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# News Bulletin

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Volume 47, Number 32

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August 25, 2023

## 'Hebron Hammer' Headed to Hall of Fame

By Josh Howard

Tony "TNT" Grano, a 1999 graduate of RHAM High School, will be inducted into the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame this fall.

"I'm extremely honored to be recognized for my accomplishments throughout my boxing career," Grano said of the impending induction.

Also known as the "Hebron Hammer," Grano posted a professional record in the ring of 20-3-1 with 16 knockouts, including a knockout of DaVarryl Williamson, to become the North American Boxing Federation (NABF) heavyweight champion in 2012.

Grano, now a boxing trainer and working on a training program to combat bullying, had a rapid ascent through the boxing ranks.

He was an accomplished wrestler at RHAM High School, serving as a team captain for all four years and posting an undefeated 18-0 record during his senior season at the local high school.

Following his graduation from RHAM, Grano joined the local 777 Plumbers Union before scratching the itch to compete again at the age of 20.

"I started getting out of shape and wanted to do something to stay in shape," recalled Grano, who took the advice of his cousin and started training at a boxing facility in Willimantic.

It didn't take long for Grano to make a name for himself on the local boxing scene, having immediate success as an amateur—winning multiple state championships and New England Golden Glove titles.

In 2005, he won the USA National Championship, defeating Homer Fonesca to capture the amateur heavyweight title before having to make what he called the most difficult decision of his career.

At the time, Grano could have remained an



RHAM High School graduate Tony Grano is pictured with legendary promoter Don King after Grano won the NABF heavyweight title at the Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Fla., in 2012.

amateur for three more years – giving him an opportunity to compete in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China – or he could opt to turn pro.

He chose the latter, saying the decision was his biggest "dilemma" of his boxing career be-

cause "the Olympics were a dream of mine."

"I never imagined I would progress to where I could turn professional, but at that point that was my next decision," he stated.

Just as quickly as he worked his way through

the amateur ranks, Grano did the same as a professional, going undefeated in his first 16 fights.

A few years into his professional career, Grano suffered his first loss only to discover afterwards that an undetected virus had drained all of his energy during the fight.

Determined to avenge his first defeat, Grano accepted a fight with heavily-favored and undefeated (18-0) Travis Kauffman in 2009.

"I knew I wouldn't get a decision, I needed to knock him down," recalled Grano. "It was my chance to prove myself – I was very motivated."

Despite being a 3-1 underdog, Grano said he was extremely confident heading into the bout, which was televised worldwide on Showtime.

Grano proved to be the superior fighter, knocking out Kauffman in the fourth round following an unanswered 38-punch combination that grounded the previously undefeated Kauffman.

"I threw a hook and came back with an uppercut and I knew once he went down he wasn't getting back up," he recalled.

*Ringside Magazine* named Grano's victory over Kauffman as the 2009 Heavyweight Fight of the Year and the victory opened multiple doors for Grano, who – after fighting as an independent for a majority of his boxing career – joined forces with legendary promoter Don King.

Following the Kauffman victory, Grano went on to earn wins over Brian Minot and Williamson to capture the NABF heavyweight title in 2012.

With all of Grano's amateur and professional accomplishments in the ring, it's his latest cause that he is most passionate about.

Along with training aspiring fighters, Grano is working on a training program to fight the bullying epidemic.

It's a cause that is near and dear to Grano, *See Headed to Hall of Fame, page 32*

## Belltown Schools Providing the 'Duty of Care'

By London Brazal

East Hampton Public Schools teachers and administrators recently gathered to celebrate the start of a new school year with curriculum changes and building renovations.

This summer, the Town Council and Board of Finance reworked the school's budget that passed in the second referendum in July. The request to restore \$250,000 into the budget allowed teachers to stay in the district to help keep classes smaller and have more range in electives for the high school.

"They were important positions," said Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith. "Especially post-COVID, we are concerned about students' academic growth, mental health, and wellness. We want to keep class sizes reasonable."

During the summer, many physical changes occurred at the middle school. After 30 years, since its last renovation, contractors replaced the roof to help prevent leaks and damage to technology and equipment. The project will

conclude in a few weeks after the students start. Though, most of the roofing is done and shouldn't distract classes. In addition, a new project to replace tiles began. Large carpets in the music room and main entrances were also replaced. At Memorial School, the goal over the next few years is to remove the old carpets in the hallways. As of now, the main entrance is finished, but the school's logo will be added in the future.

Across various age groups, new programs and piloting curriculums will be common for this upcoming school year. At the high school, the district is looking to push for more investment in the pre-manufacturing courses. The cooperative programs with RHAM High School and Goodwin College are low-cost and do not rely on budget dollars. There is a slight tuition for the RHAM program, and the Goodwin program is free. The two co-ops are designed for students to learn more about manufacturing jobs.

Students who are unsure about college and that may go straight into a profession can spend half their school day learning and the other half of the day with hands-on experience. With many opportunities for manufacturing jobs in Connecticut, students can also work for local businesses. Many of those companies will let students work during the summer or offer to pay for night school.

Down the road, the district is planning on introducing more STEM opportunities to younger grades. This way, students are able to understand basics that are useful in everyday life. In addition, it gives students an opportunity to find passions and learn what is right for them.

Last year, a new math program was introduced to grades K-5 and this year will expand to grades 6 and 7. The program is designed to modernize math and boost skills relating to computer science and engineering. Next year, it

*See Belltown Schools, page 2*

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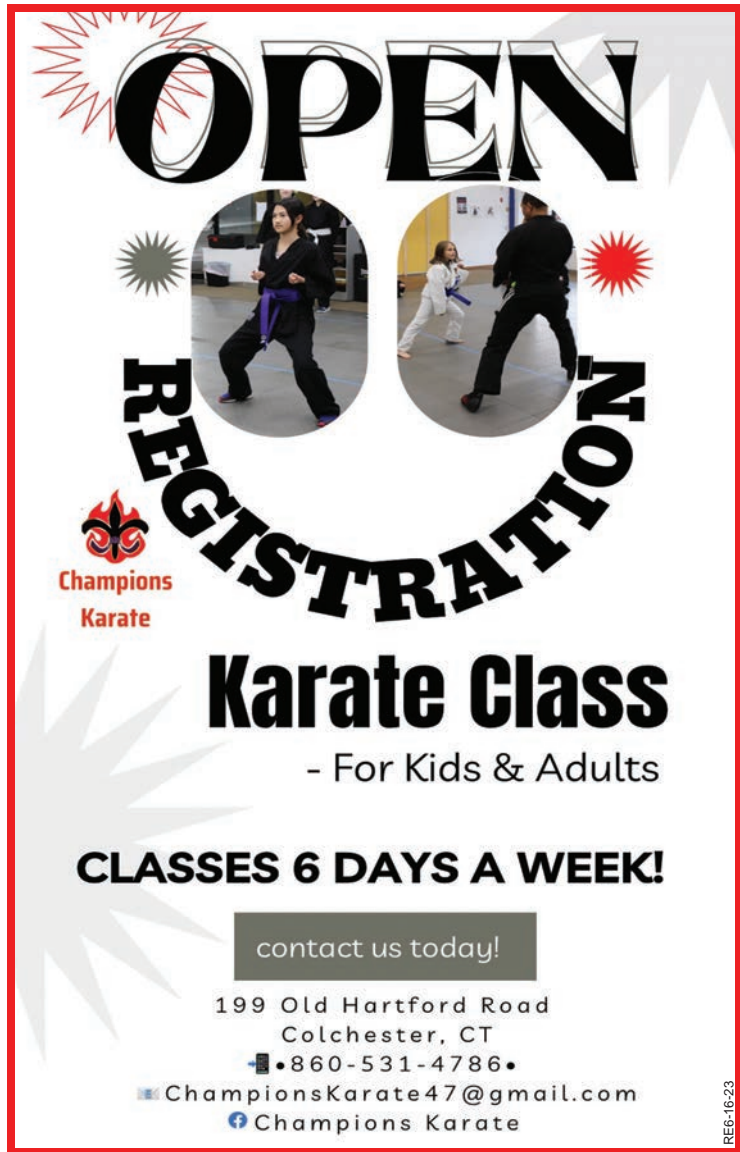
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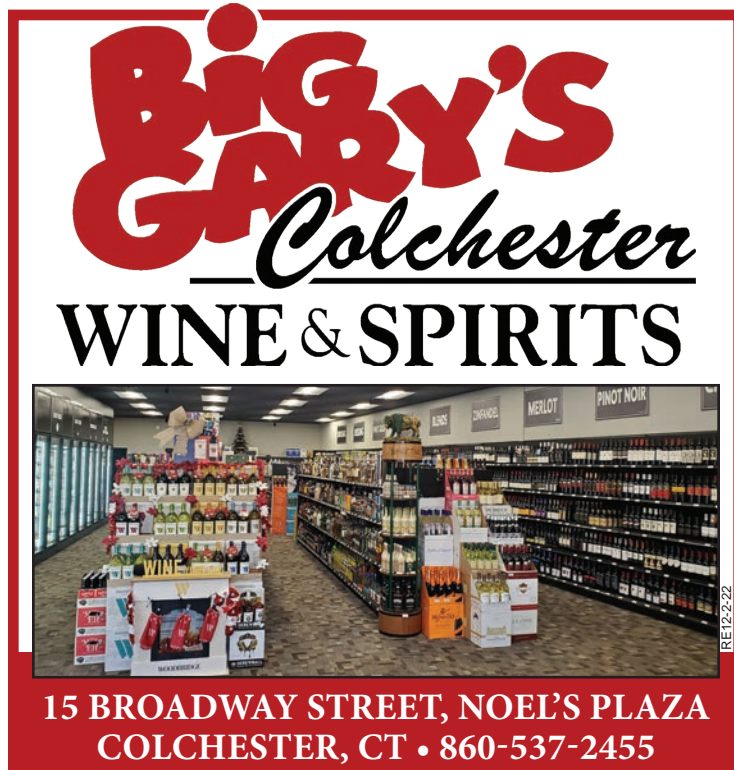
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East Hampton teachers wave in blue and white pride to celebrate the upcoming first day of school. Photo by Irene Kuck.



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★ *Belltown Schools, cont. from page 1*  
will expand to grade 8. For literacy, the district tested seven reading programs. This year, they narrowed it down to two programs in K-3. One will be introduced fully next school year.

Starting with this year's freshman class – the Class of 2027 – students at the high school will be required to take a half-credit of financial literacy. Though many students take the course already, it will be redesigned into a half-year course and a full-year course.

In the fall, students from the AP Government class will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" event for those running for the town's elections. Candidates of both parties are welcome to introduce themselves and answer questions from the students. The hands-on experience will help teach students to engage in their town's politics.

As announced by the State, all breakfast is free this school year. Any student can grab food before class starts in the morning. Students that qualify for free or reduced lunch are encouraged to apply. Based on the family's finances, applications can be located on the school's website.

Since COVID, the schools have been looking to improve mental wellness. One change includes an update to the K-12 Anonymous Reporting Tool that works "to anonymously report safety concerns to help prevent violence and tragedies." For grades 6 through 12, the Sandy Hook Promise Program will also be added. In October, students can email, text, or call a line that connects to a licensed counselor whether it be for themselves or a friend.

Smith said East Hampton Public Schools staff is looking at more ways for students to be active in the community and get genuine hands-on experiences.

"It's our 'Duty of Care,'" he said. "It's more than academic growth and progress. We want to create resilient learners that are both passionate and courageous."

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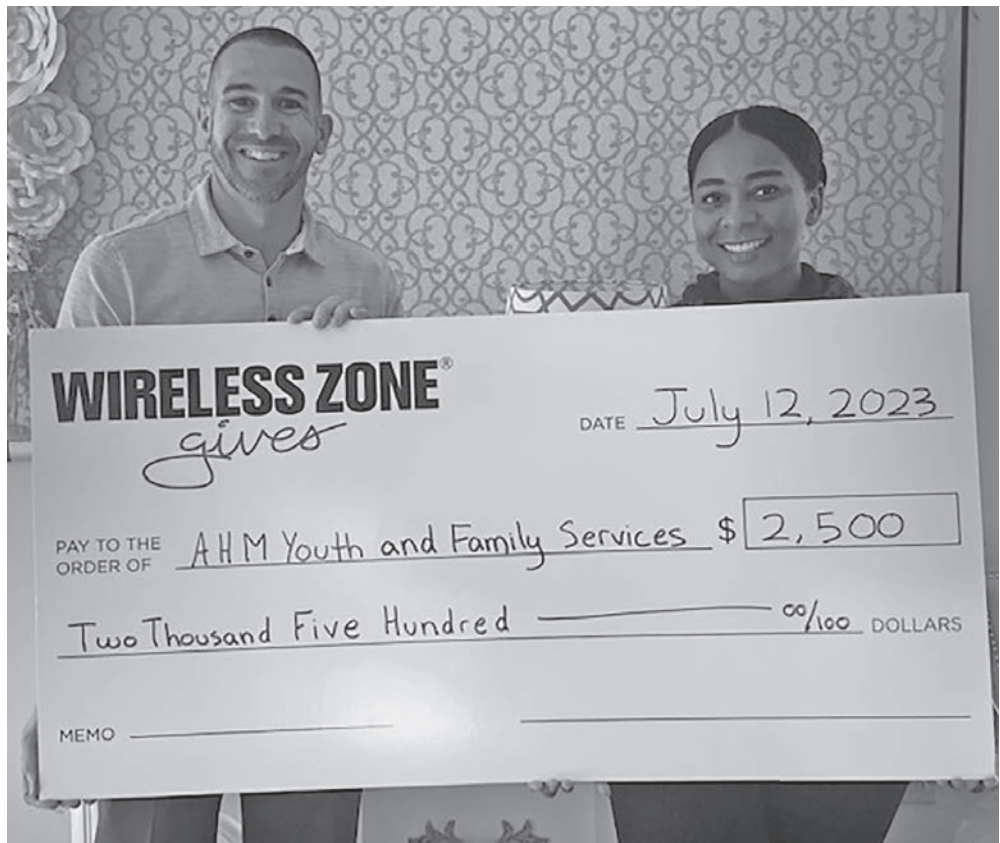
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AHM Youth and Family Services recently received a grant from Wireless Zone Gives. Pictured are Ryan Herrick of Wireless Zone (left) and AHM Wellness Program Coordinator Shamane Shepard.

**AHM Receives \$2,500 Grant**

In July, Wireless Zone Gives awarded AHM Youth and Family Services with a \$2,500 grant to support the Family Resource Center's Enrich program.

This grant will also help cover the cost of supplies and instructors for our Health Matters offerings which include art, nutrition, and positive youth development opportunities.

AHM said it is extremely grateful for the continued support of Ryan Herrick, executive franchise director of sales and operations at Wireless Zone. Herrick leads the efforts of securing grants for AHM throughout the year.

AHM's Family Resource Center is a place for children and their parents, and provides access to support services from birth. The new Enrich program helps parents learn research based strategies for enriching their relationship with their children of all ages through positive parenting.

Health Matters is a mind and body wellness program developed with the belief that healthy programming is the best way to reduce risk factors for mental illness and substance abuse in youth, families, and communities.

To stay up to date on AHM's Enrich and Health Matters program offerings, visit [ahm-youth.org/programs-services](http://ahm-youth.org/programs-services) or follow AHM on social media.

**Youth Baseball Fall Registration**

RHAM Youth Baseball fall registration closes today, Friday, Aug. 25. Families residing in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough should visit [www.rhamyouthbaseball.org](http://www.rhamyouthbaseball.org) to create a profile and register their children.

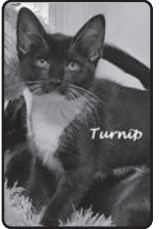
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**Yam**, 8 months, is looking for a forever home filled with soft beds to sleep on, warm hugs, and lots of love to surround her with. Yam likes to smooch her way into small, cozy spaces to take long naps. She chases springy toys like it was her job! Yam would love to go home with any of her siblings but holds a closer bond with Turnip. Yam is FeLV positive, but even a possible short life should be full of family and love. Contact us for more info.



**Turnip**, 8 months, adores being held, and cuddling with his siblings. He plays the big brother role and grooms his siblings until he finally dozes off. Turnip is a big boy with a big appetite for food, and love. His gazes into your eyes will melt right through your heart. Turnip would love to go home with any of his siblings but holds a closer bond with Yam. Turnip is FeLV positive, but even a possible short life should be full of family and love. Contact us for more info.



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**From the Editor's Desk**

**Observations & Ruminations**

By Mike Thompson

While there are always many fun activities taking place in the *Rivereast* towns, if you're in the mood for a little drive this weekend, there's something coming up in my hometown of Manchester that you might want to check out.

The Silk City Fest, now in its sixth year, will take place Saturday, Aug. 26, from 1-9:30 p.m., at Purnell Place in downtown Manchester (located off Main Street). Sponsored by the non-profit Art Füd, this free family friendly event features continuous live music, a vendor village of artists and makers, interactive activities, games, food trucks, beer and cider, and a brew experience!

More info is at [www.artfud.org](http://www.artfud.org).

Now, in the interest of full disclosure, one of my colleagues here at the *Rivereast* is one of the driving forces of the festival. But rest assured I'd be touting it even if that weren't the case. I've been to it in years past, and it's a lot of fun.

Check it out!

\*\*\*

I was very sad to read last week of the passing of Cathy Russi in Colchester. I would talk to Cathy on the phone several times a year – as recently as a few months ago, in fact – and she was just always a delight. Such a positive person. And you could tell just from talking to her how passionate she was about the causes she advocated.

In Michael Sinkewicz's excellent cover story last week on her life, he wrote about how devoted she was to town seniors. That devoted also extended to another cause dear to her heart, the Haitian Health Foundation. With her church, St. Andrew in Colchester, Cathy often ran fundraisers and collection drives to benefit the impoverished residents of that very poor country.

Though she had been sick, I was delighted to see that Cathy was able to make the ground-

breaking ceremony for the new Colchester Senior Center back in April. With the project now facing a significant budget shortfall, it looks like it's heading back to referendum, where taxpayers will decide whether to allocate enough money to finish the job. I hope Colchester voters sign off on the funding. Not only would it be the right thing for town seniors, it would be a great way to honor Cathy's legacy.

\*\*\*

Here are some memorable quotes from the late humorist Patrick McManus, who was born on this day in 1933:

"Housing developments are a great boon to camping, since they make such fine places to get away from."

"The two best times to fish is when it's raining and when it ain't."

"Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary."

"Smoked carp tastes just as good as smoked salmon when you ain't got no smoked salmon."

"I am no more incompetent or susceptible to trouble than the average person, no matter what my friends might say."

"Once in a seventh-grade English class I stumbled into a nest of dangling participles."

"Another thing I like about fishing with maggots is that if left alone they turn into flies. What kind of future is that for them? You have saved them from that particular horror, for which they should thank you copiously."

"Most mountain men died off back in the nineteenth century, once again displaying their uncommon good sense."

"No greater bond exists between two male friends than shared ignorance."

\*\*\*

See you next week.



**Capstone Project... For Taylor VanBlaricom's eighth grade Capstone project, she decided to raise money for disabled veterans. Her great-grandfather Albert "Gene" VanBlaricom was a veteran, so this meant a lot to her. Her goal was to raise \$1,000 – and she met that goal. She is pictured a check for \$1,000 to VFW Post 5095 Commander Ted Turner (right) and Quartermaster Domenic Guilliano (left).**

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

**Lake Pocotopaug**

To the Editor:

Many thanks to the various organizations for helping the lake remain clean and beautiful all summer. I was told by many residents when I first moved here 18 months ago that the lake will be contaminated with blue/green algae come August. This year the green flag was up at Sears Park every day so far and the children attending camp were able swim every day if they wanted to. Wonderful coordination of efforts.

Barbara Tardy – East Hampton

**The Horton Connection**

To the Editor:

Horton Boulevard is a dead-end road and most people and companies that are in business selling a product or general merchandise do not prefer dead-end roads; they want people to see them and that is accomplished by having people going by their front door often. To have Horton Boulevard develop into a prosperous location more people will have to travel the boulevard and the best way to make the boulevard more accessible and convenient is to connect Horton Boulevard to Kinney Road. The CVS on the corner of Horton Boulevard is a good example. Even a company with a big name wants to be seen. You would have to believe that's why CVS did not build the store halfway down the boulevard; they are situated on the best location for visibility.

The town of Hebron has a great opportunity to show the people in town that growth and prosperity are a priority our town leaders have and having a developer purchase the land the town owns, with the stipulation that the developer build an educational learning center on

**Hills for Hebron BOE**

To the Editor:

Kim has experience with both elementary school age children, and high school adolescents. With her background in health and physical education, Kim understands the physical and emotional challenges students confront as they progress through their school years.

Kim is uniquely qualified to serve on the Hebron Board of Education.

Disclaimer: I am Kim's mom.

Sue Custance – Hebron

**Bulletin Board**

A widely quoted maxim maintains that, "Age is just a state of mind."

I don't know who came up with this pearl of wisdom, but the guy was an idiot.

I mean really. If age is just a state of mind, who's that old geezer looking back at me out of the mirror?

Or maybe it's my state of mind and not my bladder that rouses me from my dreams in the middle of the night?

Years ago, when I thought I was immortal and the possibility of finding liver spots on my hands was the furthest thing from my mind, I'd meet with buddies over chili dogs, onion rings and beer on a Friday night, then head off for some night spot where we'd carouse into the wee hours trying to pick up girls. Then, on Saturday, we'd do it all over again.

These days I have to ask myself: Who was that person?

Now, when I get together with old buddies, we look more like the guests of honor at a snapping turtle convention—an assortment of beady-eyed, hairless coots with wrinkled necks and deteriorating vision who are very short on patience.

The last time I went out with friends we all ordered low fat, no-salt meals (a glass of red wine, which is supposed to be good for you, being our only concession to wildness).

Instead of lying about girls, we compared notes to see who had endured the most colonoscopies (the winning number, if I remember correctly, was three)—a conversation replete with vivid descriptions of the preparation process (accompanied by much nodding and mutual sympathy) and considerable informed commentary on the sizes and types of polyps likely to be found in one's intestinal tract.

Other topics of conversation included:

- 1) What medications we were taking; how many; the wide variety of afflictions they were supposed to address, and the various fascinating side effects (facial tics, constipation, homophobia and suicidal thoughts) that accompanied them.
  - 2) Who had died since we last saw each other and who was likely to die before we met again (present company excepted, of course).
  - 3) Crab grass. There was a time, in my younger, more reckless days, when grass was a commodity marketed for \$35 an ounce by the guy down the hall in my college dorm. Nowadays, when the subject of grass comes up among my circle of aging friends, it generally involves the thousands of dollars squandered in an effort to grow a lush lawn. (I'm inclined to think the \$35 may have been a more productive investment.)
  - 4) The ad in the latest AARP magazine on how to grow giant tomatoes and if it really works.
  - 5) What's wrong with young people (bottom line: they're young and we're not).
  - 6) The good old days when gas was 56 cents a gallon and cute female clerks in convenience stores actually tried to strike up conversations with you instead of referring to you as "sir" and directing you to the adult diaper section before you can make clear that you're actually there for their most powerful laxative.
  - 7) Who now has the least hair.
- We wrapped things up by 9:15 p.m. and I was in bed by quarter after 10.  
So I ask you, if age is just a state of mind, what's senility?

Jim Hallas

**Rivereast Hours of Operation**

The offices of the *Rivereast News Bulletin* and *Glastonbury Citizen*, located at 87 Nutmeg Lane, Glastonbury, are open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Phone: 860-633 4691. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

**RIVEREAST**

**News Bulletin**

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Letter Writers: Letters must be 300 words or less, and must be submitted by Tuesdays at noon. Email is preferred; send to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com). All letters must be signed, and include the writer's town of residence and daytime contact phone number. Writers are limited to one letter per week. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity, and are also subject to fact-checking. No form of harassment or personal attack (such as bullying or name-calling) will be tolerated. There is no guarantee that all letters will be published.

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the property, would be a great way our leaders could express their feeling of helpfulness by giving every opportunity to young citizens of Hebron to succeed in life. Horton Boulevard has been a sleeping giant long enough and it is time to wake the boulevard up and have it begin to show the potential it has to bring new life into the center of Hebron. The boulevard needs the community to recognize this potential and get involved by expressing their enthusiasm to town leaders, that educational and positive growth is what the town at this point needs in its history. A strong community should show that it is proud to live in Hebron and reflex that enthusiasm to the children and that new undertakings are part of growing up and learning more about life.

So let's connect Horton Boulevard and Kinney Road to the future.

**Thomas Tremont – Hebron**

**We Love Colchester!**

To the Editor:

It is an absolute pleasure living in Colchester! The warmer weather has gotten us outside to a well-groomed town where we could feel comfortable and buy everything we need.

We give First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos credit for creating this town as the most wonderful place to be.

We never left town once and are inspired by First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos' continual attention to town maintenance. We thank First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos!

**Pat Kelly – Colchester**

**Ensure Quality Education**

To the Editor:

The Portland Democrats are announcing that Laurel Steinhauer, chair of the Board of Education, and Meg Scata, vice chair/secretary of the Board of Education, are running for re-election.

Laurel has been on the board since 2018, and is on the Policy, Personnel, and Curriculum Committees. She has worked with the Portland Clean Energy Task Force to install the large solar array at Brownstone Intermediate School, which saves thousands of dollars of electricity.

Laurel earned a BA from Wesleyan University and has worked in arts education and perinatal health services. She is the Chairperson of the Portland Library Board, serves on Portland's Prevention Council, and the board of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). She is the Program Manager for The Wild Gifting Project, a foundation that assists underserved communities.

Laurel and her husband, Chris, are raising three children who attend Portland Schools. Laurel earned the Girl Scout Gold Award in high school, which instilled in her a strong commitment for service to her community.

Meg Scata has been on the board since 2017. She Chairs the Policy Committee and is a member of the Building and Grounds Committee. She recently served on the Facilities Study Committee.

Meg attended the Hartford College for Women and Eastern Connecticut State University. She holds the credential of Master Board of Education Member from CABE. Meg serves on the CABE Executive Board, is Vice President of CABE's Government Relations Committee and is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Connecticut Regional Educational Consortium.

Meg worked in the Portland Schools for 25 years. She currently works for the Northern Middlesex YMCA. She is the proud mom of four children and nine grandchildren.

Laurel and Meg ask for your vote on Nov. 7 to continue their work to ensure quality education in Portland.

