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# News Bulletin

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

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**100 Wins...** RHAM High School wrestler Ben Fournier won his 100th career match at the New Milford Invitational on Jan. 20. The senior grappler also came out on top of his weight class at the invite as the Raptors placed second as a team. For more on Fournier and other standout athletes, see page 3.

## Hebron Maple Fest Returning to Roots

By Michael Sinkewicz

For decades, residents across the state have flocked to one of Hebron's proudest annual traditions: the Maple Festival.

Every year, the town hosts thousands of people who enjoy timeless treats such as "sugar on snow," which is exactly what you'd expect — shaved ice with syrup drizzled on top.

But in recent history, as the festival has seemingly expanded and become more commercialized, the town has sought ways to pivot back to the heyday of Hebron sugaring.

"We're the maple capital of the state of Connecticut," said Ron Wenzel, of Hebron's Wenzel Sugarhouse.

This year, The Town Center Project, Inc. (TTCP) is overseeing the event for the first time, following a seven-year run by the Windham Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

The goal, as explained by TTCP President Holly Habicht, is to "resuscitate" the historic charm of the festival, which will be held on March 16 and 17.

"It had grown into something that it really was never intended to be," she said.

In 2017, the TTCP, a nonprofit initiative, was established to restore the center of Hebron, according to Habicht, with "center" representing "us" and "our community."

Standing in the bustle of last year's festival in the parking lot behind the Douglas Library, she had an "epiphany" that reaffirmed that a change was necessary, even if it meant scaling down the overall magnitude of the two-day extravaganza.

"We don't need to make this bigger; we need to make this better," Habicht recalled. "Sometimes less is more."

### Time For a Change

Habicht stated that the TTCP had been approached over the last few years about poten-

tially hosting the event, but it wasn't immediately obvious to her how that transition would be advantageous for the community.

"How can we do anything differently?" she wondered.

Wenzel, who joined Habicht last week for a *RiverEast* interview, jumped in. "It's called the Hebron Maple Fest."

He explained that the plethora of food trucks and out-of-town vendors was negatively impacting local businesses. For example, he said there'd be a coffee wagon in front of local favorite The Flour Girl Bakery on Main Street — which seemed counterintuitive.

"That's not a good thing," Wenzel asserted.

The centralized focus of the festival largely meant that patrons would weave through a maze of vendors downtown, but then fail to visit the other components that make the weekend unique: the sugar houses.

"People would come downtown and see all this grandiose," Habicht said. "Then they would never explore anything else."

How will the Maple Festival be different moving forward?

"It's very much all what Hebron has to offer our community," Habicht expressed. "You're going to see things that are homegrown versus the larger things from the Hartford area."

In her mind, the appeal of the festival was always that there would be elements integrated throughout the entire town, specifically the agricultural highlights that aren't visible in the physical center of Hebron, most notably the sugar houses.

This year, there will be a sugar house liaison downtown who will have information and their

See *Hebron Maple Fest*, page 19

## Bellringers Outlast Highlanders in Hoops Thriller

By Josh Howard

In a game that featured 15 lead changes, East Hampton boys basketball used an 11-point run to start the third to take control before holding on for a 65-61 home victory over Portland on Jan. 18.

Bellringers' junior guard Brady Lynch sparked the second half surge, scoring eight of his game-high 19 points in the third quarter.

"We had to get the ball in the bucket and get some easy shots by passing the ball around," Lynch said of the team's mentality coming out of halftime.

Lynch also credited the team's "defensive intensity" for changing the complexion of the game.

Along with scoring 23 points as a team in the third, East Hampton also excelled on the other end of the court after switching to a zone de-

fense, limiting the Highlanders outside shooters.

"We wanted to show them something different for the third quarter and make them take a couple tougher shots, and we actually rebounded the ball well," added Antolini. "We were able to get some easy buckets. That's one of the things that's been challenging for us all year, we haven't made a lot of easy baskets."

Playing at East Hampton High School, the Shoreline Conference (SLC) rivals battled to a stalemate for the first two quarters. The game was tied at 16 after the first quarter and tied at 29 at the half with the teams trading the lead a dozen times over the first 16 minutes.

During the Bellringers' 11-0 scoring spurt to start the second half, Lynch scored eight points by converting a pair of old-fashioned three-

point plays and getting a layup in transition.

Antolini emphasized "getting a touch in the paint every single possession" to start the second half.

"I thought that is where our advantage was tonight," added Antolini. "We made some key shots at key times."

But Portland would not go quietly into the night and whittled away the deficit before taking a 55-54 lead in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer from Aaron Ciarleglio with 5:50 left in regulation.

On the following possession, East Hampton freshman Bryson Milton regained the lead for the home team with a layup as the Bellringers closed the game on an 11-6 run to earn their sixth win of the season and their first victory

See *Hoops Thriller*, page 24

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## From the Editor's Desk Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

First off, congratulations to the Rev. Valerie Seaver!

Though Seaver has been serving as pastor of Marlborough Congregational Church since last January, she wasn't officially installed in the role until this past Sunday, Jan. 21. Representatives and delegates from the Hartford East Association of the United Church of Christ participated in the ceremony, along with the Chancel Choir and others from the Marlborough church.

Pastor Val, as she's known at the church, is the first female pastor in the 276-year history of Marlborough Congregational. That's a very nice first to have! I'm a big fan of having more women among church clergy.

And while we're on the subject of church-related kudos, congratulations to the Rev. Brian C. Hardee, who was officially installed as the pastor of Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron, also this past Sunday. Like Seaver, Hardee had already been with the church for a while, serving as pastor there since last July.

So it's officially the dawn of a new day for Congregational churches in Hebron and Marlborough. Very exciting, for Seaver and Hardee and their respective flocks. I wish you all nothing but the best!

\*\*\*

Got plans for next weekend? If not, why not swing by your local library?

Saturday, Feb. 3, is the 13th annual Take Your Child to the Library Day, and libraries across the state and across the nation will feature with free events and activities for children and families.

Take Your Child to the Library Day cel-

brates the importance of the library in the lives of children and families. According to the Connecticut Library Consortium – the nonprofit organization behind the event – children who are proficient in reading by the end of grade 3 are significantly more likely to graduate high school, opening doors to a bright future. Libraries help families build solid foundations of literacy and love of learning by providing access to books, early literacy story times, technology access, homework help, online resources, and fun, safe spaces to explore and grow, the consortium added.

"Taking children to the library helps them develop a love of reading and learning," said Ellen Paul, executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium. "Choosing and checking out their own materials helps children learn independence and sharing. Library books and technology open access to the world and fuel children's curiosity and passions. And library programs provide countless opportunities for learning, discovering, making friends, and having fun! If you want your children to become thoughtful, engaged citizens, start by bringing them to the library on Take Your Child to the Library Day or any day."

Here in *Rivereast-land*, there are several activities coming up on Feb. 3 to celebrate the occasion.

At Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester, there will be a 10:30 a.m. *Frozen* storytime and a "Foodie Fun" take-home kit. Contact the library for details.

Meanwhile, Douglas Library of Hebron will

**Editor's Desk continued on page 10**



**We Found Wonderland... Epoch Arts will hold a Mad Hatter Tea and Paint Party for students in grades 1-5 on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 1-3 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. Kids will create a painting, dance to music, and eat some food with Alice and her Wonderland friends. Feel free to come dressed as your favorite Wonderland character. Register at [www.epocharts.org/classes-registration](http://www.epocharts.org/classes-registration). Pictured is a scene from last year's Mad Hatter Party.**

### Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

#### Marlborough's Sidewalks

To the Editor:

This past year, the town of Marlborough extended the existing sidewalks along North Main Street to include a section on the west side of the street from Pettengill Road to Chapman Road. There are 11 property owners behind this section of sidewalk who received a letter from the town manager, dated 12/20/23, informing them of their responsibility to keep the sidewalk clear of snow, etc., during inclement weather, as our properties, so it said, abut the sidewalk. (A town ordinance states that "an owner or occupant of any premises abutting a public sidewalk shall remove or cause to be removed from the entire width of such sidewalk any and all snow and ice within 24 hours after the snow event has ceased.")

The town has been trying to pass this responsibility upon these few residential property owners who unfortunately own property on the inside of the walkway, but do not abut the walkway – the town owns 7 feet of land abutting the inside of the walkway. Clearly, the town's buildings, roadways, athletic fields, etc. are part of the town's structure – which are all supported as evenly as possible through taxation – for the benefit of everyone. Then why aren't the sidewalks being town supported? After all, they too are part of the town's structure – belonging to all residents.

At the latest Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting, four of the five members, when all were in discussion of the subject, were in favor of the town accepting the responsibility – the chairperson was strongly and adamantly against it! A motion to take responsibility was never made – because of pressure from the chairperson.

In summation, the town should be looking for ways to help its citizenry – not burdening them, especially with what should be its responsibilities!

Alan Miller – Marlborough

#### Economic Numbers

To the Editor:

Ed Kozlowski is a funny guy. We could discuss Ken Hjulstrom's fantasy or Michael Chotkowski's wretchedly confused nonsense, but I'll focus on Mr. Kozlowski's screed. After all, it's refreshing that he presents actual content instead of his usual vacuity. That content is false, but still it's an improvement.

First, he won't scare me by claiming to be good at mathematics. I have two math degrees.

Second, we need to explain something to those who don't understand math... or economics... or government... or much else: A president's first budget takes effect Oct. 1. Earlier economic effects are the result of their predecessor or of factors outside presidential control. Perhaps the fairest comparison is between the

## Bulletin Board

I would like to talk today about mucus.

Mucus, I am informed by persons much smarter than myself, is "a viscous, slimy mixture of mucins, water, electrolytes, epithelial cells and leukocytes that is secreted by glands lining the nasal, esophageal and other body cavities and serves primarily to protect and lubricate surfaces."

For those of you of a less scientific bent, the type of mucus I would like to discuss is what generations of children waiting on cold winter mornings for the school bus to arrive refer to simply as "snot."

Well do I recall those long ago days. One sufferer from up the street was so afflicted that his face took on the appearance of a glazed donut from late November to the end of February. Then there was the tough kid who rid himself of mucus buildup by gently pinching one nostril and deftly blowing the contents of the other out onto the sidewalk to the horrified shrieks of the girls and unabashed admiration of we boys. While this may seem like an odd way to gain status, it is a pretty good trick and I should warn any showoffs out there that those of us who tried to duplicate this feat generally ended up blowing snot all over the front of our good winter coats.

Perhaps because of this early exposure to the menace of snot, I was fascinated recently when I saw an advertisement for a device called "the Navage Nose Cleaner," which promises to relieve nasal congestion in a more genteel and sanitary way (and without all that shrieking). The battery-powered Navage is a clear plastic box fitted with two protuberances that you're supposed to shove up your nose after filling the box with salt water (the company sells special sea salt pods which apparently have more medicinal virtues than the stuff you use on popcorn – probably because they cost more).

Thanks to the device's battery-powered suction pump, the saline solution enters one nostril and is sucked out of the other nostril. The "solution" (i.e. "crap") that is sucked from the sinus cavity is held in the system's tank, which I guess is better than having it all over the front of your best winter coat, but still pretty disgusting if you think about it.

My understanding of nasal anatomy is pretty limited so I am unable to explain how you can push salt water up one nostril and suck it out the other without having it squirt out your eyes, or why the thing doesn't suck out your brain along with all the mucus.

However, I have to assume the thing is reasonably safe because, as the company surely knows all too well, you can't continue to buy the special sea salt capsules (\$12.99 for a 30 pack at Target) if you're dead. This may come as a surprise to you, but Corporate America's interest in product safety is based largely on the indisputable fact that dead people make poor customers, unless you're a mortician, of course.

But while you may be unlikely to discover brain matter in your Nose Sucker's containment chamber, I admit to harboring some concerns after reading a testimonial from one user who lauded the Navage's "suction." I'm not saying this is a result of using the Nose Sucker, but in my humble opinion, anyone who spells like that really shouldn't be allowed to operate devices that suck stuff out of your head, even if it's likely to consist mostly of air.

By the way, the company also feels compelled to point out that the Nose Cleaner is not dishwasher safe. I presume this is directed toward those customers (perhaps bachelors who live alone) who may decide that the best way to get rid of the accumulated nasty gunk in the device is to throw it in with the dinner plates they eat off of.

And, while I'm on the subject of safety, I should probably add that, in order to prevent possible infection, the Food and Drug Administration recommends using only filtered, treated, or processed water in your Nose Cleaner device. This can help you avoid any bacteria, protozoa, and amoebas that might be found in tap water. Apparently, it's okay to drink that stuff but you really don't want to be sucking it up into your nose. Go figure.

I don't mean to be derisive about the nose sucker. I mean, if the thing works as advertised, I'm sure it's well worth the money, if you're suffering from sinus issues. I do hope, however, that the new technology doesn't spell the end of that winter staple of the school bus stop: the legendary age-old one-nostril blow. Maybe I'm being overly nostalgic for a time when I still had hair on my head and could still touch my toes, but it seems to me we've lost enough of our heroes to what some call "progress."

Jim Hallas

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27 months starting with those Octobers. Including the mishandled pandemic period would be infinitely worse for Trump.

Mr. Kozlowski focuses on inflation. It's risen faster under Biden (by 4.7% annually) than in recent years, but is below the increase in wages (up 5.1% per year). Most people are better off. However, yes: food's gone up faster (6.9%) than wages. Job creation, though, was twice as fast for Biden than for Trump.

It's amusing that he'd blame Biden for lumber prices, which are due to booming home improvements during the COVID-19 lockdown and to Trump's tariffs on Canadian lumber. But it's hilarious because since the start of Biden's first budget, lumber prices have fallen 8.6% annually, where they rose to crazy heights during Trump's budgets, doubling before settling down.

He claims spiraling debt; funny, it rose 8.3% per year under Biden, 8.9% per year under Trump. He blames Biden for the invasion of Ukraine, when everyone knows that Trump's puppet-master, Putin, was responsible. He mentions a Biden gaffe; the continuing stream of gaffes from Trump is infinitely worse.

Yeah, a funny guy all right.  
(References: <http://letters.sauyet.com/#/2024-01-26/>)

Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet – Andover

*Note: Sauyet is co-chair of the Andover Democratic Town Committee and a member of the RHAM Board of Education, but said he is writing as an individual.*

### Get Engaged!

To the Editor:  
Don't sit on the sidelines when tax decisions are being made that will impact you and your family.

Our budget process provides several opportunities for you to participate and express your thoughts on how our town should fund services.

How can you participate?

- 1) Attend meetings/workshops in person or via Zoom.
- 2) Submit written letters or emails to BOE, BOF or Town Council.
- 3) Leave an audio-recorded message with your comments via our town website!
- 4) All info can be found on our town website, at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). Meeting schedules, minutes, email addresses, etc.

Remember, it is your money, your family and your town!

Respectfully,  
Deborah Cunningham  
East Hampton Town Council Member

### Davos 2024

To the Editor:  
Another annual meeting of the world's elites has wrapped up in Davos. In between cocaine-fueled orgies and closed-door power struggle sessions our controllers telegraphed much of their wish list when it comes to managing the global population.

The crowds flew in on thousands of private jets and stayed in the lap luxury but didn't miss the opportunity to promote the idea of worldwide carbon taxes....they can afford them! During a panel discussion Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaani argued that carbon taxes are the only way to generate the revenue necessary to reach the UN's Sustainable Development goals.

"There is no realistic solution to the climate transition that does not involve a globally coordinated system of carbon taxes," he said...so pay up!

Queen Máxima of the Netherlands called for a universal digital ID that would track everything from financial transactions to vaccina-

tion status. Máxima, who previously served as United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA) since 2009, promoted universal biometric digital ID - "It's also good for school enrollment, it's good for health, who actually got a vaccination or not, it's good to get your subsidies from the government," she added. So do what the Queen wants...or...get nothing!

WEF President Børge Brende wondered aloud what we could bring from the old world order into the "New World Order" - that would make the experience of usurping national sovereignty and individual rights a more positive one. While Ol' Klaus says, "We risk becoming much more ego-centered on a national and individual level" and wants to "break this cycle" to achieve its Great Reset objectives. We are all going to have become a lot more enthusiastic about collectivism if we want to continue toward the technocratic control structure being built to control us and our children.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

### Memories

To the Editor:  
Remember *The Planet of the Apes*? The documentary, *Behind the Planet of the Apes*, features complex social discussions. The chimps are scientifically minded, the orangutans see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. But the apes? In black leather, with hats reminiscent of old aviator or motorcycle helmets, the apes obediently cheer as the dominant ape bellows, "The only thing that matters in the end is force, naked! merciless! force!" As a kid we were fascinated by this program and others like it. Fact is stranger than fiction. However, great fiction is based on facts often taken directly from human behaviors.

After being ignored by politicians and economic developers, imagine the fear people experience when they are forced from their homes due to dead wells. Here in lush, green, lovely Hebron it seems foreign and unimaginable. But it happens in the USA, everyday.

Remember drinking from creeks? When US history was part of our everyday lives and field trips to biology labs, historic sites and museums were the best part of school? Ray Bradbury wrote and produced a TV episode, "To the Chicago Abyss." It was about remembering and was set in the not so distant future, homelessness and poverty running rampant. It featured U.S. residents ruled by force and those who reminisced, were persecuted. No remembering fields of pumpkins, Thanksgiving dinners or clean sheets, nothing but the here and now with military control and corporate gains.

