

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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July 14, 2023

Glorious Celebration Honors 100 Years of Fire Dept

By London Brazal

Thousands of locals lined the streets of East Hampton to celebrate the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department's 100th anniversary - as well as Belltown's annual "glorious celebration."

As one of the largest parades in Middlesex County, several organizations from East Hampton and neighboring towns marched the 1.5-mile route starting at the corner of North Maple Street. With candy flying to the viewers, groups continued to walk east on 66 and wrap down to Summit Street to end in the town's village.

This year, the second annual Village Car Show set off from Maple Street prior to the official starting escort. The car show was hosted by Belltown Motors and Fowler's Auto Wrecking. In the parade, about 20 classic cars ranging from Chevrolets to Mustangs roared through the streets.

Before the escorts stepped off, many volunteers sorted the various organizations around the high school and Hills Avenue. In charge of the escort division were East Hampton residents Chris Cascio and his wife Laura. Other volunteers included Steven Kelly, Jen Palma, Kyle Chmeilecki, Megan Connors, Dan Davis, Sharon Davis, Mark Johnson, and Dave Johnson.

Chris Cascio served on the Old Home Days Committee and assisted with the festival's setup and parade. His responsibilities for the parade were to make sure that people were where they needed to be.

Though he was not able to stay for the whole parade, Cascio was happy with who was showcased throughout. "It was cool to see the champions for three [EHHS] teams, especially since two were the girls' volleyball and basketball team," he said.

Bo Tinson, chair of this year's Old Home Days parade, was ecstatic with the success of this year's event.

"This was my first year as the chair for the pa-



East Hampton volunteer firefighters marched along East High Street in their Class A uniforms during last Saturday's Old Home Days parade.

rade so, personally, that in itself was very different and challenging," Tinson said. "I'm grateful to our community volunteers who helped organize several participants across five divisions."

At the start of the parade were the police department's pickup truck, an ambulance, members of the Town Council, Town Manager David Cox, State Representative Irene Haines, State Senator Norm Needleman, and United States Senator Richard Blumenthal. Following them were Grand Marshal Phil Visintainer and VFW Post 5095's Poppy Queen, Harper Russenberger.

The East Hampton Volunteer Firefighters received rounds of applause as they continued on the parade route. As the junior marshals carried different flags and symbol, many members

walked in their Class A Uniforms. Behind them, were the various firetrucks and tankers used in East Hampton and Cobalt. Lights flashed while sirens played to be heard from miles away.

To make the celebration even more special, neighboring town's fire departments made appearances throughout the parade. The departments featured were Colchester, Westchester, East Haddam, Haddam Neck, Marlborough, Glastonbury, Portland, Middletown, Middlefield, and Ellington.

Audience members were shocked and excited as they looked up to the sky and saw helicopters fly over. "When the parade reached the gazebo, we were amazed by a helicopter flyover, piloted by members of our community and perfectly

timed," Tinson said.

Students, former and present, of East Hampton High School were well represented in the two-hour parade. The marching band, led by Andrew Groves, played with about 50% of their normal capacity. The Class of 1988 honored the fire department while celebrating their 35th reunion. And the three champion teams, girls volleyball, girls basketball, and boys soccer, showed up with some giveaways.

Tinson said he especially loved the EHHS sports team floats since there were various decorations. "Building a volleyball net and soccer goal out of lattice was pretty cool and resourceful!" he said.

Paul's & Sandy's Too - a large supporter and donor to EHVFD Company 1 - congratulated the fire department with a beautiful floral display while handing out flowers to hundreds of people in the crowd.

For the second post-COVID parade, all the stops were pulled as smiles and laughter filled the streets of East Hampton. Many residents were happy to honor a department that serves the community no matter what.

At the fairgrounds, attendees were able to buy a limited-edition T-shirt for the fire department's 100th anniversary celebration. In addition, there were also cowbells for sale with the EHVFD patch on one side and the 100th anniversary patch on the other. The centennial patch was designed by East Hampton resident and winner of the patch contest, Ekaterine Tcheldize.

Old Home Days is an amazing opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate. The OHD committee is beyond thankful for sponsors, community donors, in-kind contributors, attendees, chopper pilots, police, fire, and ambulance. Now the countdown begins for number 44 next summer.

Marlborough Gets Its Town Manager

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen last week unanimously endorsed the hiring of David R. Porter as the new town manager, the culmination of a process that began years ago.

Porter, who currently serves as the town manager/village administrator in Winneconne, Wis., will take over as the permanent chief executive officer on Aug. 7.

The hire satisfies the revisions outlined in the Town Charter, which sparked the transition of executive leadership. In 2021, residents voted to modify the charter, converting from a community elected first selectman to an appointed town manager.

A search committee consisting of nine residents, guided by the executive search firm Municipal Resources Inc., advertised the new position, interviewed and selected finalists for the full Board of Selectmen review.

Four candidates were ultimately interviewed by the selectmen, "all of whom were extremely qualified for the position," board chairman Deb Bourbeau, a Democrat, told the Rivereast.

"What separated David Porter from the others was his personality," she said in a statement. "He seems to be the perfect 'fit' for our town."

The board was united in its decision, she said, and members "left the interviews feeling confident that we had the right person."

Interim Town Manager Amy Traversa, a Democrat, told the Rivereast that Porter is "familiar with the administration of a small town."

Before his experience in Wisconsin, Porter worked in Wayland, Mass., as a management analyst and human resources manager. He is a member of the International County Manager's Association and received a master's degree in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School,

where he earned his bachelor's degree, as well.

"I'm wholeheartedly rooting for him," Traversa said.

Selectman Greg Lowrey, a Republican, expressed that Porter "brings recent, relevant experience" and "fills what we were looking for."

"He's someone who is a management professional," he said during a phone call this week. "I feel confident that he'll bring professionalism."

Lowrey confirmed that the town manager's base salary would be in the range of \$135,000-\$145,000, in addition to benefits and a relocation supplement.

"It's important to have an attractive package," he asserted. "This is money well spent."

With the search complete, the town's focus switches to completing the conversion to a full-time town manager.

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Parenting Workshop

AHM Youth and Family Services is holding a parenting workshop, entitled "ENRICH Your Relationship With Your Child," on Wednesdays through Aug. 23, via Zoom.

These free classes offer skills designed to help people communicate and parent more effectively. Attend as many sessions as you wish. Registration is required. The class is appropriate for parents with children of all ages.

The class began this week, and the remaining sessions are:

July 19, 12:30-1:30 p.m.: Naming Emotions, Negativity; July 26, 8-9 p.m.: Respect, Redirection, Reasoning; Aug. 2, 12:30-1:30 p.m.: Identity and Involvement; Aug. 9, 8-9 p.m.: Communication and Consequences; Aug. 16, 12:30-1:30 p.m.: Humor, Health and Happiness; Aug. 23,

8-9 p.m.: Resilience, Self-Compassion.

The class will be facilitated by Dr. Debbie Kruenegel-Farr, a parent coach, consultant and educator with a Ph.D. in research, human development and family studies. The class follows the book *Enrich your Relationship with your Child*, written by Kruenegel-Farr, which can be purchased through Amazon.

To register for the classes, visit ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home. For more information, contact Becky Murray at 860-228-0871 or beckym@ahmyouth.org.

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On behalf of Bacon Academy Project Graduation,

we salute our parents, volunteers and companies that generously supported our mission to enhance drug and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all seniors. Parent donations totaled \$5,500 and 198 community and parent volunteers donated 1,600 hours this year to support our various events and fundraisers.

We especially appreciate the following local businesses who supported our fundraising efforts throughout the year!

- Ace Hardware – Colchester
- Amazon Smile
- Arch Insurance Company Employees
- Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Glastonbury
- Blackledge Country Club
- Boston Red Sox
- Broadway Wine & Spirits – Colchester
- Carl Guild & Associates – Colchester
- Cato Corner Cheese Farm
- Colchester Half Marathon

- Colchester Lion's Club
- Colchester Pizza
- Nicole Dimarjians – LPGA
- Family Pizza Restaurant & Grill of Colchester
- Fornarelli's – Colchester
- Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill
- Glastonbury Hills Country Club
- Golfers Warehouse
- Hammers & Chords
- Harry's Place
- Hartford Yard Goats
- Hyacinth Nail Salon
- In Deep Classic Rock Band
- InCord Custom Safety
- Netting Solutions
- Jewelry Connection



- Laurel Island – East Hampton
- Lyman Orchards
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- Modern Formals – Middletown
- Noel's Market
- Norwich Sea Unicorns
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RHAM's Murray Joins National Champs

By Josh Howard

After a dozen years of playing lacrosse in Connecticut, Ciara Murray is now on a national championship roster.

The 2023 RHAM High School graduate will attend Pace University and play for a Setters program that won the Division II National Championship in May.

"It feels absolutely unreal," Murray said of joining the national champs. "I know the success they are experiencing this year is going to continue on and it makes me more excited to be a part of. I wanted to be part of that team making their mark."

With limited opportunities to play lacrosse locally prior to high school, Murray carved her own path to collegiate lacrosse.

She watched her older brother, Josh, play lacrosse and immediately knew a life on the field was for her, saying she was "born to have a stick in my hands."

"I was the youngest of three siblings, which meant me being dragged around to all my older brothers sporting events," recalled Murray. "I remember literally pointing at my brother on the field and saying I want to play [lacrosse] and be a part of this. Immediately, my parents signed me up for lacrosse and I immediately fell in love with it."

Along with playing for school, Murray played for 3D New England South Club, based out of Hartford, where she sharpened her stick skills.

RHAM head coach Lara Juenger said Murray's extensive lacrosse background prior to high school made her the strongest player when she took the field at the high school.

"She made my job easier because of the way that she plays," added Juenger. "She increased the pace that everyone else played at, but she was also very patient with them. She adapted, realizing that the girls she was playing with on her high school team were on a different level than she was on her club lacrosse team."

Murray's wealth of experience paid dividends this spring as she earned all-conference and helped the Raptors qualify for the state tournament following a nine-win regular season.

Despite having her freshman season wiped away due to the COVID-19 cancellation, Murray managed to eclipse the 100-point career mark, surpassing the milestone during an eight-point performance in a win over Rocky Hill on May 22.

Murray said the sport has defined her character, saying "it showed me how strong of a person I am."

"[Lacrosse] has taught me to push myself," added Murray. "Every single athlete in the world, regardless of what sport they play, can agree that sports can be very difficult, both mentally and physically, but it's taught me about commitment and that I am capable of so many things."

Along with her lacrosse accomplishments, Murray was also part of the Student Council at RHAM and said she will miss the community, but embraces the opportunity to meet people from outside her hometown.

"It will be really, really nice to get close with people that had a different background than I did," stated Murray.

At Pace, she joins a program led by Tricia Molfetta, who is entering her eighth season and has won 75% of her games. Molfetta most recently guided the program to their first national championship in school history, winning 21 of 23 games this spring, including a 19-9 win over No. 1 seed West Chester in the NCAA finals.

"I loved the coach, the team, and the campus," Murray said of the school in Pleasantville, N.Y. "I thought it was a perfect spot for me."

Juenger said that Murray's versatility really showed this spring, which should bode well for her at the college level.

"She has a great work ethic and she learned to play the entire field," added Juenger. "She upped her game to get ready for college."

Murray will now study criminal justice as she joins her national championship teammates in New York.

"It's just so surreal how I got here," said Murray. "It's crazy to me, but it makes me so excited."

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.

AHM Annual Appeal

AHM Youth and Family Services is looking for donations to its Annual Fund.

AHM helps those in the Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough community cope with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and other social and emotional challenges. AHM said its school-based mental health supports, as well as its outpatient therapeutic clinic, are in high demand.

Visit ahmyouth.org/make-a-donation to donate.

CHOREs Program Starting Up

AHM Youth and Family Services' CHOREs program is starting back up for the summer. CHOREs is a paid program that provides local seniors assistance from teens (ages 14-18).

Teens are able to sign up for jobs that not only help out their local seniors with various outdoor tasks, but they also get paid for doing so. For more information, email Kristina Smith at KristinaH@ahmyouth.org.

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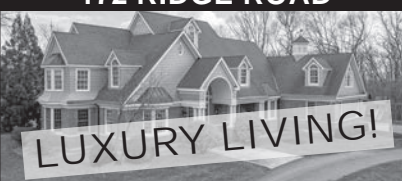
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Here's some fun news to share: a former Portland resident is really doing quite well with her new jewelry business in Wyoming.

Stephanie Howell grew up in Portland, and began her jewelry journey at local colleges. And now her company, S. Howell Studios, has won the 18th annual Halstead Grant for Emerging Jewelers.

The annual grant is awarded to jewelry businesses in their first five years, based on jewelry design and business prowess.

For winning, Howell will receive a \$7,500 cash grant; \$1,000 in jewelry supplies, a trip to Prescott, Ariz., a detailed feedback report from the judging committee, and a signature trophy.

Grant founder and Halstead President Hilary Halstead Scott said, "Stephanie presented a plan for authentic artistic expression and financial independence. She is proof that 'artrepreneurs' can excel creatively and earn a good living in the field. She is an example of hard work and dedication. She elevates nature jewelry to new heights."

"Artrepreneurs." I like that.

In a press release, Stephanie shared that she first became enthralled with the fluidity, malleability and permanence of metalsmithing during her first jewelry class at Middlesex Community College. She then graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a B.S. in studio art in 2011. Stephanie founded S. Howell Studios in 2019 in Moran, Wyoming.

"I am incredibly honored and proud to be

this year's recipient of the Halstead Grant," Stephanie said. "The rigorous application process pushed me to continually improve and seek guidance, ultimately propelling me towards success and affirming the value of perseverance and professional development in the early stages of my business. Winning the grant has provided me with invaluable resources and support, empowering me with a renewed sense of confidence in my entrepreneurial journey."

S. Howell Studio's collections are inspired by the beauty of the natural world and the dramatic landscapes of the Tetons. Her latest collection combines the mountains of the Tetons with grandidierite stones for a variety of natural beauty and organic texture. Her jewelry pieces start at \$25 and range up to \$1,250 for one-of-a-kind and limited-edition pieces. All of her jewelry is made and packaged with sustainability in mind.

Congrats, Stephanie!!!

A new channel devoted to the old *Hollywood Squares* show recently hit the Pluto TV lineup of channels. Pluto is a free, ad-supported streaming service, which offers a wide variety of TV shows; there are other channels devoted to such shows from *I Love Lucy* to *CSI*. Anyway, learning of the new *Hollywood Squares* channel reminded me of some great exchanges from the 1970s version of the show. So I figured I'd share some. (Be warned, one of the things that made *Hollywood Squares*

Editor's Desk continued on page 6



Setting the Pace... RHAM High School Class of 2023 graduate Ciara Murray has signed her letter of intent to play lacrosse for the Division II national champions of Pace University. Murray (seated) is surrounded by friends (from left) Hadley Marchand, Diana Zito, Sofia Orama, Morgan Cyr, Ally Bernier, Anna Lavenburg and Cameron Rhodes. See related story on page 3.

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Supports Bisbikos

To the Editor:

As a resident of Colchester since 1978, I have seen first selectmen come, and I've seen them go. However, none have accomplished as much in one term as our current first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos.

Bisbikos' vision for the future of this town is admirable. As a former small business owner, I appreciate his leadership and unwavering conviction to continue to get things done for our community.

I urge you to vote for Andreas Bisbikos and the entire Republican slate of candidates.

Rich Tanner - Colchester

The Better Location

To the Editor:

In conversations with several people, several locations were discussed, no one employed by the town. I went to the town's website, the offices of the assessor and zoning. Several maps are available for viewing, one of them is a GIS map. This map allows a person to select the features of all the properties in the town. I was interested in comparing two sites near the present transfer station with the site off John Horton Boulevard. The first site I looked at was identified as 17-7B, owned by Eversource. It is about 32 acres with a significant wetlands area near the back of the property. It is zoned R-1, residential. The second lot is across the street, identified as lot

17-1, owned by the town. It has about 20 acres, with a very significant wetlands area running through the middle of the lot. It is also zoned R-1 residential. The lot off John Horton Blvd is identified as lot 12-59, owned by the town. The lot is about 88 acres with a wetlands area running down the east side of the lot and in the southwest corner. The wetlands on this lot take a much smaller percentage of the lot than the other two that I looked at. The lot is zoned VS for Village Square and is for commercial development. None of the three lots are in a Protected Aquifer Area as identified on the GIS map.

Of the three lots, the one on John Horton Boulevard is the better of the three for several reasons. It is a large lot; unused portions can be used for passive recreation. The area is zoned for commercial development, the other two are residential. The lot is more centrally located to the whole town. There are other reasons but space will not allow me to give them.

Louis Palshaw - Amston

Gun Deaths - Who's at Fault?

To the Editor:

Our politicians keep blaming the guns for our recent escalation in shooting deaths here in our country. Let's put the blame where it belongs: on our politicians! They are always blaming the guns and now want to hold the gun manufacturers accountable! What we need is an effective deterrent from these gun deaths. They have

Bulletin Board

"You know, it says here that men have now matured to the point where they don't feel self-conscious about crying in front of other people," said my wife.

"Says where?" I said. "In Sissy Boy Monthly? I thought you cancelled that subscription."

"Right here in the regular newspaper."

Blmmmmpppphh!

"What's *Blmmmmpppphh!*"

"A nonverbal exclamation of disdainful disagreement," I observed.

"I don't know why you're so dismissive. I've seen you cry. It's healthy to express your emotions."

Blmmmmpppphh!

"I've seen you get all teary eyed at the movies before. Don't deny it."

"Okay. I shed a few tears when John Wayne got killed in Sands of Iwo Jima. But any red-blooded American male would have done the same."

"That's it?"

"Also, I got a little choked up when Arnold Schwarzenegger makes that appeal to the god Crom in the movie Conan the Barbarian. You know, that classic movie you refuse to watch."

"Right. I mean you've only seen it about 157 times. But anyway, what's this appeal to Crom?"

I put on my best guttural Germanic Arnold Schwarzenegger voice: "Crom, I have never prayed to you before. I have no tongue for it. No one, not even you will remember if we were good men or bad. Why we fought, and why we died. All that matters is that today, two stood against many. Valor pleases you, so grant me this one request. Grant me revenge! And if you do not listen, the HELL with you!"

"Oh, good Lord. You've memorized it?"

"It's a guy thing."

"Is that a tear in your eye?"

"Don't be ridiculous."

"I seem to recall you got a little weepy at the end of the Titanic movie."

"That's true. Actually, I was inconsolable at the end of that movie Titanic."

"There. See. You have a heart after all."

"I couldn't believe that foolish old woman threw that priceless blue diamond in the ocean."

"I know. That was so romantic. It showed the great depth of her feelings and what was most important to her was not the material things in life. The diamond was symbolic of her treasured love and memories."

"Treasured love and memories, my you know what. She could have bought Harvard with that jewel. What the hell was she thinking? I was crying because none of her grandchildren were there to throw her in the ocean after the jewel. They should have let me write the script. She'd have been toast."

"I hadn't looked at it quite that way."