**April Graves  
Member, Ways and Means  
Portland Democratic Town Committee**

**Bring People Together?**

Dear Colchester Residents:

Since Democrat Bernie Dennler announced his intention to run for Colchester first selectman, he has continually stated that there is a "toxic environment" at Town Hall, there is disrespect at meetings, and that, if elected, he will "bring people together."

Colchester Town Hall employees have publicly denied there is a toxic work environment but acknowledged that "board members" could talk to each other more respectfully.

Interestingly, it is the two incumbent Democrats running for re-election on the Board of Selectmen, who never come to meetings. Having a hybrid meeting room is great but when your elected officials "refuse to attend meetings in person" it makes it very easy to become a disrespectful keyboard warrior. I am fed up with only seeing the top of the heads of Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner. Not only do they refuse to attend the meetings in person, but they also struggle to put their faces on the computer screen.

It is a lot harder to be rude and disrespectful when you are all sitting at the same table inches away from each other. Rather than blame the current first selectman, maybe Dennler and the Democrats should look in the mirror for the root of this problem. If the Democrats put aside, they lost the last election for first selectman, showed up at meetings for the last 18 months, and attempted to work collaboratively across the aisle, for the betterment of all of Colchester, Bernie wouldn't need a campaign platform to "bring people together."

Honestly, I think it was always their intention to create a "problem" and then try to "solve it."

If Rosemary and Denise can't take five minutes to drive to the Town Hall and put politics aside, then they don't deserve our vote.

**Sincerely,  
Michael B. Begun – Colchester**

**'Lively' Republican Caucus**

To the Editor:

The chair of the Republican Town Committee was quoted in the *Rivereast* saying their caucus was "lively." What does lively mean to them? A few meetings ago, the Republicans called the police on First Selectman Bisbikos. Was that a lively night as well?

The Republican chair also said Bisbikos has a track record that can be "scrutinized." I agree with him after seeing two years of chaos and blunders in Town Hall.

The Republican chair closes with a concern the campaign season will be "ripe for attacks" and "the issues should remain at the forefront."

First Selectman Bisbikos didn't listen. He's already attacking and calling people names in the *Rivereast* and on Facebook. It's no wonder the Republicans passed a vote of no confidence in Bisbikos. The wild drama is just nonstop with him.

**John Farrell – Colchester**

**Thanks, East Hampton Educators**

To the Editor:

Summer goes by fast. When I was a kid I remember counting down the last days of summer in dread of the coming school year. My kids, though, are actually looking forward to going back to school. They are excited to see their friends and new teachers. There have been years that this hasn't been the case, but far more often than not they've really enjoyed their experience with East Hampton schools.

I want to publicly thank the incredible teachers that have had such a wonderful impact on my kids over the years, and those who are about to impact them in similar ways. I appreciate the teachers who have chosen to remain in East Hampton during this summer of uncertainty. Passing a budget as late as we did could have made it necessary for some of our educators to find positions elsewhere, but they decided to remain here knowing that East Hampton would eventually support its students and educators.

Not every student has the same experience, and my kids do have concerns this year because of the new buildings, new staff, and how they have personally changed since school let out in June. Education has changed since I was a student; computers, cell phones, social media ... all of it has changed. Textbooks are as often a PDF

or a website as a physical book. Huge advances in educational technology and in the way we evaluate students and educators have made it hard for many of us to relate to the educational settings our children occupy now.

I am thankful for the outstanding education that East Hampton provides to its young people, and for the professionals who take great care in determining the curriculum and materials given to all students. Have a great school year!

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

**Hebron BOS – Let's Meet**

To the Editor:

At the Aug. 17 Hebron Board of Selectmen meeting, the board voted 3-1 against returning to in-person meetings. The BOS has been meeting virtually since April 2020. One would think after three years it would have at least moved to a hybrid structure. Over a year ago ARPA funding of \$66,000 was approved to provide hybrid meeting capabilities at the Douglas Library and town offices. At the June 1, 2023, meeting when asked about the status of the project, town manager Andy Tierney reported that no progress had been made. An update was provided at the August 17 meeting and there was no set project plan or implementation time frame presented. The virtual meetings continue to experience technical issues. For example, participant video connections did not work at the Aug. 3 meeting, and the last meeting was plagued with audio issues.

The board discussed some anecdotal information that the current virtual-only format has attracted more attendance and increased participation among younger and older residents alike. But no hard participation statistics were presented to validate these statements.

The value of in-person or hybrid meetings extends beyond the discussions that take place: it fosters a sense of community, engagement, and collaboration that cannot be replicated in virtual settings, and it supports the exchange of ideas, and the nuances of interpersonal communication. Additionally, the unreliability of the town's virtual meeting technology detracts from the virtual meetings due to audio or internet/Wi-Fi issues.

In its discussion the board decided to maintain the status quo until after the Nov. 7 election.

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ Letters cont. from page 5  
when a new board is in place. We make this promise to Hebron voters: when we are elected, we will vote to move to hybrid meetings and ensure there is a tangible plan in place to properly equip the meeting rooms in a timely manner.  
Sincerely,  
John Matra and Claudia Riley  
Candidates, Hebron Board of Selectmen

### Senior Center Referendum

To the Editor:  
I've been an advocate for seniors and for building a new senior center for years. I began when I became the Board of Selectmen (BOS) liaison to the Commission on Aging. Then I worked with the Senior Center study group and the WJMS/Senior Center (SC) project that was defeated. In 2017 I chaired the SC Subcommittee that recommended the land purchase where the SC is being built. In 2019 we named the current building committee and here we are today.  
The 8/15/23 BOS/BOF (Board of Finance) joint meeting discussed the request for an additional appropriation from the Senior Center Building Committee. I made a motion to move that the BOS recommend to the BOF that we go out for an additional appropriation up to \$1.5 million at referendum to be financed through donations, grants, bonding, or whatever financial mechanisms the town chooses to use.  
I'm happy to say it passed the BOS unanimously. The BOF unanimously passed a motion to ask bond council to draft a proposed bond resolution for a future Senior Center referendum based on the BOS motion. Once the resolution is drafted it will return to the BOF and then onto the BOS to set the town meeting and referendum date.  
BOF member Art Shilosky summed up the financial discussion at the end of a three-hour meeting in the simplest way after a night of numbers – "My philosophy on this is we spend more money on this but borrow less. I don't know why people don't understand that." In 2021, the referendum that passed the building of the new senior center authorized bonding up to \$9.5 million. Even with the additional \$1.5M we'll only bond \$7.9 million. Why? \$3,107,691 in grants/donations.  
Colchester, let's get this project finished for the seniors and our community.  
Sincerely,  
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester  
*Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen but said she is speaking as an individual.*

### Blind Eye

Dear Colchester Residents:  
Part of leadership means taking a stand against toxic behaviors, especially by those who serve the public trust. The current Democratic candidate for first selectman has a long history of turning a blind eye to the behaviors of those politically aligned with him.  
When former first selectwoman Mary Bylone declared a "Racism Public Health Crisis" and unfairly labeled an entire community, the Democratic candidate went silent. When the former first selectwoman told the Board of Finance chair to "have some balls," the Democratic candidate, who at the time was serving on the Board of Finance, again was silent. Mary Bylone has since endorsed this candidate.  
When the Democratic candidate attended a Board of Finance meeting in which Mike Egan (member and husband to Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Monica Egan) stormed out of the meeting and confronted a selectman; there was a failure to condemn. Monica Egan has since endorsed this candidate.  
When former chairman Stephen Coyle was removed from the Sewer & Water Commission for abusing the position, even after overwhelming evidence was presented, the Democratic candidate failed to denounce. The same Stephen Coyle is married to selectwoman and Democratic Town Committee Vice Chairwoman Rosemary Coyle. Rosemary Coyle has since endorsed this candidate.  
One must question if silence was a prerequisite for political expediency.  
Albert Einstein once said that "If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity." A leader must hold all elected and appointed officials accountable for their behaviors regardless of political affiliation or relationship. Condemning these behaviors was easy for me, but a bridge too far for my opponent.  
Colchester cannot afford to elect a leader that will turn a blind eye to the behaviors of others. Doing so will inevitably lead to a path of corruption.  
Sincerely,  
Andreas Bisbikos  
Colchester First Selectman

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### Supports Dennler

To the Editor: I am writing to express my strong support for Bernie Dennler as the ideal candidate for the position of first selectman in Colchester. With his proven track record of dedication to our community and his experience in town management, Bernie is the leader we need to guide our town toward a brighter, kinder future.

Bernie's extensive experience in town governance, both at his current position in town hall in Lebanon and through his volunteerism in Colchester, positions him as a knowledgeable advocate for effective policies that will benefit all members of our community. He will bring back a fractured Town Hall.

Bernie's inclusive approach to leadership is exactly what Colchester needs. He actively seeks input from residents, listens to their concerns, and works collaboratively to address them. This willingness to engage with the community ensures that decisions are made with a well-rounded perspective and that the voices of all citizens are heard.

Having witnessed Bernie's commitment firsthand, I am confident that he will bring fresh ideas, pragmatic solutions, and a genuine passion for Colchester's wellbeing to the role of first selectman. His proven ability to bridge divides and navigate complex challenges makes him the right choice for our town's top leadership position.

As we approach the upcoming election, I encourage my fellow Colchester residents to consider the candidate who best embodies the qualities we need in a leader. I firmly believe that Bernie Dennler's experience, vision, and dedication make him the ideal candidate for first selectman. Let's come together and cast our votes for Bernie's capable leadership. Let's bring Colchester together!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Cox – Colchester

### Marlborough's "Balanced" Choice

To the Editor: Marlborough's Independent Party was formed to provide our community with a third option when voters go to the polls on Nov. 7th. A very diverse list of candidates has been assembled, which is comprised of people of varying political affiliations and several who are Unaffiliated. We would also like to thank all those who supported our petition drive to gain a spot on Row C on the November 7th ballot.

Our ticket includes many experienced office holders with decades of service to our community as elected officials, along with a several new faces. Everyone on the Independent Party line is committed to serving the entirety of our Marlborough Community and focusing on your needs and desires, while looking out for what is best for our town. This philosophy is reflected in our Independent Party slogan, which is, "Neither Left nor Right, Just Balanced."

A few months ago, the Independent Party posted a survey, which received responses from over 100 Marlborough residents. We listened to you and now wish to earn your support so we can respond to your concerns about Marlborough's future and how best to make that future brighter.

Over the course of the next two months, as we approach the fall election, we invite everyone to learn more about our slate of dedicated

candidates and we will be reaching out to you to learn more about what you want from your elected officials. Our focus will be on conducting a positive campaign with an emphasis on the issues that are important to you. Together, we can work to keep Marlborough a great place to live. Together we can make a difference.

The Independent Party Slate Committee

### Lady Ruby

To the Editor: "It is essential that election workers be able to do their jobs without fear of being smeared or injured. The lies told by Donald Trump and Rudy Giuliani about the 2020 election put the lives of election workers at risk. As long as Trump and his enablers persist in these falsehoods, so must we persist in exposing the truth." – Adam Schiff

"Rudy Giuliani now admits that his claims about Georgia election workers Shaye Moss and Ruby Freeman – whose lives were threatened because of those claims – were lies. He cared not one damn bit about two innocent women who were carrying out their duties with honor." – Jack Hopkins

"There is nowhere I feel safe. Nowhere. Do you know how it feels to have the president of the United States target you?" - Georgia election worker, Ruby Freeman

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

### The Big Fig

To the Editor: Hebron residents voted favorably that town clerk be an elected position. Is the Board of Selectmen overriding the vote? Residents voted in favor of not developing 17 Kinney Rd. But after funding a survey, the BOS is, apparently, headed to their lawyer to discuss the situation? – BOS 8/17/23. Kevin Kelly's letter (BOS agenda 10/6/22) gives readers the impression that our Public Works is beyond antiquated, but not beyond repair.

17 Kinney Rd, a former Horton parcel, doesn't actually abut John Horton Blvd. See maps and aerial views of the 88 acres posted on Save Hebron Center, Facebook. The property in question has a conservation easement. (PBC meeting 9/19/22). Development plans propose a roadway through the easement connecting the property to JHBlvd. This roadway could cause a host of complications for residential and wetland waters. The maps and information, on SHC, come from town, universities, respected historians and official environmental reports. As far as Hebron owning land directly on JHB, that remains a mystery.

Chronic disbelief and limited information is fascinating and frightening when we think of the future of the USA, even 5 years from now. I'm glad to have lived in the shadow of my parents' and grandparents'. Their common sense and basic everyday environmental knowledge protected important ecosystems in everyone's lives. They shared, what so many before us have embraced as well, a belief in the truth.

For years, facts have been presented to Hebron's BOS. So far, the only scholar left standing is Sir Isaac himself. Newton's Law of Gravity

remains unchallenged. Gravity and water are the two primary forces working against development on 17 Kinney Rd. These are elementary concepts, as in elementary education, and on the same learning curve as the definition of majority. #save17

Jean Tulumieri – Amston

### Progress

To the Editor: Is it too simple to believe that a progressive person believes in progress? Progress is a good thing. Progressives promote progress through advancements in science, technology, economic development, and social organization. In modern political discourse, progressivism often gets associated with social liberalism (endorsing a regulated market economy and the expansion of civil and political rights). The nuances of definitions can be maddening, but the former should be more palatable to most folks, while the latter is often spoken through clenched teeth.

Progressives do not accept the status quo and certainly are not declinists. It is progressive to want to improve life, personally and societally. Society has improved in a thousand ways in the past two centuries. Along the way, there have been bumps and setbacks, most of which have been the result of some people not liking, not accepting progress. Those people want things to remain the same, even when "the same" is not well-defined. For whom shall things remain the same? Naturally, if your circumstances have been rosy and comfortable, you want things to remain that way. For those less fortunate, should they be relegated to the same: living in poverty, squalor, ignominy or disease forever? That would not be progress! The reality is that we have not made progress! Material progress, yes, but not civilizational progress. We're no better off than the ancients, or even primitive man. We're vain, greedy, fearful beings doing all we can to be personally comfortable and provide for our own.

Americans have material progress but not human progress to show for our wonderful democracy. Many of us live a good life and can be rightfully proud of our accomplishments. Too many of us fail to understand that our accomplishments were not just personal triumphs, but facilitated by progressive policies.

John Barnowski – Colchester

### Accomplishments, Experience Matter

Dear Colchester Residents: Voting for a first selectman without accomplishments undermines effective governance. Achievements demonstrate capability and commitment, which are vital for leadership. Bernie Dennler has no significant victory that qualifies him for the position he wishes to take.

Mr. Dennler served on the Board of Finance with me and was on the Debt Service Subcommittee, which deprioritized our children's need for safe and healthy fields. Our first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, prioritized investing in our fields as he secured significant ARPA funding for field irrigation, increased investment in the grounds operating budget, and invested in a field feasibility study.

Furthermore, Mr. Bisbikos secured a new playground, new pickleball courts, new basketball courts, new signs, and a pavilion roof at the Rec Plex and followed through on their successful completion. Our first selectman has invested more in our families and children than any other First Selectman before him.

Accomplishments validate a candidate's potential to lead and drive positive changes in a community. From progress on the old Jack's Chevrolet building to the Town Green revitalization, the Town has benefitted from Andreas Bisbikos' commitments to our community.

My support is with Andreas Bisbikos for first selectman.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Migliaccio – Colchester

Note: Migliaccio is chair of the Colchester Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.

### Good School Year

To the Editor: School systems are much more than just students and teachers. It takes a vast network of dedicated educators, building staff, drivers, families, children, administrators, and countless others to create and maintain environments that support learning and social-emotional growth.

Thankfully, East Hampton is home to such a network. Our schools are special places, and as Belltown embarks on the 2023-24 academic

See Letters, page 8

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

year, there is no better time to thank those who dedicate themselves to education. The burden and expectations are ever expanding, and anyone willing to rise to the challenge deserves our gratitude.

For East Hampton, it is also the time for a sigh of relief. The past budget season was a trying time that threatened deep cuts to the quality of the education. The overwhelming surge of residents who worked together to defeat an insufficient spending plan was inspiring and accomplished a great deal.

But we can always do better.

Throughout the state and country, too many teachers are reaching into their own wallets to purchase the supplies they need to enhance learning and instruction. Too often, non-educators attempt to dictate policy and curriculum within the classroom. We have also seen a dramatic rise in the censorship of school libraries and attempts to limit access to information and facts.

As the school year begins, let's work to ensure that East Hampton is a haven where educators are respected as the experts they truly are. Our students are learning advanced skills that will prepare them for future success. Let's advocate for all the people who work to make this school system thrive and hold true to our values.

I wish a fantastic school year to all.

Sincerely,

**Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton**

*Note: Engelhardt is a candidate for the East Hampton Board of Education.*

## We Believe in You

To the Editor:

Back-to-school time is always an exciting time of year, even to people who don't have their own kids or grandkids to put on a bus, shuttle, walk or otherwise transport to school. It is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts, and the promise of new experiences that will mold them into the citizens of the future.

Sometimes we take for granted that it is also a time when teachers, administrators and staff rededicate themselves to the noble task of opening young minds to new areas of science and humanities, and instilling good citizenship habits along the way.

Recent budget tussles in East Hampton may have deflated the spirit of some of our educators. Don't let it. Many, many people in town share in a common message to you as we start a new academic year, which is this:

We believe in you.

We cannot know all the sacrifices you make throughout the year, but for the ones we see and the ones we don't, we are very grateful. The Democratic candidates for election this November, to a person, join our fellow residents wishing you all the best as you teach, encourage and stand beside our youth as we all grow together.

**Rich Knotek – Middle Haddam  
Democratic Candidate for Town Council**

## What Have We Learned?

To the Editor:

So what have we learned on these pages in the past few weeks? Let's take a look.

We learned that Frank Blume believes stronger gun laws won't lower the violence but that quicker capital punishment will. This in spite of overwhelming evidence that the reverse is true. Let's hope neither he nor any of his loved ones are ever wrongly convicted!

We learned that Don Denley thinks Richard Nixon was a good president bullied by Lowell Weicker and Woodward and Bernstein. Does this surprise anyone?

We learned that Sam Prentice will only respect that tiny minority of scientists who happen to

believe what he does. I suppose this shouldn't shock us, as he also explains how he does research: ignoring all the top results on Google, scrolling through page after page until he finds an obscure article that matches his theory.

And I can't say we learned anything new from it, but we were subject to his absurd conspiracy theories of the government pushing global warming in order to control our lives. He did explain that the rapidly growing green energy sector was a "farce." No word yet on why he believes these successful programs aren't working. Dare we hope that one day Mr. Prentice will learn that "global" encompasses more than his immediate neighborhood?

We learned that David Anderson has watched far too many right-wing hit jobs on Hunter Biden.

We learned that Colin McNamara doesn't understand that Fitch's downgraded our credit because of Republicans playing politics with the debt limit.

We learned that Ed Kozlowski still has nothing to say.

On the lighter side, we've learned that Tim Rinnel might give Charlie Daniels a run for his money: "And if (Trump) wins, the devil gets your soul!" Very nice!

Sincerely,

**Scott Sauyet – Andover**

## Gold Star Families

To the Editor:

I recently saw the testimony of the Gold Star families whose sons and daughter died in the catastrophic failure of the withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021. The anger, disgust and contempt these families have for Biden, Harris, Austin, Blinken, Milley and others is justified. The 13 members of the armed forces died because of Biden.

I heard the testimony of the Marine sniper whose request to kill the suicide bomber was ignored. Because of that, he was badly wounded. The bomber carried out his mission.

When the bodies of the 13 heroes were returned to Dover AFB, instead of standing at attention and saluting those heroes, Biden was looking at his watch. The Gold Star families saw that lack of respect. One of those families were the father and mother of Marine Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover. Their testimony was heartbreaking and their contempt for Biden was justified.

Look at the faces of those that died and were wounded. Listen to the Gold Star families; if that does not affect you then you are just as cold as Biden and like him do not have a conscience or soul.

Duty, honor, country. Biden has no idea what those words mean.

**David Anderson – Colchester**

## Note to Students

To the Up and Coming Students at Colchester Public Schools:

As the more experienced and wise citizens of Colchester, we senior citizens would like to offer some words of advice as the new school year begins. You are going to need a jacket to keep you warm when the weather gets cold; don't argue with your parents about it. Learning is important; you learn every day from the day you are born. Challenge yourself to learn something new every day, even when you are not in school. Motivation is important, no matter what your age. In order to accomplish anything meaningful, you need to be motivated.

Please, be kind to your teachers. They work harder than you realize.

Sincerely,

**The residents at  
Complete Care at Harrington Court  
Colchester**

## Thank You, Teachers

To the Editor:

With school starting for most in the area next week, I thought I'd write a note of thanks to our teachers. Teachers are shaping our future leaders and doers. They teach the past and the present so our kids can make a better future. I for one feel they do not receive nearly enough credit for the phenomenal job that they are doing with our children. The challenges are many, but teachers have stepped up to the plate throughout time; especially the past few years of COVID and distance learning and lesson plans for everything in between. As Colleen Wilcox once said, "Teaching is the greatest act of optimism."

So, thank you teachers for all that you do. I want you to know you are appreciated by the community that you help shape!

**Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton**

## Vision for Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:

Last week, I wrote about my leadership style, professional and volunteer experience, and how I will use that to change the tone in Colchester's government and bring people together as your next first selectman. However, you should know that I will be more than just a friendly "caretaker" first selectman. I have a vision to help bring out the best in our community and plans to make it happen.

Over the last few two years, Colchester's biggest successes have been thanks to federal ARPA grants handed down to all towns in America. As those funds expire, we need a plan to continue to make the kind of improvements in our community that residents want. We also need to keep Colchester affordable – not every "want" can be funded on the backs of Colchester taxpayers. That's why I want to invest in dedicated grant writing services for Town Hall.

There is an incredible amount of grant money out there for towns like Colchester that we can use to achieve community goals. We could make improvements to our recreation facilities; preserve open space; improve public safety, accessibility, and walkability; finally fund construction of a parking lot annex from the Town Hall with access to the Green to support community events; and promote economic development initiatives. I am confident if we made the investment in grant writing services, it would more than pay for itself annually.

This is one aspect of my vision for Colchester as first selectman, but there is much more I would like to do than can fit in 300 words. So, please visit [BernieForColchester.com](http://BernieForColchester.com) and click the "Vision" tab to learn more about my priorities and plans to bring Colchester together.

Sincerely,

**Bernie Denner – Colchester  
Candidate for First Selectman**

## East Hampton Deserves Better

To the Editor:

Last week the Belltown Republicans introduced "fresh faces" to their slate of candidates. However, they offer the same stale ideas that voters rejected in this summer's referendums. East Hampton families deserve better.

Republicans claim they will deliver "fiscal responsibility" while "continuing to support" police, fire and EMS. However, the incumbents' budgets demonstrated how thin they will stretch police, and how swiftly they will cut ambulance service to save little.

They define "fiscal responsibility" as providing for needs, not wants. The problem is they can't distinguish "needs" from "wants." They recklessly slash budgets focused solely on dollar amounts and minimal short-term mill-rate impacts, oblivious to the value of what is cut or its cost to the town's present and future quality

of life.

For Republicans even a "no-growth budget" isn't enough. Their defeated budget showed that simply maintaining the quality of our schools is a "want." East Hampton's voters rebuked this. The GOP doubled down. If elected, they will neglect and destroy town services, assets, institutions, and infrastructure for minimal short-term savings.

By contrast, East Hampton's Democratic candidates understand that true fiscal responsibility is knowing the difference between "cost" and "value." Accordingly, they will maintain what brings value to the quality of life here and invest in their future – excellent schools, well-maintained parks, public facilities, and infrastructure and responsive police, fire, ambulance, and government services.

Importantly, East Hampton's Democratic candidates are also committed to open and transparent governance and making decisions based on reality, not ideology. They will consider the different (and perhaps conflicting) interests of the town's residents and balance them with the broader current and future needs of town and community. Open discussion, exchange of ideas and accountability to voters are core Democratic values.

East Hampton deserves real fiscal responsibility and good governance. Democrats offer both.

**Brian Corvo – East Hampton**

## Transparency, You Say?

To the Editor:

It must be campaign season again because the infamous catchword "transparency" is everywhere you turn. The first selectman of Colchester is yet again offering lip service of supposed "transparency software," all while taking swipes at the former first selectman, a current selectwoman, and his 2023 Democratic challenger on social media. Haven't we heard this empty promise from the first selectman before? Didn't Colchester have similar software that went unused? Doesn't Colchester have robust financial management software, IE, Munis, that is not exceedingly transparent when used correctly and honestly?

A few more questions – How reliable and accurate would any supposed "transparency software" be when the first selectman has driven the finance department into shambles, including recent questions about cash on hand at the bank over at 127 Norwich Ave? Also, did the first selectman not only overshoot his last budget but tried to hide his overages until staunch pushback from the Democratic members of the Board of Finance and his 2023 Democratic challenger to come clean? And lastly, is the current financial management software, Munis, not transparent so long as the inputs are timely and factual?

To that end, if elected to serve on Nov. 7, I'll seek accountability of the first selectman's office to utilize the current financial software, Munis, to ensure data is timely, factual, and in service to the community. Then perhaps "transparency" can be the final word and not, yet again, another political buzzword.

Sincerely,

**Scott Chapman – Colchester  
Candidate, Colchester Board of Finance**

## Sharing Discomfort

To the Editor:

Crying infants with wet diapers alert everyone within hearing distance that they want mommy to make their discomfort go away. Last week, David Anderson of Colchester thus shared his discomfort with President Biden. David attacked Joe and Hunter Biden for running a crime family, speaking on the phone with Hunter's foreign government business partners,

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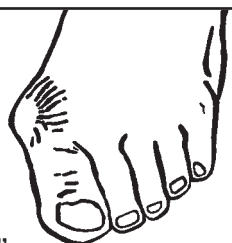
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meeting with people to sell the 'Biden brand' and claiming Hunter is the bag man that made millions of dollars betraying our country via business dealings in Ukraine.

In contrast, Annie Steinbrecher's 'Trump family - Make Nepotism Great Again' letter showed that David and other MAGA-babies whining about Hunter Biden are simply doing it to distract us from the exponentially worse Trump crime family. Hunter walks away with a few million and Jared Kushner walks away with a few billion from the country most involved with killing thousands of Americans on 9/11. Maybe David missed the memo that racketeering (RICO) charges are being levied against Trump and not Biden.

Also last week, Joe Stevens wrote a reasoned and fact-based letter rebutting ever-petulant Sam Prentice's previous letter. But Sam, still promoting his 'CO2 is great and we need to fill Earth's atmosphere with it' psychosis, had another of his letters published. It's a never-win whack-a-mole game with Sam.