Writers like Bradbury, Jane Mayer, Thomas Frank, Jim Hightower, Dan Rather and a host of others are doing their best to warn us. They show us the present path of our politics in hopes that ordinary people will take the wheel and steer politicians off this destructive course which is eliminating civil liberties, safe drinking water and valuable farmland. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

### Thank You!

To the Editor:  
If you have not noticed, I encourage you to drive by the Lake Pocotopaug bow and arrow sign that was recently updated. The bow and arrow sign that has been at that location for over seventy years was refurbished by the East Hampton Rotary Club with the help of a number of local businesses. The sign was fabricated by staff from Nesci Enterprises under the direction of Ray Zatorski, American Powder Coating powder coated the sign, the bow was repainted by Ray Nichols Jr., owner of Liberty Landscaping and the artwork on the sign was completed by Kristen Hadad, an artist from East Haddam. A special thank you also goes to the East Hampton Public Works department that cleaned up the site, installed a split rail fence and reinstalled the refurbished sign. This was a community project completed by community members.

I am hoping the community will be willing to assist me in the second phase of this project, installing two park benches so that those who wish may have a place to sit and enjoy the beautiful view of Lake Pocotopaug. If you would like to make a donation to assist in purchasing the park benches that the Town of East Hampton's Public Works department will install, please make your check out to the Town of East Hampton, on the memo line write in Lake Pocotopaug Benches and send your donation to the attention of the Town Manager's Office, Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,  
Kevin M. Reich – East Hampton

### God Made a Dictator

To the Editor:  
And on the eighth day God looked down on his planned paradise and said I need a man to test the will and goodness of a free people. So, God made a dictator. God said I need a man who failed in everything but theft and broken promises to live in a golden palace and convince the poor he serves their needs. So, God made a dictator. God said I need a wicked man to lead the common folk with hatred and fear. So, God made a dictator. God said I need a corrupt man who is above the law and immune from justice. So, God made a dictator. God said I need a man who will use violence to seize power. So, God made a dictator. God said I need a man whose followers will call black white call evil good and call criminals' hostages. So, God made a dictator. God said I need his political party to obey without question and the Press fear his wrath. So, God made a dictator. God said I need a cruel man who uses his power and position to punish and harm his opposition. So, God made a dictator. God said I need a man who breaks the faith of even his most Godly followers and leads them to idolatry Place him above me. So, God made a dictator. And then God said I sent this man to test you and until you cast him down you have failed, So, God made a dictator. - The Lincoln Project

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

### Who Has Dementia?

To the Editor:  
"And the press never reports the crowds you know by the way they never report the crowd on Jan. 6th, you know Nikki Haley Nikki Haley Nikki Haley you know they did you know they destroyed all of the information all of the evidence everything deleted and destroyed all of it all of it because of lots of things like Nikki Haley is in charge of security we offered her 10,000 people soldiers, National Guard, so whatever they want. They turned it down, they don't want to talk about that; these are very dishonest people." - Donald Trump. Donald Trump gives "gems" like this on a regular basis, President Biden has a lifelong stuttering problem. Who has cognitive issues? Dementia?

Dementia defined as, a condition characterized by progressive or persistent loss of intellectual functioning, especially with impairment of memory and abstract thinking, and often with personality change, resulting from organic disease of the brain.

You think you struck a nerve? In the historical, immortal words of General Anthony McAuliffe, "Nuts!" Concerning your comment about the previous occupant of the White House moving back in, Ken when you're done with your highlighted, underlined copy of Project 2025 can I get that from you? Unless you've loaned it out to all of the women you know and your non-white, non-Christian, LGBTQIA+ friends, I'm sure they'd enjoy learning what's in store for them. The Constitution of the United States that I've read starts with the words We the People. It seems Project 2025 starts with as long as you're a straight, white Christian male you'll be ok.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Manning – Andover

### It Would Be Madness

To the Editor:  
People have often used terms like sedition, insurrection, domestic terrorism, and treason interchangeably when referring the January 6th uprising. Interestingly, Michael Chotkowski has construed that since no-one, including Donald Trump has ever been charged with "insurrection," the riots therefore never happened.

In fact, the Justice Department has not charged anyone with insurrection, they have however indicted over 1,200 individuals with various federal crimes related to J6. These include assaulting police officers, theft, destruction, trespassing, rioting, and seditious conspiracy to obstruct certification of the 2020 presidential election.

To date there have been over 890 convictions, including charges against several members of two militia groups, who pleaded guilty to acts of seditious conspiracy to prevent, or hinder the execution or transfer of presidential power. Their sentences ranged from 12-22 years each. Also worth noting, is that not one of the J6 defendants was a Democrat. Not one was an Atheist, or a Muslim. Not one was part of Black Lives

See Letters, page 6

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

Matter or Antifa. In fact, all 1,200 of the extremists were Republicans.

Based on Mr. Chotkowski's rationale, Trump's role in this should be excused due to the semantics of his crime. I would assume this hair-brained notion would also include all ninety-plus indictments in Trump's abhorrent crime spree, including his rape conviction in the E. Jean Carroll case. Of course, each time Trump evades accountability, he goes on to commit even worse crimes and misconduct.

It's important to remember Trump is not arguing that he's innocent of all these charges. He's arguing that he has a right to be a criminal. To ever allow this man near the Oval Office again would be nothing short of madness.

Joe Stevens - Hebron

## Gratified and Humbled

To the Editor:

The Maio family would like to express their deepest and sincerest thanks to everyone who extended condolences and sympathy on the passing of Nunzi Maio. He loved Portland as a longtime resident and dedicated volunteer at the Portland Food Bank. We were gratified and humbled by all that you did to return that affection.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Maio - Portland

## Unacceptable

To the Editor:

Our dictator, who some call our president, overrules our Supreme Court, again!

Dictator Joe recently tried to have us taxpayers pay for all student loans but the Supreme Court said he over stepped his authority - but he goes and does it anyway. His recent disregarding of our Supreme Court is not acceptable. His intentions here are to buy votes with your and my money. His latest Student Vote Buying Program that he just did, relieves student loans from parents of nurses, teachers, firefighters and other well-paying public service parents. This \$5 billion student loan relief brings the total up to \$136 billion.

We should have elected officials as watchdogs to see that this type of overruling doesn't happen. Oh wait, we do. We call them senators. They should pass a law that says a public official cannot do what the Supreme Court tells them they cannot do. Passing more laws is the answer. That's how we solved the drug addiction problem and the crimes with guns programs!

I don't know how others feel about Joe but I do know how I feel about our elected officials. Forget the "Drain the Swamp" movement. I say let's Flush the Toilet!

Frank Blume - Colchester

## Bidenomics a Bust

To the Editor:

Joe Biden has been a complete failure as the president. He has failed the middle class, the working men and women and seniors. Now if you're a college student trying to have your loan canceled and dump it on the "taxpayer" or if you're an illegal immigrant who has entered our country and broken our laws and gets free housing, meals, a cell phone - well you love old Joe.

It's just been reported that TSA is not requiring picture ID's from immigrants to pass through the airport checkpoints. Millions of immigrants have entered the U.S. during the last three years, especially along the southern border, many of whom are here illegally. President Trump had a much more secure border and his eviction rate was much higher than the Biden administration.

The #1 and #2 Issues of this election will be the economy and the immigration crisis - and Joe Biden, border czar Mayorkas, and his economic team have failed the American people.

The inflation rate hit 9%, driving retail prices through the roof. Your grocery bag that used to cost say \$30 is now well over \$50, gas and oil up 30%, building materials skyrocketing. The massive minimum wage issues have fueled the inflation while Joe gives seniors a 3% increase in their Social Security checks. Whoppee!

The Fed has tried to combat inflation by raising the interest rates several times making it very difficult for first-time home buyers to get an affordable mortgage, even with two respectable incomes. As a country we now have \$1 trillion in credit card debt. People are having trouble paying their bills.

Now we know that Connecticut is a very blue state and will be again in this election cycle but it should be clear that Joe Biden is unfit for office now at 81 years old and certainly will not be for a second term.

More to come.

Don Denley - Andover



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# Local Veterans Honored for Service

By Michael Sinkewicz

Local veterans were honored at a spirited event this week in Andover, a long overdue celebration for 55 heroes who served in the military.

The ceremony, held at Andover Elementary School on Monday, represented an opportunity for local and state leaders to express their gratitude and for veterans to share personal anecdotes from their service.

"To me, it's one of the most powerful things that happened because some of them have not spoken about their experience," Ronald Welch, Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.), and the commissioner of the state Department of Veterans Affairs, told the *Rivereast*.

He added that it's essential to advocate for veterans and that assistance is always available.

"Problems never get better with time," Welch explained. "The strain of what people went through during their service, whether it was a couple of years or a long time, sometimes they delay talking about it and getting help."

This week's event was a part of a statewide tour advanced by Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz to honor Korean-era and Vietnam-era veterans. Each service member was recognized individually and presented with a certificate in front of a packed gymnasium. There was a palpable sense of pride throughout the program, with the audience rising several times to cheer and wave American flags.

Some stories shared by veterans were quick, while others weaved lengthy tales that illustrated the circumstances of their duty. There were insights ranging from a submariner, who spent most of his service underwater, to those who trekked through jungles thousands of miles away in Vietnam.

John Gasper was drafted and served as an Army Infantry foot soldier in Vietnam from 1969-71. He described his journey as a 19-year-old overseas to a place he had little concept of at the time.

"I had no clue what Vietnam was about — couldn't spot it on a wall map," he told the crowd.

Gasper, who taught sixth grade in Andover for nearly 40 years, would walk 10 clicks — around six miles — everyday, and his role was known as a "grunt," a fittingly bestowed title based on the sound soldiers would make as they lifted 60 pounds of equipment.

When he returned home, the welcome was anything but warm.

"We wouldn't tell people about Vietnam because it wasn't a very popular war and it wasn't something that I was really proud of," Gasper expressed.

Acknowledging the unpleasant reality veterans faced both abroad and stateside was the theme of Bysiewicz's remarks.

She explained that when Vietnam veterans came back, they were "greeted with protesters who called them names" and "who spat upon them."

"Our country learned a very important les-

son from our Vietnam veterans, and that is no matter what your opinion of a particular war is, we must always, always say 'thank you' to those that serve our country, [who] sacrificed so that we can enjoy the very precious freedoms that we have in this country," Bysiewicz said.

Korea — often referred to as the "Forgotten War," because the conflict was never officially declared or ended — featured bitter cold winters and heavy amounts of snow. Soldiers stationed there, Bysiewicz explained, were unequipped with the proper clothing and were simultaneously outnumbered by their adversaries.

Vietnam, she continued, was the opposite, at least in regards to weather — hot temperatures and monsoons served as the backdrop, and seemingly countless service members were exposed to toxic chemicals, including Agent Orange.

Between 2008 and 2010, when Bysiewicz was Connecticut's secretary of state, she hosted similar events recognizing veterans of World War II. At this week's ceremony, the families of several WWII veterans were in attendance, along with John Niewola, who served during the conflict with the U.S. Marine Corps.

"Without their bravery and determination, we would not have defeated Nazism and the world would've been a much different and a less free place," Bysiewicz said.

## Swapping Stories

Welch was too young to serve during Vietnam, but recalled how during his childhood, his friends would emulate soldiers.

"We watched M\*A\*S\*H on black and white TV to try and learn more about what happened in Korea," he said during his remarks.

Ylo Anson, a Korean-era Army veteran, who served intermittently for 36 years starting in 1954, had a distinct view of his military service.

"I don't consider myself a Korean veteran; I consider myself a World War II veteran," he said following the event.

He never set foot on Korean soil, but he did see action during WWII. As a 14-year-old living in Estonia, where he was born, Anson was involved in multiple firefights. During one confrontation in 1944 — most likely with Soviet Union forces — he was shot in the face.

The wound has mostly healed without any noticeable damage.

"Even the doctors in the old days did a remarkable job; you can't even see it," he exclaimed. "Whoever shot at me, if they missed by two inches, I wouldn't be standing here."

Morgan Steele shared that he served in the Air Force Reserves from 1959 through 1965. His fear was that he would be taking a C-119 to Cuba during the missile crisis that nearly landed the US in a nuclear war.

"You know, it's scary," he said during an interview. "You don't know what's going to happen

## 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 Andover-LakeCT.com.

## Get Crafty with Cathy

All are invited to Get Crafty with Cathy Campen at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m.

Participants will make a "Bookshelf/Reading Log," which can be used to keep track of all of the books they read in 2024. Find an example of this craft by visiting the library (Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.) or at [www.facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT](http://www.facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT).

The craft is for ages 16 and up. All materials are included. For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428. Pre-registration is not necessary, but is appreciated.

## 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.

Contact 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](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org).



Vietnam War veteran Michail Campbell was one of 55 Andover veterans honored during a ceremony on Monday. He is pictured with, from left, Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ronald Welch, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, state Sen. MD Rahman (D-4) and Andover First Selectman Jeffrey Maguire.

at any place. We were just about ready to go in there."

Steele added, "We had to keep a close eye."

JoAnn Brooks delivered the invocation at the beginning of the ceremony and her husband, George Brooks, who served during Vietnam, was also in attendance.

As a boy, his father would fly over his house; he was a member of The Tuskegee Airmen, a collection African American pilots who fought during World War II.

When asked what stood out to him from the event, George Brooks said, "Everything."

"I enjoyed the whole thing," he added.

## Thank You

State Sen. MD Rahman (D-4), whose district includes Andover, recognized the strong turnout for the ceremony and applauded the veterans for defending democracy.

"We may not know you all, but we owe you everything," he said.

First Selectman Jeffrey Maguire told the *Rivereast* that Andover has an "extremely strong" community of veterans.

"For a little town, we have an active group," he said, adding that as veterans continue to age, hearing their stories becomes more urgent. "It's critical that we let them know how we feel."

The community takes pride in its Veterans Monument Park and a portion of Rte. 316 from the intersection of Rte. 6, to Monument Lane — near the park — has been designated as "Agent

Orange Memorial Highway."

In her closing remarks, Bysiewicz stated that 600 Korean War veterans and 530 Vietnam War veterans die every day. Included in those numbers are those who take their own lives.

Welch stated that 22 veterans commit suicide every day, for a total of 8,030 each year — a figure he said is likely even higher than reported.

"It's very difficult on the families because they're around the person with depression, anxiety, PTSD, whether it may be," he said during his interview.

For any individual facing challenges, this week's event could prove to be a valuable reminder of their sacrifice and impact on their nation. The Lt. Governor stated that she would visit any town across the state to recognize each veteran — Hebron and Marlborough both organized events last year.

Jim Thompson, who served a stint in Vietnam, expressed that the public's attitude towards veterans has evolved over time. He was wearing a cap that unmistakably identified him as a veteran — an identifier that can proudly be worn.

"Kids now in stores see the hat and say, 'thank you for your service.'"

The posting of the colors was done by members of Scout Troops 73 and 1073, along with Cub Scout Pack 124. Andover Resident state troop Sebastian Nesci sung the National Anthem.

## '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.

Also this year, the church will offer whole

and half Stadium Platters, which consist of barbecue pulled pork sliders, mac and cheese, coleslaw, chips and snacks. Whole feeds 12 and is \$45; half feeds 6 and is \$25

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](http://www.andoverctchurch.org).

## Congregational Church News

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

**Children's Church:** Sunday school is pro-

vided.

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

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

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

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

**Shopping Dates:** Willimantic — Tuesday, Jan. 30.

**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.

## 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](mailto:townclerk@andoverct.org):

Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Economic Development Commission, Ethics Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission alternate, Ordinance Review Committee.

## 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](mailto:nanasworld@comcast.net). All money received goes to supporting the senior luncheon program.

## 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.

## School Budget Workshops

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

## 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](mailto:townclerk@andoverct.org).







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# Selectmen Establish Charter Commission

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously voted last week to establish a seven-member Charter Revision Commission (CRC) with the goal of appointing the new members next month.

After initiating the CRC during its Jan. 18 meeting, the BOS now has a 30-day window to solicit and appoint local volunteers to serve, which will likely take place on Feb. 15.

If the drafted CRC schedule is followed, any revisions recommended by the commission and approved by the BOS will be presented at a town-wide referendum during the November 2025 general election.

Currently, there are 14 topics listed for potential review, but the CRC has the ability to open up the entire charter for examination.

Last week's action represented the third time the BOS launched the CRC process. Two previous attempts in October and December were scratched. During its latest meeting, the BOS also voted to rescind the resolution adopted on Dec. 7 that had established the commission for the second time.

Twelve individuals had previously expressed interest in serving on the CRC and the town reached out to see if those people still wished to be considered. Those who would like to participate on the CRC can send a letter of interest to the BOS at the Town Manager's Office at 15 Gilead St. or email to [atierney@hebronct.com](mailto:atierney@hebronct.com) by Friday, Feb. 2.

The BOS has roughly a month to modify the list of items it wants the CRC to review. Some of the issues currently on the list include the bifurcation of the municipal and local Board of Education budgets, and the potential transition of the town clerk position becoming an appointed rather than elected post.

Other items dive into issues that have popped up in recent years, including the Scenic Road

Ordinance, which currently gives the Planning and Zoning Commission the authority to designate any town roadway as a scenic road. The CRC may examine whether that process should instead go through a special town meeting.

Republican Keith Petit suggested that the CRC may consider the budget responsibilities of the boards of selectmen, education and finance. He also expressed that one item on the list that spotlights the potential combination of the positions of town finance director and Hebron Public Schools business manager was a "delicate subject."

Petit explained that those two positions have distinct legal requirements, and if state statutes change, the town may find itself in a difficult predicament because its charter can only be revised every five years.

"I'm also kind of hesitant because putting it in the charter makes it a requirement of the town," he said. "If it ever came to a point where it was absolutely unable to be continued, then all of a sudden we'd be in violation of the charter."

