

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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February 9, 2024



East Hampton senior Jackie Russell scored her 1,000th career point during the Bellringers win over Coginchaug on Feb. 1 at EHHS.

1,000 Points for Belltown Hoops Star

By Josh Howard

When Jackie Russell exited the locker room following East Hampton High School's victory over Coginchaug last Thursday, she was greeted by a slew of family and friends that had gathered in the hallway to celebrate not just the team's win, but her own personal accomplishment as well.

Russell, a senior on the EHHS girls basketball team, had just eclipsed the 1,000-point career mark late in the game during her 18-point performance on her home floor.

After several hugs and high-fives from her supporters, Russell reflected on how special it was to experience the moment in her hometown surrounded by loved ones, saying, "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

"The support I have is unmatched. It's been a great experience to be able to celebrate with my favorite people and I thank them because I wouldn't be here without them," said Russell, who added that her family group chat was "going crazy."

In surpassing the four-digit career scoring mark, Russell joins her sister, Gyanna Russell, on the 1,000-point banner hanging on the wall inside the school's gymnasium.

Gyanna Russell, a 2017 graduate of EHHS, is the program all-time leader in points with 1,478 and would later score over 1,000 points in college at Southern New Hampshire University.

"It's been a goal, it's been something that I have been aspiring to do," Russell said of joining her older sister on the banner. "I have always looked up to her and I've always wanted to put my name up there with her."

East Hampton head coach Shaun Russell - no relation - said it's been "consistency" that allowed his prolific scorer to reach the mark and

praised her for "playing within the framework of the offense" over the last four years.

"I'm very happy for her," added the veteran coach. "You could see by the reaction from her teammates how she has impacted them as a student and as an athlete. I'm tremendously pleased for her and proud of the way it was accomplished."

Making the moment even more special was the fact that the Bellringers remained undefeated, beating the visiting Blue Devils from Durham, 54-29, improving to 16-0 this winter.

Points were at a premium in the first half as the Bellringers used a stout defense that held Coginchaug to a mere three points in the second quarter and to eight total points at half.

Shaun Russell said the team's ability to put pressure on defense allowed them to find their offense.

"We feel like we have the ability to limit what the other team wants to do," he said. "We try to make everything as stressful as we can for the other team."

Junior guard Liana Salamone carried the scoring load in the first half, scoring 11 of her 18 points over the first 16 minutes.

"Our defense always creates our offense. We always rely on our defense when the shots aren't falling, and hopefully we can get those shots to go in transition," stated Salamone, the reigning Shoreline Conference Player of the Year.

Six different Bellringers scored in the third quarter as East Hampton used efficient ball movement to increase the lead to 40-14 before Jackie Russell provided the fireworks in the final frame.

Within the first two minutes of the fourth, See Belltown Hoops Star, page 9

Colchester to Get 'Kinky' Next Weekend

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) returns to the stage next week with its presentation of Kinky Boots, the group's 26th full-length musical production that promises to be a crowd-pleaser.

Performances will take place at the Bacon Academy auditorium located at 611 Norwich Avenue next 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.

General admission tickets are \$18 for adults and \$14 for seniors (ages 65+), and children (ages 12 and under). Preferred seating tickets are available for \$28. Tickets can be purchased online via the "Buy Tickets" tab at www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com; in-person tickets can be bought locally at the Wagging Tails Pet Shop located at 95 Linwood Ave. and at Gifts

On The Green based at 44 Main St.

Theatergoers can take a chance and buy their tickets at the door on the day of the performance.

This year's production will undeniably be different than CCT's 2023 milestone production of Young Frankenstein, an edgy musical comedy based on the 1974 film created by Mel Brooks.

Kinky Boots is a celebrated widespread success, garnering six Tony awards - including Best Musical - as well as a Grammy for Best Musical Theatre album and London's Olivier Award for Best Musical.

This week, the cast and crew sat down with the RiverEast to offer a peak behind the curtain, and it's safe to say that everyone is excited to showcase this story.

"The audience can expect to laugh and I

would expect that they will also cry," said Diane Ozmun, the president of CCT. "I also think they might very well want to get up out of their seat!"

The upcoming show also represents the beginning of a new chapter for the organization, which officially became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit after separating from a 25-year relationship with the town. As this new version of CCT looks to establish itself moving forward, sustained community support will remain essential, Ozmun said.

Meet the Cast

The popular musical is glued together by a soundtrack produced by Cyndi Lauper and book by Harvey Fierstein. It is based on the 2005 film Kinky Boots, written by Geoff Deane and Tim Firth, which was inspired by true events.

See 'Kinky' Next Weekend, page 30

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It's Scholarship Time!

If you know a high school senior who resides in East Hampton, East Haddam, Portland, Colchester, Glastonbury or the RHAM school district tell them to apply TODAY!

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Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of Jan. 28 – Feb. 3:

Brianna Kjellquist, Kiley Foley, Paige Cavaliere, and Kylie Aldridge – RHAM High School (Cheerleading): Kjellquist, Foley, Cavaliere, and Aldridge brought home first place in the Top Gun Stunts at Killingly High School on Jan. 27. The four earned the win after perfectly executing their high-flying routine at Killingly's Killin' It Classic, featuring several cheer squads from around the state. RHAM cheerleading is currently preparing for the state tournament, looking to follow-up on a program-best third-place finish from a season ago.

Lily Tabellione – Portland High School (Track & Field): Tabellione won both the 1600 and 3200 meters at the Shoreline Conference (SLC) championships at the Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven on Feb. 2. Tabellione, a senior, ran a 5:29.15 in the 1600 meters, beating the runner-up by over 14 seconds, and then ran a 12:21.09 in the 3200 meters to win by over 20 seconds. On the boys' side, junior Samuel LaMalfa also double-dipped, winning both the 300 and 600 meters as the Highlanders' boys squad placed fourth overall out of the 12 teams at the event.

Katelyn Novak – Bacon Academy (Basketball): Novak posted 47 points, 19 rebounds, and nine steals over a three-game span (all wins). On Feb. 1, Novak scored a team-high 14 points, while Cara Shea added 11 points and Liz Glover grabbed 12 rebounds as the Bobcats beat Fitch 43-40, earning a sixth straight win. The Bobcats have extended the winning streak to eight games and close out the regular season tonight, welcoming Ledyard to Bacon Academy for a game at 6 p.m.

Brian Collisson – East Hampton High School (Track & Field): Collisson captured a conference championship, winning the pole vault at the Shoreline Conference (SLC) finals in New Haven. Collisson, a senior, blew away the competition, clearing a height of 12'06", two feet more than runner-up Koen Thomen of Haddam-Killingworth. Next up is the Class S championship that takes place today (Friday, Feb. 9) at the Floyd Little Athletic Center where Collisson is looking to capture a state championship after finishing in second place as a junior last winter.

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



RHAM cheerleaders Briann Kjellquist, Kiley Foley, Paige Cavaliere, and Kylie Aldridge took home a first-place medals on

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



Ryan Fitch, the wrestling coach at RHAM High School, earned his 300th career win after the Raptors defeated Foran on Jan. 27. Fitch is pictured holding the 300-win banner as he is surrounded by his team following the milestone victory.

Fitch Nabs Win No. 300, Raptors Eye States

By Josh Howard

RHAM High School wrestling coach Ryan Fitch reached a milestone last month when his Raptors defeated Foran on Jan. 27.

It marked the 300th win in Fitch's coaching tenure at the high school.

"I've been around a long time, that's what it comes down to," Fitch joked of the accomplishment.

At the multi-school meet at Foran High School, Fitch's squad beat the host Falcons (51-27) in the first match of the weekend.

Landon Roy, Kyle Currier, Daren Gagnon, Boone Swanson, Cayden Caplette, Thiago Delacruz, and Brody Magnanini each pinned their opponents, while Gavin Plourde won a decision and Ben Fournier won by forfeit to help bring home the milestone team victory.

Fitch, a 1994 graduate of East Hartford High School, was an assistant coach at RHAM before officially taking over the varsity program in 2008.

During his tenure, the team has been consistent contenders within the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) and on the state level, finishing as the runner-up at both the conference championships and Class M titles last winter.

Fitch said the landscape of wrestling has changed considerably since he was a high school wrestler in East Hartford, yet said that working at RHAM has been rewarding, adding, "it fits me perfectly."

Additionally, he credited the town's youth program and middle school program for making his job easier at the high school level, stating, "It

takes all of us on the same page to produce and compete against schools that go all year long."

At last year's Class M state championship, the Raptors won a state championship on the mat only to have their title taken away on a controversial uniform violation following a match that took away a point, causing the team to finish ½ a point behind Avon for the Class M title.

Fitch said last year's state championship ultimately came down to more than just the penalty but added that the team used the disappointment "as motivation" coming into this season.

"We have a really solid team," added Fitch. "We came in with same attitude that it's ours to lose and if we come in and do what we are supposed to do, we could win a state championship."

Fitch returned a half dozen all-conference wrestlers this season in Roy, Currier, Delacruz, Fournier, Plourde and Michael Guerriero.

Currier, Fournier, Guerriero, and Ploude head a strong senior class entering the final month of their wrestling careers at RHAM.

Next up is the Class M state tourney, which is slated for Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at Guilford High School.

Fitch said the time between the regular season finale and the state championship should allow his team to "heal up" from any nagging injuries the team has endured over the course of the regular season.

"It's a good time to fine tune some things and keep conditioning up," added Fitch. "If we can get healthy, we should be able to make a good run."

Internet, Phone App Parent Safety Class

AHM Youth & Family Services, located at 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron, invites parents and caregivers to an Internet and Phone App Parent Safety Class, presented by the Connecticut State Police, on Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Discussion points will be digital trends and high-risk behaviors among youth when using their smartphones. Register by emailing Jenn Boehler at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org or by calling 860-228-9488 ext.22. Out-of-town residents are welcome.

Youth Lacrosse Registration

RHAM Youth Lacrosse (RYL) registration is open for the spring season.

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

Registration deadline for the spring season is Saturday, Feb. 10. Email any questions to rhamyouthlacrosseregistrar@gmail.com.

Free Viewing of Screenagers

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

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

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

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

Pete the Cat Concert

AHM Youth & Family Services will offer a *Pete the Cat* Concert Saturday, Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m., at Gilead Hill School in Hebron. The recommend age is toddlers-third grade.

"Mr. Michael," the music producer of the *Pete the Cat* stories and songs and the co-founder of The Learning Groove with author Eric Litwin, will share his music and storytelling inspiration with children as they sing interactive songs and

Pete the Cat stories together. Every song has lyrics, activities, coloring pages, and more online at www.thelearninggroove.com; students, families and teachers can use these support materials for creative learning before and after the concert.

The performance will last 40 to 45 minutes. There is no charge, but registration is required. Go to ahmyouth.recdesk.com to sign up.



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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Well, neither Chuckles the groundhog in Manchester nor his more famous cousin, Punxatawney Phil in Pennsylvania, saw their shadows last Friday, so hopefully that means an early spring is in the cards.

Like I said last week, it hasn't been a particularly harsh winter, it's just that....well, I'm tired of the cold. I'm ready for warmth.

A reminder that, if you're looking to check out some of the area's best and brightest young minds, the annual Connecticut Middle School Science Bowl is tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 10, at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. The fun will start at 8 a.m. and continue as late as 6 p.m.

Twenty-five teams from across the state have registered and been preparing for the nation's elite public school science and math competition. And two of those teams are from the *Rivereast* coverage area.

RHAM Middle School has a team, coached by Elizabeth Walsh. Students are: Oliver Ulion, Maisey Lemay, Marcus Parker, Adam Grzywacz, Nicholas Peach and Nike Ulion.

Colchester's William J. Johnston Middle School also has a team this year. The coach is Nektaria Hart, and the students are Hunter Kovach, Joshua Lund, Alexander Courtemanche and Brandon Verruso.

Other towns that will have schools participating in the Science Bowl tomorrow include East Lyme, Glastonbury, East Hartford, Mansfield, Farmington, Brookfield, Trumbull, Greenwich and New Haven.

The winning team will then head to the nationals in Washington, D.C., to compete against winners from the 49 other states.

The Science Bowl is open to the public, and it sounds like it'll be a lot of fun to watch. If you've got a few hours to kill tomorrow, you might want to swing by for a bit. Good luck to all the students participating!

Speaking of students, readers might have missed a notice I've been running lately about the scholarships offered by local real estate brokerage Carl Guild and Associates.

The agency is awarding six \$1,000 scholarships this year – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

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

Tonya Maurer of Hebron told me this week of a new state police program that sounds like it could be useful to what is unfortunately an ever-growing part of the population.

The state police and the Alzheimer's Association – Connecticut chapter have created a new "Bring Me Back Home" registry, and Tonya encouraged anyone caring for someone with memory problems (they could live with you, close to you, or in an assisted living community) to sign up their loved one.

The registry has been created so that Connecticut emergency personnel have critical information in a time of urgency; it allows for a current photo to be uploaded and the capturing "life information" about the person. This is critical, Tonya said, because people

Editor's Desk continued on page 14



Undefeated!... Congratulations to Coach Adam Gower and his 3rd/4th grade girls basketball team on their undefeated season!

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Correction

An article last week stated that former Colchester first selectman Andreas Bisbikos authorized and signed an ambulance contract last October. However, Bisbikos only authorized it; according to the contract obtained by the *Rivereast*, the document was only signed by Colchester Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann.

The *Rivereast* apologizes for this error.

The colors of Mardi Gras are purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power. As the carnival season of Mardi Gras comes to an end on Fat Tuesday, many of us will enter the Christian season of Lent. May we all reflect on the meaning of these colors and how we might use them for the benefit of our world.

**With sincere gratitude,
Faith Fraulino
Festival Chairperson**

Trump is a Jerk

To the Editor:
Yes, Donald Trump is a jerk. He can be abrasive, confrontational and "politically incorrect."

But under the current situations in this country, what with the border crisis, out of control prices for food and energy and turmoil all around the globe, that is exactly what is needed.

During Donald Trump's first term he attempted to drain the swamp that is Washington. He was able to lower the water level enough to expose those who dwell in the swamp. Now we need him back to finish the job.

We need Donald Trump's aggressive, take-no-prisoners approach to governing so we can fix the damage that was done over the course of the last four years under the feckless "leadership" of President Biden's administration, as

Merci Beaucoup!

To the Editor:
On behalf of our church family at First Congregational in Portland, we would like to thank everyone who came out on Saturday, Feb. 3, to our first-ever Mardi Gras Fest. It was a wonderful time filled with fellowship, fun and friends. The people gathered enjoyed authentic New Orleans food, a photo booth with Mardi Gras attire, baked goods and homemade candy as well as wonderful raffle baskets that many guests were thrilled to win. Special thanks to the *Rivereast* for helping to spread the word to the public – many of whom visited our church for the first time. We invite everyone to come back and join us at any time!

Bulletin Board

"Every time someone breaks wind, a kitten dies," I muttered.
"Excuse me?" said my wife.
"What?" I said.
"What about kittens?"
"I was just thinking aloud. I saw a report this morning that methane gas is a worse hazard to the environment than carbon dioxide. I've been trying to come up with a clever bumper sticker to alert the world."
"I see."
"I think the kitten thing is a little too unwieldy," I admitted. "Plus you'd need a pretty long bumper."
"So now you've decided to become an environmental activist? You who once sicced the dog on a Greenpeace kid going door to door for donations to save the whales?"
"Hey, I thought he was running for Board of Education. Besides, I hate college kids. They're so close-minded."
"Still, I'm shocked."
"Hey, just because I'm not some climate zealot who glues himself to inoffensive museum paintings doesn't mean I don't care. Frankly, I don't get those people at all. If I were the authorities, I'd leave them there, stuck to the painting or the floor or whatever, until they had to go to the bathroom. And then I'd laugh."
"Yes, well I'd expect no less from someone who thinks he should be allowed to run over protestors who block traffic."
"It's nothing personal. I feel pretty much the same way about anybody who inconveniences me."
"So what's with the bumper stickers?"
"Do you realize how many people today are obsessed with the release of methane gas into the atmosphere?" I said.
"Actually, no," she replied.
"It's practically a mass movement, if you'll forgive the pun. Here we've all been focused on spray deodorants and stuff and one of the biggest culprits to creating an unhealthy earth turns out to be methane. I mean, who knew? I'm surprised the government hasn't tried to restrict the sale of hazardous stuff like chili or cabbage or Brussels sprouts."
"Really?"
"Really. There are actually people out there who want to get rid of cows because they pass so much gas. By their standard, the near eradication of the buffalo in the 19th century was practically a community service."
"By their standard, you yourself could be charged with crimes against humanity."
I chose to ignore this slanderous observation. "Anyway, I'm trying to come up with a catchy slogan for a popular bumper sticker that everyone will want to buy. You know, like Feed Jane Fonda to the Whales or My Other Car is a Porsche. I'll sell them online and we'll get rich! I mean, there's no reason I can't do my part to save the world and get rich at the same time, right?"
"Okay. Now it's all beginning to make sense. And what will you do with all that money? Donate it to groups dedicated to saving the environment?"
"I thought I'd buy a yacht."
"Right."
"How about a bumper sticker that says, 'Give a Hoot, Don't Toot?'"
She groaned.
"Or 'Have a Heart, Don't—'"
"Enough already."
"And the heart would be pictorial. You know, like in those I (Heart) NY bumper stickers."
"I should have listened to my father," she mumbled.
Like I never heard that before. Anyway, I figure she'll change her tune once she sees the yacht.

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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well as putting foreign dictators and terrorist organizations back in their place, as he has proved he can do.

When Donald Trump was in office, North Korea's "Rocket Man" behaved himself, China's blustering about taking Taiwan seemed more of a threat than reality, Putin refrained from invading Ukraine and the Middle East was relatively calm. All due to the respect (or you can call it fear) of President Donald Trump.

The world is a mess and we need Donald Trump back in office to clean things up. Biden's weak economic and foreign policies have led to chaos here and abroad. Yep, we need a "jerk" back in the White House. Support Donald Trump in November.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Kudos to Bernie

To the Editor:

It seems former first selectman Andreas Bisbikos might have been playing fast and loose with our money. Mr. Bisbikos approved over \$445,000 for the purchase of a new ambulance and to refurbish another without a valid purchase order approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. This makes me wonder how many more unauthorized purchases were made.

Fortunately our current first selectman, Brennie Dennler, was able to cancel the Hoffman contract without penalty. Mr. Dennler said he's amenable to further discussions regarding the new ambulance and refurbishment of another if approved through the proper purchasing process.

