

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Beloved Colchester Resident Remembered

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester resident Catherine Russi, who passed away last Thursday, Aug. 10, at the age of 78, was fondly remembered this week for her strong dedication to local seniors.

Russi was Colchester's first director of senior services, and wound up serving as director of the town's senior center for over 29 years, starting in 1979. By the time she retired in 2008, the center had received numerous honors and distinctions.

"Though she may have retired, her passion and commitment for our senior citizens continued," First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos posted on Facebook. "Our town recognizes the strong foundation she laid for senior services."

Bisbikos added that Russi "will be remembered fondly for her passion, tireless advocacy, and the lasting impact she has and will continue to have on Colchester Senior Services. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a kind soul whom many of us were glad to call a friend."

Last week, the Board of Selectmen unanimously endorsed a citizen-driven petition to dedicate a room in honor of Russi at the community's new senior center, which is currently under construction. Per the town's naming facility policy, the request will be placed on the November 2024 election ballot for townwide approval.

Patty Watts, the current director of the Colchester Senior Center, spoke to Russi's influence and legacy, expressing that she established many of the town's programs.

"She was the organizer of it all," Watts said. "She will be a presence that's missed."

Watts said that, throughout her time at the senior center, Russi would constantly offer assistance and support; her advocacy for senior

citizens never stopped, Watts shared.

"Her history cannot be underestimated," she said.

One of Russi's goals, Watts expressed, was to witness the groundbreaking ceremony for a new town senior center. And in April, she did just that, as dozens of seniors crowded outside of Town Hall, adjacent to the site of the future 14,500 square-foot facility.

Russi grabbed a golden shovel at the center of a dirt pile, and ground was officially broken — a moment years in the making. She was joined by a variety of local and state leaders, including Congressman Joe Courtney and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz.

"That was a very proud day that she and I shared," Watts said. "It was a dream come true."

Watts added that after serving the community for nearly 30 years, naming a room after Russi was "an honor the board felt she had earned and I certainly supported that."

Russi's impact reached beyond Colchester, touching neighboring communities such as Lebanon, where she helped create the town's cooperative nursery school and served on its original Board of Directors. She also contributed to the Lebanon Senior Center, where she was



Cathy Russi

a part of its "Friends Committee."

Darcy Battye, director of Lebanon Senior Services, called Russi an individual who "led by example."

"She was a fountain of information," Battye said. "I really felt like she was a mentor for me."

When it came to supporting seniors and implementing new ideas, Russi didn't just talk about taking action — "she always did it."

"She took care of seniors," Battye said.

Often, she continued, Russi's passion extended well beyond expectations; she would cook meals for large groups, at times out of her own

pocket.

"I think naming the kitchen after her would be tremendous," Battye expressed. She agreed that the honor was deserved, especially after Russi consistently sought funding sources and played a key role in bringing the new facility to fruition.

One of the main driving forces behind the petition was Liz Shilosky, a Lebanon resident who serves on the town's Commission on Aging. She worked with Russi in a variety of capacities over many years. Their paths would cross through work in both Colchester and Lebanon, and Shi-

losky got to know her well.

"She was one in a million," Shilosky said. "Cathy was the most determined person I've ever met."

Shilosky expressed that Russi's passion at full-strength was sometimes fierce, but she "always had seniors' best interest in mind."

"She was a force to be reckoned with," Shilosky said.

Shilosky felt strongly that a room should be dedicated for Russi, but as a Lebanon resident, she could only spark the initial request; the actual names on the petition had to be from Colchester.

The petition required 100 names, and various circulators were able to obtain the signatures in two days. Colchester Town Clerk Gayle Furman confirmed the petition's authenticity, and the request was presented to the selectmen.

"We just want Cathy's legacy to be remembered," Shilosky said.

Honoring the long-tenured director was a simple decision, she said, adding that people throughout the community were almost surprised by the need for a petition.

"They thought it was 'a given,'" she expressed. Shilosky and Battye also spoke during the board meeting, introducing the petition.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle is the board's liaison on Colchester's Commission on Aging. She credited Russi for introducing and "sparking" her own interests in senior advocacy.

"She contributed a lot to Colchester," Coyle said.

Even after retiring, Russi was unable to detach from her prior role, Coyle explained, and it was important for her to see the launch of a new senior center, the culmination of countless hours of work.

Russi's full obituary appears this week on page 28.

Marlborough's New Town Manager Settling In

By Michael Sinkewicz

Marlborough's new town manager moved into the corner office at Town Hall last week, officially marking the beginning of a new era of municipal government that was years in the making.

David R. Porter, who was unanimously appointed by the Board of Selectmen last month, began his new role on Aug. 7. Last Friday, as he wrapped up his first week on the job, the chief executive sat down with the *RiverEast* to discuss what the community should expect during the ongoing transition to a board-appointed leader, as well as his aspirations in Marlborough.

He previously served as the village administrator in Winneconne, Wis., for four years. Before that, he worked in Wayland, Mass., as a management analyst and human resources manager. Porter is a member of the International County Manager's Association and received a master's degree in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School, and he earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard, as well.

At first, Porter seemed destined for law school; he worked in Washington, D.C., in the private sector as a legal assistant. But he ultimately chose a different path.

"I got bit by the public service bug," he said.

Porter worked for a nonprofit organization for over two years before linking up with one of his favorite graduate school professors to do consulting work back in Massachusetts. While working for local governments, Porter's desire to directly impact municipalities — not just provide reports and suggestions — continued to grow; he needed to see the end results.

After his success in Wisconsin, Porter wanted to bring his family — he has a wife and four young children — closer to his father, who lives in Massachusetts. His return to New England made sense personally; he just needed the right professional fit.

"I was increasingly impressed by Marlborough," he said.

Now that he's arrived, what does Porter bring

to the position?

"I have really good experience leading high-performing teams and finding ways to improve performance," he said, adding that he was able to make significant infrastructure improvements while overseeing town initiatives. "I got a lot of really good experience applying for and receiving grants. And managing those projects — getting pipes replaced, roads re-paved, gutters put in — it's not necessarily exciting, until they fail."

It's too soon to identify any major priorities in Marlborough after one week on the job, but Porter said he's confident he'll be caught up soon, especially with the support of town employees who are already engrossed with local concerns.

"I've inherited a terrific team," he expressed. "I've gone around the building and I'm grateful for, and impressed by, the quality of the team members that I've inherited."

In 2021, residents voted to modify the town
See New Town Manager, page 29

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Parenting Workshop

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold the last in its series of parenting workshops Wednesday, Aug. 23, from 8-9 p.m., via Zoom. The theme of the workshop is "Resilience, Self-Compassion."

The free class is offers skills designed to help people communicate and parent more effectively. Registration is required. The class is appropriate for parents with children of all ages,

and is facilitated by Dr. Debbie Kruenegel-Farr, a parent coach, consultant and educator with a Ph.D in research, human development and family studies.

To register, visit ahmyouth.reccdesk.com/Community/Home. For more information, contact Becky Murray at 860-228-0871 or bec-kym@ahmyouth.org.

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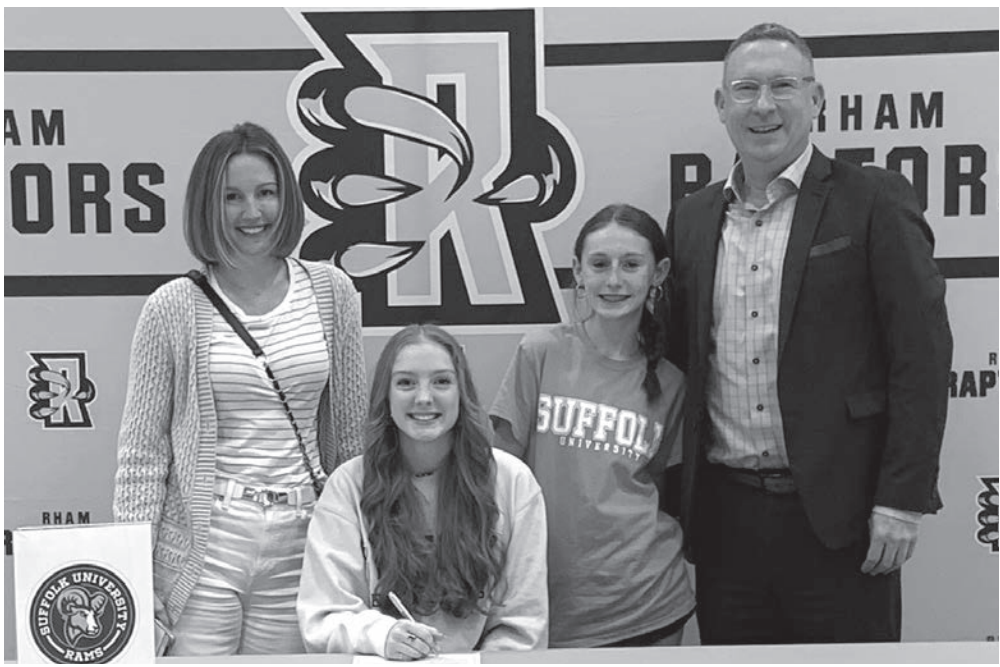




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Maddy Murray, a 2023 RHAM High School graduate, will play soccer at Suffolk University in Boston. Murray is pictured with her mom Andrea, stepdad Alan, and stepsister Amelia.

RHAM Soccer Star Shoots to Suffolk

By Josh Howard

After winning the team's Most Valuable Player (MVP) award as a senior, 2023 RHAM graduate Maddy Murray will continue her soccer career at Suffolk University in Boston.

Murray said Suffolk was the right blend of academics and athletics – and had the ideal location.

"Coming from a small town, I liked the idea of going somewhere bigger," stated Murray, who has lived in both Hebron and Marlborough. "I wanted a big change, especially with diversity and in culture, and Boston was perfect."

Athletics aside, Suffolk was always Murray's first choice. Then after talking with the soccer coaches at the university, she said she felt at home.

Murray's path to Beantown started on the local soccer fields when she was first introduced to the game by her mom, Andrea, who also coached her throughout youth.

"I think that really helped me and gave me support my whole life with soccer. She has always been my biggest supporter," Murray said of her mom.

Her passion for the sport grew when the town of Hebron brought in soccer coaches from Europe to teach advanced skills, which she took with her into the high school and club soccer.

Along with playing at RHAM, Murray also played at FSA (Farmington Sports Arena) and for FSC (Farmington Soccer Club), and the past two years she has played premiere soccer for CFC (Connecticut Football Club) in preparation for college soccer.

"My love of soccer grew over time," Murray said. "I always liked to play, but now that I am older I appreciate it a lot more."

Murray said she liked the contrast between her high school team and club teams. "[Club] allowed me to branch out and be my own person and play with new people," she stated.

She added that she was proud of her time at

RHAM where, during her senior season, she helped to rebuild the program under new head coach Matt Cameron.

"Maddy is a well-rounded, clever attacking player that can score and create goals for teammates," said Cameron. "I believe she will compete for considerable time as a freshman [at Suffolk]."

Outside of soccer, she was part of National Honor Society, Business National Honor Society, and Student Council at the high school.

"I really think RHAM prepared me for college," noted Murray. "I took a lot of business classes that were really helpful. The teachers really cared how you did in class – they were always there to help you out."

In Boston, Murray will join a college team led by Ellin McDougall. McDougall is entering her second season leading a Rams team that competes in the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) and plays games throughout New England, including a road trip to play the University of Hartford on Sept. 30.

Murray said she will miss seeing her friends locally every day, yet is ready for a change.

"Meeting new people and traveling new places will be really cool," added Murray. "I like the idea of independence and relying on myself for things. I will be learning new things about myself and that will be exciting."

Youth Baseball Fall Registration

RHAM Youth Baseball fall registration is now open. Families residing in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough should visit www.rhamyouthbaseball.org to create a profile and register their children. Registration will close Aug. 25.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Sometimes I think back to my early days as a reporter, covering the *Rivereast* towns. Officials would often tell me who are the Democrats and who are the Republicans doesn't really matter; that folks tend to put politics aside and work together peacefully.

Like a Pollyannaish newbie reporter, I ate that sentiment up – only to quickly realize it was a bunch of feel-good claptrap. Still, I've never seen ugliness quite like what I've seen in Colchester politics the last couple of years.

Oh, there have definitely been many moments of pique in other towns over the years – Marlborough and particularly East Hampton, I'm looking in your directions – but in Colchester, the open disdain some of the elected officials have for one another is striking at times.

It would be bad enough if the hostilities were contained to letters to the editor or Facebook, but board meetings have turned into a circus, with jibes and insults hurled back and forth. Anyone reading Michael Sinkewicz's excellent recaps of Board of Selectmen meetings will have noticed this.

And to think, all of this was before the political parties announced their slates.

It could be a long next few months, folks.

Now this is some pretty good – and rewarding – news. Some of you may recall Michael Sinkewicz's story from last week about the survey in Hebron regarding the possible relocation of the town's Public Works facilities to

Kinney Road.

One survey result that wasn't disseminated in last week's story, as it wasn't particularly germane to the Public Works issue, had to do with where – and how – folks find out about what's going on in Hebron. And the number one source, according to that survey, was the *Rivereast*!

Fifty percent of respondents said the *Rivereast* was a "very helpful" information source – more than town mailings (25%), the town website (20%), town meetings (also 20%), and even friends and family (24%).

Now, say all you want about small sample sizes (only 725 people completed the survey), but that's a pretty great feeling. All of us here at the *Rivereast* work hard week in and week out to put out a quality product that folks can trust and rely on. It's nice to know that effort is paying off, and that people turn to us when they want to know about local developments.

Seriously, it means a lot. Thank you.

This is pretty neat: earlier this month, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Connecticut District Office announced that The Farmer's Cow has been named an SBA Legacy Business.

The Farmer's Cow – a cooperative of six family farms, including Mapleleaf Farms in Hebron – is one of 68 Legacy Businesses that are being recognized nationwide as part of the agency's 70th anniversary celebrations.

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



Summer Concert... The First Congregational Church of Portland, 554 Main St., invites all to a free summer concert Sunday, Aug. 20, from 5-7 p.m. The Foley Brothers and Dave Porteus will perform songs for all ages. Refreshments will be served. Bring a chair, blanket and a picnic if you wish. The concert will be moved into the church in case of inclement weather. While the show is free, all are invited to make a free-will offering of food items or money for the Portland Food Bank and Amazing Grace Food Pantry.

Bulletin Board

The recent hype surrounding the release of the new "Barbie" movie got me to thinking about one of the greatest films of all time.

I refer, of course, to the 1982 cult classic "Conan the Barbarian," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger in his sword-wielding quest to rid the ancient pre-global warming world (which, incidentally, appears to consist primarily of desert) of the Snake King cult.

My wife maintains that my affection for the Conan movie stems mostly from the fact that the minimal costuming for the female characters was apparently supervised by the Leather Department at Downtown Dominatrix.

I can only protest that most of the action does take place in the desert, after all, and deserts are hot. Conan himself is costumed quite briefly in a sort of Speedo fashioned from what appears to have started life as a rather undersized squirrel, so it seems a little unfair to start charging the film's fashion department with misogynistic leanings.

Fashion issues notwithstanding, I have recently come to view "Conan the Barbarian" as an unintended parable for our present situation in this United States. Conan (much like a former U.S. president once promised us) sets out on a quest to destroy the insidious Snake King and his cult, not so much out of any great affection for the world or genuine altruism, but because he finds the Snake King to be exceedingly irritating from a personal point of view. Yup, sometimes it's that simple.

The latter, played by legendary actor James Earl Jones, is either a snake who can turn into a smooth-talking demagogue or a smooth-talking demagogue who can turn into a snake (sort of like one of those chicken or the egg things). I may be jaded, but it seems to me that if ever there was a metaphor for the stereotypical U.S. politician of our day, this would be it.

In addition to the assistance of a troll-like minion (insert the government agency of your choice) who bashes any protesters over the head with a large mallet, the Snake King maintains power by serving his followers a sort of green toxic stew consisting of powerful opiates and the body parts of his (now former) detractors, all seasoned with a lavish sprinkling of college loan forgiveness waivers. Oblivious to the true nature of this stuff, his mindless followers suck it down like free pumpkin lattes and vow to do his bidding. Need I say more?

Okay, I made up the part about college loan waivers.

Also, unlike our modern-day players, neither Conan nor the Snake King seem to be particularly interested in improving their financial standing by extorting money from anyone who wants a favor.

Also, the Snake King is articulate and knows what day it is. And Conan is actually willing to die for the people who believe in him, rather than urging his loyal followers to go die when it is personally convenient for him (and calling them nasty names if they express any reluctance).

Other than that...

Anyway, along comes Conan, who also happens to be an accomplished petty thief. (Go figure.) Unable to vent himself on Twitter (which, thankfully, has yet to be invented), he unsheathes his massive sword and proceeds to hack through countless Snake Cult minions (and anyone else unfortunate enough to stray onto the scene) without once being hauled into court on charges of inciting to riot or failure to exercise personal restraint.

It's quite a mess, but, hey, what do you want? The guy's a barbarian. On the other hand, not once in the entire movie does he insult anyone as being fat or ugly or make up sarcastic nicknames for people who decline to grovel before him.

Spared the intervention of the U.S. judicial system, Conan ultimately rescues the half-naked and presumably defiled princess (i.e., America) from the clutches of the foul Snake King and topples the evil cult.

Oh, did I not mention the princess? Well, there's a princess and I regret to say that she doesn't appear to be terribly bright, perhaps because she's indulged in too much Snake King stew.

On the other hand, given the choice between the Snake King and a barbarian, perhaps she was desperately hoping for a third option.

I know I am.

Jim Hallas

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Thanks, East Hampton Lions

To the East Hampton Lions:

The seniors at Chatham and Bellwood would like to thank you for the delicious baked potatoes and ham. We had a great time getting together.

We would also like to thank Fred the driver of the senior bus.

Shelley Grendzinski – East Hampton
Tenant Commissioner for Housing

Yikes! Socialism

To the Editor:

Here we go again. The political season brings lamentations of socialism. It will undermine our morals, destroy our country, enslave us to Big Government. A communist behind every curtain. Oh no! McCarthyism at its finest! Is that the great America we want to make again?

Socialist programs and social programs have fine distinctions. Although some government programs can be seen as socialist, they are not truly socialist. There are, however, social pro-

grams in the U.S., such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Socialism has played a significant role in shaping various aspects of American policy and society, even though the U.S. is primarily a capitalist nation. The New Deal programs incorporated socialist principles to address the Great Depression in the 1930s. Progressive taxation and social welfare policies demonstrate the influence of socialism in wealth redistribution and support for the less fortunate. Public education and health care, including Medicare and Medicaid, are examples of socialist-inspired policies aimed at providing equal access and opportunities to all citizens. Under social liberalism, the common good is viewed as harmonious with the freedom of the individual.

Unions are often seen as instruments of socialism. Do you or any member of your family belong to a union? Fie on them! Is your church a socialist organization? Do they take money from you and hand it out to the poor or frail? What about the charities you donate to? Let them earn their money, like you do! Are your

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political opponents socialists or social liberals? And what are you? If you are so adamantly against socialism, please return the benefits you've accrued through the various social programs you have enjoyed all your life! Then consider what you would have left: very little, unless your ancestors were Rockefellers.

John Barnowski – Colchester

The Fix is In

To the Editor:
Liberals: Don't worry. Your democracy is safe. The fix is in.

**Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

Biden Crime Family

To the Editor:
For many years, Joe Biden claimed he never spoke to Hunter about what he did for business. Then Joe said he was never in business with Hunter. We now know that Joe spoke on the phone and met in person with Hunter's business partners that include members of foreign governments.

There is proof that Joe met with these people to sell the "Biden Brand." This includes Hunter's laptop, voice recordings, and photos while he was vice president and now president. Hunter admits he gave these people access to his father so these people could get special treatment. I saw the interview on TV where Hunter admits this.

Hunter Biden is the bagman for the corrupt Biden crime family that has made millions of dollars betraying this country. We know the Biden crime family has spread this money through many LLCs, shell companies and offshore bank accounts. We know this because of hundreds of suspicious activity reports from banks. What did these people and foreign governments get for this money?

The same people that will never read the Durham Report will never look at the evidence that proves Joe Biden is incompetent and corrupt. I challenge everyone to look at the evidence – that takes people that are honest, honorable, intelligent and with an open mind.

The Biden crime family may soon come to an end. Stay tuned.

David Anderson – Colchester

Get Informed

To the Editor:
Mr. Jordan Werme "hopes to bring Green Views to the (EH) Council" as noted in his recent announcement. Mr. Werme, my family has been residents of EH since 1956, and are still considered "newbies", so your tenure is not impressive. As to your desire to increase the "three-minute soundbite" at TC meetings, speakers have two opportunities to speak for a total of six minutes. They can assemble a cadre of like-minded supporters to all present "three-minute soundbites," reach out to TC members individually to get on a speaking list, not to mention the ability to write letters to everyone including Santa Claus to advance an agenda. EH townfolk have used these approaches for years to be heard and quite successfully.

