

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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July 28, 2023

In Belttown, a Bowling Program on the Rise

By London Brazal

Bowling, a game of precision and skill, keeps all ages busy this summer at Kickback n' Bowl in East Hampton.

The teams Ray's Rebels and Wachel's Wee Webels make up the youth bowling league that meets throughout the school year. This summer, members of the league are participating in the 10-week Kool Kids program where they can bowl with their parents and coaches.

The program is open to residents of East Hampton and all surrounding towns. With nine United States Bowling Congress (USBC)-certified coaches, students of all skill levels can participate in the program. The team of coaches has been working hard to build the program up and hopes to continue to grow.

Head Coach D'Arco Patton Sr. said he loves the joy bowling can bring to people. Nicknamed "Coach Coco," he highlighted the confidence the kids gain from sticking with the program. "Start them young and they grow up into it, it's a nice transition. This way, they become more confident," Patton said.

One child he coached started averaging 17 pins a game. After working with them and building up confidence, they went up to average 68 pins. Coach Becky Godwin added, "The kids increased their scores by 62% from last year to the summer."

During the programs, the coaches also teach bowling etiquette and signify good sportsmanship. Though it is not always reciprocated, all of the kids will compliment other teams, congratulate friends, and give high-fives. "We are trying to do big things in a small town," Patton preached. It is important to the coaches for the kids to give it their all. "Come one, come all - regardless of life's circumstances and what life throws at you," Patton said.

The league does not tolerate bullying or putting down other bowlers and aims to provide a



Kickback n' Bowl in East Hampton is keeping kids busy all summer, with its youth bowling offerings.

warm welcoming environment for all.

The Wachel's Wee Webels (for ages 3-6) play with the bumpers and start to learn the motion of throwing a bowling ball. A four-year-old in the league uses a six-pounder. When they are of age, the Webels will transition to become a Ray's Rebel (for ages 6-18). The older kids average 10-12-pound bowling balls. Coach Daryl Patton said, "Some even use two hands, similar to how the pros do it."

Coach Rachel Hayes has been bowling for more than two decades and loves coming out to support the kids. Even the coaches have learned new things when working with the students. At a travel tournament, the Rebels learned different bowling formats such as a college-style lineup. "I've been bowling for 24 years; you'd think I would know a thing or two. But it's so great to learn too," Hayes said.

For the first time, the league was able to trav-

el to tournaments in Staten Island and Rhode Island. In addition, 10 kids qualified for the state championships. Three of them placed and earned scholarship money that can be used towards college no matter what school they decide to attend. Patton's daughter, Avery, won the U8 division.

Coach Dan Hood used to bowl at the center when he was younger and now shares his passion with his wife Kristina, another coach for the league. Their daughter, McKenna, is 4 years old and said she is super excited to be a Ray's Rebel. She comes to the bowling alley with her family and practices without the bumpers. Her famous motto among the league is "One is better than none!"

Earlier this year, Kickback n' Bowl owner Jim Spadorcia set up a "Senior Youth" event where the kids faced off against local seniors. The youngest bowler was 4 and the oldest was 94.

The coaches said they are so thankful to be homed at Kickback n' Bowl. "Nothing would be possible without the support Jim, the owner, gives us," Godwin said. The 10-lane bowling center is open Tuesday through Saturday with limited space on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

The ultimate goal for the organization is to host the two leagues at separate times so there can be 50 kids participating in Ray's Rebels team. During the school year, there will be two sessions students can participate in. The first will start Sept. 16 and end Dec. 15. The second will start Jan. 6 and end May 18. Participants in both sessions will receive their own bowling ball.

Registration forms are at the bowling alley and the Ray's Rebels Youth & Wachel's Wee Webels Bowling League Facebook page. An in-person registration day will be held at Kickback n' Bowl on Aug. 19. For more information, email raysrebelsbowling@yahoo.com.

Colchester GOP Slate Set After 'Lively' Caucus

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Republican slate of candidates for November's municipal election is set, following a "lively" caucus Tuesday night, according to Republican Committee Chairman Taras Rudko.

Ahead of the meeting at Town Hall, Rudko posted on Facebook that all registered Colchester Republicans were welcomed to participate but that "a number of special interests will be attempting to pack their own candidates that have not been vetted or interviewed by the RTC Nominating Committee."

Members of the press were unable to attend the caucus, but Rudko provided a list of the endorsed candidates to the Rivereast on Wednesday.

The night, he said during a phone call, went "as expected." Typically, because voting is open to all Republicans, "there's usually a couple of

surprises."

The top of ticket remained unchanged - incumbent First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos was officially endorsed for a second term.

Andrea Migliaccio, the chairman of the Board of Finance, will be joined by political newcomer Michael Dubreuil.

Shannon Naz was selected for town clerk and Jeffery Duigou will run for tax collector.

Current town treasurer John Ringo will aim to retain his position, and Glenn Shilosky will join incumbent Karen Godbout on the ballot for Board of Assessment Appeals.

Then, a few surprises were added to the slate.

The nominating committee endorsed Rudko and Cliff O'Donal for Board of Selectmen seats. In addition, Jason LaChapelle - the former vice-chair of the RTC - who is running

as a Libertarian, was cross-endorsed. Previously, LaChapelle quit the RTC.

However, according to Rudko, Art Shilosky - a current finance board member and former first selectman - decided within 48 hours of the caucus to pursue a selectmen seat. Shilosky was expected to retire from town service at the conclusion of his term this year.

"That was a shock," Rudko said, adding that if Shilosky had a desire to remain in politics, another term on the finance board would've been preferable.

He speculated that the move was intended to remove LaChapelle from the ballot.

While the vote split was close, Rudko confirmed that Shilosky will join himself and O'Donal on the ticket - a decision he disagreed

See GOP Slate Set, page 23

Inside...

Colchester Democrats Reveal 'Amazing' Slate .....pg 9

Colchester Budgets Sent to Town Meeting.....pg 10

Hebron Dems, GOP Announce Slates.....pg 14

East Hampton Be Aware in Your Backyard.....pg 20

Marlborough New SRO Hired.....pg 22

Regional Obituaries .....pg 28



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**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. Also 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. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, andoverct.org.

**Senior Trips:** Main Moose, 8/11; Goshen Wildlife, 8/29. Sign up with Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2.

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

**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.**

**Shopping Dates:** Willimantic, 8/1; Manchester: 8/8.

**Senior Luncheon Dates:** Fridays at noon, Aug. 4 and 18. Aug. 4 will be barbecue under the tent, and Aug. 18 will be Chili's. Reservations required by the previous Wednesday.

**New Seniors Welcome:** New seniors are welcome at all events.



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### Restless Mountain Bluegrass

The Andover Friends of the Library will present a free evening of music for the whole family with Restless Mountain Bluegrass on Friday, Aug. 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Andover Gazebo, located at 35 School Rd. (in front of Andover Elementary School). The show will be held inside the town hall community room in the event of rain.

Bring your chairs and blankets. Connecticut-based Restless Mountain Bluegrass offers

a mix of traditional Bluegrass standards and classics. Band members include Matt Fleury on banjo and vocals, Jerry Devokaitis on guitar and vocals, Gracin Dorsey on mandolin and vocals, Scott Camara on resophonic guitar, and Dave Aston on bass.

The Andover Friends of the Library will sell pizza and ice cream. For more information, call Andover Public Library at 860-742-7428.

### 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](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://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 Wednesdays, 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

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, July 28, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12, and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

For more information, call 860-742-7696.

### 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.

### Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2023-24 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is full-day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2023, are asked to contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet or access it at [www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org).

Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten, not attend school until the following year, or who will be home-schooling are asked to inform the school of this decision.

### Dean's List

Clarice Jayawickrema of Andover made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Hartford.

\*\*\*

Austin Davis of Andover made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

\*\*\*

Kiyan Pourmaleki of Andover made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

### Therapy Dog at Library

Andover Public Library will welcome Sheena the Therapy Dog (and owner Jenifer Nadeau) to the library Saturday, Aug. 5, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Kid readers are encouraged to sign up for 15-minute sessions for reading starting at 10:30 a.m.

To sign up, visit the library at 355 Route 6, or call 860-742-7428.

### Tag Sale Fundraiser

A tag sale fundraiser for the town's senior luncheon program will be held at Town Hall, 17 School Rd., on Saturday, Aug. 26, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The sale will feature new clothing and shoes never worn, barely used items, glassware, toys, Crockpots and Instant Pots like new, and more. All proceeds will support the senior luncheon program. Call Cathy Palazzi for information 860-916-6122

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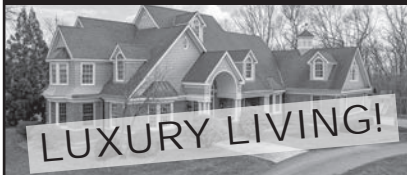
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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Barbenheimer.  
It may be the word of the summer – and for good reason. The long-awaited, much-hyped films *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer* made their debuts last weekend, and both wildly exceeded what were already strong box office expectations.

*Barbie* – the comedy-fantasy featuring the world's most-famous doll come to life – pulled in an amazing \$162 million at the domestic box office last weekend. Meanwhile, *Oppenheimer* – based on the life of the man who developed the atomic bomb (and definitely not a comedy-fantasy) – fetched \$82.4 million.

Both were well in excess of what industry insiders, and even the studios themselves, had predicted. They combined for not only the biggest box office weekend of the year, but also helped fuel one of the four biggest box office weekends in history.

What made it particularly impressive was that neither of the films were sequels, or parts of existing franchises. (I mean, yeah, everyone's familiar with *Barbie*, but there'd never been a live-action movie of it.) As a movie buff, I love to see that. Nothing against sequels, but it's great to see original ideas succeed.

I haven't seen either yet, but I very much want to see both – and hopefully will take in

at least one of them this weekend.

Speaking of *Barbie*, this is fun. In honor of the new movie, *Yankee* magazine's travel editor, Kim Knox Beckius, recently wrote a new piece entitled "12 New England Experiences *Barbie* Would Love." In the column – available on the magazine's website, [NewEngland.com](http://NewEngland.com) – Beckius urged *Barbie* fans to "get dolled up and drive your pink convertible to one of these fun New England spots for photo ops."

And guess what? One of the sites Beckius spotlighted is right here in *Rivereast*-land. Beckius wrote that "*Barbie*'s Favorite New England Lobster Shack" would be Jessica's Garden and Lobster Shack, located in Marlborough.

"Not only is this lobster shack pink and flowery," Beckius wrote, "there's a pond out back where [*Barbie*] she can kick back and savor a lobster roll, lobster mac & cheese, lobster salad on a grilled croissant, or other menu highlights, from hot dogs to 13 different gourmet grilled cheese creations. A berry-pink smoothie is a must."

Definitely sounds like it's worth a stop – even if you're not a *Barbie* fan.

I was sad to hear last week about the passing  
**Editor's Desk continued on page 6**



**Scholarships Awarded...** The Knights of Columbus 15734 of Saint John Fisher Church of Marlborough awarded three \$750 scholarships to graduating Marlborough seniors during Mass on July 15. The recipients are Samantha Margo, Diana Vito and Grace Neumeuth.

## Bulletin Board

Considering the rampant intolerance in our present society, where virulent screaming matches on everything from politics to UFOs to who makes the best spaghetti sauce have become routine, I was a little surprised recently to come across a news article extolling the intellectual virtues of sharks.

That's right. Sharks. As in *Jaws*.

I thought that taking reasonable precautions to avoid being eaten by a shark might be something we could all agree on, but it appears the subject (like most things these days) is more complicated than I assumed.

While not about to offer myself up as the main course at a sea predator banquet, I happen to believe that sharks have their place in the scheme of things and don't need to be unduly persecuted. According to the news article, however, a recent study would take my reasonably tolerant (but still wary) attitude a step further. The study indicates that people (like me, apparently) would be less concerned about potential shark attacks if they could be persuaded "the animals could think, feel or reason."

Now, I don't mean to disparage well-intentioned idealists, but it seems to me that if sharks actually do "think" or "reason," they're probably not thinking much past, "I think I'll bite that guy's legs off." I seriously doubt they're reasoning, "Gee, you know, I'm really hungry, but maybe that guy has a couple of kids and they'll really miss him, so I guess the humane thing to do here would be to take a pass and maybe look for an orphaned seal pup to tear to pieces or maybe I'll just head off to the library and check out a copy of *Moby Dick* and spend a quiet evening at home. I mean, who needs the guilt?"

Then I saw that the study was done by academics from Cal State Long Beach and it all started to make sense. You may not be aware of this, but people in California tend to swim to a different drummer. For one thing, they let people defecate on the sidewalk in broad daylight, so for a Californian to suggest that we should be sensitive to the intellectual abilities and feelings of sharks isn't really that bizarre, all things considered.

Anyway, this academic named Gabriella Hancock—who, incidentally, is an assistant professor of psychology at Cal State Long Beach, not a zoologist or a biologist or someone who could actually be expected to be familiar with the rudiments of shark behavior—observes that the odds of being injured or killed by a shark are extremely small. "You're more likely to be killed by lightning," she notes. "You're more likely to be killed by hornets, wasps and bees. You're more likely to be killed by your own dog."

Gee, thanks a bunch, Gabrielle. Here I started off thinking I'd be okay if I just went into the water up to my ankles. Now I'm afraid to go outside in the rain, and if I stay inside, I have to worry that my dog might wake up some morning with homicide on his mind.

According to the news article, researchers conducting the study found that people who perceive of sharks "as thinking, intelligent creatures" are more willing to support shark conservation by "voting for their protection and contributing funds to charities." Like the shark college fund, I suppose.

Also, according to the study, "the more that people believed in stingrays' emotional abilities, the more willing they were to donate funds to stingray charities." I'm not sure just how stingrays got involved in this thing, but is it just me, or does there seem to be an inordinate interest here in getting people to donate to obscure charities benefiting animals you don't want to meet in the water?

Finally, the news article on the study observes, "the stronger people's beliefs in sharks' and stingrays' ability to reason, the more they were willing to get into the water with them."

I am reminded here of bear enthusiast, environmentalist, documentary filmmaker and certifiable wing-nut Timothy Treadwell, who thought the bears in the Alaskan wilderness reciprocated his affection. He claimed he had developed a mutual trust with the bear population and thought nothing of going up and trying to pat them on the head and scratch them behind the ears and stuff. Alas, in 2003, a bear apparently decided Treadwell was becoming a nuisance and proceeded to kill and eat both him and Treadwell's girlfriend (who really should have known better than to go camping with the guy if you ask me).

I've got nothing personal against sea creatures (though I was once viciously attacked by a hermit crab at Hammonasset State Park), but you might want to remember Mr. Treadwell the next time you feel the urge to swim out into the ocean to discuss literature with a shark or scratch the thing behind whatever passes for its ears.

Meanwhile, if you want to donate to a sea creature charity, I'd support one of the various funds devoted to the conservation and well-being of sea turtles. I'm not sure how intellectually stimulating they are, but they're awfully cute and as far as I know, none of them has ever expressed an interest in trying to rip out somebody's innards.

**Jim Hallas**

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

## Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

### Quick Note of Thanks

To the Editor:

Just a quick note of thanks to Amy and the Andover Library for the wonderful Concert on the Green last Friday night. In spite of the rain, many turned out to see and hear Connecticut's current State Troubadour Kala Flurnham and former State Troubadour Hugh Blumenfeld and his incredible band. (Hi Andrea.....)

Yet another reason to be grateful to live in Andover.

**Tom (Iggy) Stribula – Andover**

### Seeking Second Term

To the Editor:

My name is Bryan Smith, and I am honored and excited to be running this November for a second term as a member of Hebron's Zoning Board of Appeals. I have lived in Hebron for 20 years, moving here with my wife and family seeking a small town that understood the importance of a quality education and sense of community.

I have a 33-year career in the information technology department of multiple Connecticut companies in various roles. The past 15 of those years I've served as senior project manager on

major initiatives and projects. Having a strong project manager background, I understand the importance of good planning and attention to details. If re-elected, I will bring this caring attitude along with my belief in transparent and fair government for everyone.

**Bryan Smith – Hebron  
Candidate, Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals**

### We the People

To the Editor:

"Indigenous absence has been a long tradition of American historical analysis. A full telling of American history must account for the dynamics of struggle, survival, and resurgence that frame America's Indigenous past. Focus upon Native American history must be an essential practice of American historical inquiry. Existing paradigms of U.S. history remain incomplete when they fail to engage the field. We need to build a more inclusive narrative, and this cannot be accomplished simply by adding new cast members to the dramas of the past.

"Our history must reckon with the fact that Indigenous peoples, African Americans, (LG-BTQIA+, added by me) and millions of other non-white citizens have not enjoyed the self-

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evident truths of equality, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness proclaimed at the nation's founding as inalienable rights belonging to all.

"North America's total population nearly halved from 1492 to 1776: from approximately 7 or 8 million to 4 million. The almost unimaginable scale of death and depopulation calls into question celebratory portraits of the nation's founding..." *The Rediscovery of America Native Peoples and The Unmaking of U.S. History* – Ned Blackhawk

How do "We the People...form a more perfect Union?" Is it We the People, warts and all or is it just about a certain few, after all it was written by old, white, slave owners dictating who could and who couldn't?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Manning – Andover

**Housing Authority Thanks**

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Housing Authority would like to thank the VFW and American Legion of East Hampton for the donation of new flags for both Chatham and Bellwood. It is greatly appreciated!

Dave Schumacher, Executive Director  
East Hampton Housing Authority

**Scum**

To the Editor:

In case there has been any confusion as to what East Hampton's current governing party thinks of our public safety and emergency response volunteers, Richard Brown was kind enough to make it quite clear during the Board of Finance meeting last week.

"Scum."

Brown used the word "scum" to describe the volunteer ambulance association treasurer. A conversation about the ambulance funding that was already approved turned into a personal attack on an individual who was not present. Brown, unfortunately, has a history of name-calling and angry outbursts during his time on the BOF, including calling teachers "lazy" and "uneducated," calling residents "stupid," and making unhinged outbursts before, during and after public meetings. This is not the behavior of a level-headed, fair-minded person who values the people for whom he has been elected to represent, or can be trusted with the precise nature of accounting of your tax dollars.

Rather than stand up to this behavior, the other GOP board members simply tried to move on. No call for apology, no denouncement of the slander. Nothing. Just, let's move to the next piece of business. This is inexcusable. We deserve far better than this kind of representation, and the Democratic slate for the upcoming election offers exactly that.

Kurt Comisky, Anthony Spagnoletti, and incumbent Ted Turner are exactly the even-tempered, thoughtful representatives needed to responsibly conduct the challenging work of the Board of Finance. High taxes are a problem for all of us, but dignity and decency have to be established before we can address the increasing costs of living in East Hampton. We can begin restoring decency and dignity to our government this November.

Jordan Werme – East Hampton  
Candidate for Town Council  
jordanforeasthampton@gmail.com

**The Blame Game**

To the Editor:

Apparently, Hebron letter-writers, Butch Cassidy, Sundance and Etta Place are holding their town at gunpoint. But how can this be true when, in 2015, former town planner Michael O'Leary and manager Andrew Tierney supported plans to rebuild the Public Works at its present location on Old Colchester Road. Unfortunately, the plans were derailed. Recent letters to the editor did not, to my knowledge, derail those plans or hold up funding for repairs. Next, Hebron's Green Committee, and a wide variety of citizens, have also supported fixing the PW at its present location, which would, obviously, support Town employees.

When scientists, a well water remediation expert, professors, the POCD, landlubbers, tree-huggers, #save17, Red, Blue, Green and Purple Committee members are all blown off, the facts mocked and reputations threatened, who's holding up who? What else can people do, except dodge bullets, vote, attend meetings, protest and write letters? In 1787 Thomas Jefferson wrote: "The people are the only censors of their governors.....The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right." Jefferson warned "that all governments, even the new American government.....unless checked

by a knowledgeable citizenry, would become wolves." -oll.liberty.org.

In the last year, #save17 has clearly grown and clean water is still my primary goal. However, honoring trees, farmland, wildlife habitats, historic contributions, respect for Native Americans and the quiet that envelops our community are also important. Save one and save them all.