**Thank you, Bernie, for your diligence!
Craig Harger – Colchester**

The Border

To the Editor:

"Donald Trump and his allies are pressuring Republicans in Congress, not to come to some sort of compromise on the border and immigration, we actually know they are getting pretty close. ... Mitch McConnell told the Republican caucus that they are in a tough position here because Trump doesn't actually want Biden to quote 'get a win' on this by signing something, even though by signing that bi-partisan legislation would help with the border. There are a lot of Republicans who believe this compromise, Democrats control the Senate, Republicans control the House, we have to compromise, they are close. Donald Trump is telling his allies not to vote for it so he can run on it, in November; that, to me, is dereliction of duty. Biden is ready to sign something if Congress sends it to him. Republicans need to get on board." -- Marie Harf, Fox News

"For too long, we all know the border's been broken. That's why two months ago, I instructed my team to begin negotiations with a bipartisan group of senators to seriously, and finally, address the border crisis. ... What's been negotiated would – if passed into law – be the toughest and fairest set of reforms to secure the border we've ever had in our country. It would give me, as president, a new emergency authority to shut down the border when it becomes overwhelmed. And if given that authority, I would use it the day I sign the bill into law. Further, Congress needs to finally provide the funding I requested in October to secure the border. This includes an additional 1,300 border patrol agents, 375 immigration judges, 1,600 asylum

officers, and over 100 cutting-edge inspection machines to help detect and stop fentanyl at our south west border." – President Joe Biden, statement released Jan. 26, 2024

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Portland is Blessed

To the Editor:

Portland is blessed with an amazing group of men and women that respond quickly to 911 calls in our town. My husband Bill suffered many difficult health issues over the past year. The need for EMTs was numerous and no matter when they were called, they came quickly to administer to Bill's emergency needs and to calm my fears as he was taken by ambulance to Middlesex Hospital. Pat Landry is a neighbor and EMT. She was always first to arrive as she ran up the street to help. I regret I don't know all the names of those familiar faces that came to assist Bill but I greatly appreciate the good work you all do. May God bless you and keep you safe.

**Sincerely,
Marilyn McGrath – Portland**

Pre-Refutation

To the Editor:

Have you ever seen so much pre-refutation as in Ed Kozlowski's recent letter? I told you he's a funny guy. If you want to refute any of his points in last week's letter, please see mine the week before – you know, the one he was responding to? But it's unsporting to joust with the court jester. I will drop the subject and let him have the last word, should he want to embarrass himself again... but only after pointing out one final bit of ridiculousness:

I quote: "In 2019, 16 foot, pressure treated 2x12 boards were \$32. In 2020 they were \$84. Now, \$45." Does Mr. Kozlowski realize that Trump, not Biden, was in office throughout 2020? He's saying that they rose 163% during one year of Trump's term and have fallen 46% since, mostly under Biden. And he counts that as a strike against Biden?

**Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover**

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

Thank You

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Portland High School girls basketball team we would like to say "Thank You" to all the fans that came out to support our team and our "Girls Night Out" event on Jan. 30. A special thank you to the 4th grade travel basketball team who put on a great half time scrimmage which kept the fans entertained!

While we fell short of a "W" by 7 points to conference foe Old Lyme, the girls left it all on the court and when coupled with the fans support, the gym stayed energized until the final buzzer sounded.

A special shout-out to our administrators, the

Sideliners and PHS Cheerleaders. Thank you to The Hartford Wolfpack and Berlin Batting Cages & Putter's Paradise Mini Golf for their generous donations. Heartfelt thanks also goes out to Portland's very own: Patti Kidd for her amazing cookies that she made for the team's bake sale, Norine Brown for donating DQ Gift Cards, and to Diego of Pistachio Print Company at Two Herons Farm for the quickest print job imaginable on our team's shooting shirts!

Thanks to our die-hard fans for your attendance this season. Your encouraging words and positive attitudes were always appreciated. We and the team will continue to work hard to bring our program to the next level. We're already looking forward to the next girls' night out event during our 2024-25 basketball season... Go Highlanders!

**Kelly Coleman
Diane Coleman
PHS Girls Basketball Coaches**

Get Engaged in the Process

To the Editor:

Too busy to attend Town meetings but want to express your thoughts or concerns as we head into our budget process? Traditional mail or email to any BOE, BOF or Town Council member is the next best thing.

If you prefer to write a note and mail, the address is: Town of East Hampton, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, Attention: Town Council.

Or visit our town's website at: www.easthamptonct.gov. From the home page, under the 'Get Involved' section, select 'Contact Your Elected Officials' and follow the steps.

It's your opportunity to let your voice be heard and 'get engaged in the process'!

**Respectfully,
Deborah Cunningham, Member
East Hampton Town Council**

Responsibility

To the Editor:

"That's home. That's us. On it, everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. Every young couple in love. Every mother and father, hopeful child, every saint and sinner in the history of our species, lived there on a mote of dust suspended by a sunbeam. How frequent their misunderstandings how fervent their hatreds. Our imagined self importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely spec in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In all this vastness there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves. Like it or not, for the moment, the earth is where we make our stand. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it under scores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."-Carl Sagan

As we continue keeping watchful eyes on the future of 17 Kinney Rd. and all it represents, including the water found here, we must keep climate change in the back of our minds. Swinging between years of prolonged drought and seemingly endless rain, this watershed protects our neighborhoods from flooding while slowly filtering large amounts of water that keep our wells flush even during serious drought seasons. Developing these Town owned 88 acres jeopardizes both water supplies and our living historical artifacts. What right do we have to deny younger generations the beauty of private well ownership and the wisdom of past generations? 17 Kinney Rd. belongs in Open Space. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Our SF49ers Story

To the Editor:

The San Francisco 49ers making it into the Super Bowl reminds of the time my wife and I were on a business trip to Denver, Colo. We were staying at the Brown Palace Hotel where the San Francisco 49ers were also in town for their game with the Broncos.

At one point we took an elevator to return to our room. A nice young man had already boarded. We nodded and exchanged smiles. The elevator stopped at his floor, and he got out. As the doors closed we both erupted with "That was Joe Montana!"... loud enough to where we're sure he must have heard us.

**Peter Kushkowsky
"Almost Heaven"
Portland**

Dictator

To the Editor:

Dictator is defined as, "an individual who forms a government where they make decisions without effective constitutional limitations. The dictator has absolute power. They are not held accountable for their actions and are free to do as they please, even limiting citizens' freedom and rights."

Hitler, responsible for killing 5.5 million Jews and millions of others deemed Untermenschen (subhumans). Stalin, instituted the "Great Purge," 1,000,000 imprisoned, 700,000 executed, complete personal control over the party and state by 1937. Mengistu Haile Mariam, found guilty in absentia of the genocide of 1,200,000 to over 2,000,000 Ethiopians. Juvénal Habyarimana, required people to chant and dance in adulation of the president. Yahya Khan, enforced martial law by suspending the constitution, delayed the power transition to victorious Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and authorized East Pakistani authorities to violently suppress a rebellion referred to as the Bangladesh genocide resulting in several hundred thousand to about 3,000,000 killed. Getúlio Vargas, went on to appease and dominate his supporters, and pushed his political agenda as he built a propaganda machine around his figure. Leopoldo Galtieri, the 601 Intelligence Battalion reported directly to him, its personnel infiltrated and collected information on guerrilla groups and hu-

See Letters page 6

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Combo #1 – \$45 Large Pepperoni Pizza & 24 Wings	Combo #5 – \$95 2 Large Cheese Pizza, Medium Pepperoni Pizzas, 1 Medium Cheese Pizza & 48 Wings
Combo #2 – \$55 Large Cheese Pizza, Medium Pepperoni Pizza & 24 Wings	Combo #6 – \$105 2 Large Pepperoni Pizzas, 2 Medium Cheese Pizzas, 48 Wings
Combo #3 – \$65 Large Cheese Pizza, Medium Pepperoni Pizza & 36 Wings	Combo #7 – \$115 2 Large Cheese Pizzas, 2 Medium Pepperoni Pizzas, 60 Wings
Combo #4 – \$75 2 Large Cheese Pizzas, 1 Medium Pepperoni Pizza & 36 Wings	

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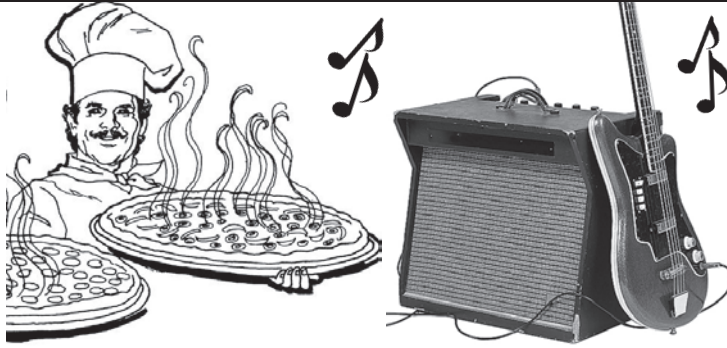
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Homemade lobster and lemon ricotta filled ravioli sautéed with spinach, shallots, roasted garlic and sage in a brandy, butter, wine sauce, finished with rosemary, black truffle sea salt crusted asparagus



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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

man rights organizations; and coordinated killings, kidnappings and other abuses.

Closing the border and drilling, “after that I’m not a dictator.” -- Donald Trump. Two things while researching the word and these individuals: 1. I did not see any that stopped being a dictator after one day; they all stuck around longer than that, some even kept it in the family – North Korea comes to mind. And 2. A lot of what I’m hearing now from him and those around him has been said and done before.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover

A Call for Action

To the Editor:

My travels take me along Connecticut Route 149 in the Westchester section of Colchester every week, and every trip takes me past what stands as one of the most significant pieces of Colchester’s long and colorful history. However, I cringe as I have watched that structure sink more and more into the state of disrepair and neglect. Twice in the past year the stately house has been posted for a foreclosure sale but I have no idea of the results of that action. The house continues to appear vacant as it has been for some time, and now I see it has newly been posted for public auction.

The subject property is the once grandiose and historical Colonel Henry Champion house. Currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972, the house was built around 1790 for and occupied by Col Henry Champion. Col. Champion was appointed as Commissary for the Revolutionary War effort and as such was responsible to procure and deliver provisions for General George Washington’s Continental Army. Having been born in East Haddam in 1723, he settled in Colchester after the war and raised his family in the subject house. It is incredibly sad to see the house and the property it sits on in such a tragic condition.

Isn’t there a way for the Town of Colchester or for those interested in preserving its history to muster up enough support to save this significant piece of Colchester history and return it to its original grandeur before it is too late? Colchester has already lost many historic homes to neglect and natural degradation. This should not be another one.

James B. Seger – Colchester

Take the Survey!

To the Editor:

Attention Andover residents! The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) is starting the process of updating the town’s Plan of Conservation & Development, which is required by each municipality every 10 years.

This is the document town officials use to determine what kinds of development the residents want, what kinds of development projects will be permitted, and guidance on how the town will look in the future.

The P&Z Commission is allowing residents

See Letters page 29

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HOPE & SUPPORT GROUP TriCircle Hope Support Groups provide a confidential, and supportive environment for parents, guardians, and loved one(s) who have someone affected by the disease of addiction. Every Thursday 6-7:30pm rotating in 3 locations. For a virtual option email ana@tricircle.org www.tricircle.org 860-349-7074

For more information on advertising your “Happenings” please call 860-633-4691.

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School Budget Draft Released

By Michael Sinkewicz

Andover Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau released a draft of the district's 2024-25 school budget proposal this week, tentatively calling for a \$4.35 million spending plan — a \$113,262, or 2.67% increase from the current year.

The draft was published before the Board of Education (BOE) held a public budget forum on Wednesday evening; that forum took place after press time. Next week, on Feb. 14, the BOE is expected to formally adopt its spending plan.

In January, the BOE hosted a series of budget seminars that each focused on different facets of the budget proposal. Following the latest meeting on Jan. 31, Bruneau has penciled-in a 2.75% increase, a number that was slightly whittled down entering this week by roughly \$3,000.

In assessing the drafted budget, Bruneau expressed that the proposed increase was both "fair and reasonable."

"I think this is a very responsible number," she said during the seminar, adding that despite overall district enrollment spiking by around 10% over the past four years, the budget requests have remained relatively moderate.

The seminars represented an opportunity for Bruneau and the BOE to discuss the different portions of the budget. She explained that some areas, such as union salaries, were contractually increasing by 3%. Teachers, for instance, will cost \$39,540 more in the upcoming fiscal year. While the contract for non-union staff salaries hasn't been fully negotiated, that line also increased by 3%.

One of the largest increases will come in the benefits line item; the Region 8 health and medical insurance consortium increased health insurance premiums by 16.5%, impacting Hebron, Marlborough and Andover, along with RHAM.

Accordingly, Andover's allotment will rise to \$695,654 — a leap of \$80,000.

One of the focal points during the Jan. 31 seminar was the costs of electricity, heating oil and propane.

"This is always the one area that we hold our breath for," Bruneau explained.

Andover's per-gallon rate for heating oil was actually locked-in at a lower price than the previous fiscal year, she said. However, the district

was currently budgeting an identical cost — \$107,800 — for that expense.

While the rate went down this year, Bruneau said that the budgeted amount remained flat in the new proposal because the last two winters have been relatively mild. If the next winter is more extreme, the district will use more oil than it has been, she added.

"We didn't feel that we needed to add an increase to this," she said.

Steven Fuss, a Republican on the BOE, said there could be a potential savings with that item, instead of it remaining the same.

"The price is going down but we need the same amount we needed last year," he said. "That to me is a little bit of a problem."

The per-gallon rate is 13 cents less than the previous one, and the board was expected to examine whether a savings could be worked into the heating oil budget moving forward during its meeting on Wednesday.

Bruneau warned, though, that if a savings was worked into the spending plan — roughly \$5,000, for example — and the BOE approved

that revision, it would be on the hook for determining where that amount would be made up in the budget in the event that Andover experiences a very cold winter next year and needs more money.

Bruneau also responded to a question submitted by a resident in regard to the state's new kindergarten age cutoff. Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, children will have to turn 5 years old before Sept. 1 to be eligible for kindergarten; the previous cutoff was Jan. 1.

Parents can also make a written request to have their child enrolled, and have an assessment conducted by the district that would determine whether the child is developmentally ready for the next level.

The resident asked if kindergarten enrollment was expected to drop by one-third due to the new regulation. Bruneau indicated that the law would not have a significant impact on the district and that out of 43 pre-kindergarten students, Andover only has three that would potentially be affected.

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. Transportation is available for all events. 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.

Note: 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.

Senior Luncheons: Friday, Feb. 16, noon, at the Town Hall community room; no walk-ins

accepted. The menu will be beef, shrimp and chicken, black beans, rice, dessert and beverages. Speaker will be Scott Yeomans, showing his latest photography.

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.

Transportation Available: Calling Palazzi for rides to the following: Food Pantry, on Mondays at 5 p.m.; shopping on Tuesdays to either Manchester or Willimantic; on Wednesdays to Foodshare or food pantry; to Young at Heart meetings the first and third Wednesdays of the month, and to movies once a month; and to senior lunches Fridays.

A History of Huskies Hoops

All are invited to "A History of Huskies Hoops" with author Marty Gitlin on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6.

This presentation will celebrate the history of the UConn basketball teams. Gitlin will talk about great Huskies players over the years, and will include trivia questions and a Q&A at the end of the program.

RSVP is requested for planning purposes, by calling 860-742-7428.

'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.

Congregational Church News

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

No Service This Sunday: There will be no regular service this Sunday, Feb. 11.

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.

Seniors Collecting for Tag Sale

The Andover Seniors are collecting items to sell at their annual fundraising tag sale to be held on Saturday, April 27. Call Carol Lee at 860-989-6988 to make arrangements for drop-off or pick-up of items.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, Feb. 16 (snow date: Feb. 23), 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.

Andover Senior Trip

The Andover Seniors will go to the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on Tuesday, March 12, from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for a St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

The celebration will feature the McLean Avenue Band and Irish Step Dancers. Family-style corned beef and cabbage and baked cod will be served.

The cost for any Andover senior is \$30; payment must be received by Feb. 19 to reserve your seat. Transportation will be provided from the Town Office Building on School Road.

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.

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Andover Public Library is celebrating Take Your Child to the Library Day Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m., at the library, 355 Route 6. Mr. Magic (also known as attorney Richard Rothstein) will perform.

Though the show is geared more towards kids, all ages are invited to this free program. For more information, call 860-742-7428.

Cemetery Spring Clean-Up

With spring coming, the Townsend Cemetery Committee welcomes everyone to visit their loved ones at the cemetery and tidy up the graves of all decorations by March 1.

Vacancy on Finance Board

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

Town Hall Closed

The Town Office Building will be closed Monday, Feb. 12, for Lincoln's Birthday, and will also be closed Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents' Day.

ENTERTAINMENT

Fornarelli's

**LUNCH – HAPPY HOUR
DINNER & DRINK SPECIALS
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Check Out Our New Lounge Menu Downstairs!

Big Game Party starts at 4:00pm on Sunday, February 11th

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Homemade Seafood Stuffed Mushrooms 11.99

Winter Harvest Salad Roasted sweet potatoes, candied walnuts, dried cranberries, crumbled bacon & red onions, sliced apples, served with baby field greens & topped with crumbled Gorgonzola blue cheese, served with your dressing of choice. 13.99
Add: Grilled Chicken 5, Shrimp 6, Salmon 7 or Steak 8

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Fisherman's Platter Our hand battered and fried Atlantic cod, sea scallops and jumbo shrimp, served with our crispy French fries. 26.99

12 oz. New York Strip Topped with our homemade creamy mushroom gorgonzola sauce, served with garlic mashed potatoes and sauteed string beans. 27.99

Chicken Saltimbocca Tender seasoned pan seared chicken breast layered with prosciutto & fresh mozzarella, sauteed in our homemade buttery wine sauce, served over ziti. 24.99

Surf & Turf A combination of New York Strip & Seafood Stuffed Filet of Sole, served with garlic mashed potatoes and sauteed string beans. 30.99

Honey Dijon Atlantic Cod Atlantic Cod sauteed in our homemade honey dijon sauce, served with sauteed string beans and homemade garlic mashed potatoes. 23.99

Seafood Stuffed Filet of Sole Served with our homemade shrimp and crab buttery Ritz cracker stuffing, sauteed string beans and homemade garlic mashed potatoes. 25.99

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4th Friday @ the Arts Café

Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., will host the internationally known bluesman Ramblin' Dan Stevens and his guitars for the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café on Friday, Feb. 23, at 231 North Main St. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Stevens plays a mix of traditional finger-style blues, americana, and originals. He is a traveler and over his 30-year career has played across the U.S., Germany, U.K., and the U.S. Virgin Islands, collecting vintage and custom

guitars on his way. He has created three-string Cigar Box and one-string Diddly Bow guitars. He is also a finalist in the International Blues Challenge on Beale Street in Memphis, Tenn., and a protégé of folk and blues icon Dave Van Ronk. See www.marlborougharts.org and for even more details and to hear clips of his music.