You state "I want to be informed," yet you fail to comment accurately when it comes to a clean lake. Lake Smart is just one part of the efforts by a number of people involved in Prevention and Remediation, and is already "highly encouraged." Approximately 19 homeowners associations are in the watershed with an estimated 800 homes, all with a vested interest in keeping the lake healthy, so don't point fingers at "private enterprise" as bad people. Research on your part would reveal the "many issues the lake faces" (environmentally) are driven in large part from runoff at 5 key areas surrounding the lake, not just the waterfront residents as you imply, and what actions have been completed to mitigate the problems. And what do you think our Brownfield Redevelopment Agency is not doing? Your comment about "address environmental issues first" shows a distinct lack of

awareness of the BCA's efforts and approach. Mr. Werme, I strongly suggest you attend more TC meetings, as well as Conservation Lake Commission and BCA meetings; you may actually become properly informed.

Bob Yenker – East Hampton

Competent Leadership Needed

To the Editor:
Put simply, members of the Board of Finance and the first selectman of Colchester need to be replaced in the next election. The number of errors, blunders, and unnecessary rancor that accompanied this budget process can not afford to be repeated.

Our town needs competent leadership that will see us forward and not backward. It's time for a change.

Craig Hester – Colchester

Town Manager

To the Editor:
I have been noted in this section as supporting a town manager form of government for Colchester. This could not be farther from the truth. First, our town does not have a population to support this new manager position. The citizens and elected and appointed officials are very good at taking care of the needs of the town without 'manager' oversight. Second, this would involve additional expenditures for the town's taxpayers, plus a contract of employment. Sometimes a contract may be good, but many times it is not so good.

I have and always will be an independent thinker. As your representative on the Board of Selectman, I will bring this attribute to the table, and do what is best for our town.

**Thank you,
Cliff O'Donal – Colchester
Candidate, Board of Selectmen**

Medicine to the Dead

To the Editor:
Sam Prentice's weekly squabbles are reminiscent of a shut-in who calls 911 every week because his toaster won't stop screaming at him. His recent defense of Trump's rape case, and the criminal plot to overthrow an election, is as unpersuasive as his convoluted notions regarding climate change. Prentice believes Trump violated no laws and holds no accountability for deliberately peddling fraudulent claims of a stolen election, or for orchestrating a prolonged pressure campaign which targeted multiple state officials and the vice president to block certification of a fair election. A crackpot scheme which is like Watergate, only with morons.

The frivolous claim that Trump's conviction in the E. Jean Carroll case is "unjust" is also characteristic of Mr. Prentice's emotional fragility

and extreme intolerance of realities that do not fit his narrow view of the world. Although Trump was found guilty of sexual assault the presiding judge, Lewis Kaplan clarified this is merely a legal distinction and stated, "What the jury found Trump did was in fact rape, as it's commonly understood." The judge further wrote "The finding that Ms. Carroll failed to prove that she was 'raped' within the strict definition of New York Penal Law does not mean that she failed to prove Mr. Trump 'raped' her as most people commonly understand the word." Kaplan added: "Indeed, as the evidence at trial recounted makes clear, the jury found that Mr. Trump in fact did exactly that." The fact is the jurors found a preponderance of evidence to support Ms. Carroll's claim to have been sexually abused or forcibly touched or "raped" by Mr. Trump.

The unfortunate reality is any attempt to discuss facts with someone like Mr. Prentice, who has abandoned reason, is like administering medicine to the dead.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Together for Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:
Someone recently asked me what I mean when I talk about "bringing Colchester together" and why I think it's possible even in these divided times.

I work professionally in local government, so I don't view the job of first selectman through a political lens. In my day job serving in another town's selectman office, I work alongside both Republicans and Democrats everyday. Most issues we work on have nothing to do with partisan politics anyway.

When you don't see people through a partisan lens, it's a lot easier to work together.

As a volunteer in Colchester's government, I've stayed true to that professionalism and leaned on my past work in journalism too. That means sticking to the facts, asking questions, and encouraging conversation between people even when they disagree.

My style is very different from the hostile meetings we see today – and it works.

I served on our Board of Finance at a contentious time. I am proud that we managed to keep services funded during the pandemic, increase firefighter staffing, support open space preservation, and move forward both the fire apparatus

replacement and senior center. For me, bringing Colchester together is more than a philosophy about how leaders should behave. It is a guide for what we should aim to achieve. Community is one of our greatest strengths in this town. We need to take better care of the places where people gather and experience community. That means prioritizing maintenance for places like the recplex, fields and parks, finishing the senior center and Norton Park, and making sure there's a safe Youth Center.

It won't always be sunshine and rainbows, but I will keep working for you and leading by example no matter what.

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

Committed to Working Hard

To the Editor:
The Portland Democrats are proud to announce that Kim Nagy-Maruschock and Sarah Spear are running for the Board of Education. Kim and Sarah are both currently on the board and they look forward to continuing to serve.

Kim Nagy-Maruschock graduated from UConn with a B.S. in human development and family relations. She earned her master's in special education from Southern Connecticut State University, and most recently earned her Sixth-Year degree in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University. Kim has been a special education teacher for over 20 years and holds a dual certification in both general and special education. In addition to teaching, she is the preschool coordinator of the early intervention preschool program in Cromwell.

A 22-year resident of Portland, Kim has volunteered with riverfront clean ups, Juneteenth, Portland Little League, and coached softball. Kim and her husband Scott have three children, 16-year-old twin daughters and an 18-year-old son, all of whom attend Portland High School.

Sarah Spear has a background in management and disabilities. She is the founder and chief executive officer of Empowered Together, a venture-backed startup connecting families affected by disability with qualified service providers. Sarah has led development and communications at a New Haven-based human rights nonprofit. She also served as executive director

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★ Boat Crash cont. from page 5
 of Arch Grants in St. Louis and as chief executive officer of PharmaSecure, a healthtech company. Sarah volunteers locally with NightStrike, serving meals in Middletown, and with a Connecticut disability policy institute. Sarah and her husband have two children, both of whom attend Portland schools.
 Sarah and Kim are respectfully asking for your vote on Nov. 7. They are committed to working hard and want to continue to ensure quality education for all the students in Port-

land. Thank you.
April Graves
 Member, Ways and Means
 Portland Democratic Town Committee

Transparency
 Dear Colchester Residents:
 As first selectman, historic strides in increasing the level of transparency in local government have been made. An early initiative was securing UHY as an ARPA consulting firm to ensure

that there is a strategy, continuous monitoring, and transparency planning when it comes to the distribution of ARPA dollars. As of today, the town has been able to successfully allocate millions of dollars in ARPA funding to strengthen our community with minimal concern.
 Another achievement was securing a state-of-the-art Hybrid Room that allows the community to have unparalleled access to town meetings while meeting all FOI standards. Our largest attendance via hybrid was more than 200 citizens. The town has also completed a historic number

of FOI requests and will continue to use eDiscovery to ensure all information is made available and that nothing is withheld. Transparency also includes providing the Board of Finance with the impact of contract negotiations before the budget season begins to avoid any surprises.
 With the passing of the town budget, I will be bringing a transparency software contract to the Board of Selectmen to approve. Complete integration will ensure that the public and Board of Finance have access to real-time data. The other first selectman candidate has provided zero support for the product.

That same candidate also participated in a series of questionable meetings in July and October of 2020, in which the Debt Service Subcommittee deprioritized the safety concerns related to our recreation fields. These meetings had no agenda, no minutes, and did not allow the public to participate. Both the previous first selectman and selectwoman Rosemary Coyle also participated. Evidence can be found under the Board of Finance audio, minutes, and correspondence.

Government should not be allowed to operate in the shadows.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
 Colchester First Selectman

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Climate Hysteria

To the Editor:
 The climate hysteria generating a mass psychosis of panic and lunacy has now consumed our editor. Corporate media has launched a never-ending barrage of fear and doom despite none of their moronic claims being supported by actual science. Nothing exceptional is taking place to justify this insanity.

The "hottest day ever" claim originates from a University of Maine group called Climate Reanalyzer. They utilize computer models employing sparse actual data that only goes back to 1979 to make their absurd claims. Even NOAA distanced themselves saying they couldn't verify that claim.

Their algorithms compile a global average temperature from their models. Antarctica experienced a "heat wave" where the normal of -70 degrees F increased to -30 F! Although a short-term phenomena, this skewed the average generated by Climate Reanalyzer enabling them to make their unfounded claim. Despite NOAA's disavowal of this nonsense, the alarmists and media immediately ran with it and have now permanently adopted the fraud into their narrative. They've even expanded it into being the hottest in 125,000 years!

Climate is the average of weather over 30 years and is experienced locally, not globally. Our region has only hit 90 degrees F on three days so far this summer. No days have hit 95 degrees and it's been at least 10 years since we breached 100 degrees.

So now, Biden's answer to address our "unprecedented" (non-existent) heat wave will be for all of us to turn off our ACs, quit driving, and quit eating any food requiring transportation or refrigeration. Here are the facts regarding these fraudulent claims:

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2023/08/11/climate-fact-check-july-2023-edition/>

These are the factual rebuttals to all of these stupid claims. Please check this link out so you can see you're being fed nonsense.

Sam Prentice - Andover

Accessibility for All Residents

To the Editor:
 As a progressively-minded candidate for East Hampton's Town Council, one of my primary concerns is the accessibility of town services, facilities, and the overall ease of participation in the democratic process. To that end, I have some concerns regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in town.

If there are issues that you have personally experienced - captioning or ASL for town meetings, accommodations for sight-impaired individuals, wheelchair or limited mobility access, etc. - I want to help find solutions. Please reach out to me directly at jordanforeasthampton@gmail.com to share your concerns so that I can work with the other Democratic candidates to ensure all residents are provided the access they need.

Whether for yourself, a family member, or a neighbor, we need to be looking out for each other to ensure the health and safety of every resident and to ensure that obstacles to ballot access are removed.

Jordan Werme
 Candidate for Town Council
jordanforeasthampton@gmail.com

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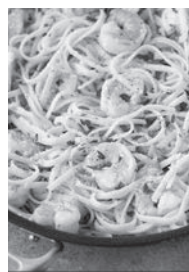
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November Can't Come Soon Enough!

To the Editor: If this past budget process has shown us anything it's that our town needs much better leadership. Leadership that actually listens and cares about its citizens. For months, our BOF chair tried hard to convince the citizens that she was listening when in reality all she did was ignore, ignore, ignore. Parents and citizens came together and unanimously proved in the first referendum that the budgets were too low! The BOF was then forced to finally listen to the people they represent.

We were never fighting for higher taxes. It was always about fighting for an appropriate and meaningful budget for both our town and schools. Many of us told the BOF chair from the beginning that she was leaving money on the table which she chose to ignore over and over. Don't be fooled that the BOF came in at the last minute and saved the day. It was the parents and citizens who never gave up. Who sacrificed time and energy to make sure our town and especially our schools were properly taken care of. In the end the BOF came up with a solution that we had been fighting for all along; they just refused to listen until they were left with no other choice. Do not forget that come November.

Colchester citizen and parent, Beth Tiezz

Too Good to be True?

To the Editor: I just read in a Hartford newspaper that the U.S. has the highest economic growth of all the leading world economies in the world since the pandemic. 1.3 million jobs have been created since then. I also read that the US has the lowest inflation rate of all the G7 countries, which is a record streak, down 40% from a year ago and unemployment has been at less than 4 per cent in the last 16 months. So why is it that Republicans say that Joe is doing a poor job?

I was really surprised to read that the inflation rate is down 40%. (I just ordered heating oil Sunday. The price is \$3.53 cents a gallon when I paid \$2.84 a gallon in November of 2022.) Reading on, in the Business section of the paper, the headline read "Rise in wholesale prices biggest since the start of the year". This is not what I read a few pages prior to this. Reading further on, I read where a home builder in East Granby is switching from building homes to building duplexes for rentals because more people are looking to rent rather than to purchase.

Maybe that 40% drop in the inflation rate was taken for a span of one week or a few days? I don't know how others feel about what the news media is telling us but I'm starting to question what I read and hear from our news media.

Frank Blume - Colchester

Concert Series a Success

To the Editor: The 2023 Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series was a wonderful success! Members of the board send a big thank you to all the sponsors this year who helped pay for the talented bands and beautiful promotional materials created by East Hampton graphic designers Walt Jedziniak and Gioelli Design. Our audiences were entertained by a variety of musicians who performed pop, country, folk, classic rock and original selections and were very generous when we passed the collection baskets at intermission.

Recipients of the weekly collections included East Hampton Food Bank, East Hampton Emergency Services, East Hampton Youth and Family Services, Connecticut Draft Horse and the East Hampton Center School Music Department.

Additional volunteer board members are needed to help plan for next year! Contact Dean Markham for information, 860-918-4400 or visit <http://goffhouseehct.blogspot.com/>

With sincere thanks, the members of the Joseph N. Goff House Museum Board, Dean Markham, Connie Cowles, Mallory Kokus and Melissa Pionzio

Colchester Republicans

To the Editor: Congratulations to Colchester on passing the town and school budgets on Aug. 9. In the end, members of the Board of Finance listened to the "No/Too Low" voters on the first referendum and allocated additional non-tax revenue, allowing for an increase while reducing the mill rate slightly from the first proposal. Although

we've already lost some ground due to the delay, our schools can now begin the year with budget intact, and the town can continue to operate and make a couple of needed additions to services.

Like many others, I spent the last six months attending board meetings in town to try to get these budgets passed. It's been eye-opening. There are people serving on our Board of Finance who proudly don't care to listen to what residents want. At nearly every Board of Selectmen meeting, you see the political upheaval in the Republican Town Committee (RTC) playing out at the expense of our town's governance. In addition, the first selectman takes every public meeting as an opportunity to target his political opponents and trash the town's history of working together for the best outcomes.

In the July 28 issue of the *Rivereast*, the RTC chair accuses "outside Republicans" of weakening the Republican slate, saying "People don't understand the political gamesmanship." It is strange to me that the RTC is rallying behind the incumbent first selectman while the RTC chair's wife has an open lawsuit against him, related to her firing from Town Hall back in April 2022 (Connecticut Docket # KNL-CV23-6060708-S or tinyurl.com/3awzxzpe).

I guess I also don't understand the political gamesmanship. And to be honest, it's getting really old. That's why I will work to help elect some new folks to serve our town this fall. We have got to have better options than this.

Susie Milner - Colchester

Developers Wanted

To the Editor: The time has come for the development of Horton Boulevard and the town of Hebron should be a forerunner, by being one of the first to develop land the town owns on Horton Boulevard to bring growth and new opportunity to the center of Hebron.

The town should make every effort to find and work with a respected developer to turn a parcel of land into a learning adventure that would write its own history by becoming a cornerstone, teaching what young people should know to succeed in life and to respect other people who they will work with and learn to absorb all the knowledge and wisdom they can from other people.

What more could we as a town ask to see, then, our youth of Hebron, flourishing in life and making the most of the opportunities the town provided. To have a learning center in the middle of town, and what a young person could learn by attending sessions there could be a turning point in their lives.

Development of a learning atmosphere takes a community effort. Hebron, I believe, has that strong will and "let's get it done attitude" to adhere to a commitment and see that it happens, for it takes hard work and it is not a walk in the park or sitting on a bench watching the grass grow, but it gives the community a chance to come together to work for the future of our

young citizens. What more could a town be proud of then to have our young children, when they are older and wiser, tell people they are proud and glad to have grown up in Hebron and they appreciate the opportunities the town provided for them to become respected citizens.

Thomas Tremont - Hebron

Thank You, Rivereast Community

To the Editor: As Hebron takes a deep breath and digests the conclusive results of the Public Works survey, I would like to take a moment to thank the *Rivereast* and its community of readers. For many months the editor of the *Rivereast*, Michael Thompson, has provided an avenue for concerned citizens to share important environmental and historical information. This opportunity to communicate directly with our neighbors has been a vital step in the process of creating a responsible and healthy future for Hebron.

The results of the Public Works survey, with 69% of participants stating the preference to keep Public Works on Old Colchester Road, were certainly influenced by the information provided in the *Rivereast*. The efforts presented in the letters to the editor were enhanced by the professional reporting of Michael Sinkewicz. His conscientious work to present a balanced view of the complex situation faced by Hebron is appreciated.

I would also like to sincerely thank the community of *Rivereast* readers. I am grateful to all of you who stopped to chat in the street, in the preserve, at the dentist office, in the grocery store, on Facebook and elsewhere. Your positive feedback and encouragement is helping to sustain the effort to protect our environment,

drinking water and history. However, there is still more work to be accomplished. Researching the town-owned land at 17 Kinney Rd., also called the Horton Property, has exposed the amazing potential this unique location has to offer. I look forward to sharing with the people of Hebron and our town leaders more details of these remarkable discoveries. Together we can create an educational and economic engine that celebrates our distinct environmental and historical heritage. For more information please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Gratefully, Kevin J. Tulimieri - Amston

Make Nepotism Great Again

To the Editor: The GOP is going after Hunter Biden to distract you from the \$2 billion dollar gift of Jared Kushner. They're going after Joe Biden to distract you from the myriad crimes of Donald Trump. Deflection, projection, and gaslighting is all they have. If you want Hunter Biden, a private citizen who has never worked for the U.S. government, investigated, then let's include Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump for earning up to \$640 million while working in the White House and then getting \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia.

First things first: Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump should never have been allowed to work in the White House. Anti-nepotism rules exist for a reason, namely so that unqualified relatives of the president are not given jobs in the most important office in the world. Yet Ivanka Trump - assistant to the president - had a West Wing office and full security clearances. Jared, initially had security clearance issues, but eventually the White House security specialists were over-

See Letters, page 8

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

"Over the last 70 years, the SBA has helped millions of small business owners make and sell goods here in the United States, grow, create jobs, and contribute to their local economies," said SBA New England Regional Administrator Mike Vlachich. "The Farmer's Cow is a perfect example of one of these legacy businesses. Part manufacturer, retailer, restauranter, and franchisor, this business had assistance from SBA along the way and consistently shows their commitment to the community, job creation, and sustainable farming."

Catherine Marx, a longtime Hebron resident and former town elected official who's now SBA Connecticut District director, added, "The Farmer's Cow unwavering commitment to sustainability in the agricultural industry is inspirational. This cooperative embodies the true spirit of resilience and

community, exemplifying the values that the SBA champions. We congratulate The Farmer's Cow s on this well-deserved recognition, and may their legacy continue to flourish for generations to come."

The Farmer's Cow was founded in 2003, and the cooperative's milk, ice cream and eggs are sold throughout New England. And I have to say, from personal experience, their products are pretty darn tasty.

SBA officials, along with Congressman Joe Courtney, will present the Farmer's Cow partners with an SBA Legacy Recognition at Hy-tone Farm in Coventry next Monday, Aug. 21, at 12:45 p.m.

It's great to see The Farmer's Cow being honored in this way. Congratulations to all involved.

See you next week.

