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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Sister Act... Abby McNickle of Portland graduated summa cum laude on May 7 from The Ohio State University, and her sister Sarah McNickle graduated May 26 as Mercy High School's 2023 salutatorian. Abby is beginning her teaching career with the Louisville Kentucky School System as a secondary English teacher. Sarah will attend Boston College to pursue a degree in psychology research. The sisters are the daughters of Sean and Michelle McNickle, and the granddaughters of John and Karen McNickle, as well as Veta and the late Bernard Fabian.

Hebron Harvest Fair Returns Next Week

By Michael Sinkewicz

Hebron's beloved Harvest Fair returns next weekend, offering its unique combination of attractions, live music and delicious food.

The four-day extravaganza spans from Thursday, Sept. 7, through Sunday, Sept. 10. Discounted admission tickets are available on the fair's website until Sept. 6: season passes are \$30; any single-day pass is \$13; carnival tickets are \$23 online. Tickets can also be bought at the gate for normal prices. On-site parking is \$5.

Thursday is "Hebron Night" and "\$2 Night," meaning that parking, admission, rides and food bites are all just \$2.

Since 1971, The Hebron Harvest Fair has expanded into one the largest fairs in the state, drawing huge crowds each year. For many, flocking to 347 Gilead St. in Hebron is the perfect — and only — way to wrap up the summer.

"People definitely see it as an annual tradition and a way to kick off the fall season," said John Johnson Jr., this year's fair superintendent.

The fair is produced by the Hebron Lions Agricultural Society, and the profits from the fair — along with the revenue generated from the Hebron Lions' most recent holiday initiative, Lights in Motion — are donated to local charities.

Between the two events, the Lions are aiming to give away \$150,000 next year.

"That makes all the hard work worth it," expressed Johnson, the former president of the Lions Club who remains active in the organization.

This will be the 52nd year the Lions have overseen the production — and the fourth time Johnson is serving as fair superintendent; he held the title from 2010-12.

How do you begin to encapsulate all the excitement of the fair?

The way Johnson described the weekend, "It's a freight train — there's no way to stop the fair and you have to take it in stride."

Let's start with food — "there's something for everyone."

Fairgoers will stumble across timeless carnival snacks: fried dough, corndogs, lamb and chicken gyros, "Piggyback" hotdogs topped with pulled pork, apple crisp, appleflappen and caramel apples and slow roasted roast beef sandwiches. After eating way too much, consider stopping by the beer and wine garden for a soothing beverage.

"That's the number one reason people come," Johnson said in reference to the seemingly endless dining choices.

Overall, there are around 200 total vendors providing a variety of food, shopping and crafts options.

For thrill seekers, Dreamland Amusements is once again supplying the rides — the most of any fair across the state. Kiddie rides will be featured as well as a roller coaster — a rare feature for a local event. You can also try your hand at carnival games.

But the entertainment doesn't stop with just the rides; there's several attractions, some are new while others are fixtures.

Johnson said a new event will be the Pork Chop Revue, where families can enjoy the "semi-acrobatic antics" of pigs.

Of course, a visit to the fair isn't complete without witnessing a pig race at "Pork Chop Downs."

Rosaire's Royal Racers includes three different breeds of pigs that compete every half hour.

See *Hebron Harvest Fair*, page 3

Freshman Lawmakers Reflect on First Session

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Connecticut General Assembly wrapped up its 2023 legislative session in June, and for some politicians, those sixth months proved to be a whirlwind experience.

This week, the *RiverEast* spoke to the three freshman legislators who serve the local communities: state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) — whose district includes Andover, Hebron and Marlborough — state Sen. MD Rahman (D-4) — who represents Andover — and state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) — who serves Colchester.

They discussed their first impressions of state government, their voting records and aspirations for the second half of their first terms.

Welcome to Hartford

After arriving in the General Assembly in January, representatives quickly realize that despite their own political and professional back-

grounds, this is an entirely new arena with a fresh set of challenges.

"It's not an easy job," said DeCaprio, who sits on the Appropriations, Transportation and Public Health committees. "I'm trying my best to absorb what I can."

In a new environment, it's important to understand the chamber and the legislative process. Weir, who is a member of the Labor, Higher Education and Housing Committees, described his approach as "being curious and asking a lot of questions."

"You go slow to move fast," he said.

Democrats have a 24-12 majority in the Senate and a 98-53 advantage in the House, along with the support of a Democratic governor.

Rahman, who is co-chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, vice chair

of the Commerce Committee and a member of the Aging, Finance, Revenue & Bonding, Public Health and Public Safety & Security Committees, expressed that he was immediately welcomed by his colleagues, creating a sense of comfort.

"Everyone loved me," he said. "Everyone accepted me and helped me."

While some legislators, including DeCaprio, flipped their district, others took over a party stronghold. Rahman's 4th district was represented by Democrat Steven Cassano since 2011; he retired at the end of his term in 2022.

Officials also have to balance their new positions with additional responsibilities. DeCaprio — whose district also encompasses his home town of Lebanon — sits on his local Board of

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RHAM Record Breaker Becomes Blue Devil

By Josh Howard

To say Max Czarnecki's senior year at RHAM High School was successful would be an understatement.

Czarnecki broke multiple track and field records during both the indoor and outdoor season, along with closing his high school career with a near record-breaking finish in the state decathlon in mid-June.

The well-rounded athlete has now taken his talents to Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) where he will compete for the Blue Devil in New Britain.

After looking around at schools out of state, including Massachusetts-based Stonehill College and Merrimack College, Czarnecki received a call from CCSU assistant coach Ryan Budd.

"I went for an official visit and knew it was the best option for me," recalled Czarnecki, who grew up in Marlborough his entire life and liked the idea of staying in his home state. "It's ideal. A lot of friends and family are still so close and can support me."

As a senior at RHAM, Czarnecki broke school records in the 55-meters, 55-meter hurdles and 300-meters during winter's outdoor season, and then set new marks in the 100 meters, 400 meters, and 300-meter hurdles during the outdoor season in the spring.

He also placed second overall in the 300-meter hurdles at the Class MM championships before competing in the 400-meter hurdles (finishing 12th overall) at the New Balance Nationals in Pennsylvania.

Czarnecki said the mid-distance hurdles are his favorite event because they blend the challenge of the hurdles with the ideal distances.

RHAM track and field head coach Olivia Mondo said that Czarnecki's versatility and tireless work ethic was a luxury for the coaching staff and noted that he was just as impressive outside of competition, calling him "an amazing student-athlete."

"Max was a true leader for our team. He was a really big inspiration for the younger athletes," stated Mondo. "A lot of our students looked up to him and tried to follow in his footsteps. It's been wonderful having him — we're definitely going to miss him."

Around the age of 10, Czarnecki was first introduced to the sport of track and field by his mother, Kimberly, who was a star jumper at Bentley University and owned the school's long jump record for over two decades.

Throughout the years, he continued to add events to his resume, capping it with his decathlon in June.

During the decathlon, Czarnecki placed top-five in three of the 10 events, including runner-up finishes in both the 100 and 400 meters. He finished sixth overall, scoring 5,474 points — just 300 points shy of the best overall mark in program history.



Max Czarnecki will compete for the track and field teams at Central Connecticut State University. The 2023 RHAM High School graduate is pictured with his mom, Kimberly, and dad, Kevin, after signing his letter of intent to CCSU in April.

He first started training for the decathlon as a sophomore with 2021 RHAM High School graduate Patrick Oatman, now a junior and pole vaulter on the track and field team at the University of Connecticut.

A year ago, as a junior, Czarnecki finished 16th overall before shooting ten spots up the leaderboard this past spring. He called training for the decathlon "a blast" because it encompasses everything that track and field has to offer.

Czarnecki also ran cross-country for three years and was part of both Power of Words and DECA Business Club at the high school.

"It's been great growing up here," stated Czarnecki, who added that he will miss the comradery with his friends at the high school. "We're all very close, everyone knows everyone."

He will continue in the business field in college, majoring in finance at CCSU as he joins his Blue Devils team that is coming off a runner-up finish at the Northeast Conference (NEC) Championship during winter's indoor season.

Czarnecki said the idea of competing at a Division I level makes him want to focus on his goals even more, adding, "I'm here to do a job. I'm excited to get to work."

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 to create a profile and register their children.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story •

* Hebron Harvest Fair, cont. from page 1

It's a fan favorite event, as fairgoers root for swine chugging around a 180ft aluminum track in an impressive seven seconds. "Pig Rooters," who are selected from the crowd as representatives of each competitor, receive free prizes if their champion wins the race.

On a similar note, the diaper dash competition will be held at the Family Edutainment Tent on Sunday at 11 a.m. One group is pooled of babies ages six-nine months; group two is for 10-18 months.

Other forms of entertainment include the Flying Cortes aerial trapeze and the Dock Dogs, where each canine will compete by jumping long distances into a pool. There are professionals, but pets can also be entered into the attraction, as well, guaranteeing fun for the whole family.

The Axe Women Loggers of Maine show is returning this year. The group consists of world champion choppers, sawyers, logrollers and axe throwers — watch out — and some are even world record holders.

Performances on both the main and courtyard stages will showcase talented musicians. Tim Cote, a local artist, will be the Sunday headliner this year, taking the stage at 3:30 p.m. Cote attended Norwich Free Academy and has traveled across New England for several years, winning local competitions.

In 2015, he auditioned for NBC's The Voice and was able to play in front of the show's judges, Blake Shelton, Christina Aguilera, Pharrell Williams and Adam Levine, in Hollywood, Calif. His music is described as a "modern country/pop sound."

But as always, there's music geared towards everyone's preferences. On Saturday, for example, The Brothers Doobie will execute a rock and roll catalog of (you guessed it) Doobie Brothers hits.

Johnson explained some notable changes for this fair, including the elimination of the demolition derby. Other motorized events are still tak-

ing place, such as tractor and truck pulls.

For those interested in livestock — which is typically everyone — there will be horse, pony and ox pulls.

The fair changes a little bit each year, Johnson said, and the Lions search for improvements. As superintendent, his job is to "lead the vision" for the event. In August, the planning ramps up.

"You just forget you have a real job," Johnson joked.

A week out from opening day, everything appears to be in good shape. Some paving at the fairgrounds still needs to be completed — it was delayed due to rain.

"We're working really hard," he asserted, adding that the Lions are trying to improve traffic issues surrounding the event. They secured the Gilead cemetery as overflow parking.

It's an all-hands-on-deck situation for the town, as officials prepare for an influx of thousands of individuals.

"We're working with the Lions to ensure a smooth fair," Town Manager Andrew Tierney said, adding that police, firefighters and medical services will all be standing by.

The fair represents an opportunity to showcase Hebron, and a flurry of street sweeping and mowing will contribute to that image.

Around 30,000 people flooded the community when Florida Georgia Line, a popular country music group, performed at a previous fair. While matching that turnout will be difficult, Johnson said last year's fair was likely the second highest-turnout ever.

The 2023 fair is dedicated to Michael Tarbell, who passed away last October; he had served as the fair superintendent just weeks earlier — his fifth term.

The tradition and legacy of the Hebron Fair endures, and promises to be a memorable weekend for all that attend.

MARGARET



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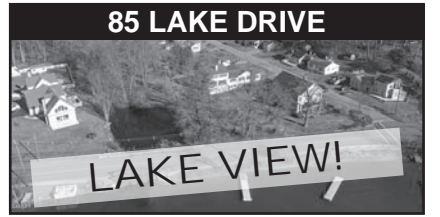
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

As my girl Taylor Swift once said, August slipped away into a moment in time, 'cause it was never mine.

Yes folks, September is here, bringing with it cooler temperatures, shorter days, and the end of a monumentally disappointing Mets season.

It also brings Labor Day. The offices of the *Rivereast* will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, but our deadlines will remain the same. As such, all submitted copy – such as letters to the editor, press releases, event listings and photo captions – **must** be sent in by noon Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Happy Labor Day from all of us at the *Rivereast*.

September, of course, also brings the start of a bevy of fall activities – and, for many families, those activities often include corn mazes.

Lyman Orchards will bring back its famous maze this month and this year, it's got a fun-sounding twist.

This year, visitors can explore the four-acre corn maze with a design inspired by the 1900 literary classic, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will com-

mence at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Saturday, Sept. 2, and coincides with the Cider Donut Festival. Opening day festivities include horse-drawn hayrides, yard games, face painting, square dancing, and more.

Each Corn Maze visitor will receive a Corn Maze Map and a Corn Maze Passport, which will feature 10 *Wonderful Wizard of Oz* trivia questions that help in choosing the right direction at the path crossroads.

The 24th annual maze takes approximately 30 to 40 minutes to complete and will be open through Nov. 5. Hours are 1-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekends and holidays. Admission is \$11 for adults and \$6 for children ages four to 12. Children under three will be admitted for free.

Lyman Orchards will donate \$1 of every admission to the American Cancer Society. Since 2000, Lyman Orchards has raised \$731,891 for the organization. Additionally, 50 cents of each ticket fee will benefit the Connecticut Cancer Foundation, which has received \$54,287 from the corn maze over the past three years.

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



A Tree Grows in Portland... The Portland Leos Club, the youth service group sponsored by the Portland Lions Club, saw a need for new trees in the Labyrinth area at Riverfront Park. They raised money from bottle returns and other events, purchased a new red oak tree, and planted it at the Portland Riverfront Park this past April 22, Earth Day. Members of the Brownstone Quorum recently met to thank the Leos and to dedicate the tree and its commemorative plaque at the park. Pictured from left are Carson Nichol, president of Leos; Dorothy Riley, secretary of Leos; Theresa Asikainen; Carol Winiski; Frank Winiski; Sue Dwyer; Tom Bransfield; Marcia Nichol, Leos advisor; Jim Landry, Sue Bransfield; Cari Klick; Jim Tripp; Reese Nichol, member of Leos; Francis Dwyer; John Thompson, vice president of Leos; and Jaxon Figueroa, member of Leos.

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Keep a Good Thing Going

To the Editor:

With the Republican primary around the corner it is essential we keep our eyes on the prize. Kerri Barella's vision for student and community safety and academic excellence is apparent in her advocacy for policies, practices, resources and tough conversations in just twenty months on the Board of Education.

There is more work to be done, and with Kerri's proven leadership and thoughtful advocacy our students will continue to thrive at MES!

Jen Barone – Marlborough

Rizza for BOS

Dear Marlborough Residents:

It happened Monday night at the All-Boards meeting in Marlborough.

There was a palpable ring of positivity, hope and team spirit in the room. To foster and carry on this forward momentum, Marlborough voters have the opportunity to add John Rizza to the Board of Selectmen come November. When

approaching issues in our town, John is dedicated to thinking clearly about addressing those needs without regard to any particular faction, but rather the welfare of the town as a whole. It is not only his nice guy manner and terrific sense of humor that make him an effective team player but also his ability to listen, to compromise when needed but always to keep the short-term and long-term well-being front and center in the decision-making process. John will prioritize his accessibility to voters.

Marlborough can count on John to bring calm and thoughtful solutions forward in the process of doing the best for Marlborough.

John and his family have lived in Marlborough and raised their three children here. During his twin sons' and daughter's time at MES and RHAM, he was a constant presence coaching, lining fields and supporting volunteer events for the schools. His volunteerism for MYAL (Marlborough Youth Athletic League) is well-remembered by the teachers and parents involved at that time. Those who are

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fortunate to know him and work with him understand how valuable he will be as a decision maker on the Board of Selectmen.

John will be around door knocking soon. Meeting him is certain to be a pleasure and bring a smile to your day.

Vote for John Rizza, Democrat, this Nov. 7; polls are open 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the elementary school.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Dunn – Marlborough**

Who's Being 'Hypocritical'?

To the Editor:

Marlborough will be holding a primary on Sept. 12. In last week's *Rivereast*, members of the new party accused the RTC of being hypocritical. Certain members of the party thought that if Louise had not run last time, Ken Hjulstrom would have won. They blamed Louise for splitting the vote and causing the RTC to lose.

Anyone who is familiar with Marlborough politics knows that nothing could be further from the truth. When they didn't get what they wanted, certain members, Ken & Sue Stolfi included, simply picked up their marbles and went off and are forming a new party. They are doing what they accused of Louise. Honestly folks, 'You can't make this stuff up!'

Few residents of Marlborough have worked harder than Louise over the years to benefit the town. On behalf of myself and many other residents, thank you, Louise.

**Richard F. Denno, unaffiliated voter
Marlborough**

Thanks, Portland

Dear Portland Residents:

The Portland High School boys' soccer team would like to give a huge thank you to our local and surrounding communities. On Saturday, Aug. 26, the boys held a team car wash at Brownstone Intermediate School from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Through the support and generosity of our local residents and friends of the program, the boys were able to raise \$1,506. The money will be put towards the purchase of new uniforms.

Special thanks to Principal Michael Searson and Nate Turner for their help and support without whom this would not have been possible.