"It was extremely upsetting."

"What about when you were a kid? You must have cried when you were a kid."

"I distinctly remember crying once when my parents dropped me off at summer camp."

"That's natural. Lots of kids do that. They're afraid to be separated from their parents and home. Was that your worry?"

"Sort of. My father said they were going to move away while I was gone."

"That's terrible! Why in the world would he say that?"

"I guess, he thought he was a comedian. Or maybe he was voicing a fantasy of some kind. I've never been quite sure."

"What did your mother say?"

"I don't know. She was probably busy packing."

"But of course they didn't move away."

"No, but I had to promise to stop trying to manufacture dynamite in the basement."

"I don't believe a word you say."

"Nobody does."

"On the other hand, it's not entirely beyond the realm of possibility."

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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done nothing to discourage gun deaths! Nothing! People that intentionally murder people should be put to death. Common sense tells us that if people know that they will die if they perform a certain act, they will be unwilling to perform that act. By failing to have an effective deterrent, we are sacrificing the lives of many innocent victims whose murders could and should have been avoided.

You may say that we have a death penalty. Some may think that is "cruel punishment." Sixty-percent of Americans believe we should use the death penalty but only half, twenty-five states, impose it. Twenty-five states have abolished the death penalty! The states that have not abolished it allow convicted murders go years and years before execution. A convicted murderer in Georgia is scheduled to be executed this week for raping a 5-year-old girl and murdering an 8-year-old girl 46 years ago! Forty-six years ago! Attorneys drag these appeals out as long as they can. We need to execute these murders within a very short time frame! A jury should not decide a murderer's punishment. They should find him either guilty or innocent. If found guilty, it's an automatic death penalty within 10 days! We even let convicted murders out of prison. There is now a proposal to even let out those that have been convicted with no possible release for parole, out of prison.

Our politicians are doing nothing to stop this. Nothing! It looks like their motive is to disarm law-abiding citizens that own guns! Why would they want to do this?

Frank Blume – Colchester

Community

To the Editor:

"People want to live in this area right now and are willing to pay top dollar for homes like yours!" -- (Hebron Realtor, P&Z member) Should we feel flattered or exploited? People want to live in this area because these are really nice towns. We want to live in this area too.

Our towns are nice because of the intelligent planning and work individuals continually do protecting these lovely places. Work that defends scenic roads, open space, natural resources, zoning, education, historic preservation and the right to farm. Remember, one hand washes the other.

Everyone has a stake in the future and can contribute by protecting or donating land. Without undisturbed land, we lose healthy ecosystems and when we lose ecosystems, life gets more complicated. Open Space plays a huge roll in keeping the necessary cycles of life working. Leaving forests, wetlands and watersheds alone, allows nature to do her thing. Healthy and rotten trees, leaves, waterways, and wildlife do what we cannot...produced oxygen and filter clean water. They're imperative for balanced ecosystems. "The wide array of critical ecosystem services provided by healthy watersheds is frequently undervalued when making land use decisions." -- Healthy Watersheds. epa.gov. Services like scenic vistas, sustainable farming, open air classrooms, water quality, carbon storage, reduced flooding and wildlife corridors.

There have been maintenance concerns about Open Space properties, in Hebron, but Connecticut Statute 52-557g (portal.ct.gov) defends the important ritual of leaving landscapes alone, whereby decomposing and regrowing on their own schedule. If you don't enjoy Scenic Roads

or Open Space why live or work in Hebron?

As USA political trends push for weaker environmental regulations, we must push back. Support a sustainable future today. Take Hebron's town survey and defend the health of the Raymond Brook Watershed. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Bold Statement Indeed

To the Editor:

"I'm removing 'too high,' 'too low,' 'too medium,' 'too rare,' and if the budget goes down, I'm cutting it." This remark is a direct quote from the current Republican chair of the Colchester Board of Finance from the June 28th BoF regular meeting after she was willing to only offer up an additional 100K in funding after the town overwhelmingly said the budgets were inadequate to meet the community's needs.

I understand that with the chaos taking place in the town's finance department, an utter lack of clarity on revenues, a grand list mix-up from an overworked assessors office, the continued failure to conduct a proper audit of the prior fiscal year, and a continued lack of leadership from the first selectman's office, one might think that the books might be a little cooked. Regardless, that rhetoric is not what the town needs to hear from the board's chair.

Let's not forget that a critical function of BoF is to serve as a liaison between the town's leadership and the taxpayers. The attempt to remove such a critical advisory question regarding whether taxpayers' budgets are suitable, be it too high or too low, is unacceptable. I hope the chair keeps this in mind so that Colchester doesn't yet again earn the distinct honor of being the state's last town to pass its budgets for the community.

Scott Chapman – Colchester

Hebron Public Works

To the Editor:

Again, another letter from our chairman of the Hebron BoS, Dan Larson, on this subject.

To be blunt, I went out last fall and educated myself about this proposal. At the time I was for it but now definitely against it. And I read the DEEP letter dated 11/29/2022 on the town webpage. I noticed it was not a solid endorsement of the proposal but was actually a warning. Simply put, if we build this legacy building and the ground water becomes polluted, the town of Hebron is responsible to rectify that issue forever. That Dan is playing loose and fast with the town's future revenues.

And yes, salt is spread by the trucks but to date no one has stated or proved this is causing pollution. Now if we build a salt shed and then pollution occurs then all one has to do is point to the shed as being the initiating event. That puts the town behind the eight ball. And I liked your wishy-washy statement "ask anyone who is familiar with salt issues and they will say the big problem is with the application on roads." Okay, I'll ask the question. Dan, who did you specifically speak with?

And what is the problem with making the area an outdoor museum? We already have at least two-Raymond Brook Preserve and the Air Line Trail. Both add immeasurably to the quality of life in Hebron so an additional one will not hurt. And exactly how much do we spend on those two?

Still voting no.

Davis Howell – Hebron

Scene II, Act I

To the Editor:

Just a few short days ago, the first batch of Barn Swallows fledged. Where they went, I do not know. There was no hanging out roosting in the barn overnight as usual. Or begging their parents to feed them again, or trying to cram themselves back into the nest.

Right after their departure, the parents were busy collecting mud, sand and small bits of hay to rethink their mud bowl nests affixed to the rafters. And now they are laying eggs for the second brood.

I have observed the Swallows for many many years and have drawn this conclusion.

If the Swallows have a second brood, the chances of a catastrophic hurricane hitting New England is diminished greatly. Somehow they know and can read into our collective meteorological "future." How? I do not know. Since hurricanes form off the western coast of Africa near the Equator as a potential low-pressure system, how they know that here in East Hampton, I can't fathom. They have been so accurate for all the years I've had them in my daily routine; almost 30 now.

These hatchlings will appear in a couple of weeks and be fed for growth and strength to make the long over-sea journey to Central America as their first solo venture.

I will keep you apprised as to the next Act as hatchlings and nestlings, in my observations of the Barn Swallows that live with my horses and I have come to respect for their abilities to predict the future weather events far better and more accurately than the computer-driven Weather Service.

To have a "bird brain" is probably not such a bad thing after all, is it?

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Classified Documents

To the Editor:

President Trump is covered under the Presidential Records Act allowing him to retain documents as he chose, just like his predecessors. Neither HRC or Biden were covered under this act and their mere possession of documents were illegal. Biden had documents in four different locations with many of them originating from his time as a senator.

Hillary possessed 113 classified documents, with 8 of them marked "Top Secret." Trump had many fewer than this number found at Mar-a-Lago last August, while being allowed to have them. Despite being under congressional subpoenas, Hillary used Bleach Bit to clean her illegal unsecured server (located in a closet) and deleted over 33,000 emails while concurrently ordering her staff to smash all of their electronic devices (also under subpoena) with sledge hammers.

Most of Hillary's classified documents were also subsequently found on Anthony Weiner's laptop leading the FBI to reopen their scam investigation, but it was quickly broomed. Despite all of this flagrant criminality, FBI Director Comey claimed no reasonable prosecutor would pursue charges.

After allowing FBI access to review all of the

documents in Trump's possession, they still sent a Swat Team to rifle throughout his personal residence, including his wife's underwear drawer. His lawyers were forced outside so they couldn't observe the FBI's illegal search. Contrast that to the FBI allowing Biden's lawyers to choose which of his illegally-possessed documents they would surrender!

FBI lawyer Kevin Clinesmith wasn't punished for altering evidence enabling a FISA warrant against Carter Page. In concert with the DNC and Hillary's campaign, they colluded with Russians to compile the fraudulent "Steele Dossier" in attempts to prevent Trump's election. The disparate treatment displays blatant political persecution. The corrupt actors involved in this criminality should be in prison. The FBI and DOJ should be completely rebuilt.

Sam Prentice – Andover

Fields of Dreams

Dear Colchester Residents,

Last Friday, I signed a historic contract with Fournier Irrigation to begin irrigation construction at the recreational fields in the amount of \$238,797 in ARPA federal funds. This is the first major step in creating top-tier fields for our children as they deserve the absolute best. Improving our fields has been something our town has wanted to achieve since UConn issued a field study in 2014 describing the terrible conditions of our fields and the liability they placed on our children.

As a candidate for first selectman in 2021, I made a major promise on the campaign trail that I would deliver on field irrigation. Colchester deserves fields that our community would not only be proud of, but safe for our children. Our town is now on the path to make that all a reality. And while this fulfilled promise is a significant first step, there is more to be done to ensure we have pinnacle fields. Something that I am fully committed to achieving.

A big thank you to Tiffany Quinn, our Parks & Recreation director, for her dedication and support, and Joe Leone, our Public Works director, for all your hard work. Thank you to selectman Jason LaChapelle, to the league presidents, the Park & Recreation Commission, and the many parents for their encouragement and commitment along the way.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester First Selectman

Taking a Stand

To the Editor:

Thank you to the East Hampton TC for the recent stand on the egregious budget demands by the BOE. Many people called the members "bullies"; I call it "fiscal responsibility".

An estimated 36.6% of the families in EH have school-age children 18 or under, which means the majority of the people in EH get bullied into paying the BOE's demands for more money every year. Each year we hear the same old story that more money for the schools will attract more residents. So if that is true, why has the East Hampton population has decreased by

See Letters, page 6

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★ **Letters cont. from page 5**

-8.74% since the most recent census? Please note that a shrinking population means a greater tax burden for those left behind, as the most recent referendum will increase our taxes by “only \$400/year.” And in case you forgot, 65%+ of our property taxes is spent on the school budget.

Mr. Smith also found it convenient to leave out the union concessions and insurance relief until after the first voting was done, claiming “miscommunication” related to the BOE budget demands. I thought Mr. Smith communicated quite clearly that failure to provide the additional funds would result in teacher firing, massive growth of class size, and ultimately the decline of people wanting to move to East Hampton, all emotional arguments with no basis in fact.

As a senior citizen, there is no tangible return on investment for the school budget. And so you don't think I'm a complete jerk, I know that as a good citizen, I should contribute something to the schools. All I'm asking for is fiscal restraint and yet the BOE doesn't seem to want to be part of the effort. When is the “silent majority” going to take a stand and vote “no” to the BOE?

Bob Yenker – East Hampton

Wokeism

To the Editor:

To clarify for R. Thurston Clark: In simple terms, “wokeism” claims that American ideals are a lie. It claims that we need to abandon our common framework of American values, and until we recognize our role in oppression or our role in oppressing others, we are asleep. When we agree to this way of thinking, then we are awake. Or woke. Critical Race Theory (CRT), in its simplest terms, is the teaching that white people are inherently racist

and cannot help but play a role in oppressing people of color.

If you don't believe me, perhaps you should read *Battle of the American Mind* by Pete Hegseth or *American Marxism* by Mark R. Levin. These books can also help you gain a much better understanding of the real purpose of Black Lives Matter (BLM). If you really want to understand Gov. Ron DeSantis, you can read his book, *The Courage to Be Free*. He will clear up any confusion you have about his comments on wokeism.

In any event, please get educated before you vote.

Caryn Basile – East Hampton

Tommy Tuberville

To the Editor:

In 2014 he started a foundation “to recognize and support organizations and causes that connect with the beliefs and values of the Tuberville family; assisting our military and veterans; awareness, education and prevention of health issues, particularly among women and children; and, education and community initiatives. The foundation's website is now defunct.

In February 2023 Tuberville announced he would block all military promotions requiring Senate confirmation. Committee assignments for Tommy Tuberville are Armed Services and Veterans Affairs.

For the first time in over a century the United States Marine Corps will have an acting Commandant.

His foundation had questionable accounting practices. He's inserted personal beliefs and lack of military experience into the Senate confirmation process, the other service chiefs and chairman of the joint chiefs will be changing soon,

could be up to 650 officer confirmations held up by years end because of him.

How can someone claim to support the military/veterans but not really support them? My question for him is, are you responsible for that pregnancy? If your answer is no, stow your personal belief and step aside. If your answer is yes, then you have a conversation and provide help and support; it's not about you.

Both the oath of enlistment (which I swore) and the congressional oath state that, ...I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States... Nowhere in either oath does it say I'll do what I want just because I can. “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one.”

Star Trek II, both Spock and Kirk.

**Semper Fidelis,
Eric Manning – Andover**

Lucky to Have Coyle

To the Editor:

Rosemary Coyle has been serving and representing the residents in Colchester for many years. Her commitment and dedication to our town is unwavering. She knows the issues, looks at the big picture and always thinks through her responses to questions or issues. Some people in town have made it their mission to try to question her integrity, morals and ethics. To me this is wrong. Colchester is fortunate to have a person of such high character representing them. She is responsive and always available to listen and respond to someone's concerns.

Colchester is lucky to have Rosemary Coyle.

Marge Mlodzinski – Colchester

Note: Mlodzinski is chair of the Colchester Commission on Aging, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Public Works Reality

To the Editor:

Once again I am surprised by statements made by Daniel Larson, chairman of Hebron's Board of Selectmen, in last week's *Rivereast*. The continued effort to disparage the informed opinion of Mr. William Warzecha, a 36-year career specialist on road salt contamination with CT DEEP, is simply appalling. It is true, Mr. Warzecha retired in 2019, all of four years ago! Needless to say, he is still well versed in the current construction of salt sheds and the dangers posed by the storage and handling of road salt. Responding to another misleading comment by Mr. Larson in December 2022, Mr. Warzecha replied, “You should know that I clearly stated during my opening and closing remarks to the committee that the town is using poor judgment in locating the public works facility on Kinney Road and the facility should not be built in that location. The proposed land use, which includes the storage and handling of deicing agents like road salt and liquid brine, pose a significant risk to surface and ground water.” It is illogical to imagine a retirement of four years makes this powerful statement invalid.

As for the unbearable cost an “open air classroom” would pose, I suggest the destruction of the Horton Property on Kinney Road with a \$20 million Public Works facility would be much greater. And it's not only the cost of the DPW facility, it is the unforeseen expenses and the loss of economic benefits. The Connecticut Office of Tourism reports 2022 broke records with \$17 billion spent, and in 2015 the UConn College of Agriculture estimated agriculture and agritourism earned \$90 million. I am confident that an environmental and historical attraction in Hebron center will be an economic and educational asset for our town. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

**Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston**

Field Irrigation Moving Forward

To the Editor:

Field irrigation is finally happening. This has been one of my goals as a member of the 2016 Field Sustainability Task Force, along with so many other people. I wasn't sure this would ever be completed because of the cost. Year after year during budget deliberations, Board of Finance members, including our first selectman, removed it from the budget. Thank you to our Parks and Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn for being such an incredible steward to keep this in the forefront.

Then we received ARPA money from the federal government and the town had a mechanism to get irrigation done. Through the unanimous collaborative efforts of ARPA Committee members and the Board of Selectmen (BOS), the BOS approved the funding of \$250,724 at our 4/20/23 meeting. We also discussed the water source and how to save the field users the cost of paying for the water by installing wells; allocating \$30,000 additional ARPA funds for wells.

Also being proposed is to hook irrigation up to the town water system. Irrigation will use 12,000 gallons of water/day at a cost of \$224.96/quarter for 20,000 gallons and an additional \$8.40/1,000 gallons over 20,000. (Example - wa-

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

great is a lot of the responses weren't exactly G-rated.):

Q: If you were pregnant for two years, what would you give birth to?

A: Paul Lynde: Whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark.

Q: According to Cosmo, if you meet a stranger at a party and you think he's really attractive, is it OK to come out directly and ask him if he's married?

A: Rose Marie: No, wait until morning.

Q: When you pat a dog on its head he will usually wag his tail. What will a goose do?

A: Paul Lynde: Make him bark.

Q: When a couple have a baby, who is responsible for its sex?

A: Charley Weaver: I'll lend him the car. The rest is up to him.

Q: Do female frogs croak?

A: Paul Lynde: If you hold their little heads under water long enough.

See you next week.



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tering every other day/quarter, 45 days, a low estimate, would cost approximately \$4,593 for 540,000 gallons). This is concerning and why I advocated for wells – neither the users, sewer/water rate payers nor the town should have to foot this bill when there’s an alternative option to consider and reduce the cost of water.

In addition, the Sewer/Water Ordinance requires 50% or more of its membership live or own property in the sewer/water district. Currently only one member complies. I encourage rate payers to apply to fill three vacancies. Your voices are needed. Committee/Commission applications are on the town website, under Your Government-Forms and Documents-First Selectman.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

Veterans Say Thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of Portland’s American Legion Ormont Post 69, first, I wish to say “Thank You” to Adams Hometown Markets in Portland, for hosting their Round-Up campaign at their registers the week before Memorial Day to benefit our organization and the local veterans. It is the support of local establishments like Adams, and their customers that help keep veterans’ organizations like our committed to supporting the local veterans in the community.

Second, I wish to thank everyone who came out to support our Memorial Day Veterans breakfast, held at the legion hall in Portland.

Finally, I with thank the volunteers, both veterans and non-veterans, who participated in the 2023 Portland Memorial Day Parade Honor Guard and rendered honors to all of our veterans buried in Portland’s cemeteries.

Timothy Dickerson
Post Commander
American Legion Ormont Post 69 – Portland

Advisory Questions

To the Editor:

Having advisory questions on the referendum ballot was an excellent idea and provided clear feedback.

I hope it is not such that some of our elects seem now to want to dismiss what the voters had to say and do not want to hear from them in the next referendum, maybe because it doesn’t align with their own opinions.

By way of counterpoint, it is notable that assessor John Chaponis publicly owned his mistake. Having worked with John, I know how skilled he is and how seriously he takes his responsibilities. The old saying “It’s not a problem until you can’t fix it” applies here, if our public officials can work together to a solution.

Respectfully,
Stan Soby – Colchester

Bringing Colchester Together

Dear Colchester Residents:

Several months ago, I launched my campaign for first selectman of Colchester with a mission to bring people together and a vision to use my professional experience as a municipal office manager to help restore stability at the Colchester Town Hall.

Now, I am asking for your support at the Monday, July 24, Democratic caucus. The caucus is where Colchester Democrats will endorse their candidates for first selectman and other offices like Board of Selectmen, Finance, Education and more. The caucus is open to all registered Democrats and will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Cragin Library. I hope to earn your support.

