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News Bulletin

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

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September 8, 2023

Gilead Congregational Welcomes New Pastor

By Michael Sinkewicz

Hebron's Gilead Congregational Church is set to introduce its new pastor at a kickoff event next weekend on Sunday, Sept. 17, following an extensive search.

The Rev. Brian C. Hardee officially began his new role in July, but as summertime comes to an end and programs such as Sunday school start back up, many parishioners and community members are eager to meet the new pastor.

"It's a homecoming rally kind of a moment," Hardee said, adding that the weekend will include several fun activities and an ice cream social.

So far, he's off to a good start.

"I'm happy," Hardee expressed, as he walked around the church grounds. "It's felt right every step of the way."

The church's longtime beloved pastor the Rev. Denise Esslinger retired in 2021 after a 22-year stint leading the congregation. For about two years, Rev. Matt McCaffrey has served as the interim pastor.

Esslinger was a fixture in the community and her impact cannot be understated, Hardee said. "Everyone I meet talks about how involved, how active and passionate she was," he expressed. "She left them in a good place."

But the church is gaining an experienced and charismatic pastor to lead them moving forward.

Hardee was born in North Carolina and moved to Germany when he was 5 years old, as his father was stationed there with the Army at the time.

After returning home at the age of 10, he later attended North Carolina State University. At first, Hardee was determined to become a professor and pursue a career in teaching. He began taking more philosophy and religious courses due to a growing curiosity in the subject, and



The Rev. Brian C. Hardee is the new pastor at Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron. While Hardee officially started in July, he will be introduced at a kickoff event next weekend.

shifted his focus to potentially teaching those topics.

Hardee went to the Yale Divinity School where he continued to focus on becoming a professor, but opened his mind to other aspects

of being a minister. He met an individual who was going through a relationship crisis, who he assisted. The person told him, "You're going to make a great minister someday."

That comment continuously bounced around

his head; it was a path he hadn't truly considered before.

"It wouldn't let go," he explained.

So Hardee began purposely taking classes and following up on opportunities that immersed him in a new field and away from the "comfortable" path.

He became an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ in 1996; he received his doctorate of ministry from the Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2005.

Hardee began serving as a pastor in Pottstown, Pa., where he met his wife. Most recently, he's served as the senior pastor of West Avon Congregational Church in Connecticut for the last 17 years.

In 2017, his wife passed away. As his four children continued to grow up – his youngest started at UConn last week – it was perhaps time for a change.

There were a few draws to Hebron — Andrey Stolyarov, the minister of music at Gilead Congregational Church, was his director at West Avon for seven years.

Esslinger's longevity was also a good indication, he added.

"It's appealing to find a place that wasn't so tumultuous; it speaks a lot."

And then the search committee hit all the right notes — "They were fun, it was energetic and lighthearted and real."

"The warmth of the welcome and the interest has been fantastic," he said.

There's been potluck dinners, picnics and a movie night — another good sign.

"In so many places, it's hard to get people to volunteer and be a part of the activities — and that hasn't been the case here," Hardee said. "They're just enthusiastic. It's easy to feed off that energy."

As a 27-year pastor, there's a certain level of
See Welcome New Pastor, page 33

UK Guitar Player Returns to Marlborough

By Michael Sinkewicz

A U.K. guitar phenom is returning to Marlborough next week.

James Oliver, of South Wales, will once again be performing at The Farm at Carter Hill in Marlborough on Sunday, Sept. 17; he'll take the stage at 1 p.m. Last summer, Oliver made his U.S. tour debut, which also included a stop in Marlborough.

Tickets for the upcoming show are available for \$15 online at www.eventbrite.com; tickets will also be sold at the door, for \$25.

In 2020, Oliver was deemed Emerging Artist of the Year at the UK Blues Awards and currently boasts 20,000 YouTube subscribers, amassing over nine million total views. His album *Twang* was #1 on Amazon Blues Charts for three weeks.

"This is a world-class guitar player," said Glenn Holley, Oliver's U.S. manager.

Holley, a longtime Hebron resident, initially discovered the Welsh guitarist a few years ago online and was impressed with his talent. He reached out on Facebook, and the two quickly forged a friendship, bonding over an affinity for the musician Danny Gatton.

Holley offered Oliver the chance to play Gatton's classic 1954 Gibson ES-295 guitar, which he acquired and loans out to local players.

"My intention was always to get him exposed to the U.S. market," he explained. "He's destined to be a worldwide guitar hero."

And about eight months after their friendship sparked, Oliver was showcasing his skills at Carter Hill, playing the Gibson guitar.

"It was a thrill," Holley recalled, adding that Oliver will once again borrow the instrument. "It's an honor."

Audience members are encouraged to bring

their lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy the "best small music venue in Connecticut," according to Holley.

Oliver told the *Rivereast* that he's prepared for "fun and dancing."

"I hope they expect a good time," he said. "The main focus of my music is the guitar but I like making people laugh with my onstage banter."

Holley agreed — "he's hilarious."

Standing well over six feet, Oliver has quite the stage presence. He described his music as "Welsh rockin' blues," and a "mix of blues, country, rockabilly, rock n' roll and a bit of Zappa Captain Beefheart."

Oh, add in his "Welsh sense of humor."

"He was considered the world's greatest unknown guitar player," Holley said. "But he

See UK Guitar Player Returns, page 30

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Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

Senior Lunch Dates: 9/8, 9/22. Call Palazzi for reservations.
Shopping Dates: Willimantic, 9/12, 9/26; Manchester, 9/5, 9/21 (note that 9/21 is a Thursday).

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

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

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

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BACKSTAGE PASS
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NICK BOSSE & THE NORTHERN ROOTS
 FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

THE BROTHERS DOOBIE
 SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

TIM COTE
 SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

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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 provided.

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.

National Back-to-Church Day: Sunday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m.

All About Opossums

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

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

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

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

Annual Steak Dinner

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

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

Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

Food Drive at Farmers Market

There will be food drive to benefit the Andover Food Pantry at the Andover Farmers Market on Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 4-7 p.m. The market takes place at First Congregational Church, 359 Route 6.

September is Hunger Action Month. The Andover Farmers Market is held the second Wednesday of each month. There will be several farmers, bakers, a food truck and music.

CPR and First Aid Class

All are invited to learn CPR and first aid Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Andover Volunteer Fire Department.

Cost is \$20 for CPR or CPR and First Aid. Classes include use of training materials, CPR for adult, child and infant; AED training; choking; first aid; and a two-year certification from the American Heart Association.

Registration is required; to do so, call Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074.

Church Collecting for Tag Sale

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

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

Veterans Meet Sept. 16

The Andover Veterans will resume meeting Saturday, Sept. 16, from 1-3 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. All veterans and currently serving military members are welcome.

For more information, call veterans representatives Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481.

Book & Bake Sale

The Andover Friends of the Library group is preparing to hold a Book & Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 14, and is in search of gently-used books - fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children - as well as playable DVDs, CDs or game discs.

Donations may be brought to Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, Andover, until Monday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. Do not leave donations outside the library or in the library's book drop. Drop-off hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428.

Therapy Dog to Visit Library

Andover Public Library will welcome Sheena the Therapy Dog (and owner Jenifer Nadeau) to the library, 355 Route 6, on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Kid readers are encouraged to sign up for 15-minute sessions for reading, starting at 10:30 a.m. To sign up, visit the library, or call 860-742-7428.



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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Looking for something to do this weekend? Well, *Rivereast*-land has you covered.

As Michael Sinkewicz previewed last week, the Hebron Harvest Fair is back for another four days of fun. There will be rides, vendors, many local arts and crafts on display – and of course tons of food. Glorious, deep-fried delights. (Don't worry, you can walk off those calories on the fairgrounds.)

Among the fair fare, as Mike wrote about last week, will be fried dough, corn dogs, lamb and chicken gyros, hotdogs topped with pulled pork, apple crisp, appleflappen and caramel apples, and slow-roasted roast beef sandwiches.

And you can then wash all that tasty grub down at the beer and wine garden. Beer offerings this year include Coors Light, Blue Moon, Two Roads Lil Heaven, and Harpoon Oktoberfest. (It is almost fall, after all – despite what the temperatures suggest.)

There will also be the favorite fair attractions, like tractor pulls, pig races and the Dock Dogs canine diving events. The Axe Women Loggers of Maine are returning this year – featuring world-champion choppers, log-rollers

and axe-throwers. Among the new attractions this year will be the Pork Chop Revue, where families can enjoy the “semi-acrobatic antics” of pigs.

It wouldn't be a Hebron Harvest Fair without live music – and lots of it. Among the acts will be the Doobie Brothers cover band Brothers Doobie, '80s arena rock tribute band Backstage Pass, and this year's headliner, southeastern Connecticut native Tim Cote.

So head on over to the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 for a guaranteed good time. The fair runs through this Sunday, Sept. 10. More information is at www.hebronharvestfair.org.

On Saturday, you can take a break from the fair and head over to Colchester for another fun activity.

In Colchester, Celebrate Colchester will return on the Town Green, from 1-5 p.m. Formerly known as the 57 Fest (a name that frankly should've been retired long before it was), this year the event has an added twist: it's kicking off Colchester's 325th Birthday celebration.

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



Girls on the Run... Online registration is now open for the Jack Jacter Intermediate School's Girls on the Run team. The team, for girls in grades 3-5, will meet every Monday and Wednesday at JJIS from Sept. 11-Nov. 18. This is a 10 week curriculum-based program designed for every girl; no running experience needed. Register online at tinyurl.com/yrwn2hvz.

Bulletin Board

I am so grateful for the growing trend among TV news anchors and reporters to caution me that I may find the video on an upcoming report 'disturbing.' I am grateful because it alerts me to look up from whatever I am doing to see what could possibly be considered especially 'disturbing' for viewers these days when virtually everything is disturbing.

Sadly, I'm generally disappointed. Compared to those painful TV ads trying to raise funds for the rescue of abused animals, or the violent mayhem we see every day on popular television shows, most of the 'disturbing' video on our news stations is pretty mundane. On the other hand, with the emergence of personal Safe Spaces and our crippling emotional vulnerability to stupid stuff people used to view as merely a routine annoyance, I can see where news stations prefer to err on the side of caution.

Still, it tends to get a little ridiculous as the number of warnings—which were once a rarity—continue to multiply. Allow me to put aside my legendary wide-eyed idealism for a moment in order to offer a cynical recreation:

News Anchor: We have a late-breaking report from reporter Stephanie Blahblah, who just arrived on the scene of this latest tragedy. Details remain sketchy. I must warn you, however, that some viewers may find the scenes we are about to show disturbing. Stephanie?

Stephanie: That's right, Ron. The video is difficult to watch. Viewers who are concerned about reality intruding on their precious Safe Space may want to close their eyes and cover their ears and chant 'nah, nah, nah, nah, nah' until we break away. Okay, let me move in a little closer with my cameraman. This is the scene we found when we responded to a report only minutes ago. Take a listen.

[Camera zooms in on a section of sidewalk]

News Anchor: Oh, my gosh! That's terrible!

Stephanie: Yes, Ron. This is hard to take. Hopefully, any children among our viewers are too engrossed in their violent and bloody video games, shooting and dismembering zombies and drug dealers, to glance up and be emotionally scarred by this horrifying tragedy.

News Anchor: My parents have told me how they grew up watching bloody film of the Vietnam War every evening on the nightly news, but this is ... it's ... so now.

Stephanie: I know. There should be no place for this sort of thing in today's America, where everyone is a victim and it is so easy to be emotionally damaged. But we must show it nevertheless. Even if we often block out the best parts. Our ratings demand it.

News Anchor: Right. It's a tough business.

Stephanie: It certainly is, Ron.

News Anchor: So, what exactly is it?

Stephanie: What's what?

News Anchor: That ... that thing on the sidewalk. What is it?

Stephanie: It's a dead cricket.

News Anchor: My Lord. The poor thing. What happened to it?

Stephanie: It died. One minute it was scuttling along minding its own business, and the next minute, it was just a goopy smear on the concrete.

News Anchor: But how? What happened to him? Or her. Or it. I guess I should say 'them.' What happened to them? And who should be held accountable?

Stephanie: They were ... I mean, they were ... Since there's only one, it should be 'they was,' right? I mean, in order to be both politically and grammatically correct.

News Anchor: Frankly, I have no idea. No doubt somebody with nothing else to do will call in and threaten to sue us in any case.

Stephanie. It looks like the poor thing suffered traumatic crushing of some sort, Ron. It could have been a reckless jogger or possibly some thoughtless child on a bicycle. A malevolent old woman with a walker and a chip on her shoulder. Who knows? It's hard to say without a more thorough investigation. The incident may have been captured on someone's door camera.

News Anchor: Is that a detached leg lying there? Next to the cigarette butt?

Stephanie: Could be a leg. Might be an antenna. Looks a little too big to be some sort of gender appendage, but I'm not very well versed in cricket anatomy.

News Anchor: My goodness. There's a traumatizing thought, though it might solve the 'he, she, they, who, what' dilemma. Thank you, Stephanie, for your great reporting. Be safe out there.

Stephanie [wiping off her shoe]: Thank you. This is Stephanie Blahblah reporting. Back to you, Ron.

News Anchor: Next up, a White House spokesperson will dodge questions and spin reality at the daily press conference with reporters. I am compelled to warn our viewers that some of you who are running out of patience may find this upcoming performance highly disturbing.

[Well, at least he got that right.]

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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Correction

In last week's story on Brainerd Place in Portland (page 25), First Selectman Ryan Curley was reported as saying that *as a result* of studies showing a “relatively small impact” of school-age children from the apartments, 70% are one-bedroom units and 30% are two-bedroom ones. However, the use of “as a result” made the statement inaccurate. The percentages are what indicate the “relatively small impact”; they are not a *result* of anything.

The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

Eyes Toward the Future

To the Editor:

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

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

Jan Barone – Marlborough

The Perfect Fit

To the Editor:

Amy has so many qualities that make her a perfect candidate for our Board of Education, among them being her drive to continue improving our children's education and school experience. As a mathematics educator and the mother of an MES student, she is both knowledgeable and passionate about test scores, school security, and budgeting. She is eager to work with our teachers, school leaders, and board members to make positive changes happen.

I will have the utmost confidence on Sept. 12 as I vote, knowing she has the best interest of Marlborough students, families, and teachers at heart.

Allison Batista – Marlborough

Hebron BOS Meetings

To the Editor:

Good day. There has been a letter followed by a question asked of me concerning why we are not going back to “in-person” meetings. A brief history. My time on the BOS has been years. Prior to COVID, and doing the meetings virtually, we did the meetings at the Town Hall. Except under very rare circumstances, we would be lucky to have one or two people from the public in attendance. We did use Facebook, but the complaints as to the quality were continuous. People couldn't hear, the picture was poor. We also tried the “Community Channel.”

With the start of COVID, and us going entirely to virtual meetings, the number of people tuning into the meetings has been staggering.

RIVEREAST

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

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Young people with children can attend and leave as they wish. No more “packing up the kids to go to a meeting.” Seniors don’t have to brave going out at night, driving, and braving the elements. There are those who have told me that they get together over coffee and watch the meetings.

We, as a board, did put approximately \$60,000 aside (out of ARPA funds) for the purchasing and implementing of a system to do both “in person and virtual,” but, upon receiving cost estimates which all came way over budget, it was determined to stay with the virtual (3 to 1 vote). I would also state, with the hits our budget has taken, I look at those kinds of expenditures as being unwise and not in the best interest of the town.

**Thank you,
Daniel Larson – Amston**

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

Supports Hills

To the Editor:

Kim Hills is a fine candidate for the town of Hebron Board of Education. She is caring and has great character. I know her through the Hebron school system and have always been impressed with her capability, commitment, and work in the local community.

Her knowledge of the school system and understanding of students’ needs qualify her to be on the Board of Education. She is a really good choice and will be an asset to the Hebron Board of Education.

**Sincerely,
Maureen Murphy – Hebron**

Democrats Work Hard

To the Editor:

The East Hampton voters have an important task before them: vote for the team that will continue to support East Hampton’s needs and its residents. As I look back, I am reminded of all of the important plans and decisions that were made in 2021. The Town Council was made up of five Democrats and two Republicans. Prior to all meetings, Mr. Brown made sure that all members were aware of the agenda and the plans for discussions. This leadership informed all seven members before every meeting, leaving them time to ask questions and prepare for the meeting. This leadership considered everyone’s ideas and comments.

Some of the important votes during that term included approval of the bid for the Lake Aeration Project, acquiring land near Christopher Brook to protect our lake. Due to these efforts, our lake quality has improved! The Democrats also reduced the interest rate on delinquent tax payments, approved the high school field improvements including the tennis court, track, correction of drainage and laid the groundwork for a municipal water system on Oct. 7, 2020. They also discussed the future of the East Hampton Library/Senior Center.

Because of the “forward thinking” of our Democratic-led Town Council, these projects are continuing and are creating positive outcomes for East Hampton. They initiated conversations with ideas to relocate our fire department. Now we are realizing those ideas have created a path to move our fire department to new headquarters. Now is the time to reach out to our Democratic candidates for 2023 and be included in their thoughts and ideas. They are

running for office so East Hampton can move forward and they encourage the residents to reach out to them.

Contact Rich Knotek, Dean Markham, Jack Solomon, Karen Wanat and Jordan Werme to discuss your ideas and thoughts for East Hampton! They will listen!!

**Barbara Moore, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee**

EH Community Cares

To the Editor:

East Hampton Community Cares brings together seniors like me and disabled people who need help with people looking for volunteer opportunities. Are you like me needing: help around the house, rides to medical appointments, help with yard work; or know someone who does? Do you walk with a cane or walker; or know someone who does? Are you on a fixed income; or know someone who is? You could volunteer for someone like me who would so appreciate the help.

