

News Bulletin

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Colchester Celebrates MLK Jr. Day

By Michael Sinkewicz

Members of the Colchester community gathered last weekend to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., reading notable excerpts from the civil rights movement and speaking to his influence more than 55 years after his death.

Town officials and residents attended the event held last Saturday morning at the Cragin Memorial Library. The gathering was hosted by Colchester's Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission — the second time it's sponsored a community celebration marking the federal holiday.

On Jan. 15, King would've celebrated his 95th birthday, but even decades after he fought for racial justice, "his message still rings true today," said Shawn Pelletier, chair of the Core Commission, whose shirt displayed the message, "His dream still matters."

Pelletier emphasized the significance of honoring and continuing the activism advanced by King across the country.

"I think it's important that we recognize we're all in this together," she told the *RiverEast*. "It's up to us to make it better or to make it worse. I think Dr. King really resembles how to make it better. Not that it's easy, but there's ways to make it better."

MLK Excerpts

The event represented an opportunity for numerous town officials to share quotes from King's speeches and essays, and reflect on their impact.

Pelletier pointed to letters written by King in the summer of 1944 when he worked on a farm just 35 miles away in Simsbury — a piece of his journey some people might not be familiar with.

"What people may not think about is the time that he spent in Connecticut," she said. "It really had a lasting positive impression on him and it



Colchester celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. at Cragin Memorial Library on Jan 13 with a community reading. Readers for the event included, from left, Noreen Bibee, president of Friends of Cragin Memorial Library; Resident State Trooper Sgt. Zachary Cash; Colchester Fire & EMS Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann; First Selectman Bernie Dennler; the Rev. Lauren Ostrout, of Colchester Federated Church; Shawn Pelletier, of the CORE Commission; and Nancy Nelson, Senior Center representative.

really shaped his views and it influenced his career path."

As a young man, his experience that summer on a local tobacco farm exposed him to the promise of racial justice.

King wrote in one letter back home to his father that after traveling north past Washington, DC, there was "no discrimination at all" and he was able to go "anyplace we want to and sit where we want to."

His time here "opened his eyes and it showed him what's possible" and "opened his world to the possibilities of integration, equality and freedom," Pelletier said.

Fifteen years later in 1959, King returned to Connecticut, delivering remarks at the Bushnell in Hartford. By that time, he had already begun staging boycotts and established himself as a prominent leader.

"We were pivotal in his thinking and in his

career path," Pelletier said. "And it changed the world."

Noreen Bibee, president of the Friends of Cragin Memorial Library, read an excerpt from "What Is Freedom? The Ethical Demands for Integration" — a 1962 King speech.

"The absence of freedom is the imposition of restraint on my deliberation as to what I shall do, where I shall live, how much I shall earn, the kind of tasks that I shall pursue," she read, adding, "I do not live, I merely exist."

As a former teacher, Bibee stated that her students were always encouraged to speak up and if you disagreed with someone, you had to substantiate your opinion, as King encouraged during his remarks.

"You have to be free to choose," she said. "Don't let people tell you how to think. Don't let people tell you what to say. You have the right to have your own authentic voice, and take pride in it."

Colchester's resident state trooper, Sgt. Zach Cash, read "What Is Your Life's Blueprint?" — a speech King gave at a Philadelphia high school in 1967, less than a year before he was assassinated.

"Don't allow anybody to make you feel that you are nobody," Cash read. "Always feel that you count. Always feel that you have worth and always feel that your life has ultimate significance."

He continued that if you're a street sweeper, "sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures; sweep streets like Beethoven composed music."

Reflecting on his own influences, Cash said his father was with the state police for 20 years. But, he added, not everybody has that type of role model growing up.

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Storms Take Toll on Belltown Roads

By London Brazal

Flooding has become a major issue in Connecticut, with multiple reports of damage and debris in towns across the state — and East Hampton is no different.

As reported by Town Manager David Cox, Public Works crews have spent a significant amount of time addressing the aftermath of several rainstorms. Their efforts have included repairing gravel roads, clearing debris from drainage inlets and outlets and removing fallen tree debris from roadsides.

According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Connecticut sees an annual increase in precipitation, which makes for new weather patterns and expectations. "Storms are more intense, increasing in frequency and amount of water provided with each storm."

Last Wednesday, Jan. 10, a culvert on Wopowog Road collapsed for the third time due to

large amounts of precipitation including a snow and rain storm in the same week. The culvert that channels water from the Safstrom Brook under Wopowog Road collapsed, creating an impassable obstacle. The piping under the road appeared to be dented and separated from the cracked concrete that surrounds the tunnels.

The caved-in road is located south of where Tartia Road meets Wopowog. Fortunately, the last five houses on the road can access their homes via Young Street. However, the road switches to dirt with several potholes and ultimately adds time to their trips towards the center of town.

The Burdicks live directly next to the separation and explained that it was not the first time the culvert was washed out. Daniel and Patti Burdick recalled the road collapsing on Sept. 26, 2018. When it did, a longer part of the road caved in. The couple had to remove posts in

their front yard and drive on the grass to access their driveway.

Daniel Burdick explained how the town filled it in but did not replace the piping for the stream. He even explained how the project has been on a slate of replacements for the past five to six years. Even a week before the washout, the project was mentioned at a capital improvement meeting. "When it first happened, it was going to be replaced but got bumped by the bridge near Sears Park on North Main Street," explained Burdick. "The town crew got it slated to be fixed but are trying to find the funds... we don't expect it too quick."

According to the couple, the culvert can't take heavy rain. Instead of water running through the pipe, it goes around the tubes and even onto the road. When there is too much water, it will shoot upwards and flood the grass at the end of

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Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday school is pro-

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.

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.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night on Friday, Jan. 26 (snow date: Feb. 2), starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

'Souper Bowl' Grinder Sale

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold its 31st annual Souper Bowl Grinder Sale Sunday, Feb. 11. Pick-up will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the church.

Grinder selections are ham, turkey or tuna. Or perhaps you'd like a garden salad. All options include chips and a soda. There will also be chili, in quarts.

Pre-order is requested to ensure enough food for all. To place an order, leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 or get an order form at www.andoverctchurch.org.

Vacancy on Finance Board

Any Andover elector who is interested in serving on the Board of Finance should send a letter of interest to: Town of Andover, c/o Board of Finance vacancy, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232, or email a letter to townclerk@andoverct.org.

PZC Alternate Sought

Any Andover elector who is interested in serving as an alternate on the Planning & Zoning Commission should send a letter of interest to: Town of Andover, P&Z Alternate, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232 or email one to townclerk@andoverct.org.

vided.

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

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

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

Shopping Dates: Willimantic – Tuesday, Jan. 30; Manchester – Tuesday, Jan. 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.

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.

Historical Society Annual Meeting

The Andover Historical Society will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m., in the community room of the Town Office Building.

Election of officers will be held at this time, as well as discussions about activities for the coming year and the setting of a schedule for museum openings.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Dean's List

Andover resident Margaret Tighe made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2024-25 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is full-day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2024, are asked to contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet or access it at www.andoverelementaryct.org.

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

Library Friends Annual Appeal

Library Friends acting president Julie Victoria and membership chair Janice Bazzani announce the launch of the annual campaign in support of the Andover Public Library. They ask all community members, including the already lifetime members, now 70 in number, to consider joining, renewing and donating.

A donation is required to become a member of this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization: \$3 for senior or student; \$5, individual; \$10, family; \$25, business; \$150, lifetime; and \$500, patron. Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be mailed to: Andover Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232. Membership forms are emailed to current

and former members and are also available by visiting the library at 355 Route 6, or by calling 860-742-7428. To access the form online, go to tinyurl.com/y79tnv8j. Included on the form is a section to volunteer, from baking, gardening, book sales and tech support to serving on a committee or sharing a talent or hobby via a program. The Library Friends welcome ideas and suggestions by emailing andoverfol@gmail.com

Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For library news, updates and photos, visit facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary. CT or www.andoverconnecticut.org/library.

Andover Veterans to Meet

The next Andover Veterans meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 20, from 1-3 p.m., in the Town Hall Community Room. There will be discussion on plans and ideas for future meetings to make them more interesting and worthwhile for folks to attend. There will also be a discussion on the upcoming state veterans recognition ceremony scheduled for Jan. 22.

For more information, email Veterans@andoverct.org or call Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209.

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.

Preschool Openings

The Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center is accepting applications for preschool students for the 2024-25 school year. Andover's preschool program is full-day. Before- and after-school care is available.

Children who will be age 3 on or before Dec. 31, 2024, are eligible to attend.

The Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center receives funding for reduced tuition rates from two state grants: The School Readiness grant and the Smart Start grant.

Call Taylor Parker for more information or contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet, or download one at www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Fundraiser for Lake Improvements

Andover Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA) will hold a fundraiser for Andover Lake for improvements to the lake for 2024. The fundraiser will be a Comedy Night with Dinner Saturday, Jan. 20, at 6 p.m., at Andover Pizza.

Cost is \$35. Tickets are available at AndoverLakeCT.com.

School Budget Workshops

The Andover Board of Education will hold the following workshops on the 2024-25 budget: 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.

Andover Veterans Ceremony is Monday

The ceremony honoring the veterans from the Korean and Vietnam eras – plus, as a special bonus, a few widows of departed World War II veterans – will be held Monday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m., in the Andover Elementary School gym.

All are invited to join Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz and other government officials in helping to celebrate local honored veterans.

As an additional note, the veterans' meeting scheduled for Jan. 20 is canceled.

For more information, call Susan Camoroda, Andover veterans' representative, at 703-472-3209.

Dean's List

Ryan Woods of Andover made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

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RE1-12-24

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

After Tuesday's weather "event" – it doesn't seem quite right to call it a storm; it was more like a pain in the keester – I can't blame anyone for seeking out things that make them think of spring, and the warmer days it brings.

Well, have no fear; the annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show soon will be here.

Yup, the sights and smells of spring will be on full display at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford for four days next month – from Thursday, Feb. 22, through Sunday, Feb. 25.

Hours are: Thursday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discounted admission tickets – just \$17 for adults and seniors – are on sale now at www.CTFlowerShow.com.

This will be the 42nd year for the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, and the event will be New England's only 2024 flower exhibition show of its kind, show organizers said in a press release. The show will cover almost two acres, and offer ideas for house, apartment, and condominium dwellers.

The theme of this year's show is, fittingly, "Bursting Into Spring." The event will feature expansive live gardens, various seminars and demonstrations, the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's annual Standard Flower Show, and hundreds of exhibitors displaying

and selling all types of items and gifts.

As soon as attendees step into the Exhibition Hall, they will be welcomed by close to two dozen live gardens in full bloom by professional landscape designers and nonprofit organizations, including naturalistic, low maintenance, native, containers, vegetables, organic, herb, and pollinator gardens.

Over 80 hours of seminars and demonstrations will be presented by more than 20 horticulturalists, landscapers, and industry professionals, and are free with admission. A roster of expert speakers includes Mike McGrath, Charlie Nardozi, Tom Christopher, Sylvia Nichols floral designer, Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Charlotte Albers, Jeff Eleveld, Diane St. John. Many will sell their own books after their seminars.

But wait – there's more.

Show organizers say more than 300 booths will be featured, showcasing displays, activities, and lots of shopping: artisans, hand-crafted gifts, fresh flowers, plants, garden ornaments, metalwork sculptures, herbs, bulbs, seeds, fertilizers, soils, lawn/gardening tools and books, patio furniture, lawn and garden tools, equipment and more. Bring a half cup of soil for free testing at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center booth.

"Hands-on gardening and outdoor living are proven to reduce stress and elevate our

Editor's Desk continued on page 27

Bulletin Board

I saw an article online this week titled "Having a Baby Later in Life-What You Need to Know."

I can say with utter certainty that my wife and I have no intention of having a new baby at this point in our lives. First of all, we already have two babies (both now in their 30s). Secondly, our interests these days seem to be focused more on the results of our colonoscopies and the fate of Social Security than on the miracle of birth, as starry-eyed idealists like to call it.

Nevertheless, since we had our own children when we were in our 30s, I was curious as to what the writer of the article had to say about having a baby later in life and how it compared to my own experience, so I took a look.

To my disappointment, the article focused entirely on the health risks of later-in-life pregnancies ("later-in-life" apparently defined as being over 35, which, from my current perspective, is barely old enough to be dating without a chaperone). These risks include something called "subfertility," along with suboptimal ovulation, fewer fertilizable eggs, higher risk of miscarriage, and a lot of other things that would never dream of visiting themselves upon a pair of randy 17-year-olds in the back seat of a car.

While all of this medical mumbo-jumbo would presumably be of interest to someone with more intellectual curiosity (for my part, I tend to be one of those people who doesn't care how a TV works as long as it turns on when I want to watch something), I found it a bit tedious. What's more, the writer, in her obsession with reproductive mechanics, completely ignored the ramifications of actually dealing with a child who comes along somewhat later in life.

Allow me to address this oversight with a few observations from my own experience:

- You have just reached the point where you are beginning to enjoy some of the finer things in life (having progressed perhaps from wine in a box to wine in a bottle sealed with a real cork) when suddenly you are confronted with the steaming reality of an overfilled diaper. This can take a lot of the fun out of parenthood at any age, but it's particularly tough on older parents who tend to be (dare I say it) somewhat more anal.
- Most of us, when we're young, are not particularly affluent. This generally changes as you age and advance in your chosen career. Then comes baby? Young moms have a lot to deal with, but their problems don't typically include wondering how to get baby vomit out of a cashmere sweater.
- Young parents are capable of quickly chasing down children who flee after giving the family cat a buzz cut. Older parents do not have the stamina or agility to chase the little miscreants around chairs, over coffee tables and under beds. I can tell you from personal experience that it is hard to exercise appropriate discipline when you think you may be experiencing a heart attack.
- It's really not particularly gratifying when you bring your youngster to his or her youth soccer match and other parents tell you how nice it is that you're taking the time to bond with your grandchildren.
- You begin a serious lecture with, "When I was a boy..." and your child responds with a litany of hoots and snorts that are apparently supposed to represent dinosaurs in the throes of an asthma attack.
- Your child interrupts your daily afternoon nap, using guilt to persuade you to go outside and throw the baseball or kick a soccer ball around because "everybody else's dad helps them practice." The next morning you're too sore to go out to the mailbox and the little ingrate shows his appreciation by bouncing a golf ball off the side of the house for an hour and a half while you're on the phone trying to negotiate the purchase of a cemetery plot.
- Your child's report card arrives in the same load of mail as your AARP newsletter.
- Your child's teacher looks to be about 12 years old, calls you "sir" and looks like he's trying not to laugh when you make a remark about growing up with black and white television.
- You take it seriously when parental guides advise you to keep the channels of communication open with your children. However, even if you manage to get past the cryptic grunts and sighs, you soon find you still have no idea what your kids are talking about. This is soon followed by the realization that you're just too damn old and too damn tired to go to the trouble of learning another language.
- You look forward to having grandchildren some day and hope that they'll come visit you in the nursing home, or at least be old enough to serve as pallbearers.

I mention these things, not to discourage older parents from the joys of having children, but only to emphasize that the issue is a lot more complicated than suboptimal ovulation. Much, much, more complicated.

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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



What a Wonderful Whist... Gilead Congregational Church hosted a Military Whist tournament (a card game similar to Setback) this past weekend. It was a huge success, the church said. Pictured from left are winners Colleen Hunter, Michaela Winnie, and Cheryl & Phil Mayhe.

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

Looking Ahead

To the Editor:

As the new year marches onward, the Hebron Historical Society is looking forward to another busy and productive year. Notably, Old Town Hall will begin receiving a face lift starting in April. March will see us participating in Maple Fest, offering a quilt show, early sweetener exhibit and maple cookies. April brings two popular events – Hope Valley/Reidy Hill tours of the mill sites and our annual fundraiser clothing collection.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024 and will be seeking volunteer assistance for all events, please consider helping out for an hour or two. Visit us at hebronthistoricalsociety.org and Dacebook for more information.

**The Board of
Hebron Historical Society**

I Love You All

To the Editor:

To say that I am in awe is a complete understatement. The love I have received over these last few months since being diagnosed with ovarian cancer has been the most amazing outpouring I have ever experienced.

To my amazing family who have worked tirelessly to make these fundraisers happen so I can have some peace of mind during this very difficult journey: thank you all.

**Sincerely,
Shannon Massey – Hebron**

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Communists

To the Editor:
It seems Senator Winfield, D-New Haven, recently received the People's World Amistad Award, for epitomizing Communist Party values. It was presented to him by Senator Jan Hochadel, D-Cheshire.

In accepting the award he said, "Let me start off with the thing I really don't want to forget, and I think it's important because I'm in politics. After this is over I'm not going to forget that I came here and that there is an association with the Communist Party. I'm not going to act like I don't know who I was in the room with. Because I know who I was in this room with and I'm happy to be here."

The same event was attended by Senator Blumenthal in 2021, but he tried to distance himself when he was exposed.

I thought it was against the law to support Communists or for them to be in government?
C. Anne Johnson - Marlborough

What's Left Out?

To the Editor:
Here's what Annie doesn't tell you:
Falun Gong is a spiritual discipline that was introduced in China in the early 1990s by Mr. Li Hongzhi. It combines meditation with gentle exercise and its moral philosophy is based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance. Falun Gong is practiced by many countries around the world.

The Epoch Times was founded in 2000, originally in an effort to expose Communist ideology. It is a weekly, independent newspaper with a goal toward responsible reporting to the public and to educate readers through truth, accuracy and integrity. It has received numerous awards including from the New York Press Association.

And, finally, "Shen Yun" is a world premier classical Chinese dance and music performance art company. Its goal is to bring back the beauty and goodness of pre-communist China.

Once, again, Annie's information feed is distorted by quotes.

Caryn F. Shafer - Portland

Thank You, Dave

To the Editor:
Dave Kuzminski became my boss the summer of 2021 when, as an intern in Portland High School's tech department, I took a second internship on the Town Tech team. What I immediately noticed about Dave was that he was always up and about, heading here or there, and seemed to know everyone in town. I've seen people who love their job and people who hate their job, and with Dave, the former definitely seemed true. He introduced me to the podcasts he directed for the town's technology and water departments and for his music shop, teaching me to render, edit, and upload them. He was instrumental in giving my sister and me, and many PHS students, the opportunity to work the livestream at Board of Selectmen and Board of Education meetings and school events.

Dave made me realize that although Portland is a small, some may say uneventful, town, the quality and dedication of those who work here, people like Dave, make it a great place to live. Few people will finish a successful 50-year career and still have the desire to keep going, but Dave, always enthusiastic and optimistic, plans to continue making podcasts while traveling across the country.

I really owe a lot to Dave, for all the opportunities he's given me the past couple of years. Not only did he oversee my internship in Town Tech, he also helped me pursue my passion for music and start another mini-career, by making me a piano teacher at his music shop, the ConnValley School of Music and Dance.