Town Manager Andrew Tierney told the board that combining the positions is something he's considered for years.

"I think it can be done," he said. "And the reason I say that is because I know other towns that have done it, but it has to be done correctly."

Tierney added that a charter revision may not be the best course of action, and organizing an agreement with the school district could be more effective. However, he said finalizing those details would likely be a difficult undertaking.

"It's like trying to nail Jello to a tree," Tierney said. "You got to have two entities want to make this happen before you can even proceed. I don't think the town, and even the charter, could force the school district to do this if they don't want to do it."

The BOS may ultimately decide to keep the

item on the review list, which could allow the CRC to gather information that would advise the town moving forward, without ultimately making any formal charter update on the topic.

Daniel Larson, the board's Republican vice chair, expressed that the town should consider regionalizing its entire school system in the future. RHAM Middle School and High School oversees students grades 7-12 from Hebron, Marlborough and Andover. Hebron Public Schools educates local students through grade six.

"At some point in time, we need to financially look at what's going to be best," Larson said.

A thorough examination of how combining the three town's school districts, school boards and central offices would likely expand beyond the charge of Hebron's CRC.

The BOS previously discussed the timeline of its charter revision process, landing on a Nov. 2025 date. There were discussions regarding accelerating that schedule, with the town seeking legal insight on whether a referendum date later this year would be feasible.

A Nov. 2024 date, for example, would coincide with the presidential election, and would likely result in a spike in voter turnout.

Town Attorney Kenneth Slater advised the BOS that while a 2024 referendum was "math-

ematically possible," it would be a challenging deadline to meet.

"In my experience, and in the experience of my colleagues who have also been involved in the process, unless the Commission tackles nothing other than modest noncontroversial 'housekeeping' edits in the Charter, it will be very difficult to achieve that timeline where the Board of Selectmen will have a final proposed charter to submit to the 2024 election by a September 6, 2024 deadline," he wrote.

## DPW Project Update

Hebron's Department of Public Works (DPW) Action Committee last week established a new three-person communications subcommittee comprised of members of the community who do not currently serve in any elected capacity.

The action committee was formed by the BOS in October and was charged with the day-to-day operations of the ongoing DPW facility project. The committee will continue to examine the process of constructing a new DPW facility in town, including providing updates with project's status.

The new subcommittee will now work with social media platforms and news organizations, including the *Rivereast*, to pass along new information.

## 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](http://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/TheWorshipCenter-Connecticut](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenter-Connecticut) and on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733](http://www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733).

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

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

icult 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.

**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.



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## 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.

## Maple Festival Booklet to Return

Remember the Maple Festival "booklet"? Full of Hebron Maple Festival information, some sugar recipes, and every business in the Town of Hebron? Well, The Town Center Project (TTCP) is bringing it back this year.

Volunteers have been out talking to local businesses, dropping off sponsorship forms and collecting art work for the advertising. TTCP said it wants to make sure every Hebron business is included.

If you're a business and you haven't been contacted yet, email [ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org](mailto:ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org).



**Care to Help?... The Hebron Historical Society is looking for a volunteer to cane the seat of this oak chair. Part of a set donated for use at the Peters House, this chair needs a new seat before rejoining its chair mates. Contact the society at [info@hebronthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hebronthistoricalsociety.org) if you're able to assist with this project.**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

A certified list of Republican and Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the town of Hebron for election as Members of the Town Committee is on file in the Town Clerk's office at 15 Gilead St. Hebron CT. Copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee members to be elected, under party rules, and the number of names of candidates included in the certificate from each political subdivision specified, is as follows:

NUMBER TO BE ELECTED	CERTIFIED	POLITICAL SUBDIVISION
36	36	Republican
35	31	Democratic

A primary will be held March 5, 2024, in each of the above political subdivisions in which candidacies numbering at least 25% of the number of Town Committee members to be elected by such party in such political subdivision 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 for such political subdivision, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25% in any subdivision, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from:

John Richmond, Republican Registrar of Voters,  
15 Gilead St Hebron CT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Democratic Registrar of Voters,  
15 Gilead St, Hebron CT

Francesca Villani  
Hebron Town Clerk

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**An Epoch Donation...** Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church recently stopped by Epoch Arts in East Hampton, to drop off a donation of \$600. This money was raised from the church's annual holiday craft fair. From left are, from Epoch Arts, Sam Bolton and Elizabeth Namen; from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jillian Meacham, Amie Meacham, Cameron Meacham, and Pastor Jamie Stall-Ryan.

### 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 will use PowerPoint slides to illustrate his presentation on the last 12,000 years of the Connecticut River to the present, with special attention paid to abuse of the river dur-

ing 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.

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

### Online Farmers Market

Healthy PlanEat is a local online farmers market where people can shop directly from local sustainable farms and food artisans. There is a new pick-up location at HydroCat Microgreens, 47 Tartia Rd., East Hampton.

To place a pre-order, visit [bit.ly/healthyeasthampton](http://bit.ly/healthyeasthampton). The pre-order window for each week is Sundays at 5 a.m. through Thursdays at 9 p.m. Through the winter, pickups will be Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### Little League Registration

East Hampton Little League registration is now open for the 2024 spring season. Registration will be open till Feb. 17. Head to [Belltownll.org](http://Belltownll.org) for more information.



Murals created by students at East Hampton Middle School are currently on display at Town Hall.

### Lifting Spirits by Making Art Together

East Hampton Middle School students embarked on a collaborative art project during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic in the academic year 2021-2022. The result – currently on display at East Hampton Town Hall – is a collection of four murals that stand as a testament to the power of artistic expression in overcoming adversity.

During the initial return back to school amidst the pandemic, students at East Hampton Middle School faced the complexities of wearing masks, maintaining a six-foot distance from each other, and navigating the challenges of social connection during a period of stressful separation. In response to this unique situation, the students, guided by their art teacher, Carl Pastor, channel their individual creativity into art.

The project not only served as a learning experience for the young artists but also fostered a sense of community within the school. The

creative process, undertaken independently by each artist, contributed to a shared sense of purpose and camaraderie.

This art installation was made possible through the generous support of the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission, which provided a grant to fund the project. Christine Fielding, East Hampton Middle School librarian, played a pivotal role in securing the funding by writing the grant that enabled this initiative.

The murals are currently on display at Town Hall. The exhibition will continue to inspire and uplift the community before embarking on a journey to other prominent locations, including the East Hampton Public Library and the Middle Haddam Library. Local businesses interested in hosting this uplifting exhibit are encouraged to reach out to Fielding at the middle school, at 860-365-4060.

### Arts Commission Seeks Members

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting applications from East Hampton residents to join the commission and help promote art and culture in town. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the Joseph N. Goff House Museum, 2 Barton Hill Road, East Hampton.

The commission is comprised features individuals who are passionate about offering events and initiatives that support art and culture in East Hampton. Applications are available at Town Hall in the town manager's office. Email [arts@easthamptonct.org](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org) for more information.

### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

hold a special library theme storytime at 11 a.m., featuring library cards and books and library fun.

Also next Saturday, Richmond Memorial Library in Marlborough is turning into a Winter Carnival, complete with games, activities, snacks, and prizes. While you can join in the fun all day, you can stop by between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for face-painting, balloon-twisting, and magic. No registration required.

Portland Library will mark the day with "Let's Play Library with Bluey." Drop in be-

tween 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for Bluey activity stations, including Keepy Uppy, a scavenger hunt, a Heeler headband craft, and more!

These are just a few examples of the many activities being planned for next Saturday. Be sure to contact your local library to see what they have coming up that day. To find a library near you, visit [takeyourchildtothelibrary.org/ct](http://takeyourchildtothelibrary.org/ct).

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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### Knights of Columbus State Raffle

The St. John Paul II Council 6190, Knights of Columbus is again offering Connecticut State Council raffle tickets.

There are 10 prizes to be awarded. First prize is \$5,000; second is \$3,500; third is \$2,000; fourth is \$1,500; fifth is \$1,000; sixth is \$600; seventh is \$500; eighth is \$400; ninth is \$300 and tenth is \$200.

The drawing will be held Friday, April 19, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased through any of the Knights of Columbus members or by calling Bob DeMarchi at 860-267-5978.

### 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.

### 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.

### Dean's List

Sara Roberts of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

\*\*\*

Ross S Reese of Cobalt made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

### Dean's Honor List

Evan Riegler of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's Honor List at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Riegler is a student in the College of Engineering.

### Technology Tutoring Sessions

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

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

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

### Latin Night Fundraiser for Library

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library will host a Latin Night at Rule of 3 Brewing on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 p.m., as a fundraiser for the library.

Shelley Morgigno of Creative Dance Studio in East Hampton will lead a one-hour group Latin Dances lesson. No dance experience required.

Tickets are \$25 per person and prior registration is required. For more information, visit [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/events](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/events) or email [friendsofephpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofephpl@gmail.com).

### EHMS Volleyball Registration

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

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

### Dean's List

Ross S. Reese of Cobalt made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

### Dean's List

East Hampton resident Callie Dubos and Haddam Neck resident Connor Michalowski made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Dubos is majoring in communication sciences and disorders, and Michalowski is majoring in exercise science/pre-AT.



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# New Priest Settles in at Christ Episcopal Church

By London Brazal

A new priest has recently settled in, embracing a lifetime of the Episcopalian faith. The Rev. Diana Rogers became the Priest in Charge at the Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam at the end of October.

Rogers has been practicing the Episcopalian faith since the fifth grade where she volunteered in the church for most of her childhood. Then, she worked for the Bishop of Minnesota from 2001 to 2007 as the Coordinator of Vocations for The Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota.

"I finally 'answered the call,' as we say, and graduated from Seminary school when I was 60," said Rogers. She graduated from The General Theological Seminary in New York City in 2008. "It was a late vocation."

Following graduation, she became the Priest-in-Residence for Young Adults at St Paul's Episcopal Church on the Hill in Saint Paul, Minn. Originally from south central Pennsylvania, Rogers decided to move back east to be closer to her late brother who lived in New York.

While coming to Connecticut, Rogers became the Spiritual Leader of the Epiphany in Durham and then the Priest in Charge at the Church of the Holy Advent in Clinton and The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Orange.

In between positions, Rogers served as sup-

ply clergy, leading Sunday morning services as well as officiating weddings and funerals. She explained that "supplies" are like gigs. "On Sundays, churches will call and ask if you can come and do a service," said Rogers. A couple of times, she was visiting the church in Middle Haddam. In January of last year, she became a long-term supply clergy. "Then they were finally ready to advertise it and they asked me to apply."

One challenge Rogers faces is that it is a part-time clergy role, where she is supposed to work 10 to 12 hours a week. Rogers explained that it can be limiting and it is hard to accomplish some things in that little amount of time. Another obstacle she is dealing with is learning the ins and outs and the different traditions of the church. "It's challenging when a new person enters but they have been very welcoming and warm," added Rogers.

Her favorite part of being a member of the clergy is Sunday morning. "As a priest, we are called to be God's representative, I know that sounds kind of snooty and weird but we're called to be a representative to the people and serve at God's altar," explained Rogers. "I find myself closest to God at that time but also closest to the people."

As she is still new to the church, Rogers' goal is to get to know the other clergy at the other churches in the area. She also wants to help

bring the people of the church into a closer relationship with their spiritual lives and with God. With that, Rogers wants to connect the community of Christ Church to the community in which it lives inside.

During Sunday service, Rogers will give a "homily," which is similar to a sermon but lasts a shorter amount of time. Rogers likes to connect scripture with contemporary pieces such as quotations from Neil deGrasse Tyson and Martin Luther King Jr. "I find it better when I'm not reading from notes and can connect scripture with life in general," said Rogers.

Rogers is also the co-covener of the Journey of Discovery with the Indigenous Peoples Ministry Network (JDIP) for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. JDIP's mission is to foster a harmonious relationship between the church and Indigenous tribes and individuals through practices such as storytelling, attentive listening and discerning God's calling for their collective journey.

"Our purpose is to advocate for indigenous peoples here in Connecticut," explained Rogers. Many of these tribes are not recognized by Connecticut or the federal government. Rogers does not have an Indigenous background but she understands the general circumstances, harassment and abuse that Indigenous people have felt. "It has always been in my heart to try to do what I can to bring the church to recognize how much the indigenous peoples have given us."

Christ Church is a community of diverse individuals seeking to find and follow the way of Christ in their lives and the world. The commu-



The Rev. Diana Rogers

nity consists of people from various social, political, racial, economic and faith backgrounds who share a common desire to find meaning in their fractured and fearful world.

Christ Episcopal Church, located at 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. To connect electronically, go to [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com).

## Fabric, Yarn Donations Sought

Haddam Neck Congregational Church is accepting donations of fabric and yarn for the upcoming Bits & Pieces sale planned during the church's annual Quilt Show coming up in April. For information on drop-off or pick-up of items, contact Darci at 860-301-4994 or Melissa at 860-993-5311 or [mapionzio@comcast.net](mailto:mapionzio@comcast.net)

The church's annual Quilt Show and Bits & Pieces sale on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 14, from

noon-5 p.m. The event features dozens of handcrafted vintage and new quilts, a tea room where beverages, soups and pie can be purchased, and the Bits & Pieces sale of fabric, yarn and notions. Admission to the event is \$8.

To submit quilts for the show, contact Dianne McHutchison at [diannemchutchison@icloud.com](mailto:diannemchutchison@icloud.com), Lisa Malloy at [elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com) or Melissa Pionzio at [mapionzio@comcast.net](mailto:mapionzio@comcast.net) or 860-993-5311.

## Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters

and crocheters are welcome.

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

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

## Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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

**Introducing Pilates:** Thursdays at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per class. To register, call 203-592-4448 or email [abstitt@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:abstitt@sbcbglobal.net).

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RE1-26-24

## 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](http://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org) for an application or pick one up at the town manager's office at Town Hall.

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# Winter Farmers Market at Rule of 3 Brewing

By London Brazal

Community Pollinator is an organizational company whose mission is to serve local communities by hosting farmers markets and special events. For the first time, the Winter Harvest Farmers Market is being hosted in East Hampton. Jess Stone founded Community Pollinator and owns Cold Spring Farm in Colchester. For the last 20 years, she has organized and run different markets to support smaller businesses and keep money local.

Farmers' markets are known to be hosted in the warmer months but are offered year-round. Stone loves building community and sees the markets as an incubator period. "It lets these local businesses test the waters," said Stone. She has seen many groups start up this way and become successful to the point where they pursue it full-time.

Stone explained that small local businesses prioritize quality. "Some of the work is handmade and you can't replicate that," said Stone. She mentioned that even though this specific market is at a brewery, there is something for all ages to enjoy, and there is a family-friendly environment.

Scott Cross and John Vitale opened the Rule of 3 Brewery in August 2022. One of their goals was to create a welcoming environment and host different events throughout the week. They host trivia on Thursdays, occasionally bring in live music on the weekends and have several charity events. When the business was newer,

Stone reached out about bringing her farm fresh food truck, The Farm Kitchen.

"We built a mutually beneficial relationship," said Vitale. "We are not normally open on Wednesdays, but the first week was well received."

For the first few weeks, the market has hosted about 15 different vendors with many of them coming back weekly. One returnee is Rick's Sugar Shack. Based in East Hampton, the vendor offers maple products, jams, honey and salsa. One of the unique items owner Rick Walker brings to the market is a bourbon-flavored maple syrup. This marks the fourth year he has sold the syrup after the owners of Rule of 3 convinced Walker to try it. From February to November, the maple syrup is placed in a bourbon barrel and absorbs the flavor but does not contain alcohol. In the coming weeks, Walker will be tapping this year's batch of maple syrup and hopes for a good season.

Another recurring vendor is the eco-friendly apparel company, 24 Peace. Cindy Witter began 24 Peace to carry on the creativity of her late sister and artist, Linda Studley. The artwork is done by local artists ranging from age 10 to 80, some are graphic designers while others are tattoo artists. A portion of the sales supports the individual artists and a charitable cause. Currently, 24 Peace is donating funds to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, St Jude Children's Research Hospital and The Hole in the Wall Gang

Camp.

"I wanted to do something that meant something," said Witter. She explained how the items are soft, eco-friendly and high quality. "The items last for a long time, the ink doesn't fade and they don't shrink."

Even with unfavorable weather conditions, the turnout for the market has been good. Emily Wilson saw pictures on Facebook and was interested in attending to support local businesses. "I've always liked fresh and local items," said Wilson. "And the fact it is in town is convenient."

Jess Stone said the first week had a couple of hundred attendees and the second had a good turnout considering the icy conditions.

Some of the vendors are much newer to the scene, including Linda's Cucina. Linda Vitti

from Westbrook started her shop a year and a half ago. She read about the market on Facebook and a friend from Middle Haddam encouraged her to do it. Vitti sells Italian goods ranging from breads and biscotti to amaretti and cannoli cookies. "It's a great idea... I can't believe it's in a brewery," said Vitti. Throughout the year, she sells through Facebook and goes to about 5 market markets.

Everyone is invited to check out these vendors and more for the next two months. Rule of 3 Brewing is located at 201 W High St. The market will run on Wednesdays from 5 to 8:00 p.m. until March 27. To see attending vendors, visit @WinterHarvestMarket on Facebook. Vendors can sign up directly on the website, communitypollinator.com.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton, invites all to online or in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. Refreshments are served after the service. 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, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The church website is www.hncovenantchurch.org.

## 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. 28, guest preacher will be the Rev. Suzie 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.