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★ Letters cont. from page 7
 ruled. Jared went into the Trump years deeply underwater in bad real estate deals.
 Kushner supported a Saudi-led blockade of Qatar, despite Qatar being a key U.S. military ally. Then, Qatar bailed out Jared's 666 5th Avenue property and the blockade disappeared. May 2018, Ivanka Trump gets a slew of new trademarks from China. Ivanka has a growing portfolio -34 trademarks in China. February 2019, lawmakers warn that "the Trump admin is rushing to transfer sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia in violation of federal law...Kushner may try to advance the plan during his visit to Saudi Arabia." (CBS, NBC, Politicsgirl, *Newsweek*, NPR)
Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Pulled Pork Sandwiches
 To the Editor:
 The Hebron-area VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), Post 8776, is presenting its annual Pulled Pork sandwiches at the American Legion building, 18 Main St. (between Douglas Library and the Flour Girl Bakery, Saturday, Aug. 19, from around 11:30 a.m. to a bit after 2:30 p.m. or until product is gone.
 The meal consisting of a Pulled Pork Sandwich on a large roll, with BBQ sauce, with a side of coleslaw and a beverage, for a donation of \$12. To reserve a meal, contact Ron at ronpark@gmail.com. Please note the correct email address, ronpark@gmail.com, otherwise, telephone Bart at 860 9424257. Either mode will provide you with a reserved, pulled pork sandwich meal to enjoy.
 Thank you all in advance, for your continued support, so as we the VFW, may assist other needy venues and you may enjoy a great veteran meal.
 To all, be well; stay safe.
Best regards,
R.A. "Bob" Mangillo – Hebron
VFW Post 8776

Colchester Board of Finance
 Dear Colchester Residents:
 My name is Michael Dubreuil and the Republican Town Committee recently endorsed me for a position on the Board of Finance. I'd like to thank my fellow Republicans for their nomination and endorsement.
 A little about myself- I have been a Colchester resident for twelve years. I have two children who attend school in town. For the past six years I have coached my children's baseball teams. For over 15 years I have been employed as a software engineer. I use critical thinking, logic, and perseverance to solve complex problems. For several years, I have been an active participant in town meetings focusing on advancing Colchester forward for all citizens.
 As a member of the Board of Finance, I'll use my skills in problem solving, communication, and teamwork to preserve the affordability of Colchester, and as always, be a champion for transparency. This is our town, we are all neighbors, and we must work together on solutions that work for everyone.
 While around town campaigning I look forward to listening to your opinion on opportunities for improvement for the Board of Finance. I hope to earn your vote in November.
Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester
Candidate, Board of Finance

Colchester Will Be Heard
 To the Editor:
 Colchester's 2023 budget referendums, with the first a resounding fail and the second a resounding pass, should serve as a stark reminder of what our elected officials are there to do – Listen to the people! I was proud to see the Colchester community at large be so vocal and rise against the current majorities of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, who seemed determined not to listen to their ask for sensible increases in the town and education budgets. Our budgets should not be political cudgels. They should represent the will

of the majority dynamically on a year-by-year basis. Failure to do so means you're not looking to take note of the majority of the community, which would lead one to ask – who are you serving then?
 If elected to serve Colchester's Board of Finance in November, I will do everything I can to listen to the fiscal asks of the greater community and foster collaboration across all of our elected officials. I'll aim to garner the consensus of the majority annually to meet the needs of our town and our schools. I'll work to support high-quality education in our schools and funding for the roads that lead there. And I'll do so without ever losing sight of maintaining affordability.
 I look forward to conversations with the community at the doors and out in town about what you, the taxpayer, want and expect from your Board of Finance, and I ask for your vote on Nov. 7 so we can all work together for change.
Sincerely,
Scott Chapman – Colchester
Candidate, Colchester Board of Finance

To Make a Difference
 To the Editor:
 Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a smart group of committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Here in East Hampton, we can make a real difference, one citizen at a time.
 East Hampton Community Cares is coming to our town through a partnership between UR Community Cares, the East Hampton Commission on Aging, and the East Hampton Senior Center. This organization is committed to connecting seniors over the age of 70 (and anyone with a disability) to a volunteer who will provide much needed help for simple, daily tasks such as driving to an appointment, helping with shopping, or taking care of the lawn. For even just one hour a week, volunteers will help make life's daily tasks manageable for those that cannot otherwise manage.
 To find out more about the organization and how to become a volunteer (or, if you're a senior, how to join), please come to one of the information sessions planned for East Hampton on Sept. 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, or at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.
 If you have been thinking about how you can help make a difference in someone's life, then East Hampton Community Cares is the answer.
Kim Crabbe – East Hampton


surface temperatures along airport tarmacs, instead of from the historically used standard of six feet off the ground – wildly skewing the recorded temperatures higher. While arsonists in Canada and Greece are "changing the climate" by starting forest fires, Maui had some of its most desirable, locally owned real estate, burned to the ground without a single alert or warning, but their governor is aligned with the UN Agenda 2030 goals and they do have plans to turn the entire island into a Smart City so the timing couldn't have been better...especially for international investors!
 It's strange how all this climate change stuff is going to massively enrich the world's elite while fleeing the middle class...just follow the science!
Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Hopes Message Not Lost
 To the Editor:
 By a 2:1 margin, 1,761 Colchester voters in the Aug. 9 referendum approved town and Board of Education budgets that, however modestly, move our community forward, most notably in support of our students. This is a significant change from the results of the first referendum and may reflect a response to the consensus-building that developed among elected officials on the revised budgets that were presented.
 I hope this message is not lost on those running for elected office in November.
Respectfully,
Stan Soby – Colchester

Belltown Republicans
 To the Editor:
 The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is pleased to announce its candidates for the November election. We are excited to introduce some fresh faces to work alongside our seasoned veterans who have served us so well.
 As Republicans, we want to deliver fiscal responsibility and affordability to our residents while continuing to support our police, fire and EMS. We want to ensure that parents are in fact in control of their children's education.
 Our candidates appreciate the historic significance of our community and have that in mind when discussing future growth opportunities. We will continue to support our lake with the proper funding, care and upkeep. Our infrastructure needs are many and should be appropriately planned and executed.
 Fiscal responsibility means providing for our needs, not necessarily our wants. More important than the "wants" is the need to keep taxes affordable so seniors and those struggling with personal finances can stay in their homes.
 Alison Walck, Brandon Goff, Bridget McLennan, Deb Cunningham and Rosemarie Hecht are running for Town Council.
 Jim Radavich is running for Board of Finance.
 For Board of Education we have endorsed Augie Arndt.
 Zoning Board of Appeals candidates are Maria Peplau and Mike Olzacki.
 We look forward to serving all the residents of East Hampton. Please us at EHCTGOP@gmail.com with any questions. We welcome your input!
Deb Cunningham, Chair
East Hampton Republican Town Committee

Global Boiling
 To the Editor:
 The head of the UN recently said, "The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived. The air is unbreathable, the heat is unbearable, and the level of fossil fuel profits and climate inaction is unacceptable. Leaders must lead. No more hesitancy, no more excuses, no more waiting for others to move first."
 Like a good puppet, Biden parrots the talking points, calling climate change an "existential threat to humanity." The only solution? "We need to change the way we generate energy." When pressed, Biden claims that floods at bases in the midwest and south are affecting our military readiness. "We're preparing the military by trying to deal with the climate stuff!" Biden said...but no one ever follows up with the fact that the US DoD is the largest polluter and generator of greenhouse gas in the world. Weird.
 Meanwhile the media pushes dozens of "extreme heat" deaths in Phoenix...but they fail to report that many of them are homeless drug addicts who passed out on burning hot pavement, likely while getting high.
 Thankfully "scientists" are now measuring

Defending Their Future
 To the Editor:
 "Our children and our children's children will be tending this lethal garden, forever."
 "In 1997, students of Middletown High School, in upstate New York, produced a 54
See Letters, page 12




Better Dental HEALTH
 A Practice For Optimal Dental Fitness
 by George M. Mantikas, DMD

DAY OR NIGHT GRINDING
 Bruxism is the medical term for grinding, gnashing, or clenching teeth. Those with bruxism unconsciously clench or grind their teeth when awake and/or during sleep. Mild bruxism may not require treatment. However, in some patients, bruxism can be frequent and severe, leading to jaw disorders, headaches, and tooth damage. Combinations of physical, psychological, and genetic factors, including stress, age, personality type, prescription medications, family history, and disorders such as Parkinson's disease, dementia, gastro esophageal reflux disorder (GERD), epilepsy, night terrors, sleep-related disorders such as sleep apnea, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are primary causes. Symptoms may include fractured, chipped or loose teeth; worn enamel; pain or sensitivity; jaw, neck, face, or ear or pain; dull headaches; and sleep disruption.
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Boards Discuss Grant Parameters

By Michael Sinkewicz

During their latest joint meeting this week, the Colchester Board of Selectmen and ad-hoc American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] Committee fleshed out additional details for a new grant program that would provide funding to local households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moving forward, the selectmen charged the ARPA Committee with formulating a program outline in conjunction with UHY — a consultant agency hired by the town — along with Colchester Youth and Social Services, not to exceed \$300,000; the committee is expected to meet again next week.

The selectmen are aiming to earmark upwards of \$300k from the town's remaining ARPA funds for a "giveback" program that would likely involve allotting money towards either social services, who would utilize the money to further expand their efforts, or direct cash assistance for residents.

As the boards discussed the program during the Aug. 14 meeting, new parameters were considered that the ARPA Committee will likely try to incorporate into their fresh design.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos stated that the median household income in Colchester was around \$104,000, but around 40% — or 800 households — are below the \$75,000 threshold.

Previously, Claire Collins, a consulting senior manager with UHY, stated that, according to 2020 census data, low-income households in the community would represent roughly 11% of the population; expanding to the new parameter would significantly extend the eligible population for the program.

While the selectmen had considered a propos-

al for direct cash assistance for residents, which would involve citizens receiving checks, they received further information about how a program incorporated through social services would operate.

Valerie Geato, the director of Colchester Youth and Social Services, has already requested \$100,000 in ARPA funds for her own program expansion — bumping that amount up to \$300,000 would likely allow her to expand the potential scope of aid provided throughout the community and develop more buckets of funding.

Geato explained that serving residents who make \$104,000 is typically not the prerogative of social services. But while there are certain eligibility requirements, residents can receive assistance from social services depending on their extenuating circumstances, regardless of income.

"Every circumstance is a little bit different," she explained, adding that the organization determines if the individual's situation is ongoing or requires a one-time expense. She also expressed that social services has the capability of providing different types of aid; they recently installed a boiler for a resident.

Combining an extenuating circumstances parameter with income requirements may allow the selectmen to expand its program to a wide range of residents. They reviewed a chart that showed guidelines for 300% of the federal poverty level; the department of the treasury uses this guideline to define low to moderate households. The threshold for a household of three is around \$75,000, but generally increases by about \$15,000 for each additional household member.

These guidelines may allow a new grant program to establish income parameters based on the size of the household and income level.

Currently, Geato stated that social services' guidelines are closer to 250% of the federal poverty level, but the figures are likely transposable.

After lengthy discussions, selectman Rosemary Coyle stated that the selectmen should withdraw and allow the ARPA Committee to formulate a plan that the selectmen would then analyze; the committee has made previous recommendations to the selectmen regarding municipal projects and funding for local businesses.

"We're going in circles," she said. "We're not making progress."

Selectman Jason LaChapelle, who could not attend this week's meeting, has expressed that sending checks directly to residents would allow for the most expansive pool of applicants. Collins has stated that direct assistance could only be used for certain reasons, such as utility bills, rent, mortgage payments, medical bills and childcare; and not for entertainment, groceries, clothing and gas. The town would have to retrieve the funds in those scenarios.

With a town program, social services could pay the individual's landlord or utility company, and no cash would officially touch the resident's hands, alleviating them of an additional tax burden. Direct checks, however, would be taxable.

During the meeting, Bisbikos stated that he

was not in favor of a blank check program, but he wanted to ensure that a class of residents was not "handcuffed."

"This is the peoples' money," he said.

A final draft of a program is expected to be completed by the end of September, with rollout beginning in October. A clearer image or roadmap of the program may emerge after the ARPA Committee's next meeting.

Bisbikos emphasized that the board has the flexibility to approve a program with any parameters they want. Technically, although nobody has suggested it so far, he said every resident could receive a check; it's up to the board to create any parameters or requirements.

The selectmen previously identified that expanding the current town services, and those who can benefit, was a priority. So far, the board appears to be on target with that goal. Collins indicated that the ideas being discussed would have the "capability to serve more households" than what is presently being done.

Collins also addressed a concern regarding any perceived discrimination with how the town treated its business grant program as opposed to households. She indicated that since these groups are classified differently by the Internal Revenue Service, and that she couldn't find any legal determination on the specific issue of discrimination.

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.

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.

Scholarships Awarded

Two Bacon Academy Class of 2023 graduates, Grace Gorreck and Brendan Reas, were recently chosen by Honor Rotary! A Foundation for Colchester, Inc., to receive \$1,000 scholarships each, to further their educations.

Police News

8/2: Adam Cox, 36, of 406 Norwich Ave., was charged with violating a protective order and misuse of emergency 911- false alarm, according to police.

End-of-Summer Dance Party

All are invited to the Town Green Thursday, Aug. 24, from from 6-8 p.m., for a free end-of-summer dance party featuring DJ Montez.

DTC Sponsors Psychic Medium

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee will sponsor an appearance by psychic medium Patty Griffin at Chateau Le Gari, 303 S. Main St., Marlborough, on Friday, Sept. 22. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. and doors close at 6:30 p.m.

Advance ticket purchase of \$35 is required. For tickets, visit secure.anedot.com/colchester-democrats/donate.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ColchDTC.

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.



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Budgets Approved at Referendum

By Michael Sinkewicz

After a somewhat contentious budget season, both the school and municipal proposals for the 2023-24 fiscal year were approved at referendum last week by overwhelming margins.

The school budget passed by a 1,206-555 tally, while the town budget was adopted with a 1,294-464 vote.

Both spending plans were unanimously endorsed by the boards of selectmen and finance. The school budget is slated at \$43.98 million — around \$1.95 million above the 2022-23 fiscal year. Municipal spending is listed at \$15.66 million — just shy of \$40,000 more than the previous fiscal year. The mill rate was set on Wednesday, following the vote, at 27.22 — a .4 increase.

Both budgets were rejected soundly at the first referendum, and advisory questions included on the ballot indicated that the plans were “too low.” Accordingly, the finance board increased both proposals. Overall, a net increase of \$27,000 was added to the town budget, while the school district received \$300,000 more.

Ahead of the vote, Andrea Migliaccio, the Republican chairman of the finance board, warned that if the school budget failed once again, \$250k would be trimmed from the bottom-line before the next referendum. The advisory questions would be removed from this ballot, as well.

This week, she told the *Rivereast* that the ca-

veat appeared to work and that she intends to utilize the tactic again.

“Knowing the impact of a failed referendum is good information going in, so expect to see that in future budget rounds,” she stated.

Many of the finance board meetings spanned deep into the night, with numerous citizens addressing concerns they perceived in the budgets. After the 2022-23 budget season extended months into the new fiscal year, ultimately taking four referendums to conclude, Migliaccio made changes this season.

“I moved the timeline up in the last budget season, which worked for us when issues arose, giving us time to work them out,” she said. “I am reviewing timelines for next year to find more efficiencies.”

She added that the finance board will dissect the process during the next meeting and discuss ideas moving forward.

With school funding, the hope was that the restored dollars would potentially spare the district from dramatic cuts.

Alex Oliphant, the Republican chairman of the school board, told the *Rivereast* ahead of the referendum that the board would likely utilize the funding to tackle some reductions. After the finance board trimmed the school board’s original ask, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III laid out a series of cuts that would need

to be adopted to achieve the new bottom-line.

The school board adhered to that recommendation, but now some of the reductions could be reversed.

Oliphant stated that the pay-to-play fee for band would be eliminated — the fee would’ve been \$180 a year per student for instrumental music instruction at Jack Jackter Intermediate School and William J. Johnston Middle School.

Then, world language programs would be restored — grade seven instruction would’ve been eliminated under the previous proposal.

He also stated that school security would hopefully be increased.

It’s unclear if all of these programs could actually, or if different options would be explored. Whether the district had the required staff members to support the programs was also unclear. Oliphant did not respond to a request for comment before press time.

Compared to school spending, the municipal budget appeared to be less divisive.

“Last year, the budget process quickly turned into a Gordian Knot, and everyone was looking for a way to untangle it,” Republican First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos told the *Rivereast*. “This year, I walked up to the knot and cut it down the middle. Experience in the role provides you a confidence to see things differently and get creative with solutions.”

He added that next year the budget could possibly be approved on the first attempt.

Bisbikos said that following the failed referendum this year, he collaborated with Migliaccio, Mike Egan — a Democrat on the finance board — as well as Tax Assessor John Chaponis and Finance Director Mary Williamson to adjust the revenue figures, which allowed for “increased spending, while mitigating a massive tax increase.”

“This work translated to a 6-0 Board of Finance vote and is the only vote that will unite a community,” Bisbikos said.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Community CPR/AED/First Aid Classes:

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

Bus 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.

Pollinator Pathway and Garden Talk

There will be a Pollinator Pathway and Garden Talk Sunday, Aug. 20, at 11 a.m., hosted by Colchester Land Trust board member Sarah Smith Levine at 283 Bulkeley Hill Rd.

Michele Sinkez of Hebron will speak on the Pollinator Pathway and demonstrate how our gardens can attract and support the pollinator population. Sinkez is a member of the Colchester Garden Club and founder of the Hebron

Pollinator Conservation Project, and has created a pollinator demonstration garden at the Raymond Brook Preserve on Kinney Road off Church St in Hebron. Light refreshments will be served.

The CLT also announced the 14-Mile Goodwin Trail event has been postponed to the fall. Visit www.colchesterlandtrust.org for updates/cancellations.

Ice Cream and History

On Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m., the Colchester Historical Society will hold its annual Ice Cream and History event, with a walking tour of the Westchester Cemetery led by historians Gary Walter, Norm Dupuis and Irene Watson.

Following the guided history tour of the cemetery, guests are welcome to enjoy free ice cream at the site. Copies of Images of

America: Colchester, by Walter, and The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War, by Dupuis and Watson, will be available for sale at the event. Each book is \$20.

The Westchester Cemetery, founded in 1732, is located at 22-32 Cemetery Rd. in Colchester. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and insect repellent.



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Senior Center News & Notes

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

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






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Cemetery Tour Coming Up

The Colchester Historical Society will present a “Tour of the Westchester Cemetery Notables” Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m., at Westchester Cemetery, 18 Cemetery Rd.

The historical society’s Gary Walter will talk about some of Colchester’s historical notables, such as Colonel Henry Champion. Irene Watson and Norm Dupuis, authors of the book *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*, will talk about the Civil War soldiers buried in the cemetery.

An ice cream social will be held for the public free of charge.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Classes: Tuesday, 6-830 p.m., Wednesday, 2:30-4 p.m.

Services: Friday, 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. -- Zoom and in person

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

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 christian-lifechapel.org.

Community Bible Study and Prayer takes place Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

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Another Senior Center Referendum?

By Michael Sinkewicz

The boards of selectmen and finance took the initial steps this week to schedule a future town-wide referendum requesting additional funding for the construction of a new senior center, which is currently facing a significant budget shortfall.

During a contentious joint meeting on Tuesday, the selectmen officially referred the senior center building project to the finance board, unanimously recommending that the town go out to referendum for an additional \$1.5 million.

Then, following that motion, the finance board unanimously agreed to have bond counsel draft a resolution for a future referendum — a proposal that will likely be reviewed by the board next week.

The steps taken by the boards essentially ensure that a referendum will take place at some point in the future as long as formal procedures are followed; a date for the referendum hasn't been set.

The actions are the latest in a series of events that have spanned nearly a year. Without the additional funding, the completion of a fully functional senior center is uncertain.

In February, the Colchester Senior Center Building Committee requested an additional \$1.5 million for constructing the new facility. This week's meeting was the first official meeting the boards have held to address the concern, nearly six months later.

At the time, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that the boards would not be making any immediate recommendations until the impact of value engineering was realized, which involves working with the builder to find and substitute items that can potentially lower the cost of the project without impacting the overall design of the building. Bisbikos also stated that addressing the issue should wait until the 2023-24 budget proposals were approved at referendum, which happened earlier this month.

Tony Tarnowski, chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, stated during Tuesday's meeting that unprecedented levels of inflation impacted the construction industry, and that his committee was still in need of additional funding. "That hasn't changed," he asserted, adding that he was asking for a referendum to be scheduled in the near future.

In 2021, residents signed off at referendum on \$9.5 million for the building of the new senior center. Now, the new request would take the overall budget to \$11 million. Tarnowski expressed that originally, the town could afford \$9.5 million, but acquired a \$2.5 million state grant that brought the total bonding amount to \$7 million.

With the request of an additional \$1.5 million, the town would still be under its original bonding goal, he contended. He added that a successful referendum would allow the town to utilize additional buckets of money that they currently cannot expend. The town is looking to take advantage of \$575,000 from the Bendas estate, a donation that was left to the town. There is also a state ARPA grant specifically allowed to senior centers, adding around \$32,000 to the project pool.

Therefore, the amount the town would be seeking from taxpayers would be around \$892,000 — if those two items are canceled out from the \$1.5 million total.

"We're going to spend more and bond less," finance board member Art Shilosky stated.

The town's bond counsel, Glenn Rybacki, indicated that the referendum question should still identify that the total appropriation is being increased to \$11 million and then spell out all of the funding sources the town is looking to capitalize on to offset that amount.

In November, Tarnowski alerted the boards of selectmen and finance that there was a shortfall in the construction budget of the project.

Then in December, an injunction request sought by Selectman Jason LaChapelle and Republican Town Committee Chairman Taras Rudko landed the town in court and put the future of the project in jeopardy.

New London Superior Court Judge Karen Goodrow denied the injunction request, which essentially allowed the town to enter into a construction contract with BRD Builders LLC, the apparent low bidder for the project.

Still, the warning was clear: Goodrow agreed with assessments placing the project budget estimates somewhere between \$10.2 million to \$10.8 million, which would be over the agreed to amount established at referendum.

As the building committee's request awaited consideration, construction began with the new building. In April, ground was officially broken and several notable guests, including Congressman Joe Courtney and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz were in attendance.

Tarnowski stated during the meeting this week that value engineering has resulted in about \$16,000 in savings. But "unforeseen" problems at the site have canceled out those gains, he added, costing an extra \$45,000.

Without more funding — if the budget remained as-is — a foundation would be built, utilities could be installed, along with other features. But enough would still be missing to prevent the new senior center from receiving a "certificate of occupancy." If that happens, Tarnowski explained, the town wouldn't receive the full state grant amount, as well.

"We would go as far as the money takes us," he said.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle emphasized that the delays in the project have added up, reaching a critical point.

"Are we going to finish this project or not?" she asked.

If construction was put on hold, there would also be added costs to demobilizing and remobilizing the workers; more delays would equate to increased costs.

Bisbikos promised that the job would be completed — "we're going to get to the finish line."

LaChapelle, meanwhile, said he felt the phrasing of the predicament was unacceptable. After hearing Tarnowski's recap, he expressed that the only viable option to save the senior center project was apparently a successful referendum. "Plan B," he asserted, is "we don't get a senior center."

