

News Bulletin

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

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Home Cooking for RHAM Football

By Josh Howard

It didn't take long for the RHAM High School football team to find the end zone in its home opener last Friday.

On the second play from scrimmage, sophomore running back Danny Mantilla broke through the heart of the Lewis Mills defense before sprinting for a 63-yard touchdown.

Mantilla's quick strike within the first minute of the game opened the floodgates as the Raptors reeled off the first 35 points, coasting to a 35-7 victory over the visiting Spartans last Friday at RHAM High School.

After having their season opener postponed midway through a game at Avon due to inclement weather on Sept. 9, RHAM head coach Dakota Fleming said he was impressed with his team's focus in the home debut.

"The kids did a good job and prepared well," added Fleming. "They came out and saw exactly what we needed to do and they got it done."

Senior quarterback Brady Hulland noted that the team's mindset was to start fast, adding, "We wanted to send a message from the jump, so what better way than going out and scoring early."

All five of RHAM's touchdowns were scored by the backfield tandem of Mantilla and Joey Fahey. Mantilla scored three on the ground and Fahey added a rushing touchdown and caught another from Hulland.

Mantilla took his trio of trips to the end zone within the first 15 minutes of the game, providing the Raptors a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter before Fahey scored his first when he hauled in a rollout toss from Hulland and found pay dirt from nine-yards out with 4:24 to play in the half.

With 9:01 to play in the game, Fahey added a 48-yard touchdown run around the right end to complete the Raptors' rout.

"We just wanted to set up the blocks and the



Sophomore running back Danny Mantilla scores one of his three rushing touchdowns during RHAM football's home opener against Lewis Mills. The Raptors defeated the visiting Spartans 35-7 on Sept. 15.

o-line opened the holes," said Fahey, a senior. "We got the runs working and keep moving forward with it."

Mantilla and Fahey are filling the void left by 2023 graduates Max Nysten and Mike Marques,

who combined for nearly 3,500 all-purpose yards and scored 32 touchdowns as the team's starting running backs last fall.

So far, the Raptors ground attack has continued that trend, amassing nearly 300 rushing

yards as a team in the home opener.

"They have done a great job at taking on the role of leaders on this team and everyone respects them," Fleming said of Mantilla and Fahey. "They also have great respect for each other and that helps them out a lot."

Fleming noted that having four of five starters returning along the offensive line has allowed the offense to have cohesion in the trenches.

Jack Smith, Brody Magnanini, Thiago Delacruz, and Lino Amodeo are all back with starting experience and sophomore center Cayden Caplette has joined a unit that Fleming says is an area of strength for the team, crediting his linemen for their dedication in the weight room over the last couple of off seasons.

Captaining the ship is Hulland, a senior in his second year behind center. Despite playing in windy conditions, he showcased his ability to be a dual-threat quarterback, coming up with key runs and throws to extend drives.

"Brady has improved a lot - we made the decision that we can run our offense through him," added Fleming. "Teams are going to have to prepare for not only our running backs and o-line, but they have to prepare for Brady. He has done a great job for us; we're excited for what he'll look like as the season progresses."

Hulland took over the helm a season ago, helping guide the team to seven wins and a playoff berth for the first time in the history of the program.

The second-year starter says he feels more comfortable this fall, crediting the players around him, adding "we have a great o-line."

The offensive supplied the fireworks, yet it was the defense that did the dirty work.

Lewis Mills was unable to generate a first down in the first half and didn't score until a minute to play in regulation when quarterback Alex Weaver connected with receiver Mateo

See RHAM Football, page 15

Marlborough Native Becomes Farmer Influencer

By Michael Sinkewicz

Growing up in Marlborough, Morgan Gold envisioned himself, like many kids, playing third base for the Red Sox or perhaps being an inventor.

Now, at 43, Gold is the internet's premier "farmer influencer," garnering millions of followers who crave updates from his 150-acre property in Peacham, Vt.

"When they had [elementary school] career day, that was never something that was bantered around or thrown out as an option for me," Gold said.

The Gold Shaw Farm turns a profit, mainly from raising geese, cattle and selling tree seedlings. But unlike most farmers, Gold packages his day-to-day grind into digestible videos, which has proven to be both rewarding for him and captivating for audiences.

"I think that both the physical hard work of farming combined with the creative aspect of storytelling - those things working together, that's the perfect role for me; that's the perfect life for me," he expressed.

He's amassed over two million followers on TikTok, over 800,000 on both Facebook and YouTube, and a modest 150,000 on Instagram. And Gold's journey makes for a good story - he's been spotlighted by numerous outlets, including *The New York Times* and *Good Morning America*.

This week, Gold's first book hit shelves - *Toby Dog of Gold Shaw Farm* - and it's one of his proudest accomplishments.

After editing countless clips, penning his own tale turned out to be "thrilling."

"There's just something so free and liberating

about just being able to sit down and not have to film a story, but write it," he expressed. "Having that power of writing a book has been awesome and I've had so much fun doing it."

Gold's content largely focuses on the stories of the farm, and he tries to take the perspective of his different animals. One of his closest connections belongs to Toby, his livestock guardian dog, who lives outside 24/7 to protect the various ducks, chickens and geese from an invasion of coyotes, bobcats, mink or other adversaries.

The life and responsibility of a guard dog makes for an interesting narrative, Gold explained. He said the book combines real events with layers of drama, including conversations between animals.

"What I tried to do is tell the story of coming

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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 Stampers: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

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 Luncheons: Will be held at town hall community room at noon on Friday September 22nd. We will be honoring our three drivers following a meal from Chili's. October lunches will be 10/6 with Pizza and Ashley Bafumis as our speaker. On 10/20 lunch from Chili's and speaker will be Mark Hand, Broker who will explain the various changes in senior benefits for 2024. Reservations required for all lunches – no walk ins accepted.

Shopping: Tuesday, Oct. 3, to Manchester.
Trips: Lighthouse Tour, Saturday, Oct. 7; Christmas Show, Friday, Dec. 8. Contact Carol Lee for information.
Flu Clinic: Held at the town hall community room on Thursday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; no reservations necessary. COVID boosters and

pneumonia shots available if needed. Bring your insurance cards, Medicare or Medicaid cards. Questions, please call Palazzi.

Health Clinic: Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. in Vernon. If enough seniors are interested in going transportation will be provided.

Vendor and Tag Sale: Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Andover Elementary School gym, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. All monies will benefit the senior luncheon program.

Shopping Dates: Willimantic, 9/26; Manchester, 9/19

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

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums or board meetings, all medical appointments, and to the monthly farmers markets, are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.

Belltown Orchards: Senior Transportation will take seniors to Belltown Orchards on Wednesday, Oct 11, leaving town hall at 10:30 a.m. Call for information or a ride.

Andover Veterans Ceremony

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz of the State of Connecticut will host an appreciation ceremony honoring the Korean War-era and Vietnam War-era veterans in the Andover community. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for January 2024.

All veterans who served during the Korean War-era from June 27, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955, or Vietnam War-era from Feb. 28, 1961-July 1, 1975, provide your name, rank, branch of service, and years of service to the Andover Veterans representatives via email, at veterans@andoverct.org, or calling Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481.

From the State Senator's Desk...

September marks the peak of hurricane season, with storms having already impacted states ranging from Florida to California. September is National Preparedness Month, and while Connecticut does not often see tropical storms and hurricanes, their impacts can be devastating. In 2021, Tropical Storm Elsa caused serious, significant flooding across the state, while in 2020, Tropical Storm Isaias caused days of power outages.

While we watch the Atlantic Ocean with hope that this year's storm season will pass without incident, it's important to be prepared in case we get hit. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, you should be prepared with at least three days' worth of non-perishable food, water and medicine for each person in your family or home. Flashlights are key, and in the digital age, portable power-banks or charging kits for cell phones are valuable resources to keep you connected with friends and family. Be prepared for potential extended outages; if you install a generator, make sure it is kept away from windows, doors and ventilation to protect against carbon dioxide poisoning.

Making a plan is also a good idea, especially if a storm is bearing down on Connecticut. Homes that are in danger of flooding, especially those near lakes and rivers like the Connecticut River, may need to be evacuated, and falling tree limbs and flying debris can cause serious damage. Being prepared for these events can range from staying with family or friends or being ready to prepare for floods or potential damage. It's also a good idea to know local resources; after many storms, towns will open libraries, schools and other locations as charging stations, heating/cooling stations or food distribution areas.

The most important part of storm preparedness is making sure you know what's coming. Keep an eye on forecasts to know whether a storm is headed our way. Some storms may hit farther south and crawl up the East Coast before hitting us, while others could form in the Atlantic and surge toward Connecticut. This doesn't mean you need to be glued to your TV, but awareness could mean the difference between having everything ready and being caught up in the rush for bread and milk at the grocery store.

Hopefully, we will have a calm and quiet hurricane season this year, but there's always the potential for a major storm to make an impact. Being prepared is the best way to counter the worst potential impacts.

State Sen. MD Rahman, D-4th District

Note: The 4th District covers Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester.

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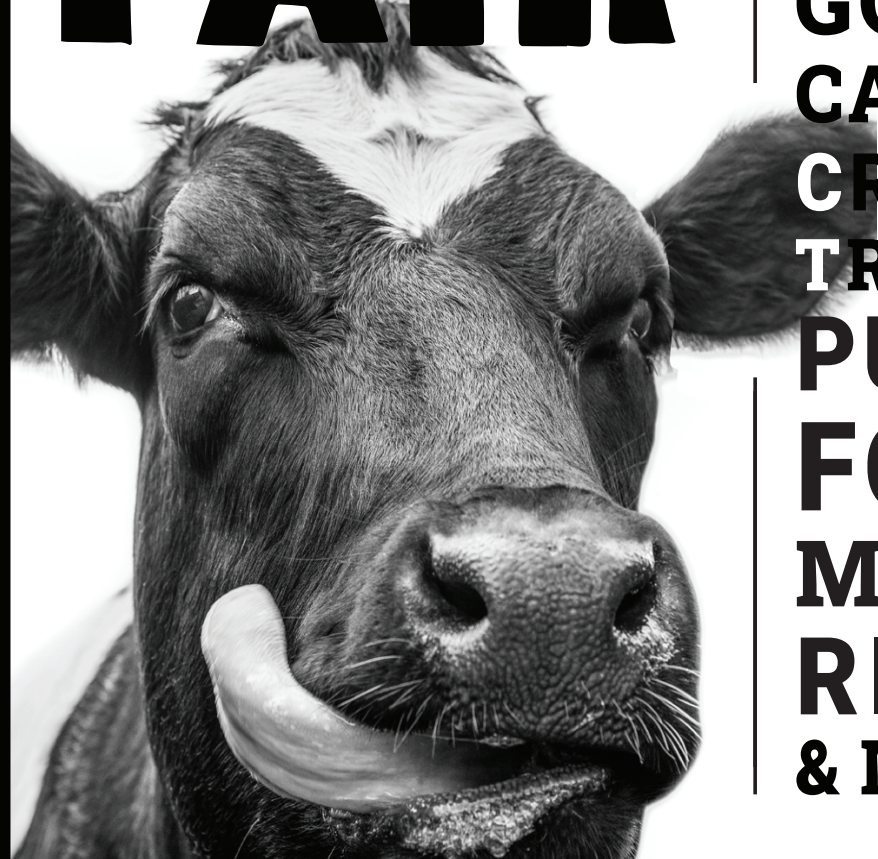


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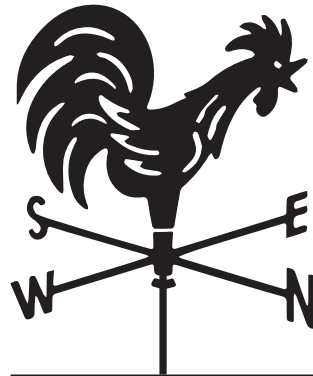
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Adults	\$10.00
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Under 10 & Military	FREE

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

A much-appreciated tip of the hat to Josh Howard who, with an assist from Michael Sinkewicz, edited the paper last week while I took a vacation.

I spent a few days of my week off down in my happy place, New York City, and I saw two shows that I highly recommend.

The first was the Off-Broadway show *Death, Let Me Do My Show*, a one-woman performance by Rachel Bloom, who I first became a fan of via the TV musical comedy series *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* (the repeats are on Netflix if you want to check it out – and you totally should).

I expected the show to be hilarious – Bloom's comedy is always a delight – and of course it was. But it also had a lot of depth and meaning to it, as Bloom opens up about her personal experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and (as the title of the show might suggest) her feelings regarding death. It was a very effective, moving and, again, hilarious show.

Death, Let Me Do My Show is only playing through Sept. 30, so if you want to see it, you should act fast. For tickets and more information, visit www.rachelbloomshow.com.

The next night, I caught the newly-opened *Back to the Future: The Musical*. Once I saw this was going to be on the Great White Way during my vacation week, I knew I just had to see it. I grew up repeatedly watching *Back to*

the Future on VHS, and it remains one of my favorite films. So, if only for pure curiosity, I knew I had to check it out.

The musical follows the movie plot very faithfully, with several pieces of dialogue repeated verbatim from the film. The acting is great – led by Roger Bart's fantastic turn as Doc Brown – and the special effects are tremendous. I'd describe them in detail but I wouldn't want to spoil the surprise. All I'll say is that it feels at times that you're practically in the time machine. (Alas, it's still 2023 when you exit the theater.)

The show features several pieces of the movie's iconic score. As someone who, again, grew up with the film, it was thrilling to hear those epic cues played live by a Broadway orchestra. And while the musical features several original tunes, it also features wonderful renditions of songs from the film – including particularly rollicking performances of "Johnny B. Goode" and "The Power of Love."

If you're a child of the '80s (who may or may not have accidentally set fire to the living room rug), you're going to love this musical. Heck, if you just want a fun night out, you're going to love this musical. Definitely check it out. For tickets and more information, visit www.backtothefuturemusical.com/new-york. See you next week.

Bulletin Board

I was cutting the grass this week when I noticed a sort of sand dune emerging from the far corner of the back yard. When I say emerging, I don't mean that it was actually moving, just that it had appeared since the last time I cut the grass.

My first thought, of course, was that climate change had finally arrived in my back yard in the form of suburban desertification. Judging from the condition of my lawn over the past few years, this development should not have come as a complete surprise—my neighbors would probably testify that they'd seen it coming for some time.

Upon closer inspection, however, I realized that the "dune" was actually the remnants of a sandbox I had constructed for my two boys when they were still relatively cute. That was about 25 years ago, long before I received a lifetime (what's left of it, anyway) membership in the Old Curmudgeons Club.

Well, do I remember the sandbox project. First, I nailed together four 6x2s to form walls. Then I went and spent perfectly good beer money to buy—buy!—nice white, filtered sand to fill the thing. Nothing but the best for my boys.

If I'd been thinking clearly, I would have remembered how at Christmas I spent a fortune buying all sorts of wonderful toys for the two kids, only to watch them spend the morning playing with the empty boxes. And then I couldn't even return the toys because they'd destroyed the boxes. Another life lesson gone by the boards.

But back to the sandbox.

Weary, but pleased with myself, I sprinkled the fresh mound of sand with pails and little shovels and a little toy bulldozer and summoned the boys.

Were they interested?

No.

They looked it over for a minute, then disappeared back into the house, presumably to resume shoving toasted cheese sandwiches into the VCR. But two weeks later, when some guys came to put in a new septic field at the house, Son #1 spent three days playing in the wet dirt with a tablespoon. What the hell? Maybe I should have filled the sandbox with nuclear waste? Or maybe brownfield detritus?

The sandbox had begun to sprout grass and the start of shrubbery when I—being a slow learner about oh so many things—decided the boys should have their own tree house. I mean, every kid should have a tree house at some time in their life, right?

So, off I went to Big Box Lumber to purchase suitable pressure-treated 4x4s and lag bolts, because, Lord knows, you don't want to have the thing come crashing down as the joyful little imps frolic about playing pirate or Power Ranger or flying turtle or throwing rotten apples at cars or whatever.

I was out back, hammering away industriously, when my wife emerged from the house. She watched for a while and then inquired, "What are you doing?"

"Building a tree house," I replied. "For the kids. Every kid should have a tree house."

She looked skeptical.

"So they can play pirates and flying turtle and stuff," I added, prudently leaving out the rotten apple thing.

"It's a deer stand, isn't it?" she said.

"No. I said. It's a tree house. For the kids. Honest."

She waited. "Your record argues otherwise," she finally remarked.

"Look," I said. "Just because one time I hung a dead deer off the kids' swing set ... one time. It was an emergency for crying out loud. I didn't have room in the garage."

"What happens if they fall?"

"Better a broken arm than a broken spirit," I replied, quoting a Navy Seal I used to know.

"How about a broken neck?"

She had me there.

As it turned out, her worries were completely groundless. The kids weren't any more interested in the tree house than they were in the sandbox. The thing rotted away and a few years ago I finally pulled the rest of it down and saved the lag bolts in case I ever have grandchildren.

Like I said, I'm kind of a slow learner.

Jim Hallas



Lobster Fest Thanks... Fowler-Dix-Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5095 Commander Edward Turner and Auxiliary President Kelly Ezold extend their sincere appreciation to everyone who attended the Sept. 9 Lobster Fest, as well as all who volunteered.

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Supports Summerer

To the Editor:

Let's elect Democrat Heather Summerer to RHAM Board of Education! Summerer was appointed to the RHAM BOE in 2022 to fill an open seat, and her knowledge and communications experience have been extremely beneficial to the board and our community.

She has two kids who've gone through the Hebron and RHAM schools, including one currently at the high school, so she knows the issues facing RHAM from a parent perspective, a taxpayer perspective, and a board perspective.

Her ability to listen and collaborate with people who share diverse opinions will continue to encourage a more inclusive and supportive school community, which is good for our students and for our town. Vote Summerer for RHAM Board of Education.

Janet Fodaski – Hebron

Voting Eligibility

To the Editor:

Hey everyone, as Election Day (November 7th 2023) approaches, it's important to understand your voting eligibility in Connecticut.

You are eligible to vote if you are at least 17 and turning 18 on or before Election Day, if you are a United States citizen living in Connecticut, and even if you have been convicted of a felony and have completed confinement.

If you have moved to a different town within Connecticut, from another state, or even within the same town, make sure to update your voter registration with your new address. Your voter registration should always reflect your current home address.

If you are a college student living away from home you can complete an absentee ballot for the election

in your hometown or register to vote in your college town.

If you are eligible to vote but are not registered you can stop into the Portland Town Clerk's office or go to <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>. To confirm if you are registered to vote you can use this lookup tool: <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>.

Erin Livensparger – Portland

Note: Livensparger is secretary of the Portland Democratic Town Committee, and is writing on the committee's behalf.

CNN Echo Chamber

To the Editor:

Joe Stevens submitted another frightening letter last week consisting of self-righteous, liberal talking points culled from the CNN echo chamber. Joe's letters, albeit broken records, display the right combination of hypocrisy, arrogance, and fabrication to justify his Progressive Liberal union card. A shut-in mentality plays tricks on the mind and you begin to make things up. Maybe Joe Stevens has more in common with Joe Biden than we think...

The truth is the candidate who best represents Joe's idea of strength, integrity, and character is the same guy who stole classified documents and stored them in a garage with his Corvette. The same guy who called people "fat" and "dog-faced pony soldiers", checked his watch during a coffin transfer ceremony for 13 dead U.S. soldiers, attended meetings and dinners with Hunter's business associates from Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan, funneled \$150B to the home country of his deadbeat, drug-addicted son's former employer, squandered a healthy US oil reserve, got 81 million "votes" while hiding in his basement, presided over massive increases in crime, food/energy

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costs, and loan interest rates, is shielded by the DOJ, FBI, and media, and depends on the Easter Bunny to oversee his activities in large crowds.

This is the guy that Joe Stevens believes best represents his values and view of the world, an accomplished raconteur with the mind of a meatball but still possessing the ability to lie on cue. A 50-year political grifter who has thrived on pandering to minorities, women, homosexuals, and illegal immigrants. And for individuals like Joe Stevens, who blindly follow their own liberal religion and think that “saving democracy” is an actual goal of Democrats, there is no delineation between reality and fantasy. In the name of the father, son, and CNN...

And who has a bank account in Malta?
No joke!

Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Fodaski for Hebron P&Z

To the Editor:

Join me in voting for Democrat Janet Fodaski for Hebron Planning & Zoning! She has been a tireless supporter of the Hebron community, having lived here for 41 years, raised a family here, and served on the Board of Finance.

Hebron faces a significant shortage of affordable housing, which makes it difficult for young professionals, single people, senior citizens, and families to be able to call Hebron home. Fodaski will bring her passion for affordable housing and her experience with problem solving and working with others to the P&Z at a time when we need it the most.

Vote Fodaski for Hebron Planning and Zoning on November 7!

Meg Clifton – Amston

Announcing Candidacy

To the Editor:

My name is Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the Portland Board of Education. Since my appointment to the Board of Education in 2022, I have served on both the Curriculum Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee, and have gained valuable knowledge regarding the current conditions and concerns within our school buildings. I have learned so much from the administration and staff of Portland Public Schools as well as fellow board members. It is my hope to continue the important work that lies ahead for the board, including the potential reconfiguration of our schools and subsequent construction project(s).

As an educator in a public school for over 21 years, my experience provides me with unique and valuable insight regarding the impact decisions will have on the school community. All students have the right to a safe, welcoming school environment where all stakeholders ensure the success of each and every student. It is this belief that guides my decision-making. Additionally, I understand that the educators’ work environment is the students’ learning environment. Therefore, it is crucial to consider the potential impact every decision will have within the school community.

Simply stated, I care about public education, I am proud of Portland Public Schools, and I want to continue to do the rewarding work of moving our schools forward in this complex educational climate.

Kim Nagy-Maruschock

Note: Nagy-Maruschock is a member of the Portland Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.

Defining Wants vs. Needs

To the Editor:

Through budget season and now into fall, we have heard a familiar refrain from East Hampton Republicans: the concept of “wants” versus “needs.” Sure, it makes for a nice political slogan and defines their platform.

But what exactly constitutes a “need” from a “want?” During the budget battle, the line between the two got heavily skewed.

Months before budgets were proposed, the Town Council set a hard line – any increase larger than a couple of percentage points would not be tolerated. In response, the Board of Education proposed a bare-bones budget that preserved the quality but offered nothing more. The operations side likewise made sacrifices.

Then, when it mattered most, the Board of Finance and the Town Council moved the goalposts. It was no longer about modest increases. The Republican majorities “wanted” to send a message to the state by cutting “needed” funds for teachers and programs. In the process, they imperiled the quality of education in town, not to mention public safety through refusal to fund a police lieutenant. Many of these same Republicans are now seeking terms on the Council or back on the Finance Board.

Only after tremendous backlash, including a failed referendum, did the Board of Finance acquiesce that the “wants” would be funded... but not without a lecture about tone and behavior from those who spoke out.

But the “wants” were always the “needs.” Costs are rising, especially in special education. Our teachers rightfully deserve the raises negotiated through collective bargaining. Transportation, technology, supplies, heating oil – everything is more expensive and nonetheless essential.

We cannot afford to fall behind. When we fail to fund even the minimum, we short our students the preparation they need to be able to determine for themselves what are “wants” versus “needs.”

Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt
Candidate for the East Hampton
Board of Education

Supports Thibeault

To the Editor:

Democrat Brian Thibeault will bring a new perspective to the Hebron Board of Finance. As an actuary, Brian has the financial background necessary for the role. As important, though, is Brian’s commitment to our community. He has lived in Hebron for 13 years, has two kids in our local schools and volunteers as a youth soccer coach. Brian is an avid runner who makes use of our town’s trails and encourages friends and neighbors to join him. Brian is fiscally responsible, detail oriented, and is up to the challenge of meeting the financial needs of Hebron’s citizens while keeping this town a desirable place to live. Brian and I were both frustrated by the ambiguity around last year’s budgetary process and we both are anxious to make our town an even greater place to live and raise our families. With Brian on the Board of Finance, we can expect greater transparency and improved communication between all boards.

Please vote for Brian Thibeault and our entire Democratic slate (including me for Hebron Board of Education) on November 7.

Elieisha LeMay – Hebron

Finish the Senior Center

Dear Colchester Residents:

It’s time to bring the Colchester Senior Center building project to the finish line.

It’s been almost a year since it became clear that the project was tracking over budget. Since then, we all wanted to hear what the plan from the first selectman really was...and got silence.

Nine months ago, I urged the first selectman to let a referendum proceed so the building committee could plan and manage construction effectively. In April, I warned that the first selectman’s decision to delay any discussion on a referendum until after construction started was a dangerous gamble. Well, we’ve reached the danger point, folks. The finance director warned last week that the project is facing liquidity issues. The first selectman concedes that if a referendum fails now, the project could fall apart. It is a shame that we’ve reached this point. This was avoidable.

When I served on the Board of Finance, we developed and approved an affordable spending package to build a new Senior Center. Although inflation has driven the cost of the project higher than initially planned, the excess costs are still more than offset by a \$2.5 million grant from the State of Connecticut in addition to funds from the Bendas Estate. The Senior Center building project will still end up costing Colchester taxpayers less than what we all initially voted on.

It is critical that we stop the delays that have jeopardized the Senior Center’s future. I will vote yes on both planned referendum questions and encourage voters across the political spectrum to do the same. Colchester seniors deserve it and the new center will be an important addition to the downtown with potential to benefit all residents.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman

Low Road on a High Horse

To the Editor:

I’ve been involved in Colchester politics for a few years now. Every election, the most disrespectful and rude individuals in politics become outraged over the slightest criticism.

First Selectman Bisbikos has complained the climate has become toxic. He should look in the mirror before pointing a finger after his years of disrespect and immature antics.

Some of Bisbikos’ other supporters, including elected officials, have told people they have mental health issues, accused them of alcoholism, said they were terrorists, and loads of more vulgar and cruel comments that I won’t repeat.

When those same toxic people receive even the slightest criticism about their behaviors, whether or not that criticism is polite or respectful, they become outraged and offended about how “toxic” things are getting in local politics.

I agree that politics should be more respectful, but the people who take the low road should stop pretending to be on moral high horses.

John Farrell – Colchester

Seeks Re-Election to BOE

Dear Portland Neighbors:

I am writing to ask for your support for re-election to the Portland Board of Education. It has been my privilege to serve our community on the BOE since 2018, and I am committed to continuing this vital work.

In my time on the Board of Education, I have gained significant experience sitting on the Policy, Personnel, and Curriculum Committees. In 2022, I was honored to be elected by the board to serve as chairperson of the BOE, and in this leadership role have been collaborating with administration and the Board of Selectmen to advance our school facility improvement projects. My top priority has always been to ensure all children in our Portland schools are safe, feel valued and welcome, and have the resources necessary to thrive academically. I remain committed to transparency, open communication, and the careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Beyond the BOE, I chair the Portland Library Board of Directors and am a member of Portland’s Prevention Council. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, a statewide organization assisting local boards in providing high quality public education for all Connecticut children through effective leadership. Professionally, I serve as program manager for The

Wild Gifting Project, a foundation that supports innovative thinking and social change through charitable projects benefiting underserved communities. My husband, Chris, and I are the proud parents of three children who all attend Portland Public Schools.

I am grateful for the opportunity to advocate for Portland students and families, and I look forward to continuing to serve you in this capacity. Your support means the world to me, and I am eager to work with our community to provide the excellent education our students deserve and to move our Portland schools forward.

Sincerely,
Laurel Steinhauser – Portland

Curran Baker for RHAM

To the Editor:

Democrat Maura Curran Baker is an excellent candidate for RHAM Board of Education.

As someone who has lived in Hebron for more than 20 years, has two kids who have gone through the local public schools (including one currently in high school), and has been actively involved with sports, music, and other activities in town, Curran Baker will be a strong advocate for the best possible education and opportunities for our students.

She has worked at Travelers Insurance for 28 years, where she is a Vice-President of Actuarial & Analytics, and this business and financial background will be invaluable for balancing the needs of RHAM’s students, teachers and staff, and taxpayers to further our excellent school system at a reasonable cost.

Vote Curran Baker for RHAM BOE!
Nicole Lotko – Amston

Political Theatre

To the Editor:

In a February BoF meeting, at the direction of the First Selectman (FS), the Finance Director publicly interrogated Tax Collector Michele Wyatt about requesting reimbursement for mileage expenses. She incurred these expenses as part of her job, as she drives to banks to file paperwork to collect delinquent taxes. At the same meeting, the First Selectman had the Finance Director then question Gayle Furman about the use of designated Town Clerk’s funds. Ms. Furman and Ms. Wyatt explained why their respective spending was allowable under law. No further action was taken at that time.

At the last BoS meeting, closer to November elections, the FS decided to hold an “investigation” into the Town Clerk’s use of her designated professional funds. When the BOS voted 3 to 2 to table the in-

vestigation because they knew it was outside of their purview and political pandering, our FS tore up the agenda into little pieces, threw them on the floor, and stated that he didn’t care how the three women on the BoS had voted. He then proceeded to attempt to embarrass the Town Clerk and damage her reputation.

The FS presented cherry-picked emails that he had secretly obtained without allowing Ms. Furman to speak to and clarify them until after two hours of ranting. Then, the President of the Town Clerks Association spoke about common practices for use of these types of funds by Town Clerk and supported Ms. Furman’s expenditures as being legal. After she stated that the accusations of the First Selectman were incorrect, he cancelled the meeting abruptly, without hearing citizens’ comments or finishing important town business. The Firemen were left without a contract and the senior center was ignored by the tantrum. The political theatre in the room was obvious and poorly acted.

Jennifer Cox – Colchester

‘Know-Nothing’ Party

To the Editor:

Honorable and God-fearing Republican Mitt Romney ran against Obama in the 2012 Presidential election. Republicans loved Romney then. Romney now tells us the majority of today’s GOP no longer believes in the U.S. Constitution. This and much more were revealed in an Atlantic article authored by Romney’s biographer McKay Coppins. “Romney: A Reckoning” is set to be published next month.

Romney exposes GOP leaders as two-faced, cowardly politicians, publicly saying or doing whatever is necessary to appease Trump supporters, to get themselves elected. Shamefully, 70% of today’s polled Republican voters still support Trump. Riverast is now filled with political endorsements for candidates seeking election to various local boards and town positions. As an Independent voter, I will never vote for a Republican unless they first publicly and regularly denounce Trumpism.

Republican Congressmen recently made great progress in gun control, having hunted Hunter Biden for years, finally getting an indictment for lying on his gun application. Too bad they didn’t lift a finger to get the assault rifle out of mentally ill Adam Lanza’s hands before he slaughtered twenty first graders and 6 staff members. Well done Republicans! Hard at work making us all safer while blocking gun laws and pushing for open carry.

In ‘News of the Weird’, Sam Prentice continues
See Letters page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

dressing up his mistress CO2, and then fawning all over her with PDAs that make Rivereast readers cringe. He says all those PhD's at NOAA, the Dept. of Energy, NASA, and university professors are "un-educated buffoons." Sam envisions Trump being rejected and positions himself for science advisor.

Presidents Abe Lincoln, U.S. Grant, Teddy Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower. Past progressive Republicans that have nothing in common with today's GOP. MAGA Trumpians are the new 'Know Nothing' Party.

Edmund Smith – Andover

We Deserve Better

To the Editor:

Another week, another article about the extreme dysfunction in Colchester town hall. If you're reading the letters to the *Rivereast* full of glowing praise for the first selectman, but you're not watching the Board of Selectmen meetings, you're not getting the full picture.

What I see in those meetings is a petulant bully who uses every encounter as an opportunity for political gamesmanship, at the expense of our town's well-being. During the last meeting he ripped up his own agenda in a fit of anger, yelled at attendees about "my town," and ended the meeting without allowing public comment.

Can we please put someone in the office who actually wants to work with others and get things done to benefit Colchester instead of tearing it down? I will be voting for Bernie Dennler.

Susie Milner – Colchester

A Super Plus

To the Editor:

Good day. I am proud to give my support to Kim Hills candidate for the B.O.E., for our Hebron school system. I have had the pleasure and honor to know the Hills family for years. Kim's full time employment is at RHAM, where she teaches and is involved with many other activities within the school. Her other "life" is working with her husband operating the farm. The skills that she will bring to the table as a B.O.E. member will be that of someone who knows the challenges of creating and operating within a budget. Also, as an instructor, she sees the problems and needs of the elementary students as they progress into the high school system. Her even temperament, level headed, common sense approach to issues will be a super plus to the board.

Thank you,
Daniel Larson – Amston

Note: Larson is chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Appalled by Hypocrisy

To the Editor:

I am appalled by the immense hypocrisy consistently displayed by the members of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee, including its elected officials and nominees. Their sanctimonious and unctuous demeanor goes beyond the pale. They're bona fide experts at dispersing hyperbole and deflecting from their unethical, amoral, and often unlawful conduct while fomenting acrimony at town meetings and amongst Colchester citizens. The campaign promise of the Democratic candidate for first selectman to "bring Colchester together" couldn't be any more disingenuous.

The DTC operates like an exclusive "Mean Girls" club, only open to their selective brand of cookie-cutter Democrats and assisted by a loud-mouth hurling expletives and jabbing his fingers in the faces of citizens, other elected officials, and even his fellow board members. How such miscreants are repeatedly elected to represent the town Democrats and run the committee with such unwelcoming enmity is truly unfathomable, unless Colchester's Democrats are mostly just mindless sheep.

Rosemary Coyle is a master at averting any real inquiry into her indecorous actions or those of her allies. She loves to call out when someone violates Robert's Rules of Order when she and DTC members regularly violate them themselves. At the Sept. 6th Board of Selectmen meeting, Rosemary made a motion without obtaining the floor and then chastised the first selectman for continuing to publicly present documentation revealing potentially illicit activities by the town clerk in spite of her out of order motion, calling him a dictator.

Really it is Mrs. Coyle who presides as a dictator, securing her recurrent seat on the BOS by surrounding herself with genuflecting sycophants on the DTC who continually nominate her and her minions for town positions. No seats are open to those who don't kiss her ring.

Not a sheep,
DeAva Lambert – Colchester

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Support Alexander

To the Editor:
It is without hesitation or reservation that I endorse Elizabeth Alexander for the role of Hebron Schools, Board of Education. Elizabeth is a compassionate mother, empathetic leader, and optimistic visionary who believes in equity for all our children. She values diversity of thought while working towards rational consensus. Elizabeth will prioritize our children's educational journey while respectfully challenging the status quo. As a business executive in technology, Elizabeth will look to leverage new platforms that unlock and inspire our children's love of learning. She fundamentally believes that all students have endless potential if given the right opportunity and tools to learn. Elizabeth also understands the importance of fiscal responsibility and will look to increase efficacies in spend with new and creative ideas.

As a lifelong learner who has studied at the likes of Stanford, Elizabeth believes in empathy, selflessness, and the importance of asking "why." She believes in Hebron and the great potential it holds to develop our children and inspire the community. Please join me in bettering Hebron by supporting Elizabeth Alexander's candidacy for Hebron Schools, Board of Education.

Robert T. Thompson - Hebron

Incivility in Discourse

To the Editor:
"Ex-governor fears vitriol may drive people away from public service."

This was the subtitle to a recent *Hartford Courant* page one headline. In the article, former governor Jodi Rell said that given today's ugly political climate she could not run for public office. Fear was expressed that the personal attacks and vitriol are also deterring others.

Rell reflects what we regularly see in *Rivereast's* letters section.

Peter Kushkowski
"Almost Heaven"
Portland

The Best Choice

To the Editor:
Democrats John Matra and Claudia Riley are without a doubt the best choice for Hebron Board of Selectmen.

Since moving to Hebron four years ago, Matra has sought out ways to be an active member of this town's community. He completed the We Are Hebron Citizen Leadership Academy, is active in several town committees, and is president of the Amston Lake Association. He also delivers Meals on Wheels to our senior neighbors.

Riley has done countless hours of volunteer work for various committees and organizations during her 17 years in Hebron, including board memberships for education, sports, and the Town Center Project.

Matra and Riley love Hebron and know that through positions on the Board of Selectmen they can bring about positive change to Hebron - increasing a diverse tax base, expanding affordable housing, and making our town a safe and enjoyable place.

Vote Matra and Riley for Board of Selectmen.
Sincerely,
Amy D'Amaddio - Hebron

Misleading

To the Editor
"...if the strong man, the authoritarian, has done his job he has bonded people to him a long time ago...people don't care if he is lying, they believe in him and that's more important than believing the truth." - (Ruth Ben-Ghait)

Historically, blind loyalty is problematic. In recent years we've witnessed blind loyalty, increasing mistrust and political anger. Here are examples from the *Rivereast*. "Who do you trust?", 9/15/23, "Be the Change", 9/8/23. "Scum", 7/28/23. "Hot Mic Incident", 7/31/21. As an informed population pushes to reverse the increasingly hostile direction of our Nation, we witness backlash from ruling groups. Untrue, insult-

ing and often bloated opinions are fight instigators. This common strategy of control, through verbal assaults, can go in multiple directions. We the People can yield to strong arm manipulation and lose more than our humble downtowns and water or governing bodies can yield to manners and respect while embracing public aspirations for a healthier planet, both physically and spiritually. Trust is easily broken. Misinformation and insults lead directly to mistrust and resentments. Pollution, like verbal pollution, pits people against one another and is a divisive control tactic. A tactic we must be careful not to tolerate, especially in government.

Thankfully, people have taken notice. They've switched to healthier lifestyle choices, including kindness and defending natural resources. Across the USA, this pattern is growing.

In cynical tones, "they used to ask me, 'So, you think you schmucks can change the world?'; they'd say to us. They said it so often that you began to believe them, which is fatal, trust thy self." - (John Mellor). If you still believe we can unite for a less hostile and less polluted future, stay on track. "Trust thy self." Don't be misled. #save17

Jean Tulimieri - Amston

Good luck, BOE Candidates

To the Editor:
I wish all of the candidates running for the BOE the best of luck as the November election is just around the corner. When the new makeup of board members meet, new board officers will be elected, and I will not be accepting any nominations for chairperson. Becoming chairperson was the right thing to do shortly after the last election took place, but my time and focus needs to shift as my children become more active in extracurricular activities, and responsibilities around career and family need to take priority.

My hope is for the next board chairperson to continue expecting more from the BOE than any other town board. Keep striving for respectful debate. Keep the "letters" (D/R) next to everyone's name irrelevant. Best of luck to the candidates.

Christina Tammara-Dzagan - East Hampton
Note: Tammara-Dzagan is chair of the East Hampton Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.

Running for Town Council

To the Editor:
I am a 20-plus year resident of East Hampton, though my family has lived here for generations. I like living here and have been very happy serving our community.

I have served as a member, and am currently chairman, of the Board of Finance. I am looking forward to serving on the East Hampton Town Council.

We need to make sure our older residents are financially able to retire here. And, we need to continue to provide a solid education system for our children. That's a tough balancing act - but it can be done!

My work experience lends itself to accomplishing both.

At my job I created budgets that met the goals established by the US Department of Education and fiscal goals of a not-for-profit organization. My strength is business processes evaluation and identifying cost-saving measures that improve services while reducing expenses. Those skills will be beneficial to working across the aisle at the council level.

I believe in providing the best opportunities possible for the residents of East Hampton. I will keep a sharp eye on how your money is spent and build common sense plans for the future. And most important for me is reaching across the aisle to work collaboratively to reach positive and productive outcomes that are in the best interest of the town and its residents.

Bridget McLennan - East Hampton

Colchester Senior Center

To the Editor:
On Nov. 16, 2021, voters approved up to \$9.5 million for the senior center project. Due to escalating costs over the last 22 months, we will need an additional \$1.5 million. Because of available funding through the DECD grant (\$2.5 million), Bendas bequest (\$575,000) and ARPA funding for senior centers (\$32,691) that we know has been approved, the Town will only need to bond \$7,892,309 for the project. This cost is far below the \$9.5 million that was passed at the referendum in 2021 for the new senior center. Please encourage our Board of Selectmen to send this to Referendum so that we can see this building to completion with furniture, kitchen equipment and total furnishings to give our seniors and our community what they need and deserve. Thank you.

Marge Mlodzinski - Colchester
Note: Mlodzinski is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee but said she is speaking as an individual.

Supports Arndt

To the Editor:
I fully support Augie Arndt for the Board of Education and you should too. Although the relationship between the Board of Finance and the Board of Education deteriorated during this year's budget season, I could always rely on a professional conversation with Augie and I respected his position on the budget and why he stood for it. Augie is fully committed to supporting what is best for the students of East Hampton. He believes in the right of parents to have a voice in the education of their children. He supports a curriculum based in promoting the fundamentals all students need to know to be successful in life. Furthermore, when he is elected, I urge the other members of the Board of Education to select him as their chairman. He is a brilliant leader who has a vision for our schools, our children, and our town.

Russell J. Bonaccorso Jr. -- East Hampton
Note: Bonaccorso is a member of the East Hampton Board of Finance but is speaking as an individual.

Did You Miss It?

To the Editor:
If you missed the kickoff event, don't worry. You can still get more information and sign up for East Hampton Community Cares. Go to the website: UR-CommunityCares.org

If you need help with transportation, housework, garden work, or companionship, sign up at the website above as a Community Member. If you want to volunteer to help people with those needs, sign up at the website above as a Volunteer. When you sign up please let them know you are signing up for East Hampton Community Cares. If you need help or have questions signing up, please leave a message for Beth Angel at the senior center email or phone below, and I will get back to you.

If you are a member of a community group or a church, we'd like to help you if they are interested in getting involved. The Commission on Aging can set up a presentation to your group. Just call or email the senior center to leave a message at email: seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov or by phone: 860-267-4426

So far the response from East Hampton residents has been very enthusiastic and supportive. We look forward to growing East Hampton Community Cares to help our seniors and disabled folks get the help they need, and to grow our volunteer base. Please take a moment to check out the website above.

Thank you,
Beth Angel, Member
East Hampton Commission on Aging

Hopes for Your Vote

To the Editor:
I am proud to have served on the Board of Education for the past year and a half, and would be honored to have the opportunity to continue serving the community. I have lived in East Hampton for over 20 years, have 2 EHHS graduates, and have another currently in Middle School.

If you'd like to learn about my track record as a board member: I, individually, haven't done anything. But we as a Board have fought side by side to advocate for our district during challenging times. I love the idea and energy behind making an impact, but the only impact we can make (and I WILL make) is by working together with my fellow Board members for the benefit of the community, not as a political party.

I am a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and enjoy coaching Little League, and have been a certified Election Moderator for our town. I would be honored to have your vote in November, and for you to allow me to continue serving our community.

Augie Arndt - East Hampton
Note: Arndt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education but said he is writing as an individual.

Thank You, Fire Department

To the Editor:
Last Friday, my son Kevin lost his life in an ugly farm accident. When I found him, it was horrible. I called 911 and told the dispatcher that it was bad and both Marlborough and Hebron fire departments responded. The people who came were very professional and respectful in the way they handled it. They probably were sorry that they came at all. How they do what they do, I'll never understand. They leave their house whenever the tone goes off. Supper time, middle of the night, holidays, rain, snow, they just go. Putting others above themselves.

Next week is Marlborough's biggest fundraiser of the year, the famous Chicken BBQ. Please support them. Even if you don't like chicken, give it away. They deserve all the equipment they can use.

Special thanks goes to Kyle, who paid to bring his own machine to the site because he didn't want me to have to lift it off my son. Thank you to Cody Porter and Joe Asklar who kept my wife and grandson away from the scene. My whole family will always remember the people who came to try to help that day. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bob, Mary and the whole Schadtler family
Marlborough

The Politician's Fear

To the Editor:
Government accountability has never been just a catchphrase for me but the purpose of my time in local politics. Any government or elected official trying to skirt accountability is one looking to act only its own self-interest. But accountability is hard and often ugly.

Few people, and even fewer politicians, appreciate being held accountable for their actions. They will, instead, interpret accountability as an attack on their character motivated by selfish reasons. People who were once friends, and allies, will be tossed aside and turned into the enemy for putting what's right above blind loyalty. And then, rather than address the concerns, they will instead attempt to turn the discussion into a referendum on the person bringing the concerns forward. None of it is for the faint of heart.

Accountability must be applied equally or it's not accountability at all, just favor. Some cannot be given a pass for behavior that others would not. Accountability only works when all people, regardless of relationship, are held to the same set of standards. That

See Letters page 8

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even though we do not agree on everything, we respect and listen to each other. Local hero William J. Johnston once said we can “disagree without being disagreeable.”

The current RTC chairman’s attacks on Art and others in his party demonstrate his dictatorial tendencies and demand for ideological purity. Our community doesn’t need that – we need leaders who will compromise and work across the aisle for the good of the community. I can’t entirely agree with Art on a lot – but I know that he is a good man with the community’s interests at heart, and he deserves our thanks even if he doesn’t get our vote.

Jeremy M. McKenzie – Colchester

Working Together

Dear Andover Residents:

I write this letter in response to the recent Andover Board of Education meeting on 9/13/2023 where the discussion surrounding the upper parking lot shed light on the pressing need for healing certain relationships within our town. Emotions ran high among the members present, and it became evident that, at times, these emotions can impede the progress that our community deserves.

I wish to take this opportunity to make my stance clear. If elected to the board, I pledge to dedicate myself to the task of fostering positive relationships with all town boards. Emotions are a natural part of human interactions, but I recognize that allowing personal feelings to obstruct progress is a disservice to our community.

It is crucial that we work together harmoniously to address the concerns of our town effectively. I am committed to bridging the gaps and nurturing better relationships with both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. The recent animosity that surfaced during the meeting should not become a defining feature of our town. It is our collective responsibility to prioritize what is best for our community, our children, and our schools.

I believe that by focusing on cooperation, understanding, and a shared commitment to our community’s well-being, we can move forward constructively. I urge all members of our town boards to join me in this endeavor, so we can collectively work towards a brighter future for our beloved community.

**Sincerely,
Brianna Lanzieri – Andover**

Colchester Deserves Better

To the Editor:

Folks, the fall election campaign is in full swing. Irresponsible charges are being made while the business of our town is put on hold until after the Nov. 7 election. Colchester deserves better. Colchester needs a government that works for all of its people. In short, Colchester needs a government that actually works. Our grandstanding first selectmen needs to provide leadership that will focus on its citizens and not on his electoral needs. We need a first selectman who isn’t so politically focused in his attacks on other elected officials that he postpones needed agenda items while grandstanding a Board of Selectmen meeting into a press conference.