Thanks to the *Rivereast* we've been able to back up our passion with facts and figures while reaching a broader audience. We have always encouraged other residents to do the same. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

**Understanding the People**

To the Editor:

In the recent *Rivereast*, East Hampton Board of Finance member Russell Bonaccorso mentioned "the processes and challenges of how to fully understand what the people want."

From our founding documents, the Fundamental Orders, through our Constitution, the citizens of Connecticut decide how our government works and how to spend the taxpayers' money. Our elected representatives are to carry out what the taxpayers want.

It is clear that Mr. Bonaccorso does not understand the position he was elected for, nor does he understand the taxpayers he was elected to represent.

Kurt John Comisky  
Candidate for East Hampton  
Board of Finance

**Excited for Endorsement**

To the Editor:

Hello Hebron!

My name is John Matra, and I am honored and excited to be endorsed by the Hebron Democratic Town Committee (DTC) for selectman. I have been a full-time resident of Hebron since May 2019. My wife and I moved here after retiring from a 36-year career in human resources. Having grown up in a small town in New York, most of my career was spent working in not-so-small towns – Washington DC, New York City, and Los Angeles. Soon after arriving in town, I completed the "We are Hebron Citizen Leadership Academy" in November 2019, which provided a great opportunity to learn about Hebron, how it functions, and what it has to offer. My local volunteer activities include the Hebron Green Committee, the Hebron DTC, and Meals on Wheels. Additionally, I am president of the Amston Lake Association.

I am passionate about serving as selectman and will bring a fresh perspective to the Board of Selectmen. As an active participant in making decisions that will benefit the town and its

citizens, I will be dedicated to ensuring that the town of Hebron is a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and play. My experience and insight will help move the town in this direction.

Please join me and the amazing slate of democratic candidates this Saturday at The DTC's Garden Party. Information and tickets are available at [www.hebrondems.com](http://www.hebrondems.com). Hope to see you there!

John Matra – Amston  
Candidate, Hebron Board of Selectmen

**Simple Question**

To the Editor:

Several of *Rivereast's* most persistent letter-writers are rather loosely tethered to objective reality. While I don't believe the phrase "to each his own" was meant to apply to all of reality, I'll withhold judgment. However, what I really don't understand is why, if you simply select your own reality, unburdened by the need for empirical evidence, you remain perpetually angry. Since you are happy to believe in fantasies, choose fantasies that will make you happy. Permanent rage is no way to live one's life.

It also leads to letters to the editor that are no fun to read.

Stephen Markson – Portland

**Announcing Candidacy**

Hello, Hebron Community:

I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the Hebron Board of Education and am humbled to receive the endorsement of the Democratic Town Committee. With great enthusiasm, I seek to serve our community and contribute to the continued success of our education system.

My experience has largely been in leadership roles, and I firmly believe that the skills critical in business are directly transferable to the realm of education. Fiscal responsibility, efficient resource allocation, and long-term planning are all key aspects that I'll bring in the pursuit of excellence in our schools. I look forward to leveraging my ability to foster collaboration, communicate effectively, and think critically when facing challenges.

As a parent myself, I understand the concerns and aspirations of our families. I am committed to maintaining a safe, nurturing, and inclusive learning environment for every child's unique talent and needs.

If elected, my priorities will be:



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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

of our community.

It is imperative that our schools remain places where students feel safe, are actively engaged, and are challenged to be the best versions of themselves. As a member of the Hebron Board of Education, I will work to ensure that parents have a voice and that our schools have the support they need to help our children grow.

Please consider attending this Saturday's Garden Party to meet the candidates endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee. Information can be found at [www.hebrondems.com](http://www.hebrondems.com). I look forward to meeting you around town this election season!

Thank you!

**Eleisha LeMay**  
Candidate, Hebron Board of Education

### Proud to Run

To the Editor:

For years as a journalist, I saw the best and worst of local government in municipalities ranging from mid-sized cities to small towns. I've sat through hundreds of hours of meetings and found that the best leaders know when to compromise, when to hold true to personal convictions, and that respectful disagreement is okay.

Now, I am ready to take what I have learned and apply those observations to my own candidacy for the East Hampton Board of Education.

Over the last year, I have been a consistent presence at school board meetings. I have not been shy to share my views on subjects from the dangers of censorship, how to best prevent school violence, and the health of our students

and staff. Yet despite ideological differences with the majority of school board, I've forged positive relationships on both sides of the aisle with my willingness to listen and discuss things civilly.

This past spring and summer have been an awakening for parents and school advocates as we fought against drastic budget cuts. That experience bolstered my interest to run for the Board as a strong advocate for teachers, to expand curriculum and programs, and defend against ideology that threatens the quality of instruction in East Hampton.

The Democratic candidates for the Board bring together years of experience, professional expertise, and fresh ideas for improving our schools and helping our students to thrive. The slate of incumbent Kenneth Barber, Edie DeSimone, Paul Wisniewski, and I can make a good school board even better.

While November is still months away, I'm looking forward to working together with East Hampton Democratic candidates up and down the ballot in a campaign focused on progress for all residents. I'm proud and ready to run.

Sincerely,  
**Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton**  
Democrat for the Board of Education

### Candidate for ZBA

To the Editor:

My name is Amy DeCesare and I am honored and excited to be endorsed by the Hebron Democratic Town Committee for Zoning Board of Appeals. My husband and I moved to Hebron five years ago with our three children and we absolutely love our town. Hebron is a special place. It has a vibrant dedicated community

that shows up and supports local festivals and events. There are so many volunteers that work tirelessly to make our schools, parks, trails, library, and town center into places that add to quality of life in our town.

Although I work full-time in insurance now, as a young associate, I assisted on ZBA matters in different municipalities in the state. My husband is a small business owner. We have parents in their 80s that are an important part of our lives and both of us have volunteered our time to help coach our school age children's sports teams. At a town meeting in June, a local official implored those of us who lived in town to step up and volunteer and help serve our town. He was right. I am grateful for an opportunity to use my experience to help Hebron continue to be an amazing place to live, work and play and look forward to working with my friends and neighbors on both sides of the aisle to serve this town that my family is proud to call home.

**Amy DeCesare**  
Candidate, Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals

### Election Season Underway

To the Editor:

With budget season and its referendums now settled, local election season in East Hampton is underway.

We deserve leadership in town government at all levels that acknowledges the reality of the town as it is and understands the challenges it faces now and will face in the future. Such leadership will be ready, willing and able to: create and enact policies that meet the current needs of the town and its residents, reflect the will of the voters, maintain the assets of the town, and

prepare for the town's future while respecting and preserving its small-town character and feel.

The East Hampton Democratic Town Committee advanced and offers a slate of candidates that are ready, willing and able to serve the residents of East Hampton and govern the town responsibly through effective and efficient financial and governmental policy. They will advance policies that maintain our high-quality schools, responsive police, fire, ambulance and other government services, a clean lake, good parks and public facilities, well-maintained infrastructure, and services for seniors and other vulnerable populations while encouraging reasonable economic growth that takes into account new, small businesses opening in town and as well as new residents.

The ticket is diverse. Its candidates have different backgrounds, experiences and represent the town well coming from different generational, socioeconomic, and gender backgrounds. Some come from families with deep roots extending back into East Hampton's history. Some only recently moved here. But they all call it home and see the town as an ongoing enterprise which they will bring into the future and not into stagnation (or to try the impossible) and bring the town back into the past. They know that the town is defined by more than a mill rate.

They are worthy of East Hampton's consideration and vote.

**Brian Corvo – East Hampton**

### Together for Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:

I want to share my thanks to everyone who came out Monday night to support my nomination as the Democratic candidate for Colchester first selectman. It is an honor to receive Colchester Democrats' endorsement for first selectman. The incredible turnout at the caucus is a clear sign that we are well on our way to bringing Colchester together.

No one can do this job alone which is why I'm also excited to help lead a strong team of candidates for other offices. (Board of Selectmen: Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, and Dave Koji. Board of Finance: Scott Chapman and Karen Belding. Board of Education: Chris Rivers, Michelle Millington, and Stefanie Tracey-Calash. Town Clerk: Gayle Furman. Tax Collector: Michele Wyatt. Treasurer: Sean Gillespie. Board of Assessment Appeals: Andrew Cournoyer and Krista Kardys.)

This team is a great combination of experienced leaders and first-time candidates from different walks of life with new and varied perspectives. We are united by our commitment to stand up for Colchester as advocates for Colchester's families, students, seniors, and small businesses.

Our team of Democratic candidates will represent all of Colchester and is ready to work with our Republican colleagues after the elec-

### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

of Portland resident Ed Gyllenhammer. If that name sounds familiar to you, it should. He was one of the regular writers of letters to the editor, often sending in well-written, well-thought-out pieces – sometimes even in the form of poetry.

I enjoyed receiving his letters, and his daughter told me last week Ed loved writing them and sending them in. His contributions to these pages will definitely be missed.

Ed never tooted his own horn or wrote about himself in his letters, so upon reading his obituary I learned some interesting things about the man. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving on active duty from 1954 through 1958. He was a former president of Portland Lions Club, and, when he lived in Old Saybrook, served for 10 years as chairman and member of that town's Water Pollution Control Authority.

Ed, his obituary states, "saw himself as a steward who was entrusted to use what God placed in his hands for the good of others: he contributed to several charitable causes and helped out many family members and friends with financial support, good advice and counsel, a listening ear, or a place to live."

He sounds like he was a wonderful man, and made the most of all of his 88 years on this earth. I know he will be profoundly missed by his many family members and friends.

Rest in peace, Ed – and thanks again for the letters.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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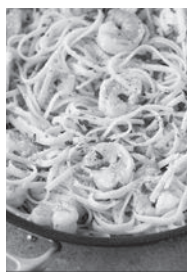
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tion. Colchester's biggest challenges right now are not partisan. Colchester needs more effective management of Town Hall; stronger, dignified leadership on our boards; and real transparency from leaders the community can trust.

I decided to run for first selectman because my professional experience as a municipal office manager has given me the tools needed to restore both stability and civility at Colchester Town Hall. On November 7th, I'll be ready to get to work for you -- and so will the rest of this team.

Let's bring Colchester together!

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

**Affordable Housing**

To the Editor:

As my term on the Hebron Board of Finance comes to an end, I thought my public service days were over. Then I started hearing a ground swell of noise about Affordable Housing in Hebron and realized that I wanted to be involved in this movement. Thus I am running for the Planning and Zoning Board for Hebron as a Democrat.

Affordable housing is something near and dear to my heart. I have helped numerous people move forward in their lives but without shelter that they can afford, there is only so much you can do. I have lived in Hebron for 41 years and have watched as young people have slowly been priced out of this beautiful town of ours. When my children were in the elementary schools we had approximately 1,200 kids in the school system. We are now around 600 students. A lot of things have caused this drop in student population but I know affordable housing played a part.

If like me, you are concerned with the lack of affordable housing in Hebron, please vote for slate of Democrats in the November 7th election.

Sincerely,  
**Janet Fodaski - Hebron**

**Progressives' Double Standards**

To the Editor:

Cathy Glasson presents a very restrictive interpretation of the Presidential Records Act (PRA). Previously, the Act's been found to be much more expansive than what she presents. In 2012, Obama appointee, D.C. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson ruled former President Bill Clinton was entitled to retain personal possession of tapes of classified information and other presidential activities under the PRA. She ruled the National Archives had no right to the tapes he had stored/hidden in his sock drawer.

Those trying to "google" information on the PRA will be inundated with pages of left-wing propaganda and misinformation about this act from all of the usual media suspects. I had to scroll through quite a few pages to find this differing interpretation from Gregg Jarrett who wrote a very concise and compelling rebuttal: Trump's indictment is not the slam dunk case liberal media believes it is. I found it egregious that Mike Thompson wrote an editor's note apologizing for not noting my comments as "suspicious." He never challenges people who support his progressive narratives, only those who dare run counter to it.

Thompson challenged me about claims I made about HRC's number of classified documents compared to Trump's. When I pushed back about his allowing R. Thurston Clark's outrageously insulting depiction of Republicans going unchallenged, he said he permitted it because it was Clark's "opinion." So John Barnowski calling MAGA Republicans "Crazies" is just fine as it was also his opinion?

Why does Glasson, given her strict interpretation of the PRA, not object to the document retention of Bill and Hillary Clinton, and Joe Biden as Senator/VP? Aren't they just as deserving (or more) of criminal sanctions as Trump?

The double standards of progressives are staggering, and they don't blink an eye about the blatant hypocrisy they're displaying.

**Sam Prentice - Andover**

**Predawn Pleasure**

To the Editor:

Predawn, a time before the rising sun pinks the eastern sky is different from any other hour of the day. Silent are cat birds and wrens. Other woodland birds are taking their turns at filling the air with delightful song. Wood Thrushes call out and answer back and forth with a warble and flair. Other birds call and answer back in the woods-an ancient avian aria.

The bats are returning to roost for the day. Under the lights, their wings are nearly translucent and with their wobbly flight they manage to "land" at the stoop of their bat house. The swallows awake and take to the semi-dark with swift smooth swift flight and glide. They are in such contrast to the winged mammals, the bats, crooked jolting flight going "home" for the day after cleansing the air of insects all night long.

All this activity happens in during the short predawn timespan which is neither night nor day. Yet is a time of great transition.

And all the while the bullfrogs honk out their low bass songs. During the day they are mute.

Such pleasure is derived when the skies are turning from dark to light by so many species. The start of the day for some and the end of the day for others.

And it only takes one to get outside early to enjoy the audio display.

**Alison Walck - East Hampton**

**Running for ZBA Alternate**

To the Town of Hebron:

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the position of Zoning Board of Appeals alternate. As a passionate and engaged member of our community, I am eager to contribute my expertise and dedication to upholding the principles of fair and efficient zoning practices.

Over the years, I have closely followed the development and growth of our town, witnessing firsthand the impact of zoning decisions on our neighborhoods and businesses. I believe that responsible and balanced zoning is essential to maintain the unique character of our community while fostering sustainable growth.

My professional background in project management, has equipped me with the necessary skills to thoughtfully analyze zoning cases and make informed decisions. I am committed to ensuring that the zoning ordinances are interpreted accurately and fairly, promoting the best interests of our community.

If elected as the Zoning Board of Appeals alternate, I will approach every case with an open mind, carefully considering the input of all stakeholders involved. Transparency and communication are of utmost importance to me, and I will strive to maintain an approachable and accessible demeanor, encouraging active engagement with fellow board members and the public.

I firmly believe in the power of collaborative decision-making, and I am dedicated to working harmoniously with the other members of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Together, we can foster an environment of mutual respect and

cooperation to address zoning challenges effectively.

I am honored to be considered for this position, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity. With your support, I am committed to contributing my knowledge, experience, and passion to help shape a vibrant and sustainable future for our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
**William A. Alexander - Hebron**

**Seeking Your Continued Support**

To the Editor:

Hello Hebron voters - Election time approaches. I ask for your support to continue serving you on Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). I am currently the PZC's vice chairman and have been the PZC representative to Hebron's Open Space and Land Acquisition Committee (OSLAC).

I have lived in Hebron since 1991 with my wife, Ann, and work as finance controller for the Town of Vernon. All who know me through public meetings and Hebron Trail Ranger projects know of my deep commitment to the public good. Through careful research, planning, and recommendations by the OSLAC, supported by Hebron voters, I help protect Hebron's drinking water supplies, environmentally sensitive habitats, natural setting along the Air Line State Park Trail, what has become Burnt Hill Park and Raymond Brook Preserve, and historic and

See Letters, page 27

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# Radar Survey Reveals Numerous Unmarked Graves

By Michael Sinkewicz

The northwest corner of the Colchester Burying Ground only has one gravestone, but for years, residents have speculated that many unmarked graves actually exist on the site.

Now, following the completion of a ground penetrating survey, the Colchester Historic Society believes that at least 20 probable burials exist of people from the 18th and 19th centuries. "There's definitely evidence of burials there," Gary Walter, a member of the CHS Board of Governors, told the *Rivereast*.

The project was conducted in 2022 by GPRS LLC, who uses radar to send signals into the ground to determine whether there is disturbed soil. Typically for graves, the target zone is around six feet below the surface.

Walter said the report of the site revealed that the disturbed area lines up with the marked graves and is in the same pattern — facing east.

Who do the unmarked graves belong to? For centuries, an "oral history" has been passed along that poor individuals were buried at the site without markers, including indigenous people and slaves.

"That's always been the lore," Walter said.

Historical documents indicate that at least one of the slaves owned by Colchester resident Pierpont Bacon was potentially buried at the site. In addition, the 1800 U.S. Federal Census stated that there were 30 slaves and 161 free African Americans living in Colchester.

The discovery of the unmarked graves, Walter expressed, provides a level of confidence that slaves were likely buried at the site.

This past spring, a marker was installed at the burying ground to commemorate all the individuals buried in unmarked graves.

"It's just acknowledging the humanity of the people that were unceremoniously buried," he said.

In the early 1800s, the town operated a school for colored children. A committee of residents who founded Bacon Academy stated in the by-laws their intent to create a separate school to educate "Negroes and persons of colour." The teachers at the one-room schoolhouse were African Americans who received paid salaries comparable to white instructors.

"People don't think of the north when they think of slavery," Walter said. "There's a whole

history of the town being progressive towards its residents of color."

The initial ground survey project was suggested by James McNair, a former CHS Board of Governors member. After hearing the details, Walter agreed to champion the idea and the board ultimately signed off on funding the undertaking itself.

McNair, who is African American, would act out a specific character during previous CHS reenactments at the burying ground who was always standing in a distinct section of the overall site. The space, he speculated, could contain unmarked graves, but the CHS wouldn't approve a marker without proof.

Through a DNA database, McNair linked up with a citizen in Tennessee who shared a common relative. During the process, he discovered that he also had slave ancestry and observed how other cemeteries handled mass grave sites where the individuals were either unmarked or entirely unknown.

Thinking of his hometown, he thought, "There's got to be something that can be done."

At first, McNair expected to organize the project himself; he simply sought approval from the CHS to conduct the survey. But, the importance of the endeavor became evident.

"The CHS recognized that this was an oral history that can make more concrete," he said.

If individuals were in fact buried in that plot of the burying ground, they deserved to be honored.

"For centuries, people said there's people down there," he expressed. "Now everybody has a story that's being told."

Naturally, McNair said, people have a "burn-

ing curiosity" and "it's human nature to wonder what the real deal is." With a marker at the site, the discovered information will be preserved for future generations.

Walter stated that he contacted Dominick and Sons Monument Works Inc. to install the marker and Board of Governors member Arthur Liverant donated a fieldstone from his collection. In May, the marker was completed.

It reads in part, "This marker commemorates the unknown people from the 18th and 19th centuries buried in unmarked graves in this corner of the burying ground."

The marker was a "significant" aspect of the project, Walter explained.

"It will be there long after I'm gone," he said. "It commemorates people who might not have been too respected during their lives."

When McNair first brought the survey idea forward, Walter began searching for companies that specialize in that area of expertise. The radar equipment, he said, can be used for other purposes such as investigating if piping exists in an area.

"I was totally on board," he said.

As a member of the CHS, Walter's passion for history was on display throughout the project.

"It makes me feel connected to the town," he expressed. "I wanted to know what the actual truth is. I hope that it allows people to relate to people who lived 200 years ago."

McNair said that endeavor was "hugely positive."

"To me, the marker shows an empathy that's within the community," he said, adding that "this community has a good sense of celebrating the past."

## School Records to be Destroyed

On Aug. 30, the Colchester Board of Education will destroy any and all special education records of students who graduated or would have graduated with the classes of 2016 and 2017.

Also, suspension and expulsion records, with the exception of expulsions related to deadly weapons and/or firearms, are expunged and destroyed after a student graduates. These records will also be destroyed on Aug. 30.

If any student, as described above, would

like a copy of their special education records, they must request a copy before Aug. 30. Forward all requests to Amy Emory, Director of Pupil Services & Special Education, Colchester Public Schools, 380 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, or call the Department of Pupil Services at 860-537-3103.

Upon request, records will be available for pickup at the Department of Pupil Services' office.

## 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.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Monday, July 31:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

**Tuesday, Aug. 1:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Golf League; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; no AARP meeting today.