As first selectman, I will treat citizens, staff, and other officials with respect in all settings -- including at board meetings. The hostile Board of Selectmen meetings of recent years will end under my watch. Let’s get back to business.

I will use my experience in municipal human resources to help rebuild the fractured team at Town Hall where so many employees have left recently. We will recruit, develop, and retain talented staff to work together for all of us.

With stability restored, we’ll prioritize pursuit of grants to expand outdoor recreation, maintain historic buildings, and improve downtown accessibility. I will also work with our Planning Department to collaborate with regional organizations such as seCTer to promote economic development in Colchester.

If you share this vision, please support my nomination at the July 24th Democratic caucus. I also hope you will support other candidates committed to this ideal. I want to lead a team

of competent, experienced Colchester residents ready to collaborate and work across the aisle if we are elected. Building that team starts at the caucus. Let’s bring Colchester together!

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

Heavenly Father

To the Editor:

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says: “Woe to those who call evil good,” but that is exactly what we have done.

*We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

*We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism.

*We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism.

*We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle.

*We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

*We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

*We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

*We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

*We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.

*We have abused power and called it politics.

*We have embezzled public funds and called it essential expenses.

*We have institutionalized bribery and called it sweets of office.

*We have coveted our neighbor’s possessions and called it ambition.

*We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

*We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

*Search us, oh God, and know our hearts today, cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!

*With the Lord’s help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called “One Nation Under God”

Butch Przekopski – Colchester
God Bless America

Grim Tale of Colchester’s Finances

To the Editor:

Despite the rosy picture painted by Colchester’s first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, and Board of Finance chair, Andrea Migliaccio, the reality of our town’s finances tell a grim tale. Our town missed its financial audit deadline, risking fines and a credit rating plunge. It paid \$70k for consultants to scrutinize tax issues, used “emergency” measures to pay a former CFO for assistance, and reshuffled staff between departments.

Budget inconsistencies and chaos persist despite the hectic efforts, which had employees working even on Independence Day. The enlistment of extra manpower, the unnecessary expenditure, and the missed audit deadline all indicate a looming financial calamity for Colchester, a crisis that is far from over.

John Farrell – Colchester

Transparency?

To the Editor:

In a recent Colchester Board of Finance meeting, our BOF Chairwoman Migliaccio has stated that:

At the upcoming second budget referendum she will remove the advisory question from the ballot asking a voter to declare whether they think the Board of Education and town budgets are too high or too low. This denies citizens the chance to have their voices heard and for everyone to understand what the majority of our taxpayers want.

If the budgets fail to pass, our BOF chairwoman will lower the next proposed budgets regardless of the voters’ wishes.

This is not transparency. This is not people first. This is not democracy in action.

And what does our first selectman, professed champion of transparency, think of this?

Good question. Why has he remained silent on this? Please ask him....

How often can a government ignore the voters’ wishes before we are a democracy in name only?

Respectfully,
Vincent Rose – Colchester

‘Woke’ Not an Insult

To the Editor:

Last week R. Thurston Clark submitted another letter with convoluted arguments and mixed messages. This time the topic wasn’t about late term abortion or middleclass economics, but the term “Woke.” Mr. Clark’s knotty interpretation of the phrase somehow left him with the belief that wokeism is an insult to minorities.

See Letters, page 22



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Selectmen Approve \$250K Field Irrigation Project

By Michael Sinkewicz

At their meeting last week, Colchester selectmen unanimously approved spending around \$250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds on new field irrigation at the town's recreation complex.

The irrigation work was awarded to Fournier Irrigation in the amount of \$238,797, the electrical work will be done by Stula Enterprises for \$9,995 and the fencing work is assigned to Fence Man and Sons for \$1,750.

In April, the selectmen approved the allocation of funds for the project, following the recommendation of the town's ARPA ad-hoc committee. Now, a venture years in the making will move forward.

Public Works Director Joseph Leone told the board that a low bid came in around a year ago, and the company was willing to hold the price — a figure he warned “would never be this good again.”

The current condition of the fields has been consistently criticized by members of the board and the community. The irrigation will ideally lead to a more sustainably field complex for local sports teams and those visiting from neighboring towns.

“The goal is to get the irrigation out there,” Leone said, adding that “anything's better than what we have now.”

While the board was in agreement with the overall merit of the project, certain details regarding the source of the water remain uncertain.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat, made a motion in April for an additional \$30K of ARPA resources for wells, which would strengthen the project. The board agreed, and approved the extra funding.

However, Leone explained that the current plan to supply the daily 12,000 gallons of water for the fields was to attach with the town's water supply. Along with the \$250k, an additional \$25,796 was on the agenda for supplies that would allow the new system to connect to the current irrigation infrastructure.

If approved, this would bring the total project

cost to \$276k. Then, on top of that amount, creating a combined system with the wells, would bring the total to \$306k — likely beyond what the selectmen can allocate through ARPA.

When asked by a selectman if the use of town water would be ongoing, Leone stated that connecting to the system would allow the irrigation to be available to the community sooner than wells. And, he continued, if wells are drilled and are unable to provide an adequate water supply, the overall system would be able to sustain itself.

With infrastructure, “It's important to have redundancies,” he said.

However, the additional costs associated with using town water would still need to be covered.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, a Republican, stated that the town will “chip in” — but the funds do not currently exist in the town budget. While the sports leagues would pay based on their field usage, the town would still have to contribute some amount, he argued.

“The town needs to show commitment to this project,” he stated.

Coyle argued that the \$30k allocated for wells was supposed to spare the field users from the cost burden. Instead, she asserted, the town hasn't sought bids for the wells but is now potentially planning on spending the money put aside for that portion of the project.

The town cannot afford to install wells and connect to town water, Coyle expressed.

“Somehow, this didn't get communicated,” she said. “ARPA doesn't have that much money.”

Coyle suggested that the board move ahead with the \$250k, which would cover the field irrigation installment, but hold off on spending the \$26k for supplies essential to the town water connection. This would allow Leone to discuss with the water department whether that dollar amount could potentially be trimmed and to also solicit bids for the wells.

The whole board agreed with this strategy. Selectmen Jason LaChapelle, who is unaffiliated, pointed out that the town used resources from a field sustainability fund — sustained by the sports leagues — to install a water main,

with the intent of connecting it to the town water supply.

Therefore, he said, if the town opts not to make that connection, then some level of funding should be reimbursed to the leagues.

Leone is expected to report back to the board at their next meeting later this month.

In addition to field irrigation, the selectmen also unanimously approved \$18,400 of ARPA funds for Stephen Jager Associates LLC to produce an architectural design for a police department expansion at town hall.

Resident State Trooper Sgt. Zachary Cash stated that the money is “just to begin the process.”

“We have to do things one step at a time,” Cash said.

As of now, the general plan is to expand the police offices into the existing rooms for the Parks & Recreation Department and Public Works Department, who would need to be relocated.

Coyle pushed for more details as to what the overall plan would look like — such as where the funding would come from and where the employees would move to during the construction process.

Bisbikos emphasized that this specific approval would only be for phase one of the expansion and not a blanket approval on the entire project, which would likely cost over \$200k. A firm number would be received with the design outline.

Possible options for relocation include moving personnel upstairs and shifting the school district employees — nothing is final, Bisbikos stated.

“But that doesn't change the need to move forward,” he said.

Finance Department Update

Finance Director Mary Williamson stated that two temporary employees hired to assist the finance department with the budget audits would be extended through the end of July.

Both employees were initially expected to serve in the finance office for two months, starting in May. One of the hourly rates is \$110 per hour, the other is \$105. When the board approved the hires, the total funding for the employees was not to exceed \$64,000.

Due to leftover money in the finance department payroll, a significant portion of the funding should be covered with currently budgeted numbers.

Williamson started that to date, the employees have cost around \$66,000.

Discussing the overages became slightly contentious, with Coyle quarreling with both Williamson and Board of Finance Chairman Andrea Migliaccio, a Republican.

At the next meeting, the board will likely amend their previous motion to allow the contracts to be extended.

Bisbikos stated that the 2022-23 spending plan will not be over-budget and that the additional costs, which will now carry over to the 2023-24 fiscal year, will not be a “major hiccup.”

Bisbikos was also pressed on a decision to hire former CFO Maggie Cosgrove on a part-time basis. Coyle stated that the board would've approved of that decision — her issue was with Bisbikos failing to inform the board of the hire.

One of the reasons for waiting weeks to announce the hire, he said, was to “protect” her from “outrageous claims and accusations.”

He explained that in recent months, the finance department has been unfairly subjected to political attacks, which he was hoping to avoid moving forward.

Meet-and-Greet, Book-Signing

There will be a meet-and-greet and book-signing at the new gallery at Gifts on the Green, 44 Main St., on Saturday, July 15, from 1-3 p.m.

Rollins is Gifts on the Green's first featured artist in its newly expanded gallery, and all are invited to see her original fine art oil paintings, as well as view paintings from her book, *Luna: A Tribute*. Rollins will sign books and do a reading!

Rollins' original oil paintings are inspired by farm life, her rescued white shepherds, her horses, and her childhood growing up on a Col-

chester farm with many farm animals, especially cows.

In her book *Luna: A Tribute*, she paints a portrait of her beloved white German shepherd, Luna.

Her musings about life with her adored rescue dog are the fitting companion to her portfolio of portraits of Luna. The book will be available on Saturday.

View more of her art at www.sylvinarollins-art.com, or visit the gallery and see it in person.

Senior Center Trips

Colchester Senior Center is offering a pair of trips. Call 860-537-3911 for more information. Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18. Senior center membership is free for Colchester residents aged 55 and older. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester.

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

Turkey Train - Winnepesaukee Railroad: Sunday, Sept. 24, departing senior center at 8 a.m., returning at 8 p.m. Travel roundtrip to

Meredith, N.H. A Hart's Turkey Farm Dinner will be served aboard the train. Following the train ride, visit Mills Falls Marketplace for a collection of shops along with Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. Cost is \$145/person. Registration is required by Aug. 24.

Pacific Northwest & California: April 14-21, 2024. Explore the natural beauty from Seattle to San Francisco. Trip includes transportation to airport, airfare, hotels and 11 meals (six breakfast, one lunch and four dinners). Double occupancy is \$3,529/person if booked before Oct. 14. Registration can be made by visiting <http://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1186557> or by coming into the senior center. There will be a trip presentation at the senior center on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 10:30 a.m.

Kosher Chicken Barbecue

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

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

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

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

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

Bus Trips: Registration forms are available online. Bus will leave from Town Hall. For full itineraries, see the website. **Block Island Breeze:** July 18, \$150/person; **Spooky Salem:** Oct. 21, \$114/person.

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

Gentle Yoga: Mondays, July 24-Aug. 14,

4:45-5:45 p.m. online with Facebook Live. For ages 45 and older. Cost: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Community CPR/AED/First Aid Classes: Cost is \$90/person. Class dates: Sept. 19, 6 p.m.; Heartsafe CPR & First Aid; Oct. 17, BLS CPR; Nov. 14, 6 p.m., Heartsafe CPR & First Aid.

CYSS Summer Trips

Colchester Youth and Social Services is offering summer trips for Colchester students entering grades 4-12. Copies of the trip calendar can be found in the CYSS office at Town Hall, on Facebook, the digital backpack, and online at www.colchesterct.gov/yss.

Registration for trips will continue all summer — and is online only.

Call CYSS for more information, at 860-537-7255.

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Local Professor Receives State Appointment

By Michael Sinkewicz

Peter Siver, a seasoned professor at Connecticut College, was elected to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) earlier this year, a remarkable achievement for one of the state's top scholars.

A Colchester resident of over 30 years, Siver has dedicated most of his professional life to science. In May, he was officially inducted into CASE, the culmination of decades of hard work.

"It's a career honor," he told the *Rivereast*.

Since 1976, "the Academy" — a nonprofit entity modeled after the National Academy of Sciences — has advised and served state government with scientific and technological matters. Its 200 members provide expert guidance, typically upon request, for the General Assembly by issuing formal reports.

CASE distributes a publication called *The Bulletin* that includes articles on everything new and relevant regarding science and technology; copies are freely disseminated to state officials, colleges, high schools and libraries.

In the coming months, Siver will likely develop a stronger understanding through his assigned committees as to the type of insight he can provide. As a professor of botany, Siver will versed in ecology, biodiversity and algae.

"If anything comes up with aquatic systems, that's one thing I'll be able to help with," he said. Or, for example, if the state needs further guidance on handling toxic algae blooms, CASE would be able to weigh-in.

Another initiative of the Academy involves recognizing student winners of local science competitions. At his induction ceremony, Siver encountered numerous winners and hopes to help address some of the holes in small-town science programs.

Rural school districts such as Colchester, he said, may struggle retaining their extracurricular programming, which maybe he could help augment moving forward.

Siver boasts an impressive resume of degrees, starting with a B.A. in biology and a B.A. in geography from State University of New York at Binghamton. He received his M.S. in Botany from the University of New Hampshire and a Ph.D. in Botany and Ecology from the University of Connecticut.

There are seemingly countless highlights from Siver's career, including numerous awards, over 70 obtained grants and an extensive publication list. He has 45 combined years on editorial boards, as a conference organizer, society

President, local speaker and member of the Institute of Water Resources board.

He's written two books about his research — "The Biology of Mallomonas: Taxonomy and Ecology," and "Connecticut Lakes: A Study of the Chemical and Physical Properties of Fifty-Six Connecticut Lakes."

At Connecticut College, he helped establish the research program in aquatic and environmental sciences.

Siver's work with "ancient lakes" is particularly fascinating. He's examined lakes across the state and around the world; the remains of microorganisms in sediment cores help understand conditions from hundreds of years ago. In some cases, Siver creates models that unpack lakes dating back millions of years.

These lakes, he explained, in the arctic, existed when there wasn't ice on the planet. Even in the winter, there were palm trees and alligators, which of course cannot be found in Canada today.

"There's so much history in these lakes," he said. These studies can provide an understanding of upcoming climate impacts. Some of the research was made possible because of the cooperation from diamond companies that mine these areas for potential hotbeds.

From a young age, Siver loved the outdoors, embarking on hikes and cross-country camping trips.

As he put it, "With a tent, you can kind of go anywhere."

He progressed through the Boy Scouts, ultimately earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

At first, Siver believed he was heading into a zoologist line of work, but after taking an intro botany class, he "just fell in love" with the topic.

He has taught at Connecticut College since 1990. In February, Siver was alerted by CASE President John Kadow that he had been elected into the Academy.

At first, he was surprised — he was a professor from a relatively small school and many of the members were from UConn or Yale. Just three individuals from CONN College had received the honor before him, Siver expressed.

Perhaps the Academy approved of his extensive credentials.

"I have one of the more fuller teaching backgrounds and service for different scientific societies," he said. "It takes a lot of time."

Most recently in 2021, he received the Award of Excellence from the Phycological Society of America, that honors scientists with a strong



Dr. Peter Siver was recently awarded membership to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering. Siver is pictured with his wife Regina Jones and his two daughters, Emma (left) and Michaela (right).

scholarly record with a significant effect on phy-cology.

A blend of passions has resulted in an undeniably successful career. Dating back to 1987, Siver stated that he's secured National Science Foundation grants consistently, a difficult feat.

"I knew I had a good record," he said, adding jokingly that perhaps he had a magic wand for grant submissions.

In order to be elected, a nominee needs sufficient support and references. Dr. Charles Yarish, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UConn, crafted the official nomination letter.

"Siver's expertise in freshwater science, as an educator, scholar and service record bring a rare combination of skills to CASE," he wrote. "He is working in a unique and challenging research space not only in Connecticut but globally. He is an indefatigable worker and excellent communicator that will serve CASE well."

Alan L. Baker, emeritus associate professor of biological sciences at the University of New Hampshire, wrote a recommendation letter, outlining how Siver was his first graduate student at UNH.

In his letter, Baker reflected on Siver's M.S. degree, stating that his student "quickly mastered" his research into diatom photomicrography and working with the distribution of freshwater diatoms on submerged aquatic plants.

Siver has described several new species from fossil cores from Canada, Baker stated, and has

racked up 12 NSF grants totaling more than \$2 million, as of 2020.

Baker concluded that Siver "has contributed greatly to the sciences of both limnology and phycology and continues to make his mark with outstanding research."

"In my opinion he is well worthy of membership in the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering," Baker wrote.

Dr. Greg Anderson, professor emeritus at UConn, in his own recommendation letter, wrote that Siver's credentials from Connecticut College and at Western Connecticut State University, where he taught for eight years, "are unmatched."

"Thus, it is with some embarrassment to recognize that I should have nominated him decades ago for CASE membership," he stated. "He is flat out an incredibly accomplished scholar and teacher."

Anderson expressed that Siver is a "very capable, highly directed, committed, energetic and highly accomplished scientist" and "a very fine teacher."

"He is the kind of person that CASE tries to identify to promote the key roles of science and engineering in Connecticut."

Siver said that reading the letters "makes you feel good and respected."

"Seeing other people comment on it was very rewarding," he added.

Giving Garden Fundraiser

The Colchester Giving Garden is in full swing with its growing season for 2023. Volunteers meet one or two times each week to harvest, weed and maintain the garden.

As always, the garden is open to anyone who would like to help out. All vegetables are donated to the local food bank and area soup kitchens to help those with food insecurity. You do not need to have any garden experience. All ages and abilities are welcome.

The garden committee is also having a fundraiser this summer. The Cold Spring Farm food truck will come on the evening of Friday, Aug. 11, to provide a farm-to-table supper. Tickets will be sold until Aug. 5 and are \$25 each and \$10 for children under 12. Proceeds benefit the Giving Garden.

For more information on the garden or to purchase tickets to the farm-to-table supper, email colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com.

Westchester Church Chicken Barbecue

Westchester Congregational Church will host its annual Chicken Barbecue dinner on Saturday, July 15, from 4-6 p.m. The church is located at 98 Cemetery Rd.

For \$15, your meal will be a half-barbecued chicken, baked potato, special church-made coleslaw, roll, and a giant cookie for dessert. The meal will be drive-through and take-out only; no ordering ahead.

For more information, email westcongchurch@gmail.com.

Dean's List

Hunter Simone, a senior majoring in entrepreneurship, made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Abigail Burke, Torrie Fitzpatrick, Meagan Gallacher and Brandon Kauffman made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Ahavath Achim News

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

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

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

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

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

Football Friends Golf Tourney

Friends of Football is sponsoring its 16th annual golf tournament at Blackledge Country Club on Aug. 4, to support Bacon Academy Athletics.

To register or purchase a sponsorship online visit the tournament website at events.golfstatus.com and enter "Friends of Football" in the search bar. Registration fee includes a box lunch and buffet dinner. Raffle and silent auction items will also be offered.

Email questions and requests for registration and sponsorship information to baconfof@gmail.com.

Air Line Trail Toastmasters

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

Toastmasters offers a supportive and encouraging environment designed to help people refine their communication skills. All are welcome, from seasoned speakers to novices. Feedback will be provided. For more information, call Chris at 860-537-0143.