For myself, I just retired, with thanks to FDR for Social Security and LBJ and other Democrats for Medicare. Whether I have many or a few more years to live, I will certainly live better than any of the kings, queens and popes of prior centuries. Fresh fruits and vegetables, modern health care, dentistry, travel opportunities etc. provide me with much higher quality-of-life standards than hoards of gold and conquering armies ever bequeathed. Only a King Trump and global warming-denying GOP can ruin it all.

**Edmund Smith – Andover**

## Many People to Thank

To the Editor:

Aug. 18th was the day long waited for by our Andover seniors. It was the groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate building the Community Senior Center Building for the seniors and community. There are many people to thank for the years spent in preparing for this grand day! First, our fantastic Board of Selectmen: Jeff Maguire, Adrian Mandeville, Paula King, Jeff Murray and Scott Person. Thank you to our Town Administrator Eric Anderson, and the Building Committee Chairman Ed Sarisley, secretary Diane Choquette, members Don Denley, Karen Hunter, Jeff Murray, Cathy and Mike Palazzi, Scott Person, Irv Stanley for the two years we met and discussed options, meetings with our seniors and residents, meetings with various architects. Many hours went into this project. To Adrian Mandeville who has spent hours of his personal time in meetings, and talking with numerous people to get the best and least costly companies we owe a huge thank you. Mike and I want to thank the BOS for naming the future kitchen to be known as "The Palazzi Family Kitchen."

With that said, we want to thank the seniors and residents of Andover for the "yes" vote on the naming of the kitchen and for supporting the senior luncheon program these many years. It is a huge honor and we are more than pleased. Our family has donated financial support to our program and assisted in the many fundraisers we hold each year. They care about Andover and our seniors.

Lastly, thank you to my luncheon staff, Carol Lee, Linda Armstrong, Kim Hawes, Carol Kuckucka, Alicia Lee, Andi Lee. Thank you, everyone.

**Sincerely,  
Mike and Cathy Palazzi – Andover**

## Hebron Property Perspective

To the Editor,

Surprisingly, certain members of Hebron's Board of Selectmen and others continue to offer a skewed perspective on 17 Kinney Rd., a.k.a. The Horton Property. Here are some facts from town records:

The minutes of the Feb. 21, 2019 public hearing report the statement by the town manager, "A. Tierney stated that this discussion and the Special Town Meeting were for the acquisition of the parcel." This was followed by selectman, "J. Collins reiterated this is a vote on the purchase of the land, will be looking for public input on use of land as it moves forward." These statements and those at the March 7, 2019 town meeting made it clear that a municipal complex at 17 Kinney Rd. was a concept. It was not the reason for the purchase of the property.

In fact, Hebron residents voted to use \$160,000 from the Open Space Fund, with \$440,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance, for the \$600,000 purchase. To support the use of Open Space funds the delectmen referred to an Open Space Acquisition Committee report, dated January 16, 2019, which included the following:

"The property abuts the Raymond Brook Pre-

serve (town-owned open space), from which the Preserve's trail system could be extended north into the Village Square District, a goal established in the Town's 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development."

"Planned extension of Preserve's existing trail system to the west and southeast could connect the Neighborhood Convenience District and Air Line Trail State Park, respectively, to the Village Square District, enhancing enjoyment and business opportunities."

"Located within the Future Open Space Greenways Map (Raymond Brook Greenway) as depicted in the Town's 2014 POCD."

It is time to fulfill these goals and create a true Greenway that can be used for education and eco-tourism. Please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

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

## Maui Owui

To the Editor:

Two weeks have passed since a "wildfire" torched Maui – turning Front Street and Lahaina into a pile of ashes. The government's response has been shameful and the story has mostly evaporated from the mainstream news cycle. Over a thousand people are still missing, many of them children, and the real estate wolves are circling.

Governor Green, one of the most zealot climate alarmists to hold office, is blaming a hurricane 800 miles off the coast for the disaster. The videos filmed by locals and posted on social media paint a different picture, one of government incompetence bordering on malfeasance. Absentee firefighters, dry fire hydrants, alarm systems that never sounded, police blocking people from leaving, and food/aid being hoarded by the government instead of distributed to those in need – the picture is stark. Sleepy Joe finally weighed in on X/Twitter after a week of "no comments" to tell everyone that he is "laser-focused" (strange choice of words) on getting aid to survivors, awarding a one-time \$700 payment per household to those affected. That should buy about a week's worth of groceries in the middle of the Pacific...I'm sure it'll really soften the blow for people whose house and children are now ashes.

While the story seems to be filled with inconsistencies and holes, conspiracy theorists fill the void – connecting dots and asking the questions the media won't. FEMA sprang into action within hours, freeing up millions/billions to help rebuild in a "SMART", "sustainable" way before the fire was even extinguished. Amazingly a similar scenario is playing out in Kelowna, BC – who also recently adopted "SMART City" infrastructure. It's perplexing how these "coincidences" seem to always benefit the elite while destroying the locals...but if you want to "build back better," you first have to destroy what used to be.

**Colin McNamara – Marlborough**

## Solar Virosa

To the Editor:

What we need to do is accidentally start doing the right thing and have it go viral. Someday we will, probably when the only things left are cockroaches, coyote's and crows and we are no longer part of the food chain. Somehow a virus has infected people; let's call it Solar Virosa, or for us regular folks Solaritis. The symptoms may include but not limited to someone who has looked at solar technologies and determined it is the Apocalyptic Plague of Mother Plagues, Wokeness in all forms, some not fully understood, coming to devour all that is precious in our hearts. It is the woke mob of elites that control everything taking away our amazing way of life! Complaining? They're trying to shove a New World Order (where the sun doesn't shine!), where the sun powers all and the air and water clean. Unproven technology that doesn't work. The elite force this on us so they can rake in piles of cash, even though manufacturers, small businesses, installers, contractors, a couple unneeded middlemen will be the main drivers. The elite are out to get us! So is the woke mob that controls you the elite? Unproven technology? The Lightyear 2 EV goes over 500 miles without the grid. Unproven? Take your favorite muscle car (65 Pontiac GTO), bore it out, put on three carburetors, run nitrous and meet me at the quarter mile. I will bring a regular production model E.V. and blow your ICE doors in. Take a good look at the sun and tell me how unreliable it is, especially when your trying to see an eclipse. We now our current way of life is unsustainable, just ask Al Green ain't so bad, it's the color of Hope.

Next week: who really cares if our nuclear and military secrets are lying around the.....

**Tim Rinell – East Hampton**

## Running for School Board

To the Editor:

My name is Sera Coppolino and I am one of the Republican-endorsed candidates for a position on the Hebron Board of Education. My husband and I moved to Hebron 12 years ago when I was pregnant with our first child. We chose Hebron because of the beautiful country aesthetic, strong sense of community, and the excellent school systems. We love Hebron and since moving here we have become increasingly involved with the community, which is why I am now interested in serving on the Board of Education.

I believe that my personal and professional background make me an excellent candidate for the Board of Education. Last fall, I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Hebron Board of Education, and have found serving the community in this way to be very gratifying. I am also entering my 17th year teaching high school science, and have worked in a number of diverse settings; however shortly after moving to Hebron, I obtained a position at RHAM High School, where I still work. Finally, I have two school aged-children in the Hebron Public Schools and want to maintain the excellent school system that attracts so many young families to our town.

I feel privileged to be able to invest so much of my personal and professional energy into growing and maintaining strong connections in our community. It is in that spirit that I ask for your vote this November to continue serving on the Hebron Board of Education.

**Sera Coppolino – Hebron  
Candidate, Hebron Board of Education**

## Offshore Wind Farms

To the Editor:

So far this year, more than 30 dead whales and 30 dead dolphins have washed up on the east coast. Some estimate there's been about a 400% increase in whale beaching and whale strikes since they began offshore wind construction. These wind turbines are creating disruptions to the ocean ecosystem both with the sounds that are emitted by the machines during operation and during construction. The Right Whale, one of the most endangered whale species in the world, is of particular concern.

Since December, at least 39 whales and 37 dolphins have been found stranded on east coast beaches near where energy developers have been conducting offshore wind projects. Over a recent five-day span, a humpback whale and six dolphins have been beached near these projects.

Joe, our leader, is doing this despite regulations that are in place to prevent things like this. (The Magnuson Stevens Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.) A project, 15 miles off Martha's Vineyard, that consists of 62 turbines, each up to 850 feet high, taller than any building in Boston, with blades roughly 350 feet long, is in the planning stages. While there is no doubt that these turbines will generate power for our country, should we be killing whales, dolphins and fish to accomplish this? I don't think so.

Let's move all these offshore windmills to Washington, D.C., in hopes that it might affect our politicians.

**Frank Blume – Colchester**

## Our Own Benny Hill

To the Editor:

Is it just me or does anyone else hear the theme music to *The Benny Hill Show* when they read a Joe Stevens letter?

Last week the irony of Joe's letter, "Medicine to the Dead," did not escape me. Specifically, the reference to Sam Prentice's letters resembling those of a "shut-in calling 911 because his toaster won't stop screaming at him". Wow... pot meet kettle. It is a curious analogy since Joe's letters have always seemed to be the product of that same shut-in mentality, resulting in letters co-authored by multiple kitchen appliances. Picture the Prince's castle in "Beauty and the Beast" in which the talking tea pot, candelabra, and step stool converse with and advise the Prince. The only difference is the Prince, unlike Joe, didn't follow up those conversations with a meandering letter to the local newspaper containing overt fractured reasoning based on political bias. "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt" – Abraham Lincoln.

And Joe's contrived outrage over the Trump sexual assault case is out of the liberal playbook. You'd think that liberals would have learned to be demure when they mount their moral high horse. Nope. They've gotten more brazen. These are the same individuals who dismiss the existence of Tara Reade, Paula Jones, Juanita Bro-

adrick, Kathleen Willey, and Leslie Millwee. They also dismiss disturbing allegations in Ashley Biden's diary. And yet Whoopi Goldberg and Joy Behar love Bill and Joe. Suffice to say that if you replaced "Clinton" or "Biden" with "Trump," these stories would be front and center, 24/7. Can you imagine if Don Jr. had a laptop? No telling how many more indictments would be fabricated.

"If you can't beat'em, cheat'em" – Biden/Harris 2024

**Regards, and enjoy those gas prices,  
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

## Big Shout-Out

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big shout-out to the Andover Hebron Marlborough Youth Services Organization (AHM) CHORES program.

This program pairs teenagers (14-17) with seniors to help them with yard chores at no cost to the seniors. I just engaged with the program for the first time and was delighted with the results.

I had two 15-year-old boys (Harley and Jake) digging and replanting hostas this week. They 1) came on time 2) came with bottled water 3) had work gloves and 4) arrived with a smile, good manners, a pleasant disposition, and a good work ethic. I couldn't have asked for more.

The program limits the workers to two hours, outside work only, and no power tools or dangerous conditions. And ... there is a grant that pays the teenagers so no cost to the seniors... although I did tip them and provide them with some watermelon that was well received.

Andover seniors are fortunate to have this wonderful program available.

Thanks to all the teenagers who participate and to AHM for offering this to seniors.

**Dianne Grenier – Andover**

## The Math is Simple

To the Editor

At a special joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance held on Aug. 15, both boards unanimously passed a motion to send the new Senior Center onto the next step toward referendum for an additional appropriation of up to \$1.5 million to complete the project. The Board of Selectmen approved to send it to the Board of Finance, and the Board of Finance approved to send it on to bond counsel to craft the resolution, or the language which will be found on the ballot.

If passed at referendum, the senior center would cost \$11 million--\$9.5 million approved in November 2021 with an additional appropriation of \$1.5 million. More importantly, passage of a second referendum would allow the Town to utilize cost savings for this project. To date, there is \$3,107,691 in cost savings available to lessen the amount which needs to be bonded. The breakdown of the savings include \$2.5 million State DECD Grant (awarded December 2021), a \$575,000 gift from the Estate of Stephen J. Bendas (final installment received October 2022) and \$32,691 from ARPA Funding for CT Senior Centers (awarded August 2023). This funding is already available for this project, but the Town cannot use these funds without first passing a Referendum. A second Referendum is necessary because of the legal injunction brought against the Town in late Fall 2022.

The math is simple: when you subtract the \$3,107,691 savings from the \$11 million total cost of the project, the total needed to bond the project equals \$7,892,309. This cost to bond is less than the \$9.5 million approved to bond the project at the original referendum on Nov. 16, 2021.

**Patty Watts – Colchester  
Director of Senior Services and  
Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

## Marlborough Focused

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7, I will be seeking your vote as a candidate for Marlborough's Board of Finance on Row C's Independent Party ticket. Along with the other dedicated Independent Party candidates, we are focused on enhancing Marlborough's future.

Personally, I served for 5 years on the Marlborough Board of Education and have been honored to have had your support over the course of my last 12 years on the Board of Finance. Others joining me on the Independent Party ticket also bring with them many years of experience along with several others who are excited about their first opportunity to serve.

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will be speaking about what we can do to address the many challenges that face our community. I, and others on our ticket, worked

**See Letters, page 33**

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**Perfect Books...** Mary Bylone presents Marie Flannigan a well-deserved thank you for her service the past 10 years as the treasurer of Colchester AARP 4019. There was never an error in Flannigan's bookkeeping and reporting. Fortunately, Flannigan will continue on as a member of the Board of Directors.

### Participants Sought for Celebrate Colchester

Celebrate Colchester will take place Saturday, Sept. 9, from 1-5 p.m., on the Town Green, followed by fireworks at the RecPlex.

People are welcome to set up a table/tent to showcase your local organization, business, or program. Booths are free, but people are asked to donate one item or basket for the silent drawing that will take place at Celebrate Colchester.

If interested in participating, register at colchesterctrec.desk.com/Community/Home.

chesterctrec.desk.com/Community/Home.

This year, Celebrate Colchester will also celebrate Colchester's 325th birthday. The day will kick off a month of activities and events, including: 10/7, 10/8, 10/9, 10/14 and 10/15 - Historical tours, open houses, presentations, activities and events throughout the town; 10/7-10/14 - Restaurant Week; 10/13 - Special Birthday Gala at Priam Vineyards from 7-10 p.m.

### Cougars Kick Off Preseason

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads kicked off their preseason Saturday with a jamboree hosting RHAM, Windham and Montville.

The players took the field and were able to play in game-like conditions. For most of the Peeewe squad this was the players' first time putting on their game uniforms, and they did not disappoint. They scored a few touchdowns against the RHAM defense. Micros fared well against all three towns, showing the coaches

what they can do in various positions. Juniors squad put on a show with their offense, keeping the opposing defenses on their heels. Seniors were throwing the ball for multiple touchdowns and their defense didn't let up a score to any of the other towns.

The Cougars have announced all its home games will be broadcast on SNSN Sports; follow on Facebook to watch the games live.

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Monday, Aug. 28:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fix; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

**Tuesday, Aug. 29:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Golf League; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Seasonal Crafting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Wednesday, Aug. 30:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Snack & Learn Wellness Presentation; 12:30 p.m., Shrink Plastic Jewelry Craft

**Thursday, Aug. 31:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/Ann; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling - by appointment only; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, Sept. 1:** 9 a.m., Chronic Disease Self-Management Series; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 10:30 a.m., Hearing Clinic; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Upcoming Program: Owls Among Us:** Tuesday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m. Come and learn about these fascinating creatures with Gwen Rice of Freedom First Wildlife Rehab Inc. Rice will talk about the owls that make Connecticut their home, her work in rehabilitating owls at her home, and how to help the owl population in Connecticut. She will also bring a barred owl named Clyde. Registration is limited.

### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

### Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

**Meetings:** Al-Anon, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; AA, Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Scout BSA Troop 109, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; and Cub Scout Pack 109, one Thursday per month at 6 p.m.

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

### DTC Fundraiser

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and the Coyle family will co-host an outdoor reception to benefit the Colchester Democratic Town Committee and the Democratic candidates running for office in November on Sunday, Sept. 10, from 3-5 p.m., at 23 Deer Run Drive. All are welcome.

This is a time to meet the candidates running for office or become more involved in the upcoming campaign season, while enjoying

food and drink. Special guests include Congressman Joe Courtney and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33).

The suggested contribution is \$35-\$100, though all contributions are accepted. For planning purposes, advanced ticket purchase at secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate is preferred, but same day arrivals are also welcome.

Call 860-465-7909 for more information.

### Farmers Market Open Sundays

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

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

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

### History Museum Open Weekly

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

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

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

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### Freedom Music Fest

The annual Freedom Music Fest will take place at the Colchester Fish & Game Club on Old Amston Road Saturday, Sept. 9. Gates open at 1 p.m.

Two bands will perform. From 2:30-5:30 p.m., Take 2 Music will play, and from 6-9 p.m., Big Deal Rock will take the stage.

Cash bar and food will be available; there are no coolers allowed on the premises

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the club in advance or on the day of the show.

For more information, call the club at 860-537-2593.

### AARP Meets Sept. 1

The Colchester Area Chapter of AARP will have its next meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, at the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., in the activity room.

The Colchester Commission on Aging will present what the commission does for seniors and how senior groups can work together.

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### School Records to be Destroyed

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

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

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

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

### Senior Center Trips

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

**Pacific Northwest & California:** April 14-21, 2024. Explore the natural beauty from Seattle to San Francisco. Trip includes transportation to airport, airfare, hotels and 11 meals (six breakfast, one lunch and four dinners). Double occupancy is \$3,529/person if booked before Oct.

14. Registration can be made at the senior center. There will be a trip presentation at the senior center on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 10:30 a.m.

**New York Botanical Gardens - Holiday Train Show:** Thursday, Dec. 7, leaving at 8 a.m. See model trains and trolleys zip along over winding tracks past replicas of more than 140 New York landmarks made from plant material such as pinecones, orange slices and cinnamon sticks. You will also spend some time on Arthur Avenue, the "Little Italy" of the Bronx. Cost is \$112/per person. Sign up before Nov. 7 or until sold out. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester.

### 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.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org) under the Worship tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

**Sunday School:** The Sunday School program year will kick off Sept. 10, Rally Day, with a special Blessing of the Backpacks. Youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks with them. Sunday School is held during worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is

located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website for more information and to register for Sunday School.

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

**Boy Scout Troop 72:** Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m. from September through June.

**Upcoming Fundraisers: Church Car Wash:** Saturday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the front circle. Rain date: Sept. 23. Help raise funds to maintain the historic church.

**Crafting & Fellowship:** Sunday, Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person (of which \$5 will be donated to CFC). Each person in attendance will be able to make two cards. Reservations required; to reserve a spot, contact the church office.

### Lions Still Accepting Craft Show Applications

Applications for vendors are still being accepted for the 32nd annual Arts & Crafts Festival on the Green, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Colchester Lions Club, the event will feature hundreds of handmade creations from local crafters and artisans. There will be no mass-produced or previously owned items.

There will also be raffles and food that day. For vendor information, call 860-222-0796 or email [colchesterlionscraftfair@gmail.com](mailto:colchesterlionscraftfair@gmail.com). Rain date is Sept. 30.

### Town to Celebrate 325

Colchester's 325th birthday is Oct. 13, 2023, and the town is celebrating from Oct. 7-15.

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

For more information and a Participation Form, contact Parks & Rec Director Tiffany Quinn at [recdirector@colchesterct.gov](mailto:recdirector@colchesterct.gov) or committee member Ines Kallmeyer at [kallmeyerki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kallmeyerki@sbcglobal.net) or 860-537-2826.

### 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/colchesterdemocrats/donate](http://secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate).

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/ColchDTC](http://www.facebook.com/ColchDTC).

### Walkers Sought for 'Memory Makers'

The Colchester Senior Center is looking for members to join its walk team "The Memory Makers," named in honor of the center's Making Memories Program, for the Walk to End Alzheimer's at Ocean Beach Park in New London.

The walk will take place Saturday, Sept. 23, at 10 a.m. Last year, the team raised over \$1,600.

For more information or to register for the team, call 860-537-3911 and ask for Jodi.



**Birth Announced...** Larry and Emily (Wilson) Riley of Colchester announce the birth of a daughter, Nora Grace. Nora was born Aug. 10 at Middlesex Hospital.

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### Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

**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.

### Presentation on Trusts and Wills

The Commission on Aging will hold a presentation on trusts and wills at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Colchester Senior Center on Norwich Avenue.

This topic is for all ages and income levels. This subject is presented by attorney George A. Baker, of Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP.

All are invited to come learn the essential documents for a proper estate plan. The many topics included are: How to Avoid Probate;

Wills and Trusts; Power of Attorney; Health Care Proxy; Strategies to protect assets from creditors and the cost of long-term care.

Also included are issues about retirement accounts with reference to recent changes regarding distribution of retirement accounts and strategies on protecting retirement accounts for spouses when a spouse enters a nursing home. Space is limited; call 860-537-3911 to register.

### Tax Bills Due

Tax bills for real estate, personal property and motor vehicles are now due and payable.

The first installment of the real estate bills reflects last year's mill rate of 26.82. Taxes were due Aug. 1, and will become delinquent after Sept. 1. The second installment will be adjusted to reflect the adopted mill rate of 27.22. The second installment will be due Jan. 1, 2024, and delinquent after Feb. 1.

Motor vehicles and personal property tax bills are billed at the adopted mill rate 27.22 were due Aug. 16, and will be delinquent after Sept. 18.

Taxpayers who did not receive a bill should contact the tax office immediately. Failure to

receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. All bills can be found online from the Town of Colchester website [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov) and click the "view and pay tax bills" link under Online Services. Nonrefundable fees apply when using the online system to make payments.

The tax office is located on the first floor of the Town Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and until 7 p.m. Thursdays. Call Tax Collector Michele Wyatt at 860-537-7210 for more information.

### RCIA Classes to Start

Anyone considering becoming Catholic or wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith is invited to Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) classes, which will begin Sept. 17 at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave, Colchester.

Classes are held on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. For more information or questions, contact John or Nicole Peck at 860-537-6981 or [jnpeck@mac.com](mailto:jnpeck@mac.com).

### Toastmasters Meet Twice Monthly

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

This virtual setup offers flexibility, allowing people to attend from their home or office. Call Chris for more details, at 860-537-0143.

## 2023 BACON ACADEMY ATHLETICS GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Friends of Football at Bacon Academy would like to thank all those who supported the tournament this year, which was held at Blackledge Country Club on August 4<sup>th</sup>. All our volunteers, donors, tournament sponsors & Blackledge staff contributed to an extremely fun and successful event.

The following companies generously supported the tournament through sponsorships or donations of raffle prizes, food and other services. We greatly appreciate their involvement & wish to recognize all their efforts.

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- Gung Ho Chinese Restaurant
- Lake of Isles
- Lundy's Barber Shop
- Maria's Pizza
- Motor Sports Nation of Waterford
- Plum Tomato
- Prime 82 Restaurant & Bar
- Sam Adams
- Tallwood Country Club
- Toyo Hibachi & Asian Fusion
- Tree Trails of Mystic
- Two Brothers Restaurant

Also, thanks to **Red Rose Desserts & More** for providing breakfast, and **Sign Professionals** for providing the tee signs.

REB-25-23

# Superintendent Ready for New School Year

By Michael Sinkewicz

As Colchester students prepare for the start of a new school year on Aug. 31, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III continues to settle into his new role.

He shared this week that overall, nothing too drastic is changing throughout the district; his budget was a “status-quo” spending plan and it was further reduced from its original price tag.

Instead, the emphasis is on taking programs and “making them more effective.”

“Our goal is to make what we have better,” he expressed, adding that certain programs can be consolidated or reworked — “just a new approach.”

What is new, at least for Sullivan, is a sense of comfort and familiarity with the district. He took over this year in January, and was thrust into a budget season that concluded earlier this month.

Balancing budget concerns with overseeing four individual schools is an undertaking, but now, Sullivan believes he has a stronger grip on the community. The 2023-24 school year will be his first full experience in town, and represents an opportunity to understand and address the needs of the district.

“I kind of saw what makes Colchester, Colchester,” he said. “And I’m really excited.”

In his eight months bouncing from school to school, he’s witnessed a staff and faculty that is “really invested in the community.”

“The level of commitment and passion is special,” he expressed. “It’s unique.”

Prior to Sullivan’s arrival, there was considerable turnover at the administrative level. Colchester parted ways with one superintendent, then enlisted the help of an interim head of schools before ultimately hiring Sullivan.

One of his top priorities was restoring community trust, a goal that remains pertinent.

“Trust is earned over time,” he said.

But Sullivan said he hopes his actions have been a “step in the right direction.”

He’s made himself available to all school and community stakeholders, and has attended numerous municipal board meetings. One strategy, he said, is to adhere to the expertise of those who have been in Colchester longer.

“What do you see as strengths? What do you see as areas for growth?”

The answers to these questions, he continued, should be implemented in meaningful ways moving forward.

The school principals “take tremendous pride in the effectiveness of their schools” and often have a stronger grasp on how their resources should be allocated,” Sullivan said.

“We have principals who have been here a long time,” Sullivan said. “They know the history.”

And they know the good ideas and what’s perhaps gone sideways in the past, he said. This creates trust and gives Sullivan the confidence to listen when a principal says “I want to try this.”

The Board of Education approved a 2023-24 budget of \$46.15 million – a \$4.13 million, or 9.83%, increase in spending, which was less than Sullivan originally recommended.

That amount was amended by the finance board to \$43.68 million— a \$1.65 million, or 3.9%, increase over current year spending, which failed at referendum.

Finally, after \$300k was restored, a school budget slated at \$43.98 million — around \$1.95 million above the previous fiscal year, was approved by voters.

“I’m sure everyone would’ve loved a faster process,” Sullivan said. “I’m grateful for the way it worked out and there’s the financial support to keep programs in place and more the district forward.”

Many parents feared that, without the restorations, substantial programs would be eliminated — an outcome that seems to have been avoided.

“We’re in good shape,” he said, adding that the district is still looking to hire a few more positions, a difficult endeavor due to national personnel shortages.

One initiative that Sullivan is pursuing is the addition of four safety officers to cover the district’s schools. As of now, it’s unlikely that the new officers will be active at the beginning of the school year.

“That’s a byproduct of the referendum date,”

he said, adding that two individuals have been identified but the district was still searching for two more.

But it’s a process that Sullivan doesn’t want to rush into.

“It’s too important,” he said. “We need to make sure they’re trained.”

Still, details will likely emerge in the weeks ahead and measures will be taken this school year.

“We’ll be able to take a step forward this year,” the superintendent confirmed.

The advent of security measures is just one way school preparation has evolved in recent years. Sullivan said the list of items to address continues to expand and it’s important to keep up.