Admission at the door is \$10. BYOW; light refreshments will be available. The Arts Center is handicapped-accessible, with on-site parking.

Spring Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

Local artist Mary Horrigan will offer adult watercolor classes at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 10 a.m.-noon, starting March 19 and running through April 25.

Tuesdays' lessons are designed for "Basic Beginners." This class starts with the very basics: brush handling, laying a wash, making simple shapes, controlling values, mixing colors. Subject matter will include still life objects and landscape elements. Dates for this class are March 19-April 23.

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

March 21-April 25.

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

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

Horrigan has taught watercolor classes for Manchester Community College, Middletown Adult Education, the Glastonbury Art Guild, the Guilford Art Center and for the Marlborough Arts Center. Her paintings have been exhibited in Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and have won several awards.

For more information, contact Horrigan at mehorrigan@comcast.net or leave a voicemail message at the Arts Center at 860-467-6353.

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: Acrylic Landscape Painting: Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., Feb. 14-March 6, at Marlborough Elementary School, for grades 1 & 2. Fee: \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

Parents Night Out: Friday, Feb. 16, 6-9 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Drop off your kids in grades K-6 and enjoy an evening out. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Cost: \$20/resident, \$25/non-resident.

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: Beginner & Intermediate Tai Chi: Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Registration fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Zumba: Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee is \$50/resi-

dent, \$55/non-resident. Drop-in fee is \$10.

Outsmarting the Bad Guys: Cyber and Phone Security for Seniors: Tuesdays, Feb. 13, 3-4 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Learn how to avoid being a victim. Fee: \$25/residents, \$30/non-residents.

Drop-In Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$5 per week. Session runs until June.

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

Trips: Boston Bruins vs. New York Islanders: Saturday, March 2, 7:30 p.m., at UBS arena. Trip includes charter bus, cookout before the game, and tickets to the game. Registration fee is \$195. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 1:30 p.m.

Boston Saint Patrick's Day Parade: Sunday, March 17. Trip Includes charter bus, food before the parade, food after the parade, and games and prizes on the bus. Registration fee is \$85. Bus leave from Putnam park and ride at 7:30 a.m.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Cost of the sign is \$50. Vertical sign is double sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

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 its 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 com-

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 for more information or to receive a screening questionnaire.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Week-day 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, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Lions Eyeglass and Hearing Aid Collection

The Marlborough Lions collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids, which are then provided to people in impoverished countries all around the world.

The Marlborough Lions drop boxes are located at Richmond Memorial Library, Town Hall, Liberty Bank, the Marlborough Senior Center and at the office of Dr. Steven Rafalowsky on Saner Road.

The Lions collect the eyeglasses and hearing

aids all year long, and on March 3, Lions clubs from all over Connecticut will be meeting to turn in the collected items. Eyeglass cases are also appreciated.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about the Marlborough Lions, call Lions Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

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 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.

President's List

Alexander Demosthenous of Marlborough made the fall 2023 President's List at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass.

Demosthenous is a sophomore majoring in Finance. He lives in Marlborough, CT.

Honor Roll

The following Marlborough residents made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2023-24 school year:

Honors with Distinction: Christopher Richard and Luke Veltri, Class of 2024; Grace Veltri, Class of 2025; Kamden Bevans and Lucy DeCorleto, Class of 2026.

First Honors: Kalli Bevans, Class of 2027.

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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.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Avery Rizza and Kayla St. Jean made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

Forum on Housing Affordability

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m., the Marlborough Planning Commission and the Marlborough Sustainable CT Team will host a community public forum to discuss housing affordability and what can Marlborough do to further it.

The evening will feature a presentation and

discussion with Erin Boggs, Esq. of Open Communities Alliance on Housing Affordability and Fair Housing. Boggs has extensive expertise both in Connecticut and nationally in housing affordability and equity issues.

The forum will be held at the Marlborough Senior Center. All are welcome.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Sunday, Feb. 11: Both the Bell and Chancel choirs will be featured at the service. The service will be led by church member Beth Alves. Her sermon title is "Be a Fan of Change."

Ash Wednesday: The service will be held in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. on Feb. 14 and will include Holy Communion and the receiving of ashes.

Outreach: Donations will be received Feb. 11 for the Church World Services blanket appeal. CWS provides blankets to people in need, in the United States and throughout the world, who

are affected by natural disasters. 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 with vouchers 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, located on the lower level, is open for spring shopping and donating on Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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

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. The center also serves as a warming center.

Transportation: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; call 36 hours in advance of your appointment to guarantee a ride.

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

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

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.

Monday, Feb. 12: Not Just Quilting, 9 a.m.-noon; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon. Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice,

Swedish meatballs with gravy, garlic smashed potatoes, vegetable medley, dinner roll/whole grain fruit bar; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; cards, 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 13: Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 14: Not Just Quilting, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon and 2:30-4 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: 100% fruit juice punch, baked ziti with ricotta cheese and marinara sauce, winter mixed vegetables, garlic knot, ice cream cup; Setback, 3-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies tap dancing, 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15: AARP Tax Aide, 9 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1 p.m.; PD Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 16: Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.-8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, battered fish/tartar sauce, potato wedges/ketchup, 100% whole wheat bread, lemon pudding/topping.

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



Jackie Russell is hugged by teammates after the senior scored her 1,000th career point last Thursday at East Hampton High School.

★ **Belltown Hoops Star** cont. from page 1

Russell drained consecutive 3-point shots and then sank a pair of foul shots with 1:20 to play in regulation to surpass the scoring mark, finishing the night with 1,001 career points.

Needing 17 points prior to tip-off, Russell said the scoring mark was in the back of her mind, calling it "a bit of a battle."

"It pushes you a little extra and that can sometimes work in the opposite direction because you can start overthinking things," added Russell, who added 11 rebounds. "Overall, I just tried to play a team game and I never lost that."

Salamone, who surpassed the career 1,000-point mark a season ago, praised her now-1,000-point teammate, saying, "It's amazing to see her get it here."

"We've gone through so much together and I know all the stress leading up to it," added Salamone, a two-time all-state selection. "I'm really proud of her because it takes a lot of effort and work in practice, and she put in a lot of work and really wanted this."

Olivia DeMartino scored seven points and Delaney Russell added six, knocking down a pair of 3-pointers on what turned out to be a night to remember for the entire Bellringers' basketball program.

On Tuesday, East Hampton made it 17 for 17 this season with a home win over Morgan (56-39).

Tuesday's win extends the team's winning

streak to 38 games, dating back to last season when the Bellringers won a fourth straight Shoreline Conference Championship and a Class M championship, the program's first state title since 1980.

The undefeated team aims to extend the streak today (Friday, Feb. 9) when they welcome Cromwell to EHHS for a game at 7 p.m.

With only three regular season games left before the SLC tourney and a few weeks away from the state tourney, the players have remained focused on "the next game."

"We always try to keep ourselves grounded," noted Jackie Russell. "We have to go out there and play every game like it's zero-zero."

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At St. Maarten's... Larry Jacques of Columbia holds up the *Rivereast News Bulletin* on a recent cruise trip to the Dutch and French island St. Maarten's.



The Paper in Portugal... Valerie McGriff of Colchester recently traveled to Lisbon, Portugal – and of course brought along her *Rivereast*!



Cruising Through History... East Hampton residents George Loos, Nadine Hann and Dan Loos are shown at Baltimore Harbor about to take a cruise aboard the Liberty ship S.S. John W. Brown. For information about the cruise see www.ssjohnwbrown.org.



A Grand Sight... Emily Saunders of Hebron and Talia Porch of East Hampton brought along the *Rivereast* on their recent trip to the Grand Canyon!

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Boards and Commissions Need Volunteers

By London Brazal

Town Council members analyzed the various boards and commission memberships, uncovering numerous vacant positions needing to be filled. There are about 22 boards and commissions that the Town Council has to appoint to. The topics for the boards range from capital improvements and economic development to overseeing the library and historic districts.

"It's a lot of boards and commissions that require volunteers. It's a big responsibility and certainly a big opportunity for residents to volunteer and get involved," said Councilman Rich Knotek. "What we're facing right now is a number of vacancies in there."

There are 25 positions whose terms expired Dec. 31, 2023. They have a 90-day period where they can continue to serve on the board but they have to submit a reappointment application. And, according to Knotek, none of the current applications address those specific vacancies. Besides that, there are about 24 full-member vacancies and 12 alternate spots available.

"I think it's fair to say that we have our work cut out for us in this area. And in fact, it is a rather serious issue that we need to address and I think we can," continued Knotek. "But we really have to put some time and effort into doing so."

The Appointments Sub Committee has three Town Council members, Rich Knotek, Karen

Wanat and Brandon Goff. At their most recent meeting on Jan. 22, they looked at appointment procedures, the application for appointments, the status of boards and commissions and future marketing efforts.

Overall, Knotek, Wanat and Goff said they believe that the application form is standard. It is about three pages and one page is dedicated to asking background information questions such as, "Why do you wish to serve on the indicated Board, Commission or Committee?" or "What skills and abilities would you bring to local government?" One question that they would like to add is "Have you attended any meetings of the commission or board you want to join?" This helps put the idea in candidates' minds and allows them to be sure if they want to serve.

"We want to set the expectation that they should know what they're getting into," added Wanat.

To be appointed, one must complete a form and return it to the town manager's office. They must be a registered voter and bona fide resident. The applicant cannot have been found in violation of any state, municipal or professional code of ethics or conduct nor convicted of a Class A misdemeanor, a felony, pled guilty or *nolo contendere* to a felony, or accepted a deferred judgment or deferred prosecution to a

felony charge.

On the application form, there is a statement from Town Council members in which they state they believe that volunteer involvement on boards, commissions and agencies is important to the vitality and success of local government.

"All citizens should consider at some time in their lives, contributing to their community with their service and talent," the councilors' statement said. "It takes more than living in a community to be part of it. Your town needs volunteers to carry out local decision-making and to promote a quality of life that is important to our town's future."

Another discussion surrounded the establishment of a standing meeting for the sub-committee one hour before the Town Council meeting at the beginning of the month. The primary purpose would be to talk to new applicants and get to know them better. At the second council meeting of the month, the council would have more knowledge of who they are and go about appointing the applicant.

In the near future, the sub-committee also wants to create a master list of the boards and commissions with descriptions of general responsibilities. These lists would then be available in Town Hall or the library for residents to pick up along with an application.

"In my humble opinion, filling boards and commissions with volunteers is perhaps a little more important than breaking down a mill rate for everybody every year," said Knotek when suggesting mailing information to residents.

Some vacancies include those on the Arts & Cultural Commission, Brownfields Redevelopment Agency, Clean Energy Task Force, Inland/Wetlands Watercourse Agency and many others. More information can be found about each board and commission on the town's website, easthamptonct.gov. Applications to become a member are available under the Appointments Sub Committee.

Any questions can be emailed to town council@easthamptonct.gov.

Epoch Receives \$5K Grant for New Windows

Epoch Arts recently received a \$5,000 grant from United Illuminating/Southern Connecticut Gas/Connecticut Natural Gas under the Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credit program. The funding will help replace windows with insulated, energy-efficient ones.

"Epoch Arts is so grateful for this support. The replacing of windows to more energy-efficient ones is vital to help reduce our energy costs," said artistic director Elizabeth Namen.

Connecticut Natural Gas, Southern Connecticut Gas, and United Illuminating distributed a total of \$450,000 in grants to 74 organizations, including Epoch. The grants, made possible by Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program, are aimed at help-

ing nonprofit community and neighborhood organizations across the state improve energy efficiency and reduce their energy costs.

Epoch Arts has been serving its community through the arts since 1998. Serving over 1,000 students annually and over 4,000 people in our community, they offer art programs that make a difference: including classes in ceramics, theater, music, and art. Epoch hosts community events such as the annual Tag Sale, Haunted House, Artopia Arts Festival, Teen Brookside Nights, Poetry Nights, Open Mic and Paint nights and a special program called Speak Out Productions where original theater is offered to teens.

Epoch Arts is located at 27 Skinner St. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093. Mailing address: P.O. Box 123, Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

February Art Exhibit: The exhibit features the paintings of local artists Tom McLean, Mary Killilea and Bill McDonald. All are invited to stop by and see their work.

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

Book & DVD Giveaway: All are invited to stop by and fill a bag for free throughout February.

Mahjong: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Experi-

enced 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.

Pilates: Thursdays at 6 p.m. Sign up for six classes and pay \$10 per class plus get one free. To register, call 203-592-4448 or email abstitt@sbcglobal.net.

CommuniTea: Saturday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. All are invited for tea, coffee and conversation.

Jamming Session: Friday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m., with Kevin Johnson, Dave Porteus and Katie Morneault.

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, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27, from 3-6 p.m.

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

To register or request more information, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com or call 860-267-9093.

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 through Feb. 29.

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 pick-up location at HydroCat Microgreens, 47 Tartia Rd.

To place a pre-order, visit 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.

Dean's List

Cassandra Zimmerman of Middle Haddam made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

A member of the Class of 2025, Zimmerman is majoring in civil engineering and mechanical engineering.

Ross S. Reese of Cobalt made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island. Reese is a junior studying animal science.

Brennan Johnson of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Johnson is majoring in general business.

Latin Night Fundraiser

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library will host a Latin Night at Rule of 3 Brewing, 201 West High St., 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 easthampton-publiclibrary.org/events, or email friendsofephpl@gmail.com.

Dean's List


Alex DiStefano of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Central Connecticut State University.

DiStefano is a student in the School of Engineering, Science & Technology.

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.





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Brownfield Assessments Approved for Village Center

By London Brazal

VHB, a civil engineering company out of Waretown, Mass., was selected for environmental evaluation services for the Brownfield properties near the Village Center.

The contract allows the company to work with the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency and town staff to develop a scope of services and a cost proposal for the first phase of the work for the four properties: 13 Summit St., 1 Watrous St., 13 Watrous St. and 3 Walnut Ave.

The town has received the state Department of Economic Community Development (DECD) grant and a grant from the EPA amounting to \$700,000. The funds are meant to cover three phases of environmental assessments, hazardous building material assessments, remediation planning, and reuse planning for each of the four properties.

At the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency's last meeting on Jan. 22, Amy Vaillancart and Pam Lind of VHB attended the meeting to discuss and answer any questions. The scope of work and the project costs were reviewed by members of the agency and they determined the numbers looked good. In the discussion, members were focused on the environmental site assessments for 13 Summit St. and 13 Watrous St.

In terms of funding, the agency plans to keep the tasks for the DECD grant separate from the tasks for the EPA grant to differentiate the work being done. For transparency and organization, the agency plans to keep invoice numbers separate for each grant for billing and invoicing. This will help prevent "double-dipping" and allow the agency to keep track of how much money is coming out of each grant rather than a pool of funds.

The EPA grant, good for four years, is more flexible with funding than the DECD grant which is good for three years. Since the EPA grant is a community grant, it covers all four chosen sites but the DECD grant only covers two of the brownfields properties. As for a timeline, VHB recommends getting tasks completed within three years to help accelerate the other phases of remediation.

One aspect of the grants is community outreach. The agency will create a community engagement plan that allows community members to get involved with the different stages of assessments and remediation. There would be an opportunity for in-person events where people can learn more about the projects such as an on-site tour of the properties. Members discussed the possibility of creating a subcommittee consisting of a couple of agency members and interested residents from the community.

On Jan. 22, the Brownfield Redevelopment Agency approved the recommendation to contract VHB to begin the Brownfield assessments in the Village Center. Before the start of the projects, the members will also need to get approval from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

At the Town Council meeting on Jan. 23, the Town Council unanimously approved the two scopes of work and estimated costs with VHB of \$28,730. Since the budgets are separate for both grants, to begin assessments, \$22,230 of the EPA grant would be used and \$6,500 of the DECD grant.

The assessments in the first phase are important but a lengthy process. In this phase, proper evaluations are necessary to help move forward and dictate the scope of services for phases 2 and 3. Ultimately, the hope is to entice a partner or several partners to have an interest in those buildings and participate with the Agency in the next step which is the remediation of the environment.

romment.

Councilman Jack Solomon mentioned a state law that Brownfield properties are eligible for installing solar arrays. He suggested the Agency consider it as a large-scale solar array, either roof-mounted or on the ground, would be a great advantage for the town. The members of the Brownfields Development Agency are interested in collaborating with the Clean Energy Task Force on future Brownfields projects. In the future, they want to dedicate more time to think and plan for following through on this.

The Brownfields Redevelopment Agency has been working to enhance the work of East Hampton's Economic Development Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission and other land use boards. Its goal is to offer residents and business owners a complete vision for redevelopment in the Village Center and remediate the contaminated sites.

The next Brownfield Redevelopment Agency meeting is on Monday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall.

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 during and following the industrial revolution. He will acknowledge those in government who established the present-day regulatory apparatus that has helped clean up the water in the river. He will also summarize the works currently underway for the long-term benefit of the environmental and ecological features of the river.

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

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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.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Feb. 13, 6 p.m. All are invited to come for pancakes, sausage, bacon and real maple syrup, to mark the

end of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent. Requested donation is \$5 per family.

Save the Date: The annual meeting will be held directly after the service on Sunday, Feb. 18. This is also the date to sign up for the Easter Bake Sale.

Cobalt Lodge Service: All are invited to join the brief service at Cobalt Lodge on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m., after the annual meeting.

Lenten Series: End of Life Planning as Spiritual Practice: This five-part series will be hosted on Zoom each Saturday during Lent from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Christ Church Middle Haddam and St. Stephen's East Haddam will combine for this activity. Those interested should contact Rogers at revdianamrogers@gmail.com to register.

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

Info Meeting on SCEF

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, beginning at 11 a.m., the Senior Center and the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force are conducting a meeting to explain the money saving features of the Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF) program for electric rate payers.

SCEF is a state-sponsored solar energy program, administered by the electric utilities, to reduce fossil fuel dependence.

This meeting is to explain the benefits and the application process, and answer questions. Representatives from Eversource will be in attendance by Zoom to help interested individuals. The meeting is in person at the senior center at 105 Main St. For more information and to register, call 860-267-4426. The Zoom link is at tinyurl.com/2atxepxy.