**Sincerely,
John Discenza
PHS Boys Soccer**

Tag Sale Thanks

To the Editor:

Thank you to the many residents and those from out of town who visited our tag sale on Saturday, Aug. 26, to support the senior luncheon program. It was a huge success and we were able to raise \$1,000 for this program. It could never have happened without the great support from our committee: Carol Lee, our great organizer, Eric Anderson, Linda Armstrong, Anne Crème, Gerry Crème, Rachael Elam, Audrey Elam, Ella Elam, Isabelle Elam, Ryan Elam, Kim Hawes, Michael Hughes, Tanya Hughes, Lisa Kurtz, Alicia Lee, Andi Lee, Celine Maurais, Mike Pala-

Bulletin Board

The ongoing buzz about 'Bidenomics' has inspired me to unveil my own version, called "Jim-omics," which I have cunningly set to the classic song "That's Amore"—you know, the song with the famous verse about the "moon in the sky like a big pizza pie"—in a probably futile effort to be lighthearted. I think they call it "whistling in the graveyard." Anyway, here goes (with apologies to Dean Martin):

When politicians get rich
While the rest of us bitch
That's Jim-omics.

When the cost of a car
Leaves emotional scars
That's Jim-omics

When you pay your school loans
While the parasites moan
That's Jim-omics

And the help lines you call
No one answers at all
That's Jim-omics

When eggs are five bucks
And the gas prices suck
That's Jim-omics

And our healthcare you dread
'Cause they'd prefer you were dead
That's Jim-omics

College coaches make gold
While poor teachers are told
That's Jim-omics

You're sick as a dog
But your insurance is gone
That's Jim-omics

When interest rates soar
And everything's more
That's Jim-omics

Yet politicians maintain
We're not circling the drain
That's Jim-omics

When you're desperate to roam
But must still live at home
That's Jim-omics

There's still plenty of perks
When nobody works
That's Jim-omics

House prices so high
That you might as well die
That's Jim-omics

Everything will be free
If you just vote for me
[The lying SOB]
That's Jim-om-ics!

The end.

Jim Hallas

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zzi, Ellie Skoog, Emily Timerick, who flew into Bradley, got off the plane and came to help us – and our awesome Columbia neighbors!

Great day, lots of fun even had two birthday celebrations that day! Thank you to everyone for helping with this great program for our seniors. It means so much to them enjoying a hot meal and companionship with their friends. As I've mentioned in the past, they pay \$5 a meal and our program pays the remaining cost of the meal.

Sincerely,
Cathy Palazzi
Andover Senior Coordinator

Connect with Horton

To the Editor:

The town of Hebron needs development on Horton Boulevard. The town leaders should be more diligent with an effort to acquire a developer to purchase the land the town owns on Horton Boulevard and work with the developer to construct a building or more than one if necessary. The construction of the buildings would be built, with the stipulation that the buildings would be occupied by an educational learning center. One of the main teachings at the center would be to educate high school students how to prepare for college and make them aware of their talents and how to use the talents they have been gifted with to the max and not waste any opportunities that their talents have made available to them.

The center would also help students who have chosen not to go to college or receive additional education after high school. They would help the students by guiding them to recognize the talents they have and use their gifts to help them find a position in life they could excel in. The center could help people at any age in life, to be more resourceful in the position they are in now. But first the center has to be built, so people in town can see that our town leaders are serious about growth and a future for Horton Boulevard. Also the town could connect Horton Boulevard to Kinney Road, to give the people in town a feeling that progress is on the minds of our leaders, for dead-end roads are exactly that: dead-ends.

Hebron deserves better than having a road

with no future. I would hope that the small businesses we have in Hebron will think about moving to Horton Boulevard into a larger facility to help show people and our government leaders that some businesses believe there is a great potential for Horton Boulevard to become a new town center.

Thomas Tremont – Hebron

Touch-A-Truck Thanks

To the Editor:

The Exchange Club of Portland held its 12th annual Touch-a-Truck Event at the Portland Fairgrounds on Sunday, August 28th. Without the support of area businesses and individuals the success of this event would not have been possible.

The Exchange would like to thank our "Monster Truck" sponsors: Bill's Auto Repair, CWPM, Daniels Energy, Disaster Restoration Services, DRVN Enterprise, Law Office of George Law, Red Fox Restaurant, Snyder Civil Engineering and Construction.

Our "4 x 4 Truck" sponsors: Petzold's Marine Center and Sharr Realty, Kayem Hot Dogs.

Our "Pick-Up Truck" sponsors: All Waste, Don Valentas, Mimma Burke of State Farm Insurance, Jeanne Nuffer of Edward Jones Financial, Thompson Landscaping, and Portland Automotive, Top Dog and Adams Hometown Market.

The Exchange would also like to thank businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed vehicles to the event: Portland & Middletown Police Department, Portland Public works, CWPM, Glastonbury Volunteer Ambulance, Middletown Post Office, Thompson Landscape, Portland Fire Department, RT Relocation, M & J Bus Service, Butler Construction, Batista Company (Dunkin' Donuts), Petzold's Marine Center, Bill Hanna, Dick Lawton, Belltown Towing, Snyder Civil Construction.

The Exchange would also like to thank the Portland Board of Education for allowing us to relocate our event to Valley View School because of the condition of the fairgrounds.

This year, through sponsors' support plus gate receipts, the Exchange Club will donate over \$6,000 to the military support program which works in Connecticut to reduce veteran

suicides.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Jamie Leonard
Exchange Club of Portland

Foolish Opinions

To the Editor:

I found it ironic that one of the *Rivereast's* perpetual opinion-letter writers repeated Abraham Lincoln's observation: "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."

Brian Robinson – Marlborough

Good News in Colchester

Dear Colchester Friends and Neighbors:

After reading the letters from the Colchester writers, I feel compelled to share some good news.

Four years ago, after a 40-year career as a PA in neonatology and pediatric intensive care, I retired. After nine months, I realized that it would be good for my brain, my mood, and the loved ones with whom I lived for me to get a job outside of medicine. I wanted contact with people and something to occupy some of my time, but did not want stress. Three years ago, I was hired for a job in the meat and deli depart-

ment at Noel's Market. Come in, I will make a sandwich for you!

In that time, I have worked with many of the kids from Colchester. And here's the good news: these young adults and almost-adults are terrific. They are smart, funny, respectful, hard-working, committed to their education and have goals for their futures. To name several, present, past, and soon-to-be past: Calem, Cam, Peter, Andy, Josh, Jake, Cory, Harry, Adam, Emmet, Emma, Chris, Ani, Chelsea, Kat, Bella x2, Kelsey, Alina, Dylan x2, Jonah, Nick, Amber, Kate, Ashton, Conor, Kevin, Matt, and David.

In short, if these people are representative of the majority of kids and students in this town, then Colchester's future is bright. It has been my extreme pleasure to have met and to have worked with them. They make me laugh. They impress me with their commitment and enthusiasm for life. To those who have left and those who are leaving for their next step: best of luck, you will be missed. But come back when you are done: Colchester needs you. And to the parents of these wonderful young people: Congratulations! You did a great job.

Sincerely,
Jill Lageman, expert grinder-maker
Colchester
See Letters, page 6

Editor's Desk continued on page 4

"Every year, we are so excited for families to enjoy a day of fall fun at the Corn Maze," Lyman Orchards Executive Vice President John Lyman said in a press release. "We have the incredible opportunity to promote the hard work of both the American Cancer Society and Connecticut Cancer Foundation. These critical organizations provide wonderful support to those fighting their toughest battles."

Erin Nielsen, director of development of the American Cancer Society's Northeast Region, said, "We are incredibly grateful for the continued support received from Lyman Orchards. The funds they have contributed over the past 24 years have helped us provide patients with access to free rides to treatment, free lodging for those who must travel for

treatment, and helped us to advance our research efforts by funding the best science."

Nielsen added, "The American Cancer Society is leading the battle against cancer with a vision to end it as we know it, for everyone. With the support of dedicated volunteers and community partners like Lyman Orchards, we are confident we will get there."

And I hope they eventually do. So if you want to spend a fun afternoon and at the same time raise money for a great cause, head on down to Middlefield and check out the corn maze.

For more information, visit lymanorchards.com.

See you next week.

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

A Sad Introduction

To the Editor:
 Decades ago, Cobalt 4 Corners was a hub of activity with a post office, package store and the popular Cobalt Market (well-known for its meat department). So popular that former secretary of state, Dean Acheson's, mother who lived in Middletown was a customer! Nowadays with the popular eatery presently in the building moving on to East Hampton, only the post office will remain in this blighted building and parking lot. Overall, a sad introduction to Middle Haddam and East Hampton. The only bright spots are the flowerpots maintained by the Middle Haddam Garden Club.

A little town-enforced maintenance would help!

Ronald McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

Proud of Candidates

To the Editor:
 The Portland Democratic Town Committee is proud to introduce two of our Board of Selectmen candidates.

At 24 years old, Jillian Crawford is the youngest candidate currently seeking political office in the Town of Portland. Though she would be a newcomer to the Board of Selectmen, she is not a newcomer to Portland. A self-proclaimed "townie," she has spent her entire life living in Portland with her parents, Nicki and Bill, and her younger brother, Billy.

Jillian graduated from Portland High School where she balanced a rigorous course load with several leadership roles while also maintaining a deep commitment to community service. She then went on to study at the University of Connecticut, graduating as an Honors Scholar with a degree in Political Science where she studied public policy, modern political theory, and American politics with a special concentration in democracy within local and state government.

Andrea Alfano has been a resident of Portland for over 27 years. She has a BS in Marketing from the University of Connecticut and has recently retired from the UConn School of Social Work as an Associate Director in the Department of Social Services. She and her husband, Ralph, have one son who attended Portland Public Schools.

Andrea served for nine years on the Board of Education, where she was involved in the town budget process, supported many important educational initiatives, and was proud to watch Brownstone Intermediate and Portland Middle School achieve Blue Ribbon School awards for academic excellence. She has supported the Portland community as a member of the Portland Junior Women's Club, a Sunday School teacher, and as a volunteer with the PTO. Andrea is a strong advocate of public education.

Andrea is running for the Board of Selectmen to continue her commitment to public service in the town of Portland.

April Graves
 Member, Ways and Means
 Portland Democratic Town Committee

Great News!

To the Editor:
 The Town of Hebron received great news last week! The town will receive \$2.1 million from the state Department of Economic & Community Development to increase its much-needed water supply and pave the way for the development of mixed-income housing. With this grant, community wells will be built on property owned by St. Peter's Episcopal Church, enabling Commons Community Development Corporation (CDC) to provide mixed-income housing and other development to occur in our town center.

This is a wonderful example of the Town and community working together to meet a community need.

The Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) is committed to helping Hebron become a more diverse, equitable and vibrant community and this collaborative effort shows that this goal is shared by many in our community.

Since our founding in 2020, CoDE has advocated for increasing housing choices in town. This is needed to both enable more people (seniors, young professionals, essential workers, single parents, and empty nesters) to live in the community they love – and to open our high-opportunity community to more people. But the barriers to creating diverse housing are many – not the least of which is a supply of water.

This grant is the result of people coming together – from all sectors, political party, professional and socio-economic status, and public/private entities – for a common purpose. In this era of divisiveness, it's heartening. It shows that

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collaboration is possible.

We are proud of and grateful for what this community has achieved collectively in the last few years – varied and engaging community events (including music, art, children's activities, dinners, historical tours, cultural events like our Juneteenth Celebration, etc.), sidewalks and other pathways, improved parks and trails, public art, plantings, and other amenities.

Now, we are excited to be part of its next important phase of growth.

Amy D'Amaddio and Donna Jolly
Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE)
Hebron

Summer Cookout Thanks

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Housing Authority would like to thank The Hope Church for hosting a Summer Cookout at both Chatham Acres and Bellwood Court. The tenants had a wonderful time, and it was greatly appreciated.

Dave Schumacher, Executive Director
East Hampton Housing Authority

Thank You, Union Workers

To the Editor:

As we head into Labor Day weekend, I want to thank the union workers who made this holiday possible. The very concept of a "weekend" is the result of organized labor, with the successful union efforts to achieve so much of what we take for granted today. The eight-hour workday, 40-hour work week, the weekend, overtime pay, the end of child labor exploitation, and so much more, are the direct result of organized labor.

There are many of us who are vocally anti-union, who think that the interests of the capitalist class are more important than those of the working class. While I respect your right to this opinion, I do not share it. Workers – and more specifically, progressive workers – have given us many of the privileges we enjoy on a daily basis. No greatness has come from conservatism; Progressive movements have given us workers' rights, women's suffrage, personal liberties and human rights, and even independence from the

British Monarchy.

Labor Day is about more than waving flags made in China or eating hot dogs; it is about recognizing the sacrifices of workers who made American life the highest possible quality for the highest possible number of people.

To all my union-member friends and neighbors, I thank you. You are what makes America great for the majority of us, not just the wealthiest.

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

Eyes Toward the Future

To the Editor:

As a current educator and Marlborough parent of preschool and elementary students, Amy Kuhrt represents a knowledgeable, reflective, and in-the-trenches asset to our Board of Education team. Amy's leadership and vision will continue the momentum of positive shifts as we look to support our MES staff and families with both policies and thoughtful financial budgeting.

I strongly endorse Amy as a representative for our MES school community.

Jen Barone – Marlborough

Running for Election

Dear Portland Residents:

My name is Jim Tripp and I am running for election to the Portland Board of Selectmen. My wife and I have lived in Portland for over 24 years. We have two daughters, both graduates of Portland schools. My educational background includes earning a BS in mechanical engineering technology from UMass-Dartmouth and an MS in management from Rensselaer Polytechnic University. Professionally, I am a senior

See Story, page 8

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

manager of construction for a telecommunications provider. I am committed to public service because I believe the more citizens are engaged the better government works for everyone.

As a long-time leader of the Brownstone Quorum, I have been fortunate to work with an extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers for over 22 years. In addition, I have served on the Parks and Recreation Commission, as a member of the Board of Education, on the Route 17 Recreational Complex Building Committee, and as a member of the Board of Selectmen. I currently have the honor of serving as Chairman of the Water and Sewer Commission.

There are many challenges and opportunities facing our community in the coming months and years. We need to continue to position Portland for economic development consistent with our values and needs, and to be prudent in our approach to spending taxpayer money. I believe I have the background and experience necessary to have a positive impact on the decisions facing our community. As a member of the Board of Selectmen, I will continue to conduct myself in a professional, constructive, and collaborative manner in order to get things done for the residents of Portland.

It would be an honor to serve our community on the Board of Selectmen. I ask for your vote on Nov. 7.

Sincerely,
James K. Tripp – Portland
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Supports Person

To the Editor:

I am recommending Kimberly Person for a position on the Andover Board of Education. I know she along with other family members have been great supporters as well as being very active and involved in many functions and committees for Andover. She is hard-working, well-determined and will hold a valued position on the committee in the Republican spot.

Please vote for Kimberly. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. E. Post – Andover

Fireworks Thanks

To the Editor:

The members of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department graciously thank all those who attended our Fireworks Display on Saturday, Aug. 19. Despite a technical issue with the sound system, we were fortunate to have a beautiful evening as we celebrated the Department's 100th Anniversary, "A Century of Service."

In addition to the many local business concerns and the hundreds of residents who generously helped to "fill-the-boots," the following business donations were received after the deadline for submitting the full-page acknowledgment in the Aug. 18 *Rivereast*: Lakeside Bar & Grill, Fowler-Park-Dix VFW Post 5095, Momma's Ice Cream and LaBella's Sweet Shop.

The department encourages all to support our local businesses whose continued generosity and consideration make these events possible.

Respectfully,
James J. Hebron
Public Information Officer
Chairman, EHVFD Fireworks Committee
East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department

Still Nothing to Say

To the Editor:

Scott Sauyet submitted another outstanding letter to the editor last week highlighting what readers have learned from the *Rivereast* wrecking crew in recent weeks. Scott's rundown from Don Denley, Sam Prentice and Colin McNamara to Ed Kozlowski was concise, accurate, and insightful. Particularly humorous was his depiction "Ed Kozlowski still has nothing to say."

Mr. Kozlowski validated this very point with another nonsensical letter to the editor last week that made disparate references to Disney characters, historical presidents, and gas prices. If that wasn't embarrassing enough, Kozlowski defended Trump's conviction in the E. Jean Carroll rape case as "contrived liberal outrage." In his absentminded stab at whataboutism Kozlowski relied on obscure references to Ashley Biden's diary, and flimsy comparisons to Bill Clinton's well-publicized dalliances and inappropriate behavior 25-plus years ago. The obvi-

ous distinction is that Trump was actually convicted in a jury trial of what the presiding judge defined as rape.

Unfortunately, Mr. Kozlowski was unable to offer any intelligent or rational argument defending his statement that prosecuting Trump as a rapist is a liberal tactic to take the "moral high ground." This would suggest that Ed Kozlowski either believes the act of rape is acceptable, or despite being convicted by a jury of his peers, and based on a preponderance of evidence, that Trump is above the law. Either way, there's not a good answer.

The reality is Trump is not being politically persecuted in the court of public opinion. He is being criminally prosecuted in the courts for rape, racketeering, obstruction, witness tampering, forgery, election interference, conspiracy to defraud the government, inciting an insurrection, willful concealment of national defense and top-secret military intelligence, and 82 other criminal felonies he is charged with.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Excited for Opportunity

To the Editor:

It is time to begin thinking about our municipal election on Nov. 7. I have been endorsed by the Portland Democratic Town Committee as a candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I am writing to provide information about my experience, as I seek the support of Portland residents on Election Day.