Dave, thanks for being a great first boss to me - I'll miss your personality and constant presence around town, but I wish you the best of luck in your post-Portland endeavors and look forward to hearing about your travels. Keep doing great things!

Philip LeShane - Portland

Problematic Assessment

To the Editor:
I was going to submit a letter this week about pomposity, pretentiousness, arrogance, incivility, and delusion. But I can write about Joe Stevens another time. I'd rather address last week's problematic assessment of "Bidenomics" by Scott Sauyet. Clearly, Scott's forte is not mathematics, at least not in the classical sense.

I assume that Scott eats food. Let's start there. As a retiree (my wife still works), I do all the food shopping. You know what? The cost of food went up over the past three years. On average, ~23% (unlike Scott, I'm good with math). Gone out for lunch or dinner lately? Liberals think that a minimum wage increase to \$15.69/hour at a grocery store or restaurant is gladly absorbed by the business. I wonder if Scott buys lumber. Following a 150% price gouge in 2020-2022, lumber is still up ~30% from 2019. And the price of gas locally is \$0.64/gallon (~28%) higher than in January of 2021.

Let's talk about job creation. Liberals fabricate insane interpretations of the Trump job numbers by ignoring his first three years in office and focusing on the Great COVID Debacle of 2020 (silly masks and silly 6-foot social distance rules). Unemployment, food stamp recipients, inflation, costs of food/clothing/gas/oil, and mortgage rates were all down. The market was up. Then, along came COVID, then Joe Biden, and now we have spiraling debt, increased cost of living, and a lot of dead Ukrainians. Well done.

I am somewhat relieved that Scott is on the RHAM Board of Education (which is frightening enough) and not on the Board of Finance. Cost analysis and expenditure reconciliation/projection is not in his wheelhouse. That's because Scott voted for a president that thinks we bombed Hooters instead of the Houthis. No more wings and beer for Iran.

Cheerfully,
Ed Kozlowski - Colchester

Reading to Honor MLK

To the Editor:
Colchester celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Cragin Memorial Library on Jan 13 with a community reading. Readers for the event represented the Colchester Federated Church, Colchester Fire & EMS, Colchester Senior Center, CORE Commission, First Selectman's office, Friends of Cragin Memorial Library, and State Police Troop K.

After the readings, the community engaged in Q&A which provided an opportunity to get to know our leaders and residents on a more personal level. All agreed that we can learn so much from Dr. King as he chose courage, determination, and compassion to fight for equality, justice, and inclusion for all. The CORE Commission is proud to have organized the second MLK event in Colchester.

**Shawn Pelletier, Nancy Nelson, Sally Whipple
CORE Committee
Colchester**

Fulfilling MLK's Dream

To the Editor:
Connecticut's Department of Education recently mandated the inclusion of Native Americans, African Americans and other underrepresented groups to Connecticut's K-12 curriculum. Fortunately, Hebron has received a much-needed grant to document African Americans in Hebron's past. Hebron's BOS recently reached out to Hebron's educators to collaborate in this endeavor.

The Hebron Historical Society is already collaborating with educators to ensure they have updated materials about Hebron's underrepresented past. RHAM Middle School students are currently part of a multi-year Witness Stones Project commemorating Hebron's African Americans.

These are positive steps toward fulfilling MLK's "Dream." However, Hebron's motto "Historic Charm with a Vision for the Future" requires further examination to ensure all town agencies define "Historic Charm" in the same up-to-date manner. Official town statements should acknowledge Hebron's 9,000-year-old

Indigenous past. That southeastern Connecticut had one of the largest slave populations in New England before 1776. Finally, that women, immigrants, and disabled citizens all played a significant role in Hebron's past.

At the request of Hebron's P&Z Commission, the Hebron's Historical Society (HHS) was invited to collaborate in drafting a new 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). HHS has been cited as a collaborating agency with P&Z for many years, but differing perspectives of Hebron's past have hindered meaningful collaboration.

All town organizations have a vested interest in an up-to-date POCD. It's a public statement of community values. It's consulted by real estate agents, businesses, and grant agencies. It's important that Hebron's 2024 POCD reflect current educational perspectives. Representing Hebron's past from a white only point-of-view is a disservice to the town, contradicts many residents' values, and represents a disconnection between education and government.

All town agencies should promote a similar, equitable, and current understanding of Hebron's past consistent with state mandates, policies, and perspectives.

John Baron - Hebron

Note: Although Baron has served on the Hebron Historical Society POCD Review Committee, the opinions expressed in the letter are his own.

Preserve and Honor Hebron

To the Editor:
A community unites to "preserve and honor the site... and its interconnected ecological and historical legacy," focusing on "four key themes: history, conservation, agriculture, and recreation." Sounds familiar? It could be 17 Kinney Rd. in Hebron, but it is actually a historic farm in Simsbury called Meadowood. Associate Professor Jill Desimini of UConn and her students have joined with the town of Simsbury to protect their historic and environmentally significant farmland. This inspirational story was published on Jan. 8 in *UConn Today* and includes

See Letters, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

a road map for embracing the unique features found in Hebron Center, "Desimini immediately recognized that the site was special and that there was great potential for historical, ecological, and cultural education." This is the same combination of characteristics that have led Prof. Robert Thorson and Prof. Elizabeth Jockusch of UConn, Prof. John Demos of Yale, and Preservation Connecticut to support the creation of an open air classroom on Kinney Road.

The article also reports on the historical significance found by Prof. Desimini, "She soon learned about another exciting aspect - Martin Luther King Jr. spent a few formative summers working on the farm as a Morehouse College student in the 1940s." While 17 Kinney Road does not have an association with a nationally known figure like Martin Luther King, Jr., it is deeply connected to 9,000 years of Indigenous habitation, the first colonial settlers in Hebron and our own African American heroes. Documents confirm that the land on Kinney Road

was cultivated by Cesar Peters, Jr. and Henry Peters, the children of the dramatically emancipated Cesar Peters, as well as a vibrant early 19th century community of highly skilled free Black farmers.

It is time for Hebron's leaders to embrace the valuable assets at 17 Kinney Rd. and #Save17. Please visit Save Hebron Center of Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri - Amston

Immigration Stats

To the Editor:

Expulsions and Non-Citizen Apprehensions
Trump: 2017: 607,677; 2018: 739,486; 2019: 1,175,841; 2020: 609,265.

Biden: 2021: 1,865,379; 2022: 2,584,220.

Refugee Arrivals
Trump: 2017: 53,691; 2018: 22,405; 2019: 29,916; 2020: 11,840.

Biden: 2021: 11,454; 2022: 25,519.

Persons Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status

Trump: 2017: 1,127,167; 2018: 1,096,611; 2019: 1,031,765; 2020: 707,362.

Biden: 2021: 740,002; 2022: 1,018,349.

(Source: 2022 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, www.dhs.gov)

Annie Steinbrecher - Marlborough

Two People I Most Respect

To the Editor:

We all observed Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday this week. He certainly is one that I have the most respect for. The other is USMC Master Sergeant Huff. He and Martin Luther King Jr. have one thing in common: the color of their skin.

I met Master Sergeant Huff while serving in the USMC in Okinawa in 1961. He had a reputation of keeping all marines "in order." When leaving Okinawa to return to the states, about two dozen Marines, including myself, were waiting on the grass for a truck to pick us up and transport us to our ship. A Jeep pulled up and two passengers stepped out: An elderly mama-san and Master Sergeant Huff. He asked the mama-san, "Which one owes you the 20 dollars?" (Mama-sans were hired by some Marines to do their laundry and ironing, weekly.) She pointed to a Black Marine not too far from me. He asked the Marine, "Why didn't you pay this lady?" He told the Master Sergeant that he had ordered three custom-tailored suits from Hong Kong and when he picked them up and paid for them he had no money left.

The Sergeant Major asked to see the suits. The Marine open his duffel bag and showed them. Master Sergeant Huff then asked, "Who will give me \$20 for these three suits?" They sold in an instant and he gave the Marine the \$20 and then said, "Now pay the lady!"

Frank Blume - Colchester

Polly Wants a Cracker

To the Editor:

Scott Sauyet, Mr. Ed, or Mr. BoE? schools me on insurrection and Ken Hjulstrom on Biden vs Trump economies.

Insurrection? No one, including Trump, has been found guilty in a court of law in this land of insurrection nor impeached over it. Shouldn't someone have been found guilty if one actually happened? It just can't be a few powerful people claiming one occurred when no one convicted of committing one. Presidential Oath states "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the U.S." If 14th Amendment broken, why is Biden on ballot allowing illegal immigrants to cross southern border not protecting lives and welfare of US citizens putting them in jeopardy? Biden has broken records alright, the number of illegals per month and in his administration.

Biden vs. Trump economies. I learned data shows whatever you want, just play with X & Y axis. Do additional research Mr. Ed. My experienced undergraduate and graduate studies research revealed: budget.house.gov/press-release/fact-check-biden-misleads-on-job-cre-

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ation-statistics

Article states, "Recovery vs "Creation", 72% of job gains since 2021 were simply jobs that recovered from the pandemic, not new job creation. Looking at today's economy compared to pre-pandemic levels, employment up only by 3.7M. Prior to pandemic, job creation under Trump was 6.7M, 3M more than Biden." Labor force participation stronger. Wages not keeping up with inflation, real wages down 5%. Inflation prices up over 15%, high interest rates crushing housing market, an engine driving this country. "Biggest single spikes in the federal debt came from initial rounds of coronavirus relief legislation in 2020. Trump signed them, they passed with broad bipartisan support".

The Democratic "democracy" Party only has the same election battle cries, insurrection, abortion, the environment and my favorite, end of democracy. Not sure Andover BoE is getting their money's worth?

Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough

Struck a Nerve?

To the Editor:

I guess I struck a nerve with some people when I addressed the negative impact of "Bidenomics" when compared to the economy under President Trump.

Two writers took exception to my criticisms of how things have been over the course of the last three years, which focused on various factors including skyrocketing mortgage rates, heating oil and gas prices, food prices, etc., etc., etc. Just think about how much extra money you have spent since President Biden's election due to these inflated costs.

Don't even get me started about conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, which would likely never have happened if we had President Trump at the helm. Unlike President Biden, countries like Russia, Iraq, China and North Korea thought twice, or thrice, before starting anything with President Trump in charge.

Biden's supporters are terrified of President Trump's return and they are scared, with just cause, that President Biden's plummeting approval ratings, along with the long-awaited investigations into Biden Family corruption, will continue to haunt Biden as we approach November.

It will be a wild ride as we head towards the November 2024 elections. I expect that those with Trump Derangement Syndrome will blow a gasket when Trump moves back into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue a year from now.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Saving Democracy...Again

To the Editor:

There are 334 million people in the USA, closer to 360 million counting illegal immigrants, and yet we're offered only two viable candidates for president: one a geriatric dementia patient, the other an orange, narcissistic billionaire. The overarching call from the media is that we need to "save our democracy" from insurrectionists and traitors.

NBC News recently reported, "A network of public interest groups and lawmakers, nervous about former President Trump's potential return to power, is quietly devising plans to foil any effort on his part to pressure the U.S. military to carry out his political agenda." Connecticut's own Vietnam war hero, Dick Blumenthal, being one of this plan's most ardent supporters, claims we need to preserve America, saving it from foreign influence such as the Russian-aligned would-be dictator, Donald J. Trump.

I love it when media mouthpieces promote potential coups against elected leaders in the name of "saving democracy." What could be more democratic than preemptively stripping the executive branch of its abilities as "commander in chief"?

This reminds me of the *Time* magazine article titled "The Secret History of the Shadow Campaign That Saved the 2020 Election," published in February 2020. While we are told that there was zero election interference or attempt to subvert the will of the people, this article detailed a vast network of activist groups, media organizations, social media companies, and politicians bent on exerting influence, changing voting laws, and suppressing stories that may be damaging to Biden's White House aspirations – think Hunter Biden's laptop and Ukrainian business dealings.

We are gaslit and lied to by everyone in positions of power. They vehemently deny mistakes, projecting all of their own plans and wrongdoings on their political opponents...considering the times we live in, I can't imagine a more "American" scenario.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Thanks for Contributions

To the Editor:

Thank you to the local restaurants and organizations who graciously supported the Tango2 Research Foundation's banquet and auction fundraiser in November. Tango2 disease is a recently identified rare genetic disorder that causes metabolic crises, neurological issues, and intellectual disabilities in children. The well-attended event held at the picturesque St. Clements Castle in Portland successfully raised over \$50,000 which will be used to develop a better understanding of this rare disease and improve the quality of life of the afflicted children. Recent research funded by the Tango2 Research Foundation has already made breakthroughs that have directly benefited the children, decreased hospitalizations, and prevented deaths. These breakthroughs would not be possible without the support of altruistic businesses like the restaurants and businesses who generously contributed to the auction.

I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the Hartford Wolf Pack, the Hartford Yard Goats, and D'Elia, Pizzeria Da Vinci, Loco Perro, The Town Tavern, Sweet Jean's, and Two Brothers Café in East Hampton; Marlborough Tavern and Zina Cucina in Marlborough; Higher Grounds and Black Birch Golf Course in East Haddam, and El Pulpo, Esca, Fiore II, Mondo, Perk on Main, and Sicily Pizza in Middletown.

Know that your kindness will make a difference. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Owen, Volunteer
Tango2 Research Organization

Kind, Generous Hearts

To the Editor:

On behalf of the 26 senior recipients of the Holiday Box Project, I would like to send my gratitude for this ongoing collaboration with the Jack Jackter Intermediate School: the students, families and faculty for their kindness and generosity.

Every holiday season for well over 40 years, the Colchester Senior Center has partnered with the Colchester Public Schools to bring cheer to seniors who may be experiencing loneliness, illness or need during the holiday season. The senior center helps to select the seniors and works with them to establish their holiday wish lists. The wish lists are delivered to the school and each classroom is assigned a senior and generously helps to fulfill the wish lists, often with multiple boxes delivered to each. After the school's annual Holiday Assembly, volunteers and senior center staff have the great joy of delivering the boxes and collecting many smiles along the way.

No doubt, the global pandemic over the past several years has impacted us all, but I suspect that more than any other demographic, COVID-19 has changed the lives of seniors. To be able to intentionally cheer the spirits of some of those residents means a great deal. It is also a wonderful lesson for the students, who are learning the impact they can have in helping one another and making their community better. We are grateful for your kind and generous hearts.

Patty Watts

Director of Senior Services
Town of Colchester

Energy Assistance Crisis

To the Editor:

Imagine shivering in your kitchen, panicked that, with cash running out, you might freeze, or have to choose between buying meals, medications, or heat. Why would your wealthy state let energy assistance for the needy run out in January, with plenty of freezing weather coming?

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which helps needy citizens pay for heat, is out of funds and has stopped payments. Five East Hampton seniors ran out of funding in the past two weeks. Action is needed immediately to restore CEAP funding at the upcoming legislative special session.

Keith Phaneuf's 1/12/24 article in the *CT Mirror* explained the background. (ctmirror.org/2024/01/12/ct-energy-assistance-liheap-home-heating-help)

Federal funds for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) dropped from \$110 million to \$85 million this year, making Connecticut's policy of simply passing along Federal funds inadequate. Worse yet, demand surged: 56,721 applications approved through mid-December, up 18.6% from last year – with 125,000 total applications forecast. Last Fall, the state's Low Income Energy Advisory Board requested Connecticut to contribute \$17 million to bolster the CEAP fund (2.5% of the projected \$675 mil-

lion Connecticut fiscal year surplus). However, the state has not added any funds, taking a "wait and see" approach, gambling on milder weather, somewhat lower oil prices, and new electric rates discounts for the poor. But CEAP is out of funds! The one-time Operation Fuel grant of up to \$500 is inadequate, as it cannot be repeated for at least 365 days after a grant.

East Hampton's Commission on Aging unannouncedly requested this letter, a version of which was mailed to many political and community leaders. We don't want to hear of any further East Hampton seniors – or those anywhere in Connecticut – in fear of freezing this winter.

Eric Rosenberg, MD

Chair, East Hampton Commission on Aging

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The wrestling team at RHAM High School is excelling this winter, recently winning the Casey Yates Invitational in Lebanon. Along with taking home the team championship, four individual Raptors won titles in their respective weight brackets.

Raptors Wrestling Wins Tourney

By Josh Howard

RHAM High School wrestling scored a big win earlier this month, taking home the team title at the 12th annual Casey Yates Invitational at Lyman Memorial High School on Jan. 6.

Facing 13 other schools, the Raptors also won four individual matches and placed top three in three other brackets to score 227.5 points as a team and pull away from second place Windham (212.5).

Seniors Ben Fournier, Kyle Currier and Gavin Ploude, along with junior Brody Magnanini each won their respective weight classes for RHAM.

Fournier pinned Seth Christie of Griswold in the 113-lbs. championship match, while Currier downed Delmazio Despard of Windham to take the 126-lbs. title. In the 138-lbs. finals, Ploude pinned Yosuel Santiago of Vernon and Magnanini pinned Timothy Breault of Lebanon in the

285-lbs. title match.

Wrestling at 106-lbs, freshman Miles Yorio finished second in his bracket, while sophomore Landon Roy and junior Thiago Delacruz each placed third to earn spots on the podium.

Portland High School, which co-ops with Cromwell High School, also participated in the invitational, finishing eighth as a team. Cromwell junior Matt Gish took first place in the 165-pound bracket and Portland sophomore Cayleb Alvarez-James placed third overall in 190-lbs.

The Highlanders host invitationals in each of the next two weekends, starting with the Arri-goni Classic this Saturday, Jan. 20. The following Saturday (Jan. 27), Portland High School plays host to the Highlander Invitational. Both multi-school meets are slated to begin at 9 a.m.

Free Viewing of Screenagers

AHM Youth and Family Services will host a free viewing of the award-winning documentary *SCREENAGERS: Growing Up In The Digital Age* on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron.

Through stories and insights from authors, psychologists and brain scientists, this documentary reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to navigate the digital world

and find balance. This movie was created for parents to watch together with their children in grades 6-12.

AHM welcomes residents of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, Columbia and surrounding towns to this screening. RSVP to jenniferb@ahmyouth.org with the number of adults and youth attending. Learn more at www.screenagersmovie.com.

Monthly Bingo for Kids and Seniors

MAEVE RHAM is bringing bingo for kids and seniors to Marlborough Senior Center. All are welcome to attend from 2-4 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month, throughout the year. Open to residents of neighboring communities as well, it's free to play and there will be prizes.

The kids of MAEVE members will take turns calling the games and playing alongside seniors. RSVP is not necessary but is requested, by

emailing rham@wearemaeve.org. Also email MAEVE if you have any new or gently used items to donate for prizes.

MAEVE is a national nonprofit, charitable organization that seeks to empower all who mother in support of one another and their communities. MAEVE RHAM supports those in Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, and neighboring communities. For more information, email rham@wearemaeve.org or visit maeverham.org.