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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.

Special Olympics Golf Fundraiser

Colchester Special Olympics will hold its 14th annual Golf Fundraiser at Blackledge County Club in Hebron on Friday, Aug. 11. Registration starts at 7:30 p.m., and the Best Ball Shotgun starts at 9 a.m.

All are invited to play, be a sponsor, or donate a raffle prize; 100% of contributions support the local team. This fundraiser provides the opportunity for Colchester Special Olympics to offer year-round sports training and competition in bowling, swimming, track & field, and

golf for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Colchester Special Olympics is a registered nonprofit organization and any donation made would be tax-deductible.

A light breakfast, grab and go lunch, and a buffet dinner is included in the price of golf registration. For golf and sponsorship registration, visit give.soct.org/colchestergolf

For more information, contact Tim at 860-608-0056 or teamcolchesterso@gmail.com.

Fire & EMS Receive \$146K Grant

In April, Colchester Fire & EMS submitted an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for vehicle exhaust direct source capture systems for both fire stations.

The fire department announced this week the grant was awarded, totaling \$146,232.

Currently, the department operates out of two fire stations, both of which are not equipped with any exhaust capture system to remove the harmful byproducts created by our apparatus to the exterior of the facilities. The need for these systems was paramount to the health and safety of our personnel who provide service to the community, the fire department said, as OSHA, NFPA and NIOSH have all recognized the health dangers experienced from exposure to harmful vehicle exhaust. Vehicle exhaust has been identified as a cancer-causing substance. The fire stations are also used as emergency shelters for members of the community.

The vehicle exhaust direct source capture systems will positively impact those who need

to use the shelter by eliminating these harmful diesel and gas vehicle exhaust particles from the inside of the fire stations. In addition, the fire station is used for many community events such as fire prevention, community CPR, warming/cooling center during adverse weather, Frosty Fair and more, which brings the public to the fire stations.

The grant award will support the purchase and installation of the systems. As with most FEMA grants, there is a cost share with the municipality. For this project, the cost share amount totaled \$7,317 which was approved and supported by the Board of Selectmen prior to submission of the application.

Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann said, “These grants are highly competitive and support projects such as these in an effort to enhance needed infrastructure for emergency services organizations. We are very happy to have been awarded this grant and look forward to the improvement in health and safety that the systems will provide.”

Help Celebrate 325!

Colchester’s 325th birthday is Oct. 13, and the town is celebrating from Oct. 7-15.

The committee seeks individuals, clubs and businesses to join the celebration by hosting an Open House, tour, presentation, activity, special discount or item at a business or restaurant, or by becoming a monetary sponsor (starting at \$10).

For more information and a participation form, contact Park & Rec Director Tiffany Quinn at recdirector@colchesterct.gov or committee member Ines Kallmeyer at kallmeyerki@sbcglobal.net or 860-537-2826.

Family Events on Town Green

All are invited to the Town Green every Thursday from 6-8 p.m. for a free family event. Bring a lawn chair. Events include:

July 20: concert by 384 East; July 27: DJ Montez and a summer dance party in the park; Aug. 3: concert by the Outcrops; Thursday, Aug. 10, Trivia Night in the park; Thursday, Aug. 17, Concert by Bluesberry Jam; Thursday, Aug. 24, DJ Montez and the end-of-summer dance party in the park

School Readiness Program

Colchester’s School Readiness Program is offering grant-subsidized preschool for the 2023-24 school year. Spaces are limited. Parent fees are based upon a sliding scale.

There are three options available, including part-day at Colchester Elementary School, school-day at Castle and full-day at Town & Country Early Learning Center.

Colchester residents who want a five-day-a-week program and may find it difficult to pay for preschool are invited to apply. For the application and more information, go to ColchesterC3.org/school-readiness.

Troop 72

Accepting Recyclables

Colchester Boy Scout Troop 72 is accepting recyclable containers that can be redeemed in Connecticut.

If you are in the Colchester area and would like to donate recyclables to Troop 72, email your contact information to letendrej@sbcglobal.net or leave a message at 860-917-8391.

Donations can also be left at the left-hand side of the Polish Club pavilion at 395 South Main St., Colchester.



Softball Stars... The Colchester Little League Softball Majors 11/12 year old All-Star team won the 2023 District 11 Championship on Friday, June 30. Colchester defeated Coventry’s All-Star team 13-6 in Coventry. Colchester finished 4-0 in pool play, defeated Preston/Jewitt City in the semifinals prior to taking home the title. Pictured from left are, top row, Coach Rob D’Atri, Dalila Malz, Isabel Faber, Quinn Guntulis, Victoria Adamski, Lily Pulse, Abby Floyd, Gabbi D’Atri, Claire Gould, Jill Marshall and Ashtyn King; bottom row, Coach Matt Galante, Ava Galante, Emma Pensa, Brianna Hawes and Head Coach Pat Hawes.

Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School meets during the worship service.

Meetings: The church hosts several groups meeting weekly: Al-Anon, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; AA, Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA Troop

109, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; and Cub Scout Pack 109, one Thursday per month at 6 p.m.

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

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

CCT Presents Finding Nemo Jr

The Colchester Community Theatre Children’s Summer Theatre Workshop will present Disney’s *Finding Nemo Jr.* on Saturday, July 22, at 2 p.m., in the Bacon Academy auditorium.

This is 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 over-protective 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 songs such as “Just Keep Swimming,” “Fish Are Friends Not Fod,” and “Go With the Flow.”

Tickets are \$6 each (adults and children) and may be purchased at the door on the day of the performance. For more information, call Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or email Laura Brown at RTR1982@aol.com.

Dean’s List

Hunter Simone of Colchester recently graduated from the University of Tampa. Simone graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in entrepreneurship.

Dean’s List

Connor Sullivan of Colchester made the spring 2023 Dean’s List at Central Connecticut State University’s School of Engineering, Science and Technology.

Farmers Market Open Sundays

The Colchester Farmers Market will run every Sunday through Oct. 15, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each week, on the Town Green.

The market features 55 to 75 vendors each week. There will be fresh vegetables, local fruits, meats, cheeses, crafts, sweet treats, food trucks, musicians, and more.

Check out the market’s Facebook and Instagram pages (@ColchesterFarmersMarketCT) for weekly updates as to who’s coming, and for special events throughout the season.

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 Pope Francis.

Cost is \$3,479, and the trip departs from New York. All admissions, fees and hotel services are included.

For more information, contact Angela Corentin at 860-402-8316 or acorentin1219@gmail.com.

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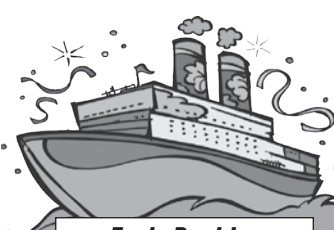
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Meet Hebron's Bluegrass Band

By Michael Sinkewicz

Who knew that Hebron had its own Bluegrass band?

The Hosmer Mountain Boys are a local group specializing in the distinctive Bluegrass music, which combines several elements to form a unique sound.

Last year, Simon Brogie, the banjo player, and Keegan Day, the guitar player and lead vocalist, formed the band and have been thriving in recent months. Brogie was born near the bottom of the Hosmer Mountain in Willimantic, inspiring the group's name.

Keegan's mother, Cathy Day, is also an integral member of the band. She's capable of playing many instruments, perhaps most notably the fiddle. But her most profound influence may have been introducing the music itself.

At a young age, Cathy performed with her folks in the Rose City Bluegrass Band, and the tradition goes back generations.

"It's our big family pastime," she told the *Rivereast*. "And I passed it down onto my kids."

Typically, the group aims to play two gigs a month, predominantly throughout the northeast. Cathy takes care of the bookings and provides a level of guidance as the band continues to evolve.

On July 28, the group will be taking part of the free concert series in Hebron at the town center for those who want to take in the Bluegrass experience, and the good vibes — "it's all fun," Cathy expressed.

On Instagram, the Hosmer Mountain Boys have over 14,000 followers and the group will now be exposed to a national audience.

Cathy's youngest son, Redmond, 13, was billed as the "Incredible *WoodSongs* Kid" and performed a special *WoodSongs Kids* TV and radio episode. Then, the whole band headlined the *WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour* on May 22, taped in front of a live audience in Lexington, Ky.

Both performances at the Lyric Theatre represent a remarkable opportunity for the band and the Day family. The radio show airs on over 500 stations around the world and the TV production will air at a later date on the RFD-TV.

Redmond, who plays mandolin, submitted his resume and was invited for the kid-centric episode. *WoodSongs* then asked the band to film a separate episode to highlight their work.

The band, and she's speaking from experience, is quite talented. The fourth member of the group is Tom Bowman, who plays bass.

"This formation is great," she asserted. While Redmond doesn't currently play in the band, Cathy acknowledged how special it is seeing her family embrace Bluegrass music.

"I don't take it for granted at all," she said. "They're so talented and I'm so proud of these two."

Redmond, who lives in Hebron with his parents, told the *Rivereast* that his family's musical

tradition was important to him and motivated him to embrace the genre.

"I am proud of that," he said. "I want to follow in their footsteps."

Still, he emphasized that his interest is entirely organic. Growing up, he's "always loved" Bluegrass and he likely would've remained invested despite the family ties.

"It's just the greatest music," he expressed. "It's lasted the test of time."

In Lexington, Redmond had an opportunity most teenagers rarely find themselves in — performing solo for TV and radio audiences. Even though he's a young musician, he views his performance as a sign of what he's capable of doing moving forward.

The way he phrased it, if he's *this* good as a kid, then wait until he's older.

But, even if the skills continue to develop, a musical career is unlikely, Redmond said.

"I do this for fun," he explained.

Keegan, 21, told the *Rivereast* that his parents and grandparents "paved the way for me."

Still, it's family, he joked. "It can be stressful."

Like those before him, Keegan, who lives in Killingly, now serves as a role model for his younger brother.

"Redmond's got a lot of passion and a lot of drive," he asserted.

Keegan was itching to start a band and as the pandemic subsided in 2022, he was a part of the Tolland County Ramblers, who played one show. Bowman was on bass, and then Brogie brought the banjo, forming the new band.

"We formed our own unique sound," Keegan said.

Throughout the summer, the group worked on its "stage antics" and cemented its identity.

Fast forward to May, the band's Kentucky performance was a "big leap."

At first, it was nerve-racking — the stakes were high.

The group, Keegan said, kept practicing and perfecting harmonies leading up to the show.

"We got more confident the more we did it," he said. "I think we were ready. This was a whole new thing and we had to make sure we nailed this."

Yes, he was naturally anxious with the T.V. cameras aimed at him, but the group was able to ace its performance, playing for around an hour.

"I think it was fantastic how it turned out," he expressed.

When asked if being in a Bluegrass band is his main passion, Keegan confirmed that he would enjoy expanding this hobby into a full-time gig. For now, he's enrolled in college, balancing school work with melodies.

Being a lead signer is still a pretty cool job. "I love it," he said.

There's also value in family members collaborating together, Keegan explained. His mom's accompanying voice perfectly harmonizes with his own, creating a distinctive overall sound.



Hebron's own Hosmer Mountain Boys – from left, Tom Bowman, Keegan Day, Simon Brogie and Redmond Day – are shown here outside the Lyric Theatre in Lexington, Ky.

"And that's why I want my brother to sing too," he added.

Sometimes, the most fun takes place after shows. At a festival, for example, artists will take out their instruments and play under tents or canopies until 3 a.m., he said.

"It's so much fun," exclaimed Keegan, regarding the jam sessions. "Bluegrass is unique in its emphasis on community."

Cathy Day agreed, expressing that the Blue-

grass community is "unlike anything."

"You can meet a person and you have a friend for life," she said. "Your Bluegrass family."

As the band continues to play gigs and gain more fans, Keegan reflected on the group's accomplishments. The Lexington performance remains his favorite moment.

"It was a big milestone," he said. "I was proud of the band and we saw what we were capable of. We have a lot more we can do."

Public Works Building Project Survey

The Town of Hebron is conducting a survey among town residents and business owners regarding the proposed Department of Public Works facility building project.

The town said it is interested in learning more about the public's awareness, concern, and desire for more information regarding the project.

The survey can be taken online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/HebronDPWSurvey.

The survey will take about 10 minutes to

complete. Responses will remain anonymous; however, if you would like to receive additional information directly from the town regarding this project, you will be able to provide your email address and/or mailing address at the end of the survey.

Note: If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the survey or any documents referenced herein, visit Town Hall, 15 Gilead St., or call 860-228-5971.

Surveys must be completed by July 15.

Parks and Recreation News

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

Summer Scrimmage Basketball Camp: For boys and girls in grades 5-8. All basketball skill and ability levels welcomed. Session I: July 24-27; Session II: Aug. 7-10. Camp will run from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School. Fee: \$119.

30+ Basketball Summer Session: Pick-up basketball Tuesdays through Aug. 29, 7-9 p.m. Full session is \$20, or a \$3 drop-in fee. Cash only.

RHAM Softball Camp: July 24-27, 9 a.m.-

noon, at the RHAM softball field, for girls in grades 1-8. Fee: \$100.

Summer Adventure Camp: Runs weekly through Aug. 18, from 6:45 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Must register in advance.

Build Your Skills Basketball Camp: For grades 2-8. July 17-21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at RHAM High School. Fee: \$275. Camp hosted by RHAM boys basketball coach Todd Dean. To register, contact Dean at Todd.Dean@rhamschools.org or 203-709-0442.

S.T.E.A.M. Lego Camps: July 17-21, at Gilead Hill School. Building Up S.T.E.A.M., for ages 5-6, is 9 a.m.-noon, and S.T.E.A.M. Works Using Lego, for ages 7-10, is 1-4 p.m. Fee: \$140.

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. Needs are: **Camping Gear:** adult sleeping bags (new or used; clean and in good condition); 2-person tents with waterproof features (new or used, in good condition with all parts); new tarps (10' x12' or larger; green or brown, no bright colors); sturdy adult backpacks; and folding shovels. **Men's:** sweat pants (M,L,XL,2XL); solid color T-shirts (L,XL,2XL); boxer briefs (L & XL); and flip-flops (used as shower shoes). **Women's:** sports bras (larger sizes); body powder; deodorant; flip-flops; and briefs (sizes 6 and up). **Cleaning Supplies:** Windex; Pine-Sol floor cleaner; and spray cleaners with bleach. **Gift Cards:** \$15 Stop & Shop for gas to assist people living in their cars; and \$15-\$25 Walmart cards to purchase items needed immediately. Please call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards.

Miscellaneous: rain ponchos; insect repellent; sunscreen; paper towels; TP; 13- and 55-gallon trash bags; and batteries (AAA,C,D). 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.

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From the State Senator's Desk...

Happy summer! As we work our way to the dog days, enjoying the hot sunny weather, I've got some great news for you regarding our region and grants from the state. Regularly, towns in the 33rd Senate District receive valuable funding from the state; we received more good news in the early summer.

I'm excited to say that \$400,000 will be committed through the state's Brownfield Remediation and Development Program to support assessments and planning activities on two separate parcels in East Haddam and East Hampton. Redevelopment funds will be used to survey the potential redevelopment and use usage of properties with a combined total of nearly 10 acres together. This means the state is directly aiding and supporting new business and residential opportunities in our communities while also working to reduce local blight and unused properties; such investments are incredibly valuable for the long-term strength of the region.

That's not all, though. The Department of Economic and Community Development and CT Humanities in June announced the Essex Historical Society will receive more than \$122,000 from the state to support the creation of a "Culture Campus" at Pratt House. This new infusion will allow the Society to expand its ability to host collaborative events, such as a 250th anniversary part of the United States in 2026.

Finally, the State Bond Commission, at the end of June, awarded \$250,000 to Westbrook for the assessment and conceptual design of the Valley Shore Regional 911 Center, which will aid emergency services administered to nearly a dozen towns including Haddam. Another \$195,000 in funding went to Essex, supporting the construction of an emergency radio tower, upgrades to emergency equipment and the installment of a generator. For the state to invest so much into emergency preparedness is a great benefit for residents; in the event of disaster, the state will be ready to respond.

As the state continues to invest in our region, the resources and benefits we will receive will only continue to grow. I'm excited and encouraged to continue working toward the best outcomes for all of my constituents.

State Sen. Norm Needleman, D-33rd District

Note: The 12-town 33rd Senate District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

Area ECSU Graduates

The following area students recently graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University:

Amston: Eleni Katsarakis, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology; Tyler Lettieri, Bachelor of Science in business administration; Brendon Mansaku, Bachelor of Science in finance; Rebecca Ristow, Bachelor of Arts in theatre; Paige Rushford, Bachelor of General Studies in general studies; Spencer Teranova, Bachelor of Science in environmental Earth science; Ayla Thurstan, Bachelor of Science in psychology.

Colchester: Cassandra Neudecker, Bachelor of Arts in criminology and a Bachelor of Science in psychology; Delaney Pike, Bachelor of Science in early childhood education and psychology; Tyler Aldieri, Master of Science in elementary education; Jakob Behlke, Bachelor of Science in computer science; Paul Chasse, Bachelor of Science in accounting; Cameron Curtis, Bachelor of Science in business administration; Alexis Curtis, Bachelor of Arts in art; Tyler DelGaizo, Master of Science in early childhood education; Sarah Eslami, Bachelor of Science in psychology; Megan Gabriel, Bachelor of Science in health sciences; Kaitlin Gadomski, Bachelor of Science in finance; Rhiannon Gates, Bachelor of Science in psychology;

Rachael Lebiszczak, Bachelor of Science in health sciences; Courtney Losier, Bachelor of Arts in English; Addele Martin, Master of Science in educational studies; Riley McConnell, Bachelor of Science in communication; Devin McGowan, Bachelor of Science in business administration; Carla Navickas, Master of Science in organizational management; Christina Provost, Master of Science in accounting; Noah Violette, Bachelor of Science in accounting; Jameson Violette, Master of Science in accounting; Benjamin Williams, Bachelor of Arts in English; Jonathan Willson, Bachelor of Science in business administration.

East Hampton: Joseph Caruso, Bachelor of Arts in criminology and sociology; Grace Adams, Bachelor of Science in elementary education and liberal studies; Joshua Anderson, Bachelor of Science in sport and leisure management; Thomas Close, Bachelor of Science in sport and leisure management; Enrique Diaz, Bachelor of Arts in art; Zachary Fauvel, Bachelor of Arts in criminology; Kurt Sturmer, Bachelor of Science in business information systems; Cecylia Szwajger, Bachelor of Science in communication; Vienna Whalen, Bachelor of Science in psychology.

Hebron: Shaughn Maleryn, Bachelor of Arts in theatre and a Bachelor of Science in biology; Celia Anderson, Bachelor of Science in health sciences; Kelly Ayen, Bachelor of Arts in social work; Cecelia Charron, Bachelor of Science in accounting; Jordyn Holbrook, Bachelor of Science in health sciences; John Jeroszko, Bachelor of Science in business administration; Jaclyn Santella, Bachelor of Arts in English; Daniel Sousa, Bachelor of Science in business information systems; Caili Wilkinson, Bachelor of Arts in criminology.