He stated that in a societal shift, people don’t seem to stick with one carrier or job anymore. Instead, they flock to different openings and look for numerous fresh opportunities.

“Hiring is more complex,” he concluded.

Before the first day of school, the district will host its convocation, which is Sullivan’s “big day.”

“I have that nervous excitement that teachers have on their first day,” he said. “It means you care.”

Only eight months of a 30-year education career have been spent in Colchester for Sullivan. So far, it’s been a memorable experience.

“I love it here,” he said. “The people have been welcoming and we share the same goals. I want to have the district become a destination.”

He added that the Colchester schools aim to “treat people with dignity and respect.”

## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

On Tuesday, Bacon Academy hosted the school board along with district administrators

to celebrate the high school’s new outdoor classroom.

The initiative was completed with funding acquired through the Connecticut State Department of Education with the Voice4Change Grant.

The school’s Interact Club and NHS submitted multiple proposals, which were approved by the state. Then the student body selected the outdoor classroom proposal as its top choice.

That proposal was submitted by two students in 2021, who have since graduated, Interact Club President Evelyn Toennes and Cecelia Carnelli.

Two Bacon Academy alumni, Derek Grundman and Steve Shorts, designed and constructed the outdoor classroom. It’s located in a secure location on school grounds.

Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begué told the Riverast that the district wanted to “celebrate that this all came to fruition.”

“It’s a really cool space,” she said. “This is a really great moment for Bacon Academy.”

Demand for the space will be high, she added, and teachers will likely have to reserve the room ahead of time for their classes.

“It’s going to be popular,” Begué said.

Regarding the start of the school year, Begué expressed that students put a lot of effort into making the first day special. Each year, a student committee raises funds, which go to exciting field-day events and T-shirts for everyone.

## Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church’s bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for “Racing with Jesus, Inc.” – at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org.

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

## Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

## Ahavath Achim News

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

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

Wednesday: 2:30 p.m., Hebrew Conversation; 3 p.m., Jewish Literacy.

Friday Night Service: 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

and in-person; Saturday morning service, 10 a.m., live and on Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter’s Facebook page; Ask the Rabbi and Jewish Trivia are also featured.

For more information, or a link for services or classes, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Golfers, Sponsors Sought

The deadline is approaching fast for the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company’s fundraising golf tournament, which will be held Monday, Oct. 2, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

CHVFC is a nonprofit organization that is raising funds to support our school scholarship fund, recruitment, retention and maintenance at the company’s Schuster Park training facility and event venue.

Registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and prime rib dinner. If interested in sponsoring a tee or registering to golf, call Keith at 860-537-2512 or email CHFD-28golftournament@gmail.com.



**Coloring Contest Winners!...** The Colchester Garden Club recently sponsored a Pollinator Coloring Contest for children in town. The Colchester Garden Club is a non-profit club that provides both community service and education for its members within Colchester. The club thanked Mackey’s for judging the contest and displaying the kids’ artwork, and also thanked Crayola for the use of its “Buzzing Around” coloring pages. For the ages 2-6 group, Vivienne Pagel took first, Landon Johnson took second and Grayson Goggin took third. For the ages 7-12 group, Lilah Martz took first, William Pagel took second and Arabella Martz took third. In the photo at left are, from left, Vivienne, William, Landon, Arabella and Lilah, and in the photo at right is Greyson.

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# Republican Primary Set for Next Month

By Michael Sinkewicz

On Sept. 12, history will be made when a Republican Primary election is held to determine who the candidates will be for the upcoming municipal election.

The ballot includes Joe Asklar, Louise Conodello, and Mike Nastri as Republican Town Committee endorsed candidates for Board of Selectmen.

Sue Stolfi and Chris Barella petitioned themselves as additional candidates, after fulfilling the signature requirements to force a primary; the petition was validated by the Town Clerk and the Republican Registrar of Voters.

In addition, Louise Conodello is on the ballot for Board of Education, joined by Patrick Pabouet. Those RTC-endorsed candidates will be challenged by Kerri Barella and Amy Kuhrt.

Both Stolfi and Kerri Barella are currently on the Independent Party Slate Committee ticket, a third line added to this year's November ballot. If they successfully win the primary, they would run as officially endorsed Republicans instead.

"This was a huge accomplishment," Stolfi said, adding that in order to get on the ballot, each candidate had to acquire over 60 signatures. "It was no small task."

The three RTC-endorsed BOS candidates were voted on at a caucus in July. Around 40 individuals elected the candidates — Barella did not get endorsed.

Stolfi, a registered Republican, called the

caucus system "flawed," stating that a primary would open the process up to more residents.

"We did not agree with the selection they put up and the process was unfair," she said, adding that the primary represented "an opportunity to vote for the right people on the slate."

But, the decision to force a primary election is causing some confusion, and costing the town money. Since the Independent Party Slate Committee — which Stolfi is a founding member — successfully created a third-line on the ballot, why are these additional candidates still trying to run as Republicans?

Basically, she contended, it would've "watered down the votes."

"We want the best people running," she said.

If instead of nominating three RTC candidates, Stolfi expressed that the Republican leadership could've opted to allow one Independent candidate to run on the Republican slate, which would've avoided the need for a primary.

"Did I want this? No."

If Stolfi and Barella do win their primary elections, would they consider it sabotaging the Republicans?

"I see how they *could* say that," Stolfi said, but explained that Republicans had set a similar precedent themselves.

In an email, Ken Hjulstrom, a founding member of the Independent Committee, said he found a letter published in the *Rivereast* by

the RTC Executive Board to be "extremely hypocritical."

He stated that members of the RTC in 2022 "failed to honor the outcome of the Republican Caucus held to select a Republican candidate to run for one of the two new Selectman positions, and by failing to honor that outcome, Louise Conodello, by petitioning herself onto the ballot, split the vote and sabotaged the candidacy of the endorsed Republican candidate."

To "cry foul" at this point, would be "inconsistent with their previous actions."

The letter from the RTC stated that, "The Independent Party Slate Committee made up of register Republicans put forth a candidate for Selectman. As they are still Registered Republicans until their party is formed, they had the chance to submit their candidates for town offices. They put forth one candidate for Selectman only."

After the RTC candidates were approved by the caucus, the "remaining RTC slate was then put forth and all but one person voted approval for the named candidates for the remaining offices."

The letter concluded, the Independent Party Slate Committee "has chosen to petition in additional candidates for the November election. This will result in a primary on September 12, 2023. The addition of the primary will result in added expense to the town. As the RTC has voted and selected our party we hope that you will support our candidates for office as they stand fairly elected as of our Caucus of July 21, 2023."

Judy Kelly, vice-chair of the RTC, told the *Rivereast* that the letter was misinterpreted.

"Our letter is not to slam them," she said, adding that the letter was meant to encourage people to vote for the endorsed RTC candidates.

She emphasized that each resident has a right to petition themselves onto the ballot — "if you have the desire, you can go for it."

The resulting primary, she added, will be a "historic moment" for the town.

As the primary approaches, along with the November election, Kelly expressed that some residents might be confused by the latest developments. She stated that individuals, who formed a new, separate political committee, are now attempting to run as registered Republicans, rather than their own line on the ticket.

"A lot of this is new," she said.

In her mind, while it's exciting for the community to have more candidates to choose from, "Did we really need it?"

Stolfi indicated that *if* she wins the primary, and goes on to win in November, she won't necessarily have an "I" next to her name.

"I'm always going to be a Republican," she said. "I'm not hiding that."

Hjulstrom, who was also present during the interview, added that "it's more about our philosophy and commitment to town."

As many Republicans and former RTC members battle at a primary, the Democrats await the winners.

"They have their act together," Stolfi said. "I give them a lot of credit."

## Guide for Self-Publishers Discussion Group

To continue the presentation on Guide to Self-Publishing, independently published author Romano Ghirlanda will leading an informal discussion group at the Richmond Memorial Library conference room on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m.

The discussion will be Q&A-based and offer insight on any part of the self-publishing process, and is open to anyone looking to self-

publish their manuscript. Independently published author Kristen Tsetsi will also be joining the group to help further assist self-publishing authors with their process.

Bring your questions and share your experiences. Seating is limited. Registration is required and can be done by emailing [contact@romanoghirlanda.com](mailto:contact@romanoghirlanda.com) or calling 860-916-4031.

## 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

Wadsworth Atheneum 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](http://www.marlborougharts.org).

If interested in submitting work, the prospectus and entry forms can be found at [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org).

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

## 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](mailto: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.

**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.

**Guided Meditation:** Thursday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. Resident Chuck Shaw will lead an outdoor guided meditation session. In case of inclement weather, the program will be brought indoors to the library's second floor meeting room.

**Puzzle and Board Game Donations Now Accepted:** The Friends of the Richmond Memo-

rial Library group is accepting new and gently used puzzles and board games for an upcoming fundraiser to be held in mid-September. All proceeds will directly benefit the library.

**End-of-Summer Wrap-Up:** Monday, Aug. 28, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Snag an ice cream treat, then try out a variety of real circus equipment and learn some special skills in the Circus Zone. Fun for all ages. No registration required. Held outside, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be moved to the upstairs meeting room. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**August StoryWalk:** Stop by the library and check out *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires. This book pairs nicely with the Summer Reading theme, Find Your Voice.

**Pajama Storytime with Yoga:** Thursday, Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m., with local yoga instructor Rachel Kaczynski. Children of all ages are invited to hear a story or two and do some calming yoga. Wear some comfy pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal or blanket. Registration is absolutely required due to the size of our meeting room and can be done online or by calling 860-295-6210.

## 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](http://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](mailto:CEO@marlborough.ct.net).

## Republicans Offer Anniversary Coffee Cup

When Ezekiel Carrier fled an upcoming appointment with the hangman in Marlborough, Massachusetts, he could not have imagined the town he founded in Connecticut would be now celebrating its 220-year anniversary.



To mark this auspicious occasion, and

Carrier's successful escape, the Marlborough Republican Town Committee is making available for a limited time a handsome coffee cup featuring Marlborough's town seal. This keepsake is available for \$12 plus \$2 shipping.

Call Louise Conodello at 860-295-0201 or text Jack Murray at 860-543-2050.

The mug will also be available at the RTC booth on Marlborough Day this Sunday.

## 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](http://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 (kindergarteners 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](http://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.

## 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, mix-

ing 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](http://www.marlborougharts.org), and a check mailed to: Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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

## 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.

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# MES Ready to Celebrate Learning and Growth

By London Brazal

Marlborough Elementary School is gearing up for the 2023-24 school year with new technology, interactive learning, and goals focused on the growth and well-being of students.

Principal Dan White and Assistant Principal Kim Kelley are beyond thrilled for staff and students to return to the school with the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 30.

This year, Marlborough Elementary is focused on giving students a year full of growth and exciting new opportunities. Students can look forward to interacting with numerous wonderful texts, both fictional and informative, writing for a wide variety of purposes, listening and discussing texts, solving and exploring the world of mathematics, and delving deeply into a variety of scientific topics. By engaging in various subjects, students can develop more skills such as creativity, persistence, and communication.

At the end of the previous school year, Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman informed the Board of Education that MES needed an additional full-time teacher for pre-kindergarten due to a growing population and needs. The board unanimously passed the motion to add an FTE certified preschool teacher. Though the position was not budgeted in the 2023-24 fiscal year budget, several grants analyzed by the administration will be used to cover the costs. With this addition, the district can provide additional seats for peer models that are an important part of the integrated pre-kindergarten model.

The change is designed to allow children ages 3 and 4 in Marlborough to access “excellent early intervention and programming,” said White.

Over the summer, the custodial staff worked extensively to create a nice clean environment for students to enjoy. Teachers have also been in the building getting their rooms ready and prepping the first week of school lessons. Many classrooms have bright colors and engaging workspaces for students to feel confident and comfortable. To prepare for the new school year, TouchView interactive boards were installed in all instructional spaces for teachers and students to use.

Coming from a competitive grant the school applied for, “These high-tech and intuitive boards will provide our teachers and children with seamless access to a large variety of instructional tools and information,” added White.

Next week, on Tuesday, Aug. 29, the school will host its annual meet-and-greet event. From 8:15-9:25 a.m., students and families are welcome to drop in the building. After a nice summer break, kids will get to see their classrooms, new teachers, other classmates, additional staff, and the gleaming building. Teachers are excited for the hallways to be filled again and hope for an amazing school year.

Earlier in August, the state announced the expansion of Connecticut’s free school meals program. On the school’s website, there are links for families to visit to see if they qualify for the program. Furthermore, the school provides resources for mental and behavioral health such



A second-grade classroom is set up and ready to go with one of the new TouchView interactive boards.

as Community Collaboratives and the Governor’s Prevention Partnership. MES said it is focused on the well-being and mental awareness of students and faculty, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the last three school years were tough on schools and communities, the Marlborough staff is focused on resilience. The staff has been working to align the curriculum, instruction, and assessment methods while providing lessons on well-being and mental health awareness. The administration is grateful for their educators that work tirelessly to provide a positive and supportive learning environment. In the

new school year, teachers will utilize the positive behavioral support approach and work on social-emotional programs that align with the student’s needs.

White and Kelley’s goal is to celebrate learning and growth every day for their students. They encourage students to be passionate about their work and love learning. “Our year has been carefully planned, and we are excited for our children to arrive to start the new adventure,” White said.

MES will continue its work to inspire curiosity and motivate young students to embrace and love learning.

## Parks and Rec Fall Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [marlboroughct.recdesk.com](http://marlboroughct.recdesk.com) and click on “programs,” stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203.

**Youth Programs: Acrylic Landscape Painting:** For grades 1 and 2. At Marlborough Elementary School Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., from Sept. 13-Oct. 4. Fee: \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

**After School Co-Ed Kickball:** For grades 5 and 6. Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., from Sept. 20-Oct. 25, at MES. Fee: \$30.

**Kids Sunset Yoga in the Park:** For ages 3 and up. Wednesdays, Sept. 6-Oct. 4, 5:50-6:15 p.m., at the Blish Park Pavilion. Fee: \$50/residents, \$55/non-residents, or \$15 to drop in.

**Tiny Tappers:** For ages 3-5. Tuesdays, 10:30-11 a.m., Sept. 12-Nov. 14, at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$140.

**Tiny Twirlers:** For ages 2-3. Choose Tuesdays, 9:30-10 a.m., Sept. 12-Nov. 14, or Thursdays, 5:15-5:45 p.m., Sept. 14-Nov. 16. All classes held at Dance Dynamics. Fee: \$140.

**Sparkling Spinners:** For ages 3-5. Choose Tuesdays, 10-10:30 a.m., Sept. 12-Nov. 14, or Thursdays, 4:45-5:15 p.m., Sept. 14-Nov. 16. All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$140.

**Soccer Shots:** Saturdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 28, at the West Road upper field. Mini, for age 2, meets 3-3:30 p.m. and is \$105/resident, \$110/non-resident. Classic, for ages 3-5, is 3:40-4:25 p.m. and is \$110/resident, \$115/non-resident.

**Tennis Lessons:** For ages 8-12. Tuesdays, Sept. 12-26, 4-5 p.m. at the Blish Park tennis courts. Fee: \$70/resident, \$75/non-resident.

**Adventures in STEM with Lego:** For grades K-4. Tuesdays, Sept. 19-Oct. 24, 3:15-4:15 p.m.,

at MES. Fee: \$114/residents, \$119/non-residents.

**Parents Night Out:** For grades K-6. Fridays, Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee per night: \$20/child for resident, \$25/child for non-resident.

**Safe at Home:** For grades 4-6. Thursday, Sept. 29, 5-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$38/resident, \$43/non-resident.

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

**Adult Programs: Adult Beginner Ballet:** For ages 18 and over. Mondays, Sept. 11-Nov. 13, 7-7:45 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$190.

**Adult Hip-Hop:** For ages 18 and over. Mondays, Sept. 11-Nov. 13, 7:45-8:15 p.m., at Dance Dynamics. Fee: \$190.

**Beginner Adult Tap:** For ages 18 and over. Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 14, 11-11:45 a.m., at Dance Dynamics. Fee: \$190.

**Adult Tap:** For ages 18 and over. Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 28, 7:45-8:15 p.m., at Dance Dynamics. Fee: \$190. No class Oct. 31 or Nov. 21.

**Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners:** Mondays, Sept. 11-Oct. 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. For dogs 5 months and older. Fee: \$115/resident, \$120/non-resident.

**Pickleball:** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park tennis courts. There is no fee for this program.

**Adult Volleyball:** Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School, starting Oct. 5. Fee: \$5 per week.

**Zumba – Fall Session:** Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$60/residents, \$65/non-residents. There is a \$10 drop-in fee. Start date to be determined.

## 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](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com).

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

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

**Family Faith Formation:** This is an active family faith formation program for the church’s kindergarten through middle school population. Registration is open for the new academic year. For more information, call the church office.

**Confirmation Community:** The church’s 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program continues. Registration is open for the new 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.stjchurch.org](http://www.stjchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

### Absentee Ballots for Republican Primary

Absentee ballots for the Sept. 12 Republican primary are now available in the town clerk’s office, 26 North Main St., during regular business hours. Applications must be filled out to receive a ballot.

Call Lauren or Martha at 860-295-6206 for more information or help obtaining an application.

### 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 long-time 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.

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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](http://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. 27:** The service will be led by Christian Education/Junior Youth Director Gwen Lawson.

**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](mailto:office@marlconchurch.org). The shop sells and weekly lists new items year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCcebay](http://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](mailto:pastorval@marlconchurch.org).

### 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.

**Sunday, Aug. 27:** Marlborough Day at Blish Park, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Monday, Aug. 28:** 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: grande cheese ravioli with marinara sauce, Parmesan cheese, California blend vegetables, bread stick, fresh fruit; cards, 1-4 p.m.; All-Boards meeting, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Aug. 29:** Free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

**Wednesday, Aug. 30:** 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-roasted turkey with gravy (not deli), cornbread stuffing with cranberry sauce, mixed vegetables, wheat bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 31:** Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.; MDC meeting, 7 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 1:** 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon. Congregate Meal, noon. Celebrate Labor Day. Menu: orange juice, all-beef hot dog with bun (ketchup, mustard, relish), baked beans, coleslaw, cookie; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Paul's Band, 5:30 p.m. at Blish Park.

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

### 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 with a deadline of Sept. 29 - no exceptions.

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

### 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](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Movie).

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

### Mums Sale Sept. 9

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee will sell mums at its annual fall plant sale Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Town Hall parking lot. Mums will be available for pickup from 9-11 a.m.

These mums, supplied by Paul's & Sandy's Too in East Hampton, are available in several colors, including white, yellow, orange, purple and burgundy, at a price of \$10 each.

For orders or more information, call Louise Concodello at 860-295-0201.

### 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.

## Independent Party Looks to Establish Itself

By Michael Sinkewicz

Marlborough's Independent Party Slate Committee is looking to formally establish itself during the upcoming municipal election in November; if one of their candidates on the ticket receives 1% of the total vote, the committee will become an official political party moving forward.

The threshold will likely be met, according to two of the committee's founding members, Sue Stolfi and Ken Hjulstrom, who sat down with the *RiverEast* last week.

Previously, the committee received the requisite petition signatures required to form a "row C" on the ballot. The Marlborough town clerk's office validated the petition, followed by the CT Secretary of State.

Both Stolfi and Hjulstrom are former members of the Republican Town Committee — Hjulstrom was chairman for over a decade. They are currently registered Republicans.

However, that doesn't mean the new party is just for Republicans; Hjulstrom and Stolfi stressed it will be open to all political ideologies.

"We'll work for the people of the town," said Hjulstrom, who is running for reelection on finance board. "We've tired of the politics. We want to see candidates focus on issues, not political bickering."

Stolfi added, "I'm a diehard Republican.

This is about local elections. We want hard working people who are committed to the community without the drama."

For residents who share this belief, who are seeking a fresh outlook — Hjulstrom and Stolfi believe the Independent Party is the most viable option.

A detailed list of candidates will be finalized soon; an upcoming Republican primary on September 12 will reshape the race. But, Stolfi expressed that some of the Independent candidates, including Kevin Asklar, a Republican incumbent who is running for reelection on the Zoning Commission, are likely going to win.

"I do think we're going to win multiple seats," she said.

Success, she said, will mean "getting the right people elected" and "three parties working closer together moving forward."

"I see no reason why we can get along," Stolfi said. "We all want what's best for the community."

While the pool of candidates this election cycle might not be that diverse, members of all parties have shown interest in joining the committee. However, the current makeup of the Independent Party features many former Republicans, who left the RTC following the 2022 election cycle.

### Marlborough Day Returns Sunday

On Sunday, Aug. 27, the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce and Streamline Generator of Marlborough will present the family-friendly Marlborough Day, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Blish Park.

The day will feature live entertainment, over 35 vendor booths and civic organizations, kid-friendly activities including the Roaming Railroad, face painting, and photo booth. Performances by local bands The Modern Riffs and the Daily Planet will be showcased, along with the Marlborough Fife and Drum, and the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department. There will be demonstrations featuring kids yoga Healthy Chicks, and a dance demo by Duggan's Dance Center. A special performance by Magic by George and an appearance by Super Mario will also be featured.

Each family attending will receive a complimentary swag bag, and each individual at-

tendee will receive a ticket to be entered into our door prize drawing. Attendees must stop at the Chamber welcome booth to receive the ticket and the event program. Food trucks will be on site for the day, and will feature tacos, pizza, seafood options and of course desserts.

Marlborough Day Committee Chairman Craig Robinson, of It's So Ranunculus, said, "This event is a great community day. We are happy to bring the businesses and residents together to showcase our beautiful park and celebrate Marlborough."

This event draws over 750 people annually to the area. Complimentary parking will be across the street at the Park Road field lot, and handicapped parking will be at the main lot next to the entrance.

For more information, visit us at [www.crv-chamber.org/events](http://www.crv-chamber.org/events).

### 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](mailto:jessica@crvchamber.org).

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# Bringing the Bells to Belltown, A New Town Event

By London Brazal

East Hampton Village Center and the East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club are teaming up for an event that residents can enjoy as summer comes to an end.

The Village Center Belltown Stroll will take place tomorrow, Aug. 26, throughout the East Hampton Village Center where Main Street meets Barton Hill. It starts around noon and guests are welcome to stay for as long as they please, the event is rain or shine.

Back in 2019, the Rotary Club started a community art project fundraiser focused on hand-painted fiberglass bells. The project was named "Bringing the Bells to Belltown." Sponsors purchased various bells and found local artists to paint them. Originally, they were to be auctioned off, but the COVID-19 pandemic hit and interrupted the process.

The Rotary chose to finish this fundraiser with a silent auction during the Belltown Stroll. However, some of the bell sponsors made donations to keep their bells in locations across town such as the Senior Center, East Hampton Public Library, and two at the Town Hall. The public is welcome to look at those displays as well.

The idea of the Belltown Stroll came from one of the owners of the shops in the center. Rotary was pleased with the idea and the planning began. It will be the first-ever Belltown Stroll and the first day-night event for the village merchants.

Barbli Noel, owner of Little Fish Gallery & Gift, opened her store in the Village Center five years ago in 2018. As a local artist, Noel contributed two bells for the Rotary's auction. In the past, the local businesses on the strip hosted

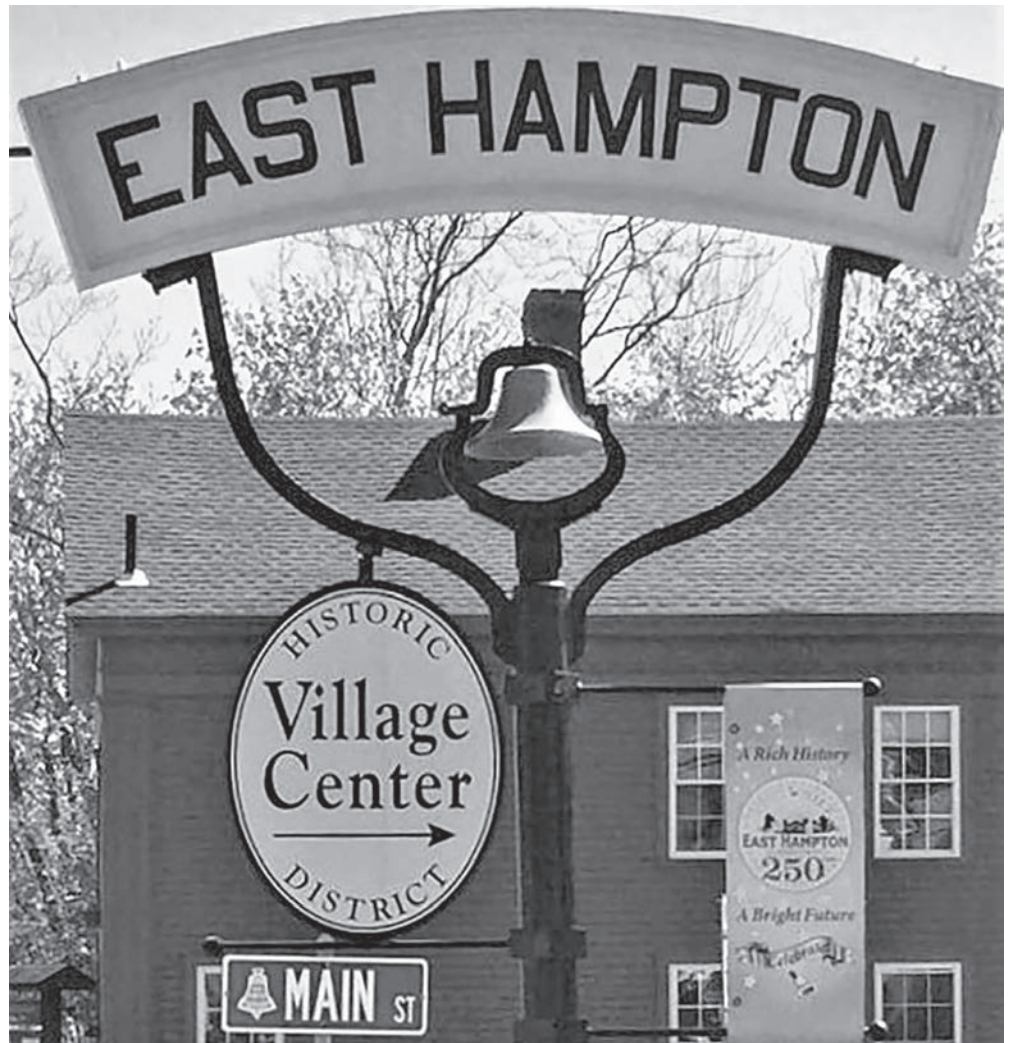
stroll events and really enjoyed collaborating with local organizations as they do for their Pride Stroll.