Police News

1/22: Heather Gdovin, 53, of 40 Daniel St., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without insurance and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and suspended registration, East Hampton Police said.

1/30: Joshua Lobl, 36, of Milford, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle while

under suspension, police said.

2/3: Zachary Russenberger, 28, of 2 Wordsworth Rd., was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and second-degree threatening, police said.

From Jan. 29-Feb. 4, officers responded to 17 medical calls and three alarms, and made 25 traffic stops, police said.

Local Schools Offer Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public Schools system is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents interested in preschool programs for the 2024-25 school year. There will be two preschool programs offered – the Integrated preschool half-day program and full-day Smart Start program.

Memorial Elementary School's preschool Integration Program will be held three times a week for 3-year-old students and four times a week for 4-year-old students. Due to limited spaces, selection for peer models will be determined through a lottery process. If selected, peer models demonstrating age-appropriate skills will be assigned by age to either a three-day-a-week or four-day-a-week schedule (2.5 hours per day). Children must be toilet-trained and turn 3 prior to Sept. 1 to be eligible for the 3-year-old program and turn 4 by Sept. 1 for the 4-year-old program.

Memorial Elementary School's Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.), following the East Hamp-

ton Public Schools calendar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have other factors for consideration. Other applicants, regardless of economic or risk factors will then be selected. Children must turn 4 prior to Sept. 1 to be eligible for Smart Start.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School or East Hampton Public Library. Packets will be available starting today, Feb. 9, at both locations. The completed Parent Interview Form, Immunization Form and a Proof of Residency must be returned to Jodi Blyler at Memorial School office no later than March 15. Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted, no later than March 22, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after the March 15 date will not be accepted.

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.

DIY Days: Grades K-8 – Create Your Own Puzzle!: Saturday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families are invited to create a different toy, game or treat together. These activities are available while supplies last. No registration required.

Teen Programs: Teen Movie Matinee: Friday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m., for ages 13 and up. The 2004

movie *Mean Girls* will be shown. Popcorn will be served.

Bored? Games!: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1-3 p.m., for grades 4-12. Spend your day off from school with friends, enjoying a variety of board games. There will be snacks and prizes.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m., for grades 6-12. Have a say in programming, collection development, and more. New members welcome.

Adult Programs: 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.

Tech Help with Sam & Nicole: Thursday, Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m. Have your technology questions answered. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

Book Club: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m. *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman will be discussed. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

Belltown Book Brunch: Friday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m. Drop in for coffee or tea, a breakfast treat, and bookish banter. Get a sneak peek at new releases, find out what's popular, and chat about what everyone is reading.

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Taste of Teas and Compatible Herbs

The East Hampton Garden Club will meet Monday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m., at the Wildcraft Herb Shop in the Village Center. Attendees will taste a variety of teas, accompanied by a discussion of compatible herbs that can be blended with basic teas or blended to create unique herbal teas.

Members of the public and prospective members are welcome to attend. The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT and National Garden Clubs.

Call JoAnn at 860-267-4129 with any questions prior to the meeting.

Joint Worship for Congregational Churches

Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam and Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold joint worship services during February at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at Haddam Neck Congregational Church., 408 Quarry Hill Rd.

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.

All are welcome. Visit www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org for more information.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

AARP Free Tax Aid Program: Appointments are held 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.

Blood Pressure Screenings: Monday, Feb. 12, 12:30 p.m., at the senior center.

Aging Gracefully at Home: Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. This is a free discussion with a Veterans Affairs specialist on aid and attendance. Register at the senior center.

Dean's List

Emily Balda of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Morgan Garcia, Heilaina Maynard, Kaden Powers and RJ Stanford made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.



The annual Jim Morris Memorial Scholarships were presented in November to six area residents. From left are Kaitlin Tassmer, Ailie Daley, Dylan Levesque, Lauren Klemanski and Annin Daley. Not pictured: Jenna Ledas.

Jim Morris Scholarships Presented

On Nov. 25, 2023, the East Hampton Ambulance Association presented its annual Jim Morris Memorial Scholarships to six area residents who are enrolled in college-level allied health programs.

The students are: Kaitlin Tassmer, a student at Southern Connecticut State University; Ailie Daley (Sacred Heart University), Dylan Levesque (University of St. Joseph), Lauren Klemanski (Southern Connecticut State University), Annin Daley (Vermont State at Castleton) and Jenna Ledas (Endicott).

These students also engage in volunteerism

– two things that were very important to Jim Morris, a past president of the East Hampton Ambulance Association's board of directors. The scholarships were awarded by Morris' widow, Kate Morris, and their daughter, Beth Byers.

Since 2015, approximately \$41,000 has been awarded to 45 students who have gone into careers as doctors, nurses, paramedics, EMTs, physician assistants, physical therapists and even a state trooper (first responder).

For information about how you can contribute to the scholarship fund, visit ehems.org or www.gofundme.com/f/4y6js-scholarship-fund.

Kindergarten Registration

Memorial Elementary School in East Hampton is accepting applications for all children eligible to enter kindergarten in September.

Per new legislation, any child who is five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2024, is eligible to register for Memorial's kindergarten program. If your child will not be 5 by this date but will be 5 by Jan. 1, 2025, and you would like them to attend kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year, you must submit a request for early entry.

Registration packets will be available beginning Wednesday, Feb. 14, in the Memorial School lobby, at East Hampton Public Library, and at www.easthamptonps.org. Completed registration forms are due to the Memorial School office by Thursday, March 28, along with a full-size copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of residency in East Hampton.

In addition, a current health assessment form must be on file with the school nurse's office by Friday, Aug. 9. Students may not begin kindergarten until vaccination records have been submitted.

Once all completed registration paperwork is returned to Memorial, you will be contacted

to schedule a screening appointment for your child.

Screening appointments will be held Monday, May 13; Wednesday, May 15; and Friday, May 17. Appointments will be scheduled for half-hour time blocks between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you have requested early entry to kindergarten for your 4-year-old, you will be also scheduled for an additional assessment on Monday, May 20, or Friday, May 24.

Contact the Memorial School office at 860-365-4020 if you have questions regarding the registration process.

Spring Athletics 2024

Students who are interested in trying out for either the baseball or softball teams can register online through FamilyID.com. Athletes must have a physical conducted within the last 13 months before trying out.

Deadline for online registrations is: Monday, March 4. For additional information, contact AD Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.



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Greetings, Lieutenant!... Rachel Gerzabek of East Hampton, a 2019 graduate of Mercy High School, 2023 graduate of University of Scranton (ROTC cadet), and commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, completed her 18 weeks of MP BOLC (basic officer leader training) on Dec. 7. Gerzabek finished 12th in her graduating class. She is an active duty military police officer stationed at Fort Riley, Kan.

Denim, Diamonds and Drafts

All are invited to an evening of dancing, dinner and drinks to support the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue Friday, March 15, from 6:30-10:30 p.m., at Saint Clements Castle (1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland).

There will be music, food, dancing, raffles, live auctions, and silent auctions. Proceeds benefit the CDHR horses.

Tickets are limited and are \$85 per person. For tickets, go to tinyurl.com/mrhjw6d. Tickets must be purchased by March 6th if

they don't sell out first. The event is snow or shine. Contact the organizer to request a refund.

The CDHR is a non-profit organization (located in East Hampton, CT) dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter. For more information visit www.ctdraftrescue.org, www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or send an email to ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

Fish Frydays Are Back

The Knights of Columbus, St John Paul II Council 6190 is again offering its multi-decade tradition of serving a variety of fish dinners on Fridays during Lent. The first dinner will be Feb. 16.

This year's offerings include breaded cod, clams and shrimp, which will be served with French fries and coleslaw. Chowder will also be available. Coffee, tea, water and soda are also offered. Prices of the fish may vary from week to week.

Entertainment on Feb. 16 will be John Moore.

Meals are served from 4:30-7:15 p.m. in the St. Patrick Church Parish Center, 47 West High St. Take-out service also will be available; advance orders must be received by noon on Fridays, by calling 860-267-6644. Please do not leave orders on the answering machine.



John Moore

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

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 diannemhutchison@icloud.com, Lisa Malloy at elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com or Melissa Pionzio at mapionzio@comcast.net or 860-993-5311.

EHACC Taking Grant Applications

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts.

One of two \$500 grants are available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. The commission reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality of the organization and/

or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success. The organization's or project's accessibility and service to the East Hampton community. Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

Evaluation: An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. An update of your progress will be required six months post-award date and a final report will be required one year post award date.

Deadline to apply is April 1, by emailing arts@easthamptonct.org. Applications can also be dropped off at Town Hall, in the town manager's office.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

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

and crocheters are welcome.

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

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

Info Session on Clean Energy Program

There will be an information session on the Shared Clean Energy Facility Program (SCEF) on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m., at the East Hampton Senior Center.

Hosted by Eversource via Zoom, the program provides eligible electric customers with an opportunity to receive benefits from clean energy sources in Connecticut.

Register in advance at the senior center, by calling 860-267-4426.

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 for more information.

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 Saturday, April 20, 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.

Winter Harvest Farmers Market

There will be a Winter Harvest Farmers Market every Wednesday through March 27, from 5-8 p.m. each week, at Rule of 3 Brewing, 201 West High St.

There will be fresh local produce, dairy, eggs, and baked goods, all from a consistent lineup of local farmers and artisans. Check out the market's Facebook and Instagram pages (@WinterHarvestMarket) for more information.

Spring Soccer Registration

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

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

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

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

Dean's List

Meaghan Hall of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

Caidyn Galovich of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Delaware.



Ardo Stops By... Cub Scout Pack 57 recently had the opportunity to meet and say "thank you" to East Hampton Police K9 Ardo for his service prior to his retirement. Scouts met with Officer John Wilson and had the opportunity to ask questions to learn all about Ardo. After the visit, scouts were given a tour of the Police Department by Officer David Gionfriddo.

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'Chill for Change' is Saturday

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

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

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

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

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.

On Fridays, the church is open for prayer and meditation, and for Anglican Prayer beading,

from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. All are welcome; no prior beading experience is required.

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

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

St. Mary Church News

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

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

Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8

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

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

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

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

Lions Club Plans & Activities

The Portland Lions Club meets the second Wednesday of each month. This month's meeting will be Feb. 14 at 7 p.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, located at 7 Waverly Ave.

The Portland Lions Club will soon announce the details of its annual High School Scholarship as well as its first "Lions Roar" Cycling Event scheduled for Saturday, May 18.

All are invited to stop by at the meetings to see and hear more about the Portland Lions Club.

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Exchange Club Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold its final Bingo Night on Thursday, Feb. 8, at Concentric Brewing, located at 91 Main St. Card sales start at 6 p.m., and games start at 7.

Admission is \$20 for four cards to be used for all 10 games, with prizes for the winner of each game. Proceeds from the night will go towards the continuing work the Portland Exchange Club does in Portland. Cash, credit, and debit cards are accepted. Last month the Exchange Club donated \$300 to the Portland Fuel Bank.

For additional information, go to www.portlandexchange.org.

Free Tax Prep at Senior Center

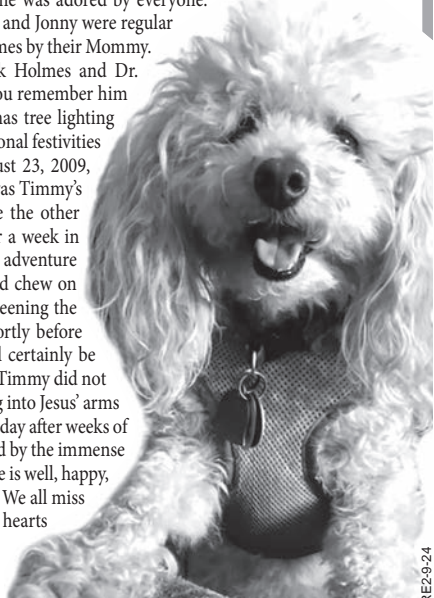
AARP will be offering free tax return preparation at the Portland Senior Center every Wednesday through April 10, from 9 a.m.-noon each week.

Anyone interested must sign up at the Waverly Center in advance by calling 860-342-6760.

For My Beloved Timothy Paul

...It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I bring the news of the passing of our beloved puppy, Timothy Paul, who gently passed away, surrounded by his loved ones, into Jesus' arms on the evening of Friday, February 2, 2024. Timmy was an exuberant 14 1/2 year old apricot Miniature Poodle that adored his Mommy whose side he never left. He only displayed unconditional love and was always open to treats. Timmy's sparkling brown eyes, beautiful brown nose, long silky ears, soft fluffy cheeks, warm round belly, curly behind and always wagging shaggy tail were a constant display of his commitment to show welcome, love and obedience, and more love. He did like to bark at motorcycles and those electric shopping carts, a passion he shared with his brother. Timmy may have been small in stature but he was enormous in action, faithfulness and compassion. Timothy Paul leaves behind his Mommy, Sharon Paddock, Daddy, Joseph Dinegar, and twin brother, Jonathan James, and numerous extended family members and friends of all types. Perhaps you remember seeing him taking a walk or stroller ride on Main Street with his loving Mommy, Sharon, and constant companion, his brother Johnathan James. Perhaps you remember him as one of the principal features of Musterdogs, the food trailer, greeting guests and playing in the grass with his brother. Timmy loved playing with wild creatures in the woods, digging holes in the dirt, attending choir rehearsals, adventures to faraway places and meeting new friends everywhere he'd go. He loved kayaking, swimming, riding on the tractor with his Mommy and shopping, especially at The Home Depot where he was adored by everyone. Timmy had a full life in what seems to be much too short a time. Timmy and Jonny were regular Halloween costume contest winners at Agway featuring handmade costumes by their Mommy. They had been firefighters, coal miners, choir boys, doctors, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and even astronauts in full space suits to name a few. Perhaps you remember him riding in his Daddy's 1962 American LaFrance firetruck in the Christmas tree lighting and other parades. They never missed an opportunity to dress up for seasonal festivities and their favorite times were unwrapping gifts on their birthday, August 23, 2009, and Christmas morning before playing in the snow. Puppy snow angels was Timmy's specialty. Having two puppies is better than one but losing one before the other is a sorrow I cannot express. Timmy and Jonny were only separated for a week in their entire life. They did everything together and every day was a playful adventure shared. When young, Timmy had to have Jonny next to him so he could chew on his ear to go to sleep. Throughout their time together one was always preening the other and bedtime always meant soggy faces and sharing blankies. Shortly before leaving to go with Jesus to that celestial place where all loved ones will certainly be reunited eternally Timmy and Jonny had their last loving face slathering. Timmy did not suffer and showed his signature unconditional love until his gentle passing into Jesus' arms where he will wait until he is reunited with us all. Today's bright sun shiny day after weeks of bleak weather I can only say was the light from God's face on us all enabled by the immense love in Timmy's tiny heart bursting through the clouds telling us all that he is well, happy, romping through tall grass and waiting for those who miss him so much. We all miss you Timothy Paul and love you so much. We know you are with us in our hearts and the pain we feel measures the depth of the love we share with you.

Good night and God's peace my sweet baby boy until we see you again.



The Excuses – featuring Tony Rome on vocals and Ed Misenti on guitar – will perform a free show to benefit Portland Food Bank on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m., at Concentric Brewing.

Concert Coming

The Excuses will kick off their 2024 World Happiness tour in Tony 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.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., holds Sunday worship at 10 a.m. each week. Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are invited; coffee hour follows the service.

This Sunday, Feb. 11, the service will be led by Intentional Interim Minister the Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy with his sermon titled "The

501 Mountain."

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

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Budget Faces Challenges with Unknowns

By London Brazal

Only two weeks after the initial budget was passed among the Board of Education, changes in certain items led to discussion. With more mandates from the state with less funding and budgeting for unknowns, costs are more expensive leading to a higher increase in budget.

One increase in the budget was for health insurance, originally at a 12.7% increase. However, after reconsidering that number, they came back with a 9.9% increase. Last year, the same thing happened, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton added a placeholder and the rate came back lower. The difference between the two projections is \$75,782 which left the board with two options: take it out and reduce the budget or keep it there as a placeholder to make up for other cuts that were made.

Britton's recommendation was to leave it as a placeholder. "There's no lack of places where we could place that \$76,000," said Britton. In the drafted budget for the next school year, the board already had to reduce certified and non-certified positions, a decision that was not made easily. The budget, due by Jan. 31, was at a 5.08%

increase.

Board member Meg Scata explained that the budget is fluid and nothing is set in stone. "We don't know anything between now and the end of June. I think it's too fluid at this point," said Scata. "I don't want to promise that we're going to replace things that we've taken out when we have sweated, blood, sweat and tears to come to a 5.08 budget."

Though board members said they would like to restore positions, there is no guarantee without raising the budget more. "We hit our deadline, which was Jan 31, we submitted a budget with the best knowledge that we had," said board chairperson Laurel Steinhauer. "There are still multiple more steps in this process. It doesn't necessarily make sense to me to reopen our budget every time we get a new piece of information."

A large concern for the board is the special education budget. Britton described it as "incredibly complicated" because they have to budget for what they think will happen. According to Director of Student Services Dawn Davis,

there are currently 24 students that have been outplaced but they only budgeted for 17 in this current budget. "It's the highest number we've seen in many years," said Davis.

When the board voted on a budget two weeks ago, the number of outplacement students that they based it on changed. "We have additional students now that are driving our deficit this year and those students aren't factored into this year's budget," said Britton. With constantly moving parts and needs shifting, the budget seems to be more complicated than in years past. Britton also said they were fortunate to have surpluses in previous years but as mandates are increasing with lower funding and reimbursement rates, it is not the case now.

Stephanie Fragola, assistant to the superintendent for business and financial affairs, explained that the threshold for spending has increased. "We're spending more per student. Our net cost went up to \$20,000 [per student] this year. When I first started it was only \$17,000."

Right now, the current school budget is likely to have a deficit. Britton said that numbers are always changing, especially regarding the special education budget. With seven unbudgeted

outplacements, it puts the district in a position of a \$350,000 deficit.

"I hope there is no deficit in June, but I think there will be. Though, I don't think that number is going to be \$350,000." Through grant funding, the administrators are working to help offset the deficit.

In other news, seven teachers were able to receive donations from the state. On Feb. 1, the Connecticut State Department of Education announced the launch of the Connecticut Educator Support Funds Initiative: Helping Our Teachers with Classroom Expenses. The program allocated \$4 million in ARP ESSER funds to help prekindergarten through grade 12 public school educators get classroom resources through DonorsChoose. In 72 hours, the funds were used. Many of the supplies purchased were items that have been needed for a while, but the district has had a freeze in spending for several years.