Marlborough: Jenna Lord, Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Science in elementary education; Margaret Bielaczyc, Bachelor of Arts in English; David Farrington, Bachelor of Science in health sciences; Taylor Garger, Master of Science in early childhood education; Rosalyn Wormack, Master of Science in organizational management.

Portland: Brendan Albert, Bachelor of Arts in criminology; Kaitlin Capello, Bachelor of Science in sport & leisure management; Brandon Domonkos, Bachelor of Science in psychology; Nicholas Kelly, Bachelor of Arts in criminology; Gina Masselli, Master of Science in early childhood education.

Tri-County Legion Fall Baseball

Tri-County's American Legion baseball program is looking for prospective players for its fall season.

Serious players whose parent resides in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon or Marlborough are eligible. The fall league is designed for players who will be between the ages of 12-19 in 2024 and teams will be organized at several age groups, depending on interest.

Go to www.tclegion.com for more details on

the fall format, team makeup and fees. Deadline to register is July 26, but some age-group teams are expected to fill up prior to that date.

The fall program will serve as a preliminary tryout for selection to Tri-County's summer 2024 Legion teams, which will be filled through the fall program as well as winter tryouts.

Interested players are encouraged to contact General Manager Len Lampugnale at 860-295-0437 or at Lampugnale@comcast.net with any additional questions.

UConn Dean's List

The following area students made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Connecticut:

Amston: Silas Haley, Taryn Simon, Madison Wright.

Andover: Caron Gaines, Daniel Grenier, Carsen Keith, Amelia Maynard, Andrew Perkins, Emma Swanson.

Colchester: Caleb Arbuckle, Aya Benoit, Cameron Deslaurier, Carrie Epstein, Sean Gannon, Kelly Goodwin, Jamie Greene, Olivia Guinness, Ryan Konon, Matthew Kranc, Matthew Laliberte, Katelyn Lamprey, Luke Maynard, Brady Noniewicz, Kellen Paparella, Luke Pennella, Paul Perkins, Dillon Rakowski, Jessica Savage, Ariana Spearin, Caitlin Wargat, Kiki Zeng.

East Hampton: Danielle Adams, Ryan Adams, Liam Curtin, Emma Deveran, Einin Frost, Tomas Lopes, Victoria Schiavoni, Rylee Thomas, Abi Young, Ted Zhao.

Hebron: Rylee Bane, Chloe Beard, Olivia Lynch, Ari Morelli-Wolfe, Amy Nilsson, John Oei, Julia Pearson, Christopher Sakal, Katharine Santella, Braden Truscinski.

Marlborough: Lauren Bula, Katherine Chapman, Emily Cochefski, Matthew Golka, Nicholas Hale, Andrew Lombardi, Aidan Muldoon, Liv Nylen, Jacob Packer.

Middle Haddam: Paul Heidel.

Portland: Gracie Berthiaume, Justin Coe, Michael Quesnel, Max Thomas, Avery Turecek, Jack Turecek, Theodore Williams, Reagan Witowitz, Alyssa Young.

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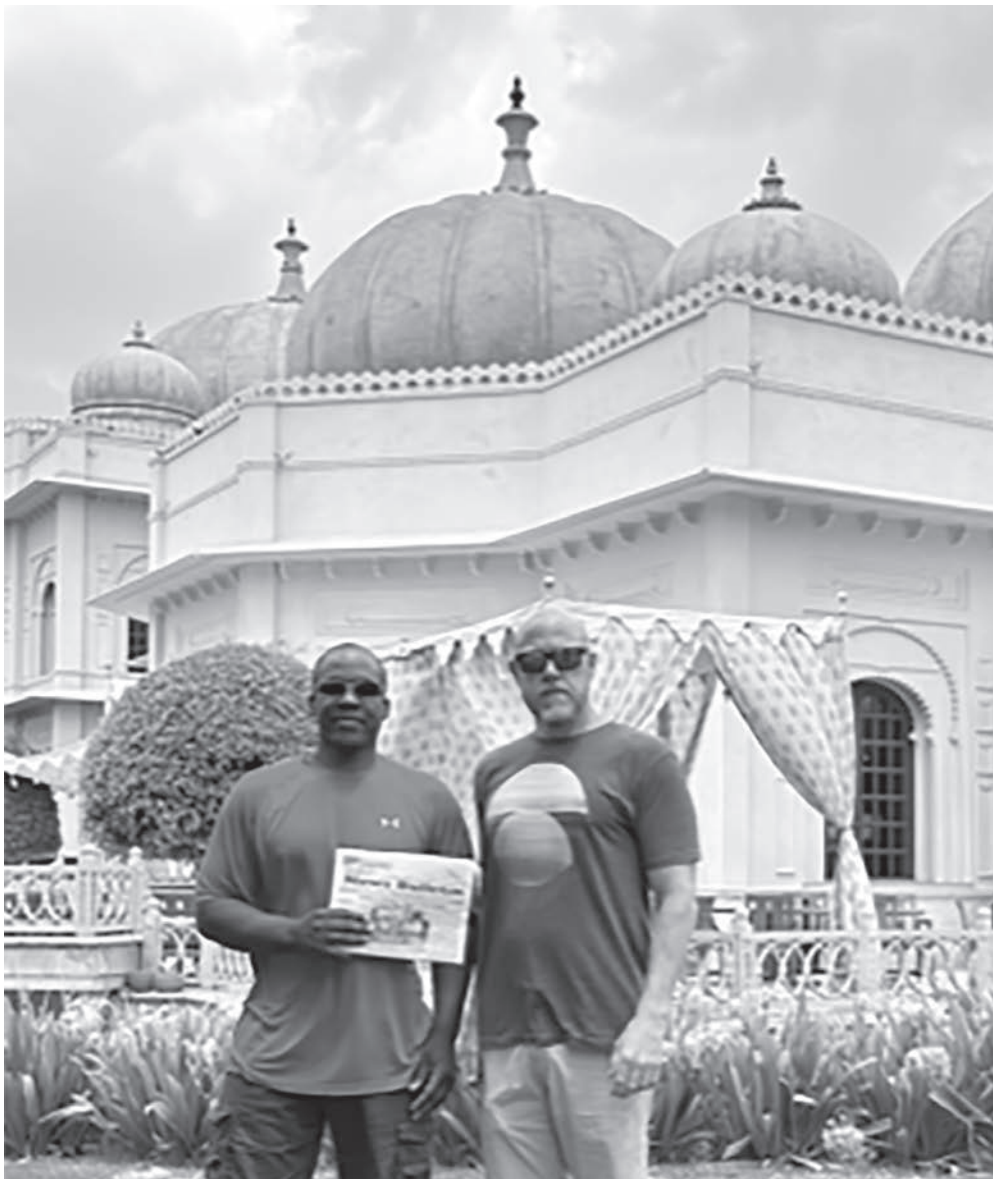
Visiting the Cathedral... Elizabeth Caffrey of Portland recently visited with college friends in Savannah, Ga., and went to the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

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.




Beautiful Canyon... Midge Malicki of Portland recently returned from a trip to visit her aunt, Wini Schnars, in Colorado. They are pictured near the Painted Wall in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.



Enjoying India... Marlborough resident Benjamin Maynard (left) and friend Sean Anderson (right) recently visited Udaipur, India. The picture is taken at the Oberoi Udaivilas resort in Udaipur, India. Maynard has been a Marlborough resident since 1975, while Anderson grew up in Hebron and now living in Colchester.



Ye Olde Rivereast... Joe and Patty Pizzichemi of Portland recently went to Colonial Williamsburg, where they showed off the *Rivereast* to Alexander Purdie, public printer and postmaster of Williamsburg Va.

Where in the World?

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Live for Today – YPCCA Presents *Rent*

By London Brazal

This summer is the Season of Love as the Young People's Center for Creative Arts prepares for its annual musical.

After a month of rehearsals, a cast of over 60 Connecticut youth will perform *Rent: School Edition*.

YPCCA Senior is a camp that runs Monday through Friday for students ranging from those entering sixth grade to those who just graduated high school in June. Activities throughout the day include improvisational games, theater skill workshops, and rehearsals for the show. YPCCA was established in 1982 by sixth-grade teacher Mike Mansfield. He saw a need for theatrical opportunities with budget cuts eliminating arts programs in local schools.

Rachel Mansfield, Mike's daughter, serves as YPCCA's director and East Hampton High School's Drama Club advisor. In her 25th year of directing, she touches on the joys of returning to her role. "It's the kids! For a full month, we get to work on creating beautiful art together. I get to work with my best friends and family," Mansfield said.

This year's production of *Rent* celebrates the LGBTQ+ community and serves as an educational movement. This show is an opportunity to help shed light on various problems people face. Mansfield added that the world can be scary but the camp is a supportive environment with open-minded students.

Having themes from Puccini's *La Boheme*, *Rent* follows a young group of impoverished musicians and artists struggling to survive. Set in the East Village of New York City, the story is about people trying to discover who they are. It goes further than a play about sexuality, substance use, and the shadow of HIV and AIDS. The two-hour show is a stunningly raw and emotional portrait of people standing up for

what they believe in.

Rising East Hampton High School senior Brayden Kramer is playing Roger, an aspiring rock musician struggling with his past. Much different from town life, Kramer has embraced new perspectives. "It's eye-opening, an experience I can't relate to," he said. "I'm glad I can play a role that teaches me something different."

Many of the students are portraying a character that does not share traits from their normal life. And, with the depth of emotions for each part, the actors are facing huge challenges -- but are not backing down.

Enja Barry, another member of the EHHS Class of 2024, is ecstatic to play Angel, a young selfless drag queen, and street percussionist.

Barry said, "The heels are a challenge. I've never worn them, or a dress, or glam makeup. Dancing and walking on stairs in heels is more than difficult."

As there are so many YPCCA participants, the roles of Joanne and Maureen are double-cast, in order to showcase more talent. Maureen, a flirtatious bisexual artist, will be played by Mattingly Veilleux, who will be starting freshman year at the University of New Hampshire in the fall, and Ella Briggs, a member of the East Hampton High School Class of 2026.

Meanwhile, Joanne, a lesbian Ivy League-educated lawyer and activist, will be played by Ella's sister, rising EHHS senior Riley Briggs, and Jaelyn Taylor, who's headed to Central Connecticut State University in the fall.

"I'm close with Ella, Mattingly, and Riley so it is fun to play the roles together," Taylor said.

For Riley, Joanne is her first serious role and she said she is fortunate to have a great group of colleagues by her side.

YPCCA allows students to see theater from all roles. Kendra Dickinson, choreographer and stage manager, highlighted the students that



Director Rachel Mansfield gives stage directions while blocking an ensemble number in rehearsals for YPCCA's upcoming production of *Rent*.

partake to build sets, adjust lights, and move furniture and props.

Dickinson agrees that *Rent* is a show that has many valuable lessons. "This is a safe place to learn about and feel seen about important issues such as identity, healthy relationships,

facing adversity, and substance abuse," Dickinson said. "It's reflective of many of the students now."

The production will feature an intricate, elevated set that mimics the industrial NYC apartment scape in the early '90s. The timely costume trends will consist of meticulous color schemes and carefully curated themes.

YPCCA is fortunate to be located at East Hampton High School for the month of July. "When the school is preparing for fall, the principal, vice principal, and custodial staff are so gracious and accommodating to us," Dickinson said.

YPCCA's production of *Rent: School Edition* will run from Thursday, July 20, through Saturday, July 22, at 7 p.m. each night, with a matinee Sunday, July 23, at 1 p.m. All shows are

at the East Hampton High School auditorium. Tickets are \$15 and available for purchase online at www.ypcca.org/shop.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

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

service. All are welcome.

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

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

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

'Driving for Drafts' Charity Golf Tournament

The annual Driving for Drafts – Duke Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, to benefit the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR), will take place Saturday, Sept. 16, at Portland Golf Course, 169 Bartlett St, Portland.

Shotgun start is at 1 p.m., with check-in beginning at noon. Cost is \$150/person and includes golf as well as grilled lunch, a buffet

dinner, and raffles and prizes. Sponsorships are also available, including an "In Memoriam" sponsorship to honor a loved one or a pet.

Registration closes Sept. 1. To sign up as a participant or become a sponsor, visit www.ct-draftrescue.org/2023-golf-registration, or email cdhr.golf@gmail.com.

Tax Bills Due

Tax bills for real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles levied on the Grand List were due July 1, though the last day to pay being Aug. 1.

Real estate and personal property tax bills will reflect a temporary mill rate due to the Town budget not being adopted by June 30. Once the annual budget is adopted, a permanent mill rate will be established by the Board of

Finance. Since this permanent mill rate is likely to differ from the temporary one, the town said, a second billing will be done in December for the second installment. This billing will convey the new tax amount and mill rate.

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

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

Save the Date for Fireworks!

Community residents and friends are invited to join in celebrating the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department's 100th Anniversary as the department presents its annual fireworks display on Saturday, Aug. 19, on the grounds of East Hampton High School.

There will be food and ice cream vendors present. Watch for more information.

Troop 57 Bottle Drive

Troop 57 of East Hampton will hold a bottle drive Saturday, July 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, at American Distilling at 31 East High St., Route 66.

The Scouts will accept clean, empty bottles to be redeemed to help support scouting activities and service projects.

The troop is sponsored by the Congregational Church of East Hampton. Call Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962 for more information.

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Belltown Open Golf Tournament

The Congregational Church of East Hampton will hold the 17th annual Belltown Open Golf Tournament, to benefit the East Hampton food and fuel bank, on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Golf registration includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch and dinner. Price for event is \$135 per golfer, with only cash or check as payment method. It is a scramble format with shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Registration is 8:30-10 a.m., with coffee and homemade muffins offered. To pre-register, email Cshirshac123@sbcglobal.net or call 860-267-8194.

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Haddam Neck Congregational News

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold 10 a.m. joint worship services during July at Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam.

There will be no church services on Sundays in July at Haddam Neck Congregational.

Visit www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org for more information.

Yard Goats Fundraiser

All are invited to join the East Hampton Sports Boosters at the Hartford Yard Goats game on Sunday, Aug. 6. Tickets are available for \$15 each, with a portion of each ticket going to the Boosters.

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

For tickets or information, call John at 860-759-7224.

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Topped with marinara sauce	SOUP OR SALAD
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Stuffed Sole
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Balkan Meatballs
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DESSERTS - Ask your server for our selections

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Garden Club Excursion

On Friday, July 28, the Belltown Garden Club will enjoy an outing to James L. Goodwin State Forest in Hampton to explore the gardens, trails, 135-acre Pine Acres Lake, and the Goodwin Conservation Center.

Club members will meet at 9 a.m. in the Stop and Shop parking lot corner closest to McDonald's. Bring a picnic lunch item to share. The club welcomes members of the public and prospective members to attend. The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of CT and National Garden Clubs.

Call Judy Barclay at 413-328-8059 for more information or if you would like to attend.

Goff House Concert Series Continues

The Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series continues all this month on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Center School Gazebo on Summit Street, in the Village Center. The shows are free. The remaining schedule is:

July 20, 9th Wave, playing surf music; July 27, Flamingo, playing big band hits; and Aug. 3, Big Deal Rock, playing classic rock hits.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste collection event Saturday, July 22, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Woodside Intermediate School, 30 Woodside Rd., Cromwell.

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.

Artwork to be Displayed

Local sculptor John Macomber will have his latest piece on view during a new exhibit, entitled "Form & Function," at Art Center East, 709 Hartford Tpke., Vernon. The exhibit will run through July 29; hours are Thursday through Saturday, from 1-5 p.m.

Pollinator Meeting

The Haddam Neck Pollinator Pathway Group will meet Wednesday, July 19, at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds' butterfly garden for weeding. A meeting will follow in the fair ground's picnic pavilion in order to plan an educational display for the fair itself.

All are welcome.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. The church is located at 1 East High St. Pastor is Cathy Rohrs. The church is handicapped-accessible and air-conditioned.

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

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Dean's List

East Hampton resident Kelsey Smith made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Resident Graduates

Julia Shirley of East Hampton recently graduated from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Shirley also made the spring 2023 Dean's List.

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Dean's List

Lexie Scrivano, a senior majoring in marketing, made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Sam Gibson and Kyle Lapolt made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

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RE5-2-23

Mass Casualty Exercise Sunday

The Fire Department, Ambulance Association and Police Department, along with other area emergency services and dispatch, will conduct a major incident drill on Lake Pocotopaug during the morning hours of Sunday, July 16. The drill will involve a staged incident requiring active response from emergency services.

During the time of the drill, the boat launch at Sears Park will be closed and lake users will

be asked to stay away from the drill area. The closure is expected to be between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. All other sections of Sears Park will remain open and accessible. However, there will be a large amount of emergency vehicles in the area of Sears Park as well.

This is part of the ongoing training that area emergency responders use to maintain and improve their skills and experience and to practice coordination of large-scale responses.



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Voters Approve East Hampton Budgets

By Michael Sinkewicz

East Hampton residents on Tuesday approved both the school and town budget proposals for the 2023-24 fiscal year, ending months of deliberation and public input.

The school budget, which generated considerable debate throughout the community, was passed by a 1,043-678 tally; the spending plan is locked in at \$35.86 million — a \$1.58 million, or 4.6%, increase over current year spending.

For the municipal budget, residents voted in favor by 945-777 margin; town spending plan is slated at \$17.99 million, around \$509,000 above the current fiscal year.

The proposed mill rate was listed at 36.06 — a 1.4 increase; a property assessed at \$250,000 would cost about \$9,000 annually, up around \$30 a month.

The East Hampton registrars of voters confirmed the results Wednesday morning, adding that turnout was significantly less compared to the town's first referendum in May.

"We're happy it's done," Town Manager David Cox told the *Rivereast*. "Now, we can move forward with our work."

On Wednesday night, after press time, the Board of Education was expected to hold a special meeting to officially approve their budget.

Following the failed referendum, where both spending plans were soundly rejected, \$250,000 was restored to the district's budget, allowing teaching positions that otherwise would've been eliminated to remain in the proposal.

Last week, East Hampton Schools Superin-

tendent Paul Smith praised the decision by the Town Council, telling the *Rivereast* that if approved, the budget would keep class sizes at a "reasonable level" and further the district's efforts to recover lost learning from the pandemic.

He said \$250,000 "restores everything I wanted."

The Town Council also followed the recommendation of the Board of Finance and voted to utilize American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] funds to assist East Hampton Ambulance Association.

Cox stated that the allocated funds provide a cushion for the EHAA as long-term decisions continue to be discussed with the council. By using ARPA funds, the community was spared from an additional tax burden; the proposed mill rate was unaffected.

"I think we're in a decent position," Cox expressed.

The town budget also includes funding for a police lieutenant position. Town Council Chairman Mark Philhower, a Republican, told the *Rivereast* that while he was against the addition due to the escalating department costs, overall, "I think the numbers are where they should be."

"I'm glad the budget's passed and we're moving forward," he said.

He highlighted the results of the advisory questions included on the ballot, which he found "quite interesting."

