

# News Bulletin

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

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## New Colchester Firetrucks on the Way

By Michael Sinkewicz

It's a moment years in the making: Colchester Fire & EMS is close to debuting its new firetrucks.

In 2021, residents approved the necessary bonding to replace the town's aging vehicles, including some that have been in circulation since the 1980s, accumulating considerable wear and tear.

"We have apparatus on the frontline that are almost 40 years old," said Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann. "We are well past the lifespan of these apparatus."

Anyone who's toured fire headquarters or seen the current firetrucks parked outside at 52 Old Hartford Road have likely reached similar conclusions as the chief: "they needed be replaced."

The town fleet will soon include five brand new and customized apparatus, including three fire engines, an aerial (ladder truck) and a tanker.

To say there's a sense of anticipation amongst the department would be an understatement.

"These guys really want to get in these trucks," Hoffmann said. "I know the community really wants to see these trucks too."

And now, finally, the new vehicles are close to being completed, with just a few final touches left to go.

"I'm thinking probably by the end of January they'll be on the road responding to calls."

### A 'Sense of Pride'

The department's interim chief in 2021 identified the acquisition of new apparatus as a top priority. He informed local officials that many vehicles had surpassed their expected shelf-life of 20 to 25 years, and it was time for a major investment.

Colchester voters overwhelmingly supported the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4.5 million, and the new trucks were initially scheduled to be assimilated into the rotation by the spring of 2023.

However, delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the production of new appa-



**They've been a long time coming, but new firetrucks are finally making their way to Colchester. The new trucks will retain the fire department's trademark yellow color.**

ratus around the country. The town was fortunate, Hoffmann explained, that its original contract was honored, albeit with a somewhat delayed manufacturing timeline.

Pierce Manufacturing out of Appleton, Wis., who was awarded the bulk of the work — except the tanker, which was given to Marion — "held to their contractual numbers."

"They did not put any increase on us," Hoffmann said.

He indicated that an identical order placed today would likely cost somewhere between \$6-7 million and take at least four years to fulfill.

Now, both firefighters and community members are ready for the new trucks to arrive.

"I think it's going to be a big sense of pride," he said.

Each new vehicle is stamped with the new Colchester Fire & EMS patch that was generated this year following a substantial rebranding effort by the town's fire entities. The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company and the town-funded fire department, which are two separate organizations sharing a common goal, were united under a new name and ordinance, resolving an internal "identity crisis."

In conjunction with that transition, each vehicle also includes different "morale patches," which were designed by the personnel groups, that each consist of around five to seven individuals. For ex-

ample, the Engine 3 crew deemed itself the "The Dragon Wagon" and its logo is painted onto one of the new firetrucks.

"That's their ability to have input, say, and buy-into this whole process," Hoffmann expressed. "That improves the culture. That improves the environment."

Since the crews are the ones actually riding and responding to calls, they're the ones who determined the layout of their own trucks and where equipment would be positioned onboard.

Hoffmann asserted that there's a "sense of morale" in having the fire personnel provide individual input throughout the process and taking pride in the new apparatus.

### 'Iconic' Yellow

Throughout the rebranding process, fire officials held discussions in regard to the color of the new apparatus, with one definitive point of contention emerging: should the trucks remain yellow, or should the town switch to a more traditional red option?

"At the end of the day, people were very stern in what they wanted," the chief stated, explaining that they eventually held an anonymous survey in order to reach a verdict. Not only did Hoffmann want a color preference, but he also sought explanations as to why they color was preferred versus another. With a significant portion of the fleet being replaced, it was important to get this decision right.

Ultimately, the "iconic" yellow paint will remain on the new Colchester apparatus.

"We are known for yellow here," Hoffmann said. "It's kind of a part of this organization now. It's something people here feel very strongly about. We kept that iconic yellow to keep that historic significance."

In the '70s, the town's firetrucks switched from red to yellow, a move that Hoffmann said was primarily due to safety concerns. Yellow, he explained, stands out more and drivers can easily see the trucks and avoid them. Accordingly, he said there was a drop in apparatus-related accidents

*See New Firetrucks, page 16*

## Officials Outline Needs for Belltown Schools

By London Brazal

As budget discussions continue for the next fiscal year, different East Hampton education administrators recently presented five-year capital plans to cater to the future needs of the schools in town.

At the Dec. 11 Board of Education meeting, Facilities Director Steven Fontanella, Director of IT Rich Fielding and Business Manager Karen Asetta presented the most prominent 2024-25 capital requests.

In terms of the schools' facilities, one of the major improvements over the next few years will be concerning HVAC to comply with the new "Indoor Air Quality" state legislation that takes effect in 2025. Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said the district will not fully meet the required standards by the 2025 deadline. However, the district can provide proof that the district is actively working on compliance and has some progress and a plan in place. Center School has the most concerns since it has radiators rather than a pump system.

For the 2024-25 fiscal year, at the high school, Fontanella said the main potable water mixing valve will have to be replaced along with the surrounding piping. Right now, it is starting to mix hot and cold water. Without a replacement, there would be no accessibility to hot water. At the middle school, work will continue on the floors. This work, which started last year, includes abating and replacing the remaining asbestos-laden flooring and finishing the gym floor.

At Memorial School, they plan to finish replacing the floors in the hallways. Taking the carpet out makes the areas much easier to clean. "It's [vinyl tiling] a lot easier to take care of than carpet, so it's a good thing for us," said Fontanella. In addition, Memorial School and Center School will upgrade their current buzz-in intercom systems because the parts to fix them are no longer available. The Center School will also have boiler controls installed with temperature sensors and control to valves.

Also for the next fiscal year, Fontanella added

a sinking fund for HVAC repairs and replacement. Smith said the school system anticipates being partially reimbursed by the state for the HVAC projects but need to get an engineer in the schools to assess. In the five-year plan, many of the projects will surround the HVAC requirements to comply with the future legislature. "This is a big piece of legislation that came out and the intention is great," said Smith. "But there are real costs for every district associated with this." In a couple of years, the larger items will include repaving multiple school parking lots.

In the technology five-year capital plan, many of the items include upgrades from the current technology that is becoming outdated. In the next fiscal year, various items will need to be replaced such as smartboards at the high school and projectors at Center School.

"We did also look at the aging of the equipment that was put in at the high school," said Fielding. "The age of the technology there and

*See Belltown Schools, page 8*

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RE1-5-24



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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.

Effective Jan. 3, new senior transportation calls are now only heard from 9 a.m.-noon. If you call at any other time, leave your name, phone number, date, time and address of your appointment. A return call will be given within 24 hours.

**Shopping Dates:** Willimantic – Tuesdays, Jan. 16 and 30; Manchester – Tuesdays, Jan. 9 and 23.

**Senior Luncheons:** Fridays, Feb. 2 and 16, at noon, at the Town Hall community room; no walk-ins accepted.

**Rides to Food Pantry:** The bus is 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.



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**LONELINESS & SOCIAL ISOLATION**

**The COVID-19 pandemic increased rates of loneliness and social isolation.**

More than 1/3 of adults aged 45 and older feel lonely

Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to increased risk for:

- Heart disease and stroke.
- Type 2 diabetes.
- Depression and anxiety.
- Addiction.
- Dementia.

Improving social connection can ease social isolation and loneliness and improve your health and well-being:

- Invest time in nurturing your relationships.
- Explore ways to meet new people, like joining a club or taking a class.
- Share things you already do with a friend—or do new activities with them.
- Find ways to be responsive, supportive, and grateful to others.
- Talk to a health care provider if you are concerned about stress, loneliness, and social isolation to ensure you are taking care of your mental health.

For more information on  
 ← Loneliness & Social Isolation  
 Social Connectedness →

Please contact info@chathamhealth.org with any questions!

CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT

RE1-5-24

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**Vendors, Bakers Needed**

Vendors and bakers are needed for the annual senior luncheon fundraiser to be held Sunday, Feb. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Andover Elementary School, 35 School Rd. For more information, contact Cathy at 860-916-6122 or nanasworld@comcast.net. All money received goes to supporting the senior luncheon program.

**Commission, Committee Members Needed**

Any Andover elector interested in serving on one of the following committees or commissions should send a letter of interest via email to townclerk@andoverct.org: Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Economic Development Commission, Ethics Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission alternate, Ordinance Review Committee.

**School Budget Workshops**

The Andover Board of Education will hold the following workshops on the 2024-25 budget: Jan. 17: Special education, general supplies, Pre-K; Jan. 24: Salaries & Benefits, Insurance; Jan. 31: Facilities and Maintenance; Feb. 7: Public question and answer session. All workshops will take place Wednesdays at 7 p.m. over Zoom. The Meeting ID is 872 2061 0398, and the passcode is 200920.

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

**Family Resource Center Winter Programs**

There is still space in the following programs offered by the AHM Family Resource Center for young children and families this winter. Children attend with a parent or caregiver. For more information, visit [ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center](http://ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center). Register at [ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home](http://ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home). Families that are struggling financially but still to attend can apply for a program scholarship at [ahmyouth.org/program-scholarship-application](http://ahmyouth.org/program-scholarship-application). For more information, contact Becky Murray at [beckym@ahmyouth.org](mailto:beckym@ahmyouth.org) or Ashlee Parks at [ashleep@ahmyouth.org](mailto:ashleep@ahmyouth.org), or call the Family Resource Center at 860-228-0871.

**Parent Support Organization to Hold New Members Event**

Two years ago, a group of mothers established a local chapter of the national nonprofit organization MAEVE. MAEVE stands for motherhood, alliance, equity, village, and empowerment. MAEVE is a charitable organization that seeks to empower all who mother, regardless of gender or zip code, in support of one another and their communities. MAEVE RHAM will hold an event for current and potential new members on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 2-4 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall at Marlborough Congregational Church. The event will include arts and crafts activities for children of all ages. All are welcome. The hall is handicapped-accessible, and parking is available.

**QPR & Narcan Training**

AHM Youth and Family Services is hosting two QPR and Narcan sessions – one on Monday, Feb. 6, and one on Monday, April 1. Training will include: The Good Samaritan Law, support information and resources, and warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond. Participants will receive a QPR (Question, Persuade, Respond) training booklet and a two-dose supply of Narcan. There is no charge for this training. Registrants must be 18+. Visit [ahmyouth.org](http://ahmyouth.org) for more information and to register.

**History of Huskies Hoops**

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, will present “A History Of Huskies Hoops” with author Marty Gitlin on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. The program will celebrate the history and greatness of the UConn basketball teams. Gitlin will talk about great Huskies players over the years, and will include trivia questions and a Q&A at the end of the program. Plus, neither team has a game scheduled that evening, so you won’t miss out on any action! RSVP is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

**Scholarship Opportunity Announced**

The East Hartford Garden Club has announced the availability of one \$1,000 scholarship to any full- or part-time student who is a resident of Andover, Bolton, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storrs or Windsor Locks. The student must plan on majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany and other allied subjects. Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the guidance department of the attending school. All completed applications must be received by April 1 to be considered.

ing Wednesday, Jan. 17. Classes are 9:30-10:15 a.m. for ages Birth-2 1/2 and 10:30-11:15 a.m. for ages 2 1/2 and up. Mallory Kokus will lead the program, which features singing, movement, rhythm and instruments. Cost is \$125/family.

**Your Baby: The First Year:** Monday, Jan. 30, 11 a.m.-noon, in the FRC at Gilead Hill School. Come meet other local parents with babies and discuss the challenges and joys of baby’s first year. Discuss baby’s growth and development including milestones such as babbling, crawling, sitting, and discuss sleep and feeding as well as parents’ adjustments to their new role. Babies are welcome and snack will be provided. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are welcome. This program is free. RSVP to Becky at [beckym@ahmyouth.org](mailto:beckym@ahmyouth.org).

MAEVE RHAM has members in the RHAM region as well as East Hampton and Glastonbury. All parents throughout the RHAM region and surrounding communities are welcome to join MAEVE RHAM. No membership fee is required; members are instead asked to make an annual contribution to the organization, if they are able. For further information, email [raham@wearmaeve.org](mailto:raham@wearmaeve.org).