Are you a member of any club in town? Or a member of a church group? Would they like to join this effort, like The Rotary Club, the Senior Center, and the Commission on Aging? Being part of the effort includes, mobilizing your membership to the kick-off meeting on 9/13, getting folks to sign up to volunteer or receive help (see website below), or donating through the Commission on Aging. Commission members can make a presentation to your group or church. Contact the senior center at the email or phone number below to set that up.

Come meet me at the kick-off meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 13, introducing East Hampton Community Cares. One session is at 2:30 p.m. in the East Hampton Senior Center; the second session is at 6:30 p.m. in the East Hampton Public Library; I’ll be at both. Please register in advance so we know how many will attend, and for refreshments, by emailing seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov or calling 860-267-4426. Walk-ins are also welcome. The website to learn more is URCommunityCares.org. There is no fee to sign up because the Commission on Aging is raising the sign-up money.

**See you Sept. 13,
Beth Angel, Member
East Hampton Commission on Aging**

Many Thanks

To the Editor:

I would like to send a thank you out to all the registered Republicans in town for signing my petition to hold a Republican primary on Sept. 12. I also met some pleasant community members in town, hope to return a favor to them if ever needed. Registered Republicans will have the opportunity to vote all day. The flawed Republican caucus was held on Friday, July 21, at 5:30 p.m., during summer vacation weeks and at a time many were not even out of work.

Over the course of 10-plus years, I have been proud to serve my community in several capacities, including: chair of AHM CHEC Coalition, chair and vice chair of the RHAM BOE, local BOE, vice chair of RTC and founding member

of the Independent Party. I have a bachelor’s degree in accounting and have been working for a banking software company for the past 25 years.

My primary goal as an elected official over the years has been to represent our children in our community. I’m looking to expand my duties and join the Board of Selectmen in November. My accounting, project management and over 10 years of experience sitting on Board and Commissions will allow me to immediately contribute to this Board.

I hope to have the opportunity to continue to demonstrate to you and our community that my selection would be an asset because of my dedication and community focus. I’m excited at having the chance to truly listen to the opinions, concerns and ideas of our community and ensuring we are all heard.

I am fortunate to be campaigning with Chris Barella for BOS along with Kerri Barella and Amy Kuhrt for BOE. Follow our Facebook page “Republicans of Marlborough, CT” for more information about us. Your voice matters; hope to see you on Tuesday, Sept. 12, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School.

Susan Stolfi – Marlborough
Note: Stolfi is chair of the local and RHAM boards of education, and is also a founding member of the Marlborough Independent Party Slate Committee, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Attention Hebron Candidates

To the Editor:

As a lifelong resident of Hebron and a bonafide, if not vilified, suburban peasant I have avidly read all Hebron candidates’ letters in the *Rivereast*. I’m impressed by the thoughts and proposals presented, but have found a common denominator missing – preservation of Hebron’s historic heritage. Therefore, I would like to encourage candidates to address this issue in their future letters to the *Rivereast* editor.

Hebron’s motto is “Historic Charm with a vision for the future.” Selectmen swear to preserve Hebron’s “rural historic character.” It necessarily follows all town committees, commissions, and employees are charged with the same responsibilities.

Recently, a divide has emerged between Hebron’s government and Hebron’s citizens centered on preserving Hebron’s rural historic heritage making preservation a central issue to November’s election. How should Hebron’s children learn to value their town’s past? What role will preservation play in shaping Hebron’s future?

To date, preservation of Hebron’s heritage has been a deflated football aimlessly tossed about. No town properties have ever been acquired for their historic value. Few historic structures are designated Historic Properties. Four town-owned Historic Properties will be abandoned if Hebron’s Center is relocated as proposed in Hebron’s Masterplan page 114, 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development.

Hebron has a documented 10,000-year-old history, one of the few towns in Connecticut with this distinction, but Hebron is in danger

of losing all connections to its past, if elected officials fail to take positive steps to preserve sites and educate Hebron residents effectively linking the town’s past to the future.

This then begs the question of all potential candidates. How will you, if elected, preserve Hebron’s past and chart a course for its future?

Given the Public Works Survey comments, it seems historical preservation is on many voters’ minds.

**Respectfully,
John Baron – Hebron**

Bogus Commentary

To the Editor:

Well, Joe Stevens fired up his turd launcher last week and let me have both barrels. There’s a reason why they call it a turd launcher, and Joe has a big one.

Joe offered a rebuttal letter last week that raises considerable questions about the concepts of intellect, rational thought, and rampant buffoonery. In another callous, tone-deaf, and dismissive letter, Joe exemplified how progressive liberals pervert reality and concoct a series of baseless narratives to protect the “Progressive Liberal” brand. Joe seems to think that Ashley Biden’s assertion that daddy showered with her when she was 11 years old is just an “obscure reference” to a diary entry. I don’t have kids. Do fathers normally shower with their pre-pubescent daughters? Most glaring is Joe’s half-baked rationale for vilifying Trump and his assault case while calling Bill Clinton’s behavior “well-publicized dalliances” and “inappropriate behavior from 25-plus years ago.” To actually put that in writing takes some stones, Joe. I wonder if any of Bill’s victims agree with your terminology. I’m sure George Stephanopoulos does. And be honest...did you ever hear of E. Jean Carroll before the Trump case? Where was she for 25-plus years? All of a sudden she surfaced when it became fashionable to sue Trump for sneezing. And, curiously, Judge Lewis Kaplan, a Democrat, is a Clinton appointee in the Southern District of New York, and attorney Roberta Kaplan (no relation) is married to Admiral Rachel Levine in the Biden administration. Rational minds are curious. Yours isn’t.

The reality is: Democrats don’t get prosecuted.
See Story, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

ed...Republicans do. Stop using bogus commentary about bogus indictments to obfuscate the fact that Joe Biden is a disaster. Exactly how was your life worse under President Trump (other than hurt feelings)?

You're a phony. And you consort with phonies.

Regards...and mask-up. There's an election coming!

Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

(Lack of) Accountability

To the Editor:
What does government accountability look like? Well, if you're an elected official who has never been held accountable for their actions then it would probably look "political," in

bad faith, or even mean spirited. I liken it to a spoiled child finally being told no, they can't get that new toy they just have to have. That mental image you no doubt have right now? That's Colchester politics, in particular the established Democrats and those they've found to insulate their actions from criticism.

They are used to being able to act with impunity, and why wouldn't they? This year is the first year in over a decade that the Democrats have run more than two candidates for the Board of Selectmen. Why does that matter? Because without a serious third-party challenge both major parties are guaranteed two seats on the board. This not only means a seat doesn't have to be earned, it removes the citizens' only means to hold their elected officials accountable. It's no wonder they feel and act entitled and untouchable when their party has rigged the local game

to ensure that they are.

Impunity has no place in government but it's been allowed to fester because the same group of insiders have ruled the roost for decades. It's those same faces, surrounded by their hand-picked replacements, on the ballot this November. They're promising to bring things back to the way they used to be. Back to a time where taxes were illegally adjusted and embezzlement plots by their friends quietly swept under the rug. Back to the system they crafted to benefit themselves at our expense.

I'm the only BOS candidate talking about real change to our local government - new faces, new ideas, and common values. Ask yourself, why is that?

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester
Libertarian candidate for Board of Selectmen

Dems for Civility

To the Editor:

Fourteen Democrats are running for town office in November. A like number of Republicans are vying for those offices. Regardless of who wins any of the races, one thing is for certain: there will not be unanimity at Town Hall. Probably never was, and probably never will be. Given the budget battles of the past two years (and more), dollars and cents will be a primary driver of disagreement.

The recent budget brouhahas appear to have been fueled mostly by Republicans' single-minded focus on keeping taxes low; a laudable but quixotic goal. We've seen the damage done to Colchester as a result. It would be foolish to state that under a Democratic regime all would be sunshine and rainbows. However, the Democratic slate of candidates is less likely to hold the town hostage to the conservatives' single-minded agenda. They are more likely to lead even-tempered boards to find equitable solutions to fiscal dilemmas. While the boards control town functioning, the other offices support the boards' impartially; statutes require that they do.

We all must vote our conscience in November. If your conscience is strictly self-centered, then vote for those who you think will save you a buck at any cost. If you are community-minded and want to see the entire Colchester community thrive, you have other choices. Keep these names in mind for moving forward in November: Bernie Dennler, Rosemary Coyle, Denise Turner, Dave Koji, Scott Chapman, Karen Belding, Gayle Furman, Chris Rivers, Michelle Millington, Stefanie Tracey-Calash, Andrew Cournoyer, Krista Kardys, Sean Gillespie, and Michele Wyatt. Fourteen folks who want to work as a team to better Colchester. They won't all win, but it would be nice. Nice for Colchester.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Shared Services

Dear Colchester Residents:

Last week, I wrote about how management of Colchester's finances seems to be slipping through the cracks in the first selectman's office. The failure to produce an on-time audit threatens our bond rating which impacts what we all may end up paying for town projects. To move forward, I believe we need to work on restoring shared financial management between the town and schools.

Colchester taxpayers deserve full oversight of their tax dollars. Our town charter was written with a chief financial officer in mind. Historically, the CFO oversaw both the town and BOE finances. Under the current administration, we've seen this relationship severed and the CFO replaced with a separate finance director for the town and a business manager for the schools. This year's budget and audit process saw plenty of finger-pointing between the town and Board of Education for various issues. Looking from the outside, it was sometimes hard for residents to know who was telling the truth in the absence of any shared oversight.

If elected, I will bring together representatives from the BOS, BOF, and BOE along with the superintendent to develop ways we can restore a degree of shared financial services and give taxpayers both transparency and confidence in our town's finances. The first selectman cannot single-handedly force a given solution, but I will lead the charge for a change. Over the last year, Colchester has spent tens of thousands of dollars on consultants and temps to fill in the gaps in the finance department. The current approach is neither efficient nor cost effective. It's time to reevaluate. We cannot undo the botched financial transition that occurred last year, but as first selectman I will act quickly to stop the bleeding.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler – Colchester
Candidate for First Selectman

Candidate for BOE

Dear Andover Residents:

My name is Brianne (Bree) Lanzieri, and I am thrilled to be running for the Andover BOE. With a profound belief in lifelong education, I am committed to fostering an environment where children not only gain knowledge but also learn to think independently and critically. Encouraging them to comprehend counterarguments equips them with the skills to navigate an ever-evolving world. My genuine compassion for both educators and parents drives me to create a harmonious partnership that nurtures a conducive learning atmosphere. I understand the importance of prioritizing the health and safety of our children, ensuring an environment that promotes their well-being.

As an eight-year resident of Andover, I have

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not only witnessed the strength of our community but also understand the unique needs it holds. My journey as a parent is intertwined with my passion for education, as I have a 7-year-old daughter who is currently in second grade at Andover Elementary School. This experience gives me firsthand insights into the challenges and opportunities that our students face daily.

I firmly believe that parents play a vital role in the educational process and should have meaningful input into shaping it. Education is a partnership between schools and families, and by actively involving parents in decision-making processes, we can create a more holistic and effective learning environment. As an officer on the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), I have actively worked to bridge this connection, fostering open communication and collaboration to enhance the educational experience for our children.

My credentials include an MBA from Western New England University, 30 graduate credits in secondary education from Drexel University, and an ongoing journey towards a PhD. My passion lies in bolstering our community, and I am dedicated to leveraging my experience to make a meaningful impact in shaping the future of education for all children in Andover.

Kind Regards,
Brianne (Bree) Lanzieri – Andover

Resist...We Must!

To the Editor:
 You're an apologetic American, fixated on righting past wrongs. You worry constantly about the future desert your children will live in due to the drastic effects of "climate change." You want to "fight the power"...whether it be in the form of systemic racism, the patriarchy, fascism, homophobia, xenophobia, or transphobia. Your intentions are good, your cause is just, and you're in the majority. You are the resistance.

Your viewpoints align perfectly with those of multimillionaire celebrities/influencers, media personalities, and big tech CEOs. You envision a future of sustainable development in which man lives in harmony with nature. It just so happens that those exact same goals are supported by the United Nations, World Economic Forum, every governmental and Marxist-aligned organization on the planet. You are the resistance.

You unquestionably embrace new technologies and smart tech as any new development will help increase efficiency and improve our everyday lives. You'll boycott the local grocery store, bakery, or breakfast spot because you know they are unapologetic Christians, while you check on the status of your Amazon delivery...as it's running late from its Chinese sweatshop. All this new technology is wonderful and you refuse to entertain the possibility that through your acquiescence a digital prison is being erected around us. You are the resistance!

You have come to the conclusion long ago that God is dead and that science holds the keys to understanding the world around us. You're too intelligent to believe in some man in the sky or an afterlife...especially when science has brought us an age of enlightenment. With a future led by scientists we can finally unshackle ourselves from the confines of morality and virtue and develop a world based solely on data, peer review, and scientific consensus. You are the resistance.....and resist, we must!!!

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Economic Development, Part II

Dear Colchester Residents:
 While our town has seen a tremendous comeback, it is important to keep the momentum going. The town will continue to work with prospective businesses by keeping our taxes low, reviewing zoning regulations to ensure they put citizens and small businesses before government, and meeting with interested parties to ease their transition. As someone who has been around small businesses my entire life, I understand the plight of our hardworking entrepreneurs.

While past administrations may have slept on projects, I have re-energized initiatives. In my first term, the Town Green Revitalization Project was completed. In my second term, the town is poised to see the Lebanon Avenue Streetscape Revitalization Project come to fruition. These enhancements will make one of the more neglected parts of town a very attractive one for prospective businesses.

Investing in green energy initiatives will be another important cornerstone. I recently signed a contract to bring the first-ever hybrid charging station to Colchester, with it to be installed at the Town Hall. Plans include expand-

ing out to other locations as well. The town is also very close to signing a solar lease agreement with Silver Brooks Solar which will net the town a lump total of \$214K.

The town will continue infrastructure improvements in public spaces with investments in our roads and bridges, begin the expansion of the operational quarters of the Police Department, oversee the construction of the Town Hall roof, modernize the Town Hall's HVAC, and refurbish the water towers. The town is also exploring the privatization of its water systems and will continue to increase funds set aside for Open Space acquisitions that reduce the overall tax burden while securing our small-town feel.

Sincerely,
**Andreas Bisbikos
 Colchester First Selectman**

Trump

To the Editor:
 Psst! Wanna be a fake elector? All we need is 16 and a ringleader (the Hamburglar?), to sign a fake affidavit you are duly sworn (damned?) and certified to throw out every vote of fine people of the Peach Tree Dish State of Georgia cast in 2020. Don't worry, it's ok; Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada are doing it too! For who else but your favorite president, better than Lincoln (couldn't figure out the Civil War!). Talk about probing the election system for weaknesses; Trump gave it an enema no one ordered, wanted or needed.

We pay the bill. Jared gets \$3 billion to invest from the country that sent us the Twin Tower bombers. Talk about a \$250 million dollar finders fee injection of capitol. Jared's first investment? Residential solar (VIROSA) company, Mosaic. Can you say right-wing cabal?

Short list why you should vote for Trump: Put Chinese flags on our planes, bomb Russia and let them fight it out; Bomb Mexico and blame Ubekestan; Best three days of Queen Elizabeth's life where the ones spent with yours truly.; Real truth is I won Georgia by 400,000 votes, at least!; I'll suspend the Constitution I swore to defend; Joe Biden can't put two words together in a sentence (just ask Mitch);

I gave Russia proprietary voter info to help

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

Local businesses, organizations and committees will be on hand, and there will also be guest performers, kids' activities, face-painting and more.

The celebration will continue that night with fireworks at dark at the RecPlex on Old Hebron Road. Parking will fill up fast, but don't worry, there will be a shuttle bus available from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Simply park at William J. Johnston Middle School, 360 Norwich Ave., and take the shuttle over to the

win swing states! Compiled by Cambridge Analytica; can you say Steele Dossier?

Holding out till he shoots someone on 5th Avenue and gets away with it?

Hung up on Hunter? I'll raise you a coke-nosed-addled Don Jr.

We're so far down the rabbit hole it's getting warm; bring your handbasket.

The good news for Republicans is scientists have found a way to nanoprint gold on living tissue; Trump is really gonna shine! So vote for me I'll set you free from that little nuisance, reality!

Regrets,
Tim Rinell – East Hampton
 See Letters, page 8

RecPlex.
 For more information, call the Colchester Recreation Office at 860-537-7297.
 * * *

Lastly, here's a bit of a groaner to get the weekend started:

Everybody knows 6 was scared of 7 because 7 8 9, but why did 7 eat 9?

Because you're supposed to eat 3 squared meals a day.
 * * *

Have a great week.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

Running for Reelection

To the Editor:
My name is John Dillon and I am running for reelection to the Portland Board of Selectmen. As a fourth-generation Portland resident I credit my parents for instilling in me a deep appreciation for our town's history, the importance of public service, and the firm desire to give back to my hometown. I am a graduate of Portland High School and Central Connecticut State University. My wife Maura and I have three grown children and two amazing grandsons.

After 35 years with the Connecticut Department of Social Services, I retired in 2022 as statewide program director for the Office of Child Support Services. As director, I administered a multimillion-dollar federally mandated program composed of more than 300 statewide staff from departments within the executive and judicial branch.

I have served our community as chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, assistant scoutmaster, vice president of the Portland Agricultural Fair, Portland Inland Wetlands Commission member, and a lector at St. Mary's Church. I am a Justice of the Peace, member of Freestone Council No. 7 Knights of Columbus, and currently chairman of St. Mary's Parish Council. In 2013 I was privileged to be a recipient of the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award.

Portland's future includes great opportunities like the Brainerd Place development and riverfront properties improvement, coupled with some complex decisions like school facilities enhancements and development of a town-owned water source. With creativity, long-term planning, sensible fiscal policies, and realistic expectations we can successfully meet the future needs of all residents while also supporting practical economic development.