Youth Lacrosse Registration, Clinic

RHAM Youth Lacrosse (RYL) registration is open for the spring season – and RYL will also offer a clinic later this month.

RYL offers programs for both boys and girls in grades K-8. It is open to players that reside in Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and other local towns that do not offer a youth lacrosse program. Visit www.rhamyouthlacrosse.com for more information and to sign up. Registra-

tion deadline for the spring season is Saturday, Feb. 10. Email any questions to rhamyouthlacrosse@registrar@gmail.com.

Also, there will be a free Learn to Play Lacrosse clinic, for any child grades K-8 interested in trying lacrosse, on Sunday, Jan. 21, at RHAM High School. No equipment is required to attend the clinic. Visit www.rhamyouthlacrosse.com to sign up and for more information.

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 for more information and to register.

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 with members of the Connecticut State Police 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 free discussion. RSVP to Jenn Boehler 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

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Maple Fest – ‘Bringing it Home’

The Town Center Project is now in charge of the annual Maple Fest, and has announced planning for “Maple Festival ‘24 – Bringing it Home” is well underway.

One of the many elements being worked on is the new Hebron's Own Expo, located in the community room of the Douglas Library. If you are a home business, artist, crafter or an independent consultant for home sales companies and live in Hebron; you're welcome

to share your passion at the Maple Fest. For more information, email ttcphebronsown@gmail.com.

“Maple Festival ‘24 – Bringing it Home” is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. The Maple Festival planning committee meets every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Douglas Library, 22 Main St. All are welcome to participate.

Gilead Hill Kindergarten Registration

Gilead Hill School is registering eligible kindergarten students for the 2024-25 school year.

Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years of age on or before Sept. 1, and are planning to have their child attend public school in Hebron, are asked to log into the Hebron Public Schools website by Friday, Feb. 16, to begin the registration process.

Parents/guardians will be required to complete the registration online and upload their child's birth certificate and two address ver-

ifications. One address verification must be a mortgage document, lease/rental agreement or property tax statement. The other address verification must be a cable bill, utility bill or internet bill.

Students currently enrolled in Hebron's preschool program do not need to register for kindergarten, as this process happens automatically.

Call the Gilead Hill office at 860-228-9458 for more information.

Church of the Holy Family News

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Needs are: **Men's & Women's:** Solid color T-shirts (long and short sleeves, L to 3XL); sweatpants; hoodies; thermal shirts; winter weight socks; and men's boxer briefs (critical need; M,L,XL,2XL); **Cleaning Supplies:** Lysol disinfectant spray and

wipes; size XL disposable latex-free gloves; toilet bowl cleaner; and spray shower cleaner. **Gift Cards:** \$15 Stop & Shop cards for gas to assist people living in their cars; and \$25 Walmart cards to purchase items needed immediately. Please call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards. **Miscellaneous:** 13-gallon trash bags; body lotion; shampoo and conditioner; body wash; pump hand soap and refill bottles; paper towels; TP; Kleenex; hand warmers; Mucinex tablets (generic is fine); and cough drops. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Parks and Recreation News

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

Babysitters Training: Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Gilead Hill School PREP Room. This course is for children ages 11-17. This is an entry level course intended to teach skills necessary to care for children of all ages. The course focuses on safety with emphasis on prevention: basic first aid, including adult and child CPR. Fee: \$100.

Hebron Community Theater: This new program is targeted at adults ages 18+ who have a love of acting and being on the stage – whether they are a seasoned actor or a newcomer. The program will consist of three shows a year (in the spring, summer and fall), as well as a variety of classes in acting, improv, dance, set design,

stage management, and more.

Intro to Acting: Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., Feb. 7-March 13, in the Parks and Rec. office at Burnt Hill Park. Parks and Rec. is partnering with Playhouse Theater Academy to offer this six-week class. The workshop will focus on the fundamentals of the craft, including voice and moment and stage presence. Classes will start with physical and vocal warm-ups. You will also learn about beats, intentions, and the basics on how to approach a monologue and scenes with fellow students. This class is for ages 18 and up. Fee: \$75 per person.

Valentine's Day Paint Night: Wednesday, Feb. 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation office at Burnt Hill Park. Learn about the artist Peter Max and paint hearts in his style. Cost: \$25. All materials and supplies included.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org.

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Jan. 19, On Fire (PG-13); Jan. 26, *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* (PG-13). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

Raise the Coop: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Chicken Keeping: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m. Mark Gostkiewicz of Tri Gable Lea Farm will teach you everything you need to know to start and maintain a happy, healthy flock of chickens.

Teens: Watch for the next Teen Hangout announcement coming soon.

announcement coming soon.

Chess Night: Pickup games are held every Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

Knitwits: The knitting circle meets Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Crochet and needle pointers are welcome as well as all skill levels. No registration required; bring your project or questions.

Museum Passes: Most of the library's museum passes are available with a “print at home” option from the library website.

Creativebug: Check out the ‘Creativebug’ site from the Resources tab on the library's website and login with your Douglas Library card to stream thousands of fine art and hand-crafting classes.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

Scheduled Events/Meetings: 1/20: Yoga, 9:30 a.m.; 1/21: Youth Group Planning Meeting, 6:30 p.m.; 1/22: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 1/23: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 1/24: Yoga, 9:15 a.m.; 1/24: Choir Practice, 7 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Group: Meets on the first and third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish House. All are welcome to join regardless

of knitting/crocheting experience.

Pastor Brian Hardee's Installation: Sunday, Jan. 21, 3 p.m., in the sanctuary, followed by a reception. All are welcome.

Card-Making with Gayle: Sunday, Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15, with proceeds going toward the Connecticut Food Bank. Contact Gayle Sylvester if you are interested, at gsylvester@comcast.net.

New Members Class: Sunday, Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Confirmation Class Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m.

Faith, Film and Potluck: Friday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m. The remaining dates are March 1, April 5 and May 3.

Soup Social: Feb. 4, following worship. A sign-up sheet for soups will soon be available.

The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the ‘events/calendar’ link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors, and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733.

Life Groups: Meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Casey's home in Hebron, and the second Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30pm at the Swensons' home in Columbia, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: Jan. 28.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship! Typically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church. February's event will be Feb. 9.

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care: Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office. The church is currently running an in-depth training for people who feel called to serve others in this way. Contact the church office with questions or interest.

4th Wednesday Prayer: Wednesday, Jan. 24, 10-11 a.m. All are invited to come and offer their prayer requests.

Annual Business Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 28, 4-7 p.m. All church members are strongly encouraged to attend. If interested in becoming a member, see one of the elders or Ann Ketelhut, church administrator. The Youth Group will also serve meals and desserts for its Winter Retreat Fundraiser after the business meeting.

Special Speaker Event – ‘The Pathway to Hope’: Friday, Feb. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; snow date is Sunday, Feb. 4, from 4-6 p.m. Hear two women's testimonials about overcoming and surviving near death and a decade of tribulation. Robin Waite, published author, music composer and performer, and Kim Klein, certified Life Coach and Stephen Minister, will share their stories and explain how to start over after tragedy.

Osten to Meet with Residents

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) will hold a ‘town hall-style’ meeting at Douglas Library, 22 Main St., on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 4-6 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to hear from constituents in advance of the 2024 legislative session, which begins Feb. 7 and concludes three months later, on May 8.

Osten – who is senate chair of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee – invites the public to attend and discuss public policy issues of importance to them and the state.

The 19th Senate District includes Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Norwich and Sprague.

Parks and Recreation News

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

Electricity and Magnetman Workshop: Mondays, Jan. 29-March 11, 3:15-4:30 p.m., at the Hebron Elementary School library. Learn all about electronics, magnetism and more in this hands-on workshop. Take home your very own circuit kit. Cost is \$126.

Gentle Yoga: This class is open to all ages and yoga levels. Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. Session I has started; Session II dates are 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29. Cost is \$72 per session.

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Schools Chief Presents 2024-25 Budget

By Michael Sinkewicz

Hebron Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird requested \$13.74 million to fund the district for the 2024-2025 fiscal year — a \$940,312, or a 7.35% increase over current year spending.

The increase is the product of two main challenges that are “beyond our control,” the district summarized in its proposal: a spike in health insurance costs and teacher salaries. Health insurance premiums increased by 16.5%, or \$207,039. Contractual salaries and benefits, meanwhile, jumped \$399,952.

Together, those two items represent a significant piece — \$606,991 — of the total increase.

During his presentation in front of the Board of Education (BOE) last week, Baird stated that his proposal largely maintains current services at the Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill schools.

“There are no proposed increases to any programming,” he said. “There’s no major staffing changes proposed in this budget. This is a steady-as-you-go, continue-what-we’re-doing budget.”

The BOE is expected to host a forum on Feb. 7 to solicit community feedback. Ultimately, the 2024-25 school spending proposal, along with the town and RHAM budgets, is expected to go to out referendum on May 7.

Baird emphasized that the figures he presented at the Jan. 11 meeting were amendable. He said certain numbers will likely decrease, asserting that the proposal he submitted was a “worst case” scenario.

“If nothing else changes and all the assumptions that we have right now come to fruition, this is what we’re looking at.”

He added that the administration will be able

to “chip away” at the proposal over the next two months.

The proposed increase is more than the previous year-over-year surge adopted for the current 2023-24 fiscal year. The total budget is slated \$12.79 million, which was around \$590,000 more than the prior 2022-2023 fiscal year. (The current operating budget was also reduced by roughly \$150,000 from what Baird and the BOE initially recommended)

The next largest increase represented in the 2024-2025 budget proposal comes from special education costs, which spiked around \$240,000 due to outplacement costs. The district anticipates that it will tap into its non-lapsing account, creating a \$125,000 hole that’s being filled in the new spending plan.

New England School Development Council (NESDEC) projections indicate that the district’s enrollment will hit 722 students, a 3.3% increase. The leap is mostly concentrated in kindergarten, but Baird said he’s still waiting to get a firmer grasp on the actual enrollment numbers in May, after students have mostly registered.

During the 2023 legislative session, state lawmakers approved a law that would require that who are children entering kindergarten need to have turned five years old by September 1; the previous deadline was Jan. 1.

While the district anticipates needing the same amount of kindergarten sessions next school year as it currently offers, potentially being able to shrink that total would result in a “sizable reduction in the budget,” according to Baird.

Magnet school enrollment has continued to

drop in recent years, falling from 27 students in the 2017-18 school year to just six in the current year; that number is expected to hold steady in the upcoming budget as well.

Typically, salaries and benefits account for up to 85% of a school budget, and while the district’s total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions is decreasing in 2024-25 by 1.27, salaries are rising substantially.

Kaitlyn Shelar, the district’s business manager, explained that Hebron has a lot of teachers “climbing the ladder,” meaning that many are due for contractual increases. The district is also looking to increase pay for its non-union staff by up to 3%.

For its facilities, the district is seeking funding for a new public address system, costing around \$7,000. Shelar described the item as a “critical need.” Some items, like the PA system, are included in the town’s capital improvement plan, so if they are ultimately approved there, they would be removed from the school’s spending plan resulting in an overall reduction.

Other increases include over \$30,000 more to cover state mandated air quality inspections.

The district continues to be aided by a serious of alternative funding sources, including a state school mental health grant. In total, there are over 17 FTE employees covered through non-taxpayer dollars.

A newly negotiated transportation contract will minimize the impact of rising expenses, Baird explained, but the first year will increase that budget line by 6%, or around \$28,000, compared to the current budget.

Baird once again requested an additional

school resource officer (SRO), which would need to be included in the town budget proposal. Accordingly, the district asked the boards of selectmen and finance to consider the item in the municipal spending plan. Currently, the district employs one SRO who splits time between the schools.

The BOE heard from different department leaders and administrators who broke down their own specific budget requests.

Residents can email questions to the BOE and administrative team to budget@hebron.k12.ct.us and view both budget presentation and budget book at www.hebron.k12.ct.us/district/budget/2024-25_budget

Budget Breakdown

Salaries represent the largest expense in the 2024-25 budget, increasing \$304,006, or 3.5%, for a total of \$8.92 million.

Benefits went up to \$2.43 million — a \$305,847, or 14%, increase from current spending.

Professional services come in at \$195,576, a slight increase.

Property services increased to \$237,181, up from \$190,329 in the current year.

At \$507,657, supplies decreased nearly \$5,000.

Property stayed almost entirely flat at \$245,289.

Other objects cost \$141,163 — about \$5,500 more than the 2023-2024 year.

While the total expenditures total \$14 million, the district accounts for \$264,608 in revenue, bringing the total proposed budget down to \$13.74 million.

St. Peter’s News & Notes

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds two services of Holy Eucharist each week, at 8 and 10 a.m. All are invited to the church hall for coffee and conversation after the services. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

Meetings and Events: Balance Class, Mondays, 10-11 a.m., \$5; Cub Scouts, Mondays, 5:30 p.m.; Fellowship Café (Memory Workshop), temporarily on hiatus; Buildings and Grounds Committee, first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Virtual Cof-

fee Hours, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Vestry, third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

Outreach: Food Donations: Items for various local food pantries can be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall.

For more information, visit stpetershebron.com, search for St. Peter’s Hebron on Facebook, or email office@stpetershebron.com.

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. Registration required for all programs, unless noted. To register, and for more information and full program descriptions, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. The senior center newsletter is online at hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center.

Yoga: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m., through Feb. 7; no class Jan. 15. Call the senior center for remaining cost.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pick-ups begin Fridays at 10 a.m.; pre-registration is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m. Schedule: Jan. 26, Walmart and Aldi; Feb. 2, Stop and Shop; Feb. 9, Big Y. Call the senior center to sign up. Please call 860-228-1700.

Mindful Meditation: Monday, Jan. 22, after yoga. Class is free.

Movie Monday: Monday, Jan. 22. *Love & Mercy* will be shown. Lunch will be served beforehand at noon; sign up for lunch by the prior Friday at 9:30 a.m. To sign-up for the movie or lunch and the movie, call the center.

Energy Assistance Winter Heating Program: The senior center is taking applications

for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which is designed to help offset the winter heating costs for a household’s primary heating source. If the household’s primary heating costs are included in rent, the household may also apply for assistance. To make an appointment, call the senior center.

Linda’s Craft Corner: Wednesday, Jan. 24, noon (notice special time), to make Valentine decorations for the new “yearly” tree and/or your home and rock-painting. Cost is \$3 per person for supplies. Come early for lunch at 11:30 a.m. To sign up, call the senior center. Registration deadline: Monday, Jan. 22, at noon.

AARP Income Tax Preparation: Certified volunteers will be at the senior center from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 6-March 26, to prepare basic federal and state tax returns. There are five appointments per time slot and they are one-hour appointments: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. Call the senior center to sign-up.

Open Quilting, Arts Groups: The senior center is combining the Fun with Stitches open quilting group and the Created to Create open arts group. The groups will meet Fridays through Jan. 26, from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. This will be an open time to come work on your projects; bring your own supplies. Pre-registration requested.

Healing Mass Sunday

Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., will hold its next Healing Mass Sunday, Jan. 21, at 2 p.m. All are invited.

The monthly service is intended to bring comfort to people struggling — be it physically, emotionally or spiritually.

For more information, call the church at 860-228-0096.

Library Seeks Applicants for Poet Laureate

The Douglas Library Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the establishment of a poet laureate position for the town of Hebron. The poet laureate position was approved and ready to launch in early 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic took over.

The mission of Hebron’s poet laureate is to promote the appreciation of poetry in Hebron, and to be a resource for the community.

If you are interested in the poet laureate position, stop by the library and pick up an application. Applications must be returned prior to Feb. 1.

Preschool Lottery Applications

Hebron Early Childhood Center at Gilead Hill School is taking applications for eligible preschool students for the 2024-25 school year.

Parents/guardians of children who will be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1 and are planning to have their children entered into Hebron’s preschool lottery, are asked to call the Gilead Hill School office at 860-228-9458 to have an application mailed to them. The application may also be downloaded from the Hebron School district website, www.hebron.k12.ct.us. Go to “Quick Links” and click “PK Application.”

Hebron Early Childhood center receives funding for reduced tuition rates from the School Readiness Grant. Eligibility is based upon household income.

Lottery applications must be completed and returned to the Gilead Hill Office by Friday, Feb. 23, by 3 p.m. Please enclose two forms of residency when you return the lottery application. The lottery drawing will be held on Thursday, March 12, at 11 a.m., at Gilead Hill School. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance or waitlist status by phone.



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Ft. Lauderdale Fun... Deb, Jim and Erin McKinney of East Hampton recently enjoyed a few days in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., before and after cruising to the western Caribbean.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

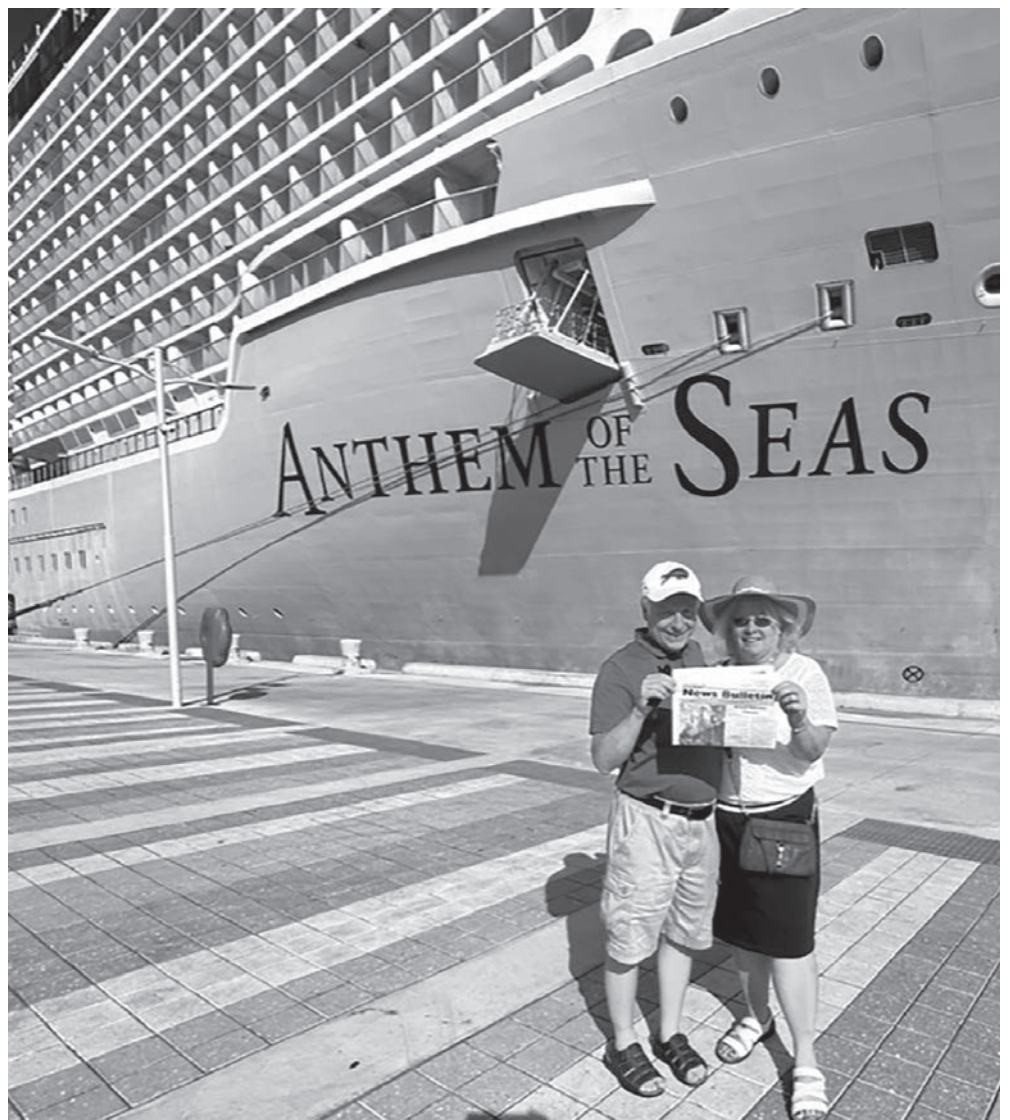
Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to bulletin@glcitizen.com.