**AHM Program Registration Open**

AHM Youth and Family Services’ Winter & Early Spring program guide is now available, and registration is open. Programs include theater, wreath-making, and a Valentine’s Day Kids Yoga Bash. Classes are open to residents in Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough. View the program guide at [ahmyouth.org](http://ahmyouth.org).

**Internet & Phone App Safety Discussion**

All are invited to AHM Youth and Family Services on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 6-7 p.m., and meet Officer James White, who will discuss digital trends and identify high-risk behaviors associated with some youth. AHM welcomes residents of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, Columbia and surrounding towns to this discussion. RSVP to Jenn Boehler 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org).

**Andover Veterans Ceremony**

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz will host a ceremony honoring local Korean War-era and Vietnam War-era veterans Monday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m., in the Andover Elementary School multipurpose room. This ceremony is to honor all veterans who served during the Korean War era, from June 27, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955, and the Vietnam War era, from Feb. 28, 1961-July 1, 1975. If you or one of your family members is in this category, please provide name, rank, branch of service, and years of service to the Andover Veterans representatives via email, at [Veterans@andoverct.org](mailto:Veterans@andoverct.org), or by calling Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481. This ceremony is to honor and recognize all veterans who served during these two eras, no matter where they were stationed. If you have already submitted your information, check with your friends and urge them to submit theirs. Relatives of deceased veterans who lived in Andover during or after their time of service are also asked to submit their information. Contact Camoroda, Botti, or Town Clerk Carol Lee for more information.

**Congregational Church News**

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The service also streams live on the church’s Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email [andoverctchurch@gmail.com](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://www.andoverctchurch.org). **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. **Bingo and Baskets:** Friday, Jan. 26. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m., followed by the game at 6:30. Cost is \$12/person. Snow date Feb. 2.

**Volunteers Sought for Fields Committee**

The town recently received a \$500,000 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant to cover most of the costs of improving the athletic fields on Long Hill – and town selectmen are now looking for people to help oversee the project. These improvements, which are designed to benefit residents of all ages, include the addition of a playground, water and electrical connections to the softball field, three new pickleball courts, and lighting for the soccer field and pickleball courts. The Board of Selectmen is setting up a committee to help oversee this project. The board is looking for a diverse set of volunteers including parents with young children, those interested in athletics including soccer and softball, as well as adults interested in pickleball to be on the committee. Anyone with a construction or engineering background is also welcome to apply. If interested, submit a letter with a short description to the Andover Town Clerk at [townclerk@andoverct.org](mailto:townclerk@andoverct.org), or mail or drop it off to the town hall at 17 School Rd., Attention: Town Clerk.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republicans electors of the Town of East Hampton on Thursday January 11 at 6:30pm at The Dublin (East High Street) to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee.  
2TB 12/29, 1/5

**Colchester Democratic Caucus**  
To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Colchester, CT- Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Thursday, January 11th, 2024, at 7:15 PM at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Colchester. The caucus will endorse members for the Democratic Town Committee for 2024-2026 and transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated in Colchester, CT, on this day December 29, 2023.  
2TB 12/29, 1/5

**NOTICE OF ANDOVER CT DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS 2024**  
Under the rules of the Democratic Party and State Election Laws, enrolled members of the Democratic Party in Andover, CT are notified that a Caucus to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee as well as to transact other business before the caucus, will be held in the Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd., Andover CT, on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm. December 29, 2023  
Andover CT  
Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Chair, Andover Democratic Town Committee  
2TB 12/29, 1/5

**Legal Notice**  
To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Portland, Connecticut Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: January 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Portland Senior Center 7 Waverly Ave, Portland, CT 06480 to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at Portland, Connecticut, on December 29, 2023  
Democratic Town Committee of Portland  
James Tripp  
Chairman  
1TB 1/5

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**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
Notice is hereby given that the Audited Financial Statements of the Town of Portland for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, as prepared by Mahoney Sabol & Company LLP, Certified Public Accountants, are on file in the office of the Town Clerk of Portland, Connecticut, for public inspection. ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney  
Town Clerk of Portland  
Dated at Portland, Connecticut, this 2nd day of January, 2024  
1TB 1/5

**Legal Notice**  
Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Hebron on Monday, January 15th, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Town Meeting Room (Downstairs) at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street (Route 85), Hebron, CT. The purpose of this caucus is to endorse candidates for the Hebron Republican town Committee. For more information, please contact The Hebron Republican Town Committee at [HebronRepublicans@gmail.com](mailto:HebronRepublicans@gmail.com).  
Mann Hasen, Treasurer, Hebron Republican Town Committee  
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REB-17-23

**From the Editor's Desk**

**Observations & Ruminations**

By Mike Thompson

Happy new year to everyone. I hope yours is a joyful and prosperous 2024.

I hope you had a good Christmas as well. I probably would've told you this last week, but, well, I wasn't here. Much thanks to Josh Howard for filling in for me while I vacationed with my family in California. It was my first-ever California Christmas, and it was pretty delightful.

I returned home last Friday, and had a very enjoyable First Night celebration in Hartford on Sunday night. After some drinks at City Steam and a hilarious improv show at the Sea Tea Comedy Theater, I headed over to Bushnell Park in time for some midnight fireworks.

The park was packed, which was great to see. Looking back on it now, I wonder how many of those around me had made New Year's resolutions. Some years I do, some years I don't. This year I didn't – at least, not yet. It's, of course, never too late to make a change in your life, or attempt to make one. And remember, never knock those whose attempts are not successful. It's better to try and fail than to never try at all.

\*\*\*

A new year brings new laws in Connecticut. Among the more high-profile ones is the bottle deposit change. It's now 10 cents instead of five cents. In other words, if you buy a six pack of beer or soda, you'll pay an extra 60 cents instead of 30 cents. So make sure you get to the redemption center, folks!

Another biggie is the income tax reduction. According to WTNH-TV Channel 8, the two lowest rates on Connecticut's progressive income tax brackets have been reduced. The rate taxed on the first \$10,000 earned by single filers and the first \$20,000 earned by joint filers will decrease from the current level of 3% down to 2%.

The rate on the next \$40,000 earned by single filers and \$80,000 by joint filers will fall from 5% to 4.5%.

But wait, there's more: the new tax measures also include an increase to the Earned Income

Tax Credit (EITC) and an expansion of existing deductions available for certain income derived from IRAs, pensions, and annuities.

There are several other laws that went into effect Jan. 1. According to WTNH, they include:

**Minimum Wage Increase:** The state's minimum wage is now \$15.69 per hour, up from \$15.

**Early Voting:** Connecticut has been one of the few states in the country without a system of early voting. Well, that's all changed. Under new state law, 14 days of early voting are required for general elections, seven days for most primary elections, and four days for special elections.

**Expanding Access to Hormonal Birth Control:** Earlier this year, lawmakers introduced legislation to allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control. That measure was signed by the governor this summer and will allow those seeking hormonal birth control to access it without needing to visit a doctor.

**Safety Measures for Dating Apps:** Starting Jan. 1, online dating services will be required to provide users with information on safety and scams and avenues to report threats and harassment. The state's Department of Consumer Protection will have the power to fine platforms that do not comply with these required safety measures.

\*\*\*

There's a relatively new group for mothers – and specifically mothering – with a new members' event coming up soon.

Two years ago, a group of mothers established a local chapter of the national non-profit organization MAEVE. MAEVE stands for Motherhood, Alliance, Equity, Village, and Empowerment. MAEVE describes itself as a charitable organization that seeks to empower all who mother, regardless of gender or zip code, in support of one another and their communities.

**Editor's Desk continued on page 4**



The local chapter, MAEVE RHAM, currently has members in the RHAM region – Andover, Hebron and Marlborough – as well as East Hampton and Glastonbury.

MAEVE RHAM will hold an event for current and potential new members on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 2-4 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., Marlborough. The event will include arts and crafts activities for children of all ages. The hall is handicapped accessible, and plenty of parking is available.

All parents throughout the RHAM region and surrounding communities are welcome to join this local chapter of MAEVE. No membership fee is required. Members are asked instead to consider making an annual contribution to the organization – but only if they are able.

For further information, email rham@wearemaeve.org.

\*\*\*

See you next week – and again, Happy New Year!

**Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum**

**East Hampton Lions**

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the East Hampton Lions for all that they do for all the seniors in our town. They have been outstanding to us at Bellwood and Chatham, with food share and everything else that they do for us.

Thank you again for all that you do.

**Shelley Grendzinski, Tenant Commissioner  
East Hampton Senior Housing**

**Water Pollution**

To the Editor

It's 2024 and away we go! #save17 is alive and well and continues receiving information from its members regarding water pollution. Two stories, from a Brooklyn, N.Y., member include the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant's planned dump into the Hudson River. -(NY Gov. Blocks

Discharge of Radioactive Water...8/18/23). And rezoning the Gowanus Canal. -(gowanussuperfund.com)

Next, a *Washington Post* article, 10/31/23, submitted by a fellow Amston resident. This story, by Kasha Patel, discusses how globally, road salt is now a "sleeping giant" and probably the "most boring but contemporary problem that we have" (Sujay Kaushal). This article also links readers to an in-depth look at the effects of NaCl. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-023-00485-y>.

Contributors, from Maine, shared the highly complex issue of "forever chemicals" and how these chemicals have found their way into our bodies and waste via, food and water. See the-mainemonitor.org. Type PFOA or bio-solids, into the search engine. If you're unfamiliar with PFOAs or PFOSs we recommend watching the

**Bulletin Board**

I observed a birthday recently. I won't reveal a number (it's far too depressing). Let me just say that I am at that point in life when my birthday cake is beginning to resemble a forest fire. To be quite candid, this development leaves me in a less than celebratory mood.

When you're 15 years old and looking forward to turning 16 and getting your driver's license, a birthday is something to celebrate. Similarly, when you're 20 and can't wait to turn 21 so you can legally examine life from a prone position on a barroom floor, a birthday is a high point—at least until you wake up the next morning with a head the size of Australia.

But there comes a point (typically age 40 or 50) when it suddenly occurs to you that birthdays are actually just milestones on the way to the cemetery. This revelation can make it a bit tough to get into the party mood.

Later, of course, when you turn about 90, birthdays become a big deal again. This is because your children, grandchildren and probably your great grandchildren view you as a fugitive from the law of averages and feel they should get everyone together for a party because there's a good chance they won't have to go to the trouble again next year.

Also, making a big deal about your latest "milestone" will ease their guilt about ignoring your whining on the other 364 days of the year about everything from the direction the country is headed to the symptoms of whatever it is that eventually kills you. Your only satisfaction is imagining their reaction when they find out you've left your entire estate to the Society for the Procreation of Feral Cats.

I have to say my own experience with my most recent birthday was not entirely unpleasant. I received a few cards—including one from my life insurance company wishing me "many more," which I view as one of the more sincere sentiments of the day.

I also received birthday good wishes from my sons, who now live out of state so they won't be compelled to shovel my driveway during the winter. Both telephoned, which indicates to me that either their mother reminded them of the occasion at the last minute, or they couldn't be bothered to go out and buy me an appropriately malicious card.

I told Son #1 that my birthday present hadn't arrived in the mail yet, but I presumed the gift was so large that he planned to bring it home with him in the spring when my driveway was once again passable. He was noncommittal.

I had a similar exchange with Son #2, who people say kind of looks and acts like me except he can still have fun without first asking his doctor for permission. He informed me that he'd spent all of his money on my gift—four (previously six and soon to be two or less) bottles of Sam Adams Winter Lager and a variety pack of adult diapers—and didn't have enough left over for postage.

I'd complain about this lack of respect to my mother, but she'd just make some remark about apples not falling far from the tree.

Meanwhile, my wife asked me where I'd like to go for dinner for my birthday. She said we could go anywhere I wanted. I suggested the local diner. She said she preferred Mexican. So we're sitting in this Mexican restaurant and somebody else is having a birthday and they make the poor woman wear a big sombrero all through dinner while serenading her with what appeared to be Mexican sea shanties, though they may have been ancient Aztec curses set to ukulele music.