I would be honored to serve my community once again on the Portland Board of Selectmen. I ask for your vote on Nov. 7.

Sincerely,
John H. Dillon
Candidate for Reelection
to Board of Selectmen

Accountability Should Be Bipartisan

Dear Colchester Residents:
What if I told you a Board of Education member was at one time banned from attending events at school and arrested for an incident involving a child... would it matter if that person was a Republican or a Democrat? Would that change what accountability looks like? As a Republican, I can tell you accountability is different between the two major political parties.

That scenario did happen, the individual is a Democrat, and that individual currently

holds elected office. That person had another incident at a recent town meeting. There was silence from the Democrats. It's become a common occurrence for Democrats in public office to ignore bad behavior. When confronted with accountability, they often "circle the wagons" to protect their party image. That's not accountability, that's condoning bad behavior.

In September of 2022 the Republican party was not happy with the performance of First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos. They held a vote of no confidence; the *Rivereast* ran the story. It's not a sign of dysfunction; it's evidence of transparency and accountability. You let the other person know something isn't right, and hopefully they work to change it. In the case of Mr. Bisbikos, there was a course change, and that has earned him the party's nomination to continue in his role as first selectman. I've heard from many citizens that he has been the best first selectman in their lifetime. That doesn't happen without a commitment to transparency and accountability.

I'd like you to personally consider whether you value affordability, transparency, and accountability. If you share those values, the Republican candidates in November would appreciate your support.

Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil - Colchester
Candidate, Colchester Board of Finance

Citizens' Comments

To the Editor:
This past weekend I had the opportunity to come to some of your doors with members of my fellow Democratic team, both incumbents and exciting newcomers. Thank you for taking the time to speak with us and let us know your thoughts about Colchester.

We heard one constant theme about your concern for Colchester's financial stability with no audit for 2021-22 and the possible downgrading of our bond rating with two important projects on the horizon that will need bonding - the new senior center and the fire apparatus.

Additional comments we heard loud and clear were that you don't like or understand the personal attacks on individuals and believe candidates should speak about issues or their experience. Personal attacks have no place in Colchester.

You especially don't like all the chaos. Someone said it best: "I just don't like what's happening in our town." We agreed.

Also on Saturday, Sept. 2, the Senior Center Building Committee (SCBC) held a special meeting at the SC building site. Building committee members and interested citizens were there to participate and ask questions.

It was truly exciting and emotional for me to see the steel rising from the foundation because I've worked on this project for so many years.

This project is happening because of many people in the past working together to move this forward.

All we need now is for the first selectman and the finance chair to move the additional appropriation that we've needed since October 2022 forward to referendum. This will allow the SCBC to use the Bendas Memorial donation of \$575,000, the \$32,961 from the State ARPA grant money, and provide the funds to cover the shortfall from escalating building costs.

I continue to stand up for Colchester and its citizens every day that I serve.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle - Colchester

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

Hope Church

To the Editor:
The seniors would like to thank Hope Church for the fantastic picnic that they had for us a few weeks ago. We had a great time with the families of the church. The kids were so much fun. We had fun playing corn hole and bingo.

Again, thank you so much from all at Bellwood and Chatham.

Shelley Grendzinski
Tenant Commissioner of
East Hampton Senior Housing

Humbly Request Support

Dear Fellow Portland Residents:
My name is Jillian Crawford and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the Portland Board of Selectmen.

I am deeply committed to serving our town and upholding the values that make it such a welcoming community. I believe that public service is not only a responsibility but a privilege, and I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise towards town progress. As a lifelong resident of Portland, I believe that my first-hand experience paired with knowledge acquired through tertiary education affords me a unique perspective on the governance of our town; this perspective has driven me to seek a role where I can make a meaningful impact within the community.

From kindergarten through high school, I attended Portland Public Schools, graduating from Portland High School in 2017. I went on to study politics at the University of Connecticut and matriculated as an Honors Scholar with a Bachelors in Political Science. I am now working on my applications for law school which I hope to begin in the Fall 2024 semester.

I believe that our town's financial stability is crucial for its growth; as a Board member, I will work to ensure that taxpayers' money is allocated wisely, providing essential services while also investing in avenues that will enhance our town's future. I will strive to identify new sources of revenue, reducing the burden on taxpayers

and supporting sustainable development. I also hope to promote transparency and accountability within local government. By fostering a culture of openness, we can ensure that our community stays informed about town issues.

I am thrilled by the prospect of serving on the Board of Selectmen and I humbly request the support of my fellow residents in this upcoming election.

Sincerely,
Jillian Crawford - Portland
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

One Final Word

To the Editor:
"Silence." Silent are the skies. Silent is the barn. The hawks have left. Silence prevails.

The barn swallows departed on the recent North winds. They took advantage of a tail wind to help propel them halfway down the eastern seaboard. When flying to Central America, an easy first leg of the journey is a blessing.

Silence can be deafening. And this is truly an example of that.

Alison Walck - East Hampton

Leash Your Dog

To the Editor:
A certain person allows her very large and aggressive white dog to run free around the dam area of Andover Lake. A few months ago my fiancée purchased a small and loving puppy, part Cavalier King Charles spaniel and part miniature poodle, who we named Charlie. She did this to bolster my spirits following months of radiation treatments for cancer and now a hip replacement. Charlie has become a very important part of our lives, mine especially, bringing joy and wonder with his myriad playful ways and constant affection. Unfortunately, we have now had a third serious aggression from this person's dog, while my fiancée walks our leashed Charlie down by the dam.

In each of the three aggressions, this dog ran up to my fiancé, with teeth bared and growling, the first times standing over our cowering Charlie who was shivering at my fiancé's feet. This latest aggression, my fiancé picked Charlie up, holding him high in her arms while the aggressor, who stands a bit higher than my fiancée's hip, once again growled and bared his teeth, seemingly with the intent to leap up and grab Charlie. My fiancée shouted at the owner, "This is the third time!" The owner responded "Christie, we share the planet." My fiancée responded, "Then be responsible and keep your dog on a leash - this is unacceptable." The owner then retorted, "Your behavior is unacceptable."

Believing in the adage 'three strikes and you're out,' I write this public letter, admonishing the owner to forthwith leash their dog. Charlie, and all other leashed small dogs, have the right to 'share Andover Lake,' and enjoy long and happy dog lives with their loving, responsible owners.

Edmund Smith - Andover

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Supports Kuhrt

Dear Marlborough Residents:
As the elections are quickly approaching, I am excited to share my support for Amy Kuhrt, an exceptional candidate for the Board of Education position. Amy is a dedicated educator and a parent of two young children who are beginning their Marlborough Elementary experience. Her vested interest in the education of Marlborough's youth and her experience as a teacher make her an excellent advocate.

I strongly urge you to consider Amy Kuhrt for the Sept. 12 primary election. She is committed to the well-being of Marlborough's learners and will positively impact the education system.
Erin Pitrone – Marlborough

Fact-Checkers' Credibility

To the Editor:
You can't always believe these so-called "fact-checkers," especially if you have a question about our government. These people verify government questions by asking our government. I once asked where Obama was born and was told Hawaii. If so, why is his Social Security number one that is only issued to residents of Connecticut? Why are there only a handful of college students that went to the school he did that can remember him? He claimed to be a Christian. How many other "U.S.-born citizens" have a name Hussein? Why did more Muslim refugees enter our country under his rule than all our other presidents combined?

Frank Blume – Colchester

It's About People

To the Editor:
When I joined the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, the furthest thought in my mind was running for the Board of Selectmen. For my entire life I've been politically engaged in issue that I feel strongly about. But there's a difference between standing with a sign or participating in 'sit-ins' getting involved and making change. After living in Marlborough for over 25 years, I've decided I need to run for a position where I can have a real impact.

My background is in property management and real estate, but what really qualifies me for government work is the years I spent in the dug-out as an assistant manager for my son Brendan's little league team. Marlborough Youth Athletic League is where I learned the importance of teamwork. The preteen boys had their own interpretation. They spent most of the time seeing who could stuff the most pieces of double bubble in their mouths at the same time, much like today's congressmen shoveling perks into their pockets. Boys will be boys.

The time spent with those young men will resonate with me forever. These young men

taught me compromise and to support your teammates even when they strike out. These lessons are important still today. Two decades later some of these players are my closest friends. If I'm lucky enough to be selected by the voters of Marlborough I will bring those tenets of teamwork and compromise to my work on the Board of Selectmen.

It's not about politics; it's about people. My hope is that my kids, and the many I coached, can foresee a bright future as Marlborough residents.

John Rizza – Marlborough

Picking Person

To the Editor:
I am writing to endorse Kim Person for the Andover Board of Education. She will be a positive addition to the board. Her experience as the town children's librarian was an opportunity to work with children. Then while employed at ECHN in the medical library, she ran a licensed, childcare center in Andover that was quite successful for 20 years. She continued working and learning at UConn Health. She grew up in Andover and her children went to Andover Elementary, so she's very "rooted" here.

I believe she will work hard to make sure the children get a good education and be mindful of Andover's senior population who try to survive on fixed incomes, as well as the citizens in general. She will work to keep a responsible budget while ensuring a good education for our children. She will foster an open-door, transparent and positive role as a member of the board and she's a good listener.

I'm endorsing her wholeheartedly for the Andover Board of Education.

**Respectfully submitted,
Georgette Conrad – Andover**

Taking Credit

To the Editor:
In a recent letter in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, the chair of the Board of Finance stated that our first selectman prioritized investing in our fields as he secured significant ARPA funding for field irrigation systems and invested in a field feasibility study. She also stated that the first selectman secured a new playground, new pickleball courts, new basketball courts and a new roof on the RecPlex pavilion.

The truth is that Colchester formed an ARPA committee to make recommendations to the

Board of Selectmen on how to distribute the ARPA grant money we received from the federal government. All of the projects at the RecPlex were approved by the unanimous vote of the BOS, not just the first selectman. She also stated that the first selectman invested more in our families and children than any other first selectmen before him. Previous selectmen were not afforded the opportunity to use millions of dollars from an ARPA grant to invest.

The first selectman would like you to think that all of the recent projects in Colchester were a result of his administration. If there was no ARPA grant money, none of these projects would have been completed. Don't be fooled by the lack of transparency from our current first selectman as he quotes transparency software as the cure all. Transparency starts at the top.

Michael Hayes – Colchester

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

In Support of Kim Hills

To the Editor:
I am writing in support of Kim Hills' decision to run for the Hebron Board of Education.

I met Kim when she was a senior in high school. I have had the pleasure of watching Kim grow into quite an accomplished woman. Kim is one of the most kind, compassionate, understanding, and fair-minded people I know. Kim would be a great asset to the Hebron Board of Ed. Kim has the ability to be open-minded, listening to all sides of a subject before making a decision. Kim has spent her career in education with full dedication. Whether Kim is teaching, coaching or parenting, Kim gives her all.

The reason I know so much about Kim firsthand is I am her mother-in-law. Kim would be a great asset to the Hebron Board of Ed.

Denise Hills – Hebron

Civic Duty No. 1

To the Editor:
Tuesday, Aug. 22, was one of the top five most beautiful days of the year. The humidity broke, air poured down from the north and the temperature was perfect. As I walked Kinney Road, in Hebron, I watched hay being baled. Neatly formed rows of dried grasses were being drawn into a baler and uniform bales of hay were left in its wake. For over 50 years I have been fascinated by hay and balers, and hay has played a large

role in my life all along. I then met a couple who spoke of older hay machines pulled by oxen and steam powered tractors that were soon replaced by gas powered machines.

On this day, the corn stood tall over head and a worn-out farm truck rattled by, full of sun-drenched young people, eager to help hay. "That's Hebron," I thought, not the negativity surrounding residents defending drinking water and history.

In some trades, on-the-job training is still the best way, if not, the only way to learn. One can read about balers and living the farm life, but until you get out there and "stub your toe" you don't know much.

People talk about pavement with brick-and-mortar educational centers, but, with all due respect, education is already happening on Kinney Road and it has been for hundreds of years. There's no replacing the real thing and there is no replacing our farmland, water or history. This is a valuable lesson we must address.

Development is easy, so is pollution; easy and permanent. But land and water preservation takes foresight. Does Hebron have a civic responsibility to do right by the next generations? Teaching respect for our land, water and history is an important and honorable lesson. #save17.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Setting the Record Straight

To the Editor:
First Selectman Bisbikos prominently highlights accomplishments on his website and advertisements that seem misaligned with historical facts. For instance, he associates himself with a gas station expansion and the potential arrival of Chipotle in our town. It begs the question: How exactly was he pivotal in these ventures?

Moreover, his claim that he's the only first selectman in the past 15 years to bring significant developments to the Jack Chevy property needs to be more accurate. The site couldn't be developed because of environmental issues. The environmental cleanup was completed before he took office, and he had little to do with a company from New Hampshire buying the property.

As engaged citizens, we should encourage transparency and accuracy from our elected officials. Misrepresenting achievements doesn't just mislead voters; it undermines the integrity of public service.

John Farrell – Colchester
See Story, page 32



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Another Successful Year at The Haddam Neck Fair

By London Brazal

Farmers and agricultural enthusiasts fathered for the annual Haddam Neck Fair which has become a cherished tradition in the community. This year marks the 111th annual fair and the association aims to promote an “independent, family-oriented, major social and agricultural event.”

Rated as one of Connecticut’s major agricultural fairs, the fair has it all from carnival rides and exhibits to food and competitive contests. The events ran from Sept. 1 to 4, with more than 1,000 attendees throughout the Labor Day Weekend.

The tractor and truck pulls, a thrilling and crowd-pleasing event, took center stage as enthusiastic fans gathered to watch the powerful machines. The deafening roar of engines competed against the cheers of families and friends creating an electric atmosphere. Similar to previous years, the pulls bring more crowds to the fair on Fridays and Saturdays.

East Hampton High School Class of 2020 graduate Philip Wentworth has been going to the Haddam Neck Fair since he was young and enjoys spending time with his friends. His favorite events include the tractor and truck pulls because of the crazy competition. He and his friends believe the Labor Day weekend is the perfect opportunity to kick off fall and enjoy a day off.

“It’s a great way to connect with former friends and members of the community you don’t normally see, said Wentworth.”

Jenna Gagné, another longtime fairgoer, was the chairperson for the kid’s games. Her job was to organize and run different competitions such as the watermelon eating contest, the egg toss, and the three-legged race. The egg toss is always an exhilarating yet messy competition, this year’s winners were Joseph Bugai and Alexander Bowling. For the fair, Gagné had a team of high

schoolers to help run the events smoothly. Her favorite part of the weekend was spending time with her cousins. “I got to go on a few rides with them which is always so fun because I don’t get to see them often,” said Gagné.

Throughout the years, the Haddam Neck Fair has had new additions. Last weekend, there was the inaugural Power Wheels Derby. Gagné’s dad, Jason, built a massive figure eight of tires that kids raced through in power wheel cars. “It was the cutest and funniest thing I’ve ever seen in my life,” Gagné added. With a break in her schedule, Gagné also got to compete in the Redneck Strongman/Strongwoman contest. After proving strength by throwing a tire and more, she won, alongside Noah Freeman.

Agricultural fairs are more than just a showcase of farm animals and crops the Haddam Neck Fair is famous for its exciting and competitive contests that people of all ages can compete in. Other contests included the women’s skillett-throwing, best beards, special sunflowers, and baking.

The annual 5K Road Race had over 200 participants and the average finish time was 33 minutes. The winner of the race was 23-year-old Jordan Akiyoshi with a time of 17:58. Second and third place had times under 19 minutes, those were 15-year-old Evan LoPresti and 17-year-old Louis Viliano. Of the top ten, Brittany Griffen was the first female to place with a running time of 19:38. The youngest runner was only 4 years old and the oldest was 82.

One change this year was to have larger performances at the Music Bandstand at night rather than various groups throughout the day. Musical guests featured Max Creek, Downtown 6, The Linda Rondstadt Experience featuring *American Idol* finalist Tristan McIntosh, Rock Landing, and John King all the way from Nashville.

Overall, the fairgoers loved the music and



Fairgoers of all ages gathered at the annual Haddam Neck Fair to spend time with family, watch tractor pulls, and dance the night away. Philip Wentworth has been attending the fair since he was little. Now, he gets to appreciate the same events he enjoyed as a kid.

were satisfied with the different genres for those who went more than one night. Old and young couples were showing off their dancing skills. Even volunteers were able to take a break from their responsibilities to listen and dance.

With over 25 vendors, the fair had something for everyone – including pets. Some vendors included Grateful Paws Pet Treats, Made by Melanie Rose Hand Crafts, NPCR Aluminum Wall Art, and Ocean Fashion Clothing. Ultimately,

this year’s fair was a success.

Throughout its history, the Haddam Neck Fair has been an entirely volunteer-based operation. The Board of Directors members said they thank every person who made the event possible. The members added they are excited to start planning next year’s fair.

For more information or to volunteer in the future, visit haddamneckfair.com.

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.

Sunday School: Sunday School classes begin Sunday, Sept. 10, at 9:55. The Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard will lead the group. Those interested in having their children attend for the first time should contact her at jneelrichard16@gmail.com.

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.

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’Elia 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.

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.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

All-Ages: Monday Movie Madness: Monday, Sept. 18, 6 p.m., in the community room. Bring blankets; some chairs will be available. *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.

DIY Days: Roly Poly Toy: Saturday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game or treat together. No registration required; just drop in.

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

Back to School Yoga: Monday, Sept. 11, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. Led by Amie Meacham.

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

Family Storytime: Saturday, Sept. 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Best for ages 3-5. Sing songs and read books; families can stick around after for a craft, sensory play, and socializing. No registration required; siblings welcome.