Rivereast in Vatican City... Mark and Sue Schroeder of Colchester met Barbara and Joe Mercieri of East Hampton during an 11-day pilgrimage through Italy; they're seen here at St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, on Nov. 6.



Rivereast Hits the Bahamas... Ron and Stacy Silberman of Colchester recently went on a cruise and checked out the Bahamas – and of course brought along the *Rivereast*!



Thanksgiving Cruise... Carol and Shawn Amell of Colchester enjoyed a Thanksgiving cruise to the Bahamas with friends aboard the Royal Caribbean Anthem of the Seas.

Where in the World?

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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., Middle Haddam. Coffee hour follows the services, in the church's Fellowship Hall.

On Jan. 21 and 28, guest preacher will be the

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 for more information.

Capstone Grants Available for EHHS Students

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting applications from East Hampton High School juniors and seniors for two \$200 grants to support two East Hampton High School Capstone projects.

The grants will help support the student's proposed Capstone project, a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. Cap-

stone projects may take a wide variety of forms including a long-term investigative project that culminates in a final product, presentation, or performance.

Applicants will be invited to present their Capstone Project idea to commission members. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1. Visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org for an application or pick one up at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., announces the following. Registration is required for all programs unless noted; register at myactivecenter.com or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Masks are encouraged, but not required. Visit the senior center online at www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

Lunches: Served Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. Call to reserve a meal or sign up online. Reservations for the next day's meal are due by 11 a.m. the day before. Meals are free; a \$3 donation is requested.

Weekly Activities: **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; **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.

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

Makeup for Mature Women Forum: Monday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Learn how to create your own unique makeup style with

a professional makeup artist. Explore products and tools and participate in demonstrations. Cost is \$10. Bring your own makeup if possible.

Chatham Health Chat: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 10:30 a.m. The Chatham Health District will visit and provide a free informational discussion on eye health.

Game Day Challenge with the East Hampton High School Interact Club: Thursday, Jan. 25, 2:30 p.m. All are invited to an afternoon of Scrabble and Pictionary with students from East Hampton High School.

Art with Karen: Sunday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m.

AARP Free Tax Aid Program: Appointments start Feb. 5th. All appointments will be held on Mondays at the senior center through the end of March. Call or stop by the center to make an appointment. At that time you will be given an intake form to complete and bring with you on the day of your appointment.

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.

Shop on Your Own at the Meriden Mall: Monday, Feb. 5, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost is a \$4 transportation donation. Pre-registration is necessary.

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. 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.



Local singer-songwriter Bill Naughton Jr. will provide musical entertainment at the Knights Of Columbus spaghetti supper on Friday, Jan. 26.

Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

The Knights of Columbus St. John Paul II Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church will hold their semi-annual spaghetti and meatball dinner Friday, Jan. 26, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the church parish center, located at 47 West High St. In case of inclement weather, the dinner will be Friday, Feb. 2. Take-out and dine-in meals will be offered.

Meal prices are \$13 for adults and \$12 for seniors. Children 5 and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert, coffee and a punch drink. Canned soda and bottled water will be available for \$1. Proceeds will support local charitable programs. The Knights of

Columbus will also collect non-perishable food items for the East Hampton Food Bank.

There will be musical entertainment at the supper, by local singer-songwriter Bill Naughton Jr.

Contact Jim Radavich at 860-319-9288 or jradavich@yahoo.com for more information.

Teen Game Night at Epoch Arts

Epoch Arts is joining up with The Portal in Manchester and offering a teen game night Friday, Jan. 26, from 7-9:30 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St., East Hampton.

Teens in grades six and up are invited to come hang out, eat some food, listen to music and play some games. There will be a variety of board games plus DDR, and Bryan Raddatz from The Portal in Manchester will head up the night.

Admission is \$10. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org. And for more information on The Portal, visit www.theportalct.com.

Houseplants – New Ideas and Old Favorites

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club will meet Monday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place at Ballek's Garden Center in East Haddam, where Nancy Ballek McKinnon will talk about houseplants.

Her presentation will be centered around some new ideas for easy-care plants as well as familiar plants folks continue to enjoy. She will talk about the care of your plants and revitalization of plants that you may have had for some time.

For more information, call Sue at 860-575-1349.

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Cabin Fever History Talk

On Saturday, Feb. 24, editor and publisher Richard "Dick" Shriver, a resident of Old Lyme, will give a talk on his quarterly magazine *Estuary: Life of the Connecticut River* at 11 a.m. at the East Hampton Library Community Room, 105 Main St.

The talk is part of the Cabin Fever History Series organized by the Chatham Historical Society and co-sponsored by the East Hampton Library.

Shriver uses PowerPoint slides to illustrate his presentation on the last 12,000 years of the Connecticut River to the present, with special attention to abuse of the river during and following the industrial revolution. He will acknowledge those in government who established the present-day regulatory apparatus that has helped clean up the water in the river. He will also summarize the works currently underway for the long-term benefit of the environmental and ecological features of the river.

Shriver has a degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in industrial engineering. He has held executive positions in government and industry, having been assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department and senior vice president of Chase Manhattan Bank. He has been professor of business finance and marketing at the International Management Institute in Kiev, Ukraine. He is provost emeritus of the European College of Liberal Arts (now Bard College Berlin), and is currently head coach of girls' varsity lacrosse at Old Saybrook High School.



Richard Shriver

Register in person at the library, by calling 860-267-6621, or online at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org. For more information, contact Chatham Historical Society member Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net.

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Tri-M Honor Society Hosts Student-Run Recital

By London Brazal

East Hampton High School students showcased their musical talents in an entertaining recital last week. On Jan. 10, members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society put together groups to perform in front of family and friends in the high school's auditorium.

The Tri-M Music Honor Society, known simply as Tri-M, offers students the chance to perform, places them in leadership positions, and allows them to serve their community. It is an initiative by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) aimed at acknowledging students for their academic and musical accomplishments. To qualify for membership, a student must uphold an A average in their music classes, maintain a C average in all academic courses, be currently enrolled in a music course at their school, and receive a recommendation for membership from their school's music faculty.

The East Hampton Chapter 7138 of the Tri-M Music Honor Society currently has 16 members consisting of juniors and seniors. The advisors are musical instructors Andrew Groves and Ehren Brown. The recital held last week was the first since the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the student-run performance, they handled set-up/take-down, promotion, audio-visual and emceeing. Groves said that as an honor society, students were more than capable of running their own event. "The organizational aspects required to do all the non-performing aspects are very good for students to refine," mentioned Groves. "Really, we just wanted to showcase how awesome our students are and can be without any oversight."

Juniors Kaitlyn Grenier and Macie Brazal emceed the event and enjoyed some back-and-forth banter while students prepared the stage.

Neha Sidana, also a junior, serves as the chapter's secretary. She got involved with Tri-M be-

cause she wanted to immerse herself in additional musical experiences and spread her love for music to the rest of the community. "I think the recital really impacted student's musical growth positively," said Sidana. "It allowed students to create groups and collaborate with others on pieces that we don't normally play."

Sidana joined three other students to perform in a saxophone quartet and played "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne. Other performances included a 13-student choir singing an acapella version of "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King, a brass quintet playing "Mr. Blue Sky" by Electric Light Orchestra, a woodwind quartet performing "I See the Light" from the movie *Tangled*, a trumpet duet playing "Summertime" by Louis Armstrong and members of the drum-line performing a medley of cadences while moving around the stage.

Sidana was happy with the results of the student-run event. "It showcased our commitment to music and this organization," explained Sidana. The most challenging part was finding time outside of school to rehearse. Zachary Selger, another junior a part of Tri-M, echoed that point. In addition, another challenge was reading unfamiliar music. "The most difficult part was finding and practicing new songs that some of us hadn't even heard of until we searched it up," said Selger.

Selger got involved with Tri-M because he wanted to try a positive new experience and it looks good on college applications. "The reason why I think the recital improved students' musical growth is because the students lead their own musical groups," explained Selger. For him, it was difficult to find time to practice and also find ways to assist or compromise.

The Tri-M Recital was reintroduced for the first time since 2020. "I think it helped students' musical growth," said Selger. "It was a great idea to have the recital be student-run, it allows them to experience what running an event is like."



East Hampton High School juniors Neha Sidana, Will Nafis, Landon Vaillancourt and senior Finn Piper performed an arrangement of Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train." The different groups of students quickly prepared and auditioned with a song to perform at the annual Tri-M Recital.

Brown and Groves were thrilled with the recital's success. The audience was filled with family, friends and other members of the music department. "Students did an excellent job rehearsing and performing their music," explained Groves. "We loved that it showcased their ability to make chamber music and adjust on the fly."

The East Hampton High School Music Department has several performances through-

out the year. The next performance is the winter concert on Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The jazz band will also be performing at the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on March 1 at St. Patrick's Church. On March 27, the department will host its annual Cabaret, at which attendees will enjoy dinner and musical performances by the students.

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.

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 or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Sunday, Jan. 21: Music will feature both the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir. The Rev. Valerie Seaver's sermon title is "Listen," based on Psalm 139:1-6 and John 1:43-51. A Service of Installation will be held in the meetinghouse at 2 p.m., when Seaver will be officially installed as the church pastor.

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.

Free Spaghetti Dinner: Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 5 p.m., in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Faith Formation (Bible Study) is led by the Rev. Val 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 and Thursdays at noon in the Youth Room, and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall.

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

277th Annual Financial Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 28, at 11:15 a.m., in the meetinghouse.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is closed in January for refreshing and reopening Friday, Feb. 2, from noon-3 p.m. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

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 for information/dates, as classes are sometimes rescheduled.

Cobalt Lodge Service: All are invited to attend the brief service at Cobalt Lodge immediately after church on Jan. 21.

Save the Date: The annual meeting will be held directly after the service on Feb. 14.

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m., via Zoom, led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn. Contact her at bobette@kahn.com for further information.

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

Dean's List

Maxwell J. Karrenberg of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg in Greensburg, Pa.

Karrenberg is currently a junior in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in business.



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Boy Scout Bottle Drive

Boy Scout Troop 57 will hold its bottle drive this Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the American Distilling parking lot at 31 East High St., Route 66.

For more information, call Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962.

Future bottle drives will be March 16 and May 18. For updates due to inclement weather, visit tmweb.troopmaster.com/Login/PickSite (choose CT and Unit 57).

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Police News

1/7: Adam Motowidlo, 37, of 30 Wangonk Trl., was issued a summons for traveling too fast for conditions, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, East Hampton Police said.

1/10: Lisabeth Menard, 36, of Southington, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order and second-degree harassment, police said.

1/11: A 17-year-old of East Hampton was

issued a summons for two counts of fourth-degree sexual assault and one count of second-degree unlawful restraint, police said.

1/16: Donato Rinaldi, 48, of 29.5 N. Main St., was arrested and charged with two counts of violation of a restraining order, police said.

From Jan. 8-14, officers responded to 16 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and six alarms, and made 11 traffic stops, police said.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Fill a Bag Book Sale: During January, bring a bag or take one of the library's and fill it with as many books and DVDs as you can, for \$1.

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.

Introducing Pilates: Thursdays at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per class. To register, call 203-592-4448 or email abstst@sbcglobal.net.

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 or call 860-638-9097 to register.

Haines to Seek Reelection for House Seat

State Rep. Irene Haines (R-34) has announced she will seek reelection. Haines has been a member of the state House of Representatives since 2018.

The 34th District covers East Haddam, East Hampton and portions of Salem.

Currently in her third term, Haines holds positions on the legislature's Education, Planning & Development, and Higher Ed & Workforce Development committees. As ranking member of Higher Education, Haines has championed increased incentives for trade schools, apprenticeships, and initiatives focusing on workforce development. Additionally, she has helped reduce unfunded mandates in education.

"If reelected, my focus will remain on crafting and supporting legislation that will substantially assist our small businesses, creating new avenues for employment and offering opportunities for our youth through apprenticeship and internship programs," Haines said.

"I am steadfast in my dedication to being your voice in Hartford," she added. "Undoubtedly,

these times present challenges for us, and there remains more to be accomplished. Across the district, residents echo the sentiment that Connecticut has become increasingly unaffordable. Escalating inflation, education and healthcare expenses are straining budgets and impacting our collective quality of life."

Haines said she will "persist in advocating for legislation that stops hampering economic progress in Connecticut. Our legislative priority must center on creating a landscape ripe with opportunities for both employers and employees. It's imperative to heed the concerns of our job creators regarding workforce requirements, outdated regulations, and the mounting costs of conducting business – the red tape must be eliminated."

Haines added, "I remain dedicated to our first responders, veterans, seniors, and will continue to safeguard the natural splendor of our beloved community."

Haines lives in East Haddam with her husband, Steve, and together they have two children.

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](https://www.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.

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.

Ready to Read Book Club: Wednesday, Jan. 24, 4:30-5:30 p.m., for grades K-2. Share your favorite early reader books and play games to

improve literacy skills. Registered participants will receive a book to take home. This month's book is *Pizza and Taco: Who's the Best* by Stephen Shaskan.

Family Storytime: Saturday, Jan. 27, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-5 – siblings welcome. There will be stories, songs, and open-ended play. Participants will also have the chance to work on a craft to bring home. No registration required.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Saturday, Feb. 3. All are invited for a day of hands-on activities and prizes. From 10:30-11 a.m., Family Storytime will take place, for ages 2-6. Read, dance and sing! Then from 1-2 p.m., there will be Ice Cream in a Bag, for all ages. Make your own ice cream.

Teen Programs: Nintendo Switch Game Play: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2-3:30 p.m. Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to pull up a beanless bag chair in the community room for a big-screen Nintendo Switch hang out. All skill levels welcome.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m., for grades 6-12. Have a say in programming, collection development, and more. The TAB group meets monthly and always welcomes new members.

Adult Programs: LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham: Saturday, Jan. 20, 10:15 a.m. This is an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfortable clothes.

Tech Help with Sam & Nicole: Thursday, Jan. 25, 2-4 p.m. Drop by the library to get your technology questions answered. No registration required, just bring your device with you.

Spring Soccer Registration

Registration is now open for the East Hampton Soccer Club's spring season, for both the Recreational and Travel Leagues. Visit tinyurl.com/sxzyf5fn to register. Registration deadline is March 3.

Recreational Program offerings are: Pre-K (ages 3-5), Kindergarten, Juniors (grades one and two), Seniors (grades three-five).

The Travel Programs are U8 (Birth Year 2016) and up.

Volunteers are needed for Travel and Rec League teams. Contact the club if interested.

Presentation by Local Artist

The East Hampton Art Association will present fine artist Sylvina Rollins Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m., in the Community Room at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St.

Along with her camera, oil paint is Rollins' primary medium. She also enjoys watercolor journaling in addition to colored pencil and ink. She keeps her camera nearby to capture beautiful inspirations for future paintings.

Her career highlights include publishing the book *Luna – A Tribute*; sales to collectors, including an actor from the show *Cheers*; and exhibiting throughout the region at museums, hospitals and public spaces. She loves providing keepsake pet portraits to her loyal repeat collectors.

"I am inspired by light, color, joy, farm animals, nature, family and all life's wonders: Walks in nature, trips to the ocean, traveling and time with our pets," said Rollins.

Learn more at www.sylvinarollinsart.com.

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

Art Association programs/demonstrations



Sylvina Rollins

and meetings are always free for students and association members. Suggested donation for non-members is \$4.

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. Communion will be served.

Annual Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 27, at 9 a.m., in Fellowship Hall.

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.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Sam Gibson, Kyle Lapolt and Alissa Madeia made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

Dean's List

East Hampton resident Jenna DeCoursey made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Belltown Motors

Tire & Service Center

A Belltown Motors Maintenance Tip:

Get your tires rotated to save money!

Did you know you can easily extend the life of your tires just by rotating them every so often? It's true! All four tires on your car do not wear down in the same way.

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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. 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.

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 or call 860-267-9093.

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From the First Selectman's Desk

Dear Residents of Portland:

I am writing today to address a pressing concern regarding our primary fire protection vehicle in the countryside, Engine #3, and to propose a solution that is in the best interest of Portland residents.

As you may or may not be aware, Engine #3 recently suffered a catastrophic tank failure while returning from a call in October. Upon disassembling the tank, it was revealed that extensive repairs, estimated to range from \$100,000 to \$250,000, would be required. Given the truck's age, now exceeding 30 years, The Board of Selectmen carefully considered and concluded that investing a substantial amount in its repair is neither practical nor fiscally responsible for our taxpayers.

In collaboration with former Chief Shea, current Chief Puida and other members of the Fire Department, we initiated the process of finding a suitable replacement for Engine #3. This task initially proved challenging, particularly due to a competitive marketplace and the unique specifications that the garage bay at Fire Company 3 requires. Timing is also a factor with a six-month lead time on any vehicle purchased, pushing the timeline to June of 2024 at the earliest.

The good news is that our contractor recently identified a truck that meets all the necessary specifications and requirements. The total cost for the replacement engine, including contingency, amounts to \$525,000. We firmly believe that acquiring this vehicle is in the best interest of the Town, ensuring adequate protection for our residents.

To address the funding for this emergency expense, we have worked closely with Finance Director Tom Robinson. The identified funding sources include \$367,112 from unanticipated revenues that we received in the current fiscal year as well as a transfer of \$157,888 from unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

To facilitate community input and decision-making, a Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m., in the Buck-Foreman Community room at 265 Main St. Following the hearing, a Special Town Meeting will take place at 6:45 p.m., during which a vote will be conducted on the proposed purchase.

We understand the significance of unanticipated purchases, but given the safety concerns and the paramount importance of protecting our residents, the Board believes this decision is imperative for the well-being of the town.