All Board of Education meetings are recorded and links are available at portlandctschools.org. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m., at the Portland High School media center, 93 High St., or via Zoom.

Black History Month Panel

Portland's Committee on Solidarity, the Portland Historical Society, and Portland Library will present "Gallery of Portland: A Black History Month Panel" on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m., at the Brownstone Intermediate School auditorium.

The panel discussion will commemorate and honor Black community members who helped to shape Portland's history. Registration is not

required, but encouraged at portlandlibraryct.org on the events calendar.

The Committee on Solidarity meets on the second Tuesday of every month. There are openings on the committee, and meetings are open to the public. Meeting minutes and agendas can be found at Portlandct.org. If you are interested or have questions, contact PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com.

Coaches vs. Cancer

The Portland Travel Basketball Club (PTBC) will hold its 2024 Coaches vs. Cancer fundraising event on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17 and 18, from noon-5 p.m. both days, to coincide with the club's home games that weekend.

The club will divert 100% of the collected donations to the Jahnke family, whose teenage son, a PTBC alum, continues his battle with leukemia. A collection table will be set up at the en-

trance to the Portland Middle School basketball court on both days.

Donations are also currently being accepted through Venmo: @John-Thompson-788. Additional methods to donate may also be presented to club president John Thompson, who can be contacted at for arrangements at thompsonj963@yahoo.com.

Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Library

The Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library is open during normal library hours, for anyone looking to pick up something to do during these dark winter months.

Whether you are seeking Valentine's Day romance, gardening tips, jigsaw puzzles, or books on audio CDs that you can listen to while you do other tasks, The Friends of the Portland Library bookshop has an array of offerings. There are fiction, romance, teen, and children's used books as well as DVDs available during regular

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

There are also large print mystery and general fiction books that have been removed from the library collection for 50 cents, as well as TV series on DVD for 50 cents each disc.

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

Preschool Screening

Valley View School in Portland will conduct a preschool screening Friday, Feb. 2, for children ages 3-4. The screening is designed to answer any questions or concerns about a child's development as well as identifying children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening your child will meet with members from our preschool team and participate in a variety of activities. These activities assess different developmental areas including cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills and social interaction. During this

time, the parent/caregiver will meet with another member of the team to discuss your child's adaptive and personal social skills.

Following the screening you will receive a letter stating your child's results. In order for your child to attend Valley View's preschool program they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View School at 860-342-3131.



In 2022, the 6-foot-tall cross at the top of Zion Lutheran Church was blown off in heavy wind. It was found and now leans against the building, awaiting restoration. This past December, an anonymous person left a small handmade cross at Zion's door.

Zion Lutheran Church Receives Cross

Zion Lutheran Church is located on William Street in Portland at the top of a hill. Traditionally, the steeple and its cross can be seen for several miles.

In December of 2022, however, the approximately 6-foot-tall cross at the top of the steeple blew off. It was found by church members, and now leans against the building awaiting its restoration.

This last December, an anonymous person touched by the lack of a cross atop the steeple left a small handmade metal cross at Zion's door.

It is engraved with these words, "A church's great spire, once topped with a cross, then stood without, a sad holy loss . . . It did not go unnoticed by one wayward boy who then built his own, with God-given joy. It was gifted to Zion, one cold December, to mend the spire which had been dismembered."

The gifted cross will continue to be displayed, with gratitude, in the narthex of the church.

Zion welcomes all visitors to its events and worship services. For more information, call 860-342-2860, email at zion.lutheran@snet.net or visit zionlutheranportland.org.



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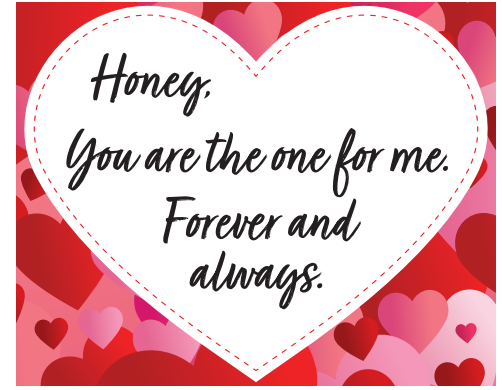
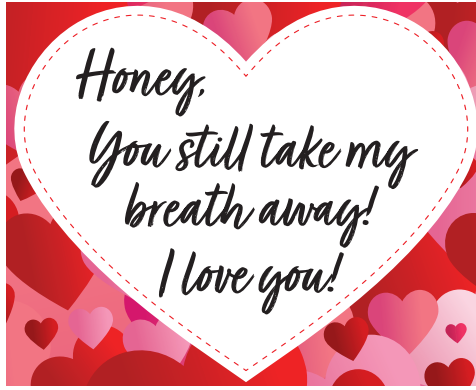
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Dean's List
Jordan Shortell of Portland made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Pace University in Pleasantville, N.Y. She is a junior majoring in business management and marketing.

Chancellor's Honor Roll
Mia Lapinski of Portland made the fall 2023 Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Mississippi. Lapinski is majoring in allied health studies.



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Ashes to Go

Trinity Church, located at 345 Main St., will host its Ashes to Go drive-thru event on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. All who wish to receive priest-blessed ashes and a prayer of blessing may simply drive through our circular driveway at those times.

Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School is holding Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-25 school year. Parents/guardians whose children will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2024, should contact Valley View School at pgross@portlandct.us to indicate if you will be registering your child for kindergarten. Please provide your child's full name, date of birth, phone number and address. Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.

KoC Family Dinner

The Portland Knights of Columbus Freestone Council 7 will hold its annual Family Dinner Saturday, March 2, for Brother Knights, their families, and guests. There is no charge for this event. The dinner will be held at 6 p.m. (doors open after 5 p.m. Mass) in the Saint Mary Church Hall.

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PZC Approves New Subdivision

By London Brazal

The Planning and Zoning Commission has been faced with long agendas as new proposals for subdivisions and applications are to be reviewed.

Pat Benjamin with Bascom & Benjamin out of Durham represented the applicant seeking a proposed four-lot subdivision. The parcel at 6 Strickland St. is 5.4 acres and is planned to be divided into four lots. Lot 1 is 0.94 acres, Lot 2 is 0.73 acres, Lot 3 is 1.08 acres and Lot 4 is 2.63 acres.

Lot 1 already has a two-family house on it that does not meet the required 40-foot front yard rule. As a condition of approval, the house will be converted to a one-family. Benjamin said that the demolished material and barn would also be properly removed from Lot 1.

Jacobson & Associates, Inc., after inspecting the site, noted that the driveway for Lot 1 is in poor condition. It has broken pavement and a big hole near Strickland Street that gathers water. The broken part needs to be cut, taken out and fixed. A new driveway entrance must be built with a six-inch elevation. Similarly, a damaged section along Bartlett Street needs to be

cut, removed and repaired.

As both the driveways for proposed Lot 2 and Lot 3 start from Strickland Street, the entire length needs to be paved. On proposed Lot 4, along the Lot 3 property line and the part next to the east where there's no existing buffer, a permanent 20-foot-wide landscape buffer strip is required. At least 50% of this strip should be planted with evergreen trees, each at least 6 feet tall, per Zoning Regulations. Additionally, since Lot 4 is an interior lot, the subdivision map will include a note saying it cannot be subdivided into another interior lot.

Site plans, survey standards, and building plans are to be submitted for review by the Chatham Health District for each new lot. The subdivision plans meet the requirements per the Connecticut Public Health Code. The lots are supported by municipal water and septic.

At the end of the public hearing, the Planning and Zoning Commission moved to approve the proposed four lot subdivision at 6 Strickland St. With the proposal satisfying the subdivision regulations, it passed six to zero.

On Facebook, some residents were worried

about flooding in the area. Others assured that there was no immediate threat to where the land was located. Neighbors of the subdivision were ultimately worried about their privacy with multiple new houses in a condensed area.

Development Planner Dan Bourret recently spoke with Dan Bertram of Bright Ravens Development about the Starbucks building at Brainerd Place. Starbucks will not move forward unless the historic buildings are refurbished; the target date for this is at the end of summer or the beginning of the fall. Bourret reported that care is being given to restoring the wood floors in Brainerd House. He also discussed modifications for concrete and the incorporation of brownstone, in keeping with the town's history. Building exteriors will be to code but interiors will require modifications. Architect Al McKittrick is drafting a proposal for historic renovations.

Bright Ravens Development plans to propose a modification to the Board of Selectmen concerning tax abatement.

At the last meeting held on Feb. 1, the Com-

mission had a public hearing regarding modifying the existing proposal at 209 Sand Hill Rd. The modification includes a 15-foot addition around the whole perimeter of the previously approved barn structure to be used as an event space at Arrigoni Winery.

The commission also received two new applications for site plan reviews. The first, at 850 Portland Cobalt Rd, proposes a retail fueling station and convenience store with a drive-through. If approved, this would be the ninth gas station in town, the fifth on Portland Cobalt Rd alone. The proposal would be next to the Corner Shops with six businesses including a drive-through Dunkin', food, and retail. The other application from Tartan Spa Operations, Inc., was for 311 Brownstone Ave., with the proposal to construct a spa. Public hearings for the reviewed applications will be scheduled at future meetings.

The next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Buck-Foreman Community Center at 265 Main St.



Basketball Stars... The Portland Knights of Columbus Freestone Council 7 held its annual youth basketball free-throw event Friday, Jan. 26, at the Portland Brownstone Intermediate School gymnasium. Thirty-two girls and boys, ages 9 through 14, participated in the event coordinated by John Bruni. Medals were awarded to the top finishers in their age and gender groups on the basis of 15 free-throw attempts. Top finishers pictured are, from left, first row: Gabriella Lardizzone, age 9; Lucas Filanda, age 9; Connor Cummings, age 10; Taylor Sobieski, age 11; second row: Dominic De-maio, age 13; Dante Benzi, age 12; Jackson Hungerford, age 11; and Aeryn Hall, age 12. All local winners are eligible to represent Portland at the Knight of Columbus state finals to be held on Feb. 24 at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol.

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, Feb. 12, 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; 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.

Special Events: Valentine's Party: Tuesday, Feb. 13, noon, with music by Lynn & Ray. Register with Sarah or Alexis by calling 860-342-6761.

UConn Nutritional Cooking Class: Thursday, Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m. This is a free class, though seating is limited. To register, call Sarah or Alexis at 860-342-6761.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents Day.

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 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 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.

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 hibernat-

ing 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 activities. No registration is required.

Pizza and Puzzles - Jigsaw Puzzle Competition: Saturday, Feb. 24, 10:30 a.m. 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 Events: Portland Pizza: Who's the GOAT?: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 3:30 p.m. Sample slices from local pizza places and choices and decide who is the champion. Space is limited.

Chess with Michael Pelton: Mondays at 3 p.m., Feb. 26-March 25. Train to compete in the Portland Chess Battle Royale on March 26. Registration is not required, but is recommended.

Adult Programs: 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.

Movie: Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1 p.m. *A Haunting in Venice* will be shown.

Monthly Writers' Café: Saturday, Feb. 17, 12:30 p.m., in the Van Bynum Room. Due to popular demand, the library will host a Writers' Café 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.

Seeds Wanted: Do you have some leftover seeds? Donations are welcome! Portland Library's Seed Library is seeking seed donations for the spring and summer gardening seasons and is looking for your help to sort and repack-age donations for distribution. Lead volunteer (and new board member) Melissa Kelley will run two volunteer work sessions next month: from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Saturdays, March 2 and 9. Registration is requested but not required.

Book Discussions: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1 p.m., *Down the River Unto the Sea* by Walter Mosley will be discussed. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday March 5, 1 p.m. *Foster & Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. *The Female Persuasion* by Meg Wolitzer will be discussed.

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Arrest Made in Colchester Robbery

By Michael Sinkewicz

An East Windsor man was arrested for robbing a Colchester convenience store, according to state police.

Daniel Reardon, 35, was charged with first-degree robbery, third-degree larceny, and second-degree breach of peace in connection to a robbery that took place last month at the Gulf Mart convenience store on Middletown Road, police said.

Troopers responded to the store at around 9:30 p.m., on Jan. 26 for a reported armed robbery. According to the arrest affidavit, a male individual demanded cash from the register after displaying a gold pistol. The suspect then fled the scene on a bicycle, the affidavit states.

A store employee told police that the man had asked for cigarettes, which were placed on the counter. The man then took out a weapon, but did not point it at the employee, according to the affidavit. He demanded and took all the money in the register, the report states.

Through its investigation, police linked the suspect to additional incidents that previously occurred in neighboring towns.

Troopers found a red 2011 Ford Ranger pickup truck in Glastonbury on Jan. 27, which had been tied to those separate incidents that also involved a suspect whose characteristics were consistent with the individual captured on security footage at the Gulf Mart store.

Police located and arrested Reardon in the parking lot of a CVS in Glastonbury, and later found a gold-colored pistol underneath the Ford's passenger seat.

A witness, who was undefined in the affidavit, reviewed pictures presented by police showing Reardon at the Gulf Mart location. The witness identified Reardon, along with the clothing he was wearing during the incident, as well as the gun used in the robbery. According to affidavit, the witness bought the weapon — which was a BB gun — years ago at a Tractor Supply store; the weapon no longer worked, the witness stated in the affidavit.

Police stated that Reardon was in possession



Reardon

of drug paraphernalia and was uncooperative during the on-scene investigation.

He was charged with four counts of use of drug paraphernalia and with interfering or resisting with an officer.

Then on Jan. 30, police took Reardon into custody at the Hartford Correctional Center, and arrested him on the charges related to the robbery.

During processing, police stated that Reardon refused to have his fingerprints taken and he was additionally charged with failing to comply with the fingerprinting request.

Police said Reardon was held on a \$150,000 bond. According to online judicial records, his next court appearance is scheduled for March at Norwich Superior Court. No pleas have been entered for the charges relating to the robbery — two felonies and a misdemeanor.

Dean's List

Hanna M. Behlke of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Centenary University in Hackettstown, N.J.

Dean's List

Abigail Glover of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa.

Girls on the Run

The Girls on the Run Colchester team will open online registration next Monday, Feb. 12, for the upcoming spring season.

In Girls on the Run, girls in grades 3-5 will meet for 10 weeks, starting Feb. 26, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-5 p.m., at Jack Jackter Intermediate School. Coaches will lead girls

through interactive lessons and movement activities. No prior running experience is needed. The season will end with a celebratory 5K.

Program fee is \$150. For more information, email lura.rafala@girlsontherun.org. To register, visit www.pinwheel.us/register/index/GOTR-SECT-S24-Program-Registration.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, Feb. 12: 9 a.m., Commission on Aging meeting (Town Hall), Making Memories, Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Pet Therapy; 10:30 a.m., Fortune Cookie; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, Feb. 13: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Regional LTC Ombudsman meeting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting (via Zoom).

Wednesday, Feb. 14: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2 p.m., Sewing Circle; 2:30 p.m., Senior Center staff meeting.

Thursday, Feb. 15: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Shopping; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:30

p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Feb. 16: 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., AARP Tax Aide; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., Ham Radio.

Love Boat Luncheon: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m. Sail off on a tropical cruise, even if it is only in your imagination. Jose Paulo returns to the senior center with his enthusiastic multicultural performance. A menu of glazed ham with pineapple, mashed sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls & butter, and chocolate cake will be served. Cost is \$9/person. Space is limited.

Ballpark Movie Event: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m. See *The League*, a documentary film about Negro League Baseball's triumphs and challenges through the first half of the 20th century. Have some ballpark favorites including hot dogs, popcorn, Cracker Jacks, and a soda or water while viewing this film. Cost is \$6/person and space is limited. Register by Feb. 21.

Wills & Trusts Seminar: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. This is the same presentation that was done in September. Priority will be given to those that were on the September waitlist. Additional openings will be made available if space permits. Call the senior center to inquire about space and to register. Registration is required.

Town-Wide Book Discussion for Black History Month: Thursday, Feb. 29, 1 p.m. The senior center will collaborate with the town's CORE Commission for a community book read in honor of Black History Month. *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee, will be discussed. Two books are available at the senior center to borrow, and others are available at Cragin Library. This will be one of three town-wide discussions of the book.

Free Polka Lessons

St. Joseph's Polish Society, located at 395 South Main St., will offer free polka dance lessons Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. The lessons are for beginners and anyone wanting fun and exercise.

For more information, call Carol Carlson at 765-730-6206.






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Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, starting Feb. 16 and continuing through and including Good Friday, March 29.

Meal choices include traditional fish and chips, baked fish with baked potato, the club's breaded clam strip dinner, as well as chicken nuggets for the kids. All meals include coleslaw, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$16 for adults and \$9 for kids.

Meals will be served from 6-8 p.m. Take-out is available by calling the club at 860-537-2593 after 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Dean's List

Aidan McLoughlin of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

A member of the Class of 2026, McLoughlin is majoring in architectural engineering.

Dean's List

Julia Grottole of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Grottole is majoring in elementary education/psychology.



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Selectmen Create Two New Committees

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously approved the establishment of two new ad-hoc committees to help examine the town's recreation and facilities needs.

During its Feb. 1 meeting, the board formed a five-member Recreation Needs and Coordination Committee as well as a seven-member Facilities Planning Committee; both commissions will also have two alternate members.

Creation of the two boards comes as the town balances numerous projects, some of which have already been granted funding. First Selectman Bernie Dennler III has described the town's slate of initiatives as a "slide puzzle" that requires community insight.

"I'm really excited to see these committees move forward," he said following the meeting, adding that he hopes the boards' work will begin "expeditiously."

Over the next month, the BOS will solicit membership applications and interview candidates with the goal of making official appointments by March. Residents can obtain an application on the town's website — www.colchesterct.gov — under the boards and commissions openings tab.

Dennler initially pitched the need for two new committees in December and the BOS signaled its support at an ensuing meeting last month.

The charges and makeup of the new boards has become clearer over time — and they may evolve further as the BOS gets closer to appointing members.

For now, the objective of the recreation committee is to evaluate town and school recreation assets and make recommendations on how to coordinate those resources. In addition, the committee will look to identify any gaps with the resources, including the potential installation of a turf field.

In weighing its recommendations, the recreation committee will consider public support and financial feasibility.

While selectmen said they felt that the drafted charge was sufficient, Dennler will look to produce a list of specific items for the committee to investigate.

The recreation committee will consist of five community members, and two alternates. The recreation director and Public Works director will serve as staff liaisons, along with members of the boards of selectmen, education and finance.