For the town budget, 686 people stated that the spending plan was "too low," while 675 resi-

dents opted for "too high." On the education question, 744 people believed the budget was "too high," with 667 opting for "too low."

The questions, Philhower asserted, confused people and shouldn't be included at the referendum. Residents, during the first round of voting, delivered a clear message that the school budget was "too low," now, Philhower continued, the budget passed "overwhelmingly," but the majority of people view the school budget as "too high."

Overall, the budget season, which gained extensive local media attention, wasn't ideal, he expressed. Through either a lack of transparency or misconceptions, "the council got the heat," which he believed was unfair.

Throughout the budget season, Town Hall was packed with hundreds of community members — turnout Smith said he hasn't witnessed in his eight years in the district. Parents and students advocated for the teaching positions, and public comment segments of meetings would extend past 90 minutes.

"It was too important this year," Smith previously stated.

Because the bulk of the school budget is related to personnel costs, any reductions had

serious impacts on the district, parents argued.

Cox agreed that the leap in civic engagement this year was largely due to the ongoing education discussions. The finance board, he explained, tired bringing the bottom-line down to a level it found appropriate, a "jump" that ended up "triggering" a community-wide response.

"The public ought to share its opinions about their services," he said. "But it's when they do it."

While passing spending plans on the second try isn't necessarily fatal to a municipality, when the date sneaks into July, certain hiccups or logistical issues can arise.

If voters approve spending proposals earlier in the year, "then we don't have to be worried coming into a fiscal year without a budget," he said.

Some of the objections came in at the eleventh hour this year — "now, you're rethinking on the fly."

Moving forward, Cox is interested in modifying the budget undertaking to allow and encourage community participation much earlier in the overall process. In the fall, he speculated, all involved — including the boards of education and finance, the Town Council and residents — can become engaged as the budgets get drafted.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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

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

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

Practical Fly-Fishing Skills with Rowan Lytle: Monday, July 17, 7 p.m.

Writers' Group: Wednesday, July 19, 7 p.m. Come down to the library and write.!

Walk with Geologist Megan Desrosiers: Saturday, July 22, 9:30 a.m. Geology and History of the Cobalt Mines. Contact the library for details on where to join the walk.

Writers Workshop/Meet-Up Group: Wednesday, July 26, 7-8:30 p.m. Enjoy writing exercises, constructive criticism, and an opportunity to seek the opinions of other writers. All genres welcome. Pre-register.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Weekly Activities: **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays, 1-3 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15-3:15 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. — let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjong:** 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.

Wii Bowling: Note the change in the playing date: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m., beginning July 27.

Cornhole: Note the change in the playing date: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m., beginning July 20.

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.

Sizzling Summer Senior Crafting Sale: Runs Monday through Friday through July 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. See what's been tucked away in the center's Young at Heart Boutique. All proceeds benefit the Senior Center.

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

Remembering G. Fox & Co.: Thursday, July 20. Take a trip to the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History for a behind-the-scenes tour of memorabilia from Hartford's iconic department store. Cost is \$19 per person. Lunch to follow, on you, at First and Last Tavern in Glastonbury. Limited bus seats available. The bus will meet at the senior center's lower lot at 10:15 a.m.; parking will be available there. Approximate return time will be 2:15 p.m.

Art w/Karen: Sunday, July 23, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Cost is \$5 for supplies; pay Karen the day of the event.

Ageless Meditations with Victoria: Monday, July 24, 1-2 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion and gratitude in a group setting.

Chatting About Health: Tuesday, July 25, 10:30 a.m., with Chatham Health.

Live Well with Chronic Conditions: Thursdays, 1-3:30 p.m., from July 27-Aug. 31. All are invited to this six-week workshop and learn how to better manage their ongoing health condition. Call Vickie Han to register at 860-214-0308.

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 Jew-ing@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.

Vacancy on EHAA Board of Directors

The East Hampton Ambulance Association is seeking an East Hampton resident to fill a vacancy on its Board of Directors. Meetings are held monthly at the ambulance building on Route 16.

A new member will complete the board. Email Nancy Brown for more information at nancybrown843@aol.com.

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Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday. The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters

and crocheters are welcome.

Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. All voices are welcome.

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

Historical Society Appeal for Funds

The Chatham Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of East Hampton through carefully procuring and storing documents, maps, pictures and relics that illustrate the past and present happenings in town – and is looking for funds to help in its mission.

Throughout the year, the society offers events and outreach programs for the community at large. Some of its annual offerings are: CHS Yearly Activities: Monthly History Walks, Fall History Festival, Cabin Fever Winter History Talks, educational programs with elementary school children of CHS Museums and Chestnut Hill One-Room Schoolhouse; and monthly mu-

seum open house tours.

The historical society is looking to make several needed repairs and replacements, and is looking for donations. Projects include: new heating and cooling system for two museum buildings; carpenter repairs to replace windows, damaged boards, etc.; paint for three buildings; riding mower; tree services; new burglar and fire alarm system. The total goal is to raise \$15,000-\$20,000.

Donation checks can be sent to: Chatham Historical Society Restoration & Improvement Fund, c/o Treasurer Don Burr, 29 Bay Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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 is celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers. There will be no service this week due to the service/picnic at St. Stephen's East Haddam.

Sunday, July 16: There will be a 10 a.m. joint worship service and picnic on July 16 with St. Stephen's in East Haddam. Bring a salad, dessert or a snack.

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.

Wednesday Summer Services: Rogers will hold services Wednesday at 6 p.m. through July and August using alternate and approved forms of the worship service.

Tag Sale: Dick Napolitano will be in charge of the annual Labor Day tag sale. Save your donations. Some pick-up is available for large items.

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

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

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-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Children's Programs: Storytimes: Mindful Movements – Outside: 10:30 a.m., at Seamster Park/Memorial School playground, for ages 2-5; Toddler Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years; Stories & Songs: Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

Junior Engineers: Saturdays starting July 15, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Try a variety of different building materials in the Children's Room. No registration required.

Art Explorers (Grades 1-5) Something from Nothing: Tuesday, July 18, 2:30-4 p.m. Explore what it takes to turn scrap materials into something new.

Kids Comic Creators: Hilo: Wednesday, July 19, 4:30 p.m. There will be crafts, games, and comic-making inspired by the graphic novel Hilo by Judd Winick.

Night Owl Storytime: Grades K-3: Monday, July 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wear pajamas to the library and make owl stuffed animals to cuddle up with as you read the book *Knight Owl*.

Teen Programs: Teen Dungeons & Dragons: Every other Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; next session July 26. For grades 8-12.

Teen Open Mic: Friday, July 28, 3 p.m. Teens in grades 6-12 will be given the opportunity to sing, read, dance, or present on stage in the library Community Room. All patrons are welcome to attend the performance, but only teens can perform.

Adult Programs: LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham: Monday, July 17, 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room. All levels welcome.

Cookbook Club – Camp Cooking: Tuesday, July 18, 6:30 p.m. The library will provide plates and utensils, all you need is your dish and 10 copies of the recipe to share.

Belltown Book Blast: Friday, July 21, 10 a.m. Drop in for coffee or tea and bookish banter. Get a sneak peek at new releases, what's popular, and find out what everyone is reading.

Find Your Voice: Podcasters In-Person Series: Tuesday, July 25, 6:30 p.m. Connecticut author Matthew Dicks will talk about his podcast, *Speak Up Storytelling*.

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★ Letters cont. from page 7

The truth is the term has been part of African American colloquialism for the last 100 years. Only recently have Republican extremists begun to use the term derisively, mischaracterizing it as "liberalism" and something to be ashamed of.

The reality is "woke" is simply a euphemism to be awakened to the needs of others. To be well informed, thoughtful, compassionate, and kind. The expression is exercised by liberals and is synonymous with compassion, tolerance, equality, stronger government protections, and simply making the world a better place for everyone. Despite those who define "woke" as an insult referring to an excess of political correctness, the term should be regarded as a badge of honor. Like American liberalism, "wokeism" is a critique of, and a resistance to unfettered capitalism and intolerance. An awareness that calls attention to the social injustices that ignore our commonality. An ideology that remains mindful of racial, religious, gender and sexual identity.

Let's remember that Jesus was a brown-skinned, anti-capitalist immigrant, who fed the hungry, healed the sick and didn't speak English. The very definition of a woke liberal, who would not be welcome in today's Republican party.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

The Water is Warm

To the Editor:

Woman in car swept away by flood. Did she die from global warming or comorbidity? 62,000 Europeans died last summer, global warming or comorbidity? Houston we have a problem: five 500-year storms in five years! Buy a lottery ticket! It's just an anomaly.

We need more CO2 not less, a learned man said. If so learned he lives on a hill and pines for waterfront. We need more CO2 like we need a nuclear-armed North Korea but here we are.

Jumping worms are here, forever. They don't jump but they sure can dance. While you were sleeping these guys have stripped the top layer of our soil of nutrients and turned 6 inches of soil into 4. As I tried to reclaim the yard I got back to nature. Hit with impenetrable stands of mugworts, bittersweet, mustard garlic (kills soil), and a host of others I barely noticed the mile a minute vine. It had introduced itself to the blueberry patch, hard to tell how long it was, once it smothered the blueberries it looked as though it was reaching for the heavens.

What a sight with the Canada smoke-filled skies. When do we put out the fire? As I sit alone in a patch of full blooming milkweed, butterfly weed and bush, ashen leaf viburnum, et al not one single honey bee to date. Thank God for mason bees. One Monarch butterfly...doesn't it take two?

Water, air, soil and all points in between under relentless assault. Tired of Hunter Biden? Jump in; the water is warm.

Tim Rinell – East Hampton

Anniversary Thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of the EHVFD's 100th Anniversary Committee, the membership of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department respectfully and sincerely thanks the organizations and individuals who made this past weekend's anniversary celebration such a memorable event. The Old Home Days Committee was extremely gracious in not only dedicating this year's "Glorious Celebration" to the Fire Department, but also by inviting our mutual aid partners to participate alongside of us in the fabulous parade.

The department appreciates the consideration afforded by ACE Hardware, Paul's & Sandy's, Too and Nelson's Campground in displaying and promoting the sale of the 100th Anniversary commemorative bells that were produced by our hometown Bevin Brothers Manufacturing Company. We gratefully acknowledge the

efforts of the members of VFW Post 5095 and the East Hampton Lions Club in hosting and feeding the firefighters from out-of-town after the parade. Thanks also to historian Jay Hansen for his generous contribution to the 100th Anniversary Committee.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department sincerely thanks the residents of our town for the unwavering support you and your predecessors have afforded the department over the past 100 years. We cannot provide the level of emergency service you expect and deserve without the tools, equipment and apparatus you provide. You have never failed us and we are dedicated to never failing you.

Respectfully submitted,
James J. Burke, Firefighter / EMT
Public Information Officer
East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department

Hebron's Dishonest Survey

To the Editor:

On May 2, in a free and fair election, Hebron voters overwhelmingly rejected the Public Works project on the Horton property, 1,182 to 561. Now, the town government is trying to subvert the election results using a "survey."

The survey, besides being corrupt, is stupid. It provides no cost information. It is one-sided. It directs you to read reports concerning the PW project that have been shown to contain distortions, half-truths and opinion masquerading as fact. (If the any of the Public Building Committee or town officials want to defend their reports in a cordial public debate, I will pay for the venue, the moderator, and the refreshments.) In addition, political signs from the opposition majority have been removed by the town in their effort to control debate.

Thirteen years ago, a report suggested we needed upgrades to the Public Works facility. All that is needed are common-sense upgrades to the current facility on Old Colchester Road. At any time since then, the town could have repaired the facility. They did not. They elected to keep the unfixed facility as an open wound to harangue voters into funding a palatial PW facility and municipal complex.

The town government's obsession with building on the Horton property has become a threat to our democracy. Instead of doing what's best for us all, the town uses dishonest means to manipulate its citizens to do its bidding. The town charter mandates regulated, legitimate elections because they are fair and democratic. The survey is nothing more than a stuffed ballot box. Anyone, citizen or not, can complete it multiple times with multiple devices.

To save Hebron, please complete the survey at hebronct.com. Question 6 asks where to site the facility. Please say "Old Colchester."

John Collins – Amston

Abuse of Law Enforcement?

To the Editor:

Last week's front-page newspaper article regarding a police investigation into a potential email hack of multiple individuals should have all of us asking ourselves at what lengths will certain individuals go to threaten someone's liberty. Does being viewed as an adversary or a government watchdog make someone a target? Is the goal to silence someone at any and all means possible? Is it really that inconceivable that an email thread from a year ago could have circulated and eventually ended up in the hands of someone who was disturbed enough by the contents and conversation within to share it?

It appears this person trusted Jason LaChapelle enough with keeping their identity confidential that they furnished him this information. It's presumptuous to assert that it was obtained through unlawful access or that "somebody" now has access to banking and medical data. Let's be clear, this "somebody" is Jason. One known fact is that in writing Monica Swyden-Egan, the DTC Chair, accused Jason of hacking these emails. My understanding is that Monica along with four individuals in that email chain marched themselves down to the State Police and ultimately to the Colchester police and demanded that Jason be arrested and charged with obstruction of justice. Which individual/s demanded that is yet to be revealed. Even if only one did, obviously hive mentality prevailed.

We are talking about someone's liberty here that for all intents and purposes, to the observer, hangs in the balance. There's no evidence to support these allegations, yet they were made. I personally understand the angst that comes with uncorroborated public allegations and the microscope that one is under up until the time the truth is disclosed. Is this the type of behavior we should expect and excuse from our elected officials, presumptive or not?

Marli Rudko – Colchester

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Town to Be Proud Of

To the Editor:
 This is a well-deserved letter to Andover residents to let them know how helpful our Board of Selectmen (BOS), Town Administrator, Town Clerk are to our town. Jeff Maguire, first selectman, contacted me acknowledging process on a new Community Building/senior center and issues we faced. His hard work has paid off and the construction of this building will soon begin. Adrian Mandeville, Vice Chair, has spent hours on meetings, conference calls, etc. to put details of this building together. Adrian donated his annual board salary to the senior luncheon program to help the seniors. Scott Person, BOS member has served on this building committee since the beginning and has worked with Adrian to see that every detail is completed in a satisfactory manner. It was Scott who worked with me to make sure details were done correctly on a grant for a senior transportation bus. Jeff Murray, BOS member who took on the project of purchasing a car for senior transportation was informed we will take delivery by July 17, 2023. Paula King, BOS member worked tirelessly on the 175th Anniversary Celebration committee as our liaison to assist the committee in presenting events to the town. These five individuals work well together and have created a new look on what it means to be dedicated to a job helping others. Eric Anderson, Town Administrator has done far more than anyone can expect of an employee. He works hours trying to help and satisfy our town residents. Our Town Clerk, Carol Lee volunteers far beyond the duties of her position. She is there for everyone at all times.
 Our town is blessed beyond words to have these dedicated people working for them. Please remember to thank them! Andover is a town to be proud of!

**Thank you,
 Cathy Palazzi
 Senior Coordinator
 Andover**

A Path Forward

To the Editor:
 Humans are destroying our home planet. Overpopulation, poverty fueling mass migrations, deforestation, a biodiversity apocalypse underway, ocean acidification, marine fisheries collapsing, with wildfires, floods and extreme heat currently ravaging multiple countries. These are just a handful of perils we bring, all of them worsening every year.
 But scientists show us a path forward towards sustainability. Educating girls induces them to have fewer children and can stabilize populations. Setting aside substantial marine no-take zones will allow world fisheries to recover. Expanding government subsidies for solar and wind power, and helping electric cars quickly replace fossil fuel cars can ameliorate global warming. World governments under UN oversight could outlaw war and land grabs, funneling the world's massive military budgets towards the scientific solutions we need apply now. Do nothing and we lose the 'creation' bequeathed us. All the solutions are right there in front of us. We need elect leaders who listen to the scientists.
 President Abraham Lincoln once said "We – even we here, hold the power, and bear the responsibility". Is this not as true today as it was in 1862? Do his words not still foment in us a commitment to bold action at our own moment in history? Or are the anti-science and village idiot voices so numerous that we hesitate to act?
 The time for debating Trumpists is long past. Thomas Paine said, "To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead." If today's generation ignores the voices of reason, past and present, we sentence our children and their children to a dystopian world.
 Lincoln also said, "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope on earth."
Edmund Smith – Andover

From the State Senator's Desk...

Happy July! I hope you're in good spirits and enjoying the summer amid the heat and storms we've experienced so far this year. With the start of July comes the start of the new fiscal year in Connecticut, which means our state is seeing new laws come into effect. I've highlighted some of the more impactful and meaningful ones below.
 One piece of legislation that received some attention during the legislative session will now require high school students, starting with high school freshmen this year, to take a half-credit of financial management and literacy classes in order to graduate. This law will make sure Connecticut students understand how to balance a checkbook and can responsibly manage their finances.
 Another piece of legislation passed this year regards the minimum age to marry in the state. This bill closes a loophole where minors could get married with written consent of a parent or guardian; now, there will be a requirement of being 18 to marry in all circumstances.
 A third new law goes into effect in 2024; with the state's adoption of early voting, anyone eligible to vote may do so before the day of a special election or during a period of early voting in any election held beginning in 2024. This will expand access to polls for numerous voters.
 Further action was taken this year on a number of topics; the state now has tools to address use of artificial intelligence, monitoring its use, while residents can grow up to six cannabis plants per household and state consumers will receive more information and receive more accountability regarding their electric bills, among many other changes.
 In the coming months, you'll likely learn more about the new laws going into effect across the state; hopefully, this information will aid you in the second half of 2023 and beyond.
State Sen. MD Rahman , D-4th District
Note: The 4th Senate District covers Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester.

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.
Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to

the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesday, also from 9-9:30 a.m.
AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.
Sonshine Stampers: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.
Vacation Bible Church: Sundays at 10 a.m.
Bingo & Baskets: Friday, July 28. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., game at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$12/person.

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: Manchester, 7/27; Willimantic, 7/18.
Senior Luncheon Dates: Fridays at noon, July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18. Reservations required by the previous Wednesday.
Senior Trips: Main Moose, 7/14 and 8/11; Goshen Wildlife, 8/25. Sign up with Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2.
Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pan-

try – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.
Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums or board meetings, all medical appointments, and to the monthly farmers markets (next market is Aug. 9, from 4-7 p.m.), are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.
New Seniors Welcome: New seniors are welcome to all events. Call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs, including rides to medical appointments. For all Young at Heart events including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for all trip information.