While all this was going on, both Democrats Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner kept trying to re-focus the meeting in such a way that the work of the town could be accomplished. They were joined in this effort by Republican Debbie Bates. This bipartisan effort was unavailing. The irresponsible efforts to smear our Town Clerk continued in front of a TV camera and reporters.

It is interesting to note that all of the supposed “facts” have been known since at least March while at least some of the town’s business was accomplished. Now, local elections are approaching. Town business is put on hold while the First Selectman’s critics are trashed.

The Selectmen who oppose this grandstanding should be congratulated and those who are running for reelection (Mrs. Coyle and Miss. Turner) should be returned/re-elected with the thanks of all of our citizens. These 2 officials work very hard. They are very effective and the town is a better place for their efforts.

Please join me in voting for Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner on November 7.

John F. Malsbenden – Colchester

In the Zone

To the Editor:

We have a beautiful lake, great school system, friendly neighborhoods. Many dedicated volunteers, professionals, and officials keep Marlborough moving in a positive direction, correct direction when needed, foster growth and development in a responsible and sustainable manner.

There has been concern in recent years about zoning rules and regulations, whether these are adequate, well-researched, and more to the point, whether these are implemented fairly, honestly and transparently. Citizens want to be and ought to be heard.

The upcoming municipal election offers an opportunity to consider who will play significant roles as regulations, land use, lake protections, and development are brought to the table for consideration, approval, or appeal.

The Democratic Town Committee has considered thoughtfully and endorsed exceptionally qualified, diverse individuals for these positions.

Zoning Commission: Charles Denler, whose family has been in Marlborough since the 1800’s, built over 100 homes in town along with his father. On the Zoning Board this award winning musician plans to continue building Marlborough as a vibrant, thriving community. Bill Lardi, a municipal building official and contractor for over 40 years, has served on the

school renovation committee and is currently on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Zoning Commission, Alternate: Nick Hale, is a 21 year old UConn student pursuing degrees in Political Science and Public Policy. His special interest is in attracting and keeping younger residents.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Erica Gorman, an account manager at Microsoft, with a vast technology background, is a skilled, proactive collaborator. Her interest is in making the appeals process respectful and equitable.

Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate: Anthony (Tony) Bratz is a mechanical engineering supervisor at Electric Boat, currently serving on the Water Pollution Control Authority. His expertise on infrastructure is invaluable to future development considerations.

Vote for the Democratic Zoning team.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

Supports Loudenback

To the Editor:

I am voting for Brittany Loudenback for Hebron Board of Education on Nov. 7 because she has the experience needed to do the job. As a mother of children in the school system, she understands a family’s perspective. Brittany worked hard to energize and mobilize parents this past May when the town struggled to pass the budget. With her commitment, the budget passed. Brittany states that her “role in a nonprofit that raises funds for higher education has provided immeasurable insight into the importance of education. I have come to understand how a well-rounded and solid educational foundation can impact a student’s success.”

With Brittany on the Hebron Board of Education she will ensure that we do not sacrifice the quality education the children in town receive. She will support teachers and administrators with an understanding of what parents and children’s needs are. Please join me in voting for Brittany in November.

Catherine McSweeney – Amston

Supports Alexander

To the Editor:

Elizabeth Alexander would be an excellent addition to the Hebron Board of Education. Elizabeth is a true supporter of education. As a mother of children in the school system, she seeks to assist not only the children, but also the teachers and administrators. She believes teachers and administrators should be respected and supported. She believes in a budget that meets the needs of the district but is fiscally responsible, which is important to me as a senior citizen in town who supports education but also wants to be able to afford to stay in Hebron.

Electing Elizabeth and the other Democratic Board of Education candidates (Eleisha LeMay and Brittany Loudenback) will also ensure that the current Democratic Board of Education chair keeps her seat. Please support Elizabeth on Nov. 7.

Kim Goldberg – Hebron

Seeking Your Continued Support

To the Editor:

Hello Colchester Voters, election season is upon us. My name is John Ringo. I am presently serving as Treasurer and have also served on the Board of Finance for sixteen years. My 30 years of Financial Services industry experience and owning a small business for 13 years gives me knowledge and experience. As Treasurer for four years our investments have earned in excess of a million dollars of revenue for the town.

I would like to thank the ATC and Republican Caucus for endorsing me to run for Town Treasurer. I would also like to thank Jeff Duigou, John Coakley, Rich Tanner and Betty Wagner and all the people that signed my petition in the primary. I am honored and privileged to run on this strong ticket of candidates. I have been a taxpayer for 47 years and look forward to an active campaign season.

Respectfully,

John Ringo – Colchester

Vote for LeMay

To the Editor:

Eleisha LeMay has my vote for the Hebron Board of Education. As a former educator, it is refreshing to hear a candidate state the importance of recruiting and retaining highly qualified educators as well as showing them that they have the support of our community. Our children are our greatest assets. Education is the key to our future and theirs. But without a strong school system, Hebron cannot thrive. A vote for Eleisha is a vote for someone who understands the value of a good education and the role it plays in the lives of children. Please vote for Eleisha and the other Democratic candidates for Board of Education, Brittany Loudenback and Elizabeth Alexander.

**Mary J. Rose, retired teacher
Hebron**

Gayle Furman Must Go!

To the Editor:

Gayle Furman, town clerk of Colchester, is under investigation by the Attorney General for serious violations. She’s claimed in her “heart of hearts” she’s done nothing wrong? In case you’ve forgotten Ms. Furman, we are a nation of laws; laws you should be upholding! If you’ve done nothing wrong, why did BOS Coyle make a motion to push off any investigation until December? Oh, that’s right you are up for election in November! Is it that Dennler, Coyle et al are afraid of what an investigation may uncover?

It has been reported that town clerk conferences are mandatory. That is simply false. The conference is a professional conference. They are not mandated by law. They are hosted by the Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA) a private organization.

Ct General Statutes Sec. 9-6: states that Town Clerks shall be compensated \$35/day plus mileage reimbursement as determined by the municipality...

The law does not state that the Town or taxpayers should pay for hotel rooms for the town clerk (and

her husband in Furman’s case). The law does not allow for an elected official to use the Town’s Taxpayer ID for personal expenses.

FS Bisbikos allowed BOS members to review the evidence --prior to the meeting. The Democrats should have motioned to send the information to the Atty General for an investigation, like they were asked to by the FS. Instead, Coyle, Turner and Bates attempted to shield their friend/fellow running mate - by motioning to hold off any investigation until December, after the election.

All elected officials should be held accountable. ANY elected official trying to hide the misconduct of other elected officials should resign from office.

It’s time for a new town clerk for Colchester, one who follows the law and doesn’t interject partisan politics into her job.

Sincerely,

Deanna “Dee” Bouchard

Chairman Colchester Independent Party

Tradition of Excellence

To the Editor:

Schools are the backbone of any small town. We have major issues facing education today including school safety, erasing COVID-era learning deficits, computer security, AI usage policies, and a lack of air-conditioned school buildings, to name a few. As a candidate running for the Marlborough Board of Education this fall, I believe that by working collaboratively in our community, we can find solutions for these issues. I have worked in education for over 30 years as a teacher and trainer and bring expertise in instructional/curriculum design and in many instructional technologies. In my current work, I run Blackboard, an online learning platform at a nearby private university and I help faculty apply best practices for applying a variety of technologies in teaching and learning, including teaching online. Before that, I built and put online a university cable TV station, where I mentored and advised students. These experiences have taught me how extremely important it is for teachers to understand the uses, strengths, and concerns that technology brings to education.

I have previous board experience, having served four years on the RHAM Board of Education, so I understand how vital a Board of Education is and how it works. In addition, I have also served on a local library board. In all work, I am considered frugal, fair-minded, and honest. My family has lived in Marlborough for over 20 years and regularly participates in various community organizations. We chose Marlborough because of the reputation of its schools and our child attended both MES and RHAM. Our child’s exposure to the fantastic teachers and high-quality education here in Marlborough has led to many successes.

Please vote for me in the upcoming November 7th election so we may continue to uphold the tradition of excellence at MES.

Jean Lorelle Wilson – Marlborough

See Letters page 29



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Preparing for a Grand Re-Opening

By London Brazal

Two Brothers Café is expanding into a larger location in downtown East Hampton, promising new delicious menu options and more seating for patrons to sit and relax.

Eugene and Sam Valentin, two Puerto Rican siblings, launched their café in Cobalt on Aug. 18, 2021. And now, just two years into their venture, they're broadening their horizons by relocating to a more capacious and central location in town.

Prior to their start, Eugene was juggling long hours at a breakfast-to-dinner café and chose to venture into a hot dog cart business. However, this endeavor didn't entirely satisfy his ambitions. Simultaneously, Sam was managing two fast-food establishments, finding it more demanding than enjoyable. A restaurant in Cobalt put up a grill for sale and Eugene decided to reach out to his brother to start their entrepreneurial journey. One of the best changes was that now, they were each their own boss.

"The best thing was to work for myself. It makes a big difference putting in similar amounts of work but satisfying my standards," Eugene said.

Two Brothers Café is set to open at the former police department location on 20 East High St. during the first week of October; the exact opening date will be disclosed via the eatery's Facebook page once health inspections are finalized.

This new venue offers the café the opportunity to transform into a full-fledged sit-down restaurant, serving breakfast and lunch, with consistent hours of operation from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. In preparation for this exciting move, the Valentin brothers have recently expanded their workforce, having previously managed the Cobalt café themselves during the week, occasionally with the assistance of family members on weekends.

Initially, the Valentin brothers had planned to expand within Cobalt but encountered numerous challenges along the way. It was only when a customer learned of their search for a new location that they were able to secure one. Initially aiming to make the move around April, the process was extended to six months due to unforeseen hurdles. During this time, the location underwent a complete renovation with the Valentins acquiring new skills, including floor installation. Despite a setback caused by heavy rains resulting in flooding, the brothers remained undeterred and the building's owner promptly rectified the issue to ensure it wouldn't recur.

"Every setback was always taken care of. When we walked in, the energy was perfect. It felt great," Sam said. Echoing on the setbacks, Eugene said everything has been able to meet their standards. "We made it work. Without a struggle, it wouldn't be as worth it."

As a small business, the two knew it was going



Eugene and Sam Valentin, the masterminds behind Two Brothers Café, are closing up shop in Cobalt to move into a new spacious location on East High Street.

to be an investment. For the past few months, Eugene and Sam have been working from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. to get the new location ready for customers. "It was just Sam and I going in working, it was a struggle but it will pay off soon," Eugene added.

With the location change, the brothers believe business will continue to grow. Over the past two years, about 70% of their customers were coming from the west. "We are excited. Business is going to boom. And for those who aren't coming from that direction, if the food is that good, it will be worth the drive," said Eugene.

The expanded kitchen, nearly the size of the entire Cobalt cafe, offers the flexibility for a diverse menu, as Eugene elaborated, saying, "If someone craves a burger at 6 a.m., they can

enjoy one, and if they want breakfast options at 1 p.m., they can have it too." Embracing their Puerto Rican heritage, the brothers are thrilled to introduce burritos and special dishes like rice with beans, fried plantains, and pincho de pollo, a beloved street food favorite.

Despite the overall rise in living expenses, Eugene and Sam remain committed to maintaining their tradition of offering high-quality food at affordable prices, driven by Eugene's desire as a father to uphold exceptional standards while keeping their offerings accessible to all.

As they prepare for the expansion of their business, the duo expresses their heartfelt gratitude to their loyal customers for their love and support over the past two years, with Eugene emphasizing, "The community is awesome, and we're thankful to everyone!"

Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0041-0121

Replacement of Route 16 Bridge over the Salmon River, Town of East Hampton

October 5, 2023 7.00 p.m.

Register: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTEastHampton41-121>

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

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 Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to address the structural deficiencies of State Bridge No. 00853, which carries Route 16 over the Salmon River in the town of East Hampton, and to provide a structure that accommodates safe travel for all facility users. The replacement bridge will be a steel plate girder structure with integral abutments. The proposed bridge will be a single span structure and have a span length of 150 feet, eliminating the center pier. It also includes a widening of the roadway to provide a 32-foot curb-to-curb width.

There are right-of-way impacts anticipated with the proposed improvements. These impacts include temporary construction easements on each side of the bridge. Construction is anticipated to begin April of 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 \$10,000,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 100 percent State funds during the construction phase.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTEastHampton41-121>. 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 October 19, 2023 to: DOTProject41-121@ct.gov and (860)-594-2020 or Francisco Fadul, Transportation Supervising Engineer, Francisco.Fadul@ct.gov, (860) 594-2078.

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 YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive> Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number (877) 853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 868 7811 6111. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Brianna Ritacco, Brianna.Ritacco@ct.gov, (860) 594-3205.

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.

RE9-22-23

Scholarship Applications Accepted

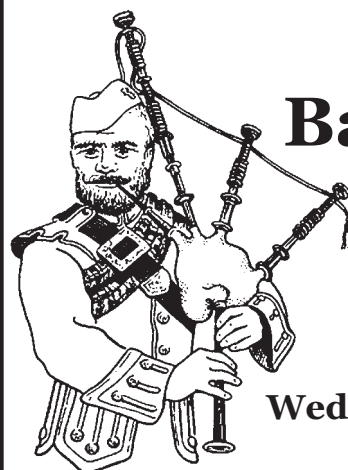
Applications for the annual East Hampton Ambulance Scholarship are currently being accepted – and are due soon.

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

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

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

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



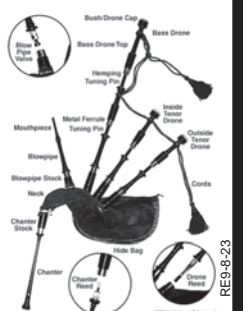
Learn the Bagpipes & Drums

You are invited to attend the **Middletown Police Benefit Association Bagpipe Band's Open House:**
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 at 6:30pm
Middletown Elks Hall
44 Maynard St., Middletown

No musical experience is needed, just a desire to learn the pipes or drums. There is no charge for the training. At the open house you will learn what it takes to play the bagpipe or the three different types of pipe band drums, as well as the resources and time commitment needed.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

Ken Barber – kenbarber091@gmail.com
Bill Warner – mpbapipelineband@gmail.com



RE9-22-23

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Small Town Coincidence

By London Brazal

Moving to a small town from a lifetime of urban liveliness can lead to coincidences that may only happen in a village like East Hampton.

In 1971, Gem Marshall and her husband Bill moved from Brooklyn, N.Y., into the Garden Apartments, now known as the Edgemere Condominiums. With them was their 3-month-old son Peter and 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter Susanne. However, Marshall shared, the moving company didn't anticipate the distance or the time of travel. When the movers arrived in East Hampton they "quite literally dropped everything," she said, and left the family with everything in a huge mess.

Fifty-two years ago, East Hampton was about half the size it is now with roughly 7,000 residents and much of the town was undeveloped, unlike today. "I was having a hard time figuring out where the sidewalks were because I'm a Brooklyn city girl at heart, but it changed a lot and I love it here now," Marshall said.

The family's first day in town was met with craziness as they tried to find pieces of furniture and the basic necessities for their young children. When Marshall was scrambling to find little things like a pan with a baby and a toddler, her husband went to explore the town to see what was nearby. He came back to the apartment and said, "You have to come with me; there's a fair!"

On the very hot Labor Day weekend, Marshall agreed and the couple dragged their kids across town to visit the Haddam Neck Fair. At the time, there were a lot of craft vendors lining

the fairgrounds selling a variety of handmade items. The family then stumbled upon an older gentleman, a woman, and a little boy, similar to Susanne's age, running around in a diaper due to the unbearable heat. After looking at different vendors, the Marshall family decided to buy a coffee table from the man, Warren Hastings, a longtime industrial arts teacher in East Hampton and Middletown. For roughly \$15, the Marshalls bought a beautiful handmade coffee table that they still own to this day.

Thirteen years after initially buying the table, their oldest daughter Susanne brought a friend from high school over to the house. When the friend, Scott Minnick, came into the living room he noticed the coffee table and said, "My grandfather made that!"

At that moment, it clicked for the Marshalls, Minnick was the boy running around in a diaper and his grandfather Hastings was the woodworker behind the table.

Hastings was a former Navy pilot who test-flew Hellcats. He moved to East Hampton in 1952 with a certification from Teachers College of Connecticut in teaching woodworking. His first job was at the High School which at the time was in the Center School building on Summit Street. Though it wasn't his fault, an electrical fire that burned half the school started in his woodshop. At the time, Minnick's mother had to either go to school in the morning or afternoon since the school could not handle full capacity. To this day, Minnick still has his grandfather's old shop equipment that was deemed 'too

dangerous' for school.

In his free time, Hastings created different pieces of furniture and decorations. Minnick remembers going to the dump with his grandfather and taking free wood that other people scrapped. One of Hastings' goals was to only create with free wood. Minnick also remembers the flea markets at the Haddam Neck Fair when he was younger. When Hastings retired, he joined the Connecticut Artisans Cooperative and continued to sell his furniture. When Hastings passed, Minnick's family was fortunate to get any items back before they sold.

Minnick is also a teacher and recalled going to Christmas parties at a coworker's house. Sim-

ilar to the Marshalls' story, Minnick recognized a checkerboard table and found his grandfather's initials on the bottom. When the coworker retired and downsized her house, she offered the table back to Minnick. Over the years, the Marshalls and Minnicks became very close family friends.

"As adults, we're still personal friends," Marshall said. "And we said if anything happens to us, our kids know that Scott gets the table."

When reflecting on his grandfather's creations, Minnick said, "My grandfather was my hero. Seeing his work was special and meaningful."

Wine-Tasting Fundraiser

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

This year's event will feature five wine-tasting stations, a limited beer selection, and individual charcuterie snacks by D'Eliana Public Market & Deli. There will also be a teacup raffle, live music by Kickin Back Duo, and Jack Solomon will be on hand to answer questions about the history of Laurel Island.

The price is \$35 for one person, \$60 for

two people, or \$115 for a group of four. Cost includes a boat ride to & from the Island, wine- or beer-tasting, souvenir glass, and a charcuterie snack.

Boats depart from West Shore Marine, 70 N Main St., East Hampton, with parking available at Sears Park. (No private boat-docking is allowed on the island.) Tickets will be limited and available in advance or on the dock.

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

Benny Fund 5K Returns Oct. 7

All runners, walkers, kids and volunteers of all ages are welcome to the 10th annual Benny Fund 5K run, 5K walk and kids' fun run, taking place at Sears Park, 68 N. Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 7, starting at 9 a.m.

Registration is from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Sears Park. Participants can also preregister at www.bennyfund.org. Shuttles will leave for the start line at 8:30 a.m. The race will finish at Sears Park. The kids' run will start after the 5K ends, at approximately 10:15 a.m.

The event is to help raise money for mental health and suicide prevention education in schools and to, organizers said, "end the silence and stigma that has so long accompanied men-

tal health disorders." The run/walk is directed by First Mile Fitness and is officially timed.

The Benny Fund is an East Hampton-based nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to improving mental health and preventing suicide through advocacy and education. The organization holds mental health advocacy campaigns, such as Benny's Run, Stick it to Stigma and #projectlove, and provides funding to mental health and suicide prevention education programs. Additionally, the Benny Fund awards scholarships to high school students.

To date, the organization has invested over \$100,000 into education and scholarships.

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-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Halloween Costume Swap - Costume Shop: Saturday, Sept. 30, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. This event is open to everyone, you do not have to donate to take items from the swap. Items will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Items left behind after the swap may be used for future library programs, donated, or recycled. Drop offs will be accepted through Sept. 29 during normal Library hours.

All-Ages: Monday Movie Madness: Monday, Sept. 18, 6 p.m., in the community room. Bring blankets; some chairs will be available. A *Dog's Way Home* will be shown. Popcorn will be served.

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.

Bubbles & Beats! Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Sing songs, dance, and pop some bubbles. For ages 18 months to 5 years. Drop-ins and siblings welcome.

Kids Comic Creators: Star Wars Jedi Academy: Wednesday, Sept. 27, 4:30 p.m., for grades 2-5.

DIY Days: Grades K-8 - Glitter Bouncy Balls: Saturday, Sept. 30, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Activities available while supplies last. No registration required.

Teen Programs: Nintendo Switch Game Play: Grades 6-12: Saturday, Sept. 30, 2-3:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome.

Cardboard Arcade! Design & Planning: Tuesday, Oct. 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 6-12.

Adult Programs: Hello, Dahlia!: Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6 p.m. Space is limited.

Cookbook Club - World Tour: Germany: Tuesday, Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m. Try new recipes and chat about our culinary adventures. The library will provide plates and utensils, all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share.

Music in the Library: Celtic Halloween with Ringrose & Freeman: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m.

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Democratic Council Candidates Focused on Progress

By London Brazal

The Democrats running for East Hampton Town Council are steadfastly focused on shaping the town's future by setting goals to engage with the community to proactively and collaboratively make informed decisions.

The candidates for Town Council are Richard Knotek, Dean Markham, Jack Solomon, Karen Wanat and Jordan Werme. As a party, their focus will be on continuing the lake aeration system, acquiring land when appropriate, and listening to the residents on significant decisions.

Richard Knotek, who has prior experience in town politics, said he isn't happy with how the finance board and Town Council conducted themselves in the past budget season.

"The disrespect and unbridled criticism of our educators, students, administrators, and public safety staff and volunteers was offensive to all of us, and not worthy of a position of leadership in our town," said Knotek.

As a candidate, Knotek said he sees a need for a positive change in tone and communication. He believes that the Town Council should take responsibility for helping the other town boards and see regularly-scheduled council workshops to discuss successes and challenges.

One important initiative he would like to address is to enlist more residents to serve on appointed boards. Many commissions and boards have unfilled vacancies that need more diversity to provide a "vibrant volunteer democracy."

Knotek challenges every resident to "step up to the challenge."

Dean Markham has served as the vice chair of the council, Board of Finance, state legislature, and other leadership roles including deputy speaker. With his wide array of experience, he believes he is a good fit, especially with his knowledge of budgeting as a Certified Public Accountant. Markham is back on the ballot as many of the incumbent members are not seeking reelection.

"I became quite concerned with the comments or actions or bullying of some Republican officials, especially during the budget process," Markham said. "This behavior is not acceptable behavior."

While in office, Markham would emphasize preserving the educational system he described as excellent. Another topic he would center on is bringing civility back to the town's government by creating a sense of respect amongst all residents regardless of their views. Two of his main goals include upgrading town facilities such as a new fire station and providing transparency in the budgeting process.

Jack Solomon has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry with NASA Traineeship from Columbia University. He has served on the Conversation/Lake Commission, the Clean Energy Task Force, and the Library Board. As a candidate for Town Council, Solomon would use his knowledge and

analytical skills to help the town progress for current and future residents. He believes that finances should be used efficiently, investment in schools is a requirement, the town should support the schools and teachers, and the town should pay attention to the infrastructure to invest in future benefits.