**Wednesday, Aug. 2:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1-3 p.m., Backus Stroke Survivors Program; 1-2:30 p.m., Life Review Journaling.

**Thursday, Aug. 3:** 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling by appointment only; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 12:30 p.m., Holiday Fair Meeting; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, Aug. 4:** 9-11:30 a.m., Chronic Disease Program; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; no Choral Group today; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Upcoming Programs: Inspired by Art Presentation: Ansel Adams & Our Public Landscapes:** Tuesday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m. Norwich Free Academy art teacher Sarah LeFrancois, who was a Funds for Teachers Fellow last summer, will discuss her trip to Yosemite last year to rephotograph the portfolio of American photographer Ansel Adams. This is a free program, open to all. There will be no project with this presentation, but participants will be encouraged to take photographs of their own local landscapes. Reg-

istration is required.

**Chatham Health Series:** Friday, Aug. 11, 11:15 a.m. Information will be shared about dental health. This is a free program. No registration required.

**Creamsicle Food Demo:** Monday, Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. On National Creamsicle Day, learn how to make Creamsicle Truffles and Orange Creamsicle No-Bake Cheesecake. Cost is \$3/person, which includes samples of each, a small box of truffles and recipes to recreate them at home.

**Ham Radio Meeting:** Friday, Aug. 18, 2 p.m. All are invited to come and learn about the broadcasting site. No registration required.

**Eating on a Budget:** Tuesday, Aug. 22, 11:15 a.m. Andrea Deedy, registered dietician from TVCCA, will share tips and tricks to creating meals and snacks that are easy on your budget. No registration required.

**Seasonal Crafting:** Tuesday, Aug. 29, 1:30 p.m. Start planning for the senior center's entry in the annual Scarecrow on the Green contest, then work on a Holiday Tree that will be donated to the Wadsworth Athenaeum's annual Festival of Trees & Traditions.

**Snack & Stretch Presentation:** Wednesday, Aug. 30, 11 a.m. Learn stretches you can do at home. An apple snack will be prepared on site. This is a free program, but registration is required.

**Making Memories Walk Team:** The senior center is looking for members to join its walk team "The Memory Makers," named in honor of the center's Making Memories Program, for the Walk to End Alzheimer's at Ocean Beach Park in New London. The walk will take place Saturday, Sept. 23, at 10 a.m. Last year, the team raised more than \$1,600. See Jodi for more information or to register for the team.

## 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.

**Wednesday Classes:** 2:30 p.m., Hebrew conversation; 3 p.m., Jewish Literacy

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

## Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

**Tag Sale:** Colchester Federated Church will hold its annual Tag Sale Saturday, Aug. 19, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Twelve-Step Meetings:** AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

**Car Wash Fundraiser**

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Cadets along with the Connecticut State Police Troop K Explorers will be holding a car wash fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 5, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The event will be held at the Colchester Fire Headquarters, 52 Old Harford Rd.

Advisors will assist with this event using foam power-sprayers. Donations accepted. For more information or if you are a business interested in donating lunch for the cadets, call Debi at 860-204-1598.

**Parks & Rec News & Notes**

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

**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.

**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.

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

**Bus Trip – Spooky Salem: Oct. 21. Cost is \$114/person.** Registration forms are available online. Bus will leave from Town Hall. For full itinerary, see the website.

## Meet the DTC Candidates

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee will host a Meet the Candidates fundraiser at Priam Vineyards on Friday, July 28, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and include a beverage of your choice, including wine or beer. Priam has music scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome to stay late.

The public is welcome to attend to learn more about Colchester Democrats' endorsed candidates for the upcoming municipal elections.

For more information or to pay in advance, visit the Colchester Democratic Town Committee website or Facebook page, or call 860-465-7909.

## 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](http://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](mailto:baconfof@gmail.com).



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# Democrats Announce 'Amazing' Election Slate

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester Democrats officially approved their nominees for the upcoming municipal election in November, endorsing a mix of experienced officials and political newcomers.

During their caucus Monday night at the Cragin Memorial Library, Democrats followed the recommendations put forward by their nominating committee, including the party's presumptive candidate for first selectman, Bernie Dennler.

For the Board of Selectmen, the three endorsed candidates are incumbents Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner, along with Dave Koji who serves as the chairman of the town's ad-hoc ARPA committee.

Stefanie Tracey-Calash joins incumbents Michelle Millington and Chris Rivers as nominees for the Board of Education. Scott Chapman and Karen Belding are the party's candidates for the Board of Finance.

Town Clerk Gayle Furman and Tax Collector Michele Wyatt are both seeking reelection.

Andrew Cournoyer is running again for Board of Assessment Appeals, joined by Krista Kardys. Sean Gillespie is running for town treasurer.

"This is an amazing slate of candidates," Democratic Town Committee Chairman Monica Egan told the *Rivereast*. "I'm very excited."

Egan said the local Democrats' priorities for the 2023 election include advocating for quality town services, such as education, while keeping taxes at an affordable level.

"We want to represent everyone in Colchester and their views and their thoughts," she said. "We want to do the right thing. I think that that's what this slate is all about — standing up for what the right thing is and how best to move this community forward in a way that's inclusive and positive and encourages collaboration."

In the months leading up to the official nomination, Democrats had largely appeared to back Dennler, who currently works as the office manager to the Lebanon first selectman and serves on the Public Safety Subcommittee in Colchester. Previously, he served as vice-chair of both the Colchester Board of Finance and the Economic Development Commission.

"With Bernie at the head of [the ticket], we're looking for experience and change," Egan asserted.

Despite the fresh endorsement, Dennler emphasized that his mission is to serve the town in a "nonpartisan way."

"It really is a management position and I think that party politics just doesn't matter as much in that role — or at least it shouldn't," he told the *Rivereast*. "I think under the current administration, we've seen a lot of partisan politics and part of why I'm running is I have a background in municipal government and I think that municipal government works best when people in these roles can take off the party hat and work for the citizens of the town."

Regardless of a person's party affiliation, he continued, "my job is to advocate for them, help them navigate their town government and make their town government work for them."

After serving a neighboring community,

Dennler is eager to represent his home town where he's formed lifelong connections. That opportunity, to work alongside friends and family, "means a lot to me," he expressed.

The slate of candidates is "diverse," Dennler said, adding that he wanted to run with individuals who shared his goal of "bringing Colchester together."

Crafting a ticket with varying levels of experience was purposeful, he said, asserting that Government works best when officials who bring "a wealth of knowledge" collaborate with new politicians.

"I think one of the problems we've seen over the past several years is that sometimes inexperience can really show," he said. "But it's also important to bring people in who have new perspectives and that's why I wanted to make sure this team also reflected that."

Rosemary Coyle, who has served on the Board of Selectmen since 2007, said she is ready to offer her vast municipal experience as a resource for Dennler.

"It's good, as somebody transitions into the job, to have somebody with experience," she told the *Rivereast*. "I'm the only one really left that has a lot of experience and I always feel my job is to teach; I'm a teacher at heart."

In her mind, officials should value each other's strengths. She stated that the current first selectman, a Republican, "rejected" her counsel.

Coyle said the town should function in a bipartisan manner.

"We have to get back to that," she said. "Some of my really good friends are not Democrats and that's okay, because we learned to work together and we did a lot of great things."

Coyle said the slate of candidates was "incredible," with some newcomers inspired to run after getting engaged in the latest budget process. For her, many priorities still need to come to fruition, including the construction of the town's new senior center and the execution of the remaining ARPA funds.

"I'm always excited to run and I want to finish what I started."

The tone out on the campaign trail is a topic that Dennler is frequently asked about, he said.

"It's impossible not to think about," he explained. "I think people know because of my experience they trust that I'm ready, they trust that I can lead. They want to know, do you have thick enough skin to handle the campaign piece of it?"

He continued, "I've worked on these campaigns in Colchester before. I've seen what happens on social media; I've seen the Facebook stuff — I'm just not intimidated by it."

Dennler said he knows what to expect and he'll address any issues if, or when, they arise.

"Our system of government in small towns like this only work if people stand up, take a risk and put themselves forward to serve their community," he said. "I'm putting myself out there and what happens happens."

Egan agreed that "it's a challenging environment, running for election" and "it's brave for people to come forward."

Regarding the tone of the campaign moving forward, Egan stated that Democrats were going



The Colchester Democrats set their slate Monday for this November's elections. As the signs indicate, the Democrats' first selectman nominee is Bernie Dennler. From left are, bottom row, Michele Wyatt, Andrew Cournoyer, Rosemary Coyle, Monica Egan, Denise Turner; middle row, Stefanie Tracey-Calash, Krista Kardys, Bernie Dennler, Karen Belding, Gayle Furman, Scott Chapman; top row, Dave Koji, Sean Gillespie, Michelle Millington, Chris Rivers.

to "keep our heads high" and "we're going to the right thing."

"We're going to run a positive campaign but when the truth needs to be told, we're going to tell the truth," she said. "Anything that requires clarification, we're going to put ourselves out there and clarify it and stand up for Colchester."

Only one nomination was made in addition to the names recommended by the DTC nominating committee. DeAva Lambert was motioned from the floor as a candidate for the Board of Selectmen. After a hand tally vote was conducted, both Turner and Koji received 99 votes, Coyle received 98 votes and Lambert received 2 votes. The three recipients with the most votes became the party's nominees.



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## Toastmasters Meet Twice Monthly

The Air Line Trail Toastmasters group meets at the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Town Hall Room 2 and on Zoom.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned speaker, you're welcome to come and receive feedback.

Call Chris for more details, at 860-537-0143.

## 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:

- 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.

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# Budgets Head to Town Meeting

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen last week unanimously endorsed the town and school budget proposals for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Both spending plans now head to a town meeting scheduled for Aug. 2, with a referendum slated for Aug. 9.

Earlier this month, the Colchester Board of Finance advanced the revised budgets to the selectmen after making adjustments to both bottom lines.

The finance board unanimously accepted a town budget bottom-line of \$15.66 million — the total is \$27,000 more than the original spending plan, while the school budget is listed at \$43.97 million — an increase of \$300,000 from the proposal that failed at referendum earlier this year.

Like the finance board, the selectmen were in total agreement with their support for the revised plans. While earlier meetings this year generated several continuous moments, a breakthrough with the numbers seemingly led to unanimity between the members.

Under the previous school budget proposal, parents feared that several programs would be threatened, including a reduction to the World Language program, the implementation of a pay-to-play fee of \$180 a year for instrumental music instruction at Jack Jackter Intermediate School and William J. Johnston Middle School and the elimination of a business teacher at Bacon Academy.

Finance board Democrat Mike Egan ex-

pressed that while the \$300,000 “doesn’t do everything,” it would “offset some of those impacts.”

Andrea Migliaccio, the chairman of the finance board and a Republican, stated that if the school budget failed once again at referendum, then \$250k would be trimmed from the bottom-line ahead of the subsequent referendum. Advisory questions, which allow voters to state whether the spending plans were either “too high” or “too low,” will also be removed from the ballot moving forward.

A financial error led to \$16.65 million being added to the grand list, equating to around \$455,000 in tax revenue.

Migliaccio previously told the *Rivereast* that the grand list concerns “were solved within the revenue calculation adjustments based on analyzing updated trend data and our market outlook for investment income.”

Egan and Migliaccio worked with the town’s finance department, Tax Assessor John Chaponis and First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos to rework the revenue numbers for the budget. The group “identified that we could increase the town and the school’s budget and come in at a lower mill than our last referendum within these adjustments,” she stated.

The mill rate actually decreased .02 from the prior referendum for a new rate of 27.2.

This week, Egan told the *Rivereast* that officials “sharpened our pencils” and fine-tuned the revenue numbers to their current figures. He in-

dicated that certain calculations may have been incorrect during previous budget deliberations, and the adjustments corrected any previous errors.

He credited both Migliaccio and Bisbikos for coming up with new revenue assumptions for the town, calling the outcome a “bipartisan victory.”

“Hopefully, we can get everyone out to approve both of these budgets,” he said, adding that the median tax increase per household was limited to a minor increase this year.

The additional \$300k for the schools was a fair compromise, he expressed. After advisory question results indicated that residents largely believed the school budget was underfunded, the resulting adjustment was justified.

For Egan, the mindset was, “let’s get something through and move forward.”

Still, with the challenges imposed by ongoing

budget issues in the school district, the Board of Education will likely face challenges at some point in the future, Egan said — “we’ll deal with it then.”

Egan is optimistic that the controversy generated by the last town meeting will be avoided next week.

In May, residents appeared to defeat two motions at annual town budget meeting that would’ve sent both budget proposals to referendum. Even though the municipal budget was defeated by a 114-33 tally and the school budget didn’t get past a voice vote, the referendum took place as scheduled.

Some town officials quoted directly from the town charter and a legal opinion provided by the town attorney to confirm that a referendum occur regardless of what transpired at the town meeting.

## 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.

## 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.

## Giving Garden Fundraiser

The Colchester Giving Garden committee is hosting the Cold Spring Farm food truck 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.

## Volunteer Drivers Sought

Colchester Senior Center is seeking several volunteers with daytime availability to serve as substitute drivers for Meals-on-Wheels, delivering meals, a wellness check and a short social visit to elderly residents who are homebound.

You will be called upon to fill-in for regular drivers who need to take some time off. Must have reliable transportation. Training is provided.

If interested, call Valerie at the senior center at 860-537-3911.

## Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

## Granby Man Killed in Crash

By Michael Sinkewicz

A Granby resident was killed when a car he was driving struck a tree in Colchester last week, according to Colchester Police.

James Lacroix, 56, was airlifted to Hartford Hospital via Lifestar with suspected life-threatening injuries. He was pronounced dead by hospital staff, police told the *Rivereast*.

According to police, Lacroix was the sole occupant of the vehicle.

The 2002 Toyota Tundra was traveling

southbound on Old Hebron Road in Colchester when it failed to execute a right curve in the road, police said. The vehicle entered the north bound lane and nearly struck an oncoming vehicle head on before traveling off the left side of the road.

The car re-entered the roadway and crossed over both lanes of traffic, running off the ride side of the road and striking a tree head-on, police said.

## Residents Graduate

Colchester residents Gregory Leitkowski and Will Anderson recently graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

They each received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

## Dean’s List

Colchester residents Cayden Bertrand and Zachary Henkin made the spring 2023 Dean’s List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.



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**100 Years for Elsie!...** On Saturday, July 22, Elsie Heberding's family and friends got together at Complete Care at Harrington Court in Colchester to celebrate her upcoming 100th birthday. She will turn 100 on July 31st! Elsie lived most of her life the City of Norwich. She enjoys spending time with her friends watching the birds and people-watching. Congratulations Elsie!

**Dean's List**

The following Colchester residents made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Hartford:

Lillian Wonderly, Lucas Slomski, Samantha Ciaglo, Elizabeth Ladegard, Colin Larkin, Emily Tellar, Sokheta Nguon, Tybal Slattery of Colchester, Jade Hostetler, Jenna Kiernan and Mackenzie Root.

**Westchester Church News**

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

**Meetings:** 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.

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

**Residents Graduate**

Colchester residents Theodore Chesnes and Lenora Stewart recently graduated from the University of Albany in Albany, N.Y.

Chesnes graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in urban studies and planning. Stewart graduated with a Master of Social Work degree in social work.

**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.

**History Museum Open Weekly**

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., until Dec. 3.

The museum, adjacent to Cragin Memorial Library, is free and features exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. The museum offers guided and self-guided tours.

For more information, contact the historical society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

**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 broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://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.

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**Family Vacation to Alaska...** The Kranc family of Colchester recently took a family vacation to Alaska. (Denali National Park is shown here). It was a bucket list vacation to celebrate many milestones: Andrea Kranc celebrating a 10-year anniversary of being a breast cancer survivor, Zak Kranc graduating from UConn law school, Chelsea Kranc graduating from Simmons University, and Matthew Kranc graduating from Bacon Academy in 2022.

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

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



**Loving the Lake...** Terry Sheehan of Portland recently visited her daughter Emily, son-in-law Keith, and grandson, 5-year-old Harvey, in Minnetonka, Minn. They are pictured at Lake Minnetonka with a copy of the *Rivereast*.



**Jekyll Island...** Robin Murray of Andover recently visited Jekyll Island, Ga. Murray is shown here standing on a huge chair about to read her *Rivereast*. "There's nothing like a game of croquet in the midst of turtles and Spanish moss," she said.



**From Colchester to Panama...** Brothers Matthew and Nicholas Cavaliere of Colchester recently traveled to Panama City, Panama together – and of course they brought along the *Rivereast*!

# Where in the World?

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

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**Douglas Library News & Notes**

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

**Master the Art of Preserving Your Harvest:** Tuesday, Aug. 1, 6 p.m. There will be a presentation on pickling, canning, freezing and drying techniques, by Mark Gostkiewicz of Tri Gable Lea Farm in Colchester.

**Summer Reading:** This program gives library

users of all ages a chance to win prizes over the summer. Young adults and adults can pick up their bingo cards at the library or from the library website. Complete a row in any direction, bring it in and spin the wheel for a prize. Children can pick up their reading log, complete a week and return for a prize.

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

**The Worship Center News & Notes**

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

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

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

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

the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: July 28.

**Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship:** Typically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church. However, this month the Youth Group is having a special overnight. They'll take in summer with a campout at the church and an excursion the following day.

**Virtual Prayer Night:** Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

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

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

**Senior Center News & Notes**

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

**Movie Mondays:** On July 31, step back in time to watch the 1942 movie *Woman of the Year*, starring Katherine Hepburn; then on Aug. 14, *Queen Bees*, starring Ellen Burstyn and James Caan (in his final film released during his lifetime), Ann-Margret, Christopher Lloyd, Jane Curtin, Loretta Devine, and Elizabeth Mitchell.

**Ice Cream Social:** Tuesday, Aug. 1, 12:30 p.m., at the senior center, sponsored by Marlborough Health & Rehab. Make your own ice cream sundae with toppings. This event is free, but pre-register by Monday, July 31.

**Weekly Shopping Trips: Fridays at noon.** Note adjustments to the schedule due to bus availability. There will be trips to Walmart/Aldi Aug. 4 and 25, Big Y Aug. 11, and Stop and Shop Sept. 1. There will be no shopping the week of Aug. 14. Pre-registration is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.; call the senior center to register.

**Chatham Health Monthly Presentation:** Tuesday, Aug. 15, 12:15 p.m. The topic will be dental health. There will be raffle prize giveaways for the participants. If you'd like, come a few minutes earlier and sign-up for lunch (\$3) at noon. To register, call the senior center.

**Summer Send-Off Shindig:** Wednesday, Aug. 23, 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., for a summer send-off party. Doors will open at 11:15 a.m. for cornhole or axe-throwing. Lunch will be served at noon: roasted chicken leg, potato and macaroni salad, chips, dessert, lemonade, and iced tea. Then there will be entertainment provided by Bruce John from 12:30-1:30 p.m. John was co-founder and owner of the Shaboo Inn, a popular Willimantic nightclub in the 1970s. Cost is \$10; pre-registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 18.

**Social Worker Corner:** Two new programs are coming soon: Caregiver Support Group and Coffee Chat with the Social Worker. Time and day to be determined depending on interest. Call Michele to express your interest or for more information, at 860-228-1700 ext. 204.

**Massage Therapy:** By appointment Mondays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursdays from

11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Massage therapist Beverly Williams will perform 25-minute (for \$25) or 50-minute (for \$50) chair or table massages or hot stone massages. Call the senior center to make an appointment.

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

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

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

**Mondays:** Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m. **Tuesdays:** Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Hand and Foot Canasta (cards), 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Card-Stamping, 1-2:15 p.m. **Wednesdays:** Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m. **Thursdays:** Massage, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunshine Singers, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m. **Fridays:** Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Fun with Stitches Open Quilting Group, first and third Fridays of the month, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Created to Create Open Arts Group, second and fourth Fridays of the month, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.