Worship services return to Haddam Neck Congregational during February at 10:30 a.m., featuring the Rev. Jack Zappala on Feb. 4. Zappala, of Windsor, has served as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ for 45 years, providing spiritual leadership at local churches in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

On Feb. 11 and 18, guest preacher will be the Rev. John Shaw of Southbridge, Mass., who has provided pulpit supply for local churches in the greater Massachusetts area and served as an intern for United Church of Christ and American Baptist churches. He holds a bachelor's degree

in education, a master's degree in education, and a master's degree of divinity.

On Feb. 25, guest preacher will be seminarian Jeff Birch. Birch is a student at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky, where he is in his fifth and final year in the Master of Divinity program there. He is a member of The First Congregational Church in Essex, and the student minister at Niantic Community Church. He lives in Flanders with his partner, Mike, and their two cats.

Birch has a degree in applied maritime science from Northwestern Michigan College and is a graduate of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. He is a self-avowed church geek. He loves everything about how a congregation functions, from worship to outreach and Bible study to casseroles. He has a particular interest in church governance and small-church ministry. He hopes to eventually be called to serve a congregation somewhere in southern New England. Birch already holds a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from the seminary. He is slated to earn his MDiv and graduate in June.

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

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Weekly Activities:** **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays through Feb. 21, 1 p.m. (started Dec. 27; fee is \$20); **Cross-Stitch & Embroidery with Shannon:** Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. -- Bring projects to share and work on together; **Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m.; **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. -- let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjong:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon -- call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play; **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

**Wii Bowling:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; **Cornhole:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.

**Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:** There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet in-person

or via Zoom.

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

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

**Line Dancing:** Tuesday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m. Learn some new dance steps with the interactive program. Classes are on YouTube. Register at the senior center.

**Create and Design a Valentine Card for Veterans:** Thursday, Feb. 1, 1:30 p.m. Create your own Valentine design for a card that will be mailed to residents at the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. Register in advance at the Senior Center.

**AARP Free Tax Aid Program:** Appointments start Feb. 5. 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 [Jewing@easthampton.gov](mailto:Jewing@easthampton.gov). The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a prearranged designated spot.

## 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](http://www.epocharts.org). And for more information on The Portal, visit [www.theportalct.com](http://www.theportalct.com).

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# Superintendent Reviews Proposed Budget

By London Brazal

Last year's education budget underwent months of debate and voting leaving a lingering concern of a lengthy process this time around. At the Board of Education meeting on Monday, Jan. 22, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith presented the proposed budget for 2024-25.

The adjusted education budget increase, with three additional outplacements, is at a 7.23% increase. Smith explained how the outplacements are "likely" and more information should be available to explain that by the end of February. The increase is projected to be around \$2.5 million with a total budget of \$38,451,648.

Without the outplacements, the budget is looking at a 6.21% increase totaling \$38,084,832.

The 2023-24 budget, approved in a second referendum on July 11, 2023, was \$35,858,655.

The town can anticipate about 20% from grant funding from the State of Connecticut Education Cost Share grant and the Federal IDEA grant. However, Smith warned that educational funding is eroding while mandates are increasing.

One of the major concerns last year was staffing. East Hampton has a higher student-to-teacher ratio compared to most schools in the area. This encompasses all certified teachers and does not reflect the average class sizes. East Hampton has an average of 12.5 students per teacher compared to East Haddam with a ratio of 9.9 to 1 and Portland with 11 to 1.

There will be a net zero increase in certified

positions but the district plans to move around positions that help create room for newer programs. "We're hoping to grow, but we're maintaining the current level of staff," said Smith. He noted the district is using a "maintain but grow" philosophy by critically assessing budget funds and swapping them where it is necessary.

In another comparison, East Hampton has among the largest number of students per administrator. The administrators include four building principals, three assistant principals, one director of curriculum, one director of special education and the Superintendent. East Haddam's ratio is 123.8 to 1 and Portland's ratio is 120.4 to 1. East Hampton's ratio, meanwhile, is 196.7 to 1. "With the needs of students today, I really wish we had something closer to Clinton or Portland," added Smith.

The annual education budget is developed to provide a return on investment to both the students and the community. A driving factor of the budget is to provide students with experiences that prepare them for post-secondary opportunities in college and/or careers that are based on future trends. The budget requests are geared toward a notable shift in college majors and careers such as a dramatic increase in STEM-related fields.

Some of the budget requests regarding math-based and STEM-based areas include maintaining a math specialist at the middle school, ad-

ditional supplies for engineering courses at the high school and adding a new course, Introduction to Manufacturing at the high school (funded by the Perkins Grant for the 2024-25 school year).

In terms of funding personal growth, certain budget requests are stipends for clubs such as the Grade 3 Cheetah Council at Memorial School, the Garden Club at Center, a robotics club at the middle school and the Tri-M Honor Society at the high school. The second district goal promotes low-cost activities for students to "make school a special place during the school day and after school," said Smith. He explained that this also helps students separate from their virtual

devices. "We need to keep them involved after school, this is a low-cost way to keep our students involved."

The public is encouraged to attend the next Board of Education meeting on Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall or through Zoom to ask questions about the budget. To access the proposed budget and see future workshop dates, visit easthamptonps.org/o/district/page/budget-process. People can also watch the full budget presentation on YouTube @EHPSnews.

"We've got some very difficult decisions to make over the next several months," said Smith. "This year, we are funding for our children's future."

## 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 jravadavich@yahoo.com for more information.

## 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.

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

**Library Hours:** The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**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.

**Nintendo Switch Game Play: Grades 1-5:** Saturday, Feb. 10, 2-3:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome. This month, play *Mario Strikers: Battle League* (rated E 10+). This event is free.

**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, Feb. 3, 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.

**Lessons in Culinary - A Teen Cooking Class:** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 5 p.m., for grades 6-12. Make macaroni and cheese and try a variety of mix-ins.

**Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons One Shot:** Wednesday, Feb. 7, 4:30-6 p.m., for grades 5-7. No previous playing experience or past participation required; every program event is a new standalone game in a new world. The library will provide basic, fifth-edition characters; all supplies included.

**Adult Programs: Cookbook Club - Tea Time:** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m. Come to Wildcraft Herb Shoppe at 70 Main St. in the Village Center for a taste of tea time. Bring a dish you might enjoy with tea at any time of day to share, along with a dozen copies of the recipe.

**LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m. Meacham, a Yoga 200 certified instructor, will lead this hour of gentle yoga. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfortable clothes.



**Local Artist Wins Award...** East Hampton artist Tom Swimm was honored with an Award of Merit for his original oil painting titled "Rhythm of New Orleans" at the Old Lyme Art Association. The "First Impressions" exhibition includes four original oil paintings by Swimm, as well as a collection of works from artists across New England. The exhibition continues through Feb. 22 at the gallery located at 90 Lyme St. in Old Lyme. The full exhibition can viewed online at www.lymeartassociation.org. To see more of the artist's work, visit www.tomswimfineart.com.

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**Boy Scout Bottle Drive**  
Boy Scout Troop 57 has rescheduled its bottle drive for this Saturday, Jan. 27, 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).

**Local Potter in Exhibit**  
East Hampton potter and resident John Macomber is participating in the 78th annual Connecticut Artists Juried Exhibition at the Slater Memorial Museum, located at 108 Crescent St. in Norwich.  
This exhibit features the best of Connecticut's artists in all forms of media, styles and expressions, both 2-D and 3-D. Macomber's 4 1/2 foot tall, 3-D ceramic sculpture has won the Mary-Ann Hall Prize at the show and will be on exhibit Jan. 28-Feb. 29. An opening reception is Sunday, Jan. 28, from 1-3 p.m.

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# Boards Review Public School Assessment Survey

By London Brazal

The boards of education and selectmen met last week to review the results of the Portland Schools Assessment Survey.

The two boards met Jan. 17 to hear the results presented by Seamus McNamee with GreatBlue Research out of Glastonbury. The digital survey ran from Nov. 6 to Jan. 1, and there were 1,000 completions. Of the respondents, 38.8% were parents with kids in the Portland Public Schools.

Throughout the survey, residents answered questions about Portland in general and then more specific questions regarding the schools. Some questions related to minimizing costs for taxpayers, ensuring the modernization of schools and creating capacity for potential enrollment. Another section of the survey focused on budgeting and what was needed for the schools. Residents were also allowed to give opinions about potential budget questions and

provide written feedback.

According to the data, many people in the community were interested in addressing the needs of the schools and 71.7% expressed interest in learning more about the issue and proposed solutions in the coming year. About 50% of respondents knew about the need for capital investment to improve the schools' infrastructure. A majority agreed that significant facility improvements are necessary for the long-term stability of the school infrastructure. In total, all Portland Public Schools need approximately \$30 million of infrastructure improvements in the next eight to 10 years.

At a joint board meeting with the BOS and BOE last May, the Facility Study Committee created three options to improve the schools' infrastructure. In terms of the survey, plan 1 was to have two elementary schools and decommission Gildersleeve. Plan 2 was to keep

one elementary school and decommission both Gildersleeve and Brownstone. Plan 3 was for the three elementary schools to remain.

The most favored plan among the three was to decommission Gildersleeve and Brownstone – thus keeping Valley View Elementary School. The plan would be to renovate and expand the school with multiple wings for upper and lower elementary grades. About 56.9% of the survey respondents supported this plan for a bonding question.

Decommissioning Gildersleeve and Brownstone was the second most expensive option. However, this plan could also be considered the most fiscally responsible based on the expected cost savings of decommissioning two elementary schools. About 58% of parents believed that reducing elementary schools could positively impact teaching and learning. Furthermore, nearly half of the parents expressed a preference for the renovated Valley View facility to be structured as a pre-kindergarten through grade five school, with sixth-graders transitioning to Portland's secondary schools.

After individually rating their support for each plan, residents were given another opportunity to compare all three plans and select their top choice. Once again, Plan 2, involving decommissioning both Gildersleeve and Brownstone and renovating Valley View to new, was the most popular as the top choice for 42.5%. Notably, over two-thirds of parent respondents (68.3%) backed this plan.

The second most popular option as 27.6% of respondents favored keeping all three elementa-

ry schools. The third-ranked choice with 19.5% in favor was to decommission Gildersleeve and 10.4% of respondents preferred none of the proposed plans.

Most people were primarily concerned about school safety and learning conditions. The general public almost unanimously agreed that prioritizing school safety, security, air quality, heating/cooling and ADA-compliant learning spaces in the next decade is crucial for Portland. However, the vast majority (91.4%) of residents also emphasized the importance of achieving these priorities in a cost-effective manner that minimizes costs for taxpayers.

The general public valued keeping the Brownstone building in public use slightly more than the Gildersleeve facility. However, many residents were unsure about the potential uses for these locations if they were decommissioned. Regardless, it is important for residents to be informed about the plans for these locations before voting on any future infrastructure plans for elementary schools in 2024.

In general, there is a high level of interest in this topic. Nearly three-quarters of respondents expressed interest in receiving more communications and updates from the Town. The most crucial information residents want to receive is the final mill rate increase.

No decisions were made following the presentation of results at the meeting last week. The survey results are available on the town's website for the public to review. If the public has any questions, they can reach out to First Selectman Ryan Curley at rcurley@portlandct.org.

## Vocal Chords Seek Tenors, Basses

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](http://vocalchords20.org) or call 860-342-3120. The group can also be found on YouTube and Facebook.

## 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.

**Foodshare:** Monday, Jan. 29, 1 p.m.

**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](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 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.

**Trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum and Red Lion Inn for Lunch:** Thursday Feb. 1; bus leaves the senior center at 8 a.m. Seating is limited; call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761 to register.

**UConn Nutritional Cooking Class:** Thursday, Feb. 1, 10:30 a.m. This is a free event; to register, call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

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

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

**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](mailto: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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## 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 [portlandlibrary.org](http://portlandlibrary.org) or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional.

**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., 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:** Thursday, 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.

**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 exhibit runs Feb. 3-28.

**Monthly Writers' Café:** Saturday, Feb. 17, 12:30 p.m., in the Van Beynum Room. Due to popular demand, the library will host a Writers' Cafe on the third Saturday of each month. The first hour will be quiet, communal writing time, with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers.

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**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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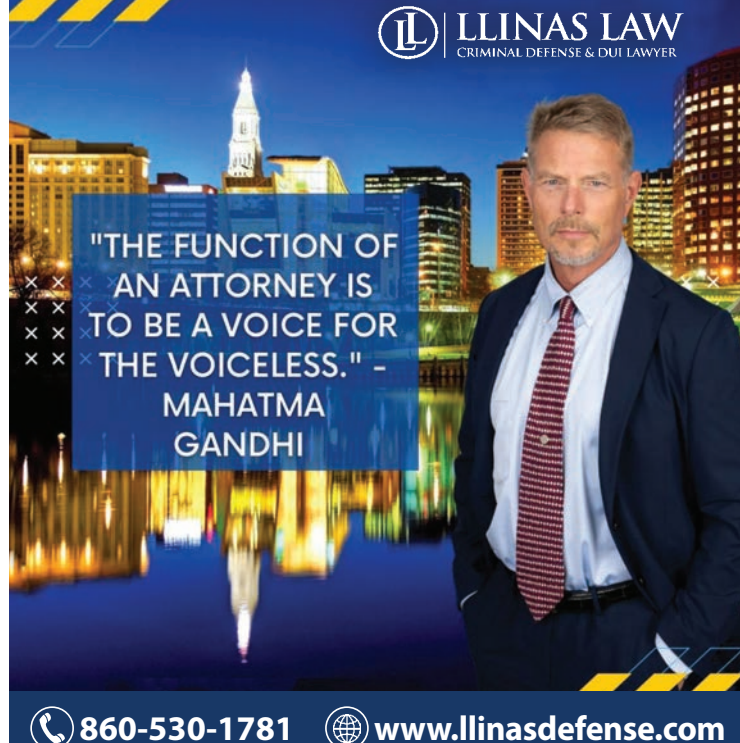


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### Zion Lutheran Church News

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](http://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](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net), or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org). Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

### 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 pre-game rituals and partake in halftime events.

### 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.

There will be raffles, a Bake Sale booth overflowing with a large variety of home-baked cakes, pies, pastries, cookies and breads, and a 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, including the church’s line of photo greeting cards.

### 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.

The Excuses feature Tony Rome on vocals, Ed Misenti on guitar, Doug Mentlick on bass, and Glen Carta on drums.



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Days on Market	-51.7%	Days on Market	+11.8%	Days on Market	-65.4%
Median Sale	+3.9%	Median Sale	-1.1%	Median Sale	+16.1%
Active Listings	+11.1%	Active Listings	-16.7%	Active Listings	-16.0%
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# Highlanders Basketball Eyes Consistency

By Josh Howard

Following a trip to the state semifinals a season ago and a quarterfinals appearance in 2022, head coach David Bradbury and his boys basketball team at Portland High School are facing a new set of challenges this winter.

Along with having only two seniors on the roster, Bradbury graduated all five of his starters from last year's experienced squad that was within a game of a state championship.

But Bradbury said the standards have remained the same and would like to see more consistency out of a team that has started the season with eight losses in their first 11 games.

"One game it might be we are inconsistent with rebounding the basketball, some days we are inconsistent with turnovers and taking care of the basketball or finishing at the basket, and some games we are inconsistent defensively," Bradbury noted following a 65-61 loss to East Hampton on Jan. 18.

In the four-point loss at East Hampton, the Highlanders showed the promise of a team that is close to putting it all together.

After the teams traded the lead a dozen times in the first half, East Hampton scored the first 11 points of the second half to take a 40-29 lead before the Highlanders showed their resolve.

A floater by senior guard Tyler Wydo ignited a rally and the Highlanders later used a 10-4 run that spanned the end of the third quarter and early part of the fourth quarter to retake the lead at 55-54 on a 3-pointer by Aaron Ciarleglio.

The lead proved to be short-lived as the home Bellringers regained the advantage on the following possession and never looked back.

Wydo scored a team-high 18 points while Nicholas Oliva added 13 points. Carson Nicol added nine points, while Ciarleglio and Aidan

Peterson each scored eight.

Wydo and Nicol are Bradbury's two senior leaders on the court that are helping the team through the struggles.

"We have not been able to put a full game together," Bradbury said following the loss in East Hampton. "Each game we are struggling consistently to do the things that equate to winning basketball games."

It was a particularly rough start to the season as Portland lost the first five games with two of the losses coming in overtime and another was by two points.

Following the five-game skid, Bradbury's bunch won three of their next five prior to the game at East Hampton.

The stretch featured conference wins against Westbrook (73-35), Old Saybrook (48-34), and Valley Regional (60-54).

Bradbury said his team was better on both ends of the court in the trio of wins, recalling, "We shot the ball at a better clip, finished at the basket better, and defensively we were keeping guys in front."

"Our rebounding was tremendous in those wins, which wasn't present [against East Hampton]," he added. "That was the piece that was missing tonight. Their second chance points killed us."

A season ago, the Highlanders won 19 total games before losing in the Division V semifinals to Windsor Locks, who would go to win a state championship.

It marked the second straight season that the Highlanders were eliminated in the state tournament by the eventual champions, also falling to 2022-state champion Windham in the quarterfinals two season ago.

All-state guard Harrison Collins headlined a



Portland's Tyler Wydo (#10) and Nicholas Oliva (#5) trap East Hampton's Declan Russell during the Highlanders loss to the Bellringers on Jan 18.

Class of 2023 that graduated following last season's success and Bradbury was forced to fill in the missing pieces with a group that is still finding their footing on the court.

Bradbury believes his team is best when they play with pace and can get out in transition.