I am a graduate of UConn and spent my entire professional career in public service, for the state Department of Social Services and the UConn School of Social Work. I retired in 2020 after over 30 years of state service. I also have many years of service and volunteer work for the town of Portland. I was a member of the Portland Board of Education from 2008 to 2017. I served as vice chairwoman, and chaired the policy subcommittee. I am a past member of the Portland Junior Women's Club, PTO member, Sunday School teacher, and had an integral role on the committee that constructed the existing playgrounds at Valley View and Gildersleeve schools.

My husband and I have lived in Portland for 27 years and our son attended Portland Public Schools. Portland is a great community and I pride myself on supporting local businesses. I shop locally, utilize local services, frequent Portland restaurants and enjoy outdoor activities, such as the Air Line Trail and Riverfront Park.

I am running for the Board of Selectmen to continue my commitment to public service, and to keep Portland moving forward. There is much important activity happening in Portland including Brainerd Place, potential riverfront development, the school facilities study, exploring alternative sources of public water, and more. I am excited for the opportunity to serve the Town of Portland and keep the positive momentum. I hope to have an opportunity to speak with many of you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,
Andrea Alfano – Portland
Candidate for the Board of Selectmen

Colchester's Audit Concerns

To the Editor:

Connecticut law requires that every town hire an independent auditor to examine the town's books each year to ensure the financial health of the town which are provided to the CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The results determine how well the town has been accounting for the town's finances. The fiscal year is over for municipalities on June 30, and the deadline for the audit to OPM before Dec. 31. For the fiscal year 2021-22, ending June 30, 2022, Colchester has yet to submit this audit. So why is this a concern?

The audit will indicate if reported expenditures and revenue are accurate. It confirms the amount of funds in our various accounts, including the undesignated fund balance. This determines the allowed flexibility in the use of the undesignated fund balance. But the audit is also reviewed by the rating agencies and the bonding companies we use, so when our bonding counsel we are using for the issuance of bonds for the senior center and fire department fire trucks indicates to the town that we are one of 15 out of 169 towns that have not submitted their audit which has caused us to be on a "Watch List" for a possible downgrade of our rating, we need to be concerned. The town was unable to bond earlier this year due to the lack of an audit when the municipal bonding rates were lower. Additional temporary staff were hired to complete the audit but to date the audit is still not complete.

The lack of completing this audit has already cost the town for the temporary assistance and taking advantage of lower municipal rates that has spiked recently, but a downgrade of our rating will potentially have long term impact on the town's finances. Hopefully we can complete and submit this audit before this occurs.

Mike Egan – Colchester
Note: Egan is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Inept Liberals

To the Editor:

In deference to Scott Sauyet, here's what we've really learned in the past few weeks:

Edmund Smith is the first *Bulletin* letter writer to incorporate diapers, Ukraine, and vegetables in the same letter. It's better to whine for a diaper change than to be the contents of the diaper, Edmund. As for this obsession with Jared Kushner, maybe Edmund missed the memo that Hunter Biden is under investigation and Jared Kushner is not. And is that the same Saudi Arabia that Biden begged for oil? Anyway, thank you for retiring.

Annie Steinbrecher needs to stop watching MSNBC and CNN. How does a reasonable person not show concern over a crackhead, deadbeat, Navy wash-out first son sitting on the board of an energy company in a country to which his faculty-compromised father is pumping hundreds of billions of dollars? How would you feel if it was Eric Trump? Wait...let me guess.

Tim Rinnel has good taste in music. However, the souls in Georgia have already been stolen by Democrats. But hundreds of thousands of Congolese children working in strip mines agree with Tim about Solar Viroso. So does China. Just out of curiosity, what happens to the Light-year EV on a cloudy day, or in the winter with a low sun angle, or at night? And extolling the

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virtues of an EV based on law-breaking speed capabilities doesn't seem very progressive. But I hear Congolese children like fast cars. And, personally, I can't wait for the Hell's Angels to switch to electric Harleys.

And then there's Scott. He has a lot to say. We're just waiting for subtitles to tighten up the coherency.

Liberals are relentlessly inept at addressing reality, but are relentlessly adept at projecting their own misgivings, prejudice, hypocrisy and immorality on their opponents.

Regards,...and enjoy those mortgage rates...
Ed Kozlowski - Colchester

Sense of Service

To the Residents of East Hampton:

My name is Paul Wisniewski, I am writing today to introduce myself as a candidate for the Board of Education. I've been married to my beautiful wife Julie for 16 years, with three wonderful kids from high school to second grade. They're my motivation to run for town office, to see education in town to continue to run at high efficiency, while providing the best service possible. I've lived in East Hampton since 2019 and have volunteered to coach my kids in rec soccer and basketball. I also served on the Clean Energy Task Force for 2 of those years. Prior to moving to town, I was a volunteer firefighter for 15 years, so I've always strongly believed in serving my communities, and try to set that example with my kids.

With Labor Day right around the corner I felt this was the right time to announce. As a 20-year member of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777 labor issues are very important to me, and teachers are no exception. My sense of service also extends to my local, state and national union. I was a delegate to the national United Association convention in 2021, I was on the finance board of my local and currently I serve on the executive board. For the last year I have served on the CT AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee.

So if you're off the long holiday weekend thank a union, be safe at work, and if you're workplace is unsafe, remember what Mother Jones said: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living!" And for the sake of education and quality of life in town, vote the Democrats on Row A in November.

Paul Wisniewski - East Hampton

Economic Development, Part I

Dear Colchester Residents:

Our town has seen a tremendous comeback during my first term. The Colchester Comeback grant program secured over \$1 million in ARPA funds to help small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrated to our small businesses that Colchester is invested in their success. An additional \$200K was also provided to support nonprofits under the same program.

Building permits have grown exponentially with the town seeing a total of \$14 million in real estate growth. That's a strong signal that people are investing in Colchester. I've also em-

barked on a business tour highlighting and promoting local businesses in our community.

Colchester has new businesses such as Fornarelli's, Wagging Tails Pet Shop, Pokemoto, The Color House, Central K-9, Town & Country Early Learning Center, and Moran Restaurant invest in our town. ARK Distillery is expected to open in the coming year, while a major announcement related to Chipotle is on the horizon.

Local businesses such as InCord, Gano's Power Equipment, Toyota of Colchester, and Shell gas station have expanded and revitalized their operations. I'm also the only first selectman in 15 years to make progress on the old Jack's Chevrolet building and I'm proud to announce that the Granite Group will be officially expanding their operations there.

The town has also worked with Frontier Fiber to expand fiber optics throughout the entire town and has collaborated with Eversource in their investment of \$20 million into a natural gas project. Natural gas will become available in the coming years as a result. I also collaborated with S&S Worldwide to help secure funding from corporate lenders to ensure that the business would survive and keep jobs in the community.

The momentum is real.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester First Selectman

Time for a Change!

To the Editor:

Colchester has seen our current political leaders in action; frankly, it is not a pretty picture. From the Republican first selectman to the Republican-led Board of Finance, we've witnessed historic ineptitude. Both First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos and the Board of Finance chair ironically have op-eds discussing leadership and accomplishments - yet both have failed to listen to the people or successfully fulfill their core function. The first selectman and chairwoman have failed to pass a town budget referendum on the first try over the last two years. They've failed four times—at a cost to the taxpayers! Even worse, the first selectman and chairwoman's incompetence in passing a bud-

get on the first try this year cost the town tens of thousands of dollars in interest revenue that could have been put to other good use for the town.

As we prepare for November - remember what the folks in office did and did not do. Remember how many community members attended meetings and implored the Board of Finance to listen? Remember how Andrea rolled her eyes? Remember how the Republicans on the Board of Finance made snide remarks about how they hadn't seen these people before? Remember how the RTC chair claimed that the 'vote no, too low' effort was an astroturf union effort? Remember their contempt for you - the voter? And remember how they ignored you, played with their phones while you talked, and told you they didn't care what was said?

We can change the tone and tenor of town government in just a few months. Vote for leaders supporting our schools and listening to the Board of Education. Vote for leaders who will listen to us. Vote for competent leaders. Vote for Democrats!

Jeremy McKenzie - Colchester

Marlborough's Flawed Charter

To the Editor:

When it comes to voting on Nov. 7, one of the issues at the forefront will be charter reform. Back in November 2021, Marlborough's voters were asked to approve numerous changes to our town charter, but what was not known to voters at that time was the number of flaws in the revised charter as presented.

At that time, I opposed increasing the amount for a "special appropriation" that the Board of Selectmen could seek without holding a public hearing. That amount was increased from \$10,000 to 2% of the town operations budget, which equates to over \$100,000. Personally, I am in favor of the public having a say when the town is seeking additional funds in the midst of a fiscal year.

On a positive note, we did get a town manager, but it took over a year and a half to fill that

position. In the meantime, the Board of Selectmen chair, who was selected by a strictly partisan vote and subsequently ousted the elected first selectman, took charge and was paid a hefty wage, which in itself reduced her motivation to get a town manager in place.

The latest charter revision was also supposed to reduce the level of "politics" at Town Hall, but in reality, many of the changes simply increased the power of the majority party.

Lastly, it should be noted that all three of the current Board of Selectmen candidates on the Republican ticket played significant roles in creating and approving this mess of a charter.

On Nov. 7, we need to elect candidates who are competent and who have the best interests of the public in mind. That certainly was not what happened when these individuals were at the helm of the last effort to update our town charter.

Ken Hjulstrom
IPSC Candidate for Board of Finance

Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but am speaking as an individual.

Slipping Through the Cracks

Dear Colchester residents:

I was disturbed last week to learn that Colchester has been placed on a state fiscal watch list for its overdue financial audit. For over a year, I have been speaking out about my concerns regarding the need for sound management and adequate support for our Town Hall finance department. The audit delay's consequences are the culmination of the issues I have been warning about.

The failure to return an on-time audit could have a significant impact on Colchester's finances - and your own. In 2021, I served on the Board of Finance when we established a financial plan to bond for the replacement of our fire apparatus and the senior center. Without an audit, the town remains unable to bond for these - and interest rates are rising. We are on track to

See Story, page 27

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Town Placed on Fiscal Watch List

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester Board of Finance Chairman Andrea Migliaccio confirmed that the town has been placed on a fiscal watch list as a result of a long-overdue financial audit report.

Migliaccio told the *Rivereast* that the state has certain timelines for audits to be finalized, and that the 2021-22 financial audit has been “delayed months.”

The alert sent to the town, she added, is a “heads-up” but not an actual penalty. She said the notice came from one of the rating companies that the town “doesn’t use.”

Still, it is currently unknown if the town’s bond rating — which Migliaccio said was one of the best in the state — would be negatively impacted as a result of the audit delay. Interest rates are also increasing, presenting a challenge for lending money.

The concern is amplified as Colchester is presently looking to bond millions of dollars for a new senior center — at least \$7 million. Maintaining a quality rating is important, Migliaccio asserted.

“I am still anticipating that we’re going to be in a fine condition,” Migliaccio said. “I’m not expecting the [audit delay] to interrupt our bond rating.”

The route of the issue, she contended, is turnover in the town’s finance department. Long-time Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove retired in June, 2022. To conduct a financial audit, documents need to be at a certain condition — entering the spring of this year, that condition was not met, according to Migliaccio.

Finance Director Mary Williamson, who took over earlier this year after her predecessor,

Debbie Kratochvil — who started after Cosgrove — has been scrambling in recent months to prepare the documents for an audit.

The Board of Selectmen also agreed this year to hire two temporary employees through Robert Half to assist the finance department with the audit; those contracts have since expired. Cosgrove was added onto the payroll as a consultant, as well.

“That exponentially improved the situation,” Migliaccio said.

Still, the new employees were attempting to make up lost time.

Every town’s books and records are audited by an outside third party. According to Connecticut General Statutes, “All municipalities shall have all their financial statements audited at least once annually.”

That process cannot begin until the after an approved budget referendum, Migliaccio stated.

Because the 2022-23 budget season (which occurred largely after Cosgrove retired in 2022) took four referendums to be adopted, town officials were late to the 2021-22 audit process.

Without the completed audit, the town cannot get its bond ratings and cannot proceed financially with projects such as the construction of a new senior center.

Migliaccio indicated that the audit is “very close to being accomplished.”

Most likely, it will be completed this month. Documents have been sent to the auditor, and the town is responding to questions as they arise.

“I think we’re over the hump,” she said. “Mary is doing a fantastic job.”

Concerns relating to the finance department or the delays from can be explained and justified to rating agencies, who Migliaccio believes will understand the extreme circumstances.

Upcoming Programs at Cragin

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following. For more information or full program descriptions, or to register, call 860-537-5752 or visit www.colchesterct.gov/library.

Back-to-School Teen Party: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 3-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12.

The Myth and Reality of Slavery in Eastern Connecticut: The Brownes of Salem and Absentee Land Ownership: Thursday, Sept 7, 6 p.m. State historian Bruce Stark, retired assistant state archivist at the Connecticut State Library, will discuss his new book. This program is sponsored by the Colchester Historical Society.

A Court of Fantasy Readers Book Club: Thursday, Sept. 7, 5:30 p.m., at Cohen Woodlands. In case of rain, meet at the library. Copies are available at the Adult Circulation Desk.

Early Learning Station: Shoe-Lacing: Monday, Sept. 11-Saturday, Sept. 16.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Sept. 12, 3-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Check in with your peers and librarians to talk about making the library the best teen space possible.

In-Person: Mixed Media Lion: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m. Create a mixed media lion craft.

Take & Make Crafts: Wednesdays, Sept. 13 and 27.

STEAM Kit Take & Make: Saturday, Sept. 16, for grades K-5. Pick up your kit, watch the video on social media, and have fun experimenting.

Nerd Camp: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 4:15-4:45 p.m., for grades 3-5. In this new program, chat about your favorite nerdy topics over snacks. This month, *Minecraft* will be discussed.

Teen Writing Club: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 3-3:45 p.m., for ages 14-20. The library will provide prompts or guidance to help you accomplish your writing goals.

Medicare Educational Event: Thursday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m. Learn the ins and outs of Medicare and the differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage with Mark Macrina a town resident and local insurance agent. This is strictly an informational seminar; no individual health will be discussed. For accommodations of persons with special needs, call 860-338-1466 TTY 711.

Local Author Seeking Volunteers

Robert Tougias, a Colchester resident and author of birding books, is looking for help as he recovers from an injury.

Tougias — whose latest book is the *Birder on Berry Lane*, a chronicle of bird life in Colchester over the last 20 years — suffered an injury a year ago and is looking for two or three volunteers to help with his recovery so he can get back outside and enjoy and study the town’s bird life.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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 CHFD28golftournament@gmail.com.

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.



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Committee Makes Grant Program Recommendation

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester's ad-hoc American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen this week regarding a new potential grant program that would provide federal relief fundings to local households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previously, the selectmen charged the ARPA Committee with formulating a program outline in conjunction with UHY — a consultant agency hired by the town — along with Colchester Youth and Social Services (CYSS). The outline is not to exceed \$300,000.

Heading into the committee's meeting on Monday, there were two prominent ideas being considered: earmarking upwards of \$300,000 of the town's remaining ARPA funds for a program that would involve allotting money towards social services, who would utilize the money to further expand their own efforts, or providing direct cash assistance for residents as part of a "giveback" program.

For now, the ARPA committee largely steered away from creating a significant new program. Instead, the committee recommended that the selectmen rework an existing ARPA funding application previously submitted by CYSS that requested \$100k to extend the currently offered town programs.

The recommendation — adopted by a 4-0 vote — suggested that increasing the social services' income requirements guideline to 300% of the federal poverty level would allow the town to serve more residents than it's presently able to accommodate. The threshold for a household of three is around \$75,000, but generally increases by about \$15,000 for each additional household member.

Valerie Geato, the director of CYSS, has stated that social services' guidelines are closer to 250% of the federal poverty level. Social Services believes it can legally extend the income thresholds of its programs.

In their recommendation, the ARPA Committee determined that social services doesn't require upwards of \$300,000 to successfully implement new programing.

Information shown in a slideshow presentation, created in consultation with UHY, concluded that over the past three years, social services has spent \$7,000 for non-food bank/ fuel assistance programs. Social Services will also continue to receive \$36,000 a year through the Herden Fund.

There is no indication that demand for social services would require a significant leap in spending, and therefore "does not seem to justify allocating the full \$300,000 to social services."

The ARPA Committee previously passed along a list of initiatives that it was recommending for ARPA funding, including the \$100k for social services.

"That has not changed," Dave Koji, chairman of the ARPA committee, said at the conclusion of the meeting. He added that the committee's recommendation was meant to cast a "greater net" for town services and provide more buckets of funding for more people.

Jennifer Cox, a member of the committee, stated that a new grant program that would provide

vide direct assistance seemed "good and admirable," but the factors surrounding such a program are "not making sense right now."