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

Dungeons & Dragons: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades 8-12. No previous playing experience required. The library will provide basic, fifth edition characters; all supplies included.

Adult Programs: Belltown Book Brunch: Friday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m. Drop into the library for coffee or tea, a breakfast treat, and bookish banter. Register or drop in.

LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham: Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:15 a.m., in the Community Room. Led by Amie Meacham. All levels welcome. Bring your own mat if you have one.

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

Class of ‘67 Reunion

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

To reserve a seat, call Geralyn Yocher at 860-682-2067.

Community Cares Info Meetings

This is a final reminder for two informational meetings for the new volunteer organization East Hampton Community Cares. The meetings will take place Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 2:30 p.m., at the senior center and at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

Choose one of the time slots and register through the senior center at either seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov or 860-267-4426. Even if you don’t register, though, you can come

anyway. Note: the 6:30 p.m. meeting will be available on Zoom via tinyurl.com/3btsr6mx and will also be recorded.

This is your chance to learn how to easily volunteer to help adults in town who are older or disabled, or to request free services if you are in need.

The meetings are sponsored by the Senior Center, Rotary Club, and Commission on Aging.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

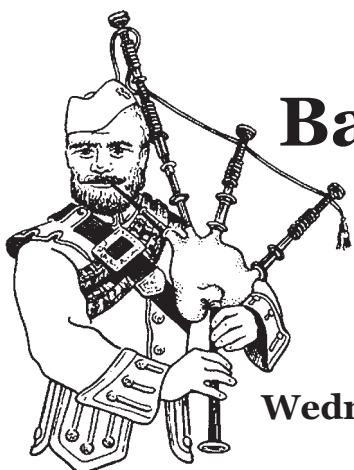
Kids Church: Music and hands-on interactive activities about God’s love are offered for kids in the Fellowship Hall during the worship service.

All are welcome.

Vocal Choir: Choir rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals will resume in the fall.

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

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



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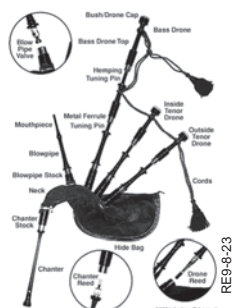
You are invited to attend the **Middletown Police Benefit Association Bagpipe Band’s Open House:** **Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 at 6:30pm Middletown Elks Hall 44 Maynard St., Middletown**

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



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Epoch Arts' Biggest Fundraiser Set Next Week

By London Brazal

For five months each year, the arts-for-youth nonprofit Epoch Arts prepares its largest fundraiser – a fall tag sale that impacts many.

Starting in April, residents from the community dropped hundreds of items off to donate at the lower level of Epoch's Skinner Street buildings. Then, a group of volunteers worked tirelessly to organize the donations into categories. Though, unlike some tag sales, the Epoch Arts yearly fundraiser benefits many people who are involved in the process.

Elizabeth Namen, the organization's artistic executive director, sees the event as an opportunity for people to support a talented group of young artists. Epoch Arts moved into the factory building in 2005 and has renovated various rooms to fit the company's needs. When the space was bought, there were leftover items and Namen got permission to sell them. "And that was the start, Organically, we made some money and it kept on growing," Namen said. At first, it started on the main level and the organization would have to move everything each time the theater was needed. "Another group of renters left and we moved the tag sale downstairs so classes could start and we didn't have to move it again."

By moving the tag sale into the lower level, Epoch Arts was able to utilize more of the building as they renovated and cleaned. One year, weather was a large issue and tents were blowing away while other items got damaged by rain. "It was a lot of work to move everything outside and back inside," Namen said.

Beth Cunningham, a longtime volunteer, values the community for contributing to the annual tag sale. "It gets bigger and bigger every year. People can't possibly have more stuff to donate!" said Cunningham.

The tag sale grew so big that Epoch eventually had to make it a two-weekend event, and now it takes place over six days (including Fridays) every September.

ery September.

The fundraiser is 100% volunteer-based. There are about 30 volunteers who organize, clean, and price items. Many of them had kids involved with the program and helped since the first tag sale.

"They bring their lunch and it gives them a reason to get out of the house. They work for a dinner at the Athenian [diner in Middletown]. It may seem small but it's a big celebration and a sense of accomplishment," said Cunningham. She volunteers to give back to the program, especially since the fundraiser helped her children participate with scholarships.

Other volunteers include students who attend classes. "It's full circle. It's good for the kids to sit with the seniors and hear their stories while they have more company," Namen added. At the event, students from the high school involved with Interact will also come by and pitch in.

Barbara Hallberg, Namen's aunt, said she enjoys helping with the fundraiser and organizing items.

"Beth is the boss. But really, I enjoy it. It gives me something to do," she said.

Another helper, Donna McGuigan, volunteers because it helps Epoch Arts, and they did a lot for her granddaughters.

Each year, the outcome and success of the tag sale improve. As Epoch Arts' biggest fundraiser, it helps the nonprofit to provide scholarships for students who want to participate in programs. "Grants are tough, and as a nonprofit, we try to keep up. It's great for the community to give back, donate, and pay for youth in town to attend programs," Namen said. "There are really talented youth, and it is amazing to see what they can do with the support from people in town."

In the organization's eyes, the fundraiser serves a bigger purpose. The community helps support the youth arts and these students receive a healthy outlet for expression.

"It's a place for everyone and if it isn't for you,

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.

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

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

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



The Final Stretch... Several volunteers help organize, clean, and price items for Epoch Arts' Annual Tag Sale. The fundraiser, 100% volunteer-driven, helps provide scholarships to lower costs for students interested in the arts.

that's okay too," said Namen. "Everybody is welcome!"

Epoch Arts is dedicated to helping young artists communicate, collaborate, and create through the arts. No experience is necessary. Other future events include fall classes, the annual Haunted House, Artopia, and "Hidden Injustice," an original theater production. "The tag sale is our kickoff, and then we go until June!"

Namen added.

The tag sale will run Sept. 15-17 and Sept. 22-24. On Fridays, the sale is open from noon-5 p.m., and on weekends, it is from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. There will also be an Early Bird Special on Friday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m.-noon, with an entrance fee of \$25.

For more information, visit epocharts.org.

Auxiliary President at Lobster Fest

Fowler-Dix-Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Auxiliary 5095 have announced that VFW Auxiliary Department President Grace Kelly will be the guest at the post's annual Lobster Fest on Saturday, Sept. 9.



Grace Kelly

The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations and its members

are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat. The auxiliary has nearly a million members nationwide who volunteer millions of hours and fund-raise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans, military service personnel and their families.

The Auxiliary assists the VFW in passing or blocking legislation that impacts veterans and their families, and provides nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system each year. Learn more at vfwauxiliary.org.

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One of the six homes on the CHS Historic House Tour is the c. 1763 The Captain Nathaniel Doane House in Middle Haddam. This Colonial period house originally sat on 40 acres. It features carved Georgian style mantels. Photo by Maggy Morales.

Historic House Tours

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

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

house on the Connecticut River.

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

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 mental 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.

Epoch Arts Tag Sale

Epoch Arts is holding a six-day, two-week-end, 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.

Police News

8/17: Hertis Scott, 46, of New Britain, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

8/22: Luis Delgado, 53, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

8/23: A 17-year-old of Hebron was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, tail/brake light out, operating a motor vehicle while under suspension and operating an uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

8/25: Laurie Nichols, 43, of 91 Reservoir Rd.,

Colchester, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

8/25: Carolyn Newman, 58, of 19 Collins Ln., Haddam Neck, was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

8/27: Matthew Way, 25, of Killingworth, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

From Aug. 21-Sept. 3, officers responded to 27 medical calls, nine motor vehicle crashes and 15 alarms, and made 51 traffic stops, police said.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Yoga: With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Mondays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. No Saturday classes until summer. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com.

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

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

CommuniTea: Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10

a.m.-noon. This is a monthly gathering to visit with neighbors and other library patrons. Have a cup of tea (coffee drinkers welcome).

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

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

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

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

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.

Wii Bowling: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Sept. 21.

Cornhole: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; next date Sept. 14.

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

Free Blood Pressure Screenings: Monday, Sept. 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the senior center.

Sponsored by Chatham Health Department. Need to monitor your blood pressure? Stop by; no appointment necessary.

East Hampton Community Cares Informational Program: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2:30-4 p.m., at the center. This new outreach program provides opportunities to help older or disabled neighbors with chores, rides and companionship or to get help if you need it.

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

Lunch and Learn Transportation Informational Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the senior center. Learn about the changes in the River Valley Transit System and how to access its services.

Tech Talk: Tuesday, Sept. 19, noon-2 p.m., presented by computer tech professionals Alicia White and Bruce Koscis. Bring your phone, laptop or iPad and learn to navigate day-to-day websites such as Medicare.gov, SSA.gov, Access Health and prescription websites. Prepare yourself for health care plans' Open Enrollment. Free lunch is provided.

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: Windham Textile Museum: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 10:15 a.m.-3 p.m. with lunch on your own at the Willimantic Brewing Company. View the new fabric art exhibit titled "Sewn Stories, Shared Lives." Cost is \$16 and includes transportation.

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 Jewling@easthampton.gov. The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a prearranged designated spot.

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The Lebanon Historical Society will hold its Outdoor Antique Show on the Lebanon Green Saturday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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 at 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.

Stream Habitat Volunteer Training

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glastonbury Art Show Returns This Weekend

Glastonbury Arts' annual "On the Green" Fine Art & Craft Show will take place Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days, on the Hubbard Green in Glastonbury.

The event is rain or shine, and will feature free admission and free parking, a food court, live music, poetry and book readings, and, of course, art.

One hundred artists and artisans from states throughout the northeast and down to Florida will participate this year, offering a selection of realistic and abstract art in oil, watercolor, pastel, photography, graphics, drawing, mixed media and sculpture. Handmade crafts will include jewelry as well as works in clay, metal, glass, fi-

ber, and wood. The show will feature returning exhibitors as well as new ones. Look for a special exhibition near the Museum on Hubbard Green that features the art of Glastonbury Arts' member artists.

The On the Green show is the signature event of Glastonbury Arts, a nonprofit organization.

"Our show is a highlight of the fall schedule thanks to our generous business sponsors, stalwart volunteers, an amazing group of talented exhibitors, and an appreciative audience of show patrons who come to browse and buy from the many exhibitors who participate in the show," said On the Green chair Kathy Simmons.

For more information, visit www.glastonburyarts.org/on-the-green-show.

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Guide for Self-Publishers Discussion Group

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

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

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

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

Second Blessings Fall Reopening

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

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

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

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

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Call for Artists

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

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

sworth Atheneum and the New Britain Art Museum.

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

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

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

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

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

Monday, Sept. 11: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Stop & Shop; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: plain beef burger on bun (ketchup, mustard, mayo, lettuce and tomato), potato wedges with ketchup, fresh fruit.

Tuesday, Sept. 12: Free bread and bakery goods donated by Big Y; Meals-on-Wheels,

noon; Bingo, 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 13: Not Just Quilters, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Salisbury steak with gravy, cornbread stuffing, asparagus, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Dancers, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 14: Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 15: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon. Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: cheesy veggie lasagna with alfredo sauce, zucchini, garlic knot, fresh fruit; cards, 1-4 p.m.

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

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

AA meets downstairs in the Great Hall

Wednesdays with two meetings, one at noon and another at 7:30 p.m.

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

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.

Mums Sale Sept. 9

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

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

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

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Rachel Gaudette and Ashlyn Mrachek made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

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.

Republicans Offer Anniversary Coffee Cup

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee is selling for a limited time a coffee cup featuring Marlborough's town seal. Cups are \$12 each, plus \$2 shipping.

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

Resident's Artwork in Essex

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

The gallery is open from 1-8 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

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

Horrigan lives in Marlborough with her daughter and grandson.

Dean's List

Sydney Neumuth of Marlborough made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Simmons University in Boston.

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.

Absentee Ballots for Republican Primary

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

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

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Fife & Drum Corps Prepares for Local Muster

By Michael Sinkewicz

For generations, the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps has crisscrossed New England, showcasing its talents in numerous parades and ceremonies.

Now, after a years-long hiatus, the group will host its own muster – a significant milestone in the revitalization of the proud organization. Marlborough is hosting the muster at Blish Park on Saturday, Sept. 16., which will feature 12 corps from Connecticut and neighboring states.

“That’s the big event,” said the corps’ director, Wayne Seidel.

The Marlborough Juniors have been around since 1964; this will be the 45th muster the group has hosted, and the first since 2010. Essentially, a muster is a collection fife & drum corps playing for each other. There’s a short parade that leads into the muster itself, where each corps performs.

“It’s not competitive, it’s more about the spirit and camaraderie of the ancient style of fifing and drumming,” he said.

On Friday, Sept. 15, many out-of-state corps will converge on Marlborough and setup camp at the park. In the past, groups from as far away as Switzerland have attended local musters, and hospitality is always a priority.

That evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m., a small opening performance called a “tattoo” takes place, led by the hosting corps. Then there’s jollification, or jamming; everyone plays common music from the pages of history.

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, the parade embarks from Pettengill Road, proceeding onto N. Main Street, and turning onto Lake Road, before arriving at the park.

“We want the public to come out and enjoy and watch a wide array of drum corps parade down the road,” Seidel expressed.

Hosting a muster is emblematic of the group’s rejuvenation. The Corps went dormant for a few years following its last muster due to a lack of membership, but was reestablished in 2016. Membership grew from a handful of residents — whose ages range from 8-18 — to its current enrollment of 15.

“Now we’re in a position to host a muster again,” Seidel said.

Alexa Odoy, 17, has been in the corps for four years and served as the drum sergeant for the last two. She plays percussion for the RHAM High School band, but wanted to apart of a dedicated marching unit, which led her to the fife and drum corps. Now, she oversees the drum line.

“I love it,” she said outside Marlborough Congregational Church, where the group rehearses

during the summer. “It’s my favorite thing.”

Recently, the corps performed at Marlborough Day and worked an information booth. Their trips take them to New York and Vermont; in 2022, the group went to Provincetown in Cape Cod for a July 4th parade.

But the prospect of hosting their own event is thrilling.

“I think it’s really just exciting,” Odoy said. “I’m not very stressed.”

In her mind, the corps represents a unique opportunity for young people to get involved with in their town.

“It’s this historic style of drumming but also a community history of playing tunes and doing all these fun things together,” she expressed.

The strong sense of community is an element that makes fife and drum corps special, she added. At large gatherings, jovial atmospheres often lead to collaboration and the preservation of traditions.

“Everyone will get together and jam,” Odoy said. “It’s great to learn from all the people who have been in since they were kids.”

Assistant Director Amy Limmer, whose daughter is “hooked” on the corps, emphasized the importance of sustaining the group moving forward.

“If you look years ago, you saw fife and drum corps everywhere,” she said. “They’re not as prevalent as they used to be, but they’re still there and a lot of parades want that.”

She continued, “This has such a rich tradition and history. It’s important and if this is gone, we lose a big part of history that’s hard to get back.”

As the kids marched around the church parking lot, it was evident that the style and sound of the unit was different than a standard marching band. The group uses rope-tension drums that are made in the old style.

The dedication of the members was also on display during the rehearsal. Limmer’s daughter proudly wore a shirt with the phrase “eat, sleep, fife.” Much of the group’s recruitment comes from current members spreading the word around town, as well.

“It’s their passion and love of it that helps with that,” Limmer said.

Sisters Fallon and Charlotte Morganson, ages 12 and 13 respectively, have been a part of the group for around a month, and have already participated in a few events. They also have two additional siblings involved with the group.

Charlotte, who plays drums, explained that she actually heard about the corps from Odoy, and decided to join. She’s happy to be taking part of the upcoming muster.

“I’m really excited for our town to have their



The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps will host a muster at Blish Park in September. It will be the first the group has hosted since 2010.

first muster in a really long time,” she said.

Fallon expressed that the group offers an opportunity to interact with people outside of school.

“It just helps with a lot of things,” she asserted.

One of the major benefits of the group, Limmer added, is that members certainly learn a lot, but more importantly, “they make friends.”

Seidel stated that each member learns how to perform, be a part of a team, operate under pressure, how to march and how to play their instruments; they all travel together and visit historical places.

“They have fun,” he emphasized.

Seidel was in the corps when he was a kid and wound up instructing the group for about 11 years. He’s currently the business manager of an adult group, the Colchester Continentals; he previously directed the group for 15 years. Seidel has directed the junior corps in Marlborough since launching it again in 2016.

“There is a lot of work that goes into putting on a muster,” he said, listing some of the items on the checklist: getting support from the town, holding muster committee meetings, reaching out to the drum corps community, arranging shuttle buses to get groups to the start of the

parade and arranging meals to feed each guest — all in one weekend.

Many of the groups visiting next week will be from Connecticut — “the epicenter of fifing and drumming.” The headquarters for the Company of Fifers & Drummers is in Ivoryton.

For Seidel, it’s hard to accumulate the plethora of skills, experiences and friendships that you get with a drum corps.

“Year after year, I see so much growth in the kids that participate in this,” he said. “It’s really something else. They get so much out of it — they form lifelong friendships, they form self-confidence. I see kids come into the group one way and leave as different young adults.”

The growth is especially noticeable when a member sticks with the group until they’re 17 or 18 years old.

“It’s really something else to watch that progression occur,” he said. “It makes it worth it for me. It’s a valuable use of my time for sure.”

The progression of the group wouldn’t be possible without the dedication from parents, as well.

“I’m very fortunate that I’ve got a group of parents that is really supportive and helping to make it happen,” Seidel said.

Parks and Rec Fall Programs

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

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

Kids Sunset Yoga in the Park: For ages 3 and up. Wednesdays through Oct. 4, 5:50-6:15 p.m., at the Blish Park Pavilion. Fee is \$15/week to drop in.