My wife thought this was adorable. I advised her if she told those crazy Mexicans it was my birthday, I would crash the car into the nearest bridge abutment on the way home. She wasn't sure I was serious, but decided not to take a chance.

All that singing and sombrero stuff is great fun for young people, but when you get to be my age, your priorities change. Personally, I would have been satisfied with a complimentary margarita (salt-free, of course) and a seat near the bathroom.

Until next year (I hope),

**Jim Hallas**

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2019 “movie-mentary” *Dark Waters*, the Robert Bilott story. Biosolids are organic matter taken from sewage treatment plants and later used as fertilizer.

The bottom line is awareness and foregoing blind trust. We vote at the polls, yes, but we also vote every time we spend money. Ask questions. For example, what exactly is the smell in “stink-free” fabrics? Is it safe for people to inhale these smells day and night? See numerous articles, online, by searching “dangers of stink-free fabrics.”

It’s up to us to pay attention. If we don’t look out for ourselves, who will? We already know, *Superman’s Not Coming*. This informative book, written by a brave soul, points out the problems and politics surrounding People’s Drinking Water. #save17.

Jean Tulumieri – Amston

### Bidenomics

To the Editor:

“Bidenomics” is the art of telling you that the economy in 2023 was better than how things were in 2022, while hoping you forget how great the economy was when President Trump was in office.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

### Appalling

To the Editor:

It is distressing and appalling to intentionally not acknowledge the legitimate candidacy of Marianne Williamson. CNN and MSNBC have deliberately chosen to omit her candidacy from their broadcasts.

Steve Kornacki, in particular, should be ashamed. When many of the Republican candidates were in single digits with Trump holding a 40-point lead, they were included in the data. Marianne is presently in double digits and MSNBC is pretending she doesn’t exist.

The coverage of third-party challenges seems legitimate to both CNN and MSNBC, yet a decision has been made to ignore candidate Williamson completely.

As a civics teacher, it is clear that these networks have no credibility ranting about threats to the democratic process when they are committing this glaring travesty.

Shame! Give Marianne a town hall, an interview in prime time, or at any time.

Very, very disappointed.

Dale Maxwell – Amston

### Counter Position to Antisemitism

To the Editor:

I’m neither a learned man nor a Bible scholar. Over the past 68 years, I’ve scanned the horizon to find a more excellent belief system incorporating one God with emphasis on love. Some time ago I revisited Christianity. I was overtaken by the words “Love thy Neighbor as You Love Yourself.” Because of these gentle words I committed myself to embrace and fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ to the best of my ability.

Jesus was a Jew, a Rabbi, the King of Kings, the Messiah. He is my savior and redeemer. I ac-

cept all that he represents. Therefore, as a Christian I am a Jew. If you profess to be a Christian you are a Jew by association. This is not directly stated in common scripture, or perhaps it has been omitted on purpose. None the less it is implied, as our Bibles contain the Old Testament. If you are a Christian, you are a Jew.

Had this posture been adopted and presented to Christendom centuries ago, antisemitism may never have existed. Jews however were condemned by both the Vatican and Martin Luther. This is a paradox against Christ. The Them is Ourselves. We are Jews also.

We as Christians have an obligation to accept the more excellent truth and support our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Yours Truly,  
Spencer Killian – East Hampton

### Epoch Times

To the Editor:

The Falun Gong cult owns the *Epoch Times* a.k.a. Epoch Media Group. “Falun Gong is entirely based around the teachings of its autocratic founder and leader: China-born Li Hongzhi. According to NBC News, to his followers, Li is ‘a God-like figure who can levitate, walk through walls and see into the future. His ultra-conservative and controversial teachings include a rejection of modern science, art and medicine, and a denunciation of homosexuality, feminism and general worldliness.’ Hongzhi instructs his followers to downplay his controversial teachings, when speaking to outsiders. Falun Gong has its global headquarters in Dragon Springs, a 427-acre compound in Deerpark, New York, United States, near the residence of Li Hongzhi. Falun Gong practitioners operate a variety of organizations in the United States and elsewhere, including the dance troupe Shen Yun.” (Wikipedia.org)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

### 2023 Highlight #24

To the Editor:

Happy New Year to all! As published in the *Rivereast* last week, the “Local News Highlights of 2023” were full of exciting, moving and prestigious events and efforts. Thank you to editor Michael Thompson and his entire staff; we are so fortunate to have such a quality publication serving our communities. They skillfully capture a wide range of people and moments that make a difference in our towns. I would like to add one significant event that occurred in Hebron in 2023. A widespread grassroots effort came together and defeated a reckless and irresponsible plan to build a dangerous and destructive Public Works facility in the middle of a historic watershed on Kinney Road. In August 2023, a landslide 69% of Hebron residents participating clearly stated their priority was to keep Public Works at the current location on Old Colchester Road. The survey results demonstrated that a wide variety of residents from across Hebron value our clean water, open space and history.

And it is not only residents that support the preservation of 17 Kinney Rd., also known as the Horton Property. Specialists and experts

supporting the effort to save the unique historical and valuable environmental features found there include; Professor John Demos at Yale, Department of History, Professor Robert Thorson at UConn, Earth Science Department, Professor Elizabeth Jockusch at UConn, Biology Department, Archaeological Circuit Rider Stefon Danczuk at Preservation Connecticut and Land Preservation Manager Bryan Avery at Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust.

As we move forward in 2024, please join in urging the Board of Selectmen and the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee to preserve 17 Kinney Rd. as a unique opportunity to create an educational, environmental, historical and eco-tourism treasure right in Hebron Center. For more information please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

### Tiny and Rare

To the Editor:

As a wildlife rehabber who specializes in bats, I receive calls year ‘round regarding bats in distress. During “pup season” (June/July) I am frequently called because someone has found a grounded baby bat. Usually, the orphaned pups are big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*). However, a few years ago, I had quite a surprise when I received a call about tiny bat clinging to a screen at a condominium. As soon as I saw it, I knew it was something rare. Identifying the tiny male (1.5 grams at intake) required a lot of research, measuring and weighing. When the results came in, it was revealed that the little bat was an Eastern small-footed myotis (*Myotis leibii*), the first one found in Connecticut in 80 years. Since then, several adults have been found in the state.

The little bat was successfully released as an adult close to where he was found.

*M. leibii* feed primarily on flies and moths, but will also eat spiders, crickets and ants. They have short, broad wings (wingspan 9”). They capture prey both in the air and from the ground.

Individuals can live up to 12 years in the wild. A female of breeding age may give birth to a single pup each summer.

These rare bats weigh around 5 grams as adults. They have glossy chestnut brown fur, a black face and wings, and very small feet.

*M. leibii* roost in rock fields, outcrops and slopes, favoring areas with good sun exposure. Colonies are also found in stone buildings and bridge underpasses. In winter, they hibernate in caves or crevices. They sometimes become active during mild winter weather (50 °F).

Eastern small-footed bats are less vulnerable to White-nose Syndrome than other hibernating bat species, but other threats exist, including habitat destruction and human disturbance during hibernation.

Thank you,  
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

### I Stand with Israel

To the Editor:

A reader recently posted he “stands with the moderate & secular Palestinians & Israelis,” to end the conflict.

We all stand with those who want to end the misery, but let’s know the players.

Hamas’ 1988 charter states, “Palestine is an Islamic homeland that can never be surrendered to non-Muslims & that waging Holy War to wrest control of Palestine from Israel is a religious duty for Palestinian Muslims.”

That’s neither moderate, nor secular.

Saudi Arabia is the Muslim homeland, not Palestine, which only came to the area in the 7th century AD, when Islam was spread rapidly due to a conversion process known as, “Convert or Die.”

I used to support Palestine, for over 20 years. I even foolishly cheered Hamas when they were elected to power in Palestine in 2006. The October 7 massacre changed that.

The wholesale, brutal, unspeakable slaughter that Hamas coordinated & carried out on an unarmed civilian population that day has changed my mind forever. Over 1,200 people, going about their daily lives, shot, butchered, decapitated, burned alive, mutilated, horrifically raped. There is no justification. There is plenty of evidence of decapitated infants, toddlers, & the elderly, & truly brutal rapes. Hamas denies this, but Hamas is not exactly a trustworthy or honorable entity.

Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader, states, “Gone is the time in which Hamas discussed recognition of Israel. The discussion now is about when we will wipe out Israel.”

Hamas has stated it, they’ve written it, they’ve shown it in hellish & horrific acts: there will be no peace until all non-Palestinians are gone and it is an Islamic theocracy, like Iran.

Yeah, my stupid support is gone.

Aravis Pasha – Hebron

### Same Old New Year

To the Editor:

Hand it to Annie Steinbrecher, she ends the year with the same old bluster. Annie, your willful blindness puzzles and concerns me.

What Trump has done to be excluded from ballots in various states? Affiliations of the Colorado Supreme Court members don’t even come into play? You believe what happened in Colorado and Maine is democracy? Finding Trump guilty of something he was never convicted of and telling “we the people” that we can’t vote for who we want is democracy? Speaking of sham impeachment inquiries, political stunts!


You speak of all these Acts the democrats passed yet you know nothing of their benefits to “we the people.” American manufacturing jobs, where, when? You mean the ones that have come back since the end of COVID? Make ul-

See Letters, page 6

# HEALTH CARE SERVICES



## Health & Healing



### Better Dental HEALTH

A Practice For  
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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

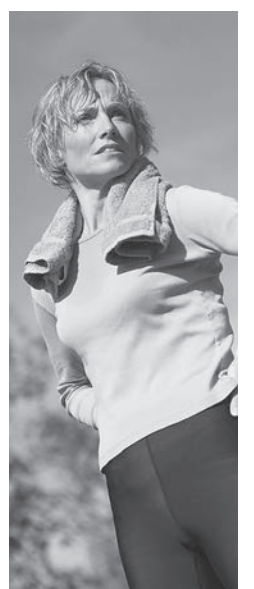
#### ELECTIVE DENTISTRY IN THE ERA OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The number of elective dental procedures performed these days is ever-increasing. A fantastic smile symbolizes a person’s commitment to his or her whole state of care, increasing perceived personal attractiveness and confidence. Trendy fashion, hairstyles, and flawless skin remain coveted beauty indicators. However, a gorgeous set of teeth has now become the most sought-after of status symbols. Before- and after-photo comparisons, often showcased on multiple social media platforms, illustrate the easily achievable and realistic improvements of physical appearance through cosmetic dentistry. In an era of instant gratification, patients are seeking picture-perfect teeth and want them immediately. New cosmetic technology offers a much broader range of clinical options for aesthetic improvements to meet this increasing demand.

Improving the look, health, and function of your smile is our primary focus. From cosmetic dentistry to general family dentistry and preventive care, we are dedicated to working with our patients toward the goal of achieving the healthiest, most attractive smiles possible. Are you curious how today’s cosmetic dentistry procedures can virtually change your life? We’d be glad to tell you about the many ways we can help make your smile a dazzling one.

*P.S.* Etruscans used ivory and bone as early as 700 BC to create dentures. This practice continued until the 1800s.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC  
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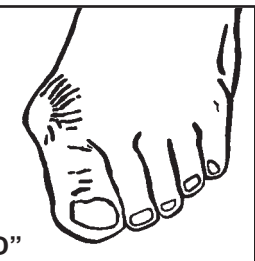
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★ *Local News Highlights cont. from page 6*  
tra-rich pay their fair share of taxes, what about just making Hunter and Biden's daughter pay their taxes? A lowered energy cost, for whom, my electric bill for November was already high and I have solar! Decreased deficit, since when,

better check your distinction between debt and deficit? What gun safety legislation, like in Chicago?  
Why don't you talk about his border policy? 302,000 illegals into the U.S. last month. Now that is something to be proud of as a Democrat!