"That's a completely unfair answer to the citizens," he said, adding later in the meeting that "there has to be an alternative to if the referendum fails."

Tarnowski, defending the work of his commit-

tee, stated that "we did not put ourselves in this position."

His emails to the town in February and March were unanswered, he said. For months, the committee was left in limbo.

"We have received no direction from the Board of Selectmen or Board of Finance," he asserted. "We don't make policy."

Bisbikos jumped in, arguing that the sequence of events was appropriate. Asking for a referendum in February, before the results of value engineering were known, would've been a mistake, he said.

"This is the opportunity and time to go to referendum," he said.

The boards largely agreed that entering a referendum without a "plan B" or "plan C," would be "irresponsible."

Finance board member John Thomas urged the boards to work together to find a solution, adding that it would be "disastrous" if the town didn't have backup plan in the aftermath of a failed referendum. Bisbikos confirmed that he and finance board chairman Andrea Migliaccio, along with the finance department, would search for possible alternative solutions.

Non-board members, including many senior citizens, spoke during the meeting. Patty Watts, director of senior services, urged the boards to end the "political ping-pong."

"This is too important to get wrong," Watts said.

Progress on Natural Gas

Firm progress was made, however, regarding natural gas hookups for both the new senior center and Town Hall. The end result of motions made by both boards confirmed that around \$77,000 will be utilized to connect the buildings to a natural gas line. The cost will be split evenly between the town and the senior center building project; around \$38,000 was transferred from the buildings and grounds maintenance account to cover the town's portion.

At the beginning of the meeting, finance board member Tim Vaillancourt stated that the company he works for, Hartford Sprinkler Company, has a subcontract with BRD Builders LLC, the company handling the bulk of the facility's construction. He denied that there was any notable conflict of interest and was under "no legal or ethical obligation" to recuse himself from the discussion.

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.

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-](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org)

[edchurch.org](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.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.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 8*

minute documentary about organized crime, political corruption, and the illegal dumping of hazardous waste in the region's landfills. The students and their teacher have moved on, but the toxic chemicals remain where they were poured, slowly and silently leaching into the groundwater.

"Almost 25 years after the high school research project first started, [their] website reunites some of those who collaborated on Garbage, Gangsters and Greed to discuss unresolved and ongoing questions raised by the documentary, as well as broader concerns about the environment, politics, public education, journalism, and civic responsibility." -garbage-gangstersgreed.com

Watching generational accomplishments be systematically erased, my mother feels depressed. For decades, Mom and her peers worked tirelessly to build a solid foundation for the next generations. It is disheartening at best, to watch these achievements be defunded or voted away. Historic and land preservation, EPA regulations, books, Rachel Carson, Pete Seeger, using less plastic, public education, all being swept under the carpet, replaced by slick pavement and uber wealth. Unfortunately, unattainable wealth and growing poverty, laced with forever pollution, is what many US citizens are now facing.

Surprisingly, last week, Mom, sounded up beat. A local high school teacher, at the students' request, started a new program. These bright kids want to meet, talk to, and learn from, retired people. Not just "help old ladies cross the street" but talk about real life stuff. Stuff like values, education, what its like to age, and ways to intelligently rebuild our Nation's failing social and environmental infrastructures.

"Teenagers, leave home while you still know everything." Apparently, these days, this means heading to the nearest senior center. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Nature Always Prevails

To the Editor:

In the past week the little nestlings who craned their necks over the rim of their mud-built home were completely dressed in feathers (including flight) and they were exercising their wings, flapping madly whilst balanced high overhead in the rafters. Yes there was a risk of inadvertently falling out but they had enough strength and know-how to deal with the consequences.

Only one almost-fledgling was shoved out of the nest by her nest mates. I witnessed the hard landing and helped her come to and placed her where her parents could feed her. Her parents ignored her and continued to fly overhead feeding the others. She attempted many flights but they all failed. Her wings would flap but she'd gain no lift.

Several days went by and her attempts became more and more feeble. This morning I found her dead. She was not up to the rigors which life throws at a young bird. Her parents knew she was incapable of making the flight across the barn, or out to learn the art of flying whilst catching one's meal, never mind to Central America as her nest mates were doing. Nature knew and acted accordingly.

After witnessing many deaths in the equine and avian world in which I work and dwell, I have come to the conclusion that all which is born is not meant to thrive. Nature always has the upper hand no matter how hard I try to circumvent that claim. It seems a cruel act and contradicts my urge to nurture but, nature always prevails. The weakest are not meant to pass the same test as the strongest.

Sad? Yes. But a very sad aspect of reality I have come to respect.

A happier aspect of observing the Barn Swallows will follow next week.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

It's Your Call

To the Editor:

Georgia's Fulton County indictment against Donald Trump, using racketeering (RICO) charges, is exactly right. Donald Trump has acted nothing less than a mafia don in his attempts to destroy American democracy. There are now four separate indictments working against Trump. But this latest State of Georgia indictment, unlike the three federal indictments, will be televised.

This case against Trump and his 'gang' is solid and far-reaching. It appears insurmountable. As a state indictment, once convicted, even if he wins the 2024 presidential race, he cannot pardon himself or his co-conspirators. He cannot weaponize his Department of Justice, as he did

his first go-round, this time trying to overturn the Georgia verdict. Current Republicans ought to quickly educate themselves as to how this Georgia indictment will very likely put Trump in jail.

Some advice to my Republican friends: Next time you are polled whom you support in the GOP primaries, better say Ron DeSantis, or some other of the various candidates. The longer you walk lockstep with Donald Trump, the less likely you will ever have a chance to beat President Joe Biden. Every day going forward that Donald Trump remains the leading Republican candidate is another day to lock into the minds of all Democrats, Independents, Green Party members, Never-Trumper Republicans, etc., that the Republican Party has completely lost its way and cannot be trusted.

With Biden's advanced age and current low polling numbers, your only chance is to abandon Trump now and build a movement behind one or two of your other choices. It's your call.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Running for School Board

Good Day, Hebron Families:

I love Hebron and believe in investing in what you love. My name is Kim Hills and my husband Greg and I have a family farm in Hebron with our three children. Raised in Hebron, I attended Gilead Hill School and RHAM, graduating in 2000. I have a B.S. in physical/health education and played softball at the University of Rhode Island. Proudly, I am starting my 19th year teaching at RHAM High and have written curriculum, served as a mentor for new teachers, organized community building events and been a class advisor. Additionally, I train peers in CPR for professional development and earned my M.Ed. from Plymouth State. Furthermore, I teach health and physical education pedagogy courses at Eastern Connecticut State University to train future educators in the field. It is my priority to spend time coaching youth athletics including softball and soccer at various levels.

My goal is to serve as a liaison between families and schools on the Hebron Board of Education while bringing a unique perspective as a lifelong resident, employee, and business owner. I believe in fiscal responsibility, transparent communication, and that the community, families, and school are all on the same team. These are critical times for public education and children should take priority while families are actively involved in their education.

Hebron has a wonderful school system and my desire is to keep it that way by collaborating with other board members to create the best learning environment for students. Marian Wright Edelman said, "If we won't stand up for children, then we won't stand for much."

**Kim Hills – Hebron
Republican Candidate for
Hebron Board of Education**

Budget Passed

To the Editor:

Thank you to community members who came out to vote in the most recent budget referendum. The voice of the people was evident. The efforts of the parents and community members who led the "No Too Low" movement finally came to fruition after a long and arduous process. For the first time ever, funds were restored to the town and BOE budgets after failed referenda – and even at a lower mil rate than had been previously proposed.

Republicans on the Board of Finance led a chaotic dysfunctional budget cycle wrought with inaccurate numbers, stonewalling, mismanaged meetings, attempts to limit citizen participation, mean-spirited comments and even yelling at citizens. The process didn't have to be that way. If only they had listened in the beginning...

The anti-education sentiment of the first selectman and Republican members of the BOF was made clear this budget season. Disrespect was clearly displayed towards parents, the superintendent, the Board of Education, and our hardworking teachers. Relationships and trust were damaged in the process resulting in long term consequences that will cost our town time and money. With Republicans in charge, collaboration between the town and BOE that once resulted in shared resources and increased efficiency has been lost.

Colchester residents desire and deserve for our town and schools to be efficiently functioning and well-kept. They should not have had to fight so hard for it.

Sincerely,

Monica Swyden – Colchester

Note: Swyden is chair of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee, but is speaking as an individual.

Colchester's Incredible Volunteers

To the Editor:

Colchester has many volunteers that contribute thousands of hours of work to our town. All our committee and commission members, our elected board members, and our community organizations are focused on making Colchester the best that it can be.

This past Friday, I attended the Giving Garden Fundraiser. This passionate and hardworking group of individuals supports so many people with fresh vegetables during the growing season – both our own food bank and two additional food banks. The garden is amazing, and the volunteer workers were so excited about the work they do when they come together on Tuesday evenings to weed and manage the garden. We are so lucky as a town to have you all willing to help.

For the past three weeks the ARPA committee has come back together to help the Board of Selectmen design an expanded program to assist those still impacted by the devastating effects of the pandemic. At our 8/14/23 meeting, it was agreed that ARPA, UHY and Social Services would hold a meeting to design an expanded program to support those in need that will be presented to the BOS. Thank you to ARPA for all your recommendations to nonprofits, businesses, and town projects from the Parks and Rec. projects like the playground to fixing the youth center and town hall roof to public safety projects for fire and police. Your talents, commitment, and dedication are appreciated.

Other volunteer groups are working diligently to complete town projects – the Senior Center Building Committee (SCBC) and Norton Park Committee. Both groups continue to forge forward despite many obstacles/challenges to bring two worthwhile and exciting new community spaces.

Colchester volunteers, thank you. I'm proud and honored to be the liaison to ARPA and the SCBC and work with volunteers to move Colchester forward.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

Seeking BOF Seat

To the Editor:

My name is Karen Belding and I'm honored to be endorsed by the Colchester Democratic Town Committee for the Board of Finance. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve our community and bring my perspective to the board. I would like to provide Colchester voters with some of my background and perspective.

I've lived in Colchester for over 14 years, along with my husband Jason and our three daughters. I am an active volunteer in our community, serving as president on the board of the Colchester Baseball and Softball League, coaching T-ball and softball teams, directing the St. Andrew church youth orchestra, and participating in organizations such as the Project Graduation and St. Andrew Soup Kitchen.

Beyond my activities in town, I have worked in business for my entire career. After receiving a business degree and an MBA from the University of Delaware, I have worked in procure-

ment and as a business software solutions lead for many years. I currently work for a major insurance company and project manage million dollar software implementation projects, keeping them on time and under budget.

My interest in pursuing a role in our town politics developed this year, however, when I immersed myself in the budget process and attended the many BOE and BOF budget meetings. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard this past year, both on the board and in the community. The budgets that just passed are a testament to a lot of people working tirelessly together. If nothing else, this budget season illustrated that Colchester has many challenges when it comes to balancing its budgetary needs and wants.

I think it's imperative that our boards include individuals with different perspectives, but the same common goal of finding a balance that results in the best possible outcome for all of our residents. If I am elected to the Board of Finance, I would work incredibly hard to make sure this board hears the people, treats everyone with respect, finds new methods to make our numbers transparent and accurate and more easily understood, and to support the diverse needs of our town and school budgets and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Karen Belding – Colchester

Thrilled and Honored

Greetings Colchester Residents:

My name is Michelle Millington and I am thrilled and honored to be chosen by my party to run for a seat on the Board of Education.

In June of 2022 I was appointed a seat when a member of the board was moving out of state. After a challenging interview and vetting process I was honored to fill the seat. This year I ask for your vote on Nov 7, 2023 for my own four-year term.

During these last 16 months, I have advocated fiercely for the best interests for our students, staff, administrators and the effects on our community. As a resident of Colchester for 19 years and with two children who have attended Colchester Public Schools since pre-k and now high school, I know first hand how dedicated our teachers and staff are, the endless hours put in by our support staff and administrators and am proud to support them.

I am proud to have been in contract negotiations with the teachers' union this year where we came to the table with our students' best interests at heart and found creative ways to support teachers and staff. I am proud to say I stop in the schools as often as possible to check in personally with administrators, office staff and all the hard working people that keep our schools running.

During these last 16 months, I have chaired the communications subcommittee, been secretary of the budget subcommittee, volunteered to be a representative of the contract negotiation team, and offered ideas and plans that have come to fruition.

I am looking for your support to continue this very important piece of town government.

As always, I am eager to speak to people and love to hear your ideas. Feel free to reach out to me any time.

Respectfully,

Michelle Millington – Colchester



Let's Go Sailing... Charlotte and Steve Nelson of Andover brought the *Rivereast* with them as they recently sailed the British Virgin Islands.

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.



The Punta Cana Press... Maggie, Valerie, Utpal, Sai, Mina, Kash and Jay Parekh of Colchester recently visited Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.



Rhode Island Memories... The Cole, Cummiskey, Meyers and O'Brien families recently took their second annual Narragansett, R.I., family vacation!



Visiting Croatia... East Hampton residents Christian, 7, and Sophia, 5, Czuchta visited Croatia in June. They traveled with their family to Dubrovnik and Korcula Island.

Where in the World?

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Call for Artists

The Marlborough Arts Center invites all Connecticut artists to participate in its fourth "East of the River" Juried Art Show, held at the arts center, 231 N. Main St. The exhibition runs from Sept. 24-Oct. 28, and offers a minimum of \$1,000 in awards.

Original work being accepted in this show includes oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, drawing, mixed media and photography. The Juror of Selection and Awards is Thomas Hebert. Over the span of his art career, Hebert has had numerous solo exhibitions in New York City and New England as well as group exhibitions in the United States and abroad. He has been recognized in various galleries and has received many awards including awards from the Wad-

sworth Athenaeum and the New Britain Art Museum.

A reception and presentation of awards will take place Sunday, Sept. 24, from 1-4 p.m., at the arts center gallery. The reception is open to the public and is an opportunity to meet the artists.

All accepted work in the exhibit will be shown online at www.marlborougharts.org.

If interested in submitting work, the prospectus and entry forms can be found at www.marlborougharts.org.

For more information about events offered at the arts center, go to www.marlborougharts.org, or leave a message at 860-295-9389 and a member of the Board of Directors will return your call.

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. Transportation is Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; call 36 hours in advance of your appointment to guarantee a ride.

Also, the **Food Bank** is located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008) and is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need of food.

Monday, Aug. 21: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Stop & Shop; Cornhole, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, quiche Lorraine, lyonnaise potatoes, vegetable medley, garlic knot, wholegrain fruit bar; cards, 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 22: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, Aug. 23: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; cornhole, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: oven-baked chicken, macaroni and cheese, chuck wagon vegetables, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; cards, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 24: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 25: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, spinach, 12-grain bread, cookie; setback, 1-4 p.m.

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

Fall Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

Local artist Mary Horrigan will offer adult watercolor classes at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from Sept. 19-Oct. 26. Classes will run from 10 a.m.-noon.

Tuesdays' lessons are designed for "Basic Beginners." This class starts with the very basics: brush handling, laying a wash, making simple shapes, controlling values, mixing colors. Subject matter will include still life objects and landscape elements. Dates for this class are Sept. 19-Oct. 24.

Thursdays' lessons are designed for students with some basic experience in watercolor. This class assumes knowledge of the basics - laying a wash, controlling values, brush handling, mixing colors. The class will concentrate on composition, color theory, negative painting, working from photos and still life setups. Dates for this class are Sept. 21-Oct. 26.

Material lists will be sent once the class is

confirmed with enough students registered.

Cost for the class is \$120. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.marlborougharts.org, and a check mailed to: Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Horrigan has taught watercolor classes for Manchester Community College, Middletown Adult Education, the Glastonbury Art Guild, the Guilford Art Center and for the Marlborough Arts Center. Her paintings have been exhibited in Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and have won several awards.

Contact Mary Horrigan at mehorrigan@comcast.net for more information or leave a voicemail message at the Arts Center at 860-467-6353.

Sponsors Sought for Marlborough Day

Marlborough Day is returning Sunday, Aug. 27, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Blish Park.

The event, presented by the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a day of family fun, entertainment, food trucks, and civic groups to celebrate Marlborough.

Various sponsorship opportunities are available - from Presenting Sponsor at \$2,000 to Bag Sponsor at \$100 - and donated items are also sought for a tea cup raffle.

For more information or questions on sponsorships, contact Jessica Olander, chamber president, at jessica@crvchamber.org.



The bluegrass band Sperry Creek will perform at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Saturday, Aug. 26, at 2 p.m.

Bluegrass at the Arts Center

The group will play bluegrass at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Saturday, Aug. 26, at 2 p.m., in the air-conditioned art gallery.

Sperry Creek is a five-piece band of longtime musicians who formed at the peak of the pandemic through socially distant backyard

jam sessions, and named themselves for a nearby creek. Members are Scott Freemantle on bass, Marilyn Toback-Reveley on guitar, Bill Reveley on fiddle, Carrie Folsom-O'Keefe on mandolin, and Dan O'Keefe on banjo. Admission is \$10 at the door.

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 stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com.

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

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 academic 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).

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.

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Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. Activity bags, prepared by the deacons and Christian Education Team, are provided for children to use during worship. Sunday School resumes on Rally Day, Sept. 17.

Sunday, Aug. 20: The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "It Isn't Fair."

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

Outreach: The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough

Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. Once a month the Junior and Senior Youth Group members prepare and serve lunch and visit with the residents at Florence Lord Housing.

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

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call Pastor Val Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432 or email pastorval@marlconchurch.org.

School Resumes Aug. 30

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough will open Wednesday, Aug. 30. School hours are: Grades K-6, 8:35 a.m.-3:05 p.m.; Morning pre-kindergarten, 8:30-11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; afternoon pre-kindergarten, noon-2:45 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Registration of New Students: New residents with children entering the elementary school are asked to register them before the first day of school. The school office is open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the summer. Families registering children for school (K-6) are required to provide proof of their child's age, most recent physical, immunization record and proof of residency.

Transportation: Bus schedules will be posted in mid-August at www.marlborough.k12.ct.us. It is vital that families communicate with the school regarding their children's transportation arrangements. The school arranges transportation to and from the child's home address. If transportation will be different from the home address, please contact the school as early as possible so adjustments can be made before school starts. This includes children attending MECCA.

Families must notify the school office in writing whenever a child will be picked up from school. The note must include the child's full name, the teacher's name, the full name of the person picking up the child, and the full legal signature of the parent/guardian. Anyone picking up a child from school may be asked for a photo ID.

Health Assessments: All students entering

our school for the first time (kindergartners or new students) must have the blue State of Connecticut Health Assessment Record on file with the school nurse before the start of school. Incoming kindergarten children must have all immunizations completed prior to the first day of school. Contact the Health Room at 860-295-6225 with any questions or medical concerns.

School Supplies: Classroom supply lists are available at www.marlborough.k12.ct.us. Use the "Classroom" tab and go to the specific grade level. Supply lists will be found there.

School Cafeteria: Money for meals, snacks and bottled water may be sent to the Marlborough School Lunch Program (checks should be made to Marlborough School Lunch Program, with your child's name and ID number on the envelope.) A completed free or reduced meal application for Marlborough Elementary School (applications available at our school office or on our school's website under the "Lunch" tab) provides Marlborough Public Schools with the information to determine eligibility for free or reduced lunches and other programs. (i.e. Season of Sharing in December, field trip assistance). Information provided will be kept strictly confidential. Families can also use MySchoolBucks.com, an online payment system that allows families to deposit funds via a credit card into student meal accounts. Through this online system, families are automatically notified by email when the meal account goes below \$20 to allow time to replenish the account before no funds remain.

For more information, call the school office at 860-295-6220.

Resident's Artwork to Be Displayed

Marlborough artist Mary Horrigan will hold a one-person exhibition of her paintings from Aug. 25-Sept. 16, at the Essex Art Association's Gantner Gallery, 10 Main St. in Essex.

The show will open with a reception on Friday, Aug. 25, and will run until Sept. 16. The gallery is open from 1-8 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

The Gantner Gallery Award is given to one artist during each Essex Art Association show. It affords the recipient the opportunity to present a body of work in a dedicated space during a show at the gallery.

Horrigan lives in Marlborough with her daughter and grandson.

Openings on Commissions

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is looking for people to join one of the following commissions:

Economic and Community Development alternate, Water Pollution Control Authority regular seat plus two alternates. The application form can be accessed at www.marlboroughct.net; the link is at the bottom of the page on the left-hand side.

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

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Fellowship Community Church, 24 South Rd.

All who donate will get a \$10 e-gift card to a movie merchant of their choice. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Movie.

Schedule an appointment to give by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Richmond Library News & Notes

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

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

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: Monday, Aug. 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 through Aug 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.

Read to the Dogs: Young readers are invited to come in and read to a certified Reading Education Assistance Dog on Monday, Aug. 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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One of the six homes on the CHS Historic House Tour is the c. 1855 Strong-Chapman House on South Main Street. A tavern once sat on this property run by David Strong. This cube shaped home with Italianate style eaves and elaborate cornices has been renovated. Photo by Maggy Morales.