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

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

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

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

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

Adventures in STEM with Lego: For grades K-4. Tuesdays, Sept. 19-Oct. 24, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$114/residents, \$119/non-residents.

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

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

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up. Days and times are flexible. Fee for four lessons:

\$200/residents, \$205/non-residents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, pickem 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.

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GOP Primary Next Week

By Michael Sinkewicz

Next week will bring a rarity to Marlborough – a local Republican primary.

Voting will take place Tuesday, Sept. 12, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Elmer Thienes Mary Hall Elementary School Community Room, located at 25 School Drive.

The ballot includes Joe Askar, Louise Concodello, and Mike Nastro as Republican Town Committee-endorsed candidates for Board of Selectmen.

Sue Stolfi and Chris Barella petitioned themselves as additional candidates, after fulfilling the signature requirements to force a primary; the petition was validated by the town clerk and the Republican registrar of voters.

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

Both Stolfi and Kerri Barella are currently on the Independent Party Slate Committee ticket, a third line added to this year's November ballot. If they are successful next week, they would run as officially endorsed Republican candidates instead.

Overall, three selectmen and two school board winners will advance to the municipal election.

The decision to force a primary election comes after the Independent Committee — of which Stolfi is a founding member — created a third-line on the ballot, allowing registered Republicans, or any registered resident, to run essentially as independent candidates. Previously, Stolfi stated that running on the "C" row would've "watered down the votes."

This week, Pabouet told the *Rivereast* that the situation is "confusing."

"Republicans don't know who they're supposed to vote for," he said. "We're trying to get people to vote for the endorsed slate."

He added that those candidates are "deserving to move forward."

The RTC-endorsed candidates were voted upon at a caucus in July by around 40 individuals.

While confusing, he expressed that the existence of a Primary is "great for the town."

Judy Kelly, vice chair of the RTC, previously called the Primary a "historic moment."

In a joint statement provided to the *Rivereast*, the four candidates who petitioned themselves onto the ballot stated that it is "crucial that the right people are elected" at the upcoming primary.

"Susan, Chris, Kerri and Amy would like to see change," the statement reads. "Doing the

same thing over and over and getting the same results is the definition of insanity."

It concludes, "The four of us have invested interest in our town and our schools as we have school aged children. We commit to serving for many years to come, not just one more term."

During a phone call, Stolfi said the candidates are out door-knocking and campaigning on social media.

"We're happy with what we're doing," she said. Regarding the RTC chairman's comments, she expressed, "I totally respect his perspective."

Ken Hjulstrom, a founding member of the Independent Committee, has previously pushed back against Republicans "crying foul," arguing that it was "inconsistent with their previous actions."

In his own statement to the *Rivereast*, he said "fixing our flawed charter is definitely on my radar for next year."

"Seeing that all three of the currently endorsed Republican candidates for Board of Selectmen played an integral role in creating and presenting the charter to the voters in Novem-

ber 2021, I have concerns about their ability to thoughtfully and competently look out for our best interests going forward."

He added that while he was not a "key player" in requesting a primary, "I have no problem with providing an opportunity for the over 1,200 registered Republican voters in town to have a final say in their preferred candidates."

Hjulstrom again defended the merit of a primary and the motivations behind it, saying RTC critics are the same individuals who "had no problem failing to honor the caucus results in 2022 for the Board of Selectmen special election when Louise Concodello petitioned herself onto the ballot, challenging the endorsed Republican candidate."

"Definitely an obvious case of hypocrisy," he stated.

The Independent Party Slate Committee — which has no stake in the primary — is looking for one of its candidates on the November ticket to receive 1% of the total vote, which would establish the committee as an official political party moving forward.

Fall Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

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

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

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

Material lists will be sent once the class is confirmed with enough students registered.

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

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

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 marlbrougharts.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 marlbroughartscenter@gmail.com.

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 Marlborough Arts Center. Parents are welcome to participate in the class with their child. If the parent and child pair to make a single paint-

ing, 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.

Hourihan is an art teacher in the Westbrook School District. She attended UConn for her undergraduate degrees and completed her teaching certification at Southern Connecticut State University. She has been teaching art for over 20 years and has taught all ages, from pre-k through grade 12.

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



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Lieutenant Governor Pays Visit to Cragin

By John Leavenworth

This past Tuesday, Cragin Memorial Library was visited by Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, in celebration of three events – National Library Card Sign-Up Month, National Read a Book Day on Sept. 6, and International Literacy Day on Sept. 8.

Bysiewicz, who was joined by state and town dignitaries, spoke on the front lawn of the library about the importance of reading and libraries.

On reading, she said, “Books have the power to transport us to new worlds, introduce us to new people and perspectives that we may never get to encounter in life.”

“Reading fosters empathy, critical thinking and interactional freedom; values that are fundamental to the free, diverse and democratic society,” she said.

Bysiewicz grew up in a family full of librarians, and is an avid reader herself, she said.

Bysiewicz’s mother, Shirley Raissi Bysiewicz, “was the UConn Law Library director in 1972. Her aunt, Ann Luddy, was a librarian at the Hartford County Bar Association library at the Hartford Superior Court. And, her cousin, Christine Luddy Bell, was a librarian at the Newton-Wellesley Hospital Medical Library,” her office said in a statement.

In recent years, libraries and schools across the country have seen a rise in book bans and censorship of school material, including Cragin, where a book about the popular drag queen RuPaul Andre Charles was removed from the shelf following a request from First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos.

The book, titled *Who is RuPaul?*, was part of

a larger *Who is?* and *Who was?* series of nonfiction books for children by Penguin Books.

On the incident, Bysiewicz said, “A society that bans books sows division and mistrust.”

On the other hand, she added, “a society that celebrates books” fosters a sense of community and trust.

Next to talk at the small wood podium was Library Director Kate Byroade, who also spoke on the importance of reading.

She said that while reading is for educational purposes, it is also “for enrichment and entertainment.”

“If you’ve had a hard day and you can go home and read a wonderful book that takes you away from your troubles, that’s fantastic,” she said.

State Librarian Deborah Schander followed, simply adding that anyone interested in visiting their local library should “come on in.”

Next to speak was state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48), who spoke about an encounter he had with a maintenance worker who could not read.

As a Department of Energy & Environmental Protection employee, DeCaprio said he once “responded to an oil spill in the basement of a church,” in a Connecticut city he would not name.

Discussing a clean-up procedure for the spill, he told the maintenance man, “I could bring you some things to read and you could [look them over].”

“That’s not going to help me,” the man said.

DeCaprio then asked the man what he meant by this.

The man told him, “Well, I can’t read.”

“That really struck me, you know, as a per-



Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz paid a visit to Cragin Memorial Library this week. From left are state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48), First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Library Director Kate Byroade, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, selectman Rosemary Coyle, State Librarian Deborah Schander, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman.

son,” DeCaprio said.

DeCaprio said that following the encounter, he “went back to visit the man a number of times in an effort to help him.”

On reading, he added, “This is why it’s so important.”

First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, who moved to the U.S. as a young boy from Greece, spoke on the importance of having a library for the purpose of providing the resources for learning a new language and the history of a given country – a country that, in the case of the United States, “has become my home,” he said.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle and Town Clerk

Gayle Furman also spoke.

Cragin Memorial was chosen for the event “in consultation with the Connecticut Library Association because of the high-quality services they provide to Colchester residents, the professionalism of their staff, and their demonstrated commitment to preserving their patrons’ freedom to access information representing and inclusive of all walks of life,” said Bysiewicz’s office.

Bysiewicz’s senior advisor, Joseph Carvalho, reached out to Byroade through an email last Thursday to organize the visit.

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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

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

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

Friday Night Service: 6:30 p.m., via Zoom and in-person; Saturday morning service, 10 a.m., live and on Zoom.

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

Trivia are also featured.

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

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

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: Monday, Sept. 11-Saturday, Sept. 16.

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

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

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

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

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

Resident a Student Ambassador

Olivia Berard of Colchester has been selected to serve as a student ambassador at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., for the 2023-24 academic year. Berard is a nursing major at the school.

Student ambassadors provide information for the campus community, welcome and provide assistance to guests and promote the university at events on and off campus throughout the year.

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.

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

DTC Fundraiser

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

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

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

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

Call 860-465-7909 for more information.

Senior Center Trips

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

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

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

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

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Martino Set to Make Mark at Bryant

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy track and field head coach Steve Browning referred to 2023 graduate Jake Martino as “a wonderful athlete.”

Martino now takes his array of athletic talents to the next level where he is joining the track and field team at Bryant University in Rhode Island.

“Personally for me, I want to go into business and it seems like the place to be. It’s a lot of awesome, like-minded people and education was the biggest aspect of my decision,” said Martino, who will major in business with a focus on sales.

Martino’s time at Bacon Academy was littered with accomplishments, including an Outdoor Track and Field Class M state championship in the discus as a junior in the spring of 2022.

As a senior, he won an Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championship in the shot put during the indoor winter season and then captured a state championship in the shot put, along with being the runner-up in the discus and fifth place in the javelin at the Class M championship during spring’s outdoor season.

Along with earning plenty of hardware in the throwing events, Martino was also part of several winning relay teams and was the team’s best hurdler this past season, winning multiple individual events throughout the season.

Browning said Martino’s abilities in the field and on the track gave the Bobcats the edge in many meets, allowing them to defeat conference rivals in regular season meets during both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

“We will definitely miss him next year; he is very much a student of the sport in a technical sense and he spent extra time practicing and seeks out advice from others,” added Browning. “He’ll help the other kids too -- they emulated

Jake. He was on the top of his game and his attitude influenced the rest of the kids on the team.”

During his sophomore and junior years, Martino showcased his versatility in the sport by competing in the decathlon at the CIAC Spring State Championships, finishing seventh and eighth overall, respectively.

Martino said that training and competing in the decathlon is the ultimate test for track and field athletes because it involves all the skills needed.

After growing up in Colchester his entire life, Martino now primarily focuses on throwing at Bryant where he joins the Division I program that competes in the America East Conference.

The Bulldogs of Bryant have been headed by director Mitchell Switzer and Martino said one of the main reasons he chose the school is because of the stability of the program.

“When I took my official visit here, the guys there were super cool,” stated Martino, who recently moved to Smithfield, R.I., to start school. “I’ve been loving it. It’s a great community to be around; everyone is hard working and the team is super welcoming.”

The university has a state-of-the-art training facility for its athletes, which is music to the ears of Martino, who said the key to his success in high school was the time spent training in the gym.

“Specifically for track and field, it shows if you don’t train. It’s a numbers sport, if you miss workout out or don’t put in the time, it will show with the numbers,” stated Martino, who added that track and field has provided him routine. “A lot of what it taught me was staying consistent and working hard every day. It’s a lot easier to do everything the same every single day and keep grinding.”



Jake Martino, a state champion thrower on the track and field team at Bacon Academy, will join the Division I Bryant Bulldogs in Rhode Island.

He added that the university’s location is ideal as well, just far enough away for a “change of scenery” yet close enough to his childhood town, where he said he will miss his friends and credited the teachers at Bacon for shaping him into the student he has become.

However, he noted he is “loving life right now” and is ready for the next challenge.

“I’ve just been hitting workouts every day and just trying to improve every single day,” he added. “I really like the competition here, the guys I’ve met are crazy hard workers.”

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

TV Trivia: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 4:30 p.m. Test your knowledge of five decades of TV trivia (1970s-2010s). Form a team of two or play on your own (or the center will pair you with someone if you want). There will be refreshments and monetary prizes for each decade. Cost is \$5/person; register by Sept. 15.

A Bushel & A Peck Fall Luncheon: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m. Come for an apple-themed luncheon with musical entertainment by Jack Bussmann, who will sing songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Cost is \$9/person; register by Sept. 13. Space is limited.

Falls Prevention Lunch: Friday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m. Sept. 22 is the first day of fall and National Falls Prevention Day. This year, Colebrook Vil-

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 and hors d’oeuvres.

Tickets are \$40 and are available online at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. Tickets also can be purchased at the Town Clerk’s office, the Senior Center, or the Parks and Recreation office.

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.

lage will present an informative program that covers strategies to keep you safe from falls at home and in the community. The presentation will be followed by a complimentary lunch of assorted wraps, salads, desserts, and bottled water. This is a free program, but space is limited; register by Sept. 15.

CSC Discovery Network Finale Party: Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1 p.m. Senior center members and staff will be celebrated to close out National Senior Center Month. Don’t forget to bring your sticker-filled TV Guide with you so that you can be entered to win one of the center’s Emmy awards. This program is free, but registration is required. Space is limited.

AARP Driver Safety: Wednesday, Sept. 27, noon-4 p.m. Learn how to manage and accommodate age-related changes in driving; you may qualify for a discount from your insurance provider. Open to anyone 50 and over. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Register by Sept. 20.

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.

Presentation on Trusts and Wills

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

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

All are invited to come learn the essential documents for a proper estate plan. The many topics included are: How to Avoid Probate; Wills and Trusts; Power of Attorney; Health

Care Proxy; Strategies to protect assets from creditors and the cost of long-term care.

Also included are issues about retirement accounts with reference to recent changes regarding distribution of retirement accounts and strategies on protecting retirement accounts for spouses when a spouse enters a nursing home

Space is limited; call 860-537-3911 to register.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. For those wishing to worship from home, the service is broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is also on the church’s Facebook page.

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Fundraisers: Church Car Wash: Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the front circle. Rain date: Sept. 23. Help raise funds to maintain the historic church.

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

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Westchester Sportsmen’s Club Clam Bake
 New Britain Hunting and Fishing Club
 d/b/a Westchester Sportsmen’s Club
Sunday, October 1, 2023
 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 147 Davidson Road, Colchester
The menu will include the following:
 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, please email inquiries to:
WestchesterSportsmen@gmail.com

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June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation
Troop 109 - Colchester, CT
July 18, 2023

Summer Camp... Scout BSA Troop 109 members spent a great week in July at their traditional summer camp, JNWebster in Ashford. The troop was busy with merit badges, learning scout skills, fishing, swimming, kayaking and much more. Pictured from left are scouts, Harrison Winicki, William Van Zilen, and Rocco Cusano; back row, scout, Marcus Nettleton; leaders, Bob Friberg, Marc Nettleton and Alice Csere, and scout, Cody Friberg.

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.

Participants Sought for Celebrate Colchester

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

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

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

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

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

Freedom Music Fest

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

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

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

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

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

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.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that Motor Vehicle & Personal Property tax bills on the Grand List of October 1, 2022, are due and payable on August 16, 2023, and become delinquent after September 18, 2023.

If any tax due on August 16, 2023, is not paid on or before September 18, 2023, the tax installment shall be delinquent and interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2 % per month) shall be charged dating back to the original due date of the bill. The minimum interest charge for delinquent taxes is \$2.00.

Avoid waiting in long lines by using our on-line feature, return your payment by mail or use our night drop box. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before September 18, 2023, will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30 P.M. on September 18, 2023, will be deemed as paid late.** Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector. Mail payments to the Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.

Michele Wyatt, CCMC
Town of Colchester
Tax Collector

1TB 9/8

Plants & More Sale

Colchester Garden Club is having a Plant Sale Sunday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at 35 Hayward Ave. There will be a variety of perennials, shrubs, houseplants and garden-related items.

The Colchester Garden Club will also sell Spear Head spades and hoes. Note: only cash or checks will be accepted.

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.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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., beginning Sept. 19.

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.

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Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Community CPR/AED/First Aid Classes:

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

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

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in action last weekend. Here is how they fared:

Seniors: Defeated the Montville Wolves, 30-0, to move to 2-0 on the season. The Cougars had touchdown runs by Noah Garvie, Mason Howard, Xaden Medina and Vinny Arrigoni. Extra point kicks were made by Mason Howard. The defense was able to hold Montville to zero points thanks to two fumble recoveries and an interception by Noah Garvie. Strong tackles were also made by Brendan Kastrup, Dominic Helm, Adam Bigelow and Cason Carpenter.

Juniors: Lost to Montville. The offense, led by QB Nik Ibrahim, RB Jakob Sheehan and center Bo Thody, had some great drives but came up a little short. The team will play Windham this Sunday.

Micros: Beat Montville, 20-0. The Cougars displayed a balanced offensive and defensive effort, with rushing touchdowns by Brendan Hopkins and Ty Corrado, a passing touchdown from Ty Carraro to Travis Clark, and a defense anchored by Sam Gorman, Parker Chaplinsky, and a host of other defensive linemen.

PeeWee: Lost to Groton, 26-0. Groton added a late first-half touchdown to bring the score to 20-0 going into the break. A resurgent Cougars defense allowed only one touchdown during the second half. The tough running of Sullivan King, behind a determined but undersized line of Ryker Matthews, Kash Parekh, Jay Parekh and Bryce Besse pushed Groton down the field before time expired. The PeeWee squad plays Ledyard this weekend.

Local Author Seeking Volunteers

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

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

Prior to his injury, Tougias was discussing with the Colchester Land Trust a project involving erecting nesting boxes for birds whose populations could use a little help. Tougias hopes to get back on the trail and continue his work.

Those interested in helping Tougias with his recovery can email him at roberttougias@gmail.com.

CLT Upcoming Events

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

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

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

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.

RCIA Classes to Start

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

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

Dean's List

Chelsea Kranc of Colchester made the spring 2023 Dean's List at Simmons University in Boston.



Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer... Renée McNair of Colchester recently attended a promotion ceremony for son Nolan McNair at Fort Liberty, (formerly Fort Bragg), North Carolina. Nolan was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer, U.S. Army. Also attending were his wife Stephanie and twin sister Lauryn of Massachusetts. Nolan and Lauryn are members of the Bacon Academy Class of 2008.

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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.