Giving checks directly to residents, the committee concluded, would likely cost \$30,000 for UHY to administer. The cash would also be taxable, according to Claire Collins, a consulting senior manager with UHY.

President Joe Biden announced earlier this year that the COVID-19 national emergency and public health emergency declared in 2020 would both end this past May 11. Therefore, according to UHY, payments made after that date are no longer considered disaster relief payments, which are tax-exempt; a direct check of ARPA funds paid out by the town to a household would be considered taxable income.

The suggestion made by the committee would be to broaden the scope of aid being provided, which would be handled by social services and therefore eliminate the added expense from UHY and potential tax burden.

Koji noted that the Board of Selectmen will make a final determination on all ARPA initiatives.

Selectman Jason LaChapelle has been a leading proponent for direct cash assistance. He expressed during prior meetings that since the town allocated \$1 million of ARPA funds for local businesses, local residents impacted by the pandemic also deserve their own pool of funding.

"It's time we stop kicking this down the road like we've done with every other project in this town," he said. "We have an opportunity to help people who are struggling."

This week, LaChapelle told the *Rivereast* that he wouldn't endorse the ARPA Committee's recommendation as a replacement for direct cash assistance, but "absolutely supports" the concept if it's the only option.

The problem, he expressed, is that the committee attempted to "appease everybody," and in doing so, "missed every single mark."

Ideally, he would advocate for earmarking \$100k for social services while still allotting \$300k for direct assistance, which would cover each stakeholder's interests.

A social services program is "not what I was trying to accomplish," he added. At the next selectmen meeting, LaChapelle plans on presenting a more refined direct assistance program, but conceded that it's unlikely to receive support. If \$100k is given to social services, the additional \$200k that was being mulled over is "probably not on the table any longer."

Because the selectmen are considering additional ARPA-funded projects, allocating \$300k

to one specific grant initiative would likely require a reduction of \$200,000 from other municipal projects.

LaChapelle also has concerns with residents being willing to reach out to social services for assistance. He speculated that people would be more likely to embrace a program run through the first selectman's office.

"Pride, ego, various other reasons; I'm not assuming, I know for a fact — people don't go ask for help," he said during a meeting last month.

UHY has provided examples of other Connecticut communities who have implemented similar types of grant programs with their own COVID relief funds.

Trumbull, Collins said, created an ARPA emergency financial assistance application. The form required a variety of personal information, ranging from income amount and what type of assistance was being sought. For example, residents could specify that they needed rental aid. Applicants had to describe their hardship experienced during the pandemic and provide several pieces of corroborating documentation, including tax reports or specific bills that were

being referenced.

Under a previous proposal by LaChapelle, each eligible household that applied would receive a maximum of \$1,000 and if more than 300 households sought funding, the awarded amount would be lowered so that each household receives an equitable amount.

"The way it's written now, it opens itself up to a lot of people having the potential to be disappointed that they think they're going to get funding," Collins previously stated in regard to LaChapelle's outline. "It's a false hope."

Under federal ARPA guidelines, direct assistance could only be used for certain reasons, such utility bills, rent, mortgage payments, medical bills and childcare, she said.

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos stated that the median household income in Colchester was around \$104,000, but around 40% — or 800 households — are below the \$75,000 threshold. He's pointed to that threshold as a potential parameter for a new program.

The selectmen have identified the end of September as the target for a final draft of a program, with rollout beginning in October.

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.

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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

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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.

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.

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 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. 16, 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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday: Aggaddata 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.

High Holiday Schedule: Eve of Rosh Hashanah, Friday, Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom and in-person; First Day Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 16, 10 a.m., Zoom and in person; Second Day Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 17, 10 a.m., Zoom and in person. Cantor Roseanne Benjamin will come from New York to help lead in prayer.

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

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads opened their season last weekend, against Ellington. Here's how they fared:

Seniors: Won 50-40. Colchester got the scoring started early thanks to a pass by Noah Garvie to Dominic Helm, who took it 60 yards for the first touchdown of the day. The scoring continued thanks to strong blocking from the offensive line, with touchdown runs by Mason Howard, Noah Garvie, Xaden Medina, and Dominic Helm. The defense came through all game with big tackles by James Wissler, Colten LaFlash, Xaden Medina and Jake Hashem.

Juniors: Took a tough loss but captains Brady Bigelow, Jack Wiessler, TJ Garvie and Nik Ibri-

ham are confident the team can rebound against Montville this week.

Micros: Lost 13-0. The Micros said they are looking forward to a great season and developing their roster of 30 players.

Peewee: Lost, 32-0. Ellington started the game off with consecutive long runs before the Cougar's defense started coming together. Penalties and injuries hindered the offense's ability to move down the field. Despite the score, several players made impact plays on the field. TJ McDermott was a force at linebacker while Sullivan King controlled the middle of the line, especially during the last quarter of the game.

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, Sept. 4: Senior center closed for Labor Day holiday.

Tuesday, Sept. 5: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Owls Among Us; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo, AARP.

Wednesday, Sept. 6: 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., Seasonal Crafting; 1-3 p.m., Backus Stroke Survivors Program; 1-2:30 p.m.,

Life Review Journaling; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing

Thursday, Sept. 7: 7:30 a.m., Bronx Zoo trip departs; 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. 8: 9 a.m., Chronic Disease Self-Management Series; 9 a.m., Back-to-School Breakfast; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:15 a.m., Chatham Health Series; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 10:45 a.m., Blood Pressure Clinic; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Saturday, Sept. 9: 1-5 p.m., Celebrate Colchester at the Town Green

Upcoming Programs: COA Presents: Estate Planning Essentials: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. Learn the essential documents for a proper estate plan, with attorney George Baker. This is a free presentation; registration is required.

CLT Upcoming Events

Colchester Land Trust has announced a pair of upcoming events. Visit www.colchesterland-trust.org for more information and cancellations.

Intro to Geocaching 101: Saturday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m., at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Cost is \$5 for non-members. CLT board member Liza Sivek hosts this hike with "Alpha Dog" Joe and Joni Aveni, expert geocachers.

Salmon River 5.5 Mile Road Race: Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. This is CLT's annual road race, and will be followed by a barbecue.

AARP Meets Sept. 5

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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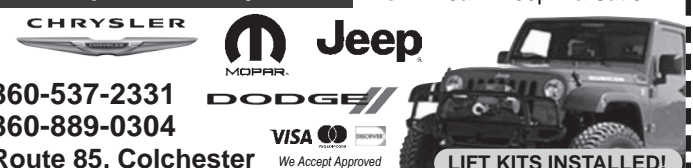
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I Love Lucia... Pictured is the Dei family from Amston on vacation in St. Lucia during this past April's school vacation. From left are Melissa, Danika, Gianna and Jason.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

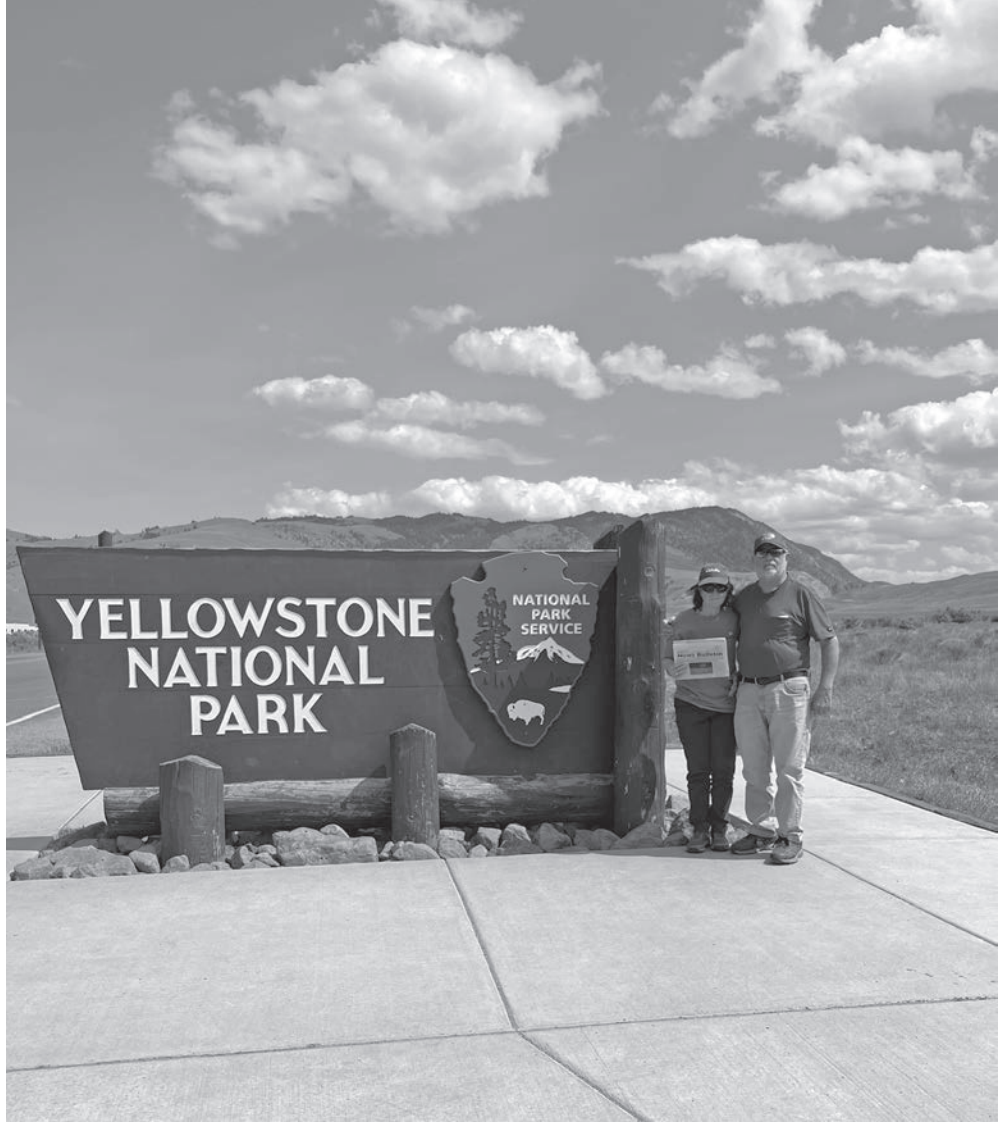
Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to bulletin@glcitizen.com.



The Bulletin in Bermuda... Three couples recently brought the *Rivereast* with them on a trip to Bermuda! The six were aboard the Norwegian Bliss cruise ship for a week and spent three days in Bermuda. In the middle are Joann and Clint Dixon from Middle Haddam. On the left are East Hampton residents Cheryll and Chris Weller, and on the right are Lisa and Joe Ordway from Clifton Park, N.Y.



There Once Were Three Cousins from New England... Hebron resident Peggy Raftery (center) traveled with her cousins to Limerick County, Ireland. Raftery and her cousins, who are from Massachusetts, stayed with family at the Springfield Castle, celebrating their cousin's wedding.



A Restful Retreat... Philip and Jessica Dills of Colchester recently visited Big Sky Country in Montana and Yellowstone Park. They're shown here at the north entrance to Yellowstone in Gardiner, Mont.

Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?
Bring along the *Bulletin*!**

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

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

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Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. Transportation is Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; call 36 hours in advance of your appointment to guarantee a ride.

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

Monday, Sept. 4: Senior center closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 5: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, Sept. 6: Not Just Quilters, 10 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: chicken parmesan, pasta with red sauce, yellow squash, breadstick, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Dancers, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 7: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m., in the pool room.

Friday, Sept. 8: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon. Congregate Meal, noon. Celebrate Labor Day. Menu: beef stroganoff, rice, vegetable medley, wholegrain white bread, fresh fruit; 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.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Sunday, Sept. 3: The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "I Am" based on Exodus 3:1-15. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Communion is open to all,

regardless of church affiliation, including children, with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free.

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 worshipers to bring their donations.

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.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **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.stjfcchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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 Ath-

eneum and the New Britain Art Museum.

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

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

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

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

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 Concodello at 860-295-0201 or text Jack Murray at 860-543-2050.

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 or calling 860-916-4031.

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.

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.

Holiday Closings

The offices of Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center and Public Works Department will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for the Labor Day holiday.

Resident's Artwork in Essex

Marlborough artist Mary Horrigan is holding a one-person exhibition of her paintings through Sept. 16, at the Essex Art Association's Gantner Gallery, 10 Main St. in Essex.

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.

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Openings on Commissions

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

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

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

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.

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/> 2TB 8/25, 9/1

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on August 21, 2023, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:

W2023-3084 - 550 Westchester Road; Federal National Mortgage Association - Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 03-17/004-000; Subsurface Sewage Disposal System (SSDS) repair within 75' Upland Review Area. **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.**

Dated August 21, 2023
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

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Richmond Library News & Notes

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

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

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 out-

door 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 Memorial 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.

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 blankie. Registration is absolutely required due to the size of our meeting room and can be done online or by calling 860-295-6210.

Parks and Rec Fall Programs

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

Youth 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.

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 les-

sons: \$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.

Trips: Salem, Mass. (On Your Own): Saturday, Oct. 14. Trip includes charter bus, free time in Salem and snacks/games with prizes on the bus. Registration fee is \$80. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 7:15 a.m., and returns 7:30 p.m.

N.Y. Giants vs. N.Y. Jets: Sunday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m., at Met Life Stadium. Trip includes charter bus, upper-level end zone ticket to the game, cookout before the game, food after the game, cornhole tournament, pick'em pool, music, games and prizes on the bus. Fee is \$335.00. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride at 6:30 a.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Cost of the sign is \$50. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

Rock-Carving Workshop

Marlborough Arts Center announces a one-day, three-hour workshop to be held Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m.-noon. The subject will be rock carving. All materials will be covered in the \$60 fee. This class is offered to adults and teenagers.

Instructor Susan Hourihan, a new resident of Marlborough, and an experienced high school art teacher, said rock-carving is a therapeutic process with beautiful, creative results. She has been teaching soapstone rock-carving for the past eight years.

Hourihan's training is in photography (both darkroom and digital), but she has recently

added other media. She is an acrylic landscape painter who has shown her work at Scranton Public Library and with the Madison Art Society.

Some of her soapstone carvings are currently on display at the Marlborough Arts Center.

A class registration form can be downloaded from the website marlborougharts.org and mailed with a check for \$60 to the Marlborough Arts Center, N. Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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

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, and a check mailed to: Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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

Second Blessings Fall Reopening

The Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., will open for the fall season from noon to 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8, and Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The shop will be open every Friday and Saturday through Dec. 23.

The tables and shelves feature something for every age group and taste including giftware, signed prints, entertaining, cookware and serving pieces, wreaths, glassware, puzzles, small furniture, vintage and antiques, linens, holidays, and more. For children there are books,

toys, games, puzzles, infant items including brand-new Christening gowns. The Bangles and Beads section includes totes and handbags, many Vera Bradley, and showcases a wide selection of name-brand jewelry from casual wear to formal wear. The Christmas Shop welcomes shoppers to a room filled with an assortment of everything Christmas.

New merchandise is displayed each week. Donations are accepted during shopping hours. For more information, contact the church office at office@marlconchurch.org or 860-295-9050.

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New Prevention Coordinator Aims to Expand Coalition

By London Brazal

Belltown recently welcomed its newest prevention coordinator, Brooke Clavet – and she has definite goals in mind.

Clavet graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University in December 2021 with a degree in allied health and a minor in genetic counseling. During her time at school, Clavet worked on a semester-long project about opioids. By studying statistics and the effects of the certain class of drugs, she became interested in specializing in public health and prevention. With the COVID-19 pandemic occurring right when Clavet was attending college, she knew she wanted to avoid working at hospitals. So, after graduation she worked in an Applied Behavior Analysis program with kids, but learned that it was not quite the career path she wanted to follow.

Only starting three weeks ago, Clavet has been busy learning about her new role and the programs associated with it. In the last month, she has had meetings with members of the East Hampton Prevention Partnership to familiarize herself with the grassroots organization. The local prevention council works to reduce substance abuse among young people through education, awareness, and public relations. The coalition is also focused on creating a culture that values the health and well-being of youth in town. In training, Clavet has looked into the

current programs and is already thinking of more ideas to bring to the coalition.

Last Wednesday, Clavet attended the East Hampton High School freshman orientation to showcase the Bring Change to Mind's High School Program. This program gives teens a platform to share their stories and raise awareness about mental health. The goal of the initiative is to fight the stigma surrounding mental illness and substance abuse. The club, which meets biweekly, is open for East Hampton High School students to educate each other and create a peer support culture.

One of Clavet's goals is to spread more awareness about the Bring Change to Mind program.

"Especially out of the COVID era, it is important to focus on the mental health aspect. I want to see these kids get back out of the bubble," Clavet said. By focusing on mental health first, the prevention coalition hopes to have more areas of support so students avoid turning to substances as a coping mechanism.

Another goal Clavet and the coalition have is to offer more opportunities to the middle school. Part of prevention is to provide more resources to younger students that normalize healthy practices and well-being. The new Prevention Coordinator also wants to create a family-oriented program that teaches parents the dangers of substance abuse.