Historic House Tours

The Chatham Historical Society will hold its Historic House Tours Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Six houses plus the society's three-building museum complex will be on view. Houses range from a 1748 saltbox farmhouse to a gabled stone

house on the Connecticut River.

Tickets are \$20 per person and will be on sale at the town clerk's office in Town Hall and at East Hampton Public Library. For more information, call Debbie Day at 860-267-4732.

Enrollment Session for Republican Primary

The registrars of voters will hold an enrollment session on Tuesday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Town Hall (26 North Main St.) for the purpose of new registration and/or enrollment of electors entitled to vote in the municipal Republican primary on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Identification is required.

Unaffiliated voters who want to vote in the primary must change their Party Status to Republican by noon Monday, Sept. 11.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Program: 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.

School of Rock to Play Arts Center

The young musicians of the School of Rock will perform an outdoor performance on the grounds of the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., Saturday, Aug. 19, at 2 p.m. Bring your own seating.

Admission is \$10. There is on-site parking. In case of rain, the concert will be canceled, with no rain date set.



And the Winner Is... The winner of the 2023 Friends of Lake Pocotopaug "free" Old Home Day raffle is Kasha Glebocka. Glebocka won an Explorer 2.0 Inflatable Stand Up Paddle Board Package. Glebocka is shown here with Kevin Kuhr, president of the Friends of the Lake. The group also donated another one of this inflatable paddle board package to the East Hampton Library of Things program.

Lake Pocotopaug Seeing Better Days

By London Brazal

A three-part strategy of prevention, remediation and education has aided several organizational efforts to keep Lake Pocotopaug open for the summer. In the past, the lake has closed due to blue-green algae outbreaks, but now it appears to be “green-free” and clearer than it’s been in decades.

Numerous organizations have coordinated their goals to ensure the continuous improvement of the lake. These groups include the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, Lake Pocotopaug Project, Lake Smart, and Save Lake Pocotopaug Coalition. As well as town efforts from the Conservation Lake Commission (CLC), Town Council, and Board of Finance. EverBlue Lakes, which touts itself as “a natural alternative to chemical treatment” for lakes, has been brought in to help with treatment. And a new limnologist company, GZA Geo-environmental, will be brought on soon.

The Save Lake Pocotopaug Coalition began with Robert Yenker knocking on his neighbors’ doors to gauge interest in helping the lake. “Naturally, what came back was everyone pretty much had an invested interest in having the lake be healthy year-round,” Yenker said. At that time, he described the Lake Commission as “inactive” and “lame ducks;” dissimilar to how the Conservation Lake Commission has been in more recent years.

In research, CLC vice chair Jack Solomon, and EverBlue Lakes have measured levels of bacteria, phosphates and nitrates in the lake. Results, provided by Robert Yenker, show a

decrease in phosphorous levels, a decrease in blue-green algae cells per milliliter, and an increase in oxygen levels. Ultimately, “we are currently at the lowest risk for an algae bloom in the last 20 years,” Yenker said.

As part of the education strategy, the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug and CLC created the Lake Smart Award Program. Grants for the program are given to property owners on the lake or the surrounding watershed area that comply with Lake Smart Guidelines. Per the Lake Commission, members will visit the home to “review the Lake Smart Guidelines while making suggestions specific to the yard being evaluated.” This encourages homeowners to make property improvements that help prevent negative drainage such as phosphates and nitrates into the lake.

The Lake Pocotopaug Project nonprofit was started in 2018 by Wesley Jenks and Austin Cornelio to help spread public awareness and research. On its website and Facebook page, the organization provides areas of concern, current projects, applicable resources, and scientific information. Jenks, who has also served on the CLC for more than 10 years, provides videos to update the community on what is happening on the commission level.

John Tucci, president and founder of EverBlue Lakes, saw a publication of Jenks’ discomfort with the Town Council and the problems with the Town Hall project’s runoff. Tucci’s company works across the country to offer solutions to blue-green algae and invasive weed problems. After hearing about the issues surrounding the lake and town, Tucci reached out



Various organizations coordinate their efforts to keep Lake Pocotopaug open and cleaner than ever.

to the Lake Pocotopaug Project. This summer marks the fourth season with EverBlue Lakes.

As remediation, 56 aerators were installed in the spring of 2020 to increase oxygen levels. A BioBlast water treatment process that uses naturally occurring microbes that eat blue-green algae has also been used. Currently, the Conservation Lake Commission is working with a company out of Cape Cod that conducts testing of their bacteria-absorbing “sponges” used in the oil industry.

Since collective efforts started to form in 2019, 21 projects have been completed and more are in the planning stages. Prevention projects are aimed to help minimize runoff before it gets into the lake.

“What we’re doing behind the scenes that people don’t see is using grant money and town capital to do a lot of the watershed infrastructure projects making the water filter better before it gets to the lake,” Jenks said.

With his nonprofit, they make graphics to help visualize what is happening and so that people understand improvements are occurring.

Though there have been concerns about the processes, the collaborating organizations are available to provide their research and explain further.

“At the end of the day, you can’t argue with success,” Yenker added. “The lake has not been closed.”

As Lake Pocotopaug remains open this summer, conservationists are asking people in the watershed area to be mindful of what products they use in their backyard.

“Look up whether their property is in the watershed area,” Jenks said. “There are maps available online and if you are, be conscientious of what you do on your property because eventually it will make its way into the lake.”

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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. in August using alternate and approved forms of the worship service. Only two weeks are left, and there will be a concluding potluck supper the last

Wednesday of the month.

Tag Sale: Dick Napolitano is in charge of the annual Labor Day tag sale. Contact him with any questions at rnap1137@gmail.com. Save your donations. Light- and medium-weight furniture will be offered on Facebook Marketplace. If you have items to drop off, please call or text him.

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.

Haddam Neck Fair is Coming

The 111th Haddam Neck Fair is coming Labor Day weekend, opening Friday, Sept. 1, at 4 p.m., and running through Monday, Sept. 4, at 5 p.m. Fairgrounds are located at 26 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck. (GPS users must use East Hampton’s ZIP code, 06424.)

The fair features a variety of attractions for the whole family. Events Friday, Sept. 1, include a 6 p.m. tractor parade, an opening ceremony at the flagpole, the Friday night truck pull starting at 7 p.m., and Max Creek at the Bandstand from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 2, features the popular Women’s Skillet Toss Contest, truck and tractor pulls, dog agility competition and modified tractor pulls. The music at the bandstand features Downtown 6 at 5 pm opening for The Linda Ronstadt Experience with Tristan McIntosh at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, Sept. 3, is the 5K Road Race, Lawn and Garden Tractor Pull and Antique Tractor Pull and Horse Pulling Contest. The music starts at 6 p.m. and features Rock Landing from 6-7:30 p.m. and John King from 8:30-10 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 4, features two cyclocross events, the oxen pulls, the Kids Pedal Tractor

Pull, and the famous Baby Show. Premium payouts begin at 3 p.m.

All fair long there are rides, concessions, fair food, exhibits, displays, children’s contests, and helicopter rides on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

General admission is \$15 with special rates for seniors and military; kids under 12 are free. Online ticket sales are available through today, Aug. 18. Parking is free and adjacent to the fairgrounds.

Entries for the various departments are Thursday, Aug. 31, from 3-8 p.m. These include 4H and Educational Booth exhibits, Arts and Hobbies, Baked Goods, Canned Goods, Fancy Work and Quilts, Flowers and Horticulture, Photography, Spinning and Weaving, Vegetables and Fruits.

There will be sheep, goats, rabbits, cattle and oxen at the fair. There will be no Poultry Show this year due to the avian flu.

For additional information, visit haddamneckfair.com. The 2023 Fair Book is available at many area town halls and commercial establishments.

EHVFD Fireworks Info

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department is presenting its annual end-of-summer Fireworks Display on the grounds of East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St., on Saturday, Aug. 19 (the rain date is Sunday, Aug. 20). This year’s show is in celebration of the Fire Department’s 100th Anniversary.

The “gates” to the high school will open at 6 p.m. and all event activities (food & ice cream vendors, live band, etc.) will take place behind the high school building. The pyrotechnics will launch from an area in the far northwest corner of the high school property, beginning promptly at 9 p.m., and residents are encouraged to plan their arrival accordingly.

Traffic flow for entry and egress will be monitored and controlled by the East Hampton Police Department, the Colchester Fire Police and EHVFD firefighters. Street parking will not be permitted on North Maple Street between Route 66 and Beechcrest Drive, the entire length of Hills Avenue and the upper portion of Sherry Drive. Signs will be posted accordingly.

There is ample space for spectator parking on the high school grounds and there will be a sizable area reserved for appropriately identified vehicles eligible for handicapped parking access. Once a vehicle enters the high school property, however, that vehicle and its occupants must stay until the conclusion of the show. Residents wishing to drop off spectators should not enter the school property; a drop-off area will be established at the northwest corner of the North Maple/Hills Avenue intersection. The same area will be used for pick-up after the show.



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The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department gratefully acknowledges the consideration and support provided by the East Hampton Police Department, the East Hampton Ambulance Association, East Hampton Fire Marshal, East Hampton Dept. of Public Works, East Hampton Park & Rec Department, East Hampton High School, Haddam Neck Fire Department, Colchester Fire Police, Marlborough Fire and EMS, Stop & Shop of East Hampton, and the Members of the East Hampton Lions Club !!!

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EHMS Soccer, Cross-Country Registration

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

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

Cub Scout Fundraiser at Fireworks

All are invited to support Cub Scout Pack 57 on Saturday, Aug. 19 at the annual East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department's fireworks display.

Scouts will sell glow stick bracelets and necklaces to support Pack activities. This is a cash-only fundraiser.

For more on the fireworks, see the notice entitled "EHVFD Fireworks Info" in this week's *Rivereast*.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a HHW collection event on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the old HHW facility located at 11 Dump Rd., Essex.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed. Please visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste to learn more.

'Driving for Drafts' Charity Golf Tournament

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

Shotgun start is at 1 p.m., with check-in beginning at noon. Cost is \$150/person and includes golf as well as grilled lunch, a buffet dinner, and raffles and prizes. Sponsorships are also available, including an "In Memoriam" sponsorship to honor a loved one or a pet.

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

Last Month for Epoch Donations

August is the last month Epoch Arts will accept donations for this fall's two-weekend tag sale.

Donations of gently-used items can be dropped off at Epoch, 27 Skinner St., every Saturday of the month, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Do not drop donations off at any other time.

Items not accepted include: televisions, child car seats, cribs, mattresses, bedframes, couches, encyclopedias, textbooks, large exercise machines, and computers and any related accessories, such as monitors, printers, keyboards and mouses.

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Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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.

Becoming Catholic

Not Catholic, or you are but haven't received confirmation? St. John Paul II Parish (St. Patrick Church, East Hampton, and St. Bridget of Kildare Church Moodus) is now enrolling for its fall "Becoming Catholic" cohort.

Classes start Sept. 20. To learn more, contact Dani Annino in the Faith Formation Office at 860-267-6644 ext. 11 or stpatsehctdre@gmail.com, or email Deacon Dan D'Amelio at deacondandamelio@gmail.com.

Resident Graduates

Lauren Kasperski of East Hampton recently graduated from Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., earning a BBA degree in management.

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.

Art with the Artists: Saturday, Aug. 19. It's two events in one – create in the company of fellow artists or watch the artists work.

Writers Group: Wednesday, Aug. 23. Come down to the library and write. Pre-register.

Scholarship Applications Accepted

Applications for the annual East Hampton Ambulance Scholarship are currently being accepted – and are due next month.

This scholarship was started nine years ago in memory of Jim Morris who was involved in the ambulance association for many years, was an educator and a firm believer in volunteerism.

The scholarship is available to East Hampton and Haddam Neck undergraduate residents who have completed one year of studies in an al-

lied health program or to a member of the East Hampton Ambulance who is furthering their education.

Applications are available at ehems.org under the "contact us" section. Applications are due by Sept. 30 and can be mailed to Liz Whitty, Scholarship Chairperson, East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424, or emailed to lwhitty@ehems.org.

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onions, prosciutto peas in a cream sauce

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black mussels sautéed with garlic, hot cherry peppers and grape tomatoes served over linguini in a white wine sauce

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EGGPLANT FLORENTINO
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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.

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.

Music at the Fair: All are invited to the Haddam Neck Fair Bandstand on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 11 a.m., for the contemporary musical worship event "Hope Resides Here." The Vocal Choir will be accompanied by keyboard, guitars and drums.

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. Rehearsals will resume in the fall.

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

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.

Resident Graduates

East Hampton resident Anthony J. DeZinno recently graduated from Western Connecticut State University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Joshua Berg and Elijah Ripper made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Children's Programs: Storytimes: Mindful Movements – Outside: 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 (will not be held Aug. 23 or 30); Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

DIY Days: Roly Poly Toy: Saturday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game or treat together. These activities are available

while supplies last. No registration required; just drop in.

Teen Programs: Teen Advisory Board Kick-off Party: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 5 p.m., for grades 6-12. Have pizza and snacks, and talk about what the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) mission will be. TAB plans events, recommends books, movies, and games for the collection, and earns community service time in the process. Returning members and new members welcome. Let the library know if you're coming.

Adult Programs: Cookbook Club – Muffins: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 6:30 p.m. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share.

Quilt, Craft, Create, Oh My!: Thursdays starting Sept. 7, noon-3 p.m. Drop in to the library Community Room with your current craft project and enjoy the company of other community members. Optionally, bring your own brown-bag lunch. The library will have some craft supplies (crochet hooks, yarn stash, glue guns, scissors, etc.) on hand.

Police News

8/6: Michael Streater, 34, of New Haven, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

8/7: Matthew King, 33, of no certain address, was issued a summons for traveling too fast for conditions, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

8/7: Katelyn Richardson, 34, of 10 Julia Terrace, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

8/8: Lisabeth Menard, 35, of Southington, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and violation of a restraining order, police said.

8/9: Thomas Saltonstall, 50, of 51 Hebron Rd.,

Marlborough, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license, police said.

8/10: Wade Nichols, 63, of 83 Pleasant Ct., Colchester, was issued a summon for operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

8/10: Donato Rinaldi, 47, of Watertown, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

8/11: Scott Jackson, 31, of 244 E. High St., was arrested and charged with second-degree threatening, police said.

From Aug. 7-13, officers responded to 13 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and five alarms, and made 21 traffic stops, police said.

Class of '67 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1967 will celebrate its 56th year class reunion Sunday, Sept. 10, at 4 p.m., at The Dublin. Pay as you go; order off a limited menu.

Dean's List

Sarina Michaud of East Hampton made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Curry College in Milton, Mass.



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Lake Pocotopaug's Glamourous Light-Up Event

By London Brazal

Lake Pocotopaug glowed brightly last weekend, as boats moved across the water with intricate lit-up displays.

Saturday night, the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug sponsored this year's "Light Up the Lake" which topped previous years as there was more participation across the lake.

Due to COVID-19 and low participation in the past, the Friends' last Boat Parade was in 2018. In 2022, the Friends changed course and created the nighttime event, "Light Up the Lake." This event would be designed to get boaters, residents, and lake beach associations to be involved. The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug invited residents on land and on water to participate in the annual nighttime event.

For the event, no registration was required to participate. The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug asked residents to decorate their boats, docks, yards, or Lake Beach Association with lights. Catherine Egan serves as the public relations chair for the organization and is the event coordinator for "Light Up the Lake." For the second year of hosting the specific event, she was pleased to see the results this summer.

"Having people on land light up their yards and docks also gives the boaters the opportunity to see some amazing light displays," she said.

In the past, a boat parade was limited to view by residents around the lake. The issues would include a small window of seeing the boats as they traveled for only 10 minutes. To try and change that, the Friends of the Lake asked boaters to "cruise leisurely around the entire lake at

no-wake speed in a clockwise direction from their launch point," Egan said. "That way from the land, you should have a steady stream of lit-up boats going around the lake."

To add enjoyment for residents who do not live on the lake, Sears Park was open for viewing as the boats passed by. Residents from the Edgemere Condos also lined the sidewalk to watch the event from North Main Street. Though the turnout was good and more than last time, a lightning storm detoured boaters to go home before getting around the whole lake. Safety decisions were made as rain followed.

Last year, the "Light Up the Lake" event only had 20 boats and 10 land displays. The numbers doubled this year, with approximately 50 lit-up boats and many magnificent displays on land. Designs included a firefighter-themed boat with Chatham Engine No. 1 and a Dalmatian, a United States flag, a Christmas-themed boat, a neon palm tree, and several more.

Members of Friends of Lake Pocotopaug said they are grateful for all the residents that participated in this year's event to make it a success.

"The success of Light Up the Lake is due to the boat owners and residents of East Hampton who participated with their time, money and creativity," Egan said. "It is a beautiful sight to watch from both lands and on the water."

The next meeting for the organization in September will allow the organization to hear suggestions and work "on ways to make the 2024 Light Up the Lake event even better," Egan added. "We hope to have even more boats and to get more people lighting up on land all around



Boats decorated with fluorescent lights made their way around Lake Pocotopaug before a lightning storm lit up the skies.

the lake."

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug is a volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of Lake Pocotopaug and its surrounding environment. The group was founded in 2004, and also funds various projects to help the lake. This summer, the Friends paid for a stand-up paddleboard for the "Library of Things Collection" at the East Hampton Public Library. Other funded projects for 2023 included the annual Lake Clean Up Day in April, the Lake

Smart Award Program FREE Grant, and funding for East Hampton High School's botany club to create floating islands in Christopher Brook.

The Friends group also hosts annual fundraising events, such as a summer raffle. The next fundraiser for the Friends will be a wine-tasting event on Laurel Island on Sept. 23. More details will be out soon. For more information about the organization and its research, visit flpeh.org or look on Facebook @flpeh.

History Tour of Day Pond State Park

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) will host a walking history tour of Day Pond State Park Saturday, Aug. 26, at 10 a.m., as part of its "Explore East Hampton" monthly series of walks.

East Hampton Parks and Recreation will sponsor the event. All are invited to learn about the history of Day Pond, the people who lived in the area and the achievements of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The walk will be led by author and historian Marty Podskoch. The walk will be around Day

Pond and explore some of the old stone foundations, barns and old wells along the Blue Blazed Trail. Children and adults are welcome to join in the walk. Please do not bring dogs. Walkers should wear comfortable shoes and bring water. The hike will last about one hour. Heavy rain will cancel the walk.

For further information about upcoming walks or the Chatham Historical Society, contact Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net.

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. 24.

Cornhole: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Aug. 31.

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.

Free Blood Pressure Screenings: Mondays, Aug. 21 and Sept. 18, 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.

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

Mindful Meditations with Victoria: Mondays, Aug. 21, Sept. 11 and Sept. 25, 1-2 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion, and gratitude in a group setting.

Chatting About Dental Health: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 10:30 a.m., presented by Chatham Health.

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.

Senior Center Bus Trip – Harkness Memorial State Park: Wednesday, Aug. 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Bring your lunch and a chair. Seats are limited. Requested bus donation: \$4.

September is Senior Center Month! The theme is "Discover Yours!"

Craft Program: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m. Make a windchime for your porch! An example is at the center's front desk.

Walmart (Windham) Shopping Trip: Thursday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. A \$4 transportation donation is requested. Lunch is on you. Space is limited.

Staying Sharp with Kitch & Cindy: Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m. This is a wellness program that promotes brain health.

September Movies: Fridays, Sept. 8 and 22, 1 p.m. *The Philadelphia Story*, with Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and Jimmy Stewart, will be shown Sept. 8, and *Auntie Mame*, starring Rosalind Russell, will be shown Sept. 22. Both days, wear vintage clothing and enjoy sherbet punch and popcorn.

Signs of Autumn at Hurd State Park: Friday, Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet master naturalist Lynn Kochiss at the pavilion for a short walk to explore the surrounding forest, then return with us to the pavilion for a light lunch.

Trip – Christmastime Holiday Show: Saturday, Dec. 2, at Reagle Music Theater in Waltham, Mass. There will be a pre-show lunch at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham. (Entrée choice due in advance.) Cost is \$159/person. Departure is at 11 a.m. from Stop & Shop, 11 East High St., East Hampton. For information call the senior center.

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

Garden Club Craft Evening

On Monday, Aug. 28, from 4:30-6 p.m., the Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton will hold a craft evening at Sears Park Picnic Pavilion, using supplies from nature. All are invited.

You will paint print designs with leaves and flowers on your choice of fabric, such as an apron, table runner, tea towel, or T-shirt.

Bring the item of fabric, and the club will provide most other supplies for the project.

If you're not a member, you can call Sue at 860-575-1349 to register, or for more information. The Belltown Garden Club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT and national garden clubs.

Hall Of Fame Accepting Nominations

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for election into the 2023 class.

Since 2006, the Hall of Fame has inducted 43 individuals and four teams. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Hall of Fame inducted Jacqueline Beaulieu, James Brown and the 2011 East Hampton High School state champion baseball team in 2022.

Vacancy on EHAA Board of Directors

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

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

Anyone wishing to nominate an athlete, coach, contributor, or team can request a nomination packet by emailing seidlts@sbglobal.net.