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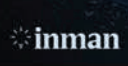
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Friday, Sept. 8th • 5p-11p
Saturday, Sept. 9th • 10a-11p
Sunday, Sept. 10th • 10a-6p

John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds, 75 Brookfield St., South Windsor

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THURS: Name Admission Price • FRI-SUN: Racing Pigs
SATURDAY-SUNDAY: Adventure Family Circus

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ATTRACTIONS: Rides from Fiesta Shows,
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Family Adventure Circus, Amazing Food Trucks,
Baby Chicks, Racing Pigs, Bands, Magicians

RSVP on Facebook for advance sale/discount info

www.wappingfair.org

Presented by: South Windsor Jaycees Foundation

Cliff O'DONAL

Republican for
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



People Before Government

- ★ Previously a member of Colchester's Zoning & Planning Board
- ★ Member of the Colchester Lions Club Board of Directors
- ★ Member of the Colchester Business Association's Board of Directors
- ★ A union member of Plumbers Local 777 and the Operating Engineers Local 478 in Connecticut
- ★ A member of the Executive Board of the Mechanical Contractors of Connecticut
- ★ President of the Nutmeg Construction Group, Inc.
- ★ Evangelical Christian and attend my church faithfully

I have lived and paid taxes in Colchester since 1974. My wife Bev and I have been married for 34 years and together we have 7 children of which 4 are graduates of Bacon Academy. As a Republican running for the Board of Selectmen, I bring over 40 years of experience in owning and operating several successful businesses in Colchester and the state of Connecticut. I am a financial conservative but stand ready to listen to any and all ideas brought forth by our citizens for the betterment of our town. I will bring a lot of experience to the table, along with my leadership, integrity and work ethic. I believe in "People before Government"

Vote REPUBLICAN
on November 7th, 2023

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Portland residents Amelia Ciarleglio and Julia Nadolski recently enrolled in the Class of 2027 at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

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.

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Local Music Shop's 40th Anniversary

By London Brazal

A beloved local music shop marked a significant milestone, reaching 40 years of providing musical lessons, sheet music, and instrumental repairs.

The Conn Valley School of Music and Dance on Main Street has been a source of musical inspiration and offers several services. Founded in 1983 by David and Ronna Kuzminski, the studio became a place for participants to explore, learn, and connect with their craft.

When the couple started, they set boundaries to make sure they didn't infringe on each other's responsibilities. "Ronna managed the desk during the day. She taught dance when I had the music side, and life was good," Kuzminski said.

Kuzminski attended Berklee College of Music and graduated from the Hartford Conservatory, where he taught for 15 years. Before, Kuzminski gave lessons from his house. When he purchased the shop, many of his coworkers from the Conservatory became member teachers.

When he was young, Kuzminski became interested in the guitar and began taking lessons. Though he studied music in school, his father questioned, "What are you going to do for your day job?" Kuzminski worked part-time for Portland, and when he transitioned into full-time, teaching music became an evening gig.

Along with teaching, Kuzminski performed locally with the Jason Smith Quintet. The band would play private shows, and one gig a month became six gigs a week. At one point, they played at 150 weddings a year.

When he first bought the shop, Kuzminski dreamed of being the next Guitar Center. "You learn very quickly what you can't do. But this allowed us to focus on the students," Kuzminski said. At the business' peak, they had about 12 teachers. Today, they offer private instruction for percussion, piano, string, voice, guitar, and woodwinds.

Over the years, Kuzminski saw many changes. "From a retail standpoint, the brick-and-

mortar businesses are competing with online sales," Kuzminski reflected. The shop continues to handle sheet music, classes, and repairs while servicing local school systems. The shop was lucky to survive Covid as they were completely shut down for three months. "Covid put a tremendous strain on the business. I am lucky to own the building, or else that would not have been the case."

Two years ago, Kuzminski's wife Ronna passed away after a longtime battle with Parkinson's disease. She taught dance lessons at the shop to students of all ages for 30 years. In her memory, the shop offers a \$500 scholarship to Portland High School students attending a school in pursuit of a career in dance, music or the arts. Alicia Currier, who worked under Ronna, took on the dance portion of the business. She teaches all ages in her program, Dance with Miss Alicia.

Kuzminski said he plans on retiring from the town in January, after 50 years. The Portland native is ready and excited to focus his energy at the shop. His lessons are beginner-based, and Kuzminski enjoys traditional jazz and R&B.

In newer renovations, Kuzminski added another lesson space and built a podcast studio. The professionally-equipped podcast studio hosts two shows and is available to rent. Drumming instructor John Peckman has a show with about 128 episodes. Some special guests included Bernard Purdie, who played for James Brown, and Joe Bouchard, who played for Blue Öyster Cult. The podcasts are available on every podcast platform. Peckman has also aired his through Comcast in Cromwell.

Kuzminski hosts a podcast called "Careers You Didn't Know About," which explores the future of the water and wastewater industry. For the last year and a half, Kuzminski produced about 66 episodes. The equipment in the studio includes microphones, video cameras, a green screen, an audio mixer, and more.

"The podcast industry is growing, yet it's non-



The Conn Valley School of Music and Dance celebrates their 40th anniversary. Owner David Kuzminski reflects on the successes of the shop, including the addition of a podcast studio.

demanding. Nobody has to commit to a podcast, but lots of people listen to them now," said Kuzminski. After retirement, Kuzminski also wants to take his podcast on the road and have a mobile podcast studio.

After 40 years of business, Kuzminski said he and his fellow teachers wanted to thank the community for offering strong support.

"People continue to tell us, 'We don't know what we would do without you,'" said Kuzminski. The sentiment typically follows when parents do something as simple as picking up a reed for a clarinet. "There is a large sense of satisfaction knowing people still need us and that people are continuing music."

Schools Select District Educator of the Year

For the first time in recent memory, Portland Public Schools has named a district Educator of the Year. For the 2023-24 school year, Portland middle and high school music teacher Samuel "Sam" Tucker has been awarded this recognition and will go on this fall to represent Portland as the district's candidate for the state's annual Connecticut State Teacher of the Year honor.

Through a recent, shared effort by the teachers' union and district leadership team, the Educator of the Year program relaunched this past spring in Portland after many years of dormancy. Throughout May, members of the school community, including students, families and other teachers, were invited through an open online process to nominate outstanding educators for the award.

After nominations closed, a selection committee composed of teachers, administrators, Board of Education members, and other key stakeholders met to review nominations and select a winner. That winner, Tucker, was unveiled during the district's annual convocation ceremony Friday, Aug. 25.

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton said he feels "delighted" to have resumed the program, which he sees as an "outstanding honor" for those nominated and for the individual named as Educator of the Year.

Britton said "It is important for us all to celebrate instructional excellence." An excellence that, he added, "there is no shortage [of] in Portland."

Tucker is entering his 21st year of teaching and his 12th year as a member of Portland Public Schools. He currently serves as Director of the Secondary Chorus Program in addition to teaching seventh grade music and AP/UConn ECE Music Theory, a college credit bearing course for PHS upperclassmen.

For Tucker, "Being a teacher requires a lot – time, effort, and emotional investment. We do this work without intent to be recognized, but being recognized feels amazing!" He said that, as he sees it, "It's not only validating for me personally, but it's also a validation for all those who work alongside me and that help me to be my best for kids."

As part of his selection as the district's Educator of the Year, Tucker now has the chance to compete against other district winners for the title of Connecticut State Teacher of the Year.

When asked what sets him apart from others, Tucker thought hard for a moment before humbly responding, "Empathy. I know what it's like to be uncomfortable and nervous and unsure. When I see students struggling with things like risk-taking and stepping out of their comfort zones, I feel for them and alongside them. I know that they know I see them as individuals of incredible po-

tential, and that helps them feel more comfortable trying new things."

For Britton, Tucker is a teacher who "brings a little bit of magic into every lesson. Kids feel genuinely excited when learning under Mr. Tucker, and he gives them the confidence to be their best."

Tucker previously attended Boston University and Bridgewater State University, where he earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in the fields of music and music education. He currently resides in Chester with his wife Elizabeth, daughter Susannah, and three family felines.

When asked what he hopes students feel or remember about him most, Tucker offered this: "I hope that they remember feeling pushed to try new things and safe enough with me and others in our class to do just that. I hope they have the courage and the comfort to fail because that's what success requires and is all about."



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 stock the shelves of the Portland Food Pantry. The Providers are collecting school supplies for the month of September.

The church's Homecoming Sunday Service is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 17, at 9:30 a.m.

The church is 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 will hold a Fall Craft Fair on its

lawn on Sunday, Sept. 17, from noon-4 p.m. Shop for seasonal gifts and decorations. To reserve a space to sell crafts, email the church at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

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.

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'Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man'

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

This *New York Times* bestseller is a primer on race and racism from the host of the live broadcast series *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*. In the book, Acho explains the core

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

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

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone. Sunday worship on Sept. 10 is at 10:00 a.m., with the Rev. Julie Olmsted.

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.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

Tai Chi: Wednesdays or Saturdays, Aug. 30-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trip: Friday, Sept. 15. Trip to the Big E, bus

departs the senior center at 9 a.m. Cost is \$12, plus an additional \$5 transportation fee. To register, call Alexis or Sarah at 860-342-6761. Seating is limited.

Lunch and Learn: Monday, Sept. 11, noon, with Amy Foreman of National Health Associates and Middlesex Hospital. The topic is self-care and mental wellness, lunch provided, registration required, call Alexis or Sarah at 860-342-6761.

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.



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

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.

Vocal Chords Seek Singers

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

No auditions are required, and no experience is necessary. Rehearsals begin Aug. 29 from 6:45-9 p.m., at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St. Francis Church, 10 Elm St., Middletown, for the upcoming winter concert on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School. New members will be accepted through Sept. 19.

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

For more information, visit vocalchords20.org or call 860-342-3120, or look for the group on YouTube and Facebook.

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.

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

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

Save the Date: Pumpkin Painting for the Portland Fair: Wednesday, Oct. 4, 5-7 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to participate, but only those age 5 and up are eligible for fair en-

tries. Pumpkins and paint will be supplied. A parent or guardian must be present. This event will be held outdoors in the grassy area across the parking lot from the library; in case of rain, a take-home kit will be provided.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hemlock Grange Tag Sale

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

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

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

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From the State Representative's Desk...



State Rep. Carpino (R-32) rappels down the Sky Tower at Mohegan Sun Casino during the 'Over the Edge' fundraiser, to help generate funds for the Connecticut chapter of Special Olympics.

Carpino Goes Over the Edge for Special Olympics

"Let me win.
If I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt."
Sounds like an election day prayer, doesn't it?
It's not. It's the Special Olympics Athlete oath, one I know well. It was one of the first things I moved into my legislative office, and a mantra more folks should embody.
I had the chance to rappel 30 plus stories down Mohegan Sun to raise money for a great cause. Well outside my comfort zone, but it was an organization I have been involved with even longer than my tenure in public service. When they asked me to jump off a building to raise money, I said yes. (Admittedly, they were very careful to say safely rappel with a top-notch team of experts.)

Service to our communities is what being a public servant is all about. When friends and colleagues asked what I was doing this summer, I mentioned I was raising money for the Over the Edge event. They asked 2 questions. 1-Had a truly lost my mind? 2-How could they help to support the organization?

Nobody cared about party affiliation, or how I voted on a bill that was a kitchen sink of confusing language and controversial topics. They respected the objective: trying to make a difference in the lives of people you may never meet. (Or, just wanted to see me go down the side of the building, likely a 50/50 split.) My guests for the day (dubbed Responsible Adults on the landing pad) were dear friends from across the state. My cheering squad included Deputy Speaker Michelle Cook (D-65) and House Republican Leader Vin Candelora (R-86). Republicans and Democrats – yet the three of us all subscribe to the same goal: making Connecticut a better place.

Twenty years ago, I had the chance to represent Special Olympics in Ireland at the World Games as a unified player on the coed soccer team. (I did wear a 2003 Team pin for luck on my way down the building.) Today, Special Olympics serves thousands of athletes across our state. The experiences and relationships made while volunteering during those games was only the beginning. Athletes, coaches, volunteers, local first responders continue to come together to support inclusion and opportunities.

The Special Olympics' senior director, Jackie Turro, quickly became a friend I've had the chance to volunteer with for about 15 years. Jackie convinced me to volunteer for this year's Over the Edge event. Thousands of athletes participate in Connecticut, with more than 240 Unified sports programs across the state. I'm proud to say unified sports are offered in my district, both in Cromwell and Portland. This organization embodies what public service should-athletes from across the state, each with different abilities, all striving to do their best.

There are many worthwhile causes in Connecticut and many elected officials do a lot of positive things when no one is looking. We have a tremendous opportunity to do so much good when we work together. Perhaps a little less of the one-liners, snarky comments, intentionally misleading mailers, and gotcha bill titles? Perhaps a little more of working together, multiplying our efforts, and raising the bar in Connecticut?

I strapped on a harness and helmet, literally stepped off the edge of a very tall building and took a leap of faith. Well outside my comfort zone, I make the solitary climb down Sky Tower. The view was amazing (I did look down before I started and as I descended), as was the thought that friends and strangers were coming together to make a positive impact.

As we go into election season, I challenge everyone to do a little bit more to improve Connecticut. It's amazing what we can do when we work together and get outside our comfort zones.

**Always,
State Rep. Christie M. Carpino
R-32nd District, Portland and Cromwell**

Wrestling Show Fundraiser Held

Victory Pro Wrestling and the rock band Vinyl Asylum were the main attractions at Riverfront Rumble 2 – A Fight Against Cancer, held Saturday, Aug. 26, at Riverfront Park.

The event, organized by Portland resident and town poet laureate Naji Chester-Payne, raised funds for the American Cancer Society.

Chester-Payne said between 150 and 200 people attended the event, traveling to Portland from across the state as well as Rhode Island,

Massachusetts and New York. First Selectman Ryan Curley was in attendance, as was selectman Michael Pelton a nlack belt in karate, who was involved in show as the character Sensei.

This the second annual Riverfront Rumble; Chester-Payne put together the event after his mother passed away last year. Chester-Payne said he hopes to continue the event next year, but added he will need sponsors in order to keep it going.

Used Books on Sale

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

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

well as TV series on DVD for 50 cents each disc.

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

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

Visit www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org for more information or email questions to friendsof-theportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

YFS News & Notes

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

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

Art Exhibit at Library

A collaboration of artists will exhibit their work in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., from Sept. 9-Oct. 18 – with an opening reception this weekend.

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 expres-

sion. Among the works displayed, curated by Lucinda Patrick, will be paintings, needlework, baskets, miniature books and photographs. The Friends of the Library are sponsoring the reception. The exhibit runs through Oct. 18.

The show will open with a reception Saturday, Sept. 9, from 1-3 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. All are invited.

KoC Soccer Challenge

The Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Soccer Challenge at the Portland Recreational Complex, 301 Gospel Lane, on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 9 a.m.

Girls and boys ages 9-14 can participate and there is no charge to enter the competition. Sign-up will be held onsite on the day of the event.

Scoring is based on 15 attempts from the penalty kick line at roped targets within the soccer goal.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

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

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

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

PHS Class of '63 Reunion

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

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

Calling All Golfers!

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

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

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

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Taking a Tour... State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) recently toured the construction at Brainerd Place with state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and Portland First Selectman Ryan Curley. Project executive Casey Pagano guided the elected officials through the tour. Brainerd Place is designed to bring Portland more residential options and retail space, along with the preservation of the historic buildings.



Best in Show... Portland Exchange Touch-A-Truck coordinator Jamie Leonard (center) presents Mike Lastrina (left) and Brian Steffman (right) of the Portland Public Works department with the "Best in Show" award for the excavator they brought to the Exchange Club's Touch-A-Truck event at Valley View School on Aug. 27. Attendee at the event voted for their favorite vehicle. This year through sponsors' support as well as gate receipts, the Exchange Club will donate over \$6,000 to the Military Support Program which works for towards the prevention of veteran suicides in the state.



Matthew Pegolo of PegArch Architecture and Dominic DiMauro of Tropical CT took home two award ribbons in the first Portland Village Street Garden Project for their "Garden of Paradise." They won Portland's Choice Award and first place in the Container Garden Category. Photo courtesy of Matthew Pegolo.

Garden Project Winners Announced

Eight Main Street Portland businesses took top honors in the first Portland Village District Street Garden Project and were recognized during the summer concert series in Riverfront Park on Aug. 22.

The tropical oasis installed at PegArch Architecture and Design in partnership with Tropical CT secured this year's Portland's Choice Award with their ingenious container gardens situated in the small storefront footprint. They also took home first place in the container garden category.

Additional Main Street businesses received the following awards:

- In-Ground Garden: First place: Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St.; second place: Concentric Brewing Co., 91 Main St.

- Window box: First place: Bud's Café, 158 Main St.; second place: The Portland Ale House, 188 Main St.

- Container: First place: PegArch Architecture and Design in partnership with Tropical CT, 236 Main Street; second place: Savvy Swap Consignment in partnership with Lily Rose Gardens, 275 Main St.

- Hanging Basket: First place: Revolution Properties LLC, 280 Main St.; second place: Connecticut Valley School of Music and Dance, 226 Main St.

Twenty-two businesses decorated their Main Street storefronts – either in containers, in-ground, in window boxes or hanging baskets –

in May and June. In early July, volunteer judges from both the Portland River Valley Garden Club and the Portland Economic Development Commission walked and viewed the gardens on display to help choose the 2023 winners. Portland residents also had the opportunity to vote for the Portland's Choice Award in the Portland Village District Street Garden Project between July 2-15 – either in person or online via Facebook. More than 200 individuals voted.

"We were overwhelmed by the incredible creativity and Portland pride that our Main Street businesses displayed as the summer season kicked off," said Jen McGuinness, secretary from the Portland River Valley Garden Club (PRVGC). "We hope to expand beyond Main Street next year and that our businesses on Route 66 will join in the fun!"