Examination of town and school recreation needs is not a new initiative for the BOS.

Last year, the board approved nearly \$250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to install field irrigation at the town's recreation complex. But local sports leaders have expressed that more needs to be done moving forward.

Bacon Storytelling Show to Benefit Robotics Team

Bacon Academy will host a storytelling show Wednesday, Feb. 21 (snow date is Feb. 22) at 7 p.m., in the school auditorium. The show will benefit the school's FIRST Robotics Team, which is currently hard at work on the 2024 season.

The show will be headlined by storytellers Arnie Pritchard and John Melmed, who will relate true personal stories from their school years and

Freezin' for a Reason

Fred Brown, Rob Suchecki and Greg Cordova are spending yet another weekend in the cold, to benefit the Colchester Fuel Bank.

The group will gather on the Colchester Green on Friday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m., and they won't leave until Sunday, Feb. 11, at noon, after spending two cold nights in a tent, raising funds for the Colchester Fuel Bank.

"This is year number 15 and I have a feeling it's going to be lucky number 15, but I say that every year," Brown said. "In the 14 previous years we've raised just about \$165,000."

Brown, who is the event founder, added, "It looks like 2024 is going to continue to be challenging for folks who are dependent upon the Fuel Bank. With so many folks out of work, how can they afford to keep that thermostat at an acceptable temp and eat or purchase prescriptions?"

And even though it's been a fairly mild winter, "people still have to heat their homes," Brown said.

Suchecki, a retired Colchester police officer, said, "I know this sounds really corny, but this

Police News

1/25: Kristy Bell, 54, of Salem, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, risk of injury to a child and interfering with an officer, according to state police.

"Nobody wants to play here," Tim Daniels, president of Colchester Youth Soccer, previously told the *Rivereast*.

And the school fields are also in need of repair, Daniels added. The Bacon Academy High School varsity girls soccer team — which recently won a state championship — had to play their senior night game at Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon.

Originally, the facilities committee was also going to have five members, but due to the number of stakeholders connected with the charge of that board, membership was boosted to seven; the Public Works director will serve as a liaison along with members of the three major boards.

The charge for this committee involves looking into current and near-term town facility space needs.

"This is a big-picture committee," Dennler said during the meeting.

He explained that there are numerous topics that are interconnected, creating a "domino-effect."

For example, the town is constructing a new senior center, which leaves the current facility vacant. The new committee may determine what the best use of that space is, including the future of the veteran's room located there.

Town Hall has several question marks, such as the impacts of renovating the police department. The BOS has already approved \$18,400 of ARPA funds for Stephen Jager Associates LLC to produce an architectural design for expanding the department, but a full overhaul would likely cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

That expansion would likely cut into the space currently being utilized by the recreation and public works departments; the committee may consider how to manage that potential displacement.

The food bank, which is housed at Town Hall, received a \$500,000 donation from the estate of Stephen J. Bendas that has not been tapped into.

Recommendations from both committees will likely be forwarded the BOS as they conduct their work. They will also produce overall recommendations or a final report at the end of their tenure, which is currently expected to last around one year.

Dennler has previously expressed that he doesn't want to see either committee "tied up in bureaucratic red tape." While it's too late for any of the committees' ideas or findings to be incorporated into the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year budget, it's possible that recommendations will be made for the subsequent spending plan.

Other possible outcomes of the committees could include the formation of additional commissions. One of the committees may advise the Board of Selectmen to establish a building com-

adult lives. Stories are best suited for ages 12 and over.

Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 per student, and additional donations are welcome. Donations of \$100 or more will purchase priority seating for six.

Find out more at team1699.org/storytelling-night-bacon.

town and its residents have been so good to me it only makes sense to give back. Helping those in need is just the right thing to do. How many of us are a couple of paychecks away from needing help ourselves?"

The group will accept donations all weekend. Make checks payable to Freezin' for a Reason. If you can't make it to the Town Green, any branch of M&T Bank is accepting donations or you can use Paypal.com, with the email freezinforareason@yahoo.com, to donate online.

"We are a visual reminder of all those in need of heating assistance!" said Rob Suchecki. "Please help us."

Lions' Breakfast Buffet is Back

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

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

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

mittee for a specific project that requires further evaluation and oversight.

Transparency Software

The selectmen also unanimously authorized a contract with ClearGov for financial transparency software — a \$7,300 annual subscription with a one-time setup fee of \$2,700.

During a meeting last month, the board received a presentation from a ClearGov representative and signaled its support for the program; a contract was then drawn up and reviewed at the Feb. 1 meeting.

The software allows town information ranging from financial details to project updates to be displayed in an easily digestible format online for residents. Data can be displayed in charts and graphs, allowing users to access and examine whatever material the town wishes to provide.

While approval of the software was voted on last week, the software likely won't go live until the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

Last month, Colchester entered a soft budget freeze due to "concerning" spending trends and accounting issues in the finance department.

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.colchesterfederated-church.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.

MUNIS reports that are used by officials to track monthly town expenditures appeared to be inaccurate, and expenses were either "double-booked" or needed to be reclassified into the correct accounts.

Dennler indicated that launching a software program now, which would be heavily shaped by those inaccurate reports, would essentially lead to misinformation being distributed to the public. By the summer, he explained, those accounting issues should be entirely resolved.

Funding for the software was included in the current municipal budget after being advocated for by former first selectman Andreas Bisbikos.

Last month, following the presentation of the software, Dennler told the *Rivereast* that it was the right time to secure the software contract, especially after the problems within the finance department, which he said had "eroded trust" within the community.

The software, he continued, could solve that while representing a "public pledge for greater transparency."

"Sunlight is the best disinfectant," Dennler added.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Tuesday, Feb. 13, 5:30-7 p.m., in the Stage Room. There will be beads, music, and pancakes for dinner. There will be a free-will offering for this event.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14: Ostrout will offer Ashes to Go from 7-9 a.m. outside in front of the church. There will also be an Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM, led by the Discipleship Class. All are welcome to attend.

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.



Please join us in welcoming our new Physician Assistant Pamela Frappier who will be seeing patients in our Colchester location starting November 21st.

We offer full scope Obstetrics & Gynecology, Midwifery Care, Contraception & Family Planning, Menopause Management, Pre-conception Counseling, Infertility, Colposcopy/ LEEP, In-Office Surgery, Robotic Surgery, 3D Mammography
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Town Purchases New Tanker Truck

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously authorized a \$545,000 contract for a new firetruck after a previous order was scratched earlier this winter.

The agreement with Firematic Supply Company will add a tanker truck for the Colchester Fire & EMS fleet as many of the town's current vehicles extend well beyond their expected life spans.

Pierce Manufacturing will build the tanker — the same company that was solicited for four other new fire apparatus purchased by the town that are currently being assimilated into the rotation.

Approval of the fresh contract comes after a previous agreement was unexpectedly quashed. In 2021, Colchester residents approved the bonding of \$4.5 million to replace a portion of the fleet, including some vehicles that have been in circulation since the 1980s.

Pierce — out of Appleton, Wis., and Firematic, the local vendor in Rocky Hill — were awarded the bulk of the work, including three fire engines and an aerial (ladder truck). The fifth vehicle, a tanker, was allocated to Marion.

However, Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann informed town officials last month that Marion

would not be completing the work.

"They were unable to fill the contract and basically backed out," he told the BOS during a special meeting on Jan. 31.

The lead time for a new customized truck is estimated to be around three to four years, he added, which wasn't ideal.

"We needed something soon and something that was going to fit functionally and operationally," the chief said.

After meeting with vendors, Pierce indicated that there was a tanker being built that the town could seize; it would be finished sometime around May or June.

"It is not exactly to the spec that we have, but it will meet our needs," Hoffmann told the board, explaining that the other apparatus the town acquired were specifically customized to the department's instructions.

While the department's mindset with this particular truck has shifted from "niceties" to "necessities," the new tanker will still be a welcomed addition to the fleet. It actually has a larger water capacity — 3,000 gallons versus 2,000 on the prior blueprint.

"It pumps; it carries water; it does the main stuff that we want it to do," Hoffmann expressed.

Another difference, added Deputy Chief Brad Bernier, is that this tanker will be slightly longer, but the firehouse has the capacity to make the accommodation.

Due to escalating costs in the industry, the new price tag is more than the previous contract for the tanker. However, the four other vehicles came in under-budget and the town expects to remain below the \$4.5 million threshold agreed to at referendum by around \$26,000.

It's unclear why the original tanker order was canceled. First Selectman Bernie Denner III told the *Rivereast* that the decision was made by the supplier, not the town.

"We didn't cancel it," he said. Unlike the rest of the fleet, the tanker will be candy-apple red. While many towns wouldn't dwell on that — firetrucks are traditionally red — the topic is handled slightly different in Colchester.

In the 1970s, the town switched its fire apparatus from red to yellow, and the color has become a distinct feature that makes the department unique.

"I'm already softening my folks on that," Hoffmann said, referring to the lone red truck. But in the future, the department may look to convert the tanker to match the rest of the fleet, a pricey expense that can be pushed off for now, the chief explained.

When the department was considering the color of its new apparatus, Hoffmann conducted an anonymous survey to solicit feedback.

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

Hoffmann was part of a crew that traveled in December to the Pierce facility in Wisconsin to inspect the vehicles and identify any potential imperfections. The apparatus were then shipped to Firematic in Rocky Hill and have begun being placed into service in Colchester.

As the new trucks hit the streets, the town has removed its old apparatus from the frontlines. The prior ladder truck, for example, was sold to North Stonington.

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.

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.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Puzzlepalooza: Fridays, Feb. 23 and March 22, from 6-8 p.m. each night, at Town Hall. Cost is \$25/team. Children can be on a team, but there must be at least two adults on each team.

Family Cross-Country Skiing: Runs through March 7, weather permitting, at Elizabeth and Ruby Cohen Park. Hours are: Fridays/Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon, and Sundays, 1-2 p.m. Must provide own equipment. You will receive updates upon registration to when program will meet.

Colchester Choir and Orchestra: Visit www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org for more information. Rehearsals are: Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. for choir and 7:30-9 p.m. for orchestra, at Bacon Academy. Fee: \$35 for ages 18 and up; \$15 for students and youth under 18. There will be a **spring concert**, free for all to attend, on Sunday, March 10, also at Bacon.

Summer Day Camp Registration: Returning camper early bird registration begins Feb. 19, and new camper registration starts March 4. The summer day camp, for kids entering grades K-7 in the fall, will run June 24-Aug. 16, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. The weekly themes and field trips will be announced in mid-February. Cost per week is \$170/child. Aftercare is available from 3- p.m., for an additional \$45 each week. Cost includes all activities and field trips but does not include food. All snacks and lunches must be sent with your camper.

CT Safe Boating Class: May 14 and 16, 5-9 p.m., at Town Hall. While there is no minimum age requirement to take the class, students

must be able to attend all eight hours and take a 60-question multiple choice test. Fee for class: \$25.

Pre-Teen Leadership Camp: For youth entering grades 6-7 in the fall. There will be one-week sessions, with new groups each week, from June 24-Aug. 16 (no camp July 4 or 5). Hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Fee is \$170/week, with aftercare available each day until 5 p.m., for an additional fee. **Colchester-in-Training (C.I.T.) Leadership Program:** For ages 14 and up. Session 1: June 24-July 12 (no camp July 4 or 5); Session 2: July 15-Aug. 2. Hours are: Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Fee: \$125. Upon successful completion of the program you can volunteer as a **Junior Counselor** at day camp from July 15-Aug. 16. You'll attend camp for free.

Colchester Youth Theatre Camp: For kids entering grades 2-7 in the fall. The two-week session runs Aug. 12-23, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. This two-week camp is designed to immerse kids in the world of theatre, culminating with performance of a play on Friday, Aug. 23. No acting experience necessary. Fee: \$300/camper. A minimum of 20 campers is required, with a maximum of 40 campers.

'Spring in Bloom' Market Coming

Colchester Federated Church's annual Spring in Bloom market is coming in May — and vendors are welcome.

If you would like a table at the fair to sell your goods, reach out to Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information. The market will be Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Spaces are filling up quickly.

Honor Roll

Colchester residents Matthew DiBenedetto, Ryan Curry and August Riccio made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

DiBenedetto, a member of the Class of 2024, and Curry, a member of the Class of 2026, made Honors with Distinction. Riccio, a member of the Class of 2026, made First Honors.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Luke Jenkins, Heather Marvin and Bridget McIntyre made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of New England.

Honoring Black History Month

Colchester's Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission and the Colchester Senior Center are hosting a Community Book Club all February in honor of Black History Month, and the public is welcome to participate. The book selected is called *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*.

Copies are available at Cragin or can be purchased through Amazon. There will be three dates in February to discuss the book, including daily trivia questions about the 2024 Black History Month theme, African American and the Arts, and a calendar of events on the town website, www.colchesterct.gov.

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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

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

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.

Hey, Take a Hike!

Colchester Land Trust (CLT) will offer a Winter Hike to Day Pond Falls, a.k.a. Arnold's Ravine, on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m. The hike is free for CLT members, and \$5 for non-members.

The hike will begin at the Comstock Bridge parking lot off Route 16. The hike will be out and back for approximately 3.5 miles over moderate to steep terrain. The hike starts along the Salmon River then climbs to a beautiful overlook. The second stage is more moderate as you work your way toward the falls. Day Pond Falls

drop a total of 40 feet with the tallest being 10 feet. Hiking poles recommended. If there is significant snowfall, bring your snow shoes.

For more information, contact hike leader Lisa Hageman at 860-918-1537 or lterillhageman@comcast.net. Visit www.colchesterland-trust.org to register or to pay in advance.

CLT is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that works to permanently protect open space in Colchester. Visit the aforementioned website to join or donate.

Bacon to Host 'Tree-Plenish'

Bacon Academy environmental science students are hosting a native tree sale and planting event. Tree-Plenish is a nonprofit organization run exclusively by college students to promote the planting of native tree species.

Residents may choose to have volunteers deliver and plant saplings in their yards, or they can pick them up at Bacon. This year's event will take place Saturday, April 20. Sapling sales will be available online only, from now through March 20. Saplings are \$5 each.

The Bacon students have a goal of 402 saplings to be planted locally. This will offset 482 tons of carbon emissions created by the school building, they said.

According to Bacon, native trees sequester

carbon, and provide shade, shelter, and food sources for native organisms that non-native species do not provide.

There are three tree species to choose from: American Sycamore, Red maple, and Eastern Redbud. Sycamores prefer loamy soil that has a good supply of groundwater. Eastern redbuds are flowering trees that grow more compactly and provide spring flowers. Red maples support many species of birds and butterflies as well as being tapped for maple syrup. All saplings are bare root (not potted) and will range in size based on the species ordered.

The link to this year's event is tpevents.org/school/4019. Information regarding how to purchase saplings, volunteer, or sponsor this event can be found at the website.

Valentine's Polka Party

The St. Joseph's Polish Society at 395 South Main St. is hosting a Valentine's Polka Party Sunday, Feb. 18. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m., and includes your choice of chicken marsala or baked chicken with mixed vegetables, noodles, salad, roll, and dessert.

Dennis Polisky and The Maestro's Men will play music for dancing from 2-6 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Call 860-537-2550 to reserve a spot.

Dean's List

Griffin Sullivan of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Dean College in Franklin, Mass.

Davin Roy of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pa.

He is a senior majoring in sports management and is coaching with the Lock Haven football team, as well as the strength and conditioning program.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongregationchurch.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 westcongchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711.

Obituaries

Hebron

Thomas George Smith

Thomas George Smith, 68, of Hebron, passed away peacefully at home Monday, Feb. 5, after a very long illness. He was born Jan. 20, 1956 in Wilimantic, to George Edgar Smith and Maryjean (O'Donnell) MacDonald.



Tom spent most of his life in Hebron, and was a 1974 graduate of RHAM High School. From a very young age, he was a hard worker, and full of energy. His mother said he didn't learn to walk; he learned to run. He loved playing Little League and midget football in town, and he was fast! He loved animals, helping his grandparents on their farms, and worked on several local farms in Hebron.

In 1976, he attended the Graham School for Cattlemen, in Garnett, Kan. They provide valuable continuing education in breeding and herd management to beef and dairy cattlemen and women. He was proud of this accomplishment, which made him an even more valuable asset to farmers he was employed by. He also showed cattle all over New England for years.

Thanks to his Uncle Bob, Tom found something he loved even more...semi-trucks. He got his CDL in the late '70s and became a long-haul truck driver. He traveled all over the country for several years, and loved every minute of it.

Sadly, in January, 1981, Tom had an accident while driving a tractor-trailer, and broke his neck. This left him a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the neck down, for the rest of his life. While devastated for a long time, Tom eventually regained his independence, and decided to make the best of his situation. Though he would never drive again, he was able to operate an electric wheelchair. He was also a chronic back seat driver to anyone who drove him around. If you know, you know.

In the late '80s, his cousin Roseanna invited him to sit in on her Bible study. Tom asked many questions, which led him to have a Bible study of his own. Though discouraged by some, he saw the ring of truth, especially in God's promise to heal the sick, and restore people to perfect health in the Paradise Earth to come. This changed his entire outlook on life, and helped him to cope with his devastating condition. He got baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in July 1990, and attended the Manchester congregation until 1996, then the Colchester congregation for the rest of his life.

Tom was known for his sense of humor, and telling it like it is. He met his future wife, Tobie E. Senecal, a CNA, in 1992, when a nursing agency sent her to take care of him. She immediately loved his sense of humor, and how he was living his life to the fullest, despite his disability. At that time, he was volunteering 90 hours a month to share his Bible-based hope with people in the community, and everyone that came into his home. Tobie was so impressed by his knowledge that she began a study of the Bible as well.

On Sept 4, 1994, Tom married Tobie, his best friend, on the Mt. Washington Cruise, at Lake Winnepesaukee, in New Hampshire. They moved back to Hebron in 1996, and lived in his childhood home for the rest of his life. Tom was very intelligent, and could fix just about anything in his mind. He just needed someone to be his arms and legs. He had dozens of teenagers, and others over the years, that he would teach to maintain and fix old snowmobiles, equipment, his John Deere tractor, and learn to do general home repairs.

His greatest joy was finding a 1979 Peterbilt 352 Cabover on the internet in 2013, and buying it sight unseen. It was his dream truck. Although he would never drive it, he spent years

restoring it in the driveway, teaching so many how to do maintenance, and replace just about everything from exhaust to brakes, tires, and more. He loved hearing it run, and especially loved teaching them, and Tobie, how to drive it up and down the driveway. Though bedridden for the last few months, he looked forward to Oren starting every Tuesday, and seeing it drive up and down the driveway, from his bed.