How is Biden's approval ratings compared to Trump?  
Joe Biden is and always will be a grifter. Family made millions from Joe's years in power. If Democrats had as much evidence on Trump as "we the people" have seen from the likes of

Hunter's laptop or those Suspicious Activity Reports from money being moved around to Biden family members, he would've been impeached or found guilty in a court of law long ago, but wasn't.  
Try this video on for size! Liar Joe.  
tinyurl.com/ybyyca8n  
Michael Chotkowski - Marlborough

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**Hopes for the Future**  
 To the Editor:  
 Happy New Year to all, as lengthening daylight heralds spring awakenings. My hopes for the future include wishes that:  
 Moderate and secular Israelis and Palestinians find the elusive two-state solution that conservative Jews and Muslims constantly sabotage with violence and death.  
 Ukraine prevails.  
 Donald Trump and Joe Biden retire from their 2024 presidential campaigns to allow younger players to rise to the occasion.  
 Political voting-district gerrymandering end; replaced with scientifically drawn voting districts, so all voters have equal say in who will represent them in their state and the federal governments.  
 The courts continue defending American democracy from the insurrectionists who tried to destroy our nation, and who would even foment a second disastrous civil war if their minority voices do not overrule majority rule.  
 Evermore climate change deniers retire from their hopeless and misguided fight, whose position was already exposed as ludicrous decades ago, but with the accumulated evidence to date now puts them in league with flat-Earthers and Bigfoot-promoters.  
 The disastrous loss of Earth's biodiversity ceases and that human population growth projections are accurate that show a decline in our numbers towards a level more sustainable for a healthy planet.  
 The world's religions stop taking their competing dogmas literally, that no tribe is the chosen one, that no Godly savior is going to arrive to lift them and only them to everlasting prosperity, and that the people of the world comprehend the power of evolution, having made all of us, all living things, born from the same fountain and thus related by 'blood' whether human or bacteria.  
 Rivereast continues to thrive and publish all the news and letters that connect our communities, as well as those that reveal the disconnects, so that people 'on the fence' can use reason, and not biases, to find the truths.

Edmund Smith - Andover

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# Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the previous two weeks:

**Week of Dec. 18 - Dec. 24**

**Dante Colella - Bacon Academy (Wrestling):** Colella won the 175-pound division at the Plainville Invitational on Dec. 16. Colella, a senior, pinned four opponents on his way to victory, downing Gavin Corrao of Killingly in the second round, Demir Sanford of Rockville in the quarterfinals, Jovan Perez of Platt in the semifinal, and Caleb Sweeney of Maloney in the championship bout. Bobcats' wrestling is celebrating the program's 50th varsity season this winter with a trio of events slated at Bacon Academy. Wednesday, Jan. 10 is Student Night where all Bacon Academy students get in for free and Wednesday, Jan. 24 is Senior Night where the team will honor the seniors on the team prior to the meet. Both meets starts at 6 p.m. with pre-meet activities starting at 5:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 is the Matt Bishel Bobcat Classic, starting at 10 a.m., in which the wrestling team honors former alumni Matt Bishel, who passed away back in 2011.

**Maddie Evans and Nina Krawczyk - RHAM High School (Basketball):** Evans and Krawczyk each scored 18 points, combining to match the scoring output of visiting Windsor Locks in a 54-36 victory at RHAM High School on Dec. 20. Evans, a junior, and Krawczyk, a sophomore, are helping lead a young squad that has only two seniors this winter. The Raptors next travel to Enfield for a game tonight (Friday, Jan. 5) before returning home for a game against Glastonbury on Monday, Jan. 8. Both games tip at 6:45 p.m.

**Sunny Lin - Portland High School (Wrestling):** Lin defeated Dominic Carenzo of Somers in the 215-pound match as the Highlanders cruised to 60-12 road victory over the Spartans

at Somers High School on Dec. 21. Lin, a senior, was one of four Highlanders to win by a pin during the win. Josh Cruz pinned Luke Gengenbach to win the 150-lbs. match, Gaetano Fazio downed Addison Powell in the 157-lbs. match, and Cayleb Alvarez-James pinned Cayleb Alvarez-James in the 190-lbs. match. The Highlanders next travel to Lyman Memorial High School for the Casey Yates Memorial Tournament this Saturday, Jan. 6 at 10 a.m.

**Brady Lynch - East Hampton High School (Basketball):** Lynch netted 44 points as the Bellringers beat Valley Regionals and Canton on consecutive nights. Lynch, a junior, scored 24 points in a 68-58 road win over the Deep River-based Warriors on Dec. 19 and then posted 20 points and hauled down 15 rebounds in a 69-61 victory over the Warriors in Canton on Dec. 20. Lynch and the Bellringers face another road test tonight (Friday, Jan. 5) at North Branford before returning home to host Hale Ray on Monday, Jan. 8. Both games tip at 7 p.m.

**Week of Dec. 25 - Dec. 31**

**Michael Guerriero - RHAM High School (Wrestling):** Guerriero won the 150-pound division at the Ryan Sabbagh Holiday Tournament at Danbury High School on Dec. 27. Guerriero, a senior, defeated Melanio Zapata of Danbury by a decision in the title bout to take first place. Gavin Ploude, Ben Fournier, and Cayden Caplette each took second place, while Kyle Currier and Thiago Delacruz placed third in their respective brackets. The Raptors placed second overall as a team at the 15-school tourney, finishing behind only host Danbury. RHAM next travels to Lyman Memorial High School this Saturday, Jan. 6 for the Casey Yates Memorial wrestling tournament.

**Skyelyn Schoen-Rene - Bacon Academy (Basketball):** Schoen-Rene scored a game-high



**RHAM Wrestling placed second overall at the Ryan Sabbagh Holiday Tournament at Danbury High School on Dec. 27. Senior Michael Guerriero won his weight bracket at the event, earning a spot on the Standout Athletes of the Week.**

19 points as the Bobcats defeated RHAM 50-25 on Dec. 30. Schoen-Rene, a sophomore, scored eight of her points during the second quarter as the Bobcats used a 20-0 run that spanned the final four minutes of the first half and the first four minutes of the second half to take control of the game. Katelyn Novak added 12 points in the victory, hitting a pair of three-pointers. The victory improved Bacon Academy to 5-1 and the team is currently on a four-game home stand with a game against Waterford slated for Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.

**River Schiavoni - East Hampton High School (Track & Field):** Schiavoni placed third in the shot put with a personal-best toss of 29' 1.5" at the 5th Relay Rust Buster Invitational at Southern Connecticut State University on Dec. 28. Schiavoni, a senior, was one of three East Hampton girls to place top five as Kali Trapp and Aubrey Stevens placed fourth and fifth, re-

spectively, in the pole vault. On the boys' side, Brian Collisson placed fourth in the pole vault. A pair of East Hampton's relay teams also posted fourth place finishes as the 1600 Sprint Medley Relay (Evan LoPresti, Louis Uliano, Ethan Blakey, and Brian Collisson) and 4000 Distance Medley Relay (Lee Barron, Sam Orlovski, Louis Uliano, Evan LoPresti) each crossed fourth.

**Tyler Waldo - Portland High School (Basketball):** Waldo scored 18 points during the Highlanders narrow 46-44 overtime loss to Ellington on Dec. 30. Waldo, a senior, led the offensive change while junior Nico Olivia added nine points for a young team that has been competitive in every game this winter. Next up is a home date with Old Saybrook tonight (Friday, Jan. 5) at 7 p.m.

To nominate an athlete as a *Rivereast* Standout or with sports-related commented, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.

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## Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed live every Sunday at [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.org) and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. All children in the community are invited to attend Sunday School. Contact Gwen Lawson at the church office at [office@marlconchurch.org](mailto:office@marlconchurch.org) for more information.

**Sunday, Jan. 7** is a Communion Sunday. Holy Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free. The worship service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "Word." At this new year service, "Star Words," to serve as a reflection in 2024, will be given to all.

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

**Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. The Drive-Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank patrons is held monthly at the church.

**AA:** The church sponsors three scheduled

meetings: Wednesdays at noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, and Thursdays at noon in the Youth Room.

**ACA:** Meets in the Youth Room Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop** is closed in January for refreshing and reopens Friday, Feb. 2, from noon-3 p.m. The shop sells year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

### Holiday Closing

Town Hall, Senior Center, and Public Works Garage will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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# The Support of Strangers

By London Brazal

A resident turned to Facebook to share his photography and his past. To his surprise, he had a community of strangers reaching out, showing their support.

Three years ago, Derek Lee started taking photos with his phone and around the same time, he picked up cycling. Cycling turned into an extreme hobby where Lee was riding 25 miles a day. In a week, he averaged 220 miles. Early in the morning, he was riding around Lake Pocotopaug and saw a beautiful sunrise. He took a picture, edited it and shared it with some of his friends. They thought the photos were amazing which led to Lee posting his photos.

Last year, cycling consumed Lee. He described it as “running away from himself.” Suddenly, a healthy hobby was more of an obsession. Lee started to focus more on long-distance goals rather than his physical and mental health. His body went into starvation mode and he wasn’t fully cognizant of his actions. In Middletown,

he biked into the back of a car and broke his leg but continued biking. He even passed a hospital but was unaware of what happened and made it back to East Hampton.

When he was in the hospital, he started to include writing with his photography posts. He became vulnerable while sharing his struggles. Throughout his life, Lee has battled alcoholism. And looking back, he questions why he announced it on Facebook. In one of his posts, he said, “I am an alcoholic and suffer from depression and anxiety and have found peace and happiness cycling around our lake and our amazing Air Line Trail.” He was unsure of what the results would be from positing a significant aspect of his life. Overall, the response was positive.

People that Lee didn’t know were sharing their own stories and battles while extending their support. Many people shared how they became “less angry” with loved ones who were alcoholics. Sharing his story allowed people to open up

about similar experiences. “The comments were touching but insane,” Lee said. Writing turned into his version of AA meetings. While reflecting on his first post, he was terrified. He was waiting for that one negative comment. Honesty is important to Lee and he feels that sharing the good and the bad is comforting. “That’s what’s real, the good and the bad,” Lee added.

After the accident, Lee said, he became more honest with himself. He also started to stay in the moment rather than dwell on the past.

In November, Lee posted about a kid he met while working. One day, the kid doesn’t show up to work after doing a great job in the position. While the two talked, Lee learned that the kid used to ride a bike to stay sober but it fell apart. Lee turned to Brian Holdt at Airline Cycles and the timing was perfect. Someone had traded in a new bike that was the right height for the kid and Holdt said to have the kid pay when he could. “I would rather know someone has a way back and forth to work than look at it here in the shop,” said Holdt. Knowing the kid would be riding at

night, Holdt even added lights on the bike.

While sharing this story, it triggered multiple residents to donate to pay off the bike. In a post from Jennifer Pettine, she wrote, “Let’s take inspiration from Derek... what a great thing he did! Let’s do something together!” Pettine asked if people were able to contribute a few dollars. Residents quickly agreed and raised over \$400 to pay off the bike.

Lee was introduced to Dylan Howley, founder of the Lefty Cycles Project. Howley lost his arm in an accident and created the nonprofit to help inspire positivity and recovery. After spending time together, Lee started to see a finish line. All of the additional funds raised went to the nonprofit. Furthermore, a portion of sales from a 2024 calendar went to Lefty Cycles as well. The calendar has 12 of Lee’s favorite photographs and is available at Little Fish Gallery and Gift, located at 72 Main St. in the Village Center.

While moving forward, Lee said he plans to live in the moment and hopes to help more people.

## 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](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://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. The library currently has an assortment of fiber arts on display and an ongoing used book/DVD sale.

**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.

**Yoga:** With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. Register at [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

**Introducing Yoga for Kids:** Fridays at 10 a.m. starting Jan. 12. Cost is \$12 for each child/caregiver pair. Children who are walking up through age 5 are welcome. Space is limited. Email [kmarshall0227@yahoo.com](mailto:kmarshall0227@yahoo.com) or call 860-638-9097 to register.