**Golden Girl Scout... Catherine Chester** of Hebron recently received the Girl Scout Gold Award, for her work in developing a trail-mapping system for the open spaces within town. Catherine teamed up with community volunteers to mark trails, advertise in the town's local paper and hold "Walk, Talk and Cut" events. Volunteers and the town Parks and Recreation Department agreed to lead her Trail Rangers program to help keep these trails clean and usable in the coming years. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest leadership award a Girl Scout can earn. From left are Diana Mahoney, CEO of Girl Scouts of Connecticut; Catherine; and Pamela Scagliarini, chair of Girl Scouts of Connecticut's Board of Directors. Photo by Girl Scouts of Connecticut.

**Housing Authority Energy Campaign**

The Hebron Housing Authority and the Town of Hebron are currently partnering with the State of Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). They are working on an important facility upgrade project at Stonecroft Village, apartments for seniors and disabled individuals.

Funding has been provided by state DOH and CHFA grants, town and ARPA funds, but

a shortfall still exists. All are asked to consider making a contribution to support this project.

Information can be found at [www.patronicity.com/StonecroftEnergyCampaign](http://www.patronicity.com/StonecroftEnergyCampaign).

Sustainable CTR will make a match if enough funds are raised.

For more information, email Florence O'Sullivan at [StonecroftEnergyCampaign@gmail.com](mailto:StonecroftEnergyCampaign@gmail.com).

**American Legion 'Chicken-to-Fly'**

American Legion Post 95 will sponsor its annual "Chicken-to-Fly" chicken dinner Saturday, July 29, from 12:30-3 p.m., at Post 95, located at 18 Main St., in between Douglas Library and The Flour Girl Bakery.

Cost is \$15 and includes a half-barbequed chicken, corn bread, pasta salad and coleslaw. Drive in the library rear parking lot for outside

pick-up.

To reserve a dinner – have exact change or check made out to American Legion Post 95 – contact Joe Fetta, post commander, at 203-848-5913, or Ron Parkyn, post senior vice commander, at [park1969@comcast.net](mailto:park1969@comcast.net).

Limited tickets will also be available at drive-up.

**Christ Lutheran News & Notes**

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

**Sunday Worship:** Sundays at 9 a.m. People can also watch live online at [www.facebook.com/clchebron/live](http://www.facebook.com/clchebron/live).

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

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

**Caring Shepherds:** Watch for the date of the next Open Pantry. Caring Shepherds distributes

household and hygiene items, as well as food pantry staples, Bibles, and prayers. For more information, call Caring Shepherds Ministry at 860-494-0431.

**Early Childhood Center:** The center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school in a Christian environment. The center is open to all walks of faith. Ande Shutler is the director. Call 860-228-5134 for more information. The center is taking applications for summer camp; the application form is at [www.clecchebron.org](http://www.clecchebron.org).



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**Farmers Market Monthly**

The Hebron Farmers and Artisans Market takes place the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Hebron Elementary School parking lot, 92 Church St.

Offerings include seasonal fruits, vegetables, baked goods, and natural-grown products right from Hebron. There will also be live entertainment and fare from specialty food trucks.

The markets run through October. For more information, call the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department 860-530-1281.

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## Republicans, Democrats Announce Slates

By Michael Sinkewicz

This week, the Hebron Democratic and Republican Town Committees approved a slate of candidates for the upcoming municipal election in November.

The chairman of both committees reviewed the nominees and the direction of their respective parties with the *Rivereast*.

### Republican Slate

Republican Town Committee Chairman Keith Petit expressed that some candidates, namely the open slots for the RHAM Board of Education, are yet to be finalized.

Party leadership, he explained, recently underwent a transition and the nominating process was somewhat delayed.

Still, many of the major boards have official candidates linked to them for the upcoming election, which is around 100 days away.

For the Board of Selectmen, the RTC is endorsing incumbent Peter Kasper. Petit, who currently serves on the local school board, will also be seeking a selectmen seat.

Kaper brings “continuation” to the board, Petit said. He’s been the selectmen’s liaison to a small survey committee relating to the town’s ongoing DPW facility debate — a critical issue facing the community, Petit said.

“It’ll be great to have him carrying on with his experience,” he said. “Candidates will need to get up to speed on that.”

Notably, Republican selectman Gail Richmond will not be seeking reelection. After decades of town service, she is stepping away in the fall.

“That’s going to be a loss for the town,” Petit expressed. “She has a wealth of knowledge.”

Jim DeDonato, a political newcomer, is the party’s nominee for the Board of Finance.

For the Board of Education, current members Joe Margaitis, Alley Nadeau-Schmiezl and Sera Cuppolino are all on the ballot. They are joined by Kim Hills, a teacher at RHAM.

June Danaher, the incumbent, and Mann Hasen are the nominees for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Steve Weir is listed as an alternate member.

Key issues identified by Petit include the next town budget cycle. The spending plans took three referendums to be approved this year, an outcome officials would like to avoid moving forward.

Each board enters the budget process at a different time, Petit said, but it generally begins almost immediately after the election and there’s a “steep learning curve.”

Republicans have held majority control over many of the town’s boards and commissions in recent years. Leadership, Petit expressed, has served the community well.

The town boasts a strong fund balance account, a luxury other communities lack, Petit explained. Despite reductions, or future reductions in budgets, the town can perhaps dip into these accounts because of their healthy levels.

Hebron has been “fiscally prudent” under Republican leaders, he added.

New England Republicanism, he expressed, is slightly different than the national brand on certain issues, but adheres to shared beliefs regarding being fiscally responsibly.

While some RTC members may hold certain national political views, they should rarely seep into the local narrative.

“What I love about Hebron is this feeling that it is politics, but we’re also neighbors and there’s a sense of community,” Petit said. “We all have that singular purpose of making Hebron the best town that we can.”

He cited his own work on the Board of Education, where the Republicans hold a wide majority. Still, they work together as a group and advocate for the best interest of the school district, he said.

Petit expressed that the campaign will be clean and civil. Typically, contentious elections are spawned by individuals with their own personal agendas — something he doesn’t anticipate with this slate.

“We’ve always tried to keep that neighborly cordiality,” he said. “We want to promote what we bring to the table. We have to work with each other at the end of the day.”

### Democratic Slate

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Erin Bussiere said she was “extremely excited” to introduce this slate of candidates, which features a large number of political newcomers.

“This is a really strong group of individuals,” she said. “They’re community involved and ready to take the next steps.”

For the Board of Selectmen, John Matra, who currently serves on the Hebron Green Committee, is running alongside newcomer Claudia Riley.

The Board of Finance nominees are Adam Ockman and Brian Thibeault.

Elizabeth Alexander, Eleisha LeMay and Brittany Loudonback are the candidates for the Hebron Board of Education.

Heather Summerer is seeking reelection on the RHAM Board of Education. She is joined on the ticket by Maura Curran Baker.

For the Planning and Zoning Commission, vice chair Frank Zitkus is running once again. Janet Fodaski, who currently serves on the Board of Finance, is looking for a new seat. Davis Howell is running as an alternate.

David Rose is looking for a reappointment on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

The Zoning Board of Appeals candidates are Bryan Smith, who currently serves as an alternate, and Amy DeCesare, with Will Alexander as an alternate.

For Bussiere, fresh faces mean fresh ideas.

All of these candidates, she said, have followed local politics and have seen a need for improvement. That love of community is what motivates these nominees.

“They’re ready to make a difference,” she said.

Bussiere emphasized that national issues have little relevance in local government. A crucial

issue facing the community, she said, is how to make the town more affordable for young people and senior citizens — “that’s a huge concern for us.”

She also strives for stronger education — for a system that encourages students to return to Hebron after graduation. The party’s goal is to “bridge the gap between people that are more fortunate and those that need help.”

“They need a voice,” she asserted.

Like Petit, Bussiere believes the latest budget cycle was a pivotal moment for Hebron. The boards of selectman and finance, she said, were at a “standstill.” The result was the engagement of a new group of residents and parents who decided to become active in their community.

“They said, ‘Are we funding everything properly?’”

That change, Bussiere said, “has been a big driving factor in town.” Voter turnout this year, she added, was encouraging.

Another major issue, the controversial proposal to build a new Public Works facility on Kinney Road, will likely carry over into the new municipal term. Citizens have reached out to the DTC, searching for a voice, she said, adding that the topic will need to be fully flushed out moving forward.

What will the tone of the campaign be this year?

“We plan on being honest,” Bussiere said. “We’re going to point out the differences.”

While the DTC’s focus will be on “our candidates and what they have to offer,” the group will not shy away from identifying where each individual stands on a particular issue and making those comparisons.

Still, Bussiere expressed, “I don’t foresee any big blow-ups.”

## St. Peter’s News & Notes

The summer service schedule at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., is in effect, with one service of Holy Eucharist held at 9 a.m. in the church hall. All are invited to stay for coffee and conversation after the services. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

**Meetings and Events:** Balancing Class, on summer break, resuming Aug. 14; Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts: also on summer break; Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop): every other Tuesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds

Committee: first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Vestry: third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

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

For more information, visit [stpetershebron.com](http://stpetershebron.com), search for St. Peter’s Hebron on Facebook, or email [office@stpetershebron.com](mailto:office@stpetershebron.com).

## 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 [hollyfamilyhebron.org](http://hollyfamilyhebron.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); and sturdy adult backpacks. **Men’s:** sweat pants, solid color T-shirts and boxer briefs (M,L,XL,2XL); and flip-flops (used as shower shoes). **Women’s:** sports

bras (M,L,XL,2XL); body powder; deodorant; tampons, flip-flops; and briefs (sizes 6 and up). **Cleaning Supplies:** Windex; Pine-Sol floor cleaner; toilet bowl 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:** first aid supplies; insect repellent; sunscreen; Ziploc storage bags (sandwich and quart); 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.

## Summer Concert Series Wraps Up

The Town Center Project Inc.’s summer concert series will wrap up tonight, Friday, July 28, from 6-8 p.m., on the side lawn of Century 21, 17 Main St.

The Hosmer Mountain Boys will perform, playing bluegrass.

## Dean’s List

Alison Bakke of Hebron made the spring 2023 Dean’s List at the University of Hartford.

\*\*\*

Corey Ennis of Hebron made the spring 2023 Dean’s List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

## Parks and Recreation News

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering many summer programs. For full program descriptions and to register, visit [hebronct.recdesk.com](http://hebronct.recdesk.com) or call 860-530-1281.

**Summer Scrimmage Basketball Camp:** Aug. 7-10, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, for boys and girls in grades 5-8. All basketball skill and ability levels welcomed. 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.

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## Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the church bulletin at [gilead-churchucc.updates.church](http://gilead-churchucc.updates.church), email [gcc@gilead-church.net](mailto:gcc@gilead-church.net), or call 860-228-3077.

**Summer Sunday Worship:** For the summer, worship is at 9 a.m., with coffee hour at 10. Services are also available on YouTube at [www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC](http://www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC) and on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Scheduled Events/Meetings:** 7/31: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 8/1: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 8/3 – Deacons’ Meeting, 7 p.m.

**Church Picnic:** Saturday, Aug. 5. Games and food will start at 5 p.m. and the movie will happen in the garden at dusk. RSVP through the Loop Bulletin, or call the church office.

**Potluck and Prayer:** Wednesday, Aug. 16. Bring a dish to share and arrive by or before 6 p.m. to enjoy an evening of fellowship.

## Historic Properties Commission to Open Sites

The Hebron Historic Properties Commission will have the Gull Schoolhouse and the World War II Civilian Aircraft Observation Post open to the public Sunday, Aug. 6, from 1-3 p.m.

The Gull Schoolhouse, currently located on Marjorie Circle near the Town Office complex, 15 Gilead St., is originally from the Grayville section of Hebron. The first schoolhouse, located at the intersection of Grayville and Old Colchester roads, burned and this replacement was built in about 1815. By 1949, when Hebron Elementary School was opened, all of the town’s one-room schools were closed. Henrietta Green bought the Gull School, had it moved to her property, and restored it to its appearance when she taught there in the early 1930s.

The World War II Civilian Aircraft Observation Post – also currently located at 15 Gilead St. – was built in 1942 on top of Post Hill, Columbia, just over the Hebron town line. “Spotters” were scheduled from both Hebron and Columbia for 24/7 coverage, and they reported every passing airplane to the Boston filter center. The fear at the time was that both Atlantic and Pacific coastal states could be attacked by the Axis during the war. In addition to homefront activities, you will see information about the Hebron individuals who served our country, as well as an extensive collection of WWII books, sheet music, photos, uniforms and more.

Guides will be available at the Gull Schoolhouse and the Observation Post.

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**Helping the Harasimowitz Habitat...** Hebron Trail Rangers pause in front of the woodland pond at Hebron's "Harasimowitz Preserve" after pulling or cutting down invasive bittersweet, multiflora rose, shrub honeysuckle, and barberry at the pond's edge (where native vegetation had been removed in the past). This habitat assist was held after a guided hike on July 23. Mary Jean Wakefield (right), Frank Zitkus (left), James Kenniston and Ann Zitkus thwarted invasives at the pond; Carolyn Aubin and Melanie Savage also attended and contributed to the afternoon's habitat exploration and assist. All interested in such activities should email [hebrontrail.leader01@gmail.com](mailto:hebrontrail.leader01@gmail.com) or contact the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department.

## Donations Sought for Bake Sale

The Friends of Douglas Library group is accepting donations of used books in good condition for its upcoming book sale, which will take place Saturday, Aug. 12, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the library's community room. From 1-3 p.m., there will be a \$5 per bag sale, with no limit on the number of bags you can purchase.

Fiction, science fiction, mysteries, romances, non-fiction and children's books are requested. CDs and DVDs are also welcome. Do not donate VHS tapes, encyclopedias, magazines, or Reader's Digest condensed books. All donated

items should be in good condition, not mildewed, moldy, dirty or torn.

Douglas Library is located at 22 Main St. on the Hebron Green.

Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase new material for the library, museum passes, equipment, and to pay for children's and adult programs. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the white donation bin to the right of the main parking lot entrance. For assistance with large donations, call the Friends ahead of time, at 860-228-9312 ext. 312.

## Dean's List

Derek Johnson of Hebron made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

## DTC Garden Party Fundraiser

The Hebron Democratic Town Committee will hold a Garden Party fundraiser Saturday, July 29, from 4-6 p.m., at the home of Carissa and Dan Johnson. All are invited to meet the Hebron Democrats' slate for November's municipal elections.

Suggested donation is \$30 per ticket, and \$10 student tickets are also available. For tickets and more information, visit [Hebrondems.com](http://Hebrondems.com).

## Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Church of Hope is a biblically-driven Christ-centered church.

Worship is in person and via livestream on the church website. For more information, and the guidelines for in-person worship, visit [www.hebronchurchofhope.org](http://www.hebronchurchofhope.org).

The church office is closed until further notice. Pastor Jordan Brown can meet by appointment; use the church website to set up a time.

For more information about Hebron Church of Hope, visit the website or look for the church on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

East Hampton • East Hampton

# New Program to Link Older People with Volunteers

By Kathleen Megan

Do you know an older person who might enjoy a visit or could use a hand with yard work, household chores, technology, transportation or other practical tasks?

Or would you be willing to help an older person with any of these tasks?

The East Hampton Commission on Aging is working with a Manchester-based nonprofit called UR Community Cares to link older and disabled residents who need a hand with willing volunteers.

Commission Chair Eric Rosenberg said the commission's survey of older adults in 2021 "found many unmet needs that made it harder for older adults to live in their homes."

That survey showed that about a third of older adults needed help maintaining their homes, doing yardwork and getting transportation to medical appointments.

Town government has limited resources to fill those needs, Rosenberg said, but he suspects that many people who live in town would want to help if they knew who needed the help and when.

That's where UR Community Cares comes in. In 2019 Michelle Puzzo, a Manchester resident who treated older patients as a physical therapist noticed that many of them would need help if they wanted to continue living at home.

"I was walking up the sidewalk with one of my patients and one of his neighbors came out and said, 'Hey, if I knew you needed help, I would have helped you.' That's when the lightbulb came on ... I thought, what if we could build a better way to connect the neighborhood?"

The program now has participants – including recipients and volunteers – in 160 Connecticut towns. Seventy Connecticut communities have funding for the program – whether through foundation grants or other means.

Rosenberg said the program is "convenient, safe, and insured," and the Commission and the East Hampton Senior Center are planning to start a local branch – East Hampton Community Cares.

Senior Center Director Jo Ann Ewing said older adults will benefit from the additional help and for some, it may mean staying in their own homes for longer.

"I get a lot of calls from people looking for someone for small jobs," said Ewing. "They don't know who to reach out to and who to trust."

### How It Works

To get the program running in East Hampton, Puzzo said they need funding, people who would like help and recipients.

Puzzo explained that one-time funding at \$100 per participant is needed – for both recipients and volunteers. This covers the cost of background checks to ensure everyone's safety. That funding also pays for computer system costs and umbrella insurance policies.

There is never a charge to the individual who volunteers or is a recipient.

Rosenberg said that East Hampton Community Cares already has sufficient funding to kick-off the program with leadership gifts of \$2,000 from the East Hampton Senior Center and \$3,000 from the Rotary Club of East Hampton. That funding will cover the cost for 50 volunteers and recipients at \$100 each.

What is needed now, Rosenberg said, are volunteers and people who could use help.

To that end, the commission has scheduled two information sessions on Wednesday, Sept. 13, the first at 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center and the other at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Public Library.

Recipients can be anyone who is 70 or older or a disabled adult of any age.

Volunteers can be adults over the age of 18 or teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 with parental consent and visit supervision. Groups of volunteers from churches, colleges, high schools, businesses and other organizations are welcome.

More information is available at [www.urcommunitycares.org](http://www.urcommunitycares.org) or through the senior center.

### Who Needs the Help

Beth Angel, an East Hampton resident, is 73 and has severe arthritis in both hips. That problem was compounded when she was in a car accident. "I was t-boned," she said. Her car was totaled and she hasn't driven since.

So today, Beth uses a walker and there are many practical ways she would greatly appreciate some help.

"I need help cleaning around the house because I can't really reach up high," Angel said. "And I can't bend down low. I'm not as mobile as I was. It does get frustrating because I don't like a messy house."

She could also use help with gardening and pruning and transportation is an issue. She has to go to Colchester twice a week for physical therapy and it's been hard finding people to take her.

Beth has enrolled in UR Community Cares and found one volunteer from out of town who provided help with driving. But that person is now having car trouble and can't drive her.

She hopes that when East Hampton Community Cares gets going, she will be able to find volunteers who live nearer by and can more easily help out.

Lorice Kelly, 81, in Manchester, called UR Community Cares "a brilliant idea" and said that as soon as she heard about it a couple of years ago, she signed up.

"I know a good thing when I see it," she said. "So it's been pretty consistent since then. I'm very fortunate."

Kelly connected with Lori Thompson, also from Manchester, who had just retired and was looking for volunteer opportunities.

"She drives me to medical appointments and she also does a little shopping for me. She'll pick up things I need, like birdseed," said Kelly. "She's very flexible and really quite wonderful."

Kelly said there is a bus in Manchester for senior citizens, but the problem is that so many people have to be picked up and dropped off, it can take an entire day to get home from a single doctor's appointment.

"If you have someone you can call and they'll come, that's really nice," she said.

Thompson said she really enjoys her time with Kelly and also helps about five other Community Cares' clients. She takes some to medical appointments, gardens for others. She stays in touch with one former client by visiting and doing her nails.

"It's such a great organization," she said. "You can do as much or as little as you want. You're



**The East Hampton Commission on Aging is working with a Manchester-based nonprofit called UR Community Cares to link older and disabled residents who need a hand with willing volunteers. Nelson Maurice, 86, and his wife Ivy, 85, shown here having lunch at the East Hampton Senior Center, live with their daughter so they have someone to help them, but Ivy said she feels the partnership is "a wonderful idea."**

not tied down and you can pick and choose what you do.

"It's very fulfilling. Any little thing you do is so appreciated and needed in that community."

Kelly is very independent and likes living in her own house. Without UR Community Cares she said, "I probably would have to go into assisted living or something like that."

At the East Hampton Senior Center recently, several residents eating lunch said they didn't need help, but they might someday.

Nelson Maurice, 86, and his wife Ivy, 85, said they live with their daughter so they have some-

one to help them.

"But I think it's a wonderful idea," said Ivy Maurice. "I'm sure there are people who need it more than I do now."