"I knew that the Bringing the Bells to Belltown fundraiser had stalled due to COVID. So, I suggested to Karen Terry that we host the Rotary and their bells to help complete it and bring as many bells as possible to the village center," Noel said.

Located in the middle of East Hampton, the Village Center is known for its historic character and small shops, restaurants, and businesses. Main Street and the shops divide the Air Line Trail and the area has become a great stop for a bite to eat, shop, or relax. The merchants in the historic center have created several events in the past to engage residents and have them visit what the town has to offer. Previous events have included the Date Night Stroll, Spring Back Stroll, and the annual Pride Stroll. Though businesses have come and gone, many provide a strong foundation for East Hampton's Village Center.

Tomorrow at the Belltown Stroll, the remaining hand-painted bells will be displayed throughout the Village Center. The Rotary Club will have a map of the locations where bells are placed for people who are interested in bidding and following the "bell trail." All proceeds in the silent auction will go toward Rotary scholarships and community service projects. The minimum bid is \$250 and the winners will be notified after the stroll.

The village will be filled with food trucks, live music, retail shops, and pop-up vendors. Some special guests include Heaven and Earth Baskets, M&J Sugar Rush LLC, Keepsake Mem-



The first Belltown Stroll will be a day filled with food, shopping, and fun in the historic Village Center.

## Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

**Tag Sale:** Dick Napolitano is in charge of the annual Labor Day tag sale. Contact him with

any questions at [rnap1137@gmail.com](mailto: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 Fundraiser:** Church members are asked to sign up to work at the fair, which will run Sept. 1-4.

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 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](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

ory Bears and Pillows, and many more. Tacos of Tulum, a food truck with modern Mexican Beach cuisine, will begin serving at 1:30 p.m. in the parking lot between Eco and Little Fish. As crowds may settle at night, Dexter's will also have live music by Mojo JoJo from 7-9:30 p.m.

Both the Rotary Club and the merchants of the Village Center are excited for residents to stop by. To see more information about the event, go to Facebook and visit the East Hampton Rotary Club page or the East Hampton Village Center page.

## Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

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

and crocheters are welcome.

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

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

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**All-Ages: Monday Movie Madness:** Monday, Sept. 18, 6 p.m., in the community room. Bring blankets; some chairs will be available. This month, *A Dog's Way Home* will be shown. Popcorn will be served. Movies at the library are sponsored by the East Hampton Prevention Partnership.

**Children's Programs: Storytimes:** Toddler Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years (no session Aug. 30); Stories & Songs: Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years (no session Aug. 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.

**Bubbles & Beats!:** Mondays starting Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years. In this early literacy program, sing songs, dance to favorites, pop some bubbles, and find your happy place. Drop-ins and siblings welcome.

**Back to School Yoga:** Monday, Sept. 11, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. Enjoy an hour of yoga poses and meditation led by Amie Meacham, a Yoga 200-certified instructor. Registration required.

**Nintendo Switch Game Play:** Saturday, Sept. 16, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. Play *Mario Party Superstars*.

**Teen Program: Dungeons & Dragons:** Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades

8-12. No previous playing experience required. The library will provide basic, fifth edition characters; all supplies included.

**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 (crotchet hooks, yarn stash, glue guns, scissors, etc.) on hand.

**Belltown Book Brunch:** Friday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m. Drop into the library for coffee or tea, a breakfast treat, and bookish banter. Get a sneak peek at new releases, find out what's popular, and chat about what everyone is reading. Register or drop in.

**LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:15 a.m. Yoga 200-certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Community Room. All levels welcome. Bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfortable clothes.

**Book Club - The Bandit Queens:** Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m. Copies of the month's book are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

## 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](http://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.



Hang Ten!... This year's edition of the 2023 Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series is officially in the books! Folks attended and enjoyed the weekly shows held in July and August. Pictured here is the band Ninth Wave, performing some surf tunes!



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# Community Cares – A New Volunteer Opportunity

By London Brazal

East Hampton Community Cares launched this July and is preparing for its official informational meeting next month.

The program, partnered with UR Community Cares out of Manchester, supports residents aged 70 or over and other adults who have temporary or permanent disabilities. The East Hampton Senior Center, Rotary Club, and Commission on Aging have been collaborating to determine a plan to improve the lives of residents. The three groups have made donations to UR Community Cares to enroll residents in need of help.

Although the service is free to each individual volunteer and the recipient of services, East Hampton Community Cares must raise one hundred dollars on behalf of each individual to pay a one-time charge for a background check. That includes a criminal record and sex offender check, driver safety record if appropriate, insurance, and computer system costs.

Jo Ann Ewing, Senior Services Coordinator and Senior Center Director, committed \$2,000 of Senior Center funds to start the service. “Whenever you can assist someone in need of kindness, the recipient, the volunteer, and the community as a whole benefit,” Ewing says.

Earlier this summer, the Commission of Aging reached out to the East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club for a Leadership Grant to fund the service for more volunteers and recipients. The Rotarians immediately recognized the value that this program would bring to the

town’s senior and disabled community. They made an initial investment of \$3,000.

Eric Rosenberg, the Chair of the Commission of Aging, noted that the town programs were limited, creating a gap in services that UR Community Cares can help fill. The Commission surveyed the elderly community in 2021 and found that a third of older adults had difficulty maintaining their homes and yards, many more needed rides, and loneliness was common.

“Many people ask for rides to medical appointments or to church, help with shopping, seasonal tasks such as yard work or snow shoveling, or just changing a light bulb. East Hampton Community Cares will help our older or disabled residents continue to live safely at home,” said Rosenberg.

The activities called “deeds” are single task-based services that recipients can request as often as needed. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, companionship is one of the most important factors in many of these people’s lives. In town, there are roughly 700 elderly residents who experience loneliness based on the Commission of Aging’s survey. Volunteers aged 15 and up can donate their time based on their availability and give back to the community. Volunteers between the ages of 15 and 17 must pair up with an adult.

As the school year starts soon, the volunteer program is hoping to work with East Hampton’s Interact Club, a community service group sponsored by the Rotary Club. Almost a hundred

students at the High School volunteer around town as part of the club. For a lot of the students, volunteering is a way to give back to their community. Businesses, students, and religious groups can participate in Community Cares by volunteering together.

Michelle Puzzo, co-founder and President of UR Community Cares is happy to work with the East Hampton organizations to bring the program to town. “Our website allows for a streamlined source of free support for household tasks, yard work, companionship, and local transportation. Many are looking for transportation and most importantly, create vital social bonds that will stave off isolation and loneliness.” Individuals can use the service online or can call in for phone assistance. To sign up for the program,

visit [URcommunitycares.org](http://URcommunitycares.org) or call 860-430-4557.

Informational meetings will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 13. The first will be at 2:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Senior Center and the second will be at 6:30 p.m. at the library. The meetings are free and open to the public. To register in advance or want more information, email [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov) or call 860-267-4426. Walk-ins are welcome.

At the meeting, the various organizations will discuss how residents can make a positive impact on neighbors. Puzzo said, “We are looking for eager volunteers to make a beneficial effect. As neighbors are aging and often have less family around, we all need to be better connected.”



One of the six homes on the CHS Historic House Tour is the c. 1928 Grey Gables House on Shipyard Rd. in Middle Haddam. This grand manor offers many rooms to tour and is not to be missed. This unique structure was especially designed in the Elizabethan style by a British architect. 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.

## ‘Driving for Drafts’ Charity Golf Tournament

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

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

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

Registration closes Sept. 1. To sign up as a participant or become a sponsor, visit [www.ctdraftrescue.org/2023-golf-registration](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/2023-golf-registration), or email [cdhr.golf@gmail.com](mailto:cdhr.golf@gmail.com).

## 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](http://haddamneckfair.com). The 2023 Fair Book is available at many area town halls and commercial establishments.

## Church Services on Hold

Worship services for Haddam Neck Congregational Church and Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam will resume in September at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam.

This Sunday, Aug. 27, will be devoted to Haddam Neck Fair booth preparation. All are invited to visit the church’s booths at the fair this Labor Day weekend.

For more information, visit [www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org)

## Police News

8/13: Thomas Boucher, 53, of 152 E. High St., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, East Hampton Police said.

8/14: Robert A. Dickenson, 62, of 6 Daniel St., East Hampton was issued a summons for illegal dumping and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

From Aug. 14-20, officers responded to 20 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and four alarms, and made 14 traffic stops, police said.

## KOCO4Kids Corner



### Back to School

September can be a very hectic time for young children faced with new teachers, new classrooms, new schools, new transitions, and new skills to master. Establish predictable home routines early on each year to support your child’s independence and confidence.

[koco4kids.org](http://koco4kids.org)

# Belltown Motors

## Tire & Service Center



Get your family car ready for BACK TO SCHOOL!

The summer is coming to an end, so let us get your family vehicle ready for the school year and the new seasons ahead. Here are some ways we’ll help get your car ready for back to school (and some that you can do at home):

### 1. Check Your Brakes

One of the first things we’ll do is check your brakes. Over the summer months, your brakes may have taken a bit of a beating from long road trips, the stop-and-go of highway construction, or increased driving. We’ll check your brake pads, rotors, drums and other brake components.

### 2. Wash Your Car

A clean vehicle is a happy vehicle—and it’s also less likely to have problems. Over the summer, your vehicle may have gotten dirty from all the outdoor activities and road trips. Washing your vehicle will not only make it look better but also help to extend its lifespan – run it through the car wash and pay attention to the undercarriage as well.

### 3. Equip Your Windshield

Your windshield is your best friend when it comes to driving, so you want to ensure it’s in tip-top shape for maximum visibility. Visit us at Belltown for help with new wiper blades when you come in for any service!

### 4. Check the Cooling System

Your cooling system keeps your engine from overheating, so keeping it in good working order is essential. At Belltown, we’ll check your radiator, thermostat and cooling fans as well.

### 5. Change Your Oil

Your engine oil keeps all the moving parts of your engine lubricated and running smoothly, preventing overheating and mechanical damage. Over time, however, your oil can get dirty and break down, so it’s good practice to change it regularly. Call us at Belltown to schedule your oil change and we’ll make sure your family vehicle is in tip-top shape for the coming year.

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm  
Saturday 8am-1pm

Belltown is no longer offering emissions testing.

80 East High Street, East Hampton

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Cheryl Lobo and Jay Hartling of the Conservation-Lake Commission give homeowner Mario Laudano (center) his Lake-Smart award. Photo by Marty Podskoch.

### Island View Association Pitches In for Lake

The members of the Island View Association Homeowners Association (HOA), consisting of a group of 19 homes located on Day Point Road, have been working hard to lessen their impact on Lake Pocotopaug.

Homeowner and association president Mario Laudano recently met with members of the East Hampton Conservation-Lake Commission to tour the association property and explain the group's efforts over the past eight years.

Each year the HOA has been making property improvements to make the association more lake-friendly. Plantings and rock beds have been strategically placed along roadsides and in steep areas to help create buffer zones to absorb excess water and nutrients. Homeowners have been encouraged to use gutter systems with barrels to collect rainwater which can then be used to water lawns, instead of creating runoff that

flows into the lake.

Additional steps members of the HOA are taking include not using lawn fertilizer, to prevent phosphates from entering the lake and contributing to algae bloom, and leaving grass clippings as mulch.

Laudano himself has spent a lot of time making his home lake friendly, and the Conservation-Lake Commission was pleased to award him a Lake-Smart award.

Any homeowner residing in the Lake Pocotopaug watershed (not necessarily on the lake itself) is welcome to call for a Lake-Smart assessment. Committee members can offer advice and recommendations to be lake-friendly. If interested, contact Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Department at 860-267-7450 or jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov to schedule an appointment.

### Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

**Yoga:** With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga.

Mondays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. No Saturday classes until summer. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com.

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

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

### 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.

### 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. (note that card-playing in September will begin at 1 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 Sept. 7.

**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:** Thurs-

days, 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:** Monday, 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.

**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 wind chime 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.

**Movie at the Center:** Friday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m. *The Philadelphia Story*, with Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and Jimmy Stewart, will be shown. Wear your favorite 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.

**East Hampton Community Cares Informational Program:** Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2:30-4 p.m., at the center. This new outreach program provides opportunities to help older or disabled neighbors with chores, rides and companionship or to get help if you need it. The Senior Center, Rotary Club and East Hampton Commission on Aging are sponsoring this new organization. Register in advance.

**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.

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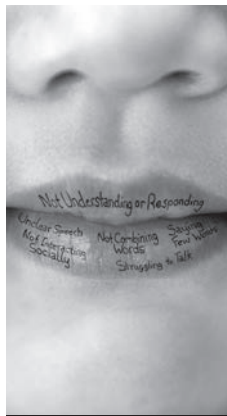
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**It's a Stand-Up Paddleboard!...** The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FOLP) recently funded a second Stand-Up Paddleboard for the East Hampton Library of Things Collection. This inflatable board is available to check out for free with your library card. They also donated a collection of educational children's books on lake ecosystems, cultural history and conservation. For more details on the Library of Things Collection visit [www.easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.easthamptonpubliclibrary.org). For more information on Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, visit [www.FLPEH.org](http://www.FLPEH.org). Pictured from left are Cap Egan Nelson of FOLP; Keri Blanda, the adult and teen librarian; Kevin Kuhr of FOLP; and Christine Cachuela, the children's librarian.



**Poster Contest Winners...** Two local students from Center School – fourth-grader Hunter Supinski and fifth-grader Anabela Amarel – were named winners in this year's Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest, sponsored by the East Hampton Fire Marshal, the East Hampton Fire Department and the CT FAIR Plan. The winners were celebrated on the last day of school (June 13th) with a fire truck ride driven by Jim Burke to school, courtesy of the East Hampton Fire Marshal's Office and the East Hampton Fire Department. Pictured are art teacher Suzanne Fausette (back right), Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier (back left), Hunter (front left), and Anabel (front right).

### Hall of Fame Accepting Nominations

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

Anyone wishing to nominate an athlete, coach, contributor, or team can request a nomination packet by emailing [seidlt@sb-cglobal.net](mailto:seidlt@sb-cglobal.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.

### 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.

### 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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### Wine-Tasting Fundraiser

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug will host a Wine-Tasting Fundraiser on Laurel Island at Lake Pocotopaug, on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 1-4 p.m., rain or shine. The fundraiser is to support FLP's projects.

This year's event will feature many different wines and a limited beer selection. The price is \$35 for one person, \$60 for two people, or \$115 for a group of four. Cost includes a boat ride to & from the Island, wine or beer tasting, souvenir glass and charcuterie appetizer by Deliana Public Market. There will also be a tea cup raffle and live music by Kickin Back Duo. Jack Solomon will be on hand to answer questions about the history of Laurel Island.

Boats depart from West Shore Marine, 70 N

Main St., East Hampton, with parking available at Sears Park. (No private boat-docking is allowed on the island.) Tickets will be limited and available in advance or on the dock.

For advance tickets, call Kevin Kuhr at 860-395-7548 or Cap Egan at 860-395-7844, visit [www.FLPEH.ORG](http://www.FLPEH.ORG), or search on Facebook for Friends of Lake Pocotopaug.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:stpatsehctdre@gmail.com), or email Deacon Dan D'Amelio at [deacondandamelio@gmail.com](mailto:deacondandamelio@gmail.com).

### Spring League Senior Bowling

Ages 55 and up are invited to participate in the Spring League Mixed Bowling program at Kickback N' Bowl, 9 Bear Swamp Road, starting Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 2-4 p.m.

Cost is \$12 per week, plus a \$4 shoe rental if needed.

For more information, contact Jack Anderson at 860-882-3752 or [jackande52@aol.com](mailto:jackande52@aol.com).

### 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](mailto:nancybrown843@aol.com).



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### 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.

### Praise Worship at the Fair

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will host Sunday morning contemporary praise worship "Hope Resides Here" at the bandstand at the Haddam Neck Fair on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 11 a.m.

Music will be provided by the HNCC Praise Choir, accompanied by Jan Ulanowicz on keyboard, Wayne Visintainer on bass guitar, Frank Natter on guitar, and Mark Dubois, drums.

Also, all are invited to the HNCC BBQ pit for the church's barbecue chicken with fresh locally grown corn on the cob. A portion of the proceeds support charities and mission work.

For more information, visit [www.hnccovenantchurch.org](http://www.hnccovenantchurch.org).

### Lake-Smart Awards Available

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

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

Those wishing to be evaluated for the award

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

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

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# Stennett Captures Summer Title

By Josh Howard

Portland High School's Luke Stennett has picked up right where he left off following a championship high school season in the spring, winning the New England Junior Amateur Championship earlier this month -- shooting a 12-under in New Hampshire to win the multi-state summer tourney.

Stennett started the 54-hole tourney with back-to-back stellar rounds, shooting a six-under (66) in the first round and a five-under (67) in the second round to take a commanding lead heading into the final round before holding off Josiah Hakala of New Hampshire and Eli Spaulding of Maine -- who each finished 11-under.

"Going into the tournament I just wanted to play my game and whatever happened will happen," Stennett said of the victory. "It's a cool event to be a part of and I really did just try to soak it in."

Playing at the Mount Washington Golf Club in Brenton Woods, N.H., Stennett literally soaked it in, battling adverse conditions that included driving rain.

Stennett said because of the poor weather, he played it safe off the tee before being more aggressive once he was closer to the greens.

"I was able to hit the fairways, so I was able

to use a wedge and went full attack mode," he recalled. "It worked out really well."

The victory also avenged his performance at last year's New England Championships when he finished eight-over to tie for 13th overall.

He noted that his struggles at the venue last summer made him approach the event differently this year, adding "it was extra motivation," particularly playing against the best amateur players in the New England region.

Behind Stennett's individual victory, Team Connecticut placed as the runner-up in the six-state tourney, finishing behind only Massachusetts and well ahead of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine, and Vermont.

Stennett, who is going into his senior year at Portland High School, is coming off a championship junior year in which he won the Division III title, pulling away from a championship field and winning the state title by eight strokes.

It was the third straight year that Stennett finished atop the high school leaderboard at states and his consistent play helped the Highlanders also win a state title for the third consecutive season as a team.

Heading into his final year at PHS, Stennett has already made his college commitment to play Division I golf at The University of Rhode Island starting in 2024, making the announce-

ment in June.

He said the early committal has freed him up to approach his senior season on the links with a clear mind and allowed him to work on his all-around game, focusing on the mental part of the game and changing the grip while putting this summer.

"Really focused on my mental toughness, I have struggled with that a lot and I just have to think positive," stated Stennett, who is focusing on turning the page even if he has a bad shot. "You're not perfect and bad shots happen because they do. I accept it and I can make up for it because I've put the practice in. I can't tell you how much better I have gotten from having a different mindset."

The following week after winning the New England Championship, Stennett finished as the top amateur at the Connecticut PGA Open at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield.

Stennett wrapped up a busy summer by competing in the American Junior Golf Association's K.J. Choi Foundation Junior Championship this week.

With his senior year starting next week, Stennett noted that his goal is to enjoy his senior year and keep improving on the links, both with the physical and mental part of his game.



Portland High School's Luke Stennett is shown here after winning the New England Junior Amateur Championship in New Hampshire on August 9.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid Course:** Saturday, Sept. 9, 12:30-3:30 p.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center.

**Junior Golf Workshop:** For grades K-2. Mondays, Sept. 11-Oct. 2, starting at 4 p.m., at Portland Golf Course West.

**Yoga for All Levels:** Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Oct. 3, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Riverfront Park. Drop-ins welcome.

**Curious About Yoga, but Don't Know Where to Start?:** Wednesdays, Oct. 4-25, 6-7 p.m., at Riverfront Park. Drop-ins welcome.

**Tai Chi:** Wednesdays or Saturdays, Aug. 30-

Oct. 21; 9:30-10:15 a.m. on Wednesdays and 10:30-11:15 a.m. on Saturdays at Riverfront Park.

**Adult & Youth Dance Classes:** A variety of tap, ballet, jazz and cardio classes for ages 6 months to adult. Classes are held at Dance with Miss Alicia studios at 332 Marlborough St.

**Adult & Youth Martial Arts:** Classes for children ages 3 and up are held at The Inner Circle at 332 Marlborough St.

**Youth Gymnastics Classes:** Classes for toddlers and children ages 6 and up are held at The Inner Circle.

**Kickboxing:** Mondays, Oct. 2-Nov. 6, 7-8 p.m., at The Inner Circle.

**Self-Defense for Women:** Sundays, Oct. 15 or Nov. 12, 6-7 p.m., at The Inner Circle.

**Chess Club:** Wednesdays, Oct. 4-25, at The Inner Circle. Open to all ages.

### ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverfront News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

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### Lawn Irrigation Inspections

During the last week of August an inspector from T & M Water Services will conduct inspections of irrigation systems on the public water supply.

In order to do this your system must be activated. If for some reason it is not activated, call the Public Works office at 860-342-6733 to schedule an appointment for a different time. If the inspector comes out and your system is not activated, you will still be charged the \$75 inspection fee.

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# Milardo to Retire After 40+ Years of Service

By London Brazal

After more than 40 years of service, Captain Ron Milardo will retire from the Portland Police Department.

On Sept. 4, Milardo will step down from his role as captain and transition to a part-time position that focuses on working private-duty jobs.

Though he still enjoys the job, Milardo knew it was time to retire from the top. "When you're at the top, you're there for 24 hours a day, you're always on call," he said. "Here I am, 40-plus years later. It came to a point, it's time to enjoy life."

As captain, Milardo said he constantly had phone calls. Even though Portland is a small town, it remains busy for first responders, he noted.

He shared he's quite excited about not having to answer phone calls at 1 or 2 in the morning.

"I'm leaving on good terms, but there is relief in not having to manage others," Milardo added, "It will be nice to go back to everyday life."

In 1982, Portland was a resident trooper town, meaning two state troopers worked with a slew of part-time officers. Milardo's father owned a service station in town and many officers brought their cars to the repair facilities. One resident trooper mentioned the unit was looking for part-time officers and Milardo became interested. For two years, he worked night

shifts and on weekends.

When the department was going to add another full-time officer, Milardo took the required tests and passed. He then enrolled in the police academy on Sept. 4, 1984. At the time, Milardo only went to training for 14 weeks. Now, officers train for six months. After his graduation, he became the third full-time officer with the town.

In March 1997, Portland broke away from the old resident trooper system and started an interlocal agreement with Middletown. The city of Middletown would house the fire and police departments' dispatch center, and house Portland's overnight prisoners. Milardo said he was proud of how well the agreement worked over the years and the towns are still using that system. He commented, "The two departments do phenomenal work together."

After the agreement started, Milardo was promoted to master sergeant. The other promoted sergeants and Milardo would supervise the different shifts.

First Selectman Ryan Curley – who, as per the town charter, is Portland's chief of police – said he will miss working with Milardo, and applauded him for his many years of service.

"I routinely hear nothing but positive feedback about our Portland officers, and I think it's a testament to the leadership of Captain Milardo," Curley said. "He's made the town a bet-



The Portland Police Department honors Captain Ron Milardo for his more than 40 years of service and dedication to the town and its residents.

ter place overseeing that department, and we all wish him the best."

Milardo's role was to handle the day-to-day responsibilities from budgeting to civilian complaints. Over time, the title of master sergeant was changed to captain.

Since he started in 1982, the Portland Police Department has grown to have 13 full-time officers compared to the two when Milardo joined the force. While reflecting on his team, Milardo said he was pleased with the work they had accomplished. "When you're at the top, to look good, you need great people under you. I don't shine by myself, they made me look good," he said. "I had great, hardworking police officers who take pride in their town and their work."

Sgt. Scott Cunningham will be promoted to captain following Milardo's retirement. "Since I'll still be around, my door will always be open for him," Milardo added.

The department's records secretary, Rosanne Lombardi, said Captain Milardo was very organized and always on top of things.

"I never had to worry about anything," she said. "He treated me like a family member and was very considerate, I will miss him."

Milardo said he would like to thank his family for supporting him even though he missed holidays and birthdays as it was hard to have a true day off. "I want to thank them for putting up with that," Milardo said. He also offered thanks to his fellow police officers.

"Lastly, I want to thank the Town of Portland for letting me do this for the last 40+ years – and then some," he added.

## Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

**Save the Date for Read & Recycle:** Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-noon. Friends' Read and Recycle Donate your gently-used books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles.

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

**Parachutes and Picnic:** Tuesday, Aug. 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.

**Adult Programs: 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.

**CCC Anniversary:** Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. Author and historian Marty Podskoch will discuss the 90th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps, and their history in CT.

**British Invasion:** Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m., at the Mary Flood Room. This presentation covers rock and roll history from the birth of the British Invasion through the response of the American bands. Historian Marty Gitlin will present.

**Medicare Basics:** Thursday, Sept. 28, 6 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. All are invited to find out about Medicare benefits or, if you are considering changes to next year's Medicare coverage, the different options available.

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## 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.

As a reminder, this Sunday, Aug. 27, Trinity will worship with The Church of the Holy Trinity, 381 Main St., Middletown at 9:30 a.m.

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.

The next "First Sunday on Main" outside service on the lawn will be Sunday, Sept. 3, at 9:30 a.m. All are invited; just remember your chair.

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

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

## Retirement Party for Milardo

All are invited to a retirement celebration in honor of Portland Police Captain Ronald Milardo on Thursday, Aug. 31. Drop in from 1-3 p.m., on the second floor of the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St.

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## Ballot Lottery Sept. 1

The Portland registrar of voters will hold a public lottery next week to determine the order of names for multiple-opening offices on the ballot for the Nov. 7 municipal election.

The lottery will be held Friday, Sept. 1, at 12:30 p.m., in the Portland town clerk's office, located at 33 East Main St. All are welcome to attend.

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### From the First Selectman's Desk...

As the days begin to get shorter and students head back for a new school year, I hope that you all had a wonderful summer. Here at Portland Town Hall we have been busy with a number of projects. This week, I wanted to focus on the town's progress in achieving water independence. Before getting into the outcomes of our recent efforts, I thought it would be helpful to provide a brief background on our history with public water.

Prior to 1996, the reservoir off of Old Marlborough Turnpike was active and met about half of the town's water needs. However, due to increased regulations, the reservoir became too costly for the town to maintain and upgrade as required. The decision was made to seek a more affordable solution for the town and its customers.

After considerable work, a 30-year contract with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) was signed. MDC would supply approximately 70% of the Town's required water, with the remaining 30% coming from our town-owned well. This proved to be a cost effective solution at the time and for many years the Town and its customers enjoyed low water rates and few issues.