The deadline for accepting nominations is Sept. 30. The induction banquet will be on Friday, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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



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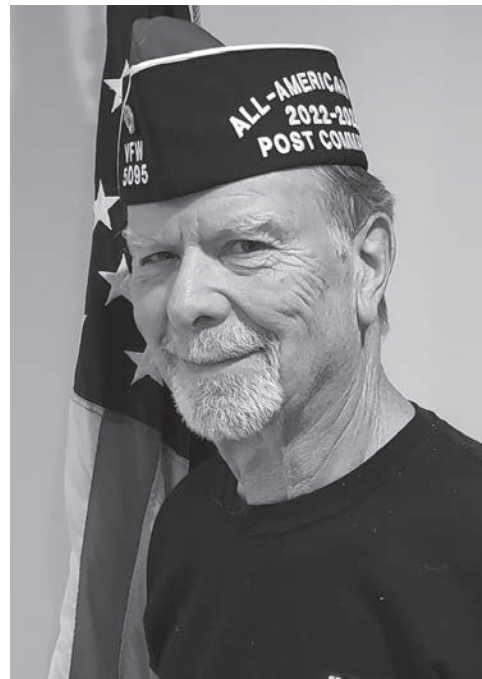
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Resilient Running Back Heads to WPI

By Josh Howard

Not even a broken leg could keep Alex Hair off the football fields last fall.

"If nothing else I have a metal plate in my leg, so it should be harder to break there," joked Hair, who missed the first seven games of his senior season before returning for the stretch run.

Now, the 2023 Portland High School graduate will continue his grind on the gridiron at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

"I'm looking forward to getting my own place and learning more," Hair said of his next stop in Massachusetts. "I just want to keep getting stronger and bigger and better at football. I feel like I have a lot left to give to the sport."

Hair's path to college football has had many peaks and valleys, featuring cancellation disappointments, the sweet taste of a championship, and the pain of injuries.

But he said, through it all, he has learned valuable lessons through the game, adding, "The biggest thing it taught me was about working hard and how to get through struggles."

As a freshman on the Cromwell/Portland football team, Hair found his way onto the field as the co-op team won only two games during a rebuilding year in the fall of 2019. He then had his sophomore season wiped away by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He returned better than ever as a junior, rushing for a team-high 869 yards and 12 touchdowns as the team's starting running back. He was also a disruptive defensive end, racking up 52 tackles (10 for loss), six sacks, and 22 quarterback hurries as the Panthers finished the season undefeated (13-0) and won the state championship for the first time since Portland and Cromwell joined forces on the football field.

Hair was again set to be a two-way starter as a senior before a broken fibula in the preseason seemed to signify the end of his high school career on the field.

But Hair was determined to get back on the field and rehabbed his way back for the final

handful of games this past season, again leading the team in rushing touchdowns despite playing in less than half the games.

Head coach Randell Bennett called Hair a "max-effort guy" who tirelessly worked his way back from the leg break.

"He's a worker, a no-nonsense player and a very smart player, who always knows his assignment," added Bennett. "We had one year where he wasn't hurt and we won the state title that year, so that says a lot."

Along with his accomplishments on the football fields, Hair also wrestled and was a thrower on the track and field teams at PHS.

He took a computer science class during his sophomore year, sparking an interest that will extend into college.

"For the past three years I've been learning how to code and wanted to do that as a career path, so I was looking for college that would allow me to continue that," Hair noted.

WPI was an ideal fit as he can study computer science and fill that competitive edge as a running back for the Engineers team led by head coach Chris Robertson.

Robertson has guided the team to six winning seasons in the last eight years, including a 10-1 mark in 2019 when the team finished with a share of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) regular season crown, capping the season with a victory over Western Connecticut in the New England Bowl Series.

Hair jokingly said choosing WPI was controversial because his father, Eric, attended and played football at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), a rival school in New York.

He added that his father was his influence into the game and, after giving soccer a try as a youth he realized that the physicality of football was more his style.

"It's a good outlet. Not to sound like a psycho, but it's one of the only times you can hit somebody legally and sometimes that can be ben-



Portland High School Class of 2023 graduate Alex Hair will play football at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Hair is pictured with, from left, head coach Randell Bennett, sister Evelyn, dad Eric, mom Sarah, and assistant coach Ethan Roy at his letter of intent signing in June.

eficial," said Hair, who said his leg feels stronger than ever because of the time spent in the weight room.

Hair credited 2022 PHS graduates Owen Brunk and Teddy Williams for showing him the importance of lifting, allowing him to recover quicker from his injury and become a more complete player on the field.

"Having those guys to look up to was big," added Hair. "We had a rough season [in 2019] and I remember a bunch of us were in the weight room and that carried over and we won

the championship."

In general, Hair said he will miss the community he grew up in, saying it was a "nice confidence" boost anytime he would go somewhere in Portland and get congratulated on the team's success, particularly the state title.

Bennett said that Hair's explosiveness, power, and championship confidence should allow him to make his mark as a running back at the next level.

That metal plate in his leg won't hurt his chances either.

Annual 'Touch-A-Truck' Event Aug. 27

The Exchange Club of Portland will hold its annual "Touch-A-Truck" event Sunday, Aug. 27, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The location will be at Valley View School, due to the current condition of the Exchange Fairgrounds.

The Exchange will have trucks and vehicles of all types for children to come and sit in. The event will be horn-free from 11 a.m.-noon.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and its Military Support Program.

YFS News & Notes

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

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

POWER-Up Portland: Prevention & Well-

The program develops and implements plans to prevent suicide among service members and veterans. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Admission is \$5 per person and can be purchased at the gate. Hot dogs, ice cream and refreshments will be available for purchase. Parking is free.

If you have a vehicle of any type for the Touch-A-Truck event, call Jamie Leonard at 860-301-6998.

ness Council: Wednesday, Aug. 23, from 6-7 p.m., on the first floor of the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St. Help work as a community on youth substance use prevention, positive mental health, and becoming a recovery-friendly community.

Youth LGBTQ+ Drop-In Night: Wednesday, Sept. 6, from 6-8 p.m., in the library.

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.

Hemlock Grange Tag Sale

Hemlock Grange in Portland is having a tag sale on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Grange Hall, located at 17 Sage Hollow Rd. - the junction of routes 17 and 17a, behind the gas station.

Individuals may join in the tag sale and have a space in the parking lot for a \$10 fee. Individuals need to provide their own table.

For more information about the tag sale contact Betty Jane 860-267-7512.

Please leave a message with name and phone number. Your phone call will be returned.

Trinity Church Collecting Children's Books

Trinity Church, located at 345 Main St., is collecting new and gently-used children's books. The books will be added to a bag with a blanket for Covenant to Care for Children to distribute to families to encourage children's literacy. The bags will be stuffed Sunday, Sept. 24, after the 9:30 a.m. worship service, as part of a monthly service project.

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

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 or call 860-342-3120, or look for the group on YouTube and Facebook.

Dean's List

Harrison Deane of Portland made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Curry College in Milton, Mass.

One More Concert!

The Brownstone Quorum, cosponsor of the summer concert series at Portland Riverfront Park (284 Brownstone Ave.), will have one make-up concert coming up Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m., featuring the 70s Project band. All are invited.

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PHS Class of '63 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1963 will hold its 60th reunion luncheon at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Farrell's Restaurant, 245 Marlborough St. Attendees will order off a limited menu; pay as you go.

Farrell's requires a headcount by Sept. 15. If interested in attending, call or text 860-550-2873 or email Bill at williamorgane@gmail.com as soon as possible.



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Ceremony Next Week to Mark New Stamp

By John Leavenworth

It was big news earlier this year when the town learned the Arrigoni Bridge will be immortalized on a U.S. Postal Service stamp.

And now, next week the stamp will be officially unveiled to the public.

Town officials, along with members of the Portland Historical Society and the Connecticut Cover Club will unveil the stamp to the public during a “first day of issue” ceremony at the Portland Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave., on Thursday, Aug. 24, at 11 a.m.

The stamp is “one of four in a series of stamps being issued honoring famous bridges in the United States, including Nebraska (the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge), Oklahoma (the Skydance Bridge, also known as the Scissortail Bridge), and Iowa/Illinois (the Iowa-Illinois Memorial Bridge),” according to a press release.

The bridge over the Connecticut River was first opened on August 6, 1938, and was named for state Sen. Charles J. Arrigoni, who spearheaded the initiative to build the structure. The stamp features a photograph of the bridge taken by Joe Gowac, a schoolteacher from East Hampton, who took the picture in 2019 and posted it to his Instagram account, @joegophotos. According to Gowac, Michael Owens, an image researcher with PhotoAssist, a photo research

company in Maryland that locates images for the USPS, commented on the post a year later, and made arrangements with Gowac to pay him for the image.

Gowac did not comment on the amount he was paid.

The USPS chose Portland as the “official first day of issue city” for the stamp, meaning the town will be the first place the stamp will be available in the country.

Speaking on the honor, First Selectman Ryan Curley said, “to get national recognition, it’s very meaningful to not only residents of Middletown and Portland, but the state of Connecticut as well.”

However, the stamp won’t be for individual, household use.

According to the press release, the Postal Service will issue the stamps as “\$0.25 Presorted First-Class Mail coil stamps intended for use only by commercial bulk mailers. The USPS is selling stamps to businesses in coils of 3,000 (at \$750.00 per coil) and 10,000 (at \$2,500.00 per coil).”

A permit is required for use of the stamp. The Connecticut Cover Club is a group of stamp collectors and enthusiasts who catalog and study “first day covers”, or mail that was postmarked on the date the stamp was first

available.

Club member Brian Magee said, including the bridge stamp, only 48 first day issue stamps have been released in the state of Connecticut.

The first was issued on April 4, 1925, and that was a one half cent Nathan Hale stamp, released in New Haven, according to Magee.

While most of the subjects for the stamps were people, Magee said some stamps featured birds, flowers, flags, and even submarines.

For other structures, he said the only other two were Yale University, issued on a postal card in 2001, and New London Harbor Lighthouse, issued July 13, 2013.

The ceremony to celebrate the issue of the stamp will include opening remarks from Master of Ceremonies Foster Miller, a director of the American First Day Cover Society; a presentation of the colors by Portland VFW Post 1621; singing of the National Anthem by local singer Paul Sienkiewicz; an unveiling of the stamp; a history of the bridge by Jonathan Ives, senior project manager with Tighe & Bond of Mid-

dletown; and comments on the importance of a first day of issue by Connecticut Cover Club president Rich Hoffman.

Curley will discuss the significance of the Arrigoni for Portland and the surrounding area, “and will introduce local and state officials, dignitaries, and other invited guests,” according to the release.

Dan Pickett, a descendant of Senator Arrigoni, will speak on behalf of Arrigoni family members in attendance.

Following the ceremony, a “stamp cake” will be sliced, and refreshments will be served.

A limited number of strips of four stamps will be sold after the event for one dollar per strip while supply lasts. While not intended for consumer use, strips of 25 stamps will be available at the Portland Post Office for \$6.25 per strip, and “the First-Class Mail rate is currently \$0.66,” said the release.

The ceremony will be held in the Mary Lou Rice Room at the senior center, starting at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Used Books on Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library (FPL) group has fiction, romance, teen and children’s used books as well as DVDs in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours.

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

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

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

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

St. Mary Church News

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

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

website for more information. **Weekday Mass:** Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.

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

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

Golf Contest Aug. 30

All are invited to Hops on the Hill Brewery’s Closest to the Pin Golf Contest, presented by Chris Cote’s Golf Shop. The event will take place on Sunday, Aug. 20, from 1-6 p.m., at the brewery, located at 275 Dug Rd, South Glastonbury.

The top three golfers who hit their ball closest to the pin will be rewarded with gift cards from both Chris Cote’s Golf Shop and Hops on the Hill Brewery. First place winner will receive

\$500 in gift cards, second place will receive \$300 in gift cards, and third place will receive \$150 in gift cards.

Pre-registration not necessary; simply show up on the day of the event and pay \$5 per swing or \$20 for five swings. Chris Cote’s Golf Shop will record, tally, and inform each participant of their results.

The food truck Brasato will also be present.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Masks are optional. A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheranportland.org.

Zion’s study of the video series *The Chosen*

is continuing, following worship on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

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

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. The next outdoor service will

be 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. If you have any other prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

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

Volunteers Wanted

The members of the Brownstone Quorum are looking for volunteers to help during a work party on Saturday, Aug. 19, at 9 a.m., at Portland Riverfront Park, 284 Brownstone Ave.

Volunteers will weed a few small gardens, pick up trash, prune limbs, and do general maintenance projects in the park. Bring gloves, trowels, hoes, pruners, and trash bags.



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Simple Living – Pizza with a View

By London Brazal

The “best-kept secret” in town hopes to become less of a secret and more popular with its beautiful view of the Connecticut River and delicious pizza.

Hosted at Birdon Marina on Riverview Street is V’s Rolling Stone, a woodfired pizza truck. Owned by Chef Rob Maffucci and his wife Millie, V’s Rolling Stone is a perfect, lowkey outdoor restaurant that residents and boaters can enjoy.

Rob Maffucci started his restaurant journey when he was 12 working for his parents. While growing up in an Italian household, his mom would make pizza for the neighborhood every Friday night. When someone suggested cooking professionally, the family took it seriously and used the father’s name, Vito, as the face of the brand.

At first, Rob was not interested in sticking with the family business and graduated with a degree in engineering. When the profession started to have considerable layoffs, he returned to the business. “You know, working for the family business didn’t sound so bad after all,” Rob said.

As he got more involved, he was fortunate to have access to good ingredients. He also tapped his grandmother’s and mother’s cooking as inspiration. “It was great learning from people who could put those great ingredients together,” he said.

Earlier in his career, Rob had several destination restaurants such as Vito’s Pizzeria, V’s Trattoria, Vito’s by the Park, and Vito’s Tavern with unique menu options. For more than 30 years, the restaurant group remained successful, while the Maffuccis tried new ideas and different food options. But eventually, the frustrations involved with running full-scale restaurants made things less fun for Rob.

With restaurants shuttered during the COV-

ID-19 pandemic, the Maffuccis went back to the drawing board, planning what to do next. Since Rob had a substantial following, Millie came up with the idea of starting a food truck. With experience in the banking industry, Millie, who is also president of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, became the one that focuses on the front of the house, while Rob cooks.

Rob described his wife as “the magnet” with her genuine personality that engages the customers and the community. “She is the type of person that loves getting people together, that’s what she does.”

The couple’s food truck is simple and so is wood-fired pizza. The Maffuccis’ focus is on serving the customers and showing great hospitality in an easy and open environment. After busy restaurant life, it was nice for the couple to go back to simple things. “Working with my husband is a lot of fun, and not all people can say that,” Millie said.

With music playing all the time, pizza-lovers get a great view of the Connecticut River. On Fridays, many families come down to grab a bite and enjoy access to the water. “It’s so low-key and such a great experience for people,” Rob said. “Last year, we were here on Fridays and Saturdays, but this year we’re focused on it being open five days a week.”

Though V’s Rolling Stone is open rain or shine, the biggest challenge is weather. As an outdoor restaurant, rainy days become a take-out-focused day. This summer, the marina area was hit with flooding and the Maffuccis had to move everything uphill as the water cleared out. Now, they are experimenting with online ordering to help get more orders out.

With a limited menu, Rob focuses on making quality products. For him, it is easier to focus on a few things to get more control over what is being produced. The Margherita pizza is their most popular item, but the truffle, bacon, and



Chef Rob Maffucci and his wife Millie stand in front of their mobile woodfired pizza “docked” at Birdon Marina.

egg or the spinach and ricotta are close seconds. “It’s all good!” Rob said. “Because it’s such a small menu, our focus is on a few good ingredients. It’s really enjoyable.”

Being on the marina has added a great experience for the Maffuccis. About 70% of their customers come from town, but the other 30% come from the river. Rob loves seeing jet skiers and families dock their boats to grab a bite to eat.

“The Portland community has been so receptive and so great, they have become a part of a family,” Millie added. “We want to expand that family, not just Portland but to the surrounding towns.”

V’s Rolling Stone is open from Wednesday through Sunday between 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. until October. For more information, visit their Facebook page @V’s Rolling Stone or email vsrollingstone@gmail.com.

‘Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man’

Portland’s Committee on Solidarity will sponsor a book discussion on *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* Monday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

This *New York Times* bestseller is a primer on race and racism from the host of the live broadcast series *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*. “There is a fix,” author Emmanuel Acho says, “But in order to access it, we’re going to have to have some uncomfortable conversa-

tions.”

In the book, Acho explains the core of such concepts as white privilege, cultural appropriation and reverse racism. Discussion facilitators will be Christy Billings, Middletown librarian and book discussion leader, and Richard Holant, Portland resident and founder/executive director of Free Center.

Copies of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* are available at the Portland Library.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an “open and affirming” congregation, welcoming everyone. Sunday worship on Aug. 20 and 27 will be held at First Church, 190 Court St., Middletown, with the Rev. Will Tanner preaching. Sunday worship will resume at First Congregational Church, Portland, on Sept. 3 at 10 a.m.

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

Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahne at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Special Events: Meet Congressman John Larson: Monday, Aug. 21, 1 p.m., in the Mary Lou Rice Room. Call Sarah or Alexis at 860-

342-6761 to register.

CT Cover Club: Thursday, Aug. 24, 1 p.m. -- celebrating the Arrigoni Bridge stamp! Contact Sarah or Alexis at the senior center to register. Seating is limited.

Trip to Blue Iris Farm in Lebanon: Friday, Aug. 25, bus departs senior center at 10 a.m. There is a \$20 fee, plus an additional \$5 transportation fee. To register, call 860-342-6761. Seating limited.

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

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

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

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

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

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Saturday, Sept. 2, and Monday, Sept. 4, for Labor Day weekend.

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

School Supply Bingo: Wednesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m., on the Town Green. Win some back-to-school supplies at this outdoor event. Registration is not required for this drop-in event.

Parachutes and Picnic: Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11:00 a.m.; rescheduled from a previous date. Enjoy some parachute play on the Town Green. Bring a blanket and a picnic to enjoy after our playtime. This event is weather-dependent and no registration is required.

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.

Fall Storytimes: Registration begins Monday, Aug. 28. Schedule: **Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Sept. 12-Oct. 31; **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays at 10:15 or 11:15 a.m., Sept. 13-Nov. 1. Two sessions offered, to keep group sizes small and interactions personalized.

Mindfulness for Kids: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Sept. 14-28, for grades K-5. Play with scented doughs, paint to music, work on some yoga moves, make sensory bottles, learn the art of hot chocolate breathing, and more. Registration begins Monday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m.

Save the Date: Pumpkin Painting for the Portland Fair: Wednesday, Oct. 4, 5-7 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to participate, but only those age 5 and up are eligible for fair entries. Pumpkins and paint will be supplied. A parent or guardian must be present. This event

will be held outdoors in the grassy area across the parking lot from the library; in case of rain, a take-home kit will be provided. Registration begins Monday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m.

Teen Programs: Mushroom Stuffies: Monday, Sept. 18, 3:30 p.m. Craft a small mushroom pillow. No previous sewing skills required. Registration begins Monday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m.

Gingerbread Haunted Houses: Monday, Oct. 30, 3:30 p.m. Registration begins Monday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m.

Paint Your Pet: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 4-6 p.m., for ages 13 and up. Local artist Nancy Roman will walk teens through creating watercolor portraits of their favorite four-legged friends. Bring a 5x7 photo of your pet to the program. If you don’t have a pet, Roman has plenty of photos you can use. Registration is limited and begins Monday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m.

Adult Programs: Beekeeping Basics: Monday, Aug. 21, 6:30 p.m.; note the date change.

Fall Bird Migration: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room, presented by the Audubon.

September Book Clubs: 1st Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m. – *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig will be discussed; **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Sept. 12, 1 p.m. – *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles will be discussed; **Portland Committee on Solidarity:** Monday, Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m. – *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho will be discussed; **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1 p.m. – *A Curious Beginning* by Deanna Raybourn will be discussed.

Vendors Sought for Church Crafts Fair

Trinity Church, 345 Main St., will hold a Crafts Fair Sunday, Sept. 17, from noon-4 p.m., rain or shine, at the church. Craft vendors can buy space for \$20. All crafters are welcome. Email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com to register.

Calling All Golfers!

Beat Parkinson’s Today will hold a golf tournament Friday, Sept. 22, at the Portland Golf Course.

The tournament is a fundraiser to support an exercise program designed to help people living with Parkinson’s disease lead a high-quality life with confidence and strength.

Cost is \$150 and includes golf, lunch, dinner, contests and raffles. Register at BPDGOLF.com. Non-golfers can make a financial contribution of any amount at BPDGOLF.com.

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Weir Holds 100% Voting Record During Session

In his first full legislative session, state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) has achieved a perfect score for votes taken on the floor of the House of Representatives for the 2023 legislative session.

Weir, whose district includes Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron and Marlborough, was present for all 368 votes taken during the session. He was one of 68 lawmakers to receive a perfect score.