A member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., PRVGC was formed in 1959 in Portland. The club will celebrate its 65th year in June 2024. The garden club maintains various gardens around town, keeping organic gardening practices in mind. The club said it aims to educate the public on conservation issues, be a partner in the beautification of the Town of Portland, and be active participants in town events.

More information on the Street Garden Project and PRVGC can be found at portland-river-valley-garden-club.blogspot.com.

St. Mary Church News

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

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

ish 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.

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.

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.

Trinity Church Crafts Fair

Trinity Church, located at 345 Main St., will hold a Crafts Fair Sunday, Sept. 17, from noon-4:30 p.m. There will be crafts by women of Trinity and many other local craftspeople. Items for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be included.

Email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com for more information, or search for "Trinity Episcopal Church* Portland" on Facebook.

Vendors Sought for Church Crafts Fair

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

"PET OF THE WEEK"



Minnie, 7 months, is sweet natured, fun-loving and beautiful. She is filled to the brim with love and affection. However, she can be quirky and wants to be loved on her terms. For this reason, she would be best in a home with older children and adults. Minnie is very social and loves to interact with people and other cats. Her favorite toys are wand toys, small stuffed animals and laser toys.

Keeley, 5 months, shows affection by asking for pets, flopping over to get some extra belly rubs or rub against your side. She is still not completely trusting after being left on her own and does not like carriers or to be picked up yet. An ideal family for her would be patient in allowing her to continue her journey towards trust. She's come a long way and now enjoys company with people she knows and will bring lots of joy and sweetness to her new family.



FOR MORE INFO ON ADOPTING CATS OR DOGS, CALL 860-569-0722 VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED – CALL: 860-569-0722



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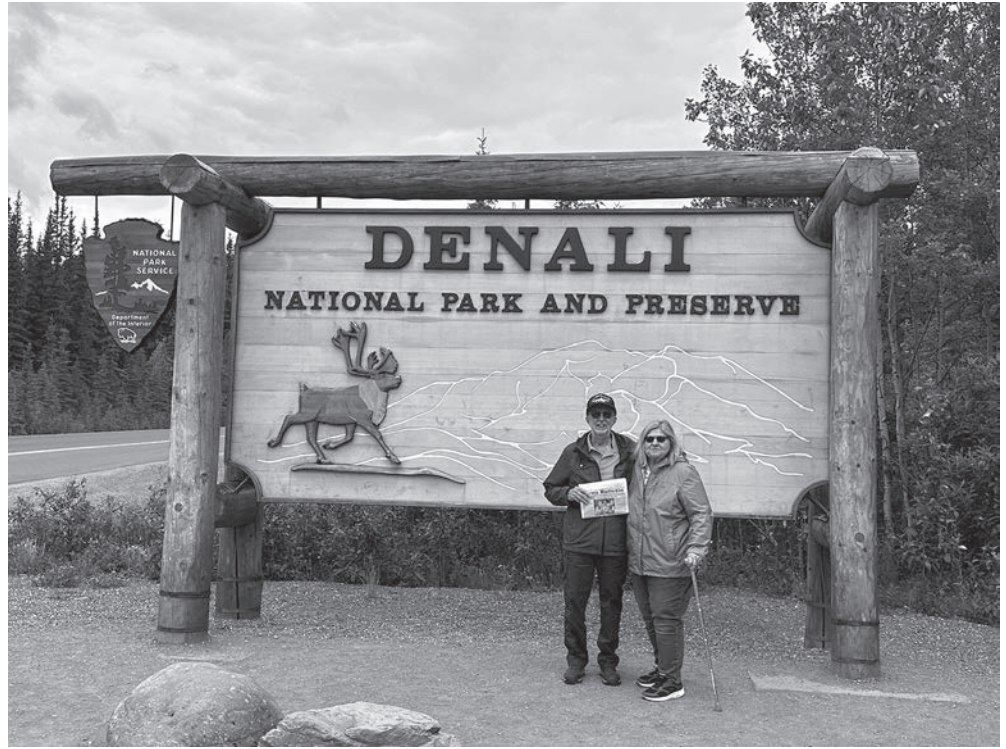
RES-8-23



Resort Reading... Deborah Horton of Hebron brought the *Rivereast* on a recent trip to the Turks and Caicos Beaches Resort.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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

Digging Denali... George and Elizabeth Chrostowsky of Colchester are shown here at Denali State Park in Alaska!



Crazy Horse Memorial... Mike and Sue Schmidt of Andover recently took a bus trip to South Dakota to the base of the Crazy Horse Memorial. While in South Dakota, they also saw the Dignity of Earth and Sky sculpture representing the Native American culture in South Dakota, and also paid a visit to Mount Rushmore.



Another Paris... Kathryn and Annabelle Hnat of Amston recently traveled to Paris – Paris, Tennessee, that is – to visit family members Gary and Cynthia Alkire, former Hebron residents. Even in almost 100-degree heat, they decided they had to stop and see the Eiffel Tower with the *Rivereast*.

Where in the World?

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

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

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

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Obituaries

Portland

Theodore P. Clark

Theodore (Ted) P. Clark, 85, of Portland, passed Friday, Sept. 1, from natural causes. He was predeceased by his brother, Fred.



He leaves behind his wife of 44 years, Kathy; his daughter, Cynthia and her husband Jim; his son, Chris and his wife Mandy; his son, Jeremy and his wife Eileen; and grandchildren, Rebecca, Nick, Jamison, Sawyer, Benton, Ava Jane, Natalie, Noah and Ava. His niece Lori and her husband Kurt provided immeasurable support.

Ted grew up in Wethersfield. After high school graduation he joined the Air Force and later graduated from the University of Hartford. He retired after over 30 years with Uarco. He excelled as an athlete in many sports, playing softball into his 40s, skiing into his 70s and golfing and hunting into his 80s. He was a die-hard Red Sox and New York Giants fan.

Ted and Kathy enjoyed traveling, helping others and spending time with their family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America or ourherosfund.org.

Friends may call at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Friday, Sept. 8, from 5-7 p.m. Funeral services and burial will be private.

East Hampton

Claire J. Wight

Claire J. Wight, 87, of Daytona Beach, Fla., passed away peacefully Friday, July 14, at the Halifax Health Hospice in Port Orange, Fla. Claire was born in Meriden to Algot and Jeanette Anderson, and lived most of her life in Connecticut and Florida.



Directly after high school, Claire proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during the North Korean Conflict. Claire married her best friend Oravel (Al) and began a wonderful life with their four children.

Claire retired from First National Grocery Store, where she befriended co-workers and customers alike. It was a common sight to have a long line of customers at Claire's register, for all customers loved interacting with her.

Claire loved to travel and explore with her beloved husband Al and enjoyed the many people and friends along the way. A showgirl at heart, Claire loved participating in variety shows with her retirement community, allowing Claire to showcase her love for dancing. Her dancing will surely bring a smile to everyone who knew her, as they remember her hopping up to dance whenever she heard music regardless of where she was. Claire loved to laugh and will be remembered most for her kind heart and how she made everyone feel welcome wherever she went.

Claire is lovingly remembered by her children, Lanette Zaborowski, and her husband Dave of East Hampton; John Pelcher and his

wife Anna of The Villages, Fla.; Susan Piatek-Reviour of Southington; Sigmund Wight and his wife Clare of Bristol; along with nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband Al Wight, her brother Peter Anderson and his wife Dorothy Anderson.

A celebration of Claire's life will be held at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., East Hampton, on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 9:30 a.m., followed by graveside military honors at the Middletown State Veterans Cemetery (Section 51), 317 Bow Lane, Middletown.

Colchester

Elaine Woods Viens

Elaine Woods Viens, 66, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., passed away Saturday, Sept. 2, after a big, bold life and a courageous battle with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. She is now in the kingdom of heaven, reunited with the love of her life.



Children have always been her greatest passion and her greatest joy. She was extremely proud to be Gigi to three beloved grandchildren. She worked for more than 40 years, in three states, as a speech language pathologist.

She is survived by her children, Carolyn Wallace of Signal Mountain, Tenn. (Bett Wallace), and Brian Viens of Marietta, Ga. (Emily Ripley Viens); her grandchildren, Elijah Wallace, Lila Ripley, and Clay Viens; her brother, Jeff Woods (Melinda Woods) of Colchester; sister, Diane Woods of Manchester; brother-in-law, Tim Viens (Deb Viens); sister-in-law, Claudia Maistrelis (George Maistrelis); as well as nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends both in Connecticut and Tennessee.

She is predeceased by her high school sweetheart and husband of nearly 30 years, David Viens, as well as her mother and father, Thomas and Constance Woods of Glastonbury.

Elaine lived life to its fullest, never missing an opportunity to be active outside. She completed one full and two half Country Music Marathons benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She also made it her mission to create awareness of the need for blood donations after her husband's long battle with cancer.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, at 10 a.m., at Signal Crest United Methodist Church in Signal Mountain, Tenn. Visitation to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Heifer International, one of Elaine's favorite charitable organizations.

Arrangements are entrusted to Lane Funeral Home, 601 Ashland Terrace, Chattanooga, TN 37415. www.LaneFh.com.

The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs. Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life. For more info visit IdentifyTheSigns.org.

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★ Letters cont. from page 9

Protecting Our Lake

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Conservation and Lake Commission has been diligently working to protect our lake and keep it blue. The town has put in an aeration system and other treatments in order to control cyanobacteria growth. Also, the town has been addressing those areas in our watershed where water goes directly into the lake without being purified by going into the ground. The Lake Commission is constantly looking at innovative ways to keep the lake blue. And it seems to be working.

I, Jack Solomon, am Vice Chairman of the Conservation and Lake Commission. This note is written by me as a citizen of East Hampton hoping that we will all work to make our lake better.

Dr. Jack Solomon – East Hampton

Look for Our Insert!

To the Editor:

The Portland Democratic Town Committee is excited to have our Board of Selectmen and Board of Education candidate flier as an insert in this week's *Rivereast*. Please look for it with the other advertisement inserts; it is blue and easy to spot.

After reading each candidate's bio you can find more information on our website, PortlandDTC.com; on Facebook at Portland Democratic Committee; or by email at PortlandDTC@gmail.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read our flier. We are proud of the immense experience our candidates have to share with our community.

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

For All East Hampton

To the Editor:

There are few places in Connecticut with as much character as East Hampton. For a small town relatively far from a major highway, Belltown has cultivated a rich history, a growing modern community, and a bright future.

Much of that character is the result of people who live here. There are some in town who can trace their family roots in East Hampton back centuries. Others are just finding their way here recently, moving in for excellent schools and quality of life.

Inevitably, the old guard is going to clash with the new wave. This happens most frequently – as these brouhahas now always do – on social media, especially East Hampton-specific Facebook pages. While healthy discourse is a good thing, comments and responses often dovetail away from mere differences of opinion and into insults and trolling.

Regardless of Facebook fighting, everyone who lives in East Hampton deserves a government and school system dedicated to serving everyone. Whether a family has lived in East Hampton for 150 years or 15 days, we are all taxpayers contributing to the common good.

That's one of the reasons why I'm proud to be a member of the Democratic ticket. People moving to town need places to live, and we support smart and responsible growth. Residents share and sustain resources, and we are stewards of the environment and infrastructure. Our schools must be prepared for students of all needs and abilities, and we support a strong,

competitive education system.

It's a difficult balance, to be sure. We are up to the challenge, with Democrats up and down the ballot devoted to responsible governing for all East Hampton residents. As our community grows and celebrates its roots, we offer excellent leadership to all.

Vote Row A on Nov. 7.

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

Proven Dedication

To the Editor:

With more than 10 years of community service donated to the Town of Marlborough, Susan Stolfi is the perfect candidate for BOS. One of the most impressive traits Sue exhibits is her willingness to talk to any member of the community one on one. This gives her an advantage to really get to the bottom of what exactly residents feel Marlborough needs. She's always willing to meet anyone for coffee and collaborate ideas. If you want to know something, just ask her.

Sue is strong, determined and transparent which is why I'm voting for her.

Ashley Murray – Marlborough

We Need Your Vote!

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, Marlborough Republicans will be voting all day, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School during a Republican primary. We will be voting for three candidates for Board of Selectmen and two candidates for the Marlborough Board of Education.

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee endorsed the following candidates at their July caucus. The endorsed candidates for Board of Selectmen are: Joe Askar, Louise Concodello and Mike Nastri. The endorsed candidates for the Board of Education are: Louise Concodello and Patrick Pabouet.

All our candidates are longtime residents with grown children, some blessed with beautiful grandchildren. They have all served and are still serving on many different boards and commissions and would like to continue their service to our town. Please join me on Sept. 12 and vote for our candidates.

**Sincerely,
Louise Concodello – Marlborough**

Note: Concodello is a member of the Marlborough Board of Education, as well as the Parks & Recreation, Lake Advisory and Nature Trails commissions, but she said she is speaking as an individual.

Friends of Portland Library

Dear Portland Friends and Neighbors:

As summer winds down, now seems like the perfect moment to remind you of the critical role that the Friends of the Portland Library play in funding some of our most beloved library services and programs, including the youth, teen, and adult Summer Reading programs that inspired hundreds of Portland residents to read this summer.

The Friends of the Portland Library is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization that supports the Portland Library in providing quality library service to our community. The Friends raise funds through membership dues, book sales, and fundraising events. These funds are used to purchase materials for the library, and to sponsor many library programs that our municipal budget can't accommodate, including museum passes, Summer Reading, children and teen programs, art exhibitions, the Books for Babies and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten programs, and many more.

Many towns have Friends organizations, but not all Friends organizations are like ours here in Portland. In Portland we are blessed to have a group of Friends who are not only active and hard-working, but are also some of the most cre-

Obituary Policy

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

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ative, engaged, passionate, committed, and forward-thinking individuals...and I haven't even mentioned their baking skills. If you've attended an artist reception in the Mary Flood Room you know what I'm talking about.

The Portland Library Board of Directors wishes to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for Friends President Maureen Muir, and all of the Executive Board members of the Friends, who pour so much time and energy into ensuring our library has the funding necessary to meet the needs and interests of the Portland community. Our library wouldn't be the incredible community resource that it is without them.

If you wish to learn more about the Friends, make a donation, or get involved, please visit: www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org.

**With gratitude,
Laurel Steinhauser, Chair
Portland Library Board of Directors**

Thank You to Public Works

To the Editor:

I recently sent an electronic message to East Hampton Public Works about the numerous pot holes at the start of Comstock Bridge Road that were growing in number and size. Rather than just filling them, it seems a better repair was done with squaring off the asphalt repair work making the ride smoother, and it appears may be a better fix to prevent the potholes from reemerging.

Thank you, East Hampton Public Works, for your responsiveness and the repairs which will be appreciated by many who travel in this area.

Katherine M. Kosiba – Colchester

Experience and Expertise

Dear Portland Residents:

My name is Jim Tripp and I am running for election to the Portland Board of Selectmen.

This week we have included a flyer in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* that provides information on all the democratic candidates for Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. I am proud to be running on a ticket with a team that has experience and expertise associated with the positions for which they are running.

The Board of Selectmen candidates on our ticket are Andrea Alfano, Jillian Crawford, John Dillon, and me. We each bring different experience and expertise that will serve the Town of Portland well. This combined experience includes decades of business, public sector, and public service.

We are also fortunate to have Board of Education candidates with extensive experience. Our incumbent candidates on the ballot are Laurel Steinhauser, Meg Scata, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and Sarah Spear. These candidates bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Board of Education. This includes service as Board of Education Chairperson, leadership on the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), and decades of experience in the field of education.

Please take a moment to review the flyer we have included in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for additional candidate information.

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

Wants to Continue

Dear Portland Voters:

My name is Sarah Spear and I am running for Portland's Board of Education. I currently serve on the BOE and ask that you elect me to continue stewarding our public schools. Our district is in the midst of overhauling our school facilities so electing incumbents already involved in this process is essential to successful project completion.

I own Empowered Together, a Portland-based business that supports families affected by disability. Previously, I led marketing and operations at Love146 in New Haven. I also served as executive director of a startup program in St. Louis and as CEO of a healthtech company in India. In each of these roles, I've ensured the right people and resources were in place to build sustainable organizations. This is the real-world experience I bring to our BOE, providing oversight so that our kids receive the education they deserve.

My husband, John, and I moved to Portland seven years ago, after John retired from the Air Force. We are grateful to live in Portland, where our two children receive excellent public school educations and are active in our town's youth sports and activities. As a member of the Board of Education, I seek to enable this kind of positive experience for all our students.

I serve on the board's Personnel Committee and as a liaison to the schools' Equity and

Inclusion Coalition. My professional roles give me perspective on hiring and retaining top personnel in Portland Public Schools. Further, my experience in disability advocacy provides me with a holistic approach to equity and inclusion.

To learn more about me and other candidates in this year's election, please see the flyer in this week's *Rivereast*. I look forward to continuing my service to Portland Public Schools and ask for your vote Nov. 7.

**Sincerely,
Sarah Spear – Portland**

Note: Spear is a member of the Portland Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Supports Stolfi

To Marlborough Republicans:

I have known Susan Stolfi for a very long time; I have yet to meet someone more impassioned about doing what is right instead of doing what is easy. Sue is a dedicated, engaged mother and business professional whose passions have developed over the years into closing partisan gaps for the good of our town and our future, not widening them as some may say.

At a time in which 'politics' as a word creates controversy and lines we need our Board of Selectmen to look past those lines for the betterment of our community and growth of our beloved town of Marlborough. I believe and know, Susan Marie Stolfi is that leader we want to champion the balance of fiscal responsibility and inalienable rights that we all deserve. Get out and vote and make that a vote for Susan Stolfi on Sept. 12!