"It is important for parents to learn more

about vaping and its consequences since e-cigarettes and vaping are newer," Clavet added. With mini-grants, the coalition will be creating new campaigns and signs that focus on anti-vaping.

Ultimately, Clavet is excited to create new programs and activities for East Hampton youth. While reflecting on stories she has heard about prevention, one of the questions Clavet focuses on is "What could have happened?" In high school, she listened to a story about an underage boy who was pulled over. The police officer confiscated weed and later found out that it was laced with fentanyl.

"It's stories like these that stick with me because what could have happened if the police officer never pulled that kid over?" Clavet said. When working to bring speakers into the schools, Clavet wants to have people who can resonate with their audiences and make a significant impact.

The East Hampton Prevention Partnership is made up of community members and local representatives from different sectors including law enforcement, healthcare, and government. With a solid group that is consistently involved, Clavet wants to continue to expand the coalition and get the name out to more residents. Clavet added she is grateful for the friendly staff and coalition members who have been helpful in navigating new responsibilities as she settles into her new role.

The coalition meets on a monthly basis and hosted a data committee meeting yesterday. The September meeting has not been scheduled at the time of printing but is open to all community members who wish to participate.



Belltown's newest Prevention Coordinator, Brooke Clavet, is an ECSU graduate with goals to expand the East Hampton Prevention Partnership.

For more information, contact bclavet@easthamptonct.gov or call 860-267-4468, ext. 3227. The partnership also has resources on easthamptonct.gov for students and families to utilize.

'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, or email cdhr.golf@gmail.com.

Haddam Neck Fair This Weekend

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

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

Saturday, Sept. 2, features the popular Women's Skillet Toss Contest, truck and tractor pulls, dog agility competition and modified tractor pulls. The music at the bandstand features

Downtown 6 at 5 pm opening for The Linda Ronstadt Experience with Tristan McIntosh at 7:30 pm.

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

Monday, Sept. 4, features two cyclocross events, the oxen pulls, the Kids Pedal Tractor Pull, and the famous Baby Show. Premium payouts begin at 3 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

CommuniTea: Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors and other library patrons. Have

a cup of tea (coffee drinkers welcome).

Write Here: Tuesday, Sept. 11. Come down to the library and write. Contact the library to pre-register and for further information.

Fly Fishing with Rowan Lytle: Friday, Sept. 15. Call the library to pre-register and for more information.

What's at the Town Clerk's Office?: Wednesday, Sept. 20. Come on in and find out about the documents and services they now offer. Contact the library to pre-register and for further information.

Banish the Blank Page: This writers' workshop and meet-up group will be Monday, Sept. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m. There will be writing exercises and constructive criticism. All genres welcome. Call the library to pre-register and for more information.

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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.

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Beat Parkinson's Today Sees Successful Research Trials

By London Brazal

After a year of experiencing muscle failure, Michelle Hespeler was diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's disease.

At 40 years old, simple tasks such as writing notes or holding a remote became difficult. At first, Hespeler thought it was carpal tunnel but soon learned about her diagnosis, Parkinson's disease, a progressive brain disorder that affects the nervous system. Sixteen years later, she has thrived and remains in stage one of five.

Beat Parkinson's Today, founded by Hespeler, changed to a 501(c)(3) public charity in 2016. Since staying healthy and exercising motivated Hespeler, she created the program to help those experiencing the same circumstances.

"I know what they're going through. The best part is seeing other people feel better and the difference in their attitude," she said. The program provides support groups, and exercise classes designed for people with Parkinson's, and participates in research. The website beat-PDtoday.com has resources, registrations, and videos for members.

Eight locations in Connecticut host the exercise programs with roughly 200 participants who have Parkinson's disease. As Hespeler splits her time between East Hampton and North Carolina, she expanded the program as three classes are offered near her southern home that serves about 20 people. The program also has four affiliates in Pennsylvania. The organization also hosts online classes that people can take virtually or live. Hespeler describes the classes as group sessions with a personal training touch. They work on boxing and functional interval training to assist functional everyday living. With seven trainers, the strict curriculum has helped people slow the progression of the disease, according to Hespeler. "It's not a cure, but it's a therapy," she said. "Our mantra is exer-

cise is medicine."

Recent Clinical Trial

Members of Beat Parkinson's Today participate in trials and work with doctors from different hospitals in the state including Yale New Haven and Hartford Healthcare. The partnership with Yale led to a clinical trial that finished the first examination. Eleven members received brain scans and then exercised three times a week with Beat PD. After six months, they did another set of brain scans. According to Hespeler, the results were positive and there was an improvement in slowing the progression of the disease.

The partnerships work mutually as Hespeler suggests research participation and doctors recommend Beat PD's exercise programs. Parkinson's disease typically begins gradually and then worsens over time. It can affect a person's whole body. Hespeler has seen an increase in research but there is much more to do. "We have to put in the work. Looking at the whole picture, it takes a lot of people," Hespeler said. "Research needs to continue and people have to participate in trials." Ultimately, she is grateful for the success the organization has made in the past seven years.

Years of Reflection

In her experience, Hespeler has learned to be an advocate for herself and others. "You can't sit back and do nothing if we want to learn more," she said. Her life became much busier with the program, but she is very grateful for the support from friends, family, and local businesses.

"I've become more compassionate with people who have Parkinson's and it has driven me to make a difference," she said.

For those who are going through similar challenges, Hespeler's advice is to keep a positive attitude. For her, she remains healthy by ex-



Michelle Hespeler, kneeling in the front, was diagnosed with Young-Onset Parkinson's at the age of 40. Her foundation, Beat Parkinson's Today, hosts exercise classes for people with Parkinson's to live their lives with strength and confidence.

ercising and meditating.

"I could go on and on, but take one day at a time," she added. "Think strong, move strong, and be strong!"

On Friday, Sept. 22, Beat Parkinson's Today will host a golf tournament at the Portland Golf Course. The cost to play is \$150 and includes a round of golf, lunch, and dinner. In addition, there will be several contests, a silent auction, and raffles. At the end of the day, Hespeler will announce the winners. Though she won't be

playing, Hespeler is excited to cheer everyone on throughout the day.

"We have about 11 more spots still open, so I'm happy it's pretty full a few weeks before the tournament," said Hespeler. Donations help pay for trainers, equipment, and scholarships for members.

Sixteen years have passed quickly for Hespeler as she works hard to expand her non-profit. "As it says on the back of my Jeep, you have one life, live it!"

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.
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EHPS Celebrates Outstanding Staff

By London Brazal

From the schools' Good Apples to the Teacher of the Year, the staff and administration celebrated exceptional staff that continue to educate East Hampton's youth. At this year's convocation, educators, administration, and staff gathered to present the annual awards.

A new award, Interventionist of the Year, was presented to Jennifer Kessler. In a speech given by Jacqueline Reinhard, Kessler was described as someone who puts her children's needs in front of her own. "Even if it means eating her lunch with a student or finding appropriate manipulatives during her break."

Many of her students are non-verbal, and Kessler values that each child is understood, treated with compassion, and has their unique needs met. Furthermore, she is always finding new ways to help students learn and is willing to work with any student. One parent credits Kessler for her son's love of school after struggling the previous year. The parent loved seeing the excitement in her child's attitude when he was with Kessler.

Reinhard added that Kessler is a team player, she is always there for her peers, as well. "She set a very high bar as the inaugural recipient of the Interventionist of the Year."

The Paraeducator of the Year was given to Leslie Wicander who co-teaches in the Preschool Smart Start Program. Known as Mrs. W or "Mrs. Woo" by the students, each day is full of surprises in the program for three and four-year-old students. However, Wicander is always ready to dance, wipe noses, read, tie shoes, build block masterpieces, or take laps around the hallways.

Stacey Gibson, the teacher of Smart Start, called Wicander her "other half" and credits her

with the passion that results in successful co-teaching. Wicander has a warm way of connecting with all the students and acts on the needs of every child.

Superintendent Paul Smith said, "Our youngest learners are made to feel right at home by Leslie. There is no one better to help them begin their school journey."

This year's Rookie Teacher Award went to Erin Basile, a Memorial School teacher who has years of experience, but is new to the district. "We are so happy that we were able to convince Erin to come and work for us," Smith said. "Hardly a rookie teacher, she is new to our district and has brought a spark to her classroom that was quickly acknowledged and appreciated by her students and families."

Basile was nominated by numerous parents and staff members who commonly agreed that she is an exceptional teacher and role model. One parent felt lucky that her child was part of a classroom with an amazing teacher who cared for each individual. Another parent recognized Basile's communication and warm learning space for all students. Several parents credited their children's success to Basile's commitment to students and families.

Parents and staff agreed that Basile created a nurturing environment for her students to feel valued and supported. Emma Gould, who presented the award, described Basile as an effective, passionate, and dedicated teacher. "Her sense of calmness, empathy, and compassion leads to a focus on kindness and caring for each other in her classroom," said Gould. "With skills that almost appear effortless, parents feel like they are partners in her classroom."

East Hampton's Teacher of the Year was awarded to Kristin Dean who oversees the Busi-



Teacher of the Year Kristin Dean (center) celebrated her award with Assistant Principal Jackie Russell, Principal Eric Verner, Superintendent Paul Smith, and Director of Curriculum Mary Clark. Dean oversees the business education department and her teaching philosophy brings real-world, authentic learning experiences to her classes.

ness Education Department at the high school. Though her courses are electives, they are popular among the students and are always filled. As part of her teaching philosophy, Dean designed her courses to offer students authentic learning experiences. She mentors her students to be young professionals by giving them the confidence to develop essential skills in the world of business.

Dean was described as a quiet teacher who often does not call attention to herself; however, many students see her as one of the most impactful teachers of her school career. This year, Dean elevated the status of the high school's DECA club as it entered the state competition for the first time and had tremendous success

with teams placing and qualifying for the national competition.

After the event, students mentioned that it was one of the most significant experiences of their high school careers. Dean is committed to her students and their development as future business leaders who are positive and prepared adults. All students, majoring in business or not, benefit from her mentorship and compassion.

The Good Apple Award is an East Hampton tradition that every employee is eligible for. Recipients "open doors and inspire students to dream, discover and achieve," the school system said. The 2023 awards were awarded to Meghan Wood, Shannon Stockburger, Jen Palma, Cathy Morsey, Neil Shilansky and Rodney Mosier.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, due to Labor Day.

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; Stories & Songs: Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

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 Programs: Teen Advisory Board Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m. Grades 6-12 are invited to help plan events and programs they want, and provide input to expand the library's YA collection. Teens can earn community service hours. New members welcome.

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

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.

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Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

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

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

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

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

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Information Meetings on Wednesday, September 13.

Choose one:
- 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, or
- 6:30 p.m. at the Library

Both are at 105 Main St, East Hampton
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Please register in advance through the Senior Center:
seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov, or 860-267-4426, but walk-ins welcome.

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Proposed Developments Off Less-Trafficked Roads

By London Brazal

Newly updated proposals presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission plan to bring more housing developments off less frequented roads. At the last PZC meeting, held on Aug. 2, two professional engineers talked about the most recent updates regarding the two residential-zoned lots.

Though no major decisions have been made yet, each proposal will continue to be discussed by the board and include public hearings at future meetings. The Land Use Department provides resources, applications, and zoning maps for residents to utilize.

37 South Main Street

A 20-acre lot on South Main Street, owned by Michael Bakaj, remains empty after 16 years of proposals. In 2007, the original proposal was for 129 units to fill the land, but in 2009, a court approval knocked it down to 127 units. At the time, many residents believed it was too much for the less-trafficked road.

The newest proposal asks the Planning and Zoning Commission to subdivide the 20 acres into 22 lots with a total of 33 units. The housing opportunity development (HOD) zone is located on the town's GIS with the Parcel ID of 20-51-27. The current lot is split between R2 and R4 classification per the most recent East

Hampton Zoning Map.

Professional engineer Mark Reynolds, who owns Reynolds Engineering Services in Colchester, provided updates to the plans based on previous comments at the PZC meeting last month. Reynolds said he is working on the affordability plan for the developments. Affordable housing is a residency where owners pay under 30% of their income toward their mortgage or rent. This is different from supportive housing which also provides resources and services for low-income residents.

Some changes to the development included moving a 10,000-gallon cistern, a walking trail instead of a basketball court, and a narrow entry road with a sidewalk. With Reynolds' most recent update, the fire marshal did not flag any more concerns.

Jeremy DeCarli, the town's Planning and Zoning official, said that property survey pins were installed in 2021. References were made to a map created by Dutton and Associates in 2008 near the time of the original proposal.

During public comments, two South Main Street residents agreed that the 33-unit application was more favorable than the 127-unit one. However, both residents expressed concern about people wandering onto their properties

Democrats Announce Slate

The East Hampton Democratic Town Committee has announced its fall slate – consisting of candidates that, the committee said, are united in their purpose to build a better quality of life for all people in town.

The Democrats said in a press release they are hopeful to flip the majority on the Town Council and Board of Education, as well as “better balance” the Board of Finance. The DTC said the candidates are focused on issues that will make East Hampton a better place to live for everybody, including new and longtime residents, families, and senior citizens.

“For People, for Progress” is not just a campaign slogan for us. It's a statement that defines the approach we take toward government and building a vibrant community,” said Brian Corvo, campaign manager for the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee. “The candidates on our ticket are representative of the population in this town, and once elected, they will work tirelessly to build a community that we all deserve.”

The Democrats said they are placing an emphasis on transparency and openness on all

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Middlesex Community College, 100 Training Hill Rd., Middletown.

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

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



Hospital Volunteer of the Year... Fowler-Dix-Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary 5095 congratulates Judith Barnes of Colchester on being recognized at the 110th National VFW Auxiliary Convention in Phoenix Arizona, as Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year. Ten volunteers were recognized country-wide.

boards, commissions, and the Town Council.

Several of the candidates were organizers or participants in the successful effort to reject the proposed 2023-24 budget in favor of a revised spending plan that restored some of the spending reductions town officials had made. The Democrats said they “believe that excellent schools and a well-staffed, dependable public safety network are critical to making East Hampton a great place to live for residents of all ages and incomes.”

The Democrats also stressed they “are dedicated to improving infrastructure and the health of amenities that are shared by the community. These include access to clean drinking water, preservation of Lake Pocotopaug, and ensuring the town facilities are accessible to people of all abilities.”

Voters can learn more about the Democratic platform at ehctdems.org.

The endorsed Democratic slate includes the following:

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

Board of Education: Ken Barber (incumbent), Edie DeSimone, Matt Engelhardt, Paul Wisniewski.

Board of Finance: Kurt Comisky, A.J. Spagnoletti, Ted Turner (incumbent).

Zoning Board of Appeals: Brian Spack, Evan Giza.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Becoming Catholic

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

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

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.

Epoch Arts Tag Sale!

Epoch Arts is holding a six-day, two-weekend, indoor, rain-or-shine, tag sale!

The Tag Sale runs Sept. 15 and 22 from noon-5 p.m. each day, and Sept. 16, 17, 23 and 24, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Sept. 15 has an early bird special from 10 a.m.-noon, with a fee of \$25 (pay at the door), for those who wish to have a first sneak preview. The tag sale is held at 27 Skinner St.

The sale will include a Christmas and Holiday room, as well as books, arts and crafts, linens, clothing, kitchen, toys, bath and beauty, furniture, electronics, sports, tools, and more. All proceeds directly fund Epoch's youth programs for the year.

For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

and requested some form of barrier, preferably a vegetated buffer. There are no requirements for barriers, but the PZC can add those conditions.

The Commission approved the continuation of the application. A public hearing will continue at the next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m.

Flanders Road

Professional engineer Rob Baltramaitis proposed plans for a 15-lot subdivision on a 53-acre parcel off Flanders Road. The Home Acres Estates is presented in an R4 classified zone. A map can be found on the town website, the Parcel ID is 26-87-6. In the development plans, 12 lots would be accessed by a private road off Flanders Road and three lots by Pecaussett Trail.

Due to the site's topography, it would be a challenge to connect the road from Flanders to Pecaussett Trail. However, land was dedicated in the Pecaussett subdivision to connect in the

future. The PZC wants to hear from the Town Council regarding the proposal for a private road.

The lots are sized to meet minimum standards and soil testing has been conducted with Chatham Health. Furthermore, the plans meet zoning regulations, DOT drainage, and DEEP stormwater quality. There are open spaces for specific divided parcels that meet conservation easements. Also, there would be a vegetated swale to collect water runoff to detention basin areas.

In the plan, utilities will be located underground. Overall, some regulations will be reviewed, but there were no major issues at the time except a request from DeCarli to include a water supply tank. The plans were sent to the fire marshal for review.

A public hearing is set for the PZC regular meeting on Oct. 4.

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

cans by the shed.

Tag Sale: The annual Labor Day tag sale is Sept. 1-3. All are invited.

Haddam Neck Fair Cookie Booth Fundraiser: Cookies will be sold during fair hours; the fair runs 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.

Red McKinney Rotary Golf Tournament

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club invites all to participate in the 30th annual Golf Tournament. This is the third year honoring the late Red McKinney.