Brad Fairchild, 70, said he could use some help now mowing his lawn.

"I had a kid doing it, but then he went and got older and got another job," said Fairchild. "With my cardiac issues, I can't do it."

*Note: Kathleen Megan is a former reporter for The Hartford Courant and Connecticut Mirror, and is currently a teacher and freelancer.*

## Democrats Announce Slate for November Election

The local Democratic Town Committee has endorsed its slate for the November municipal election, featuring a mix of incumbents and new candidates.

Democratic candidates said they are focused on community progress, school improvement, quality of life for all residents, public safety, water access, lake maintenance, and other local issues. The slate was unanimously approved during a caucus held on July 20.

The Democrats seek to flip the majority on the Town Council, where every seat is up for election. East Hampton Democrats are running an entirely new slate for the council, with incumbent councilors Kevin Reich and James "Pete" Brown both opting not to run. In their place, longtime former councilor Dean Markham is joined on the ticket by Richard Knotek and Jack Solomon, as well as first-time candidates Karen Wanat and Jordan Werme. The latter is also running on the Green Party ticket.

Four Board of Education seats are up for election in November. Incumbent Kenneth Barber is seeking another term. Paul Wisniewski joins him on the ticket, along with first-time candi-

dates Edie DeSimone and Matt Engelhardt.

Three seats are up for election on the Board of Finance. Incumbent Ted Turner is seeking another term on the board, along with fellow candidates Kurt Comiskey and Anthony Spagnoletti.

Zoning Board of Appeals candidates Evan Giza and Brian Spack round out the Democratic ticket. Both are first-time candidates for office.

Democrats said they plan a full calendar filled with events and opportunities to meet and ask questions of the candidates. Events will be announced soon.

Democratic Candidates for the Nov. 7 municipal election:

Town Council: Richard Knotek, Dean Markham, Jack Solomon, Karen Wanat, Jordan Werme.

Board of Education: Kenneth Barber, Edie DiSimone, Matt Engelhardt, Paul Wisniewski.

Board of Finance: Kurt Comiskey, Anthony Spagnoletti, Ted Turner.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Evan Giza (2024), Brian Spack (2023).

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# Football and Cheer Pre-Season Car Wash

By London Brazal

As summer starts to wind down, football and cheerleading season is just around the corner.

Last Saturday, the East Hampton Youth Football and Cheerleading Association hosted a car wash at Fowler's on Main Street. Locals enjoyed a \$10 car wash and some delicious baked goods. The proceeds benefited the organization and will help pay for new uniforms.

Madison Connors, a cheerleader, was very excited to participate in the car wash. She loved cheering on the sidewalk to help real in cars, her favorite thing about cheerleading is tumbling. Her mom, Amanda Kolb, said that there was a good turnout on the sunny Saturday.

Known as the "Hawks Family," the group of kids and parents working were happy to contribute. Like Connors, many of the cheerleaders enjoyed chanting by the sidewalk. Overall, it was an exciting day for the kids to participate. Though it was a hot day, the Hawks' mascot also made an appearance to keep spirits up.

The president of the association, Dave Johnson, was thrilled with the success of the event. The board members gathered together and came up with the idea of hosting a car wash and bake sale to fundraise money. Frankly, they did not know how many people would actually attend. "We really had no idea if there was going to be three cars, or cars all day," Johnson said.

According to Johnson, almost 100 cars came through to get a wash. Between the car wash and bake sale, the organization fundraised over \$1,500. All of the money will help with the stu-

dents' uniforms including shoulder pads. Johnson said that the program can get expensive, but with this fundraiser, the football players are looking at new jerseys and the cheerleaders are looking at new uniforms.

While reflecting on the event, Johnson was proud of the kids' commitment as well as the parents. "The plus side is the kids' commitment and the parent involvement," he said. Without support from the parents who came out, the event would have been difficult. "If it was just us board members, we would never be able to do this."

The organization also wants to send its gratitude to East Hampton Auto Parts and Tony Flannery with Belltown Motors for all of their help. East Hampton Auto Parts donated all of the supplies including buckets, sponges, and nozzles. "They were phenomenal, without the help of those two, we wouldn't have made this happen," Johnson added.

During the event, the owners of the Xtramart gas station came over to donate a large box of lollipops for the kids to enjoy. While bringing their cars to the car wash, they also gave out free coffee to the parents that helped volunteer. Johnson was ecstatic for another community organization to support the Hawks.

"I thought that was very cool," Johnson said. "That's something that I really cherish when we do an event like that and the whole community comes together. It makes the event," Johnson said.

As the 2023 season is about to begin, many



Cheerleaders showed off their skills to get customers for the Hawks' first car wash fundraiser last weekend.

members of the Hawk family are thrilled to be back on the field. The organization is an inclusive group and would like to see more people register for both groups.

Johnson said he is looking forward to seeing the kids back out there. "It's a community of different sports," he said. "The cheerleaders and footballers support each other."

Children age 3 to entering eighth grade can register for the 2023 season. The organization encourages children of all skill levels to register and join a program for their age. Registration

closes on Aug. 20, but the season starts Monday, July 31, and runs until Nov. 19. The club asks all participants' families to help volunteer in some capacity as the organization relies on parent support. Practices are located at the East Hampton Middle School football field.

The East Hampton Youth Football and Cheerleading Association is a member of the Connecticut Youth Football League. Anyone interested can visit [ehyouthfootball.org](http://ehyouthfootball.org) or Facebook @EHHawks to find more information.

## Lake-Smart Awards Available

With summer here, folks can have their lake or watershed property evaluated to see what improvements they can make to their property in order to have a cleaner Lake Pocotopaug - and to also win a Lake-Smart Award that is given by the East Hampton Conservation and Lake Commission (C&LC).

The East Hampton C&LC started the "Lake-Smart Award Program" for property owners living on Lake Pocotopaug or in the surrounding watershed. The purpose is to encourage property owners to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug by doing projects to prevent infiltration of phosphates, nitrates, pesticides, and other impurities from entering the lake. Those that achieve seven requirements will receive a Lake-Smart Award sign they can display on their property.

Those wishing to be evaluated for the award

should contact: Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Dept. (860-267-7300 or [jhall@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:jhall@easthamptonct.gov)) or Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Dept. (860-267-7450 or [jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov)) or any members of the C&LC. An appointment will be arranged for a C&LC member to visit the owners and help them evaluate their property. If there is a deficiency, owners will be given suggestions on improving their property. If they achieve all the goals, they will receive a Lake-Smart Award.

Lake and watershed property owners can also apply for Lake Smart Award Grant Program sponsored by the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug who are offering resident grants up to \$150 to make one or more Lake Smart improvements. They can apply after they have been evaluated and shown need for improving their property.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

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

service. All are welcome.

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

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

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

## Dean's List

East Hampton residents Reilly Keegan, Noah Gibson, Sean Svalestad, Ryan Arndt, Josh Ruder made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Hartford.

## Goff House Concert Series Wraps Up

The Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series will wrap up Thursday, Aug. 3, at 6:30 p.m., at the Center School Gazebo on Summit Street, in the Village Center.

The band Big Deal Rock will perform, playing classic rock hits.

## 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.

## 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.

## Light Up the Lake

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug group invites boaters, property owners and lake associations to participate in "Light Up the Lake" Saturday, Aug. 12, at 8:30 p.m. Just decorate your boat, dock, yard or Lake Beach Association with lights.

No registration is required. Boat participants are asked to cruise leisurely around the lake at no wake speed from their launch point in a clockwise direction. The public can view the boats as they pass Sears Park. Rain date is Aug. 13.

For more information, visit [www.flpeh.org](http://www.flpeh.org), look for Friends of Lake Pocotopaug on Facebook or call Cap Egan at 860-395-7844.

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### Haddam Neck Congregational Guest Preacher

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will welcome guest preacher Sean Amato on Sunday, Aug. 6, at 10 a.m., at the church, located at 408 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Neck. All are invited. Coffee hour will follow the service.

Amato graduated from Rhode Island College in 2010 and traveled to Ukraine with the Peace Corps in 2011; upon his return, he spent years working in Rhode Island's social service field. In 2020, he traveled to Cairo, Egypt and began on-site work as a communications associate with the Coptic Evangelical Organization

for Social Services (CEOSS). Currently, Amato is a Member in Discernment with the UCC and is undertaking studies toward his MDiv at Chicago Theological Seminary.

Also, on Sunday, Aug. 13, there will be a hymn sing and potluck brunch at the church, starting at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Bring your favorite brunch dish to share and email your favorite hymn titles to mapionzio@comcast.net.

For more on the church, visit [www.haddam-neckcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.haddam-neckcongregationalchurch.org).

### Christ Episcopal Church News

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

**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 Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through July and August using alternate and approved forms of the worship service.

**Cobalt Lodge Service:** The monthly service at Cobalt Lodge will be held Sunday, July 30, immediately after church. New volunteers are always welcome.

**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.

### '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.ctdraftrescue.org/2023-golf-registration](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/2023-golf-registration), or email [cdhr.golf@gmail.com](mailto:cdhr.golf@gmail.com).

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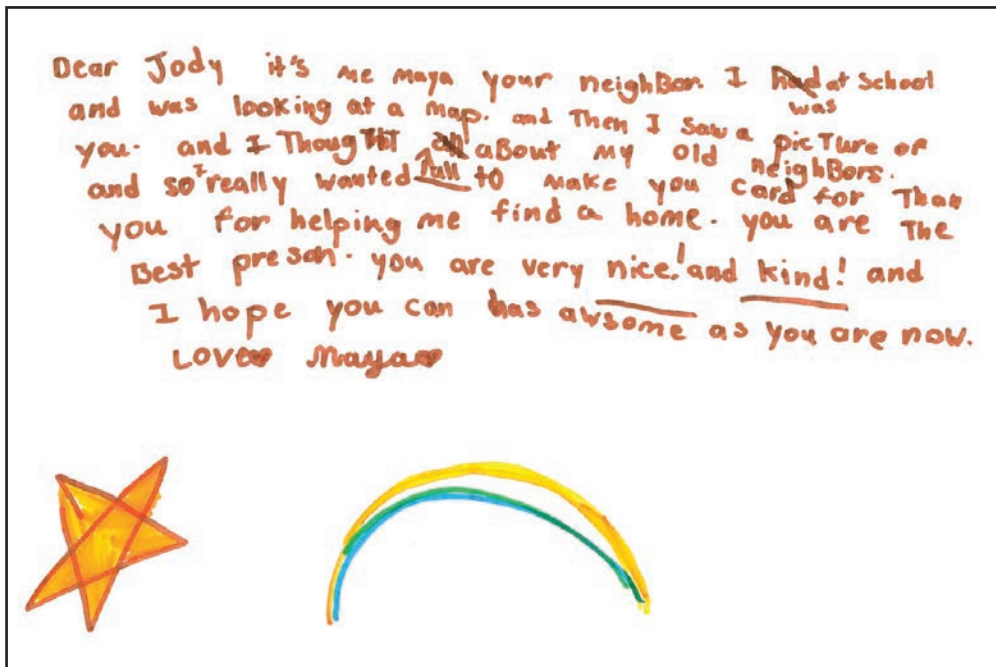
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## Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

The East Hampton Lions Club is conducting its fourth annual scholarship raffle, which funds four \$1,000 awards to graduation East Hampton students.

The raffle this year will offer a \$2,023 grand prize. First place will be \$223, with two winners, second place will be \$123, also with two winners, and third place will be \$53, also with two winners. First-, second- and third-place winners will be reentered for the grand prize drawing.

The raffle runs through Oct. 21. The drawing will be at the Lions Club Pavilion, 62 N. Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 2:23 p.m.

Seven hundred total tickets will be sold, at \$10 each. For more information on tickets, call Tom Denman at 860-519-4951.

## Belltown Open Golf Tournament

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

Proceeds benefit the East Hampton food and fuel bank. 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.

## Historical Society Appeal for Funds

The Chatham Historical Society is looking to make several needed repairs and replacements to its properties in town – and is seeking 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.

## 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.

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# Belltown Wunderkind Reeling Them In

By Josh Howard

Phil Lavoie could tell his grandson had that “special touch” the first time the two went fishing together.

At the time Garrett Neary, of East Hampton, was only 3 years old, yet Lavoie recalled witnessing the early stages of a fishing prodigy.

“He’s got an uncanny knack,” stated Lavoie. “He took to it like a duck to water.”

Now 11 years old, Garrett is making a name for himself in the local fishing community, winning a pair of tournaments over the last year. He has his eyes set on even bigger goals and larger fish in the future.

Whether it’s bass, blue gills, sunfish, trout, or anything else that lives beneath the water, Garrett is ready to reel it in. He’s even caught – and released – a snake and a snapping turtle during his many adventures with his grandfather.

“I just like fishing, I don’t care where it is,” stated Garrett. “I can fish anywhere.”

On a recent trip to Florida, Garrett set a new personal-best mark by hauling in a nine-pound bass.

But his latest catch even surprised Lavoie. After spending the day on the guided fishing boat outside of Orlando, they return to the resort where Garrett cast his hook in the water using a simple rubber worm and, lo and behold, he landed his biggest bass to date.

“I realized it was a big one, so I knew I had to get it in,” recalled a smiling Garrett.

Bass have become Garrett’s fish of choice be-

cause they put up a “better fight.”

Lavoie said the large bass off the Florida coast was the latest in a series of fishing feats for his grandson, who had previously caught fish nearly as big as he was.

Most of the duo’s fishing is done in Rhode Island, where Lavoie lives.

Lavoie travels to East Hampton to pick up Garrett and the two set out to find the perfect fishing hole.

When fishing locally, Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton or Day Pond Park in Colchester are desired venues.

The first fishing outing the two took together was to Caruncle Pond in Rhode Island where Lavoie discovered that his grandson wasn’t afraid of bating his own hook or casting by himself.

Since then Garrett has grown into a seasoned angler, finishing atop the leaderboard in two tournaments in Rhode Island. In one of the tournaments, he won both his age group and bested adults in a variety of categories, including largest catch and most total fish.

“He won them all,” recalled Lavoie. “He’s not only lucky, but he’s very skillful. For him to have the savvy and instinct for his age, you just don’t see that.”

For Lavoie, the experiences with his grandson go beyond the thrill of the catch.

Lavoie was an avid fisherman his entire life, yet because of various life events, he hadn’t picked up a pole in a dozen years.

His flame for fishing reignited once he began the regular outings with his grandson.

“There is nothing in the world that I look more to fishing with him; it’s the greatest,” ex-

plained Lavoie. “The enthusiasm and excitement that he brings makes me feel 30-40 years younger.”

Fishing mostly in the early evening because “sunset is a good biting time,” the two have head-to-head battles to see who can haul in the most fish—battles that Garrett said he “always wins.”

“Our only routine is that he keeps telling me that he’s going to kick my butt,” joked Lavoie. “It brings out the best in him.”

Lavoie added that the two fish for consecutive days and that Garrett never wants to leave, once fishing in New Hampshire for 13 straight hours.

Along with his nine-pound monster in Florida, Garrett reeled in a seven-pound bass during a trip to New Hampshire and landed a 12-pound carp on another outing.

“Once he got his first big fish he became obsessed,” noted Lavoie. “He can routinely catch four- and five-pound fish.”

Garrett has a variety of other sporting interests—including baseball, basketball, and soccer — yet he admitted that fishing has become his “main hobby” and that he enjoys the entire process, both the act of fishing and the anticipation of what he might catch during the drive.

“I like being out in nature, it’s more chill,” said Garrett, who will be 12-years old in September. “But when you do hook a big one, it’s pretty stressful.”



Garrett Neary, an 11-year-old from East Hampton has won a pair of fishing tournaments over the last year. Garrett is pictured with a nine-pound bass he caught in Florida in April.

## Dean’s List

East Hampton residents William Chrin and Jason Gardiner made the spring 2023 Dean’s List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

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# Be Aware in Your Backyard

By London Brazal

Various forms of wildlife have made an appearance this summer as animals trek away from their sheltered homes.

In the past few months, there have been several reports of black bears, bobcats, fisher cats, and venomous snakes around town. Ultimately, community members have stayed away to avoid possible encounters and do their best to warn others to stay alert.

On East Hampton's Facebook page, residents are looking to each other to keep young children and pets safe. One resident said that they put up signs in their yard to warn neighbors of the poisonous rattlesnakes in the area.

This summer, there have been multiple snake bite incidents including a 3-year-old hound

mix, Leo. In late June, Leo was bit in the family's backyard on Midwood Farm Road. The dog was brought to Pieper Veterinary in Middletown for an emergency anti-venom treatment. He spent a couple of days in the hospital before returning home.

Tina Trudell, Leo's owner, was in utter shock when her husband called her about what happened. "I am aware of wildlife here, but never expected it to be a timber rattlesnake in our backyard," she said.

The timber rattlesnake is one of two venomous snakes in Connecticut and is listed as an endangered species.

According to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the two venom-

ous snake species found in Connecticut are not widely distributed. To help avoid misidentification, DEEP has online resources to help identify the various snakes. Another way to properly identify a snake is to take a picture and post it to the DEEP's Fish and Wildlife Facebook page. It is important to remember that humans are a far greater threat to snakes than vice versa.

By the time Bryan Trudell found Leo, the rattlesnake was already gone from the backyard. Since then, the family has not seen any other snake.

According to resident Shannon Stockburger, there are rattlesnake dens near Midwood Farm and Skyline in East Hampton and on Isleib Road in Marlborough. In the summer months, especially July and August, snakes will travel about four miles away from their homes and tend to travel familiar routes.

Trudell felt that it was bizarre that the rattlesnake was "completely exposed and coiled. That's when all hell broke loose. The timing and lack of concealment on the snake's part has us

baffled." She was told that Leo was the fourth dog from East Hampton to be bitten by a rattlesnake in their yard.

The family has turned to Facebook to warn neighbors and other families on Midwood Farm have done the same. The Trudells are very fortunate that Leo made it home and thank community members for their support and compassion. With the price of expensive veterinary bills, a family friend set up a gofundme to support the Trudells.

Now, a month after the incident, Leo is doing much better. Trudell said that he is more cautious before he goes outside of the house. "He will sniff the air and if he does not feel comfortable, he will return inside," she said. Fortunately, Leo has returned to his happy and playful self.

Trudell recommends family to keep their yards free of debris, cover empty borrows, and never attempt to approach wildlife. "I would advise families to never leave their pets/unattended and always be vigilant of their surroundings," she said.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Weekly Activities:** **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays, 1-3 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:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Aug. 10.

**Cornhole:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Aug. 3.

**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.

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

**Walmart (Windham) Shopping Trip:**

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. A \$3 transportation donation is requested. Lunch is on you. Space is limited.

**Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group:** Mondays, Aug. 7 and 21, 10 a.m. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources.

**Mindful Meditations with Victoria:** Mondays, Aug. 7 and 21, 1-2 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion, and gratitude in a group setting.

**Movie Day:** Friday, Aug. 11, 1 p.m. *Free Solo*, a documentary about Alex Honnold, the world's most accomplished free soloist climber, will be shown. Treats will be served.

**Mighty Magnificent Men's Group:** Monday, Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. This men's group is a casual opportunity to meet others and discuss what's on your mind.

**Senior Center Bus Trip - Harkness Memorial State Park:** Wednesday, Aug. 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Bring your lunch and a chair. Seats are limited. Requested bus donation: \$4.

**Free Blood Pressure Screening:** Monday, Aug. 21, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the senior center. Sponsored by Chatham Health Department. Need to monitor your blood pressure? Stop by; no appointment necessary.

**AARP Safe Driving Class:** Friday, Aug. 25, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. For AARP members, cost is \$20 cash or check; for non-members, cost is \$25.

**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](mailto: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.



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# The Hope is Growing, New Treatment Prevails

By London Brazal

A long journey of medical research and investigative studies finally has some questions answered for East Hampton High School Class of 2020 graduate Ryan Morris.

As a newborn, Ryan was reaching standard developments. Though shortly after his first birthday, he started to have strange episodes of muscle weakness and lost any words he had.

His parents, Mike and Kasha, knew something was wrong and began going to children's hospitals around Connecticut. Dozens of doctors took hundreds of tests only for the results to come back normal.