In a positive turn of events, the Town of East Hampton has generously offered the town one of their spare engines as a loaner while we work towards procuring this new truck. This not only allows us to maintain adequate protection for our residents, but also enables us to return our own tanker to mutual aid service. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the Town of East Hampton, especially to Fire Chief Robert Rainville and Town Manager David Cox, for their invaluable support during this challenging time.

I would like to encourage the residents of Portland to attend the Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting to voice their opinions and participate in the decision-making process. Your engagement is crucial as we collectively work towards ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to a positive outcome that prioritizes the safety of our residents.

Sincerely yours,
Ryan J. Curley
Portland First Selectman

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

Dean's List

Portland residents Stephanie Dimauro and Jayden Schoeps made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

Enhancing with Native Plants

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m., at The Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave., the Portland River-Valley Garden Club will welcome Peter Picone, a DEEP wildlife biologist, who will present an educational program on ways to create and enhance wildlife habitat in your surroundings through the use of native plants.

All are welcome to attend; light refreshments will be served.

President's List

Lauren Eckert of Portland made the fall 2023 President's List at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, N.H.

St. Mary Church News

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

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

Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8

a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.

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

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

Bereavement Support Group: The group meets every second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Susan Bongiorno at 860-685-1966.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., holds Sunday worship at 10 a.m. each week. All are invited; coffee hour follows the service. This Sunday, Jan. 21, service will be led by Intentional Interim Minister the Rev. Barry McCarthy.

The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a "Mardi Gras Fest" on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The event will include authentic New Orleans food, music, a bake sale and candy booth. Valentine gift items, handmade photo

cards, and a basket raffle featuring themed baskets filled with gifts and treats. In keeping with the mission focus this church is known for, a portion of the proceeds from the Mardi Gras Fest will be given to the Portland Fuel Bank.

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

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.

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: 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.

Let's Explore Italy: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 1, 15, and 29, for grades 3-5.

Turtle Power Teamwork! Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 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.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit the children's department where you'll find Bluey-themed crafts, games and a scavenger hunt. Also, sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to a therapy dog between 10:30 a.m. and noon, and stop by the animal adoption event with Protectors of Animals to learn about volunteer opportunities and meet some four-legged friends that might be a good fit for your family.

Family Craft Night: Sock Snowmen: Thurs-

day, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m. The library will provide a sock for each member of your family. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Space is limited.

Family Fort Night and Hibernating Animal Hunt: Friday, Feb. 9, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Stop by after the library has closed to create a reading den, enjoy a bear-themed snack, and search the library once the lights go out for some hibernating animals hiding in the book stacks. Space is limited.

Snow Day: Tuesday, Feb. 20. Drop in during the day for a variety of snow day fun. Practice ice skating, have a snowball fight, create some winter-themed crafts, and sip on some hot cocoa. No registration is required.

Pizza and Puzzles - Jigsaw Puzzle Competition: Saturday, Feb. 24, 10:30 a.m. Create a team with friends and family. Teams may consist of 2-4 people who will compete to finish the same 500-piece puzzle in the least amount of time. Space is limited to seven teams so register early.

Teen Event: Portland Pizza: Who's the GOAT?: Monday, Feb. 12, 3:30 p.m. Sample slices from local pizza places and choices and decide who is the champion. Space is limited.

Adult Programs: Art Exhibit: Carol Ingram's "Art that is Felt" exhibit runs through Feb. 1.

Portland Writers' Group: Saturday, Jan. 20, 1 p.m. The library is thinking about starting a writing group in Portland. All are invited to join local author Mary Maki to share what they would like to see at the library.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Rescheduled to Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 1 p.m. *Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem will be discussed.

Writers' Café: Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. At this drop-in café, the library will provide warm beverages; you bring whatever you need to write to help the library "sprint" to the finish line in its community writing challenge. The first hour will be quiet writing time (6-7 p.m.), and then folks can use the final 30 minutes (7-7:30 p.m.) to chat about their project.

February Art Exhibit Reception - Jennifer Hart: Snowpaintings: Saturday, Feb. 10, 1 p.m. Hart says "Snowpaintings are an original style of painting created in snowstorms that begin with falling snow on canvas." The Friends of the Portland Library group is sponsoring the reception. The exhibit runs Feb. 3-28.

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Town Clerk's Office Closure

The Portland town clerk's office will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 23, in order for staff to attend required training. The office will re-open after the training at approximately 5 p.m., and continue with normal Tuesday late hours until 7 p.m.

All other Town Hall offices will be open as normal.

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Mardi Gras Fest at First Church

The First Congregational Church of Portland will hold a Mardi Gras Fest Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the church, located at 554 Main St.

The Mardi Gras Fest is a new event for the church which is known for popular events in years past such as The Chocolate Fest, church fairs, and musicals. A portion of the funds raised will be donated to Portland Fuel Bank.

A feature of the Mardi Gras Fest will be the raffle of 21 themed baskets. The baskets have been created and donated by members of the church. Some baskets are filled with gifts, while some feature gourmet food, and others provide everything needed for a gathering of friends. For those looking for a serenity, the Peace and Quiet basket will be perfect. For those planning to gather with friends, the choices include We All Scream for Ice Cream, Super Bowl Basket, Italian Pasta Night, and Happy Mardi Gras. There are baskets filled with items for our Featured Friends or Pet Lovers. The Made in Connecticut basket features sixteen items from farms and food establishments throughout the state. You Are My Sunshine, Over the Rainbow, Blueberry Basket, Be My Valentine, and When Life Gives You Lemons are sure to bring a smile to the lucky winners. Several baskets are perfect for home chefs and there are baskets filled with surprises and activities for children.

Faith Fraulino is the chairperson for the Mar-

di Gras Fest, assisted by a cadre of helpers from the church. The Mardi Gras Café will feature original Mardi Gras fare such as authentic New Orleans gumbo and several desserts including King's Cake.

There will be a Bake Sale booth overflowing with a large variety of home-baked cakes, pies, pastries, cookies and breads, including Robin Richardson's popular and sought-after cardamom bread.

The Sweet Treats Extraordinaire Booth will feature treats sure to entice all those with a sweet tooth. Husky Paws, pecan turtles, English toffee, almond brickle, candy covered pretzels, and a variety of other candies will be available. In keeping with the Mardi Grad theme will be southern pralines and rum raisin fudge.

The Timeless Treasures Booth will be filled with gift items perfect for Valentine's Day and birthdays, including the church's line of beautiful photo greeting cards. The children's table of crafts will be provided by Mary Clark.

Presidential Scholar

Katelyn Rose Yankowski of Portland, a sophomore majoring in psychology, was named a Presidential Scholar for the fall 2023 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

Presidential scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

The Lives of Quarry Workers in the 1800s

Portland resident Mary Dickerson will present a program, "The Irish and the Portland Brownstone Quarries: 3 Stories," at the Portland Historical Society's annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 2 p.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

Dickerson plans to follow the lives of three of her descendants — her great-great-grandfather, Hugh McManus, her great-grandfather Richard Dillon, and her great-great-uncle John Dillon; each is an Irishman, but each has a different experience and assimilation into life in Connecticut.

Dickerson has gathered a collection of quarry memorabilia, photographs of their

homes in Ireland, England and Scotland as they made their journey here, and personal possessions that have been passed down that portray their lives and the differences in their wealth and status in the community. At the conclusion of her presentation, there will be time for questions and answers.

After a brief meeting when the society's 2024 Executive Board will be elected, the program will begin. Refreshments will be served. The program, an effort to help community members gain an understanding of Portland's early history, is open to the public and free of charge.

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Former *Rivereast* Reporter Publishes Memoir

By London Brazal

Starting at the age of two months, Michelle da Silva Richmond became familiar with traveling across various countries. Recently, the former *Rivereast* staff writer published a captivating memoir about her days as a Pan Am stewardess.

Richmond was born in Massachusetts but most of her childhood was spent in Rio, Brazil, and she often explored different countries with her family. “We were always traveling,” explained Richmond. “Brazil, Portugal, Guatemala, Columbia... I was always in and out of the States.”

A friend of Richmond’s mom was a travel writer and became a large influence on Richmond’s career path. She went on to study journalism and graduated from Ohio State University. Following graduation, Richmond became a stewardess for Pan American World Airways in the early 1970s. She described the time as the “golden age of flying.”

“People were dressed up and everyone was so

kind,” explained Richmond. She noted that the flight attendants had to look and dress a certain way. If they didn’t weigh in at a specific weight, they would be grounded. “They wanted to make sure we were slim and could move quickly.”

Richmond’s new memoir, *Fleeting Moments*, is based on her time with Pan Am and the decades following. According to the book’s description, “The world becomes her playground from the sultry beaches of Rio de Janeiro to the bustling bazaars of Tehran, the enigmatic pyramids of Egypt, the timeless castles of Europe—and beyond.” In addition to her fascinating travel experiences with celebrity appearances and fearful in-flight moments, there is also a passionate love affair with two men on separate continents. “Who doesn’t love a good love story, especially a tear-jerker!” added Richmond.

The tough consequences of her decisions, the sacrifices made in her globetrotting way of life and the turmoil in the subsequent decades

provide a deeply moving backdrop to her story. Everything in the memoir is true except for the “speculative ending.”

With traveling as Richmond’s passion, she began to write about the experiences she had and the places she went to. She became a freelance travel writer and editor and joined the Society of American Travel Writers. Now based in Rocky Hill, she has over 30+ years of experience writing for numerous organizations such as USA Today and Peter Greenberg Worldwide.

In the late ‘90s, Richmond wanted to have a normal day job and started writing for the *Rivereast* originally covering Portland and East Hampton under the former editor, Jim Hallas. When reflecting on her days with the *Rivereast*, Richmond said she had a lot of laughs.

“I made a lot of great friendships and it was so much fun,” she added.

After eight years with the paper, she began to write the memoir in 2005. However, she did not get too far as life took her in different directions. About two years ago during the Winter Olympics, Richmond said how she was watching the skating competition and heard a song by Shawn Phillips. “It was the most beautiful song. It had a peculiar name, it was called ‘She Was Waiting for Her Mother at The Station in Torino...’” explained Richmond. Ultimately, hearing about Torino, an Italian city, inspired her to keep writing the memoir. The time to write the book took about a year.

One of the more challenging parts of publishing the book was choosing an untraditional publishing method. If Richmond decided to get

an agent, it would have taken about two to three years to get her book out. Instead, she reached out directly to Palmetto Publishing and Richmond said that they were amazing to work with. The memoir came out on Dec. 19 and is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other book-selling sites.

In the first month of its release, Richmond has been able to sign multiple copies. Right now, she is investigating more ways to market the book. In the near future, she is interested in hosting a national book tour and maybe an international one.

Seeing the book published has given Richmond “the bug” to keep writing. A couple of years ago she wrote a children’s book called *Travels with Mateo and Joe Mouse* and is considering continuing that series. With lots of ideas on what is next, Richmond said she is excited to travel more and tackle new adventures.

Girls Night Out

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, the Portland Highlander girls basketball team will hold its annual Girls Night Out event. There will be one game – varsity only – which starts at 6 p.m.

As always, this event will feature basketball, door prizes, and giveaways. The girls team will host Shoreline Conference rival Old Lyme. Two seniors will also be honored for Senior Night.

All are invited to attend. All Portland youth – girls and boys – aged 13 and under who

wear a Portland T-shirt or Portland uniform top from any sport, or who come dressed in their best red and black outfits, will be given their choice of a free door prize while supplies last. They will also be given a free raffle ticket for an opportunity to win other prizes.

Girls will also be invited to be a “Highlander for the Night” and participate in the team’s pregame rituals and partake in halftime events.

Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School is holding Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-25 school year.

Parents/guardians whose children will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2024, should contact Valley View School at pgross@portlandct.us to indicate if you will be registering your child for kindergarten. Please provide your child’s full name, date of birth, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.



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PHS Girls Basketball Continues Climb

By Josh Howard

This winter marks another season of growth for the girls basketball team at Portland High School.

In her second year leading the program, head coach Kelly Coleman is again navigating a young roster that consists of only two seniors and a starting five featuring a pair of sophomores.

Despite the obstacles, Coleman said she believes the team has the right mindset.

“This team shows a great amount of determination, which is something that I have admired from day one of the season,” stated Coleman. “We have been put in some tough situations game-wise where the score is not in our favor [but] the team always stays positive and works together as one unit, which can be very hard to do.”

On Jan. 9 the Highlanders suffered their seventh loss in seven games, falling to Cromwell 46-16 at Portland High School.

The visiting Panthers scored the first eight points and jumped out to a 19-2 in the second quarter to take command of the game.

Cromwell’s Peyton Kelleher scored a career-high 21 points in the victory, yet the Highlanders showed some fight in the contest, using a five-point run in the second quarter to close the large gap.

Sophomore Gracie DeRing scored all five points during the run, hitting back-to-back jumpers on consecutive offensive possessions before sinking a foul shot to narrow a 17-point deficit to a dozen.

DeRing’s five points were a game-high for a Highlanders team that had six players score in defeat.

Coleman said that DeRing has been both productive in the scoreboard and provided energy for a team that is learning to play around returning starters Jamie Lasky and Morganne Pineda, the team captains this winter.

Lasky, a senior, was an honorable mention all-conference player a year ago as a junior, and is back to solidify the middle. Pineda was the team’s leading scorer a season ago and is again running the show as a junior guard this winter.

The pair of court captains are heading a starting lineup that features DeRing, junior Emily DeRing, and sophomore Liz Barr.

Following the Cromwell loss, Portland fell to Montville on Jan. 11, dropping to 0-8 this season.

Coleman noted that the experience the team is gaining now will pay dividends in the future. “Over the last few games we have seen some

positive things, as they have been stringing together some really nice possessions and are trying to be a bit more consistent,” noted Coleman. “We are hopeful that with the remaining part of the season we will get there, despite a tough stretch of games coming up.”

Coleman, who is a 2011 graduate of the school and is the all-time leading scorer in the history of the girls basketball program with 1,639 points, returned to her roots last winter when she took over as the program’s head coach.

In her first season on the sidelines, the Highlanders won a pair of games, both in the back half of the season as senior captains Isabelle McClelland, Rowan Bell, and Natalie Przestrzelski helped Coleman implement her philosophy.

One of last season’s wins was on Senior Night as the Highlanders sent off McClelland, Bell, and Przestrzelski with a memorable 36-26 victory over Hale Ray.

Coleman, who coaches the team with her mom Diane Coleman, re-implemented a tradition of the past in “Girls Night Out,” which invites all the local youth basketball programs – from grade school through middle school – to watch the team play and participate in the festivities.

The coaching staff is planning a similar celebration this year, recognizing Lasky and McKayla Wilk during the team’s Senior Night on Tuesday, Jan. 30 when they welcome conference rival Old Lyme to PHS for a game at 6 p.m.

Coleman said she believes that if the team continues to play as a team, they “will have a positive second half of the season.”

“This team has been a really fun bunch to coach and work with. They truly enjoy each other’s company and there is no drama,” added



Portland High School junior Morganne Pineda is defended by Cromwell Piper Kovacs during the Highlanders’ loss to the Panthers on Jan 9. Pineda and senior Jamie Lasky are captaining the Highlanders this winter.

Coleman. “They are continuing to work hard and taking steps in the right direction to help improve their individual game as well as to help build the program.”

The team is in the middle of a three-game home stand with East Hampton coming to PHS today (Friday, Jan. 19) for a matinee, tipping at 3:30 p.m.

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Dean's List

Meghan Flynn of Portland made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Concert Coming

The Excuses will kick off their 2024 World Happiness tour in Rome's hometown of Portland on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m., at Concentric Brewing, 91 Main St.

It is a free show, to benefit Portland Food Bank. Any donations can be sent to or dropped off at the food bank, 7 Waverly Ave. The band will perform two sets.

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Education Board Reviews Proposed Budget

By London Brazal

In a two-part meeting, the Portland Board of Education recently met with school administration to discuss and review the proposed 2024-25 budget. On Jan. 9, Superintendent Charles Britton briefed the Board on the key factors influencing the budget along with five rounds of reductions.

The main drivers include sunseting Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, sunseting School Improvement Grant (SIG) funding, increased health insurance, contractual step and wage increases and new student support service expenses. Britton described the following budget as “complicated” since some of the items were anticipated and they could plan but others were surprises. The budget drivers alone would result in a 9.8% increase from the 2023-24 budget if there were no changes to programming.

“I don’t really put a lot of constraints on [school principals]; I want to hear all the ideas. It’s important for me to hear what their needs are and what they’re looking at,” said Britton. “If I included all of their requests and the budget drivers we would have been at a 12.71% increase. ... The whole leadership team understands that a 12.71% increase would be completely unrealistic.”

To help reduce the large increase, Britton

and fellow administrators went through five rounds of reductions. A reduction in the kindergarten section won’t impact class size due to a new age requirement, students must be 5 on or before Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten. Physical education reductions will be mitigated by sharing the position among two part-time teachers. The original reduction for a full-time nurse was eliminated and instead, there will be a reduction in supplies. With that, the lead nurse will be trained for basic athletic trainer duties, reducing the trainer line item by \$20,000.

Library media specialist reductions can occur by sharing specialists among different schools. Total cuts include paraprofessionals, a teacher, and an interventionist. Grade sections are being adjusted, and transportation for outplacement needs to be contracted out. The impact of English Language Learner (ELL) reduction was discussed, along with a review of revenues and staffing.

After five rounds of reductions, the final requested budget is \$24,689,712, resulting in a 4.85% increase over the current year.

“It’s a lot. ... We are making some significant reductions,” added Britton. The reductions provide the schools with just enough people and resources to keep the district afloat. Any further reductions would affect mandated program-

ming and services, increase class sizes and impact the quality of academics and extracurriculars. Following the discussion, Britton shared the staffing profiles of each school and the changes in class sizes. As of now, the class sizes have only increased by a couple of students.

Ultimately, more reductions had to be made because of the recommended health insurance and the request for special education services. “I got to be honest with you, we’ve got to fund that special education,” explained Britton. “We were in a deficit last year, we’re in a deficit this year and if we don’t fund those legally required services, we are going to be in a deficit next year.”

Two days later, on Jan. 11, the board reconvened to continue the budget discussion. In summary, the discussion covered custodians and the potential need for overtime if custodian positions are reduced. As of now, there are no requests for purchasing Chromebooks and has shifted to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The capital budget was discussed with no recommended improvements at certain schools

due to the bigger discussion on school facilities. An HVAC upgrade at the secondary school is strongly recommended which would be funded by a matching grant.

Board of Education Chairwoman Laurel Steinhauser expressed concern, emphasizing that the staff reductions in round five were particularly troubling. The Board reached a consensus that favored reinstating the English Language Learner (ELL) position. Board member Tim Lavoy moved to ask the superintendent to draft a budget proposal with a 3.5% increase (reduction of \$322,000/1.36% from the proposed budget) instead of the current 4.85% increase. The motion passed.