**Introducing Pilates:** Thursdays at 6 p.m. beginning Jan. 11. Class is led by Mary Henderson, a certified personal trainer, nutrition coach, corrective exercise specialist and Pilates instructor. Sign up for six classes and pay \$10 per class plus get one class free. To register, call 203-592-4448 or email [abstitt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abstitt@sbcglobal.net).

**Fly Fisherman Rowan Lytle:** Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. This will be a live fly-tying night.

## Travel Author to Speak at Cabin Fever History Series

On Saturday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m., author Stasha Healy will give a talk on her book *Secret Connecticut: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure* at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St. The talk, which will be held in the community room, is part of the Cabin Fever History Series organized by the Chatham Historical Society and co-sponsored by the library.

Did you know that Connecticut has a Stonehenge, a safari park, and America’s smallest Native American reservation? Healy scoured the state and discovered 84 places and stories that

she collected in *Secret Connecticut*. In her illustrated in-person presentation, you’ll find out about the Connecticut resident who was technically president before George Washington, who inspired the character of Indiana Jones, and who flew before the Wright Brothers.

To register to attend the book-reading, call 860-267-6621 or register online at [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org). For more information, contact Chatham Historical Society member Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or [podskoch@comcast.net](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net).

## Epoch Arts Winter Classes

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of winter classes for area youth. Classes start the week of Jan. 8, and include ceramics, improv, art and more. Teens can also join Epoch’s original theater production that stages in May.

All classes are held at 27 Skinner St. Register online at [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org) or call 860-365-0337.

## Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday. The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters and crocheters are welcome.

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

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

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**Some Other Helpful Tips:**

- Inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips.
- It’s best to check the tires when they’re cold, meaning that they have not been driven on for at least three hours.
- Check each tire’s age. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend replacing tires every six years regardless of use. Consider purchasing snow tires from Belltown this season! Tests show us that winter tires provide superior traction, braking, and cornering in all cold-weather driving conditions compared to an all-season tire. We’re talking better traction whether the road surface is snow-covered, icy, wet, or even dry.

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### Christ Episcopal Church News

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

**Donations:** Food items for East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church. Clean returnable bot-

tles and cans are collected in cans by the shed.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School classes are in session. The Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard and Emily Vick lead the group, which meets at 9:55. New students welcome. Contact [neelrichard16@gmail.com](mailto:neelrichard16@gmail.com) for information/dates, as classes are sometimes rescheduled.

For more information or if in need of assistance, contact Donna Hyrb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472 or [donnadubehyrb@gmail.com](mailto:donnadubehyrb@gmail.com).

### Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

**Children's Ministry:** For children in grades K-5, held in Fellowship Hall during the worship

service. The theme is "Friends with God." A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

**Vocal Choir:** Choir rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. New members are welcome.

**Adult Bible Study:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The study is on "Fruits of the Spirit."

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The church website is [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Sunday services at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., are held Sundays at 10 a.m. Bible study precedes the services at 9 a.m., in the Church Hall. Church pastor is Jamie Stall-Ryan.

### Technology Tutoring Sessions

Middle Haddam Public Library, located at 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, will offer One-on-One Technology Tutoring Sessions with members of the East Hampton High School Interact Club on Tuesdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27, from 3-6 p.m.

Sign up for your individual session in advance by calling or emailing the library and bring your cell phone or tablet to the session.

To register or request more information, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com) or call 860-267-9093.

### EHMS Volleyball Registration

East Hampton Middle School student/athletes in grades seven or eight who are interested in playing for the boys or girls volleyball teams can register at [FamilyID.com](http://FamilyID.com). Athletes must have a physical within a 13-month period in order to participate.

Registration is limited to the first 60 girls. Deadline for registration is Monday, Jan. 28. For more information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

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### Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or for more information on any program, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://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. -

**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.

**Yoga:** With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. Register at [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

**One-on-One Technology Tutoring Sessions with the East Hampton High School Interact Club:** Tuesdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27, 3-6 p.m. Sign up for your individual session in advance by calling the library. Bring your cell phone or tablet to the session.

### 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](http://myactivecenter.com) or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto: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](http://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.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays through Feb. 21, 1 p.m. (started Dec. 27; fee is \$20); **Cross-Stitch & Embroidery with Shannon:** Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. -- Bring projects to share and work on together; **Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m.; **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. **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.; **Cornhole:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.

**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 in-person or via Zoom.

**Wonderfully Wicked Women's Group (WWW):** First and third Mondays of each month, at 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet others and share resources. The group determines the topics for discussion for the next month.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m. Call the senior center for the book title.

**Pictionary:** Group play will be held at the senior center Friday, Jan. 12, from 10-11 a.m.

**Line Dancing By Video:** Begins Friday, Jan. 12, from 10 a.m.-noon.

**Movie Day:** Friday, Jan. 12, 1 p.m. *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On* will be shown.

**Design and Create:** This craft session will take place Thursday, Jan. 18, at 1:30 p.m.

**Blood Pressure Screenings:** Monday, Jan. 22, starting at 12:30 p.m., at the senior center.

**Stretch and Balance Classes:** Wednesdays and Fridays beginning Jan. 17, from 9:30-10:30 a.m.; classes continue for 10 weeks. Cost is \$50 for the session.

**Trips:** **Connecticut River Museum Train Show Exhibit:** Wednesday, Jan. 31, departing at 11 a.m. **Lunch at Morina Restaurant in Haddam will be followed by a visit to the museum featuring a fully operational 30-foot train layout, "I Spy" scavenger hunts, a gift shop and more. Cost is \$14 and includes transportation.**

**The Connecticut Flower Show:** Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford. Depart at 10 a.m. and return at 2 p.m. Cost is \$19 and includes transportation. Lunch is on your own at the event. Register in advance at 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](mailto: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.

### Got Yarn??

The East Hampton Yarners are seeking contributions of yarn for their charitable projects. If you have yarn you'd like to share, contact Judy Hoffhine at [jhoffhine@gmail.com](mailto:jhoffhine@gmail.com).

The Yarners have provided projects for people from East Hampton to Middletown to Honduras.

### Joint Worship for Congregational Churches

Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam and Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold joint worship services during January at 10:30 a.m. Sundays in Middle Haddam, at 52 Middle Haddam Rd.. Coffee hour follows the services, in the church's Fellowship Hall.

On Jan. 7, the guest minister will be Rev. Jack Zappula, with organist Jan Ulanowicz. Zappula, of Windsor, has served as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ for 45 years, providing spiritual leadership at local churches in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

On Jan. 14, the guest preacher will be Rev. John Shaw of Southbridge, Mass. Shaw has pro-

vided pulpit supply for local churches in the greater Massachusetts area and served as an intern for United Church of Christ and American Baptist churches. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a master's degree in education, as well as a Master of Divinity degree.

On Jan. 21 and 28, the guest preacher will be Rev. Suzy Rivera of Farmington. Rivera has pastored with several churches in Texas and currently serves with the Friendship Service Center in New Britain, a nonprofit organization that provides services to people in poverty, centering on homelessness.

All are welcome. Visit [www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org) for more information.

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RE12-27-23

# Microtransit Pilot Program Coming to Town

By London Brazal

The governor's office and the state Department of Transportation announced that East Hampton will be one of nine transit districts and municipalities to be awarded funding for a pilot program.

The funding allows the selected towns to develop and pilot an on-demand microtransit service. Microtransit services are an accessible, responsive transportation option that utilizes a smartphone app or phone number to request and arrange rides within specified service areas.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) initially sought applications for the grant from qualified and eligible transit areas last January. In a press release from DOT, Transportation Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto said the pilot program's goal was to expand microtransit services in the state to mimic similar, successful programs in other parts of the country. Microtransit service is currently available in certain areas of Connecticut, such as Wheels 2U in Norwalk and Westport, SmartRide in New London, and XtraMile which services Old Saybrook, Centerbrook, Essex and portions of Westbrook. None, however, extend to East Hampton or its surrounding towns.

Funding for the project targeted municipalities that lack an extensive public transportation system and that home underserved communities such as older adults and people with mobil-

ity challenges. The microtransit service is meant to fill the gaps in the current transportation system. Eucalitto explained that the expansion of microtransit benefits many diverse communities. With more public transportation, there should be fewer barriers in the way for people to access health care, education, and employment. He also said the service plays a crucial role in improving the quality of life for everyone in Connecticut and boosting the state's economic vitality while modernizing the public transportation system.

To access the transportation service, a resident will log onto a smartphone app or make a phone call. Then, they request a pick-up or drop-off location within the designated areas. Those areas will likely include shopping districts, entertainment venues, train stations, bus stops, Park-and-Ride lots and more. A small van or bus would be available and the wait time is estimated to be 15 minutes. The on-demand service provides flexibility and increased mobility options for residents.

In a press release from November, Governor Lamont announced the specific towns that received the grant. He said the program allows for the expansion of transportation services to more residents in the state. Microtransit has first and last-mile connections and will join current transportation routes. Lamont added that

the service is flexible and can be used to go to an appointment, a friend's house or a restaurant to get lunch.

River Valley Transit, formerly known as Middletown Area Transit, is the current public transportation system in the area and serves the Estuary area. They submitted a proposal to bring more microtransits into a small section of East Hampton. It would specifically target a main, densely populated area including the Village Center and Stop and Shop plaza. Town Manager David Cox described the bus or van as a "public Lyft" or "public Uber" since it is an on-demand service. He also said the costs were "pretty inexpensive" as one trip should only cost a couple of dollars. Fares will vary but are expected to stay affordable; the state is putting roughly \$20 million toward the program. Ultimately, the program is meant to supplement some of the other types of transit services the River Valley Transit offers.

Currently, only one bus line travels through East Hampton and is limited in its pick-up and drop-off locations. The River Valley Transit 586 connects East Hampton to Portland and the downtown terminal in Middletown. On weekdays, a bus stops eight times at a designated location and on the weekends, it stops five times. The schedule can be found on [rivervalleytransit.com](http://rivervalleytransit.com).

The pilot program will only serve a portion of East Hampton in hopes of expanding the service across the whole town. The testing will evaluate how efficient the service was and how it contributes to overall sustainability. Since River Valley Transit received the grant in November, the services in East Hampton are expected to begin in April this year. Once it starts, the program will last for two years. Based on performance and ridership, there is a possibility of two one-year extensions provided by DOT.

## Police News

12/27: David Secore, 71, of 229 East High St., was issued a summons for third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

12/27: Ryan Roussel, 27, of 35 Viola Dr., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without an ignition interlock device, police said.

12/28: Donato Rinaldi, 48, of Watertown, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, violation of a restraining order, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said. Rinaldi was also arrested at the same time, police said, stemming from an incident that occurred on Dec.

26; in that arrest, he was charged with criminal violation of a restraining order and second-degree harassment, police said.

12/30: Mayanara Facius, 46, of Westbrook, was issued a summons for third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said.

1/1: Jonathan Roper, 22, of 18 Blue Heron Dr., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right, driving under the influence and carrying a firearm while driving under the influence, police said.

From Dec. 25-31, officers responded to 16 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and six alarms, and made 15 traffic stops, police said.

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**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. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, for Martin Lu-

ther King Jr. Day.

**Children's Programs: Bubbles & Beats!** Mondays, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years (drop-ins and siblings welcome.); **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.

**Family Storytime:** Saturday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m. Ages 3-5 are invited – along with their siblings – to come for stories, songs, and open-ended play. Participants will also have the chance to work on a craft to bring home. No registration required.

**All About Art!** Wednesday, Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years. Explore process art with your child using a variety of different techniques and materials. Drop-ins and siblings welcome.

**Exam Prep & Plan:** Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6 p.m., for grades 9-12. Find a quiet space to study alone or with friends. Snacks provided. Put together an exam survival kit to help you succeed.

**Dungeons & Dragons:** Wednesday, Jan. 17, 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 Program: Cookbook Club – Asian Cuisine:** Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m. Try new recipes and chat about culinary adventures. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. *Remarkably Bright Creatures* will be discussed. Copies are available for checkout at the circulation desk.