"I'm proud to have achieved a 100% voting score in my first session," Weir said. "When I was first elected, I made a commitment to serving the people of the district and taking this honor and role seriously. I documented every vote, my reasons for voting in favor or opposition to it, and whether or not the bill ultimately passed. I made it a point to not only be present for votes on the floor, but also every vote taken in the committees I am a member of."

Weir added, "I'm very proud of my voting record and of my commitment to accountability, and I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of the citizens of the 55th District."

Weir currently serves on the legislature's labor, higher education, and housing committees.



State Rep. Steve Weir

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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.

Shopping Dates: Manchester: 8/22; Willimantic: 8/29.

Senior Trips: Goshen Wildlife, 8/31. Sign up with Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2.

Groundbreaking: Friday, Aug. 18, at noon

will be the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Community Senior Center Building. If you need a ride, call Palazzi.

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, are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.

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

Congregational Church News

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

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring

your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Today

The Town of Andover invites everyone to the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Community Center on Friday, Aug. 18, at noon, behind Town Hall.

Veterans Meet Sept. 16

The Andover Veterans will next meet Saturday, Sept. 16. If you have any ideas for a topic to discuss or a snack you would like to have, call Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209.

Veterans Day is approaching, as is Christmas, and organizers said the Veterans should decide as a group how they want to honor these days – such as a Veterans Day ceremony, or participation in Wreaths Across America to mark local veterans' gravesites.

For more information call Camoroda, or John Botti at 860-869-3481.

Brick Deadline Approaching

The deadline to order a brick for the Andover Veterans Monument Park is Aug. 31. These bricks will be added to the walkway at Veterans Monument Park.

Only the 4x8-inch bricks are available for sale. Cost per brick is \$80. If you would like to add a military insignia there is an additional \$10 charge.

Place your orders by Aug. 31, so that they can be installed by Veterans Day. The order form and list of military insignias is available at andoverct.org or in the town clerk's office.

Stream Habitat Volunteer Training

The Salmon and Eightmile River watershed groups, working with the Connecticut River Watch Program, are hosting a Training Program for Volunteers on biological stream assessments.

Collectively, the Salmon and Eightmile River watersheds cover over 200 square miles and include the towns of Bolton, Colchester, Columbia, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Lyme, Glastonbury, Haddam, Hebron, Lebanon, Lyme, Marlborough and Salem.

The training program will be held Saturday, Sept. 9. The indoor workshop will be held at Burnham Brook Preserve, 2 Dolbia Hill Road (East), East Haddam, starting at 9 a.m. After the

classroom portion, folks will head to Salmon River Picnic Area off Gulf Road in East Hampton for field work.

Attendees will learn to collect and identify stream insects that are good indicators of water quality and stream health. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the watershed groups will use the results to verify that local streams are meeting their aquatic habitat goals.

Registration is limited to 20 participants. This program is appropriate for high school-age and above. To register or for more information, contact Pat Young at salmonriverct@att.net or info@eightmileriver.org.

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Three Hebron scouts recently received Eagle honors. In the photo at left are Blake Susman and Joseph Nygren of Troop 28, and in the photo at right is Linnea Carlson of Troop 1028.

Three Scouts Receive Eagle Honors

The summer has been busy for the two troops of Hebron Scouts BSA, with several activities as well as three scouts receiving Eagle Scout honors.

Both troops attended summer camp at JN Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford and both troops participated in the annual Delaware River Gap canoe trip for senior scouts. But the highlight was Eagle Scout ribbons being presented to Linnea Carlson of Troop 1028 and Joseph Nygren and Blake Susman of Troop 28.

Carlson, a recent graduate of RHAM High School, was one of the founding members of Hebron Scouts BSA Troop 1028. Carlson served the all-girls troop in a number of leadership positions including being the troop's Senior Patrol Leader. Carlson's Eagle Scout Service Project benefited the children of Hartford that come to Camp Hi-Hoti in Hebron as one of the outreach programs of the Hartford Neighborhood Center. Carlson created and mapped a hiking trail train system within Camp Hi-Hoti that offers hikers the opportunity to enjoy and examine natural resources, wildlife and historic points of interest within the camp.

Nygren, a recent graduate of Watkinson School in Hartford, completed his seven years with Troop 28 by conducting an Eagle Scout service project for the Town of Hebron Parks and Recreation Department at Burnt Hill Park. Nygren's project included over 100 hours of service from him and his group of volunteers designing, constructing and installing informational signs around the park that provided park visitors with information on the history and use of the property, wildlife and location of specific

recreation areas within the park.

Susman, a recent graduate of Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon, joined Troop 28 at the same time as Joe Nygren, as both scouts had been in same Cub Scout den together. Susman's Eagle Scout Service Project involved assembling personal first aid kits for the citizens of Ukraine. Working with a PLAST Scouts of Ukraine Troop in Hartford, Susman's team of volunteers assembled 124 first aid kits with 28 items including alcohol pads, antibiotic ointment and surgical dressings all sealed in an air-tight packet. The kits once critical just for Ukrainian soldiers are now necessary items for all citizens in the war-torn country.

Eagle Scout courts of honor were held by both Hebron troops to recognize the accomplishments of these three scouts. Carlson is the second female scout in Hebron to earn the rank of Eagle since the program began in 2019. Nygren and Susman are the 170th and 171st scouts, respectively, to earn the rank of Eagle with Troop 28.

Troop 1028 Scoutmaster Sam Izzarelli said, "As the beginning of the new school year approaches, this is a great time for new scouts to join the Scouts BSA Program."

Girls ages 11-17 from towns surrounding and including Hebron, and boys ages 11-17 from Hebron, that are interested in learning more about the Scouts BSA program in Hebron or the Hebron Cub Scout program for boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grade can find information on joining at www.HebronScoutsBSA.org.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Caring Shepherds: The next Open Pantry is Saturday, Sept. 9, starting at 8 a.m., at the church. Caring Shepherds distributes house-

hold 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 director. Call 860-228-5134 for more information. The center is taking applications for pre-3 and pre-4 classes starting in September; call to inquire for infant to 2-year-old classes. The application form is at www.clecchebron.org.

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Grant to Benefit Affordable Housing Expansion

By Michael Sinkewicz

Hebron received a substantial grant last week to aid its effort to expand affordable housing in the heart of the community.

The town was awarded \$2.1 million through the third round of the state's "Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant" program, administered through the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

The funding was allotted towards, and will be handled through the town's partnership with Commons Community Development Corporation, which was created to address affordable housing in Hebron. Specifically, the money will likely be appropriated towards new infrastructure that will potentially benefit both the forthcoming affordable housing project along with the entire town center.

For years, St. Peter's Episcopal Church has made establishing and constructing affordable housing a major goal, and they own land that could be utilized for a new project. Commons CDC was formed to help the church achieve these priorities and ultimately develop the housing through a long-term lease of the land.

However, according to the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, pastor of St. Peter's and vice president of the cooperation's board, the initiative hit a snag when Connecticut Water Company determined that it couldn't provide water to the building site. The new development, which could include as many as 52 housing units, was largely stalled.

But land acquired by St. Peter's in 2021 on Church Street may provide some relief — at least that's the hope. The site, Kolanowski said, may prove to be an abundant water source and the grant funding will allow test wells to be installed.

"This was our first enormous break," he said, calling the outcome "divine intervention."

He explained that his parish was "called to do this work."

"We need to think of what benefits the larger

community," he said.

Kolanowski stated that his affordable housing effort has been ongoing for two years, and can now likely continue moving forward. In addition, the wells have the potential to impact the town, as well.

"Everybody is winning here," he said. "It's a remarkable story."

This grant, Kolanowski added, could take care of the town's infrastructure needs and allow the scope of the project to be defined. Previously, he's presented ideas in front of the Board of Selectmen, outlining the intent of the undertaking, which is in close proximity to the church.

"Now it's actually happening," he said. "The little town of Hebron was selected because of everyone involved working together."

In the award letter, Robert Hotaling, deputy commissioner at DECD, noted that there is currently "insufficient water capacity to grow the Town Center."

"This infrastructure initiative is essential to Hebron's ability to develop a visually coherent Town Center that provides recreational activities, economic development opportunities, potential for job creation, and future developments including affordable housing," he wrote.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said that water "continues to be a big problem for Hebron."

"This could shed some light on a water source we presently don't have," he contended.

The application was required to be filed by a municipality on behalf of the corporation involved in the partnership, who largely filled out the particulars.

Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux explained that the Commons CDC initiative was aligned with the town's housing plan, which aims to identify the community's current and future housing needs and any possible strategies to address them.

He stated that Hebron is "overwhelmingly"

developed with single family homes; the need for low to moderate options is evident.

"This [project] is one that can meet a lot of different needs," he said. "It's been in the works for a few years now."

The grant, he continued, was "derived from the pursuit to find an additional water supply to support the development project."

The exact details regarding the rollout of the grant are not solidified. Bordeaux said that the present intent is the build test wells, and then whether or not the water supply is robust or not will likely dictate further actions and decisions, including whether a hookup to public water is possible.

"Either way, the cost [of the grant] will quickly be realized," he said.

Bordeaux stated that the pool of grants has been dry lately, and this amount represented a significant win.

"These projects stimulate growth," he said, adding that new housing options are "attractive" for many folks, especially with this type of project, where the buildings would be within walking distance to the center of town. "It's a really nice option."

Now, the project is likely to experience progress in the near future. Bordeaux cautiously estimated that groundbreaking measures could begin in about a year.

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, Mondays, 10-11 a.m.; Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop): every other Tuesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee:

"The grant gives this a jolt," he said. "There's the potential to get over one significant hurdle that's been stalling things."

The DECD will work with the town to produce a financial assistance proposal that will articulate the terms and conditions of the grant, which should be finalized in October.

Connecticut awarded \$23 million to eight towns under the third round of its program.

"We created this grant program to help our towns and cities build more housing and improve our ability to attract businesses and grow jobs," Gov. Ned Lamont stated. "These grants are targeted toward projects that will make neighborhoods even more attractive for private investments and increase new opportunities for residents."

DECD Commissioner Alexandra Daum stated that the grants benefited a variety of entities.

"Creative redevelopment of these sites will encourage vibrancy and build urgently needed housing units and childcare capacity," she said. "I am very proud of what is being accomplished under this program as I know investing in our communities makes our great state even better."

Kolanowski emphasized that he's been in communication with the DECD. He said the department expressed support for the housing initiative, which likely gave the town an edge during the application process.

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, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email 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 holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Needs are:

Camping Gear: adult sleeping bags (new or used; clean and in good condition); two-person tents with waterproof features (new or used, in good condition with all parts); and sturdy adult backpacks. **Men's:** socks (white or light gray no-show, quarter or crew); solid color T-shirts and boxer briefs (M,L,XL,2XL); and flip-flops (used

as shower shoes). **Women's:** socks (no-show preferred); sports bras (M,L,XL,2XL); T-shirts (M and up); baby powder; tampons, flip-flops; and briefs (sizes 9 and up). **Cleaning Supplies:** Windex; floor cleaner; toilet bowl cleaner; and 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:** washcloths; pillowcases; toothpaste and toothbrushes; first aid supplies; insect repellent; sunscreen; paper towels; toilet paper; 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.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

Life Groups: Meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the 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. Upcoming meet-

ing: Aug. 27.

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.

4th Wednesday Prayer: Wednesday, Aug. 23, 10-11 a.m.

Donations Sought for HIHS: The Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) food pantry is in critical need, and The Worship Center is helping to collect monetary, food and goods donations. Items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings, or donate directly to HIHS at 26 Pendleton Dr., Hebron; hours are Tuesday/Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m. Contact HIHSCT.org to give online, or email hsfoodpantry@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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.

Parks and Recreation News

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

Hebron Farmers and Artisans Market - Kids Day: Saturday, Sept. 2, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Hebron Elementary School parking lot, 92 Church St. Parks and Rec. is offering vendor spots for kids to show off their creations and accomplishments. Kids can bring their products to sell, or even just to show off. No food is permitted for sale.

PREP Before and After School Program: Registration is open for the 2023-24 school

year to all Hebron Public Schools students, in grades PreK-6. Call or visit the Parks and Rec. website for more information.

Learn Fly Fishing: Mondays, Sept. 11-Oct. 23, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fee: \$80. Classes will be held at Douglas Library in the community room except for Sept. 18, the casting clinic, which will be held at the Burnt Hill Pavilion.

RHAM Grip n' Rip Tennis Clinic: Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 (rain date Sept. 27). Ages 4-7: 3:45-4:30 p.m., fee is \$50; ages 8-12: 4:30-5:30 p.m., \$70; grades 7-9, 2:30-3:45 p.m., \$80.

Discovery Zone learning Center



45 Pendleton Dr. Hebron 860-228-3952 | 152 Hebron Rd. Marlborough 860-295-8003 | 2 Orlando Dr. Columbia 860-228-8885

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Housing Authority Energy Campaign

The Hebron Housing Authority is working on a facility upgrade project at Stonecroft Village, apartments for seniors and disabled individuals. Donations are sought to help with the project.

Information about the work can be found at www.patronicity.com/StonecroftEnergyCampaign. Sustainable CTR will make a match if enough funds are raised.

Donations are due today, Aug. 18. For more information, email Florence O'Sullivan at StonecroftEnergyCampaign@gmail.com.

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Artists to Paint Raymond Brook Preserve

The Hebron Pollinator Pathway is sponsoring a Plein Air Paint and Shoot weekend at the Raymond Brook Preserve.

Painters and photographers are invited to create works to be used in the production of greeting cards as a fundraiser to support the needs of present and future habitat projects within the preserve.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, at 9 a.m., there will be a meet-and-greet at the Kinney Road pre-

serve entrance, where trail maps will be available. Bring your own beverage; coffee cake will be served. Attendees will use any media, including photography, to express the features of Hebron's open space.

Then, on Sunday, Aug. 20, artists will regroup at 6 p.m. at Kinney Road, to exhibit their work and share their plein air experience. Photos are to be emailed to sinkezmi-chele@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. For more information, contact the senior center or look to the senior newsletter.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Fridays at noon. Upcoming schedule: Walmart/Aldi Aug. 25, Stop and Shop Sept. 1, and Big Y Sept. 8. There are new pickup times, starting at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.; call the senior center to register.

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.

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 ar-

rival 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.

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Hebron VFW Post 8776 will serve a pulled pork sandwich on a large roll, with barbecue sauce, coleslaw and a beverage, at the American Legion Building, 18 Main St., on Saturday, Aug. 19. The sandwiches will be sold from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. or until the sandwiches are gone. Donation is \$12, with proceeds slated for the needy: Food Bank, veterans in distress, etc.

Contact Ron at ronpark@gmail.com or Bart at 860-942 4257 to place advanced orders or for more information.

Meals will be served walk-up or drive-through.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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 and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

Scheduled Events/Meetings: 8/21: Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.; 8/22: AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Fall and Winter Worship Hours: The Sunday worship service will shift back to 10 a.m. beginning Sept. 17.

Sunday School: Registration will be available soon for the 2023-24 year. Mark the calendar for Sunday School Sunday, which will be Sept. 17.

HIHS Back to School Mission: The church is collecting things like granola bars, Goldfish crackers, pudding cups, fruit cups, fruit snacks, Barilla fully cooked pasta and individual marinara sauce cups, Betty Crocker blueberry muf-

fin mixes, and pancake mixes. Items can be dropped off at Hebron Interfaith Human Services during open hours, which are Tuesday/Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m.

Andrey Stolyarov Concert: All are invited to hear the a cappella choral music of Gilead Church's very own minister of music, Andrey Stolyarov, in concert at South Church at 949 Main St. in South Glastonbury on Sunday, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m. This concert is the culmination of a recording project that puts together the first full album of a cappella choral music by Stolyarov.

Card Making: The next card making class will be on Sunday, September 17th at 11:30am. Open to the community. Register with Gayle Sylvester (gayle.sylvester60@gmail.com).

Blood Drive: Wednesday, Oct. 4. Sign up to donate at www.RedCross.org.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Saturday, Oct. 28. All are invited to join the GCC Team or donate at act.alz.org (just follow the links for the Walk to End Alzheimer's and search for Gilead Congregational Church).

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Schedule: Aug. 25, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* (PG-13); Sept. 1, *No Hard Feelings* (R). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

Children's Program - Lunch with a Llama: Thursday, Aug. 24, at 1 p.m.

Medicare Discussion: Monday, Aug. 21, 6 p.m. Learn the ins and outs of Medicare and the differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage with Mark Macrina, a local insurance agent.

Edible Wild Plants and Fungi of Autumn: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6 p.m. The 3 Foragers will teach you how to identify, sustainably harvest and prepare the wild foods of autumn, with original photos and recipe ideas.

Painting Group: Wednesday, Aug. 23, 3 p.m. Alison Bakke will lead the group painting sunflowers on a hanging mason jar. Registration is required as space is limited.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Register on redcross.org and help save a life.

Chess Night: There will be pickup games ev-

ery Thursday during August starting at 4 p.m. in the Community Room. All skill levels are welcome.

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.

View Old Town Hall Work

The Hebron Historical Society is inviting the public to view its work in progress at the Old Town Hall Sunday, Aug. 27, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The project to create a dedicated storage area, offered through Museum Makeover, a program of Conservation Connection and the Connecticut League of History Organizations, has been in progress since March.

The public is invited to offer suggestions for programs or specific items from the society's collection. Visit hebronsociety.org or Facebook.

Summer Concert Series Extended

The Town Center Project's Hebron Summer Concert Series will wrap up Friday, Aug. 18, with The Sounds of Frank - A Sinatra Tribute. Listen to tunes originally performed by Sinatra, as well as others like Louis Armstrong.

The concert will take place from 6-8 p.m. on the side lawn of Century 21, 17 Main St.

Parkinson Disease Family Support Group

The American Parkinson Disease Association will offer a Monthly Family Support Group the first Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m., starting Sept. 6, at Colebrook Village, 55 John E. Horton Blvd.

This is a safe place for family caregivers to share experiences and learn from other families also living with Parkinson's disease. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact group meeting contact Laura at 860-801-1114 or LSteele@colebrookvillage.com to verify the group is still meeting at the time and date listed.

Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances

The Alzheimer's Association will outline some tips for managing someone else's finances, answer questions, and point folks in the direction to prepare for future care costs, at an education program Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 5 p.m., at The Theater at Colebrook Village, 55 John E. Horton Blvd.

All are invited to attend. Pre-register with Tonya Maurer at multitasking@comcast.net or call/text 860-539-9287.

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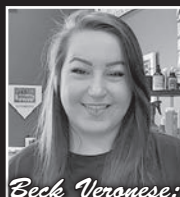
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- In the wild - Dog mom to two tiny monsters and a lover of all animals, self-proclaimed tree hugger, originally from Norfolk VA.
- Favorite products - Holy Black Texture Powder, Bona Fide Texture Spray, Reuzel Matte Styling Paste

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Obituaries

Colchester

Catherine Cecelia Russi

Catherine Cecelia (Lambert) Russi, "Cathy," 78, of Colchester, formerly of Lebanon, widow of the late Francis "Fran" Russi, gained her wings and Heavenly reward Thursday, Aug. 10. Born Aug. 10, 1945 in Norwich, she was the only child of the late George and Cecelia (Fontaine) Lambert Jr.



Cathy was a 1963 graduate of Norwich Free Academy. Following her graduation, and while studying nursing, Cathy and Fran were married on May 8, 1965. The couple settled in Lebanon, where they would raise their family. Together, they shared 41 years of marriage before he predeceased her all too soon on May 9, 2006.

Cathy's nursing career mainly involved working with the elderly, with a focus on therapeutic recreation, for which she earned her state certification. Serving the older population would actually become her life's work, as in January of 1979 she became the first director of the Colchester Senior Center. Over her nearly 29-year tenure, and with the participation and support of both staff and seniors alike, the center received numerous awards and accolades for programs they developed. The Intergenerational Program, which brought seniors and grade school students together in a truly unique way, was especially dynamic in the community.

She and the Colchester Senior Center were recognized by the state for the "Most Outstanding Program in Connecticut," were awarded the "Award for Excellence in Aging" in 2001 and was even highlighted in the Sunday edition of *The New York Times* in 1998. Her contributions and expertise in her field were also acknowledged by invitations to speak at three National Conferences on Aging about unique programs that were developed in Colchester.

Cathy retired as director of the Colchester Senior Center in October of 2008. She then took on a part-time position with a program in Glastonbury known as "ENCORE," which offered "Baby Boomers" various resources including life options planning, civic engagement, as well as lifelong learning, wellness and creativity. She also found a wonderful new home as a hospice volunteer with the Expressive Arts for Children program.

Cathy's civic involvement started early on in life, actually while raising her two beloved children. She was very active with her daughter Michelle's 4-H activities as well as her son Thomas's scouting and football ventures. She was integral in the creation of the Lebanon Cooperative Nursery School and served on the original Board of Directors. Retirement kept Cathy as busy as ever, simply allowing more time to volunteer her time

and talents to the community-at-large. She was active with both the local and national chapters of AARP, the Lebanon Senior Center (where she was a member of the "Friends Committee"), and in Colchester – the Grange, Garden Club, Historical Society as well as the Community Theater.

