' x 3' concrete footing and electrical trench for future waterwheel. Map 14/ Block 32/ Lot 3A - Approved with

Application IW-23-010: Tucker Minor, Lake Dr., Construction of Single Family Home and associated improvements in the Upland Review Area. Map 09A/ Block 70B/ Lot 14 - Approved with Conditions

Chairman Joshua Wilson

1TB 6/9

laimez.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, June 17, from noon-2 p.m. at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a graveside service in the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillettes Lane in Col-

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the St. Joseph Polish Society, 395 South Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Arlene, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.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.

LEGALS

Legal Notice Andover Inland Wetlands and **Watercourses Commission**

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission APPROVED the following application on June 6, 2023

• Application #IWWC 23-06: Mathew Schulist, 88 School Road- Clearing and construction of an approximately 100-foot long foundation drain and outlet. Approximately 45-feet of the drain and its outlet are within the 100-foot Upland Review

The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.

TOWN OF PORTLAND **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following: Application #22-04: 5 Cox Road. Request for variances from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for front and rear yard setbacks to allow construction of a 30 ft. by 24 ft. garage. Application and property of Benda Robley. Assessor's Map 68, Lot 57. Zone

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land

Use Department.
Dated at Portland, CT this 6th day of June 2023. Joan Giesemann, Chair

2TB 6/9, 6/16

TOWN OF COLCHESTER **LEGAL NOTICE**

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 21, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following petition(s): PZC2023-011 of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Department (Applicant) – Proposed Map Amendment from Future Development (FD) to the Rural Use (RU) for 7 parcels located on Chestnut Hill Road and Parum Road, as follows: 148 Chestnut Hill Road (4E-05/004-000) 5.75 Acres of Squire; 140 Chestnut Hill Road (4E-05/004-009) 0.69 Acres of Rapuano; 128 Chestnut Hill Road (4E-05/006-001) 2.08 Acres of Hastings 122 Chestnut Hill Road (4E-05/006-002) 6.64 Acres of Clark: 363 Parum Road (03-07/038-000) 63.3 Acres of Doocey; 367 Parum Road (03-07/037-000) 0.27 Acres of Hardy; and 353 Parum Road (03-07/039-000) 2.26 Acres of Georgens. At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office. Town Hall. 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Planning and Zoning Commission Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 6/9, 6/16

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING **TOWN OF ANDOVER** PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISION 7:00 P.M., JUNE 20, 2023 COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL* 17 SCHOOL ROAD, ANDOVER

*This meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting. In addition to a live/in person meeting the public may participate virtually by logging in to Zoom at the following address:

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84296053285 Meeting ID: 842 9605 3285 Passcode: 937602 Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on an application from Jacob Surdam to operate a Home Occupation (landscaping business) at the property known as 87 Merritt Valley Road, Andover in accordance with Section 4.12 of the Andover Zoning Regulations. The Public Hearing will provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and/or comment on the proposed activity. Written comments may be submitted in writing either electronically to zoning@andoverct.org or at the Building and Land-Use Office, Town Hall, 17 School Road. Written comments must be submitted a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting. Please direct any questions you may have to the Zoning Agent at 860.742.7305 x 4220.

Jim Hallisey Zoning Agent

LEGALS

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on June 12, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive and via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

ZBA-23-004: James Bansemer, 15 Tennyson Rd., Increase lot coverage from 20% to 39.3% for construction of a concrete driveway. Map 10A/ Block 81/ Lot 64

Town of Colchester Special Town Meeting Public Safety Working Group

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote at town meetings of the Town of Colchester, CT will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, 127

Norwich Avenue, for the following purpose:

1. To discuss and vote upon establishing the Public Safety Working Group.

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

LEGAL NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on

Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., in the Town Hall Meeting

Certificate of Appropriateness - COA2023-003 of Van Cleve House, LLC (Owner) and Ellen Sharon (Applicant) – 184 South Main Street (MBL# 12-00/029-000) – Application for Certificate of

Appropriateness to replace asbestos shingle siding with beveled

cedar clapboard, replace and repair damaged soffit, facia and

communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT

06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30

At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written

Room, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and

Adjournment.

consider the following petition:

trim with like materials and design.