The tournament will take place at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron on Wednesday, Oct. 4. Registration is from 8-10 a.m. Breakfast sandwiches will be available for purchase provided by the East Hampton VFW Post 5095 Auxiliary. Shotgun start is at 10 a.m.

The format will be a scramble, with prizes for first, second and third place teams, closest to the pin, longest drive and closest to the line. There will also be the popular hole-in-one contest.

Don't forget to wear your red shirt.

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 Sept. 14.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet outdoors, weather permitting, or indoors or via Zoom.

Free Blood Pressure 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.

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: Wednes-

Lunch will be a grab-and-go (between hold nine on Anderson Glen and hole ten on Gilead Highlands). Dinner will follow the tournament and there will be a 50/50 raffle, live auction, and a tee-cup raffle. Non-golfers are welcome to come for dinner and participate in the raffles and auction.

Cost is \$125 per golfer or \$25 for dinner only. Dinner starts at approximately 3:30 p.m. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to supporting community service projects. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information and to register, visit easthamptonct.rotary7980gives.org/41e348.

day, 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.

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 Jewling@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.

Fall League Senior Bowling

Ages 55 and up are invited to participate in the Fall Mixed Bowling League 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.

Class of '56 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1956 will celebrate its 67th Class Reunion Thursday, Sept. 21, at 1 p.m., at The Dublin, 42 East High St.

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High Standards Carry Panthers Football

By Josh Howard

After capturing a state championship and winning 23 of 25 games over the last two seasons, the Cromwell/Portland co-op football team faces a new set of challenges this fall.

The Panthers graduated 14 players, including four all-conference players and a pair of all-state players, and head coach Randell Bennett said the team will need several of the younger players to step up to keep the high level of success alive.

“Last year we talked about being better than what we were in ‘21, but this year is a completely new group – these guys have to prove themselves,” stated Bennett.

Returning all-conference players Jack Williams and Emeka Yearwood have now assumed senior leadership roles. The pair played pivotal roles in each of the last two seasons as the Panthers finished undefeated (13-0) during the team’s state championship season in 2021 and won 10 of 12 games last fall as the team advanced to the state semifinals.

Williams, a senior at Portland High School, said the key to sustained success is the time and effort that the players put in practice.

“We have to work harder than everybody else. No matter if it’s running or doing a walk-through, everything has to be 100%,” added Williams, who has embraced his new role as a team leader. “We’re just making sure we are working and making sure everyone else around us is working as hard as they can so the program just keeps getting better and better every year.”

Yearwood, who led the team in total yards from scrimmage last fall as a junior, added, “We’ve had to take on more of a leadership role. We’re encouraging other people to work that much harder and doing extra reps.”

The toughest piece to replace may be behind center.

Following an all-state season last fall, quarterback Cole Brisson graduated and is now playing for Union College.

Filling the void left by Brisson is junior Jess Elfreich, who assumes the starting gig following two seasons in the back-up role.

After learning the ropes from Brisson – a four-year starter – Elfreich takes over an offense that averaged nearly 36 points per game over the last two seasons.

Bennett, who had all-state quarterback Bryce Karstetter as a three-year starter prior to Brisson, said that Elfreich possesses a unique ability to run and has a high football IQ, similar to his predecessors.

“Jess got to sit and watch Cole every day for two seasons,” added Bennett. “We’re excited to see him grow from that experience.”

Defensively, all-conference junior Matt Gish and senior Alex McKiernan return to lead a linebacker unit that Bennett said should be the strength of the team.

Gish and McKiernan finished second and third on the team in tackles last fall – behind

only all-state linebacker Ryan Rozich, who led the team in tackles and is now playing at Bates College.

A key to the Panthers’ success since Bennett took over the head coaching job in 2017 is his players ability to play all three phases of the game, including multiple positions on both sides on the ball.

Along with being the team’s leading rusher a season ago, Yearwood was also a disruptive defensive end. He is expected to play multiple roles again offensively and moved to the defensive backfield to fill a need for a unit that lost the entire starting backfield to graduation.

“When you go to a small school, that is what you have to do,” said Yearwood. “That’s what we practice in the summer. You have to learn every position, and [the coaches] pretty much preach that in order to be on this field you have to be able to play every position.”

Yearwood’s brother, sophomore Osi Yearwood, is expected to see an expanded role as a primary ball carrier along with fellow sophomore Tyler Cipolla, who finished with the second most all-purpose yards on the team a year ago.

After leading the team in sacks last fall, Williams is slated to play defensive end for a unit that shut out five opponents last fall.

“If I can make the team better by playing that is where I am going to play,” stated Williams, who will anchor both sides of the line of scrimmage with fellow senior A.J. Signorello.

The Panthers, who play in the Pequot Conference, enter the season having won 15 straight conference games, last losing a conference game on November 16, 2019 in Durham against the co-op of Coginchaug Regional/East Hampton/Hale Ray.

Fittingly, they open this season in Durham against their conference rivals Blue Devils, who they have soundly defeated in each of the last two seasons, including a 55-0 victory last fall.

Bennett said the team will need to excel in all three phases to be successful this season, emphasizing a need to get an edge on special teams.

“We need to come out firing on all cylinders,” stated Bennett, who added the opener in Durham will be a good early test. “I’d like to see us playing our brand of football – creating explosive plays on offense and attacking on defense.”

Williams added, “Expect to see us coming out at 100% and finishing the game at 100% no matter what the score is.”



After graduating 14 players, the Cromwell/Portland co-op football team will rely on a few new faces this fall. Returning all-conference players Emeka Yearwood (left) and Jack Williams assume larger leadership roles this year.

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:** Senior center closed for Labor Day; **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.; Family History Fun with Ken Doney, 10:30 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 Duclous 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.

Vendors Sought for Church Crafts Fair

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

The safety of our patients and staff members is extremely important for us. All recommended COVID-19 safety measures are in place.



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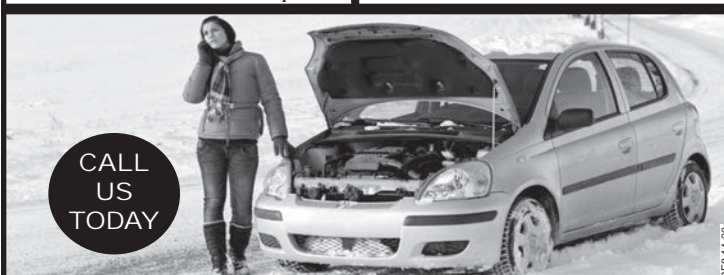
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Town Offices Closed

The Portland town offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, in observation of Labor Day.

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.

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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Brainerd Place Continues to Take Shape

By John Leavenworth

If you've driven through Portland recently on your way to the Arrigoni Bridge, you've probably noticed Brainerd Place, a construction development underway on the corner of Marlborough and Main streets.

The area, once the site of the Elmcrest psychiatric hospital, will now be a mixed-use lot for retail businesses, restaurants and apartment buildings.

Plans for the development include a Starbucks and 240 residential units.

According to First Selectman Ryan Curley, construction will come in three distinct phases.

Phase one will include Buildings B, C, D, E, and G; phase two will bring F and H; and phase three will bring A.

Building E, which will include 99 of the housing units, is currently visible in its beginning stages.

According to Curley, the crews for developers Bright Ravens and DiMarco Group need to complete one more concrete pour for the garage ceiling and first floor of the building, before framing can begin.

"That last pour is scheduled to be completed this week. Framing will begin shortly after," Curley said.

On the progress of the site, the first selectman said, "It's just incredible to see the amount of concrete."

"They're moving quick," he said.

As far as framing will go, he said the structures "will pop up pretty quickly."

People can expect to see one story added to the frame every two weeks, weather permitting, he said.

In conjunction with Building E, construction

on Building D, a Starbucks, will begin soon.

The building is slated to be handed over to the coffee chain on or before June 30, 2024, according to Curley.

Following E and D, construction on Building F, which will house another 130 apartments, is slated to begin "roughly 6 months after the start of Building E," as far as the goal for the project is concerned, said the selectman.

The first tenants for Building E, the first at the site, can be expected in the fall of 2024.

Construction for the entire development will take at least 5 years to complete, he said.

The town can expect 400 to 500 new residents when all 240 apartments are habitable, he said.

With new residents, usually come new students to a school system, which could mean an added expense for the town.

According to Curley, however, the number of new students would not be substantial enough to cause too big of an expense.

"Studies done so far have shown a relatively small impact of school-age children from these

apartments," Curley said. As a result, he added, "70% are one-bedroom units and only 30% are two-bedroom units."

In addition to the new concrete foundations, three historic homes will keep their footings at the site.

The structures were described on the Elmcrest Campus Advisory Committee's website: the John H. Sage House, built in 1884; the Hart-Jarvis House, circa 1829-1830; and the Erastus Brainerd Jr. House, circa 1851.

According to town Building Official Peter Willse, the houses will be restored as part of the plans for development, but dates for restoration have not yet been determined.

The landmarks will be repurposed for different uses: the Sage House will become a restaurant; the Hart-Jarvis will be used for office space; and the Brainerd House will be a clubhouse for people who work or live at the site.

It is still unclear what restaurant and company the Sage and Hart-Jarvis will belong to.

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.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

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, or you can come in and pick up a paper log instead.

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: 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.

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.

Teen Programs: Mushroom Stuffers: Monday, Sept. 18, 3:30 p.m. Craft a small mushroom pillow. No previous sewing skills required.

Gingerbread Haunted Houses: Monday, Oct. 30, 3:30 p.m.

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

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.

Zion Lutheran Church News

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

Zion's study of the video series *The Chosen* is

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

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

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 unless marked otherwise. There are also large print mystery and general fiction books that have been removed from the library collection for 50 cents, as well as TV series on DVD for 50 cents each

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

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

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

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★ *Letters cont. from page 27*

Across the country, the Boogaloo movement has been linked to more than two dozen arrests and at least five deaths, including the alleged plot to kidnap the Michigan governor, Gretchen Whitmer. (ABC News, *Daily Beast*, Insider)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Policy, Not Politics

To the Editor:

The elected members of the Colchester Board of Finance serve several duties guided by its policy, by-laws, and the town's charter, with one particular responsibility being to oversee the community's financial needs. As such, one of the duties of these officials is to oversee expenditures and, if required, approve transfers to accommodate departmental, e.g., fire, police, and highways needs, that you, the taxpayer, approved via referendum.

I found it very problematic that in the Aug. 23 Board of Finance meeting, the first selectman of Colchester seemed determined to make this practical function and safeguard of the town's purse a matter of politics. The residents of Colchester elected members of its Board of Finance to serve as overseers of our tax dollars. Regardless of party, any first selectman who opts to usurp this oversight doesn't deserve to hold the office.

Sincerely,
Scott Chapman – Colchester Candidate, Board of Finance

Parrots' Ignorance Is Bliss

To the Editor:

Never ceases to amaze me Ed and Annie squawk the same things each week. Democratic Party examples, look into mirror, whatever you see, claim the other party is guilty of.

Squawk Jan. 6, end of democracy, climate change, Trump's rich friends, now Jared Kushner. If there was something real there, there would be more for all to see. Not necessarily fire where you see smoke. "Biden brand" clearly has fire evident through the smoke, but it's just a diversion. Could it be that all the Trump Jan. 6 end-of-democracy indictments aren't also diversions from what's really happening in and to our country.

The media squawked about how much golf Trump played, but "Big Guy" takes just as much time off; media covers for him for all the hard work he's doing, really? Hard work for whom?

Diversions from homelessness, crime, drugs being smuggled in, how much money being div-

en to Ukraine, southern border being flooded with millions of illegal immigrants, sent to democratically run cities and states who complain to the federal government and get nothing.

Diversion from Bidenomics, yeah, really working for our country. Gas and food prices, mortgage interest rates. Real people, voters can't afford them, but where is FDR or LBJ (not) when you need them? SS & Medicare was supported by both parties, but becoming insolvent and neither party has done anything about it.

Maui, climate change-driven, really? Have you ever traveled to China, India, or South Africa (lithium mined for electric car batteries)? Before virtue-signaling environmental responsibility and commenting on earth's atmosphere, visit these places (I have), see their contributions to mother earth's climate calamity. Look into all the new, unused electric cars built in China now sitting in electric car graveyards. Do you know what happens to a used battery from an electric car? Afraid you environmental stewards can't answer that question.

Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough

Support 'Mom Politics'

Hebron Residents:

I am writing to show my support for Kim Hills in her campaign for a position on The Hebron Board of Education. I have known Kim for over 25 years. She is my sister-in-law, but so much more to me and to this community. Some of her qualifications: lifelong Hebron resident, business owner, wife, mother, town educator, athlete, coach, sister and a friend to all who pass her way.

No matter what role Kim takes, she does it with passion and respect. Kim is a fantastic listener and always the first to offer help whenever it is needed. Kim was raised in this wonderful community and choose to stay here, raising her family and working as a teacher to our children. Kim will bring so much to this town by being a member of this board. She will not only bring her love for the community and children's education, but her knowledge of the education system. She has a fantastic way of hearing all angles and basing her decisions on common sense and parental instinct.

When you're a mother, you fight for "mom politics." She will fight to ensure the focus stays education and that it is being offered to our children in a fair manner. Kim will be amazing in this role as she already proves in her many other ones. If you support "mom politics," support Kim Hills!

Sincerely,
Melinda Lunderville – Hebron

Bridge Stamp Celebration

To the Editor:

A heartfelt thank you to all those who joined us at the Arrigoni Bridge Stamp release celebration last week. The overwhelming turnout led us to relocate the event to the Brownstone Intermediate School. This remarkable occasion would not have been achievable without the dedicated efforts of a group of immensely talented individuals.

Many thanks to Sarah Caratasios, Julie Mack-soud, Jennifer Billingsley, Michael Tierney, Foster Miller, Brian Magee, Dan Pickett, Jonathan Ives, the Portland Historical Society, Portland Senior Center, Portland Library, the Connecticut Cover Club, and the staff at the Brownstone Intermediate School.

Special acknowledgment and appreciation to Portland resident, Paul Sienkiewicz, whose rendition of the national anthem left us all awe-inspired. Additionally, thank you to the the Color Guard of Portland Boy Scout Troop 2: Aiden Burrus, Matthew Mucinskas, Jack Payne and Liam Rowe, for their impeccable presentation.

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. Your dedication and support have left an indelible mark on the celebration of the Arrigoni Bridge Stamp release.

**Ryan Curley
Portland First Selectman**

A Common Language

To the Editor:

In my letter to the editor last week, I expressed my disagreement with the idea that Colchester needs to be "brought together" because I do not believe us to be divided. I absolutely stand behind that. I do, however, understand why some might feel that we are. We are no longer speaking the same language. From our earliest days as colonies there was always one value that bound us all together – liberty. Our founding fathers disagreed on much but they were all bound together by the belief that the role of government was merely to ensure and protect the liberty of its citizens.

Liberty is real transpartisanship based on a common set of values. Liberty is about community – how we come together, create together, respect each other, and help each other. It's about justice and the belief that everyone regardless of race, creed, or economic status, should be treated the same in spite of where they came from.

It is this value that I believe has not only been lost, but has turned into a point of open mockery for too many. To quote some outspoken local Democrats, the idea of personal liberty is just a "Libertarian fever dream." It's no wonder

some citizens feel divided when it seems people are playing by different rules. Hostile board meetings are troublesome at times, no doubt, but they're merely a symptom of the larger issue. Focusing on a symptom does nothing to solve the root cause. We'll cease to feel divided only when we resolve to once again govern in a way that prioritizes empowered individuals over an empowered state. From the ground, in. Not from the top, down.

Authority is no more unifying than respecting the dignity of the individual is divisive.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Balanced?

To the Editor:

What does balanced mean?

In the eyes of the new Marlborough Independent Party candidates, it must mean only Republicans willing to break up the regular Republican Party in Marlborough in favor of a more conservative approach to problems including adhering to misinformation and in many cases using vitriolic and divisive language to make a point. The nominating petition that was submitted to the Secretary of the State includes many disgruntled members of the MRTC who were not able to work through issues amicably with the other members. Does this bode well for their participation on boards and commissions in Marlborough?

Or does this take us backwards to the days of ugly and unfounded criticism of dedicated town employees and volunteers.

The well-being of our town should rely on treating each other with decency and respect. Our boards and commissions need those who can work through differences without name calling and hateful words.

**Concerned citizen,
Walter Carroll – Marlborough**

Perspective and Experience


To the Editor:

I would like to thank all of the Republicans in town who signed the recent petition allowing me this opportunity to run in the upcoming historic Republican primary. I am running for our local Board of Education with the hope that I can be a contributing factor to the educational practices that will lay a competitive foundation for our community's youth.

As a teacher, parent, and taxpayer I believe I bring a unique mix of perspective and experience to the table. I have been a teacher for 18 years and hold multiple master's degrees in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and educational technology. My experience and background would be a valuable asset to our local Board of Education.

I am honored to be campaigning with Kerri Barella for BOE as well as Sue Stolfi and Chris Barella for BOS. Again, thank you for this opportunity and I hope to see you at the polls on Sept. 12.