Upcoming Events at the Library

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, has announced the following upcoming activities. Programs are free unless noted, though people are asked to call the library if attending. Call 860-742-7428.
R.E.A.D. with Sheena: Saturday, July 15, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sign up for a 15-minute session of reading to therapy dog, Sheena.
Tick-Borne Disease Awareness & Prevention: Tuesday, July 18, 6 p.m. Eastern Highlands

Health District will discuss how to reduce your risk of exposure to ticks and how to stay protected from the various diseases they spread.
Sing Along with Ruth O'Neil: Wednesday, July 19, 11-11:45 a.m. Ruth O'Neil of the Song-A-Day Music Center in Coventry will lead kids of all ages in a session of singing.
Dress to Make a Mess – Fun Painting: Wednesday, July 26, 2-3 p.m. This will be a program of creative painting, without brushes.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional.
 A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheranportland.org.
 Zion will continue its summer tradition of holding worship on the front lawn, one Sunday each month. Future dates, weather permitting,

are July 9 and Aug. 13. All are invited; bring a chair and make yourself comfortable.
 Zion's study of the video series *The Chosen* is continuing, following worship on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.
 All are welcome. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

Wanted: Children's Books for Mrs. Merry Claus

New or slightly used children's books are being collected for giveaway by Andover's, New England Santa Society's Hall of Famer, Mrs. Merry Claus, a.k.a. Dianne Grenier.
 Each year, Mrs. Merry Claus visits many Christmas Holiday events in the area. Not only in December but nearly year-round. At each visit, she shares tales of life at the North Pole, hands out candy canes, and small gifts, and poses with Santa for photos while spreading the joy of the season.
 Mrs. Merry Claus does not take payment for her event visits. Instead, she asks event organizers to make a donation to the Andover Friends of the Library.
 This year she would like to offer each child a book to take home from the "Elves Library." The North Pole Elf Librarian, Reed Daly, has been cleaning out the elves' library and is donating them to Mrs. Merry Claus for distribution during her visits.

Collection bins have been placed at the Andover Elementary School, the Town Hall, and the Andover Library. Anyone who is cleaning out their children's book collection and would like to donate to Mrs. Merry Claus, please visit one of the collection sites.
 For more information, Mrs. Merry Claus can be reached at 860-742-3033 or via email at Mrs_Merry_Claus@comcast.net.

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Barbecue and Car Show

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a barbecue and car show Saturday July 15, from noon-3 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes barbecue chicken with all the fixin's!
 For more information, call the church at 860-742-7696.

Gazebo Concert

The Andover Friends of the Library will present its first of two Gazebo Concerts this summer on Friday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m. The gazebo is located at 17 School Rd., between Town Hall and Andover Elementary School.
 Performing will be Connecticut State Troubadour Kala Farnham, as well as former state troubadour Hugh Blumenfeld. Both will play original material. All are invited; bring your own chair.
 The Friends will have pizza and ice cream available for sale. In the event of rain, the show will be held inside, at the Town Hall Community Room.

Farmers Markets Held Monthly

The Andover Farmers Market is held the second Wednesday of each month 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.

Coffee Gathering for Veterans

All Andover veterans, former military and active duty service members of all branches and services are invited to attend the next monthly coffee gathering on Saturday, July 15, from 1-3 p.m. (1300-1500 if you prefer), in the Andover Town Hall community room.
 All are invited for some coffee, snacks and camaraderie. Contact town veterans municipal representative Susan Camoroda (COL (R)) at 703-472-3209 or John Botti (CSM (R)) at 860-839-3481 for more information.

Veterans Monument Park Brick Sale

Anyone who ordered a brick for Andover Veterans Monument Park that has a misprint, or the brick is missing, should email townclerk@andoverct.org with the correction or missing brick information so that a replacement can be ordered.
 All orders will be finalized soon and the walkway will be deemed complete, with no additional changes allowed once this process is completed.
East Catholic Honor Roll
 Melanie Plausse of Andover made Honors with Distinction on the East Catholic High School honor roll for the fourth marking period of the 2022-23 school year.
 Melanie is a member of the Class of 2025.

Dean's List

Andover resident Margaret Tighe made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Democrats to Caucus

All registered Democrats in Andover are invited to the Democratic Town Committee Caucus on Thursday, July 20, at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.
 The caucus is to endorse Democratic delegates for the November local municipal elections and to transact any other business.

Republicans to Caucus

All registered Republicans in Andover are invited to the Republican caucus to support residents who are running for first selectmen, selectmen, town clerk, and various boards and commissions. The caucus will be Tuesday, July 18, at 7 p.m., in the Community Room at the Town Office Building.
 Republicans who are members of the Board of Selectmen, as well as other boards and commissions in town, and whose terms are up in 2023 must attend the caucus on July 18 if they wish to have the backing of the Republicans and be nominated to be put on the ballot for November.
 Unaffiliated members of any boards or commissions whose terms are up and wish to have the Republicans support their nomination for this November should also attend the caucus.

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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 e-purl.com/h5m35f.

Home Alone Safety: Monday, July 17, 5-6:30 p.m., on the first floor of the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. Kids ages 8-13 are invited to learn about potential dangers and how to deal with different situations when home alone. Space is limited; register at bit.ly/Home-Along-Safety.

Drop-In & Draw Arts & Crafts: Friday, July 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m., on the first floor of the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. Each month there is a seasonal craft for kids to work on with their parents and caregivers.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30 a.m.; SyncoCize II Dance Fitness, 10:30 a.m. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients - donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); watercolor class, 9:30 a.m.-noon - to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Tai Chi Quong, 1 p.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room. **Thursday:** Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m.

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.

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

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

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

Fun Runs (All Ages): Wednesdays through Aug. 9, 6-8 p.m., at the Portland Recreational Complex.

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

Food Bank Info

The Portland Food Bank is located in the lower level of the Portland Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

The Food Bank is open Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon, except for holidays. All 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.

Dean's List

Cailen Fienemann, a junior communications and English major from Portland, made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y.

For July, make fork-painted suns.

Plant & Learn: Aloe: Saturday, July 22, 10:30 a.m., at the Town Green. Open to all ages. Fire Ring Farm will discuss aloe, while folks replant the "pups" into containers to take home. Children 10 and under are required to bring an adult. Space is limited; register at bit.ly/Plant-Aloe.

Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night: Wednesday, Aug. 2, 6-8 p.m., in the Wagner Room of Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. There will be games, art supplies and other activities, along with snacks. Just drop in.

Little Hikers: Friday, Aug. 4, at 10:30 a.m., at the Great Pond Preserve in Glastonbury.

Back-to-School Backpacks: Aug. 14, 17, 21 and 24, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Portland Food Bank, 7 Waverly Ave. YFS will provide backpacks and school supplies for families in need. Registration highly encouraged, as supplies are limited; visit bit.ly/YFS-backpacks.

Friday: Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.

Trip to San Souci Restaurant: Wednesday, July 19; bus leaves the senior center at 11:20 a.m. Cost is a \$5 transportation fee. Lunch is pay on your own. To register call Alexis or Sarah at 860-342-6761.

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

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

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

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

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

class: \$25.

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

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

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.

Self-Defense for Women: Sundays, 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.

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

Portland residents Patrick Dandeneau, Jenna Lastrina and Christine Picard made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.



The Clean-Up Crew... Chris Cote Golf Shop and crew worked recently to clean up the "Welcome to Portland" area. Pictured from left are Chris Cote, Donna Cote, Mark Grover, Nick Randazzo and Adam Meckensturm. Not pictured is Maryellen Nocera. Butler Construction donated the mulch.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

Summer Reading Program for Families and Children: Oceans of Possibilities: Pick up a registration kit at the library; kits include a reading log, a scavenger hunt card, and your first summer reading badge. You can earn prizes and new badges every five days you read for 20 minutes or more. You can also earn badges in other ways! See the library for details. Logging can be done through the ReadSquared portal on www.portlandlibraryct.org, or you can come in and pick up a paper log instead.

Family Shows: Wednesdays through Aug. 2, at 6:30 p.m. on the Town Green; rain will move programs indoors. Space is limited. Remaining schedule: 7/19 - Meet Ariel and Moana; 7/26: Magician Ed Popielarczyk; 8/2 - Stuffed Animal Sleepover.

Parachutes and Picnic: Tuesday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m., on the Town Green. Bring a blanket and a picnic to enjoy after playtime. This event is weather-dependent and no registration is required.

Chalk the Walks: Wednesday, Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m. Decorate the library sidewalks with images and messages of kindness. Chalk and Popsicles will be supplied. Registration is not required for this drop-in event.

School Supply Bingo: Wednesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m., on the Town Green. Registration is not required for this drop-in event.

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

Renk at 860-342-6770.

Adult Programs: Adult Summer Reading Program: Runs through Aug. 31. When you sign up, you receive a coupon for a free book (up to \$2 in value) from the Friends' Ongoing Book Sale, and another coupon when you log 2,000 pages. For every 250 pages the Adult Summer Reading participants of Portland Library log as a group, the library will donate funding for two musical instrument rental scholarships for the 2023-24 school year for two students at Brownstone Intermediate School.

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

Movies: Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Schedule: Aug. 9, *Moving On*.

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

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

Museum Passes & Yard Games: Reservations recommended for museum passes; go to the library website and click on Museum Passes or call to reserve one. Games are available to be borrowed without reservation.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste collection event Saturday, July 22, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Woodside Intermediate School, 30 Woodside Rd., Cromwell.

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.



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Scouts Hit Reservation... Marlborough Boy Scout Troop 39 recently spent a week at June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford.

Lions to Collect Medical Equipment

The Marlborough Lions will hold a durable medical equipment collection Saturday, July 22, from 9-11 a.m., at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive, in the parking lot outside the cafeteria.

The Lions, in conjunction with the human relief organization Orphan Grain Train, will seek the following items in new or good used condition (motorized wheelchairs and hospital beds cannot be taken due to their size and weight): rehabilitation equipment, blood pressure cuffs, commodes, walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, crutches, otoscopes, sleep apnea machines, canes, lifting devices, stethoscopes, and unopened packages of bandages, adult diapers and other medical items.

Donated items will be shipped to impover-

ished areas in the southern states, with some items being given to people locally who may be in need of their use.

For more information, call Lions Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

The Lions Club supports programs including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addition to supporting local organizations such as the Marlborough Food Bank. The Lions also perform annual vision screening services for students at the elementary school and at various child care facilities in the area.

Those interested in joining the Marlborough Lions Club should call Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537. New members are always welcome.

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, July 17: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Stop & Shop; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon. Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Sofrito boneless pork chop, Spanish roasted potatoes, broccoli Normandy, cornbread, fresh fruit/yogurt cup; Cards, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, July 18: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, July 19: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; "Not Just Quilting," 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon. Congregate Mean, noon. Menu: clam chowder, crab cake / tartar sauce, coleslaw, potato puffs, saltine crackers, fresh fruit; Cards, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, July 20: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, July 21: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Pick Blueberries Day! Menu: 100% fruit juice punch, roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas & diced carrots, garlic knot, blueberry danish; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

Transportation: Available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and non-medical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required. **Assistance** is also available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Food Bank: Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008), the food bank is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need of food. Transportation for seniors and physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center for a ride.

Summer Show at Arts Center

The Marlborough Arts Center is holding its Summer Show through August, featuring the paintings and pottery of several of its member artists.

Currently on display in the gallery are paintings by Scott Rhoades, Michael Atkinson, Jennifer Chaffee, Gabriella DuCharme, Carol Gregoire and Susan Hourihan, and wheel-thrown stoneware by Ray Marino.

During July, the gallery will be open each Saturday afternoon from 1-4 p.m., and an artistic demonstration will also take place. Gabby

DuCharme will do a painting demonstration on July 15; Peter Griggs will give a musical presentation on July 22; and Mary Horrigan will give a watercolor demonstration on July 29.

There is no fee for the painting demos, and children as well as adults are welcome to drop in at any time during the afternoon and talk with the artist, ask questions and learn more about the medium being demonstrated.

For more information, visit www.marlbrougharts.org or call 860-467-5363.

Pointillism Painting for Children

The Marlborough Arts Center will hold a one-day workshop for children on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the arts center, 231 N. Main St.

Led by Susan Hourihan, the class will make a painting using acrylics, Q-Tips and the pointillism technique, and will learn a method of color mixing and painting at the same time.

The workshop is designed for children ages 8 to 14. Materials are included in the fee of \$40, payable to the Marlborough Arts Center. Registration forms are available at www.marlbrougharts.org Register by Aug. 14.

ougharts.org Register by Aug. 14.

Hourihan is an art teacher in the Westbrook School District. She attended UConn for her undergraduate degrees and completed her teaching certification at Southern Connecticut State University. She has been teaching art for over 20 years and has taught all ages, pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

For more information, call the Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or email Hourihan at susanhourihan1884@gmail.com.

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.marlbroughchurch.org and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. Activity bags, prepared by the deacons and Christian Education Team, are provided for older children to use during worship. Sunday School resumes Sept. 10.

Sunday, July 16 service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver.

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

Outreach: The church supports a variety of mission projects. The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex

for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. Once a month, the Junior and Senior Youth Group members prepare and serve lunch and visit with the residents at Florence Lord Housing. In November, the church will sponsor the evening meal at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is now closed for the summer and will reopen Friday, Sept. 8. However, the shop is open for selling and donations this summer by appointment by contacting the church at office@marlbroughchurch.org. The shop sells and weekly lists new items year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCEbay.

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call the church office at 860-295-9050 or email office@marlbroughchurch.org.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Alvin LeBlanc; John McKaig is deacon emeritus. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com.

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 4-5 p.m.

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

Family Faith Formation: This is an active family faith formation program for the church's kindergarten through middle school population. For more information, call the church of-

fice.

Confirmation Community: The church's 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program continues. Registration is required as well.

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

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden is once again breaking ground to benefit Marlborough Food Bank and supply fresh produce in season. Garden volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on other programs or adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfcchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Commission on Aging News

The Marlborough Commission on Aging has launched a new Facebook page. Look for news and events on that page.

The Commission also announces the forming of a volunteer group to assist with sprucing up of the Senior Center. The group meets every Thursday from 2-4 p.m. at the Senior Center. Anyone is welcome to help.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday, July 26, from 1-6 p.m., at the American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd., Route 66.

All donors will receive an officially licensed Shark Week T-shirt, while supplies last. Donors will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Shark.

To make an appointment or for more information, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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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.marlbroughct.net; the link is at the bottom of the page on the left-hand side.

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

Guide for Self-Publishers

Romano Ghirlanda, president of the Marlborough Preservation Society, will present a free class on Self-Publishing on Friday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m., at the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St.

This class will look at the steps needed to take to self-publish your manuscript. It will walk you through each step, from editing and copyrights to printing and publishing, and everything in between.

To register, call 860-916-4031 or email mhs@marlbroughhistory.org. You can also visit marlbroughhistory.org for more information or write to: Marlborough Preservation Society, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has announced the following programs and events. For more information or to register, call 860-295-6210 or email richmond-programs@gmail.com.

Books for Babies: Town families with children ages birth up to 12 months are invited to stop into the library to pick up a Books for Babies Box and register for your baby's first library card. Advance registration is required and can be done online. At least one parent must have

a library card but that can be done at the same time.

Babytime: Fridays at 10 a.m., for ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. This is a baby-centered storytime with songs, rhymes, lap bounces and a story. Registration is recommended but drop-ins are welcome if space allows. The program will be held in the upstairs meeting room unless an accessibility accommodation is needed.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

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

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up. Days and times are flexible. Fee for four lessons: \$200/residents, \$205/non-residents.

Kids Summer Beach Yoga Nights: For ages 3-6, and their parent/caregiver. Meets bi-weekly Wednesdays through Aug. 16 (started June 21), from 5:30-6:15 p.m., at Blish Park. Fee is \$15/week to drop in.

Skyhawks Flag Football Camp: For boys and girls ages 6-10. July 17-21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fee: \$159/residents, \$164/non-residents.

Acrylic Landscape Painting – Grades 1 & 2: July 18-20, 9-11 a.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee: \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident.

Drawing: July 18-20, noon-1:30 p.m., for grades 3-6. Fee: \$85/resident, \$90/non-resident.

Acrylic Landscape Painting – Grades 3-6: July 25-27, 9-11 a.m., at MES. Students will learn techniques to guide them through a landscape painting on canvas. Fee: \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident.

Skyhawks Mini-Hawk Camp (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball): Ages 4-6. July 31-Aug. 4, 9 a.m.-noon, at MES. Fee: \$139/residents, \$144/non-residents.

Tennis Lessons – Ages 5-7: Tuesdays, July 31-Aug. 3, 9:15-10 a.m., or Tuesdays, Aug. 7-10, 9:45-10:30 a.m., at the Blish Park Tennis Court. Cost: \$70/resident, \$75/non-resident.

Tennis Lessons – Ages 8-12: Tuesdays, July 31-Aug. 3, 10-11 a.m., or Aug. 7-10, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the Blish Park Tennis Court. Fee: \$85/resident, \$90/non-resident.

Summer Running Training Camp: Aug. 7-10, 9-10:30 a.m., for grades 7-12, at the RHAM High School track. Fee: \$110/resident, \$115/non-resident.

Adult Program: Zumba: Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Blish Park pavilion. There is a \$12 drop-in fee.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Cost of the sign is \$50. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double sided 8"x24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Taylor Falanga and Ethan Meyer made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Make the forest part of your story.

Remember the last time your family visited the forest? It's a place of wonder and imagination for the whole family—where stories come to life. And it's closer than you think. Sounds like it's time to plan your next visit. Make the forest part of your story today at a local park near you or find one at DiscoverTheForest.org.

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Together We Are Stronger.

MS National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Obituaries

East Hampton

**Stasia Bilski Murray
Celebration of Life**

A Celebration of Life Mass for Stasia Bilski Murray will be held Saturday, July 15, at 11 a.m., in Saint Patrick Church, East Hampton.

The family welcomes her many friends to join them in prayer and remembrance of Stasia's abundant love and kindness.

Stasia passed away in May following a long illness. She left behind her husband, Jack (John); children, John Jr. (Roy) and Patti of Vernon, Susan of Danbury, Stephen and Lori of Acworth, N.H., Douglas and Carrie of Abington, Mass., and Andrew and Lynn of Oakwood, Ohio; her brother's son, Joseph and Michelle of Glastonbury; 10 grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.



Colchester

Scott John Callan

Scott John Callan, 53, passed unexpectedly Monday, July 3, at home in Colchester.

He was born Jan. 25, 1970, in Woburn, Mass., and grew up in Enfield. Scott loved to play tennis at Forest Park with his father and uncle and he loved to get into mischief with his siblings and his friends. At Enfield High School Scott, developed a love of theater that bloomed into a lifelong passion for film. He graduated from Colby College with a bachelor's in sociology, and was as proud an alumnus as ever there was.

Scott used this education, alongside a knack for managing large groups of people, to become a successful manager in a variety of contexts, from restaurants to corporate projects. As noted, Scott's greatest interest, however, was film. He'd watch the same movies over and over again. He took a particular liking to *The Godfather Parts I and II* (once stealing a touch of the iconic desk housed at the Coppola Winery). Taking his chronic rewatching as the norm, Scott loved to talk about movies to discuss directorial decisions and cinematic techniques. When a new movie came out, "We're going to the movies" always implied "and I'm going to teach you how it was put together."

In 1998, he married Rebecca DeAngelis and in 2004 they started a family, with the birth of their first child, Henry. Two years later they moved to Colchester, and days later, their second child, Jillian, debuted. To his children, Scott imparted his love of film, Henry with an interest in writing and directorial techniques, and Jillian with a love of stage acting such that it is her primary pursuit.