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- Stuffed Sole** Crab meat stuffing served over spinach
- Chicken Marsala** Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
- Balkan Meatballs** Beef meatballs sautéed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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RE12-29-23



**A Tale of Two Portlands...** The *Rivereast* recently got to see another Portland – Portland Island, UK! Lynne and Jose Henriquez of Portland visited the island in October with their cousins, Lisa Carroll and Hersul Huyghue of East Hampton.

## Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

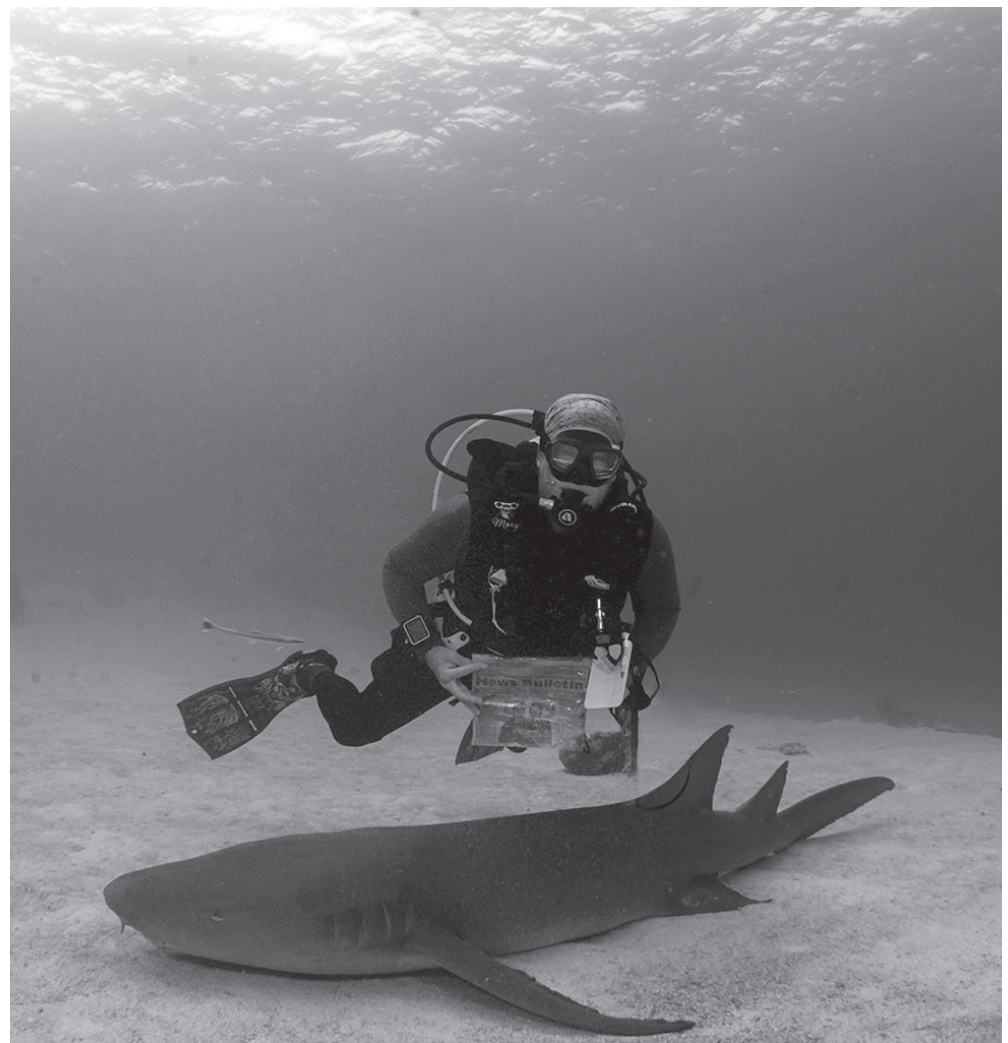
Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).




**A Jamaican Jaunt...** The Phillips family of East Hampton went to Negril, Jamaica – and brought the *Rivereast* with them on their travels!



**Checking Out the Cliffs...** Haley (8) and Harper (6) Buck of East Hampton recently returned from an international family vacation – their first time out of the country! They're shown here at the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Ireland.



**Even Sharks Need the News...** Shark diving in the Maldives! Mary Milewski of East Hampton went on a 10-day liveaboard SCUBA dive vessel in the Maldives in early November. She is a Divemaster, shown here SCUBA diving with the *Rivereast* in the Indian Ocean. She dove with dozens of nurse sharks, black tip, white tip and gray reef sharks, as well as tiger sharks, giant mantas, eels, stingrays and abundant diverse marine life. Photo by Raymond Wennekes, underwater photography instructor from Roosendaal, Netherlands.

# Where in the World?

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### 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](http://portland.recdesk.com) or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required.

**Rec Basketball K-2 with Skyhawks:** Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 10, at Gildersleeve School. Kindergarten is held from 8-8:50 a.m.; first grade, 9-9:50 a.m.; second grade girls, 10-10:50 a.m.; second grade boys, 11-11:50 a.m. Fee: \$100/resident, \$120/non-resident.

**Drop-In Basketball:** Mondays (for women) and Tuesdays (for men), 7:30-9 p.m., through May, at Portland Middle School.

**Trip:** Tuesday, Jan. 9, Bushnell behind-the-scenes tour and lunch at Maggie McFly's in Glastonbury. Trip departs at 10 a.m.

**Special Event: Pearls from Carol with Albert Ruggerio:** Monday, Jan. 8, 12:15 p.m. To register, call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

**Blood Pressure Clinics:** 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (note: if that day is a holiday, 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.

**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](mailto:myjakjeff@gmail.com).

### 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.; Blood Pressure/Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations clinic, 10:30-11 a.m. Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients - donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Set-back, 1 p.m. Wednesday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.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, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Family History Fun with Ken

Doney, 10:30 a.m.

**Trip:** Tuesday, Jan. 9, Bushnell behind-the-scenes tour and lunch at Maggie McFly's in Glastonbury. Trip departs at 10 a.m.

**Special Event: Pearls from Carol with Albert Ruggerio:** Monday, Jan. 8, 12:15 p.m. To register, call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

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**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](mailto:myjakjeff@gmail.com).

### Exchange Club Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold a Bingo Night Thursday, Jan. 11, at Concentric Brewery, located at 91 Main St.

Card sales start at 6 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 for four cards to be used for all 10 games, with prizes for the winner of each game. Proceeds from the night will go to the Portland Fuel Bank.

**New Firetrucks cont. from page 1**  
with many departments who also made the conversion.

A 2009 study conducted by the U.S. Fire Administration concluded that fluorescent colors such as yellow-green and orange are the easiest to spot during daytime hours. Still, a more relevant and important factor is the recognizability of the truck itself. The study revealed that if residents don't associate a specific color with firetrucks, then the bright yellow may not achieve its intended goal.

"Historically, firetrucks have been red," Hoffmann said.

But for many Colchester citizens, yellow is still the color they connect with their apparatus.

While the familiar yellow color will remain, there are fresh updates to the overall design. The white tops are gone, replaced with a charcoal grey that is also being used for lettering. For traditionalists, there is also red; it accents the trucks' letters and is prominently used to spell out "Colchester" on the ladder truck.

As Hoffmann led a tour around apparatus currently sitting in the department bay, he pointed out how many of the old trucks had lost their shine.

"Those are a little sun-faded," he joked, before gesturing to one of the new engines resting nearby. "There's new flare, a new pop. We wanted to have a new face."

Besides a slick paint job, how are the new trucks different?

These firetrucks have "a lot more technology-based options" combined with standard mechanical elements. For instance, Hoffmann said there are powered valves that automatically open from a button as opposed to being pulled by a lever.

There are also several components that better comply with the standards administered by the National Fire Protection Association and Environmental Protection Agency.

Other features will be unique to the Colchester department, including the new bucket truck feature; Hoffmann said other towns have a straight stick apparatus.

"It's a resource that they can potentially call on depending on what they're encountering," he said,

emphasizing the department's involvement in mutual aid.

### Final Touches

At the beginning of December, Hoffmann traveled to the Pierce facility in Wisconsin, with Deputy Chief Brad Bernier and two of his lieutenants, to inspect three of the new apparatus. This final phase ensures that everything is built to their expectations and that any imperfections are identified and fixed.

The experience allowed them to interact with firefighters from around the world and see creative ideas other departments came up with for their own apparatus. Often, Hoffmann said, people brainstorm some fun "out of the box" add-ons for their vehicles.

"This is something we stole," Hoffmann joked, referring to a safety net feature that protects the hose from falling off the truck - an idea he got from the Stamford fire department.

Once they signed off, the apparatus were shipped to Firematic in Rocky Hill, the local vendor. Each truck will head to Colchester where the crews will mark them up for tool mounting, which is then done back at the Firematic facility.

The final step is for the crews to complete their new training, which will likely be done in the new year.

"These apparatus are much different than the 40-year-old pieces that we have out there," Hoffmann said. "They respond differently; they operate differently; the locations of valves and gauges are all different."

The ladder truck, for example, is much different now because it's transferred from a rear-mount straight stick style to a mid-mount bucket, which requires new tactics and strategies.

Three of the department's current trucks along with the ladder truck will be sold at auction. Hoffmann anticipates that one of the trucks being replaced will remain as a reserve engine.

Colchester is not replacing its entire fleet of firetrucks, and Hoffmann has already produced a plan that will allow the town to purchase future vehicles one at a time.

The chief asserted that the purchase was not "frivolous" spending.

"We're not replacing things just to replace it," he said. "There are things that need to be replaced."

In the spring, the department plans on hosting a "wetdown," a celebration where neighboring departments welcome new apparatus - which are expected to last at least another 20 years - by spraying the equipment.

"I think the community is really looking forward to seeing this process that has taken so long finally come to fruition," Hoffman said.



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# New Program Highlighted at School Board Meeting

By London Brazal

The Transition Academy was recently highlighted at the Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday. In its first year, the program has seen success but continues to face challenges. Last February, the district started the groundwork for a transition academy to help students after graduation from Portland High School. Following the development of the program, the district hired Ted Pinto as the special education transition program teacher and officially began in August.

Its official name, Portland Pathways Transition Program (PPTP), helps students continue their school and career readiness skills within the area. "We offer high school post-grads an opportunity to prepare for their next step in life as a bridged gap between their high school career and young adulthood," said Pinto. One aspect of the program is for the students to work on pre-employment skills such as filling out applications, resume building, searching for entry-level jobs in the Portland area and job interview practice.

The second tier of the program gets students volunteer vocational experiences at real businesses. Since September, the program has developed relationships with local vendors and now the students have six businesses that they work at every week. Those include Farrell's in town, the Portland Public Library, Big Lots in Middletown, SliceWorks in Glastonbury, Hungerford Animal Museum in Berlin and Le Chic

Boutique in East Hampton.

The final tier of the program assists students in learning life skills in the classroom kitchen. In that setting, they learn how to plan meals, budget and read and prepare recipes. Three paraprofessionals from the Life Skills program volunteered to follow students. School psychologists, occupational therapists and speech pathologists regularly visit to provide more diverse services as well. Pinto is very grateful for all of the staff and faculty that have supported the new program. "I could honestly go on and on because as every adult knows, you can't build something by yourself," added Pinto.

During the planning stages of the program, transportation was one of the biggest concerns. Last July, the district decided to order a van so they did not have to contract out. By November, a new driver came on board to ensure students got to where they needed to be.

Right now, the Transition Academy is located at Brownstone Intermediate School. However, to keep state approval of being a stand-alone program, they will have to move locations at the end of the school year. Since the program has multiple facets, the new location needs to have a kitchen, Wi-Fi and other accessible utilities. The next location will depend on what funds are available as the budget starts to come into discussion. The program could go back to the high school but one concern is that the program loses some of its stand-alone status. "We left the

high school so the kids didn't feel like they were getting back on the bus and going back to high school a few weeks after graduation," said Director of Student Services Dawn Davis.

Pinto said that there were some "bright new, exciting things" coming into their program. Recently, they built a new relationship with Mike Pelton who runs the dojo in the Portland Shopping Center. They are working on developing a couple of new recreational programs. As the program grows, they hope to build more relationships with local businesses and give students more opportunities in the type of work they do.