Amy Kuhrt – Marlborough



Better Dental HEALTH

A Practice For Optimal Dental Fitness

by George M. Mantikas, DMD

CANKER SORES, MOUTH ULCERS AND OTHER PAINS IN THE MOUTH

Mouth ulcers, commonly known as canker sores, are small, painful red or yellowish sores that develop on the inner tissues of lips, cheeks, tongue and gums. Most common in women and those under 45, these painful blister-like sores may be a sign of other health issues. Minor sores vary in size and usually clear up within two weeks. Major ulcers, larger and deeper, take longer to heal and can lead to scarring. The primary causes of mouth ulcers include stress; lack of sleep; minor mouth injuries; hormonal changes; food sensitivities; nutrient deficiencies; medications; gastrointestinal tract issues; and bacterial, viral, or fungal infections. A dental professional can determine the cause and prescribe a relief regimen.

Our goal is to assist our patients in overcoming the many assaults that can damage a healthy mouth. Our weapons against these dangers include a frank discussion of cause and effect, up-to-date procedures, and the latest in techniques and equipment, a friendly, positive outlook, and a true desire to see our patients achieve the smile they desire and deserve. For comprehensive dental care for all members of your family, please call us for an appointment.

P.S. "Aphthous ulcers," (mouth ulcers or canker sores) are aptly named. In Greek, aphthae (root of aphthous) means "to set on fire."

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Democrats, Republicans Announce Slates

By Michael Sinkewicz

With the November municipal election just around the corner, the chairman of Andover's Democratic and Republican town committees reviewed their slate of candidates with the *Rivereast* this week, presenting tickets of political newcomers and incumbents.

DTC Slate

DTC Chairman Catherine Magaldi-Lewis presented the slate, with Jeff Maguire at the top of the ticket seeking reelection as first selectman. He is joined on the ticket by selectman Scott Person, who is looking to keep his seat on the board, and Ann Crème, who presently sits on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Both Crème and Person are seeking election on the zoning commission, as well.

Regarding Maguire, Magaldi-Lewis said the town has "gotten quite a bit done with him as chair."

She expressed that "bringing humility" to the selectmen is a major priority this year.

Patrick Doherty, a member of the Economic Development Commission, is seeking an alternate seat on the zoning commission, along with Annmarie Daigle, who is listed as a placeholder.

For the Board of Finance, incumbents Louise Goodwin and Brian Briggs are seeking reelection. Newcomers Jay Kamins and John Tyczkowski will join them. Magaldi-Lewis described Kamins as a voice who would be down the middle, which is "so needed." Tyczkowski, meanwhile, is "very energetic." He is younger candidate who will bring "fresh ideas."

Incumbent Caitlin Greenhouse is a candidate once again for the local school board. She will be joined by fellow incumbent Shannon Loudon.

Scott Sauyet and Kirsten Erlander are the RHAM Board of Education candidates — they are running uncontested from the Republicans.

For Zoning Board of Appeals, Catherine Crème is the candidate, along with incumbent William Munroe and Jay Kamins as a placeholder.

holder.

Linda Armstrong is seeking another term on the Board of Assessment Appeals, along with Emily Timrick.

For the Fire Commission, Mark Williams is running again, joined by Kim Hawes.

"These are very smart people," said Magaldi-Lewis, regarding the slate. "They're people that want to do good, who are open to the other side."

Up and down the ticket, being a considerate politician is a common thread.

"Are you willing to sit and listen and take into consideration what they have to say? That's part of leadership."

The tone of the campaign and relevant issues are closely tied together, she contended.

"I want people who will lead by example," she said. "You're doing it for the benefit of the town."

Recently, the temperature of meetings hasn't been suitable, she expressed. She urged members to be more civil, which will lead to more productive meetings and decisions.

"You don't need to yell or bully your point across," she said. "Be respectful."

She added, "then maybe we can find common ground."

Moving forward, Magaldi-Lewis suggested that the town hold all-board meetings, perhaps on a quarterly basis. The lack of coordination and communication between the boards can potentially be solved.

"We're too small a town to be so separated," she said. "We're trying to get to the same place."

She praised the newfound accessibility of local leaders, noting that emails are readily available on the town website, www.andoverconnecticut.org. While she emphasized that Andover is a relatively small community, the choices made by officials are still impactful for residents, and voting is important.

"What we do here does matter," she said.

Magaldi-Lewis was also proud of the abid-

ance of female candidates on the ticket. She suggested that the term "selectmen" should be revised to "selectboard."

RTC Slate

On the Republican said, currently Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville sits atop the ticket, running for first selectman. Incumbents Jeff Murray and Paula King are also seeking reelection on the board. Mandeville is also listed as a candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals, along with incumbent Alan Roy.

RTC Chairman Carol Barton was originally listed as a placeholder for the Board of Finance, but is no longer on the ticket. Incumbent William Desrosiers aims to retain his finance board seat; he is joined by Kelly Wood.

For the Board of Education, incumbent Steven D. Fuss is seeking reelection, along with Brianne Lanzieri. Kim Person is petitioning onto the ballot.

Jed Larsen, chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission is running again.

On the Zoning Board of Appeals, William Desrosiers and Kathleen Skork are seeking reelection, joined by Fred Oliver. Joan Ross is running as an alternate.

Wallace Barton Jr., chairman of the Fire Commission, is on the ticket again; member Kurt Boehm is also on the slate.

"Both parties have a lot of new people running," Barton said. "It's good because people are willing to step up and support the town. You don't say 'yes' unless you know what you're getting into."

"Government is not easy," she added, and people often don't bother to address their concerns. "You can't always complain about what's happening if you're not willing to put your name in and change it."

A top priority for the Republican slate, she

continued, will be encouraging fiscal responsibility. Specifically, the school budget should be "reasonable."

"We have to look at what we can afford."

A recent town charter revision, approved by the voters, allows the municipal and school budgets to be separated if the initial combined proposal fails at referendum — a modification Barton believes will help leaders make better decisions.

In a small town, she continued, boards and commissions are always focused on attracting new businesses, and the associated tax revenue. Officials on the zoning board, for example, can help promote those objectives.

Residents of political parties, she expressed, don't typically enjoy tax increases; the challenge for leaders is to advance the community forward without spending large sums of money.

"That's typical in all towns," she said.

Barton explained that in small towns, name recognition can often be the deciding factor in winning or losing elections. Candidates are encouraged to write letters to the editor in the *Rivereast*, but should try to avoid mentioning opponents. The tone should be "friendly," she said.

Candidates swarm the same locations and campaign side by side with their counterparts. It's important to keep encounters civil, and promote the candidate's own personal stance on an issue.

"We're neighbors; we're residents," she said. "I don't think we've ever had nastiness."

Focusing on the features of town that make Andover unique will help each candidate, she added.

"Push what you want to do," she said. "You want people really thinking about it."

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following items have been updated for Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled. If you want to attend any events, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Also call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs, including rides to medical appointments. For all Young at Heart events including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for all trip information. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, andoverct.org.

Senior Lunch Dates: 9/8, 9/22. Call Palazzi

Church Collecting for Tag Sale

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Tag Sale Saturday, Sept. 16, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., with a bag sale from 1-2 p.m. In preparation for the sale, the church will accept donations for this sale daily from 3:30-5:30 p.m., from Wednesday, Sept. 6, until Thursday, Sept. 14.

For more information, call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave a message with your contact number.

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 29, 2023:

• Application #**IWWC 23-12**: Eric Anderson (Town of Andover), 25 School Rd- Installation of a tracking pad, concrete walkway and bioswale associated with construction of a Community Center. A portion of the work is within the 100-foot Upland Review Area of an unnamed wetland.

The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.

1TB 9/1

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

2TB 8/25, 9/1

Ballot Lottery

A lottery will be held Thursday, Sept. 7, at 11:30 a.m., in the Andover Town Hall community room, to determine the positions on the ballot for the Nov. 7 municipal election.

Annual Steak Dinner

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department's annual steak dinner will be Saturday Sept. 16, from 5-7 p.m., at the firehouse on School Road. This meal includes sirloin steak, baked potato, salad, fresh baked bread, beverages and dessert. Eat in or take out.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased from any member, Wednesday evenings at the firehouse or by calling Deputy Chief Mindy at 860-706-3074 or Chief Ron at 860-335-0264. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular Town Council Meeting in the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Town Council will review amendments to the Code of the Town of East Hampton for Chapter 278 Article V - Stipends for Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Personnel and Civil Preparedness Director to increase the stipend amount and Chapter 96 Parks & Recreation Department to update the responsibilities and change the name of the department. A copy of the draft ordinances will be available in the Town Clerk's Office.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mark Philhower, Chairman
Tim Feegel, Vice Chairman
Pete Brown
Brandon Goff
Eric Peterson
Kevin Reich
Alison Walck

1TB 9/1

Fire Department Hosting Food Drive

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will host a food drive tomorrow 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.

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday school is pro-

vided.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

Sonshine Stammers: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

All About Opossums

On Saturday, Sept. 9, the Andover Public Library will welcome Bill & Pam Lefferts of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue with "Backyard Wildlife - All About Opossums." This program will be held at the Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.

The Lefferts will provide an overview of wildlife rehabilitation and the role of rehabbers, with a focus on rescuing opossums. Other top-

ics will include supporting wildlife through the winter months, preparing emergency roadside kits, turning your property into a sanctuary, and more. In addition, the Lefferts will bring an opossum ambassador.

Registration is not necessary, but is requested. Call the library for more information at 860-742-7428.

Members of the public are invited to CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0066-0110, Replacement of Bridge No. 04695, Old Colchester Road over Raymond Brook Town of Hebron

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Register: <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTHebron66-110>

YouTube Livestream: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpublicinfo>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing structure which is experiencing structural deficiencies. There are right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed improvements in the form of temporary construction easements to provide areas for construction activities.

Construction is anticipated to begin Spring 2026 based on the availability of funding, acquisition of rights of way, and approval of permit(s). The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$2.5 million. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 80% federal funds and 20% state funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTHebron66-110>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by Tuesday, September 28, 2023 to: DOT-FLBP@ct.gov and 860-594-2020 or Marc P. Byrnes, P.E., Project Manager (860-594-3489; marc.byrnes@ct.gov).

ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 211 749 731 064. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Michelle Rame (860-594-3319; Michelle.Rame@ct.gov).

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

2TB 9/1, 9/8

Obituaries

East Hampton

Nedra Ulm Wallis

Nedra Ulm Wallis, 89, of Deep River, formerly of East Hampton, widow of Russell A. Wallis, passed away peacefully at her home Sunday, Aug. 27. Born Oct. 29, 1934, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Frederick N. and Bernice (Endress) Ulm.



Nedra was a member of the Daughters of the Mayflower and the Connecticut Genealogy Society. She most enjoyed researching her heritage and other area families connected to her. She is greatly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her son, James R. Wallis of Deep River; her daughter, Bonnie W. Steed of Deep River; two brothers, Robert E. Ulm of East Hampton, David P. Ulm of East Hampton; and her three grandchildren, Heather Dill, Parker Wallis, Brooke Wallis; her great-granddaughter, Alma Lampiasi; her nieces, Tuesday Worley, Paula Ulm, Sandra Badrick; and nephews, Jason Ulm and Paul Ulm.

She was predeceased by her brother, Frederick N. Ulm Jr., and her nephew, Peter Ulm.

A graveside service was held Thursday, Aug. 31, in Lake View Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Gale Wyman

Gale (Amlo) Wyman, 78, of East Hampton, wife of the late Leo F. Wyman, passed away Monday, Aug. 21, at Middlesex Health Care Center. Born in New Britain, she was the daughter of the late Sigfried and Eva (Pearson) Amlo.



Gale lived in Wethersfield and Clearwater, Fla., most of her life, moving to Colchester in 2019. She was an avid Elvis fan.

Gale is survived by her daughter, Laura Mangiafico Bartolotta of Cromwell; a son Salvatore Mangiafico of Greenwich, N.J.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Along with her husband and parents, Gale was predeceased by her son, Paul Mangiafico, and a sister, Carol Mansella.

Funeral services for Gale will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Gale's memory may be made to Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

To share memories or send condolences, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Hebron

John Hugh Banks

John Hugh Banks of Hebron, beloved husband and father, passed away Sunday, Aug. 27, after a lengthy illness. John was born Oct. 6, 1944, and grew up in Littleton, Mass., the youngest son of the late Percy and Margaret (McGovern) Banks.



After earning a BS from Northeastern University, he spent his career at Pratt & Whitney, earning a patent there in 1997 and working for several years in Kiev with Ukrainian counterparts. John was an engineer to his core: he could fix anything, loved to solve complex problems, and never, ever, read the directions.

John married Judith Veillette in 1971 and moved to Hebron soon after. When their two children were young, John volunteered with the local Boy Scouts, the town wetlands committee, and as treasurer for the First Congregational Church. In recent years he worked with St. Peter's Episcopal Church, AHM, and the Hebron Historical Society.

John was an avid sports fan, especially of car racing, and he travelled with his brothers to attend races around the country. He was an early and staunch supporter of UConn women's basketball, as well as of the Red Sox and other New England teams. John was also a state-ranked geocacher, passionate about creating and solving geocache puzzles. He loved to travel and enjoyed the camaraderie of the geocache community when 'caching in a new place.

John will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and friend. He will be profoundly missed by his wife of 52 years, Judy; his children, Liza (Justin) Talbot of Austin, Texas, and Hugh Banks of Norwalk; siblings, Robert (Margaret) Banks of Coventry, David (Cathy) Banks of Wells, Maine; sister-in-law, Ellen Banks of Littleton, Mass.; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, John was predeceased by his oldest brother, Earl.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Sept. 8, at 11 a.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., Hebron. Burial will follow in St. Peter's Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to AHM Youth and Family Services at 25 Pendleton Dr., Hebron, CT 06248, or St. Peter's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 513, Hebron, CT 06248.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of John, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Moodus

Roy Tellier

Roy Tellier, beloved husband, father and all-around good guy, departed this world peacefully Friday, Aug. 25, with his family at his side. Roy was born to Cleophas and Lucy (Bedard) Tellier on Dec. 4, 1929, in Fitchburg, Mass.



During his 93 years, Roy was participant in and witness to many of the accomplishments and challenges of the 20th century. Most notable to his historic life would be the four years he spent serving his country during the Korean War. Roy joined the Air Force shortly out of high school and was stationed in the isolated Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska where he used his skills to decipher enemy messages. Those memorable, if difficult, times provided Roy with many stories that he enjoyed sharing with others throughout the years.

Roy finished his active-duty service in Washington, D.C., where perhaps his most important accomplishment took place. He convinced his future wife, Helen Feury, a beautiful southern belle, to move north with a young Yankee from New England. They married on April 16, 1955. Together they raised their only son David in Leominster, Mass., and in their free time they danced, bowled and played cards. Roy opened his own auto parts store in Fitchburg, Mass., and retired after many successful years.

Sadly, after moving to Connecticut Helen passed away and Roy was left with a broken heart. Roy's devotion to Helen was steadfast and unwavering until he drew his last breath. He spent his final months at Chestelm in Moodus. We would like to thank them for their kindness and care.

Roy will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his son David and daughter-in-law Lisa Tellier of East Haddam, as well as many extended family members and friends in Massachusetts and West Virginia.

Roy will join his wife Helen when he is laid to rest with military honors in the Massachusetts Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Winchendon, Mass. A private family ceremony took place Thursday, Aug. 31, at 11 a.m.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Roy, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

McClure E. Ellsworth II

McClure Edgar Ellsworth II of San Antonio, Texas, known to the world as Mac and Grandpa Mac, left this world Sunday, July 30, after a short and unexpected battle with cancer. Mac was born to the late Herbert M. Ellsworth and Frances (Banning) Ellsworth of Portland on Aug. 31, 1946, and was the oldest of three children.



Mac is survived by his loving wife, Linda (Dillard) Ellsworth of San Antonio; sisters, Deborah Ellsworth and Sarah (Ellsworth) Perruccio, both of Portland; daughter, Marissa (Ellsworth) Schaeffer and husband Theodore Schaeffer Sr. of Stormstown, Pa.; stepson, Jeff Willems and wife Londa (McCallick) Willems; stepson, Thomas Willems; and stepdaughter Denise Willems, all of San Antonio, Texas.

He is also survived by grandchildren: Simon Willems and wife Dayna (Cox) Willems of Denver, Colo.; Victoria (Willems) Revell and husband Bo Revell of Williamsburg, Va.; Elijah St. Pierre of Philadelphia, Pa.; Hannah Schaeffer and Noah Walker of Altoona, Pa.; Gio Puente-Schaeffer of Malmö, Sweden; Theodore Schaeffer Jr. and Nicole Schaeffer of Stormstown, Pa. Mac is also survived by great-grandchildren: Wesley and Nathan Willems of Denver, Colo.; and Stella Iris Revell of Williamsburg, Va., nephew, Matthew Perruccio and fiancée Rachel Heath of Portland; and niece Mallory (Perruccio) Rowley and husband Matthew Rowley of Portland; first wife, Valerie (Kozak) Ellsworth of Tyrone, Pa.; and lifelong friends Roy Duncan and wife Linda Duncan of Bloomfield and Doug and Kathy Scott of Portland.