Citizens and parents are encouraged to reach out to Britton and the full board if they have any questions. Parents can also speak during “Citizens’ Comments” at any of the school board meetings to express concerns. This week’s Board of Education meeting was canceled due to snow; the new date had yet to be determined as of press time.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Next Week’s Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics: 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients – donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); Watercolor class, 9:30 a.m.-noon – to register, email bivenne@

yahoo.com; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m.; Dulcimer, 6 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.

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 Dulos of “All Ears” in Portland. No registration is necessary.

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

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

Volunteer Drivers Sought for Meals-on-Wheels: Meals would be delivered to the homebound Monday-Thursday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Alexis at 860-342-6761.



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Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

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Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., holds Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday, and services are held at 9:30 a.m. All are invited. Children, ages 4 to 12, are welcome to attend Church School.

There is a change to the Friday schedule. The church will now be open for prayer and meditation, and for Anglican Prayer beading, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. All are welcome;

no prior beading experience is required.

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

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

KoC Free-Throw Tournament

The Portland Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual youth basketball free-throw event at the Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS) gymnasium, 314 Main St., on Friday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

Town girls and boys age 9 through 14 are eligible to participate; registration forms will be provided for parents to fill out. Each participant

will get 15 free throw attempts from the foul line. Top finishers per gender and age group will receive medals. They will also be allowed to advance to state championship competition.

Those playing on travel teams or Parks & Recreation leagues are encouraged to attend. Chairperson John Bruni (860-342-0881) can be reached for more information.

'Chill for Change' Coming Soon

All are invited to join Middlesex YMCA and Camp Ingersoll for the tenth Chill for Change on Saturday, Feb. 10, at Jobs Pond. At 1 p.m. that day, folks will take dip in the icy waters to raise money for scholarships for YMCA Camp Ingersoll.

The goal for this year is a record of \$35,000 raised, with over 70 jumpers. All funds raised go directly to supporting camp scholarships. Sign up and create a team at campingersoll.org/chill-for-change, and then ask friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members to either join your

team or support your jump by donating online.

All jumpers must preregister. Awards are given for Best Costume, Best Team Theme, and Biggest Piggy Bank (most funds raised). The individual who raises the most money will receive a certificate for a free session of camp. This certificate can be used for your own family, or gifted to anyone you know.

Contact Ben Silliman at bsilliman@midymca.org or 860-342-2267, or search 'YMCA Camp Ingersoll' on Facebook.

United Way Seeks Grant Applications

Middlesex United Way is currently seeking grant applications from new organizations to fund work in Middlesex County that falls within established "impact areas" of racial equity & inclusion, education, financial stability, housing, wellness, and youth development.

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3). Funds are restricted for work serving the communities and constituents of Middlesex County. Middlesex United Way Community Impact Grant funds cannot fund capital expenditures, scholarship

programs, or any third party or contract. All grant funds must be spent on the intended purpose. Eligible organizations can apply for \$5,000 - \$30,000. Applications are reviewed and scored by volunteers and staff.

Applications open Jan. 19. The last day to request an application review meeting is March 8, and the last day to submit a final application is March 29.

To register or learn more, email Madison Baranoski, Director of Community Impact, at madison.baranoski@middlesexunitedway.org.

Vocal Chords Seek Tenors, Bases

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords 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 are Tuesdays, 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 Saturday, 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.

For more information, visit on the web at vocalchords20.org or call 860-342-3120. The group can also be found on YouTube and Facebook.

Dean's List

Portland resident Brooke Ryan made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

★ Colchester Celebrates cont. from page 1

"We all come from different backgrounds and we all don't know other people's backgrounds, so but treat people with respect because you never know who's going to end up looking up to you."

Additional speakers included: the Rev. Lauren Ostrout, pastor of Colchester Federated Church, who read from a 1959 essay called "An Experiment in Love"; Nancy Nelson, vice chair of the CORE Commission and senior center representative, who read a segment from another address King gave in 1959; and Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann, who read an excerpt from "The Unity of Humanity."

Local Diversity

According to census data, Colchester is roughly 92% white, and the lack of diversity in the community is visible.

"This is the reality of Colchester," Pelletier told the audience. "But what I think is so important is that we're here together to celebrate the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

First Selectman Bernie Dennler III read an excerpt from "The American Dream" — a commencement address King made at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1961.

While Dennler grew up in Colchester, he attended school on Long Island, where he said he was exposed to a level of racial, economic and sociopolitical diversity that he didn't see locally.

"The voices in this room represent a certain slice of society — a big slice of our own community in Colchester — but a certain slice of the broader perspectives in our country," he said, charging residents to "use today's event as a starting point" and urging people to "seek out other voices and perspectives about what (King) meant."

Dennler thanked the CORE Commission for putting the event together, expressing that citizens should never lose their own curiosity to learn.

"There comes a point in life where we have to take responsibility for our own education as adults as we move past the school system and into our daily lives, that we make sure that we continue to self-educate, to inform ourselves, to be better citizens," he said.

The first selectman told the *Rivereast* that there is diversity in Colchester that needs to be recognized.

"For me, what's most important is to make sure we're hearing all the voices that do exist within our community," he said. "I want to make sure that those people are not forgotten about or unheard as we go through conversations like this. We don't want to isolate those neighbors because they are here and they are an important aspect of our community and they have been for a long time."

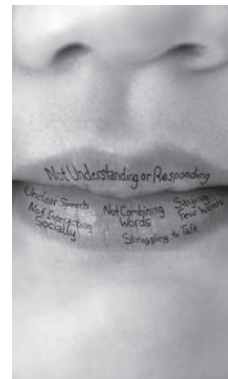
Moving forward, he said, one way residents can build momentum from the weekend is to get involved with CORE. Dennler said the town may also bring in residents outside of Colchester who can potentially offer additional perspectives at future events.

In her interview, Pelletier said there's no right or wrong way for people to promote equity.

"Just stop and listen," she said. "That's something I don't think we do a lot of in society, and need to do more of."

The CORE Commission was founded two years ago and its leaders hope to expand the group's reach at more local gatherings.

"I think there's so much strength and beauty when the community comes together."



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Finance Board Enters Budget Season

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance (BOF) last week reviewed a tentative timeline for the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year budget season, identifying its top priorities and targeting a May referendum date.

Currently, the BOF is expected to begin its preliminary budget forums in February, with both the municipal and school spending plans being formally presented to the board in March. Ideally, the BOF would like both budget proposals to be approved at referendum prior to July 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

The BOF will look to finalize its budget schedule at its meeting next Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Budget forums — which take place before any hard numbers have been presented to the BOF — represent an opportunity to provide background information and to examine topics as the process begins.

A likely starting point for the first forum — tentatively scheduled for Feb. 14, a date that's expected to change because it conflicts with Valentine's Day — is the updated standing of the town's finance department.

Earlier this month, First Selectman Bernie Dennler III announced he was implementing a soft budget freeze due to "concerning" spending trends and accounting issues in that department; all town purchases must be approved by the first selectman and nonessential spending will be limited.

MUNIS reports used by officials to track monthly town expenditures appeared inaccurate and expenses were "double-booked" or needed to be reclassified into the correct accounts. The reports, Dennler said during a previous joint-meeting of the boards of selectmen and finance, "don't paint an accurate picture for

your decision making."

"I'm not saying that we are in an apocalyptic budget situation," he said. "I'm telling you I genuinely don't know where we are based on what data I have as first selectman."

Issues in the department are amplified by the absence of Finance Director Mary Williamson, who was placed on paid administrative leave at the end of December.

The impact of the accounting issues in the finance department on the 2024-2025 budget is a "concern that some people have right now," Democrat Mike Egan, vice chair of the BOF, said during last week's meeting.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) created a new position of deputy director of town finance, and Michelle Marceau, an accountant for Colchester Public Schools, was appointed last week and also took over as the acting director of finance.

While Marceau is working to identify and resolve the issues laced throughout the reports, some of the problems are more complicated.

"It's going to take some time," she said at the meeting.

Dennler informed the BOF that the concerns within the finance department would most likely not be fully settled by the date of the first budget forum, roughly a month away.

"I do believe we're going to get through this," he said.

The first selectman also expressed confidence with developing the 2024-2025 municipal budget despite the broad accounting issues. Dennler said he was "not that concerned," largely because town department heads have a firm grasp on their individual budgets and the potential allotment needed for the upcoming fiscal year.

Colchester Superintendent of Schools Daniel

Sullivan III is currently expected to present his 2024-2025 school budget proposal to the Board of Education (BOE) on Feb. 13. The BOE will subsequently hold its own budget meetings, separate from those hosted by the BOF, prior to adopting an official spending plan.

Karen Belding, a Democrat on the Board of Finance, stated that her board should try to be adaptive to the BOE's workshop schedule to allow residents to attend as many meetings as possible. She expressed that last year, as an attentive citizen, she was able to attend every single budget-related meeting.

The BOF chairman, Democrat Scott Chapman, said that while the board can try its best to be amendable, it must prioritize its own work and schedule first.

Dozens of residents participated in the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget process, with many BOF meetings often exceeding three or four hours, some only ending because the Town Hall was shutting down for the evening.

The current fiscal year (2023-2024) school budget is slated at \$43.98 million — around \$1.95 million above the 2022-23 fiscal year. Municipal spending is \$15.66 million — just shy of \$40,000 more than the previous fiscal year. Both spending plans were approved at a second referendum in August, just over a month into the fiscal year they funded.

While the school budget received the most scrutiny during the prior budget cycle, with advisory questions included on the referendum ballot indicating that the spending plan amount was "too low," municipal spending has also struggled to gain town-wide support in recent years.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the municipal budget proposal took four referendums to

ultimately gain taxpayer approval, extending into November — over four months into the fiscal year — and resulting in another budget freeze.

After being sworn in following last year's election, Chapman told the *Rivereast* that throughout the last budget cycle, "citizens in our town did not feel like they were being listened to."

"You have to be able to balance affordability with common sense spending," Chapman said. "There has to be a way actually go and thread that needle."

Following the revelations inside the finance department, he stated that the BOF needs to "proceed with extreme caution."

The issues and inaccuracy regarding the MUNIS reports underscores the immense challenges the BOF has as it moves forward, especially in assessing whether or not current-year spending is expected to end up over-budget.

In a Facebook post this month, Dennler stated that without correct reports, "it is difficult to say at this point where the town's spending year-to-date truly lies and even harder to project where things will land when the fiscal year ends."

Some future expenses are known, including contractual increases. Last year, the BOS approved a collective bargaining agreement between the town and Municipal Employees Union "Independent" MEUI Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC representing Transfer Station, Grounds, Highway, Fleet and Facility Maintenance, and Water Department Employees.

Dennler has said the new agreement will significantly increase the salaries of numerous town employees up until 2028, which will likely be reflected in the 2024-25 budget proposal.

Fundraiser for Robotics Team

Bacon Academy's robotics team, Team 1699, is holding a collection drive fundraiser Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Bacon, 611 Norwich Ave.

Team 1699 is collecting gently-used housewares, textiles, small counter appliances and home goods. Items include:

Clothes: men's, women's and children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles: bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

Small Household Goods: kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses,

serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Books: paperback, hardcover — all genres; no encyclopedias or textbooks please.

Use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

Collected items will be sold to Savers, and the robotics team will be paid directly.

The goal is to collect \$1,000 worth of items. For more information, email team1699savers@gmail.com.

Martinis and Jewelry

The St. Joseph's Polish Club's annual Martinis and Jewelry fundraiser is Sunday, Feb. 4, from 1-5 p.m., at the club, 395 S. Main St.

This year's event will benefit the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard. Have martinis and appetizers while you shop the Touchstone Crystal Jewelry by Swarovski, with their representative Patricia Welch.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

Troop 72 Recycling Project

Boy Scout 72 is continuing to accept recyclable containers from local residents. Containers can be dropped off on the lefthand 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.

Makeup for Mature Women

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., will offer a program entitled Makeup for Mature Women on 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, and space is limited. To register, call the center at 860-537-3911.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

Ahavath Achim News

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

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

Wednesday: 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 — Bible Portion is 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.

Lions' Breakfast Buffet is Back

The Colchester Lions will hold a Breakfast Buffet at the St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 7:30-11:30 a.m.

This is a full breakfast with eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, home fries and pancakes, with juice, coffee, tea and water. Prices in advance are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for ages 5-12, and free for children 4 and under. At the door, tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for ages 5-12, and free for children 4 and under.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at Dime Bank in Colchester, or call 860-537-1093 and leave a message for Julie.

Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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


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



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District Pitches New Magnet School Program

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester education administrators unveiled a comprehensive proposal last week that would create a new magnet school program in the district.

During the Jan. 9 Board of Education (BOE) meeting, officials revealed sweeping details regarding a plan that would aim to significantly boost student enrollment without requiring any additional taxpayer funding.

Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begué, who is also the chairman of the BA Magnet Committee, presented an overview of the plan, which if approved, would initially take shape at the start of the 2024-25 school year and culminate with a new building and potentially close to 100 out-of-district students attending school in Colchester.

“This opens a lot of opportunities for Bacon Academy,” Begué said.

The tentative name of the new program: “Public Service Academy of Eastern Connecticut.”

Consideration of the new program, which was first conceptualized back in September, comes as Bacon Academy, the district’s high school, has experienced a steady decline in enrollment. According to Begué, the average graduating class is somewhere between 150 and 160 students, with a total school population hovering around 600 — a noticeable drop from 800 students nearly 10 years ago.

Over the first three years of its implementation, the program would provide a “very nice bump” in those numbers, she said.

Colchester Public Schools submitted its initial proposal to the Connecticut Department of Education in December and then submitted a revised proposal last week, according to a letter sent to students and parents by Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III.

Program Details

Typically, magnet schools can be public schools with specialized courses for students to access.

Begué explained that the offerings would provide pathways that would lead to immediate post-diploma career opportunities. For ex-

ample, students could pursue credentials in the fields of fire and public service, healthcare — such as certified nurse assistants — education, and Aviation and Air Force Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC).

These areas of study, Begué said, “target in-demand shortage areas.”

The model of the program would be a “school within a school.”

“The Bacon Academy main building will not change in any way, shape or form,” Begué said. “It will still exist; it will still be a comprehensive high school with all the elective offerings that we currently have.”

She added, “But having this school within a school means that every magnet student belongs to Bacon Academy; they are Bacon Academy students. But not every Bacon Academy student will be a member of the magnet program.”

Begué emphasized the importance of that distinction, expressing that “it will differentiate us from other types of magnet schools that may be solely magnet schools.”

Essentially, those students that are accepted into the magnet program from neighboring towns will take magnet courses, along with normal curriculum classes in the main high school building with the full student body.

The magnet students would also be eligible to participate in any activity that is available to every Bacon Academy student, including drama productions, music instruction and athletic teams.

The makeup of magnet students would involve a combination of both Colchester residents and out-of-district individuals. Begué said that 75% of the program’s students would come from outside the town, with the remaining 25% allocated for local residents.

Under the current proposal, there would be 40 students participating during the first year of the program, meaning that 30 kids would come from other towns and 10 would be Colchester students. The district would subsequently look to add 40 additional students over a three-year period, bringing the projected magnet school enrollment to 80 students in year two, and 120

students in year three.

Begué stated that the current timeline would begin at the start of the 2024-25 school year with recruitment efforts. By the second half of that year, the district would hire the teachers needed to run the program and the first cohort of students would start in the fall of 2025, for the 2025-26 school year.

Regarding the cost of the program, administrators indicated that if approved by the state, there would be zero financial burden passed along to the town.

“It is an opportunity to increase enrollment and expand opportunities,” Begué said.

Tuition, transportation and recruitment would be supported by the state, and the district would seek partnerships with the Department of Environmental Protection and work with the offices of Regional School Choice and Strategic Planning and Partnerships.

As part of the district’s application, there is a staffing request from the state for five full-time teachers and a school counselor, and tuition would be collected from the students as well.

In order to accommodate the new magnet program, the district would remove the “portables” behind the gymnasium at the high school and build a single level 5,250-square-foot metal building that would include two classrooms and a variety of other features.

While the district is optimistic that Colchester would be fully reimbursed for the building, it would want that information before approving the whole endeavor.

“I would not want to start the program without some funding certainly because I think it’s really important for us as a community, not just a BOE, but as a town, to know whether we’re taking on any sort of financial commitment or not,” said Sullivan.

Students would apply to be in the magnet program, and then there would be an additional lottery system handled by the state. Any out-of-district student would need to stay enrolled with the magnet program to remain a Bacon Academy student. Otherwise, they would return to their home district.

During the meeting, fire chief Steve Hoffmann applauded the proposal, expressing that getting fire and emergency medical services training into the school system would benefit the community.

In his letter to the district, Sullivan explained that during the prior budget cycle, people brought up the program limitations resulting from a drop in student enrollment. Community members, he said, also brought up the importance of potentially growing career opportunities for students.

Sullivan said that led to the creation of a “Pride and Purpose” subcommittee, consisting of district staff, BOE members, parents and community members, who examined the feasibility of a magnet program.

The BA Magnet committee researched the subject, and ultimately recommended a program.

Sullivan stated that the results of increased enrollment could have numerous benefits at the high school. The district could add pre-AP classes, elective courses in content areas including but not limited to English, social studies and science, and perhaps other gifted and talented classes.

He continued, “It may also allow us to restore sub-varsity and varsity athletic programs which have diminished in recent years,” including freshman boys basketball, freshman girls soccer and varsity tennis.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

President’s List

Morgan Darling of Colchester made the fall 2023 President’s List at the State University of New York at Potsdam.

Darling’s major is literature/writing.

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, 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.

For more information or to be on the garden’s email list, email colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

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.

Dean’s List

Emma Mallett of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

President’s List

Sarah Brigandi of Colchester made the fall 2023 President’s List at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, N.H.

50 Years of Bacon Wrestling

2023-24 is Bacon Academy Wrestling’s 50th varsity season. All are invited to the following events:

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Senior Night. Prior to the meet, the seniors on the team will be honored. Wrestling starts at 6 p.m., but pre-meet activities will start around 5:15 p.m.

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.

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Members Sought for Honor Guard

Members are sought for the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard was established in 2004 in association with the Connecticut National Guard to provide military funeral honors for a veteran’s families and friends. Since its formation, the Colchester unit has performed at more than 2,900 honors ceremonies. In 2023, they participated in over 225 military honors ceremonies.

The 20-member unit is actively looking for veterans to become members, so that it can continue to provide funeral honors to all de-

ceased veterans. The Colchester Honor Guard meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 7-8 p.m. in the Veterans Room of the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave.

Most funeral honors are performed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday to Saturday. So if you’re available to give a few hours during the week or weekends, you’re invited to stop by one of the Tuesday meetings.

Contact Al Letendre at 860-917-9391 or letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.



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Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host the Incoming Kindergarten Story Time program Thursdays, Feb. 15, March 14 and April 18, for 4- and 5-year-old Colchester children who will be entering kindergarten during the 2024-25 school year.

During each of the three sessions, children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers, while parents learn about the registration process, the kindergarten curriculum,

readiness expectations, the school day, school policies and transportation. A question-and-answer period will be available at each session.