As a member of the Lake Commission, Solomon said he actively supports keeping Lake Pocotopaug the "town's gem and we should work to maintain and improve it." With that, he wants to prioritize volunteerism by encouraging residents to give back and support their town. Solomon is also a member of Rotary and highlights giving back to the community including a scholarship in honor of his late wife, Jan, for women who want to pursue a career in science.

Karen Wanat was also inspired to run due to the budget process this year. She believes that the town requires elected officials who work as a team, are open to discussion, are receptive to the residents, and are interested in making realistic and forward-thinking decisions. For the past 11 years, she has been a board member of the elementary Parent Teacher Organization.

"I have two kids with IEP plans, so I am well aware of how the schools operate and where they struggle financially," Wanat said. Her husband has worked in Public Works for 15 years which lets her understand what can be handled internally or by outsourcing and has dealt with contract negotiations.

As a councilwoman, Wanat said she would serve with high standards of communication and

forward-thinking. She wants to see more community efforts and start moving away from "party-focused" discussions. "We saw party members communicating and making decisions privately, without consulting the other party. I would like to see more open, public discussions about the future of the town so that the community can be more involved and informed," Wanat added. Her goals for office include coordinating with emergency services to maintain cost-effective organizations, ensuring the schools are properly funded, continuing lake cleanups, and addressing the ongoing water issue.

Jordan Werme decided to run for Town Council as he saw a need for new faces and voices in East Hampton's politics. With his educational background in history, anthropology, education, communications, and sociology, Werme said he has a well-established base of knowledge to help formulate decisions. Furthermore, Werme wants to pay attention to specialized professionals in related fields such as health and law enforcement.

"We can't all be experts on everything, but if we're able to think critically about the sources we trust and put the knowledge of experts into action, we can do great things for the town," Werme said.

As was reported in a previous *Rivereast*, Werme is also running for council on the Green Party ticket.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7. Look for profiles of the Republican council candidates in next week's *Rivereast*.

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, supply priest.

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.

Bible Study: All are invited to join the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn and the group at 6 p.m. on

Wednesday. Contact her at bobette@kahn.com to join the Zoom group.

Sunday School: The Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard and Emily Vick will lead the group, which meets at 9:55. New students are always welcome. Contact neelrichard16@gmail.com for information.

Church Directory Pictures: Group photos will be taken this Sunday. Check your email to confirm the date of your group.

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

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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.

Children's Ministry: For children in kindergarten through fifth grade, is held in Fellowship Hall during our worship service. The theme is "Friends with God" and is taught through Bible

stories where the characters are friends with God and tell about God's love for us. A toddler nursery is also available. 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.

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.

Mushroom Walk: Saturday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m.

What's at the Town Clerk's Office?: Wednesday, Oct. 4. 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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— Katherine Mansfield
(April 1941)

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Local Artist Showing in Two Exhibits

Tom Swimm, an artist whose studio is in East Hampton, will have his oil paintings in two different exhibitions this coming Saturday and Sunday.

The first is a group show at the Thames River Gallery, 239 Bank St., in New London with a reception Saturday, September 23 from 4 to 7 p.m. where Tom will be showing his newest work from Mystic Seaport and other locations.

Landscape Painter

The East Hampton Art Association Presents Atmospheric Landscape Painter William McCarthy Wednesday, September 27, at 7 p.m., in the East Hampton Community Room in the Public Library at 105 Main St.

McCarthy is an award-winning atmospheric landscape painter. He has garnered numerous solo shows throughout the northeast and can be found in private and corporate collections such as the Mayo Clinic, New York Public Library,

The second show titled "East of the River" is a juried event at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., Marlborough, with a reception on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. Marlborough Arts Center, 231 Main Street, Marlborough. Please visit the website at: marlborougharts.org.

Both receptions are free and open to the public and you can meet the artist in person.

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 and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. (note the new time); **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.

Family Tree: Fridays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Ken Doney, East Hampton resident, will show people how to do research. Register at the senior center or online. Bring your own electronic device.

Chatham Health District Informational Program – Vaccinations: Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 10:30 a.m. Free. Register at the senior center.

A Life Well-Lived is A Life Well-Planned: Wednesday, Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m., presented by Middlesex Health Palliative Care Services. Planning for health care is necessary, whether you are ill or may become ill in the future. Register in advance at the senior center.

Wii Bowling: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Oct. 4.

Cornhole: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Sept. 28.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday,

and Yale Art Gallery

There will be an opportunity to speak with the artist during the intermission which includes coffee/tea and refreshments.

Everyone is welcome at the East Hampton Art Association programs. The programs are free to members, with a suggested donation of \$4 for non-members. Programs/demonstrations and meetings are always free for students.

Refreshments will be served.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet outdoors, weather permitting, or indoors or via Zoom.

Mindful Meditations with Victoria: Monday, Sept. 25, 1-2 p.m., at the senior center. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion, and gratitude in a group setting.

A Life Well-Lived is A Life Well-Planned: Wednesday, Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m., presented by Middlesex Health Palliative Care Services. Learn about planning for future health care needs.

Trips: The Color Purple at the Ivoryton Playhouse: Thursday, Sept. 29, 1 p.m. *The Color Purple* tells the story of a woman who, through love, finds strength to triumph over adversity and discover her voice in the world. Based on the Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (and 1985 Steven Spielberg film). Cost is \$50 and includes transportation. Register in advance at the senior center.

Beyond King Tut Immersive Exhibit at Hartford's Connecticut Convention Center: Wednesday, Oct. 11. Through nine multi-sensory galleries, experience the 3,300-year-old history of King Tut. Depart from the senior center at 11 a.m. for a noon show. Lunch on your own at the 99 Restaurant in Glastonbury. Cost is \$33. Register in advance at the senior center.

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

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



The eighth annual "Fall History Festival" will honor the Chatham Historical Society and its 60 years of service to the community, and will also celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the two local camps in Salmon River State Park and Cobalt. The festival will be on Saturday, Oct. 7, from noon-3 p.m. Photo by the Chatham Historical Society.

Fall History Festival

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) will hold its eighth annual "Fall History Festival" Saturday, Oct. 7, from noon-3 p.m., at the CHS Museum complex at 6 Bevin Blvd.

This year the festival will celebrate two anniversaries. The first is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of CHS in 1963. There have been many officers and members in its 60-year history. CHS is asking any past officers, members or their children to come to the festival at 1 p.m. and share their stories.

The second anniversary is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC began on March 31, 1933 under President Roosevelt's "New Deal" to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Depression. The U.S. Army supervised the camps which had approximately 200 men each. The camps were set up in state parks and forests. East Hampton had two camps: one in the Salmon River State Forest and the other in Cobalt on Gadpouch Road.

Single and unemployed men age 18-25 (with fathers on relief) enrolled for six months and worked a 40-hour week for \$30/month. The government sent \$25 a month home to the men's parents, while the men kept \$5 for spend-

ing money. Enrollees received food, uniforms, shelter and medical care. The enrollees built trails, roads, campsites, & dams, stocked fish, built and maintained fire tower observer's cabins and telephone lines, fought fires, and planted millions of trees.

The CCC disbanded in 1942 due to the need for men in World War II.

At the Fall History Festival, the CHS Museum Complex will be open to the public for free. The three museum buildings have a large display of artifacts illustrating East Hampton's history. There is a large display of bells produced at the Bevin Bell Factory and a huge array of toys made at the Gong Bell Company and the N. N. Hill Brass Co. There is also a beautiful display of the witch hazel industry donated by the American Distilling Company. There will also be a new display of CCC history and memorabilia.

Outside under the large Lions Club tent will be a band providing music throughout the afternoon. There will be guided tours of the three-building museum complex and free cider & doughnuts.

All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net.

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.

Lunch will be a grab-and-go (between hold

Artists Sought

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission invites local artists to participate in a Plein Air Painting event in the East Hampton Village Center on Oct. 14 starting at 10 a.m. weather permitting.

The event coincides with the East Hampton Art Association Art Show happening at the Congregational Church of East Hampton the same day.

Artists are welcome to set up easels along Main Street in the Village Center and paint whatever scene inspires them. Contact the EHACC at arts@easthamptonct.org to register or call 860-993-5311.

Fall Classes at Epoch Arts

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of classes and programs this fall for students in grades pre-k through 12. Classes include art, photography, theater, improv, anime, art club and more.

Students can also join Epoch's theater troupe, Speak Out Productions, and use their voice to help create an original one-act play called *Hidden Injustice*. Epoch will also offer its annual Haunted House for students in grades seven and up.

Classes begin Oct. 2, and will be held at 27 Skinner St. Full class and program description and registration can be at www.epocharts.org/classes-registration.

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.

Belltown Garden Club

The Belltown Garden Club will meet Monday, Sept. 25, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., for a program entitled "Fall Mushroom Hunting in Connecticut."

With their slideshow of all-local photography, Ryan and Emily Bouchard, creators of The Mushroom Hunting Foundation, will explain the science and the safety rules of mushroom-hunting, with focus on the autumn mushrooms that are considered "safe for beginners" to identify.

All are invited. Call Judy at 413-328-8059 for more information.

CDHR Oktoberfest

Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) will hold its 12th annual Oktoberfest Sunday, Oct. 8, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Autumn Ridge, the farm for CDHR, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Admission is free and there is plenty of parking. Come meet the horses of the CDHR. There will be food, vendors, raffles, hayrides, kids' activities, and more. The event is rain or shine.

For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue. This event is rain or shine.

Vendor applications are due Oct. 4; for forms, go to www.ctdraftrescue.org/vendorform.

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.

Free Paper Shredding

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main St., Middlefield.

This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

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.

Hall of Fame Accepting Nominations

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

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

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

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Official GOP Primary Results

By Michael Sinkewicz

The official results the “historic” Marlborough Republican Primary election have been released following a recount, and the results remain “exactly the same,” the town clerk’s Office confirmed with the *Rivereast* this week.

On Sept. 12, a primary election was held to determine which Republican candidates would be moving onto the November ballot. Because the count was within 20 votes, a recount was automatically triggered, and conducted last week on Thursday.

The results, which are the same as what was previously reported, verify that a mix of endorsed Republican Town Committee candidates are advancing, along with two additional candidates who petitioned themselves onto the primary ballot.

For Board of Selectmen: Joe Asklar, Mike Nastro and Louise Concodello — all RTC endorsed — are the three winners with 131,

107 and 105 voters respectively. Sue Stolfi and Chris Barella, who petitioned themselves onto the ballot, received 89 and 94 votes respectively.

For Board of Education: Kerri Barella and Amy Kuhrt — who petitioned onto the ballot — appeared to have the slight vote-count edge last week. Their advantage was confirmed, both receiving 99 votes — they will be moving on to November.

They defeated two RTC-endorsed candidates, Louise Concodello and Patrick Pabouet, who is also chairman of the RTC, who received 97 and 92 votes respectively.

The registrar of voters’ team of election workers conducted the recount, and it was open to public. A tight vote was expected, and officials indicated that they were prepared for a recount to take place.

Juried Art Show Through Oct. 28

The Marlborough Arts Center will hold its fourth “East of the River” Juried Art Show from Sept. 24-Oct. 28, at the arts center, 231 N. Main St.

Oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, drawing, mixed media and photography will be displayed. The Juror of Selection and Awards is Thomas Hebert.

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 work in the exhibit will be shown online 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.

Art Classes

The Marlborough Arts Center is offering a class in creative journaling for teens, with parents welcome to participate. Classes will meet Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., from Oct. 4-Nov. 8. One-session drop-ins are accepted. Instructor Susan Hourihan will guide the class in using creative techniques to work through anxieties.

Cost for the six-week session is \$300. A single class is \$60. Students are asked to bring to the first class an old hard-covered book that will be used to make an altered book. Registration forms are available at www.marlborougharts.org.

For more information, please call the Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or email Susan: susan-hourihan1994@gmail.com.

Resident Earns Nursing Degree

Steven Bartos of Marlborough recently received a Master of Science in Nursing degree in nursing from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Openings on Commissions

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

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

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

President’s List

Marlborough residents Rebecca Peterson and Jacqueline Killelea made the summer 2023 President’s List at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H.

4th Friday @ the Arts Café

Horizon Blue, a contemporary acoustic Americana band, will perform at Marlborough Arts Center’s 4th Friday @ the Arts Café on Friday, Sept. 22, at 231 North Main Street in Marlborough CT.

The band plays a variety of instruments including guitar, mandolin, ukelele, electric and upright bass, dobro, strum stick, bongos, and flute. The group performs both original and well-known songs.

Admission at the door is \$10. The doors open at 7 p.m. with the concert beginning at 7:30. The Arts Center is fully accessible with ample parking.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

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.

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 live 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. All children in the community are welcome and invited to attend Sunday School. Contact Gwen Lawson at the church office at office@marlconchurch.org for more information.

Sept. 24 is Harvest Sunday. Parishioners are invited to bring fresh produce from their gardens, orchards or from the local supermarket. The fruits and vegetables will be delivered to the Marlborough Food Bank by the Sunday School children and others during the worship service. An infant baptism will also be included at the worship service. The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is “Enough

is Enough,” based on Exodus 16:2-4 and Matthew 20:1-16.

Faith Formation (Bible Study) is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. upstairs in the lounge. All are welcome.

Outreach: The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop is open Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Dec. 23. For more information, contact the church office. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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



Chloe Heslin

Resident Achieves Nursing Milestone

Chloe Heslin, BSN, RN, a resident of Marlborough and a graduate of the RHAM Class of 2018, has achieved a significant milestone in her nursing career. Heslin graduated from the University of Southern Maine in May, and is now making her mark as an ICU nurse at Maine Medical Center in Portland, ME.

Heslin earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree this year, and she has wasted no time in putting her skills to use at Maine Medical Center, working in the intensive care unit.

Heslin is the daughter of Matt Heslin of Marlborough and Andrea Tataschiere of Manchester.

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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. 25: 8 Ball Pool, 10 a.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: grande cheese raviolis w/ marinara sauce, parmesan cheese, california blend vegetables, breadsticks/fresh fruit.

Tuesday, Sept. 26: Meals on Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, Sept. 27: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon.; Not Just

Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: boneless pork chop w/ gravy, mango sauce, plantains, California blend vegetables, cornbread / fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Dancers, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 28: Transportation, 8 a.m.; Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; PD Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 29: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals on Wheels, noon; 8-Ball Pool 10:00 AM - Noon; Cards, 1-4 p.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: 100% fruit punch juice, macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, wholegrain white bread/cake.

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

Pointillism Painting for Children at Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., will hold a one-day Pointillism Painting workshop for children on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m.-noon.

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

The workshop is designed for school-age children age 8 years old and up. Materials are included in the fee of \$50, payable to the Marl-

borough Arts Center. Parents are welcome to participate in the class with their child. If the parent and child pair to make a single painting, there is no additional cost; if they choose to make two paintings, the additional fee is \$40.

Registration forms are available at www.marlbrougharts.org. Register by Sept. 29.

For more information on the workshop, call the arts center at 860-467-6353 or email Hourihan at susanhourihan1994@gmail.com.

Music on the Vine

The Connecticut Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) and Chateau Le Gari will host Music on the Vine on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3-6 p.m., at Chateau Le Gari Winery, 303 S. Main St. It will be held outside, weather permitting, and inside if it rains.

Children under 12 are free. General admission is \$20 and a reserved table of 4 is \$100. One hundred percent of the proceeds support HDSA's mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington's disease (HD) and their families.

"We are excited to be able to again hold this HDSA National Award-Winning event at Cha-

teau Le Gari. It's a fun safe family-friendly afternoon with music, children's activities, and raffles. There will be food, wine, beer, spirits & seltzers for purchase," said Susan McGann, HDSA's Connecticut Chapter Treasurer and Event Organizer. "We thank our sponsors: uniQure, Care-one of Lowell and Hartford Healthcare Chase Family Movement Disorder Center."

For more information about the event, please contact Susan McGann (cthdsa@gmail.com, 860-267-0288. Online registration and donation can be found at connecticut.hdsa.org/musiconthevine.

Parks and Rec Fall Programs

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

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

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

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

Adult Programs: Pickleball: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park tennis courts. There is no fee.

Adult Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. 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.

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.

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



Joey Fahey (#3) and other members of the Raptors defense celebrate after making a tackle in the backfield during the team's home opener on Sept. 15.

★ *Osten Wins cont. from page 1*

Dolzadelli on a 45-yard touchdown to prevent the shutout.

Delacruz, also a defensive tackle, had a pair of sacks and two more tackles for loss.

Fahey, who also had a pair of tackles in the backfield, said the defense has a simple, yet effective approach.

"It's 11 wolves to the ball - wolves hunt for fun," said Fahey. "We don't want them to gain an inch."

Fleming credited assistant coaches Glenn Doughty and Shane Doughty for implementing a defensive scheme a year ago that they have continued to carry out this fall.

"The kids have really bought into [the system]," added Fleming. "They trust their teammates and trust their coaches."

The Raptors are now aiming to start 2-0 for

the first time since 2018 when they travel to Guildford to visit the unbeaten (2-0) Grizzlies tonight, Friday, Sept. 22. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

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Senior Center Heads Back to Referendum

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance last week unanimously approved a two-part referendum question that would request additional funding for the town's senior center building project.

If approved at a town-wide vote, the referendum questions would authorize officials to expend beyond its current project budget, which currently faces a significant shortfall.

Without the supplementary appropriation, it's unlikely that a fully functional senior center will be completed.

The questions were forwarded to the Board of Selectmen, who was then expected to vote on a potential town meeting and eventual referendum date during its meeting on Thursday, after press time.

Why a Referendum is Necessary

In 2021, Colchester residents signed-off at referendum on spending \$9.5 million for the building of a new senior center.

In November of 2022, Senior Center Building Committee Chairman Tony Tarnowski alerted the boards of selectmen and finance that there was a shortfall in the construction budget of the project.

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

New London Superior Court Judge Karen Goodrow denied the injunction request, allowing the town to enter into a construction contract with BRD Builders LLC, the apparent low bidder for the project. She stated that budget estimates placed the total project cost somewhere between \$10.2 million and \$10.8 million, which would be over the agreed to amount established at the original referendum; an additional referendum would be required to expend those estimated amounts.

In February, the building committee requested an additional \$1.5 million for constructing the new facility, taking the total budget up to \$11 million. In August, the boards addressed the concern, charging bond counsel with crafting a new referendum question to acquire the funds.

This week, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos defended the referendum timeline, telling the *Rivereast* that acting on the issue in February would've been a mistake.

"It was absolutely the best course of action," he stated. "Mixing the senior center referendum with the [2023-24] town budget and school budgets would have been too convoluted. It was necessary to have them separated as the town and school operating budgets are distinctly different than asking the taxpayers to increase bonding."

Bisbikos also added that "the process required that the town established its bond rating before going out to a referendum."

"Anything other than that would have been reckless."

The Referendum Questions

The finance board endorsed a two-part referendum ballot, which will require residents to vote on two separate questions.

Question 1: "Shall the town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend an additional sum not to exceed \$32,691 of American Rescue Plan Act funds and \$575,000 of funds from a donation received from the estate of Stephen J. Bendas (increasing the appropriation by \$607,691 to an aggregate \$10,107,691) for costs related to the design, construction and furnishing of a new senior center?"

Essentially, voting "yes" on this question would allow the town to tap into funding that it is already in possession of – a sizable donation left to the town and an ARPA grant that is specifically allotted to senior centers.

Combined, these two amounts cover \$607,691 of additional funds.

In order to reach the total budget appropriation request of \$1.5 million made by the building committee, the town would need to acquire an additional \$892,309 on top of the \$607,691, which is covered by part two of the referendum ballot.

Question 2: "Shall the town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend an additional sum not to exceed \$892,309 (increasing the appropriation to an aggregate \$11,000,000) for costs related to the design, construction and furnishing of a new senior center and authorize an additional issuance of bonds and notes in the amount of \$892,309 (increasing the borrowing authorization to an aggregate \$10,392,309) to finance the portion of the appropriation not defrayed from grants and other funds?"

This question is asking for funding from taxpayers that the town does not currently possess.

If both questions were approved — meaning that \$607,691 was acquired (through question 1) and \$892,309 was acquired (through question 2) — the total budget would reach the building committee's target of \$11,000,000.

In addition, the town acquired a \$2.5 million state grant that will further bring down the total cost of the project for a total bonding amount of \$8.5 million, with \$7.89 million coming from taxpayers.

Mike Hayes, a Democrat on the finance board, said the questions may be a "bit confusing" for the general public. One question, that combined all of the funding sources together, would potentially be easier to understand, he asserted.

Fellow Democrat Mike Egan added that the second question almost appeared contingent on the first question passing. Furthermore, if *only*

the first question was approved and the second request failed at referendum, the town would still likely not have adequate funding to complete the whole project.

"We could find ourselves essentially in the same situation," he said.

Republican board member Art Shilosky had a different assessment, arguing that giving residents multiple options was the safest decision for the town.

If only one referendum question was presented in front of residents, and it fails, "you have nothing."

"Our goal is to keep this project going," he said.

Bisbikos agreed that an "all or nothing" approach was too risky. As currently outlined, he said, "question one" was a "no-brainer" and was almost a guarantee to pass at referendum.

Therefore, even if "question two" failed, the project budget would still be injected with some additional funding.

"We need to keep this project alive at all costs," he asserted.

Finance board chair and Republican, Andrea Migliaccio, explained that the town was somewhat forced to include the type of legal verbiage included in the referendum questions, but that their job as elected officials would be to effectively communicate the information to the public to avoid any confusion.

'Somewhat Frustrated'

Still, some officials remained unconvinced with the referendum strategy.

Patty Watts, director of Colchester Senior Services, said during the meeting that one question would've been easier to communicate and that a ballot with "either/or" phrasing was worrisome.

This week, Tarnowski told the *Rivereast* that the message to the community was simple: "we need *both* questions to pass so the town can get the building that was presented and is being worked on."

If only "question one" passed, and the building committee had newfound access to the Bend-

Lions Still Accepting Craft Show Applications

Applications for vendors are still being accepted for the 32nd annual Arts & Crafts Festival on the Green, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date is Sept. 30.

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

There will also be raffles and food that day. For vendor information, call 860-222-0796 or email colchesterlionscraftfair@gmail.com.

das donation money and the ARPA grant, the new senior center would be incomplete, he said.

"There'd be quite a bit left on the table," Tarnowski said, adding that there wouldn't be furniture, fixtures or kitchen equipment in the new facility. "There still wouldn't be 'certificate of occupancy.'"

If a referendum took place in the next month, the project — which Tarnowski said is already behind schedule — would ultimately be finished as planned. If the referendum fails, it's unclear what "plan B" would be.

"We'd go as far as the money goes," he said. "I don't know, we'd have to take a good hard look at it."

Regarding the phrasing of the referendum ballot, Tarnowski indicated that many people appear confused by the language.

"I don't know why they went with a two-question approach," he said.

Residents traveling down Lebanon Avenue have likely seen construction underway, including beams erected at the site. At this point, with the project's future uncertain, Tarnowski said he was "somewhat frustrated."

In the winter, he alerted the town that additional funding was needed and the committee "had to know how to proceed."

There was a "point of no return," he explained, meaning that if the town wanted to alter the design or cut back before materials were ordered and other construction measures began, the option was available. But, that point has passed.

"I don't understand the reasoning with delaying the referendum," he said.