Tom had so many health problems over the years, but when he felt well, he wanted to get out of the house. He loved to drive anywhere, and especially loved to eat out. He loved sporting events and concerts, and attended too many to count over the years. He was a lifelong Boston Red Sox, and Celtics fan. He loved his chihuahuas, Stewie and Jaxson, as they would sit or ride on his lap in his wheelchair, and sleep in his bed.

He is survived by his wife Tobie (Senecal) Smith, of 29 years, and his mother, Maryjean (O'Donnell) MacDonald, of Hebron. He was predeceased by his Father, George Edgar Smith.

Special thanks to April, who has been our nurse and like family for over 20 years, whose help was indispensable, especially during these last few months. Thank you to Cheyenne, for years of devoted help, and to Donna, who recently provided much needed help and support.

Though he never had children, Tom had a special place in his heart for anyone who wanted to work with their hands, and especially work on his tractor or truck. These include Ken, Oren, Matt, Chris, Jamey, Shane, Jesse, and Brad, to name a few. Thank you to the Hebron Fire Department, to Hartford Health Care at Home Hospice, and to Dr. Catherine Hylwa, Tom's favorite doctor for over 20 years.

Tom had full faith in God's promise of a resurrection, and he and Tobie took great comfort in Jesus' words at John 5:28,29.

A memorial talk will take place Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. A memorial slideshow will be shown at 1:45 p.m. Friends and family are welcome to join us at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 297 Westchester Rd. (Route 149), Colchester, CT 06415.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any animal rescue of your choice.

Portland

Nicholas J. Cannata

Nicholas J. Cannata, 93 (although he was aiming for 100 in his draft obituary), of Portland, husband of 65 years to Bianca (Russo) Cannata, left this world Sunday, Feb. 4. Born Jan. 20, 1931 in Middletown, he was the son of the late Nicholas and Francesca (Giardina) Cannata.



Nick is predeceased by his eight older siblings: two brothers – Emanuel and Sebastian Cannata; and six sisters – Anna Santavenere, Antoinette Spallone, Rose Filetti, Helen Marino, Viola Bozzi and Lena Kalita. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Nick served as a corporal in the U.S. Army during the Korean war; he was a member of St. Sebastian Church, a member of the Holy Name Society and a lifetime member of the Forest City Knights of Columbus, Council No. 3. Nick was employed by the Travelers Insurance Companies in Hartford for 32 years. He was ordained a deacon in the Norwich Diocese which spanned over 40 years, having served many pastors and clergy while at St. Sebastian Church, retiring in 2005.

Nick lived a long life and said, "my life is a journey with a purpose." If you knew Nick it was all about family, food and phone calls. You may have been "blessed" with a phone call a day or

10 calls a day until you answered. He also enjoyed writing, entertaining and traveling.

Nick loved his wife and his children: daughter, Phyllis (David) Murphy of Portland and son Paul (Judy) Cannata of Orange; and his cherished grandchildren, Paul, Michael and Timothy Cannata and Emily Murphy; and his cherished granddog, Kacey.

Nick's family would like to thank his C.N.A., and all the doctors, nurses and staff who worked with him throughout the years.

Services will be held today, Friday morning, Feb. 9, all taking place at St. Sebastian Church, Middletown. Calling hour is 9:15-10 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. A military burial will be at St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Nick's memory may be made to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

Portland

Joseph Lastrina Jr.

Joseph James Lastrina Jr., beloved son of the late Joseph James Lastrina. Sr. and Beverly Oktavec, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, after a long illness. Joe was born Aug. 11, 1957, in Middletown. He grew up in Portland and was a member of the class of 1975 at Portland High School.



Joe is survived by his son, Joseph Lastrina III; his granddaughter, Emma; his mother, Beverly Oktavec and James Oktavec. Joe also leaves behind his sisters, Lui-Marie Oakliff, Annette Aitken, Lori Branichforte (Robert), Nicole Lastrina; his brother, Angelo Lastrina (Eileen); as well as Maureen Lastrina, Kim Gustamachio, and James Oktavec, Jr. (Jennifer). He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Joe was predeceased by his father, Joseph J. Lastrina. Sr.; brother, Michael Lastrina; nephew, Brendon Lastrina; brother-in-law, Scott Oakliff; and Marty Oktavec.

In his youth, Joe was very active with the Portland Dukes football team. He joined the family home improvement business as a carpenter and prided himself on how quickly he could shingle a roof. Joe always had a love for cooking and at age 16 started working at the Portland Restaurant. He had a pivotal role in opening Tuscan Grill restaurant, and excelled as general manager for 15 years. After his brother Michael's passing, Joe returned to the Portland Restaurant as owner/operator in 2010 to continue Michael's legacy.

Joe solely founded Motorcycle Mania and Muscle Mania in the parking lot behind Tuscan Grill before the City of Middletown took his lead to establish Cruise Night on Main Street and continue his vision with Motorcycle Mania. Joe also played a huge part in organizing ice-carving contests and soup and chili competitions, all for charity. He was a huge fan of Portland native NASCAR driver Joey Logano, UConn basketball, and classic rock music. He played an integral part in fundraising for the Portland July 4th fireworks and volunteered at the fireworks shows.

The family would like to thank Brenda Reilly for the special care she gave Joe during his illness, as well as Dr. David and the CCU team at Middlesex Health.

A Mass of Remembrance will be held at St. Mary Church, 48 Freestone Ave., Portland, on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. A reception will follow in the church hall.

Portland

Jeanne Dilworth

Jeanne (Chartier) Dilworth, 95, passed away Sunday, Jan. 14, in Portland. Born March 8, 1928, in Manchester, daughter of the late Carroll and Olive (McIntosh) Chartier. She was a curious and fair-minded individual with fiery red hair.

Jeanne had a genuine interest in people and a deep love for her family, friends, neighbors, and community. She was a gifted writer and intellectual, known for her love of nature and people. Jeanne was preceded in death by her loving husband, Paul J. Dilworth, and her sister, Patricia (Chartier) Jedrziewski Young.

Jeanne graduated from Manchester High School, Class of 1948, and after raising her family went on to earn a bachelor's and master's degree from UConn. She dedicated her career to teaching English, starting in East Hampton High School, and eventually retiring from Weaver High School in Hartford. Jeanne loved her students.

Jeanne was incredibly involved in the com-

munity. She was a selectperson, established the Senior Reading Program for first-graders in Portland and was a founding member of the Portland Brownstone Quorum, as well as participating in many other groups and activities. She loved hosting summer parties and keeping people connected. She was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portland for many years, which included teaching CCD, singing in the choir, an alter guild member as well as a lection for the daily liturgy.

Jeanne is survived by her children: son, Joseph and wife Martha (Dominguez-Villalobos) Dilworth of Herndon, Va.; daughter, Martha Sullivan and Frank Rinaldi of Oxford; and son, Thomas and Jeannie (Maley) Dilworth of Manchester. She also leaves behind her grandson Paul and wife Meghan (McConnell) Dilworth of Charlotte, N.C., as well as many nephews, nieces, and their families.

Calling hours will be held at Portland Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Friday, Feb. 16, from 5-7 p.m. A memorial Mass will take place at St. Mary Church on Freestone Avenue, Portland, on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Portland Rehab and Convalescent Center on Main St, Portland.

Jeanne C. Dilworth will be remembered for her love and dedication to her family and her passion for serving others.

Colchester

Gayle M. Millard

Gayle M. Millard, 72, of Colchester, passed away unexpectedly at her home Sunday, Jan. 28. Born in Middletown to the late Harold Huntley Sr. and Luella (Schreier) Huntley, she worked for many years with Colchester Public Schools where she worked in the kitchen serving student lunches.



Gayle was truly her own woman. She was strong-minded, at times opinionated, and not afraid to share her views about anything. But her heart was gentle and loving, especially to all her Standish Road friends and family – a community she loved to be a part of and that loved her right back. Her neighbors always delighted seeing her walk her cherished pup Grocki, and before him it was Freddie, and sometimes even in his very own stroller, or just outside working around her home while relaxing with a cold Busch Light and a Celeste pizza. Her car rarely sat long enough to cool down as she had a daily regimen of distributing goodies throughout the neighborhood. This sometimes included redistributing some of the things she had received herself earlier that day, as there was a concerted neighborhood effort to fatten her up, just a little.

Gayle found great peace in her gardening, baking, and frequently tending to her yard while enjoying the outdoors. She loved boating on the Connecticut River and wouldn't think twice about going on solo runs from the East Haddam launch all the way up to Cromwell on her mini-boat. She at one time, served as commodore of the Cromwell Outboard Association. She enjoyed shopping in Cromwell (her previous hometown) and spending quality time there with her many special friends.

Gayle was a one-of-a-kind personality that put smiles on the faces of everyone who knew her. She took an interest in her community and looked after everyone with genuine concern, even going as far to remember the birthdays and anniversaries of her friends and neighbors. Whether she liked you or not, you always knew where you stood with her. Gayle's honest heart and her gentle soul will always be remembered, and she will truly be missed beyond measure.

Gayle is survived by her brother, Harold Huntley Jr.; brother-in-law, Rodney Macri; two nieces; her Standish Road family; and her beloved fur baby, Grocki. In addition to her parents, Gayle was predeceased by her husband, Douglas Millard (2020).

A time for gathering will be held from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Following the gathering, a Celebration of Life Service will take place at 12:30 p.m.; please feel free to come and share your fondest memories of Gayle. A private burial ceremony will be held at West Cemetery in Cromwell at a later date.

Memorial donations in her name may be made to the Colchester Fire Department, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

To offer condolences or to share a memory of Gayle, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 6*

an opportunity to voice their views in a survey they have created. It can be found on the town's website (<https://www.andoverconnecticut.org>) or paper copies are available from the town clerk's office. More information can be found in the *Rivereast*'s article from Friday, Feb. 2, or from Town Planner John Guskowski at planner@andoverct.org. There are only 16 questions and many are multiple-choice with room for "other" comments.

This is a time to directly let town officials know what you want. We all have ideas, suggestions or pet peeves we want heard. Here's our opportunity. A couple of my favorite thoughts are 1) No traffic roundabouts (yes, there has been general discussion at the BOS meeting and three locations have been casually identified) 2) Create an ice skating rink at the Veterans Memorial Field 3) More housing like Hop River Homes to accommodate our aging population. I have many more and so do you.

Please take advantage of this opportunity and take the survey. Submittals should be in by the end of February.

This is our town and it should reflect what the residents want it look like.

Dianne Grenier – Andover

The Good Messy Garden

To the Editor:

To everything there is a season, and gardens are excellent examples of how nature dies back and leaves behind a suitable living habitat of food and shelter for nesting and overwintering pollinators. In the fall and winter, larvae, and cocoons of many species of butterflies and moth are nestled in the leaves beneath our feet. The American bumblebee burrows an inch or two into the soil and needs a layer of leaves to protect them from the bitter cold. As well, leaving leaves to decompose on the ground will return nutrients to the soil that will support plant spring growth. Fireflies, lady bugs, spider mite predators, ground beetles and many other beneficial insects hide in protected leaf litter during winter. In turn, overwintering bugs are an essential winter food source for birds. Birds also eat seeds from plants that are left standing through the winter months including sunflowers, asters, goldenrod purple coneflower, liatris, and Joe Pye weed. Hollow or pithy plant stems and branches also provide places for cavity-nesting insects to call home. At year's end raspberry canes, bee balm, native thistle and yucca stems should be left to house pollen to feed their developing young.

Lastly, a good rule of thumb is to wait till temps warm up to a steady 50 degrees to clean out dead plant material from your garden beds. And remember, while beauty is in the eye of the beholder, our pollinators are sitting pretty as we leave our gardens alone

**Michele Sinkez
Hebron Pollinator Pathway**

Scarier and Scariest

To the Editor:

Between Annie Steinbrecher and Spencer Killian, I don't know which is scarier or scariest.

Why always babbling about the loss of democracy? Scary using Hitler's name, words like Dictator for Life, Nazi, Gestapo, and "Thousand Year Reich" is even scarier. That you believe it is scariest!

You're both so worried about the loss of democracy with Trump; what about lawlessness and lawfare? Who cares about Trump? Who is using lawfare now for persecution and prosecution? If you only had the same zealotry about

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

that have any one of the many dementias can revert back in time with their behaviors and actions (i.e. thinking they are 18 again, or in grade school). The information provided on the registry will help emergency personnel find your loved one.

Sadly, Tonya has a personal experience with a loved one wandering. She said that on a cold November night in 2022, at 11:10 p.m., "a small figure appeared in the window of our sun porch."

She continued, "The dogs began their warning growls that quickly turned into full-alert barking. Who would come down a 700-foot driveway, in the woods, and knock at the door so late at night? Mom (diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2017), that is who."

Tonya's husband realized who the person was and let her in. Tonya's mom had walked more than three miles, at night in 30-degree weather. "Had she taken a right instead of a left on her way, I'm convinced things would have ended differently," Tonya said.

Sadly, Tonya has a friend, Miriam, who

the border and "immigrants" who are technically in the country illegally beating up police officers, released without bail by the country that allowed them in, then give the middle finger to the public. Why are they not immediately deported? Who allowed those people in to America and why?

Do you actually believe he doesn't have the power to keep these people out? First day in office he penned away what was being done to do just that, but now needs money and power from Congress to just slow it down some, but not stop it. Enforce Section 212 F of the Immigration and Nationality Act. National security, like the spy balloon; you don't think these illegals pose a national security threat? No country without borders and you're worried about losing the country under Trump? How is Texas able to stop them? Border bill \$61B Ukraine funding, why is that? Why are Ukraine's borders more important than ours?

Why are Republicans Gestapo, a Nazi threat? One-party rule? Who dictated that Democrats know what's best for everyone? A future Civil War, what sides fought the first one and who was on what side and why was it fought?

Just not sure who's scarier or scariest, but I sure know who is gullible and a lost cause.

Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough

Special Education a Right

To the Editor:

Special education is ever evolving for the better. We now understand so many things we didn't know about the ways people learn, varying levels of need, and that equitable, best practices can improve lives.

Yet special education continues to be a hot-button issue in towns like East Hampton. The school board is about to recommend its spending plan to the Board of Finance, and as with everything else, the cost of special education is escalating.

Because our understanding has increased, so has the number of students requiring services. According to the superintendent's budget proposal, 352 students require special education. Their needs are diverse and in some cases are substantial. Providing students with the services they need is expensive, and it's not going to get cheaper.

Thank goodness East Hampton schools do an exemplary job of serving the needs of students. The district keeps the overwhelming amount of special education students in local schools, which is far less expensive than outplacement. Additionally, some Belltown programs even generate revenue from other towns.

Recently, some in town have publicly questioned special education spending, sometimes in terms that are less than enlightened. Let it be stated in no uncertain terms: special education is a right and East Hampton schools will support the needs of all learners.

However, providing for all our students requires more than talented and dedicated educators and specialists. We need the community to support efforts through adequate funding. That means approving a budget that recognizes the need for growth.

It's not too early to let your voices be heard. Budget negotiations are underway, with the school board meeting on its proposal on Monday, Feb. 12. Please let your public officials know that East Hampton is a supportive and nurturing community for all children and families.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said he is writing as an individual.

didn't have as fortunate an ending. Tonya said Miriam had to run to the pharmacy one day to pick up a prescription for her mom; it was just a 10-minute drive. She left her mom in the house, as her mom never went anywhere – that is, until that day.

Tonya said her friend returned home to find the front door open and her mom gone.

A search ensued, with the mom being found the next morning, within a mile of the house. She had passed away overnight.

Alzheimer's and the other types of dementia are just so incredibly tragic. Anyone who is caring for a person in that situation needs all the help they can get. This new registry sounds like it will be a most welcome aid.

To find the registry website, simply search for "Bring Me Back Home CT" in your web browser. If you have any questions at all, reach out to Tonya at 860-539-9287 or multitasking@comcast.net.

See you next week.

Frogs in a Pot

To the Editor:

We're all familiar with the frog and the pot of boiling water. A frog in a pot of cool water won't notice that the temperature is rising, but that same frog will try to escape water that is already boiling. Well, we are now the frog, and the upcoming budget referendum is our pot of water. How hot will we let the water get before we are thrown into an unsurvivable situation? Rather than allow residents to gradually adjust to the necessary and predictable increases to the costs of government, our previous boards and councils ignored the water entirely. But the water has been getting warmer, and frogs need water to survive.

This budget season represents an opportunity for East Hampton to begin adapting to the higher temperature of the water in which we all live. We can begin to course correct the lack of earlier investment in our infrastructure and social programs, or we can continue ignoring the danger until it's not us frogs we have to worry about – our tadpoles will be forced to live in boiling water.

The next budget referendum is going to ask residents to jump into the water together so that we can begin adapting before we boil alive because we ignored the overflowing pot. We're all going to be uncomfortably warm for a while, but it's easier to adapt to gradual change than it is to suddenly have to learn to swim after the boat has already sunk. Democrats and Republicans on our current boards have been able to work together (shockingly well, to be honest) to develop spending plans that will help to bridge the gaps left by previous bodies, and however the budget presentations ultimately come out, they will represent a bipartisan effort to do what's best for our entire community.

**Jordan Werme
East Hampton Town Council
jwerme@easthamptonct.gov**

Note: Werme is a member of the East Hampton Town Council but is speaking as an individual.

Union-Busting Bernie

To the Editor:

In last week's edition *Rivereast* journalist, Michael Sinkewicz, incorrectly reported that First Selectman Bisbikos signed the ambulance contract. The first selectman didn't sign the contract. The person who signed the \$386,750 contract was the Fire Chief.

In December the finance sirector was placed on administrative leave. The *Rivereast* reported on her leave, investigation and also the hiring of a new deputy director of town finance. At the most recent Board of Finance meeting, the Deputy was unable to provide accurate town financial information.

There was a backlog of financial reclassifications. First Selectman Denler has said the deputy didn't have time to do the reclassifications because she was preparing W-2s. Curiously, he chose not to defend the Finance Director who also didn't have time for reclassifications because she was likely completing other higher priority tasks.

From what citizens have been told the Finance Director was tracking a purchase order made by Fleet Maintenance to procure a \$60,785 chassis, which somehow she is responsible for "authorizing." The finance director was also unable to provide accurate information, same as the deputy who was given a pass.

It seems bizarre to me that the Finance Director is responsible for a chassis purchase reportedly made by Fleet Maintenance or an ambulance contract signed by the Fire Chief. The question is, why is the finance director being held to a different standard than other employees at town hall?