Historic District Commission

Stanley Stefanowicz, Secretary

a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Dated at Colchester, Connecticut this 7th day of June, 2023. Gayle Furman, Town Clerk Andreas Bisbikos, 1st Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Deborah Bates, Selectman Jason LaChapelle, Selectman Denise Turner, Selectman

2TB 6/2, 6/9

Legal Notice **Town Of Hebron Connecticut Water Pollution Control Authority Public Hearing** June 13, 2023 6:00 PM

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-250/7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes, that the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Town of Hebron shall hold a Public Hearing on June 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM. This hearing will be to adopt the budget for year 2023-2024 and to set the annual sewer use charge at \$592 per Equivalent Dwelling

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 10th day of May, 2023 Please note the FY has been corrected from last week's publication

LEGAL NOTICE CONSERVATION COMMISSION COLCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

The Colchester Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 7 p.m. to be held at Colchester Town Hall at 127 Norwich Avenue in Room #2 on the following: <u>W2023-3078</u>- 203 Amston Road, Stephen Fedus-Applicant/

Owner, Assessor's Map 21-00 Lot 003-000, proposal to build 20 apartments and 46 parking spaces on 8+ acres of land with upland review impacts.

Dated at Colchester, CT, this 31st day of May 2023 Falk von Plachecki, Chairman

2TB 6/2 6/9

COLCHESTER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on June Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following

Applicant) – 155 Westchester Rd (MBL#05-14/016-000) – Application for variance from Section 3.4.4.A.2 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations to reduce the front yard setback requirement from 100' to 35'.

(Owner/Applicant) – 7 Melanie Lane (MBL# 02-10/018-01A) – Application for variance from Section 3.4.4.A.2 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations to reduce the front yard setback requirement from 100' to 50'.

written communications will be received. The application is on file for public review on the Planning & Zoning Commission 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT. Respectfully submitted,

aurie Robinson, Chairman

2TB 6/9, 6/16

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 13, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform on the following:

. 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.

 Petition 2023-03 – Receipt of Special Permit Application from Andrew Rainone for replacement of exterior security lighting with illumination in excess of six (6) foot-candles under Section 5.F.2.4 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, premise located at 109 Main Street, Main Street District. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 31th day of May, 2023.

Natalie Wood, Chair Planning and Zoning Commission
Jun 13, 2023, 7:00–10:00 PM (America/New_York) Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or

smartphone. https://meet.goto.com/382808573 You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 382-808-573 United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: https://meet.goto.com/install

2TB 6/2, 6/9

20, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 1. Application No. ZBA 2023-002 of Jeffrey P. Naples (Owner/

2. Application No. ZBA 2023-003 of Sam & Nancy Wilson

At this hearing interested persons may appear or be heard and

Webpage and in the Planning & Zoning Department, Town Hall,

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION **CONTROL AUTHORITY** MARLBOROUGH TOWN CENTER/LAKE TERRAMUGGUS SEWER DISTRICT 2023 - 2024 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall will hold a public hearing for the following: 2023 – 2024 Operation, Maintenance, & Repair Budget

2023 – 2024 Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) Allocation 2023 – 2024 Fee Schedule

2023 - 2024 EDU Charge \$588

At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard and written communication will be received, if you are unable to attend written communication can be submitted to the Building/ Land Use Office, in Town Hall, 26 North Main Street. All of the above Public Hearing Documents are on file for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk and Land Use/Building

Benjamin Levin

Chair, Marlborough WPCA

2TB 6/9, 6/16

INVITATION TO BID RHAM HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS **HEBRON, CONNECTICUT** MAY 26, 2023

Regional School District 8 ("Reg. 8") Board of Education is seeking competitive bids for construction services related to the Improvements to the 316 North Field and the Competition Field, located at RHAM High School/Middle School Campus in Hebron, CT. Scope of work for this project generally includes surveying, general earthwork, erosion control, site preparation, drainage improvements and establishment of lawn, as more fully described herein and in the plans and specifications.

This Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents (as defined in the Instruction to Bidders) are available for viewing and downloading on Reg. 8's website https://reg8.ss19.sharpschool.com/departments/business_office/r_f_p_bids and the Rivereast Newspaper. The plans and specifications for "RHAM HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS," will be avail-

able to bidders through Advanced Reprographics from https://advancedrepro.net on May 26, 2023.
Sealed Bids for "RHAM HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS" may be mailed or delivered in person to: Eva Gallupe, Business Manager, in the Central Office for Reg. 8 at 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 until 12:00 pm on June 28, 2023. All bids will be publicly opened and will be read aloud. Bid Results will also be posted on the on-line plan service website for review within 24 hours

of the due date. Emailed or faxed Bids will not be accepted. To obtain or review Bids refer to the bidding instructions.

Reg. 8 reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, in whole or in part. Any or all Bids may be rejected if there is any reason to believe that collusion exists among the bidders. Individual Bids may be rejected for irregularities of any kind, including without limitations, alteration of form, additions not called for, conditional Bids, incomplete Bids and unexplained erasures. Reg. 8 retains the right to waive any formality or procedural irregularities in the Bids received. Nothing should be constructed to limit in any way the right of Reg. 8 to reject any and all Bids, should Reg. 8 deem it to be in its best interest. No bidder may

withdraw his Bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Any questions regarding the proposed work should be addressed, in writing, by e-mail to Michael Schlehofer, Director of Facilities at michael.schlehofer@rhamschools.org. Questions will not be considered past 2:00 pm on June 16, 2023 and responses will be posted via addendum no later than 2:00 pm on June 20, 2023. There will be a pre-bid meeting at 10:00 am on June 14, 2023 at RHAM High School 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 Asst. Principals' conference room.

Eva Gallupe **Business Manager** Regional School District 8 85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248 (860) 228-2115

1TB 6/9

eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org

EMPLOYMENT

Seeking: FT / PT Counter Sales Rep & Drivers For **Steady Truck Rental Facility.**

Customer service & computer skills required. Other duties involved.

Must have valid driver's license & reliable transportation. Drug screen required.

Call Stephanie at 860-289 -2508

DEE'S ANTIQUES: Pavs

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gold, sterling, coins and iewelry.

Old advertising items, signs,

hunting, fishing, and sporting

goods, 55vrs experience, Call

203-235-8431.

AND SPIRITS: Marlborough, has a part-time, employment opportunity. Excellent pay, 18 ears and older. Stop in or call 860-295-9218

HELP WANTED: Looking for cleaners in the East Haddam area for Saturday/Sunday to throroughly clean 7-bedroom lakehouse after weekly rentals. Dust disinfect remake beds sanitize bathrooms, kitchen, vacuum, and always wash floors, vacuum under cushions. etc. Desks/porch reorganized; outdoor tables wiped clean for new family arrival. 2-3 people 11am-3:30pm. \$375 per cleaning, plus \$25 for dropping off/picking up linens from Bertls, Saturday or Sunday depending upon rental departure. (Dates already established). Please call evenings 860-985-4534

HELP WANTED: Female requires assistance. No heavy lifting, hoyer in use, will train. Light meal prep, light housekeeping. PM hours -Monday through Thursday. (PCA or equivalent experience certification not required). If interested in any day/shift please call 860-342-2054. \$18325/hr, location Portland.

FT/PT CLEANER BAKER: Helper wanted at Marlborough Country Bakery. Apply in person, Marlborough.

HIRING: Two men to move furniture and deliver. Call 860-922-0374.

SEAMSTRESS/SEWING PROFESSIONAL NEEDED: immediately for custom window treatment workroom, located in Haddam. Must have both hand and sewing machine experience, ability to work independently, stand for extended times while sewing, and lift 20 lbs. Casual work environment. No smokers please. Part or Full time position. Competitive pay (\$18-\$21 per hour depending on experience). Call Susan 860-306-4252.



Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

Not your average LPN position available at Colebrook Village. We are looking for a family oriented, fun and dedicated LPN to join our team. Every other weekend 7am-3pm and per diem shifts available. Colebrook Village is a community of independent, assisted living, and memory work alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a you do, reach out for details about this unique health care opportunity! 401k, Dental, Life Medical, Vision

care residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents and to change and want to be appreciated for the important work

Email Maryla Underwood at MUnderwood@ colebrookvillage.com or call 860-801-1114

Town of Marlborough **Department of Public Works Full-Time Equipment Operator/Maintainer**

Library Administrative Assistant – part time

Town of Portland, Connecticut (EOE) Wage Range: \$27.76-\$34.14 Deadline: 6/16/2023