"The team is on the precipice of being successful, we just haven't been able to put all the

pieces together," added the fourth-year coach. "When we put full games together and we are locked in and engaged we can be a dangerous team, but until then we have more to learn and more to grow."

The Highlanders are back at home tonight (Friday, Jan. 26) when they welcome Haddam-Killworth for a conference showdown at 7 p.m.

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

★ *Hebron Maple Fest cont. from page 1*

products will be sold in the parking lot hub. A shuttle bus will transport residents to different spots around town, including the local churches — Gilead Congregational Church, for example, is hosting a craft fair — along with the sugar houses and the Donifer Farms Donkey and Eeyore Museum.

The Historical Society will be participating in a grander fashion, Habicht said, along with AHM Youth and Family Services, and the local Scouting troops.

In the library, the TTCP is hosting a "Hebron's Own Expo" rather than out of town vendors; this time, the room will feature Hebron artisans and crafters.

Nonprofits — who typically attend TTCP events for free — will be charged \$25 to participate, which Habicht said is a significant dip from previous years, in order to build up reserves for future festivals; the revenue generated will automatically go into funding next year's event.

Some nonprofits will also manage food operations, and of course, Hebron Interfaith Human Services will sell "sugar on snow."

What will stand out this year is a decline in the total number of vending options, specifically regarding non-local merchants. Because there is a limited amount of Hebron food trucks — although Habicht is working to secure a local pasta truck — there will likely be a few additional dining options that will carefully selected.

"It's very handpicked," she said.

For instance, TTCP will not be bringing in a baker because that demand is already being met locally. Businesses will be an asset, and organizers are working with restaurants such as Wicked Slice and Hebron Pizza to formulate themed items; maple pizza, anyone?

Ted's Supermarket will sponsor a chainsaw carver, and residents will hopefully be able to enjoy an ice-skating rink along with other free activities. The tractor parade, another fan favorite, will also return, possibly with a record amount of entries.

Prior to all the weekend fun, TTCP is hosting a Maple by Moonlight gala event on Friday, March 15, at Colebrook Village.

An old tradition, maple festival booklets, are returning this year, featuring business sponsorships, a listing of events and a town map outlining where everything will be located.

The 2024 Maple Festival will be carried this year by a grant endowed by the Hebron Greater Together Foundation, which will allow the TTCP to set aside any profits.

**A Tale of Two Maple Fests?**

Before the Windham Chamber of Commerce took over the event's planning in 2016, the local sugar house leaders mainly oversaw the festival's direction. In deciding to shift to the chamber, Wenzel stated that the move made sense because it had the resources and infrastructure to keep

it going.

"Nobody else picked it up," he recalled.

Habicht also praised the chamber for continuing the proud tradition.

"The chamber did a fine job with what they were tasked to do, which was keep it running," she said. "They just grew it in a different direction."

Wenzel added, "[The chamber] never came back to the core value [of the Maple Festival]."

The transition away from the chamber was instituted through the town, according to Town Manger Andrew Tierney, who called the separation a "smooth transition."

"The chamber did a good job," he said. "But [festival] needed reconfiguration."

The weekend before Hebron's Maple Festival on March 9 and 10, the chamber will be hosting its own food truck event, the Eastern CT Maple Festival, in Mansfield.

"That shouldn't affect us too much," Tierney said. "I wish them success."

The town manger did, however, provide a clear distinction between the two upcoming events.

"The original Maple Fest is Hebron," Tierney said.

Habicht expressed that she didn't have any issue with the name or timing of the chamber's event.

"You can take that and move that anywhere you want, but it is not going to be a Hebron Maple Festival," she said, adding that the local event "is our community; it is our location; it is where we are."

Wenzel expressed that the town's tradition didn't belong to any individual.

"It's bigger than all of us in this room."

Diane Nadeau, president of the Windham Chamber of Commerce, did not immediately respond to a request to participate in this story.

**Maple Festival History**

The formation of the Maple Festival is essential in understanding why Wenzel believes a change was necessary.

In 1988, the late Selden Wells, of the Wells Sugar House, hosted an open house at his facility. "He was just getting his big toe wet to see if it was worth getting the rest of the toes wet," Wenzel said.

Wells teamed up with the library to host a fundraiser at his sugar house, which was the first appearance of the "sugar on snow."

"But there was a line of cars," Wenzel said. "As people are buying sugar on snow, they're buying maple syrup and as they say, the rest is history."

The next year, Wells contacted the other local sugar houses, and Wenzel began giving his now famous spiel about the syrup making process to eager residents.

At the height of the Maple Festival, there were seven houses showcasing the syrup; the number is now down to three.

Wells passed away in 2001. His obituary stated that he "enjoyed producing maple syrup and other products as a hobby on his farm in Hebron. Appropriately, he was instrumental in founding the Annual Hebron Maple Festival."

## Ice Thwarts Potential Carjacking

Icy roads thwarted a potential carjacking on Waverly Avenue last week, according to Portland Police.

Shortly after 1 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, police responded to a reported attempted carjacking. According to police, Domino's Pizza was summoned for a delivery on Waverly Avenue. Upon the delivery driver exiting his vehicle, police said, two males wearing masks and dark clothing approached. One of the males jumped into the driver's seat as the other ran around the car and got into the passenger seat.

Police said the two men attempted to drive away but the vehicle was stuck on the icy road and wouldn't move. The delivery person then threw the pizza at them, and they exited the vehicle and ran down the road to a second vehicle that was parked, and got in. The second vehicle began driving away, with the delivery person following.

As the vehicle traveled onto Fairview Street,

one of its occupants reached out the window and fired at least two shots, police said. The delivery driver then slowed down and watched as the suspects drove west across the Arrigoni Bridge into Middletown.

Middletown Police attempted to stop the vehicle, but it continued until it reached New Haven, at which time it came to a stop and four people exited the vehicle and fled, police said. A canine track was attempted with negative results.

However, police said a search of the area was made, during which a 16-year-old juvenile was located in the area. The juvenile had been reported missing from Meriden and was returned to his mother. Investigation found that the suspect vehicle had been reported stolen out of Hamden, police said.

This investigation remains open, police said. Anyone with information is encouraged to call Portland Police at 860-342-6780.

## 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.

The church will offer "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Simply drive into the driveway in front of the church to receive a blessing and ashes.

There is a change to the Friday schedule. The church will now be open for prayer and medi-

ation, 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](http://www.trinitychurchportlandct.org). If you have prayer requests, email the church office at [trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com).

To make an appointment with the Rev. Darryl Burke, email [trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com) or call 860-342-0458.

## 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. 28, the service will be led by Intentional Interim Minister the Rev. Barry McCarthy, with his sermon titled "Faithful Remnant."

Additionally this Sunday following services,

the church will hold its annual program and budget meeting.

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

## 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](http://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.



# BOS Considers Formation of Two New Committees

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS) is weighing the creation of two new ad-hoc committees that would examine the town's ongoing recreation needs and facilities moving forward.

During its Jan. 18 meeting, the BOS expressed interest in creating two five-person committees, with each having two additional alternate members. First Selectmen Bernie Dennler III is expected to present updated plans regarding the charges of both bodies and the scope of their work during the board's next scheduled meeting on Feb. 1.

The BOS initially discussed establishing both committees during its first meeting in December following the municipal election, but the motivation behind their formation dates back years, as the town combats lingering challenges.

A new recreation committee, Dennler explained during the meeting, could look at the state of the town and school's athletic fields, and access the feasibility of large-scale ideas, such as the installation of a turf field.

If the BOS officially moves to form the committees next month, membership could be solicited and their work could begin this year.

"I don't want to see this work tied up in bureaucratic red tape," Dennler told the *RiverEast*, adding that the both committees would have a one year lifespan, and their recommendations could potentially be added into the 2025-26 fiscal year budget.

Ideally, the information gathered and presented by the ad-hoc bodies would guide the town on how to move forward with several pressing needs. For example, Dennler said one of the committees may advise the BOS to establish a new building committee linked to a specific project that requires more in-depth supervision.

"It's important that we look at it holistically,"

the first selectman said, describing the current state of town ideas and proposals as a "slide puzzle."

He emphasized that a facilities committee would be able to develop a plan that considered all of the town's ongoing or looming projects.

In fleshing out the need for that committee, Dennler explained that the town is presently constructing a new senior center and the current building will eventually sit vacant until a new use is identified.

Other projects revolve around Town Hall, where the BOS previously approved \$18,400 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Stephen Jager Associates LLC to produce an architectural design for expansion of the police department. A full overhaul would likely cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

If that plan does move forward, the expansion would also displace some of the current occupants at Town Hall, including the Public Works Department and Parks and Recreation Department, who would need to find new offices. A facilities committee, Denier explained, could devise a plan that would adequately map out that transformation period.

In addition, the food bank, which is also located at Town Hall, received a \$500,000 donation from the estate of Stephen J. Bendas. How that funding could be earmarked is another topic that committee would potentially explore.

An overarching theme for both committees, Dennler said, would be evaluating how the school system and town can better coordinate their endeavors.

### Field Conditions

The potential addition of a recreation committee comes as residents and sports leagues continue to bring up concerns regarding the condition

of the town's fields.

"The fields are the worst in south eastern Connecticut," said Tim Daniels, president of Colchester Youth Soccer. "They're a safety risk."

He added, "Nobody wants to play here."

Daniels stated that the condition of Colchester's fields has impacted teams' ability to host events. The Bacon Academy High School girls soccer team — which recently won a state championship — was forced, he said, to play their senior night game at Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon.

In July, the BOS approved nearly \$250,000 of ARPA funds to install field irrigation at the town's recreation complex — a step in the right direction, according to Daniels.

"We've been fighting for that," he said, adding that recent field studies conducted by the town indicated that water was a crucial component to restoration.

The sprinklers were installed throughout the summer and completed in November, and their true impact will most likely be felt beginning in the upcoming spring and summer sports seasons.

But the remaining issues are still serious, Daniels added. Field maintenance, he said, is the next big push being made by the local sports leagues. Some components he pointed to include aerating the fields, seeding, fertilizing and weekly mowing.

Certain costs fall on the leagues themselves. According to Daniels, he's responsible for painting the lines for soccer games, which costs him around \$20,000 a year, a charge he said most other leagues in neighboring towns aren't burdened with. A light bill will also set the league back between \$3,000-\$5,000 a year.

"That's a huge expense for us," he expressed, adding that the increases are then levied on the families of the players.

Even the benefit of the irrigation system, which for now is dependent on town water — although funding was set aside for wells — will lead to a spiked water bill. The sports teams already contribute to a field sustainability fund, which requires \$10 per player.

Karen Belding, president of Colchester Youth Baseball and Softball, agreed that the fields are "pretty bad," but expressed that the irrigation installation was a "huge first step."

She indicated that the public works department updates the leagues regarding additional steps and the progress that's being made. Typically in the fall, the leagues provide a list of concerns following a walkthrough of the fields.

"It hasn't been enough yet to see a difference yet," she said.

One concern is overuse of the fields, which

Belding and Daniels both said was not a major problem.

"It's not an overuse issue," Belding asserted.

With the baseball fields specifically, both at the recreation complex and at Jack Jackter Intermediate School, the infields are "not the right mix anymore." The lips, or spot where the infield dirt meets the outfield grass, are not properly maintained, which could lead to more balls unpredictably bouncing and injuring players.

Daniels expressed that the town's baseball fields "should be deemed unplayable."

"It's very dangerous," he said.

Both league leaders were hesitant to complain or raise their concerns over fears that the fields would be entirely shut down, a scenario that so far hasn't unfolded.

"It feels tricky," Belding explained.

It's also difficult to assess whether the condition of the fields has impacted local sports participation, although Daniels said that his league hosted a 130-team tournament in November, and feedback he received from out-of-town residents was striking.

"Our fields suck," he recalled. "They can't believe how bad they are."

Colchester's Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn expressed that over the past two years, the fields "have come a long way."

"It will all add up to big results," she said, adding that a feasibility study has competently informed the town.

The field sustainability fund finances a field consultant who assists the department with making the best choices. Quinn indicated that she would definitely be interested in serving on the new committee if possible.

Daniels also would serve, stating that having any of the sports league members on the committee would be beneficial.

"We see these fields," he said. "I feel like we're heading in the right direction."

For the committee to ultimately be successful, Daniels said the BOS and town must be willing to follow through with the recommendations.

"They have to support this and want it to succeed," he said. "I'm hoping they're ready to put pen to paper."

## Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

**Sunday School:** Held during worship from

September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website for more information and to register for Sunday School.

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

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

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**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

**10:00am - 12:00pm**

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**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.

**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.

**50 Years of Bacon Wrestling**

2023-24 is Bacon Academy Wrestling's 50th varsity season. All are invited to The Matt Bishel Bobcat Classic on Saturday, Feb. 3.

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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# First Responders Save Local Horse

By Michael Sinkewicz

Just past 11 a.m. on Monday morning, Colchester Fire & EMS responded to what can only be described as a unique call.

At the Light Horse Farm on Prospect Hill Road, a 36-year-old horse named Cesare had slipped on a field of ice and needed urgent assistance.

If he couldn't be lifted to his feet, circulation in Cesare's body would be cutoff while his own weight crushed his body, making it difficult to breathe.

When the horse's owner, Sal Tarantino, discovered Cesare sprawled on the ground, there was immediate panic. He's been around horses since the 1970s, and has been at his Colchester institution — the Second Continental Light Dragoons, a rescue horse operation — since 2002, and never encountered a situation quite like Cesare's predicament.

"It's the first time I've seen this," he told the *Riverast*. "This was new for all of us."

But following a heroic rescue operation, Cesare has returned to his stable and received a clean bill of health from his veterinarian.

"He's eating in there like nothing went wrong," Tarantino joked.

Colchester Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann was one of 18 personnel dispatched to the scene who helped lift Cesare off the ground — a task that isn't easy; at 1,100 pounds, the crew had to get creative with how it move that much weight.

Hoffmann explained that because the horse fell in a wide open area, there wasn't anything to latch onto for support, such as sturdy tree.

Time was of the essence; Cesare has already

outlasted his life expectancy of 25-30 years, Tarantino explained, making him even more susceptible to injury. He estimated that Cesare on Monday was likely only 10 minutes away from death by the time he was rescued.

"He was pretty close," Tarantino recalled, adding that the emergency crew helped provide a blanket and hay to keep Cesare's core temperature down.

Hoffmann said the crew utilized a backhoe loader machine provided by Paradise Agency LLC, along with tow straps that created a support system, or essentially a giant sling.

The creative problem solving can be credited to excellent preparation. Last year, Colchester Fire & EMS offered an animal rescue course that specifically featured horse-related scenarios.

When Hoffmann got the initial call, he actually figured the horse had fallen through ice on a pond and was perhaps at risk of drowning. This type of training, he continued, is necessary for towns such as Colchester.

"We have a lot of farms," he said. "A lot of rural communities deal with it."

He added that it's good to know that the training was effective.

"It obviously worked out well," he expressed.

Horses, Tarantino said, don't do well on ice — "no one does," he joked. But Cesare will most likely perform a lot better, and safer, on pavement, especially during the town's Memorial Day Parade, which typically features Tarantino's horses.

During the rescue operation, he held Cesare's head up, which helped him breathe easier. However, he emphasized that the success of the day



Colchester firefighters banded together Monday morning to lift Cesare, a 36-year-old horse that had fallen on the ice.

was a team effort and he applauded the work by those who responded to the scene.

"This was pretty amazing," Tarantino said. "They did a hell of a job. It's good to know we have people who can handle it."

Tarantino estimated that Cesare was down for close to an hour before he was discovered. Hoffmann stated that his rescue operation took about 45 minutes overall, including time for the equipment to arrive.

## 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.

## Dean's List

Colchester residents Sophia Falkowski, Meagan Gallacher, Brandon Kauffman and Courtney Violette made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

## 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.

## Community Theatre to Get Kinky

Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) will present *Kinky Boots* through special arrangements with Music Theatre International, Feb. 16-18 at Bacon Academy.

*Kinky Boots* won six Tonys including Best Musical, the Grammy for Best Musical Theatre album and London's Olivier Award for Best Musical. The play features a Tony-winning score by pop icon Cyndi Lauper, and a book by four-time Tony winner Harvey Fierstein. Billy Porter won a Best Actor Tony Award for his portrayal of Lola.

In the musical, Charlie Price has reluctantly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to live up to his father's legacy and save his family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. As they work to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair find that they have more in common than they realized... and discover that when you change your mind, you can change your whole world.

Performance dates are Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. All shows are at the Bacon Academy auditorium, 611 Norwich Ave. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$14 for seniors (65+) and children (age 12 and under). Preferred seating tickets (a maximum of 60 each performance) are available for \$28 each. Preferred seating ticketholders will be asked to arrive at least a half hour before performance

times as entrance to obtain seats of their choice will be allowed before the general audience. Seating for the general audience will take place 20-30 minutes before the performance time.

Several ticket purchase options are available: 1) Online ticket sales (Credit Card only) are available through ShowTix4U — see additional information on the 'Buy Tickets' page at www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com.

2) In-person ticket sales (cash and check only) are available at Wagging Tails Pet Shop (95C Linwood Ave.) and Gifts On The Green (44 Main St.) during their regular business hours.

3) Tickets will be available at the door (Cash, Check, or Venmo) on performance days subject to availability.

Advance ticket purchase is recommended. All ticket sales are final — no refunds or exchanges. Make checks payable to Colchester Community Theatre, Inc.

CCT is selling advertisement space in its digital program as well as sponsorship levels to offset the cost of costumes, sets and props construction. For more information, call producer Donna Brown at 860-639-9315.

In case of inclement weather, visit CCT's Facebook page and website for updates.