Medium Coming to Polish Club

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero on Saturday, Oct. 7. Tickets are \$30 per person and on sale at the club.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and people should be seated by 6:45 p.m. so the show can start on time. LoCicero will be at the club from 7-9 p.m. For more information, please call 860-537-2550.

Community Baby Shower

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) will host a free Community Baby Shower for Colchester residents who are expecting, or have an infant up to three months old, on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

The event will include free gifts, community resources and games. Families should register at ColchesterC3.org.

Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

History Museum Open Weekly

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

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

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

Farmers Market Open Sundays

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

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

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



Grand Opening... The Colchester Democrats celebrated the grand opening of their headquarters located at 159 S. Main St. on Sunday. Bernie Dennler, candidate for first selectman, and the entire Democratic slate were available to greet the public and answer questions. Democratic Headquarters will be open Monday-Thursday from 6pm-8pm and weekends from 11am-1pm. The public is welcome to stop in to say hello or pick up yard signs. The campaign is still seeking volunteers for a variety of fun activities. To become involved, or if you have questions about the team, please contact Monica at (860) 465-7909 or visit colchesterdemocrats.org.

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School Official Receives State Appointment

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester Public Schools announced this month that Charles Hewes, the district's assistant superintendent of schools, will be departing at the end of the month after 17 years of serving the community. His last day will be Sept. 29.

In a press release, the district stated that Hewes was officially named the new Deputy Commissioner at the State of Connecticut Department of Education, a significant career milestone for the local official.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have served the students and families of Colchester, as well as work with the district's expert faculty and staff," Hewes stated.

While his tenure as assistant superintendent was relatively brief — he began within the last year — he served in a variety of roles, starting off initially as a teacher at Bacon Academy. During his career, he was also a coach, assistant principal and director of teaching and learning.

Rumblings about Hewes' departure began during the summer, Colchester Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III told the *Riverest* this week. The state Board of Education didn't meet until September, though, which is when an official vote on Hewes' appointment took place.

A job posting for a new Colchester assistant superintendent was posted prior to the an-

nouncement, signaling that Hewes was leaving the district. Sullivan expressed that the state requested that local leaders keep Hewes' potential destination quiet until the news was official.

When he took over as the head of schools in January, Sullivan confirmed that he had done his homework on the new work environment, and one individual stood out.

"Multiple people said you get to work with Charley," he said. "He has that level of respect."

Hewes' appointment, he continued, represents a "tip of the cap" to Colchester.

"It says a lot about him and Colchester schools."

Now, the number two official in the department of education is just a phone call away, he added.

"This is just a truly unique opportunity," Sullivan said. "It's phenomenal."

On Sept. 6, the Colchester Board of Education unanimously approved Jessica L. Kuckel as the new Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Kuckel currently serves as the executive director of student services at South Windsor Public Schools.

Her career began as a social worker in the Milford school district and later for the Capital Region Education Council. Kuckel earned a

master's degree in social work from Southern Connecticut State University, along with a 6th year degree from the University of Bridgeport and she completed the Executive Leadership program at Central Connecticut State University in 2020.

At South Windsor, she was previously named the Supervisor of Elementary Special Education in 2014, and was promoted to Director of Special Services three years later, before being apportioned to her current role.

"I am thrilled and honored to be appointed as the Assistant Superintendent for the Colchester Public Schools," Kuckel said in the press release. "This is a remarkable opportunity to contribute to the standard of educational excellence this community holds, and I can't wait to work alongside our dedicated educators, staff, families, and community members."

During the school board meeting, she expressed that it was "an honor and a privilege to follow Dr. Hewes."

"I'm excited to get to work and the warm welcome that's already been extended means a lot and I know we're going to have a great partnership," she added.

Sullivan stated in the press release that Kuckel's "wide range of experiences, especially in related services and special education will be an asset to the Colchester Public Schools."

"We are excited to welcome her to our leadership team and the Colchester community," he said.

Sullivan described the departure of Hewes as a bittersweet moment.

"While I am sad to lose him as a colleague here in Colchester, I cannot think of a better person to lead curriculum work or a better advocate for public education than Dr. Hewes" he said in the release.

A search committee conducted a nationwide hunt for a new assistant superintendent, reviewing 40 different applicants, and unanimously recommended Kuckel to the school board.

Senior Center Trips

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

Pacific Northwest & California: April 14-21, 2024. Explore the natural beauty from Seattle to San Francisco. Trip includes transportation to airport, airfare, hotels and 11 meals (six breakfast, one lunch and four dinners). Double occu-

pancy is \$3,529/person if booked before Oct. 14. Registration can be made at the senior center.

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

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

Toastmasters Meet Twice Monthly

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

This virtual setup offers flexibility, allowing people to attend from their home or office.

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

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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: 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.

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.

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Similar Goals... Terry Brown, a member of the Commission on Aging's education committee, presented at the Colchester AARP 4019's recent meeting. AARP said it and the Commission on Aging have similar goals: enriching seniors' lives. The local AARP chapter meets at the Colchester Senior Center the first Tuesday of each month.

Colchester Choir & Orchestra

Seats are open in all sections in Colchester Choir & Orchestra. The Choir especially welcomes additional lower voices. Rehearsals start next week.

Colchester Choir & Orchestra will perform three concerts in the 2023-24 season: December, March and May.

CCO is a program offered by the Colchester Parks & Recreation Department. It plays a wide variety of music, from pops to classical. The group rehearses weekly at Bacon Acad-

emy High School. Rehearsals are Thursdays, starting Sept. 28. Choir is 6-7:30 p.m. Orchestra is 7:30-9 p.m., with informal warm up at 7 p.m.

To register, visit colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Program/Detail?programId=467.

For more information, visit www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org or find the group on Facebook. Questions can be sent to colchesterchoirorchestra@gmail.com

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: 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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Tuesday: Agadata 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.

Yom Kippur Schedule: Kol Nidre, 6 p.m. Sunday night; Monday: Yom Kippur Day, 10 a.m.; Monday Neilah, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Golfers, Sponsors Sought

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

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

Registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and prime rib dinner. If interested in sponsoring a tee or registering to golf, call Keith at 860-537-2512 or email CHFD28golftournament@gmail.com.

Residents Named to Scholar-Athlete List

Two Colchester residents were among the Commonwealth University student-athletes that have been named to the 2022-23 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Scholar-Athlete award list.

Named to the list were Davin Roy, a Commonwealth University-Lock Haven student and football student-athlete, and Sam Blumberger, a Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg student and men's soccer student-athlete.

Student-athletes must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 upon completion of the academic year to be eligible for the PSAC Scholar-Athlete Award.

Walkers Sought for 'Memory Makers'

The Colchester Senior Center is looking for members to join its walk team "The Memory Makers" for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, at 10 a.m., at Ocean Beach Park in New London.

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

Tour of Burial Ground

The Colchester Historical Society will present a "Tour of the Colchester Burial Ground" located behind Old Bacon Academy on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 2 p.m. The walk will be led by Gary Walter.

Parking will be available at the Colchester Federated Church parking lot, located at 60 Main St.

Touring Around

All are invited to join Gary Walter from the Colchester Historical Society on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m., as he takes people on a tour of the center of town. The tour will begin at the CHS Museum, where you can park your car. Along the walk, Walter will point out and talk about various structures and buildings of historical significance.

Also, on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., Walter will give a presentation on the "Early History of Colchester." The public is welcome.

UnHeardOf Colchester

All are invited to discover lesser-known stories about Colchester's history by tuning in to the audio series UnHeardOf Colchester. These eight cinematic audio stories were created by UnHeardOf World and the Colchester Historical Society.

Begin your discovery with the early settlers of Colchester and continue your journey through

300 years of local history using a mobile device or a computer. The shows are for all ages.

Visit UnHeardOf Colchester by visiting www.unheardof.world/colchester.

Learn more about Colchester's history by visiting the Colchester History Museum at 24 Linwood Ave. on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., or by visiting www.colchesterhistory.org.

October Project Graduation Fundraiser

All are welcome to play miniature golf on the Colchester Town Green Sunday, Oct. 15, during the Colchester Farmers Market.

This portable mini-golf fundraiser will be set up from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$5 for those under 10 years old, and \$10 for those 10 and older. Donations will also be accepted, and hole spon-

sorships are still available. Visit baconacademy-projectgrad.org for more information.

All proceeds will benefit Bacon Academy Project Graduation, whose mission is to enhance drug and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy.

AARP Upcoming Meetings

AARP 4019 has announced two important meeting dates for October.

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 1:30 p.m., the regular October meeting will be held at the Colchester Senior Center. This meeting will be followed at 2 p.m. by a presentation by Tony Tarnowski to bring everyone up to date about the progress of the new Colchester Senior Center. Light refreshments will be available. All are invited to the presentation.

Then, on Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 2-4 p.m.,

AARP will hold its annual Meet the Candidates event, at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. All political party chairmen have been notified that candidates for first selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education are invited to be on the panel. Other candidates are invited to be in the audience. Attendees are invited to bring their questions. Come early as space is limited. Light refreshments will be available.

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars Peewee football team was in action against Groton Sunday, Sept. 24. The Cougars lost, 24-6.

With a revamped offensive alignment in the backfield the Cougars had several drives that results in first downs. As time was dwindling in the fourth quarter, the stars aligned, as did the blocking, and Braden MacFarland made the run of the year thus far. 65 yards to pay dirt

behind the blocking of Zayden Kiczuk, Ryker Matthews, Sullivan King, Ethan Wells and Nick Auresto. Key tackles were had on defense by Braxton Engle, Nick Sands and Bryson Norige. The team looks to tighten up the defense and score the ball Saturday against Killingly.

Seniors, Juniors, and Micros had a bye week but will be back on the field this Sunday against East Lyme.

CASTLE Earns National Accreditation

CASTLE, a nonprofit childcare center located in Colchester, has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

CASTLE earned outstanding scores within the 10 NAEYC program standards they were judged and evaluated upon. NAEYC awarded CASTLE 100% marks in three categories, and 93% or higher in the other 7 standards, giving the program an average score of 96.4%

"NAEYC Accreditation is an indicator for quality for early learning programs like ours," said Lindsay Therian, preschool director of CASTLE. "It shows that our organization is a great place for young children to learn and develop because of our safe and thoughtful learning environment, knowledgeable staff members, and supportive families. The preschool teachers, administrative team, and board of directors were all an important part of the process. Accreditation is a team effort and everyone here at CASTLE went above and beyond to ensure that our program achieved this marker of excellence."

Colchester Alternative School-Age Total Learning Experience (CASTLE) is a nonprofit childcare center that was founded in 1991. Its early learning programs have been accredited since December of 2008.

The NAEYC certificate is valid through April 1, 2029. To earn NAEYC accreditation, CASTLE went through an extensive self-study and quality-improvement process, followed by an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to verify and ensure that the program met each of the ten program standards, and hundreds of corresponding individual criteria. There will be unannounced quality-assurance visits during the accreditation term.

"NAEYC-Accredited programs have committed to a process that takes time, energy and dedication to complete" stated Alissa Mwenelupembe, senior director of Early Learning Program Accreditation. "CASTLE has demonstrated their commitment to young children and their families."

For more information about CASTLE and the programming available, visit www.castlekid.org.

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.

Early Learning Station: Shoe-Lacing: Runs through Saturday, Sept. 16.

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.

Super Saturday Storytime – Fall: Saturday, Sept. 23, 10:30 p.m. Drop in for a seasonal storytime.

Craft Swap: Saturday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bring in unwanted craft supplies to the library Wednesday, Sept. 13, through Thursday, Sept. 21, and then come for a Craft Swap on Saturday, Sept. 23. Someone's old supplies might be the inspiration you need for a new project.

What I Love About Colchester: Starting Monday, Sept. 25. Stop into the library to make a heart that has what you love about the town and community, to celebrate Colchester's birthday. Once you make your paper heart it will be hung in the library.

Cragin Book Club: Monday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m., at the senior center. In case of rain, meet at the library. Ask at the adult circulation desk for this month's book. For updates, sign up at tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub.

Take & Make Craft: Wednesday, Sept. 27.

Teen Craft: Thursday, Sept. 28, 3-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Come for a pizza craft.

Vendors Wanted

Colchester Federated Church's annual Fall Market will be held Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – and vendors are wanted.

The event will showcase local crafters, vendors and farmers, as well as an Upscale Tag Sale, bake sale and raffle.

For a table at the fair, contact Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

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Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, Sept. 25: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fix, Inspired by Art; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, Sept. 26: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Sewing Circle; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., CSC Discovery Network Senior Center Month Celebration; no Bingo today; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting (via Zoom).

Wednesday, Sept. 27: 9 a.m., Making Mem-

ories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; noon-4 p.m., AARP Driver Safety Course; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming I; 2 p.m., Cardio Drumming II; no Sewing Circle today.

Thursday, Sept. 28: 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 an appointment only; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Sept. 29: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Lunch Bunch Outing to The Main Moose; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Old Bacon to Host 325th Celebration

All are invited to celebrate Colchester's 325th birthday on Saturday, Oct. 7, by visiting Old Bacon Academy, 84 Main St. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. there will be several presentations and tours of the building.

The Bacon Academy Board of Trustees are using the day to kick off a multi-year, multi-million-dollar capital campaign to restore the building.

Honorary Campaign Chair Dolores Sawchuck will welcome people to the school, and

will be joined by the Fife and Drum Corps on the front lawn.

The day will include a presentation by historical architect Marilyn Ackerman at 1 p.m. Ackerman will discuss Pierpont Bacon and how Bacon Academy came to be.

Light snacks and refreshments will be served throughout the day. For more information, contact info@baconacademytrustees.org or visit baconacademytrustees.org.

Walk for Cancer Research

All are invited to join resident Shawn Pelletier's team, the Colchester Pavement Pounders, to take part in an annual event hosted by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to raise money for cancer research.

The 2-mile walk will be held on Friday, Sept. 29, at Bushnell Park in Hartford, as part of the "Light the Night" event designed to "bring light to the darkness of cancer through research and cures."

For more information about joining the Colchester team, send an email to Pelletier at redminuy@icloud.com.

**DTC Sponsors
Psychic Medium**

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

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

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

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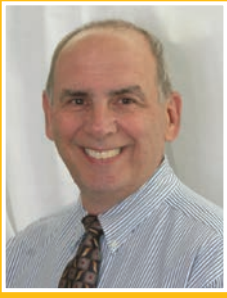
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Season of Scarecrows... Colchester Parks and Recreation along with the Colchester Business Association is holding the 24th Annual Scarecrow Contest. Applications are available on the CBA website at colchestercba.com. Deadline for applications is Sept. 29. Set-up is Oct. 2-6, with a parade Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. Voting begins on Oct. 7.



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RE5-26-23

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325th Birthday Gala

All are invited to Colchester's 325th Birthday celebration gala on Friday, Oct. 13, from 7-10 p.m., at Priam Vineyards, with music, passed hors d'oeuvres, and a free beverage. Cocktail attire required.

Tickets are \$40 each. Tables can be reserved in groups of eight or 12. Thanks to Founding Sponsor Dime Bank, all attendees will receive a free commemorative book with pictures of Colchester's history.

Tickets can be purchased in the recreation or town clerk's offices during normal business hours. For more information, call the recreation office at 860-537-7297.

Bake Sale

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold its Fall Book and Bake Sale at the Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., from Sept. 29-Oct. 4.

Hours are: Friday, Sept. 29, Pre-Sale Night, 4-7 p.m., with a \$5 admission; Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. From Monday, Oct. 2-Wednesday, Oct. 4, the sale will be during library hours, and there will be a \$5 per box or bag sale those days.

Community Conversations with Dennler

Colchester residents are invited to join First Selectman candidate Bernie Dennler for a Community Conversation/Meet and Greet on Friday, September 29th starting at 6:30 PM at Hop Culture at 144 Cato Corner Rd.

This is a chance to meet Dennler, ask questions, and share your ideas or concerns about the future of Colchester.

All are welcome to join the conversations. Residents can also contact Bernie at bernieforcolchester.com or at [Facebook.com/BernieForColchester](https://www.facebook.com/BernieForColchester) for information on future events and other community conversations at local businesses.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

Bible Study for Men: Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Community Bible Study and Prayer: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Donuts with Don: Fridays at 10 a.m. This is an open discussion on how God fits into your life.

Clam Bake Oct. 2

New Britain Hunting and Fishing Club, d/b/a Westchester Sportsmen's Club, will hold its annual clam bake at 147 Davidson Rd., Colchester, on Sunday, Oct. 2, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The menu will include: clam chowder, cherrystones, shrimp, baked stuffed clams, cold cuts, cheeses, potato and macaroni salads, baked beans, steamers, corn on the cob and steaks.

Tickets are \$50 each and must be purchased by Sept. 23. For more information, email WestchesterSportsmen@gmail.com.

Salmon River Road Race

Colchester Land Trust will hold its annual 5.5-mile Salmon River Road Race Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.

Entry fee for the event is \$35 and includes two water stops and an awards ceremony with a post-race barbecue that includes many locally sourced food and beverage items. There will also be an opportunity to recycle your old running shoes as the Land Trust will be conducting a shoe drive for the Soles4Souls organization.

Interested participants may pre-register online through September 29th by visiting the race website at www.salmonriverrun.org. Runners may also sign up on the morning of September

30th from 8:00am to 9:45am at the Firemen's Field facility adjacent to the Salmon River State Park on Rt. 16.

For more information, or to volunteer to help with the event, please contact Cathy Shea by phone at 860-917-6096 or by e-mail at racedirector@salmonriverrun.org. The Colchester Land Trust is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization working to preserve Colchester's rural character by permanently protecting its forests, wetlands, fields and farmlands.

To learn more about the Colchester Land Trust, please visit www.colchesterlandtrust.org.

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Lions' Craft Show This Saturday On Green

The Colchester Lions Club will host its 32nd annual Arts and Crafts Festival on the Green this Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date is Sept. 30.

The event on the Town Green will feature hundreds of handmade creations from local crafters and artisans. There will be no mass-produced or previously-owned items.

There will also be raffles and a food vendor all day.

For last-minute vendor space, call 860-222-0796 or email colchesterlionscraftfair@gmail.com

Pie, Cookie Dough Fundraiser

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild of Colchester is sponsoring a Lyman Orchard pie and cookie dough fundraiser to support the guild's annual high school and college scholarships.

Order forms are available at the church or you may order online via tinyurl.com/4vcpf8sj.

Completed order forms and payment can be mailed to St. Andrew Church in Colchester or dropped off at the rectory. Cash accepted; checks made to Guardian Angels Parish.

Pickup will be Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9-11 a.m., at St. Andrew Church parish hall, 128 Norwich Ave.

For more information, call Kathleen at 860-917-7616.

Town to Celebrate 325

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

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

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

Guardian Angels Parish Offering Italy Trip

Guardian Angels Parish – which encompasses St. Andrew Church in Colchester and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon – is making a pilgrimage to Italy from Oct. 30-Nov. 9.

The Rev. Richard Breton will lead pilgrims through Florence, Assisi, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Monte Cassino, ending in Rome. The trip will include an audience with Pope Francis.

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

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



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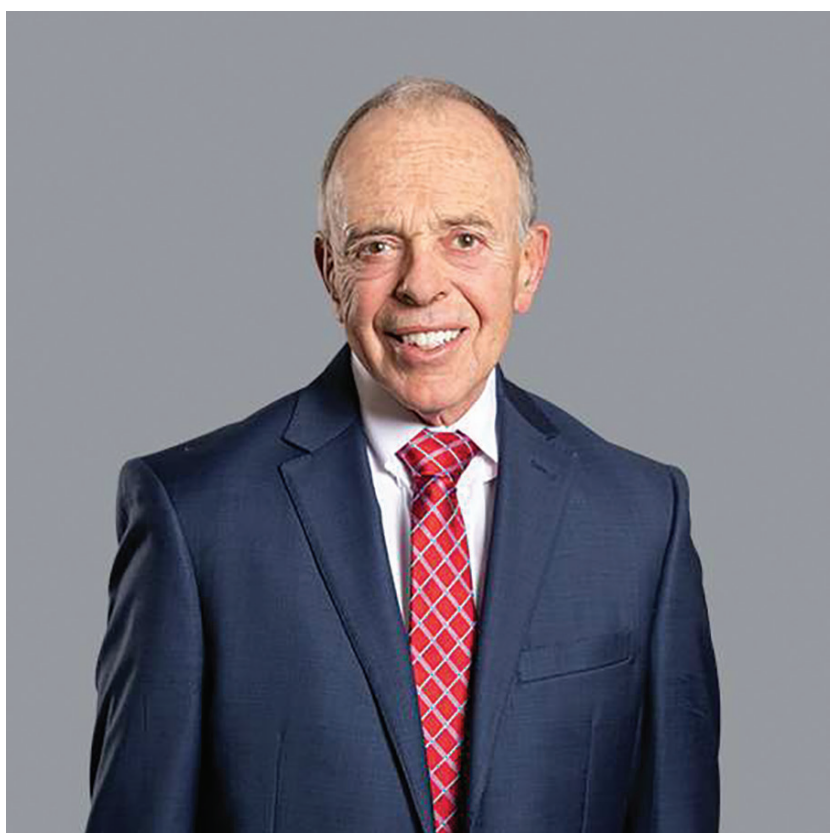
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Defensive Stand Lifts Cromwell/Portland Football

By Josh Howard

It took a half to settle in, but once they did Randell Bennett's team showed the grit and determination that have become synonymous with the Cromwell/Portland football program.

The Panthers defense stopped a two-point conversion late in regulation, holding on for a 22-20 victory over Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) co-op at Pierson Park in Cromwell on Sept. 14.

"We were just preparing ourselves to go into overtime if they got in, but the defense came up with the stop," said Bennett.

Following a late touchdown, the visiting Tigers from Hartford threatened to extend the game, but speedy cornerback Paul Wimbish led a contingent of Panthers that tackled SMSA's quarterback Zahkeer Kerr short on the goal line.

The win also marked a successful home debut for junior quarterback Jess Elfreich, who threw for a touchdown and ran for another, both in the second half.

"It's great - I've been dreaming about this ever since I can remember," Elfreich said of playing under the lights. "The atmosphere here is better than ever and there's nothing more I can ask for."

Following a nine play drive to open the game, the Panthers drew first blood when sophomore sensation Tyler Cipolla jetted around the left and scored from eight yards out.

SMSA would score the next 14 points on a pair of touchdowns from junior TJ Thompson, who ran into the end zone from eight yards out in the second quarter and then scored on a screen pass from Kerr with 17 seconds left in the first half.

But as they have done so many times before, the Panthers took control of the game over the final two quarters.

"It was just about stepping up and correcting the easy mistakes that we were messing up on," said senior captain Jack Williams, who starts on the line on both sides of the ball. "They were easy fixes, we just had to come out and play harder."

Along with facing a second half deficit, the Panthers were also confronted with the challenge of a limited kicking game.

Senior captain Alex McKiernan, an all-conference player who is also the team's kicker and punter, suffered an injury in the first half, forcing him to miss the rest of the game.

Losing McKiernan forced Bennett to gamble on fourth down, often in his own end.

The mentality paid dividends in the second half as both touchdowns were set up by four and long conversions.