A woman of strong faith, Cathy was a long-time communicant of Guardian Angels Parish (St. Andrew Church, Colchester) and was active with the Ladies Guild. Helping the less fortunate was of particular importance to Cathy... She volunteered annually with the national "Make A Difference Day," but more notably, could be found throughout the year advocating and collecting items and/or funds for any number of local nonprofit charities, whether it be at a convalescent home or for the Haitian Health Foundation. None of these "accomplishments" could have been achieved without the love and support of SO, SO many! Without them, she would never have been named Colchester's "Citizen of the Year." It takes a village to do many things... and doing for OTHERS is what she did for herself...

Believe it or not, FAMILY was still first and foremost on Cathy's list of love and priority! She found her greatest joy in them, whether it be "tooling" around in one of the classic cars that she and Fran adored... sharing in their children's achievements entering adulthood themselves... watching her grandchildren grow and flourish... to welcoming children of their own. The simple pleasures of life were all that were needed... a little gardening, crafting, painting and just being true and genuine meant a life well-lived for her. Thank you to ALL whom made that possible!

Cathy and Fran were blessed with two children during their time together. Their daughter, Michelle Russi, survives them and lives in Colchester. Sadly, their son, Thomas Russi, passed away on July 4, 2002. However, he leaves as his legacy his wife, Terese Russi of Colchester; daughter and her family Rachel Karrar, her husband, Alex and their daughter, Eleanor, all of Richmond, Va.; as well as Lauren Russi of Colchester; her dear lifelong friend, neighbor and confidant, Joyce Hastings of Crystal River, Fla.; as well as innumerable friends and colleagues.

The family received guests Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 16, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Following Mass, she was laid to rest alongside Fran at the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Gillette's Lane, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, Cathy requests you consider donations toward the following causes: Friends of Lebanon Senior Center, 22 Imogene Lane, Lebanon, CT 06249, the Colchester Senior Center- 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, or the Haitian Health Foundation in effort to "Build Cathy's House," 97 Sherman St., Norwich, CT 06360 (<https://www.haitianhealthfoundation.org>).

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Ronald Carl Pueschel

Ronald Carl Pueschel, 82, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 8, at Middlesex Hospital. The family feels very fortunate to have all been together, surrounding him with loved ones, to reminisce about good times during his final days. Ronald was born Jan. 9, 1941, in Holyoke, Mass., the son of the late Gustav and Margaret (Hintz) Pueschel.



Ronald will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and devoted man of the church. He was deeply involved at Christ The King Lutheran Church in Newtown, and Christ Lutheran Church in Hebron. Ronald served the church in many volunteer roles throughout his life and enjoyed singing in the choir. Ronald was also a man with a strong work ethic, retiring several years ago after a successful career as a corporate executive, rising to the roles of board member and president. He found joy in volunteer work and helping others, whether it be colleagues, friends, or family.

Ronald will be greatly missed but always remembered with love by his wife of 57 years, Carol (Shaw) Pueschel; children, Brian and wife Angela Pueschel, Debra and husband Ian Kalinosky, Jason and wife Andrea Pueschel; brother, Robert and wife Liane Pueschel; sister Marjorie Pueschel; grandchildren; Dylan Pueschel, Lauren Kalinosky, Matthew Kalinosky; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Ronald battled Parkinson's disease for six years. In hope for others, donations in his memory may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, www.parkinson.org, or to Christ Lutheran Church, www.clchebron.org.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Aug. 24, at 11 a.m., at Christ Lutheran Church, 330 Church St., Amston.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Ronald, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Susan Leser



Susan Makowicz Leser, of Marlborough, passed away at her home Sunday, Aug. 13. Susan was born April 22, 1960, in Manchester, the daughter of John and the late Isabelle (Podosek) Makowicz.

Susan attended college at UConn, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in finance, as well as Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Eastern Connecticut State University, obtaining a Master of Business Administration and Master of Education. She was a dedicated teacher at Tolland Intermediate School, where she lived out her passion for educating children. Susan also supported her local community by serving on the Board of Finance for the Town of Marlborough for over 10 years.

Susan will be dearly remembered for her compassion and love of animals. She was an avid reader and had impeccable style. Susan was a loving mother who cherished her children, and was someone who you could always count on to find the strength and courage to stand up for what she believed in.

Susan will be profoundly missed by her beloved family, father, John Makowicz; sons, Sean Leser and his fiancée Amanda Hopkins, Tyler Leser and wife Andrea Vargas; daughter, Chelsea Makowicz and fiancé Nathan Desharnais; brothers, Paul and wife Leighsa Makowicz, David and wife Heather Makowicz; sister, Linda and husband Jonathan Adams; as well as many other extended family members, friends and former students.

Susan was predeceased by her mother, Isabelle Makowicz, and brother, Michael Makowicz.

Calling hours will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, today, Friday, Aug. 18, from 5-7 p.m. A church service will be held at St. Joseph's Church, 33 West St, Rockville at noon Saturday, Aug. 19.

Donations in Susan's memory may be made to the Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem, N.Y., at nywolf.org/donate, or to your local animal shelter.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Susan, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.

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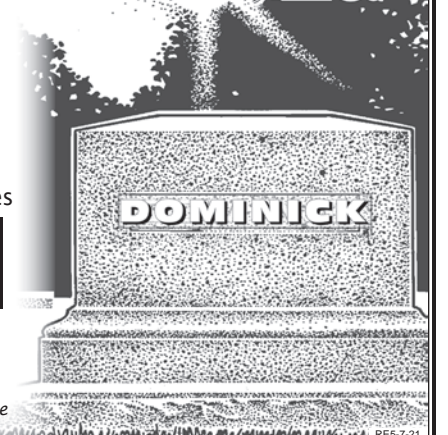
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★ *New Town Manager., cont. from page 1*

charter, converting from an elected first selectman to an appointed town manager. A search committee consisting of nine residents, guided by the executive search firm Municipal Resources Inc., advertised the new position, interviewed and selected finalists for the full Board of Selectmen consideration.

Porter explained what a successful town manager should look like for Marlborough, highlighting the benefits of this form of government.

"I'd like to draw a distinction between elected leadership and appointed professional leadership," he said. "To some extent, I think that a successful professional manager who does not have a 'D' or an 'R' or any letter after his or her name is someone who can communicate on a nonpartisan basis, on a very even-handed professional basis and also be assessable, to listen to all perspectives across the spectrum and help a community bridge those divides and craft a policy or a set of policies that meet their short, medium and long-term needs — from a professional perspective."

Sometimes, Porter continued, his job will be exciting and other times, it will involve quietly taking care of the "boring stuff." Having a town manager can help the community stay ahead of some issues before they reach critical tipping points — while still allowing elected officials to make decisions or advocate for political platforms. A town manager, he said, can establish a capital improvement plan and check off a few items each year, simply because it's the "right thing to do for our community."

The prior chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Amy Traversa, was appointed to serve as the acting executive for 90 days, as mandated by the charter. Following that period, she was selected to serve as the interim town manager until a permanent candidate was hired, perhaps giving the community a sample of what the future will hold.

"I think that in the very near term, [residents] probably won't notice any radical changes — I have no intention of rocking the boat in my first month," Porter said.

But in the long run, he asserted, systemic changes will become evident.

"The value that I can add is working internally and providing a lot of continuity because when you have a first selectman form of government, that individual changes just about every four years and they probably spend the first six months to a year just learning what they're supposed to do," he said. "What I can do on a day-to-day basis — and it's going to take some time — is figure out how to help this intelligent, capable, experienced group of public servants work together as a high performing team."

The manifestations that the community can reasonably expect, he added, are tasks being done in a timely manner, such as reports being filed — "just all this behind-the-scenes stuff just running really well."

Often, Porter stated, communities that have professional management tend to have higher credit ratings. If the town can implement internal control and processes, future projects will be easier to tackle: "we can borrow at a lower

interest rate."

Porter said his approach to governing can be viewed as a three-legged stool: the first leg is high-quality operations; the second is capital projects/improvement; the third is stakeholder engagement, which begins with the various boards and departments in town.

"I have to be proactive about engaging stakeholders and establishing that feedback loop and making sure that the services that we are providing are top-notch," he said.

However, reaching citizens is "the most challenging"

"They have families, jobs, hobbies — all sorts of obligations — so often they're not by nature interested in what their town is doing until something happens that they don't like," he said. "So, the challenge there is meeting them where they are."

The town features a fresh, polished website and an active Facebook page, but Porter would like to explore additional methods to keep residents abreast of what's happening throughout the community.

"I'd like to engage these residents in a way that's not obnoxious or overbearing but really get timely, accurate information out to them on a regular basis."

The journey towards a new town manager was challenging at times, as the selectmen attempted to finalize details. Whoever won the job would not only become the new manager, but the *first* one — not necessarily an easy task.

Porter indicated that the recruiting firm was upfront with that piece of information, which he found "really exciting."

"First of all, I'm impressed that the town came together and that the Board of Selectmen appointed a charter committee — I mean it's a lot of work to update your charter," he said. "That they did that and came together and said 'yes this is what we want,' as a professional manager, that warms my heart."

He continued, "I'm not just coming in here because there's a lot of inertia and they've had a professional manager for 50 years and that's how it's always been, so the last guy retired and they're hiring someone — I'm walking in here because they really want me. They have very recently made a proactive decision that this is the direction they want to go in, so from my perspective, when I applied and was going through the process, that was actually an enormous benefit."

Everyone in the community has been welcoming, he said. Porter has embraced the role, and is formulating what the next steps should be: "What adaptations do I need to make to realize the benefits that the people who rewrote the charter and wanted this to happen are expecting?"

His children are all elementary school age; the oldest is entering fourth grade. The area, he said, was attractive for a parent. But, Porter decided to move his family to Glastonbury, which he said was an important choice.

"I was really pleased to see that Marlborough did not require that their town manager live in



Marlborough's very first town manager, David Porter, moved into the corner office at Town Hall last week.

the community," he said. "I hope to continue as the town manager here for many, many years. And so, in terms of my personal wellbeing and sanity, I know that there will be times when the going gets tough and being able to maintain a degree of separation I think will be important to continuing here for a long time."

It was also essential to establish an institutional precedent.

"I want to send the clear message to everyone in the community that I truly am a professional

administrator and that I am not a first selectman by any other name," he said. "By living in Glastonbury, I can say I will never run for any office in Marlborough — even if someone wanted me to, I can't; I'm not eligible. I'm hired; if you don't like me, you can get rid of me."

Still, you might catch Porter out in the community enjoying a bike ride — one of his favorite hobbies.

"It's a beautiful area to do that," he said.

LEGALS

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, August 24, 2023 6:30pm at Town Hall LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 583 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 1 Bates Drive, Middle Haddam — to replace cedar shake siding with 4" vinyl siding (cedar clapboard style) — for applicant Rachel Steer.
Application 584 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 72 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam — to replace garage siding with composite clapboard siding — for applicant Cathy Ann Clark.
Application 585 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 91 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam — to mitigate the visual impact of the visible portions of the side yard fences that were recently installed — for applicant Judith Keefe.
Application 586 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 3 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam — to replace window with more historically accurate divided light 4 over 4 panes — for applicant David Parks.
Application 587 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 49 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam — installation of a 24' above ground pool with deck — for applicant William Hanna.
The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received. 1TB 8/18

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF ACTION

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on August 14, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive to consider the following:
ZBA-23-006: Bethanne Salva, 12 Brook Trail, Reduce side setbacks from 15' to 8.5' and 15' to 7.0' to construct deck with stairs. Map 10A/ Block 79/ Lot 7 - Approved 1TB 8/18

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 August 15, 2023:
• Application #IWWC 23-10: Brian Jacques, 31 Burnap Brook Road- Clearing of approximately 0.16 acres of trees and construction of approximately 0.05 acres of driveway/parking area using asphalt millings. Tree clearing and a portion of the driveway is within the 100-foot Upland Review Area of a watercourse and a pond.
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. 1TB 8/18

Obituaries cont.

Lebanon

Germaine Nowosad

Germaine Nowosad, of Lebanon, passed away at her home Monday, Aug. 14, with her beloved, attentive son by her side. She was 94 years old. Germaine was born in Belgium on Nov. 22, 1928, a daughter of the late Monsieur and Madame Penninck.



Soon after WWII, Germaine married Jan Nowosad in 1948. The couple emigrated to the U.S. in 1956 and settled in New Britain where they raised their son. The family moved to Lebanon in 1985, building the home where Germaine resided to this day. Soon after moving to Lebanon, they divided their property and several others built homes there as well, creating a multi-generational homestead of extended family. In the summer months, they enjoyed family vacationing on a small island at the mouth of the Connecticut River in Old Lyme.

As a young woman, Germaine worked as a seamstress. Upon coming to America, she worked as a machinist at Atlantic Machine for over 30 years, retiring several years ago. In her free time, Germaine enjoyed making needle-

point tapestries, or knitting, and crocheting beautiful garments which she generously gifted to her family and friends.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her son John and his wife, Joann Nowosad; her grandchildren, who she was lovingly referred to as Mimi, Robert (Lydia) Nowosad, Jason (Berkeley) Nowosad; granddaughter in law, Genevieve Nowosad, all of Lebanon; great grandchildren, Jack, Aria, Alana, Lilah, Isabelle and Ava; a special niece and her husband, Kreisha (Zbigniew) Pastuszek and their children; and many extended family members in Australia and Belgium and several friends.

Germaine was predeceased by her husband, Jan, on May 16, 2003; her grandson, Jamie; and a great-granddaughter, Julianna.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Aug. 22, beginning with a calling hour from 10-11 a.m. at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church on West Town Street, Lebanon. Burial will be in the New Lebanon Cemetery.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Germaine, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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LEGALS

**TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the August 3rd, 2023 meeting, the following actions were taken:
Approved with Conditions PZC Application #22-29: 74 Pickering Street. Proposed Site Plan Modification to construct accessory solar field and 7 ft tall fence in front yard setback. Application of the Specialty Lighting Group and property of Carroll Properties LLC. Map 19, Lot 76, Zone I.
Approved with Conditions PZC Application #22-31: 1488 Portland Cobalt Road. Request for Site Plan Review for 10,640 sq. ft retail building. Application of Calito Development Group and property of Middles 66 LLC. Map 6, Lot 17, Zone B-2.
 Dated at Portland, CT this 15th day of August 2023
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission 1TB 8/18

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At its Regular Meeting of August 9, 2023, the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision(s):
W2023-3081 - 155 Westchester Road; Jeffrey and Donna Naples - applicant/owner; Assessor's Map 05-14/016-000; reclamation plan and proposed pond within regulated wetlands area. **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.**
W2023-3083 - 48 and 50 Westchester Road; Margus Properties LLC - applicant/owner; Assessor's Map 06-12/040-000; Timber Harvest on Westchester Road. **DECLARATORY RULING ISSUED.**
 Dated August 11, 2023
 Conservation Commission
 Falk von Plachecki, Chair 1TB 8/18

NOTICE OF PRIMARY OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

To Lauren A. Griffin, the Town Clerk of Marlborough, CT:
 Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the Republican Party will be held in the Town of Marlborough, on September 12, 2023, for nomination to the following Municipal Offices to be filled at the Marlborough Election to be held on November 7, 2023:

OFFICE	TERM
Selectmen	11/13/2023-11/08/2027
Board of Education	11/13/2023-11/08/2027

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the party-endorsed candidates of the Republican Party for nomination to said Municipal Offices, together with the street addresses of said candidates:

NAME	ADDRESS	OFFICE	TERM
Joseph J. Asklar	24 Isleib Road	Selectmen	4 year
Louise L. Concodello	70 Millstone Drive	Selectmen	4 year
Michael A. Nastro	64 Millstone Drive	Selectmen	4 year
Louise L. Concodello	70 Millstone Drive	Board of Education	4 year
Patrick A. Pabouet	429 Jones Hollow Road	Board of Education	4 year

Notice is also hereby given that the following enrolled members of the Republican Party have filed petitions in conformity with Sec. 9-406 of the General Statutes, as candidates for nomination to said Municipal Offices:

NAME	ADDRESS	OFFICE	TERM
Christopher Barella	16 Hidden Woods	Selectmen	4 year
Susan Stolfi	80 High Meadow Road	Selectmen	4 year
Kerri Barella	16 Hidden Woods Drive	Board of Education	4 year
Amy Kuhrt	22 Deer Run	Board of Education	4 year

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I received from Carey Fraulino, Registrar of Voters of the Republican Party, in accordance with Sec. 9-435 of the General Statutes. As provided in said notice, a Primary of the Republican Party for nomination of candidates to the offices therein specified will be held on September 12, 2023; the hours of voting at said Primary will be from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and the location of the polls will be as follows:

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE
 Elmer Thienes Mary Hall Elementary School Community Room
 25 School Drive
 Marlborough CT 06447
 Absentee Ballots will be counted at Elmer Thienes Mary Hall School also.
 Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, this 10th day of August 2023.
 Lauren A. Griffin CTCC
 Town Clerk of Marlborough 1TB 8/18

EMPLOYMENT

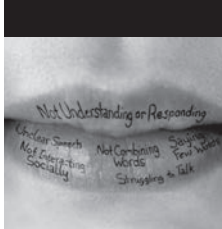

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EMPLOYMENT

CRAFTERS WANTED: Applications for vendors are still being accepted for the 32nd Annual Arts & Crafts Festival on the Green on Saturday, Sept 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Colchester Lions Club, the event on the picturesque town green will feature hundreds of unique handmade creations from local crafters and artisans. There will be no mass produced or previously owned items. For vendor information, call 860-222-0796 or colchesterlionscraft-fair@gmail.com

DISHWASHER AND WAIT STAFF: part time positions available. Please apply at Diane's Restaurant, 493 West Chester Road, Colchester. 860-267-2395.

FT BARBER NEEDED: in busy Hebron Barber Shop. Following not needed. Call 860-888-2428 or 203-641-7700.



FULL TIME OFFICE HELP: Small local company offering a full time clerical position. Candidate must be able to multi-task and be well organized. One of the primary duties includes assisting in the development of project sales quotations. Other duties may include phone answering, filing, order entry & expediting. Training provided. \$20-\$25 an hour DOE / Plus benefits! Apply in person at: Yost Associates 224 Eastern Blvd Glastonbury, M-F 8:00-5:00. Positively no phone calls.

GLASTONBURY CARPET HAS OPENINGS: for friendly and helpful sales associates. Part-time positions, Tuesday thru Saturday. No nights, No Sundays. Call 860-633-8832 or 860-338-0023.

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RETAIL POSITION: Consider joining our great work team, serving nice customers in a Glastonbury fabric shop. Flexibility, people skill, organization, and computer literacy are basic requirements. 25-28 hours or more per week. Call Ron 860-416-0133.

SALES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION: Looking for qualified, highly motivated people who will install, service and clean alternative fuel appliances; such as pellet, wood, and gas stoves and fireplaces. Will train for this position. Pay depending on abilities and talents. Apply at Fireside Supply Inc, 33B East Street, Hebron or Firesidect1@aol.com. 860-228-1383.

SEEKING AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC: for immediate hire at fast growing shop in Middletown. Strong mechanical aptitude and troubleshooting skills. Must be able to diagnose and repair mechanical issues and be deadline and detail oriented. Ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment. 2-3 years automotive experience preferred. Diesel experience is a plus! Must have your own tools. Call George 203-624-0105.

WAREHOUSE POSITION: Seeking full time, energetic, organized individual for small local company. Great family type work environment. Occasional heavy lifting/Light phone duties/Customer contact. \$20-\$25 an hour DOE /Plus benefits! Training provided. Apply in person at Yost Associates 224 Eastern Blvd, Glastonbury, M-F 8:00-5:00. POSITIVELY NO PHONE CALLS!

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.

WAITSTAFF NEEDED: at Marlborough Pizza. Stop in or call 860-295-8181.

FT/PT CLEANER & BAKERS: helper wanted. Also PT counter help, early until 2pm. Please stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery.

Employment Posting Director of Recreation

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for a highly motivated, enthusiastic, and experienced Director of Recreation who will be responsible for leading, planning, organizing, staffing, directing, implementing, reviewing, and evaluating the activities of the Recreation Department and other related community services and programs. The Director will have significant community engagement and public involvement with boards and commissions, and citizens. The Director will play a pivotal role in management of Lake Pocotopaug, one of Connecticut's largest lakes at 512 acres, as well as 3.15 miles of the Airline Trail, which runs through East Hampton. The Director will work extensively with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Conservation-Lake Commission, as well as other special assignments, projects, and committees. The Director will be responsible for grant writing and implementation, and capital and operating budgets. A bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration, Physical Education, Public Administration or closely related field and 5+ years of experience in municipal recreation administration, with increased responsibility including 3 years of supervisory and/or administrative experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Membership in good standing in state parks and or recreation associations is also desirable. A valid driver's license is required. This is a full-time, 35 hour per week position with additional hours as required. The starting salary is between \$70,000 – 85,000 annually, commensurate with experience and education, and a liberal benefit package. Please 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 lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by September 15, 2023, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F. Posted: 8/15/2023 Closing date: 9/15/2023, or until filled.

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, by September 8, 2023, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/MF. Posting Date: 8/14/2023 Closing Date: 9/8/2023 (or until filled) 1TB 8/18

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