The program will be held each month from 11-11:30 a.m., in the CES media center. Parents and children are invited to attend multiple story times. Topics for parent information change each month. No pre-registration is required.

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 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.

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, or call 860 537-4230 to make a purchase. Calendars and books can also be purchased at www.colchesterhistory.org/get-involved/shop-1.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Puzzlepaloosa: Fridays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23 and

March 22, from 6-8 p.m., at Town Hall. Cost is \$25 per team. Register as a team or a single (you will be placed with others).

Men's Open Gym Basketball: Tuesdays through March 26 (no basketball Feb. 20), at William J. Johnston Middle School. Must be 18 or older to play. Fee: \$75/session per resident, \$80/session per non-resident.

Residents with Special Needs

The Colchester Department of Senior Services is working to update its list of residents with special needs.

These are people who self-identify as needing additional assistance or support in the event of a town-wide emergency, such as a power outage or mass evacuation. Special needs can pertain to a number of things, such as mobility issues, health complications or mental health needs,

and apply to residents of any age.

If you wish to have your name on this list, contact Patty Watts at the Colchester Senior Center at 860-537-3911. If your name is already on the list, you will be contacted to ensure that your information is up to date.

Once completed, this directory is shared with the director of emergency management and the fire chief.

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, or for a full list of activities, visit www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center.

Monday, Jan. 22: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/Ann; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Pet Therapy; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, Jan. 23: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 11 a.m., Potluck Pie Party; 12:30 p.m., CHOICES Counseling by Appointment, Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting (via Zoom).

Wednesday, Jan. 24: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Cultivating Happiness in the New Year; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2 p.m., Sewing Circle.

Thursday, Jan. 25: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Ann; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Jan. 26: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch to Flanders Fish Market in Niantic; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

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. This is a free program; registration required.

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Members Sought for Arts Center

The Marlborough Arts Center is accepting renewals of membership as well as new membership registrations. Memberships are valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year.

Information and downloadable membership forms are available on the MAC website, www.marlborougharts.org. Payment can be made by check or by using the PayPal option.

Funds collected for membership are a part of keeping the Arts Center running.

The center's annual Tag Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3; the Student Art Show will oc-

cur in March, and will be followed by the annual Members' Art Show. Musical Fourth Fridays are on the calendar as well as historical presentations and art classes.

The Arts Center is a regional nonprofit organization and includes all the towns in the Marlborough area.

The Arts Center phone number is 860-467-6353.

Dean's List

Marlborough resident Ethan Meyer made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Stella Henderson of Marlborough made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Connor Mulberry, Garrett Nicol, Daniel Orzech and Ashley Snyder made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.



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Parks and Rec Upcoming Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit marlboroughct.recdesk.com and click on "programs," stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203. Classes subject to cancellation if minimum registration isn't met. In-person classes subject to change to virtual based on state regulations.

Youth Programs: Kids Winter Yoga: Wednesdays through Feb. 21, 5:15-6 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria, for ages 3-10. Child must be accompanied by parent or caregiver. Fee: \$10 fee each week to drop in.

Art-ventures with Penguins and Polar Bears: Tuesdays, Jan. 23-March 5, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES, for grades K-6. Fee: \$115/resident, \$120/non-resident.

Mad Science Eureka! Invention: Thursdays, Jan. 25-Feb. 29, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES, for grades K-6. Fee: \$115/resident, \$120/non-resident.

Lego - Winter Wonderland Engineering: Thursdays, Feb. 1-March 7, 3:15-4:45 p.m., at MES, for grades K-4. Fee: \$127/resident, \$132/non-resident.

Acrylic Landscape Painting: Wednesdays,

3:30-5 p.m., Feb. 14-March 6, at MES, for grades 1 & 2. Fee: \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

Safe Sitter: Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 6-8. Fee: \$110/resident, \$115/non-resident.

Adult Programs: Zumba: Thursdays through Feb. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at MES. There is a \$10/week drop-in fee.

CPR Certification: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$87/resident, \$92/non-resident.

Outsmarting the Bad Guys: Cyber and Phone Security for Seniors: Tuesday, Feb. 6, 3-4 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$25/residents, \$30/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Adult Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$5 per week.

Adult Drop-In Basketball: Sundays, 8-10 a.m., through March 31, at MES. Fee is \$5 per week.

Trip: UConn Huskies vs. St. Johns Red Storm (Men's Basketball): Saturday, Feb. 3, at Madison Square Garden. Trip includes charter bus, tickets to the game (200 level) and free time in New York. Registration fee is \$180. Bus leaves from Putnam Park and Ride in Glastonbury at 7 a.m.



The Connecticut-based band Eclectica will perform at Marlborough Arts Center on Friday, Jan. 26. Pictured are band members Deborah Robin, who will be on recorders; Monika Kinstler, who will be on viola da gamba and violin; Kasha Breau, who will be on Celtic harp; and Carrie Crompton, who will be on viola da gamba and other instruments.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at 9 a.m.

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

Family Faith Formation: Led by Cindy Bryan, this is an active family faith formation program for the church's kindergarten through elementary school population. Deacon Bill Gilles leads the middle school program. For more information, call the church office.

Confirmation Community: Led by Helena

Thomas, this is a 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program. For more information, call the church office.

Adult Worship Choir: Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information is on the church website.

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. You may also bring non-perishable food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on other programs, seasonal offerings, adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

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

Donations Sought for Tag Sale

The Marlborough Arts Center is having its annual Winter Tag Sale this year Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the lower level of the Arts Center at 321 N. Main St. Donations are being accepted.

This is an opportunity to clean out your oldies but goodies. No books, TVs/electronics, or clothes donations, please. Drop-off dates are Tuesdays, Jan. 23 and 30, from 6-7:30 p.m., and Saturdays, Jan. 20 and 27, from 10-11:30 a.m. Items may be left at the lower level next to the door at other times.

If necessary, the snow date is scheduled for the following week on Saturday, Feb. 10.

4th Friday @ the Arts Café

On Friday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m., Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will present Eclectica, a Connecticut-based band of women musicians who perform original arrangements of music spanning centuries, continents, styles, and cultures using voice and an eclectic variety of instruments, including hammered dulcimer, viola da gamba, violin, accordion, harp, and recorders.

For this midwinter concert, Eclectica will take listeners on a musical journey from the 13th to the 20th centuries, with arrangements of tunes on the themes of love and comedy, in honor of upcoming Valentine's Day and Carni-

val (Mardi Gras).

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$10. Seating is café-style; feel free to bring your own wine and snacks.

Members of the group are Carrie Crompton, hammered dulcimer, accordion and viols; Monika Kinstler, violin, viola and viols; Deborah Robin, recorders; and Kasha Breau, harp and vocals.

For more information on the group, visit www.facebook.com/EclecticaCT. For more information on the Fourth Friday concert series, visit marlborougharts.org/4th-friday-at-the-arts-cafe.

Arts Center Exhibit at Town Hall

The Marlborough Arts Center is holding a new exhibit at Town Hall. Featured is artwork by Dianne Gorrick.

A resident of East Hampton, Gorrick is a former art teacher at Bacon Academy. Her work has been exhibited throughout Connecticut and has received various awards. Her current display presents a wide range of subject matter, from traditional landscapes to imaginative themes.

This exhibit is open to the public during business hours at the Town Hall: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon. The exhibit will continue through June 30. For more information, please check out the website www.marlborougharts.org, or contact the Arts Center at 860-467-6353, or email marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com.



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Area Communities Celebrate MLK Day

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, celebrating the activism of one of America's most prominent civil rights leaders.

Roughly 75 local residents gathered at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron this week to mark the holiday, which also fell on what would've been King's 95th birthday.

Leaders of CoDE — an organization that represents Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and Columbia — emphasized the significance of gathering and reaffirming its goal of justice and equity more than 55 years after King's death.

"I think it's important to reinforce our core values and what we believe and want we want for our communities," said Amy D'Amaddio, president of CoDE.

The night largely revolved around King's non-violent protests in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963, which resulted in him being imprisoned.

Following his arrest, eight white Birmingham clergy members published a letter largely criticizing King's conduct, calling his actions "unwise and untimely."

"When rights are constantly denied, a cause should be pressed in the courts and in negotiations among local leaders, and not in the streets," they wrote in the letter, which appeared in the *Birmingham News*. "We appeal to both our white and negro citizenry to observe the principles of law and order and common sense."

Largely scribbling on the edges of a newspaper while in his cell, King passionately responded to the clergy members, outlining the responsibility to break unjust laws.

His "Letter from Birmingham Jail" would become a significant document of the civil rights era.

"Never before have I written so long a letter," King wrote. "I'm afraid it is much too long to

take your precious time. I can assure you that it would have been much shorter if I had been writing from a comfortable desk, but what else can one do when he is alone in a narrow jail cell, other than write long letters, think long thoughts and pray long prayers?"

The original letter penned by the eight religious leaders was read aloud on Monday evening by the Rev. Brian C. Hardee of Hebron's Gilead Congregational Church. But an audio recording of King reading his own response was played afterwards for the group in its entirety, a 40-minute endeavor that allowed residents to hear his inflection.

Some people likely haven't heard his voice before, speculated Althea Carr, a CoDE member who was appointed by Gov. Ned Lamont to the state Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission.

"It's very timely today," she told the *Rivereast* regarding the letter. "It was eye-opening that a lot of things that people didn't know still apply today. So it was an important gathering and it gave us a lot of food for thought."

Carr, a Hebron resident of over 40 years, highlighted the discernible lack of diversity in many neighboring towns; Hebron, for example, is roughly 95% white, according to census data.

"It's limiting," she said, adding that kids aren't being exposed to different cultures and experiences. "We're not preparing our children to work in a diverse world. We're doing a disservice to all our children when we don't have that diversity."

As a Black woman, Carr said she often "felt like an endangered species" in town. She worked for over three decades as a teacher, including 20 years at Hebron Elementary School. Around 10 years ago — after she was retired — Carr recalled an instance when a local resident

seemed perplexed that she was actually a former school teacher.

"He looked at me and said, 'You mean you were a paraprofessional?' And I was stunned. I said, 'No I was a teacher.'"

While Carr stressed that she's met plenty of upstanding individuals in the community, she shared that she likely wouldn't have originally moved to Hebron if she had planned on raising a family, primarily due to the lack of diversity. However, 11 years into her marriage, she ultimately did have children, and recalled taking her son to Unity Plaza in Hartford to get his hair cut and to visit the next-door public library.

"He saw a Black librarian," she said. "I wanted him to experience that."

Taking Action

After listening to the audio recording of King's letter, residents gathered in small groups and shared their thoughts with each other before listing a few takeaways in front of the entire hall.

D'Amaddio expressed that while King's work has left an impression on many people, "there's so much work to do still."

"It seems like we're going backwards sometimes," she said, adding that moving forward, it's important for people to be "intentional" with their actions. "We need people to stand up and be a voice for people who aren't able to speak up or aren't present."

D'Amaddio added that by doing so, you can "create a situation where people who are being racist or not inclusive to be uncomfortable."

CoDE's vice president, Donna Jolly, explained that as a white individual, she frequently wonders if they're approaching racial issues the right way, but feedback has been positive.

"Our friends who are people of color in our communities say they are grateful that we as white people are saying this is important to us — and not just saying it, but actually doing

something about it," she said. "Injustice is also our issue. Even if we don't personally feel it, we do feel it because it's our community and it's our neighbors who are having situations happen to them or are suffering from institutional systemic racism. So it is our issue if we care to have a community that is diverse and vibrant."

Regarding the letter itself, Jolly said she initially read the document for the first time last year. For her, it instilled that talking about issues was not enough; King was calling for people to actually take action.

"It was a bit of a wake-up call," she said. Carr stated that people should understand that "one individual can make a difference."

She explained that even treating someone you encounter in the community with respect can be impactful.

"You don't have to do anything big," Carr said. "So we all have that ability to impact somebody else in a positive way."

CoDE will also continue to serve as a resource for local communities, hosting events addressing an array of topics. In October, the group hosted a panel of local and state leaders to explore affordable housing options, and will likely continue the dialog in the months ahead.

"Every single time we have an event, afterwards more people want to be on our mailing list, more people want to be involved actively in CoDE because they see that there are other people that care about these issues," Jolly said.

Looking out at the reception hall at St. Peter's, Jolly pointed to the significant turnout and the potential that citizens will heed King's advice.

"That reenergizes me and the work of CoDE," she said. "We are always of a mindset to work with others but we have to always have that inner strength that we are going to speak up. If something happens, I want to have Dr. King's voice in my ear saying, 'Say something and be strong about it.'"

Weir to Host Round Table Discussion

In preparation for the 2024 legislative session, state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) will host a district-wide round table discussion next week to meet with residents prior to the session convening.

The discussion will take place Monday, Jan. 22, from 4-6 p.m., at Giovanni's Brick Oven Pizzeria, 113 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

The purpose of this event is to sit down with residents in Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury,

Hebron and Marlborough to discuss any issues or concerns they'd like the representative to address in Hartford, share any proposals or concepts most likely to be seen during this session, and provide additional information on how residents can be part of the legislative process.

Weir can be reached at Steve.Weir@house-gop.ct.gov or by calling 860-240-8700.

Carl Guild Scholarships Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

Deadline to apply is April 1. Visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor for an application.

Tyler Wydo – Portland High School (Basketball): Wydo is the Highlanders leading scorer, recently posting 17 points in a win over Old Saybrook on Jan. 5 and then registering 20 points in a loss to Middletown on Jan. 13. Wydo, a senior, is helping Portland navigate through the heart of their conference schedule with the team's next home game slated for Friday, Jan. 26 against Haddam-Killingworth at 7 p.m.

Liz Glover – Bacon Academy (Basketball): Glover hauled down 11 rebounds to go along with 5 steals and 4 blocks as the Bobcats beat Waterford on the night that Bacon Academy unveiled its 2023 Class M girls soccer state championship banner. It was only fitting that Glover had productive night on the basketball courts when the school celebrated the soccer team considering Glover is the starting goalie for Bobcats soccer and earned the Most Valuable Player award of the championship match in November. The win was the sixth for the Bobcats, who next visit New London tonight (Friday, Jan. 19) at 6:30 p.m.

To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week or to offer sports-related comments, josh-howardsports@gmail.com.

From the State Representative's Desk...

With the 2024 legislative session set to commence on Feb. 7, a new year of laws and regulations are right around the corner. The window to submit bills just opened up, and will close on Feb. 9. Because this is a short session that ends on May 9, a lot will happen in a short period of time.

As a reminder, I sit on the Higher Education, Housing and Labor committees. We are certain to see bills that have come up before, but that didn't receive enough support to become law. It's likely that we will address bills on housing, homelessness, minimum wage, public safety and electric vehicles. You may recall this past fall that the governor put forth a proposal to mandate the sale of only EVs, beginning in 2035. It was not surprising to see the pushback from citizens who were concerned with the lack of planning by the governor and his commissioners. The proposal failed to address so many significant concerns. Recognizing the lack of support, and public outcry, the governor pulled this proposal. I was encouraged to see such input from the public, because without your voice, this flawed initiative may have progressed further than it did. I look forward to supporting initiatives that promote choice, freedom, equality and a responsible, limited government.

Since 2023 session ended in June, I've been busy with work around the district. I've had the opportunity to attend many commemorative ceremonies, as well as lots of other events around this busy district. There were several constituent concerns that were brought to my attention, and a few that I'm still working on. I have toured more than a dozen businesses, as part of my "Put Your Rep To Work" initiative. It remains important to me to understand the concerns and questions of our local businesses, as well as knowing more about the incredible offerings our local businesses provide. I believe that private industry is the driver of our economy, and not enough legislators in Hartford appreciate the contributions of our business community. Please know that I remain keenly aware of the contributions made by our businesses, and will work to promote a friendly business climate through less regulation, less red tape, and less government involvement, which will allow for businesses to operate with fewer encumbrances.

It's important to have input from our citizens. Without this input, legislators are merely guessing on the expectations of our citizens. I invite you to come visit my office, the Capitol, attend a committee meeting, and even testify on an issue that is important to you. I welcome your involvement! I continue to ask folks to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns at 860.240.8662 or steve.weir@housegop.ct.gov.

I hope to see you up at the Capitol or around the district!

**State Rep. Steve Weir
R-55th District**

Note: The 55th House District covers Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury.

UConn Dean's List

The following area students made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Connecticut:

Amston: Zachary Holm, Jacob Moorcroft, Taryn Simon, Samantha Sullivan.

Andover: Aurora Buswell, Erica Croxford, Carson Gaines, Michael Hamburger, Konrad Jandzinski, Andrew Perkins, Lindsey Perkins, Andrew Plausse.

Colchester: Adrian Aivaliotis, Elijah Black, Connor Denecour, Grace Galarneau, Jamie Greene, Jayden Guerra, Matthew Kranc, Katelyn Lamprey, Luke Maynard, Kellen Paparella, Luke Pennella, Paul Perkins, Elena Smith, Caroline Stanton, Megan Swanke, Caitlin Wargat, Kiki Zeng.

East Hampton: Danielle Adams, Tyler Carrington, Meryl Curtin, Daniel Drlik, Neeley Heilman, Eshani Karkun, Tomas Lopes, Devon

Mansfield, Colin Piteo, Hailey Porter, Victoria Schiavoni, Rylee Thomas, Jacquelyn Yorker, Ted Zhao.

Hebron: Rylee Bane, Joshua Boehler, Ryan Constable, Gwendolyn Hardee, Michael Marques, Ari Morelli-Wolfe, Amy Nilsson, John Oei, Mahid Qureshi, Wesley Roser, Christopher Sakal, Katharine Santella, Amy Viens, Nina Wang.

Marlborough: Rachel Antonelli, Lauren Bula, Zachary Catania, Katherine Chapman, Emily Cochefski, Matthew Golka, Nicholas Hale, Gregory Jordan, Julia Mrachek, Aidan Muldoon, Jacob Packer, Holden Sullivan.

Portland: Christina Beaulieu, Hellen Cavannah, Ava Evison, Ryan Kerr, Lily Larson, Michael Quesnel, Olivia Runte, Jack Turecek.

Radon Test Kits Available

January is Radon Awareness Month. If you would like a free radon kit, the Chatham Health District has acquired a limited number of radon test kits from the state Health Department.

One test kit is available per residence for those living within the district. Once the test is complete, you will need to mail the kit in for analysis at no charge to you. The results will be sent to you and will not be public information.

Only take a test kit if you are committed to following the directions and mailing it out. If you are interested in a test kit, call 860-365-0884.

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of Jan. 8-14:

Jacob Ireland – East Hampton High School (Track & Field): Ireland, a 2020 graduate of East Hampton High School, was named the Northeast Conference's Track Athlete of the Week. Ireland, now a senior at Central Connecticut State University, earned the honor after competing at the Wagner College Invite in Staten Island, N.Y., finishing first in the 800 meters with a time of 1:56.72 and earning second place in the mile with a 4:10.68 mark. Ireland's 800-meter time is the best in the NEC and sits at 52nd among all NCAA Division I runners, while his mile mark is also first in the conference and comes in at 21st nationally.