## Dean's List

Matthew Kranc of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Connecticut. He is a sophomore studying political science.



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**Fab Finalists...** U13 Colchester Boys (pictured here) and the U15 Colchester Girls were finalists in the Southeast Connecticut Soccer League for the fall 2023 season. Colchester individual awards were also given to Jacob Blanda, Abby Floyd and Coach Chris Gauthier.

**Ahavath Achim News**

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

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

**Wednesday:** 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.

**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.

**Resident Receives Insurance Award**

During the opening session of its 2023 fall national meeting on Dec. 1, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) recognized four state insurance regulators for exemplary service with the organization’s Robert Dineen Award.

Colchester resident George Bradner, assistant deputy commissioner and property & casualty division director with the Connecticut Insurance Department, was among the four honored.

Bradner is engaged in many issues within the NAIC framework, including all property and casualty insurance issues, in addition to rate and form filing modernization. At the Connecticut Insurance Department, where he represents the state as a member of the Sustainable Insurance Forum. Among his accomplishments, Bradner has been an enthusiastic supporter of innovation and technology development and is active in consumer and climate and resiliency issues. He was one of three regulators to co-lead the State Innovation and Technology State Contacts group.

Bradner has helped states develop Continuity of Operations and disaster recovery plans, and he formed a Northeast Zone catastrophe resilience group, which continues to meet periodically.



**Colchester resident George Bradner, right, recently received the Robert Dineen Award from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). He’s shown here with NAIC President-Elect and Connecticut Insurance Commissioner Andrew N. Mais.**

**Senior Center News & Notes**

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

**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.

**Local Republican Announces State Senate Bid**

Citing the need for “fresh, family-focused ideas” in the Connecticut legislature, Colchester Republican Jeff Duigou announced last week he is running to be the next Connecticut senator from the 33rd District.

The 33rd District includes Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Portland, Westbrook and part of Old Saybrook. Its current senator is Democrat Norm Needleman of Essex.

“From groceries to gasoline, Connecticut remains unaffordable for working and middle class families as well as for seniors and small business owners,” Duigou said. “As state senator, I will work with Democrats and Republicans to lower those tax burdens. I will also work to pass laws which make our communities safer. We need to better support our law enforcement officials and first responders. As state senator, I will put you, the taxpayers, first. Your voices will be listened to.”

Duigou, who unsuccessfully ran last fall for Colchester tax collector, said he would “bring a law-and-order, business-friendly, pro-environment perspective to the state capitol.”

“As a conservationist, I believe we should be good stewards of the abundant natural resources we enjoy here in Connecticut,” he said. “I will be a voice for sustainability, preservation, and public health. At the same time, I understand that innovation, research, trades, and small businesses are the backbone of our economy. We have a tremendous opportunity to create high-paying careers and fill available jobs, yet our small businesses are unable to fill tens of thousands of positions. I will use my decades of private sector experience to improve government efficiency, streamline the regulatory process, do away with unnecessary mandates, and reduce and eliminate government waste. Improving the business climate coupled with saving tax dollars will grow our state economy and provide long-term tax relief to our residents. Residents should keep more of their hard-earned wages, and government must live within its means.”

Duigou worked for more than 30 years in the environmental engineering field and retired as vice president of environmental sciences at Eagle Environmental, Inc. For 18 years, he served as



**Jeff Duigou**

a licensed environmental professional, helping clients with compliance with federal and state environmental regulations. His leadership and management skills allowed for the successful completion of federal and state funded projects in many of Connecticut’s cities and towns. These included redevelopment projects including affordable housing, energy, veterans’ housing, training facilities, schools and university improvements. For 15 years, Duigou worked with multiple school districts to help provide safety services to administrators, teachers and maintenance staff.

“I will bring my positive message directly to the people of our district, and I look forward to listening to the voters from now until Election Day,” Duigou said. “From affordability to public safety to wasteful government spending, there are so many areas where we can improve our state’s policies. My brand of leadership is straightforward and honest. I will be appealing to Democrats, Independents, Republicans and unaffiliated voters of all ages, and I will work diligently to earn your support in November. I am listening to you, and I will work collaboratively and tirelessly to improve everyone’s quality of life.”

A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Duigou and his wife Cari have lived in Colchester for the past 38 years and have raised their family there.

**CBSL Spring Registration Wrapping Up**

Colchester Baseball & Softball (CBSL) will hold spring registration through Jan. 31. A late fee applies for all registering after that date.

CBSL offers baseball and softball programs for girls and boys age 4-16. Register online at [www.cbsl.org](http://www.cbsl.org).

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

**Westchester Church News**

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

**Parks & Rec News & Notes**

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

**Puzzlepalooza:** 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.

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**From the Superintendent's Desk**

MES is an outstanding school thanks to amazing students, wonderful families in a community supportive of education, a talented and dedicated staff who cares deeply for children, and investments which support students' learning goals and social-emotional wellness.

My proposed operating budget for next school year, at a 2.69% increase, contains necessary funding for staffing, curriculum, and resources designed to meet the needs of all learners as outlined in the MES Strategic Continuous Improvement Plan. It also includes the ongoing investments in school security with our full-time SRO, expert oversight of the facility and instructional technology, and important supports to assist our students with special needs in meeting learning goals as well as helping to avoid costly out-of-district placements.

The Marlborough Board of Education will continue its review of my proposed budget at its special meeting on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. in the MES library. The public is welcomed to attend this meeting as well as all Board of Education meetings. Past, current, and proposed budget information is readily available on the district website under the Budget tab.

Having outstanding educators is a crucial investment within our budget. The lead educators, school administrators, directly influence the success of a school. Since being hired together as co-leaders ten years ago, MES administrators Mr. Dan White and Mrs. Kim Kelley have been known for and admired as caring, kind, and compassionate professionals who consistently place children at the center of decisions. Mr. White and Mrs. Kelley helped keep MES open for in-person learning during the pandemic and provided stability through all that it has taken for our school to emerge with upward momentum. A recent example of their impactful leadership was the approval of our K-3 Literacy Program by the Connecticut State Department of Education. This accomplishment is also a wonderful recognition of the commitment of MES teachers who spent countless hours over the past three years researching, planning, and participating in rigorous professional development. MES is now hosting workshops for educators across the state who want to become more familiar with our approach to foundational literacy.

Mr. White and Mrs. Kelley have both decided to retire at the end of this school year after serving as educators for 35 years. We congratulate and celebrate Mr. White and Mrs. Kelley and hope that both will maintain important connections to MES. This is undoubtedly a big leadership change for MES, but rest assured, we have initiated the search process to hire our next co-leaders who will share the multitude of leadership actions associated with our ambitious aspirations for students. We are seeking experienced, talented, visionary leaders who are the next "dynamic duo" to take the reigns. Thanks to the students, staff, families, Board of Education, and the community of Marlborough, and to Mr. White and Mrs. Kelley for these past 10 years, our school is poised for excellence as we continue to strive to be better together for children.

**Holly Hageman**  
Marlborough Superintendent of Schools

**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 Carnival (Mardi Gras).

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.

**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.

Seating is café-style; feel free to bring your own wine and snacks.

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

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

**Setback Tournament**

American Legion Post 197 will hold a round-robin setback tournament tonight, Friday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m., at the post, 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66), Marlborough.

Entry fee is \$10 per person. There will be prizes, raffles, and hot dogs and beans.

Call Tracy (860-878-9672) or Sharon (860-805-6917) for more information.

**Pre-Kindergarten Screening Information**

All public school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The Early Childhood team at Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for current resident children interested in pre-kindergarten screening for the 2024-25 school year.

Eligible children must be 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1. Parents/guardians interested in their child participating in this process must complete and return a questionnaire no later than Friday, March 8. An in-person screening is planned for early April.

plete and return a questionnaire no later than Friday, March 8. An in-person screening is planned for early April.

Please note that children identified as kindergarten-eligible (those turning 5 by Sept. 1) are not eligible for the pre-kindergarten program for the upcoming school year.

Contact Marcy Spellman at 860-295-6236 or [mspellman@marlborough.k12.ct.us](mailto:mspellman@marlborough.k12.ct.us) for more information or to receive a screening questionnaire.

**Congregational Church News & Notes**

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

**Sunday, Jan. 28** is a Bluegrass Sunday, with Joyful Blue leading familiar upbeat hymns with hand-clapping and singing along by the congregation. Songwriter and guitarist Steve Pozzato will perform the anthem.

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

**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 worshipers 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.

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

**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](mailto:pastorval@marlconchurch.org).

**St. John Fisher Church News & Notes**

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

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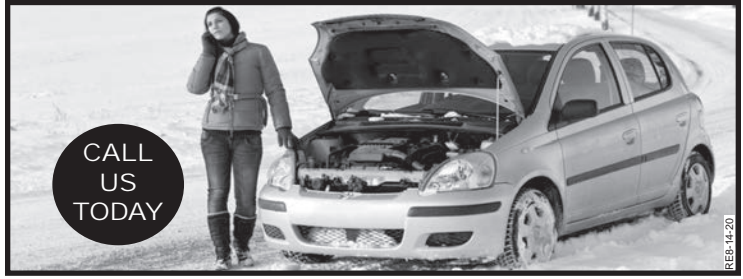
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RE-12-24



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### 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.

### 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 occur 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.

### Taxes Due

The second installment of taxes for the Oct. 1, 2022, Grand List for real estate, motor vehicles and personal property were due and payable on Jan. 1, 2024 and will be delinquent on Feb. 1.

Also due are the motor vehicle supplemental taxes for the Grand List of Oct. 1, 2022. Supplemental bills were mailed in December 2023. Failure to pay on time will be subject to interest of one and one-half percent per month reverting to the due date, or 18% per year. If you do not have a bill, please check online at marlboroughct.net, bill lookup or contact the Tax Office.

Tax payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 29, Marlbor-

ough, CT 06447. They can also be placed in the drop box outside of Town Hall or delivered in person at 26 North Main St. You may also pay online at www.marlboroughct.net with Mastercard, Visa or ACH.

The tax collector's office hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

### Dean's List

Mackenzie Donnelly of Marlborough made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

\*\*\*

Jordan Frey from Marlborough made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Frey is majoring in exercise science/applied ES.



**Meet Pastor Val...** On Jan. 21, the Rev. Valerie Seaver was officially installed as pastor of the Congregational Church of Marlborough. Representatives and delegates from the Hartford East Association of the United Church of Christ participated in the ceremony, along with the Chancel Choir and others from the Marlborough church. The service was followed by a reception held at the church. Seaver, who has served as pastor of the church since Jan. 1, 2023, is the first woman pastor in the church's 276-year history.

### 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: 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.

**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. John's 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.

### 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.

**Assistance: Offered daily starting at 10 a.m.**

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

**In Case of Bad Weather:** Tune in to WFSB-TV Channel 3 or NBC Connecticut Channel 30 for news on senior center closings or late openings.

**AARP Tax Aide Program:** Offered Feb. 8 and 22. Call the senior center for more information.

**Monday, Jan. 29:** Free Bread and Bakery Goods, 10 a.m., donation from Stop & Shop;

8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: cheesy vegetable lasagna with Alfredo sauce, zucchini, breadstick, fresh fruit; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Setback or cards of choice, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 30:** Free Bread and Bakery Goods, 10 a.m., donation from Big Y; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 31:** Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: salad greens w/ ham, hard-cooked egg with red onions, cherry tomatoes/cucumbers, ranch dressing/breadstick, fresh fruit; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 1:** Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.; PD Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 2:** Not Just Quilters, 9:30 a.m.-noon; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon – call for menu; Setback, 2:30-4 p.m.

### Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover



East Hampton's Austin Cuthbertson handles the ball as he is defended by Portland's Aidan Peterson during the Bellringers 65-61 win over the Highlanders last Thursday.

**★ Hoops Thriller cont. from page 1**

over the Highlanders since 2021.

"This was a big game," stated Lynch. "It's a big rivalry and we had to win it."

Milton finished with 13 points, while Declan Russell and Austin Cuthbertson each added nine.

Russell, a sophomore, also helped ice the game when he drove and dished to Nico Borrelli under the hoop for an uncontested layup, making it a two-possession game with under 20 seconds left in regulation.

Antolini credited his younger players for stepping up in the crucial moment.

"We were trying to keep everyone involved and they were overplaying Brady," added Antolini, who designed the game-deciding play out of a timeout. "Declan is one of the better penetrators on the team and Nico made great backdoor cut. They made the play."

Following a 2-5 start, the win over the Highlanders was the Bellringers fourth in five games.

Without a senior starter, Antolini noted that it took some time for his young team to get comfortable on the court.

"They're still learning how to play with each other," added Antolini. "Even though these kids have known each other through the years, they

haven't played a lot of basketball together and are still adjusting to how physical the game is and realizing that nothing comes easy."

Along with being the game's leading scorer, Lynch's 19 points brought him within 11 points of 1,000 for his high school career.

With the milestone in his sights, Lynch said it will "mean a lot" to hit the four-digit mark.

Antolini said that Lynch's shot selection is even better this year than a year ago when he was a first-team all-conference selection as a sophomore.

"He's obviously grown a lot as a player, but more importantly his biggest thing has been becoming a leader on the court," added Antolini. "Where he has taken the biggest step is being a leader for those other kids."

Lynch's next chance to eclipse the scoring mark is tonight (Friday, Jan. 26) when the Bellringers travel to Westbrook for a game at 7 p.m.

Antolini added that the young team is still a "work in progress" and is pleased that the contributions on the court are coming from a variety of sources, adding "the best thing is that it's a different player stepping up every night."

#### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the Federal and State Audit and the Annual Financial Report for the Regional School District No. 8 for the year ending June 30, 2023, is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut. Dated at Hebron, CT this 24th day of January 2024.  
Francesca Villani  
Hebron Town Clerk

1TB 1/26

#### 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

#### TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 7, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):  
**PZC 2024-001 of Lake Hayward Properties, LLC (Applicant) – Proposed Amendments to Sections 4.3.3 and 4.5 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations relating to multi-family residential use in the Suburban Use (SU) District.** At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this application is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday).  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 1/26, 2/2

#### TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH LEGAL NOTICE

All persons liable to pay the second installment for Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax to the Town of Marlborough as levied on the October 1, 2022 Grand List are hereby notified the taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2024 and will be delinquent February 1, 2024. Delinquent bills will be subject to interest of one and one-half percent per month reverting back to the due date or 18% a year. Minimum interest is \$2.00. The Mill Rate for Real Estate and Personal Property for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year is 34.73. The Mill Rate for Motor Vehicles is 32.46.  
Tax payments may be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, placed in the DROPBOX at Town Hall, in person at the Tax Collector's office during normal business hours or paid online, www.marlboroughct.net with Mastercard, Visa, or ACH. Tax Collector hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.  
Respectfully submitted  
Barbara Lazzari  
Tax Collector

3TB 12/22, 1/12, 1/26

#### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

A certified list of 23 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the town of Marlborough for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 30.  
A Primary will be held March 5, 2024, if 8 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, no 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 Michele Anne Kacy, Republican Registrar of Voters, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.

Lauren A. Griffin  
Town Clerk of Marlborough

1TB 1/26





**Cruising the Waters...** Kathryn LeBlanc from Portland recently boarded the Norwegian Escape cruise ship in New York City for a seven-day excursion. The ship stopped in Newport, R.I.; Portland, Maine; Bar Harbor, Maine; St. John, Canada; and Halifax, Canada. LeBlanc enjoyed reading the *Rivereast* on the expansive deck of her aft Haven Suite.

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

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



**Riding the Friendly Rails...** Debbie Holeman, her daughter Katie Reeve, and granddaughter Josephine Reeve (age 8) took Debbie's "bucket list" cross-country train trip in April 2023. They took Amtrak sleeper cars across Empire Builder, down Coast Starlight, and back on the California Zephyr, with a stopover in San Francisco. And of course, the ladies brought along the *Rivereast*!



**Anniversary in England...** Jen Koziel of Portland and Chris Deston of Hebron recently flew to England to celebrate their six-month anniversary. The two met in East Hampton – so that's three *Rivereast* towns represented! They're pictured here at Stonehenge, which was built 5,000 years ago between 3,000 BC and 1,500 BC.



**Magical Costa Rica...** Marlborough residents Kathi and John Karp recently spent eight days in Costa Rica hiking the rainforest, bathing in hot springs, hiking in the national park and surfing in the Pacific Ocean. The Karpes saw two types of monkeys, sloths, agoutis (Costa Rican Guinea pig), baby raccoons, vipers and boa constrictors, and a variety of birds including toucans and guacamayas and butterflies.

# Where in the World?

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

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

**To enter, email your photo and address to: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)**

**\$25 GIFT CARD**

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151 Marlborough Street (Rt 66), Portland



## Obituaries

## Portland

## Gerard M. Duclos

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of a truly wonderful man, Gerard Duclos, age 65, on Tuesday, Jan. 16. He was born and raised in Hartford, to Aldea and Alexander Duclos.

Jerry helped his mom at the Bond Restaurant where he learned to cook at a young age. He also worked with his dad on many projects while working for Carabetta Enterprise, doing carpentry. He was a member of the Hartford Snowshoe Club. Jerry attended Catholic schools, graduating from S. Catholic High in 1975. He was very involved in the music programs and sang with the Madrigals and All State Chorus. Jerry was also lead singer for Revised and Company and played many clubs in Connecticut. Jerry was so proud to attend Hartt School of Music where he studied voice. He was in many theater productions in Hole in the Wall and Rocky Hill Theater Guild.