She's been thrown out of the union, something this paper has avoided reporting on and the next day she's put on administrative leave – doesn't seem like a coincidence to me. It makes one wonder, what's the real reason Union-Busting Bernie is trying to terminate her?

**Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester**

Lincoln Republicans

To the Editor:

To my Republican friends that still proudly reference Abraham Lincoln as one of your own. The first Republican president, who saved the nation from Civil War-fomenting insurrectionists. A war that killed as many Americans as in all other wars combined, including WWI and II and the current 'War on Terror.' Do you still not recognize that your Republican Party is now the party of insurrection? Your party dominates 'Red states,' many with gerrymandered districts to ensure you control state legislative bodies, even though you are the minority (see

Three-Fifths Compromise). Your 'Red states' withdraw more national treasury dollars than they contribute. 'Welfare queens' relying on 'sugar daddy' Blue states. Recall the Confederate states were much weaker economically than the Union states. What would your founder say to you about current events? Harken! Lincoln now speaks directly to you predicting America's end:

"At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some trans-Atlantic military giant, to step the ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

Patriotic Americans – don't drink the Republican 'Kool-Aid' on Nov. 5.

Edmund Smith – Andover

The Town Hasn't Changed

To the Editor:

In response to Citizen Walck's letter re: "We Have to be Heard" on East Hampton's "out-of-line budget" – she had a front-row seat for this summer's meetings when residents packed the Town Hall and voiced their thoughts on our town's budget. She didn't listen. We spoke through two referendums. She ignored us. In November we spoke at the ballots. Now she signs letters as "A concerned citizen" not "Member, East Hampton Town Council." Good.

The town hasn't changed since November.

We still value preserving our town's quality of life and investing in its future. We still value maintaining infrastructure, supporting police, fire, ambulance, and administrative services. We still value providing for senior citizens and investing in quality public education. We still value substantial long-term benefits for our community over the cheap thrill of marginal short-term savings for individuals.

During this budget season, I encourage everyone who spoke out and voted to stay informed and engaged by attending meetings, asking questions, making comments, writing letters, and continuing to advocate for what you value.

Citizen Walck's letter has all the ridiculous hyperbole of a "tsunami of a tax increase" and "fiscal atrocities" and "financial ruin." Others who see "fiscal responsibility" as simply slashing budgets regardless of the impact on the town or its future will soon join. They'll predictably call to cut education first and take cheap shots at teachers and then claim they didn't. Don't let that nonsense go unchecked.

We replaced officials who ignored the voices of the real people in the room but listened to the voices in their heads telling them to slash the budget. If we don't speak out and engage our government, those other voices will – and they will call for slashing and cutting what you value.

Brian Corvo – East Hampton

Public Works Action

To the Editor:

The gears of government grind slowly, but gratefully they are moving along in Hebron. Thank you to the Department of Public Works Action Committee and Chairman Peter Kasper for your efforts. It has been clear for over a decade that the Public Works facility at Old Colchester Road is in need of repair. These dedicated employees deserve better. I attended the DPWAC meeting on Feb. 5 and was encouraged to hear Chairman Kasper reiterate his commitment to fix the facility at Old Colchester Road, "The public has asked us to use that property." The committee also reported that Eversource is willing to sell the parcel adjacent to Public Works. This would allow the facility to nearly double their workspace.

In addition to more land, I reminded the committee of other options. An important recommendation was established by Hebron's 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development, pages 178-179, "one option that should be further reviewed in some detail is to locate the Department administrative offices and some vehicle storage bays in a building addition to the Burnt Hill Park Parks and Recreation operations building. This could result in some added efficiencies by locating both department operations and vehicle storage and maintenance functions at the

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★ 'Kinky' Next Weekend cont. from page 1

Audiences will track the life of Charlie Price, who inherits his father's shoe factory that is going out of business. In an attempt to salvage his family's legacy, Charlie finds motivation from Lola, an entertainer seeking some stilettos. The seemingly unlikely duo embark on an uplifting journey after realizing they may have more in common than they initially realized.

"You should expect to have a lot of fun," said Tiernan Shea, who plays Charlie. "It's very funny, it's very heartwarming. I think everyone can relate to the message of acceptance and taking people for who they are."

Shea, 32, lives in Meriden and teaches middle school. This will be his first production with the CCT, and his acting career only began roughly a year ago. But he continues to gain experience, including nabbing a starring role in the musical *Rent* last summer.

As Shea navigated through the tunes on Monday evening — the group's first with musical accompaniment — his voice matched that of the popular singer Brendon Urie, who previously portrayed Charlie on Broadway.

"Singing is much easier than memorizing lines," Shea said. "It's a different process for everybody. Some people are better at dancing; it takes me forever to learn how to dance."

Executing the show's dance numbers might be a work in progress for a few cast members. Cecil Carter, 36, who plays Lola in the production, conveyed that this show requires a little bit of everything — singing, dancing, acting, and of course wearing some kinky boots.

"It's a lot," he emphasized. "This is a lot."

Carter, who lives in New London, has worked at General Dynamics Electric Boat for 15 years building submarines, and he also teaches at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. He's had a couple minor roles in prior CCT productions, including as a guard in *The Wizard of Oz*.

For the last eight years, he's performed with the Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus, and Lola will be his first starring role. Originally, when

show choreographer Amanda Backer reached out to Carter, he didn't know anything about *Kinky Boots*, but the musical has now become one of his favorites.

"I fell in love," he said. "I like the challenge. It's bringing me out of my comfort zone because I'm not Lola. I'm very to myself and Lola is completely different; she's welcoming and fun and loving — she's a performer."

Carter described his character as a drag queen who links up with Charlie after experiencing some early skepticism. By the end, they discover their similarities and are able to become great friends.

Shea said the two leads do appear to be drastically different at first, but their eventual bond becomes a satisfying payoff.

"When they come to that realization, it's kind of an 'a-ha' moment," he said.

On stage, Carter was transformed, entering a scene with a pair of thigh-high boots on.

From beginning to end, Carter literally and figuratively has to "not be in my shoes" and instead be "outside myself."

"I understand more deeply when I hear interviews of actors saying this person became apart of me."

"I really love Lola," he added.

Ozmun also has a role in the show, a character named Trish who "does have some zingers." After more than two decades of local theatre, she still finds joy in organizing and often participating in the group's productions. This particular selection, Ozmun said, was chosen because it was a smash-hit, and it's one of the more recent options that's become available for community theaters to take on.

"We've all been through a very difficult climate in a lot of different ways about a lot of different things," she said, adding that the show has an uplifting message about love, friendship and acceptance.

Ozmun expressed that "this show is a representation of how important it is to help people connect through art."



The cast and crew of Colchester Community Theatre's production of *Kinky Boots* were hard at work earlier this week rehearsing for next weekend's performances. The Tony award-winning musical will be staged at Bacon Academy Feb. 16, 17 and 18.

"People can often see themselves reflected on stage," she said. "This is a great way to show how important art is in making those connections."

Business as Usual?

Rehearsals started at the beginning of January and have been taking place four times a week.

"It's community theatre, but it's a job," Shea said. "I wouldn't half-ass my job, nor do I want to look foolish on stage. I would never want to put anyone else on stage with me in a bad position in terms of not knowing certain lines or parts of the show."

Wallis Johnson, CCT's longtime show director, was commanding the stage during the rehearsal, giving instructions and modifying even the smallest details. Occasionally, she'd abandon her lectern atop the stage and position herself at a different vantage point several rows back in the auditorium.

"She always has a vision," Ozmun said. "She looks at every detail."

Ozmun said Johnson approaches "every show as if it was the first one she ever did" and lets her cast develop their characters in their own way.

"She lets it come out and if she feels like it needs to be tweaked a little, she'll say so, but she'll let people go with it and try things," Oz-

mun said. "And you have to do that as an actor; you have to be able to play with it."

Observing the dedicated cast and crew prepare for the spotlight gave the impression that things were "business as usual." But with CCT's severed sponsorship with the town, the group is now responsible for items that were previously handled through town, including insurance. Over the past few months, CCT has attempted to raise money and ensure its sustainability moving forward.

"Things have been going really well," Ozmun said, describing the transition as "seamless." The relationship with the town remains positive, and the group still enjoys access to areas such as school facilities.

For over 25 years, residents have flocked to CCT's performances, and children have attended the group's summer workshops as well.

"We're very energized by the continued support," Ozmun said.

Carter expressed that the members of CCT are "definitely a family."

"The vibe here is good," he said. "You can clearly see the connection that they have. I feel good being here."

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★ Letters cont. from page 29

same location." In a time of increasing budget demands, "added efficiencies" must be explored.

The public comments also included an intriguing question from a resident of Cannon Drive. Has Public Works completed a facilities audit/operational needs assessment? This in-depth study examines the operations and equipment to determine what is being done well, what is being done poorly, what should be kept in house and what should be outsourced. If these questions are not being answered, how does the Town know what buildings need to be built?

For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Couple Things

To the Editor:

Just a couple of quick points to add to this week's *Rivereast* dialogue....

Have you noticed all the attention/coverage that the Michelle Troconis case is getting in not only the local, but regional and national news outlets? It seems like there is a spotlight being cast to amplify this case and its proceedings in the public's eye. The trial stems from the disappearance (and probable murder) of Jennifer Dulos which certainly appears to be carried out by her estranged husband, Fotis Dulos, and his girlfriend, Troconis. Although this certainly is a tragedy it seems to be garnering a disproportionately large amount of attention from the media.

In contrast, when the Gislaine Maxwell case was happening in New Hampshire, and Jeffery Epstein's accomplice was on trial for the sexual exploitation of minors and potentially blackmailing ex-presidents, media moguls, celebrities and scientists there seemed to be a complete media blackout on the court proceedings. Weird. It's almost as if the media is complicit when crimes are committed by politicians and billionaires...I wonder why.

Second topic: Lamont has come out and said that we do indeed have a crisis on the southern border and that he is committed to sending President Biden troops from the Connecticut National Guard in order to help secure it. It's amazing to see all these politicians, who just a few months ago, had been laughing off the idea of there being any problem at the border flip-flop and now come out strongly against il-

legal immigration, and are now demanding we secure the border. I wonder what happened to these people's moral compass, when they can seem to turn their backs on the "humanitarian crisis" we see and are now talking like a bunch of MAGA Trumpists...oh wait...I just remembered, it's an election year.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

More Bidenomics

To the Editor:

Scott Sauyet (two math degrees) states in his Jan. 26 letter that "Most People are better off." I'm assuming he means better off than they were three years ago when Joe Biden, frail, 80 years old and cognitively challenged, took office. He is obviously delusional or un-informed because in a recent poll 74% of Americans (legal citizens) feel that we are not better off!! Maybe he got his information from Karine Jean-Pierre – Biden's press secretary – who makes false statements every time she steps to the podium.

Five thousand immigrants are crossing our southern border illegally every day. Joe Biden ended President Trump's executive orders that helped dramatically reduce that number. Trump had a 39% eviction rate compared to Joe's 3%. Biden blames the GOP for not helping legislate border control; fake news. The president has the power to protect our borders but Biden has embraced the invasion of our country, mostly males, under 30 and non-Caucasian.

Inflation: Joe Biden makes Jimmy Carter look acceptable and he was not. I waited in gas lines, saw prices skyrocket, and now I am reliving this nightmare. We know grocery prices have gone through the roof; how about trying to purchase a new vehicle? in 2019 a well-equipped Toyota Rav 4 cost \$31k – not inexpensive by any means. However, in 2024, that same vehicle now costs \$51k. Look it up. Even Sauyet with two math degrees can calculate the % of inflation.

Wars: Under President Trump, no wars. Putin waited until Joe became commander in chief, and into Ukraine went the Russian Army. Of course, many, including math wizard Sauyet, have called Trump a "Russian agent." Joe Biden is not feared by the Iranians who have attacked our troops 165 times, with three dead soldiers before "Combat" Joe ordered a belated mild retaliation.

I find incredulous that 38% of Americans think this man is doing a good job!!

Don Denley – Andover

LEGALS

LIQUOR PERMIT
Notice of Application
This is to give notice that I,
Ruth Shea, 67 Hopewell Hts, South Glastonbury, CT 06073
Have filed an application placarded 02/01/2024 with the
Department of Consumer Protection
for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of
alcoholic liquor on the premises at
Zina's Cucina
17 North Main St.
Marlborough, CT 06447
The business will be owned by: Magnolias LLC
Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment
Objections must be filed by: 03-14-2024
Visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/remonstrance> for more information
Magnolias LLC 2TB 2/9, 2/16

Town of Andover, CT
Solicitation Notice

CONTRACT # RFQ AN-2024-25 01
The Town of Andover is soliciting the following REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:
Bridge Construction Inspection Services for STATE PROJECT #0001-0106 REPLACEMENT OF BUNKER HILL ROAD BRIDGE OVER HOP RIVER
Response Due 2/22/2024 at 2pm Andover Town Hall 17 School St Andover CT 06232.
Requests for Qualifications can be viewed on the town website at www.andoverct.org. 2TB 2/2, 2/9

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
IWWA ACTIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 31, 2024 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:
Application IW-23-026: Robert Grillo, 11 Pine Trail, Repair stone barrier/retaining wall along Lake Pocotopaug Shoreline within Upland Review Area. Map 10A/ Block 80/ Lot 5/2 – Approved with Modifications
Chairman Joshua Wilson 1TB 2/9

TOWN OF PORTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
Application #23-01: 6 Breezy Corners Road. Request for a variance from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for the front yard setback to allow construction of a shed 30 ft from the property line were 75 is required. Application and property of Gail Brochu. Assessor's Map 16, Lot 2-4. Zone RR.
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department.
Dated at Portland, CT this 7th day of February 2024.
Joan Giesemann, Chair 2TB 2/9, 2/16

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING
7:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 21, 2024
COMMUNITY ROOM – TOWN HALL
17 SCHOOL ROAD

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., February 21, 2024 in the Community Room of the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road to solicit comment on the application of Tower Generator for the property of Donald & Lisa Roser located at 241 Lake Road. The applicant is seeking relief from Section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to allow for the reduction in the required side yard setback from 25' to 9' in order to install an electrical generator (i.e. pad & associated mechanical work).
Comments/questions regarding the application will be entertained at the hearing. Written comments submitted to the Building and Land Use Office (zoning@andoverct.org) a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting will be read aloud and entered into the Public Hearing record. Additional details can be found on line at the Town of Andover's web-site or by visiting the Building and Land Use Office at the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road or by calling 860.742., extension 4220.
Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent 2TB 2/9, 2/16



REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE
GLASTONBURY COUPLES: 3BR, 2BA pool home in gated community of Country Club Estates, Port St. Lucie, Florida. Returning to town to be with the grandkids! Stunning golf course community, club membership optional, low HOA fees and 2 pets allowed. Meticulously maintained. Just listed at \$519,900. MLS# RX-10953395. Kathy at 860-324-4201 for info.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETS
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-heeltraining.com.

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RAYMOUR AND FLANIGAN SOFA: Free, excellent condition, white sofa with white slip-cover. Fabric is machine washable. Also included is a machine washable pet sofa cover. Call 860-716-9353.

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LEGALS

LAKE ROAD CLEARING
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT

INVITATION TO BID
 Sealed Bids for the Lake Road Tree Clearing will be received by the Town of Marlborough at the Town Clerk's Office until 10:00 AM local time on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. The Project consists of removing approximately 15 trees with circumferences of 4" to 48".
 Bids shall be in a lump sum.
 Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on-line at marlboroughct.net or CT DAS CT Source website and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Building Land Use/Building Department by calling 860 295 6202 or e-mail Building@marlboroughct.net.
 To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from either UPS or FEDEX to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after the receipt of the non-refundable fee.
 The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.
A pre-bid meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2023, Blish Memorial Park, 32 Park Road, Marlborough, CT. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.
 The successful Bidder will be required to provide Performance in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price.
 The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.
 Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for all contractors and subcontractors to provide affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity employment as noted in the Governor's Executive Orders 3 and 17.
 The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty [60] days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.
 The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.
 All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.
 If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance with full policies, a performance bond, and to the Town prior to the start of any work. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid. This Invitation to Bid is not binding in the Town.
 The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.
 This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.
 The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
 The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.
 Town of Marlborough, Connecticut
 By: David R. Porter, Town Manager
 Date: February 2, 2024

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, February 10th 12-2pm



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Please contact Lisa Cimino or Attorney Joe Hope at **860-652-4020** or email lcimino@alterpearson.com

CIT2-1-24

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

CIT1-23-23

EMPLOYMENT

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

CAREGIVER: PM hours, M-F, 22 hours; dinner, bed routine, hoyer in use. Experience helpful. Hours negotiable. W/E hours available. Call 860-342-2054.

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.

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REB-13-21

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

CIT1-18-24

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

RE1-12-24

Shop Manager/QC Manager Position

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To apply, please email your resume to: beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com

RE1-5-24

HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER BOARD CLERK

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for part-time Board Clerks for approximately 3 to 6 hours per month. This position is responsible for producing minutes for boards and commissions. The position requires attendance at meetings on weeknight evenings. Candidates must have excellent writing skills and be proficient in word processing on a personal computer.

A Town of Marlborough Employment Application and Board Clerk job description are available in the Town Clerk's office, online at marlboroughct.net or by calling 860-295-6206. Completed applications are to be submitted to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 29, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447 or by email at townclerk@marlboroughct.net.

2TB 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23

FREELANCE REPORTERS

We are looking for skilled freelance writers to report on local government, meetings and community events in the towns we serve – Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. Must be able to report news clearly and meet important weekly deadlines.

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CIT2-8-24

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RE2-9-24

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- Length of the Program: September- June*
- Number of Children: 3 day program up to 20 children, 2 day program up to 12 children

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To apply for the position, please send resume, certification(s), letter of intent, and three letters of recommendations:
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RE2-9-24

First Church Nursery School, 554 Main St., Portland, CT 06480

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The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect reprint. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

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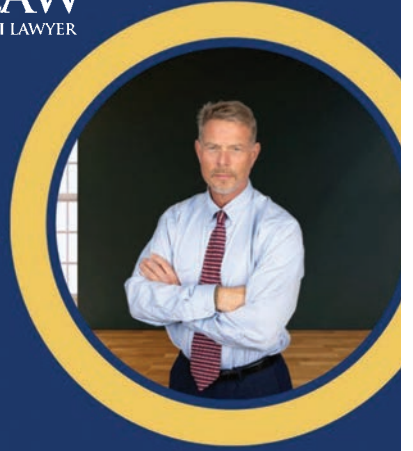
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