Taryn Brysgel – RHAM High School (Basketball): Brysgel, a senior, posted a pair of double-doubles within the span of a week. In a 57-44 victory over Tolland, Brysgel stuffed the stat sheet with 14 points, 10 rebounds, 5 steals, and a pair of assists. During a Jan. 11 loss to Manchester, Brysgel scored 22 points and grabbed 21 rebounds. Brysgel and the Raptors are back in action tonight (Friday, Jan 19) when they welcome Maloney to RHAM High School for a game at 6:45 p.m.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Thomas J. Sweeney III



Thomas J. Sweeney III, 69, of East Hampton, beloved husband and best friend of Ann (Sal-ing) Sweeney, passed away at Yale New Haven Hospital on Saturday, Jan. 13, after struggling with cancer. He was the son of the late Thomas J. Jr. and Agnes (Deeley) Sweeney.

Tom received his BA and master's in business at Central Connecticut State College. Tom was the former owner of Nelson Precision Drilling of Glastonbury for 30 years, along with his late brother Barry Sweeney. He loved golf and was a longtime member of the Quarry Ridge Men's Club. He also served as the president of the men's club at Quarry Ridge in Portland. Tom was also an active member of the East Hampton Marlborough Rotary Club and the Rotary Foundation committee. He served as president of the club and was also the beloved Santa for the club's annual Breakfast with Santa.

Besides his loving wife Ann, Tom is survived by his sisters, Dr. Elaine Sweeney of Vernon, Darlene (Ray) Solomson of South Windsor, Doreen (Jim) Anderson of Ellington, and Deirdre (Bryan) Palmer of East Hartford. He also leaves his brothers, Brian (Valerie) Sweeney of Vernon and Terrence Sweeney, also of Vernon. He also leaves many loving nieces and nephews as well.

He was such a kind and caring soul and was loved by many.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday Jan. 18. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, Friday, Jan. 19, at 11 a.m., at St. Patrick Church also in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Red Mckinney Scholarship, c/o East Hampton Rotary Club Foundation, P.O. Box 358, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

New Obituary Policy

Effective immediately, there is now a \$100 fee to place obituaries. All obituaries can be sent to bulletin@glcitizen.com.

East Hampton

Brian A. Bentley

Brian A. Bentley, 77, of East Hampton, passed away Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at UConn John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington. He was predeceased by his parents, Bernard, and Carolyn Bentley.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mari Bentley; sister, Ruth Bentley; children, Carrie Erwin, Brian S Bentley and Melissa Bentley Michaud; grandchildren, Sean and Eric Erwin; cousin, Terry Stewart, Eileen Ahern and Barry Burnham and various relatives. He grew up in Manchester and later moved to East Hampton.

Brian was known for his brilliant mind with the ability to remember and recall events, dates, music, and many other things. His friends often called him on the phone for information. So much so that people would say "let's ask the encyclopedia." He excelled at answering the *Jeopardy!* questions correctly and often got more correct answers than all three contestants combined.

He was a man of great loyalty and empathy, with a strong love of family and often brought us together, cooking wonderful meals, especially a traditional Bentley Christmas Eve dinner and on other Holidays.

Brian attended New England Technical School, an extensive computer training school and graduated with high honors.

He was brought up in a musical family and played the bass and guitar. Later, he gave lessons at Bellers Music Store in Manchester. He started playing in several bands in high school and continued playing in many other bands into his later years. The bands were: 'The Aztecs', 'The Alley Cats', 'Benny and the Juniors', 'Frantic Four', and 'Frantic Five', and later, 'Connection' which was a 10-piece rock and roll band that he played and helped musically arranged in his later years. His love and expertise in music was well-known and appreciated by many.

Brian had his own catering business with a bright red truck which was called "Brian's Brunch" painted colorfully on the side and "Here Comes Brian" was painted on the front of the truck. He was in business for many years and loved serving and meeting with his business customers every day. He was known for wearing shorts - even in the winter which brought a smile to many faces.

Brian was known for his sense of humor, quick wit, and the ability to make everyone laugh. His love of animals was profound. He was known as "Daddy" amongst the many kit-



ties that graced his home.

We love you Brian and we know you are looking down on us. Peace and love.

Cemetery services are being planned for in the spring.

East Hampton

Carla Aleksiewicz

Carla Maureen (Stone) Aleksiewicz, 64, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Michael E. Aleksiewicz passed away Wednesday, Jan. 10. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Carl Michael and Elizabeth (Spencer) Stone.

Carla will be deeply missed by her husband Michael of 40 years, and her daughters, Jessica Aleksiewicz of Moodus and Tiffany Aleksiewicz of Plainville. She is also survived by her sisters, Cathy Gleason and her husband Milt of Cromwell, Carlene Lamontagne of Portland, Carol Planeta of Higganum; brother, Carl Stone and his wife Sharon of Georgia; her two grandsons, Ryker and Wyatt, as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by brothers, Calvin, Carlton and Clifton Stone, and brother in-laws Tom Planeta and Mark Lamontagne.

Carla loved music, vacationing, spending time with her family and her dog Rocket.

Calling hours will be held Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 5-7 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

Those who wish to share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.



Portland

Nancy Brault

Passing of Nancy Carol Brault, 94, of Portland, on Thursday, Jan. 11. She was born Nancy Carol Stanley on Feb. 20, 1929, to Laura Paquin Stanley and Albert Stanley in Glastonbury. She is predeceased by her husband, Clarence J. Brault of Reddick, Fla.

She leaves three daughters, Nancy Carol Brault, Carol Ann Walker and Dianne Lee Hobby; as well as four living grandchildren, Amy Wellenstein, Heather Reiss, Shannon Walters and Jesse Walters; and a total of 10 great-grandchildren.

Nancy loved nature, birds, animals, reading and wordsearch puzzles. Throughout a sometimes-challenging life, Nancy remained a resilient, caring and empathetic woman who enjoyed living in nature, riding through the countryside, sharing stories and laughter. With friends and family, she shared her wisdom and kindness. She loved her family, who will miss her dearly.

In lieu of flowers, people may donate to Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center at 333 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

Her burial is arranged by Biega Funeral Home Middletown. Family and friends gathered at Green Cemetery, Glastonbury, on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the gravesite.



Portland

William R. McGrath

William Robert McGrath, "Mugsy," 80, of Portland, beloved husband of Marilyn (Scirica) McGrath, passed away Monday, Jan. 15, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born in New Britain, son of the late William and Frances (Meheran) McGrath.

William was a veteran, serving with the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed in Mississippi and did a tour in Taiwan. Thereafter, he worked for the U.S. Post Office for over 50 years as a letter carrier in the West Hartford area. William had a love of sports and was a member of the National Association of Sports Officials. He would often be found officiating on the football and baseball fields.

William is survived by his wife, Marilyn; son, Christopher McGrath of Southington; daughter, Dawn Travers (Steve Franco) of Southington; and stepdaughters, Kim Trowbridge (Aaron) of Middletown, Jill Tardiff (Jason) of Bourne, Mass.; sister, Patricia Florkowski (Walter) of New Britain; brother, Thomas McGrath (Jane) of North Adams, Mass.; six grandchildren, Rachel Johnson, Brianna Johnson, Kahli Travers, Amanda Travers, Elijah Tardiff, Benjamin Tardiff; two great grandchildren, Kaleb and Kasius; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be Sunday, Jan. 21, from 4-6 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. The funeral liturgy will be held Monday, Jan. 22, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial with military honors will follow at the Swedish Cemetery.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 Saint Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or Disabled Veterans National Foundation, 4601 Forbes Blvd. Suite #130, Lanham, MD 20706.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Robert C. Derda

Robert C. Derda, 65, of Ledyard, passed away at his home unexpectedly Tuesday, Jan. 9. He was born Sept. 22, 1958, to Rose (Dalfonso) Derda and Chester Robert Derda.

Rob graduated Bacon Academy in Colchester in 1976. He pursued his passion of automotive expertise with a degree from Denver Automotive and Diesel College in 1978. Upon college completion, Rob's entrepreneurial spirit led him to his first business venture of Ledyard Auto, which he purchased in 1987 and has continued to operate since.

Rob will forever be remembered as a hard-working man, well liked and known. Rob was a friend to everyone he met and always served his community and with favors he always did for others. His legacy extended beyond his Ledyard Auto involvement. He was an avid pilot and diver, he soared the skies and explored the depths of our world, showcasing his love for adventure. His passion for cars, airplanes and motorcycles echoed in every aspect of his life. When not working on cars, flying or helping



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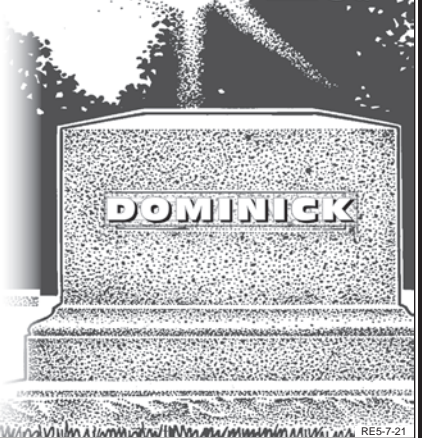
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"A monument should cost no more than a family can afford."



Obituaries

someone else, Rob was spending his time as the house committee chairman for the Tuckerbung Social Club, located in Gales Ferry.

Rob is survived by his only son, Matthew Robert; stepdaughter, Lauren Gale; sisters, Kathleen Standish and Nancy LaFlamme; nephews, Ryan Davis (Madeline) and Connor LaFlamme; nieces, Rachelle LaFlamme and Kaitlyn Standish.

In celebrating Robert's life, we remember not only his remarkable contributions to automotive craftsmanship but also the adventurous spirit that defined his journey.

Please join us for calling hours Saturday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service will take place at the funeral home at 1 p.m. A reception will be held at the Colchester Fire Department, 52 Old Hartford Rd., immediately following.

Marlborough

Michelle Lee Lanzi

Michelle Lee (McKay) Lanzi, 55, of Marlborough and formerly of East Hampton, passed away at her home Sunday, Jan. 7. Born Nov. 22, 1968, in Manchester she was the daughter of the late James and Bonita Sue (Hale) McKay.

Michelle had worked in customer service for the former SNET. She is survived by her long-time companion, Brian Dickenson of Marlborough; sons, Ryan Lanzi and his companion Kacie of East Hartford, Dylan Lanzi of East Hampton; and her brother Scott McKay.

She was predeceased by her son, Jayson Lanzi, and her brother, James McKay.

Friends may call at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Saturday Jan. 20, from 10 a.m.-noon.

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

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

moods, especially during the doldrums of winter" explained Kristie Gonsalves, President of North East Expos, Inc., the show's longtime producer and a board member of the Home & Garden Show Executives International, who also is a past president of the National Association of Consumer Show Producers. "We are thrilled to offer spring in full colorful bloom and opportunities for people

to discover new ways to enjoy their homes and growing spaces – indoors and out."

So, there you go. What better way to think of warmer weather than spending a weekend looking at flowers and plants? And hey, if that doesn't work, there's always this: pitchers and catchers report to spring training on Feb. 13. See you next week.

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



A culvert on Wopowog Road in East Hampton collapses for the third time due to large amounts of precipitation. The item has been slated to be redone for years but has yet to be a top priority.

★ Storms Take Tol cont. from page 1

the Burdick's property and the roadway.

Patti Burdick explained how four to eight inches of water will cover the grass near the end of their driveway. "With the unprecedented amounts of rain it just can't handle the water," said Burdick. She also explained how the detour of going to Young St. can add almost 15 minutes to their trips. "It's inconvenient for sure." As an old problem that has been brought up multiple times, the couple hopes it will be done correctly when proper funds are available. Public Works is exploring potential solutions for a temporary fix but the feasibility of that choice is still uncertain.

Though the collapsed culvert is one of the more extreme occurrences, multiple residents have reported damaged roads and significant flooding. Several streets, including Collie Brook and Gulf roads, have massive potholes from the heavy storms. Other roads have started to deteriorate on the edges such as Long Crossing

Road.

On Lakewood Road, Public Works had to respond to a severe icing condition. Following two major rain storms, the heavy runoff flowed across properties on the west side of the road, leading to freezing in multiple areas. This resulted in hazardous conditions, worsened by the road's state, allowing water to flow across instead of staying in the gutters where icing is less severe.

On Facebook, many residents have shared similar experiences with flooding. One person explained how their road is deteriorating because the drainage pipes underneath are failing. As a result, water doesn't remain in the catch basins. Another resident shared that there are several sinkholes on their road and the water that goes into catch basins will shoot back up. Also, water from the Air Line rail bed near the old train station continues to flow onto Skinner Street. For weeks, water has covered a little section of the road, even days after a storm.

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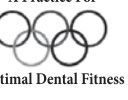
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REC-20

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT Towns of Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland

The Chatham Health District Board of Health will hold a Special Meeting/Public Hearing on January 30, 2023 at 2 p.m. via Zoom, Meeting ID: 83129474105 Passcode: 807858. The purpose of this Special Meeting is for the consideration of adopting the Proposed Chatham Health District 2024-2025 Budget. At this hearing, interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. The Proposed Chatham Health District 2024-2025 Budget is available for public review at <http://www.chathamhealth.org> and in any of the District Offices. Russell Melmed Director of Health

1TB 1/19

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 26 No Main Street

APPLICATION #Z-08-23 – Zoning Commission (Applicant) amendment to delete Article Six A. 5 Group Day Care Residence
APPLICATION #Z-10-23 – Zoning Commission (Applicant) amendment to Article Six B Zoning permit use Group Day Care Residence

Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.
 Eric Colantonio, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 1/19, 1/26

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF SELECTMEN Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM Town of Portland, CT 06480

Pursuant to Portland Town Charter Chapter XII Section 1203.4, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.** at the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut, regarding the proposed supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$525,000 for Transfer Out-CAP Non Rec Town and Increase to Estimated Municipal Revenue Sharing and Investment Income. At the hearing, all interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received. Public Access also through the Zoom link A – www.portlandct.org

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90012 Transfer out – Cap Non Rec Town of \$525,000;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves funding for the supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90012 Transfer Out – Cap Non Rec Town through an increase in estimated revenue to line item #01-000-000-00212 Municipal Revenue Sharing of \$237,112, an increase in estimated revenue to line item #01-000-000-00401 Investment Income of \$130,000; and from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund of \$157,888;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves an increase in estimated revenue line item #08-141-000-00501 – Transfers in General Fund Town of \$525,000 and an increase in supplemental appropriation to expenditure line item #08-141-000-89040 Fire/Fire Marshal Department – Refurbish/replace apparatus of \$525,000.

A copy of the complete resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org. Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 10th day of January 2024.
 Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

1TB 1/19

LEGAL NOTICE PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR TOWN COMMITTEE AT-LARGE

A certified list of 39 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the town of East Hampton for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 40.

A Primary will be held March 5, 2024 if 10 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 31, 2024, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Theresa Latimer, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut 06424.
 Patricia Burnham, CCTC
 Acting Municipal Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 1/19

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of January 10, 2024, the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision(s):

W2023-3090 - 15 Ventura Dr; Justin Williams - Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 03-05-023-021; Proposed single-family home, driveway, garage, deck, septic system, site grading, and erosion & sediment controls within Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.**

W2023-3091 - 111 Pine Brook Rd; Daniel Durrenberger - Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 4W-09-004-000; Proposed restoration and enhancement of man-made pond with excavation, dredging, and site grading. - **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.**

Dated January 11, 2024
 Conservation Commission
 Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 1/19

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

A certified list of 31 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Portland for election as members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 33 East Main Street, Portland Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 40.

A primary will be held March 5, 2024, if 10 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 P.M. of January 31, 2024, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Pauline Neumann, Republican Registrar of Voters, 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.
 ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney
 Portland Town Clerk
 Dated this 17th day of January, 2024

1TB 1/19

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.

PZC Application #23-07: 1600 Portland Cobalt Road. Proposal to modify existing special permit approval with the addition of 2 more commercial buildings with garage bays. Application and property of 1600 Portland Cobalt Road LLC. Map 16, Lot 31-1. Zone B-1.

PZC Application #23-08: 209 Sand Hill Road. Proposal to modify existing special permit approval for a 15 ft addition around the whole perimeter of the existing barn structure on site used for event space. Application of Arrigoni Winery LLC and property of R G Manner LLC, Map 5, Lot 14. Zone RR.

Dated at Portland, CT this 9th day of January 2024
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 1/19, 1/26

LEGAL NOTICE of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:45 PM Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480

Pursuant to Chapter V Section 503b and 503g of the Town Charter, a Special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:45 P.M. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT for the following:

ITEM 1. To Approve a supplemental appropriation in line #01-093-000-90012 Transfer out – Cap Non Rec Town of \$525,000; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves funding for the supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90012 Transfer Out – Cap Non Rec Town through an increase in estimated revenue to line item #01-000-000-00212 Municipal Revenue Sharing of \$237,112, an increase in estimated revenue to line item #01-000-000-00401 Investment Income of \$130,000; and from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund of \$157,888;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves an increase in estimated revenue line item #08-141-000-00501 – Transfers in General Fund Town of \$525,000 and an increase in supplemental appropriation to expenditure line item #08-141-000-89040 Fire/Fire Marshal Department – Refurbish/replace apparatus of \$525,000.

A copy of the complete resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org. Dated this 10th day of January 2024
 Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

1TB 1/19

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

A certified list of 45 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Portland for election as members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 33 East Main Street, Portland Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 60.

A primary will be held March 5, 2024, if 15 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 P.M. of January 31, 2024, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Kristy Fuller, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.
 ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney
 Portland Town Clerk
 Dated this 17th day of January, 2024

1TB 1/19

LEGAL NOTICE PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR TOWN COMMITTEE AT-LARGE

A certified list of 31 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the town of East Hampton for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 53.

A Primary will be held March 5, 2024 if 13 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 31, 2024, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Lori Wilcox, Republican Registrar of Voters, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut 06424.
 Patricia Burnham, CCTC
 Acting Municipal Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 1/19

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CIT-11-23

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CIT-11-24

Colebrook Village at Hebron: NOW HIRING!

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Shifts: 7a-3p, 3p-11p, 11p-7a. Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details!
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To apply, please email your resume to: beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com

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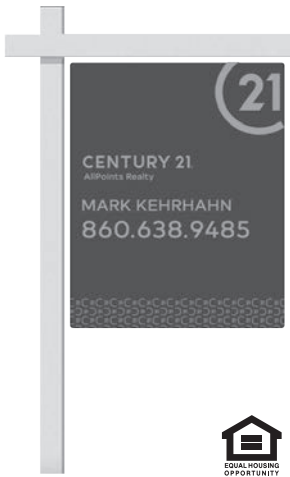
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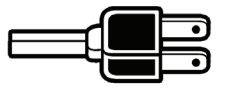
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