Growing up, Ryan was happy and would always have the biggest smile, Kasha described. "He loved his life, he loved school, loved his sister," she said.

Some days would be better than others but the symptoms would ultimately return.

After 14 years, researchers identified a mutation in the TANGO2 gene. Ryan was diagnosed with TANGO2 disease by a geneticist at Yale New Haven Hospital. Kasha and Mike were handed a single piece of paper with a paragraph of scientific terminology. A Google search only came up with two publications.

The family found a Facebook group with nine other families and 12 kids like Ryan. "It was like finding family, it was a powerful moment in this whole journey," Kasha said. For Ryan, when meeting in person for the first time, it was like he knew the others his whole life.

While learning more about the children in the Facebook group and hearing their stories, Mike wanted to work with the other families to create a foundation. The goal was to find treatment options, fund more research, and provide more genetic testing for the disease.

In 2018, the TANGO2 Research Foundation came to life to help speed up the research. Dr. Seema Lalani, a clinician, and researcher from

Baylor College of Medicine who wrote the first published article on TANGO2, joined the board. In 2019, Dr. Lalani started a natural history study for the genetic disorder.

At the start of the study, there were only 12 participants. Now, there are roughly 100 children. "We are aware of 150 children in the world diagnosed with TANGO2 deficiencies, there are at least 6,000 with it but are unknowing," Kasha said.

### The Latest Research

In a study published in early July, researchers are seeing that "Early initiation of B-vitamin supplementation may reduce symptoms and explain intrafamilial variability." Kasha was baffled at the thought of something so little, such as taking a vitamin, has helped in big ways. Mike used to praise the Flintstone vitamins and would always bring it up to the doctors she explained.

"At first it was like, 'Oh that's nice.' Eventually, I started rolling my eyes and was embarrassed when he brought up the stupid Flintstone vitamins. But, when he mentioned it to this researcher [Dr. Lalani] she thought it was interesting," Kasha said.

Lalani then asked other families about their experience with vitamins. "Patterns started to emerge. Kids that didn't have a metabolic crisis, like Ryan, have been taking vitamins," Kasha said. "Kids that did not do well, that had crises or who passed away, weren't on vitamins."

Since the creation of the foundation, Ryan graduated from East Hampton in 2020 and the past three years have been the best he has had Kasha said. Ryan has not had an episode of feeling imbalanced or having mumbled speech.

Earlier this year, Ryan played with Unified Sports at halftime of the girls basketball state championship. The audience was filled with Ryan's former teachers, classmates, and administrators as East Hampton was playing in the championship game. In an early possession,

with warm and cool colors.

**Nintendo Switch Game Play:** Friday, Aug. 11, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. This week, play *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*. All skill levels welcome.

**Tween Game Hour:** Wednesday, Aug. 2, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 4-8. This session is the return of the live action *Among Us*.

**Teen Programs: Teen Dungeons & Dragons:** Every other Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; next session Aug. 9. For grades 8-12.

**Teen Library Trivia:** Friday, Aug. 4, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. There will be a variety of questions about the library and an array of general knowledge of popular media.

**Adult Programs: Cookbook Club - Fresh from the Garden:** Tuesday, Aug. 1, 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.

**LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Monday, Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m., in the community room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

**Lessons in Chemistry: A Presentation by Dr. Aimee Pozorski:** Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m. Pozorski, a professor of English at Central Connecticut State University, will lead a discussion of the popular book *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. All are invited.



Ryan Morris is shown here with his parents, Mike and Kasha, and his older sister Kaitlyn at the TANGO2 Research Foundation's annual banquet.

Ryan sunk an NBA-length three-point shot and the crowd went wild. "He got to shine at something he loves and is good at. It was a moment we will never forget," Kasha added.

Over the last five years, the foundation has funded about 15 studies and given away around \$800,000 to TANGO2 research. The foundation has also hosted two family conferences, with the next one planned for 2024. In addition, the foundation had a virtual research symposium

and the next one will be in October. In November, the foundation will host their biggest fundraiser, a banquet at St. Clements Castle in Portland. This year, Lalani and a family from the Netherlands will be attending.

The TANGO2 website has several resources for families, medical professionals, and anyone who wants to get involved. To find more information or to donate to the research foundation, visit [www.tango2research.org](http://www.tango2research.org).

### Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

### 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](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](http://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.

**All-Ages Program: Jason Tardy: The Big Solo:** Tuesday, Aug. 1, 10-11 a.m., at the Sears Park Pavillion. Tardy's show includes innovative choreographed juggling to music, fitting his body through a tennis racket, bowling ball juggling, fire breathing, and more.

**Children's Programs: Storytimes:** Mindful Movements - Outside: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., at Seamster Park/Memorial School playground, for ages 2-5 (rain location: library community room); 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, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Try a variety of different building materials in the Children's Room. No registration required.

**Art Explorers - Color Your World:** Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2:30-4 p.m., for grades 1-5. In this final Art Explorers session, form abstract works of art

### Antique Car Show to Mark 56th Year

The Belltown Antique Car Club will host its 56th annual Vintage Motorcar Meet Sunday, Aug. 6, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds in Haddam Neck. Take Route 151 (on the east side of the Conn. River) south from Cobalt or north from East Haddam to Haddam Neck Road. Bear left onto Quarry Hill Road after the firehouse to reach the Fairgrounds entrance.

Stock, unmodified antique cars and trucks at least 40 years old (up to 1983) will be judged in 24 classes, eligible for "Belltown Bell" trophies. The first 300 show cars will also receive a dash plaque. There will be a mix of everything from Brass-Era cars to 1960's muscle cars, orphan nameplates to luxury marques, and classic sports cars to vintage pick-ups.

Judging begins at noon, trophies awarded at 3 p.m. A display-only area will be provided for hot rods, kit cars and modified collector cars (up to 1982) that are not eligible for trophies. All vehicles newer than 40 years old must go to the spectator parking area.

Also included in the event is a flea market with vendors offering antique car parts, tools and other merchandise of interest to collector car hobbyists. Food and refreshment sales will be provided by the Masonic Lodge 112 of East Hampton.

The show will be held rain or shine (field con-

ditions permitting); please, no bicycles or pets.

Show car registration is \$10 per car, and includes admission to the show for driver and passengers. General admission is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. Spectator parking is free.

For more information visit [www.belltownantiquecarclub.org](http://www.belltownantiquecarclub.org). Club contacts for exhibitors and vendors: Mark Hoydilla - 203-980-1748 (cell); Peter Christianson - 860-510-3340 (cell); Jon Grant - 860-267-7507; or the club email, [belltowncarclub@gmail.com](mailto:belltowncarclub@gmail.com).

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# New School Resource Officer A Familiar Face

By John Leavenworth

The town has hired a new full-time school resource officer, or SRO – and he may be a familiar face to many.

Officer Victor Otero will begin work for Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School on Aug. 30, the first day of the new school year.

Otero is a veteran police officer with 25 years of experience. He served with the Hartford Police Department for 20 years, and for the past five years he's been a constable in Marlborough.

The decision to hire Otero comes one year after the school massacre in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 students and two teachers were killed.

The school shooting reignited safety concerns, especially in communities with limited police coverage, like Marlborough.

A local parent, who did not want to be identified, said the SRO gives her some comfort and assurance that her child will be safe at school.

If there was an emergency, "at least someone is there that is trained," the woman, who was shopping at the Big Y supermarket on Tuesday, said.

The shooting in Uvalde also raised questions of the difference between an armed security of-

ficer, or ASO, and a school resource officer.

Town officials had to decide between a fully trained SRO and an ASO.

Marlborough school superintendent Holly Hageman said SROs "need to be active police officers," while ASOs require less training and are often retired law enforcement.

Hageman and board members wanted the security position to be backed by the local police department.

Otero has worked closely with local police as a constable, and is already well-known by students and staff at the school.

The new SRO expressed interest in the position shortly after it was posted, and selectmen voted unanimously to hire him at their July 18 regular meeting.

Hageman said when she and town leaders heard that Otero was interested in being the SRO, they were "happy with and supportive of that prospect."

With Otero's transition from constable to SRO effective in August, the town will need to fill an empty constable position.

Under Constable Jay Kehoe's supervision,

a team of constables will still be in close communication with Otero throughout the 180-day school year, according to Hageman.

Around the nation, there has been disagreement over armed police officers in schools. Some say communities would be better served by spending more on mental health professionals and counselors.

When asked about public opinion in Marlborough, however, Hageman said the support for an SRO has been there since the topic first

came up, and remains.

"There was overwhelming support for the SRO" at public meetings, Hageman said. "People came out in numbers, speaking passionately about why we should have a trained security person at the school."

Information on Otero's salary could not be obtained, but Hageman said last year that the position would be paid \$30 to \$35 an hour for 180 days.

Otero could not be reached for comment.

## Courtney Coming to Town

Congressman Joe Courtney will hold a press event and discussion on the federal Affordable Connectivity Program on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 10 a.m., at the Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive.

Courtney will be joined by representatives from AARP, the CT Library Consortium, and the Office of Consumer Counsel as they hold a roundtable discussion and press conference to generate awareness and support for a federal

program to provide internet access for lower-income, seniors, and rural households.

The program is not specific to Marlborough; seniors and residents from all surrounding towns are encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Julia McGrath, grants and special projects coordinator for Courtney, at 860-886-0139.

## 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, Bill Gilles is deacon 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 stjohfisher30@yahoo.com.

**Weekend Masses:** 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Weekday Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.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. Registration is open for the new academic year. For more information, call the church office.

**Confirmation Community:** The church's 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program continues. Registration is open for the new aca-

demical year.

**Adult Worship Choir:** Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. During the summer months, the Summer Singers meet at this day and time. 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 well underway with fresh produce benefiting Marlborough Food Bank. 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, adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

## Summer Show at Arts Center

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

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

The gallery will be open each Saturday from

1-4 p.m. This Saturday, July 29, Mary Horrigan will give a watercolor demonstration.

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

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

## Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit marlbroughct.recdesk.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.

**Kids Summer Beach Yoga Nights:** Wednesdays, Aug. 2 and 16, 5:30-6:15 p.m., at Blish Park, for ages 3-6, and their parent/caregiver. Fee is \$15/week to drop in.

**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:** July 31-Aug. 3, 9:15-10 a.m., or 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:** 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.

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

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

## Tag Sale Save the Date

The Marlborough Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration fee is \$25.

Registration forms are at Town Hall or at the Recreation Department. For more information, call 860-295-6203.

## Dean's List

Marlborough residents Nathan Green, Garrett Kleinhn and Kyle Dickinson of Marlborough made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Hartford.

## 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@marlbroughct.net.

## Dean's List

Austin Dupre of Marlborough made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Dupre is majoring in management information systems.

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REG-18-20

### 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.mar-

borougharts.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 susan-hourihan1884@gmail.com.

### Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cove

#### ★ GOP Slate Set, cont. from page 1

with. "LaChapelle is a straight-shooter," he said, adding that his inclusion on the ballot was a "game of math." As a Libertarian candidate — who still holds broad Republican viewpoints — LaChapelle could've picked off a board seat from the Democrats, while still allowing the other Republican candidates to be elected as well, Rudko said.

"People don't understand the political gamesmanship," he said.

While the RTC members were largely untied, Rudko stated that outside Republicans influenced the vote count, swaying the overall totals.

Rudko was also in favor of nominating John Consiglio for the Board of Education — another candidate that was defeated by a late-entry nominee, Christina Martin.

The RTC chairman expressed that Consiglio's appointment would've been a "voice of reason which we're desperately lacking." Republicans on the school board, he said, preferred Martin as their candidate of choice.

At the top of the slate, Rudko will pledge his full assistance this election cycle. Bisbikos, he said, should receive a "strong backbone of support." While he still maintains clear differences with the first selectman, diverse opinions and ideas can "together make this team robust."

"Variety is always a good thing," Rudko asserted.

In a statement to the *Rivereast*, Bisbikos said that he believes in a "people before government platform" and that a "local Republican caucus has the right to put forward whatever slate will best represent them."

"I look forward to working collaboratively with all the candidates and continuing the Colchester Comeback," he said in an email. "It was a tremendous honor to have been unanimously endorsed by this caucus."

He added that two-year terms for first selectman are "almost unheard of today."

While he expressed that many of his objectives were accomplished, he has "a responsibility to finish what I started."

The message of his campaign will focus on "affordability, transparency, economic development and tradition."

Rudko's criticism for both Democrats and

Republicans involved in town government was the inability to accomplish goals while in office. Politicians who have served for years, he said, had ample opportunity to address the town's priorities.

"If it was going to get done, it would've been done," he said.

The primary objective of this Republican slate, Rudko continued, was to "provide the services the town needs at an affordable price." This can be further examined through the district's spending plan.

Around 75% of every tax dollar goes to the schools, he contended, and "they're being held unaccountable."

Rudko said his goal is to address this "point of grave concern."

As demographics shift, and the overall population in the community ages, spending continues to be misappropriated.

"How do we maintain a balance?" Rudko asked. The end result, he expressed, is that people that have lived in Colchester their entire life "can no longer afford to stay here."

This reality, he said, must be digested by local leaders.

"The herd can only move as fast as its slowest members," he stated.

During his phone call, Rudko broadly addressed the tone of the upcoming campaign, acknowledging that he has "very little control" over how his teammates will act.

But, he believes the election season will be "fairly tumultuous."

Rudko said that since Bisbikos has a track record that can be scrutinized and Bernie Dennler — who was named this week as the Democratic nominee for first selectman — is the challenger without the same type of government experience, the conditions are ripe for attacks.

Rudko emphasized that this outcome would not benefit the community. Instead of personal jabs, the issues should remain at the forefront.

Each candidate, he said, should clearly articulate how they're going to improve the quality of life for residents.

"Tell me," he said. "Whoever does that is going to win. My hope is that both sides come out with solid platforms."

### 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.

**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 reg-

istration 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.

### 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 children to use during worship. Sunday School resumes Sept. 10.

**Sunday, July 30:** Service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. The service will include the reception of a new member and the dedication of a leaf on the Living Tree.

**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.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop** is closed for the summer and will reopen Friday, Sept. 8. However, the shop is open for selling and donations 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.

### Richmond Library News & Notes

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

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

**August Kids Take and Make Kit:** Create your own pool party with supplies found in this month's Kids Take & Make Kit: Paper Pool People. Recommended for kids ages 5 and up; available while supplies last.

**Portable Easel:** The library now has a lightweight (2.5 lbs) 63" portable tripod floor easel available for checkout. This easel is perfect for presentations, weddings or birthdays (or other celebrations), and painting. It can be borrowed for a three week period. Stop by the library to check it out. (Note that a white board or canvas is not included.)

**Stories and Songs:** Children up to age 5, with their caregivers, are invited to enjoy songs, rhymes and a story on Mondays and Fridays at

10 a.m. throughout the summer. Registration is not required. The program is held outside; inclement weather will cancel.

**Build the Change: Mondays, Aug. 7, 14 and 21, 4 p.m.** Learn about environmental challenges currently affecting the planet, then get creative and test out some possible solutions. Registration is required.

**Creative Kids: Tuesdays, Aug. 1-22, 4 p.m.** Kids ages 4 and up are invited to participate in open-ended projects that let you use your imagination. Registration is recommended.

**Dungeons & Dragons: Stand-Alone Game:** Saturday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m.-noon. Familiarity with *Dungeons & Dragons* preferred. Best for ages 10-16. Registration is required.

**Pajama Storytime with Yoga:** Thursday, Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy a couple stories and then practice some yoga. Wear comfy pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal or blanket. Registration is required.

**Read to the Dogs:** Young readers are invited to come in and read to a certified Reading Education Assistance Dog on Mondays, Aug. 7 and 21, from 6-7 p.m. There are now two dogs coming. Pre-registration is required to secure your child's spot. Limit is one child per 15-minute time slot per dog.

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## Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

Zion will continue its summer tradition of holding worship on the front lawn, one Sunday each month. Next date, weather permitting, is

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](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net), or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org). Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

## YFS News & Notes

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

**Youth 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 back-

packs and school supplies for families in need. Registration highly encouraged, as supplies are limited; visit [bit.ly/YFS-backpacks](http://bit.ly/YFS-backpacks).

**Youth & Parent LGBTQ+ Support-Style Groups:** Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 6-8 p.m., at the library. There are separate groups for LGBTQ+ youth and parents of those youth; co-facilitated by Q+ and local volunteers. If you're a local business and looking to support these groups, contact YFS.

**Hidden in Plain Sight:** At the middle and high school Open Houses on Sept. 12 and 21, YFS will bring in the Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals to set up their display. Parents and caregivers can explore a mock bedroom to identify hidden drug paraphernalia and warning signs associated with drug or alcohol abuse by a teen.

## 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](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com); Hearing Clinic, 11 a.m.; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Tai Chi Quong, 1 p.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday, multipurpose room. **Thursday:** Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.

**Special Event: Golden Visits with Blue Iris Farm:** Monday, July 31, 2 p.m. To register, call Sarah or Alexis 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](mailto: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.

## Ice Cream Social

The First Congregational Church of Portland invites members of the community to attend an Ice Cream Social and Intergenerational Game Night at the church Saturday, July 29, beginning at 5:54 p.m.

The church is located at 554 Main Street in Portland. All are welcome. Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item which will be donated to the Portland Food Bank.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 12:30-5 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave.

All who donate will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a movie merchant of their choice, and 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.

## First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone. Worship is Sundays at 10 a.m.

Starting Aug. 13, worship will take place at First Church on Court Street in Middletown. Sunday worship will resume in Portland on Sept. 3.

From September to June, First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on

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

The church emails a weekly newsletter, *The Weekly Word*. To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email [1stchurch.pct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1stchurch.pct@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-342-3244. Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

The church emails a weekly newsletter, *The Weekly Word*. To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email [1stchurch.pct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1stchurch.pct@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-342-3244. Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

## Books for the Beach

The Friends of the Portland Library group is holding its annual Books for the Beach sale until Friday, July 28, at the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. Folks can find books for the beach as well as for camp, the deck, the pool, or wherever they enjoy their summer reading. Shop during regular library hours and get mysteries, fiction, romance, teen and children's books.

Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc unless marked otherwise. There are large-print mys-

tery and general fiction books that have been removed from the library collection on sale for 50 cents each, as well DVDs for 50 cents each disc.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each.

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

Visit [www.friendsofportlandlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofportlandlibrary.org) for more information or email questions to [friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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. 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: 7/25: Juice Box; 8/1: Backstage Pass; 8/8: The Great Hill Mountain Band.

**Enchanted Fairies Dance Class:** For ages 3-6. Wednesdays, Aug. 9 and 16, from 4:30-5:15

p.m., at Inner Circle. Fee: \$25.

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

**Self-Defense for Women:** Sunday, Aug. 13, 6-7 p.m., at The Inner Circle. Cost: \$30.

**Themed Dance Classes:** For ages 6-8, held at The Inner Circle. **Rhinestone Round-Up Tap & Jazz:** Thursdays, Aug. 10 and 17, 5:15-6 p.m. Fee: \$25.

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

**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.

## Fall Rec Soccer Registration

Portland Soccer Club is now accepting registrations for the fall 2023 recreational soccer season. Registration closes on Aug. 31. Register at [clubs.bluesombrero.com](http://clubs.bluesombrero.com).

The eight-week recreation season runs Saturdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 28. The schedule is: U4 (born 2020) – Pre-K, 8:45-9:30 a.m., fee is \$60; U5 (born 2019) and U6 (born 2018) – Dribbler, 9:45-10:45 a.m., fee is \$75; U7 (born 2017) and U8 (born 2016) – Kicker, Saturday game 10-11 a.m., Wednesday practice, 5:15-6:15 p.m., fee is \$75.

Travel registration for U9 (born 2015) is closed.

Full team uniforms for Dribbler & Kicker

## Vocal Chords Seek Singers

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords, under the direction of Samuel Tucker and accompanied by an eight-piece band directed by Alan Dougherty, is looking to expand its tenor and bass sections.

No auditions are required, and no experience is necessary. Rehearsals begin Aug. 29 from 6:45-9 p.m., at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St. Francis Church, 10 Elm St., Middletown, for the upcoming winter concert on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School. New members

will be accepted through Sept. 19.