One student works at a couple of the local businesses and even works a few extra hours at SliceWorks. His mother said, "He couldn't be

happier." Another parent explained how they did not know what to expect from the program but were very happy with the direction and the opportunities available for the young adults. The program is individualized based on the students' needs. Pinto's team and families work together to set personalized goals.

Davis explained that a future goal is to invite students from other districts to come on a tuition basis. However, the program needs to keep its accreditation as a stand-alone program. Many of the districts that surround Portland do not have a transition program and use contract programs instead. Ultimately, the program would set its boundaries on how many students could enter based on staffing and resources.

## Vocal Chords Seek Tenors, Basses

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords, under the direction of Samuel Tucker and accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra directed by Alan Dougherty, is looking for men and women to enhance their growing tenor and bass sections.

There are no auditions and no experience necessary, and you do not have to be affiliated with Middlesex Health in order to join. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 6:45-9 p.m., at St. Francis Church, Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown, for the upcoming spring concert, which will take place Sat-

urday, May 4, at Portland High School. New members will be accepted through Feb. 4.

Proceeds from the concerts and MHVC's annual patron drive are given back to the community in the form of scholarships given to Middlesex County high school seniors planning on majoring in nursing or music. To date, the Vocal Chords have awarded \$82,500 to area students.

For more information, visit on the web at [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org) or call 860-342-3120. The group can also be found on YouTube and Facebook.

## Portland Library News & Notes

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

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Read and Recycle:** Saturday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m.-noon. Friends of the Portland Library will collect gently used, books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles. Donations help support library activities.

**All-Ages Winter Writing Challenge:** Cumulatively, if everyone writes at least 50,000 words, the library will have met its goal and one writer will get to pick a book to add to our collection. Decide on your personal word count goal for the month of January and register yourself online (or stop in to the library to pick up a tracking form), then stop in to share how far you've gotten or share your writing word count with us all month long.

**Winter Reading Challenge for Kids – Reading is Fun Any Way You Slice It:** Started Tuesday, Jan. 2, and runs through Friday, March 1. This year's theme is Pizza. Visit the library and get a pizza tray to hang on our bulletin board. Each time you check out materials in January and February (up to once per day), you'll receive a slice to color and add it to your pizza. Once you've added eight slices and have a full pizza, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize.

**Youth Programs: LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups:** Teens are invited to social meet-ups 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.

**Winter Storytimes: Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., starting Jan. 9. **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.

**Turtle Power Teamwork!** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 11 and 25, and Feb. 8 and 22, Grades K-2): Get inspired by Raphael, Leonardo, Donatello and Michelangelo, and work together to complete challenges and earn a new colored bandana each week.

**Adult Programs: Art Exhibit Reception:** Saturday, Jan. 6, 1 p.m. Carol Ingram's "Art that is Felt" exhibit runs from Jan. 5-Feb. 1. Ingram says her work "reflects an enjoyment and curiosity of the materials, and of the felting process itself." The Friends of the Portland Library are sponsoring the reception.

**Movie:** Wednesday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m.: *Barbie* (It's Pink Day at the library!).

**Resume Workshop:** Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m. Learn how to update your resume. Four individuals, picked from attendees, will get to meet separately with Jeff Thierfeld for one-on-one resume critiques after the initial workshop.

**Book Clubs: Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1 p.m. *The Last Story of Mina Lee* by Nancy Jooyoun Kim will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1 p.m. *Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem will be discussed.

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## Christmas Tree Pick-Up

The town Department of Public Works will begin its annual Christmas Tree Pick-Up Monday, Jan. 8, continuing through Friday, Jan. 19.

Residents may place their trees at the curb or edge of the road for pickup. Residents may also bring their trees to the transfer station on Sand Hill Road; permit required.

## 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.

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or [1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com) for more information.

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### Lions' Annual Appeal

The Colchester Lions Club wants to thank the residents and businesses of Colchester who contributed to its 2023 Annual Appeal letter campaign.

The money raised from the campaign will be distributed throughout the Colchester community in the form of scholarships to graduat-

ing seniors, grants at the Lions' annual Community Night of Giving, as well as through direct service projects this winter and spring.

If anyone would still like to contribute, mail your donation to Colchester Lions Charities, Inc., Attn: Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415.

### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

### Ahavath Achim News

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

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

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

**Shabbat Schedule:** Friday at 6:30 p.m., live

and on Zoom – Shabbat; Saturday morning, 10 a.m., live and on Zoom – Shabbat service.

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

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

### 50 Years of Bacon Wrestling

2023-24 is Bacon Academy Wrestling's 50th varsity season. All are invited to help celebrate at any or all of the following events:

Wednesday, Jan. 10: Bacon Academy Student Night. All Bacon Academy students get in for free.

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Senior Night. Prior to the meet, we will honor the seniors on the team.

Saturday, Feb. 3: The Matt Bishel Bobcat Classic. This is an all-day tournament at which

Bacon Academy Wrestling will honor former alumnus Matt Bishel, who passed away in 2011. Wrestling starts at 10 a.m.

At all Wednesday events, wrestling starts at 6 p.m., but all are invited to come early and enjoy some of the pre-meet activities, which will start around 5:15 p.m.

During each event there will be some special activities.

### Historical Society 2024 Calendars

The Colchester Historical Society's 2024 calendars are now available.

The limited-edition pictorial calendar highlights notable individuals who left a legacy in Colchester. The people include a military hero, a foreign-born patriot, a photographer, a farmer, a groundbreaking woman, a professional umpire, two store owners, an industrialist, a lawyer and two doctors. All are connected to Colchester and contributed to the development of the town.

Calendars are \$12 each and are available at the Colchester History Museum on Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., through Jan. 21. For \$20, folks can purchase the calendar and a copy of *Historical Landmarks: A Historical Tour of Colchester*.

This book features 50 historic sites throughout Colchester, many within walking distance from the center of town. Also available are the books *Images of America: Colchester* and *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*.

Calendars can also be found at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques at 168 South Main St.; hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Calendars and any of the books can also be mailed for an additional shipping fee. Contact the Colchester Historical Society at: [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org), or call 860-537-4230 to make a purchase. Calendars and books can also be purchased at [www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1](http://www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1).

### Giving Garden Fundraiser

The Colchester Stop and Shop, located at 99 Linwood Ave., has chosen Colchester Giving Garden to be the recipient of its Community Bag Fundraiser for the month of January.

For each reusable bag purchased at the Colchester Stop and Shop this month, one dollar will be donated to the Giving Garden.

In just a few months, volunteers will begin planning the new growing season, and all are welcome to join in. The garden is an all-volunteer-run vegetable garden that donates all

of its fresh produce to the food insecure in the community and to area soup kitchens. This past season, the Giving Garden donated over 2,360 pounds of food.

In March, the Giving Garden will hold an information night at Cragin Memorial Library, to kick off its 12th growing season. The date will be announced here in the *Rivereast* and also on the garden's Facebook page. For more information or to be on the garden's email list, email [colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com](mailto:colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com).

### Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. Unless noted, registration is required for all programs. For full descriptions and to register, call 860-537-3911, email [csc@colchesterct.gov](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or for a full list of activities, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center).

**Monday, Jan. 8:** 9 a.m., CoA Meeting (Town Hall), Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

**Tuesday, Jan. 9:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Regional LTC Ombudsman Meeting; 10:30 a.m., Bus Transportation begins; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting (Z).

**Wednesday, Jan. 10:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet up at the Airline Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Plant-Based Protein Presentation; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2 p.m., Sewing Circle; 2:30 p.m., CSC staff meeting.

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

**Friday, Jan. 12:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit video; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 10:45 a.m., Blood Pressure Clinic; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Education Series; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**You Don't Know Beans About Protein Demo:** Wednesday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m. While beans tend to be the go-to for plant-based proteins, there is a whole world of other options, some with more grams of protein than beans. CSC member Irene Watson will discuss alternative protein sources and demonstrate a planted-based protein recipe. Registration is required for this program.

**The Piano Bar Luncheon:** Wednesday, Jan. 17, 11 a.m. Paul Shlien will share some songs from the '60s and '70s – maybe a little Billy Joel or Elton John. A lunch of chicken cordon bleu, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and margarine, Black Tie Parfait desserts, and a "mocktail" will be served. Cost is \$9/person. Space is limited.

ited.

**Potluck Pie Party:** Tuesday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m. Celebrate National Pie Day by sampling assorted pies. Sign up to make a pie and bring it in on this day. Don't want to make a pie? Come and have pie for a cost of \$3/person.

**Cultivating Happiness in the New Year:** Wednesday, Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m. Look at what happiness is and ways you can build a happiness toolbox to bring more purpose and peace to your life. The program is free, but registration is required.

**Makeup for Mature Women:** Tuesday, Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m. Celebrity make-up artist and educator Joby Rogers will show people how to create a look that suits their personal features and skin tone and explore must-have products and tools for their own make-up collection. Rogers will evaluate your personal make-up products and answer any make-up questions you may have. Cost is \$15/person. Space is limited.

**Courageous Dissent:** Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1 p.m. Jan. 27, 2024, has been assigned by the United Nations as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. CSC member and author Kim Bingham will discuss his book *Courageous Dissent*. The book tells the story of Bingham's father, Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV, who during the early days of the Holocaust defied his government's restrictive immigration policies by running an underground railroad out of his villa in France. Hiram was posthumously awarded the "Constructive Dissent" award by the U.S. State Department on June 27, 2002, for his rescue efforts during World War II. This is a free program, but registration is required.

### Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

For more information, email [westconchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westconchurch@gmail.com) or call 860-267-6711.



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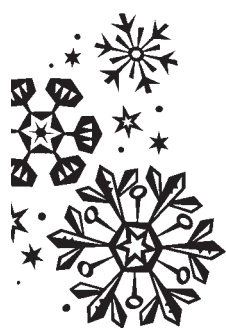


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### Troop 72 Recycling Project

Boy Scout 72 is continuing to accept recyclable containers from local residents. Containers can be dropped off on the left hand side of the pavilion at the St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 South Main St. Email letendrej@sbcglobal.net or text or call 860-917-8391 if you wish to schedule a pick-up.

Donations will help scouts go to summer camp and enjoy other outdoor activities that they might otherwise have to miss due to a family's ability to afford the costs.

### 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.

### Dean's List

Jennifer Whipple of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.



**Coloring Colchester...** For the past 20 years, the members of the Colchester Garden Club have worked to beautify the town. Every season, members come together to dedicate their time and use of the club's monetary resources to bring bursts of color and life to 14 planters scattered throughout the town. From the vibrant blooms of spring, to the warm hues of autumn, to the festive arrangements of winter, the Garden Club helps to make sure residents are greeted in town with beauty, no matter the time of year. The Colchester Garden Club has more than 75 members.

### Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

**Sunday School:** 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.

### 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](http://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.

**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.

### CORE Commission to Honor MLK

The CORE Commission will celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with a community reading Saturday, Jan. 13, at 10 a.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

A variety of local leaders and residents will read and share their experiences on how they have applied King's teachings in their own lives. All are invited to attend.



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Obituaries

Marlborough

Thomas Sigurd Bertelsen

Thomas Sigurd Bertelsen, 70, of Marlborough, beloved husband, father, uncle and friend, died peacefully in his sleep at home Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023. Born Sept. 22, 1953, in the Bronx, he was predeceased by his parents, Sigurd and Trudie (Jensen) Bertelsen, and his sisters, Nancy Nowak and Carole Carney. He is survived by his loving wife, Janet; their sons, Thomas G. Bertelsen Sr. of Manchester and Steven C. Bertelsen of Marlborough; and two wonderful grandsons. He also leaves several nieces and nephews and their families.



Tom grew up in Closter, N.J., and attended colleges in Florida, New Jersey and Connecticut, changing his major from marine biology to engineering along the way. He left college when he married Janet in 1977 and they moved to Marlborough a year later. His first engineering job was at King Seeley Thermos in Norwich, where he worked for several years. He eventually earned his BS Engineering degree at UConn in 1984 and then joined United Technologies, and worked at several of its divisions over several years. His stroke in November 2014 forced an unexpected retirement from Doosan, a divestiture originally called UTC Power.