Facing fourth and 14 from their own 25 in the third quarter, wide receiver Jack Nolan drew a pass interference penalty on a bomb down the right sideline, extending the drive.

Elfreich seemed to settle in after that and complete his next five passes, including a 29-yard scoring strike to junior Vaughn Payne, who high-pointed the ball in the end zone.

An Elfreich to Nolan connection on the two-point conversion knotted the game at 22 with 1:39 left in the third quarter.

Facing a 4th and 20 from his own 35 in the final quarter, Elfreich again delivered with a high-arching ball down the left sidelines which



Cromwell/Portland football players get amped up before kickoff of the team's home opener at Pierson Park last Thursday.

was hauled in by Cipolla, who was able to tap his right foot before going out of bounds.

On the ensuing play, Cipolla then took a screen pass 44 yards down to the one yard line before Elfreich called his own number and scored on a quarterback keeper from a yard out.

Nolan caught another two-point conversion to make it 22-14 with 5:35 to play in regulation.

Elfreich said the offense was unfazed during the difficult fourth downs.

"I trust my guys. I know anyone out there can make a play at any time. If they want to key on one guy, we have another guy coming," said Elfreich, who threw for 307 yards, 102 of those yards to Cipolla.

With 1:41 to play in regulation, the Tigers finally stopped the Panthers on a fourth down, giving the visitors one last chance.

SMSA then converted their own fourth and long when Kerr hit Thompson down the seam from 33 yards out, bringing the visitors within two points with 1:10 to play.

However, similar to when they earned a home victory by stopping a two-point conversion against Valley Regional a season ago, the Panthers defense was again up to the task on the two-point try last Thursday.

"We knew we needed a stop and that's what we did," said Williams, who finished with a handful of tackles and a pair of sacks from his defensive end position. "We sent everybody and we got that stop when we needed it."

Senior Noah Decker preserved the victory by recovering the ensuing onside kick attempt by SMSA.

Coming into the season, the Panthers had won 23 of their last 25 games, including a state championship in 2021, but graduated an influential senior class last season that included starting quarterback Cole Brisson and all-state linebacker Ryan Rozich.

Elfreich spent the last two seasons learning from Brisson and if his home opener is any indication, Bennett has another gem behind center.

"He's a tough kid and he understands that it is on his shoulders now," Bennett said of his first-year starter, who completed 22 of 36 passes. "He watched a guy for two years put it on his shoulders, so it was his time to step up and he did a great job tonight."

The successful home opener marked the Panthers first official win this fall. They opened the season of the road against Cuginchaug/Hale Ray/East Hampton, a game that was postponed midway through due to inclement weather. At the time of the postponement, the Panthers led 28-13 and the game is slated to conclude on Nov. 11.

Bennett is hopeful that the thrilling home opening victory could be a springboard for a team with an abundance of talent, yet short on experience.

"There's a lot of football left to be played this season," added Bennett. "We have a lot of young guys and they just need reps."

Next up is a conference test at Pierson Park against Valley Regional/Old Lyme tonight (Friday, Sept. 22), kicking off at 6 p.m.



Free Paper Shredding
 The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main St., Middlefield.
 This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

Trinity Church Collecting Children's Books
 Trinity Church, located at 345 Main St., is collecting new and gently-used children's books. The books will be added to a bag with a blanket for Covenant to Care for Children to distribute to families to encourage children's literacy. The bags will be stuffed Sunday, Sept. 24, after the 9:30 a.m. worship service, as part of a monthly service project.
 Collection containers are in the back of the Parish Hall/Meeting Room and outside the front door of the church. Children books can also be dropped off the church office on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.
 Call Marjorie at 860-262-3251 for more information.

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Travel Basketball Registration is Open

Children in grades 4-8 are invited to play in Portland Travel Basketball. All players who wish to play in the 2023-24 season must register prior to evaluations at portlandctravelbasketball.com.

Questions regarding registration and evaluations can be directed to Club President John Thompson at Thompsonj963@yahoo.com.

To be eligible, children must be Portland residents or attend Portland public schools. Prior participation is not a guarantee for team

placement.

Evaluation dates are: Sunday, Oct. 1, for grades 6-8, and Wednesday, Oct. 4, for grades 4-5 and, if needed, grades 6-8 at the Portland high and middle schools. Details and specific evening time slots will be confirmed to all registered participants.

There is no cost to register and be evaluated for a team. Season-related costs will be communicated to players accepted on a roster.

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.

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 through Oct. 21, at Riverfront Park. Times are 9:30-10:15 a.m. on Wednesdays and 10:30-11:15 a.m. on Saturdays.

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Food Bank Donation Info: The senior center asks that residents not leave Food Bank donations at the senior center unless the Food Bank is open. The Food Bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Also, the senior center does not need any donations directed toward the senior center. People are asked to only leave donations for the Food Bank, and only during food bank hours.

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients – donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); watercolor class, 9:30 a.m.-noon – to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m.; Beginning Dulcimer, 5 p.m.; Advanced Dulcimer, 6 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.; Trip to the Big E departs, 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

First Congregational Church News

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

Sunday worship and Church School on Sept. 24 is at 10 a.m., with the Rev. Julie Olmsted leading the worship. Her sermon is titled, "The Reluctant Evangelist."

From September to June, First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds

on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

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

Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

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

Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

The church's Parish Pantry Providers are continuing to help stock the shelves of the Portland Food Pantry. The Providers are collecting school supplies for the month of September.

The church is also collecting new and gently used children's books for Covenant to Care for Children to distribute to families to encourage children's literacy. There is a collection container at the front entrance to the church.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Preschool Storytime: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., through Oct. 31; **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays at 10:15 or 11:15 a.m., through Nov. 1. Two sessions offered, to keep group sizes small and interactions personalized.

Mindfulness for Kids: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., through Sept. 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.

Fire Truck Storytime: Saturday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m. on the Town Green. The storytime will be followed by a visit from Portland firefighters

and a fire truck. No registration is required.

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.

Spooky Science: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Oct. 5-26, for grades K-5. Make Frankenworms come to life, use static electricity to raise some ghosts, and experiment with some potions and Halloween candies. Space is limited.

Teen Programs: 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 photos you can use.

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

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

Police News

9/15: Heath Galvin, 34, of 1503 Portland Cobalt Rd., was arrested and charged with second-degree assault, Portland Police said.

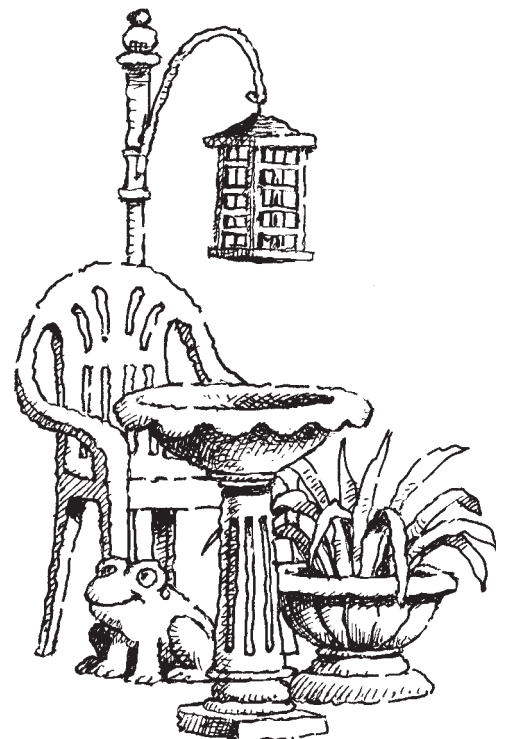
9/17: Kenneth Donnelly, 48, of 325 Main St., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Town Clerk Lunch Closures

For the remainder of September, the Portland town clerk's office will be closed for lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon-12:30 p.m., and on Tuesdays from noon-1 p.m.

Food Bank Benefit Concert





Portland's Tony Rome and the Peacemakers will next play in Portland Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m., at Concentric Brewing, to benefit Portland Food Bank. Costumes are optional.



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-  Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.
-  Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

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Book Sale, Read & Recycle

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

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

The Friends of the Portland Library's Read and Recycle program will accept donations on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the Mary Flood Room of the library. The Friends will accept donations of gently used books,

puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No textbooks, business books, computer books, self-help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition; the Friends cannot accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition.

Donations must be dropped off at the library's side door, and volunteers will be available to receive the donations. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgment forms will be available. Donated items are sold at various Friends' book sales held throughout the year, and all proceeds are used to support programs of the Portland Library.

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

Absentee Ballots for November Election

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 7 municipal election will be available starting Friday, Oct. 6, from the Town Clerk's Office. Absentee ballot applications are available from the town clerk's office or by visiting www.portlandct.org/voting-info.

Call the Portland town clerk's office for more information, at 860-342-6743.

Foodshare Truck Coming

The Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave., every other Monday from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays.

People using the Foodshare are required to form a line and shop at the truck once it is set up. You do not have to be a Portland resident to attend the Foodshare; please bring bags.

The next Foodshare is Sept. 25 at 1 p.m.

Faith Formation Registrations

Registrations for the 2023-24 Faith Formation year at St. Mary Church are being accepted through Sept. 30.

Returning families should have received their registration forms via email. New families wishing to register should contact the faith formation office at 860-342-2308.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Classes begin the week of Oct. 16.

Art Exhibit at Library

A collaboration of artists is exhibiting their work in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., through Oct. 18.

The artists represent employees of the library, members of the Portland Library board and members of the executive board of the Friends of the Library. The exhibit has been assembled to illustrate the many aspects of creative expression. Among the works displayed, curated by Lucinda Patrick, will be paintings, needlework, baskets, miniature books and photographs.

Fair Looking for Trophy Coordinator

Portland Fair is looking for a Trophy/Ribbon Coordinator. The volunteer position would need to be filled for the 2024 fair, but fair organizers said they would like to have someone commit to this position now, to shadow the current coordinator to learn the job.

The job will require verifying what trophies/ribbons are need for that year's fair, ordering and sorting the shipment when it arrives and distributing the prizes to the proper department head.

If interested, email info@portlandfair.com.



Birth Announced... Thomas and Emily (Munson) Adamaitis of Portland have announced the birth of a daughter, Cora. Cora was born Aug. 16 at Middlesex Hospital. Maternal grandparents are Mary Munson and the late Tony Munson, and paternal grandparents are Annette and Roland Jacques. Cora joins siblings Sophia, Brook and Bentley.

High School Track Nearing Completion

By John Leavenworth

Construction of the new track at Portland High School is continuing right on schedule.

The latest visible developments at the site include a new chain link fence around the outside of the track, as well as a new row of metal bleachers on the perimeter.

This past Tuesday, the main contractor for the build, Classic Turf out of Woodbury, completed the last cement pour for the foundation of the loop, according to town Facilities Director and Portland Fire Chief Bob Shea.

The pour marked the last material added to the state-of-the-art "post tension" system contained within the base of the track.

In a previous interview with the *Rivereast*, Shea said the system employs a "human tendon-like" web of tensioned steel wires that, when fed through the concrete foundation, increases the "compressive tensile strength" of the track, allowing the surface to "float" above any water that would otherwise cause problems.

The fence at the field is 95% complete and just needs gates, Shea said.

The total cost for the track was \$1,362,000, with \$500,736 of that coming from a state grant, First Selectman Ryan Curley told the

Rivereast previously. The town contributed the remaining \$861,264.

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

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

If weather permits, Shea said the next addition to the track - once the concrete settles - will be a rubberized urethane coating.

Once the rubber surface is set, an additional company will be responsible for painting start, stop and lane markers on the track.

The *Rivereast* did not obtain the name of the paint company in time for print.

When the paint is dry, Shea said he is "really pushing" for the Portland soccer teams to get "at least a few home games" on the field inside the track before the season is over.

He anticipates the track will be completed by early October of this year, and that drainage work at the site will be finished as early as next week.

St. Mary Church News

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

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

website for more information.

Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.

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

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

Youth Soccer Recap

The Portland U10 Red Pandas travel team won their season opener Saturday at home versus Simsbury Bears. Goals by Anya Pereira and Paige Campbell combined with impressive defensive efforts by Caroline Martinez and Olivia LeCara to seal an exciting 2-1 victory. Several Red Pandas contributed with outstanding goal-keeping to preserve the outcome, including Callie Lawrence, Emma Hodge, Gabriella Lardizzone, and Charlotte Cyr. Zaniah Wedderburn assisted on the game-winning goal and Ellie Heller's gritty midfield play rounded out the team's strong game-one performance. On Sunday in Vernon, the Red Pandas suffered a

6-2 loss where they showed tremendous tenacity. After being down 4-0 at half-time, goals by Anya Pereira and Ellie Heller powered an evenly played second half to force Vernon to earn the victory.

The Portland Earthquake U11 soccer team dropped their Saturday game 4-3 vs. Windsor Locks, with Tucker Parmelee notching his second hat-trick of the season. During Sunday's match they came from behind to tie Tolland 2-2 with a first half goal by Andrew Quesnel and a late second-half goal to tie the game from James Kowalchik.

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Walk for 1 in 100... The Adult Congenital Heart Association recently held the third annual CT "Walk for 1 in 100" to raise awareness and funds for the over 2.5 million people living in the United States who have congenital heart disease (CHD). Almost 200 walkers from across the state raised almost \$54,000. One of the top fundraisers was Kristen Simao (left), a CHD patient from Amston. Nicole and Jared Lawrence, Simao's sister and brother-in-law, are pictured with her. For further information about ACHA please visit www.achaheart.org.

Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the church bulletin at gileadchurchucc.updates.church, email gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call 860-228-3077.

Worship: Worship is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. Services are also available on YouTube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

Scheduled Events: 9/21: Prayer Shawl Group at 9:30 a.m.; 9/24: Nine and Dine; 9/25: Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.; 9/26: AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; 9/27: Choir Practice

Sunday School: Registration is now available for the 2023-24 session; see the Loop Bulletin or newsletter for the link to register. Paper forms are available during Sunday worship as well.

Crop Walk: All are invited to join the church team for the 2023 Crop Walk on Saturday Oct. 1. Contact the church office for more informa-

tion.

Blood Drive: Wednesday, Oct. 4. Sign up to donate at www.RedCross.org.

Faith, Film and Food: Starts up again Friday, Oct. 6. Bring a dish to share. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., followed by desert and a movie.

Trunk-N-Treasure: Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be many treasures to comb through in open trucks. Consider it a 'tag sale' in a trunk event. Crafters will also be on hand, and food will be available. Call the church office for more information.

Card-Making with Gayle: All are welcome to register for the next event, which will be Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Saturday, Oct. 28. All are invited to join the GCC Team or donate at act.alz.org (just follow the links for the Walk to End Alzheimer's and search for Gilead Congregational Church).

Church of the Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Needs are: **Men's:** socks (white or light gray no-show, quarter or crew); boxer briefs (M,L,XL,2XL). **Women's:** socks (no-show preferred); sports bras (M up to 4 XL); T-shirts (M and up); baby powder; tampons, and briefs (sizes 8 and up). **Cleaning**

Supplies: Size XL disposable latex-free gloves; Windex; floor cleaner; toilet bowl cleaner; and bleach. **Gift Cards:** \$15 Stop & Shop for gas to assist people living in their cars; and \$15-\$25 Walmart cards to purchase items needed immediately. Please call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards. **Miscellaneous:** inexpensive ear buds; sturdy adult backpacks, washcloths; pillowcases; toothpaste and toothbrushes; first aid supplies; insect repellent; paper towels; toilet paper; and 13- and 55-gallon trash bags. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Parks and Recreation News

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

30+ Basketball: Drop-in games for all skill levels ages 30 and over. Tuesdays through Nov. 21, from 7-9 p.m., at the RHAM High School main gym. Cost is \$3 (cash only) each visit.

Tween/Teen Neurographic Art: Tuesday, Sept. 26, 4-5:15 p.m., at the Douglas Library community room. This class is for artists age 10 and up. No art experience needed. Students will leave with an art kit to continue this practice at home. Cost is \$25.

The Art of Mindfulness: Tuesday, Oct. 3, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Douglas Library community room. No art experience needed. Class includes an art kit to continue this mindful practice at home. Cost is \$25.

Youth Basketball: Registration runs through

Oct. 22 for the Recreational and Travel basketball programs, open to grades K-12. Visit the Parks and Rec. website for more information.

Trunk or Treat: Friday, Oct. 27, 5-7 p.m., at the Burnt Hill Pavilion. There will be trunk-or-treating, pumpkin-decorating, bounce houses, wagon rides and music. Decorated vehicles are needed; if anyone is interested in decorating their vehicle, contact Parks and Rec. to sign up.

Home Alone Safety for Kids: Monday, Oct. 30, 5-6:30 p.m., for boys and girls ages 8-13 who are preparing to start staying home alone. This interactive course will cover safety concerns parents have when their children are by themselves. Cost is \$45.

Karate: There are six-week sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Gilead Hill School activity room. Ages 5-11 are from 5-5:50 p.m., and ages 12+ are 6-7 p.m. Cost: \$85 per session.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors, and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733.

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

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Upcoming meeting: Sept. 24.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship! Typically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church.

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

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

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

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

Second Annual TWC Family Reunion Camping Event & Church Picnic: Sept. 29-Oct. 1, at the Nickerson Park Family Campground. The Oct. 1 service, baptism and picnic will be held at the campground.

4th Wednesday Prayer: Wednesday, Sept. 27, 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Church of Hope is a biblically-driven Christ-centered church.

Worship is in person and via livestream on the church website. For more information, and the guidelines for in-person worship, visit www.hebronchurchofhope.org.

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

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

Cookie-Decorating Class

All are invited to a cookie-decorating class The Town Center Project will hold Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Hebron Church of Hope.

Get into the Halloween spirit as we show you how to create spooky and cute cookie designs. This in-person event is for all ages and skill levels. Refreshments provided.

Admission is \$55. Reserve your spot at tinyurl.com/5n6nkdt7. For more information, call 860-208-8466.

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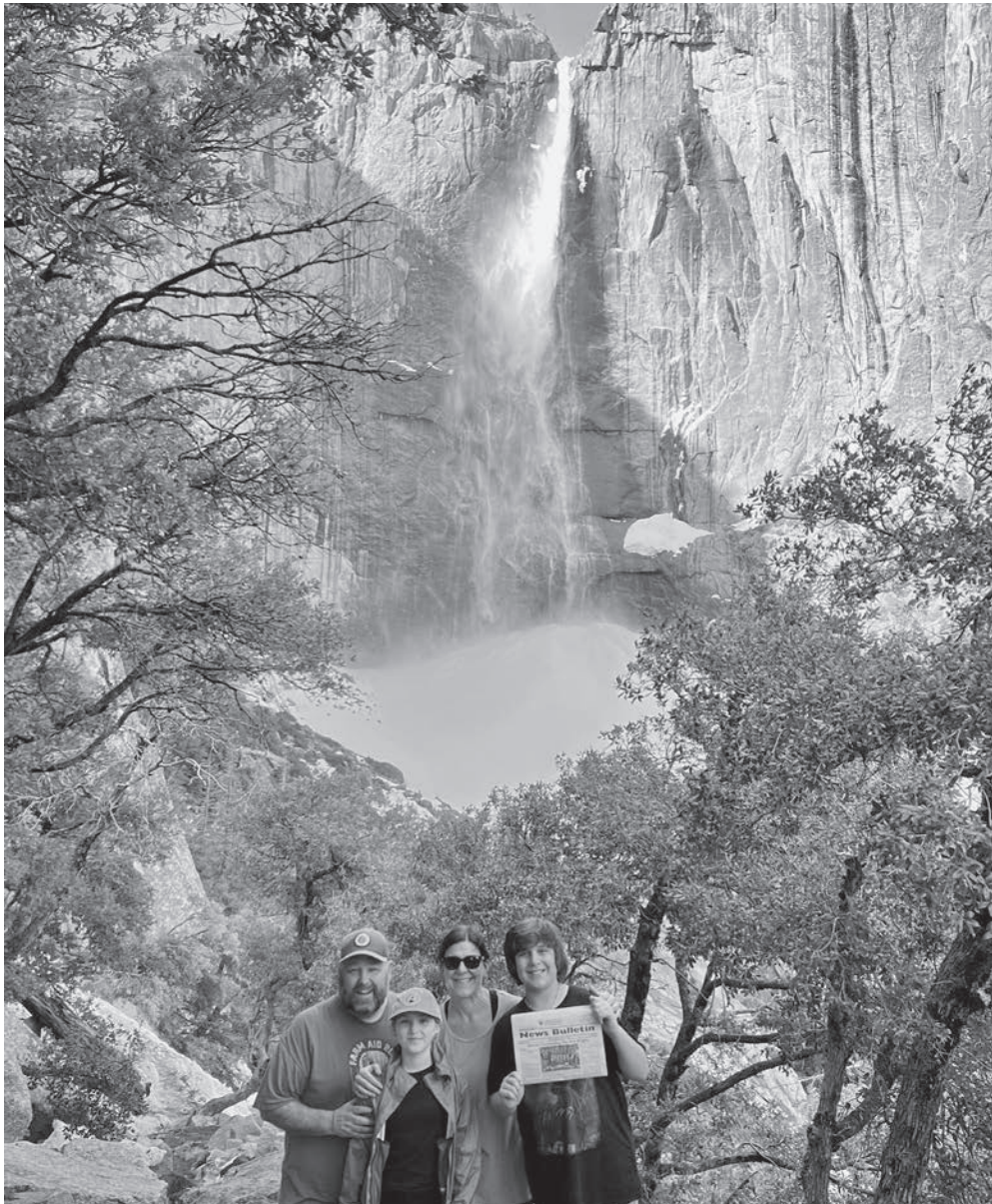
Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to bulletin@glcitizen.com.



Home-Beach Vacation... 76-year-old disabled Vietnam veteran Dario Popalardo of Portland recently made it out to his back porch. He went about eight steps and back again for a day trip. No other trips planned for the near future.



Won't You Let Me Take You on a Sea Cruise?... Bob and Pat Hein, from East Hampton, recently cruised to Bermuda and back with the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, on the Norwegian Joy.



Beautiful Yosemite... The Stomberg and Stock families of Marlborough visited Yosemite National Park during peak waterfall season! Pictured are Erik and Vivienne Stomberg, with Sarah and Harrison Stock, with Upper Yosemite Falls in the background.



That's a Big Fiddle!... David and Donna Arseneault of Andover recently traveled to Sydney, in Cape Breton Nova Scotia on a trip celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. The Big Fiddle celebrates the impact fiddle music has in Canadian history. Donna teaches music at Marlborough Elementary School. Both David and Donna grew up in Marlborough and are RHAM graduates. Happy anniversary from the *Rivereast*!

Where in the World?

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★ *Marlborough Native, cont. from page 1*

to the farm and finding your place from Toby's perspective, and that's basically what the book is," he said.

Readers can snag a copy on Amazon, and Gold recommends the audio version, which features himself as the narrator along with a cast of actors voicing the different characters.

A second book is already in the works, as well, which will feature one of his barn cats who previously lived outdoors until she was struck by a car — another compelling farm tale.

Really, he asserted, anything that involves farming and telling stories will continue to hold his interest.

"Things that combine those two things are the types of things I really want to be spending the rest of my life doing."