This community-oriented group has performed for 33 years, showcasing a variety of musical interests including the top hits of yesterday and today, plus some classical and patriotic pieces. Currently, the Vocal Chords' 85 members hail from all parts of Connecticut and all different walks of life. You do not need to be affiliated with Middlesex Health in order to join.

For more information, visit [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org) or call 860-342-3120, or look for the group on YouTube and Facebook.



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Trinity Church  
Game Collection

Trinity Church, 345 Main St., is collecting new and gently-used games, to be donated to Covenant to Care for Children to distribute to families to encourage family time together.

The games will be inventoried Sunday, Aug. 13, after the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

Collection containers are in the back of the Parish Hall/Meeting Room and outside the front door of the church. Games can also be dropped off the church office on Fridays between 2-4 p.m. Call Marjorie at 860-262-3251 for more information.



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### Garden Club to Meet

The Portland Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 1 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library, located at 20 Freestone Ave.

The featured speaker for the afternoon will be Leah O'Hearn, co-owner of It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe of Marlborough. O'Hearn will give a demonstration on how to make a "hand-tied" arrangement with fresh flowers.

The program is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. Everyone attending the event will be eligible to win a door prize drawing.

The Portland Garden Club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs. For more information about the club and its activities, call Sue at 959-231-9630.

### Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

This summer, the church is holding "First

Sundays on Main," with outside services on the lawn at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 6 and Sept. 3. All are invited; just remember your chair.

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

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

### 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](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org) or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

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

**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](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org), or you can come in and pick up a paper log instead.

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

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

**Multi-Generational Drumming Circles:** Monday, 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.

**Fall Bird Migration:** Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room, presented by the Audubon.

**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.

### 'Spirit of Portland' Award Nominations Sought

Nominations are sought for the annual Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award, to honor Portland's unsung heroes.

Nominations will be accepted until noon Friday, Aug. 18, and can be dropped off directly at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. Forms are available at the center, or can be emailed by contacting [SElliott@Portlandct.org](mailto:SElliott@Portlandct.org).

Call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761 for more info.

### Dean's List

Brynn Hennessey of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.



Gary Wassell's 1932 Mint Green Ford Tudor is one of the many classic autos that have been featured over the years at the Knights of Columbus Freestone Council No. 7's annual car show. This year's show will take place today, Friday, July 28, starting at 3 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave.

### Knights' Car Show July 28

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

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

The Knights' Kitchen will be open, offering

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

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

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

### Food Bank, Foodshare 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.

Also, The Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center every other Monday from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays. People using the Foodshare are required to form a line and shop at the truck once it is set up. You do not have to be a Portland resident to attend the Foodshare; please bring bags.

The next Foodshare is July 31 at 1 p.m.

### Resident Receives Award

Adriana Kandro of Portland has received the 2023 Presidential Service Award from College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

The Presidential Service Award honors graduating seniors who have, to an exceptional degree, used their time, talents and resources in service to the college, their fellow students and the Worcester community.

### Dean's List

Allison Mailhot of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, Pa.

### Dean's List

Portland residents Desmond Cleary, Brooke Delissio and Amber Ostrander made the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Hartford.



**Peacemakers Play Portland...** Saturday, July 15, was a hot, humid day but it got even hotter when Tony Rome and his band The Peacemakers took the stage in Portland to benefit the Portland Volunteer Fire Department. Rome said to turnout was decent considering the extreme heat and humidity. People can still send their donations to the Town of Portland, 33 E. Main St, Portland, CT 06480; attention: Portland Volunteer Fire Department. The band will next play in Portland at Concentric Brewing Company, 91 Main St., on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m.

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### Historical Society Marks 50 Years

Portland Historical Society is celebrating its 50th year during 2023-24 – and is offering a new exhibit next month to mark the occasion.

The society is partnering with Portland Library to offer an exhibit of marine paintings by a prolific Portland artist who lived from 1813-1891. John Wells Stancliff was born and bred in Portland (when the town was known as Chatham). After years of studying the Atlantic coast, working as a daguerreotype portraitist and managing a telegraph office, he is thought to have taught the first public school drawing classes in America.

Stancliff's ancestor, James Stancliff, was a stonemason from England who is believed to have built the first home in Portland in 1690 on the east side of the Connecticut River. A picture of this residence was painted by John Wells Stancliff and is among the historical society's possessions. It, along with more than 25 other works, will be shown at the library on Saturday, Aug. 5, at 1 p.m. Admission is free but space is limited; register by calling the library at 860-

342-6770.

This exhibit is made possible by John Stewart and his wife, Candace Heublein, who have been ardent collectors of Stancliff's works over many years. Stewart will speak about the artist's life, career, and legacy during the 19th century and will include highlights of some of that era's most prominent inventors and influencers.

Deborah Payne – a direct descendant of the artist – will begin the program with a brief biographical sketch of the painter and the important role the Stancliff family roots have made to the central Connecticut community over hundreds of years. Her remarks will begin at 1:30.

Refreshments will be served thanks to the Friends of the Portland Public Library. Authentic sea shanty music will be performed live outside the library beginning at 12:30 p.m. While no paintings will be for sale, there will be boxed notecard sets of the paintings available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit the mission of the Portland Historical Society.



**The New Top Dog...** Pictured is Portland's 2023 "Top Dog" Nova, and her owners Kelley and John Foss. Nova is an 11-year-old Lab. Coming in second in this year's contest was Rory, a 10-year-old Australian Shepard belonging to David Porteus, and third place went to Reva, a 5-year-old Lab belonging to Wendy Violissi. Through the contest, over 130 pounds of pet food were collected for Portland Food Bank. The town clerk's office reminds dog owners that there is still time left to register your dog. All dogs over six months of age are required to be licensed. New licenses were effective July 1. Additionally, in order to board your dog, kennels are required to have proof of your license.



Anita Carpena and Rob Lentz

### Local Couple Completes Trip of Lifetime

Anita Carpena and Rob Lentz, both of Portland, recently received their BaccaLOOPerate degree from America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association (AGLCA).

The degree is given in recognition of completing America's Great Loop. Boaters doing the Great Loop are on a 6,000-mile journey that circumnavigates the eastern part of the U.S. and Canada, cruising up the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, through the New York State Canals, into the Great Lakes, down the inland river system, across the Gulf of Mexico, and around the southern tip of Florida.

Carpena and Lentz completed the Great Loop aboard their Mariner Orient 40-power boat. In addition to facing the challenges inherent to long-distance cruising, the couple enjoyed un-

paralleled views of the U.S. and Canada from the distinct vantage point of the water's edge.

Approximately 150 boats complete the Great Loop each year, making it a feat more unique than swimming the English Channel or climbing Mount Everest. Throughout this trip of a lifetime, the couple relied on America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association to provide them with information and assistance vital to the successful completion of their journey.

For more information on America's Great Loop, contact America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association LLC, 10587 Highway 78, Summerville, SC 29483, call 1-877-GR8-LOOP (478-5667), visit [www.GreatLoop.org](http://www.GreatLoop.org) or email [info@greatloop.org](mailto:info@greatloop.org).

### Opportunities for Public Service

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

Any registered voter in Portland may be considered. More information is available at

[www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) under Boards and Commissions. Individuals interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee should send an email to [nominations.portlandct@gmail.com](mailto:nominations.portlandct@gmail.com).

The DTC holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information about the DTC, email [portlandctdct@gmail.com](mailto:portlandctdct@gmail.com) and follow on Facebook @Portland Democratic Town Committee.

### St. Mary Church News

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

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

website for more information.

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

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

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

### Resident Graduates

Brooke L. Townsend of Portland recently graduated from Western New England University in Springfield, Mass., with a Juris Doctor.

### Dean's List

Sadie Schmitz of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Tufts University in Medford, Mass.

Schmitz is a member of the Class of 2026.

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**Kenya**, 1-2 who is affectionately known as Coco is a petite espresso colored velvet fur pibble whose smile is contagious. She loves a good sniffari walk, a game of tug and to chase small balls. She is a strong hiker and loves to run and zoom. She will snuggle on the couch and fall asleep in your arms while you watch a movie. Coco was found abandoned and we don't know her young puppy history but recognize training and care were not a part of it. She will need a patient and experienced adopter to continue with her trainer and program as she learns to navigate the world.



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REF-26-23

★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

agricultural assets. This year, Hebron's OSLAC received a Group Conservationist of the Year Award! I represent Hebron in the State of Connecticut's efforts promoting ecotourism in the Air Line State Park Trail region. (Please visit ALSP Tregion.org and download Hebron's brochure!)

The PZC's responsibility is to ensure the public health, safety and welfare of the community. This responsibility is guided by Hebron's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and implemented by Hebron's Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. Such Regulations are refined or amended to reflect community goals as stated in the POCD. The PZC is in the midst of its multi-year effort to update the 2014 POCD, due next year. Many new and enhanced drafted goals include: initiatives for increased housing diversity, mixed-use development, greenway preservation, climate-change mitigation, and ecotourism. I hope to help complete and implement this vital, carefully created plan.

I ask for your vote this November to continue serving the entire Hebron community with great pleasure and passion.

Respectfully,  
**Frank Zitkus – Hebron**  
PZC Vice Chairman, Candidate for PZC Reelection

**Thank You, Darren**

To the Editor:

I'm writing to publicly share my compliments for the work of Hebron's road foreman, Darren Norton. I emailed Darren to make him aware of two dead trees overhanging the road on West Street. Both trees were creating a potential hazard to people traveling the road. I received a reply from Darren in less than 24 hours. He indicated that he was already aware of these trees and that they were on his list of trees scheduled for removal. Furthermore, Darren indicated that they were going to be removed today! It's nice to know that the staff at the Public Works Department are paying close attention to road-side hazards.

Darren's timely response and quick action are both certainly worthy of recognition and compliments. Thank you for your good work.

**Ray Purtell – Hebron**

**Thanks to the Beautifiers**

To the Editor:

As I drive around Colchester and surrounding communities, I take note of the homes and yards that I pass. I am impressed with the many residents who keep nice, tidy properties, most notably in my section of town, Westchester, which I see most frequently. Thank you for the pleasing visual experiences. Thank you for the flower beds, flower boxes, and hanging plants. Thank you for the fresh mulch, the trimmed shrubberies, and lawn ornaments. Thank you for the decorative stones and boulders. Thank you for the manicured lawns, especially those with crisp edging.

I know the work that goes into keeping a property looking nice. I often want to stop to personally congratulate a homeowner on the results of their efforts, but realize that would probably be awkward. So, here is my note of appreciation to all of you making the effort and for the moments of delight it provides to passersby.

**John Barnowski – Colchester**

**Pride in Ignorance**

To the Editor:

Sam Prentice claims I am a "climate alarmist" seeking "to usurp power away from free people" by destroying "energy and economic systems over the fraudulent claim of the non-existent climate emergency." He gleefully says "the atmosphere is starved of CO2 and we need more of it, not less."

These were his thoughts as floods in Vermont, Nova Scotia, Afghanistan, Spain and Turkey washed out roads, people's homes and businesses with multiple deaths including children swept away.

'We need more CO2' says Prentice as heat records are smashed across the globe, the warmest ocean waters ever, the hottest June and hottest July day, week and month ever. In Arizona the burn unit beds are filled with people who accidentally fall to the ground. Half the patients in the Intensive Care Unit were thus burned.

'We need more CO2' preaches Prentice as the Antarctic Ice Sheet shatters its lowest recorded July level ever and Florida Keys coral reefs bleach in hot-tub ocean temperatures of 98 degrees.

'We need more CO2' beseeches Prentice as uncontrollable wildfires destroy homes, forests and economies in Canada, Greece and else-

where – fueling smoke health advisories for millions of people downwind of the infernos.

'We need more CO2' wishes Prentice as the 'critical environmental limit of human thermo-regulation' is being exceeded in the Middle East and China, where humans cannot survive combinations of such high heat and humidity.

Prentice has his air conditioner and lives in one of the richest states in the most powerful nation on Earth – but to those less fortunate than him he says "To hell with the rest of you and future generations to boot. We'll burn fossil fuels till the atmosphere is filled with CO2." Republican Sam writes without thinking, believes without evidence, mocks science and takes pride in his ignorance.

**Edmund Smith – Andover**

**They Got it Right**

To the Editor:

The Connecticut congressional delegation got it all right. Stop giving the top income-makers the break; increase the deduction limit on top income-makers not just the bottom.

Currently we pay Social Security tax on our income till we make \$160,200, regardless if we make one million or minimum wage. Meaning anyone making \$1 million is paid up before the second week of the month while guess who pays all year.

Some in Congress want to address or pay for the coming shortfall by raising the retirement age yet again, up to 69, while guess who pays all year long and works the hardest works till they drop.

I would like to go further, and say make income brackets and the tax rated as the brackets change and set a limit on the employers.

Remember: elections are coming; vote your interest.

**Chris Martin – Portland**

**What Would You Do for Trump?**

To the Editor:

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced that the 16 fake electors who had signed certificates that falsely claimed that Trump won Michigan in 2020 have been indicted. Nessel called the plan by the Michigan defendants, most of whom are active in Republican politics, "an effort to undermine democracy." Each of the fake electors was charged with eight felony counts, including multiple counts of forgery, a felony punishable by 14 years in prison.

The Michigan fake electors sent signed documents to the Senate, the National Archives, Michigan Secretary of State, and the Supreme Court claiming to be the "duly elected" electors casting certified electoral college votes for the 2020 election. "The evidence will demonstrate there was no legal authority for the false electors to purport to act as 'duly elected presidential electors' and execute the false electoral documents... Every serious challenge to the election had been denied, dismissed, or otherwise rejected by the time the false electors convened," Nessel said. "There was no legitimate legal avenue or plausible use of such a document or an alternative slate of electors."

Beyond Michigan, Trump's fake elector schemes may stretch into other states: Arizona, Georgia, New Mexico, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

**Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough**

**Hebron Surprise**

To the Editor:

Wow, talk about vitriolic! I was surprised by yet another personal attack from a member of Hebron's town government. This time it came in the form of last week's letter to the editor by Terry McManus, an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and member of the Public Works Survey Committee. If defending Hebron's water, environment and history is "incessantly selfish," then I proudly admit to it. And if it was only as easy as three people holding a town up it would have saved me a lot of time, effort and anxiety. The only thing Jean and I have held up is documented scientific information and historical fact. We have worked diligently to respectfully share it with both the residents of Hebron and our elected officials. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of the employees of Public Works, repairs and upgrades of their facilities is long overdue. It is time to create a new plan to fix Old Colchester Road and allow Hebron to move forward.

The residents of Hebron have a rare opportunity to create something truly special in the very center of our town. The Horton Property is a gem and can be the main jewel in the crown we can wear for generations to come. This vision of combining education and preservation

is supported by Prof. Robert Thorson of UConn, Prof. John Demos of Yale and Preservation Connecticut, one of the leading historic preservation organizations in our state.

I was pleased to be a guest the Hebron Democratic Town Committee meeting last week and I am excited to support their slate of candidates. I encourage you to learn more about the candidates by visiting HebronDems.com and about the special landscape of the Horton Property by visiting Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,

**Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston**

**Take Me Back**

To the Editor:

Take me back  
Make me unsee these visions  
Let them go like a fog at midday  
Just go away!  
But as the fog lifts  
just like the day  
I see the visions clearer now.  
Just as the day.  
Clear as day  
The visions do not depart...  
Pictures of Hunter Biden.  
Woke California liberals?  
70% of our birds dead  
You fill in the blank

**Tim Rinell – East Hampton**

**Running for RHAM Board**

To the Editor:

My name is Maura Curran Baker, and I am excited to be endorsed by the Hebron Democratic Town Committee to run for the RHAM Board of Education. I have lived in Hebron since 2002. My husband and I have two children that attended the Hebron and RHAM schools, one in college and one at RHAM High School.

My family has been active in school, sports, music, scouts and church activities in Hebron. I was a long time Girl Scout leader. In addition, I have worked at Travelers Insurance for 28 years, where I am a vice president of actuarial and analytics and am involved in diversity and inclusion initiatives. My passion for education and community activities, combined with my background in business and as a working mother, will help me continue the important work of the Board of Education for our local schools.

I am excited to bring my skillset and independent viewpoint to the RHAM Board of Education, as well as to advocate for respectful discussion of the issues relating to our schools. My years as a working mother interacting with the Hebron and RHAM school systems position me well to advocate for the best possible education and opportunities for all students. I am honored to run for the Board of Education and for the opportunity to work on behalf of RHAM's students, teachers and staff, as well as the taxpayers, to further our excellent school system.

Please join me and the other fantastic Democratic candidates this Saturday, July 29, at the Hebron Democratic Town Committee's Garden Party. Information and tickets are available at [www.hebrondems.com](http://www.hebrondems.com).

**Maura Curran Baker – Hebron**

**Seeking Support**

To the Editor:

My name is Davis Howell and I am running for a position on our town's Planning And Zoning Commission. This letter is to solicit your support for my candidacy.

My background is pretty straightforward; have lived in Hebron for 38 years, retired a few years ago and recently widowed. We moved to Hebron as we liked the rural town feel, the affordability and the friendly people.

Recently I have seen a change in the way our town is run and managed, and in my opinion not for the better. We are a small, rural oriented community and should be supporting projects that project that image. Yes, progress is inevitable and in fact, should be supported. But that progress should reflect all of our community, young people, parents, working folks and seniors. Town plans should be focusing on how to support those groups in the most efficient and economical way, not by entertaining legacy town centers we cannot afford and that endanger our groundwater. Or even worse, not taking any action. Affordable housing is an example as we need to move forward before a contractor forces us to accept a project we do not support.

I summary, I will work to ensure that all our community groups are considered and supported to the best of the towns ability.

If you agree with me, look forward to your support. If you don't, let's discuss.

Thanks for your time in reading this.

**Davis Howell – Hebron**  
[dkhowell49@gmail.com](mailto:dkhowell49@gmail.com)

**Thinking About Election**

To the Editor:

Hebron, I know you aren't thinking about the election on Nov. 7, 2023, right now. Most of you may not even realize there is an election in November. But back in March of this year, the Hebron Democrats began thinking about their slate of candidates. As people who are part of this community every day, not just during an election season, we have an understanding of the many issues people in our town face. But we see those issues as areas where there is need for improvement and we are ready to stand up and make things happen.

Many people in town feel they are not represented by the current leadership in town. People are hungry for change; ready for fresh ideas. Hebron can support both education and people who are struggling to pay their taxes. We can support our senior citizens (please consider making a donation to Stonecroft Energy Campaign) and our young families. We can do this with the right leadership. Qualified candidates who are asking for your vote with a purpose to serve-not just take up space on a board.

So while you're enjoying your last weeks of summer, know that the candidates that the Hebron Democrats have endorsed are looking forward to earning your vote in the coming months.

**Erin Bussiere – Hebron**  
Hebron Democratic Town Committee Chair

**Three Cheers for Hebron Center**

To the Editor:

What are they not telling us?!  
What are they not telling us?!  
What are they not telling us?!

Who stands to gain?!  
Who stands to gain?!  
Who stands to gain?!

Salt in one's well is not swell!  
Salt in one's well is not swell!  
Salt in one's well is not swell!

**Loudly, with gusto and feeling,**  
**Greg Frutchey – East Hampton**

**Honored by Endorsement**

To the Editor:

My name is Brian Thibeault and I'm honored to be endorsed by the Hebron Democratic Town Committee for the Board of Finance. I am excited for the opportunity to serve the community and bring unique perspectives to the board. I would like to provide Hebron voters with some information on my background.

After receiving a degree in finance and economics from Boston College, I worked as an investment accountant, and then as an actuary helping private companies manage their financial risks for the past 16 years.

Beyond my professional experience, it is my personal commitment to the town that is motivating me serve. My wife and I moved to Hebron in 2010, and we immediately loved the town and its character. Over the last 13 years we started a family and were proud to be part of the growth of the town. Our two children attend the town schools and are involved in many local activities. I have been involved in the community over many years including coaching sports and volunteering. Now, I am hoping to help strengthen our town by applying my experience and knowledge to the Board of Finance.