Submit application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Port-

land, CT 06480-0071

Email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org

Part-Time 17.5 hours weekly, flexible schedule; starting hourly rate

\$27.76; MEUI Clerical union position, limited benefits (no medical/pension). Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing. All quali-

ied applicants will be considered for employment without regard

to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Qualifications: high school diploma or GED equivalent including or supplemented by

courses in business practices and word processing, plus 2 years

of varied office clerical work experience requiring skilled word pro-cessing, or an equivalent combination of education and experience

HELP MOM! Medicine Reminders, Meals,

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All of our caregivers are aged 50+,

with many years of experience.

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We truly are YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY LLC
COLCHESTER 860-967-0831
RE8-13-

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the position of full-time Equipment Operator/Maintainer in the Department of Public Works. This is a 40 hour/week position, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:30 pm, and offers a competitive starting wage and comprehensive benefit package This is a Collective Bargaining Unit position.

The successful candidate will work under the supervision and direction of the Public Works Supervisor performing a wide range of facility, grounds and road maintenance duties, including but not limited to operating heavy equipment used in the construction, repair and maintenance of town roads, bridges, culverts, and other infrastructure. CDL Class A (without restrictions) required.

\$22.09 - \$31.57 (depending on experience); generous benefits A complete job description and application is available from the Marlborough Town Clerk, or online at www.marlboroughct.net. Candidates will be considered based on knowledge, skills, abilities and previous experience. Candidates will be required to pass a thorough background investigation and physical examincluding a drug screening. An application and current resume must be received by the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. Position:

The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED

BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF: Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, sterling coins, kitchenware cookware automotive books radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military Masonic. fire dept. and more Donald Roy 860-874-8396.



WANTED TO BUY

WANTED TO BUY: your loose and bulk change, pennies, nickles, dimes, quarters, and silver coins. Also wanted silverware or any items made of sterling silver. Cash paid on the spot. Call or text Dom 860-836-5013.

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. Will make house calls. Call/text Dom, 860-866-5013.

CASH PAID for any Toyota

Other makes, running or not, crashed ok. Will take other makes and models.

Free pickup. Call any time: 203-600-4431

Absolute Day NRA Pistol Course Date determined after 8 reservations **BEST!!** No NRA Computer Course required \$150 GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE ANYTIME WEEKENDS. Includes continental breakfast & lunch. Water & juice all day.

Millstream Preserve Call (860) 295-9974 to register.

Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) Assisted Living

Not your average CNA position available at Colebrook Village. We are looking for a family oriented, fun, and dedicated FT 2nd & 3rd shift and PT 1st shift weekends only CNA to join our team. Colebrook Village is a community of independent, assisted living, and memory care residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents and to work alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and want to be appreciated for the important work you do, reach out for details about this unique health care opportunity! 401k, Dental, Life Medical, Vision

Email Maryla Underwood at MUnderwood@ colebrookvillage.com or call 860-801-1114

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

BEAUTIFUL MOVE-IN READY: 2800 sq/ft. second floor office space available in Glastonbury. includes 7 offices (largest has own bathroom with shower), conference room, reception area, two bathrooms, full kitchen, and copy room. Nearly fully furnished with office desks, conference table, and reception desk. Conveniently located off route 2. \$18 per sq.ft. Call/text 860-836-5079

APARTMENT FOR RENT: Andover. 1bm, 1fbth, living room, kitchen, stove and fridge. \$800 monthly. Call 860-742-

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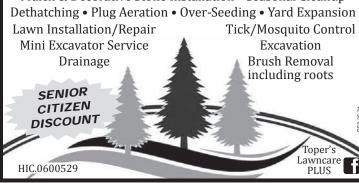


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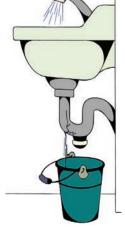




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MOVING TAG SALE: Saturday, June 10th, 8-2p. 872 Norwich Ave. Colchester

TAG SALE/ESTATE ITEMS: Saturday, June 10th, 9-2pm. Household items, dishes, glassware, cooking items, garden items, tools, holiday items, pictures, antique clocks, collectibles, TV, LIFE magazines, books, NASCAR. NO Early Birds!

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