Corporate to Farmland

Gold was initially interested in drawing and comics, leading him to attend art school in Boston, and he was eventually hired by The Hartford for video production. When the CEO's speechwriter left the company, he took the role, which proved to be a good match.

His next gig was as head of brand and marketing at TIAA in New York and in 2014, he moved to Washington D.C as the chief marketing officer for the major investment company ProShares.

But something wasn't right.

"I was absolutely miserable," Gold said. "I hated my job, I hated the city I lived in. I was pursuing money and I was pursuing career growth, but I was never having a lot of fun doing it."

After talking with his wife, they decided to return to the activities that he was more passionate about, such as gardening and perhaps even farming on a larger scale.

The Vermont farm was bought in 2016 and his wife moved up in the fall of 2017, followed by Gold in the spring of 2018; he was 38 years old.

Still, leaving a successful and lucrative corporate job to become a farmer — an occupation he didn't know much about — was somewhat of a leap.

"I'm always kind of the person who can get the grand vision of what something could be," Gold said.

He found the opportunity inspiring; there

was a chance to discover new ways to drive the growth of a farm.

"The idea that I had was, 'Hey, let me try and document me learning to become a farmer, so that as I have things to sell when I'm farming, there's already folks interested in buying my products,'" he explained.

And it was accomplished through small steps. He started with 40 ducks and his first business was selling eggs. It wasn't until January of 2022 when he finally quit his supplementary job in order to work full-time at the farm.

Now, several years into the experiment, it's still a bit surreal to wake up and think about how he arrived at this moment.

"I have that thought regularly," he said. "I feel very lucky."

His original goal was to become the "duck egg mogul of northern New England," an objective he quickly surrounded. He underestimated how a growing social media presence could change the dynamic of a small business. Yes, there's ads on his videos, and he earns money from sponsorships and merchandise, but the goal is to run a profitable farm alongside the content.

Gold's digital following allowed him to develop an innovative distribution model. For example, geese are marketed on his website; customers reserve a goose and eventually flock from all over New England to pick it up their purchase.

"That's not something that you're typically seeing with most farms, but it's something that I am teaching other farmers how to do and that to me is the other real benefit of it all," he said. "This is the value of having folks with a non-traditional agricultural background coming into the agricultural space and finding new ways to do things."

He's embedded himself into the farming community and established new relationships. Earlier this month, he was a headline speaker at Homesteaders of New England.

"It's funny how sometimes being different is often better than being better and I think that very much comes into play with how my content works and really how the farm has grown overall," Gold said.

A Farmer Influencer

Gold is constantly on top of the trending social media platform and video formats. He



In 2018, Morgan Gold traded in a DC marketing job for a more peaceful farm life in Vermont – and in the years since, the former Marlborough resident has amassed quite a social media following, becoming the internet's premier "farmer influencer."

shoots many 360-degree videos that allow people to watch with virtual reality headsets.

"I'm usually trying to find ways to experiment and explore and just find different ways to tell a story and bring my farm to life for folks," he said.

What is the key to a good post?

"I'm always trying to tell a good story," Gold expressed. "That to me is objective number one for the audience. People are going to give you their time and their attention — reward them with something that is an interesting or satisfying story; that story can take many shapes and forms."

He thrives with longer format YouTube videos — typically 10-20 minutes — compared to a 10-second TikTok, which he said was more "tricky."

"But even then, there's certain beauty in the economy of that," Gold said.

Sometimes, when chronicling your life, sad and challenging moments pop up, that most people wouldn't want to broadcast to millions of strangers.

One of Gold's favorite barn cats, Molly Murder Mittens, recently went missing.

"It's just heartbreaking to me to lose a cat like that who I absolutely love so much," he said.

While he's committed to showcasing both the good and the bad aspects of farm life, it's difficult to film those types of intimate situations.

"I think it's actually harder to share right when I'm in the middle of it," he said, adding that telling stories about scars is easier than discussing wounds. "How much do you share versus how much you don't is a line you're constantly hav-

ing to walk and I'm not sure I've always done it the right way; sometimes I've screwed it up."

But being a farm content creator is still worth the costs.

"I couldn't see myself being any happier on any other path," he said, adding that "this is where I'm meant to be."

Before anyone else quits their job and moves to a rural town to raise a farm, Gold offered a few bits of wisdom. Being a farmer, he said, is a 365-day job, and it's hard work; most people who start end up failing or struggling. It's also difficult to find a business model that's effective for your own situation.

"You can get caught up in the romanticizing of it all, but you also have to recognize you are being a business owner who's running a business with a highly volatile and highly unpredictable business circumstances," he expressed.

And Gold acknowledged: "I'm not the best farmer."

"I'm better than I was," he said. "I'm constantly improving when it comes to my farming skills."

He added, "Part of my depression in my mid-thirties was so rooted in the fact that I felt so stuck and I wasn't stretching myself and when it comes to something like framing, I'm really pushing myself and forced to learn new skills and forced to work really hard sometimes. I think that that's really good for me, and just good for the soul."

Gold lives on the farm with his wife, Allison, who works as a nurse practitioner at an emergency room.

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Mantilla leads RHAM Football over Lewis Mills

The RHAM High School Raptors football team opened up their season at home with a 35-7 win over the visiting Lewis Mills Spartans.

Daniel Mantilla opened up the scoring in the first quarter with a 67-yard touchdown run to put the Raptors up 7-0. The RHAM defense forced a 3 and out and gave the ball right back to the Raptors and senior QB Brady Hulland who would engineer the next two offensive drives that would end up with two more Mantilla TD's to put the Raptors up 21-0. The RHAM Defense led by Tiago Delacruz, Brody Magnanini, Josh Weers, Chris Ford and Vander Knutsen gave up 25 total yards in the first Half and gave the offense great field position throughout the first half. Hulland would connect with Joey Fahey on a 10-yard td pass to make it 28-0 RHAM at the half.

The second half was more of the same as Lewis Mills was stopped in their tracks wherever

they went. RHAM would balance the workload out and Joey Fahey would cap off the scoring for the day with a 39-yard scamper down the right sideline for a 35 -0 RHAM victory. Caden Bellmore, Magnanini, Jack Smith, Delacruz were outstanding blocking for RHAM who combined for 250 yards rushing.

The Defense was led by Delacruz, and Chris Ford who both had QB Sacks. Vander Knutsen, Mason Little (made all of his five PATs), Zach Rodrigues, Anthony Paragone and Garrett Levesque all had a strong all around effort.

Mantilla rushed for 138 yards and had a 15-yard reception for 151 total yards and 3 touchdowns. Hulland was 7-15 for 71 yards and a TD and also rushed for 70 yards. Josh Weers had 4 receptions for 37 yards Joey Fahey rushed for 42 yards and a TD.

RHAM will travel to Guilford Friday for a 7 p.m. game.

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following. For more information, contact Jenn Boehler, prevention coordinator, at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org or 860-228-9488 ext. 22.

Panel Discussion for Parents and Students in Grades 6-12: Thursday Sept. 28. "Navigating the Realities: Youth Alcohol, Vaping & Substance Use Today". Guest speakers include Dr.: Deepa R. Camenga (Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics and Public Health Faculty, Yale Program in Addiction Medicine, Yale School of Medicine); Megan Albanese (Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Prevention Coordinator, Town of Southington/STEPS Coalition); Officer Jay Kehoe (Director, Public Safety Town of Marlborough and AHM Juvenile Review Board Chair) and Tressa Giordana (AHM Executive Director). Deborah Lake and Jessica White of the Governor's Prevention Partnership will moderate. Students and their parents will receive free ice cream from 6-6:20 p.m., with the panel discussion from 6:30-7:30 p.m. RSVP to Boehler with the number of adults and youth attending. A Zoom link is available upon request.

National Take-Back Day: AHM's Coalition for a Healthy & Empowered Community

(CHEC), in partnership with the Connecticut State Police, is hosting National Take-Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron. Medications should be in the original container with the name crossed off and please no sharps. The first 50 cars will receive a free SAFE Rx Locking Pill Bottle to keep medications safely stored. For more on CHEC, follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ahmchec, visit ahmyouth.org/programs-services/prevention-programs or contact Boehler.

Screenagers Movies: *Screenagers Under the Influence: Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol in the Digital Age* will be shown Tuesday, Oct. 10; *Screenagers The Next Chapter: Addressing Mental Health in the Digital Age* will be shown Wednesday, Nov. 18, and *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* will be shown Dec. 7. Students in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to attend, regardless of the town they live in. Admission is free. Doors open at 6 p.m., with movies starting at 6:30 p.m. in the AHM Community Room on 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron. For more information, visit www.ahmyouth.org/programs-services/prevention-programs or follow AHM CHEC on Facebook.

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Area Educators Address Mental Health in Schools

By Michael Sinkewicz

Congressman Joe Courtney (D-2) led a roundtable discussion this week with local school administrators to spotlight mental health challenges across the district.

The event, hosted at Andover Elementary School on Monday morning, represented a valuable opportunity for leaders to flesh out the problems facing their schools and evaluate how newly awarded grant funding is addressing student needs.

Representatives from Andover, Marlborough, East Hampton and Scotland attended the gathering, along with a member of AHM Youth & Family Services, which also serves Columbia.

In August, \$15 million of funding received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was handed out to 72 school districts across Connecticut through the state Department of Education's School Mental Health Specialists Grant program, aimed at supporting the hiring and retention of school mental health specialists for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 academic years.

"What we're hearing from teachers, from school administrators, families all across the district is that kids are struggling with a lot of issues," Courtney said during the discussion. "Having this funding go out to beef-up the help in schools, to make sure kids are healthy and get back in the classroom and succeed I think is really exactly what the American Rescue Plan Act was aimed at."

Andover Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau expressed that her \$118,125 allotment — dispersed over three years — will expand the hours of the district's school psychologist.

"It's going to be huge for us," she said.

Bruneau, who also serves as the superintendent in Scotland, added that grants for these smaller communities will be "life changing for us over the next couple of years."

Mental health concerns have become more prevalent since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to data released by the National Center for Education Statistics in 2022, 70% of public schools reported an increase in the percentage of their students seeking mental health services at school.

An additional 76% of schools reported an uptick in staff concerns about their students exhibiting symptoms of depression, anxiety and trauma.

Helping educators and students cope with mental health is now a top priority for legislators, who stated that new trends have thrust the subject into public view.

"Part of it was, though, that this stuff was really brushed under the rug," Courtney told the *Rivereast*. "I think it's healthy that it's now becoming a public discussion, but we also have to get to the root causes of what's making some of these kids so challenged."

Kim Kelley, assistant principal at Marlborough Elementary School, explained during the roundtable discussion that her district's grant funding of \$177,507 went towards building their Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) program. The district hired a pair of registered behavior technicians (RBT) to help establish a successful initiative.

"We really wanted to provide more opportunities for very specialized one-on-one situations for a whole bunch of kiddos," she said.

The impact, she told the *Rivereast*, has already been visible in the first weeks of school.

"It's really powerful to be proactive," Kelley said. "When you can see somebody come in in the morning and they just need a quick touch-in, it changes the whole day. Proactive is so much powerful than reactive — it just makes everything more successful."

Joanne Jacques, Marlborough's school psychologist and BCBA, added that previously, the elementary school didn't have the ability to reach every student that required attention.

"Some of those kids that we can't always get to that popped up that we didn't expect with some significant behavior difficulties, we were able to get one of the RBTs and start working with them," she said. "The difference with just those few kids has been amazing."

In East Hampton, Center School Principal Chris Sullivan stated that a new school psychologist was hired, who is stretched between both elementary schools in town.

The new psychologist, Taylor Adams, currently spends three days a week at Sullivan's school.

"The needs are quite insane right now," Adams said. "If we just had our other school psychologist, I don't know how we would do it because our days are just jam-packed back-to-back supporting students who are already identified, as well as checking in with those other students who are not identified that just need a little bit extra support or might be in crisis that day."

Over the summer, Andover constructed a new sensory room that will be "very useful for students with needs," according to Principal Taylor Parker. The school also features a visiting therapy dog and a facility dog that spend time with students during the week.

Part of the approach, Parker said, is to hold team meetings and communicate with teachers to ensure that students are receiving the support they need.

"We give them that time to keep up with it and stay on it," she said.

Andover Elementary School psychologist Kara Ormsby said that being able to spend more time in the classroom has modified her overall approach with students.

"I have a lot more ability to be preventative," she said.

In January, Andover was also awarded an ARPA Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant of \$221,575 for the district's afterschool program.

Bruneau expressed that hosting the congressman and showing him not only how the grant money is being executed, but why it was necessary was a valuable experience.

"That's important," she said. "I'm thrilled that he joined us. We need a voice at the larger level."

During his *Rivereast* interview, Courtney emphasized his obligation to be visible throughout the district.

"My experience has always been that these towns just feel that so much of the focus goes to larger communities — communities that are sort of labeled as distressed as opposed to small



Congressman Joe Courtney (D-2) recently joined officials from Andover, East Hampton, Scotland and Marlborough schools, as well as from AHM Youth & Family Services, to discuss mental health awareness in the district.

towns that don't sometimes fit into those boxes," he said. "What I heard here today is that kids in these important schools are really struggling and I think it's important to put the spotlight on it and have a real conversation."

The mindset, he continued, should be to treat mental illness and behavior health the same way as physical health issues. Visits to these communities can help spark additional dialog, and lead to possible solutions, he said.

In Washington, Courtney sits on the House Education and Workforce Committee. He plans on showcasing how federal funds can impact local school districts.

"We're really trying to show what Connecticut is doing here and take that back," he said, adding that more needs to be done to help educators. "The work here is just fundamental to student success. Three years may seem like an eternity right now and it's not. This is a process that you just got to keep on top of."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics report, 67% of public schools have increased the amount or types of mental

health services provided since the beginning of the pandemic.

With the proper leadership, schools can effectively implement these new programs and successfully help students.

"There's a lot of negativity out there about whether schools can do it and that's why I think it's important to really push back on that in terms of showing that with the right people and right plan and engagement with parents, we can get this thing back on track," Courtney asserted.

Beyond grant funding, what else can be done? After touring numerous schools, Courtney said the message is clear from schools: "The leadership is determined to make sure that we get this thing across to school boards, general assembly, members of Congress that this has to be a part of a foundational organization of schools so that kids can succeed."

He added that every student matters in terms of the "viability of our country's success."

"We got to make sure every kid gets help so that they can be part of this country's future."

Volunteers Sought for AARP Tax Foundation

For many years, the senior centers in Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough, Columbia, East Hampton and East Haddam have hosted the AARP Tax-Aide Program, which provides free income tax preparation services for residents of these towns and surrounding communities.

Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS. The program is looking for people to join its volunteer team. You don't need to be an ac-

countant or tax professional; the volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds. Training and support is provided.

To volunteer, go to aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer, or call 1-888-AARP-NOW (888-227-7669).

For additional information before signing up, contact your local senior center and you will be connected with a local Tax-Aide volunteer.

Outdoor Antique Show Returns to Lebanon

Fall colors, antiques, chowder and pie will return to the Lebanon Green later this month as the Lebanon Historical Society celebrates 56 years of its Outdoor Antique Show. The show will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30.

Up to 60 dealers will offer antiques and collectibles to buyers who come from around the state and throughout southern New England. The event started in 1966 as a money-making effort to fund society programs and, eventually, to help pay for the land needed to build a museum. Today, the Antique Show is still the Historical Society's largest and most important fundraising event, with proceeds supporting school programs, exhibits and historical presentations. Some dealers have been participating for

many years, but new-to-the-field dealers are added every year. Visitors can expect to find everything from 19th century furniture to vintage tools and from traditional pottery to textiles, glassware and jewelry.

Admission is \$8. Lunch and snacks will be available for purchase all day, including homemade chowders, sandwiches, grilled burgers and dogs, and slices of homemade pie. Parking is free and the event goes on rain or shine.

For more information, contact the Lebanon Historical Society 860-642-6579 or museum@historyoflebanon.org, or visit www.historyoflebanon.org.

Dealer spaces are still available; cost is \$90 for a 20' x 24' space. Call 860-423-8876 or 860-642-6579 to reserve a space.

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standout Athletes of the Week for the week of Sept. 11 - 17:

Lily Tabellione – Portland High School (Cross-Country): Tabellione, a senior, picked up right where she left off last year, winning the Blue Dragon Invitational at Veterans Memorial Park on Sept 15. Tabellione, who won a state championship in the 1600 meters during the outdoor track and field season in the spring, ran a 20:29 at the latest invite to defeat runner-up Abigail Van Hoof of Avon by 50 seconds.

Troy Miller – RHAM High School (Soccer): Miller scored the only goal of the match as the Raptors defeated Tolland 1-0 on Sept. 14. Miller, a senior, scored on a bicycle kick in the second half and goalie TJ Machowski made a handful of saves throughout the match to preserve the shutout, improving the team to 2-0 this fall. The Raptors, who began the season with a 3-0 win over Bacon Academy, now began a three-game road trip at Hall High School in West Hartford this Saturday,

Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.

Delaney Russell – East Hampton High School (Volleyball): Russell had a career high nine kills as the Bellringers swept Morgan in three sets (25-8, 25-11, 25-15) at East Hampton High School on Sept. 15. Russell, a senior, added two aces and a pair of blocks as the team improved to 4-1 this fall. The Bellringers next host Haddam-Killingworth today (Friday, Sept. 22) at 6 p.m.

Alyssa Blanchette and Audrey Palmer – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Blanchette and Palmer provided a bulk of the offense, each scoring two goals and dishing out two assists as the Bobcats beat Fitch 4-0 in their home opener on Sept. 15. The pair of scoring threats are helping power a Bacon Academy bunch that is currently on a four-game road trip, heading to Lyman Memorial tonight (Friday, Sept. 22) at 6:30 p.m.

To nominate an athlete as a *Rivereast* Standout or with sport-related comments, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.

The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs.

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Obituaries

Marlborough

Lucius Caffyn

Lucius "Luke" Caffyn, 87, of Glover, Vt., passed away peacefully Friday, Sept. 8, at Union House Nursing Home. He was born Jan. 21, 1936, in Marlborough, son of William and Ruth B. (Lord) Caffyn Sr.



Luke grew up in Marlborough, spending a lot of time making friends and hanging out with his family at the family cottage on Lake Terramagus. He attended East Hampton High School until joining the U.S. Air Force in 1953, at the age of 17. He served with the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Guam. He had a love for racing stock cars as well as a love for his Triumph Motorcycle. He made friends with everyone he met and was always there to lend a helpful hand.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a brother, William Caffyn Jr. He is survived by two brothers, Allan Caffyn of Niantic, and Thomas Caffyn of New Canaan, Maine, as well as numerous extended family members.

There was a graveside ceremony Monday, Sept. 25, at the Marlboro Cemetery, where he was laid to rest beside his parents and brother. A reception followed at Marlborough Pizza.

Portland

Kurt Pierce Westergren

Kurt Pierce Westergren, 81 of New York City, died peacefully on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 following a brief illness. Born on December 12, 1941, in Winsted, CT, Kurt was the second-born child of the late Arnold and Helen (Pierce) Westergren. Kurt's family moved to Portland, CT during his childhood where he attended elementary schools. For high school, he graduated from Vermont Academy in Saxton's River, VT, where he participated in cross country and basketball while lettering in hockey and baseball.



Upon high school graduation in 1960, Kurt attended the University of Vermont before serving in the Marine Corps. When his service with the Marines was complete, Kurt moved to New York City. There he became involved with the Actors Studio, an acting conservatory and performing arts studio, in which he performed in several theater productions. In addition, Kurt acted in several US Army training films. During this time, he wrote a short story entitled "Diary of a Small Boy's War", which was translated into Danish and then published by noted Danish writer Elsa Gess. Another short story "The Son" was adapted for stage by his wife Mari-Claire Charba and presented at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark in 1978.

Kurt is survived by his former wife, Mari-Claire Charba, who remained a supportive and caring presence in his life decades after their marriage ended. His is also survived by his sister, Lisa and her husband John Murray of Grand Lake, CO; his brother, Clifford and his wife Patricia Westergren of Wethersfield, CT; ten nieces and nephews; and a sister-in-law, Michaeline Westergren of New Hampshire. In addition to his parents, Kurt was predeceased by his brother, Gary Westergren of New Hampshire.

There are no services planned. Per request, Kurt's remains were donated to Mount Sinai's research program in New York City.

Marlborough

Kevin M. Schadtle

It is with great sadness that we lost Kevin M. Schadtle to the Lord on September 15th, 2023. While his time with us was too short, the imprint Kevin left on our hearts will be felt forever.



Kevin was born on October 26th, 1982 to Bob and Mary Schadtle. He leaves behind his wife Jacqueline, his children Elizabeth Chapman Rivera and her wife Gladymar, Myra Champagne, Jason Schadtle-Champagne, and Kevin D. Schadtle and his stepson Alex John Niver Jr. and Coco, his brother, Rob and wife Samantha, his brother Ben and fiancée Olivia Sodjen, nieces and nephews Grace and Robi Schadtle and Miah and Piper Schadtle, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and countless nieces, nephews and cousins, his grandpar-ents Verne Schadtle, Martin and Stella Kalkok, and was predeceased by his grandfather Martin Schadtle.

Kevin's life was not an easy one, but he powered through each obstacle given to him, every single time. He and his family were so proud of his 12 years of sobriety that he worked so hard for and achieved. Kevin was very proud of his children and the business he had recently start-ed, one year ago. Living on the Schadtle home-stead meant the world to him. Kevin was the most outgoing, friendly person you would ever want to have in your life. Always there when-ever needed, famous for his big laugh, smile and the best bear hugs. We will miss him dearly.

Rest in Peace Kevin. We all love you. Join us for a celebration of his life on Sunday September 24 that the Hebron Fairgrounds any time after 1 pm.

In lieu of flowers, The Lions Club Charities will be accepting donations. Mail to Hebron Li-ons, 347 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. Atten-tion: Jason and Kevin Schadtle Fund.

Karen Ann Chadsey

Karen Ann Chadsey passed away Wednesday, Sept. 13, surrounded by her loved ones, at Middlesex Hospital. Karen was born Sept. 10, 1942, in Danbury, to Merton Reynolds and Helen Flynn Reynolds.



Karen graduated from Danbury High School and continued her education to receive a BS in nursing from Grace-New Haven School of Nursing in 1964. She worked at Whiting Forensic Institute in Middletown until her retirement.

Karen married Edwin Charles Chadsey II in 1964 and settled in Portland to raise their two children. She was a longtime member of the Church of St. Mary and their Ladies Guild in Portland. Her passions were spending time with family, friends and pets. She enjoyed cooking, reading romance novels, bingo with family and QVC/HSN online shopping.

She is survived by her daughter, Christine Chadsey of Newington; son, Edwin C. Chadsey III of Portland; and three grandchildren, Edwin C. Chadsey IV of Middletown, Angela L. Chadsey of New Britain, and Diamond Indino of Middletown. She is also survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Janet and James Wetherell of Livermore Falls, Maine; her best friends, Kathy Scovill and Lou Sorchiotti, both of Crom-

well; as well as many more loving relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents; brothers, Merton and Alan; and sister, Marsha.

We would like to thank the staff at South 7 of Middlesex, especially Dori and Chris, for her care in her last moments.

At her request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. She will be cremated and interred at St. Mary Cemetery in Portland at a later date in a private family service.