It would be an honor to serve this community that has become so integral to our family, and I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

**Brian Thibeault – Hebron**

**Hebron Deserves the Best Leadership**

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

My name is Claudia Riley and I am enthusiastically announcing my candidacy for a seat on the town of Hebron's Board of Selectmen (BOS). I, along an outstanding, well qualified and dedicated slate of Democratic candidates, are ready to step up, roll up our sleeves and work hard to improve the quality of life for all of our town residents.

We have seen the need for elected officials to be fully present and engaged in the town process – from the very public issues such as budget referendums to the behind the scenes but also important daily decision making. Our candidates are ready to actively address the long list of needed changes our town needs to meet the demands of modern day living as well as pre-

*See Letters, page 29*

**Obituaries**

**Hebron**

**Donald Allen McNiel**

Donald Allen McNiel, 92, of Hebron, passed away peacefully Saturday, July 1, at home, surrounded by his family. He was the beloved husband of Audra (Kanzigg) McNiel.



Born in Harrogate, Tenn., Donald was the son of the late Paul and Bessie (Rector) McNiel. He worked in the claims department for the Hartford Insurance Company for 35 years. Don was known for his perpetual optimism, cheerful nature and his love for his family, especially his cherished wife, Audra. He was committed to helping others and happily spent countless hours volunteering for Foodshare. One of his favorite pastimes was karate and he was very proud to have obtained the level of black belt at the age of 80. Don enjoyed living in Hebron, where he found great joy in watching the birds and wildlife in his yard.

In addition to his wife, Donald is survived by his daughter, Laura M. DiLullo and her husband Michael of Farmington; his two sons, W. Mark McNiel and his wife Judith of Glastonbury, David P. McNiel of Plantsville; two grandsons, Nicholas and Christopher DiLullo.

He was predeceased by his two brothers, Paul and Earl McNiel.

A celebration of Don's life will be held Saturday, July 29, at 1 p.m., at the First Church of Christ Congregational, 2183 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Connecticut Foodshare or the Music Ministry at First Church of Christ Congregational, 2183 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

**Glastonbury**

**Matthew Philip Dowling**

Matthew Philip Dowling, 42, beloved son of Lee Baribault Dowling and Stephen G Dowling Sr., died unexpectedly Tuesday, July 18. He is survived by his parents, his brother John, the love of his life Kristina Hiller, several aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.



Matt was a kind and caring man who loved his family dearly. Matt excelled in wrestling, he loved to fish and was the first one to lend a helping hand. Unfortunately, Matt struggled with addiction for many years and lost his battle.

He was predeceased by his brother, Steve; his maternal grandparents, Philip and Frances (Cavanna) Baribault; his cousin, Randy Colbourne; his paternal grandparents, Donald and Bette (Tedford) Dowling; his uncles, Curt and Mark Dowling; and his aunt, Deborah King.

Funeral services will be private. Forever in our hearts.

For online condolences, please visit [www.ludyandpeteronfh.com](http://www.ludyandpeteronfh.com).

**Colchester**

**Robert L. Jones**

Robert (Bob) L. Jones son of the late Ben Jones and Dora Scranton, died Saturday, Feb. 11. He was born on Jones Street in Hebron in October 1931.



He attended schools and colleges in Connecticut before embarking on a career in the entertainment field in the 1950s. He appeared in nightclubs and theaters throughout the east coast as a rock 'n roll singer and actor, and recorded several rock 'n roll songs on the Web label in NYC. He appeared on *Bandstand* and other TV shows.

In 1967 Bob started his 25-year career with the AAA Auto Club of Hartford where he first held the position as their public relations director. During this time he also wrote a weekly travel column for the Sunday *Courant* called "The Happy Wanderer" and escorted AAA travelers throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe.

In 1975, AAA Hartford chose him as the manager of their first branch office in New London, later in Waterford and Bob retired in 1992 from the AAA office in Manchester. At one time during his business career, he was a member of the Hartford Advertising Club, the Rotary Clubs of New London and Manchester, the Connecticut Police Association, Connecticut Prison Association, the Literacy Volunteer Program, and other organizations.

In the mid-1980s, Bob purchased the family homestead, his grandfather's farm on Jones Street in Hebron where he was born. In that town he served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for several years and was appointed Justice of the Peace there. He was a member of the Hebron Historical Society among other. He sold the 'farm' in 2001 and moved to Colchester. Besides Bob's love of travel, he was an avid reader and gardener.

Bob leaves one sibling, Kenneth of East Hampton, as well as several close nieces and nephews, including David Traskos of Clinton, Gary Mund of Marlborough, Edie Willams of Haddam, Holly Bankowski of Moodus, and Cindy Chason of Mckinleyville, Calif.

**Colchester**

**Linda Zipadelli-Soj**

Linda Zipadelli-Soj, 74, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home Tuesday, July 18. She fought cancer with incredible strength and courage. She never quit fighting her disease. Linda is most remembered for being an incredibly dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother (Ghee Ghee).



Linda is survived by her loving husband and best friend Richard Soj; their daughter, Brittany Karchner and her husband Benjamin Karchner of Hummelstown, Pa. She is survived by her two incredible grandchildren, Clint and Caroline Karchner.

Linda was born in New Britain to the late John and Sophie Zipadelli. She leaves behind her brother Robert Zipadelli and wife Lori of Kensington; her brother, Alan Zipadelli of Southington, and her brother David Zipadelli of Avon; her brother-in-law, Edward Soj of Farmington; and her aunt, Dolores Urso.

She also leaves behind wonderful nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews.

She is survived by numerous and amazing cousins and friends.

Linda was a loving wife to Richard and the two of them enjoyed traveling throughout the U.S. and in Europe. They both shared a love of water whether it be spending weekends boating out on the lake or trips to the ocean.

Linda was the most incredible mom to Brittany. It was pure joy to watch her grow up and turn into an outstanding young woman, nurse practitioner, and mother. She could not have been more impressed with her son-in-law Benny, his cooking, and his love for her daughter.

There is nothing Linda loved more than her grandchildren. She was the one to go to for every boo-boo and upsetting moment, when you wanted a sweet treat, any toy on the planet, to read a book together, or when you just needed a hug. She gave the best advice, kept all secrets, and gave out endless love.

Linda worked 54 years as a medical coder for a Harford Neurosurgical group. This was her first and only job and a very difficult job to leave. She enjoyed her coworkers who became family.

Calling hours were held Monday July 24, at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home of Berlin, 111 Chamberlain Hwy, Berlin, CT 06037, with Mass of Christian Burial following at St. Paul Church, 485 Alling St., Kensington, CT 06037.

In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Linda's memory by donating to the Cholangiocarcinoma foundation at [www.ericksonhansenberlin.com](http://www.ericksonhansenberlin.com)

Lastly, we would like to thank all our family and friends who have supported us through this most difficult time. Thank you to the medical providers and nurses who provided such attentive care and in our hardest moments provided a light amongst the dark.

**Andover**

**Wayne F. Besaw Jr.**

Wayne F. Besaw Jr., 57, of Bristol, formerly of Vernon and Andover, passed away unexpectedly at home Wednesday, May 3. Wayne was born Aug. 20, 1965, in Hartford, son of Wayne F. Besaw Sr. and Carol (Brooks) Gambrel. He attended school in Vernon and Hebron, and was an early graduate of RHAM High School class of 1983.



Wayne worked as a line cook for many restaurants in the Hartford and Windsor areas. He was an avid and talented artist enjoying drawing in pencil and creating tattoos. Wayne tattooed many of his friends to memorialize their life's moments. He was a former member of the American Pool Association (APA) where he enjoyed spending time with friends. His pool team went to the world championships in Las Vegas in 2015. Wayne owned Grid Iron Cards in Manchester in the early '90s and was a life-long Oakland Raiders fan. He enjoyed animals, especially those of an exotic nature, and would rescue those he could.

He is survived by his father and stepmother, Wayne F. Besaw Sr. and Elizabeth (Crandall) of Edgewater, Fla.; his mother, Carol A. Gambrel and her husband Ken of Saint Petersburg, Fla.; a grandson, Gregory Canepa of Connecticut; his three siblings, Rene Lambert and her husband, Jon of Amston, Nicole Jackson and her husband, Charles of Windsor and Sarah Perry and her husband, Frank of Columbia; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Wayne was predeceased by his daughter, Victoria "Torie" Besaw.

A celebration of Wayne's life will be Sunday, Aug. 13, at 1 p.m., at the Fox Tower in Henry Park in Vernon. Memorial contributions may be made to ECHN Addiction Services, 150 North Main St. #130, Manchester, CT 06042 or the Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118.

To leave a condolence, please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com).

**LEGALS**

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of East Hampton for election as Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2023, Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2024 is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution. The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices:

Office	Number of Names Certified	Number Entitled to be Nominated
Board of Finance	1	3
Board of Education	1	4

A Primary will be held September 12, 2023 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 9, 2023. Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from: Lori Wilcox, Republican Registrar of Voters, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, 06424. Kelly Bilodeau, East Hampton Town Clerk. 1TB 7/28

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

A certified list of Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of East Hampton for election as Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2023, Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2024 is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution. A Primary will be held September 12, 2023 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 9, 2023. Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from: Theresa Latimer, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, 06424. Kelly Bilodeau, East Hampton Town Clerk. 1TB 7/28

**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.

**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
LEGAL NOTICE  
RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF REPUBLICAN PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF "UNDERENDORSEMENT" FOR SOME OFFICES**

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Portland for election as First Selectman (1), Board of Selectmen (4), Town Clerk (1), Board of Education full term (2), Board of Education to fill a vacancy (1), Board of Assessment Appeals (2), Zoning Board of Appeals five year term beginning 2023 (1) & Zoning Board of Appeals five year term beginning 2024 (1) is on file in my office at 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution. The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following office:

Office	Number of Names Certified	Number Entitled to be Nominated
Board of Education (Full Term)	(2)	(3)

A Primary will be held September 12, 2023 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 9, 2023. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from Pauline Neumann, Republican Party Registrar of Voters, 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut. Michael V. Tierney Portland Town Clerk Dated at Portland, CT this 26th day of July 2023 1TB 7/28

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860-456-8658

[www.TriCountyMemorials.com](http://www.TriCountyMemorials.com)  
[tcmemorials@aol.com](mailto:tcmemorials@aol.com)

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# LEGALS

**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.

Application #22-30: Glastonbury Turnpike. Request for Special Permit Renewal of Sand and Gravel Excavation Permit to Excavate and Remove 562,000 Cubic Yards of Earth Material. Application of the Portland Aggregates LLC and property of Portland S & G LLC. Map 119, Lot 2 and 3. Zone R-25. Dated at Portland, CT this 18th day of July 2023  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 7/21, 7/28

**Legal Notice  
Andover Inland Wetlands and  
Watercourses Commission**

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on July 25, 2023:

- Application #IWWC 23-09: William R. Phillips, 79 Lakeside Drive- Installation of a 1000-gallon concrete septic tank and a "Mantis" leaching system. Work is within the 200-foot Upland Review Area of Andover Lake.

The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at [www.andoverconnecticut.org](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org).

1TB 7/28

**COLCHESTER ZONING  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
DECISION NOTICE**

The Zoning Board of Appeals held a hybrid public hearing on July 18, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. at which the following action was taken:

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'. **DENIED**. Dated July 20, 2023  
Laurie Robinson, Chairman

1TB 7/28

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
Adoption of Ordinance  
Colchester Fire & Emergency  
Medical Services**

The Board of Selectmen at its July 20, 2023 meeting adopted a Colchester Fire & Emergency Medical Services Ordinance for the Town of Colchester for the following purpose: It shall be responsible for the protection of life and property in the Town from fire and other casualties, and for the enforcement of the laws, ordinances and regulations relating to fire prevention and fire safety. This ordinance becomes effective 31 days following publication. A copy of the entire ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gayle Furman, CCTC, CMC  
Colchester Town Clerk

1TB 7/28

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING – August 2, 2023  
REFERENDUM – August 9, 2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Colchester and those qualified to vote at town meetings of said Town are hereby warned to meet for a Special Budget Meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 6:30p.m., to be held at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT for the following purposes:

1. To consider and act upon the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget of the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$15,660,140 as recommended by the Board of Finance.
2. To consider and act upon the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget of the Board of Education in the amount of \$43,979,351 as recommended by the Board of Finance.
3. To adjourn said Annual Budget Meeting, pursuant to Section 7-344 of the Connecticut State Statutes and the Colchester Town Charter Section C-1105a.E, for a Referendum vote on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to be held at the Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT.

Absentee Ballots will be available following the Special Budget Meeting through August 8, 2023 at the Town Clerk's office. Dated at Colchester, CT this 25th day of July 2023. Gayle Furman, Town Clerk

Andreas Bisbikos, 1st Selectman  
Rosemary Coyle, Selectman  
Deborah Bates, Selectman  
Jason LaChapelle, Selectman  
Denise Turner, Selectman

Revenue	Budget Summary			
	FY 2021-2022 Actual	FY 2022-2023 Adopted	FY 2022-2023 Projected	FY 2023-2024 Proposed
Property Taxes	42,603,350.00	42,592,257.00	42,592,257.00	42,275,548.00
Intergovernmental - Town	449,087.00	428,704.00	428,704.00	420,252.00
Intergovernmental - Education	12,298,077.00	12,540,218.00	12,540,218.00	13,152,770.00
Charges for Services	651,985.00	572,000.00	572,000.00	653,120.00
Licenses/Permits/Fees	1,161,493.00	957,353.00	957,383.00	1,040,690.00
Other Revenues	558,146.00	436,060.00	436,060.00	1,801,111.00
Use of Fund Balance	555,217.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	296,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>58,277,355.00</b>	<b>57,616,592.00</b>	<b>57,616,622.00</b>	<b>59,639,491.00</b>

Expenditures	Budget Summary			
	FY 2021-2022 Actual	FY 2022-2023 Adopted	FY 2022-2023 Projected	FY 2023-2024 Proposed
General Government	4,033,351.00	3,969,055.00	4,008,745.55	\$3,961,659.37
Public Safety	3,201,050.00	3,234,496.00	3,266,840.96	3,235,481.13
Public Works	3,814,521.00	3,847,767.00	3,809,289.33	3,903,394.64
Community & Human Services	1,698,057.00	1,781,198.00	1,763,386.02	1,831,040.86
Debt	2,075,164.00	2,075,164.00	2,054,412.36	2,075,164.00
Transfers to Other Funds	882,819.00	715,221.00	708,068.79	653,400.00
<b>Town Total</b>	<b>15,704,962.00</b>	<b>15,622,901.00</b>	<b>15,610,743.01</b>	<b>15,660,140.00</b>
<b>Board Of Education</b>	<b>41,827,055.00</b>	<b>42,025,701.00</b>	<b>42,025,701.00</b>	<b>43,979,351.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>57,532,017.00</b>	<b>57,648,602.00</b>	<b>57,636,444.01</b>	<b>59,639,491.00</b>

**MILL RATE CALCULATION**

	EDUCATION	TOWN	DEBT SERVICE	TRANSFERS/ CAPITAL	TOTAL
Appropriations	43,979,351	12,931,576	2,075,164	653,400	59,639,491
Estimated Revenue	13,152,770	4,211,173	0	0	17,363,943
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	30,826,581	8,720,403	2,075,164	653,400	42,278,548
<b>MILLS</b>	<b>19.61</b>	<b>5.55</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>.042</b>	<b>26.90</b>

**MILL RATE CALCULATION**

Amount to be Raised by Taxation	DOLLARS	MILLS	
Reserve for Uncollected Revenue (estimated 98.9% collection rate)	42,278,548	26.90	
<b>TOTAL TAX WARRANT</b>			
Grand List 2022	1,555,311,900	2023-24 Proposed Mill Rate	27.22
Estimated Prorates	1,500,000	2022-23 Mill Rate	26.82
M. V. Supplement	19,500,000	Increase in Mill Rate	0.40
Less Estimated BAA and adjustments	(4,500,000)		
List Net	1,571,811,900		

1TB 7/28

# CLASSIFIED

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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](mailto:dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net).

**LOST & FOUND**

**FOUND YOUNG MALE BORDER COLLIE:** black and white markings. Found on Carolyn Drive, Hebron. Contact Jay Hunniford 860-455-3440 for more information.

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CIT-142-23

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RE7-28-23



## EMPLOYMENT

**EXPERIENCED DENTAL ASSISTANT:** Raney Orthodontics is seeking an experienced dental assistant for 2-3 days per week. Please email your resume to [draney@gmail.com](mailto:draney@gmail.com).

**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.

**COOK**

Gilmore Manor a 22 bed Residential Care Home looking for someone to cook every other weekend. Additional hours available. Excellent starting salary, pleasant environment. Retirees welcome to apply.  
Call Ted or Darlene during business hours: **860-633-4411**

CIT7-20-23

**FULL TIME COOK NEEDED:** \$18 to \$25 an hour depending on experience. Apply at Eggs Up Restaurant on Rt. 66 in Portland. Available immediately!!



**HELP WANTED:** at Maple & Main Liquors, East Hartford. Perfect opportunity for semi-retirees. Register, inventory, 20+ hrs per week, nights & weekends. Call/text 860-881-7479.

**LOCAL AUTO BODY SHOP:** Looking for experienced painter, body man, helper, and tow truck driver. Contact Scott 860-633-0869.

**SEEKING OFFICE ASSISTANT:** for fast growing auto shop in Middletown. Customer oriented, answer phones, prepare invoices, operate credit card machine, filing, schedule appointments. Flexible hours. Call Kathy or George at 860-346-5551.

**SHEET METAL HELPERS:** Full time, apprenticeship program offered, health insurance, 401(K) plan. Mechanical experience required. Call 860-828-3762.

**WAIT STAFF WANTED:** Flynn's Grill has positions available for waitstaff. Hiring for the fall. Training starts in August. Apply in person.

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RE7-26-23

**Seeking : FT / PT Counter Sales Rep & Drivers For Steady Truck Rental Facility.**

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CIT6-8-23

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- **No weekends**

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860-537-2622

**PORTLAND LOCATION**  
Nancy Bordonaro  
860-342-2217

**EAST HAMPTON LOCATION**  
Jenn Chabot  
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Same Day Callbacks  
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- Plant relocation
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- Weeding
- New Plantings
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**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](http://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](mailto:parkert@andoverelementaryct.org)]**

**Program Counselor  
(Part-time Position Opening)**

**Program Counselor (Afternoon Adventure Program)**  
The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Program Counselor for the Parks and Recreation Afternoon Adventures Program. This position will assist with developing, coordinating, and directing various activities involved in an after-school program. (Some additional hours may be needed for the before school program as well). Monday – Friday. 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm., during the school year. \$15.50 per hour. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to Human Resources at [lseymour@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:lseymour@easthamptonct.gov), by August 8, 2023, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). EOE/AA/MF.

**Adult & Junior Staff – Kids Blast Before/After School Program**

Town of Portland, CT (EOE)  
**Deadline: 8/4/2023 or until filled**  
Send Seasonal application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071 [Email: [mceppaglia@portlandct.org](mailto:mceppaglia@portlandct.org)]  
Wages: **Adult Staff: \$15.91** (Counselor III) to **\$23.36** (Counselor X) per hour DOQ  
**Junior Staff: \$15.00** (Counselor I) per hour [High School age 15 to 18]  
Part-time/Seasonal (8/21/23 to 6/14/24), no benefits; 6:45 to 8:15 AM; 3:00 to 6:00 PM (M thru F). Kids Blast Before/After School Program is a structured team program, working, interacting and supervising children ages 5 to 12. Subject to background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Qualifications: Prior experience working with children, First Aid & CPR certification preferred. Junior Staff must be age 15 upon employment; Adult staff must possess high school diploma or GED equivalent.

**Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) Assisted Living**

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Offering not your average CNA positions, ALL shifts! Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401k

Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114  
or email [CBaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:CBaker@colebrookvillage.com)

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Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114  
or email [CBaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:CBaker@colebrookvillage.com)

**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.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.net). Candidates will be considered based on knowledge, skills, abilities and previous experience. Candidates will be required to pass a thorough background investigation and physical exam, including a drug screening. An application and current resume must be received by the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. Position: open until filled. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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