Scott treasured his time with his children, taking them fishing and teaching them how to cook creatively. He liked to venture out on long scenic drives and listening to '70s and '80s rock, especially Tom Petty. Scott encouraged Henry and Jillian to live large, as he always did.

Scott will be remembered as a genuine and faithful friend, with a trademark, irreverent sense of humor. He made us laugh even when we weren't supposed to be laughing. We're really going to miss, as he put it, "the funniest person



you know." To the people that knew him Scott was always a man with a big personality, the kind who seemed to be at the center of his own world.

Maybe it was his spot-on insights, his outrageous running commentaries, or the timbre of his laughter. He could always make you feel special. With a few minutes of Scott's attention and encouragement or maybe some small eruption of laughter – suddenly you'd feel like you were worth a million bucks. You'd find you felt lighter, a weight lifted.

Scott is survived by his mother Sonja (Burneko) and siblings David, Tracy (Callan) and Jeff Robillard and Beth Callan. He was predeceased by his father, John A. Callan and brother, John Todd. Scott leaves behind his children, Henry and Jillian, and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. He will also be missed by his former wife, Rebecca DeAngelis, along with the friends and extended family he dearly loved. You need to know that Scott thought of his closest friends as extended family and added more uncles and aunts to Henry and Jillian's family tree.

A memorial service will be held to celebrate Scott's life at 2 p.m., on Sunday, July 16, at Day Pond State Park in Colchester. Friends and family are invited to stay after the service for a potluck barbecue. If you'll be joining us, please bring a dish to share. Please leave alcohol, weed products, and high heels at home. If you have folding chairs, please bring them along. There is seating there, but it is limited.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Scott's memory may be made to the Jimmy Fund.

To leave online condolences, please visit ludyardpeterjohnfh.com.

East Hampton

Sara Lefebvre

Sara "Bean" Lefebvre of East Hampton passed away Friday, July 7, at the age of 40. She was born in Pittsfield, Mass., on Dec. 7, 1982, to Terry and Rosie Bishop. She graduated from Taconic High School and Springfield Technical Community College. She lived in Pittsfield, Mass., before moving to East Hampton in 2011.

Bean was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend. She was passionate about her family and her community. She was always willing to help others and she always had a smile on her face.

Bean loved spending time with her family and friends. She enjoyed camping and fishing. She was also an avid amateur radio operator. She loved working satellites and participating in the Parks on the Air program.

Bean will be deeply missed by her husband, Ant; her two children, Logan, age 19 and Hailey, age 18; her parents, Terry Sr. and Rosie; her brothers, Terry Jr., Tom, and E.J., and her many other loved ones.

Bean's family invites relatives and friends Tuesday, July 18, at D'Angelo Funeral Home 22 South Main St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Auto-Brewery Syndrome Research.

Rest in peace, Bean.



Colchester

Arthur J. Langdon Jr.

Arthur J. Langdon Jr., of East Haddam/Colchester, went home to be with his Lord on Saturday, July 8. He was born on May 23, 1940, the son of the late Arthur J. and Clara C. Langdon. He was brother to Jeannette (deceased), Claire, Robert (deceased) and Edward Hampton (deceased). Art was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and moved to Haddam Neck in 1951.



Art graduated from East Hampton High School in 1958, and from the University of Hartford in 1962. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy aboard the Aircraft Carrier, USS Lake Champlain from 1962-1965.

Art married Claudia M. Carlson on May 4, 1963. They met on a blind date on New Year's Eve of 1962. On May 4, 2023, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have four children: Cindy Lulsdorf (Tom), Nancy Hill (Tim), Art (Beth), and Dave (Jackie); nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren (and counting). And Peggy Rouleau (Dave's mother-in-law).

He worked for SNETCO in the '60s, started his own rental company in 1972 and sold it in 1978. He taught in Christian schools and in 1987 started his own insurance practice and ran it for 35 years until retirement. At age 55, Art became the bi-vocational pastor of the Lebanon Bible Church for 16 years. He conducted a Bible study every Friday night for 16 years at the Radgowski Prison. He served as a hospice patient volunteer for 20 years and spent many Saturdays volunteering in the Isaiah 58 Ministry in New Britain, serving food and passing out clothing and groceries to anyone in need. Art was an avid deer hunter for 70 years.

Family was a huge part of Art's life; he was greatly loved by all of us. The big annual tradition was the Haddam Neck Fair. As we would often say when parting ways, "We love you Dad, we love you more than tongue can tell."

A Memorial Service will be held at later date, more information will be available soon.

Art wrote the following to be part of his obituary: After ten years of marriage, both Art and Claudia became born-again Christians. Church played a very important role in their lives.

Christianity teaches that our main problem is sin. After death comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Dear Reader, are you 50%, 75%, or 100% sure when you die you will go to heaven? The Bible clearly says you can be 100% sure: 1 John 5:13, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life." The Romans Road to Heaven tract helped both Art and Claudia to understand how to become believers in Jesus (Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8-9). Art's hope when sharing this good news (the Gospel) with others was that by citing God's grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love, it would lead to fruitful dialog.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life...Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him... If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (John 3:16, 36; Romans 10:9). Art was ready to meet his Maker and Redeemer. Are you?

Salem

Camille Pierrette Brike

Camille Pierrette Brike, 68, of Salem, passed away Wednesday, June 28, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. Camille fought an extremely courageous fight in her battle against ALS for over two years and never wavered in her zest for compassion, humor, and life.



Camille was born Oct. 1, 1954, in Palmer, Mass. She was the daughter of the late Guy and Marcelle (Vermette) Pelletier. Camille leaves her husband, Vincent Brike Jr. of 47 years; daughters, Nicole Lemon, Gabrielle and husband Kent Lorenz; and her grandson, Liam Lemon, who was the light of her life. Camille also leaves her sister, Renée Pelletier, of California, and numerous extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, Serge Pelletier.

Camille graduated from Windham High School in 1972 and attended the University of Connecticut. She was employed by Travelers Insurance in Hartford for 48 years, Mohegan Sun Box Office, and The Bushnell. Camille loved live performances and attended as many as she was able. Her co-workers loved her infectious laugh, her devoted work ethic, and her sense of commitment to making the place of employment a positive and lively experience!

Camille continued in her dedication to living life to the fullest in her community and served as a leader when her daughters were active in Girl Scouts. She was the first to offer support to any friend who needed any type of assistance. Camille's sense of giving was admired by all.

Camille's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of "The Home Aides" for their compassionate care of Camille during her illness.

Calling hours will be held today, Friday, July 14, from 5-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral Mass will take place Saturday, July 15, at 10 a.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to New Britain Hospital for Special Care (www.hfsc.org) - Hospital for Special Care Foundation, 2150 Corbin Ave., New Britain, CT 06053 or ALS Association of Milford, CT (www.als.org/connecticut) 4 Oxford Road, Unit E4, Milford, CT 06460

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Camille, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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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.

ADVERTISERS
The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Colchester on Tuesday July 25th, 2023, at 7:30pm at the Colchester Town Hall, Meeting Room 1 to endorse candidates for municipal office.

1TB 7/14

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF COLCHESTER**

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Colchester, CT. Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Monday July 24, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester. The caucus will endorse candidates for municipal office and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at Colchester, CT, on this the 14th day of July 2023.

1TB 7/14

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE**

Due to a lack of Quorum at a Regular Meeting on Tuesday 6/20/23, the Zoning Board of Appeals will now hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting on Tuesday 7/18/23 at 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition(s):

1. Application No. ZBA 2023-002 of Jeffrey P. Naples (Owner/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'.
2. Application No. ZBA 2023-003 of Sam & Nancy Wilson (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'.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. These applications are on file for public review on the Zoning Board of Appeals Webpage and in the Land Use Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 105, Colchester, CT. Zoning Board of Appeals
Laurie Robinson, Chair

2TB 7/7, 7/14

**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, July 27, 2023 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Application #22-05: 62 Lake Road. Request for a variance from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for side yard setbacks to allow construction of a deck 6 ft from the property line were 15 ft is required. A variance from section 4.2.1 for construction of a 10ft by 10 ft gazebo 35 feet from the rear property line where 40 ft is required. Application and property of Lewis Roberts and Kimberly Nguyen. Assessor's Map 26, Lot 46. Zone RR. 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 11th day of July 2023. Joan Giesemann, Chair

2TB 7/14, 7/21

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm on the following:

Sign Application – New Wall Sign and Replace Freestanding Sign at 24 Wall St, Main Street District. **Approved with Conditions.**

The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link: <https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/96ae55b15daa9c94ecb97d510df1af6d6efdf5c4f2da03217b635b8769e01380d5>

1TB 7/14

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on July 19, 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): **PZC2023-010 of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Department (Applicant)** – Proposed Regulation Amendments to Sections 3.3, 3.4, 5.3.2, 8.3, 8.9, 15.3 and 20.4 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations. 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 & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 7/7, 7/14

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on July 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:

- PZC-23-011: Edgewater Hill, 10 Edgewater Circle, Text Amendment regarding water requirement in MUDD zone per Sec. 6.4.D.3.d.3, Map 10A/ Block 85/ Lot 5B – Approved as Amended.
- PZC-23-013: M&J Bus, Inc., 9 Young Street, Special Permit to allow school bus storage per Sec. 5.3.C.6, Map 20/ Block 33/ Lot 7A – Approved with Conditions

Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

1TB 7/14

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Hebron on Monday, July 24th, 2023, at 7:00pm in the Town Meeting Room (Downstairs) at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street (Route 85), Hebron, CT. The purpose of this caucus is to nominate Republican candidates for the November 7th, 2023 municipal elections. For more information, please contact The Hebron Republican Town Committee at HebronRepublicans@gmail.com. Mann Hasen, Treasurer, HebronRepublican Town Committee

2TB 7/14, 7/21

**Legal Notice
Andover Inland Wetlands and
Watercourses Commission**

At their regular meeting, the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission RECEIVED the following application on June 11, 2023:

- **Permit Application IWWC #23-07:** William Nolette, 760 East St. - Application to relocate pond outlet and to partially relocate and excavate an intermittent watercourse to restore flow through channel.

If you have any questions, please contact the Andover Wetlands Agent at 860-742-7305 (extension 4221) or email (preferred) at wetlands@andoverct.org

1TB 7/14

**MDTC Caucus For Municipal Offices
for the November 2023 Election**

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Marlborough, Connecticut Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Wednesday July 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, Marlborough, CT. Check-In will start at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this caucus is to endorse candidates for Municipal offices and to transact such business as may properly come before the caucus. All enrolled members of the Marlborough Democratic Party of Marlborough CT are welcome to attend. If you have any questions on this caucus, please contact -Ann Kilby at 860-306-8769. Secretary – Aileen Vrooman

2TB 7/7, 7/14

**Notice – Volunteers Needed
Town of Colchester
Fair Rent Commission**

The Town of Colchester is seeking resident volunteers to fill 5 Member and 2 Alternate positions on the Fair Rent Commission, which was created in 10/1989 and has not had an active membership since 2/2015. Pursuant to Article VII of the Colchester Code of Ordinances and Sections 7-148b through 7-148f of the Connecticut General Statutes, this Commission: "...shall make studies and investigations, conduct hearings and receive complaints relative to rental charges on housing accommodations..." "...may compel the attendance of persons at hearings, issue subpoenas and administer oaths, issue orders and continue, review, amend, terminate or suspend any of its orders and decisions..." and, if "...after a hearing, [the Commission determines] that the rental charge or proposed increase in the rental charge for any housing accommodation is so excessive... as to be harsh and unconscionable, it may order that the rent be limited to such an amount as it determines to be fair and equitable". Persons interested in volunteering in this capacity should complete and submit a Board & Commission application to the Office of the First Selectman, which can be found on the Town website here: www.colchesterct.gov > Forms & Documents > First Selectman's Office > Board & Commission Application. Questions or concerns about the Fair Rent Commission can be directed to the First Selectman's Office by telephone at (860) 537-7220 or by email at firstselectman@colchesterct.gov. Dated July 5, 2023
Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

2TB 7/7, 7/14

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF ANDOVER
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
7:00 P.M., JULY 18, 2023
ON-LINE VIA WEB-BASED PLATFORM**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82005388810>
Meeting ID: 820 0538 8810
Passcode: 144652
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

2TB 7/7, 7/14

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting on June 29, 2023, took the following action:
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED/ APPLICATION APPROVED:
APPLICATION #Z-04-23- Greylock Property Group, LLC, (applicant), Terramuggus LLC (property owner), 163 North Main Street, Amendment to Zoning Map from Resident (R) to Floating Zone Design Multiple Resident Zone (DMR). Effective July 15, 2023.
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 7/14

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of East Hampton, CT: Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on July 20, 2023, Democratic Town Committee of East Hampton at the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main Street, East Hampton, CT 7PM. for the purpose of endorsing Candidates for the 2023 Municipal Election
Barbara Moore, Chair

1TB 7/14

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Public notice is hereby given that the Town Council will consider a waiver of the bidding procedure at the Town Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Said waiver is requested by the Facilities Director pursuant to the East Hampton Purchasing Ordinance #117-7, for the waiver of the full competitive bidding process in favor of three quotes for the replacement of the upper section of the roof of Fire Company #1.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Mark Philhower, Chairman
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
Pete Brown
Brandon Goff
Eric Peterson
Kevin Reich
Alison Walck

1TB 7/14

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Portland, Connecticut Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: July 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, CT 06480 to endorse candidates for municipal office and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at Portland, Connecticut, on July 6, 2023
Democratic Town Committee of Portland
James K. Tripp
Chairman

1TB 7/14

**Portland Republican Municipal
Candidate Caucus**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Portland on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland for the purpose of endorsing candidates for municipal office. All enrolled members of the Republican Party of Portland are welcome to attend the caucus. For more information please contact us at GOPPortlandCT@gmail.com.
Timothy Lavoy, Chairman
Portland Republican Town Committee

1TB 7/14

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

At the regular meeting of the East Hampton Town Council held Tuesday, July 11, 2023, ordinances amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton for Chapter 278 Taxation were adopted. They included Article V – Stipend for Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Personnel and Civil Preparedness Director to clarify qualification criteria and Article IX – Business Incentive Program to simplify the application and approval process and to change the program name. The ordinances are available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk and shall take effect 20 days after publication.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Mark Philhower, Chairman
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
Pete Brown
Brandon Goff
Eric Peterson
Kevin Reich
Alison Walck

1TB 7/14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SELL YOUR UNWANTED LOOSE: and bulk change, and old sterling silverware for cash. Also purchasing silver coins and any item made of sterling silver. Will make house calls. Call/text Dom 860-836-5013, email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

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GTT-12-23

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RES-5-23

EMPLOYMENT

FULL TIME COOK NEEDED: \$18-\$25 an hour depending on experience. Apply at Eggs Up Restaurant on Rt. 66 in Portland. Available immediately!!

DENTAL HYGIENIST POSITION: PT Dental Hygienist position. Approx. 16 hours per week (Mon-Thurs), is available in a team oriented family dental office in Portland. Days and hours are flexible. Salary will be between \$45 to \$60 per hour. Fax resume 860-760-8080. Email dentalinsight@yahoo.com. Call 860-510-3956.

WELDER / FABRICATOR: Custom sheet metal fabrication and maintenance duties, light structural welding, 45-50 hours per week with good benefits, health insurance, and 401(K) plan. Call 860-828-3762.

SEEKING RECEPTIONIST: for dental office in Marlborough. Mon, Tues, Thurs 8-5p, Wed 10-7p. Call 860-295-8132 or send resume to Mfdental@marlboroughfamilydent.com

SALON CHAIR RENTAL AVAILABLE: at No Loose Ends. Beautiful space and wonderful location on Main Street. Call/text Dominique 860-759-3784.

SHEET METAL HELPERS: Full time, apprenticeship program offered, health insurance, 401(K) plan. Mechanical experience required. Call 860-828-3762.

EXPERIENCED DENTAL ASSISTANT: Raney Orthodontics is seeking an experienced dental assistant for 2-3 days per week. Please email your resume to drraney@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED: at Maple & Main Liquors, East Hartford. Perfect opportunity for semi-retirees. Register, inventory, 20+ hrs per week, night & weekends. Call/text 860-881-7479.

CARE GIVER NEEDED: every Sunday and every other Thursday. Call 860-860-685-1966.

PART-TIME CARE WORKER: with reliable transportation and flexible availability needed to cover afternoon and occasional evening shifts for disabled young adult in Portland home. No prior direct care experience with disabilities needed. Full training provided. Some lifting required. \$18.25/hour. TEXT interest to 860-558-9697. No calls please.

Resident Director of Academics

We have an opening for a Resident Director of Academics at the Glastonbury ABC House. Glastonbury apartment and monthly stipend is provided. Apply today and make a difference for some terrific young men attending GHS! See job description and apply on GABC page on LinkedIn or send email to mentors@glastonburyabc.org.

GTT-7-13-23

EMPLOYMENT

Town of Marlborough Department of Public Works Full-Time Equipment Operator/Maintainer

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 B required, Class A (without restrictions) preferred. \$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.marlbroughct.net. Candidates will be considered based on knowledge, skills, abilities and previous experience. Candidates will be required to pass a thorough background investigation and physical exam, including a drug screening. An application and current resume must be received by the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. Position: open until filled. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

3TB 7/14, 7/21, 7/28



Andover School District Physical Therapist – Part Time

The Andover School District is seeking qualified candidates for the position of part-time Physical Therapist, for up to 10 hours/week. Hours will vary based on students' needs. Application is available online at www.andoverelementaryct.org and should be sent along with letter of intent, resumé, copy of CT certification, transcripts and 3 letters of reference to:
Andover Elementary School
35 School Road
Andover, CT 06232
ATTN: Taylor Parker, Principal
[Or send via email to: parkert@andoverelementaryct.org]

4TB 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4

Grounds Maintenance / Maintainer 3 Town of Portland, CT (EOE)

Deadline: 7/25/2023
Wage Range: \$28.66 to \$33.18
Send Town CDL application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480
Or email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org
Full-time Maintainer in the DPW Grounds Division; 40 hours weekly (M-F); starting wage \$28.66; AFSCME union with fringe benefits. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing, Clearinghouse & DMV background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Qualifications: High School diploma or GED equivalent; valid Connecticut CDL. Knowledge of small engine repair & operation desired; min. 5 yrs expr preferred. Must have good ability to understand/follow oral & written instructions.

1TB 7/14

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REB-13-21

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Email Maryla Underwood at MUnderwood@colebrookvillage.com or call 860-801-1114

CIT3-30-23

Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) Assisted Living

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CIT7-13-23

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CIT7-13-23

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CIT3-23-23

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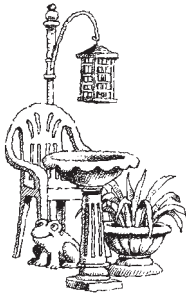
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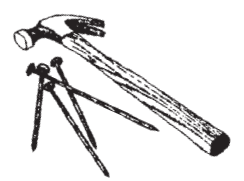
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