However, in recent years MDC has raised their water rates, often by double digits. Consequently, towns like Portland have had to raise rates for our own customers as well. This has been the primary reason for the rising price increases that you have seen on your water bills in recent years.

The town has spent over a decade working on an alternative solution to MDC, given that our contract expires in 2026. As a result of these efforts, the state awarded the town with a \$250,000 grant to locate a new public water source, with the focus being on finding high-yield wells. After a competitive bidding process, GZA Environmental Inc. was selected as the firm to assist the town in this goal.

GZA quickly went to work in late 2022, utilizing data from various sources and conducting geophysical surveys on a number of properties in town. The aim was to gain a better understanding of the underlying geologic formations in town and identify the most favorable locations for high-yield wells. After this work was completed, GZA presented a list of five potential sites to the Town.

The site that was ultimately selected was an area just north of our Portland Recreational Park. This made sense because a) the Town already owned the property, b) the location was not far from existing infrastructure, and c) there was no other development on site that could cause an issue.

Two test wells were drilled in late May of this year. The first test well was drilled 332 feet deep and the second 237 feet. In July, GZA came back to perform the pump testing that would tell us the potential yield of the wells and water quality.

The results were received last week and GZA estimates that the deeper well in particular has the potential to provide the Town with 1 to 2 million gallons of water per day. This amount of water would be more than sufficient for the Town to achieve water independence. In addition, the water quality was found to be excellent as well. According to the report, "the results of the analytical data did not detect any constituents that exceeded the CT DPH Action Limit."

There is still a lot more to come on this. GZA is currently preparing an engineering report that will offer detailed recommendations for the next steps. This will include determining a suitable location for connecting to existing water mains, constructing a pump house and treatment building, as well as navigating through all of the necessary state permitting processes.

I will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments: by email at rcurley@portlandct.org or by phone at 860-342-6715. Office hours can be made by appointment or by stopping by Town Hall.

Sincerely yours,  
Ryan Curley, Portland First Selectman

### 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.

**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 12U topped West Hartford 5-2 to win the title of 12U Summer Baseball Champions

### Portland 12U Wins Summer Baseball Championship

The Portland Green Gobblins defeated West Hartford 5-2 to recently win the title of 12U Summer Baseball Champions.

The game went into extra innings, with Portland pulling away in the 7th inning. Noah MacDonald toed the rubber for Portland, giving up only 2 runs in 5 1/3 innings, striking out 11 batters. Jude Matterfis came in to close out the game, keeping West Hartford scoreless and making the final 5 outs for Portland.

On offense, Portland took the lead in the 1st inning on an RBI sacrifice by Timmy Bolstridge, scoring Jude Matterfis. Down 2-1 in the top of the 5th, Kaelyn Cummings singled to start off the inning and scored on a game tying sacrifice RBI by Derek Mazzullo.

In the 7th inning, Portland started off the in-

ning with Miles Matterfis reaching first on a hit by pitch, followed by a single by Ian Binnington. Caiden Bouchard's RBI single put Portland ahead by 1 run. Derek Mazzullo then gave Portland an even bigger lead with a 2 run RBI double to left field, putting Portland up 5-2.

Kaelyn Cummings made a great catch in left field for Portland to secure the victory in the bottom of the 7th inning. Cody Christitensen and Levi Srb played well on defense for Portland.

Griffin Poach, Nathan Jahnke, Chase Allen, Bobby Jones, Abel Wells and Brady Mierzejewski were not able to attend the championship game but were instrumental in the success of the team this season.



Portland 10U defeated Cromwell 10U in the recent Summer Baseball Championship, by a score of 8-7.

### Portland Tops Cromwell in Baseball Championship

Portland 10U nabbed the lead late in the 6th inning Saturday, Aug. 5, and defeated Cromwell 10U with a final score of 8-7, to win the Summer Baseball Championship.

Ray Vicino from Portland was the starting pitcher for Portland, throwing two complete innings, giving up three runs with six strikeouts. Andrew Quesnel from Portland then came in to relieve, throwing 1.1 innings and giving up four runs, but was able to shut down Cromwell in the third inning. Benjamin Martinez came in to close out the game throwing 2.2 innings, allowing 0 runs with 5 strikeouts.

Benjamin Martinez, Liam O'Brien, Ray Vicino and Roman Christensen all drove in runs to get Portland in position to mount a comeback. Christian Quesnel then had a game-winning hit in the top of the sixth inning with two outs

that drove in two runs, with Christian making it home on errors. Patrick McCormack also recorded his first hit of the season during the game.

Defensive efforts from Andrew Quesnel, Liam O'Brien, Ray Vicino, Benjamin Martinez and Christian Quesnel were paramount in Portland sealing the victory against Cromwell. Jayden Bigio, Max Campbell, Connor Cummings, Sam Daly, Trent Kootz, John Barry, Patrick McCormack, Roman Christensen and Lucas Filanda also all contributed defensively during the game.

Brady Furtak was not in attendance at the game but contributed to the team during the season enabling Portland to make it to the championship game.

### 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.

### 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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# Portland Schools on Track for First Day

By John Leavenworth

The first day of school is fast approaching for Portland students and staff, and there are many new programs and projects to be excited about.

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton highlighted six new developments for the coming school year, including a long-awaited revamp of the Portland High School track.

The installation of the new loop, according to Britton, is “underway and on schedule.”

As of this week, he said, “The installers poured the concrete. The next steps involve drainage work, installing the rubberized surface, and lining the track.”

Facilities Director and Portland Fire Chief Bob Shea said Classic Turf, the main contractor for the build, will begin drainage work “as early as next week.”

According to Shea, the track is being built around a state-of-the-art “post tension” system.

The system employs a “human tendon-like” web of tensioned steel wires that, when fed through the concrete foundation, will increase the “compressive tensile strength” of the track, allowing the surface to “float” above any water that would otherwise cause problems, Shea said.

The total cost for the track was \$1,362,000 – with \$500,736 of that coming from a state grant, according to First Selectman Ryan Curley. The town contributed the remaining \$861,264.

Curley, according to Britton, spearheaded the initiative to build the new track, and left an indelible mark on the community and its leaders in doing so.

“He was very on top of it,” the superintendent remarked. “We are very grateful for his leadership on that.”

If weather permits, Britton anticipates the track will be completed in early October of this year.

For students in the classroom, the school district secured funds from the local Gildersleeve Wheeler Foundation to replace the existing student information system, Aspen, with PowerSchool.

“We are training all faculty and staff at the start of the school year. We will introduce students to the system in early September and provide parents access in early October. Stay tuned for more information,” Britton said in a statement.

In September, the district will launch a new “18- to 22-year-old transition program,” he said, “for young adults who have completed high school requirements for graduation, but need additional programming to prepare for transition into adult life.”

The program will have its home at Brownstone Intermediate School.

Also with the help of the Gildersleeve Foundation, the weight room at Portland High will be renovated, and the equipment will be upgraded.

The grant for the weight room was for \$80,000.

“We are currently in the process of soliciting quotes for new equipment and expect to begin renovations in the fall,” said Britton.

Also new this year: school and town officials have secured a state security grant for digital radios in all the schools.

The new Motorola radios will be supplied to all school faculty and staff, allowing a direct line of communication between them and first re-



While it won't quite be finished by the time school starts next week, the revamp of the PHS track is well underway. The new-look track is expected to be complete by early October.

sponders in the event of an emergency.

Speaking on the importance of the radios, Britton said, “This upgrade will dramatically enhance school security and communication.”

The approved grant for the radios was also \$80,000, with a 54% reimbursement. The town will cover the remaining 46% of the cost.

For students in need of early-morning motivation, Britton said all Portland students will

receive free breakfasts and “students eligible for reduced-price lunch will receive free lunch.”

“Students not eligible for free or reduced-price meals will be required to pay for lunch,” he added.

For questions regarding eligibility for meals, parents and students should contact Maritsa Ellam at [mellam@portlandct.us](mailto:mellam@portlandct.us).

## 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. 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 Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or [1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com) for more information.

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

## YFS News & Notes

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

**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.

## ‘Touch-A-Truck’ Moving to Valley View

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.

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.

## 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](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com) to register.

## 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 [williamorganek@gmail.com](mailto:williamorganek@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

## 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.

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

### 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](http://www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) for more information or email questions to [friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheportlandlibrary@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 conversations.” 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 Hollant, Portland resident and founder/executive director of Free Center. Copies of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* are available at the Portland Library.

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## Full DPW Survey Released

By Michael Sinkewicz

The raw version of a Department of Public Works facility building project survey was released publicly last week, offering fresh insight into the community's outlook regarding a new municipal complex.

Previously, an executive summary of the survey results that was published earlier this month revealed that Hebron residents had little desire to relocate the town's facility to Kinney Road.

When asked for a preferred DPW site choice, 69% of respondents selected the current facility location on Old Colchester Road. Construction at the Horton Property — or Kinney Road — was the second highest vote with 16%. A hybrid option that would primarily involve the Horton Property, but with a proposed salt storage shed being placed at an off-site location, was listed at 10%.

An additional 9% of respondents opted for another site and 5% had no preference.

Following the Board of Selectmen meeting on Aug. 17, the board agreed to release the full results, including over 700 comments left by respondents.

"I think the results speak for themselves," selectman Tiffany Thiele said during the meeting. "I think that we all need to be a little more creative and a little bit more willing to compromise in terms of what we want for this facility and ensuring that it meets the basic needs of our employees, but understanding that if the majority of people who took this survey — who are likely to vote at a referendum — will approve this particular site over another."

Regarding the state of the current Public Works facility, chairman Daniel Larson stated that "there were a lot of changes that have come down the pike that require things that that building just physically cannot have there."

The board expressed interest in having the Public Building Committee conduct further assessments to determine the viability of a new or reworked facility at Old Colchester Road. In addition, as the board pivots away from the 88-acre parcel at Kinney Road, it will seek insight from the town attorney regarding the future of that property, including what other potential development opportunities could be available in the future.

According to the survey — which was open to the public from June 6 through July 15 — many factors are "very concerning" in relation to constructing a new facility. Around 66% of residents were very concerned with the location of the facility; 64% with salt storage contamination; 62% with land preservation; 65% with taxpayer cost; 55% with truck traffic and pollution; and 48% with other development potential.

"Living in the area near Kinney Road, both the traffic and water contamination issues are of serious concern," one survey respondent wrote. "These will impact our family's health, quality of life, and property values. And building this type of facility in our residential neighborhood will

require our family to make hard decisions about continuing our residence in Hebron/Amston."

Other respondents suggested that the Kinney Road property could be developed for "more appropriate community use."

Some residents expressed that the rural character of the town would be threatened if the facility was constructed near the town center.

"This will negatively impact the charm the center of Hebron has built up over the year and any risk of pollution from a salt shed or DPW facility should be kept as far away from the town center as possible," a respondent wrote.

While many comments urged the officials to pursue concepts at the current site, others expressed support for building at Kinney Road.

"Of course the environmental concerns are very important," one resident stated. "But if Best Practices are used in the Kinney Road space, I trust the property would be acceptable. 'Not in my backyard' seems to be the proclamation from 'No' voters."

Overall, the comments ranged from one-word responses to lengthy paragraphs. They addressed specific schemes for new facilities, fears of tax increases, as well as how and where they receive their information from. For town officials, the survey represents a valuable resource moving forward.

"I think it's going to be a document we continue to draw upon," selectman Peter Kasper told the *Rivereast*.

Kasper indicated that "frustration" was a central theme throughout the comments; people frustrated with taxes; people frustrated with the site choice; people frustrated with town officials.

Some comments complained about a "lack of transparency in local leaders" and that the project was "a waste of taxpayer money."

"Spending \$15,000 on a company to help with this survey was a waste of money," one resident wrote, referring to the money spent by the town to retain DK Advertising, a consultant who helped formulate the survey along with a small committee comprised of both Hebron residents and officials.

Kasper — who is the selectmen's liaison on the survey committee — said he wasn't surprised by the negative feedback directed at elected and town officials. He defended the survey, which was completed by 725 residents with an 82% completion rate, stating that it was a worthwhile endeavor.

"Building back trust is a journey," he said. The survey, he contented, was "an opportunity for people to express themselves and be heard."

"We heard their voices," he asserted. "I think the survey at least provides a statistically relevant sample of opinions and it's a step in the right direction."

The steps being taken by the board in the weeks ahead will demonstrate that the community's comments have been absorbed, Kasper

said.

He added that the town hasn't yet exhausted its budget with DK Advertising, and the firm will remain an asset moving forward.

While Kasper expressed that the survey clearly indicated a preference for the current facility site, the future of the Kinney Road parcel remains uncertain.

"I'm not sure," he said.

However, Kasper stated that the intent of the town purchasing that piece of land was for development purposes.

"We can't lose sight of that," he said, adding that it's unlikely that the land will remain open. If the town opts not to develop the land, it would likely sell the parcel to someone who would ultimately build something itself. Potential revenue from that deal could strengthen the town as well, according to Kasper.

"I fully respect that there's a segment of the population who doesn't want anything there," he said.

The decision regarding a new DPW facility has engrossed the community for years. At times, interactions at meetings have been contentious, and many residents — namely Kinney Road residents — are passionate about the issue. Some comments left in the survey reflect the toll the ongoing debate has had on the community.

"I was always proud of my town but since this

controversy began I have become disheartened," one resident wrote.

Thiele noted that survey respondents expressed a desire for the board to meet in-person. Currently, town officials are researching a potential hybrid meeting model, which many neighboring towns utilize, that would allow residents to participate both virtually and physically.

The selectmen have continued to hold their meetings virtually, but Thiele suggested that the board consider holding one of their two monthly meetings in-person until the new hybrid technology was acquired.

"By continuing to not be willing to meet in-person, I feel personally sends a message that we're not willing to stand in front of the people and conduct business," Thiele said at the meeting.

If residents are requesting the change — "I think it would be a dereliction of duty not to respond to that."

Larson disagreed, arguing that many people enjoy the current format and that meeting virtually offers several benefits.

"So I'm not inclined at this point in time to change it," Larson said.

The rest of the board also preferred sticking with the current meeting format.

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**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.

**Massage Therapy:** By appointment Mondays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Massage therapist Beverly Williams will perform 25-minute (for \$25) or 50-minute (for \$50) chair or table massages or hot stone massages. Call the senior center to make an appointment.

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

**Senior Transportation:** Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for

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

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

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



Troop 28 member Zachary Bulkovitch recently completed his Eagle Scout project, which involved creating busy boards for individuals affected by Alzheimer's at Colebrook Village and for a program being developed at the Russell Mercier Senior Center. He's shown here with, in the photo at left, senior center social worker Michele Boutin (left) and program director Mandy Rocznik. In the photo at right, he's shown with Kelsie Harrison, EGIS Memory Care director at Colebrook Village.



### Resident Completes Eagle Project

Hebron Troop 28 Eagle Scout candidate Zachary Bulkovitch recently completed his Eagle Scout project, which involved creating busy boards for individuals affected by Alzheimer's at Colebrook Village and for a program being developed at the Russell Mercier Senior Center.

The Eagle Project involved the collection of donated lumber supplies and clothing items in-

cluding shoes, belts, pants, shirts, and jackets. A group of Troop 28 scouts and leaders, led by Bulkovitch, assembled the boards. Ten boards were created and then distributed to Colebrook Village and the Russell Mercier Senior Center. Bulkovitch chose the project recognizing that people affected by Alzheimer's suffer from the loss of memory, thinking, and behavior, and can

benefit from the use of the busy boards which reinforce simple motor skills that are needed in their daily lives.

Bulkovitch, a recent graduate from Xavier High School in Middletown, will attend Quinnipiac University's Physician Assistant program this fall and hopes that the boards will be of great help to the affected residents as he

begins his healthcare career. Zach is the son of Linda and Richard Bulkovitch Jr. of Amston CT. Zach has been a scout since first grade when his mom was the den leader. For more information about Hebron Scouts you can visit their website: <https://www.hebronscoutsbsa.org/> New members are always welcome to join. Zach has loved being a part of scouting.

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## Scholarship Golf Tournament

The veterans of the Hebron area, Post 95, are seeking sponsors and golfers for the Hebron-area Veterans Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 16, at 8 a.m., at Chanticlair Golf Course in Colchester.

Tournament highlights: breakfast sandwiches to go; Ted's deli lunch sandwich on a roll;

Closest to the line - 3rd hole; Closest to the Pin - Water Hole; cash prizes; 50/50 raffle; Silent Auction; Goodie Bag.

Organizers are also looking for people to en-

dorse the tournament with a contribution, a donated door prize, and/or by sponsoring golfers. There are also sponsors sought for tee signs or a golf cart sign. There are three tiers of sponsorships: silver, gold or platinum sponsorship fee.

Make checks payable to American Legion Post 95 Scholarship Fund and mail to: P.O. Box 95, Hebron, CT 06248-0095.

For more information or registration - including registration fees -- call Joe at 203-848-5913 or email Ron at ronpark@gmail.com.

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut) and on YouTube; go to [tinyurl.com/yby64wph](http://tinyurl.com/yby64wph) to access.

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

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

**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](mailto: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 [jessalbain@gmail.com](mailto:jessalbain@gmail.com).

## Parks and Recreation News

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

**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.

**Karate:** There are six-week sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Gilead Hill School activity room. Ages 5-11 are from 5-5:50 p.m., and ages 12+ are 6-7 p.m. Cost: \$85 per session.

## 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](http://gileadchurchucc.updates.church), email [gcc@gileadchurch.net](mailto: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](http://www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC) and on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Scheduled Meetings:** 8/28: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 8/29: AA Meeting, 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 muffin 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, Sept. 10 (note the new date), at 11:30 a.m. Open to the community. Register with Gayle Sylvester ([gayle.sylvester60@gmail.com](mailto:gayle.sylvester60@gmail.com)).

**Crop Walk:** All are invited to join the church team for the 2023 Crop Walk on Saturday Oct. 1. Contact the church office for more information.

**Blood Drive:** Wednesday, Oct. 4. Sign up to donate at [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org).

**Faith, Film and Food:** Starts up again Friday, Oct. 6. Bring a dish to share. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., followed by desert and a movie.

**Walk to End Alzheimer's:** Saturday, Oct. 28. All are invited to join the GCC Team or donate at [act.alz.org](http://act.alz.org) (just follow the links for the Walk to End Alzheimer's and search for Gilead Congregational Church).



**Painting the Pond...** Many area artists and photographers gathered recently at the Raymond Brook Preserve to meet up, walk the trails and find different insects to photograph, and field, trail and pond landscapes to paint. Pictured is local artist Sandy Waldo painting the pond at Raymond Brook Preserve. A fall/winter Plein Air session is already in the planning stages. Photo by Debbie Temple.

## Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

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

**Caring Shepherds:** The next Open Pantry is Saturday, Sept. 9, starting at 8 a.m., at the church. Caring Shepherds distributes household and hygiene items, as well as food pan-

try 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](http://www.clecchebron.org).

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# Public Schools Ready to Go

By Michael Sinkewicz

Students return to Hebron Public Schools next week on Wednesday, Aug. 30 and administrators are eager to show off the fresh changes throughout the district.

Perhaps most notably, the 2023-24 school year at Gilead Hill School and Hebron Elementary School will represent a long-awaited return to normalcy, according to Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird.

“This year feels like the most normal start of the school year since the pandemic,” he said this week. “You can feel a huge sense of excitement in the air. Most of our teachers have been in already and the classrooms look fantastic.”

As parents complete their back-to-school shopping, equipping their kids with all the essentials — maybe a brand-new backpack or flashy pair of shoes — faculty have worked hard to prepare for the start of the academic calendar.

One fun update that Baird shared was the completed refurbishment of the gym floors, which he said lifted “decades of use” off them. The shiny new floors will undoubtedly be a hit with the students. In addition, the district underwent a series of changes that will expand its current services.

“This year, thanks to the state mental health grant, we are welcoming two additional school psychologists to our district, and each school will have two full-time psychologists,” Baird said. “We are seeing more mental health needs and this additional staffing us to offer additional supports above and beyond our partnership with [AHM Youth and Family Services].”

The additional staff members will help address an issue many administrators across the state are identifying as a growing concern, and state funding has increased accordingly. Baird expressed that heading into the school year, the increase in mental health needs was one of the

greatest challenges, and “how social media continues to impact our society.”

Some of the challenges — or opportunities — are unique to a new generation of classrooms. For example, Baird said that artificial intelligence was an area that would be explored moving forward. He said AI was “becoming more of a focus area for us as we think about preparing our students for the future.”

Schools across the country are having similar discussions, as districts consider new tools that may potentially lead to profound shifts in learning in the future.

The 2023-24 budget season was challenging, as well, with the district ultimately receiving less funding than it initially requested. The approved spending plan is \$12.79 million — around \$590,000 more than the previous fiscal year.

Through grants, the district was able to maintain its academic and mental health intervention programs, Baird said. But with budget reductions, the district could not have a dedicated science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics [STEAM] class at Hebron Elementary School.

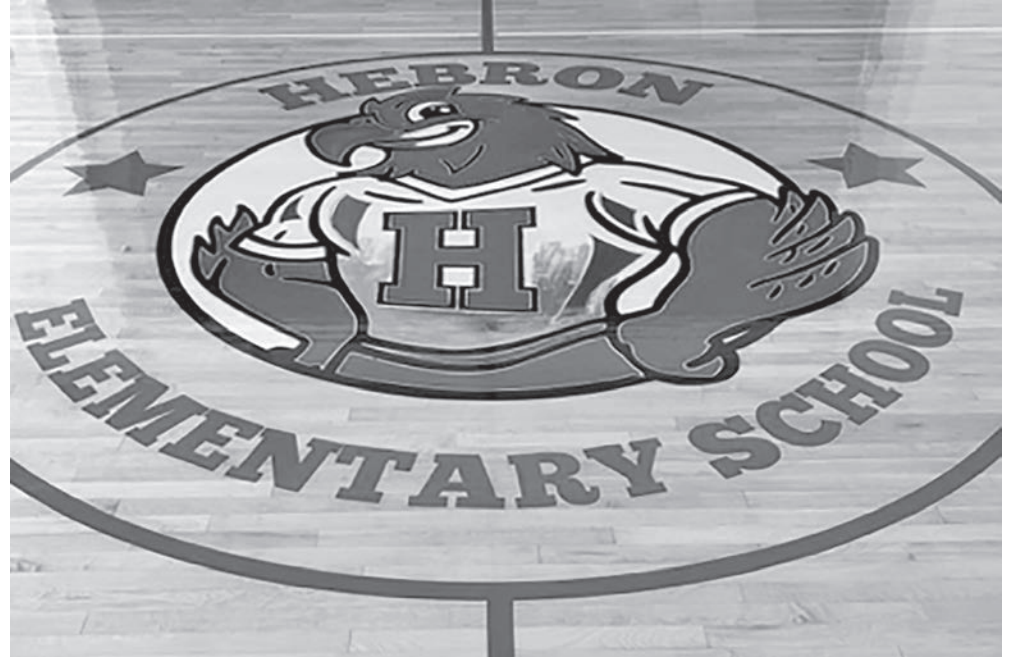
“We will still have our STEAM programming, with some shifts of team members implementing this important program,” he explained.

Meanwhile, other class offerings are branching out to new age groups this year.

“At Gilead Hill School, with some creative scheduling, we are excited to be expanding our Spanish program down to Kindergarten,” Baird said.

Preparation throughout the summer remains relatively unchanged; teachers organize their rooms and get ready for a new batch of students. Administratively, there are some practices that have evolved over the years.

Baird stated that with facilities preparation,



Hebron school administrators are eager to welcome students home and show off new changes in the district – including the shiny new floors at Hebron Elementary School.

“we have invested in equipment to do more of our work in-house, like carpet cleaning, to achieve long-term savings.”

“It also allows us to schedule this work in a way that is best for us,” he added.

Naturally, Baird expressed that the schools he oversees continue to provide a friendly atmosphere for students.

When asked what makes Hebron’s learning environment unique, Baird stated that the district does an “excellent job welcoming new families and students.”

“We really personalize the transition,” he asserted.

And, he contended, the numbers back his statements up.

“As folks probably know, our population continues to grow each year and this is something we hear over and over,” Baird expressed. “When families find our schools, they are happy that have come to Hebron.”

As the school year gets underway, parents can find details and updates from the district on its website, at [www.hebron.k12.ct.us](http://www.hebron.k12.ct.us).

Prior to school beginning, the district is hosting its traditional “meet-and-greets” at both schools on Tuesday, Aug.29.

## Douglas Library News & Notes

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

**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.

**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.

## 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:

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

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

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

## Church of the Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit [holyfamilyhebron.org](http://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: **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:** sturdy adult backpacks, 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.

## 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 [hebronthistoricalsociety.org](http://hebronthistoricalsociety.org) or Facebook.

## 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.

## Managing Money: A Care-giver’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](mailto:multitasking@comcast.net) or call/text 860-539-9287.

## 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](mailto:LSteele@colebrookvillage.com) to verify the group is still meeting at the time and date listed.

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# Ground Broken on New Community Center

By Michael Sinkewicz

Last Friday, it was an event years in the making: ground was finally broken for a new Andover community center.

Local officials were joined by members of Leading Edge Construction and PegArch LLC Architecture and Design Services to shovel the first scoops of the long-awaited project. The 2,200 square-foot building will be located on School Rd., behind Town Hall, and in close proximity to the elementary school, fire department and police department.

The new facility will have a significant impact on senior citizens — offering lunches, senior programs and eventually, a new senior director.

“All of this means such a great deal to us,” said Andover Senior Coordinator Cathy Palazzi. “This is a very special day for us.”

During the ceremony, she emphasized the range of potential uses for the building, including simple activities like enjoying a cup of coffee alongside a neighbor.

Adrian Mandeville, vice-chair of the Board of Selectmen, revealed that to honor Palazzi’s 24 years of work with local seniors, the board wanted to name the community center kitchen after her — the “Palazzi Family Kitchen.”

“Everyone felt like you were the one person that made this happen because of your dedication and your efforts,” he said.

Afterwards, as Palazzi shuffled around Town Hall, organizing the rollout of a plethora of food, she expressed her gratitude for such a surreal moment.

“I thought I was going to cry,” she expressed.

Dianne Grenier — better known as Andover’s “Mrs. Merry Claus” — stated that the importance of the new building should not be understated.

“The seniors have been waiting a long time for this,” she said.

Earlier that morning, thunderstorms pelted the state — tornadoes touched down in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island — and potentially threatened the event. But the clouds parted, and sunny skies served as the backdrop of a memorable day.