He moved to Portland in 1978. Jerry sang in the St. Mary choir and performed numerous musical productions with the St. Mary Stage Company. He later took on the role of director of youth ministry, where he brought hundreds of kids to know the Lord. Jerry was also director of YG Music Ministry, where he worked with some of the BEST musicians playing and singing Christian Rock during Mass. These kids had a HUGE impact on him. He also facilitated YG Retreats and Steubenville East Conferences. Jerry was a facilitator for Marriage Prep.

Jerry was part owner of NE Solar and Construction. He designed one-of-a-kind passive solar homes way before they were popular. Jerry and Virginia started their own business in 1985 and Jerry was CFO of All Ears, Inc. in Meriden and Portland for over 40 years. He is also past president of the Meriden JayCees. Jerry was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus Council #7, serving as the current Grand Knight, and held several officer positions including chair for the annual Car Show. During his tenure, Council #7 was recognized by the state as Star Council. He was Man of the Year for the state Knights in 2013, and Family of the Year for the state in 2015. He volunteered for Foodshare. Jerry has probably been involved with raising over \$100,000 for charities over his lifetime.

Jerry was a master chef and cooked for hundreds of people at pasta dinners, pancake breakfasts, and church picnics. Jerry and Ginger married in 1982 and sang a duet, "Devoted to You," at their wedding. They traveled to many places around the world. Jerry built the home they raised their sons in. He designed his chef's kitchen and prepared fabulous dinners for family and friends. Many say he made the best prime rib they ever had! Jerry had a certificate in Horticulture and raised some beautiful plants and enjoyed making Bonsai arrangements.

Jerry's calling was to Feed the Hungry, Shelter the Homeless, and Clothe the Poor. He taught his sons that and says, "it's what we do." He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He leaves his wife, Ginger, married 41 years, and sons Spencer Gerard and his girlfriend Cheryl, and Dylan James and his girlfriend Olivia. Jerry was so proud of his sons' accomplishments and happy to see the beautiful relationships they have. Jerry also leaves his loving sister, Patricia Duclos Miller, with whom he was very close, and his nephews, Matthew and Nathan Miller and their families; brother-in-law, Roger Gaudio; and niece, Rhanda Gaudio. He has many aunts, uncles and cousins in Connecticut



icut and Berlin/ Gorham, N.H.

He was predeceased by his parents and his mother- and father-in-law, Roger and Trudy Gaudio, who loved him very dearly.

A Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate Jerry's life will be Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. Mary Church, Portland, at 11 a.m. Visitation will be at the church at 10 a.m.

Donations in Jerry's name may be made to the Knights of Columbus Council #7, P.O. Box 7, Portland, CT 06480.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

## Hebron

## Ana R. Pederson

Ana R. Pederson, 77, of Hebron, beloved wife of Perry O. Pederson, died Saturday, Jan. 20, at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven. She was born in Puerto Rico on Aug. 29, 1946, to the late Juan and Marcolina (Bertrán) Rodriguez.

Besides her husband, Ana is survived by her daughter, Melisa Monson; son, Erik Pederson; siblings Irma Westin, Louis Rodriguez, Carmen Seaman, Victor Rodriguez.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

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

## Marlborough

## Nikolaos Aivaliotis

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Nikolaos Dimitrios Aivaliotis, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the age of 77. He died at Manchester Memorial Hospital after battling various illnesses that spanned decades; including a bout of leukemia in the 1980s and relapses in the 1990s. His enduring strength inspired us all, as he maintained his will to live throughout. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Janice (Pergolatto) Aivaliotis, and was the son of the late Dimitrios and Panagiota (Feretzelis) of Skiathos, Greece.

Nikolaos was known to us all by many names - "Nick" or "Niko" by friends and family, or "Baba" by his children, and "Papou" by his grandchildren. He was born in Skiathos, Greece, and spent his early adult years working on ships and serving in the Greek Navy as a "frogman." Then, in 1969 he immigrated to the United States looking for work and opportunity. He had a passion for cooking and entrepreneurship. He owned Nick's Luncheonette in East Hartford, where he met his wife Janice. The couple later opened Marlborough Pizza Restaurant in Marlborough, which spanned a successful 26 years in operation. He was known fondly by the small community in which he lived and worked.

Nick looked forward to opportunities to travel and spend time with his growing family. He particularly enjoyed trips back to his home country, Greece. While he was always hard-working, he did enjoy a relaxing game of backgammon, or later in life, Brandi Dog and Swisstrimino. He was a pet lover, always having his furry companions by his side.

Nick is survived by his wife, Janice; his children, Dimitrios (Katja), Manuel (Herzl), Panagiota "Penny" (Jon), and Lillian (Iliya); his 11 grandchildren: Joy, Moira, Madison, Adrian, Emma, Ethan, Hannah, Sophie, Lila, Aria, and Micah; his brothers: Eleftherios and Ioannis, and his sister Asimena; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was predeceased by his brother Konstanti-



nos and sister Aikaterini.

A funeral service (open to all family and friends) was held Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 9:30 a.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 433 Fairfield Ave., Hartford. Interment followed at Rose Hill Memorial Park, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067. The family received visitors Monday, Jan. 22, at Dillon-Baxter Funeral Home, 1276 Berlin Tpke., Wethersfield, CT 06109.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Nick's memory to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

May his memory be eternal.

## Hamden

## Joan Carol Hammeal

Joan Carol Tamaccio Hammeal, 91, of Branford, formerly of Hamden and Clinton, died peacefully surrounded by love and family Sunday, Jan. 7. She was predeceased by Bob, her beloved husband of 66 years. Her photo is from their 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

Joan was born in Hartford to George and Helen Emley Tamaccio on Feb. 11, 1932. She was the oldest and only daughter of three. Raised in West Hartford, she was a good student and an accomplished pianist. In August 1950 she was named Miss West Hartford, highlighting her piano talent and natural beauty. In 1954 she graduated from Smith College after traveling on the QEII to Geneva, Switzerland for her junior year abroad.

Joan and Bob married in September 1954. They raised their four daughters, adored their seven grandchildren and were blessed with five great grandchildren. Joan LOVED hosting family and friends at their beach house in Clinton and at their home in Hamden. She made Sunday dinners, birthdays, and holidays over-the-top special. She made Christmas magical.

Joan was an accomplished visual artist, working in fiber and paint across eight decades. She won numerous awards and was an active member in many art organizations, including New Haven Paint and Clay, Hamden Art League, and the Guilford, Madison, and Clinton Art Societies. She leaves an abundance of artwork, which grace the walls of family, friends, collectors, and admirers.

She had a lifelong appreciation of music. She and Bob had countless subscriptions to both symphonic and chamber music. Bob attributed his appreciation for music to her great influence, and Joan grew to enjoy hockey because of his love of the sport.

In her youth, Joan belonged to the First Church of Christ Congregational in West Hartford, where she was married. She was a member of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church in Hamden from 1960 until her passing. Joan served on almost every committee and board within the church. Her "Seasons of the Church" paintings still hang in the front of the church at the appropriate times of year.

Joan was a devoted daughter and granddaughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, neighbor and friend. She was a dedicated artist. Her dedication to her yoga practice continued well into her 80s, inspiring many.

Joan worked hard at the things she loved and she loved doing things well. She was a mighty combination of love and will. Those who were blessed to know her can attest to her strong and loving spirit.

Joan leaves behind four daughters, Robin (Ralph) Hammeal-Urban of Marlborough, Lauren Hammeal of Essex, Lisa (Kurt) Uihlein of Branford, and Helen (Cliff) McGuigan of Westbrook; seven grandchildren, Jason (Kasia) Cannan of Ivoryton, Tim Hammeal of Colorado, Colin Urban (fiancée Ellen) of St. Albans, Vt., Ben (Adriana) Uihlein of Madison, Nick Uihlein of New Haven, Kelsey (Joshua) Jeffery of West Columbia, S.C., and Molly (David) Czako of Canton. Joan also leaves five great-grandchildren, Ava and Grayson Cannan of Ivoryton and Jonny, Kennedy and Joey Uihlein of Madison. She also leaves her brother, Mark (Jane) Tamaccio of Manchester, and her sister-in-law, Barbara Tamaccio of Melbourne, Fla.

Besides her husband and parents, Joan was predeceased by her brother, David Tamaccio.

Joan's family wishes to thank the many kind caregivers who made the last chapter of Joan's life warm, comfortable and entertaining, especially Masani Young, Courtney Pollard, Sutanya Gohagen from Homewatch Caregivers, and the amazing staff at Artis Senior Living in Branford, most especially Gina Giglio and Wayne Sala.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:



Chestnut Hill Concerts, P.O. Box 183 Guilford, CT 06437.

A celebration of Joan's life will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, at 11 a.m., at Mt. Carmel Congregational Church, 3284 Whitney Ave., Hamden, with a reception to follow.

## East Hampton

## Carole A. Street

Carole A. Street, 87, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Keith B. Street, passed away at home surrounded by family Thursday, Jan. 16. Born May 23, 1936, in Presque Isle Maine, she was the daughter of the late Douglas A. and Dora F. (Brown) Viel.

Carole had worked as an administrative assistant for Aetna Insurance before her retirement. Carole and Keith went to high school together and married shortly after graduation. Carole lived in Germany for two years while Keith was drafted into the Army and stationed there. Upon discharge they moved back to Connecticut to call it home. They were married just shy of 70 years and truly never left each other's sides.

Carole loved her family and spent much of her early retirement years doing genealogy research and taking trips to Maine and Canada to learn more about her heritage and family history. Carole loved her flower gardens, UConn women's basketball, the coast of Maine and spending time sitting with Keith on their beautiful back deck. Carole will be deeply missed.

Besides her husband Keith, she is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Stephen Jones of East Hampton; a brother, Darrel Viel of Florida; a sister, Dolores Serra of Florida; and her beloved grandsons, Kyle and Sean Jones.

There will be a service announced at a later date.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

## Dorothy M. Currie

Dorothy M. Currie, 94, of East Haddam, formerly of East Hampton, passed away peacefully in her sleep Saturday, Jan. 13, in her home. She is predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Carl W. Currie, as well as both her sisters, Irene E. Haley and Shirley A. DiRaffaele, and their husbands, Robert Haley and Robert DiRaffaele.

Dottie, as most people know her, was born in Malden, Mass., on Dec. 3, 1929, the daughter of Howard F. and M. Rose (Matthews) Lucier. After working briefly for Jordan Marsh, she moved to Connecticut, married and started a family.

She leaves her son, Daniel P. (wife Susan) Currie of Colchester; daughters, Cathie A. Garofalo (partner Arthur), Hollye B. (husband Mark) Thomas, both of East Hampton, and Elizabeth J. (husband Mark) Salie of East Haddam. In addition, she leaves her grandchildren, Skye Garofalo (wife Amanda), Natalie Garofalo; Jennifer, Brian, and Marissa Currie, Christopher and Trenton Thomas; Jacqueline (husband Grant) Kelfkens and Vincent IV (wife Krista) Garofalo; five great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren, well as 10 nieces and nephews.

Our mother was an amazing painter and taught adult education for a few years at East Hampton High School. She loved her animals, always had dogs and cats, and it wouldn't have been a menagerie without those guinea pigs! She became an avid fisherwoman, from the shores of Connecticut to the Lakes of Maine. To chill, she loved gathering 'just the girls' to do puzzles and eat comfort food with her. While attending Christ Church in Middle Haddam for many years she quilted, baked and was very active in her church's annual tag sales. And it was her passion for tag sales that jump started her enthusiasm for collecting cookie jars. At last count before moving to East Haddam, she had over 160 jars in her kitchen and around the house.

In her later years, Mom realized playing slots at the casino was so much fun, win or lose. We aren't sure if it was the noise, people or ambiance of the place, but the free Drambuie most definitely was a bonus! Our mother was a kind and generous person all her life. She loved her family and would do anything for us. She loved to laugh and sing, especially the 'old songs' ('Kitaka Katie' won't ever be the same). In her final years, after our father died, she battled multiple health issues which may have stopped



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Obituaries

a normal person in their tracks, but mom's will to live persevered and she just enjoyed life to the fullest right up to the end.

Goodbye Mom, you'll be missed.....  
 Anyone who wishes to share memories with family and friends, calling hours and a short service by her pastor from Christ Church are being held at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m.-noon. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Christ Church of Middle Haddam. A Celebration of Life gathering for conversation and refreshments will be at St. Stephen's Church in East Haddam.

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

East Haddam

Mary Jane Koziy

Mary Jane Koziy, known as "Jane" to many and "Nana" to some, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the age of 83.



Nana had a strong Irish heritage. She and her husband raised three daughters, twins Christina Costa and Michelle Bjorkman and 13 months later Elizabeth Anne Koziy. Nana dedicated her life to her family. Always instilling values, morals, honesty and integrity. Her quick sense of humor and wit were exuberant.

Nana was an avid sports enthusiast dedicated to watching UConn women's basketball, Boston Red Sox and the Boston Celtics. She enjoyed traveling to Ireland, California, Maine, Cape Cod and any place to get a New England lobster roll. Nana is survived by her husband, David B. Koziy of 60 years; her granddaughter, Brooke Elizabeth Costa; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be planned for the spring of 2024. Jane will be deeply missed but her spirit and humor will stay with us forever.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields; and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Arrangements are in care of the Guilford Funeral Home, 115 Church St., Guilford. To share a memory or leave condolences, visit www.guilfordfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Frances M. Guillemín

Frances M. (Price) Guillemín, a longtime resident of East Hampton, was born Aug. 15, 1934, in Saint Johns, New Brunswick, Canada. She was the third of three children born to the late Claude W. Price and Gertrude E. (Hock) Price. She died on Saturday, Jan. 20, at age 89, after a number of years with dementia.



After spending her first few years in Canada where her father was able to find work, the family moved to Middletown. She became a U.S. citizen at age 6, covered under her father's naturalization process. In the late 1930s, the family moved to East Hampton where she resided until the last 2 1/2 years of her life when she was in the care of Salmon Brook Rehab and Skilled Nursing in Glastonbury.

Frances was educated in the East Hampton School System, graduating in the class of 1952. She worked for CT Mutual and Gong Bell, loved going roller skating or bowling, and had many friends.

A chance meeting in a Middletown coffee shop introduced her to Francis E. Guillemín (a.k.a. Jerry), USN, on his way home to New Jersey from the Naval base at Quonset Point, R.I. They married on July 3, 1955, and were together for almost 55 years until his death in 2010.

In 1968, she started working at the Center School cafeteria as a cook, a job she stayed in until she turned 80 in 2014. At that time, she retired as the oldest Town of East Hampton employee and the longest tenured through the Board of Education.

Frances was an active member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Fowler Dix VFW Post 5095 for many years. She was also an active bowler for many years at Kickback and Bowl's One Night Out league.

Frances is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly Ann and Helmut Hanelt of Glastonbury; her son, Kyle Martin Guillemín of East Hampton; and four grandchildren, Alexander Francis Hanelt (Kaitlyn) of Morristown, N.J., Joshua Albert Guillemín (Erin) of Colches-

ter, Jacqueline Ann Guillemín of Essex Junction, Vt., and Josephine Annette Guillemín of Salem.

She also leaves her brother-in-law, John (Gayle Guillemín) Babitz, and sister-in-law, Carole Guillemín (Roy). She is also survived by cousins Joan and Sandra, a number of nieces and nephews, and many friends.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she is predeceased by her brother, Claude Price Jr. (Carole); her sister, Dolores Braren (Richard); sister-in-law, Gayle Babitz; brother-in-law, Roy Guillemín; and infant grandson, Erich Michael Hanelt.

The family would like to thank the care team at Salmon Brook for caring for Mom for 2+ years, as well as the hospice care team provided by AccentCare over the past three months.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Jan. 25. A funeral service for Frances will be held today, Friday, Jan. 26, at 11 a.m., in the funeral home, with burial in Lakeview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Center School Student Activity Fund, 7 Summit St., East Hampton, CT 06424 or the Dementia Society, Inc., 188 N Main St., Doyleston, PA 18901-3731.

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

East Hampton

Gary Joseph DuPaul

Gary Joseph DuPaul, 80, of East Hampton, beloved husband of April (Dzubin) DuPaul, passed away Monday, Jan. 15, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Nov. 27, 1943, in New Haven, he was the son of the late Wilfred H. and Dorothy M. (Perry) DuPaul.

Gary was a graduate of William Penn College in Iowa, where he played football. He went on to earn his master's degree in special education from Southern Connecticut State College. Gary went on to have a career as a machinist at Pratt & Whitney until his retirement.

Gary was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton and was a former member of the Knights of Columbus. In his youth, he enjoyed track and football.

Besides his wife, April he is survived by his two daughters, Marcella Jackson and her husband Daniel of Southington, Leah McCarthy and her husband Jason of Longmeadow, Mass., four beloved grandchildren, Marissa, Tyler, Brady and Benjamin.

He was predeceased by his brother, Ronald DuPaul.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Sunday Jan. 21. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, Jan. 22, at 11 a.m., in St. John Paul II Parish's St Patrick Church in East Hampton.

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT**  
**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS WILL HOLD HEARINGS AND/OR DELIBERATIONS AT THE **SENIOR CENTER: 17 SCHOOL DRIVE, MARLBOROUGH CT**  
**THE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**  
**2023 REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY & 2022 SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LISTS**  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06 2024: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.  
**SENIOR CENTER**  
**2023 MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LIST**  
 WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18 2024: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. SENIOR CENTER

Applications and other information will be available online on the Town of Marlborough's Assessor page [www.marlbroughct.net](http://www.marlbroughct.net) or in person from the Assessor's office.  
 An application can be requested by email at [assessor@marlbroughct.net](mailto:assessor@marlbroughct.net) from Thursday February 1st and must be returned on or before the end of the working day Tuesday, February 20th .  
 All applications must be physically returned to the assessor's office (no emails or postmarks) applications must have an original signature or an appointment for hearing will be denied.