Anyone wishing to remember Karen in a special way may make a contribution in her memory to the Connecticut Humane Society.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Eric Carl Jacobson Sr.

Eric Carl Jacobson Sr. of Colchester passed away Friday, Sept. 8, due to complications of a rare muscular disorder known as inclusion body myositis, which he battled courageously for 18 years. He was 78 years old.



Eric was born Jan. 30, 1945, in Worcester, Mass., the son of the late Carl and Bernice (Hotchkiss) Jacobson. Eric grew up in Thompson, attended high school at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, and then went on to earn a BA from Central Connecticut State College. He joined the U.S. Navy and served for four years during the Vietnam era.

He married his beloved wife, Barbara Kolp, in the Fort Myer Military Chapel in Arlington, Va., on March 14, 1970. After serving active duty, they moved to Colchester in 1972, settling in, making their home and raising their family. Eric went to work for the Travelers Insurance Company as a corporate tax accountant, retiring after more than a 40-year successful career there. The couple embarked on a marriage filled with love, devotion, and adventure for over 53 years.

Eric became an active member of the Colchester community. He was involved with his sons and many of the youth in Colchester, serving on the Youth Services Bureau, helping with Recreation Little League Baseball and Midget Football, and Boy Scouts as well. Eric loved music and he played the guitar and banjo. He was an avid reader and always had a book going. He enjoyed watching the Red Sox and Patriots play. He was a long-time member, past president, and past treasurer of the former Colchester Farmers Club. Most notably, he was an active and devoted member of the Colchester Lions Club.

Eric joined the Lions in 1977, working diligently, he earned the distinguished Melvin Jones Fellow award in 1989. He was the Lions 23C District Governor from 1994 - 1995 and he also was the recipient of the Lions International Leadership Medal. He was a true and loyal man of service. His accomplishments, leadership and service to others will not soon be forgotten.

His passing will be mourned by all whose lives he touched, especially his loving wife, Barbara; his children, Eric Jacobson Jr. and partner Verna and Paul Jacobson, of Colchester; his grandchildren, Ashley Herbert and husband Craig of Levant, Maine, Alicia Jacobson of

Denver, Colo.; great-grandchildren, Annabelle, Owen and Logan; a sister, Constance Carpenter of Thompson; a brother, Edward of Jamaica Plain, Mass.; and a host of extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, Eric was predeceased by a brother, Lewis Jacobson and a sister, Kristin Miller.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, with military honors. A reception followed at St. Joseph's Polish Society in Colchester. Burial will be held privately at a later date.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester Lions Club Scholarship Fund, P.O.Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415 or to the Inclusion Body Myositis Association at Myositis.org.

To sign the online guest book or share a memory of Eric for his family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Ronald S. Tredor

Ronald S. Tredor, 87, of Colchester passed away into the arms of his heavenly Lord and Savior, Saturday, Sept. 16, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.



Ron was the sixth child to be born to the late Stephen and Elizabeth (Tamburino) Tredor on Sept. 20, 1935, in Newburgh, N.Y.

Ron graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in 1955 and upon graduation joined the National Guard of New York. In 1957, Rob enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he learned his skill as a machinist and mechanic and developed a love of taking things apart and finding out how they worked before putting them back together again.

Ron moved to Colchester in March 1962, where he was a developer and entrepreneur. He built and operated Family Auto/NAPA on Old Hartford Road for 28 years before closing and semi-retiring.

He is survived by his elder sister, Joan of New York; his son Gary and wife Elaine; his son, Ted; and daughter Beth Ann all of Colchester; grandchildren Alicia Schiro of Modus; Chelsea Tracker of Arlington, Va.; Charles (CJ) Timon of Maston; and a great grandson, Jacob Schiro. Along with numerous nephews and nieces.

Ron was predeceased by his siblings Bobby, Janet, Steven, Tommy, and Betty Jane.

Family and friends are invited to attend a funeral service at the Apostolic Christian Church located at: 34 Middle Butcher Road Ellington, where Ron was a member for the past 20 years, on Saturday, September 23, at 11 a.m. with visitation beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Ron had a heart for Haiti and in that vein in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Apostolic Christian Harvest Call, P.O. Box 36, Morton, IL 61550.

Amston

Leona Tarasevich

Leona "Lee" Francis (Chaponis) Tarasevich passed away peacefully surrounded by love Monday, Sept. 18, one day shy of her 92nd birthday.



She brought joy to all who knew her and was known by many names, including Nana, Mema, Sparky, Fireball and "The Lady." Like the recent Hurricane "Lee," she was powerful, long-lasting, and made a significant impact. She was known for her bright red lipstick, signature pouf and vibrant, sassy personality. She thoroughly enjoyed playing setback, bocce, shuffleboard and bingo, both in Florida and at The Saybrook at Haddam where she made her home the last two years. Before that, she was a long-time snowbird who traveled between Old Saybrook, CT and the sunny Florida Gulf Coast.

Lee was a registered nurse, her true calling. She worked at New Britain General and Lawrence & Memorial hospitals in both maternity and the PACU. She managed to obtain her Bachelor's degree while working and raising three children in New Britain.

She is predeceased by the love of her life Edward Tarasevich, to whom she was married 67 years.

She is survived by three daughters, Lori Sa-

See Obits, page 34

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★ **Letters cont. from page 29**

administration’s “Racism Public Health Crisis” proclamation. The Democratic first selectman candidate proudly accepted the endorsement of the first selectman who unfairly labeled an entire community and stoked division.

I have also put an emphasis on historical preservation. There has been a historic investment in our town’s history which includes refurbishing the Youth Center Roof (Old Town Hall), revitalizing the Town Green and the Gazebo, and securing funding to preserve historic documents.

There has also been a historic investment in our Parks & Recreation because our children are important. A new playground, field irrigation, new pickleball courts, new basketball courts, new signs, a new pavilion roof at the Rec Plex was secured during my first term. As First Selectman, I am dedicated in continuing our Fields of Dreams initiative so that our children have excellent fields available to them.

Second term goals include establishing a permanent community ice skating rink, expanding parking at R8, establishing a new location for the Youth Center/Community Center, transitioning the current Youth Center into a museum/home for our Veterans, beginning the remediation of Norton Park, and completing the Senior Center.

There is only one first selectman candidate with a proven track record of getting the job done.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester First Selectman

Pig in a Poke

To the Editor:

World, national, and regional issues, dominate the news. Thus, it’s disheartening that Hebron politics more resembles a popularity contest than a frank discussion of Hebron’s issues. What role does “historic charm with a vision for the Future”/ preserving Hebron’s “rural historic character” have in town politics?

Town government is sworn to preserve Hebron’s “rural historic character”. Therefore, it’s important to know candidate’s perspectives on issues like land and historic preservation. Where do candidates stand on preserving or selling Governor Peters’ farm (17 Kinney Road), the last intact historic farm in Hebron Center? With Hebron Elementary School located across the road from this site, what role should local history play in fostering a sense of community and civics? Whose history should be taught?

While pig in poke politics may win an election, as a voter, I’m more interested in what a candidate will do after they’re elected to “preserve Hebron’s rural historic character”. Hebron is not Brigadoon. It has real 21st and future century problems to resolve without driving its current residents out with exorbitant taxes.

As a lifelong resident of Hebron, I have heard all my life about how the next big building project would be the panacea for Hebron’s high taxes. Destruction of the Hebron Green, destroying historic archaeological sites and John E. Horton Boulevard have done nothing to decrease my taxes!

“Death and taxes” are guaranteed life experiences., However, I want to know how much of rural historic Hebron will be around for my grandchildren to enjoy as Hebron resolves its taxbase issues!

It’s time for Hebron candidates and Republican / Democratic Committees to weigh in on real issues, so Hebron voters know where they stand before voting.

Transparency in government starts before the election, not after!

Respectfully,
John Baron – Hebron

★ **Obits, cont. from page 34**

Obituaries cont.

linger and her husband Steven of Amston; Sharon Burke and husband Steve of Guilford, CT; Caren Goodhue and husband Todd of Old Saybrook; seven grandchildren including Sean Salinger and wife Jenna of Bradenton, Fla.; Shannon Wagner and husband Kevin of Coventry; Shaela Pilver and husband JD of Newington; Megan Burke of Guilford; Kathryn Burke of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Caitlyn Goodhue of New York, N.Y. and Bethany Goodhue of Milford. She was also a wonderful and loving great-grandmother to three incredibly lucky children – Scarlett and Silas Salinger and Adeline Wagner. She also had numerous friends, both in Connecticut and Florida.

A special thank you goes out to her wonderful aide, Belinda Stevens. Her spirit and exuberant laugh will be remembered by many.

Family and friends may call at Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home in Centerbrook from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23, followed by a church ceremony at 10 a.m. at St. John’s Church on Main Street in Old Saybrook. Burial will be at St. Mary’s cemetery in New Britain, where she will be laid to rest alongside her beloved Ed and parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Foundation.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.rwfh.com.

Obituary Policy

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

Let’s Work Together

To the Editor:

I recently attended a conversation between Gov. Ned Lamont and former Gov. M. Jodi Rell. The conversation, held at the Rell Center for Public Service and sponsored by NPR, was intended to shed some light on civility in modern political discourse. One of the first items they were asked to discuss was how to define “civility” in a political context. Each of them gave a cursory definition, but ultimately agreed that it was about being kind and respectful.

I think this is overly simple. Civility comes from “civic,” which is defined as relating to a city or town, especially its administration. I don’t disagree that kindness and respect are important, but I do think it’s important to understand that civic and civil are about being active and conscientious members of a civilization. We have to be able to agree on some fundamental truths before we can engage in real civility. When we have to begin every conversation with a realignment of reality, true civil discourse is impossible.

Civility has to begin with a shared goal - the best decisions for the greatest representation of residents. We can’t cling to outdated ideology or the version of town you wish existed. We have to operate from a shared basic understanding of the facts. If we learned anything from the discord of the outgoing administration, it’s that there have been elements of reality that have been ignored in favor of increasing the emotional responses from the voting public. Civility and governance have to be driven by evidence and data, not emotional turmoil and division based on fantasies of what East Hampton is and can be.

Let’s work together to engage with reality and evidence. The Democratic slate of candidates is fully engaged in reality, and we are hoping to be able to engage with and work with our Republican colleagues for the betterment of all.

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

Standing Up for All Families

To the Editor:

“Death by 1000 cuts, this is where you and your surrogates strategically release dirt on your opponents. Start with the small fish and work your way up.” – Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos 4/10/2022 describing his campaign strategy to a group from the CT for Trump organization.

Having grown up as a person of faith raised with strong Christian values, I find it troubling that a local pastor would indicate support for the current first selectman in saying that he had “strength of character.” The first selectman is on record mapping out how he attacks, humiliates, and bullies those who challenge him. That conduct is certainly not in any sermon I ever heard. The pastor referred to the first selectman as the only one who will preserve the “sanctity of family values” which sounds like a thinly veiled attack on Bisbikos’ opponent who is gay and married.

I know my faith values all families and honors their individual values within the uniqueness of the family unit. A family can be a nuclear family, single parent, extended family, step family, grandparent family, two moms or two dads. What a family unit looks like, just like what a family means can be different things to different people. As long as a family is filled with love I feel it’s a family blessed by a loving God.

Our community is diverse in its citizens, families, religious and political beliefs and values but we do know and recognize mean, cruel, manipulative, and calculated behavior and that is not good leadership.

It’s time for change. Elect Bernie Denbler for first selectman on November 7th. Bernie has real strength of character, encourages cooperation, and will stand up for all families in Colchester.

Krista Kardys – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals

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MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 28, 2023
6:30pm at Town Hall
LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
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.
Application 588 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 72 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam – to replace garage siding with tongue and groove cedar vertical siding – for applicant Cathy Ann Clark.
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.

“PET OF THE WEEK”



Stewart, 2-3 years old, is a gentle giant who is always observing with a collected calmness. His face is full of character, a stunning and adorable teddy dog. He really enjoys a daily dip in the doggie pool where he splashes around happily. Flop down on the ground Stewart will slowly back up and plop down too, in your lap. House trained, easy on the leash, seems fine with other dogs.



Becca, 3 years old, is a beautiful girl who is equally playful and calm. She will jump at the chance to chase toys, the laser light or a toy mouse. But, when you are done, so is she. She will be happy to curl up next to you for quiet time. Becca would like to be your one and only, so no other cat friends please.

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socialization; medical & placement teams

Please call 860-569-0722 or visit www.poinc.org

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that between the dates of 8/19/22 and 5/24/23, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decisions:

- WA2022-386** – 27 Brookstone Drive; Matthew & Stefanie Guarino – Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 03-15/039-123; Placement of an in-ground pool within 100’ Upland Review Area. **APPROVED**
- WA2022-387** – 66 Bigelow Road; Matthew & Tonya Gorgone – Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 03-20/001-010; Placement of an in-ground pool within 75’ Upland Review Area. **APPROVED**
- WA2022-388** – 144 Cato Corner Road; Hop Culture Farms and Brew Co. – Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 05-12/024-000; Building addition and septic system expansion within 100’ Upland Review Area. **APPROVED**
- WA2022-389** – 181 Lakeview Drive, John & Janice Bruetsch – Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 13-04/003-000; Placement of a 10 x 16 shed within 100’ Upland Review Area. **APPROVED**
- WA2023-390** – 31 Lakeview Drive; Doreen & Paul Dami – Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 13-02/008-000; Construction of a 10 x 12 addition over existing deck within 100’ Upland Review Area. **APPROVED**
- WA2023-391** – 33 Homonick Road; Scott & Bonnie Boothroyd – Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 02-08/021-006; Construction of a new single-family home, garage, well, driveway and septic system within 75’ Upland Review Area. **APPROVED**
- WA2023-392** – 398 Cabin Road; Mark Pavlinko – Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 03-09/071-000; Placement of a shed within 75’ Upland Review Area. **APPROVED**

Dated September 15, 2023
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE
COLLECTOR’S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
The second installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2022 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on October 1, 2023. Payments must be postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by November 1, 2023 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting November 2, 2023 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of October 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.

View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector’s office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.

Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.

If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.
Kate Morrissey, Tax Collector
Town of Andover
17 School Road
Andover, CT 06232

3TB 9/22, 10/6, 10/27

TOWN OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR
LEGAL NOTICE

Portland Business Owners,
Declaration of Personal Property are DUE November 1, 2023

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute, 12-40, all Portland business owners and residents liable to pay taxes on tangible personal property belonging to them on October 1, 2023 are hereby notified, declaration of personal property must be filed on or before November 1, 2023 with the Assessor. Non-filers, omissions and late declarations are subject to estimated assessment and a 25% penalty. Various exemptions are explained within the declaration and available if filed on time. If you have closed, terminated or moved your business out of town as of the October 1, 2023 assessment date, a business-closing affidavit with supporting documents attached must be submitted to the assessor for review and removal from future Portland tax rolls.

Public act PA 490: applications for farmland and forestland classification must be received by October 31, 2023.

Veterans: Honorably discharged Veterans that have served at least 90 days during a time of war must have their DD214 filed within the land records on or before October 1, 2023. Disabled Veterans and/or low-income Veterans over 65 years of age must bi-annually file to the Assessor on or before December 31, 2023 to receive additional exemptions.

the Assessor’s Office is open to receive the above lists and applications **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30AM to 4:30PM, Tuesday 8:30AM to 7:00PM and Friday 8:30AM to noon.**
ALL FORMS AND APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <https://www.portlandct.org/assessor>

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of East Hampton that the sewer use payment is due and payable on October 1, 2023. **East Hampton Sewer Use bills may be paid in two equal installments;** October 1 and April 1. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the October 1, 2023 installment without a penalty is November 1, 2023. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2024. The October bill is a three-part form which includes the April installment.** Payments received November 2, 2023 and later, including payments postmarked November 2, 2023 and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month, or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before November 1, 2023 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.

Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at www.easthamptonct.gov. **Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.** Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.
Respectively Submitted,
Scott Clayton
Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 9/22, 10/6, 10/27

LEGALS

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on October 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
Continued: Text Amendment Regarding Required Setbacks on Non-Conforming Lots in the R-1 Zone: Section 8.2 of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations
Continued: PZC-23-012: Michael Bakaj, 37 South Main Street, a 22-lot (33 units) HOD subdivision in existing HOD Zone, Map 20 Block 51/ Lot 27
PZC-23-014: Flanders Road Estates LLC, Flanders Road, Fifteen (15) Lot subdivision, (Home Acres Estates), Map 26/ Block 87/ Lot 6
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman
Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

2TB 9/22, 9/29

TOWN OF HEBRON ASSESSOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that all persons conducting business (including home-based businesses) or having personal property in the Town of Hebron must file with the Assessor's Office a declaration of all personal property belonging to them as of October 1, 2023. Failure to declare by November 1, 2023, as required by law, will result in a 25% penalty assessment.
Taxable personal property includes: unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Hebron but registered in another state, mobile manufactured homes not assessed as real estate, construction equipment, manufacturing machinery and equipment, business furniture and fixtures, farm machinery, farming tools, mechanics tools, computers, telecommunication equipment, cables, conduits, pipes, poles, business expensed supplies and other property such as billboards, video games, vending machines, leasehold improvements, etc.
The Assessor's Office has mailed declarations to anyone the office is aware of conducting business in Hebron. Failure to receive a declaration in the mail does not negate the filing requirement. Blank declarations are available online (hebronct.com), as well as in the Assessor's Office. Declarations must be hand-delivered, mailed, faxed, or emailed by November 1, 2023.
Contact the Assessor's Office with questions about exemptions, filing requirements, or extensions of time to file.
Email: assessor@hebronct.com
Phone: 860-228-5971 ext. 147
Fax: 860-228-4859
Address: 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248
Tina Corriveau, CCMA I
Assessor, Town of Hebron

1TB 9/22

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, October 3, 2023, at 7:30 PM, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:
1. **Petition 2023-5:** Request of John Paardenkooper, Jr. & Gabriella R. Paardenkooper, Owners, for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 14' x 24' accessory structure (shed) to be located 15' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 35', on premise located at 409 Jones Street, Residence 2 District. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 19th day of September 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, September 22, 2023 and Friday, September 29, 2023.
Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

2TB 9/22, 9/29

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 September 18, 2023:
• **Application #IWWC 23-13:** Frank Lenge, 64 Long Hill Rd- Replacement of septic tank and leaching system. A portion of the work is within the 100-foot Upland Review Area of Blackman's Brook.
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 9/22

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

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RE9-15-23

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CT1-12-23

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RE9-22-23

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

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.

PART-TIME CLERICAL: for east of the river, 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. \$18 hourly M-F. Call Susan 860-944-5836.

FT/PT CLEANER: helper wanted. Early until 2pm. Please stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery.

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!**

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.

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

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RE9-13-21

Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) Assisted Living

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Offering not your average CNA positions, ALL shifts including **11pm-7am**. Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401k

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

CT19-21-23



Planning and Zoning Official

The Town of East Hampton is seeking a candidate to fill the full-time position of Planning & Zoning Official. The Planning and Zoning Official is responsible for administering and enforcing the zoning and wetlands regulations and other relevant Town Ordinances and provides staff support to all land use commissions and other boards and commissions, as necessary. Master's degree in planning and minimum of one-year experience preferred, along with supervisory and budgeting experience, or other combination of education and experience may be considered. Salary range: \$83,634.75 - \$98,393.82 per year, plus benefit package. This is a bargaining unit position. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application, no later than October 13, 2023, (or until filled), to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. An employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. AA/M-F/EOE.

1TB 9/22

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.marlbroughct.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.

4TB 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Offering not your average LPN shifts, per-diem shifts available on ALL shifts including **11pm-7am!** Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. It is a privilege to serve our residents, alongside our amazing staff. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! A Unique Healthcare Opportunity Awaits! Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401k

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

CT19-21-23

TAX ASSESSOR TOWN OF HEBRON

The Town of Hebron is seeking candidates to fill the position of Tax Assessor. This full-time position is appointed by the Town Manager and reports to the Finance Director and is responsible for establishing policies and procedures to determine proper valuations of land, buildings, improvements, and all tangible personal property and motor vehicles located within the corporate limits of the town. Must have a working knowledge of the rules, regulations, policies and procedures pertinent to Town of Hebron and the State of Connecticut tax assessment regulations and statutes. The successful candidate should be familiar with the operation of a Tax Assessor's Office, have strong knowledge of office management procedures, strong computer skills and must be able to work with the public. Connecticut Certified Municipal Assessor (CCMA) designation is required. Familiarity with Quality Data software is preferred. Bargaining unit position with starting salary range \$77,632 to \$91,335 depending on qualifications. There is no residency requirement. Please send resumes to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248 by Friday, October 20, 2023. For more details visit <https://hebronct.com/contact-us/employment/>
The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

1TB 9/22

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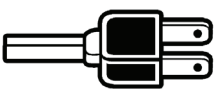
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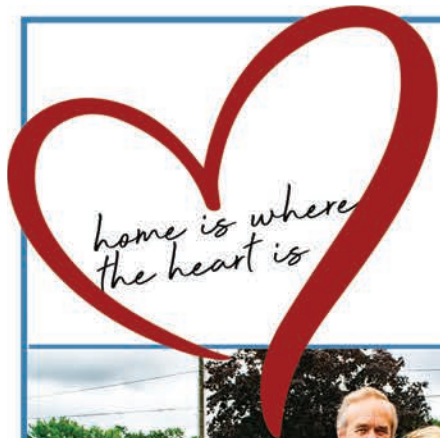


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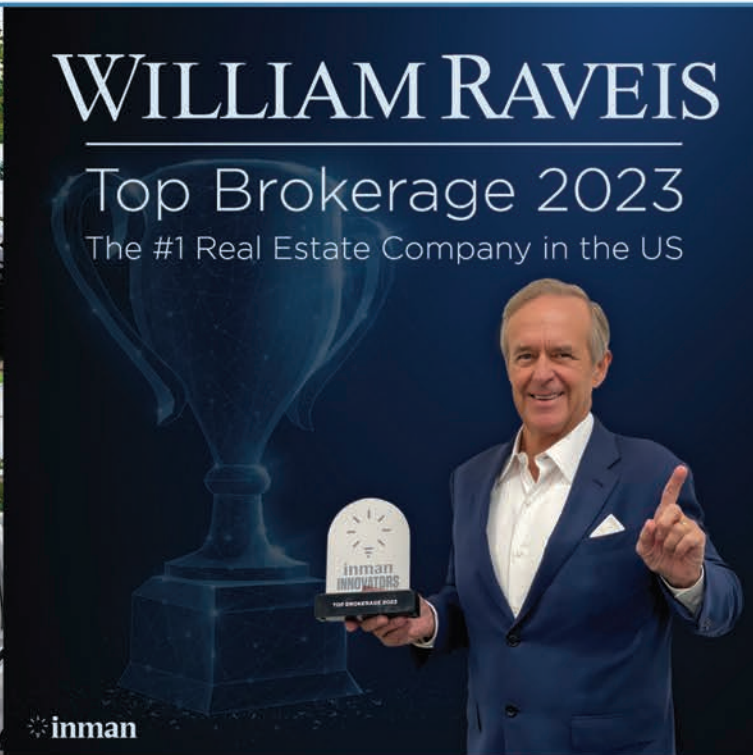
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