Dan Rapelye – Marlborough

It's About Governance

To the Editor:

There's an old adage I am reminded of this time of year: "From Labor Day until Election Day, it's about politics; after Labor Day, it's about governance." While campaigns now start far earlier than Labor Day, it remains true that, when all is said and done on Election Day, it is about governance.

To me, an important question to be asked of candidates seeking our votes is how will you work together with other elected officials on behalf of our community. Everyone will have their own ideas, but it should be possible to disagree without being disagreeable. As we have seen with the most recent budget process and vote, our community values civil discussion and consensus building; that is, good governance.

**Respectfully,
Stan Soby – Colchester**

Dedicated Individuals

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Sue Stofi, Kerri Barella, Chris Barella and Amy Khurt running for office in Marlborough. It is refreshing to see individuals running who are dedicated to the good of our town and our children's future. Kerri is focused on doing what is best for our children and the community and currently serves as the vice chair on the Board of Education. Amy brings 18 years of teaching experience to the table running for Board of Education which would be a great asset. Sue has a strong political background and public service experience. She would be a great advocate for our town on the Board of Selectman – she would truly listen to the opinions and concerns of the community. Chris would bring a long a strong common-sense approach to the board.

Let's vote smart this election – voting for those who would make our town and schools better verses their own political agenda!

Erin Chiz – Marlborough

Garbage In, Garbage Out

To the Editor:

By the time you read this, Colchester's Board of Selectmen may have voted to approve a \$10,000 bid for transparency software from ClearGov. I spoke in the Aug. 25 edition of the *Rivereast* about the need for "transparency" to be more than a political buzzword. I stand by that.

As verified by ClearGov, their transparency software relies extensively on the fiscal data of the town's accounting software, which in Colchester is Munis. With that, my concerns that ClearGov will have proper exports leading to transparent reports to the community are as follows:

Colchester still has an incomplete independent audit for fiscal year 2021-22. We can't verify the accuracy of expenditures, revenues, and undesignated funds. Our finance department has been overburdened due to high turnover, which resulted in hiring two temps for 60,000 dollars

of taxpayer money and temporarily onboarding Colchester's former CFO as a consultant to help get the books in order. Further, members of the Board of Finance recently raised concerns over the accounting in the current fiscal cycle. These issues affect the accuracy and reliability of the data entered into Munis. And, if the data in Munis is not accurate and reliable, how reliable will ClearGov's transparency software be upon export from Munis?

In closing, transparency software alone will not create transparency – that has to start with leadership supporting the finance department so they're not overburdened. Complete audits to ensure the data is correct for export to any transparency software, including ClearGov. And it is fostering a culture of collaboration across the boards and departments that ends the current divisiveness. Right now, that's not happening. We all want transparency, but I say start there first to accomplish it.

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

A Vital Asset

Dear Colchester Friends and Neighbors:

The Colchester Senior Center is a vital asset here in our town. I've made many friends there since moving to Colchester ten years ago. The programs are wonderful, the staff is amazing, the services offered are varied and necessary but the building is in bad shape.

The town will need to go to referendum for another \$1.5 million for a total of \$11 million to complete the Senior Center building project. The good news is - although there has been increases in costs, there are additional monies available to offset much of that additional cost. The additional monies include: a state grant is \$2.5 million, a generous donation to the Colchester Senior Center from the Bendas estate of \$575,000 and an ARPA grant of \$32,691. A total savings to the town of \$3,107,691, leaves the amount the town would have to bond at \$7,892,309. Because the town budgets for consistent bond payments we should not expect an increase in our taxes.

I urge you to vote 'yes' when the referendum is scheduled. Thank you.

Terry Brown – Colchester
Note: Brown is a member of the Colchester Commission on Aging, but is speaking as a private citizen.

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

★ *Welcome New Pastor, cont. from page 1*

comfort. But taking over for someone as beloved as Esslinger is somewhat difficult.

"It gets a little nervous sometimes from my side," he said, adding that he wants to "live up to what they're picturin'."

In approaching a new congregation, Hardee emphasized the importance of learning the culture and the way things are conducted — then considering what potential changes should be made.

"It's not the church of Brian," he expressed. "It wouldn't make sense for me to step in and colonize the place."

At the same time, change is unavoidable. Minor revisions have already been made, he said, but they're centered around feedback and conversations.

"My way is consensus," Hardee explained. "My way is when possible, to involve people in the discussion and try to get it so it's 'our' decision."

The congregation is an open and affirming church, which specifically means that it is accepting and embracing of the LGBTQ+ community; his congregation in West Avon had the same designation.

"That's important," Hardee said. "We'll repeat it at the beginning of worship services to make sure the message is clear."

Many parishioners attended a Pride Month event in town last June, and the church discusses additional initiatives that could be achieved in the future.

Hardee stated that Esslinger was deeply involved with AHM Youth & Family Services, and he hopes to continue. Overall, community engagement is a top priority, he said.

"Keeping that as a focus and trying to figure out what I can be doing to encourage involvement with that and enthusiasm for that is one of those conscious efforts," he said.

But he confirmed: "This church has been so good about what they're doing."

Hardee described himself as a "super quiet kid." Becoming a pastor, who of course is expected to be outgoing and even talkative, was a leap.

"For me, I can point to formative experiences

Conservative, Comforting Town

To the Editor:

When I was away serving my country I always longed for the conservative and comforting town of Colchester. I am so grateful that I have the opportunity to be in Colchester when First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos makes Colchester feel like the town I dreamed about. He deserves all of our support. He has experience, integrity and strength to do wonderful things for Colchester.

We must reelect First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos in November!

Pat Kelly – Colchester

Be the Change

To the Editor:

The right tears down the left. The left tears down the right. The ability to critically think is gone.

The polarization in this country is at a level not seen since the Civil War. We somehow believe that "our" candidate is going to solve the problem. Promises are made, you buy it, four years pass and nothing changes.

We complain that the other side is corrupt, and you're right. But...the corruption is also in our own homes, communities and minds and the change starts with us. We have an obligation as Americans to get this right for those behind us. Our children.

We are at a critical tipping point in this country and if we don't figure it out soon it's going to be those who come behind us that will pay.

Our children.

Neither side has our interests in mind; they're both corrupt. What's this week's divisive story? What emotions can we trigger? How do we perpetuate the hate today?

Your neighbor doesn't hate you, but your government does. We need to demand better; we need to do better.

Be a leader in your home and community. The change starts right here and we have an incredible opportunity right now to do it right, but that window is closing fast so audit yourself and be the change.

Chris Soule – East Hampton

that gave me things I needed to get to where I am now to be able to do it and enjoy it," he said.

Growing up, he was interested in the theatre program and would take part in "creative dramatics," which involved pretending to be a person or executing a scenario.

"It was huge, it got me to be able to be more outward expressive," Hardee expressed.

He also did speech and debate through high school.

Still, he enjoys his recharge time: reading, listening to music and walking with his dogs. He converts that energy when it's time to lead worship or teach confirmation class.

Hebron's newest pastor loves watching movies and TV shows. Two of his favorites include *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* and *Garden State*. And the congregation should expect lots of pop culture references, as well.

There's a high probability that he'll squeeze a M*A*S*H reference or something relating to *The Simpsons* — maybe even a callback to a Peanuts comic strip.

Every week, Hardee makes an hour-long playlist on Apple Music, and he'll post a "song of the day" on Facebook, accompanied by a YouTube link.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON IWWA ACTIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on August 30, 2023 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:
Application IW-23-016: Matthew Pegolo, 292 West High St., Construct a single-family home within Upland Review Area. Map 06/ Block 6/ Lot 3B – Approved with Conditions
Application IW-23-017: Flanders Road Estates, LLC, Flanders Road, Fifteen (15) Lot Subdivision with 46,400 square feet of disturbance in the Upland Review Area, (Home Acres Estates), Map 26/ Block 87/ Lot 6 – Approved with Conditions
Chairman Joshua Wilson

LEGALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed improvements in the form of temporary construction easements to provide areas for construction activities.

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

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTHebron66-110>. Registration is required to participate.

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

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

ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpinarchive>

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

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

2TB 9/1, 9/8

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www.poainc.org

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

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If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

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RE9-25-23

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF ANDOVER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS 7:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 COMMUNITY CENTER, 17 SCHOOL ROAD

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 20, 2023 on the application of Benjamin J. Mike and Kyleen M. Welchman for their property at 227 Lake Road, Andover. The applicant is seeking relief from Sections 11.2 & 4.1.4 of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to allow for the vertical extension of a non-conforming structure. More specifically, the applicant is seeking a reduction in the sideyard setback from 25' to 21' so as to allow for a second story existing construction).

Comments/questions will be take during the hearing. Written comments submitted to the Building and Land Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting will be entered into the record. Additional detail can be found at the Building and Land Use Office located in the Town Office Building, 17 School Road, Andover.

2TB 9/8, 9/15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted to Buy WANTED TO BUY: loose and bulk change, and old sterling silverware for cash. Also purchasing silver coins and any item made of sterling silver. Will make house calls. Call/text Dom 860-836-5013, email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

MUSIC

CELLO AND GUITAR LESSONS: Studied music at Boston Conservatory, Hartt. Teaching 17 years. For your convenience, I drive to all lessons. Email: chriscdv26@gmail.com. Text 860-212-6383.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on September 20, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s): **PZC2023-012** of Stephen M. Fedus (Applicant) and Stephen M. Fedus, Trustee of the Stephen M. Fedus Trust Agreement Dated August 15, 2001 (Owner) - Special Permit and Site Plan Review for proposed 19-unit multi-family residential development on 8.5± acres located at 203 Amston Road (Assessor's ID 21-00-003-000). Zoning District: Suburban Use (SU)

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this application is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Planning & Zoning Commission Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 9/8, 9/15

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Free pickup. Call any time: **203-600-4431**

CIT-11-23

EMPLOYMENT

C E M E T E R Y CARETAKER PART-TIME: at The Swedish Cemetery in Portland. Mowing, general work around the cemetery. Includes helping with funeral preparations. Please call Cemetery Superintendent Carl 860-916-5189 to schedule an interview.

COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS: is looking for a part time liquor store clerk. Stop in person to apply at store. 99 Linwood Ave, Colchester.

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.

ENTRY LEVEL MACHINE OPERATOR: & Inspector with various other duties. No experience needed. We work Monday-Thursday 10-hour days. The pay is \$17 an hour. Email resume to Secretary@mohawk-mfg.com, Mail to: Hiring Manager 1270 Newfield St. Middletown CT 06457, or apply through our ad @ Indeed.com.

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

GLASTONBURY CARPET HAS OPENINGS: for friendly and helpful sales associates. Part-time positions, Tuesday thru Saturday. No nights, No Sundays. Call 860-633-8832 or 860-338-0023.

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



THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF GLASTONBURY: is currently advertising for a Holiday/On-Call Attendant (Hourly rate: \$15.50; time and a half on holidays). The position requires exceptional interpersonal skills, attention to detail and ability to work with older adults. The Application must be completed and is available along with the Job Description at the Main Office, 25 Riley Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033 or from our website at www.glastha.org. Deadline: Until Filled. Applications will be accepted Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m at the Main Office. AA/EOE.

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!

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals took the following action at a meeting held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:30 PM, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:

Petition 2023 - 4 Request of Joseph A. Fetta, Owner, for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 12' x 24' accessory structure (garage) to be located 10' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 20', at premise located at 277 Jagger Lane, Residence 1 District. **Approved.** Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 6th day of September 2023.

Martin Halloran, Chairperson
Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

1TB 9/8

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

The Marlborough Board of Assessment Appeals is preparing to hold its annual Appeals Hearing in September, 2023 for Marlborough taxpayers who file timely appeals. Appeals for September Hearings are conducted for regular motor vehicle tax assessments.

Appeal forms may be picked up in the foyer or the office of the Assessor at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, or at Please note that appeal forms with supporting documentation, if any, must be filed no later than **September 18, 2023** with the Town Assessor. All timely filed appeals will be scheduled for a Hearing before the Board of Assessment Appeals on **Wednesday September 20, 2023** starting at 6:30pm, Marlborough Senior Center 17 School Drive.

- Taxpayers must attend the hearing in order for their Appeal to be considered.
- Please contact the Assessor, at Town Hall or 860-295-6201, with any questions.
- To request an appeal application email assessor@marlboroughct.net

2TB 9/1, 9/8

Seeking : FT / PT Counter Sales Rep & Drivers For Steady Truck Rental Facility.

Customer service & computer skills required. Other duties involved.

Must have valid driver's license & reliable transportation. Drug screen required.

Call Stephanie at 860-289 -2508

CIT6-8-23

East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree OR must be over 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and documented experience working with school-age children.

The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. Per diem rate is \$110.00 per day.

Please apply online at:
<http://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/>

For further information contact Mary Clark: mclark@easthamptonct.org

The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer

RE9-1-23

EMPLOYMENT

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COLCHESTER 860-967-0831 REB-13-21

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

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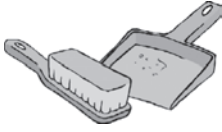
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HOUSE CLEANING: For a floor to ceiling cleaning by someone who's efficient and reliable, call 860-581-3424. All cleaning products supplied. Free estimates. Plenty of references.



HOUSE CLEANING: Need some help to get your home clean? I'd be happy to help. I have 10+ years of experience, I offer reliable service, reasonable rates and I do an amazing job. References upon request. Please call or text for free estimates. ARIANE'S CLEANING, 860-331-5309.

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WOOD FLOORS: Questions whether your wood floors really need sanding? Have existing surface finish deep cleaned, revitalized, with a durable acrylic/urethane floor finish. The best alternative to the mess, expense of sanding. Vinyl floors stripped/refinished. Experienced, references, insured. William Agostinelli 860-704-8486 Calls Only

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Shotgun Start at 12:30 PM – Scramble Format
Last day to register is 9/23/2023
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No payments will be received the day of the tournament

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\$135 per golfer - \$25 off of your registration fee if you recruit a new foursome

For More Information Please Call: **Nancy Parshley – 860-331-2029**
 Registration Deadline: September 23rd 2023
 Tournament is open to the public

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____
(for confirmation/updates only)

Dinner Only (\$35.00) _____ # in party: _____ Total Amount enclosed: _____

Make Checks Payable to: **DDS Trustee (write "Golf Tournament" in Memo area)**
 Mail to: **Jeanette White 315 Higby Rd. Middletown CT 06457**

Golfers in Foursome: _____

FOR SALE

APPROVED LOT FOR SALE: located in South Glastonbury at Tryon Farms. Only one available. Call 860-633-3545 ext 204.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: cut, split, delivered locally \$265/CORD. Can custom cut to size. Multiple cord discount. Call/text 860-202-8950.

PITBULL PUPPIES READY: for forever homes! 14 weeks old. Remaining puppies are 3 males, 1 female. Vet checked and paperwork ready. Parents on premise. \$400, Call for info 860-617-6539.

END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

GLASTONBURY OFFICE SPACE: for rent. Individual offices or space up to 1000-1400 sqft suites. Use of conference room included. Call 860-633-3545 ext 204.

PLAN AHEAD FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Call Reggie 860-657-8052 or Ray 860-952-4741. \$270 a cord, \$170 for half. Make your reservation, to be delivered now or later.

TAG SALES

TAG SALE: 9/9/2023 9am -1pm. 109 Paley Farm Road, Portland. Everything must go. Jewelry, books, lamps, games, puzzles and more.

TAG SALE: Saturday Sept 9th. 9am-4pm. 46 Garden Street, Wethersfield. Good mix of different stuff and some of the same!

TAG SALE: Sat, Sept 9th, 8:30a-4p. 23 Maple Street, Glastonbury. Toys, games, sports, equipment (Lacrosse goals, bounce back, sticks, bikes, tennis racquets) and much more.

TAG SALE: Saturday, Sept 9th, 9-4pm. Jewell Ave, Cromwell. Yard equipment, air conditioners, tools, china, glassware, microwave, pots & pans, vintage, antiques and miscellaneous.



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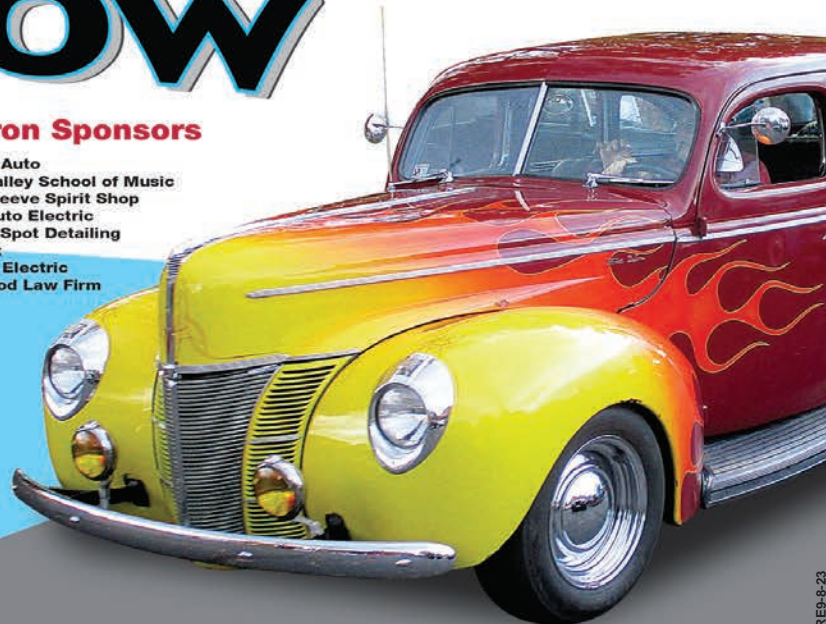
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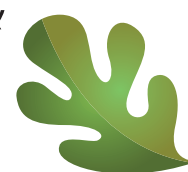
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