2TB 1/26, 2/16

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**Town of Andover**

A certified list of 11 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Andover for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 17 School Road - Andover, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 30.  
 A Primary will be held March 5, 2024, if 8 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 Wallace Barton, Jr., Republican Registrar of Voters, 17 School Road - Andover, Connecticut  
 Carol H. Lee  
 Town Clerk of Andover, Connecticut

1TB 1/26

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**Notice of Hearing**

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on February 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:  
 PZC-23-015: Text Amendment regarding Accessory Uses to Agriculture per Sec. 8.4.C  
 Text Amendment Regarding Required Setbacks on Non-Conforming Lots in the R-1 Zone: Section 8.2 of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations  
 Kevin Kuhr, Chairman  
 Note\* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450.

2TB 1/26, 2/2

**TOWN OF PORTLAND**

Legal notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Portland that the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes on the October 1, 2022 Grand List and the Supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2024.  
 Taxes not paid in full on or before Monday, February 1, 2024 become delinquent and are subject to interest at the rate of one and one half (1 1/2) per cent per month from due date (3%, if paid in February). Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.  
 Quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable January 17, 2024. Payment not made in full on or before February 17, 2024 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from due date.  
 Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax. Please contact the Collector of Revenue if you do not have a bill. Tax information is available on the Town of Portland website [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org).  
 Online tax payments are accepted by visiting our website [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) and are subject to convenience fees.  
 Payments are accepted at the Collector of Revenue's office, 33 East Main Street, Portland, CT or by mail: Town of Portland Collector of Revenue, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071. We do have a drop box for after hour payments by the back door.  
 Office hours are as follows:  
 Monday, December 25, 2023: CLOSED  
 Monday, January 1, 2024: CLOSED New Year's Eve  
 Monday, January 15, 2024 CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
 Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC  
 Town of Portland  
 Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/22, 1/12, 1/26

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH**

A certified list of 25 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the town of Marlborough for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 25.  
 A Primary will be held March 5, 2024, if 6 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 Ann Kilby, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.  
 Lauren A. Griffin  
 Town Clerk of Marlborough

1TB 1/26

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**Town of Andover**

A certified list of 19 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Andover for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 17 School Road - Andover, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 20.  
 A Primary will be held March 5, 2024, if 5 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 Linda Derrick, Democrat Registrar of Voters, 17 School Road - Andover, Connecticut  
 Carol H. Lee  
 Town Clerk of Andover, Connecticut

1TB 1/26

**Town of Portland**  
**Board of Assessment Appeals**  
**Notice of Meeting**

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet at the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street, during the month of March 2024, for the purpose of hearing Real Estate and Personal Property 2023 Grand List assessment appeals. **Written application must be submitted to the Assessor by 4:00 p.m. on February 20, 2024.** Applications can be found on the Town of Portland website and/or are available for pick up, during business hours, in the Assessor's Office.  
**HOMEOWNERS SENIOR TAX CREDIT**  
 The Town of Portland Tax Assessor's Office will begin taking applications from new applicants for the Senior Tax Credit Program beginning in **February through May 14, 2024.** If you are currently on the program and did not file last year, it is time to renew your application.  
 If you and/or your spouse are 65 years of age or older or totally disabled, own your home and your income does not exceed \$43,800 if unmarried, or \$53,400 if married, you may be eligible for a tax benefit on your real estate taxes. Your **2023 Federal Income Tax Return and 1099 Social Security statement** are needed as proof of income to submit an application.  
 Please contact the Portland Assessor **860-342-6744** if you have any questions or visit our website [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org)

1TB 1/26

**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

**EAST HAMPTON FOUND PROPERTY**

The East Hampton Police have recovered the following items as lost property. If you are the owner of the following property, please contact the East Hampton PD at (860)267-9922 during business hours.

1. Roller Blades in a bag
2. Keys with green lanyard
3. Keys with black key chain
4. Key chain with Toyota Car Key
5. Yellow Bike
6. Boat Trailer

2TB 1/26, 2/2

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE**  
**COLLECTOR'S NOTICE**

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:  
 The Third installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2022 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on January 1, 2024. Payments must be postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by February 1, 2024 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting February 2, 2024 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1 1/2% per month) from the due date of January 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.  
 View or pay taxes online at [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org). Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Please refer to [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org) for updated office hours.  
 Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.  
 If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.  
 Kate Morrissey, Tax Collector  
 Town of Andover  
 17 School Road  
 Andover, CT 06232

2TB 1/5, 1/26

**TOWN OF ANDOVER**  
**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**  
**LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Andover Planning & Zoning Commission took the following action at their January 16, 2024 meeting:  
**APPROVED:**  
 Modifications to the following Sections of the Andover Zoning Regulations:  
 4.11 Accessory Apartments;  
 5 Licensed Day Care;  
 7 Licensed Day Care;  
 15 Signs (Public Interest);  
 23 Lighting (height & Intensity);  
 24 Definitions.  
 The effective date of the amendment to the zoning regulations was set by the Planning & Zoning Commission as February 11, 2024.  
 Details of the changes can be found on the Town of Andover's web-site (Planning & Zoning page) or at the Building and Land Use Office located at 17 School Road.  
 Jim Hallisey  
 Zoning Agent

January 19, 2024  
 1TB 1/26

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**ATTENTION ALL TAXPAYERS**

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of East Hampton that the taxes for the second installment of real estate, personal property, and supplemental motor vehicles levied on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 are due and payable on January 1, 2024. The last day on which to pay without penalty is February 1, 2024. Real estate and personal property taxes are based on a mill rate of 36.06 mills which equates to \$36.06 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed value. Supplemental motor vehicle tax is based on the state capped mill rate of 32.46 mills.  
 Taxpayers will receive an additional bill for the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes with the permanent mill rate of 36.06 mills. All bill types were mailed on December 1, 2023. It is likely the permanent mill rate will differ from the temporary mill rate resulting in the second installment being different than the first.  
 Late payments will be subject to interest penalty at the rate of 1 1/2% per month or a fraction thereof, 18 % per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 145 and 146. Payments legibly postmarked by the USPS on or before February 1, 2024 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Tax Office. Payments received February 2, 2024 or later, and payments received without postmark are considered past due. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20.  
 As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes and interest charges should the tax become delinquent.  
 Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov) Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.  
 Respectfully,  
 Kristy L. Merrifield, CCMC  
 Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/22, 1/5, 1/26



# LEGALS

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION HEBRON, CT CONTINUED FROM 1/18/24 MEETING

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations of the Town of Hebron, the Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on the following application:

**Petition 2023-04**, Roderic A. McCarrison, 5-Lot Subdivision, Church Street, Map 12, Lot 18, Zone NC into 3 lots and Zone R-1 into 2 lots

The hearing will be held Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 7:30 P.M., at a virtual meeting.

**Conservation Commission  
Conservation Commission Public Hearing (Virtual)**  
Feb 8, 2024, 7:30–8:30 PM (America/New\_York)  
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/414596829>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 414-596-829

United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

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Dated at Hebron, CT this 19th day of January 2024.

James P. Cordier, Wetlands Agent  
for Tom Loto, Chairman, Hebron Conservation Commission  
2TB 1/26, 2/2

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes and the second installment of Real Estate taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 are due and payable on January 1, 2024. The second installment bill for Real Estate taxes was mailed in October 2023. No additional bills for the second installment for Real Estate taxes will be mailed. Taxes not paid in full on or before February 1, 2024 become delinquent and are subject to interest at the rate of 1 1/2% per month or 18% annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 145 and 146. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before February 1, 2024 will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30p.m. on February 1, 2024, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late.**

Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. If you did not receive a bill and think you should please contact the office immediately. Conn Gen Stat. 12-130  
Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector and mailed to: Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Pay on-line by visiting our website [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov); FEES APPLY. Hours of collection are Monday – Wednesday and Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm; Thursday 8:30am– 7pm. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michele Wyatt, C.C.M.C.  
Tax Collector  
Town of Colchester

3TB 12/22, 1/12, 1/26

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PETS

**PITBULL PUPPIES FOR SALE:** Seven weeks old. Two females, six males. Parents on premises. \$500. Serious inquires only. Call 860-617-6539.

**DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES:** starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Scent Work. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, Paws-N-Heel DTC, 860-267-6040. [paws-n-heeldogtraining.com](http://paws-n-heeldogtraining.com).

**CASH PAID for any Toyota**  
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\$ 203-600-4431 \$

## "PET OF THE WEEK"



**Bella** is a 5-year-old pit bull mix who weighs about 50 lbs. Bella is as sweet as can be and will make the best snuggle partner. She is also very gentle with kids! She is working on her leash skills and really seems to enjoy exploring out-and-about. She even seems to know some basic commands, and is food motivated so teaching her more will be fun! Bella may be able to live with a large, male dog who has medium-to-low energy, like herself, but would also enjoy soaking up all the attention as a solo pet.

Two-year old **Kylo** was abandoned outside, he arrived at the shelter dirty and starving. He has every justification to dislike and distrust humans. But Kylo instead chooses hope and gratitude. What Kylo needs and wants more than anything is a home that offers all the consistency he didn't receive. Regular food, attention, and rest. He's willing to be patient, to learn how to be loved because love conquers all.

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



**Protectors of Animals, Inc.** 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118  
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization,  
rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs. [WWW.POAINC.ORG](http://WWW.POAINC.ORG)

# REAL ESTATE

## RENTALS

**SPACE FOR RENT:** in Cobalt for breakfast or luncheon. Call Tushar, 860-680-4768



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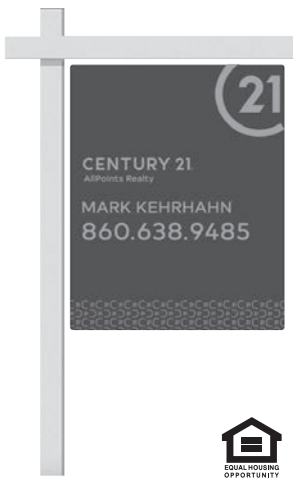
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CIT12-21-23

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RE1-26-24

## HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

# EMPLOYMENT

## Colebrook Village at Hebron: NOW HIRING!

### Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Shifts available for hire: 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!

Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Meals...

Call **Cheyenne Baker** at 860-801-1114 or email [cbaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:cbaker@colebrookvillage.com)

CIT1-18-24

## 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!

Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Meals...

Call **Maryla Underwood** at 860-801-1114 or email [munderwood@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:munderwood@colebrookvillage.com)

CIT1-23-23

## Shop Manager/QC Manager Position

Eagle Manufacturing Company, located in Colchester, CT is seeking a dynamic & experienced Shop Manager/QC Manager to join our fast-growing team. As a leader in the steel fabrication industry, we require candidates with a minimum of five years' experience in the steel fabrication, along with expertise in welding, blueprint reading, & effective communication with both management and shop personnel. The ideal candidate for this position is a Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) with proven abilities in managing production staff. We value motivation and a strong team-oriented mindset, as we strive to foster a collaborative work environment that supports the growth of our company.

In addition to competitive compensation, we offer a comprehensive benefits package including paid vacation, holidays, employer funded HRA, medical & dental insurance, & generous matching 401k plan, STD, LTD and Life Insurance. Upon successful completion of the 30-day probationary period, these benefits will become available. Compensation will be between \$75-\$100,000 depending upon qualifications and experience.

To apply, please email your resume to: [beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com](mailto:beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com)

RE1-5-24

## WELDER/PIPE FITTER POSITION AVAILABLE

AISC Certified Steel Fabrication Shop is looking for experienced, motivated individuals to work in a fast paced environment. Prior experience in blueprint reading and all types of metal working equipment is a must. Perform GMAW welding, simple fabrications, welding of components per AWS Code. Certified Welding Inspectors Certificate and/or past welding experience to state and local welding codes is a plus. Must pass Certification in processes per AWS D1.5. We will train qualified applicants to our methods of operation given the desired attitude and aptitude qualities are found to be present. Benefits include: Health Insurance, 401(k), Vacation, Life and Disability Insurance.

Please send resumes to: **P.O. Box 186, Colchester, CT 06415** or email your resume to: [beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com](mailto:beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com)

RE1-12-24

## Program Coordinator

The Town of East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications for a highly motivated, innovated, dynamic and energetic Program Coordinator who will be responsible for planning, marketing, managing, implementing, and measuring the overall success of programs for all age groups and capabilities. The Program Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing employees, policies and procedures and ensuring that the programs run safely and efficiently. Other duties will consist of managing various administrative tasks, assisting with hiring part-time and seasonal staff, assisting with fundraising and other volunteer and community service efforts, special events and functions.

A degree in Recreation Management, Physical Education or a similar field from an accredited college or university, plus four (4) years of experience in recreation, childcare, summer camp, event management, or similar field, along with strong supervisory, technology and social media skills and experience required. Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification is preferred or the ability to obtain certification within one (1) year of employment. A valid driver's license with a clean driving record is required.

This is a full-time, 35-hour-per-week position with additional hours and/or evenings and weekends hours as necessary. The starting salary is between \$52,211.93 – 61,425.80 annually, commensurate with experience and education. Benefits include paid holidays, 401, health, dental, vision, life, and paid time off. This is a bargaining unit position.

Please submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to [lseymour@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:lseymour@easthamptonct.gov), by February 9, 2024, or until filled. An employment application may be found at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). EOE/AA/M-F.

1TB 1/26

# EMPLOYMENT

**CONSTRUCTION/ CONCRETE FINISHER:** Full-time, competitive pay, PTO. Experience and references required. Call Nick, 860-268-7308.

**COOK WANTED:** \$18 to \$23 an hour depending on experience. Please apply at Eggs Up Restaurant on Rt.66 in Portland.

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST:** Part-time position with small professional office in Glastonbury. Duties include typing, creating and maintaining files, answering multi-line phones, ordering and maintaining office supplies, Word and Excel experience necessary. 8am-1:30pm. Please send qualifications or resume to: [administrator@CFMconstructionCT.com](mailto:administrator@CFMconstructionCT.com).

**FULL-TIME CLEANER AND MORNING COUNTER HELP:** Wanted in busy bakery. Stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery on Independence Drive.

**REGISTERED NURSE, HOME CARE AGENCY:** Staff Mates Homecare, a family owned Home Health Care Agency with over 40 years of history providing quality care to families in the Wilimantic and Hebron areas, is seeking an RN. Full-time (includes benefits), Monday-Friday (8 hour day). Part-time (per diem), 2-3 days per week. RN position entails: home visits and case management responsibilities. RN conducts: start of care visits, recertifications, resumption of care and skilled nursing visits. For more information, call Staff Mates Homecare, 860-228-4321.

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RE8-13-21

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## Public Works Maintainer II

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Maintainer II for the Public Works Department. This is a full-time, bargaining unit position with benefits that include health, dental, vision, 401, life insurance and PTO. \$22.79 per hour; 40 hours per week, plus OT as necessary. Snow plowing experience required. Must possess or be able to obtain a CDL with class B (air brake endorsement) within six (6) months of hire. (The Town may provide some assistance obtaining CDL). The applicant should be dependable, have a clean driving record and be in good physical condition. Interested candidates should submit an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to [lseymour@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:lseymour@easthamptonct.gov), by February 9, 2024, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). EOE/M-F/AA.

1TB 1/26



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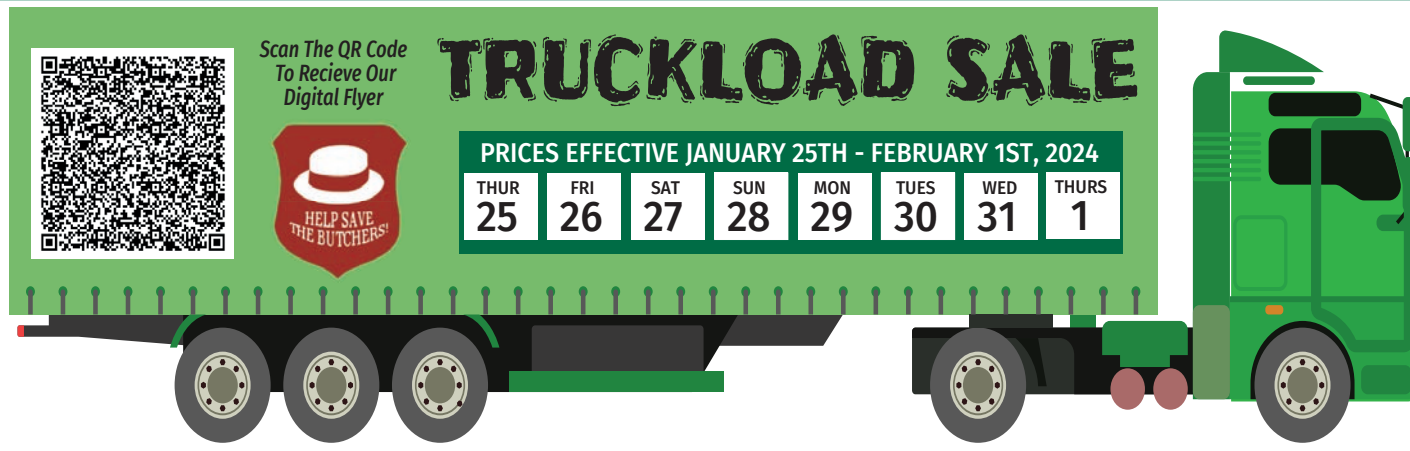
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