Mac is preceded in death by stepson Brian Willems, brother-in-law Gary Perruccio, and dear friend Air Force General John Rollston.

Mac was a lifetime member of his hometown Masonic Lodge: Warren Lodge 51 of Portland, and a lay reader for both Church of the Advent Episcopal Church in Medfield, Mass., as well as St. Thomas Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Mac graduated from Portland High School in 1964. He went right into college at Fairfield University in Fairfield, where he studied business. It was while in school that Mac first began cooking as he became the weekly meal prep guy for his roommates. He graduated in 1968 with a BA in business and was accepted into the executive training program for retail buyers at the department store G. Fox & Company in Hartford. He rotated through all the departments in the program and was quickly promoted to buyer of career coats. In 1981, he left G. Fox to work for the department store Jordan Marsh in Boston, Mass., where he was head buyer in handbags, hosiery and accessories.

In the mid-80s, he made the jump from department stores to discount stores where he continued as a buyer for apparel, housewares, accessories, and handbags. He continued to work in the northeast until 1991 when he took a position with 50-off Stores in San Antonio, Texas. From that moment on, Mac considered himself an honorary Texan! In the early 2000s, Mac joined forces with his soon-to-be wife Linda in her hugely successful business, Safeguard Enterprises, which to that point she had started

Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.

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RE3-25-23

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RE3-7-21

Obituaries

and built entirely on her own. Mac brought his career knowledge of retail and his virtuoso people skills to Linda's business.

In the 1990s, Mac fell in love with culinary: food, wine, and the art of cooking. He completed the Culinary Certificate program at St. Philips College in San Antonio, Texas. Thereafter, the world of food and cooking took on a whole different level of skill and meaning for him. Mac, Linda and their good friends began to study and explore wine and travel to wineries and vineyards. Before you knew it, Mac and Linda became the quintessential hosts of family and friends in their home for the most delicious and lovely parties and holidays where there was always room for extra guests – the more the merrier.

Mac became the gourmet camp cook on trips with Jeff and Londa to the lake. Mac was always happy to bring something to another host's event, whether it was appetizers, a side dish or dessert. He always made sure that anyone who had a food allergy was deliciously fed as well. Mac also loved taking his grandchildren on trips to HEB and Costco to search for fun things to eat and always made sure they had all their custom grandpa-made favorites like: Vicky-Mac, Stir-Stash, slooshies, chetchup, frozen grapes, chocolate milk and about a million other things from his favorite store, Trader Joe's.

His love of food and wine was a perfect match for travel. Until he met Linda, Mac stuck mostly to the East Coast: Florida, Lake Pocotopaug in Connecticut, and driving trips around Texas. Linda, who was already an avid world traveler, convinced Mac to travel to Mexico. All it took was once and Mac was hooked! Mac and Linda traveled over the years with friends and family to Mexico, all over the U.S., especially Cape Cod and Connecticut, to spend time with his Connecticut family, rail trips across Canada, and many cruises including an incredible European cruise on a small ship that was intensely food-focused.

Mac showered his family and friends with his love of food and wine and also his clever gifting skills gained through all his years as a buyer. But he also used all those skills so generously with organizations that he truly believed in and deeply wanted to support. Mac was a long-time supporter of the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, and the Children's Bereavement Center of San Antonio. He also supported the work of Pastor Sheti of Redeemer's Praise Church with years of food he made for the church's homeless outreach.

Mac will be deeply missed by family, friends, and community alike. His generous spirit as well as his deep commitment and love for those he surrounded himself with is unparalleled. His curiosity and interest in those he loved was insatiable. Whether it was his daughter Marissa's culinary talent, granddaughter Victoria's basketball career, grandson Teddy's hunting, granddaughter "The Nu's" epic drumming and beyond, Mac would immerse himself and become a fan, connoisseur, and expert in no time. When granddaughter Hannah was buckling up for a car trip, Grandpa delighted her, and himself, by gunning his latest muscle car and "making it roar."

Mac loved his hometown of Portland and thrilled everyone for years with hilarious and mischief-filled stories of his youth. He was especially pleased when Portland became home to his favorite classic car shop F40 Motorsports. There was never a trip home without multiple visits there. Mac loved music and was a die-hard Springsteen and Clapton fan. His tales of concerts from the 60s and 70s were always a hit. We will never be able to watch *Animal House*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Bullet*, *Young Frankenstein*, *As Good As It Gets*, and *The Sopranos* without thinking of Mac.

Mac walked a lot of miles in many shoes over his life: son, husband, father, brother, uncle, grandpa, friend, soccer coach, chef, buyer, traveler, oenophile, businessman, paper boy, milkman, lay reader, vestry member, rodeo-fan, music lover, power-lifter, swimmer, vegetable farmer, trumpet player, long distance runner, Trader Joe's fan, cowboy boot fanatic, and far too many more to list.

Lyrics from one of Mac's favorite songs by Bob Dylan speak of his wishes for us all in this life:

*May your hands always be busy
May your feet always be swift
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift
May your heart always be joyful
And may your song always be sung
May you stay forever young
Forever young, forever young.*

A Celebration of Life for Mac is being planned for late fall in the Portland area. For more information, please email ADells06480@gmail.com.

Colchester

William H. Reedy



William H. Reedy, 86, of Colchester, peacefully passed away at his home on Sunday, Aug. 27, with his daughter Mary H Reedy by his side. Born Jan. 3, 1937, in East Haddam, he was the son of the late Herman and Catherine (Spitzchuh) Reedy.

Known as Bill to his friends and family. Bill grew up on a small farm where he had many responsibilities and a natural curiosity of the world and how things worked. He deeply enjoyed hunting and fishing and tending to his garden. Bill work for the Department of Transportation as a mechanic for over 25 years. When he wasn't fixing the trucks, he was plowing the roads with them. With such mechanical knowledge and passion to fix all things; he would become known in his community as "the guy who can fix it"! He will be forever remembered as a hardworking all-American man who could spend hours working away in his "summer home" also known as the garage. If he wasn't tinkering in his garage on small mower engines: truck engines: or just around his home and property, he was out helping his fellow neighbors and dear friends.

He is survived by his sister Edna of Florida; his daughter, Mary H Reedy and husband; two grandchildren William and his wife and Richard; one great grandchild Logan; lifelong friends, Moe, James, John plus numerous other extended family and friends.

Callings hour, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester. Burial will follow in the First Church Cemetery on Town Street in East Haddam.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of William please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

**Suzanne Cunningham
Aug. 25, 2023**



Suzanne LaRoche Cunningham, 60, born Sept. 5, 1962, a woman of warmth, creativity, and a kid-at-heart spirit, journeyed through life with a heart full of love and a passion for creating beautiful memories. From her early days in Delaware to her final moments in Vermont, her journey was marked by love, family, and the simple joys of life.

Suzie attended Mercy High School, in Middletown, and continued her education at Johnson & Wales College in Providence, R.I. Suzie had a passion for reading across genres, finding solace and enjoyment in books that allowed her to explore new worlds and perspectives.

Suzie's upbringing in Connecticut, along with her adventures in California and Oregon, shaped her into a woman who never lost her childlike wonder. She cherished her roles as a mother, an aunt, and a friend, infusing laughter and happiness into every moment she shared with loved ones.

Suzie's talents for knitting, sewing, embroidering, and crocheting were lovingly passed down by her mémère in Vermont. She honed these skills to perfection, crafting pieces that became symbols of her love. Her creations will continue to bring comfort and warmth to family

and friends.

Conversations with Suzie were genuine and heartfelt, embodying her knack for making others feel seen and appreciated. Her joy was palpable every time she was surrounded by those dear to her.

Suzanne leaves behind her devoted husband, Noel Cunningham; her loving children, Noah Cunningham and Casey Cunningham; her parents Dr. Odillon and Jeanne LaRoche; her siblings, Michelle LaRoche, Dennis LaRoche, Kenneth LaRoche, Karren Wall, Rebecca Bordonaro, Scott LaRoche, and Jesse LaRoche; many nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles and in-laws.

She was predeceased by her son, Cody Cunningham.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, Sept. 1, at 10 a.m., at Saint Mary Catholic Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Make-A-Wish Connecticut, a cause close to Suzie's heart.

As we remember Suzie and the love she shared, let us celebrate a life lived fully and remind ourselves to find joy in the simple things – a legacy that Suzanne leaves behind for us all.

**LEGAL NOTICE
ANDOVER BOARD OF
ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Andover will be in session in the Community Room, Town Office Building, 17 School Road on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to appeal assessments placed on the October 1, 2022 Grand List for Motor Vehicles. The vehicle being appealed must be present. Applicants must fill out an appeal form and present it with any supporting documentation. This is an open session and appeals will be heard on a first come first served basis.
Andover Board of Assessment Appeals
Georgette Conrad
Linda Armstrong
Alan Roy

1TB 9/1

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF
ASSESSMENT APPEALS
TO CONSIDER MOTOR VEHICLE APPEALS
FOR GRAND LIST 2022**

The Marlborough Board of Assessment Appeals is preparing to hold its annual Appeals Hearing in September, 2023 for Marlborough taxpayers who file timely appeals. Appeals for September Hearings are conducted **for regular motor vehicle tax assessments.** Appeal forms may be picked up in the foyer or the office of the Assessor at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, or at Please note that **appeal forms with supporting documentation, if any, must be filed no later than September 18, 2023** with the Town Assessor. All timely filed appeals will be scheduled for a Hearing before the Board of Assessment Appeals on **Wednesday September 20, 2023** starting at **6:30pm**, Marlborough Senior Center 17 School Drive.
• Taxpayers must attend the hearing in order for their Appeal to be considered.
• Please contact the Assessor, at Town Hall or 860-295-6201, with any questions.
• To request an appeal application email assessor@marlboroughct.net

2TB 9/1, 9/8

**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

2TB 8/25, 9/1

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION**

Notice is hereby given that on August 29, 2023, the Duty Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2023-3085 – 52 Lakeview Drive; James Mongelli - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 02-18/005-003; Construction of 16' X 22' shed/barn on gravel pad within 75' Upland Review Area.
APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.
Dated August 29, 2023
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 9/1

**TOWN OF PORTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the August 24, 2023 regular meeting, the following action was taken:
APPROVED- Application #22-05: 62 Lake Road. Request for a variance from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for side yard setbacks to allow construction of a deck 6 ft from the property line were 15 ft is required. A variance from section 4.2.1 for construction of a 10 ft by 10 ft gazebo 35 ft from the rear property line where 40 ft is required. Application and property of Lewis Roberts and Kimberly Nguyen. Assessor's Map 26, Lot 46. Zone RR.
Dated in Portland, CT. this 25th Day of June 2023
Joan Giesemann, Chairwoman
Zoning Board of Appeals

1TB 9/1

**MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, September 7, 2023
6:30pm at Town Hall
LEGAL NOTICE**

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 584 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 72 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam – to replace garage siding with composite clapboard siding – for applicant Cathy Ann Clark.
Application 585 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 91 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam – to mitigate the visual impact of the visible portions of the side yard fences that were recently installed – for applicant Judith Keefe.
Application 587 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 49 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam – installation of a 24' above ground pool with deck – for applicant William Hanna.
The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 9/1

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

FOR RENT IN GLASTONBURY: Two bedroom townhouse and two bedroom accessible ranch. W/D hookups. \$1500. Security deposit. 860-523-0157 or 860-639-3620.



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RE8-25-23

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RE9-1-23

EMPLOYMENT

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.

DRIVER & PCA NEEDED: part-time. For appointments, shopping, errands, cleaning, cooking and personal care depending on which position. Experience preferred. Excellent driving record required for driving position. \$18.75/hr. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016.

PART TIME OFFICE SUPPORT POSITION: available in team oriented Family Dental Office in Portland. Position offers approx. 21 hours per week (3 days). Applicant must have willingness to learn new skills. Dental experience is NOT required. On job training & support will be provided. Fax resume to 860-760-8080 or email dentalinsight@yahoo.com.

PT CLERICAL: for collision repair shop in Bolton. Must be organized. Duties include but not limited to - customer service, answering phones, customer invoicing/payments as needed, parts receiving and/or returns, filing. Flexibility with daily tasks. Call Susan 860-944-5836.

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. Deadline: Until Filled. Applications will be accepted Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Main Office. AA/EEO.

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!

WAITSTAFF NEEDED: at Marlborough Pizza. Stop in or call 860-295-8181.

COOK WANTED: Stop in to the Greenleaf Cafe in Hebron or call 860-228-8148.

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.

FT BARBER NEEDED: in busy Hebron Barber Shop. Following not needed. Call 860-888-2428 or 203-641-7700.



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Call Todd Piscatelli at 860-801-1114 or email TPiscatelli@colebrookvillage.com

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Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email CBaker@colebrookvillage.com

East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers
Applicants must have a bachelor's degree OR must be over 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and documented experience working with school-age children. The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. Per diem rate is \$110.00 per day.
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<http://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/>
For further information contact Mary Clark: mclark@easthamptonct.org
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Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email CBaker@colebrookvillage.com

Part-Time Constable
The Town of Marlborough (Pop. 6,410) is currently accepting applications from POSTC certified police officers for the position of Part-Time Constable, 20 to 30 hours per week. Candidates will be required to successfully complete a written exam, physical agility test, oral interview, thorough background investigation, polygraph, psychological, and physical exam. A copy of current POST certification must accompany application. An employment application and job description are available online at www.marlboroughct.net or from the Town Clerk's office. An application (including POST Certification) and current resume must be submitted in person or by mail to the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. The deadline is 12:00 noon on Friday, Sept 29th, 2023. Competitive starting salary commensurate with experience for POSTC certified police officers. Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

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New 2022 Gulf Stream Ameri-Lite 199RK
Dry Weight 3,520 / Coach Length 19'2"
Sleeps 4 / Width 8' / Overall Length 22'2"
Fresh Water 30 gal. / Black Water 36 gal. / Grey Water 36 gal.

MSRP \$31,630
~~SALE PRICE \$24,995~~
Clearance Price \$19,761
\$171/Mo.

MID-SIZE TRAVEL TRAILERS – V6 Turbo / V8 Towable by MOST SUV / Pickup
New 2022 Gulf Stream Ameri-Lite 2688H 2 GREAT FLOORPLANS
Dry Weight 5,330 lbs. / Coach Length 25'6"
Sleeps up to 10 / Width 8' / Overall Length 29'6"
Fresh Water 30 gal. / Black Water 36 gal. / Grey Water 36 gal.

MSRP \$46,731
~~SALE PRICE \$36,995~~
Clearance Price \$29,934
\$259/Mo.

New 2022 Gulf Stream Ameri-Lite 24RLS
Dry Weight 5,050 lbs. / Coach Length 24'10"
Sleeps up to 5 / Width 8' / Overall Length 28'10"
Fresh Water 36 gal. / Black Water 36 gal. / Grey Water 36 gal.

MSRP \$46,731
~~SALE PRICE \$36,995~~
Clearance Price \$29,934
\$259/Mo.

TOY HAULER
New 2022 KZ Sportsmen 250THSE
Dry Weight 5,300 lbs. / Coach Length 25'1"
Sleeps up to 4 / Width 8' / Overall Length 29'1"
Fresh Water 75 gal./Black Water 50 gal./Grey Water 50 gal.

MSRP \$49,620
~~SALE PRICE \$35,995~~
Clearance Price \$28,737
\$249/Mo.

MOTOR HOME - CLASS B+
New 2023 Gulf Stream BT Cruiser 5210
Sleeps 2 / Width 8' / Overall Length 22'6" / Fuel Tank 55 gal.
Fresh Water 41 gal. / Black Water 26 gal. / Grey Water 26 gal.

MSRP \$131,225
~~SALE PRICE \$107,995~~
Clearance Price \$94,802
\$611/Mo. \$6000 VALUE

MOTOR HOME - CLASS C
New 2023 Gulf Stream Conquest 6237LE
Sleeps 6 / Width 8'6" / Overall Length 24' / Fuel Tank 55 gal.
Fresh Water 37 gal./ Black Water 31 gal./ Grey Water 31 gal.

MSRP \$113,226
~~SALE PRICE \$95,995~~
Clearance Price \$79,746
\$514/Mo.

Generator Included \$6000 VALUE

COMPARE PRICE TO NEW LUXURY PICKUP TRUCK!

PRICED TO SELL!

FREE Always Included in our LOW PRICE - Up to \$5000 Value

- Factory from Freight
- Dealer Prep & Systems Check
- Intro & RV Tutorial
- Personalized labels on fuel
- Process - Many Dealers Do NOT Offer
- Trade Value Inspection
- Document Fee
- When we register (\$165)
- Many Dealers charge \$300 - \$395

Parade/transportation is an optional add-on. All RV's sale for price. Monthly payment examples are calculated as follows: with 20% down payment, financed amount - under \$25,000 for 144 months @ 7.99%, \$25,001 to \$49,999 for 180 months @ 7.99%, \$50,000 and up to \$99,999 @ 7.99%. Payment includes freight and delivery. Registration fee, document fees, activation fees, taxes, and other fees. Not available in all states. Many dealers do not offer. Not responsible for manufacturer price increases. Interest rate approval percentages of 10% or more.

REB-1-23