He enjoyed attending many of his sons' school and sporting events, but especially loved spending over 25 years in scouting, starting as a Cub Scout den leader for Tommy to scoutmaster of Troop 39 in Marlborough after Steven turned 18. Before becoming scoutmaster, he joined a parent/scout team to compete in a nationwide rocketry competition. The team made it to the finals held at a military base, which was featured in a national rocketry magazine. He also got a group of his scouts to a weeklong BSA scuba high adventure camp. He had a really special connection with his scouts, even after they left for college and careers. Even after the stroke, he would often go to scout meetings, just to see everyone. The friendship and support of the scouting family has been phenomenal even after Tom's retirement.

He loved to travel anywhere near an ocean, especially near lighthouses. He liked fishing in streams or saltwater, going to concerts, sailing, and scuba diving, camping, softball, bowling, chess and woodworking. As his health took a toll on many of these activities, he started doing more yard work. After his stroke, he joined an awesome speech and language program at UConn which evolved into a weekly book club for people with aphasia, which helped stroke survivors with speaking, reading, writing, and gave them internet/web meeting skills during COVID restrictions.

We want to especially thank the awesome dialysis team at Davita in Rocky Hill and Dr. Post, the dedicated and compassionate nurses, therapists and aides who worked with Tom from Hartford HealthCare at Home, the BSA Troop 39 family, the UConn Aphasia Group staff and members, and our wonderful neighbors, friends and family for all their help, support and compassion during Tom's long journey.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial in Marlboro Cemetery in Marlborough will follow. Friends may call Monday, Jan. 8, from 5-7 p.m., at the funeral home.

For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

Colchester

Arthur H. Bishel II

Arthur Henry Bishel II passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 26. Born Sept. 9, 1933, to Sherman and Dorothy Bishel in Middletown, he attended local schools, graduating from Woodrow Wilson in 1952. He was drafted and served in the Army stationed in Japan.

Art worked for more than 50 years at The Smith & Bishel Co., the family hardware store founded by his grandfather Arthur H. Bishel. Art married Elizabeth (Betty) Roberts in 1954, moving to Colchester and raising their family there.

He was a member of the Masons for more than 57 years, belonging to Wooster #10 in Colchester and Ornan #117 in Florida. He enjoyed farming and gardening, camping, hiking, square dancing, sailing and steam boating.

Art is survived by his children and their spouses; Scott (Lynn), Keith (Lisa), Lloyd, Lori (Stephen). His grandchildren; Kristen, Patrick, Jacquelyn, Sarah, Stephen, Elizabeth, Rachel and Danielle. And his great grandchildren Kylan, Talia and Lucas.

He is also survived by his sister-in-law Elaine, daughter-in-law Ellen and several nieces and nephews and his wife Patricia.

He is predeceased by his wife Betty, daughter Holly, grandchildren Philip and Matthew, brother Robert and sister Betsey.

Calling hours will be Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10-11 a.m., at the Westchester Congregational Church, 449 Westchester Rd., Colchester. A Masonic service and celebration of life will follow at 11 at the church. Burial will be at the Westchester Cemetery. Refreshments will be served back at the church hall.

EAST HAMPTON DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of East Hampton, pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Thursday, January 11 at 7PM at the East Hampton Public Library, Main Street, East Hampton. The caucus will endorse members for the Democratic Town Committee for 2024-2026 and transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

1TB 1/5

Andover

Carol Packer Horton

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Carol Horton, aged 88, on Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, in Willimantic. Born Oct. 6, 1935, in Hartford, Carol leaves behind a legacy of kindness and love that will forever be cherished.



Carol was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, known for her compassion and wise counsel. Her warm presence and comforting words touched the lives of those around her, and her absence will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Deborah Steinmiller and husband Paul of Colchester; her devoted son, Grady Horton of Andover; her adoring granddaughter, Melissa Tabor and partner Travis Therrien of Willimantic; her beloved granddaughter, Ashley Tabor of Colchester; and her cherished granddaughter, Roseanna Adams and husband Carl Adams of Colchester. Carol also leaves behind a beautiful legacy through her great-grandchildren, Vanessa Couture, Nikolai Bernard, Jeremiah Couture, Jr., Evan Couture, Trinity Adams, Gabriel Therrien, Eleanor Adams, and Travis Therrien Jr.

Carol was preceded in death by her dear mother, Edith Nims; loving father, Clarence Packer; beloved brother, Lee Packer; and her cherished sisters, Lois Porier and June Skinner. She also mourned the loss of her beloved son James Horton, whose memory she held close to her heart.

In addition to her dedication to her family, Carol found joy in the company of her dear friends. Together, they created cherished memories during beach outings, birthdays, and annual holiday celebrations. Carol's warm spirit and loving nature endeared her to all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Throughout her life, Carol devoted her career to the ROTC of Manchester and the Manchester Public School systems. She selflessly served the community and made a lasting impact on the lives of countless students. During her summers, she found solace and happiness at Camp Asto Wamah, where she shared her culinary talents by cooking for the entire camp. Carol's delicious meals were celebrated and admired by all who tasted them. Later on, she generously shared her skills by teaching the art of handmade basket-weaving, leaving a lasting impression on the young campers she mentored.

Basket-weaving, baking, and supporting her beloved UConn women's basketball team were among Carol's passions. She was also a dedicated fan of the Red Sox and enjoyed spending peaceful moments at the beach, finding solace in the beauty of nature.

A traditional celebration of Carol's life will be held at the Colchester Fish and Game Club Sunday, Jan. 14, from 2-7 p.m. This gathering will provide an opportunity for family, friends, and acquaintances to pay their respects, share stories, and honor Carol's memory.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society. Contributions made in Carol's memory will support the ongoing fight against cancer, a cause that she held close to her heart.

As we bid farewell to Carol, let us remember and celebrate the remarkable life she lived. Her love, wisdom, and gentle spirit will forever hold a special place in our hearts, and her memory will continue to inspire us all.

New Obituary Policy

Effective immediately, there is now a \$100 fee to place obituaries. All obituaries can be sent to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

East Hampton

Rose Anderson

Rose Anderson, 82, of East Hampton, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023. She was born on May 14, 1941, in New Britain, to Joe Fuoco and Julia Bragdon. Rose was a funny, warm, and welcoming individual who touched the lives of those around her.



Rose is survived by her loving son, Eric Donais of East Hampton. She was preceded in death by her son, Donald Ochankowski, and her beloved husband, Leonard Anderson. Rose's memory will be forever cherished by her family and friends.

Rose found joy in the company of her beloved German shepherds and enjoyed exploring tag sales in search of unique treasures. Rose also cherished the holiday season and embraced the spirit of Christmas wholeheartedly.

Services will not be held at this time. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Rose's memory can be made to Protectors of Animals in East Hartford, as she had a deep affection for dogs.

As we reflect on Rose's journey, may the memories of her enduring love, strength, sense of humor, and zest for life provide comfort to those who shared in her remarkable life.

Portland

Shirley Marie Schultz

Shirley Marie (Plante) Schultz, lovingly known as Meme, sadly left us on Monday, Jan. 1, surrounded by family at her home in Portland. She was the wife of the late Robert John Schultz.



Born Feb. 22, 1930, to George and Alice Plante, Shirley was a Portland resident most of her life. She was a parishioner and vestry member of Trinity Episcopal Church her entire life. Shirley attended and graduated from the Ona M. Wilcox School of Nursing and spend her career working for Middlesex Hospital.

Shirley is survived by her children, Robert (Jocelyn) Schultz and Piper (Gary) Tobler, as well as her grandchildren Cory (Kelsey) and Bryant (Connie) Tobler.

Shirley lived with a strong love of family and offered unrelenting warmth and kindness to all that she met. With her grandchildren, she had unlimited energy and patience, playing every game imaginable and surviving hours on end of *SpongeBob* reruns. She had a bottomless appetite for all things sweet, was an expert baker, and loved to spend time in her garden.

The family would like to offer special thanks to Lillian Black, who took wonderful care of our mother for four years.

A funeral service will be held in her honor at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Portland. Calling hours will be held Saturday morning from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in Pine Grove Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in her memory be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St, Portland, CT 06480.

Legal Notice

In accordance with the requirements of The State of Connecticut, Section 7-394 of the General Statutes, the Annual Town Audit, for the year ending June 30, 2022, is on file in the Town Clerk's office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT. You may also view a copy of the audit on our website at [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov).  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Kayla Fortier  
Assistant Town Clerk

1TB 1/5

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

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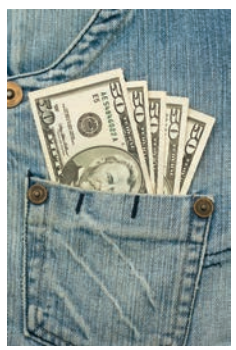
**HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER PART-TIME ACCOUNTING CLERK**  
 Provides clerical and analytical support to the Finance Director, including payroll and benefits administration. Creates and enters complex financial information into the Town's financial and payroll programs. The position requires a high degree of independent judgment, initiative, accuracy, and confidentiality. A qualified and interested applicant may be offered the opportunity to combine this part-time position with the part-time Tax Clerk position.  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** The skills and knowledge required would generally be acquired with graduation from high school and three or more years of office bookkeeping and/or payroll and benefits administration experience, or an Associate's degree in Business Administration, Accounting, or Human Resources with two years of bookkeeping or payroll experience, or any equivalent combination of education and experience.  
**STARTING WAGE:** \$22.40 - \$24.00/hour depending on experience and qualifications  
 Please submit a letter of interest and completed application to the: Town Clerk  
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 26 North Main Street  
 P.O. Box 29  
 Marlborough, CT 06447  
 Open until filled. First review of applications on January 8, 2024.

**HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER PART-TIME TAX CLERK**  
 Provides accounting, clerical, and administrative assistance to the Tax Collector in the billing, collecting, and crediting of taxes and related billings or charges. A qualified and interested applicant may be offered the opportunity to combine this part-time position with the part-time Accounting Clerk position.  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** The skills and knowledge required would generally be acquired with graduation from high school and three or more years of office accounting or bookkeeping experience, or an Associate's degree in Business Administration or Accounting with two years of accounting or bookkeeping experience, or any equivalent combination of education and experience.  
**STARTING WAGE:** \$22.40 - \$24.00/hour depending on experience and qualifications  
 Please submit a letter of interest and completed application to the: Town Clerk  
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280 N. Brookvale  
\$300,000



30 Vicki Lane  
\$265,000



31 Lakewood Road  
\$185,000



20 Weber Street  
\$225,000



9 Fawn Hill Road  
\$480,000



129 New Hanover  
\$230,000



54 Rolling Green  
\$380,400



35 Tavern Circle  
\$405,000



32 Sonoma Lane  
\$451,500



117 Eagle Hollow Dr  
\$470,000



564 Ridgewood Rd  
\$480,000



53 Apple Lane  
\$505,300



22 Warwick Street  
\$325,000



362 Racebrook Rd  
\$535,000



7 Bradley St, #15  
\$367,500



7 Bradley St, #20  
\$382,500



75 Cox Road  
\$251,000

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**2024**



9-2 Countryside Ln  
\$200,000



111 deKoven, #501  
\$150,000



59 Long Hill Road  
\$590,794



71 Long Hill Road  
\$514,411



495 Country Club  
\$608,844



10 Starview Way  
\$563,547



9 Starview Way  
\$574,909



40 Sunrise Lane  
\$547,000



36 Midwood Farms  
\$600,000



18 Highland Terrace  
\$607,386



63 Highland Terrace  
\$622,525



15 Starview Way  
\$635,121



22 Starview Way  
\$659,012



68 Highland Terrace  
\$729,753



112 Clark Gates Rd  
\$249,000



158 Russell Street  
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\$237,500



122 Morris Hubbard  
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