“It’s a sign that this is going to be a wonderful thing,” Grenier expressed. “There’s joy in our hearts. It’s everything that we’ve been looking for.”

She highlighted how the community center will cater to “all of Andover’s residents with a focus on the seniors.”

“It depends on what we the seniors and community make of it,” she said, adding that there will be space for outdoor activities such as bocce and volleyball. “All ages will be engaged. Every community should have one.”

Recipients honored through the new “Andover’s Finest” program — who demonstrate a strong commitment to the community — will have their name engraved on a brick that will be added to the walkway leading to the community center.

By Michael Sinkewicz

As Andover Elementary School prepares to welcome students back next Wednesday, Aug. 30, district leaders highlighted numerous upgrades and initiatives that will set up a successful year 35 School Rd.

“We get super excited about all of it,” Andover Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau expressed.

This week, Bruneau provided a tour of the school and grounds for the Rivereast, showcasing everything from freshly decorated classrooms to new banners lining the parking lot, welcoming visitors with the motto “where friends become family.”

Some previous changes are being cemented this year — a 2-3 grade combination class is once again being offered, if parents choose to opt-in. Upwards of 60 new iPads were acquired, contributing to a technology transition that will take a few more years to fully complete.

Classes for grades 4-6 are pretty big by Andover standards — one is even 25 students, according to Bruneau.

A fifth-grade classroom looked ready for action — desks were arranged neatly with stacks of materials on top. That particular room was utilized for the Connecticut’s Kid Governor program, which allows students from across the state to learn about civic engagement together. Last year, an Andover student was elected to a state cabinet position.

It’s also the grade level where students begin certain training, including CPR.

“Fifth grade is probably where we really start to do a lot of civic and community minded stuff with them; that’s where we ramp it up,” Bruneau said.

“Things are happening in Andover,” Grenier proclaimed.

State leaders briefly addressed the crowd, spotlighting those who made the groundbreaking possible.

“This is happening today because of your hard work,” said state Sen. MD Rahman (D-4), who represents Andover.

As residents enjoyed the festivities, he gestured to the crowded room.

“This is important,” he told the Rivereast. “This is not just a building. This place is going to bring people together and create lifelong friendships.”

He added, “It makes me so happy having all these people come together.”

State Rep Steve Weir (R-55) expressed that a successful community center can have a positive affect on a town for years to come.

He told the gathered residents he hopes the new facility “becomes the heart of your community.”

“Congratulations on getting it to this point,” he added.

Ed Sarisley, chairman of the Community Senior Center Building Committee, taught construction management and civil engineering at Central Connecticut State University for 30 years.

“This is a great way to help the community and allow me to use my skills and knowledge,” he said. “I’m glad I was able to do my small part in this very important project that has been on the books for four decades.”

He explained that every 10 years, the Planning and Zoning Commission implements a Plan of Conservation Development, and the need for a community center has endured for generations.

Sarisley worked with a long-term planning committee before serving as chairman of the building committee for the last for years. He expressed that the goal was always to combine a community center with senior services.

“For four decades, the community has recognized that it needs both,” he said. “However, we’re a very small town with only 3,000 people. We had to have a combination building, which a lot of small towns do.”

Designing the facility wasn’t easy, he continued. Some aspects had to be reworked to accommodate the location.

“It was a challenge because the site has its constraints but it also has opportunities,” he said, explaining that a slope in the back allows for a walkout basement, which will lead to a patio. “There is plenty of room here for outdoor lawn activities, so it’ll be sort of a backyard.”

The building itself is relatively small, he expressed, but the committee considered several factors, including funding sources. The town’s target is to keep the construction budget under \$1 million.

“The budget was always a driving factor so



State and local officials gathered last week to finally break ground on a new community center.

the town would accept the idea of spending money on it,” Sarisley stated. “We didn’t want to be too extravagant.”

Residents can donate items and contribute to the new building — most furnishings won’t be in the design.

“We’re going to need help in getting nice things,” he expressed. “We’re not going to spend town money on that.”

Town Administrator Eric Anderson stated that the town had been putting money aside in a multi-use building fund for around five years, creating a “nest egg.” When the ARPA funding came through, the selectmen opted to utilize that money for one large project.

The selectmen determined, according to Anderson, that “what we really need the most is to really get off the dime and fund the community center.”

“They agreed to put 100% of the ARPA funds into the construction of the community center, and that is basically the preliminary budget,” he said.

Basically, the initial construction, or the structure of the building, will be covered by the \$1 million the town possesses.

“There’s going to be some things we do to it later and we’re working very hard to keep the total project cost under \$1 million,” Anderson expressed. “There will be some things that are left out initially that will be done after initial construction. We also have a lot of members of the community who have indicated they’re interested in donating things to it.”

The upside, however, is that there won’t be bonding or a mill rate increase, he said.

In 2018, the town launched a longterm planning committee to look at the community and see what the focus and priorities should be moving forward. Included in that initiative was a survey that was distributed, which was completed by about 15-20% of households, Ander-

son said.

“There were a couple of things where the public was definitely in favor of doing something,” he explained, one of the them being a new facility. “The objective was clear: a community center for everybody but with a strong emphasis on senior needs and senior issues.”

A majority of people wanted the building in the municipal complex and that’s essentially what the town executed. The next steps involved putting together a building committee, who came up with a preliminary concept, then hiring an architect and a civil engineering firm to confirm that the idea was feasible.

Jed Larson, chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, stated that there were hurdles from a planning perspective.

“The challenge there was, we discovered that this is a residential district and we had no regulations that allowed building a municipal building in a residential district,” he said, adding that other buildings in the area, such as Town Hall, were seemingly encroaching on the regulation, as well.

Ultimately, the necessary modifications were completed.

“We had to allow building a municipal building within the residential district,” he said. “It made legitimate the other buildings that we had here.”

With that work complete, Larson is also enjoying the progress being made.

“We’ve been looking for a nice senior center for a long time,” he expressed.

The goal, he added, is “keeping the seniors engaged.”

“Andover has an older senior population than a lot of the surrounding towns,” she said, “and trying to keep them actively engaged and fighting the isolationism is a big thing today and we’re looking to have this be a centerpiece of doing that.”

## Andover Welcomes Students Back

By Michael Sinkewicz

As Andover Elementary School prepares to welcome students back next Wednesday, Aug. 30, district leaders highlighted numerous upgrades and initiatives that will set up a successful year 35 School Rd.

“We get super excited about all of it,” Andover Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau expressed.

This week, Bruneau provided a tour of the school and grounds for the Rivereast, showcasing everything from freshly decorated classrooms to new banners lining the parking lot, welcoming visitors with the motto “where friends become family.”

Some previous changes are being cemented this year — a 2-3 grade combination class is once again being offered, if parents choose to opt-in. Upwards of 60 new iPads were acquired, contributing to a technology transition that will take a few more years to fully complete.

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It’s also the grade level where students begin certain training, including CPR.

“Fifth grade is probably where we really start to do a lot of civic and community minded stuff with them; that’s where we ramp it up,” Bruneau said.

She explained how summer preparation was evolved for schools, emphasizing that emotional regulation is now at the forefront of the administrative thought process, something that wasn’t as prevalent 10 years ago.

“People did not have to add that to their planning process,” she said. “They made sure they had enough books; they planned curriculum; they cleaned and waxed the floors.”

This summer, Andover landed a significant grant that targeted mental health support.

In total, the district will receive \$118,125 dispersed over the 2024, 2025 and 2026 academic years. The funding will be utilized for the district’s school psychologist, who currently works on a part-time basis, typically 14 hours a school week. Now, that position will be expanded to at least three days a week.

Faculty are working on a new sensory room that will be “very useful for students with needs.”

While the final touches are still being completed, the room will include a Lego wall and a swing, amongst other features — “Any kind of tactile experience that’s calming,” expressed Taylor Parker, the school’s principal, who spearheaded the summer project.

The initiative builds upon the success of a sensory wall in the cafeteria, which has been extremely beneficial, she said.

The layout of the preschool and kindergarten rooms are noticeably different than the other wings. Each space is unique, with certain areas catering to individual students.

“You can teach them that not everybody needs the same thing but everyone is going to get what they need,” Bruneau said. “When lessons like that

are taught to kids very early on, they get it.”

Most neighboring preschools have NAEYC accreditation, but Andover is also going through the same accreditation process for kindergarten, which isn’t as universal. Through guidelines provided by the Office of Early Childhood, “we have agreed that we will submit ourselves to a certain set of criteria and evaluations.”

“It’s a higher caliber,” she said.

Converting to the new standards isn’t easy or instantaneous either. From new curriculum to furniture, lofty changes had to be implemented in each room.

“It’s an investment,” Bruneau explained.

There’s a new math program being launched throughout the school— illustrative mathematics. The district applied for a waiver for its reading curriculum, but hasn’t heard if it was approved.

“We do feel that ours is appropriate,” she said, adding that the district would like to continue with its current practices, but will purchase a new program — aligned with the new state guidelines — if necessary.

Outside, upgrades have allowed some areas, such as the sandbox, to be ADA accessible. Bruneau established a long-term goal of making all of the grounds accessible, as well. A gaga ball pit that was obtained through a summer grant will remain for the school year, a welcomed addition for students.

During the tour, Bruneau displayed a level of enthusiasm that even energetic children would struggle to match. With less than a week until school, it’s hard not to be excited, especially after a successful and prosperous year for Andover.

“We wear a lot of hats,” she said. “I’m a small-town superintendent and especially when you don’t have a central office, I would say that’s what I make number one around this time of the year — is making sure that we can absolutely fund things.”

She added, “I’m very cognizant of that in a small town, the number one concern from people is financial.”

When Parker conducts an assessment of her needs, and determines that she needs a sensory room — “my job is to make it happen.”

“My job is to support her, then the [Board of Education’s] job is to support me,” Bruneau said. “And right now, I think that chain here — we just have no more kinks in it. The board does a fantastic job at supporting me, I’m very grateful of that. I could not ask for a better board. I try and do the same thing for Taylor.”

Top to bottom, the system has been working in Andover, she contended.

“We make it look easy, but it’s not,” she said.

Parker is entering her second year in the district and her impact cannot be understated, Bruneau expressed. Academically, the district saw gains in its SBAC test scores from the previous year.

“She brings a unity to the building,” Bruneau said, adding that the halls were not necessarily toxic before her arrival, but Parker’s “philosophy and her leadership quality is that she is about creating a whole leadership team within the building.”

She continued, “Everybody steps up to the plate because they want to. She was able to do

See Andover Welcomes Students, page 30

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**\* Andover Welcomes Students, cont. from page 29**

that and that was something we were missing. She's also very instrumental in strengthening curriculum." Parker's tenure so far — "It's been phenomenal," Bruneau asserted. What is Parker most excited about heading into the school year? "We have a very, very high-quality staff, just highly skilled teachers, paras, really all the positions," she said. A lot of effort and planning went into post-COVID strategies and initiatives, which will finally come to fruition. "This is the year we get to do the next steps," Parker said. "We have all these things we're excited about. We're excited about putting it into action." Communication between the district and parents will be done through Seesaw, an appli-

cation that will serve as a learning platform and a social media platform. It operates similarly to a text-message, allowing Parker to do whole-school announcements. Students can also complete work through the platform and connect with parents, who can comment and react to what their children submit. On the first day of school, guest speakers — including school board members — will read to students. In September, the district will host an open house for parents; a school calendar was sent out. This year, there will be full-school invention convention. Previously, it had only been open to grades 4-6. With 209 students enrolled, attendance is on the rise, Bruneau said. Demand for preschool openings is high, and long-term projections for the district are optimistic.

**Congregational Church News**

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email [andoverctchurch@gmail.com](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://www.andoverctchurch.org). **Food Pantry:** Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring

your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m. **AA Meetings:** Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m. **Sunshine Stampers:** Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. **Tag Sale:** Saturday, Sept. 16; watch for more details.

**Senior Citizen News**

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 medical appointments. 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 info. For all senior events and info, visit the senior page, town website, and [andoverct.org](http://andoverct.org). **Shopping Dates:** Willimantic: 8/29. **Senior Trips:** Goshen Wildlife, 8/31. Sign up with Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2. **Rides to Food Pantry:** The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. and Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry — all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church .

**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](http://andoverct.org) or in the town clerk's office.

**Fire Department Hosting Food Drive**

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a food drive to benefit the Andover Food Pantry. The pantry is in need of the following items: pasta, pasta sauce, mac and cheese, tuna, canned chicken, cereal, oatmeal, salad dressing, condiments, canned fruit, applesauce, juice, baking goods such as cake mixes, etc., and pet food. Bring your donations to the fire department at 11 School Rd. on Saturday, Sept. 2, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monetary contributions are also welcome; make checks payable to Andover Food Pantry.

**Tag Sale Fundraiser**

A tag sale fundraiser for the town's senior luncheon program will be held at Town Hall, 17 School Rd., on Saturday, Aug. 26, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The sale will feature new clothing and shoes never worn, barely used items, glassware, toys, Crockpots and Instant Pots like new, and more. All proceeds will support the senior luncheon program. Call Cathy Palazzi for information 860-916-6122.

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**Information on Free, Reduced-Price School Meals**

Area public schools have announced their policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), or free milk served under the Special Milk Program (SMP). Note: For the 2023-24 school year, students enrolled in a school participating in the SPB will be able to receive one school breakfast meal per school day free of charge. Additionally, all students eligible for reduced-price school meals enrolled in schools participating in the NSLP will be able to receive a lunch meal free of charge. Local school officials have adopted the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for family size and income criteria for determining eligibility. The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, for determining eligibility of participants for free and reduced-price meals and free milk in the Child Nutrition Programs.

Application forms for all other households require a statement of total household income, household size and names of all household members. The last four digits of the Social Security number of an adult household member must be included or a statement that the household member does not have one. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information provided is correct. Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals, the school system's food service director or determining official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If they wish to make a formal appeal, a request for hearing, either orally or in writing, may be made to:

**Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024\***

Free meals						Reduced-price meals					
Household size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income	Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	18,954	1,580	790	729	365	1	26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519
2	25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493	2	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702
3	32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622	3	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885
4	39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750	4	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068
5	45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879	5	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251
6	52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007	6	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434
7	59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136	7	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616
8	65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264	8	93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799
Each additional family member	+ 6,682	+ 557	+ 279	+ 257	+ 129	Each additional family member	+ 9,509	+ 793	+ 397	+ 366	+ 183

- For Marlborough, Dan White at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447;
- For East Hampton, Karen Asetta, 1 Community Drive, Suite 1, East Hampton, CT 06424, or 860-365-4000 or [kasetta@easthamptonct.org](mailto:kasetta@easthamptonct.org);
- For the RHAM school district, Superintendent of School Colin McNamara, Region 8 School District, 85 Wall St., Hebron, CT 06248, or [colin.mcnamara@rhamschools.org](mailto:colin.mcnamara@rhamschools.org) or 860-228-2115;
- For Colchester, Dr. Charles Hewes, Assistant Superintendent, 127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 202, Colchester CT 06415 or 860-537-7208;
- For Portland, Dr. Charles Britton, 33 East Main St., Portland, CT 06480, or 860-342-6790 or [cbritton@portlandct.us](mailto:cbritton@portlandct.us);
- For Hebron, Kaitlyn Shelar at 860-228-2577 or [kshelar@hebron.k12.ct.us](mailto:kshelar@hebron.k12.ct.us);
- For Andover, Superintendent Valerie Bruneau at [bruneauv@andoverelementaryct.org](mailto:bruneauv@andoverelementaryct.org).

The income calculations above are based on the following formulas: monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12; twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24; income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52. All numbers are rounded up to the next whole dollar. If a student is not directly certified, the household should complete a free and reduced-price meal application form. The application for the SNAP or TFA households require the SNAP or TFA case number and the households may be asked to provide proof of the SNAP or TFA case number. The signature of an adult household member is also required. Students in households participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application or contact the determining official for more information. When known to the district/school, households will be notified of any student's eligibility for free meals if the individual student is Other Source Categorically Eligible because the student is categorized as either: homeless; runaway as defined by law and determined by the district's or school's homeless liaison; or enrolled in an eligible Head Start or pre-kindergarten class as defined by law. Households with students who are categorically eligible under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs should complete an application and check off the relevant box. Questions should be directed to the determining official. For any student not listed on the eligibility notice, the households should contact the school or determining official about any student also eligible under one of these programs or should submit an income application for the other students. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the determining official or school if it chooses to decline the free meal benefits. If households/students are not notified by the district/school of their free meal benefits and they receive benefits under qualifying public assistance programs or under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs, the parent/guardian should contact the determining official or their school. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are categorically eligible for free meals. A foster parent does not have to complete a free/reduced meal application if they can submit a copy of the legal document or legal court order showing that the student is a foster child. Additionally, a foster child may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving free school meals. Note however, that a foster child's eligibility for free school meals does not automatically extend to all students in the household.

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to the determining official for the particular school system. In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete Form AD-3027, a USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling 866-632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the assistant secretary for civil rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410); fax: (833-256-1665 or 202-690-7442); or email ([program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)).

**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](mailto:salmonriverct@att.net) or [info@eightmileriver.org](mailto:info@eightmileriver.org).

# Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



**Cousins in Casco Bay...** Cousins Connor, Zoey, Jackson and Kaelyn are here with the *Rivereast* in the Casco Bay region (in front of Fort Gorges) of Portland, Maine.



**Caronnas See the Cliffs...** Jim and Cheryl Caronna of Colchester visited the Cliffs of Moher on their recent trip through Ireland and Scotland. The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Caronna has lived in Colchester her whole life, and Jim has been a resident of Colchester for over 30 years.



**Hey There, it's Yogi Bear!**... Brian and Mindy Johnston of Hebron, their three children with their spouses, and their eight grandchildren including their four newest grandsons who were meeting their relatives for the first time, all get together after five years for a family reunion at the Yogi Bear Campground in Bostic, N.C.



**Alaskan Adventures...** David and Teresa Olio of Amston recently took a vacation to Alaska. They're shown here – with the *Rivereast*, of course! – hiking a flat mountain top in Anchorage. This was the start of vacation. After Anchorage, the Olios went on a cruise to the inlet from Seward to Icy Strait Point, Juneau, Ketchikan and Skagway. Then, they landed in Vancouver, British Columbia, and spent two days there.

## Where in the World?

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

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**Obituaries**

**Portland**

**Lawrence N. Ackley**

The family of Larry Ackley, husband of Joan (Snyder) Ackley, of Portland, announce his peaceful death at home the evening of Thursday, Aug. 17. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Joseph and Anna (Secor) Ackley, on Nov. 3, 1926, and was the last survivor of 11 siblings. He was a graduate of Manhattan High School of Aviation. Surviving him is Joan, his wife of 72 years.



Larry and Joan were married on Feb. 3, 1951, and set up their home in Syosset, N.Y., where they lived until 1997. Here they raised their six children: Michael (Margaret) Ackley, Beth Rocco, Peter (Deb) Morse-Ackley, Mary Looney (deceased 2022), John (Laura) Ackley and Margaret Ackley. Also left behind are 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Close family members Mike Looney and Joan Ackley Tata have always been supportive.

In his younger days, Larry first followed his father and brothers into the printing industry in New York City, followed by work as a chemical and lacquer salesman. He last worked as a tool and die maker. Other activities included baseball coach, schoolyard monitor, and numerous yard activities, lasting even into his 90s.

Larry and Joan moved to Portland in 1997, after his retirement, to be closer to family. Larry loved to visit various town people, always ready with a new joke. He loved chatting outside with his neighbors. He had a lifelong interest in golf and horseracing; he loved desserts! In later years he enjoyed reading, old movies, and game shows on TV.

There will be no wake, but a service is planned at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, Saturday, Aug. 26, at 11 a.m. Reception, for all, to follow at the church. The family requests donations to St. Jude Children's Hospital or a charity of your choice.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

**Portland**

**Nicholas Pini**

Nicholas Pini, 79, of Portland, passed away Monday, Aug. 14, in Middlesex Hospital, with his family by his side. He was born July 11, 1944, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to the late Nicholas and Delia Pini. In 1957, the family emigrated to the United States, settling in Baltimore, Md.

After graduating high school, Nick joined the U.S. Army and served three years in the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry. His first marriage produced two sons, Alexander and James.

In 1977 he married Mary Lou Bagadinski, and they resided in Portland with their children Dale and David Benoit. Nick spent time coaching Little League, announcing football games, and projects around the house. He was a long-time employee of Standard Knapp, as a packaging engineer, designing equipment to package goods for shipments. He retired in 2018. Nick supported the Green Bay Packers and was thrilled when Argentina won the World Cup in 2022!

Nick is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary Lou; his children, Alexander and his wife Kim, of Ocala, Fla., and James and his wife Michelle

of Middletown; Dale and his wife Terri, and David, both of Portland. Nick is also survived by his brother, Eduardo (Eddie) and his wife, Jane. Nick loved being a grandparent and will be remembered by his many grandchildren: Kate, Nick, Josh, Kyle, Shelby, Hana, Mia, Nick, Sophia, Layla, and Jameson.

Calling hours to honor Nick will be held at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Friday, Aug. 25, from 5-7 p.m. Burial with military honors will be held at the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown, on Saturday, Aug. 26, at 10 a.m.

It is not necessary to provide flowers or gifts for the services; however, if you wish to contribute, please consider supporting Nick's widow at the following: Nick Pini Memorial Fund on GoFundMe: [gofund.me/d8c32c29](https://www.gofundme.com/d8c32c29).

**Hebron**

**Dr. John Francis Pickett**

John Francis Pickett, DMD, 74, passed away peacefully at his home Tuesday, Aug. 15, with his loving wife and daughters by his side.



John was born June 2, 1949, son of the late John Pickett and Evelyn (Gallagher) Pickett. He was raised in a large and loving Irish family. His childhood was spent on the playgrounds of New York, and enjoyed his summers with his cousins and family on the beaches of Breezy Point, N.Y.

John was fascinated by science and early on was a Respiratory Therapist at Bellevue Hospital. His love of science ultimately led him to UConn Dental School where he earned his dental degree. In 1985 he opened a solo dental practice in Hebron and with his assistant Lucy Sobielo, provided very personal dental care to all of his patients. He was one of a kind.

While in dental school he met his future wife, Arlene Kerlin, who was a medical student. Good fortune brought them together as lab partners and they went on to share 43 years together. They settled in Hebron, where they raised their two daughters, Katherine and Jacqueline.

In 2011 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He met the challenges of the disease with grace, strength and positivity. He retired early due to his illness but his early retirement allowed him to pursue his great love of literature. He set a goal of reading "The 100 Greatest Novels of All Time" and was proud when he met this goal. He was a music enthusiast and enjoyed a wide range of genres including The Beach Boys, Prince, Rolling Stones, bluegrass and jazz. He was also a natural born dancer and all eyes were on John when he was on the dance floor.

He led by example, showing his family what it means to live a life of purpose, and the importance of leaving the world a little bit better.

John is survived by his loving wife, Arlene Kerlin; his devoted daughters, Katherine (Pickett) Vogel, Jacqueline (Pickett) Hills, and her husband Aaron. He was Papa to Elizabeth "Elle" Vogel, John "Jack" Hills, and Madison "Maddie" Hills. He was the older brother to his three sisters who he adored, Geri Tanner, Joan Pickett and Carol Pickett. He is survived by many cherished cousins, nephews, and nieces.

There was a celebration of the life of John Pickett this Tuesday, Aug. 22, at The North House, 1 Nod Rd., Avon.

Donations can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Please visit John's Book of Memories at [www.vincentfuneralhome.com](http://www.vincentfuneralhome.com) for online tributes.

**Salem**

**Wayne H. Scott**

Wayne H. Scott of Salem passed away peacefully while on vacation with his beloved family.



Born in Montreal, Canada, on Aug. 5, 1964, he was the eldest son of Lorraine (Graver) Scott and the late Walter H. Scott of Enosburg Falls, Vt. After high school, Wayne had the privilege to travel due to his father's career with Air Canada. He flew west and worked at the ski resorts in Colorado and later in Vermont where he also became a licensed arborist. Eventually settling in Salem, he started his career in construction working for his soon-to-be best friend Marc.

He formed his own company, East Coast Contractors LLC, and after a few years with the guidance of his good friends, Dennis and Joe, he joined the CT Carpenters Union Local 24, currently Local 326. Wayne was extremely proud to be a union brother. He took great pride in his work, his pledge and the rules. He was dedicated to helping other members learn the trade and learn their rights, making many great friends over his 30-plus year career.

Wayne always said he was born after his time. His passion for picking and collecting brought him much joy and his wife much disdain! He was extremely proud of his home, Cripple Creek, which he built for his family and loved to have his family and friends for visits and celebrations. He was a man of all seasons and had a desire to be self-sufficient; a gardener, fisherman, hunter, logger, and farmer. He had a thirst for knowledge, enjoyed writing and always had a book nearby and his music playing!

Wayne was fascinated by controversy, politics and was always prepared for a good debate with

anyone he could engage to take the challenge.

Wayne met his wife of 24 years, Rebecca, daughter of Ernest and Carolyn Collier of Warwick, R.I., while moored on a boat in the Old Harbor of Block Island, R.I. They were married a couple years later at the North Lighthouse and returned often throughout their life together. Wayne passed in his sleep on the west side of the island overlooking the BI Sound. The end of his story could not have been written any better... his favorite place with loved ones near.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two greatest accomplishments, his treasured daughters, Emily Daisy and Jaime Delaney Scott; his loyal brothers, Robert Scott (Kathy) and Michael Scott (Jacqui); several nephews and nieces, Tyler (Kayleigh), Thomas (Taylor) and Shannon Scott; Robert (Alexandria) and Hayley Fraser; Katherine and Lily McLaughlin and two great nieces, Mya and Rylee Fraser, all of whom he loved very much.

**Portland**

**Bruce McLellan Celebration of Life**

A Celebration of Life Picnic is set to take place Sunday, Aug. 27, from 2-6 p.m., at the Portland Riverfront Park, in memory of Bruce McLellan, who passed away suddenly Wednesday, July 12.



The family of Bruce's would like to invite friends of his to come and enjoy food and music that Bruce loved and share fond memories of him. Please bring your own cooler with your favorite beverage, water will be provided.

This is a rain or shine event. Please contact Deb McLellan for any further questions, at 860-301-3487.

**Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover**

**★ Headed to Hall of Fame., cont. from page 1**

who grew up with a learning disability and was the target of bullies as a child, moving elementary schools three times.

"Because of my dyslexia, I was always the perfect target for any bully, so I got in a lot of fights growing up," remembered Grano. "My dad always told me, 'Don't start a fight, [but] always finish it.'"

With bullying being one of the reasons why suicide rates and depressions among youth are on the rise, Grano said he always stuck up for the kids less fortunate than him because he was once in their shoes and believes that the skills and values of boxing are the perfect antidote.

Grano said that boxing helped him personally with his confidence, discipline, determination and focus.

"You name it, [boxing] can help you with every aspect of your life," added Grano. "If you want more confidence in every aspect of your life, pick up boxing, because you are working every muscle in your body and working your mind, the biggest muscle. That's the byproduct of getting in shape and learning to defend yourself at the same time."

Despite not having a professional fight in a

decade and having multiple surgeries – including having his jaw busted and wired shut as an amateur – Grano said that he is not ready to hang up the gloves just yet.

"I haven't officially retired," stated Grano, who has challenged social media personality-turned professional boxer Jake Paul to a bout on several occasions. "I don't think he even got word that I was calling him out, but hopefully after this induction we can get some more notoriety."

Whether a Grano vs. Paul duel ever comes to fruition, the now-42-year-old said that being inducted into the Hall of Fame is an honor he embraces.

"It's going to be a good night and I expect to have a lot of my family, friends, and fans there to show their support," stated Grano. "I've always had a great fan base that has followed me throughout my career."

Grano will be honored Saturday, Nov. 18, at Mohegan Sun. Among the other honorees will be fellow Hebron native Mark Allen Baker, who is getting inducted for his accomplishments as a boxing journalist.

Boxers Shelly Vincent, Matt Remillard, and Tarvis Simms, along with promotor Art Pellulo will also be inducted.

For more information, visit [ctboxinghof.com](http://ctboxinghof.com) or to contact Grano, follow him on Instagram @ [tntgranoboxing](https://www.instagram.com/tntgranoboxing) or on Facebook.

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★ **Letters cont. from page 9**

hard to bring a School Resource Officer to our elementary school and have strived to address Marlborough's many other needs, while keeping costs under control.

A lot that goes on behind the scenes when it comes to running our town and ensuring that our school system provides the best services for our kids. I, and others on or Independent Party ticket, are committed to being your eyes and ears as elected officials on our Boards and Commissions.

To learn more about the Independent Party, please visit our web site at [www.marliparty.com](http://www.marliparty.com) and by following us on our Facebook page by searching for Independent Party Slate Committee of Marlborough.

This year you will have a third choice when it comes to selecting those who will be serving you. I want to thank you for your past support and trust that I, and my fellow candidates, will earn your support on Nov. 7.

**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough  
IPSC Candidate for Board of Finance**

*Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

**Long Overdue**

To the Editor:

I am thankful that the Board of Selectmen was able (after a 3 ½ hour meeting) to issue a resolution to forward the \$1.5 million referendum to the Board of Finance to authorize a \$1.5 million referendum to the town for the Senior Center completion and return the referendum approval to the Board of Selectmen to set the earliest date possible to hold a town meeting to authorize sending the referendum to a town vote.

I am sure that our first selectman and the Board of Selectmen are anxious to move this referendum for the Colchester Senior Center to a town vote.

The completion of Colchester's Senior Center is long overdue and it should be completed and operational as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to participating in some of these types of conversations in the future.

**Cliff O'Donal – Colchester  
Candidate for the Board of Selectmen**

**Community Cares**

To the Editor:

I am a member of East Hampton's Commission on Aging (EHCOA). We are working to get help for people in our town – seniors over 70 years old and people who are disabled over 18 years old. Through a program called UR Community Cares, people sign up to volunteer to help; and others sign up who need help. The kind of help volunteers can provide includes rides to medical appointments, help with housework, help with yardwork, and companionship. EHCOA has raised enough money so far for over 50 people to sign up. There is no charge to sign up as a volunteer or as someone who needs help.

Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 2:30 p.m., in the senior center; or at 6:30 p.m. in the library. There you can find out more about this great program and get any questions you have answered. You can also check out their website for more information, at [urcommunitycares.org](http://urcommunitycares.org).

Please tell your friends and family and any groups you are in that would be interested in joining in this effort. All are welcome Sept. 13.

**Thank you,  
Shelley Grendzinski, member  
East Hampton Commission on Aging**

**Discover East Hampton  
Community Cares**

Dear Editor:

I discovered UR Community Cares from a friend who is involved in senior issues and aging at home issues. Many seniors and disabled people deal with these concerns. I was very impressed with what I read on their website and signed up. I shared the information I had discovered with a member of the East Hampton Commission on Aging. The Commission checked it out and also was very impressed with all the group had to offer.

I am so glad they got involved with UR Community Cares. They started running with it, developed outreach to other groups in town to get involved, and developed a whole program for East Hampton including a kickoff presentation in town coming soon. Through their outreach they are raising money for people to sign up so there is no charge and are getting other groups in town to join in getting the help seniors and disabled folks need. They have done and con-

tinued to do such a good job, I joined the commission so I could help in their work.

I know this program will be a success because there are so many caring people in East Hampton. You've seen the articles and letters telling about all that's going on. Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 2:30 p.m. in the senior center and/or 6:30 p.m. in the library. Look for more info on posters around town and in the *Riverest*. Check out [urcommunitycares.org](http://urcommunitycares.org) for more information.

**See you Sept. 13,  
Beth Angel  
East Hampton Commission on Aging  
East Hampton**

**Colchester Senior Center**

To the Editor:

In November of 2020, I moved to Connecticut from North Carolina. Circumstances beyond my control impelled me to leave a state I loved.

Despite moving here during the pandemic, the Colchester Senior Center was and remains a blessing and a saving grace for me. CSC, led by its excellent and dedicated director, Patty Watts, is welcoming and extremely well-run. Jodi Savage, program director, and all the staff are also dedicated, hard-working; often going above and beyond in assisting the many seniors who frequent the facility. The many and varied programs available for seniors are too numerous to elaborate.

CSC is an important and integral part of this lovely small town of Colchester. The citizens have every right to be proud of the Colchester Senior Center! Now enrollment and participation has grown so large that a new senior center needed to be built. The citizens of Colchester approved by a large margin a referendum to commence the building of a new larger senior center.

Unfortunately, inflation reared its ugly head; so much so that the original projected and referendum-approved cost for the new senior center has proven to be insufficient.

I urge the citizens of Colchester to vote 'yes' on the upcoming referendum, enabling the new Senior Center to be completed.

**Antoinette Sirois – Colchester**

**'Their' New Center?**

To the Editor:

I keep hearing how some citizens want to get seniors "their" new senior center. I wonder why it is said that way. It is not the seniors who are getting a senior center it is the Town of Colchester who is getting a new senior center.

When my husband and I were buying our first house we looked for a town that had a great school system for our children. As I got older and was moving, I wanted to purchase a new home in a town with a great school system, resources to support the tax base, excellent fire and ambulance squads, a dedicated police department, a local bakery and small-town grocery store, and an active senior center where I could continue my education, stay fit and enjoy the company of others my age.

Colchester ticked most of those boxes. What it was missing was a senior center building the town could be proud of. The present building is old and run down. It still had a good reputation, and the town was in the process of voting for a new senior center which would only improve it.

Does a new building cost money? Of course - but so did each school building, new fire truck, the renovated town green, and Pickle Ball courts. Does a town need all these different buildings and offerings – it most certainly does if it wants to attract new citizens, home developers, and businesses. You aren't just building this new senior center building for seniors; you are building it for Colchester. The new senior center is for all of you to be proud of. Please support the referendum and vote 'yes' to give Colchester a completed new Senior Center that all Colchester citizens can be proud of!

**Nancy Nelson – Colchester**

**The False Narrative**

To the Editor:

The Democratic candidate for first selectman, and his underticket, have been working hard to build their campaign on the idea of bringing Colchester together, but I reject the whole premise outright. I do not believe that Colchester is not together. To believe we are not together would be to believe that people are pulling in opposite directions, and to believe that would mean to believe that those who disagree with you are not pulling in the same direction you are. I find that position to be greatly insulting to the people of Colchester.

Do people disagree politically? Absolutely. Are they vocal about those disagreements on

social media? Yep. Does that prove Colchester is not united in the shared goal of ensuring we all prosper? Of course not. We all want Colchester to move forward and her citizens to succeed. Political disagreement should be encouraged, not blamed for the breaking down of our community.

But let's assume that our political differences are evidence that Colchester is not united; how do the Democrats propose we fix that? The only solution would be to remove the cause. How do you remove political differences? Well, lots of ways and none of them are pretty for anyone except those who get to decide what is and is not acceptable.

I am running for reelection to the Board of Selectmen. I'm not promising to unite Colchester because I don't believe we're divided. I do not believe disagreement and dissent to be divisive, but healthy and necessary. I do not believe people's interactions need to be policed to ensure some arbitrary level of "niceness." While we may disagree on approach, or the path to get there, I firmly believe we're marching in the same direction. How about we focus on that instead?

**Jason LaChapelle – Colchester  
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

**Giving Garden Thanks**

To the Editor:

The Colchester Giving Garden is very grateful for the many businesses who donated to our recent fundraiser for the garden. We had a great turnout of many folks who enjoyed a lovely summer evening at the garden and a delicious farm fresh dinner from the Farm Kitchen food truck of Cold Spring Farm. We would like to send out a big thank you to the many businesses that donated to our fundraiser and helped make the night a huge success. All of the support shown to the garden is what makes our community of Colchester a special place to live. Our sincere thanks to.....

Harry's Place, Mackey's, Country Roads Wine and Spirits of Marlborough, Wendy's of Colchester, Fornarelli's Ristorante, Colchester

Florist, AutoZone, Diamond Sparkle Car Wash, Hope Ace Hardware of Colchester, Waggin' Tails Pet Store, Colchester Pizza, Inishmor Pub of Colchester, Subway of Colchester, Big Gary's Wine and Spirits, Starbucks of Colchester, Family Pizza, Mel's Downtown Creamery, It's So Ranunculus Flowers of Marlborough, Angelo's Bakery, Relaxation Room of Cromwell, McDonald's of Colchester, Broadway Wine and Spirits, Wethersfield Travel, Gallery Cinemas, Papa Z's of Colchester, and all those who attended and supported the garden!!

**Peg Filloramo, Chairperson  
Colchester Giving Garden**

**Best Location for DPW**

To the Editor:

Now that the DPW survey is completed and published a number of individuals seem to want to build a new facility at the existing location. For a number of reasons this is a poor choice. 1, The lot has a total 19.5 acres of which only 2.15 acres are suitable. 15.65 acres are the capped landfill that cannot be built on by law. Part of the present facility is on a neighbor's property and would not be part of a new facility. 2, The DWP facility needs just over 5 acres available. 3, If the present transfer station is used where do you place a new transfer station or do you have all residents in town have private trash pickup, at their cost? 4, During construction where do you place the present salt pile? Construction will take a year or more requiring a salt pile somewhere.

Documents on the town's website state that 37 sites were looked at but only three were identified, with two rejected, the Hebron Fair Grounds and Burnt Hill Park. What are the other 34 sites and why were they rejected. The Eversource property has been suggested but it is my understanding Eversource will not discuss the issue.

From my perspective the property off John Horton Boulevard is still the best location for the DPW location.

**Louis Palshaw – Amston**

**SATURDAY AUG 26, 1-9:30 PM  
FREE ADMISSION**

**SILK CITY**

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**Your Tag Sale ad will appear in:**

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- Rivereast News Bulletin, mailed Fridays to 27,500 homes in Portland, East Hampton/Cobalt/Middle Haddam, Marlborough, Hebron/Amston, Andover and Colchester.

**Just e-mail us at [classifieds@rarereminder.com](mailto:classifieds@rarereminder.com) or call 860-563-9386.**

Deadline is every Tuesday at 10am for that week's papers.

# LEGALS

### TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ACTION NOTICE

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at their August 16, 2023 meeting:  
 Approved with Conditions: Application of Jacob Surdam, 87 Merritt Valley Road for a Special Permit to operate a Home Occupation (Landscaping Business) in an Industrial Zone in accordance with Section 4.12.A.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations. Additional information may be found on the Town of Andover's web-site ([andoverct.org](http://andoverct.org)) or at the Building and Land Use Office, 17 School Road, Andover.  
 Jim Hallisey  
 Zoning Agent

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that Motor Vehicle & Personal Property tax bills on the Grand List of October 1, 2022, are due and payable on August 16, 2023, and become delinquent after September 18, 2023. If any tax due on August 16, 2023, is not paid on or before September 18, 2023, the tax installment shall be delinquent and interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2 % per month) shall be charged dating back to the original due date of the bill. The minimum interest charge for delinquent taxes is \$2.00. Avoid waiting in long lines by using our on-line feature, return your payment by mail or use our night drop box. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before September 18, 2023, will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30 P.M. on September 18, 2023, will be deemed as paid late.**

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that Real Estate tax bills on the Grand List of October 1, 2022, are due and payable on August 1, 2023. If any tax due on August 1, 2023 is not paid on or before September 1, 2023, the tax installment shall be delinquent and interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2 % per month) shall be charged dating back to the original due date of the bill. Taxes that become delinquent after September 1, 2023 shall be charged delinquent interest for the months of August and September, 2023, or 3%. The minimum interest charge for delinquent taxes is \$2.00. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before September 1, 2023 will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30p.m. on September 1, 2023, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late.** Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector. Mail payments to the Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210. Michele Wyatt, CCMC Town of Colchester Tax Collector

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Water Pollution Control Authority Town of East Hampton September 5, 2023

The Town of East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority does hereby establish a Public Hearing in accordance with Chapter 103, Section 7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes, at 6:30 P.M. on September 5, 2023. The purpose of the hearing is to allow property owners to which charges will be levied for use of the sewer system to be heard regarding the proposed annual sewer use rates effective on October 1, 2023. A copy of the charges is on file in the Town Clerk's office and is available for inspection by the public.  
 Effective October 1, 2023 the Water Pollution Control Authority of the Town of East Hampton does hereby establish the gravity sewer user rate at \$560.00 per EDU unit and an additional \$350.00 for properties with grinder pumps maintained by the WPCA. Sewer Use charges shall be made on the basis of an October 1 through September 30 year, payable in one payment in advance on October 1 or in two equal payments on October 1 and April 1 of each year.  
 Effective October 1, 2023 the Water Pollution Control Authority of the Town of East Hampton does hereby establish the sewer connection fee for a residential single-family home at \$3,500.00 "unless otherwise established" that are connecting to the existing wastewater system "unless otherwise established". Furthermore, all other connectors will pay a multiple of the residential connection fee equivalent to their assessed Equivalent Development Unit (EDU) at the time of connection.  
 Affected property owners, electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of East Hampton, Connecticut, are invited to attend and participate in such public hearing. Information to log into the meeting will be available on the Public Hearing agenda on the WPCA webpage at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). Written comments on the amendment will be accepted via email at [sclayton@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:sclayton@easthamptonct.gov) or by mail to the East Hampton WPCA, PO Box 218, East Hampton, CT 06424.  
 Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut, this 1st day of August 2023.  
 The East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority  
 By Scott Clayton, Public Utilities Administrator

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WANTED TO BUY

**WANTED TO BUY:** All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

### MEMORIUM

**TROY & COREY:** Our hearts are empty. Love Mom, Dad and Morgan.



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# LEGALS

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Pursuant to Section 12-110 of the Connecticut General Statutes, any person claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the Assessor may appeal their assessment for motor vehicles on the October 1, 2022 Grand List to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Such appeal shall be made in person to the Board on September 14, 2023 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT. Applications can be obtained in the Assessor's Office.

### 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 23, 2023:  
 • Application #IWWC 23-11: Jeff Polhemus, 654 Route 6- Installation of a new septic leaching system and connection to the existing septic tank. New leaching system will be approximately 50-feet from an unnamed watercourse.  
 The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at [www.andoverconnecticut.org](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org).

### LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 26 No Main Street.  
**APPLICANT #Z-05-23 5 Hebron Road, SunEV Inc. (Applicant) C&G Properties LLC. (Property Owner) Zone change DCD32DCD1**  
**APPLICANT #Z-06-23 5 Hebron Road, SunEV Inc. (Applicant) C&G Properties LLC. (Property Owner) EV Café & Charging Station**  
 Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.  
 Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

### TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.  
 Application #23-01: Proposed amendment to the town of Portland Zoning Regulations: Article 7.2.3.A.1 add food truck parks to approved uses to Riverfront Overlay Zone. Application of Town of Portland.  
 Dated at Portland, CT this 23rd day of August 2023  
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
 Planning & Zoning Commission

**The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs.**

**IDENTIFY THE SIGNS**

Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life. For more information visit [IdentifyTheSigns.org](http://IdentifyTheSigns.org).

### LEGAL NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:30 PM, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:  
 1. **Petition 2023-4** Request of Joseph A. Fetta, Owner, for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 12' x 24' accessory structure (garage) to be located 10' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 20', at premise located at 277 Jagger Lane, Residence 1 District.  
 Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 22nd day of August 2023.  
 Martin Halloran, Chairperson  
**Interested persons may appear and all written communications will be received.**  
**Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on Friday, August 25, 2023 and Friday, September 1, 2023.**  
 Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

### LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with CGS 12-110 the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting to hear appeals related to the assessment of motor vehicles from the 2022 Grand List on SATURDAY, September 9, 2023 from 10:00 – 12:00 pm open to the public with deliberations starting at 12:00 noon.  
 The meeting will be at the Colchester Town Hall (127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT).  
 No appointments are necessary. Appeals will be heard on a first come, first serve basis.  
 Karen Godbout  
 BAA Chairperson

### TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the August 17th, 2023 meeting, the following actions were taken:  
**Approved with Conditions PZC Application #22-30:** Glastonbury Turnpike. Request for Special Permit Renewal of Sand and Gravel Excavation Permit to Excavate and Remove 562,000 Cubic Yards of Earth Material. Application of the Portland Aggregates LLC and property of Portland S& G LLC. Map 119, Lot 2 and 3. Zone R-25.  
 Dated at Portland, CT this 18th day of August 2023  
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
 Planning & Zoning Commission

### Town of Portland Board of Assessment Appeals Legal Notice and Agenda

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet on September 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 33 East Main St., room G3, for the sole purpose of hearing and acting on appeals for motor vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2022.  
 Applicants are encouraged to submit an Appeal Application (1 per vehicle) to the Assessor's Office by 4:30 p.m. of the posted date of the scheduled hearing. Appeal applications and information is accessible at: <https://www.portlandct.org/assessment-appeals>  
 Peter Castelli, Chairman

# EMPLOYMENT

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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 1931 Portland-Cobalt Road Portland, CT 06480

# EMPLOYMENT

**COOK WANTED:** Stop in to the Greenleaf Cafe in Hebron or call 860-228-8148.

**FT BARBER NEEDED:** in busy Hebron Barber Shop. Following not needed. Call 860-888-2428 or 203-641-7700.

**FT/PT CLEANER & BAKERS:** helper wanted. Also PT counter help, early until 2pm. Please stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery.

**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.

**PART TIME:** Person with excellent communication skills to call retail businesses. Mon-Fri. Days. \$20/hour to start plus commission. Health Insurance available. Permanent Position. Glastonbury office. 860-633-6744.

**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 860-346-5551.

**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF GLASTONBURY:** is currently advertising for a Holiday/On-Call Attendant (Hourly rate: \$15.50; time and a half on holidays). The position requires exceptional interpersonal skills, attention to detail and ability to work with older adults. The Application must be completed and is available along with the Job Description at the Main Office, 25 Riley Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033 or from our website at [www.glastha.org](http://www.glastha.org). Deadline: Until Filled. Applications will be accepted Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m at the Main Office. AA/EOE.

**WAITSTAFF NEEDED:** at Marlborough Pizza. Stop in or call 860-295-8181.

**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!



**EDUCATION: PARAEDUCATOR**  
Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for a Paraeducator for the 2023-24 school year. 5 days per week, Monday-Friday, 6.5 hrs/day. Please send a letter of interest, application, resume and references to Holly Hageman, Superintendent, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447 or email to [cmonte@marlborough.k12.ct.us](mailto:cmonte@marlborough.k12.ct.us). For application see website, [www.marlborough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marlborough.k12.ct.us). (District, Employment Opportunities, Non-Certified Application) or call 860.295.6236. EOE

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We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated person to join our team! Offering a not-your-average **FULL-TIME position!** Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! **MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, LIFE, 401K**  
Call Todd Piscatelli at 860-801-1114 or email [TPiscatelli@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:TPiscatelli@colebrookvillage.com)

**Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living**  
We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Offering not your average LPN shifts, per-diem shifts available on ALL shifts! Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401k  
Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email [CBaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:CBaker@colebrookvillage.com)

**Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) Assisted Living**  
We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Offering not your average CNA positions, ALL shifts! 7a-3p, 3p-11p, 11p-7am. Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401k  
Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email [CBaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:CBaker@colebrookvillage.com)

**ADVERTISERS**  
*The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverast News Bulletin* will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

**TOWN OF HEBRON TRUCK DRIVER / MAINTAINER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
The Town of Hebron is seeking candidates for the position of Truck Driver/Maintainer in the Public Works Department. Applicant must have a CDL Class A or B license. Must have a minimum of a High School Diploma or GED. Three years of truck driving experience including snow plowing and public works operations or an equivalent combination required. Experience should also include working with heavy trucks and heavy equipment. Applicant must be available nights and weekends during winter months. Must be able to pass a complete physical examination and pre-employment drug test. This is a bargaining unit position. Letters of interest or resumes should be mailed along with a Town of Hebron employment application to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by September 15, 2023. Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

**Seeking : FT / PT Counter Sales Rep & Drivers For Steady Truck Rental Facility.**  
Customer service & computer skills required. Other duties involved.  
Must have valid driver's license & reliable transportation. Drug screen required.  
**Call Stephanie at 860-289 -2508**

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*Not Combining Verbs*  
*Struggling to fill*

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REB-25-23

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REB-25-23

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REB-25-23

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Lic #PLM280191

**860-537-1949**

**You Deserve Better Than Factory Cut Meat!**

1. Our Butchers Cut Meat Fresh Everyday
2. Our Butchers Grind Hamburg Fresh Everyday
3. Our Butchers Pack Fresh All Natural Chicken Everyday

**Help Save The Butchers!**  
Top Quality Meat At Wholesale Prices

While Other Stores Are Busy Cutting Out Their Butchers -  
Our Butchers Are Busy Cutting Your Meat Fresh




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Wholesale Prices To The Public Effective Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

# TRUCKLOAD SALE

All Sale Items Are While Supplies Last - We Will Custom Cut And Bulk Wrap All



**You Have The Right To Know Who Ground Your Hamburger!**  
Our Ground Beef Is Ground Here - Fresh Every Day!



100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Beef Tenderloins

Consists of Filet Mignon Steak & Roast

**\$7.96** /lb.

4 - 6 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## 90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef

Not Further Processed

**\$3.97** /lb.

Sold in 9 - 10 lb Bags

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Boneless Angus Rib Eyes

Consists of Rib Eye Steak & Roast

**\$8.89** /lb.

16 - 20 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole New York Strips

New York Strip Steaks & Roasts

**\$7.85** /lb.

14 - 16 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

## Whole Boneless Pork Loins

Boneless Pork Chops & Roast

**\$2.44** /lb.

8 - 10 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Bone-In Angus Prime Rib

Steaks of Prime Rib Steak & Roast

**\$7.86** /lb.

18 - 22 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

## Whole Bone-In Pork Loins

Bone In Pork Chops & Roasts

**\$1.87** /lb.

14-20 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

## Fresh Genuine Spareribs

Consists of Spareribs & Riblets

**\$2.25** /lb.

10 - 12 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Prime Angus NY Strips

New York Strip Steaks & Roasts

**\$14.97** /lb.

12- 15 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Prime Angus Top Sirloins

Prime Angus Top Sirloin Steak & Roast

**\$6.98** /lb.

12 - 14 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Beef Eye Rounds

Consists of Eye Round Steak & Roast

**\$3.99** /lb.

5 - 8 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Boneless Top Sirloins

Boneless Sirloin Steak & Roast

**\$4.44** /lb.

14 - 19 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

## Whole Pork Tenderloins

Bob's Family Deals

**\$2.65** /lb.

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Short Loins

Porterhouse Steak

**\$6.92** /lb.

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Bottom Rounds

Round Cube Steak & Roast

**\$3.98** /lb.

Shoulder London Broil Steak

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**\$4.98** /lb.

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Beef Sirloin Tips

Consists of Sirloin Tip Steak & Roast

**\$4.47** /lb.

8 - 10 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

## Whole Top Round

Consists of Top Round Steak & Roast

**\$3.95** /lb.

20 - 25 lb. Average

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural

## 40 LB Boneless Chicken Thighs

Not Further Processed

**\$69.98** /40 lb.

Also Sold in 5lb Bag \$4.48 /lb.

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural

## 40 LB Chicken Drumsticks

Not Further Processed

**\$22.96** /40 lb.

Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$1.48 /lb.

Fresh Grade A All Natural

## 40 LB Chicken Thighs

Not Further Processed

**\$39.97** /40 lb.

Also Sold in 10lb Bags \$1.98 /lb.

Lessor Amounts \$3.99 /lb

## Jamestown Bacon

**\$10.98** /lb.

3/

Natural Casing Franks

## Deuschmacher 2.5 lb Franks

**\$9.96** /2.5 lb.

Fresh Grade A All Natural

## 40LB Party Chicken Wings

Sold In 40lb Box

**\$74.96** /40 lb.

Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$3.98 /lb.

Fresh Grade A All Natural

## 40LB Boneless Chicken Breast

Sold In 40lb Box

**\$69.99** /40lb.

Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$2.48 /lb.

Fresh All Natural

## 40 LB Chicken Leg Quarters

Not Further Processed

**\$26.92** /40lb.

Also Sold in 10lb Bags 98¢ /lb.

### HOW TO BUY A WHOLE PRIMAL

1. OUR BUTCHERS CAN HELP YOU PICK OUT WHAT YOU NEED.
2. OUR BUTCHERS CUT IT TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS.
3. WE BULK WRAP IT.
4. YOU SAVE MONEY & ENJOY.



### Bob's Super Bundle

**\$199.99**

- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Pot Roast
- 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 8 Lbs. 90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef
- 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 6 Lbs. Beef Chuck London Broil Steak
- 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 4 Lbs. Country Ribs
- 100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 8 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops
- 100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Stew Meat
- 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 10 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
- Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Drumsticks
- Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Thighs Bone In
- Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 3 Lbs. 3 - 1 lb Packages Of Bacon

Please Order 1 Day Ahead  
Available After 12 Noon

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